



BALLIOL
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

FLOREAT DOMUS

NEWS AND FEATURES FROM THE BALLIOL COMMUNITY | MAY 2020



Celebrating Balliol women
Remembering Jasper Griffin
Alumni working in healthcare

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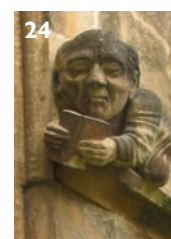
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Front cover photo: Balliol alumnae at the 'Balliol Women: 40 Years On' celebration weekend (see page 9).
 Photograph by Carol Higgins.

From the Master

Dame Helen Ghosh DCB

As I write this in April, I have of course no idea what the situation will be with the Covid-19 pandemic by the time you read it. Let us hope that you and your families are all fit and well, that the NHS and public services have emerged with their reputations burnished and futures secured, and that the economy is showing a few of those fabled 'green shoots'. But whatever the outcome, there is no doubt that these past months have been intensely challenging for all of us.

In a college such as ours, it is reassuring to take the long view. John Jones, the College historian, reminds us that the College has faced pandemics before. The Balliol Statutes of 1507 had provision for corporate migration not more than 12 miles from Oxford in times of plague. One of the College's farms near Woodstock was the usual destination, a clause in the farmer's lease requiring him to accommodate the College (Master, Fellows and Scholars, of whom there were probably about 20) at such times. At least one College Meeting was held at Woodstock in 1564. In 1604, when there was plague in both London and Oxford, and James I had retreated to his Woodstock Manor, College members in Woodstock were confined to their house in case they carried infection to the Court. Social distancing, 17th-century style.

In March, the Fellows and I did not decamp to Woodstock, but we did mark a first in our history by holding a meeting of Governing Body via teleconference. I checked first in the College Statutes (a revised set, recently approved by HM The Queen) that there was no stipulation for a physical gathering. That was a relief, given that all our meetings in Trinity Term will have to be held in the same way.

The great joy of life in College, for which there is no substitute, is having our talented, inventive, energetic students with us. Our sites have seemed very empty since the end of Hilary Term, having in residence only a small number of students who



The Master speaking at 'Balliol Women: 40 Years On' (see page 9)

have been unable to leave. Fellows and students have had to rise to the technological and cultural challenge of preparing to move to virtual tutorials, lectures and examinations. This has inevitably created uncertainty and anxiety, particularly for Finalists, to whom we are providing all the support we can. And of course all sorts of virtual communities sprang up to help. Those of us more technologically challenged have had to catch up fast.

For all of us, these last six months have inevitably sent a powerful message about the importance of community. And we've been reminded that a community is created by more than just physical proximity – by a common ethos, a sense of standing for something in particular.

Many people in Balliol's history created our ethos in their time. Reading the statutes Dervorguilla gave the College in 1282 (to which the recently revised version is the successor), one sees that she was already setting the tone for the College we were to become. Among

instructions about speaking in Latin, attending chapel and praying for the immortal souls of the founders (which we still do from time to time), she laid down rules about equality and respect for difference within the community. She 'desired that the richer members of the community live temperately so that the poorer are not burdened by heavy expenses', and she set up a generous system of grants for hardship that we still honour today, thanks to the generosity of generations of alumni. Most strikingly, she provides that if any of the richer scholars 'taunt the poorer scholars by word or sign, the [Fellows] shall expel any such person or persons forthwith, without hope of return'.

Others who set the Balliol tone in more recent times include Jowett, Urquhart, Toynbee, Lindsay, and Christopher Hill (I omit the living!). Another was Jasper Griffin, whose funeral we held in the College Chapel in December. As you can see from the tributes on pages 4–5, Jasper's scholarship, wit, brio and total devotion to the College made him an icon for many alumni and colleagues. As Oswyn Murray writes, 'Jasper was the spirit of Balliol.' And I like to think that his influence lives on in our respect for scholarship, and what I might describe as our lightness of heart.

But while the Balliol ethos is a longstanding one, any institution, any living organism, only survives if it can adapt. We have seen that with the NHS; we see it in Derek Moulton's account of studying the way molluscs build their shells (page 18). And we see it in the history of our College. The admission of female students to Balliol is but one of many examples – an adaptation that we celebrated last September when the Daughters of Dervorguilla came back to mark the 40th anniversary of the admission of female undergraduates (pages 9–13).

It has been an extraordinary year, but I believe that it is one from which we can learn and grow and that, in doing so, we will continue to flourish.

Awards

Resignation Honours 2019

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (1979 and Honorary Fellow), Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service: Dame of the British Empire (DBE) for public service.

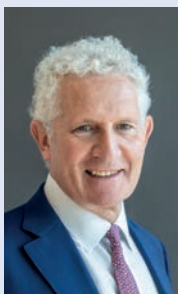
New Year Honours 2020

Keith Thomas FBA (1952 and Honorary Fellow): Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour (CH), for services to the study of history.



Simon Stevens (1984 and Honorary Fellow), Chief Executive of the National Health Service: Knight Bachelor, for services to health and the NHS in England.

Peter Freeman (1974), co-founder of development company Argent: Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), for services to housing and communities.



Charles Tannock (1976), lately Member of the European Parliament for London: Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), for political service to International Relations and Human Rights.



Tamara Isaacs (Finkelstein) (1986), lately Director General, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB), for public service.



Lindy Cameron (1991), lately Director General, Country Programmes, Department for International Development: Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB), for services to international development.

Clara Swinson (1993), Director General, Global and Public Health, Department of Health and Social Care: Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB), for services to healthcare policy.

Clive Richards (friend of Balliol), philanthropist: Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), for services to charity and to the community in Herefordshire.



Other honours

Sudhir Hazareesingh (1981, Fellow and Tutor in Politics) was appointed a Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GCSK) on the occasion of the National Day Celebrations 2020 in Mauritius.

Robyn Williams (Visiting Fellow 1995–1996) was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Australia Day honours.

Senior Members



Lord Reed (1978 and Visitor) took up his position as President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom in January 2020, having served as Deputy President since June 2019. The Queen also conferred on him a peerage of the United Kingdom for Life, in recognition of the contribution that he has made to law and justice reform.

James Belich (Beit Professor of Commonwealth and Imperial History, and Professorial Fellow) was awarded an honorary degree by Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. ‘Professor Belich is an outstanding scholar of history,’ said the university’s Chancellor. ‘Throughout his career, he has communicated new, thought-provoking ideas about the way in which historical events have shaped both New Zealand and other countries in the world ... with academic rigour, yet with general audiences in mind.’

Helen Gittos (Colyer-Fergusson Fellow and Tutor in Early Medieval History) has been awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for the year 2021.

Derek Moulton (Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics) is one of the recipients of the 2019 Cozzarelli Prize, for his research paper on bivalve shells: see page 18. The prize is awarded for the top scientific research in Engineering and Applied Sciences published in PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences).

Nick Trefethen (Professor of Numerical Analysis and Professorial Fellow) was awarded the 2020 John von Neumann Prize by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). The prize recognises his 'ground-breaking contributions across many areas of numerical analysis' and 'the effective communication of these ideas to the community'.

Junior Members

Arman Karshenas (2017, MEng Engineering Science) was awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) at Caltech, giving him the chance to extend his studies in the field of synthetic biology with an expert in the field.

Richard Burman (2018, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences) won the 2019 Céline Newman Basic Science in Epilepsy Award for his research, which tries to explain how treatment resistance in children with prolonged seizures may be related to changes that occur in how brain cells communicate with each other.



Richard Burman receiving his award from Professor Matthew Walker, President of the ILAE British Chapter.

Old Members

Professor Jane Stapleton (1981 and Emeritus Fellow) was appointed an Honorary Queen's Counsel (QC). Honorary QCs are awarded to those who have made a major contribution to the law of England and Wales, outside practice in the courts.



Nada Al-Nashif (1984 and Honorary Fellow) was appointed as the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Professor Iain Couzin (Junior Research Fellow in the Sciences 2003–2006) was awarded the 2019 Lagrange-CRT Foundation Prize, the 'first and most important international recognition dedicated to the study of complex systems across all disciplines'. He is Director of the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior in Konstanz as well as Chair of Biodiversity and Collective Behaviour and Co-Director of the Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour at the University of Konstanz.

Martin Edwards (1974) was awarded the Crime Writers' Association's Diamond Dagger award, the association's highest honour.

Tamsin Allen (1982), a partner at Bindmans LLP and head of the Media and Information Law team, won Solicitor of the Year – Private Practice in the Law Society's 2019 Excellence Awards.

Chandrika Kaul (1988), Reader in Modern History at the University of St Andrews, specialising in British Imperial, South Asian and media

history, was awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship for her research on the BBC and India.

Professor Karma Nabulsi (1989), Fellow and Tutor in Politics at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, has won (with Professor Abdel Razzaq Takriti) the Middle East Studies Association of North America's Undergraduate Education Award for her digital humanities research and teaching resource *The Palestinian Revolution*.



Emily Wilson (1990), Professor of Classical Studies and graduate chair of the Program in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory at the University of Pennsylvania, won a 2019 MacArthur Fellowship – for 'talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits' – for her work as a classicist and translator.

Professor Sarah Green (1995), Professor of Private Law at the University of Bristol, was appointed as the Commissioner for Commercial and Common Law at the Law Commission of England and Wales.

Valentina Gosetti (2007), Senior Lecturer in French at the University of New England in Australia, was awarded a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award by the Australian Research Council.

Hayley Hooper (Balliol 2008) was appointed Official Fellow, Tutor in Law and Associate Professor in Law at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University.

There is more news of Old Members in News and Notes, a supplement to this magazine.

Jasper Griffin at a classics dinner in 2004.



Remembering Jasper Griffin

Last year Balliol mourned the loss of Professor Jasper Griffin FBA (Balliol 1956, Dyson Junior Research Fellow 1961–1963, Tutorial Fellow in Classics 1963–2004, Emeritus Fellow from 2004), who died on 22 November 2019. Former Masters paid tribute to him thus: ‘Not simply and uncontestedly a towering figure in Balliol but also a dear figure whose passing we must grieve’ – Sir Colin Lucas; ‘one of the Balliol giants’ – Andrew Graham; ‘Part of the best of the fabric’ – Professor Sir Drummond Bone; ‘An exacting but inspirational tutor who was much beloved by his pupils’ – Sir Anthony Kenny. An obituary by Sir Anthony Kenny will be published in the *Balliol College Annual Record 2020*. Here we reproduce a selection of tributes from Balliol classicists.

From one of Jasper’s earlier students

Among the many tutors I had at Balliol Jasper was probably one of the most significant to me. A combination of sheer academic brilliance (linguistic memory and ability), worldliness beyond Oxford (evidenced by his book on snobs and his articles in the *NYRB*), humour and modesty. Whenever I returned to Oxford (admittedly infrequently) he was the person I made a point of visiting. I remember that, when we last had lunch in the SCR, I asked the typical question of an apostate (having left Classics for finance) on how he could possibly read the same books over and over again and he replied, ‘Well, you know, it’s very good stuff’: *touché*. Another question about the sometimes questionable people to whom he dedicated Latin eulogies as Public Orator: his answer, ‘*Pecunia non olet*.’ To me Jasper justifies a transposition of the famous phrase by T.S. Eliot: ‘for every great poet, you must have 100 mediocre poets’. The same can be said for academics: he was a great academic and justifies all the rest. We give thanks for, and remain with, the indelible memory of Jasper because of what he did for us personally, and others through his teachings and his works.

Tim Heyman (1964)

Mr Balliol

There is no one in the history of Balliol who encapsulates the spirit of our college more than Professor Jasper Griffin, who is indeed Mr Balliol as he spent his entire university education and career (with the exception of a sole year at Harvard) at Balliol. Although Balliol has always had a strong tradition in Classics as promoted by one of our greatest College Masters, Benjamin Jowett, Jasper took this to a whole new level with his seminal publications, insightful tutorials and entertaining lectures. Not everyone accepts the content of his works, but everyone sure has to read them, since they are written and published by Jasper Griffin, one of the greatest classicists who ever lived, and while agreement with his ideas is optional, studying his works is obligatory for all students and scholars of classical studies. Thank you for all that you have done and achieved over the years, which has broken boundaries, challenged authorities and changed lives. One would wish that you were now laid to rest with the angels, but in your case I am sure that you are now seated on the same table as the gods whom you have praised and slandered for so many years.

Anon

What Jasper has meant for Balliol

Before the official obituaries arrive, I thought I would recall what Jasper has meant for Balliol. He came to the College as an undergraduate, and remained here for 40 years as a Fellow. He was during all that period the symbol of what Balliol meant within and outside the College. Along with his friend Maurice Keen (Fellow and Tutor in Modern History 1961–2000) he ran the Balliol Society; he was the centre of the Vic Soc and the debating society. He ran the SCR for most of his time, determining its décor, carpets and pictures; he even built the SCR as a young Fellow: I used to tease him about it, and all he would say was that we had come off lightly in a disastrous period of British architecture. He dominated discussions in College Meetings, though he did not always get his way. In SCR business he held greater sway as the arbiter of elegance and of all the traditions of the Common Room. He was the greatest wit of his age; his ability to recite reams of English poetry as well as Latin and Greek was phenomenal.

As a colleague he ran the most successful classical school of his age, helped by Tony Kenny (Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1964–1978, Master 1978–1989), Jonathan Barnes (1961, Fellow and Tutor in Classics 1978–1994, Emeritus Fellow), Oliver Lyne (Fellow and Tutor in Classics 1971–2005) and myself; he was the man in charge because we were all in awe of him as a classical scholar. But he was above all a kind and thoughtful leader, and his devotion to his students was an example to us all. I worked with him for 35 years, and we never quarrelled, though we were often on opposite sides in College matters.

He was the spirit of Balliol for 40 years.

Oswyn Murray (Emeritus Fellow)



Portrait of Jasper Griffin by Bob Tulloch, coloured and monochrome pencils on a toned paper, 15" x 11", 2008.

Jasper's question

I remember Jasper's encouragement to do a research degree at a time when they were still regarded as ill-advised. He combined outstanding scholarship with great personal warmth and kindness. I also remember a question he posed at my interview: 'If Virgil had written a symphony rather than an epic, what key-colour might he have used to express the spirit of the age?' When comes there such another?!

Anon

Πολλὴν κτησάμενος σοφίην σοφὰ πολλὰ δὲ γράψας

οἴχεται ἐκ πάντων Γρῦψ ἀποκλαιόμενος.

ἀλλὰ θανὼν ζῶει κλέος ἀφθιτον ὅς κεν ἄρηται,

ῥωστε βροτός περ ἔὼν ἄμβροτος ὡς δοκέει.

Gordon Cockburn (1970)

'Having acquired much wisdom and written much that is wise, Griffin has left us, mourned by all. But anyone who wins imperishable glory lives on after death, so that though really still a mortal, he appears like an immortal.'

Heu lugete omnes quot
amici Musarum estis quod
Diasprum amisimus, funus
acerbum animis.

Letizia Poli Palladini (1997)

'Alas, weep, every one of you who are friends of the Muses because we have lost Jasper, a death bitter for the spirits.'

Trans. Adrian Kelly (Clarendon University Lecturer, Fellow and Tutor in Ancient Greek Language and Literature)

Makeover for the Lodge



Following extensive refurbishment, the Lodge at Broad Street has reopened, giving the Porters a much improved working environment. The open-plan design streamlines the flow of those entering the College and allows the Porters to perform a range of roles at the same time: visitors are now directed to the welcome desk, while current members can go directly through a new electronic gate if they wish. Other improvements include a new common room for the Porters and updated post rooms. In the second stage of the refurbishment, a ramp will be fitted to allow disabled access from the Lodge into the Front Quad, and lockable wrought-iron gates will provide additional security when required.



New Finance Bursar

Richard Collier, who has managed Balliol's finance and investments since 2007, stepped down from his role as Finance Bursar at the beginning of 2020, while continuing in his role as Chair of the College's Investment Committee.

