



BALLIOL  
COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

# NEWS AND NOTES

Updates from Balliol alumni around the world

A supplement to Floreat Domus 2021









# News and Notes

We are delighted to share news from the Balliol community

## 1940s

### Edward Gelles (1944)

My study of European Jewry began 20 years ago with a search for my family antecedents. It has developed



into the much wider tracing of Jewish migrations in the context of our continent's history. I embarked on this interdisciplinary study of history, genealogy, genetics, and onomastics, drawing on birth, marriage, death, and other community records, marriage contracts and property transactions, tombstone inscriptions, and all manner of ephemera, supported at times by DNA tests, linguistic considerations, and much else. My first published book on the subject, *An Ancient Lineage* (Vallentine Mitchell, 2006), presented a large amount of research material on my ancestral descent from many of the leading European rabbis and their families over the past five centuries. The study expanded to take in the inter-marriages of more than a hundred families. My sixth book, *The Jewish Journey* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016), outlined some of the religious, social, economic and other changes leading to periods of tolerance or persecution, with voluntary or enforced religious conversions in the course of millennial movements across Europe. My continuing work on this history has included the study of genetic admixtures and is recorded on the Balliol College Archives & Manuscripts website – Papers of Edward Gelles. In the past year I have put together a book of *Photographs Relating to My Family and Ancestral Background* (CEWE, 2020) and I am preparing my eighth book, *Facets of My Family History*, which can be read on the website.

### Thomas Huxley (1949)

No news. Just keeping my head down in our wee Perthshire village and considering myself to be exceedingly lucky still to be walking the dog, have an amazingly kind wife and be able to keep on with various projects. We have our Covid jabs tomorrow. Best wishes to Balliol and all who sail in that ship.

## 1950s

### Roger Corman (1950)

On 14 November 2009 Roger Corman was given an Oscar by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for his 'rich engendering of films and filmmakers'. On 13 July 2017 Roger was given the *Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres*, the highest honour the French government bestows in the arts.

### John Mallet (1950)

My news is that some kind friends in the London-based French Porcelain Society put on a Zoom symposium on the evenings of 7 and 8 November 2020, in recognition of my 90th birthday. My own contribution to the occasion was a talk on 'Collecting for the Victoria and Albert Museum'.

### Professor Hugh Burkhardt (1952)

My main project currently is working to convince the government, mainly through the Royal Society, that improving education needs an 'engineering' approach, like that in medicine, which uses research methods to develop effective tools for practitioners to use – see e.g. Burkhardt, H. (2019), 'Improving Policy and Practice. Educational Designer, 3(12)'. Retrieved from: [educationaldesigner.org/ed/volume3/issue12/article46](http://educationaldesigner.org/ed/volume3/issue12/article46).

### Professor Ian Macdonald (1952)

As with most people my age, lockdown at home since mid-March of 2020

provided limited scope for activities of note. In fact, the most significant event impacting my life was the closure of our indoor ice arenas, which resulted in the likely end of my 80-year ice hockey career with both 'a bang and a whimper'. This had been the one consistent chapter in my life story – through membership on school teams, in competitive organisations, at the University of Toronto for four years, with the OUIHC for three years (including the legendary 29–0 win over Cambridge in 1955), and with Oldtimer teams over the past 65 years, culminating in my induction into the Canadian Oldtimer Hockey Hall of Fame. Of my many memories, nothing can match being invited to perform the ceremonial face-off at the 100th Oxford–Cambridge Match on 24 March 2018 in St Moritz, Switzerland, and to be the Honorary Coach of the Oxford team. As for the future, I have now resolved to write and publish more.

### Colin Simpson (1952)

My first great-grandson, Alwyn Charles Simpson, was born on 10 September 2020.

### Alan Spencer (1952)

After such a year with many sad losses of friends along the way, it feels almost embarrassing to report that one is still here and feeling just the same as ever. There was a Jerome K. Jerome reference to someone whose only achievement was displayed in his (presumably smallpox) vaccination certificate hung on the bedroom wall. That about sums up my lockdown year, although I was warned by a friend not to boast about it since it only shows how ancient and decrepit you are. Hoping fervently to stay much the same until the next issue.

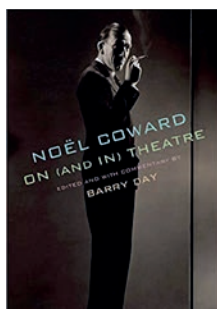
### Derek Clements (1953)

I have now reached the stage where my bodily integrity has been severely compromised by the insertion of an

assemblage of spare parts. As a result I am now a fine example of the miracle of modern medical engineering no less. However, writer's osteocramps have not yet overtaken me and I have used the lull in my proposed excursions into foreign territory (mainly Cornwall and Australia) to start writing my life history. Mostly for my grandchildren, I admit, but they are the ones more likely to be interested in stories of rushing out to shovel up horse droppings for the garden after the delivery of various household comestibles. Apart from that, I have been self-isolating for what seems like an eternity, thereby making a mockery of a large painted sign in my home town that for many years graced the wall of a building with the words 'Where will you spend eternity?' I have also spent some of my time wondering how I came to miss Covid Nos. 1 to 18. Perhaps I was just too young to remember them. Finally, as my world has been turned upside down this year due to the wretched virus, I have decided to do the same with my age and have determined to be only 68 next year (work it out).

### Barry Day (1953)

For some years I have been literary advisor to the Noël Coward Estate. I am also chair of the Coward Archive Trust. I have written and performed in



several cabaret revues based on Coward material in the US and UK and written or edited books such as *Complete Lyrics*, *Theatrical Companion*, *Letters*, *Complete Verse*, *Coward Reader*, *Coward Screenplays*, *Coward on Film*, *Star Quality: The Treasures of Noël Coward*, *Coward in his Own Words*. In 2021 Alfred Knopf will publish *Coward on Theatre*.

### Robert Kernohan (1953)

Lockdowns have been knockdowns, though they have probably only brought some things sooner rather than later. I gave up driving and broadcasting and lost the notion to pontificate in print amid so many pandemical uncertainties. I miss the broadcasting, even if a career sideline, which had ranged from Round Britain Quiz to BBC Radio 3 talks, had

lately been limited to 'Thought for Day' on BBC Radio Scotland. But at least I got well past 500 pieces there, plus a handful on BBC Radio 4's version.

### Donald Rickerd (1953)

I'm presently a Senior Fellow of Massey College, the University of Toronto's graduate college, and a Senior Research Associate at the University's Trinity College. After practising law and then teaching at York University, I became the President of the Donner Canadian and Max Bell Foundations of Toronto, and the William H. Donner Foundation of New York. I also sat on the boards of German, Swiss and Jamaican Foundations. I was volunteer chair of the boards of Central Hospital and the Ontario College of Art, now the Ontario College of Art and Design University, both of Toronto. I served four difficult but very stimulating years in Ottawa on the Royal Commission on Certain Activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, acting as one of three Commissioners. Its reports, based on investigations and hearings across Canada, led to a major reorganisation of Canada's security and intelligence operations and the establishment of a separate Security and Intelligence Service, better known to Canadians as CSIS. In addition to having taught for a time in Chengdu, PRC, I am now pursuing my interests in Asia. I have developed a special interest in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which I have visited on a number of occasions, beginning in 1996. For the last several years, I have organised one-week visits to Toronto for groups of North Korean professors studying at the University of British Columbia.

### Vivian Rivlin (1953)

We have been living in our Somerset home for quite a long time. Our usual routine, alternating between the UK and Chile, has been interrupted and it looks as if we shall be here for the foreseeable future. It means the family is split up. Our son and his family are settled in Santiago. He appears to be doing very well in academic admin.

### Professor Paul Sheats (1954)

I was saddened to read that Christopher Gardner (1954) has passed away. I'd appreciate hearing from anyone who can tell me more.

### Brian Doman (1955)

I don't remember whether I reported the death of my second daughter Juliette on 12 March 2019 from a sudden brain haemorrhage. She was a fervent campaigner for human rights and animal welfare. She had spent five years administering a small Spanish language school up in the mountains of Guatemala. She attended the trial of two generals accused of human rights violations during the Guatemalan civil war. With the help of an interpreter she interviewed Guatemalan women who had suffered gross human rights abuses. On her return to England she was documenting all of this in a PhD thesis entitled 'Transitional Justice'. Her supervisors and contemporaries were so impressed with the material that they determined to complete the writing up. A Google search on 'Juliette Doman' gives more detail of the work she was doing.

### Alexander Hopkinson-Woolley (1955)

My book is now awaiting the preliminary print version which should be sent to me in early January. I am very keen that the book should appear and be paid for before I die! The first photograph, of a painting by my mother of Ezekiel's vision in the first chapter, is to be the front cover of the book, while the second photograph is of Margaret, my wife, and me.



**Professor Paul Braterman (1956)**

Paul Braterman continues to write occasional pieces about science (and its enemies), and his work this past year has appeared in *The Panda's Thumb*, *3 Quarks Daily*, and his own blog at [paulbraterman.wordpress.com](http://paulbraterman.wordpress.com), as well as *The Conversation*, where his articles have now attracted over a million reads.

**John Stabler (1956)**

In 2006 I published a *Dictionary of Norfolk Furniture Makers 1700–1840*. I'm now working through the 1,500-odd entries, reconfiguring them for an online compendium called *British and Irish Furniture Makers Online*. I hope to finish before catching Covid.

**Harry Johnstone (1957)**

My history of the 18th-century London Academy of Ancient Music, some 50 years in the making, has been published as a long article (136 pages) in the *Royal Musical Association Research Chronicle*, vol. 51. I also have an edition of the complete harpsichord music of Maurice Greene (1696–1755) in press, to be published as vol. 106 in the series *Musica Britannica* (of which I am now General Editor Emeritus). At age 85, I am still active as a musicological researcher.

**Brian Richardson (1957)**

I had the great pleasure of completing 50 years as a church organist and choir director in Canada, mostly for the Anglican church, in the year 2020. In addition to this, I have played for countless funerals and weddings, and am now organist on call for all the funeral homes in the city of Victoria, capital city of British Columbia.

**Professor Aaron Sloman (1957)**

In May I was awarded the American Philosophical Association (APA) Barwise Prize 2020 (for research on philosophy and computing): [blog.apaonline.org/2020/05/26/aaron-sloman-awarded-the-2020-barwise-prize/](http://blog.apaonline.org/2020/05/26/aaron-sloman-awarded-the-2020-barwise-prize/). The award lecture was presented at the APA 2021 Eastern Division Meeting.

**Anthony Sperry (1957)**

I have been writing and networking a lot, trying to make a contribution to straight thinking, much via the medium most readily open to me, namely Facebook. This has been political, with me being at times a 'top fan' of John McDonnell – the

People's Chancellor, the Skwawkbox and Jewish Voice for Labour. The pandemic has caught the government out badly and the December 2019 General Election showed the dire effect of Establishment power and its failure to work for the common good. My protests against the cruelty towards the people of Palestine led to me being 'administratively suspended' from the Labour Party and I have observed with horror as it moves further away from being democratic or representing the people of this country. All this is a long way from when I witnessed, with some wonderment, Harold Macmillan (1912) emerge from the Master's Lodgings, in his robes, about to be installed as Chancellor of the University. The lady from Somerville College and her friend, Ron, have a lot to answer for, because their actions set the path not just to the storming of the Capitol in early January 2021, but also the fiasco of Brexit that followed the market fundamentalism adopted by the European Union, and more so in Britain. How long it will take for the world as we know it to end in a ball of fire remains to be seen. I keep in touch with my contacts on the Continent because some of them do have influence in the way things could move forward.

**HE Kamal Uddin Azfar (1958)**

I have published a collection of essays on the Orientalist Dr Leitner, the first Principal of the first undergraduate college where I was a student in the Indus Valley, Government College University, Lahore, established in 1864 by the British Raj after the liberation from the Muslim majority province of the Punjab in 1864. The Judaic Dr Lietner chose 'Courage to Know', Kant's definition of the Enlightenment, as the motto of the university.