Amanda Tilley has taken over as Finance Bursar, having been College Accountant since she joined Balliol in February 2016. When announcing the appointment the Master said it was 'a tribute to the great work she

has done' in that role. Amanda is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and before coming to Balliol was Senior Manager in the Not for Profit group at Grant Thornton in London, in charge of a portfolio of charity and education clients. 'I enjoy working in the not-for-profit sector, particularly education,' she says, 'and I am looking forward to the new challenges this role entails.'



Master's Field: Phase One completed

Six new blocks are complete at the Master's Field. Students and academics have moved in to five of them; bicycle stands, security gates and other finishing touches are in place; landscaping has transformed the surrounds. Grouped around a large beech tree with grass underneath it, the six blocks form a pleasing green quad with views through to the Master's Field. Completion of work at this end of the site – on the corner of Jowett Walk and St Cross Road – marks the end of phase one of the project.

Blocks A1, A2 and A3 will ultimately be for undergraduates; in the meantime graduate students will live in them until the new graduate accommodation is ready. There is a common room on the ground floor of A3, which opened with a celebration pizza night for residents and other MCR members. All the rooms are built in clusters of four or six around a shared living space and kitchen; many enjoy views on to the playing field and the Oxford skyline beyond. Katie Tyner (2019, MPhil Politics), who moved in to one of the new rooms, says: 'The new accommodation is a great and affordable opportunity for graduate students to live in College. The room design is clean and efficient yet still homey, and the layout of the clustered rooms surrounding the central kitchen fosters community.'

In C1, one of the new graduate accommodation blocks, flanking the new pavilion, the rooms are bigger than those

'The new accommodation is a great and affordable opportunity for graduate students to live in College'

in Blocks A and B, with built-in bookshelves and larger beds; varying room sizes mean that students can have a choice of price bands. During the COVID-19 pandemic, C1 has been given up to the University, first for people requiring to self-isolate and then for clinical researchers on the virus.

Over two floors in B1, there are seven rooms for Fellows, also now occupied. On the top floor this year's Eastman Professor, Professor Tyler VanderWeele, has moved with his

family into the new flat for the American scholars who come on a visiting Fellowship to Balliol each year. 'It has been wonderful to be in the Eastman flat,' he says. 'The flat is very spacious with lovely views of Oxford. From the living room one can see Magdalen Tower, Queen's, New College, and Harris Manchester, and it is beautiful to watch the sun rise over the trees and buildings. We are very happy to be there.'

At the centre of the site the new pavilion is rising at last, work beneath it (on squash courts and the energy centre) having been completed. Next to it, where the Martin and Dellal buildings once were, the four blocks in Phase Two of the scheme are going up. These blocks, facing Holywell Manor and the St Cross Building (home of the English and Law Faculties), will include some accommodation for Fellows, but they will mainly house graduates, bringing the total number of study bedrooms for students to over 200 by the time the entire project is completed.

Kitchen news

Executive Head Chef Bertrand Faucheux reports on recent activities in the Kitchen

I sometimes look back at the menus we did 10 years ago and I notice how much they have changed. Perhaps one of the biggest influences is the fact that we now have a new kitchen. It is incredible to think that our 'new' kitchen is already five years old. The Kitchen's last upgrade had been in the 1960s, so the refurbishment in 2014/2015 (see *Floreat Domus* 2015) was well overdue. It was a privilege to be involved in the new design and I learned so much from the experience. The benefits have been tremendous: improved hygiene, better working conditions, and of course new ways of cooking: for instance, pressure cooking – it now takes us 20 minutes to braise red meat stews and curries when it used to take us three to four hours; sous-vide cooking – useful for cooking all meat and fish as well as most fruit and vegetables; and smoking, which as with sous-vide cooking we mostly use for our fine dining and banqueting business.

A big change is the amount of vegetarian and vegan meals we serve. Last year I was approached by the MCR and JCR Environment and Ethics Officers to discuss ways in which to increase vegetarian and vegan take-up in Hall. I was keen to do this, though concerned not to upset meat eaters. We came up with the idea of serving two 'veggie' options (i.e. one vegetarian, one vegan) and one meat option at four dinners a week, instead of the usual 'two meat, one veggie' choice. The students organised a survey, which appeared to support the concept. The trial period that followed in Trinity Term 2019 was a success; most importantly, numbers in Hall remained stable.

So the project became live in Michaelmas Term 2019, and I'm pleased to say that during that term overall numbers of people eating in Hall even increased a little. Before Trinity 2019, we prepared an average of 26.5% vegetarian and plant-based main courses per week. Since the new-style menus, that percentage has increased to 42%. Interestingly, the increased vegetarian/vegan uptake has also happened on non-'veggie' nights.

Mohit Talmaki, who was promoted to Second Chef a year ago, is in charge of writing Hall menus, so if one person should be thanked for this success, it is he. His dedication to making the 'veggie' project work and his energy are

'Before Trinity 2019, we prepared an average of 26.5% vegetarian and plant-based main courses per week. Since the new-style menus, that percentage has increased to 42%'



Bertrand Faucheux



Mohit Talmaki

contagious, and the whole kitchen team have been excited about experimenting with new dishes too. Mohit worked particularly closely with Damian, Tyler, Sebastian and Selva in the sauce section in the last six months to create new dishes; all soups are now vegan; the pastry section, led by Pharam, has even been experimenting with plant-based desserts. If you get the chance to try Martin's peanut butter cookies, I suggest you do – they are delicious!

To strengthen the chefs' culinary knowledge, last summer I organised a plant-based food training day, run by the Humane Society. It was a great success. In fact, the trainers were so impressed with what we produced that they asked to take some of our own recipes!

We are now serving new vegetarian and plant-based dishes in Hall such as Butternut Squash, Sweet Potato, Butter Beans, Spinach and Feta Gratin, Pulled Oat and Chestnut Mushroom Stroganoff, or Vegetable Manchurian, as well as new meat dishes such as Confit Duck and Vegetable Parcel Chinese Style, Sumac Chicken, or Thai Pork. One of our strengths is that the Kitchen brigade is made up of chefs from every corner of the world, including the Czech Republic, France, Spain, Poland, India, Nepal, Argentina, East Timor and of course the UK. The food we offer is indeed a melting pot. The British food scene is so varied and exciting right now and one of our aims is for our food to reflect that.

Most of all we hope that everyone who comes to eat in Balliol Hall enjoys the experience. We're always pleased to have feedback: just mention any comments you have to the Hall staff and they will pass them on to me. *Bon appetit!*

BALLIOL
WOMEN
1979–2019

40
YEARS ON



Balliol Women: 40 Years On

In 1979, women matriculated at Balliol for the first time. In 2019 the College marked the 40th anniversary of this event in various ways:

- **Portraits of Balliol women** were commissioned and hung in Hall (page 16);
- An art installation in the Library, '**re mark able women**' by Shirin Homann (1990), ran throughout Michaelmas Term 2019 (page 14);
- The Library exhibition '**Dervorguilla & Daughters: 750 Years of Women at Balliol**' ran from September to December 2019 (page 15);
- On 27–29 September 2019, 180 Balliol women from across the years gathered for '**Balliol Women: 40 Years On**', a weekend of conversation and celebration (pages 10–13).

The celebration weekend began on Friday with a viewing of the art intervention. After drinks in the Master's Lodgings, when Emeritus Fellow Gillian Morriss-Kay spoke about the first female Fellows, guests had a buffet dinner in Hall.

Saturday's programme began with a keynote address by Cressida Dick (1979), who was then joined by Stephanie

Flanders (1987), former Fellow Lyndal Roper (Fellow 2002–2011) (all now Honorary Fellows), Laura Durrant (1999) and the Master (page 10). In the afternoon, guests joined panels on Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Mentoring, STEM, Access and Education, Public Service, Arts and Work–Life Balance, where they listened to 40 Balliol alumnae panellists discussing their experience and expertise (page 11).

After a formal dinner in Hall, Nada Al-Nashif (1984 and Honorary Fellow) spoke on 'The Next 40 Years' (page 12).

On the Sunday, some alumnae viewed the 'Dervorguilla & Daughters' exhibition. Others made their way to the Boathouse to row with current BCBC members (page 13).

The following pages offer a souvenir of some of these activities. The quotations are from social media posts, emails received after the event and survey responses.



Watch the 'Balliol Women: 40 Years On' video at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/40yearsappeal

'A great combination of inspiring voices and a celebratory atmosphere.'

'Inspiring, thought-provoking and encouraging all at the same time.'

40
YEARS ON

BALLIOL
WOMEN
1979–2019



‘A truly extraordinary experience. I’ve never before been in the presence of so many women of deep intelligence and broad experience, ages spanning four decades, in every profession, with a shared determination to make society better.’



‘I savoured the insightful debates with #balliolwomen. There is a long way to go to improve equality and diversity in education and the professions. I am hopeful these debates will lead to lasting changes.’



‘I felt a renewed sense of purpose and vigour after spending the weekend with so many wonderful women.’



‘The talks were stimulating and, importantly, open and generous with all attendees feeling they could participate.’

‘Wonderful to be surrounded by so many thoughtful, inspiring #balliolwomen ... and to see so much emphasis on social mobility, access, & responsibility.’

‘Thank you for celebrating women in all sorts of positions and walks of life, not just those who are conventionally successful. There was a lot of good discussion.’



The Next 40 Years

Nada Al-Nashif (1984 and Honorary Fellow)

It is an enormous privilege to speak to such an accomplished and impressive community – of experience, talent, skill, depth and passion. I'm very proud and also delighted: it's not the usual type of speech that I give. Most recently, for example, I've given speeches on the culture of peace, on intercultural dialogue and on sustainable development goals. But here are some very personal, non-scholarly impressions and thoughts.

It's hard to describe the place in my heart that Balliol has for me, but this does it, I think: a long-running squabble with my mother. She was devastated the first time she heard me describe my time at Balliol as 'the three most formative years of my life'. She retorted emphatically, in her very dismissive Arabic, 'Nonsense! The most formative years were the first three years of your life, 0–3, in my care!' And nothing has been resolved to date ...

Those years at Balliol were magical for me, transformative on every level. It is impossible for me to be back in College without recalling: the clash of cultures ('Are you sure this is a bedroom? Not a store room – for my luggage?' when I saw my little cell on staircase 17); the bewilderment ('What do you mean "we can't find strawberries because it's November"? What kind of an excuse is that?'); the discovery ('How can there be so many roads called "No Through"? Isn't that confusing?'); the humility (my first essay *shredded* at an economics tutorial in the otherwise idyllic surroundings of Magdalen); the stamina (reaching the pinnacle of achievement: the all-nighters it took to pass philosophy Prelims); the accountability (once elected Ms Food of the JCR, making good on my promise to restore decent ketchup to the Pantry); the solidarity (chopping mounds of onions with an entire army of volunteers for the Balliol Third World Action Group dinner of *mujaddara* or lentils and rice) ...

Throughout, and most of all, my time at Balliol taught me about the integrity of friendship and values. These have proved to be the most enduring lessons of all and, I would argue, the single thread of what we need to preserve if we really want another outstanding 40 years of productive achievement that contribute to the upholding of human dignity and rights for women and men across the world.

Much of the discussion today has been 'domestic', but I feel compelled to speak to our broader modern-day context.

When I was at Balliol we were in a glorious bubble, however much the miners' strike or the looming AIDS crisis or the wars in the Middle East, or indeed the Cold War, forced their way into our consciousness. More than 30 years later, the global understanding that emerged from the destruction of two world wars, the commitment to multilateralism and shared prosperity is unravelling – against an unprecedented scale and pace of social, economic, environmental and political transformation that seems to be undermining our resolve.

As conflicts tear societies apart, we witness the rise of extreme racism, discrimination and xenophobia. We face pushback on the fundamental freedoms, on our normative standards, on what we believed to be our universal values, an absolute 'retreat of shame'. And we are facing the largest refugee and displacement crisis of recent history, at a time when cultural diversity is under threat from the pressures of excessive populism.

Today's challenges are complex and they cross borders. They require that we redouble our efforts, and rededicate

ourselves to an inclusive and positive multilateralism that targets social justice outcomes. They require that we embrace and nurture positive transformations on the basis of human rights, mutual respect, and not tolerance but empathy.

This is what Balliol did for me: it taught me the power of free thinking and free speech; it gave me the fundamental space and capacity to explore and embrace difference; it allowed me to comprehend and reinforce common values; it nurtured my self-confidence, and gave me more.

I did not feel that I was a woman or a foreigner or a Muslim at Balliol. I felt that I was a human being – equal to any in the world. This is our legacy and our future. It is the promise of Balliol – the international, extroverted, catalytic Balliol – for the next 40 years.

This article is an edited version of a speech given at Balliol on 29 September 2019.

**'So much to think and
act on, not least the
call to explore and
embrace difference with
mutual respect and not
tolerance, but empathy'**

‘Being back on the water with some of my old crew members was an awesome way to celebrate!’



‘The rowing outing was an absolute highlight. Please pass on my thanks to the current BCBC “volunteers” who looked after us all so well. I wear my blisters with pride!’



‘It was great to meet some of the current undergraduates and to get in a boat again.’



‘A joy to represent the class of 2018 this weekend & ever proud to be a lioness.’



All images Stuart Bebb

‘There are more than 12,000 books in the Reading Room and about 10 per cent of them have been written by women’

re mark **able** women

Shirin Homann (1990)

In September 2019 Rebekka Thur and I spent several days in the Reading Room of the Balliol Library marking all books written by women. We simply wrapped a white paper band around each book by a female author and covered its back with a 're mark able women' sticker. The idea was to visualise the presence of female authors in the Library for the 40th anniversary of women being admitted to the College as students.

There are more than 12,000 books in the Reading Room and about 10 per cent of them have been written by women. Knowing a number which reveals the presence of women in a particular space is one thing, but the physical experience of that presence – or absence – is something else. If the Reading Room was a city, women would be visible in the boroughs of Literature and Poetry but their neighbouring boroughs of Classics and Philosophy would look rather bleak.

While working on the concept of **re mark able women** I kept on thinking about 1979. The year when women started studying at Balliol as undergraduates was the same year that the United Kingdom elected its first female prime minister, Iran became an Islamic Republic, Saddam Hussein became President of Iraq and Michael Ende's *Neverending Story* was first published. Considering that the College's history started in 1263, the realisation that female students were admitted only in 1979 felt to me as unreal as the thought that a former student at the College might unlawfully suspend the British Parliament and lead the United Kingdom out of the European Union.

The political impact of art is more than limited, but art can focus on facts



in times of fake news and it can remind people of their dreams instead of stirring their rage. It can even be quiet and non-digital. We encouraged active engagement with our project by placing a Dreams Box in the Reading Room and inviting readers to answer questions we had printed on postcard-sized bookmarks. Each book by a female author contained such a bookmark and readers in the Library could take



a bookmark, answer the questions and leave their bookmark in the box.

Readers shared with us the subjects they would like to write about themselves, and they outlined measures they would personally take to keep their carbon footprint down while writing their books. One woman wanted to tell the story of her grandmother who got into Oxford because it was assumed from her Chinese name that she was a man. Others wanted to write about mathematics and morals, nuns, community detection, ghosts, Mary Somerville, or the violent strategies of Merovingian queens. Most mentioned on their bookmarks that they wanted to change the way they travel. One lady told me at the end of the celebration weekend that she had decided to stop streaming videos on the internet, since the internet uses as much energy as air traffic worldwide. Another lady pointed out a book in the Reading Room that we had forgotten to mark, which was great, because it meant that there was one more book by a female author in the rather 'women-free-zone' of the Philosophy of Mathematics.

Everyone who left a bookmark in the Dreams Box mentioned a favourite book or film by a female author or female director. And Balliol's wonderful Library staff, who were more than helpful during the whole process of the project, ordered all the suggested books the Library did not already have.

I thank everybody who joined in and supported the project, including Charles Calvert and Mark Herterich – two men who spent a lot of their time detecting female authors in the shelflist of more than 12,000 books.

Dervorguilla & Daughters:

750 Years of Women at Balliol

Lauren Dolman (Assistant Librarian)

The 40th anniversary of the admittance of female undergraduates to Balliol provided an occasion for the Library to delve into Balliol's historic collections to illuminate the contribution of women to the College's history, from its medieval beginnings until the present day.

The exhibition opened with a focus on the foundress, Dervorguilla of Galloway, who gave Balliol its Statutes in 1282. These remain in the College archives on neat parchment with a near-perfect seal.

Over the intervening centuries female donors were fundamental to the development of the College's built environment, with generations of students staying in Hannah Brackenbury's buildings, for which the archives retain Alfred Waterhouse's architectural plans.

Although female students did not move in to Balliol's staircases until 1979, women have been present in its quads and corridors for centuries. Florence Nightingale, intimate friend and correspondent of Benjamin Jowett (Master 1870–1893), and Mary Florence Smith, wife of Arthur Lionel Smith (Master 1916–1924), are just two of the figures whose influence on Balliol's intellectual life was displayed in letters, diaries and even a housekeeping book. Female staff become visible in the Bursar's records from the 17th century and in those of the College's silver collection, until, in 1939, we find the letter appointing the first female Domestic Bursar, Annie Bradbury.

The history of female education at Balliol begins long before 1979. In the 19th century pioneers of the women's education movement circulated in and around the College. Reformers Charlotte Green and Mary Augusta Ward, whose male friends and relatives were Balliol members, were involved in the foundation of the Association for Promoting the Higher Education of Women (AEW). In 1884 the committee drew up a petition, preserved in Balliol's archives, requesting that women be allowed to sit some of the men's exams at Oxford, a motion which was carried at Convocation by 464 to 321.

Advances came in fits and starts, and the merits of co-education were debated for decades. In the 1960s and '70s, major changes arrived in the form of the joint graduate institution with St Anne's College at Holywell Manor. The opening of Fellowships to women followed with the election of Carol Clark in 1973 – the first woman Fellow and Tutor of the ancient Oxford colleges. Since then, the

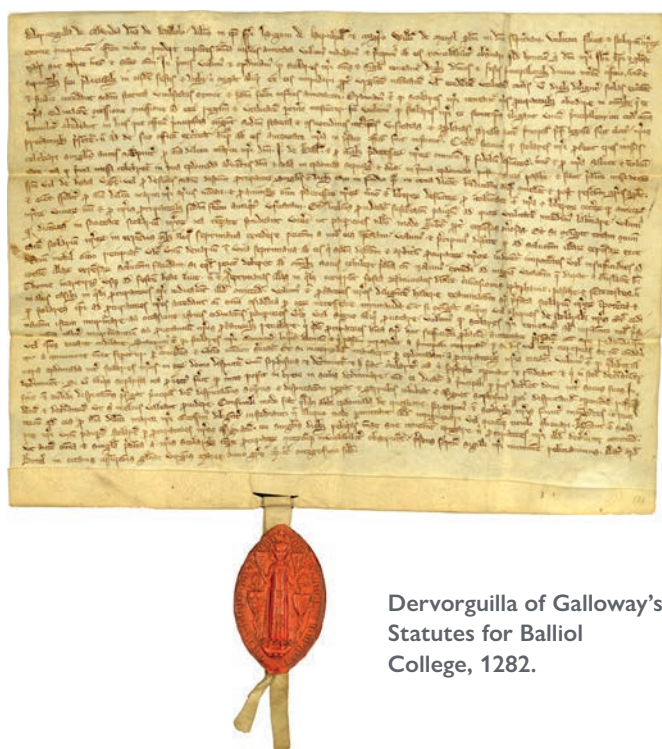
'Although female students did not move into Balliol's staircases until 1979, women have been present in its quads and corridors for centuries'

output of Balliol's female Fellows has been prodigious, and has included fundamental contributions to research and teaching across academia, some of which were showcased in the exhibition.

The final section of the exhibition celebrated achievements by female students and alumnae since 1979. Matriculation photographs and JCR yearbooks were displayed, representing the contemporary Balliol undergraduate body in all its diversity. Today the intake of students is roughly 40 per cent female, with a 50 per cent intake

of undergraduates being achieved in the last two years. While it would be impossible to distil the achievements of the 2,000 women and more who have studied at Balliol, the Library's alumni collection is one source, containing many items by female creators, spanning an array of genres and topics.

The exhibition ran from September to December 2019, welcoming over 500 visitors. A catalogue is available to buy or download: contact.library@balliol.ox.ac.uk.



Dervorguilla of Galloway's Statutes for Balliol College, 1282.

Portraits of Balliol women



Partnerships

Mary Keen (Maurice Keen, Fellow 1961–2012); Nancy Kenny (Anthony Kenny, Fellow 1964–1978, Master 1978–1989); Peggotty Graham (Andrew Graham, Fellow 1969–2001, Master 2001–2011)



College Officers

Amanda Tilley, College Accountant; Rachel Quarrell, Fellow Dean and Lecturer in Chemistry; Jane Irons, Hall Supervisor; Fran Wright, Domestic Bursar



Senior Fellows

Sophie Marnette, Professor of Medieval French Studies, Dervorguilla Fellow and Tutor in French; Nicola Trott, Senior Tutor and Academic Registrar, Tutor for Graduates; Rosalind Thomas, Professor of Greek History, Dyson-MacGregor Fellow, Jowett Lecturer and Tutor in Ancient History; Lisa Walker, Fellow in Medical Sciences



Common Room Officers

Catherine Roe (1980), first woman President of the JCR; Imogen Rivers (2017), JCR Women's Officer; Natasha Fisher-Pearson (2017), JCR Women's Officer; Dorte Jørgensen (1989), first President of the MCR; Harriet Lester (2016), MCR Women's Officer

A series of photographic portraits by Fran Monks now hang in Hall. Each portrait features a group of Balliol women – staff, Fellows, students, friends – who have contributed to or do contribute significantly to the life of the College.

The College roles given below are as at the time the photographs were taken in 2019. The portraits are all 110 x 73.33cm. There is more information about Fran Monks and her work at www.franmonks.com.



Staircase XX

Agnieszka Starnacka, Scout; Naa Ntodi (2018), JCR Ethnic Minorities Officer; Alice Cicirello, Career Development Fellow in Engineering Science



Rowers

Leah Mitchell (2016), BCBC Women's Captain and OUWLRC Blue Boat, JCR President; Jane Edmondson (1979), first BCBC W1; Moyo Tian (2015), BCBC President and OUWLRC Blue Boat; Rebecca Colenutt (1979), first BCBC W1



Honorary Fellows

Nicola Horlick (1979); Professor Lyndal Roper, Fellow and Tutor in Modern History 2002–2011; Stephanie Flanders (1987); Dame Cressida Dick DBE QPM (1979); Nada Al-Nashif (1984)



Emeritus Fellows

The Revd Professor Judith Brown, Beit Professor of Commonwealth History and Fellow 1990–2010; Professor Gillian Morriss-Kay, Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer in Anatomy 1976–1990; Professor Jane Stapleton FBA (1981), Fellow and Tutor in Law 1987–1997; Professor Leslie Abrams, Fellow and Tutor in Modern History 2000–2016



Holywell Manor

Natasha Noman (2018), MCR Ethnic Minorities Officer; Angharad Jones Buxton (2016), MCR Vice-President; Natasha Yogananda Jeppu (2018); Leah Veronese-Clucas (2018), MCR Welfare Officer; Alice Evatt (2017); Sofia Castello y Tickell (2017); Ashna Patel (2018), MCR Affiliations Officer

All images Fran Monks

Unlocking the mystery of interlocking shells

Derek Moulton (Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics) uses maths to understand one of nature's intriguing patterns

I love patterns. As an applied mathematician working in biology, I am always on the lookout for biological patterns – the shape of a leaf, the helical structure of a twining vine, the graceful spiral of a ram's horn. When I see such a pattern, I want to understand it: how it got there, what created it. To answer this question is to have a mathematical description of the pattern, but it is more than that: what I seek is an understanding of the physical process through which the pattern formed. This is a main focus of my research: to use mathematics, coupled with physical and biological principles, to understand patterns in nature. And in this field of study, there is perhaps no greater source of inspiration than in the world of seashells.

Seashells have permeated our culture for millennia. They are used as art forms, jewellery, currency, musical instruments, even bathroom sinks. But shells are also valuable scientific objects, their apparent simplicity and extensive fossil record making them ideal model systems for questions of development, pattern formation, and evolutionary processes. They are also of great interest in different domains of earth and life sciences and bioengineering as the paradigm for biomineralisation, the production of minerals by living organisms.

Each shell is the vacant remnants of a house, incrementally constructed by a soft-bodied creature, a mollusc. It is a house with surprising mathematical regularity and beauty, of uncommon strength and durability, and with delightful variations and patterns. The mollusc is a fabulous architect, producing features such as sharp spines,

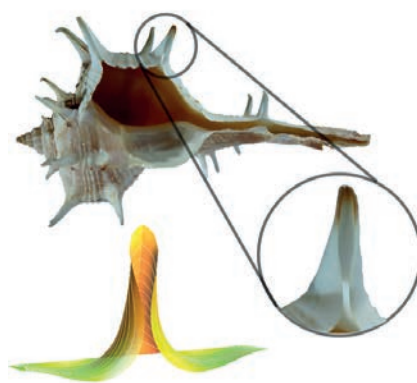
'We have explained a number of features of shell form in terms of simple physical principles, brought to light via mathematical models'

fractal protrusions or very regular ribs. Each shell tells the story of the mollusc that lived in it and built it day after day. And all the shells over the world, taken together, tell a 540 million-year-long story: the story of the evolution of molluscs, the second most diverse phylum of the animal kingdom.

How is it that a mollusc can create such beautiful patterns? How is it that

different species of mollusc create such a wide variety of patterns? Of course, the mollusc knows little mathematics, and does not set out to design its shell in the way that a human architect would. The mollusc is simply following a genetic algorithm, modulated by the physical interactions of the shell-building process and the environment in which it lives. In this way, each shell may be fine-tuned to best serve the mollusc in that environment through the process of natural selection. For some scientists, consideration of how the pattern might serve a function is the full story. But that does nothing to explain how the pattern came about. For me, the story begins and ends with the physical process of that mollusc building its house.

While I have always loved patterns, it was not until I began collaborating with Alain Goriely, Professor of Mathematical Modelling here in Oxford, and Professor Régis Chirat



We have uncovered natural physical explanations for many observed shell patterns and evolutionary trends, including the sharp spines often seen in *Muricidea* (left) and the regular ribbing patterns in ammonites (right).



‘We uncovered how geometry and mechanics conspire to ensure a perfect interlocking, reproducing and explaining a large diversity of bivalved shell forms’

The two halves of a bivalved shell perfectly interlock when the shell is closed, as seen in the brachiopod *Kutchirhynchia obsoleta* above. Below is a model output simulating the same shell.

at the Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, in France, that I truly came to appreciate and study seashells. Alain and I are both mathematicians. Régis is a palaeontologist/palaeobiologist, based in the Laboratoire de Géologie, and shells are his world. He has studied shells for over 20 years, and is one of the few palaeontologists who seeks physical explanations for the diverse and intricate morphology of shells.

Alain, Régis, and I have been working together for over seven years now, developing mathematical descriptions of the shell growth process and working to understand the patterns that emerge. Ours is an unusual collaboration: Régis speaks hardly any English and I speak hardly any French. My knowledge of palaeontology is sparse at best while he has almost no background in mathematics. Yet we both love seashells, we both know an interesting pattern when we see one, and it is through this that our collaboration has thrived. We have explained a number of features of shell form in terms of simple physical principles, brought to light via mathematical models. Our work has provided new perspectives both specific to seashells and more generally in the field of developmental biology.

Yet amazingly, I had only met Régis in person once. So I used a recent sabbatical to spend two months in Lyon getting to know the man behind the shells and finding new patterns to explore. When I set foot in his office, filled from floor to ceiling

with fossilised shells, I was almost overwhelmed by the sheer abundance of patterns. But we quickly settled on our latest puzzle to solve: the interlocking of bivalved shells.

Bivalved shells consist of two independently secreted halves of the same shell. A familiar example is an oyster. If you look at an oyster, you’ll notice that the two sides of the oyster shell fit together seamlessly. This is easily done when the shell edge is flat, but in oysters and other bivalves the shell edge often has an intricate pattern, wavy or even saw-toothed. Yet the interlocking pattern is always maintained, even when environmental influences or injuries perturb the shell’s shape as it grows.

From an evolutionary point of view, what is intriguing about this interlocking pattern is that it does not appear just in bivalve molluscs. Brachiopods are a completely separate phylum from molluscs, yet they also secrete bivalved shells that perfectly interlock. Molluscs and brachiopods diverged from a shell-less ancestor more than 500 million years ago. That means that they each independently evolved this trait. The potential function of the pattern is clear: being able to close the shell perfectly protects the animal inside, while having a wavy or saw-toothed pattern makes it harder for other creatures to pry open the shell. But what creates the pattern? The ubiquity of the pattern suggests that the physics of shell growth must

naturally lead to interlocking. It was in this vein that we set out to develop a mathematical model of bivalved shells.

Our model combines aspects of differential geometry and elasticity, expressed in the language of differential equations. We began by formulating geometrical criteria needed for interlocking, and then we investigated whether the mechanical conditions of shell growth would meet those criteria. The key was close consideration of the two lobes of the mantle, each secreting one valve and constrained both by the rigid shell that they secrete and by each other. In this way we uncovered how geometry and mechanics conspire to ensure a perfect interlocking, reproducing and explaining a large diversity of bivalved shell forms, thereby providing a quantitative framework for how variations in the parameters underlying the growth can impact the morphology.

It was a very enjoyable and rewarding project to work on, which has resulted in publication in a high-profile journal.¹ For me, though, the true reward is always the joy of using mathematics to understand one more of nature’s many beautiful patterns.

Derek Moulton’s paper on bivalve shells, ‘Mechanics unlocks the morphogenetic puzzle of interlocking bivalve shells’, won the 2019 Cozzarelli Prize for the top scientific research in Engineering and Applied Sciences in 2019 published in PNAS (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*).

¹ ‘Mechanics unlocks the morphogenetic puzzle of interlocking bivalved shells’, Derek E. Moulton, Alain Goriely, Régis Chirat, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Jan 2020, 117 (1) 43–51; DOI:10.1073/pnas.1916520116



Shark fishers carry tiger sharks to the auction place.

The human faces of shark fisheries

Hollie Booth (2018) explains her research for her DPhil in Zoology

I walk down to the beach with my notebook under my arm and the black volcanic sand crunching under my feet. Water laps against the shore as I look out to the colourful boats bobbing in the harbour. I squint as the rising sun reflects off the ocean into my face. It's 6.00am in East Lombok, an island in the Indonesian archipelago ...

Splash! A carcass is thrown into the shallow water from a nearby docked vessel.

A woman in a colourful headscarf wades into the brown water. Pieces of discarded plastic (and probably faeces) float around her shins. She grabs the carcass by the tail, and starts dragging it on to the beach. Two young men with bamboo poles and biceps arrive. They stick two large hooks with ropes

attached into the carcass, and hoist the bamboo poles on to their shoulders. The tiger shark is then carted off to the auction place, dangling from the poles. A hammerhead and two wedgefish splash into the water in the empty space. The woman slings the wedgefish

over her shoulder, and follows the bamboo pole boys.

As sharks are offloaded from vessels they're lined up neatly side by side in the auction place. Enumerators pull out measuring tapes, pads and pencils to note the biological aspects of each shark: species, length, sex. Buyers sit on the sidelines, wearing *topis* and gold rings, and chain-smoking as they eye up what's available to the highest bidder. Processors begin their gruesome but meticulous work, removing the heads, fins, tails, skin and chopping the meat into steaks. The smell of rotting shark flesh mixed with open sewage floods my nostrils.

The auction begins. A haul of 30 shark carcasses, caught during a two-week fishing trip, is sold for \$2,500.



Shark carcasses waiting to be sold.