**Geoffrey Cannon (1958)**

Thanks to wife Raquel, the family here is well and safe, living above Juiz de Fora, a big provincial city, surrounded by Mata Atlântica forest. Don't believe sweeping generalisations about Brazil: its regions vary culturally and politically. All human life is here! I have become one of 19 scholars based in Brazil to be among the Web of Science most cited researchers in the world 2020: [publons.com/researcher/4130735/geoffrey-cannon](https://publons.com/researcher/4130735/geoffrey-cannon).

Gabriel, our 16-year-old, and I have now completed our second 1,000-piece jigsaw: first Manhattan, second Japanese temple. I have now also finished 'Learning', the story of my life aged 0–21, with a book-length account of my time at Balliol 1958–1961. If you would like a copy, please contact me at [geoffreycannon1@gmail.com](mailto:geoffreycannon1@gmail.com).

**Philip Daubeney (1958)**

Spending lockdown in more garden planting of shrubs and trees to Gertrude Jekyll's plans from 1905. Now proficient in chairing meetings of Parish Council using Zoom, although one misses the real human eye contact!

**Sir Richard Heygate Bt (1958)**

I am still working for China's largest state-owned company, CREC, as international consultant. Our problems in implementing President Xi's 'Belt Road' strategy have been ones of culture and capability in setting up overseas offices and projects. Luckily help is at hand. The UK's international engineering consultancy companies Gleeds, Arup and Mace all have the capability we need and offices all over the world. Unlike so many UK companies they have well established presence in China itself. A partnership could well be a first for the UK in relations with China. We certainly need one, with the EU establishing such a link whilst the UK was sucking up to Mr Trump through grossly unfair treatment to Huawei (the only foreign investor who put £1 billion into our country during the Brexit announcement slide). When will we wake up to realise that the future is in the East (China GDP up 8.5% in 2021) and we are shutting ourselves into the past, with a soon plunging dollar and a failure to join the new developing country trade groups like RCEP? Even the big US investment banks have got the message and are investing eastwards in a way they once did with the City. In the words of Oliver Hardy, 'Who will get us out of this fine mess we have got ourselves into?'

**Graham Nesbitt (1958)**

Graham Nesbitt retired from the practice of law in Montreal several years ago, remarried in 2000, and now has two sons of 18 and 19: his first children ... Everyone well in these difficult times.



**Malyn Newitt (1958)**

Malyn Newitt, ed. and trans, *Journey Which Father António Gomes Made to the Empire of Manomotapa*, (OUP for the British Academy, 2020).

**Stephen Winkworth (1958)**

At the request of the eminent Italian publisher Roberto Calasso of Adelphi editions, I am compiling a collection of the writings of my father, the sinologist William Wilberforce Winkworth, who was a Balliol scholar in 1919. From there he took up employment in the British Museum. When he left this position his friend Lytton Strachey asked him why. 'Was it because you weren't clever enough? or was it, perhaps, because you were too clever?' He went on to write for the *Burlington Magazine*, and for other journals in the field of connoisseurship and the arts. I am making a selection of his writings and adding a biographical essay.

**Peter Buckman (1959)**

Peter Buckman continues chairing the Ampersand Agency, though handing over day-to-day management to younger colleagues has given him time to return to writing. He has self-published his latest novel, *Breaking Cover*, partly to avoid upstaging the authors he represents, and partly because he lacks the patience to wait around for editors to make up their minds.

**Professor Charles Leedham-Green (1959)**

My translation of Newton's *Principia* is about to be published by Cambridge University Press.

**Professor Richard Rubenstein (1959)**

I have edited a book (with my colleague Solon Simmons) entitled *Conflict Resolution after the Pandemic: Building Peace, Pursuing Justice*, published by Routledge Press in February. My school at George Mason University has been renamed the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. See [carterschool.gmu.edu](http://carterschool.gmu.edu) for a description of its personnel and activities.

**Colin Wyman (1959)**

Gave a Zoom lecture, 'Wedgwood and Beyond', for the Oxford Ceramics Group; available (not encouraged) on the group's website.

## 1960s

**Timothy Ades (1960)**

As a rhyming translator-poet I've produced eight books: most are bilingual, with my English text facing the French or Spanish original. I've won some awards. I also tackle German and, rarely, Greek, and appear in the best journals, such as *Agenda* where I'm a trustee, and *Long Poem Magazine* which recently published my 'Calypso's Song', a wonderful Greek poem by Sikelianós. In 2020 the Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society (he lived there) put a single long poem into the schools – Covid stopped me visiting – and ran a competition which I co-judged. My bookstall of translated poetry hasn't been out for a year. I am on Facebook and YouTube. Married to Dawn for 54 years with two grandchildren in London and three in Denmark; the composer Timothy Ades is one of our sons.

**Matthew Nimetz (1960)**

Matthew Nimetz completed his 20-year service as Personal Representative of the UN Secretary-General, successfully mediating the 'name' dispute between Greece and (now) North Macedonia, in 2019. He recently published an article about the dispute and its resolution, 'The Macedonian 'Name' Dispute: The Macedonian Question Resolved?', in *Nationalities Papers*, Cambridge University Press, 2020: [tinyurl.com/6mztw8uz](http://tinyurl.com/6mztw8uz).

**Ian Watson (1960)**

In July 2020 the University of Pisa celebrated the 850th birthday of mathematician Fibonacci with a specially commissioned anthology of science fiction stories in Italian, *Ipotesi per Fibonacci*, including my own 'The Kidnap of Fibonacci'. Since Fibonacci's famous number sequence isn't exactly his, since his name only survived by sheer chance and wasn't in any case his real name, and since nobody knows what he looked like, maybe only science fiction can pin down the truth! My story starts in Oxford in the year 2050 CE then visits medieval Algeria, just as it should. [www.ianwatson.info](http://www.ianwatson.info).

**The Rt Hon the Lord Alan Beith PC MP (1961)**

I am sad to report that my wife Baroness Maddock, former MP for Christchurch and former President of the Liberal Democrats, died from cancer on 26 June 2020.

**Professor Richard Hyman (1961)**

In 2020 I was elected a Fellow of the British Academy (why?, and why now?, I ask myself). So I fear that I have broken the Groucho Marx rule.

**Stephen Jessel (1961)**

In mid-November I received notification that my application for French citizenship had been approved. Logical enough request: I have lived outside the UK for 42 of the last 43 years, 35 of them in France. It is also the case that I no longer recognise or relate to the Britain, or perhaps the England, of my treasured Balliol days.

**Doug Rosenthal (1961)**

As the pandemic was isolating us in March, I requested some information from a high school classmate I had not seen in 63 years. We started to talk by phone each evening, as I found her engaging. We talked each night for 100 straight days. She lives in New York City, in an apartment overlooking Central Park, and I live in Washington, DC, close to the Maryland border. She has led a fascinating life in theatre, music, art, publishing and commercial design in NY City, has travelled widely with her musician husband of 55 years, and has two accomplished children. We finally arranged to meet in September – and declared our love shortly thereafter. Neither of us was looking for a relationship, but this chance phone call, and the isolation of the pandemic, brought us together. We have been together since, in Washington, but hope, eventually, to divide our time between our two cities, and enjoy our four children and four grandchildren, and friends, and travel, when feasible.

**David Wickham (1961)**

I was fascinated to read in the 2020 *News and Notes* what Malcolm Forrest (1959) had to say about the worst Oxford sin of being a 'Grey Man'. I had heard that phrase only once before. In the 1960s I was instantly recognisable in Balliol as a member of the first and ultimately finalist College team for *University Challenge*. I was also much given to wearing a heavy but natty brown corduroy jacket which survives in a dark corner of my wardrobe and, though never worn, can just about accommodate my fuller figure. Around that time a College contemporary, I think Stephen Jessel (1961), accosted or described me loudly, in public and perfectly amicably, as 'the most colourful of the grey men'. I had not heard the phrase before but took it as a huge compliment, as I still do nearly sixty years later. Someone in a position to know had recognised my 'specialness', my uniqueness even. Floreat Jessel!

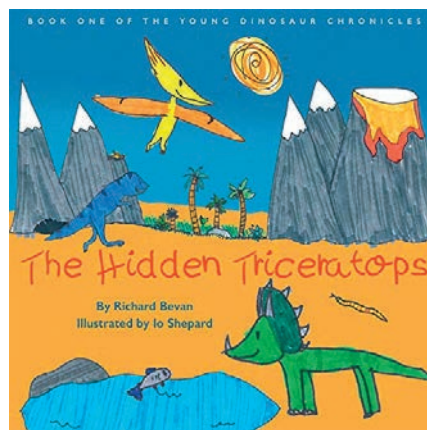
**Hugh Beever (1962)**

Covid lockdown feels like treading water but for those of us retired with an adequate pension and close to green spaces as in Putney, it is a comfortable if frustrating experience. Nothing like the challenge of mid-career

people forced to change direction or worse still those just starting or at a key educational stage. We have kept well but miss the delight of a young grandchild, which is the main sadness along with not seeing good friends. Last year we managed to book and enjoy three country retreats with our young family, which was a joy with an active two-year-old. This year looks even more unpredictable and difficult to plan anything. More treading water.

**Richard Bevan (1962)**

After retiring from consulting and teaching about ten years ago I found myself newly occupied with writing and publishing through my own imprint ChangeStart Press. So far I've produced four books of my own and helped three other writers publish their work. My books are *Changemaking* (2011) and *The Changemaking Checklists* (2015), both dealing with the management of change; *The Galley Slave's Handbook* (2010, revised edition 2020) on provisioning and cooking for an ocean voyage; and *The Hidden Triceratops*, a story for children in the 4-to-8 age range. The latter, a Covid lockdown project, is illustrated beautifully by 12-year-old Io Shepard. Assuming that a little shameless self-promotion is permitted in these pages, I will add that all these are available at Amazon or can be ordered from your local bookshop.

**Eric Bodger (1962)**

Slowly coming to terms with the death of my wife Pamela on 26 October 2020. She was an enthusiastic and skilful gardener, so my family and friends rightly expect a deterioration from her high standards. My children have been a big help, and I'm in a support bubble with my daughter Laura and

her children. Chairing Curdridge Parish Council provides a welcome distraction, especially as we are working with Action Hampshire to develop a small 'Rural Exception Site' to build some affordable housing in the village. The government's planning proposals are causing consternation throughout Winchester district, as they are based on an erroneous metric for affordability – instead of comparing house prices with the earnings of those who live in the district, they compare with the earnings of those working in the district, ignoring commuters into local town and cities. The result is to elevate the number of new houses 'required' by around 50%. Curdridge is doing its bit to provide housing, and has supported a planned development near Botley station. The pandemic has meant no trips since March for the IBM Hursley Retirees' Club, which I also chair. We are organising lectures and other events on Zoom, but are holding off from physically meeting, as many of our members are in high-risk groups, and would be unwilling even to attend with social distancing. Perhaps we'll all be vaccinated by the time you read this, and enjoying the wide variety of trips previously arranged.

**John Dalton (1962)**

John Dalton has welcomed a granddaughter, Sophia Grace Dalton, born 10 August, 2020.

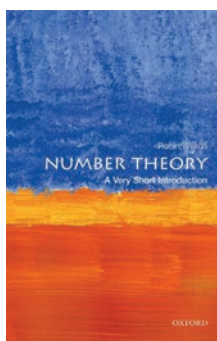
**Professor Richard Portes (1962)**

Still working full-time for London Business School. We often strain broadband capacity with our daughter in school and my wife and I teaching, speaking, or in meetings. One daily walk in Regent's Park over the road. The real news is my other job. The macroprudential authority (responsible for financial stability) of the EU is the European Systemic Risk Board. I chair its Advisory Scientific Committee, co-chair its committee on 'shadow banking', and sit as a voting member on the General Board. When we realised in mid-March that the economic and financial impact of the pandemic would be dramatic, ESRB went into 'crisis mode'. We chose five priority topics to develop policy responses. Along with the Governor of the Bank of Spain, I supervised all five working groups and chaired one. Each drew up recommendations, addressed

to regulatory authorities. Endless meetings in April and May, chaired by Christine Lagarde, in which we had to convince national central bank governors and other officials to adopt our proposals. There followed a series of measures and reports (see ESRB website). These and our subsequent actions have, I believe, contributed significantly to avoiding a financial meltdown like that of 2008–2009. I now co-chair a task force charged with producing a report and policy measures to deal with undesirable effects of the prevailing low interest rate environment. For me, all this beats retirement and other less desirable alternatives. But frustrating to live in London with no opera, live music, theatre, restaurants, museums ... Still, I've had my first jab.

**Professor the Hon Robin Wilson (1962)**

Last summer Oxford University Press published *Number Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. This was my 50th book, and has been presented to the Balliol College Library.



**Professor Russell Bryant (1963)**

I feel guilty reporting that 2020 has been a good year for me. Why? My former student and the MSNBC anchor, Joe Scarborough, has endowed a scholarship in my name at the University of Alabama, where I taught for 30 years. For the second time a former student has named a son after me. Moreover, I finally finished the first draft of my biography of the British financier and diplomat Lord D'Abernon. In December I celebrated my 80th birthday in good health. Finally, I have made it to the end of this horrendous year without catching the coronavirus. I am looking forward to 2021 being an even better year. I remain grateful that I was lucky enough to attend Balliol. So many of its graduates I subsequently lectured on and many formed part of Lord D'Abernon's story.

**Professor Brian Cosgrove (1963)**

My wife and I became grandparents for the first time on 2 November last; we are both in our late seventies. My youngest daughter and her husband called her Sadhbh, a traditional Irish name, pronounced 'Sive'. It is apparently derived from Proto-Celtic and means 'sweet and lovely [lady]'. It is said to be related to the Latin word *suavis*.

**Derek Davis (1963)**

I visited Russia last January for the first time since 1962, attending the 225th Griboyedov Jubilee Conference at Khmelita, where I gave a paper on Pushkin's *Journey to Arzum* and even appeared briefly on TV (Rossiya-K). My wife Diana and Carolyn McMillan then joined me for a quick tour of Moscow and Petersburg. The Royal Asiatic Society are publishing my translation with commentary of the Pushkin – begun in 1963 on Staircase XV and well underway by the time Chris Bayly (1963) and I passed through Erzurum in 1965 en route to India, just ahead of fellow Cliftonian Chris Trease (1964) who, sadly, died climbing Ararat that year. Diana's groundbreaking book *The Tastemakers: British Dealers and the Anglo-Gallic Interior, 1785–1865* (Getty, 2020), tracing the emergence of the modern 'antique', has been well received in specialist circles and even made a Christmas booklist.

**Jan Libourel (1963)**

Over the years my writing and publishing career has taken some strange turns: I had anticipated having a career in higher education, and during my few years teaching I did publish some few articles on Greek and Roman history. After my enforced exile from the groves of academe, I was reduced to writing nothing more than the fine print of insurance contracts – a dreary time that! From 1979 to 2010, I was in the field of firearms journalism, including 13 years as editor of *Handguns* and 11½ years editing *Gun World*. During that time I generated a positively enormous quantity of verbiage on firearms in the form of product reviews, editorials and miscellaneous articles. For four years around the turn of the century I also edited the periodical of a breed club for Japanese Tosa fighting dogs (banned in the UK under the Dangerous Dogs Act) and

wrote much of the material contained therein. I had thought my days of publishing were over when I retired in 2010, but during the past year I have become a regular contributor to a physical fitness blog under the aegis of a company called Set For Set whose primary product is exercise maces (or macebells, as they are more properly called). Well, it has been a colourful writing career from ancient battles to firearms (lots and lots on firearms) to fighting dogs and now maces! As I close in on my ninth decade, I have to wonder what's ahead for me ...

**Richard Mills (1963)**

In 2020 I finally retired as Director of the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations, a post I had held since retirement from the Civil Service, only to find that the time this liberated was soon lost to increasing commitments as the non-governmental representative on the board of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which now includes more than sixty national governments and inter-governmental agencies. So perennial neglect of the garden (and much else) goes on.

**Paul Williams (1963)**

I have used lockdown to write a biography of my life. Nothing spectacular, just the story of an ordinary person who happened to go to Balliol and has led an interesting life. It's not too long; it takes about an hour to read. If anyone is interested I'd be pleased to email it. Please contact me at paulwilliams@btinternet.com.

**Professor Alexander Broadie (1964)**

Alexander Broadie (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Scottish Enlightenment*, 2nd edition (co-editor, Craig Smith) (Cambridge University Press, 2019). Alexander Broadie (ed.), *Scottish Philosophy in the Seventeenth Century* (Oxford University Press, 2020). Recent appointment: Honorary Vice President, The Saltire Society, since July 2020.

**Professor Stephen Clark (1964)**

Books published in 2020: *Can We Believe in People: Human Significance in an Interconnected Cosmos* (Angelico Press, 2020); *Plotinus: Ennead VI.9, on the Good or the One: Translation and Commentary* (Parmenides Press, 2020).



**Sandy Gray (1964)**

Positive Covid consequences! An initiative taken up by George Russell, Howard Shaw, and myself (all 1964, Chemistry) in May 2020 has resulted in a 4–6-weekly Zoom gathering of chemists moderated by other Balliol men of the same vintage but various other disciplines. At each session, 2–3 hours are spent in animated sharing of views and knowledge of various topics of current or future significance. We are normally guided by a loose agenda which is never completed. Inevitably, Covid and US politics have been key topics each time so far (as of January 2021), but other learned topics will now be debated more frequently and extensively. Participants, all but one of 1964 matriculation, are George Barisas (1965, Chem., Rhodes Scholar), Philip Burns (Chem.), Jonathon Davies (Eng.), ‘Sandy’ Gray (Chem.), Anthony Hall (Chem.), David Long (Hist.), Robert Munford (Medicine, Rhodes Scholar), Kenneth Picton (Chem.), George Russell (Chem.), Howard Shaw (Chem.) and Richard Weyman (Eng.). An early discussion topic was ‘Governments today are being led by science: why aren’t there more science trained members of governments?’ Good question!

**Professor Edwin Hartman (1964)**

Springer has published my *Arriving Where We Started: Aristotle and Business Ethics* in its *Eminent Voices in Business Ethics* series (2020). It traces my work from Aristotle to management theory to business ethics to an Aristotelian approach to business ethics.

**Christopher Moxon (1964)**

During the first Covid lockdown I used the time to write and publish a memoir of my 40-year career in theatre administration. Entitled *Teamwork* it is available from Amazon or from [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). This is the sixth book that I have written or edited since my retirement in 2011. Most of these have been genealogical books about family history, but the first, published in 2013, was the fulfilment of a promise I made in 1972 to write up the doctoral thesis that I wrote at Balliol, on the social and economic history of a small market town – Ashby-de-la-Zouch – in the 17th century.

**Daljit Singh (1964)**

I have not kept in touch since graduating in 1966 in PPE. I worked in the Singapore Ministry of Defence (1966–1979) as an analyst of politics and international relations of Southeast Asia and then Head of Research in the organisation. During this period I spent an academic year (1970–1971) at the Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, working on the policies of the Soviet Union in Asia. There was a good deal of travel in Southeast Asian countries for seminars/discussions with the various defence ministries, including a couple of familiarisation tours of South Vietnam during the Vietnam war. In 1979 I was posted to the Ministry of Culture (later re-named Ministry of Information and the Arts) as Director of Information in charge of the government’s publicity work and had frequent interactions with the media, including the foreign correspondents based in Singapore. I retired from the Civil Service in 1991 and joined a research institute in Singapore, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (now called ISEAS-the Yusof Ishak Institute), as a scholar/researcher, where I still am as a Senior Fellow and where from 2012 to 2019 I headed the Strategic and Political Studies department. In 2019 I spent five weeks as a visiting scholar at the Sigur Center, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, DC, working on US foreign policy to Southeast Asia. I have published papers, book chapters, op-eds over the years and also edited or co-edited books, including, since 1991, *Southeast Asian Affairs*, the annual review of the politics, economics and foreign relations of Southeast Asia and its constituent member states. My wife and I love travelling to enjoy different natural landscapes, cultures and histories.

**David Willington (1964)**

These are strange times, indeed. As we have not been anywhere, I have had more time to write without distraction. My fourth novel, *A Polish Adventure*, will be out in 2021. It is a Cold War story, but not in the *le Carré* mould. Researching the period has been as enjoyable as the actual writing. I am currently engaged on a story set in Kenya during the Mau Mau period, the impetus being the three visits I made to the country in the

1990s. I had a hip replacement operation towards the end of November 2020. It was a major bit of carpentry, but already I am a new man and I look forward to resuming golf and cycling in the spring.

**Robert Yates (1964)**

In 2020 I marked two anniversaries, both at the end of the year. It is now 40 years since I nearly died from chronic kidney failure; and ten years since I received my third transplant, which is still going strong. In 1980 my wife was pregnant but we were assured that kidney failure was not hereditary; but medical opinion has changed now. My son Gilbert is now 40, but in 2009 he too was diagnosed with chronic renal failure; and it is the tenth anniversary of his transplant as well. We have both contributed to ongoing research into the genetic causes of kidney failure. For 40 years I have received wonderful care from a wide variety of people – family, friends and many aspects of the medical profession. During periods of all the sorts of dialysis, and of transplantation, I have managed to pursue a career in the second-hand and antiquarian book trade, mostly working for myself. This has been a lot of fun, and I have seen the trade change dramatically, from crusty characters presiding over dusty shops to the global internet-enabled system of today. Less fun now, but certainly more efficient!

**Sir Michael Burton (1965)**

In this otherwise miserable year I have still continued to try cases in the Commercial Court, the Abu Dhabi Commercial Court and the RICS Appeal Tribunal, all virtually, with very little if any loss of effectiveness.

**Phillip Gordon (1965)**

I continue to practise law although at a far less hectic pace than in the past. My wife and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in January, regrettably in isolation from our children and ten grandchildren, due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, we are happy to have been able to celebrate this milestone in good health.

**Michael Levene (1965)**

Michael Levene celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in late November 2020 under Tier 3 restrictions at the Orthodox Synagogue, Park Row, Bristol. Only 60 years late!

**Hubert Murray (1965)**

A short piece written in May appearing in *Oxford Magazine* on the effects of the coronavirus on higher education seems to stand up to scrutiny seven or eight months later. Delayed but unbowed, colleagues and I are nearing completion on a kindergarten in Aida camp in Bethlehem and building a teaching team. Very happy to be in touch with Charles Burroughs (1964), Mark Glouberman (1966) and Ben White (1965). Deeply sorry to lose Mike Prescod (1964).

**Professor Stephen Oppenheimer (1965)**

Please find my Google scholar page at: [tinyurl.com/jw76787c](https://tinyurl.com/jw76787c) and follow the links there to my homepage and my research interests. I cannot vouch for my Wiki page, which has numerous errors, e.g. 'He is a graduate of Green Templeton College, Oxford and an honorary fellow of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.'

**Michael Paling (1965)**

Early last year I was in the third month of work at my volunteer post at the Hospitalito Atitlan in the Guatemala highlands, when the imminent closure of the national airport was announced. I was fortunate, the next day, to get the last seat on the penultimate flight out of the country, which being in first class was a novel experience for me, but quite disappointing in value. Back home in the USA life soon became subject to the restrictions that we all have experienced. Regular meditation, which I began years ago when working in Cambodia, is helpful in understanding that adversity is simply a part of the 'suchness of life'. Thus the unexpected time available due to the pandemic proved valuable for self-improvement. I read more, including cover to cover James Joyce's magnum opus *Ulysses*. Hard work but interesting, to say the least! My Spanish is improved, and my chess game is stronger, both courtesy of the internet. The bizarre political antics that have transpired here have given rise to much outstanding dark comedy, as we adjusted our common mindset to that of life in a 'banana republic'. Gun sales have set records, even for a nation that already had more firearms than people. We indeed live in interesting times.