'Many people in small-scale tropical fisheries depend on sharks for their livelihoods, food security and even ancient cultural practices'

Amongst the catch are endangered wedgefish, mako sharks and hammerhead sharks. Sharks are caught in this way in fisheries across the world every single day. It is estimated that approximately 100 million sharks are killed in fisheries every single year. Since many shark species reproduce very slowly, their populations are struggling to rebound from escalating fishing pressures. As a result, it is now estimated that around 1 in 4 shark species are threatened with extinction, making them one of the world's most threatened species groups.

Within the global nexus of threats to sharks, Indonesia is ranked as the world's largest shark fishing nation. In the eyes of the general public and popular media, this fishing pressure is driven by 'finning', whereby cold-hearted 'shark hunters' target sharks only for their valuable fins, which are sold for hundreds of dollars to meet demand for shark fin soup in Asian markets. In which case, we just need to ban shark fishing and criminalise the shark fin trade, and then the sharks can get on with their lives ...

The reality is much more complicated. Sharks are killed across a wide range of fisheries and for a variety of reasons. There is no doubt that the high-value fin trade plays a role in fuelling continued fishing

pressure. However, it is estimated that the majority of global shark fishing mortality stems from incidental or secondary catch in non-target fisheries, particularly for high-value species which many of us like to eat, such as tuna. What is more, many people in small-scale tropical fisheries depend on sharks for their livelihoods, food security and even ancient cultural practices.

'I became a fisher because my father is a fisher ... I had no real choice in this; there are no other options here. We are sea people.'
Shark fisher from Lombok

Acknowledging these realities, my PhD research explores some of the neglected socio-economic complexities of shark fisheries. I combine ecological and social research methods to design holistic fisheries management approaches, which seek to address shark overfishing whilst also meeting the needs and constraints of fisher communities. I conduct interviews with shark fisher families to understand their drivers and motivations, whilst also analysing fisheries and trade data to understand potential leverage points which might effectively change fisher behaviour. Given the rapidly expanding and profitable diving industry in

Indonesia, I am also exploring the potential role of the marine tourism sector in providing solutions and incentives for shark conservation.

My findings so far indicate that shark fishers are motivated by the same things most of us are: enough money to pay for food and daily needs, education and healthcare for their children, good relations with friends, family and neighbours, as well as the pride and gratification that is felt when a hard day's work pays off and they can bring home money for their family. Many also dislike the long fishing trips, high risks and time spent away from family. While they take pride in their work, they don't wish for their children to be fishers.

'I hope for something better for my sons and daughters. I hope they will continue their education, and get a job as a teacher or in an office.'

Shark fisher's wife, Lombok

Ultimately, all conservation issues stem from human issues, and therefore require human solutions. Shark conservation in Indonesia necessitates practical, nuanced approaches for changing the behaviour and decision-making of fishers. Many shark fishers seem willing and able to move into other types of fisheries, if the incentives are right. Yet we will only be able to design suitable approaches by understanding and working with the shark fishers themselves.

Through working in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) in Indonesia, I hope that the results of my research will be used to guide government and NGO policies and management plans, which in turn create better outcomes for sharks and people in Indonesia.

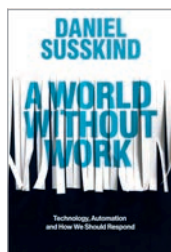


Hollie (left) talking to a shark fisher on the island of East Lombok in the Indonesian archipelago.

For more information, see Hollie's research profile and blogs at www.iccs.org.uk/person/hollie-booth or follow her on Twitter at @hollieboothie.

Bookshelf

Daniel Susskind (2006 and Career Development Fellow in Economics)
A World Without Work: Technology, Automation and How We Should Respond
 Allen Lane, 2020

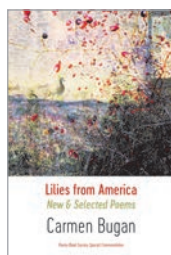


Advances in artificial intelligence mean that all kinds of jobs are increasingly at risk, argues Daniel Susskind. He shows how, with tasks that used to be beyond the capability of

computers now being within their reach, the threat of technological unemployment is real. But he puts the case that a world with less work could bring prosperity; and he discusses the challenges, economic and otherwise, involved in ensuring that in such a world we can all thrive.

'An excellent and timely piece of analysis ... Susskind combines a mastery of global research with insight into how government works, having been a member of Downing Street's policy unit ... a book of immense importance.' *New Statesman*

Carmen Bugar (2000)
Lilies from America: New & Selected Poems
 Shearsman, 2019



As the author of *Burying the Typewriter: Childhood under the Eye of the Secret Police* (memoir) and several books of poetry, Carmen Bugar has received many accolades and

distinctions for her work, including being a George Orwell Prize Fellow. In her latest poetry collection, she draws on her experiences of childhood in Romania in the communist era, of exile and of family life.

'Carmen Bugar has the ability to transform deeply personal experiences into poetic language without losing the radiant particulars from which they sprang.' *Manhattan Review*

Toby Ord (2003 and Junior Research Fellow 2009–2012)
The Precipice: Existential Risk and the Future of Humanity
 Bloomsbury, 2020



Toby Ord (Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University's Future of Humanity Institute) explores the greatest risks to humanity's future, from the familiar threats of

climate change and nuclear war to less familiar, potentially greater risks such as engineered pandemics and advanced artificial intelligence. Bringing together many disciplines, including earth science, anthropology, statistics, international relations, political science and moral philosophy, he calculates the various risk levels, and assesses what we can do to face those risks, calling for a major reorientation in the way we see the world and the role we play in it.

Sir David Keene (1959 and Honorary Fellow)
Leaving the Arena: A Story of Bar and Bench
 Bloomsbury, 2019

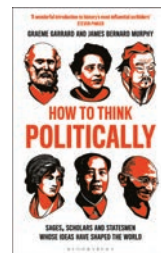


In his long career, former Lord Justice of Appeal Sir David Keene has been involved in a number of fascinating cases, from the Stansted Airport inquiry to the McDonald

libel appeal. In this memoir he recalls being a law student at Balliol, recalling the 'astonishing' range of speakers at societies and the Oxford Union ('Our horizons opened up enormously'), being called to the Bar by the Inner Temple and working in chambers, standing as a prospective candidate for Labour and becoming a QC before retiring after nine years in the Court of Appeal.

'David's succinct and attractive style of writing means that it is a pleasure for the reader to accompany him on his journey through the legal world.' Lord Woolf

Graeme Garrard (1990) with James Bernard Murphy
How to Think Politically: Sages, Scholars and Statesmen Whose Ideas Have Shaped the World
 Bloomsbury Continuum, 2019



Are we political, economic, or religious animals? Should we live in small city states, nations or multinational empires? Should wealth be owned privately or in

common? Do animals also have rights? This book explores timeless questions posed and answers offered by 30 great political thinkers, including Confucius, Plato, Augustine, Machiavelli, Burke, Wollstonecraft, Marx, Nietzsche, Gandhi, Qutb, Arendt, Nussbaum, Naess and Rawls. In each chapter, the authors paint a portrait of these thinkers, showing how their ideas grew out of their own dramatic lives and times and evolved beyond them, and providing a guide to the foundations of politics and its architects.

'A wonderful introduction to history's most influential scribblers' Steven Pinker

Deepak Nayyar (1967 and Honorary Fellow), ed.
Asian Transformations: An Inquiry into the Development of Nations
 OUP, 2019



Fifty years since the publication of Gunnar Myrdal's *Asian Drama: An Inquiry into the Poverty of Nations* comes this comprehensive study of the changes that are transforming

economies in Asia and shifting the balance of economic power in the world. Contributions from eminent scholars across economics, sociology, political science and history show how outcomes in development have changed and reflect on prospects for Asia in the future.

Mick Herron (1981)
The Catch: A Slough House Novella
 John Murray, 2020

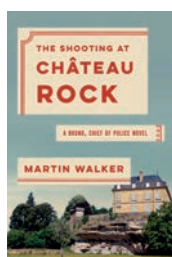


Mike Herron's Slough House series features MI5 agents who have been exiled from the mainstream for various offences. The six novels have been shortlisted for eight

Crime Writers' Association Dagger awards, winning twice, and shortlisted for the Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year three times; the first was picked as one of the best 20 spy novels of all time by the *Daily Telegraph*. This novella sees one of those MI5 officers, John Bachelor, who has found refuge in a flat formerly occupied by an old agent, plunged back into the service's disfavour and on the hunt for secrets in order to save his own skin.

'A slim serio-comic offering ... It plays out typically cleverly.' *Sunday Times*

Martin Walker (1966)
The Shooting at Chateau Rock: A Bruno, Chief of Police Novel
 Knopf, 2020



It's summer in the Dordogne. The heirs of a sheep farmer learn that they have been disinherited and their father's estate sold to an insurance company, in return for a

policy that will place him in a five-star retirement home for the rest of his life. But the farmer dies before moving in. Was there foul play? Local police chief Bruno faces a complicated case involving a Russian oligarch, a French notary and a rock star. This is the thirteenth of Martin Walker's mysteries set in Périgord, where he has had a home since the 1990s.

'Will make readers long for lazy days in rural France.' *Irish Independent* (of the series)

Samuel Shem – aka Stephen Bergman (1966)
Man's 4th Best Hospital
 Berkley, 2019

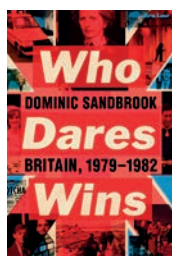


In the sequel to *The House of God* (1978), years later its hero, the Fat Man, has been given leadership over a new Future of Medicine Clinic at what is now

only Man's 4th Best Hospital. He has persuaded Dr Roy Basch and some of his intern cohorts to join him to teach a new generation of interns and residents. In a medical landscape dominated by computer screens and corrupted by money, they have one goal: to make medicine humane again.

'Darkly funny.' *Time* magazine

Dominic Sandbrook (1993)
Who Dares Wins: Britain, 1979–1982
 Allen Lane, 2019

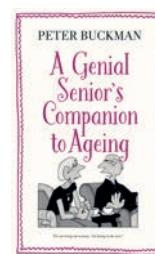


For some it was an age of unparalleled opportunity, the heyday of computers and credit cards, snooker, Sloane Rangers and Spandau Ballet. For others it was an era of

shocking bitterness, as industries collapsed, working-class communities buckled and the Labour Party tore itself apart. In the latest of his multi-volume history of postwar Britain, Dominic Sandbrook looks at the era of Tony Benn, Ian Botham and Princess Diana; of *Chariots of Fire*, Cruise missiles, and the battle for the Falklands; and of the most divisive Prime Minister of modern times, Margaret Thatcher: the early 1980s.

'A rich mixture of political narrative and social reportage. It is scholarly, accessible, well written, witty and incisive. It fizzles with character and anecdote ... Superb.' *Sunday Times*

Peter Buckman (1959)
A Genial Senior's Guide to Ageing
 Anima, 2018



In what he calls 'a personal gallimaufry of snapshot descriptions, opinions, remembrances, suggestions and the occasional exhortation', Peter

Buckman reflects with wisdom, humanity and humour on the issues and challenges of old age, from ailments, bad behaviour, confidence and dribbling, through to survival, technology, wills and xenophobia.

Andrew Copson (1999)
Secularism: A Very Short Introduction
 OUP, 2019



In this book Andrew Copson – Chief Executive of the British Humanist Association and First Vice President of the International Humanist and Ethical Union –

considers secularism as an approach to the ordering of communities, nations, and states. He looks at how secularism provides a framework for engaging directly with the most contentious political and legal issues of our time: 'blasphemy', 'apostasy', religious persecution, religious discrimination, religious schools, and freedom of belief and thought in a divided world. And he discusses the struggle for power between churches and governments in Europe which formed the background to the development of modern separation between religion and state.

'Concise and fair-minded ... Secularism helps the reader navigate [the] ... shifting terrain admirably.' *Times Literary Supplement*

Carvings on the College buildings

John Jones (1961 and Emeritus Fellow) surveys the grotesques and other embellishments

During the summer of 2019, I compiled an illustrated catalogue of the many external carvings on our Broad Street buildings.

I do not recall ever thinking about any of these embellishments when I was a student. Although I became a bit more observant soon after that, the majority remained a mystery more than fifty years later. Some are still enigmatic. As practically nothing had ever been recorded about any of them, a systematic survey seemed worthwhile, and in any case an engaging project.

Who carved the grotesques on the main (New) Library which attract so much attention from tourists? How old are they? Are they based on real people? Who do the heads on the Old Library represent?

The arms of John Balliol and Dervorguilla are familiar to us all. And the elaborate arms claimed by Hannah Brackenbury, which appear centrally over the front gate and prominently elsewhere on her buildings, are well known. But whose are the other shields?

Carvings on the Victorian buildings are obviously no older than the buildings, although some were probably copied from previous buildings. The Library probably always had carved heads and grotesques where they are now, but they will have been renewed or replaced at least once.

Noticing me taking photographs of the main Library grotesques, Sir Colin Lucas (Master 1994–2001) remarked that he had been told that one was based on A.B. Rodger (Balliol 1919 and Fellow 1924–1961). Rodger's



A.B. Rodger, main Library, second from the left halfway up.



Old Library: the first eight heads, numbered from the right. 5 is Dervorguilla; 7 is probably Adam Smith. Both were carved in 1906.

daughter agrees on the identification, but it leaves me wondering who the other less sympathetic figures might caricature. In 1959–1960, Michael Groser renewed or replaced them all, as well as the carvings above the oriel window of the Master's Dining Room. A detailed 1820 drawing of the oriel window by A.C. Pugin gave guidance which Groser followed for its carvings, but for the figures on the main Library the College gave him a free hand to use his artistic imagination.

About half of the heads on the Old Library have a faint inscribed date beneath them showing that they were carved in 1906, but there is no record of who did this, or whom they were meant to represent. One of the 1906 renewals is easily recognised as Dervorguilla, taken from the icon in Hall, which is in turn based on her seal. Another was probably meant to be Adam Smith (1740). The identities of the rest are guesswork.

Groser replaced all those that had not been renewed in 1906, and perhaps a few that had been. Since nobody could tell him who had been originally portrayed, none of his Old Library carvings shows real people, with one exception. He confessed in an interview he gave to the *Baltimore Sun* in 1994 that one head is that of his own father, the distinguished left-wing clergyman St John Beverley Groser (1890–1966), given a mitre because he had once performed as Becket in T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*. He had nothing to do with the College, although he is a figure the College should welcome.

I hope Balliol members will find interest in my catalogue, and to encourage them to look I offer a few challenges below – the answers are all to be found in the catalogue.



St John Beverley Groser, 2019 (left), and as freshly carved, 1960. Old Library, tenth from the right.

Test your knowledge of Balliol's carvings



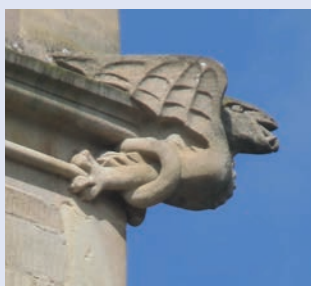
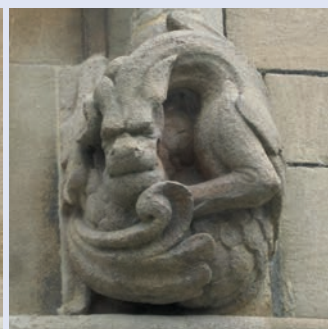
Where are these arms and whose are they?



Where is this shield and whose is it?



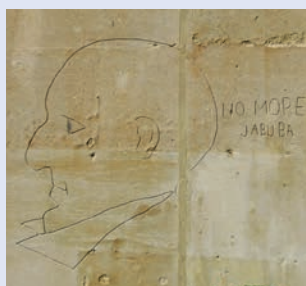
Where are these and what, if anything, might they mean?



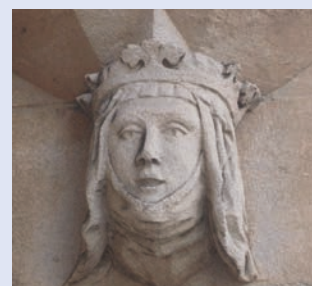
Where is this?



Where is this?



Where is this and what does it mean?



Where is this representation and who might it be?

The catalogue 'Carvings and Inscriptions on Balliol Buildings' is currently available as a PDF at the bottom of www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/about-balliol/history.

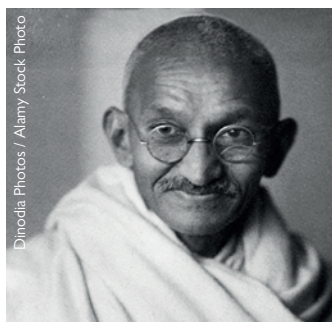
Gandhi at Balliol

Sebastian Raj Pender (Postdoctoral Researcher on the Balliol and Empire Project) describes the Mahatma's Oxford visit

Standing in the imposing surroundings of Oxford's Masonic Hall, Mahatma Gandhi smiled as he addressed a capacity audience of students drawn from every college of the University, and seemingly from every nation under the sun. 'Won't you please make yourselves thoroughly at home with me?' he asked the crowd, who had stood up in a spontaneous show of respect for their speaker. As the audience took their seats, a photographer's flash illuminated the stage for a moment, forcing the speaker to squint as he laughed and wryly commented, 'I am not a geological specimen,' before adding that 'among students I always feel at home, because I am a student'.

Gandhi had first been invited to Oxford when he met Sandie Lindsay (Balliol Master 1924–1949) during the latter's tour of Christian Higher Education Institutions in India. Though the tentative plans that had been discussed on that occasion did not come to fruition, Gandhi's trip to England to take part in the Second Round Table Conference of 1931, on constitutional reform, presented the Mahatma with an ideal opportunity to visit the city. Informed of Gandhi's intention to visit Oxford by a mutual friend, Surendra Kumar Datta, Lindsay renewed his invitation and hosted Gandhi, along with his not inconsiderable retinue, in rooms on the ground floor of the Master's Lodgings that are today occupied by the College Office. Looking back on the occasion in the late 1940s, Lindsay remembered Gandhi's stay with fondness, but it was also fraught with logistical challenges. Principal among these issues were those associated with diet. Indeed, in addition to specific ingredients having to be sourced for the occasion ahead of time, Gandhi's need for a supply of fresh goat's milk required regular trips to Boars Hill, where an obliging animal had been found. It is doubtful that the goat ever visited the College but this apparently did not stop what one national newspaper described as the 'incorrigible young gentlemen of Oxford' spreading a rumour that 'Mr. Gandhi was seen at five-thirty one morning in the Balliol bicycle-shed milking his goat'.

Gandhi's first stay at Balliol is of considerable interest because of several speaking engagements that were scheduled during his visit, including that at the Masonic Hall, during which he impressed Lindsay with his quick wit and intelligence when 'faced with clever young questioners'. But his second stay in Oxford two weeks later to take part in what participants referred to as the 'Oxford Conversations' proved the more significant.



'Gandhi's first stay at Balliol is of considerable interest because of several speaking engagements that were scheduled during his visit'

An impasse had been reached at the Round Table Conference, where a number of issues impeded progress on questions of constitutional change. During Gandhi's second stay in Oxford, however, informal discussions between Gandhi and a range of high-profile individuals including Malcolm MacDonald (son of the then Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald), Lord Lothian, and Sir Reginald Coupland offered participants an opportunity to find new ways of considering these questions. Whilst Gandhi's first visit had very much been a public affair, the second was conducted with a degree of secrecy. Indeed, the lack of publicity regarding Gandhi's plans left the press able only to speculate on the reasons for this second stay at Balliol after news got out that the Mahatma had been seen, clad in his distinctive dhoti, disembarking at Oxford train station under the care of what one witness described as an 'enormous' policeman. At the time, participants in the Oxford Conversations believed that they had succeeded in reaching a breakthrough,

which would have seen India move towards Dominion status, but ultimately these tentative agreements unravelled when the Round Table Conference reconvened in London the following week.

Given the College's connection with Gandhi, it seems fitting that in October 2019 Balliol marked the 150th anniversary of the Mahatma's birth. Collaborating with the Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development at Somerville College, Balliol helped organise a symposium to celebrate Gandhi's life and legacy, which was honoured by the presence of Her Excellency Ms Ruchi Ghanashyam, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, and Lord Patten of Barnes, Chancellor of Oxford University (1962). The symposium featured Professor Judith Brown (Emeritus Fellow) and Professor Rajeev Bhargava (1975 and Honorary Fellow), speaking alongside Faisal Devji, Professor of Indian History, about the insight Gandhi's visit to Oxford provides into his wider thought. The symposium was followed by a commemorative dinner in Balliol's Hall that appropriately featured a completely vegetarian menu that included *ragda patice*, a dish which originates from Gandhi's birth state, *daal chawal*, and a white chocolate ganache ingeniously assembled so as to resemble his spinning wheel. Guests also had the opportunity to examine the Balliol Master's Visitor Book relating to 1931, as part of a small exhibition on the Mahatma's time in Oxford, and to see the unassuming signature of Mahatma Gandhi.

Oxford's first DPhil student

Barbora Sojkova (2017), DPhil candidate in Oriental Studies (Sanskrit), tells the story of Lakshman Sarup (1916)

Although some students might think that Oxford's DPhil is as old as the institution of the University itself, this is not the case. The early medieval universities usually awarded the title of 'Master' to those who were deemed able to teach. By the 18th century, the German academic institutions saw a need for a higher qualification to teach and research at a university. Led by the Education Minister of Prussia and polymath Wilhelm von Humboldt, the then brand-new University of Berlin (now Humboldt University) introduced a research degree called the PhD (*philosophiae doctor*) in 1810, and other Continental universities followed shortly after. However, Oxford and Cambridge, characteristically conservative in this regard, did not at first reflect the reforms happening elsewhere, though Oxford did introduce the BLitt, amongst a few other examples.

By the end of the 19th century, ambitious scholars from all over the British Empire had to attend institutions in Germany or France if they wanted to study at an advanced level. The Allied Colonial Universities Conference of 1903 recommended the introduction of a higher degree, and finally, in May 1917, the Conference of Universities decided upon the establishment of doctorates in the UK. From 1917, Oxford was first in the UK to institute such a research programme, now known as the DPhil – those who complete it being awarded the title Doctor of Philosophy. In her ground-breaking book on the history of the PhD, Renate Simpson argues that the Oxford DPhil was the product of wartime realism: the First World War highlighted the lack of British governmental support for research and the need to change that.

The first student to submit his DPhil thesis was Balliol's own Lakshman Sarup (1894–1946), an Indian student from the Punjab. Before going to Oxford, Sarup graduated as an MA in



‘The First World War highlighted the lack of British governmental support for research and the need to change that’

Sanskrit from the Oriental College in Lahore, in today's Pakistan, and subsequently worked as a lecturer in the same subject in the DAV College in Lahore. In 1916, he was awarded an Indian state scholarship to study in Oxford, where he enrolled in the BLitt programme and changed to the DPhil the year after. Under the supervision of the Boden Professor of Sanskrit, A.A. Macdonell (Fellow 1900–1927), Sarup prepared a critical edition of *Nirukta*, an ancient Indian treatise of etymology, as his DPhil thesis, which he submitted in 2019. This thesis was a first step towards Sarup's acclaimed edition and English translation *The Nighantu and The Nirukta*. Sarup's work was instrumental in introducing ancient Indian philosophy of language and etymology to the Western linguistic departments.

Before he was appointed Professor of Sanskrit at the University of the Punjab in 1920, Sarup travelled around Europe and spent time studying with Sylvain Lévi in Strassburg. On his travels, Sarup developed his taste for French culture, which he brought back to India, where he set up a

French study circle called the Minerva Club, and translated Molière's plays into Hindi. In 1942, Sarup was the first Indian scholar to be appointed Principal of the Oriental College of the University of the Punjab, a position which he held until the end of his life.

Alas, we do not know much about Sarup's life as an Oxford student, nor do we possess many photographic mementos of his experience. What we do know comes to us in snippets: Sarup acted as captain of the University cricket team, as well as being a keen scholar. In the preface to his first book, we find his acknowledgement of Mr Madan, ex-Librarian of the Bodleian: 'I desire to put on record my special thanks [...] for permission to work on valuable manuscripts during the dark days of air-raids, when the manuscripts had been carefully stored away.' At a time when the world once again speaks of war, we current graduate students at Balliol studying in the light of a new century might be reminded of the many fragile contingencies of history upon which our scholarly practices depend.

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Sandra Bancroft-Billings,
for the Spokesman Review

Still from *American Gypsy*:
Jimmy Marks celebrates a
victory in the federal courts.

Pick up a camera and go

Isabel Ion (2016) interviews filmmaker Jasmine Dellal (1986)

The first murmurs of Jasmine Dellal's filmmaking philosophy began to form in the quiet tute rooms of Balliol: 'I often think of a phrase I heard while studying Cervantes: *deleitar enseñando* (to entertain while teaching),' Jasmine says. 'I remember sitting in a tutorial years ago with Eric Southworth [Spanish Lecturer] and being struck by those words. Still today, I aim to make films where the story and entertainment have priority over teaching.' Jasmine lists among her favourite films those by left-wing social critic Ken Loach and by her late mentor Marlon Riggs, a filmmaker who played with the documentary form to open powerful conversations about gay rights, HIV and racial politics. Her least favourite film might be *Eat Pray Love*, an overly romanticised adaptation of a novel about self-development. So far, so Balliol. Yet it was only after her time at the College that Jasmine decided to make films: it was the famous spirit of Balliol, the aspiration to change the world in some positive way, that fuelled what would become her creative ambition.

Initially Jasmine assumed that her JCR hunger for positive action would

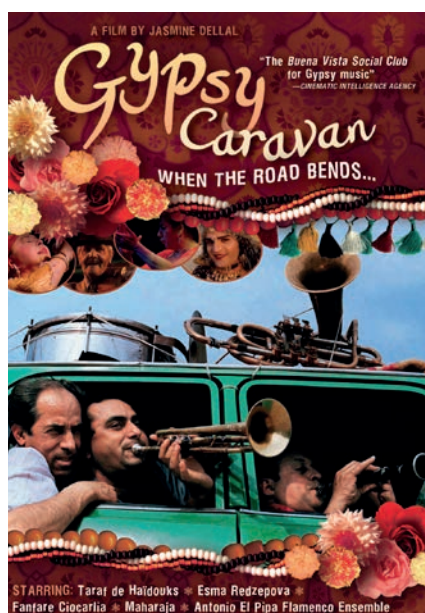
translate well into political work.

Then while travelling she met Italian filmmaker Edoardo Winspeare, and saw him making grassroots documentaries with local Italian villagers combining fabulistic imagination and gritty reality. That changed her life, her desire to make films having been 'born on an

olive grove in south Italy'.

With an extensive filmmaking career now established between those fiery student days and the realism of raising a family and being a working professional, Jasmine's idealism has refused to be quietened. A director's work develops and shifts with greater filmmaking maturity, but her driving motivations have remained constant. One of these is to put people before issues. 'I feel driven to make films about people. Admittedly the people are often tackling issues which I want to come through in the film, but the people must come first. I want those people to feel involved in the process and to feel ownership of the film.' In particular she is interested in people on the edge of society. Jasmine describes her own heritage as 'a mixture of Yorkshire, London, Poland, Baghdad, Jewish and India' and says: 'Some surmise that's why: because I'm also on the edge of anything I belong to. It's also possible that it just makes me feel that all people are essentially the same wherever they come from, so we have to focus on the humanity first.'

From a Theroux-esque road trip around the States as a graduate student



'I feel driven to make films about people. Admittedly the people are often tackling issues which I want to come through in the film, but the people must come first'

(*She Says* [1990s]) through two award-winning features about Roma/'Gypsies' (*American Gypsy: A Stranger in Everybody's Land* [1999] and *When the Road Bends... Tales of a Gypsy Caravan* [2006]), Jasmine always strived towards 'fair representation' as the ultimate goal. It is inherently impossible to totally remove the filmmaker or sense of perspective from the medium: objectivity should be an unachievable aim, she believes, and it must be couched in an interesting tale. She strives for this in various ways, including interviewing as widely as possible (in *She Says*, for instance, she spoke to women from all walks of life on the subject of womanhood and feminism), and by being honest about the film's point of view – her voice appears in *American Gypsy* with the intention that, rather than being the protagonist of the film, it make an admission that she is just some 'white English chick' with limited access to the subject matter. Another characteristic of her work is her use of fiction traits. 'I often find it most effective when documentaries use good characters, plot, narrative arcs, etc.,' she says, remembering Cervantes. 'There's a powerful alchemy in the combination of reality and unexpected storytelling techniques.'

The Gypsy documentaries were a true labour of love: Romani people are unlikely to trust outsiders, in part because of the frequent misrepresentation that's challenged in Jasmine's initial documentary. *American Gypsy* follows the court case of a community leader as he and his family crack open the door on their lifestyle and customs. It took months to gain access, and the uncertain relationship was epitomised by a conversation that occurred after more than three years of connections. By then, Jasmine had spoken to the whole extended family and was finally interviewing the most unapproachable member of all: the grandmother. The conversation began pleasantly, but the crew's suspicions



Jasmine Dellal

were aroused as the matriarch's replies grew in elaboration and contradiction. She was saying 'anything and everything', and when eventually challenged she burst out in an amused cackle, saying, 'What's the point in truth? I just say what I like!' At the time Jasmine was somewhat rankled, branding the interview a failure: this was until the editor loved it and it became one of the most colourful moments of the film. The exchange seems fitting for a film that is involved in the impossibility of attempting true representation – or, of course, for 2019 graduates like me entering the creative industries in what is quickly becoming the clichéd era of 'post-truth'.

When she wanted to make her first Romani documentary, an uncertain Jasmine approached Marlon Riggs, her teacher at the University of California at Berkeley. She had found a huge amount of racist material about 'Gypsies' and wondered why it wasn't met with the same outrage as other strains of discrimination. She was aware of the concept of outsiders' ignorance, noticing that India was portrayed in Western culture as either 'dirty' or 'nirvana', even though her own experience of India was much more nuanced during life-long annual visits to her grandmother. Similarly, Romani communities seemed

to be depicted only as 'dirty thieving scoundrels' or an exoticised source of magic and imagination. She wanted to experience and depict the culture properly, but she questioned her own authority to portray a marginalised and famously secretive community. Riggs encouraged her to make the film, telling her that storytelling didn't have to be so black and white, as long as she was honest to the audience about her own point of view. She went on to make *American Gypsy* and dedicated it to Riggs after his death, and felt a newfound confidence in her filmmaking scope.

As well as being mentored by Riggs, Jasmine has collaborated with one of the Maysles Brothers (iconic pioneers of 'direct cinema' style). Albert Maysles was impressed with *American Gypsy* and moved by parallels between Jewish and Romani historical persecution, so he asked to shoot her next documentary. Jasmine remembers going to pick him up from his New York office for the flight to Romania, uncertain what the next few weeks would entail: she entered, and he scraped the entire contents of his desk into a bag and pronounced himself 'ready!'

Perhaps it is the documentary style of 'pick up a camera and go' that has allowed Jasmine's self-assertion and confidence to grow. As a female filmmaker, she has found the documentary industry more of a level playing field than the fictional sector. Sure, in some technical colour-correction editing suites full of men she has had to have her directions repeated by a male colleague to be taken seriously, yet the ideas are implemented and the final product is authoritatively hers.

Jasmine is now focusing her camera on a new project – a work-in-progress about a self-sustaining farm school in India. We look forward to seeing how her work develops. From Balliol JCR to solidifying a filmmaking philosophy, the future is as unpredictable as ever: uncertain graduates take note!



‘The idea was to inspire young people to look beyond communal violence towards realising their professional aspirations’

For centuries, Oxford has served as a cradle for careers in public life. Graduates from the University have gone on to play pivotal roles in government and governance across the globe. India, in particular, for decades now has seen Oxford alumni at the forefront of its public discourses, including as prime minister. The challenges of law enforcement in the world’s largest democracy are perhaps without parallel anywhere else in terms of scale and complexity.