**Ian Prattis (1965)**

*Past, Present and Future: Stories that Haunt* by Dr Ian Prattis (2021). Intention: this collection contains stories, personal essays and futuristic writings. They illuminate facets of humanity that are both wholesome and deadly. There is a subtle tapestry from Indigenous Wisdom throughout the three phases that must apply to our damaged planet if *Homo sapiens* is to have a home. The past dwells on the significance of indigenous history and beliefs, a spirituality that crosses centuries to realise redemption and connection. These stories stand in contrast to the ethnocentric illusions of the wider society where violence, fear and betrayal are rampant. Present includes flash fictions to highlight the destructive illusions and the gentle memories of modern society. The remaining chapters seek to mentor and inspire children to save the world. 'Respecting Indigenous Wisdom' provides a pause through poetry to outline a different foundation for humanity. Future is not kind to *Homo sapiens* and their habitation of Mother Earth. Scientists scramble to provide an exit from the Earth, seeding faraway planets. A single person remains in the High Arctic's last outpost while pioneers who occupy a new planet must fight to prevent terrorists from taking it over. Very little has changed. Humanity owes an apology to the children of the world.

**Berel Rodal (1965)**

Co-founded and codirecting (with Bill Emmott, Editor-in-Chief



Emeritus of the Economist) the Global Commission for Post-Pandemic Policy, to enable informed discourse and decision-making regarding the pandemic and interconnected crises: [globalcommissionforpostpandemicpolicy.org](https://globalcommissionforpostpandemicpolicy.org). Have been confined to quarters with Alti in Ottawa since March; looking forward to again communing other than Zooming with our six children and eleven grandchildren on three continents.

**Professor Graham Anderson (1966)**

I have published *Fantasy in Greek and Roman Literature and Ancient Fairy and Folk Tales: An Anthology* (both Routledge, 2020).

**Professor Charles Baden-Fuller (1966)**

I was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. I am also a Fellow of some long standing of Strategic Management Society (only active UK Fellow among the 88 Fellows in a society with membership of many thousands), AsSS and BAM.

**Stuart Baldock (1966)**

I moved to Athens (Greece) last year with my wife and our youngest daughter, who is enrolled here at the Lycée français in her penultimate year. Covid has prevented me from being able to commute regularly to France, so business is conducted online as far as is practical.

**Christopher Currie (1966)**

No real news this year. I remain a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Historical Research and have been busy with that, as well as attending seminars, including a few of the Balliol online lectures.

**Aidan Foster-Carter (1966)**

My life now, I dare say, is rather different from most of my contemporaries'. After half a lifetime in Yorkshire – briefly Hull, mostly Leeds and Bradford – in 2006 everything changed when love drew me to Exeter. Kate Hext and I were married in 2011; Rufus was born that year, and Laurence followed in 2016. Raising children again in one's 70s is a wonderful tonic – and fitness programme. Devon is a lovely place to dwell, even (or especially) as the times darken. Workwise, having long ago left academe – in the previous century,



already! – I still write about Korea; including for Oxford Analytica, ever since the 1980s. Never a dull moment there: the North just gets worse; the South could teach us how to handle Covid competently. And since Kate is now head of her department – English and History, at Exeter University's Cornish campus: a challenging role these days – I'm also becoming more of a house husband, very contentedly. The wider world is a worry, especially the retreat from liberal internationalism. Imperfect though that was, the alternatives – Trump, Brexit, and I'm afraid the Balliol chancer in Number Ten – are all palpably worse. Never have the ideals of 1968 seemed so remote. I hope my children will see, and make, a better planet.

#### **Professor Mark Glouberman (1966)**

Building on *The Raven*, the *Dove*, and the *Owl of Minerva* (2012), and on *I AM* (2019), *Persons and Other Things* (2021), concludes the case for the Torah's being a work of philosophy. (Search 'Glouberman' at [utorontopress.com](http://utorontopress.com).) It isn't a sheer fortuity that such a word about the Hebrew Bible should come forth from Balliol. 'I never knew any Trinity men,' remonstrates the Balliol man Lord Peter Wimsey. 'The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.' In the JCR's *Book of Wagers*, a bold undergraduate of my day put his soul at hazard on the proposition of God's existence. (A brown-edged hole which only the terminally literal would attribute to the business end of a lit cigarette signalled the other party's acceptance.) If a coin decides, the soul's survival requires an edge-on landing. Or so I argue in the Bible's name. And me? 'No change,' replied poker star 'Devilfish' Ulliott to the panhandler. 'Still living in the big house; still driving the big car.' The spoils apart, I echo the punter as I enter my 50th year of teaching.

#### **Alan Heeks (1966)**

Amid the mesh of restrictions we're all in, I've found gaps where I can make a contribution. One is online resilience workshops, the other is increasing local communities' food security – something we can all help in. See more at [www.seedourfuture.org.uk](http://www.seedourfuture.org.uk). I can also highly recommend growing your own vegetables as an antidote to lockdown!

#### **Richard Heller (1966)**

I have just published a new book, *The Prisoner of Rubato Towers* (Xerus Publishing, 2020). It is an increasingly crazed account of my life in London lockdown, shared with a literary mouse, a poetic cockroach and a bridge-playing goldfish, and blighted by two sex-crazed urban foxes. It contains songs and satire and many new ways to insult Donald Trump and the Balliol man ruling the country in my place. It reveals fascinating details of the secret lives of famous people who know me. 'Raises English comic prose to heights never before attempted, let alone achieved,' said one of them, when I asked.

#### **Martin Kaufman (1966)**

As Martin Kaufman Philanthropy, I am still providing strategic and practical fundraising advice to charities, mainly in the educational and cultural sectors. Although I only went down to watch the Balliol Eight perhaps six times (max.) in my Balliol career, I have been advising on a fundraising campaign for rowing for an East London group of academies which want to break the barriers facing state school rowing! I don't have to get into the water for that one, I'm glad to say ... Facing this pandemic, and staying well and safe, I have helped organise – in my role as chair of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising's RAISE: Arts Culture Heritage Steering Committee – a survey of cultural fundraisers during the pandemic, in partnership with the University of Sheffield Management School. This was followed up by Zoom interviews, and we should be publishing the results around March. In a nutshell, it's no change and all change – fundraising has to go on if arts and cultural organisations are to survive, but there has been a great deal of creativity and resilience to try to create a hybrid model in these challenging times, which almost certainly we will have to further adapt in the post-pandemic world. Very happy to hear from any alumni who want to quiz me further!

#### **Philip Kendall (1966)**

Covid provided the perfect opportunity to return to the English countryside. C12th churches, the stunning Welland Valley in Rutland, historic Dam Busters' 1942 practice bombing runs over the Eyebrook outside Uppingham. Unbeatable!

#### **Michael Venning (1966)**

Back to work in the NHS in January 2021 as vaccinator at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester (employed as healthcare assistant until they needed me to draw up the Oxford vaccine – then promoted to senior staff nurse grade). Great teamwork, happy patients and we are contributing to herd immunity – albeit Boris Johnson (1983) and his delays in taking precautions in the face of Covid-19 have contributed greatly to herd immunity already by allowing the virus to spread while the government were wondering when to act.

#### **Martin Walker (1966)**

Although the Covid lockdowns prevented my usual US and European book tours, my new Bruno novel *Connaisseur* simultaneously topped the bestseller lists in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The lockdown also prevented my debut at the German National Opera House in Berlin, singing on stage during their jazz week. It is now rescheduled for 28 March 2021. Bruno's *Garden Cookbook* won the Gourmand International prize for World's Best French Cookbook of the Year. And in association with Coda Media in New York, we launched the Bruno Fellowship, to support five young journalists over five years to cover stories that might otherwise never be told. My monthly wine columns in *The Bugle*, the anglophone paper in France, are now also published in the German wine magazine *Weinseller*. My own wine, *Cuvée Bruno*, went on sale this year in Germany and the USA as well as in France. The *New York Times* suggested 'It's impossible to read a Bruno novel without getting hungry and thirsty,' and the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* reckoned I had created 'France's answer to James Bond'.

#### **Oliver Franklin (1967)**

On 13 November 2019, I attended a Consilium dinner in honour of my election as an Honorary Fellow of the College. It is a great honour to have received the Fellowship. I expected to return in May 2020 to work with the College on the 'Balliol and Slavery' exhibition scheduled to open this coming Michaelmas Term in the Library. Naturally, we've working digitally and it's a real pleasure to be involved intensely with the College again. In addition to the exhibition,

we're planning an Oxford/Philadelphia teacher seminar, as teaching the transatlantic slave trade to secondary school students can be a daunting task. Two highlights for this year: our first grandchild arrived, and I had a dynamic discussion with Sudhir Hazareesingh (1981 and CUF Lecturer in Politics and Tutorial Fellow in Politics) on his extraordinary epic biography of Toussaint Louverture (check it out on Zoom: [tinyurl.com/j3vsxkrd](https://tinyurl.com/j3vsxkrd)). Still in isolation and working as a senior advisor, board director and British Honorary Consul. Cannot wait to walk through the Balliol gates again. See you at the exhibition!

#### **Professor Francis Green (1967)**

I am still working at UCL Institute of Education for four days a week. With my historian friend David Kynaston we published *Engines of Privilege: Britain's Private School Problem* in 2019, with Bloomsbury Publishing. This was my first attempt at a non-academic book. I am now a co-founder of Private Education Policy Forum. Other than researching private schools, I continue to contribute to the multidisciplinary field of work and job quality studies. I have at last given up cricket, and last year played instead my first competitive tennis match since representing Balliol nearly half a century ago. Alison and my first grandchild, Sophie, was born on 15 April 2020 and joins the pandemic generation.

#### **Brendan Horton (1967)**

Now in my 15th year of retirement, wondering where the time has gone. The last year has been a mixture of the usual and abnormal due to Covid, which has kept us pretty housebound here in Washington. I have been kept busy by continuing to work on a book on the economic history of Morocco, specifically a retrospective on the country's experience with stabilisation and structural adjustment since the 1980s, when they ran into a debt crisis. Interesting and intellectually challenging task, trying to present a view other than that of the IMF and the World Bank. Two main conclusions: stabilisation is difficult but can be achieved in a relatively short period. Adjustment and economic are, however, much more difficult and take much longer. I hope to finish this year. My wife, Darnella Davis, has written a book

on the history of her native American family – she is part Creek, part Cherokee, part black. It is a study of how different categories of people with tribal affiliations (citizens and freedmen) were deprived of their rights, property and human alike, during and since the Allotment period, and both within the tribe and more broadly in the country as a whole. The book – *Untangling a Red, White, and Black Heritage: A Personal History of the Allotment Era* – is now available in paperback and on Kindle. The internet webinars offered by the College have been a lovely way to keep in touch, and broaden knowledge. Keep them up.

#### **Anthony Klouda (1967)**

I have finally given up on the world of international aid; rather sickened by it, it must be said, and its development into a rather corrupt industry over the last decade or so. In retirement I've taken up translation of French monographs of 18th- and 19th-century ships into English. That, and using the plans to model in wood those very ships, certainly occupies me intellectually and manually in this time of lockdown. I also now have a rare blood cancer recently diagnosed, but since I may live up to ten more years with it, as long as the treatment continues its good work, I'll be delighted if I can get to 80. My website documenting some of my experience is at [www.klouda.co.uk](http://www.klouda.co.uk) and I have a Facebook page called 'The Poor-Poor Divide'.

#### **Professor Terrell Carver (1968)**

Busy year with the bicentenary of the birth of Friedrich Engels, though after a celebratory conference in February in his hometown Wuppertal, Germany, all else has been online. I published two books marking the event: *Engels Before Marx* (Palgrave, 2020) and *The Life and Thought of Friedrich Engels: 30th Anniversary Edition* (Palgrave, 2020), the latter with a somewhat autobiographical new introduction.

#### **Paul Frith (1968)**

Finally left the North East and moved to East Sussex to be nearer our daughters and grandson. We loved being there, enjoying all the Dales, the Lake District and the North York Moors, but it's time to look to the future as we get older and travelling long distances becomes harder for everyone. We are in the High Weald AONB which has delightful rolling

countryside and charming villages. We are looking forward to exploring further and enjoying more family time together as soon as that becomes possible.

#### **David Gartside (1968)**

In a year that has been so difficult for so many people I can report a modest advance. My fledgling journalistic career saw a doubling of printed output compared with 2019. I had an article published in *Swiss Express*, the quarterly journal of the Swiss Railways Society, and another in *Signpost*, the quarterly journal of the Peak & Northern Footpath Society. It's hard to avoid the conclusion that they were desperate for copy.