Harssh A Poddar read for the graduate degree in law (BCL) as a Chevening Scholar at Balliol in 2008–2009 and having opted to forego a budding career as a lawyer with a magic circle law firm in London, he is now an officer of the Indian Police Service (IPS). IPS officers are recruited through India’s notoriously competitive civil services examination and serve at the helm of law enforcement agencies in the federal and state governments. Harssh presently serves as the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Beed in central India. As SP he oversees the maintenance of law and order, crime investigation and traffic management of a district with a population of over three million spread over an area of more than 10,000 square kilometres.

In 2019, Harssh and his team successfully ensured the peaceful and fair conduct of India’s general elections as well as the state elections. Elections in India are a massive, state-driven exercise in which the Indian police play a focal role. They are charged with ensuring that the electoral process remains free and fair. To this end, the police undertake extensive drives against unfair electoral practices. Vast crowds running into hundreds of thousands attending public meetings of star campaigners are regulated. The police administration work

Law enforcement in the world’s largest democracy

As an officer of the Indian Police Service, Harssh A Poddar (2008) has initiated innovative policing strategies

tirelessly to rein in criminal elements that could influence voters in rural areas. Above all, the crucial challenge for law enforcement agencies is to win the confidence of voters that their franchise is protected. On Harssh's initiative, an award-winning film was produced that sought to assure vulnerable voters in Beed that the police stood committed to defending their suffrage.¹ The challenge and eventual success of these endeavours were that much more significant because Beed is one of the most politically charged districts in the country.

Harssh has also worked extensively on youth deradicalisation. From 2015 to 2018 he conceptualised a community policing project in the state of Maharashtra, known as the Maharashtra Police Youth Parliament (MPYP). The project sought to create large-scale awareness amongst rural youth against crime and terror by partnering with the police. It is a bottom-up approach whereby adolescents are given socio-criminal issues and encouraged to come up with policy-based solutions for them.² The impact was so great that the project was replicated across 18 districts and created a youth outreach of over 200,000 young minds against crime for the Maharashtra Police. It has gone on to win prestigious awards such as the GFiles award for excellence in governance and the FICCI award for Smart Policing.

In 2017–2018 Harssh was posted as the Additional Superintendent of Police of Malegaon. In this capacity he headed the law enforcement apparatus of one of the most densely populated urban areas of the world with a chequered recent past of communal riots and bomb blasts. His work there focused on countering organised crime and illegal trades, thereby cutting off the funding channels of socially disruptive forces.³ He also launched a project called Udaan (Flight), which provided free career guidance through the auspices of the police to the youth of the city. The idea behind it was to inspire young people to look beyond communal violence towards realising their professional aspirations. The project helped forge bonds between the police and the local community which prevented any riots from breaking out during the Bhima Koregaon violence that erupted in the state of Maharashtra in January 2018.⁴

In the summer of 2018, India witnessed several instances of mob violence, many of them leading to lynchings, caused by rumours circulated on social media about child-lifters. On the fateful night of 1 June 2018 an armed mob of about 2,000 people attempted to lynch a family, suspecting them to

be a kidnapping gang in Malegaon.⁵ Harssh led a three-hour operation that successfully repulsed the mob and was able to rescue the family without any casualties.⁶ He thereafter ran an immensely successful campaign against rumour-based violence that ensured the prevention of such incidents in the region.⁷

Intensive involvement with on-the-ground situations has not prevented him from linking it with his legal education. Investment frauds are a major economic offence in India, often contributing to large-scale agrarian distress among farmers who are small depositors. Harssh has authored a legal commentary on the law relating to investment frauds. The book, published by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), is now widely used as a primer in the investigation of frauds.

In the past few years, Harssh has also worked on overhauling the public perception of law enforcement in rural India. He has channelled development resources towards obtaining international standards of service delivery in rural police stations by obtaining ISO certification for police stations in his jurisdiction. The idea behind this initiative was to recreate the police station as a people-friendly institution that the community sees as a place where they can find solutions to their problems. The certification process involved an overhaul of procedural as well as infrastructural aspects of the police stations. These changes have gone a long way to democratising law enforcement in these areas.⁸

Thus in the short span of a few years Harssh has charted new territory in reinventing policing systems and fusing them with the needs of 21st-century India. His work in public governance has been widely recognised as making him one of the most impactful civil servants in India of his generation.⁹

¹ 'Free, Fair and Fearless' an electoral awareness film by Beed Police that won accolades at the National Film Festival on Rural Development: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iByqRSi32Ps&t=29s>

² <https://www.thebetterindia.com/134230/ips-harssh-poddar-malegaon-maharashtra-youth-parliament/>

³ <https://www.thebetterindia.com/146030/ips-harssh-poddar-asp-malegaon-communal-violence/>

⁴ <https://thelogicalindian.com/news/bhima-koregaon-protests/>

⁵ Harssh delivered a TEDx talk on the realities of handling a violent mob for the police: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZZ1BqiSmGg&t=23s>

⁶ <https://www.thebetterindia.com/148392/malegaon-cops-mob-lynching/>

⁷ <https://www.npr.org/2018/07/18/629731693/fake-news-turns-deadly-in-india>. His handling of such mob violence was recently presented at the Harvard India Conference, hosted by the Harvard Kennedy School: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oy65LxsGpJU&t=1083s>

⁸ <https://thelogicalindian.com/story-feed/exclusive/police-stations-getting-iso-certification/>

⁹ <https://www.thebetterindia.com/167134/ias-hero-ips-irs-inspiring-civil-servants-india/>



Harsh after his graduation ceremony at the Sheldonian Theatre

‘Much more impression is made on a visitor and information retained as a result of a dialogue than by passive consumption of information’

Andrew in character as Captain Woodget, captain of the *Cutty Sark* 1885–1895.

If it's Thursday I must be Brunel ...

Floreat Domus quizzes Andrew Ashmore (1981) about his work as a live interpreter

What's a live interpreter?

When I was young, the cliché was that anyone who lost their mind thought they were Napoleon. If I ever lose mine I have so many choices: Darius the Great, Sir Hans Sloane, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, James Brindley, Samuel Taylor Coleridge ... As a live interpreter I've played all these characters over the years and many more, and written more than 500 scripts for performance in museums and galleries.

At its simplest level, a live interpreter is a person who furnishes information about a museum collection, object, exhibition or historic house. They can be a room steward in a National Trust property; someone dressed in Tudor

clothes explaining that these were what they would have worn had they been a Tudor (third-person interpretation); or John Keats himself, bursting into Keats House with his just-written manuscript of 'Ode to a Nightingale' (first-person interpretation). My company specialises in first-person interpretation, which allows a visitor to meet and converse with an historical character, who is extremely knowledgeable about the history of that particular person, time, place and experience, but knows nothing beyond it.

How did you come to be one?

My first job out of drama school was as a live interpreter at the Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI). I loved the amount of research material we were given, and the training, which included lectures by film historians, film screenings and the opportunity to operate such devices as magic lanterns, thaumatropes, praxinoscopes, and a replica of the theatre optique (a remarkable piece of equipment that projected some of the first animated moving pictures). We then became a Victorian magic lanternist, the cinema proprietor of an Electric Palace cinema in the 1910s, a Bolshevik Revolutionary in an agit-prop train carriage projecting films to educate the masses in the countryside ... History, come to life!

I had three contracts at MoMI and became Actors' Company Manager at MoMI in 1997. When the museum closed for refurbishment in 1999 we became a consultancy, using our actors to draw upon the skills they'd acquired in our museum and to apply them elsewhere. When MoMI didn't re-open, we had a fully fledged team and client base, and I've been servicing and extending that since 2001.

What skills are required?

The first is a passion for the subject: it's hard to interest a visitor if the actor is not interested in what they are talking about. When casting, we try to ensure that actors work on subjects and in periods that they are enthusiastic about, and that enthusiasm becomes infectious.

Making the historical conversation a matter of compelling importance to the character gives an emotional charge to the information: it ceases to be the dead and dusty leaves of history and becomes instead a practical and pressing concern. This makes the visitor begin to think what life was like for the character and to see themselves there too.

Research skills are key. Almost all the team are degree-qualified, and all do in-depth research on their characters/period of history. The ability to assimilate large amounts of information swiftly, identify the salient points clearly, and use them accurately – which I gained from reading Jurisprudence at Balliol – is useful here. The two jobs I had before I went to drama school, writing headnotes for the All England Law Reports and subsequently working as an advertising copywriter,

for which I had to write punchy, memorable copy, have helped me hugely too.

Communication skills are critical. It's great to know a lot, but you need to be able to make that information accessible to a visitor, be they expert, enthusiast or child. Interaction is the way to achieve this, bringing the visitor into the conversation. Empathy is important too: the ability to establish rapport with a visitor and find out what interests them. When they realise that they can ask questions and the character knows the answers, the interaction really takes off!

The research never really ends. The more you know, the more you can tell. It's always exciting to gain more information and insight about a historical period, character or event that can be used on the floor. Perhaps a useful motivator is the fear of being found out – the question to which you do not know the answer. In such cases, the technique is either to find a reason why the character doesn't know (someone else takes care of the finances, their memory is not what it was, etc.) or else to give the politician's answer, 'I'm so glad you asked me that ...', followed by information as close to the subject as possible. This usually satisfies the visitor. The next step is to find out for next time!

'My company specialises in first-person interpretation, which allows a visitor to meet and converse with an historical character, who is extremely knowledgeable about their own person, time, place and experience'

Is live interpreting education or entertainment, or both?

We do specific education sessions for schools visiting museums – such as 'Engineering in Brunel's London' for the Museum of Docklands, or 'Persian Wars' for the British Museum, where the children take on the role of a delegation from Athens suing Darius the Great for peace after the battle of Marathon. There is of course an education remit in the work we do with general visitors too. We develop characters based on learning objectives from the client – what the key things are that they want people to leave knowing that they didn't necessarily know before.

But as a trip to a museum or a ship like Cutty Sark is also a great day out, there needs to be an element of fun and entertainment. Humour is a very effective way of communicating and getting people to relax, but you need to be careful: it can be easy to find humour in the past from a modern perspective, by mocking it in some way. The secret of successful humour is that it comes from an understanding and appreciation of a character's position and situation: then visitors laugh with, and not at, the character.



Andrew playing Sir Hans Sloane, founder of the British Museum, in the museum's Enlightenment Gallery.

What are the challenges and satisfactions of your work?

Apart from the perennial bugbear of budgets and funding, technology is becoming more and more of an issue. A lot of museums and experiences give out handsets or headsets with buttons to press and pre-recorded commentaries that take visitors on a tour in something of a bubble, which can be hard to break through. Research done through IMTAL-Europe – an arm of the International Museum Theatre Alliance that works to stimulate best practice and offer professional support – led to a report entitled ‘You Remember It More’, which showed how much more impression is made on a visitor and information retained as a result of a dialogue than by passive consumption of information.

As for satisfactions, a lovely thing that happens regularly is when leaving for the day, in plain clothes and thus unrecognisable as the Georgian architect or Persian king I’ve just played, I hear visitors still talking about what has been said, or singing the verses of the sea shanty we’ve just taught them. That feels like a job well done.

Although live interpretation was not common when I began, in 1992, and visitors needed to be won over, these days the technique is much more familiar and visitors are likely to have plenty of questions. This can lead to some splendid interactions. I remember playing Charles Davis, Surveyor of Bath, who discovered the long-lost Roman Baths in the 1890s. His ultimate plan was to have the Great Bath roofed over as the Romans had done. After a long discussion with a visitor in which we established to our mutual satisfaction (in 1995) that it was in fact 1895, the visitor asked me how I thought the Great Bath would look in 100 years’ time. I remarked that it would look much better as it would have a grand barrel roof, as that was my intention. Looking at the clearly unroofed bath, the visitor said that he was sure that I was right, with a knowing smile.

‘The secret of successful humour is that it comes from an understanding and appreciation of a character’s position and situation: then visitors laugh with, and not at, the character’

I also had one very nice moment when we performed at the Oxford Botanic Garden at a conference for delegates from botanic gardens around the world. I was playing a modern character, an expert on *Euphorbia stygiana*, and in the course of my garden tour we bumped into Jacob Bobart, the garden’s first Hortus Praefectus in the 17th century. An exchange of ideas between the two characters followed, an exploration of the doctrine of signatures and the fact that a lot of remedies come from plants. We deposited Jacob Bobart in a part of the garden that he would have recognised and walked back to the entrance. On the way a delegate said: ‘That was very good, but how do you feel about having to work with actors?’ As I was still in role, I didn’t let on that I was one myself!

Is there any Balliol historical figure you’d like to play?

We’ve referenced the poet Robert Southey (1792) a few times in the work we’re doing for Keats House in London, where I’ve played Coleridge, as Coleridge met Southey while he was at Balliol and together they came up with the idea of a pantisocratic society – a utopian society based on government by all, that they almost attempted to create in America, but in the end never got off the ground. Apart from Southey, the Balliol figure that stands out for me is John Evelyn (1637). He was a remarkable diarist with some great stories that would work very well with an audience – for example, that of Peter the Great renting Evelyn’s house when he studied shipbuilding at the Royal Dockyard in Deptford and using portraits in the house for target practice, as well as doing considerable damage to the garden!

For more information, see the Andrew Ashmore and Associates website: www.ashmoreacts.org/.

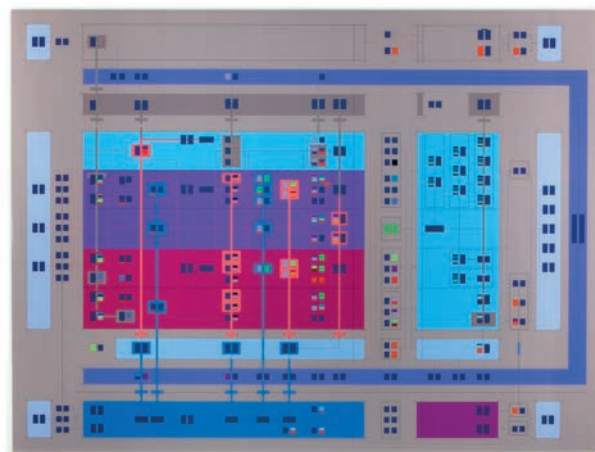
Data as art

Josh Harlan (1994) turns charts into abstract artworks

Art can sometimes be found in unlikely places. Josh Harlan founded an investment firm in New York, Harlan Capital Partners. Several years ago, he started making colourful digital images based on charts that he came across in his investment research – from areas like telecommunications, epidemiology, economic statistics, weather patterns and funding flows within the financial system. His first solo show, 'Data is Art/Art is Data', was held at the East Hampton Library in East Hampton, NY in August 2016. Subsequently, his artwork has been acquired for several corporate and personal collections, including a site-specific installation commissioned by Facebook, Inc., and placed on permanent display in one of their headquarters buildings in Menlo Park, CA.

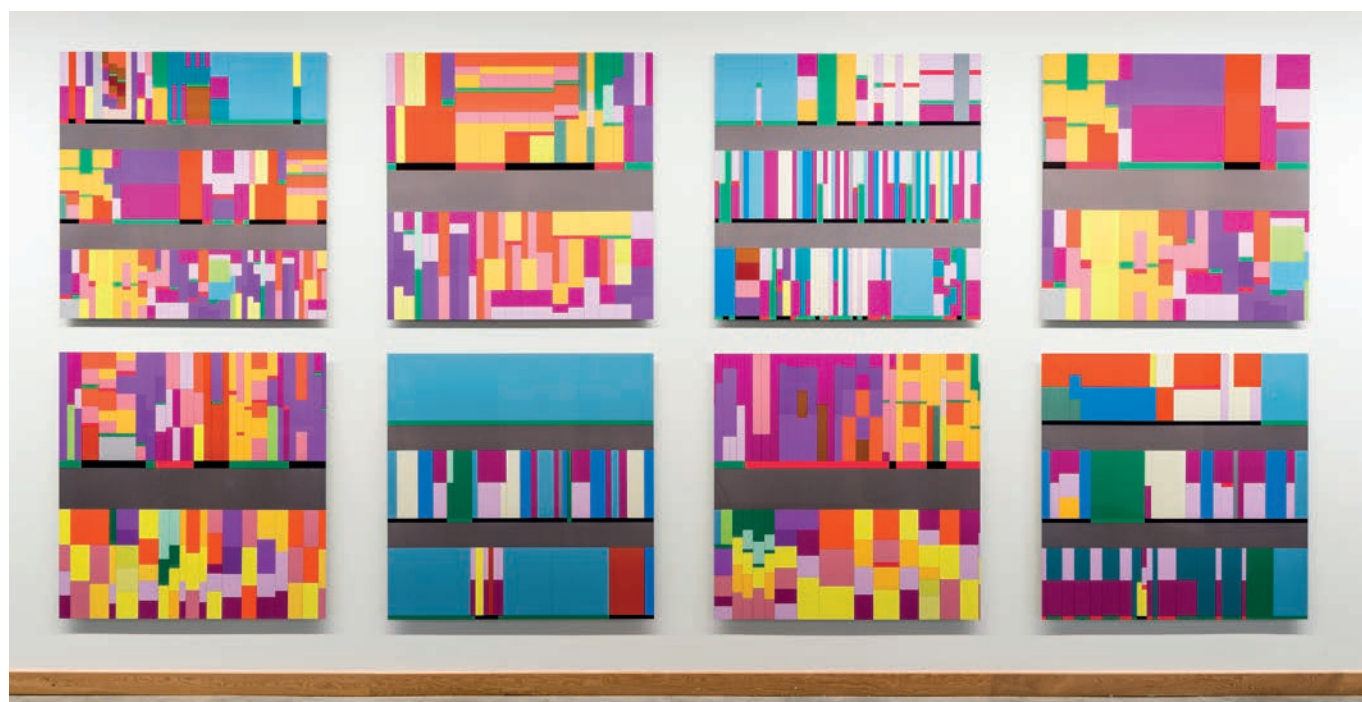
Inspired by artists such as Sol Le Witt and Josef Albers, Josh finds data sets or visual displays of information that have the potential for abstraction. Then he constructs a digital file that reflects his alterations to those images or data. After that, he prints the images, either on reflective photographic paper that is mounted on gallery plexiglass, or on aluminium panels.

In an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on his work, Josh was quoted discussing the connections between his investment activities and his artwork. 'It's not two completely separate parts of my life,' he said. 'It's two ways of working with the same material. You can find beauty in anything and business and finance are not exceptions to that.'



Aron Rocha

Josh Harlan, *Shadow Banking*: digital metallic print mounted on gallery plexi. 62" x 48". Derived from a Federal Reserve System schematic depicting the structure of the non-bank financial system.



Aron Rocha

Josh Harlan, *Spectrum Fragments*: site-specific installation commissioned and acquired by Facebook, Inc., in August 2018 as part of their corporate collection at headquarters in Menlo Park, CA. Eight vibrachrome metal panels, each 48" x 48". Images are extracted from a US government chart showing radio frequency allocations.



The literary life

Authors' agent Peter Buckman (1959) reports
from the front lines of publishing

When I started work at Penguin in 1962, on a salary of £650 a year, Sir Allen Lane, who was still very much in charge, told me two things: we sold books as items of individual worth, not like packets of soap; and the royalty the authors received, 7.5% of the retail price, was roughly the same as the publisher's share of the profits.

Nowadays algorithms offer you a choice based almost entirely on what you've already read, and while the big publishers' profits have almost doubled, authors' incomes (apart from a handful of bestsellers) have declined to the point where 95% of them make less than ten grand a year from their writing, or under half the living wage.

It isn't all Amazon's fault. In the 1990s booksellers themselves lobbied for the abolition of Retail Price Maintenance on books, so that they could discount them like other goods and attract purchasers with offers like 'Buy One Get One Free'. The idea was to let the market dictate the price, and to entice readers into bookshops so that they would browse and spend more. Then supermarkets started selling books, at lower prices than those in bookshops: the range was smaller, though some titles sold in greater quantities. Naturally bookshops suffered, but the people

who suffered most were the authors. They were persuaded to accept lower royalties on an assurance that they would make just as much money, if not more, when their book sold in vast quantities; but as the supermarket deal with the publisher was 'sale or return' and supermarkets didn't want unsold stock cluttering up their shelves, new writers were given little chance to establish a following.

'Amazon has revolutionised retailing, which puts traditional booksellers under greater pressure than ever; they are now an endangered species'

There is no doubt that as an online store Amazon has revolutionised retailing, which puts traditional booksellers under greater pressure than ever; they are now an endangered species. What's more, Amazon not only demands even bigger discounts than supermarkets: they offer many deals

in which books are almost free. This may be great for the consumer, but it diminishes the value of a writer's work, as well as affecting their income: who can afford to work for nothing?

But despite E. M. Forster's dictum that there are only two reasons to write – for the money, and the respect of the people you respect – most writers I know don't expect to earn a living from their art. We go on doing it because we believe we have a story to tell, and storytelling is what makes us human. In my own case, I spent an enjoyable three years in publishing, including a spell on the editorial board of *New American Library*, and then became a full-time writer myself. Over some 35 years I wrote two novels and five books of non-fiction, but my main income was from writing scripts for radio, television (including an episode of *Morse*), theatre and film. When I reached my 60s, and commissions were drying up, I set up as a literary agent; the first book I took on turned into the film *Slumdog Millionaire* (which only proves what all writers believe, that anyone can become an agent). I'm still running the agency, but I've also returned to writing. My latest book, *A Genial Senior's Companion to Ageing*, should be available in all good bookshops: please tell your friends!



Jess Potter (2001)

Working in healthcare

We invited some of the Balliol alumni who work – or have worked – as medical professionals in the UK and beyond to share their experiences and views

The contributions in the following pages were written before the 2019–2020 COVID-19 pandemic began.

Donald Shaw (1959)

During my 54 years in the National Health Service large changes in clinical management have occurred. In my speciality, neurosurgery, examples are:

- The almost complete replacement of stereotactic surgery in the management of Parkinson's Disease by drugs, e.g. L-Dopa;
- Beta- and later dexamethasone in reducing dramatically the risk of intracranial tumour surgery;
- Nimodipine in reducing the risk of delayed cerebral ischaemia in subarachnoid haemorrhage;
- the use of the operating microscope;
- the evolution of clip technology, from crimping to parallel arm closing, together with the introduction of the operating microscope to reduce the risk of aneurysm surgery, which now together with arteriovenous malformation (AVM) has largely been replaced by intravascular coiling of aneurysms and AVMs;
- the replacement of investigations such as ventriculography and lumbar air encephalography, which were truly awful for the patient, by Computerised Tomographic and Magnetic Resonance scanning. These allow more accurate anatomical and physiological localisation in the brain and spinal cord of structures and lesions;
- rapid film interchangers in cerebral angiography, allowing visualisation of arterial, capillary and venous phases of the circulation from a single contrast injection.

I subspecialised in intracranial vascular disease and took an active part in the



'In my opinion the main problem facing patients is the loss of continuity of care ('rarely see the same clinician twice')

trials which led to great improvements in reduced morbidity and mortality in the management of subarachnoid haemorrhage.

On the administrative side large changes occurred, mainly following the arrival of Trust status. Together with a neurological colleague, Dr Ian Williams, I put forward a successful bid to create the only Neuroscience NHS Trust in the UK. Subsequently I was responsible for the basic design of the Trust's new build. During my 13 years on the Trust board, initially as Executive Director for Research and Development and then as Medical Director, and subsequently 11 years as a Public Governor, the non-

clinical administrative staff increased dramatically, as did data collection.

Whilst being permanently 'on call', as I was, was probably not right, the pendulum has now swung too far in the opposite direction. I believe that this has resulted in clinicians gaining less experience of the natural history of diseases and the long-term effects of intervention upon it before appointment as a consultant.

However, in my opinion the main problem facing patients is the loss of continuity of care ('rarely see the same clinician twice'), resulting from the dissolution of the medical firm which was largely driven by the 'Working Time' directive introduced in the early 2000s.

Much of the discussion about the Health Service revolves around missed targets in Accident and Emergency departments, which largely result from rapidly increasing numbers of patients presenting to them. Until community health and social care are improved, this will be a problem that continues to worsen.

The two most important things that I gained from Balliol are, first, that I mixed with undergraduates from other disciplines, giving me wider horizons of interest: this helped me see patients as more than their medical problem. Second, I developed a critical attitude to data and conclusions drawn from it. This was reinforced by my time in the Oxford Clinical School, which I spent mainly attached to clinical firms as an 'apprentice'. This was the start of gaining considerable experience under supervision in the management of patients, which proved critical on appointment as a consultant.



Peter Andrews (1980)

After three very happy years at Balliol, I transferred to London for my clinical studies, and have never left. I specialised in nephrology, historically the most academic of the medical disciplines, and subsequently in renal transplantation. I am now Consultant Nephrologist, SW Thames Renal & Transplantation Unit, Surrey.

Medicine is not for everyone. My father hates hospitals and was appalled when I decided to spend my life in them; but then again, I hate meetings.

It's a hard slog, with amazing highs and deep lows. You need resilience and the ability to switch off. But most of all you need to be interested in people. It is a huge privilege to be trusted with people's most intimate thoughts at their most desperate times. Study medicine for the privilege of serving, for the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile, and for the people whose lives you share.

Professor Seong-Sen Tan (1983)



‘This led me to the discovery that brain cells that share the same type of parental X tend to stay together in clusters, from the time of their migration to their final destinations’

‘Why can’t a woman be more like a man?’ complains Professor Higgins (played by Rex Harrison) in *My Fair Lady* after his muse Eliza Doolittle (Audrey Hepburn) has thrown a tantrum and left in a huff. Just as many men may feel the same in similar circumstances, women may wonder why a man can’t be more like a woman. Do men and women sometimes misunderstand each other because their brains are different?

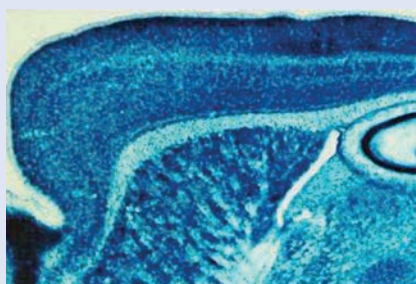
Neuroanatomists have not found any differences between the two sexes. Examined under the microscope, the cells in a woman’s brain appear the same as a man’s, with the same number and even the same arrangement. Ground up and distilled biochemically, they use the same genetic codes and protein types. So what can be different?

Genetically, men have only one X chromosome in every cell of the body, including brain neurons, but women

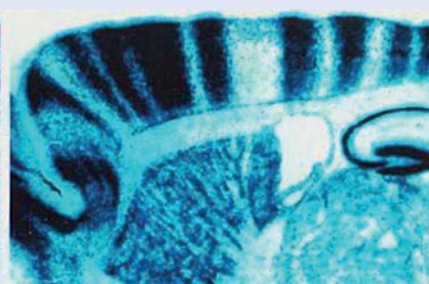
have two Xs in each cell. Each X has about 1,000 genes, so while male neurons inherit all their X genes from their mother, female neurons each carry 2,000 X genes: half from father and half from mother. This situation is biologically untenable because doubling the dose of X genes is toxic and lethal. Nature has devised an ingenious solution by shutting down half of the X genes in every female cell – a phenomenon known as Lyonization (in honour of Mary Lyon, who discovered this at MRC Harwell).

So how do female brain cells decide which X (from mother or father) should be turned off? To visualise this, I inserted a colour gene into the paternal X so that

neurons are coloured blue if the paternal X is active. Conversely, neurons that turn on the maternal X are coloured white. This led me to the discovery that brain cells that share the same type of parental X tend to stay together in clusters, from the time of their migration to their final destinations, creating irregular stripes of interconnected neurons. Blue stripes express the father’s X genes, white stripes the mother’s X genes; in contrast, male brains uniformly express only the mother’s X genes everywhere. Can this unpredictable expression of X genes in a female brain be the root of Prof. Higgins’ misunderstanding that Eliza’s brain is a mess?



Male



Female

Medicine in 100 words:

- Pros: secure job for life; good (though recently problematic) salary and pension; socially worthwhile; great variety; meet lots of people; excellent social opportunities; six years as a student; friendships forged in fire that last for life; opportunities for travel and research; opportunities to specialise; opportunities for part-time work; great highs; your Mum will be proud of you.
- Cons: antisocial hours; crushingly hard work at times; huge responsibility;

six years as a student; large student debt; increasing red tape and political correctness; terrible lows; never quite relaxing on an aircraft; high risk of burnout; your partner may never see you.

Messages for current or prospective students: it’s a marathon, not a sprint; youth is wasted on the young; learn to touch type; if you want an MBE and an easy life, specialise in public health medicine; read Adam Kay as well as Atul Gawande (1987); Balliol will open doors, but it’s up to you to walk through them.

‘It’s a hard slog, with amazing highs and deep lows. You need resilience and the ability to switch off. But most of all you need to be interested in people’

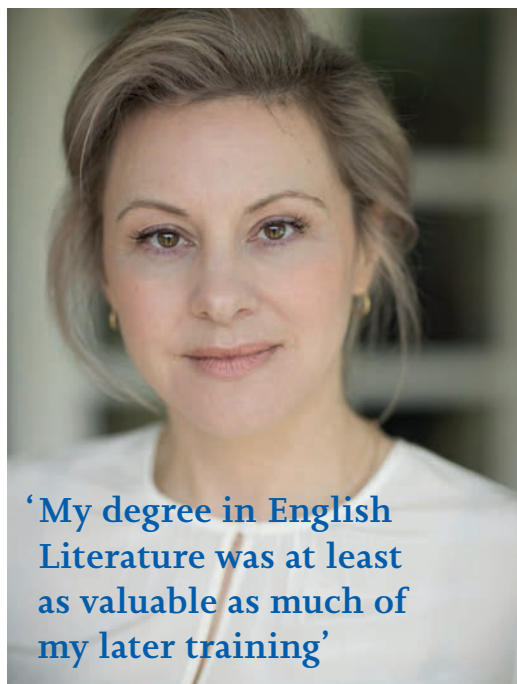
Laura Henagulph (1991)

After I left Balliol my first job was as a journalist/editor in Poland in the 1990s. Five years later I moved to France, where my experiences led me to work with the Red Cross and then to enter clinical psychology training. Following qualification, I worked in the UK for the NHS, primarily in the specialist forensic mental health service in East London.

There I worked with the most difficult and challenging members of modern society: people who had suffered horribly abusive backgrounds, causing them to develop complex mixtures of personality disorder, mental illness and substance misuse, and who had offended, often fatally, against others. These offenders receive some of society's most primitive projections, and have trouble containing themselves in turn. I had to work hard to hold on to my own thinking in secure psychiatric services, with the support of some wonderful NHS colleagues.

I often reflect on the fact that my degree in English Literature was at least as valuable as much of my later training. This is partly because of the way we were taught at Balliol: our tutors encouraged us to respond to the texts instinctively rather than build up accretions of other people's views – something like transference and countertransference. Even then I was fascinated by 'forensic' material; I specialised in Jacobean tragedy and spent a lot of my time thinking about psychic and actual violence, guilt, shame, envy and destruction. This thinking continues to inform my work.

I now live on the island of Bermuda (purportedly the inspiration for Shakespeare's *The Tempest*), where I have developed my own clinical consulting psychology practice. I balance forensic work for the government with private therapy, consulting and supervising. I still work with hard-to-reach clients but I am able to do more transdisciplinary work, finding creative ways to help people discover their own narratives.



'My degree in English Literature was at least as valuable as much of my later training'



Girton College

'Microbiologists have a critical role in antimicrobial stewardship and infection control, which can be extremely challenging to implement but makes a real difference to patient safety and global healthcare'

Fiona Cooke (1992)

Having done my pre-clinical medicine at Girton College, Cambridge, I came to Balliol in 1992 for clinical training. Highlights of my three years in Oxford include meeting my husband, who was recently appointed to a new Chair in Clinical Therapeutics at St Hilda's, winning the Gold Medal for medical finals, and the unforgettable Holywell Manor Sunday brunches.