#### **Professor David Gowland (1968)**

Recently my life has been dominated by the diagnosis of bowel cancer and a major operation on 30 December 2020 to remove it. By an unfortunate coincidence it was diagnosed on the anniversary of the diagnosis of my son Edward with sarcoma (he eventually died aged 22) in 2017.

#### **William Outhwaite (1968)**

In October 2019 my co-editors (Luca Corchia and Stefan Müller-Doohm) and I presented Jürgen Habermas with *Habermas global – Wirkungsgeschichte eines Werks* (Suhrkamp) at a conference in the delightful town of Cortona in central Italy. In February 2020 I published *Transregional Europe* (Emerald).

#### **David Satter (1968)**

I have been named to the academic advisory board of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington, DC.

#### **Professor Richard Healey (1969)**

Julie and I are now living on our fruit farm in the hills ten minutes from the Mediterranean coast of Spain, where I will retire to from my professorship at the University of Arizona in May. Meanwhile we wait out the pandemic in seclusion as I prepare a volume of papers for publication and participate in worldwide Zoom virtual seminars.

#### **Sir John Holmes (1969)**

Just completed terms as chair of the Electoral Commission and of the International Rescue Committee – UK, the former not voluntarily. Now looking for new challenges.



**Rhion Jones (1969)**

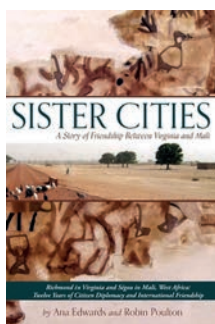
The pandemic presented a real challenge for the Consultation Institute, which I founded back in 2003. But it also gave everyone an insight into the importance of public engagement and consultation as governments and public bodies felt obliged to restrict our liberties and make dramatic changes through top-down edicts. Only slowly did ministers realise that it is always better to have a dialogue with key stakeholders, even if time is short. Through books (including *The Politics of Consultation*, 2018) and over 600 articles and papers, this has been much of my life's work, and its endless and ever-changing fascination explains why I remain resistant to any form of retirement.

**Professor Lawrence Keppie (1969)**

I am the recent recipient of a large commemorative volume (a Festschrift) honouring my academic publications and fieldwork on the Antonine Wall, at one time the northern frontier of Roman Britain.

**Robin Poulton (1969)**

After 15 years advising the European Union on peace and security, I have moved from futility to oblivion. Futility: the EU is run by accountants, plus 25-year-old French elitists who want no advice, swollen as they are by their degree certificates and their EU tax-free salaries. Oblivion: 15 years of writing Reports-Not-Read provides my expertise to create a Books-Not-Read website: [robinpoulton.com](http://robinpoulton.com). Scholars in Covid depression, cheer yourselves up with my two monthly blogs! 'The Dancing Hippo' attacks the Covid viral blues with hilarity; 'The Richmond Chiwara' discusses Africa and music, peace and development and the legacies of slavery. Also available from my website are my most recent books. *Peace is Possible* (2020) takes readers into rural pagodas along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, travelling along tracks threaded between fields of landmines and rice paddies. It is an uplifting and amusing short story proving that even in a civil war, peace is possible. *Sister*



*Cities: A Story of Friendship from Virginia to Mali*, by Ana Edwards & Robin Poulton (Brandylane, 2019) Richmond's Sister City relationship with Ségou changes perceptions of Africa as a continent of catastrophe, and tells African Americans that they are the descendants of the ancient Malian civilisation and the Empire founded by Sunjata Keita, the Lion King. This is a book of amusing stories that will be precious for all students of Africa and of America's African heritage, as it explores shared experiences going back as far as the Mali Empire founded in 1235.

**The Hon Bob Rae (1969)**

I have started my new job as Canada's Ambassador to the UN in New York after serving as PM's Special Envoy on Humanitarian and Refugee Issues and enjoying teaching as Professor of Public Policy at the University of Toronto.

**Professor Timothy Weiskel (1969)**

Letter from America ... I am reminded of Alistair Cooke's tradition of writing a Letter from America over many decades – in which he made America intelligible to the Brits – but, alas, I despair. The attempt seems futile now not only because the economy and wit of Cooke's literary style can never be matched but also because America is no longer intelligible to any rational citizen of the world and perhaps, sadly enough, not even to literate Americans themselves. Briefly put, we've been going through what Brits might call 'a bad patch'. With the combination of a traumatic election cycle, the flowering of White racism as a major component of a national political party and the record-setting impact of a deadly global pandemic whose per capita death rates in America soar above all other countries on this fragile and beleaguered Earth, we have been, in effect, reeling from the impact of the self-inflicted wounds of late capitalism. I 'came up' to Balliol over fifty years ago and completed



degrees in Social Anthropology and Modern History. It has taken all that I learned in seven years at Oxford and all that I have learned since then from my students in four decades of university work simply to make sense of the daily papers and nightly news. I am retired now from 'classroom teaching', but since making the transition to 'online teaching' 20 years ago at Harvard, I continue the 'each-one-reach-one/each-one-teach-one' tradition through Transition-Studies. Net and Transition-Studies.TV. Fellow travellers, please do keep in touch.

**1970s****Professor Dennis Goldford (1970)**

Starting the final sabbatical of my career, hoping to write my swan song, a critique of the way my own discipline of political science (mis)understands ideology as a form of political power due to its conventional understanding of the nature of political theory itself.

**Charles Green (1970)**

It was a jolt to see myself looking out boldly in my pomp from half a century ago in the 2020 News and Notes, the only Fresher in that 1970/71 football team, members of which subsequently gleaned more knighthoods than England's 1966 World Cup winners. I was left back, even in the photo. Balliol guided me for only a year, including a fortnight's isolation with glandular fever in the Slade Hospital, without a peep from the College. Then I migrated from PPP at Balliol to Human Sciences at Hertford. Balliol, even under the enlightened Christopher Hill (Master 1965–1978), refused to touch this then new-fangled subject, claiming it lacked rigour and would be taught by lowly research graduates. At Hertford, tutorials were fixed by John Patten, the future MP for Oxford and afterwards Education Secretary, with such eminent scholars as Richard Dawkins (1959), shining out even then. After a working life with Deloitte and its predecessors dealing with farms and landed estates, I inherited some family acres in the Welsh Marches of Shropshire (motto Floreat Salopia). My daughter, with homozygous Human Scientist parentage and the eighth generation in our pre-Civil War house,

### Hew Balfour (1970)

On a chilly February day 50 years ago, eight 20-somethings and one very nervous 18-year-old were preparing to lower their boat into the water under the watchful eye of Ernie Harris, the Balliol boatman, to warm up and begin the defence of their title as Head of Torpids, won and held for the previous three years. Would Balliol pull off a fourth consecutive headship? The rowing world was holding its breath. The five-minute gun would be fired at 15.55 hours, 17 February 1971. Fifty years after they triumphed, at 4.00pm GMT on 20 February 2021, we mustered seven of the original '71 crew and one from another Torpid 1st VIII on Zoom, to raise our glasses to the glorious memory of Count Orlando Gordouli.



Key, including the position they rowed in the '71 Torpid, as well as the location where they Zoom-called from (left to right):

Top row Roger Fowler (1968), 7, Ottawa; Hew Balfour (1970), 3, Scotland; Alain Pineau (1967), 4, Ottawa; middle row Robin Ashton (1968), 5, Wiltshire; David Keane (1968) stroke, Ireland, with Julia Bowring from 50 years ago, now Mrs Keane; Antony Wynn (1968), cox, Kent; bottom row Robin Wood (1970), bow, Cape Town; Andy Lane (1969), 2 in reserve, London.



was married in summer 2020 under the cathedral-like branches of our pre-Reformation oak in a reduced event forced by Covid-19, that possible evolutionary leveller. In our glorious rural isolation, I now spend my time helping CPRE Shropshire try to keep the English countryside free from the worst ravages of selfish mankind, quite content not to have achieved the high honours of many Balliol contemporaries.

### David Jones (1970)

The seventh edition of Jones & de Villars, *Principles of Administrative Law* was published in September 2020. Keeping

track and making sense of developments in this area in Canada over 35 years has been quite a challenge!

### HE Philip McDonagh (1970)

In 2020, I was appointed Adjunct Professor at Dublin City University, where I'm director of a new Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations. With three friends, I've just published *On the Significance of Religion for Global Diplomacy* (Routledge, 2020). Our centre has a partnership with the churches on the island of Ireland to undertake multi-stakeholder policy research on measuring the economy

(social indicators) and discerning our international responsibilities.

### Professor Jon Berrick (1971)

I've retired from Yale-NUS College (though still an Emeritus Professor at National University of Singapore), and returned to Sydney after half a century away. With Honorary Professorships at Sydney and Western Sydney Universities, I still pursue mathematical research, and am Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the Australian Mathematical Society*. My research interests also include tobacco control and related aspects of public health and safety.



### Andrew Craig (1971)

No Lubbock Engineering dinner in College in 2020, so we arranged a Zoom call instead and had a great turnout with several people from around Europe able to take part too – an unexpected bonus. My main passion remains sailing and I am back in post as Commodore of Queen Mary Sailing Club in West London. When not locked down the enthusiasm of all members to get out in the fresh air has been great to see. Don't anyone say they had nowhere else to go! Main thing that keeps me sane is a monthly walk with a group of Oxford engineers. Many problems solved en route and in the pub.



Left to right: *top row* John Bridgwater (Lubbock Fellow and Tutor in Engineering, 1973–1980), Andrew Craig (1971), Robert Field (Emeritus Fellow), Peter Cookson (1970), Dominic O'Brien Professor of Engineering Science and Senior Research Fellow in Engineering); *second row* Arman Karshenas Najafabadi (2017), Malcolm Forrest (1959), Howard Cook (1974), Charles Jones (1969), Lyulph Lubbock; *third row* Brian Tang (Lecturer in Engineering Science), Paul Buckley (Emeritus Fellow), Rasmus Rothe (2009), Andrew MacGowan (2016), Felix Faber (2008); *bottom row* Guy Swift (1977), Mark Cummins (2001), Theo Kyriacou (2000).

### Professor Adam Fairclough (1971)

I retired in 2016 after 11 happy and rewarding years as the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Professor of American History at Leiden University. The timing was fortuitous in light of the scandal that subsequently erupted over the Sackler family's involvement in the marketing of oxycontin, which has led to the renaming of my old chair. During my time at Leiden I managed to learn passable Dutch (although I taught in English), and served for several years as chair of the Netherlands American Studies Association. The relaxed atmosphere at Leiden's Instituut voor Geschiedenis was a refreshing contrast to my experience at UK universities. Academics were allowed get on with their teaching and research without having to worry about admissions, REFs, and stifling committee work. And all my colleagues were unfailingly polite. I am still a working, if unpaid, historian. In 2018 I published *The Revolution That Failed: Reconstruction in Natchitoches* (University Press of Florida); later this year Louisiana State University Press will publish *Bulldozed and Betrayed: Louisiana and the Stolen Elections of 1876*. Since 2016 I have spent much of my time in Washington, DC with my wife, Mary Ellen Curtin, and college-age son, Arthur.

### Andrew Foster (1971)

I am in that phase of life when I am giving up things, attempting to complete others, and generally slowing down. After 34 years as a Literary Director of the Sussex Record Society (SRS) I have been kicked upstairs to be one of the Vice-Presidents; after 15 years' service on what is now the Education Committee of the Royal Historical Society, I have retired! With one of my research students, Joan Barham, I edited volume 98 for the SRS entitled *Church Surveys of Chichester Archdeaconry 1602, 1610 & 1636* in 2018. I also contributed an essay to the *Oxford History of Anglicanism*, volume 1, edited by Anthony Milton, in 2017. I continue to be pleasantly involved in research on Oxford colleges in the early modern period and currently enjoy my status as a Visiting Researcher with Lincoln Unlocked, Lincoln College, Oxford. Larger studies on 'Archbishop Richard Neile' (for the Church of England Record Society) and 'The Dioceses of England and Wales, c.1540–1700' are inching ever closer to completion ...

### Thomas Sancton (1971)

Under lockdown and curfew here in France much of the past year, I managed to put the finishing touches on a long-deferred project: the updating and revision of my Oxford DPhil

thesis submitted in 1978 and coming out in April 2021 under the title *Sweet Land of Liberty: America in the Mind of the French Left, 1848–1871* (Louisiana State University Press). Better late than never!

### Ravi Sekhar (1971)

The devastation caused by Covid-19 will no doubt colour many of our posts. It has been the same here but mercifully neither we nor anyone close to us have been affected. The development of a Covishield vaccine at the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (where we live) is welcome news. I continue to write actively for travel and job and networking sites on the internet. It is



satisfying to connect with like-minded people, many of whom are Oxford graduates, and to hold educative and intelligent conversations. Our annual holiday abroad was affected by the travel restrictions; that was a blow, further exacerbated by the lockdown. We are hopeful of making it later in 2021. Following the domestic easing up earlier last year, we acquired an SUV, determined to visit tourist destinations nearer home in Maharashtra. There are numerous ancient Hindu temples (mandirs) dedicated to Lord Shiva and Ganesha, and it was revelation for my wife and me to visit them. Lately to take a break, we made a road trip to the city of Nashik, about 350km from Pune, known for its religious places and temples. We had seen these before and hence devoted our time to booking into a luxury hotel, recharge batteries and, since Nashik is wine country, visit the York Winery in the vicinity. The wine tasting and a case of the best rejuvenated our spirits (see photo). It was the worst of times and the best of times, in that order. We are not complaining.

#### Sanjeev Gupta (1972)

I retired from the IMF at the end of 2017 after 31 years at the institution, the last 11 years as a Deputy Director of the Fiscal Affairs Department. Since leaving the IMF, I have joined the Center for Global Development in Washington, DC as a Senior Policy Fellow, focusing principally on fiscal issues in developing countries. This is a welcome change from a more regimented work at the IMF, with freedom to express views on policy issues. My personal life changed as well with the arrival of three grandchildren in the past four years.

#### HE Bobby McDonagh (1972)

Having retired from the Irish diplomatic service in 2018, I am now an executive coach and public commentator. In that



latter role, my focus is mainly on the EU and on British/Irish relations. Along with several other Balliol alumni, I have been trying to ensure that Balliol's overall contribution to the Brexit debate has reflected the College's values by encouraging fact-based discussion, the celebration of diversity, respect for neighbouring countries and an understanding of the interdependence of nations. My 11th grandchild, Clodagh Charlotte, was born on 25 June 2020.

#### Neil Record (1972)

Neil Record continues to chair Record plc, a LSE-quoted asset manager. In addition he chairs the Institute of Economic Affairs, a London-based free market think-tank (with Mark Littlewood, 1990, as Director General), and the Global Warming Policy Forum, a think-tank which provides evidence and analysis to counter climate hysteria. He is on the Advisory Committees of Migration Watch (an immigration think-tank) and the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation (another financial think-tank). He has retired from his governorship at Magdalen College School, Oxford, but is continuing his association with Nuffield College, Oxford, currently chairing the Remuneration Committee. His son Chris (2006) now has two children, George and Martha, who have brought Neil the joys of grandparenthood!

#### Peter Stephens (1972)

I am still in Prague, where I will no doubt stay. Because of Brexit, I have acquired Czech citizenship – partly for practical reasons, as it makes life simpler, and partly for ideological ones, because I prefer to remain an EU citizen. I have now retired from my job in the International Office at Charles University, but am still doing some freelance translating.

#### Andrew Thompson (1972)

Having left the BBC in 2013 I'm living near Chichester with my partner Catherine and doing freelance journalism with a focus on political risk in Latin America; I'm also blogging for Canning House, where I am an Associate Fellow. In a venture into new territory, I'm starting work on a book on a UK miscarriage of justice case, which is going to require a lot of research. Covid permitting, I am

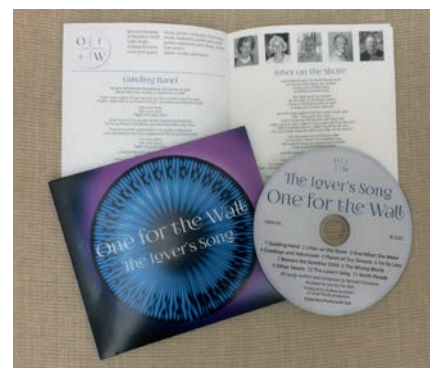
hoping to attend a reunion with my school mates in Mendoza, Argentina, at the end of 2021.

#### Ian Bell (1973)

Sandy and I were delighted to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary in College, with a dinner in the old SCR, where we held our reception. We continue to run the Chamber of Commerce in Bath, ensuring the business community has its say in how economic development happens in the district. Elder son Matthew is bringing up his family in Australia – quite close to where Robin Oliphant (1972) lives near Sydney – and younger son Andrew is doing likewise in Edinburgh. Must have been something we said. Air miles are good, though!

#### Andrew Burnham (1973)

One for the Wall emerged from a duo formed by two students at Bristol University which, with Oxford students became a six-piece band in which I was bass player, with melodic arrangements to accompany sophisticated lyrics by singer-songwriter Bernard Hanaway. Gigs included Balliol JCR, of course. They recorded a dozen of Bern's songs on four-track tape in the University Broadcasting Society's Banbury Road studios. But appointments with record company A&R men came to nothing. By autumn 1979 even the younger members of the band had left university and were going their separate ways, seeking proper employment. Fast forward to 2013: as a result of meeting at a funeral, it was suggested that the band should get back together and make some recordings using modern digital technology. As well as reviving the old songs, they have developed a new and very diverse repertoire, all written by Bernard. While playing as a group remains on hold due to the pandemic,





the band continues to work on new material remotely. A new CD, entitled 'The Lover's Song', was released on 4 December 2020. You can find more about the band at [oneforthewall.club](http://oneforthewall.club), where sample tracks are available for listening. A couple of years ago we played at the Harcourt Arms in Jericho. By chance, in the audience was someone who had seen us play in the JCR at St Peter's in 1978! Remarkably, he could even remember some of the song titles! We must have made an impression. If only we had had more fans like that ...

### **Mike Chisholm (1973)**

Having retired in 2014 after 30-plus years as a librarian in universities, I have spent the subsequent period re-inventing myself as an artist-photographer and bookmaker. I have had substantial solo shows in Austria and Italy, shown work at various group exhibitions (including two prints at the Royal Academy, both of which sold out their editions of 50, one on the first preview day), self-published a dozen books of my work, and blogged about anything that came into my head several times a week since 2008. No wonder I'm feeling so tired. After 40 years together and raising two children, Gemma and I are intending to enter into a civil partnership in 2021, having had our first attempt in 2020 cancelled by the Registry Office due to Covid-19 precautions. No rush: we'll achieve respectability eventually ...

### **Professor David D'Avray (1973)**

*Papal Jurisprudence, c.400: Sources of the Canon Law Tradition* (Cambridge University Press, 2019). Presented to the College Library.

### **Brian Groom (1973)**

My book *Northerners: A History: From the Ice Ages to the 21st Century* will be published in April 2022 by Harper North, a new imprint of HarperCollins. Our first grandchild, Oscar, was born in September.

### **Professor Martin McLaughlin (1973)**

It was a year of paying my debts to two great scholars of the past: for *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* I wrote the entry on a superb Ariosto expert (and my first boss after leaving Balliol for the University of Edinburgh), Peter Brand, now online at: [tinyurl.com/tw25wses](http://tinyurl.com/tw25wses).

I also paid homage to my old mentor and supervisor (at Magdalen) with this two-volume collection of essays: 'Alberti Lvdens: In Memory of Cecil Grayson, ed. Francesco Furlan, Martin McLaughlin, Hartmut Wulfram', special issue of *Albertiana*, 22 (2019), and *Albertiana*, 23 (2020).

### **Professor Sir David Skegg (1973)**

As an epidemiologist and public health physician, I have been very busy with the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020 I served as a special adviser to the Epidemic Response Committee of the Parliament of New Zealand, and I was invited as a witness by the Home Affairs Committee of the UK House of Commons.

### **Neil Stuart (1973)**

Whilst it must have been an extremely difficult year for many, I have found the lockdown experience both refreshing and liberating: my local crags have been much quieter and the slower pace of life has enabled greater time for reading those works postponed until that rainy day of which so many have now been forced upon us. We also moved house after 16 years of woodland idyll, catching the buoyant market and changing to a waterside property by Plymouth Sound with its own pontoon in the marina we overlook. All I need now is a yacht. Hopefully dates for visits to Balliol and meeting up with old friends can be put in my diary soon.

### **Andrew Weir (1973)**

My wife, Alex Webber (Somerville, 1972), and I first became acquainted at Oxford. We had two girls (one went to York, the other to Balliol) and we still live in south London. I've had a tortuous career in journalism in magazines, newspapers, and many jobs in television documentaries before they changed too much, out of which came a book or two. I returned to the print world and have been at Africa Confidential newsletter and website the last ten years. I edge towards retirement and time for more Wagner, Coltrane, Morton Feldman, classic cinema, piano, and maybe another book or two.

### **Howard Cook (1974)**

Just about fully retired after six years of occasional consulting jobs in Oil

& Gas after leaving BP. Our plans to spend more time on leisure activities and concert-going with family and friends were scuppered by Covid. But we did manage a ski break, a dive trip, and a walking holiday in the German Alps in 2020, in between quarantine restrictions. Our youngest decided to study engineering, and was pleased to be accepted at Wadham College, Oxford, from October 2020. (Parental advice on college choice fell on deaf ears; although maybe the Cuppers water polo performance was an attraction at the end of Broad Street!)

### **Ian Duncan (1974)**

Forty-four years after leaving Balliol I finally earned a PhD this year (2020) at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, in statistics. Still teaching (statistics) at the University of California and running my actuarial consulting company.

### **Martin Edwards (1974)**

This year I was awarded the Crime Writers' Association's Diamond Dagger, the highest honour in UK crime writing. Since it means I have joined a select list including John le Carré, P.D. James, Ian Rankin, and Lee Child, it prompted a touch of imposter syndrome, accentuated by the fact that I received the award in an online ceremony while stationed in my loft rather than at a glitzy ceremony, but it was still a great moment. My latest novel, *Mortmain Hall* (Head of Zeus, 2020), was published recently, as was *Howdunit* (Collins Crime Club, 2020), a book I edited about the art and craft of crime writing with essays by 90 members of the Detection Club past and present, ranging from Chesterton and Christie to Val McDermid, Len Deighton, and Alexander McCall Smith.

### **John Foley (1974)**

I ran the 8th London Chess Conference ([www.chessconference.org](http://www.chessconference.org)), which this year (2020) was online for the first time. The theme was Chess and Technology. I captained my team, ChessPlus Kingston, to victory in the British Team Championships: [www.4ncresults.co.uk/2020-21/online/1st/9/1p/export](http://www.4ncresults.co.uk/2020-21/online/1st/9/1p/export). Gratifying the top two boards are female.

### **Professor John Helliwell (1974)**

My new book *The Whens and Wheres of a Scientific Life* was published in mid-

February 2021: its webpage is here: <https://www.routledge.com/The-Whens-and-Wheres-of-a-Scientific-Life/Helliwell/p/book/9780367489717>.

### **Professor David Kennedy (1974)**

Discovered a further enormous advantage of not only being in a country on the other side of the world (Australia) but living in its most isolated city (Perth). The effects of the pandemic are barely detectable on a daily basis. On the other hand, we have been unable to spend our usual six months annually in Oxford, much less have the side trips to Italy. I continue research on western travellers in Egypt and the Near East in the 19th century and am struck by how many were Balliol graduates.