I have been based in Cambridge for the last 15 years, having done a PhD in bacterial genomics at the Sanger Institute, and I work as a Public Health England Consultant Medical Microbiologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital. My job combines laboratory work and clinical work, both of which I love. Microbiologists have a critical role in antimicrobial stewardship and infection control, which can be extremely challenging to implement but makes a real difference to patient safety and global healthcare.

My time at Balliol undoubtedly prepared me for my additional role as Director of Studies at Girton College, where I have been an Official Fellow since 2003. I enjoy the collegiate atmosphere and derive immense satisfaction from seeing fresh-faced 18-year-olds grow and develop into competent junior doctors. I have recently been appointed College Dean of Discipline, much to the amusement of my own children, which is teaching me new skills. Nationally I am involved in postgraduate training and I am lead examiner for bacteriology for the Royal College of Pathologists Part I exam. Overall I am fortunate to juggle a varied and interesting portfolio of opportunities – but when asked about the challenges I have faced in my career, undoubtedly it is the competing pressures of work and family life that is a continual, ever-changing conundrum.



‘When I am not practising medicine I am shouting on street corners, talking to the press and waving banners, because if there is one life worth saving above all others, it is that of the NHS’

Jess Potter (2001)

I studied medicine at Balliol between 2001 and 2007, running the Medical Society for much of that time. Since qualifying as a doctor, I have worked exclusively within the NHS, and I am now coming to the end of my training as a doctor in adult respiratory medicine.

Being a doctor is a huge privilege. I meet people from every walk of life and I witness their most vulnerable moments. Far from being the heroic life-saving role often depicted on TV, my job is about making someone’s remaining life more bearable as much as prolonging it. It is not glamorous, but it is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. Over the years I have passed new-born babies to mothers and held people’s hands for hours after my shift ended so that they didn’t die alone.

In recent years we have witnessed policies and practices that undermine the NHS values of universalism and non-discrimination. Like many other institutions, the NHS is not immune to xenophobia and racism or the impact of austerity. Health is inextricably linked to poverty, and despite the NHS being free at the point of service, changes to the benefits system, zero-hours contracts and the rising cost of living all directly contribute to ill health and make accessing care more difficult. In addition, the NHS is facing a recruitment and retention crisis. We have more patients to see than ever before while practising increasingly complex medicine, our pay has been stagnant and burnout is rife. Nurses, allied

health professionals, porters, cleaners and the myriad others without whom the NHS would grind to a halt are also facing untenable working conditions.

When I applied to Balliol I did so because of its history of left-leaning politics. There, I made lifelong friends – many of whom have dedicated their lives to practising progressive forms of politics. Doctors often come from privileged backgrounds and I am no different. My exposure to different lived experiences has occurred most often in the hospital through my patients rather than at university. But tutorials at Balliol taught me to be critical of the status quo, and studying in an environment surrounded by people reading PPE and history also introduced me to new ways of seeing and knowing beyond the positivist world of biomedicine. This perhaps contributed to my PhD being firmly embedded in the social sciences.

Recently I have brought all these worlds together through activism. Healthcare is a public good. It is a right, not a privilege or a commodity to be bought and sold. I will not sit quietly while people are denied care because of the colour of their skin or the poverty into which they were born. When I am not practising medicine, teaching students or writing papers, I am shouting on street corners, talking to the press and waving banners, because if there is one life worth saving above all others, it is that of the NHS. I encourage you all to join me.

‘I meet people from every walk of life and I witness their most vulnerable moments. It is not glamorous, but it is the most rewarding thing I have ever done’

Alexa Shipman (2001)

I am a full-time dermatology consultant in the NHS (only) seeing all ages and conditions, and operating. I teach, supervise trainees and conduct research. I am editor of *Clinical and Experimental Dermatology*, its first female editor-in-chief since the journal began in 1911; I am also a keen member of the British Association of Dermatologists' Historical Committee. The skills I gained at Balliol in critical appraisal and understanding research have allowed me to work in publishing with a degree of confidence and decisiveness necessary for the work.

The challenges we face in the modern NHS are pale comparisons to those faced by our colleagues in the past or elsewhere and I vehemently support our free-at-point-of-access model. We no longer have wards in most hospitals in

dermatology, as the advances in therapeutics have resulted in remarkable results, and to be able to keep children in education and adults in work is enormously satisfying. I have seen, in dermatology in particular, the detriment of moving NHS services to private providers and I would discourage its continuance; and the new punitive pension rules may force me to drop sessions if they are not revised.

'Advances in therapeutics have resulted in remarkable results, and to be able to keep children in education and adults in work is enormously satisfying'



Joe Clacey (2004)

I am now a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Medical Lead for Buckinghamshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust).

My clinical work is as consultant for the Outreach Service for Children and Adolescents (OSCA) and the Looked After and Adopted Children's (LAAC) Service. This involves looking after 'hard to reach' young people and those in crisis, and supporting young people in care or at risk of adoption breakdown.

I work with a devoted group of clinicians who see young people at what are often some of the most challenging points in their lives: when they are in psychological distress, have self-harmed or are suicidal. Being able to offer holistic and comprehensive care to these young people and their families and help them move forward is an incredibly rewarding branch of medicine.

My time at Balliol showed me the difference committed medical educators can make to development and skills of young doctors. I spent two years as an Honorary Teaching Fellow at Oxford, teaching core psychiatry trainees, and I was one of the new Trainee Improvement Fellows within Health Education England Thames Valley (HEETV). In this role I worked to improve leadership and management opportunities for trainees within HEETV.

It is safe to say that without Balliol I would not be where I am today. I had struggles during my pre-clinical training, and without the kind support of Balliol and tutors, especially Piers Nye (Emeritus Fellow) I do not think I could have continued. Balliol fosters a spirit of inclusivity and diversity that not many colleges do, and I think such characteristics shine through in the doctors it creates.

'I see young people when they are in psychological distress, have self harmed or are suicidal. Being able to help them move forward is an incredibly rewarding branch of medicine'



Sian Thomas (2005)

I am the Deputy Chief Operating Officer (DCOO) of a community NHS organisation that provides physical health, mental health and learning disability services. The range and breadth of what we do is astonishing and on any given day I can go from discussing dental services, to inpatient forensic mental health to podiatric surgery.

The challenges of working in a large rural county and the lack of economies of scale that affords, combined with the more hidden nature of care delivered outside an acute hospital, means that the services I manage have historically been overlooked for investment and are not really championed in the media. That is changing, but a not insignificant part of my job is supporting the fantastic staff who care for our patients to get the support and recognition they not only need but completely deserve.

‘A not insignificant part of my job is supporting the fantastic staff who care for our patients to get the support and recognition they not only need but completely deserve’

There are interesting statistics that show how rare it is for women to become Chief Operating Officers; while the NHS bucks this trend, when I became a DCOO of a £100-million-pound organisation at 30 years old I still had to contend with assumptions about my age and gender. My time at Balliol gave me the confidence to overcome this. I still remember the Master inviting students to see him before finals and telling all the female students to believe in themselves. I laughed at the time – but his words turned out to be more necessary than I’d appreciated.

Management in the NHS does not always get the best headlines, but it is a career I would recommend to anyone. Good management and leadership are important for quality patient care, and the work I do alongside clinical colleagues to ensure that they are able to deliver the best care they can is very rewarding. There are new challenges every day, but that’s what makes operational management such an interesting job.

Elizabeth Wan (2008)

I completed my medical degree in 2014 and I am now an academic nephrology trainee in London. In my current role I spend 75 per cent of my time working in the NHS as a specialist registrar at the Royal Free Hospital. Here I rotate between inpatient and outpatient roles, caring for a varied population of patients with kidney disease (including those on dialysis and with kidney transplants). In the remaining 25 per cent of my time I am carrying out basic science research at University College London. My work currently focuses on rare genetic causes of hypertension and hypotension within the renal tubule, in the hope that these can help us to understand the regulation of blood pressure in the wider population.

In my clinical work the rewards are often quick: there is nothing more satisfying than telephoning a dialysis patient to tell them a kidney transplant has become available and sending them home five days later with a working kidney, their quality of life transformed. The rewards of research are much slower, but equally satisfying.

Studying at Balliol imparted to me the essential skills of how research is conducted, and encouraged an enquiring mind. The challenges I faced at Balliol, both academically and in other areas (for example, I trialled with the University Boat Club), taught me perseverance and left a sense of self-belief which I rely on in difficult times. And, of course, the friends I made there continue to support me.

These skills are essential because medical training isn’t always easy. Patient numbers, and their expectations, have increased over the last few years. The rota is often stretched. It can be deeply dissatisfying to feel I have done a substandard job because of time pressure or lack of resources. I hope in the future to be able to effect change at a system level, as well as on a patient-by-patient basis.



‘There is nothing more satisfying than telephoning a dialysis patient to tell them a kidney transplant has become available and sending them home five days later with a working kidney’

Balliol rowing: a sport for everyone

In the early evening of 10 June 1829, nine men in dark blue jerseys lined up along the Buckinghamshire side of the Thames at Henley. Among them were E.J. Arbuthnot (1827) and J.J. Toogood (1826), students of Balliol. Next to them in the water was their boat, built for the College the year before by Stephen Davis and Isaac King and lent to them for this event. At 7.55pm, under the watchful eyes of some 20,000 spectators, Arbuthnot, Toogood and their Oxford colleagues rowed to victory in the very first University Boat Race, beating Cambridge by a comfortable margin and winning the 500-guinea prize pot.

Fast forward to 2020 and rowing is as important to the Balliol community as it ever was. Balliol men's crews have dominated Division 1 in Eights for 82 years, the second longest time of any college. The College has boasted 11 University rowers in the last 5 years, and students who learned to row at Balliol have gone on to compete in the British and European Rowing Championships. This year, Balliol women rowers were selected to represent the University in the Lightweight Boat Race (sadly cancelled because of the Covid 19 pandemic).

‘BCBC is an all-inclusive environment that creates connections between students across different age groups, subject areas, backgrounds and genders, both within College and the wider University community.’

László Berencei, BCBC President



‘The Rowing Fund will allow us to maintain the accessibility of the club to all students of the College, providing the opportunity for everyone to take part in a sport that is such a large part of the Oxford tradition. We are very grateful to Old Members for their continued support; you are helping us to maintain BCBC as an inclusive and competitive squad.’

Leah Mitchell (2016), BCBC Women's Captain 2018/2019

While it takes pride in nurturing a new generation of rowing greats, the College is perhaps even more proud of how inclusive and welcoming the Boat Club is. Around a quarter of all Balliol students participate in rowing during their time at College and, for the majority, it is their first experience of the sport. Many arrive insisting that they are not athletic and that they dislike competitive sports, only to find themselves regularly riverside in all weathers, at all hours, and bonded to their crew mates for life. The club is for everyone, from those who wish to take their rowing careers to a higher level to those who

are fresh to rowing but looking for a safe, fun and inclusive environment.

To say that Old Member generosity is important to rowing at Balliol does not do justice to the significance of that support. Rowing costs around £90,000 each year to maintain at Balliol and it is just one of many sports competing for the College's limited funds. Without additional help, the costs of such a resource-intensive sport – including the maintenance of ergs and boats, and spending on travel and essential kit – are increasingly passed to students, which undermines efforts to make rowing more inclusive.

Last year, the College launched the Rowing Fund (www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/rowing-fund) to maintain and improve all areas of rowing at Balliol. Many Old Members have already offered their



Watch the Balliol College Rowing Fund video at
www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/rowing-fund

‘Rowing is often seen as exclusive so to be able to offer the opportunity to participate in it to dozens of students every year, no matter their background, is a privilege.’

**Jonny Martin (2015), BCBC
President 2017/2018**

support, but we are still some way from our goal to fully fund the Club’s annual costs. We have also been set an important challenge: if the College receives 40 new regular gifts to rowing by the end of 2020, an anonymous Old Member will contribute a further £40,000 to the fund. Monthly, quarterly and annual gifts make all the difference: with your support we can make the most popular sport in Oxford also the most accessible.

Old Members are warmly welcomed at rowing events throughout the year. What better way to reconnect with fellow and future rowers than from the safety of dry land – Pimm’s in hand – at Summer VIIIs? Or if you’re tempted to dust off your kit and venture out onto the water, keep an eye out for Old Member rowing opportunities like that offered at the ‘Balliol Women: 40 Years On’ weekend last September (see page 13), which saw the first ever W1 crew take to the water with complete beginners and current rowers. If ever proof were needed that rowing creates a community, the laughter and teamwork on show that morning would be a perfect example.

‘Being part of the College rowing community offers the opportunity to build new friendships, collect memories that will last a lifetime and develop skills that go far beyond those needed to row a boat.’

Mina Bohne, BCBC Women’s Captain

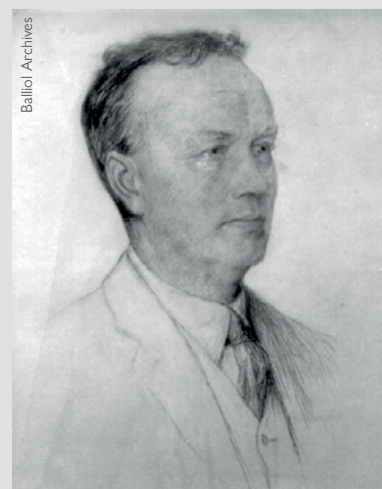
PPE centenary

The academic year 2020/2021 will mark the centenary of the inception of the PPE degree, in so many ways a Balliol project, led in particular by A.D. Lindsay (Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1906–1922 and Master 1924–1949). The year will begin with a centenary weekend at Balliol on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 September 2020, to which all Balliol Old Members who read PPE have been invited.

Our programme on Saturday 26 September will begin with a plenary session provisionally entitled ‘What has PPE achieved in its first 100 years? Does it deserve another century?’ This promises to deliver an open and lively debate – not that any discussion amongst Balliol PPEists needs much encouragement. After lunch there will be a series of parallel sessions on further PPE-related themes, featuring Balliol PPE alumni from academia and beyond; themes will include the philosophy of artificial intelligence, populism, diversifying and decolonising the curriculum, liberalism, environmental economics, and ethical capitalism. These sessions will be followed in the evening by a dinner in Hall.

The College’s Historic Collections contain some rich PPE-related holdings and we are busy planning an exhibition exploring Balliol’s contributions to the foundation of the degree, and the role of PPEists in the collective life of the College over the past century (ranging from JCR Presidents to intellectual societies and sport). This display will be available throughout the centenary weekend, and on the evening of Friday 25 September it will accompany a series of talks from some of our beloved Emeritus Fellows on their roles in making PPE such a central feature of Balliol’s modern identity, and in driving through changes in the curriculum over the decades.

We are even hoping for a performance of Balliol’s own *A Theory of Justice: The Musical!* In this



Alexander Dunlop Lindsay by Leonard Leslie Brooke, pencil and crayons on paper, 13” x 11”, 1930

context, as the centenary year continues into 2021, the College plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of Rawls’ seminal work in appropriate fashion, at the annual Omar Azfar Lecture on social justice. The centenary theme will also be continued in the College’s events for Old Members, especially in Europe and North America, where there are particularly large cohorts of PPEists.

The PPE Tutors past and present hope to see as many Balliol PPE Old Members as possible at the centenary weekend and throughout the year. For more information on the programme please visit www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/PPE100.





Supporting Balliol with a gift in your will

You can help to secure Balliol's future by leaving a gift in your will. Gifts of all sizes have a lasting impact on everything we can do here. Your support will ensure that Balliol is open to the brightest students, will help the students who need it the most during their time here, and will protect the future of the tutorial system.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your will to Balliol, please get in touch with us at development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk or telephone us on +44(0)1865 277636. As a token of our appreciation, anyone who leaves a gift in their will to Balliol will be invited to join the Greville Smith Circle, whose members are invited to an annual event in College.

Thank you for your support