### **Neil Robinson (1974)**

#### **Tim Boardman (1975)**

As residents of Stafford who share musical interests, we have been collaborating for many years on a range of projects, largely as members of our a cappella group Fish from Oblivion: we have been exploring a few highways and many byways of world music, folk, early music and modern genres for over twenty years. Neil has in recent years been developing his composing interests, and asked Tim some two years ago to suggest a favourite passage of poetry for him to set to music. The result was an extended piece, *Gawain in Winter*, which Fish from Oblivion performed as part of their Christmas offering in 2019; built around a single verse of the anonymous 14th-century poem *Gawain and the Green Knight*, the piece interweaves Neil's setting of the north-west Midlands dialect passage (close to home for us) with other original composition and existing songs from a variety of traditions. One of these is of particular relevance to our Balliol heritage: the setting of 'The Boris Hede' (The Boar's Head) carol, preserved in Balliol MS 354. The central passage describes Sir Gawain's journey alone through the winter landscape, facing a host of fearsome adversaries in his quest to find the Green Knight.

The work was well received by local audiences, and when the effects of the pandemic brought so much musical activity to a sudden halt, we decided to realise our ambition to create a lasting record, using the remote methods that were replacing our usual regular rehearsals and performances. Music

has continued to be an inspiration and a solace in these difficult months, and this became one of several projects that have kept us engaged and entertained. Ably assisted by Rachel Graff, a music technician, composer, and daughter of one of our long-term musical collaborators, we launched the recording of *Gawain in Winter* shortly before Christmas. We shared it as a free offering with various friendship and musical groups, and we'd like to extend the invitation to any readers who have not yet had enough of cold and solitude! It can be found on Rachel Graff's Bandcamp webpage: [rachelgraffcomposer.bandcamp.com/album/gawain-in-winter](https://rachelgraffcomposer.bandcamp.com/album/gawain-in-winter). Click on 'free download' (in blue) to get the words and music in a zip file. Feedback very welcome to [tim.boardman@ntlworld.com](mailto:tim.boardman@ntlworld.com) or [neilmediator@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:neilmediator@hotmail.co.uk).

Readers may also like these lockdown projects, in a lighter vein: The Compleat Works of Shakespeare ([youtu.be/qw865V50CkM](https://youtu.be/qw865V50CkM)) and Downtown Lockdown 2020 ([youtu.be/xlLvAPvA8Bk](https://youtu.be/xlLvAPvA8Bk)).

### **Giles Vardey (1974)**

I was awarded a MSc in Coaching and Behavioural Change at Henley Business School in September 2020, a mere 43 years after my degree from Balliol. I continue to develop my coaching client base as well as chairing a listed company. When allowed, I did a lot of sculling in the summer, which was a joyous relief from virus headlines. The Zoom boom meant I caught up with some Balliol contemporaries from all over the world, which was a delight. Everyone should try it.

### **Robert Waller (1974)**

Published 'Ramsay MacDonald' in *The Prime Ministers* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2020).

### **Paddy Walsh (1974)**

During the paucity of social contact necessitated by the first lockdown my mood was greatly cheered by a series of 'Zoom Dinners' (bring your own food and drink) kindly organised by Mark Short (1975), mostly on Thursday evenings from April to early July. Those attending included John O'Reilly (1974), Ewan Ferlie (1974), Philip Brace (1974), Mike Williams (1975), Simon McGuire (1975), Kevin Alban (1976), and Michael Cullinan

(1975), as well as Noeleen Scider, Paul Kane (Exeter, 1976) and Simon Appleton (Trinity, 1979). There were also cameo appearances by various spouses, partners and pets. Whilst the unique events of 2020 provided plenty of stimulus to conversation there was usually a sartorial or epicurean theme such as colourful shirts, loud ties, delicious desserts or plumpious pudding wines. We reconvened in festive garb on the sixth day of Christmas to review the year and eat up any remaining seasonal fare.

### **Paul Bailey (1975)**

The highlight of 2019 was undoubtedly a Balliol reunion before and at the Varsity Rugby Match, organised by Alan Murdoch (1976), our man in Washington, DC. Also present were Howard Cook (1974), Rob Griffiths (1976) and Simon Guest (1976). A good time was had by all, even though the Cantabs won.



Left to right: Howard Cook, Paul Bailey, Simon Guest, Alan Murdoch, Rob Griffiths.

### **Professor Ronald Beiner (1975)**

Birth of a grandson: Kai Nikko Zhi-Ai Yao Beiner, son of Zimra Beiner and Amy Yao. Kai arrived on 20 January 2021, 90 minutes into the start of the Biden era.



**Chris Bower (1975)**

After recovering from a serious health scare earlier in the year, 2019 ended on a high when Christine and I received an invitation to attend the BBC recording of Carols from King's at which Ellen, our daughter, led the procession. As for 2020, unlike many less fortunate than ourselves, we did survive unscathed and the year was largely uneventful (literally). Naturally we were thrilled when Ellen graduated from 'the other place' with a double First in PBS but shared the disappointment felt by so many students and parents who were denied the opportunity to attend graduation ceremonies. Let's hope that some semblance of normality returns during 2021 and that we can all start visiting family and friends once again.

**The Revd Michael Cullinan (1975)**

Continuing to direct the undergraduate distance-learning theology programme at Maryvale Institute, Birmingham – working from home since March. This year I am lecturing seminarians at Oscott College, also from home. I celebrated 25 years as a priest last February in what now seems another, almost 'pre-war', age.

**Derek Delves (1975)**

I am living in Vienna, Austria, having retired from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) there. My personal news in 2020 was light on career developments, awards, publications, births and marriages. I am, though, chairman of the Vienna 1% for Development Fund, based in the Vienna International Centre. In 2020 we funded 13 new development projects to benefit disadvantaged communities around the world: [viennaonepercentfund.wordpress.com](http://viennaonepercentfund.wordpress.com). The IAEA is the United Nations System organisation for nuclear science and technology, and operates in the rarefied atmosphere of UN Security Council high politics. My experience at Balliol and Oxford gave me the impetus for emigration; but it did also give me a world view for the IAEA and the United Nations System – more indispensable than ever. In 2020 I contributed to Balliol College Library and Archives a collection of personal papers from Balliol. These include papers of the Balliol College Refugee Scholarship scheme; papers and correspondence

on obtaining entry and exit visas for students jailed as political prisoners in Chile, so as to have their sentences commuted to exile; and papers from the Coolidge Pathfinders Programme.

**Josh Dick (1975)**

So sad to report that my dear wife of 32 years, Louise Blum, died in May 2020. For myself, I am now fully retired. My detractors might say that I simply remain retired.

**Paul Edwards (1975)**

I continue to work as a freelance teacher and also as a writer, mainly about cricket, albeit at times you'd do well to notice the fact. The latter occupation is becoming increasingly dominant and the notion of retirement is quite appalling. I would welcome contact from Balliol friends old and new ([paul.edwards44@btopenworld.com](mailto:paul.edwards44@btopenworld.com)) and if anyone at all from the College finds themselves in Southport, I'd be happy to make them some coffee and stand at a social distance while they drink it.

**Paul Legg (1975)**

Retired in 2020 after nearly 30 years as an editor and sometime correspondent at BBC World Service News and a further ten years as a modern history tutor in adult education here in Sussex. Have enjoyed the online history lectures organised by the College during the Covid lockdowns and am encouraged that the state school intake is on the rise!

**Peter Martin (1975)**

I relocated to West Cork two years ago with my wife Allison and our daughter Alexandra, who is now four years old. Here in this village with a population of barely a hundred (in winter at least) in rural Ireland that is as close to being English as is possible without being in England, you can hardly cast a stone without hitting an Oxford graduate – although as far as I know not a Balliol alumnus or alumna (if anyone knows differently and there is another Balliol graduate in Castletownshend, then I'd love to hear). My other three children – Oliver (28), Harry (27) and Elizabeth (23) – remain in England, and the current pandemic means I have hardly seen them since March, which has been painful. I stepped down from my position as a minor sub-lieutenant of industry in 2020 (I was COO of

a medium-sized pharmaceutical company), although I continue to be on the board of that company and to be chairman of a med tech company. I have neither propelled the UK to the enormous act of self-harm that is Brexit, nor destabilised the Labour Party by steering it over the cliff of Corbynism, which is, I think, somewhat to my credit and perhaps more than can be said of some other Balliol alumni.

**Lieut General Sir Simon Mayall (1975)**

I retired from the British Army in 2015, after a 40-year career, although remained as Colonel of my Regiment, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, until 2019, and as Lieutenant of the Tower of London until this year. Since retirement I have continued to concentrate on events and affairs in the Middle East, and have served as a senior adviser to a number of financial and energy companies. In late 2020 I published a book, *Soldier in the Sand: A Personal History of the Modern Middle East*, which attempts to offer an accessible and readable overview of the history, politics and religion of this complex and fascinating region. I continue to support Tottenham Hotspur.

**Dennis Morrison (1975)**

I retired on 4 December 2020 as President of the Court of Appeal of Jamaica, after almost 13 years on the court. Looking forward now to life after retirement!

**Stephen Moss (1975)**

Still writing and editing at the *Guardian*. Thought I should stay for its 200th birthday (in May 2021). But being close to 200 myself, I suppose I should contemplate retirement soon.

**Gary Calder (1976)**

2021 will be the year I retire, barring any accidents like the collapse of my pension funds as the UK struggles to climb out of the Bog of Brexit and ascend the Difficult Hill to the celestial Sunlit Uplands. Every job I have done has indulged my curiosity for engineering and technology. A career that has taken in: digital audio for satellite broadcasting, speech synthesis, touch screens, multi-way data and video conferencing, data systems for UK terrestrial broadcasters, running a Sky digital TV channel from the back

room of an art gallery in Hoxton Square, London, architecting encryption and authentication systems for solid state drives and latterly overseeing the filing and prosecution of over 200 patents at the US Patent Office (a few of which even have my name on) for OCZ, Toshiba and Kioxia. My wife Hanne now has dual Danish/UK citizenship, and a tentative plan to relocate to Denmark now (post Brexit) means I will have to pass a spoken Danish test. 'Rødgrød med fløde' is one example of something \*not\* easier said than done. I can now understand Danish fairly well, converse with the Danish side of the family and read bedtime stories (translated on the fly from English) to our two Danish grandsons. Looking forward to spending many of the restricted 90 out of 180 days travelling Europe, discovering new walks in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and catching up more frequently with Balliol friends. I am always available for Burns Night celebrations – will work for whisky!

#### **Ian Fletcher (1976)**

Seemingly relatively safely marooned in Taiwan.

#### **Professor Evance Kalula (1976)**

The year 2020 was a horrible year, an 'annus horribilis' like no other with Covid-19 still wreaking havoc, but there were some good tidings I can share nevertheless. I celebrated the eighth anniversary of my heart transplant on 19 December, my woman donor's heart (MHSRIP!) continues to be strong and apart from the rigorous medication regime, I am as good as could be expected at my age. My tenure as chairperson of the Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) also went well, and has been renewed for another three years. It has been a challenging but very fulfilling role; I am inclined to feel that the 'effortless superiority' of the Balliol creed naturally helped. I also continue with my fellowship as co-principal investigator of a project on Migrant Vulnerability and Access to Social Protection at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS). At another personal level, I continued the great pleasure of regularly getting together for lunch with Iain MacDonald (1976), now Emeritus Professor of Statistics at the University of Cape Town, to

reminisce about the College and Holywell Manor, which for both of us were most agreeable days. Iain is still hard at work, trying to make sense of the figures as if formal retirement were a negligible statistic. I hope for a better year ahead. Stay safe!

#### **Professor Jonathan Michie (1976)**

Jonathan Michie is an 'interdisciplinary' member of the Management & Business Panel for the Research Excellence Framework, REF 2021; and chair of the Universities Association for Lifelong Learning.

#### **Ross Belson (1977)**

I obtained my PhD, an edition of the Selected Letters of Caroline Norton, from the University of the West of England in 2016. I also co-edited (as Ross Nelson, with Professor Marie Mulvey-Roberts) *The Selected of Letters of Caroline Norton*, published by Routledge in three volumes in December 2019.

#### **Jim Berkman (1977)**

Since last year's update, I have published my historical novel about Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his son Hartley, *The Secret Ministry of Frost* (2020); my first novel *The Product of Woollett* (2015) (a sequel to *The Ambassadors*, by Henry James) has been praised by the Man Booker Award winner John Banville. I still scull in Vermont (with fond memories of rowing in the Balliol second boat), tutor adults preparing for their high school equivalency tests, and see family (socially distanced in this pandemic year). We also have a third grandchild, a gorgeous girl born in September 2020. With all the turmoil of Covid-19, economic suffering, and political chaos, I feel blessed with family and friends.

#### **Phil Boydell (1977)**

2021 found us becoming empty nesters and after 30 years of variety at DuPont sorting out nylon fibre waste, composite rocker covers on BMWs, messes on a Bering Island beach, variant CJD in the UK, the value of photovoltaic panels, outdoor vehicle presence detectors and EV powertrain designs, I thought we'd be free to travel the world, but Covid put that on hold. So we roam around the Geneva area instead and I help a few local start-ups, cook, garden and play bridge in the Wessex League with a more illustrious Balliolite, just like I did 40 years ago,



only now it's online so it doesn't matter about getting to Bicester or Banbury, and I cannot make regrettable remarks to opposition who turn out to be missing a thumb. Amusingly, I discovered two contemporaries living a mile apart in darkest Herefordshire and connected them. The pandemic has returned an archaic word in French to popular use. Next year I hope to indulge my curiosity for industrial 'archaeology' *en presentiel*.

#### **David Christie (1977)**

Last year, I wrote about Brexit and Trump (again). This year as I write, in Europe we are well into the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. We were complacent in the summer, having 'flattened the curve' quite successfully. Then things took off again. And it looks like most countries will be in a partial lockdown over Christmas. Things look worse in the US, where the first wave never really ended and a substantial part of the population is in denial about the virus and the need to take even the simplest of public health measures. Not to mention denial about the result of the Presidential election! Meanwhile, Brexit happened, almost. The hardness level of the actual exit is only matched by the absurdity of the negotiation. Potentially breaking international law doesn't help. In Switzerland we watch on and wait for our own negotiations with the EU to become real again. They've been deep frosted for quite a while now. Blamed mostly on Brexit! Despite lockdown, I completed my Master of Advanced Studies in Strategic Design at the Zurich University of the Arts with distinction in the summer. Áedán finished at ETH Zurich and is now working full time. Seán has changed course, now studying psychology fully online (corona) at Bern University. Music mostly did not happen this year because of the pandemic. I still live in hope that we might start taking global warming seriously. At least the election of Joe Biden should help!



**Neil Johnston (1977)**

Now settling in the Morbihan region, southern Brittany, and loving the French life. Visitors welcome, especially sailors, paddlers (kayaks), cyclists and walkers for whom the area is paradise!

**Bijoy Mathur (1977)**

The year 2020 went by doing online classes from home. It was a new experience teaching on Zoom. The children, teachers and management still trying to comprehend what was going on! I took on the task of keeping the school morale high by even attending classes which were not mine and taking part in discussions. Four of our students from Kiit International School were selected to become National Inspire Manak Scholars. I kept the team excited about the research that Oxford was doing on the Covishield vaccine. Proud that the Serum Institute of India, Pune, is manufacturing the doses to vaccinate in India and abroad.

**Paul Shrimpton (1977)**

I am still teaching at Magdalen College School, Oxford. The highlight of my lockdown in 2020 was running a reading group for graduates of Oxford University on John Henry Newman's *Idea of a University* (1873). It began in November 2019 with around a dozen students. Before each meeting – weekly at first, then fortnightly – we read a chapter, then met to discuss our reading: in person until March 2020, then by Zoom, at which point we were joined by two students from Harvard and three from Leiden, in Holland. Newman's text is generally regarded as the greatest there is on the nature and purpose of higher education. Reading it during lockdown gave an interesting twist to much of the discussion.

**Rhodri Williams (1977)**

In October we relocated 4 miles from suburban West Sussex to rural East Sussex, a move which has been therapeutic as well as energising. My day job as Head of International Public Policy at AIG remains rewarding and fun. Changing the way we work has been stimulating, although I have missed international travel. I continue to act as Senior Adviser to Wallbrook Ltd, a young but dynamic advisory firm specialising in due diligence, and in a new departure, I am

halfway through a part-time business coaching programme. Coaching is very enjoyable and I'm looking forward to emerging with accreditation and ready for action in the spring. Thanks to the manoeuvres of two Balliol contemporaries and friends, Adrian Wooldridge (1977) and Jeremy Mayhew (1977), this year saw me elected to membership of the Reform Club.

**HE Christopher Dell (1978)**

My 2020 was much like everyone else's, I would assume: adjusting to a slower-paced, homebound reality, while trying to avoid becoming ill from Covid (or anything else). My wife and I have been quite fortunate in that we have steady income from a pension and a US government job, grown children, and decent internet service, so we feel both less isolated and less stressed than many others. We've used our time both to become fitter and to learn more about Washington's many neighbourhoods on long daily walks. I also used some of my new-found time to make a small contribution to the US elections, writing 1,200 get-out-the-vote letters between July and October. It's hard to know if such efforts make a real difference, but the record turnout suggests the communal lift had some impact. After an early fall-off in professional activity, things have begun to pick up again. I was invited to join the board of directors of Sicona, an Australian start-up that is developing leading-edge technologies to improve the performance of lithium-ion batteries. Energy storage is a critical component of the burgeoning green power revolution and Sicona is positioned to make an important contribution. With another hat on I work with Fieldstone, a private investment bank that is a leading financial advisor in the African power sector. We're witnessing the rapid transformation of energy development on the continent, as renewable energy projects (especially solar energy) are far outstripping new fossil-fuel power proposals. Still a long way to go, but the trend is clear and hopeful for the future of our planet.

**Nicholas Prettejohn (1978)**

I have been chair of Scottish Widows and a non-executive director of Lloyds Banking Group since 2014. I became chair of Reach plc in 2018. I recently

stepped down as chair of Royal Northern College of Music after nine years, and was honoured to be made a Companion of the College. I'm a non-executive director of Opera Ventures, a charity supporting productions of modern opera. Last but certainly not least, I recently became chair of Prisoners Abroad, a human rights charity supporting the welfare of UK citizens imprisoned overseas, both during their imprisonment and on their resettlement to this country. This involvement resulted from mentoring work I did with House of St Barnabas.

**Barney Wainwright (1978)**

2020 has been a year dominated by Covid-19 for everyone and the first impact on mine was the abrupt winding up of Flybe and the end of my 18 years as an airline pilot. Early retirement did not seem right but there was little to do but wait and, when DfT allowed recreational flying to re-start after the first lockdown, spend as much time as possible at the gliding club. In July I was mobilised as a Navy reservist, and given the job of coordinating Navy policy and response to Covid. It turned into the busiest job of my life so far and finishes in February 2021, when I shall begin a new Civil Service job at MOD Boscombe Down.

**Professor Timothy Elliott (1979)**

I am delighted to be returning to Oxford as the Foundation Kidani Chair of Immuno-Oncology, Nuffield Department of Medicine, and Fellow of Oriel College.

**Omkar Goswami (1979)**

Published a book titled *Goras and Desis: Managing Agencies and the Making of Corporate India* (Penguin Random House, 2016).

**Andolie Marguerite (1979)**

The high point of 2020 for me was spending September and October at NES artists' residency in Skagaströnd, a small fishing village in the north-west of Iceland.



**Paul Shotton (1979)**

Since retiring from my career in banking I've been keeping myself busy with board advisory work, principally related to financial risk management. I've recently taken to writing short thought-leadership pieces and publishing them via LinkedIn, again, mostly on topics related to risk management and financial markets, although I've also written a piece on a fair taxation policy for multinational corporations and one on a simple mathematical model to advise criminal sentencing policy. I've been interviewed for an 'In Conversation' article by headhunter Halsey Keetch and led several academic seminars on financial topics, most recently at Yale University School of Management, with another one coming up shortly at the University of Nicosia and one at the University of Zurich. Necessarily, most of these have been online due to the pandemic (universities no longer have Visiting Professors; instead they have Zooming Professors).

**Graham Wood (1979)**

Completed my term as CEO to the East Africa community countries for the Aga Khan Foundation at the end of 2020. Remaining in Nairobi to lead an exciting initiative around developing a sports stadium, sporting academy and an academic school for children from mainly very poor families, building on an existing professional football team. Quite a leap for me. Martyn Bowen (1982) has much expertise in this area and is being very helpful. Have just finished my third unpublished novel, collecting rejection emails like autumn leaves.

## 1980s

**Matthew Hamlyn (1980)**

2020 marked 33 years since I started work at the House of Commons. Nowadays I spend some of my time in the Chamber as a 'Table Clerk', advising the Speaker and other Members and generally keeping the show on the road. Recent jobs include arranging scrutiny of the HS2 Bill, and running the Overseas Office, which enabled me to visit Dhaka, Toronto and various European capitals, back when we could travel. Since 2017 I've been Senior

Responsible Owner for the project to refurbish the Elizabeth Tower (aka Big Ben); I'm the one who in the days when we had tourists ruined lots of visits to London by turning off the bells and covering the Tower in scaffolding. I have had the great privilege of making regular visits to the top of the Tower to see how the work is progressing – answer: pretty well, despite the pandemic, and it is going to be fantastic when it is finished. Since last summer I've been Strategic Director of the Chamber Business Team, looking after all the teams that manage the parliamentary procedure side of the House service. The biggest challenge this year was coordinating the work to create the 'hybrid Parliament': allowing MPs to contribute to House proceedings by Zoom, and to vote electronically. That was probably the biggest change in House practice in 700 years. Very hard work to set it all up from scratch in only a few weeks, but rather fun once we proved it could work. See [parliament.uk/about/how/covid-19-hybrid-proceedings-in-the-house-of-commons](https://parliament.uk/about/how/covid-19-hybrid-proceedings-in-the-house-of-commons).

**Derek Wax (1980)**

Through my new company Wild Mercury Productions (named after a Bob Dylan quote), I am producing two new TV series in 2021: *The Rig*, a supernatural thriller set on a North Sea oil rig for Amazon Prime, and *The Sixth Commandment*, a drama focusing on a murder in a Buckinghamshire village, for BBC One.

**John Colenutt (1981)**

Now studying for a MA at King's College London's Department of War Studies.

**Professor Daniel Esty (1981)**

Dan Esty continues to teach at Yale and has a new (edited) book just published by Palgrave Macmillan, *Values at Work: Sustainable Investing and ESG Reporting* (2020), focused on the growing interest of investors in the environmental, social, and government performance of the companies in their portfolios.

**Wayne Henderson (1981)**

I am currently in Australia with my family and so we consider ourselves lucky escapees from the global pandemic, but we are on the frontline for climate change. I have reached that time in late middle age where the lethal agents of cancer and heart

disease start to pick off one or two friends, and even take aim at my own body. It gives one pause for thought, but I will not 'go quietly' etc. I have written a novel – think of a female Bob Woodward meets the Avengers in a Trump/Putin world; I'm not surprised it hasn't been bought. I enjoyed writing it. I am learning new skills both technical (I work with a cyber-security start-up) and artistic (drawing). Family and friends give meaning and purpose to my life; sailing and philosophical enquiry are my pastimes.

**Angela Jackman (1981)**

I have been appointed as Honorary QC. The Lord Chancellor's announcement is in the following link with my biography: [tinyurl.com/3hhceadn](https://tinyurl.com/3hhceadn).

**Andrew Mosely (1981)**

After six years of part-time study by distance learning, I successfully completed the Rose Bruford Opera Studies BA degree course in summer 2020 and was awarded a First by the University of Manchester. Having retired from Metapraxia at the end of 2020, I now have the time to begin research for a Master's focusing on Dada and Surrealism in opera.

**Professor Miguel Orellana Benado (1981)**

Still teaching at the Law Faculty, Universidad de Chile. During 2020 I helped an undergraduate student there to organise the Sociedad





Canónigo Meneses, a humorous debating society modelled on the Arnold and Brackenbury Society (the origin of the political career of Boris Johnson (1983), who presided over it back in 1985). Published *La academia sonámbula: Ensayo sobre la institución universitaria chilena al culminar su cuarto siglo* (Orjikh, Santiago de Chile, 2019) ('The sleep walking academia: an essay on Chilean higher education at the end of its fourth century'), a slim volume with a view of the Front Quad on its cover. My argument focuses on a key paradox of the current digital era, inaugurated by the creation of the Web in 1989. Never affluent societies had been as wealthy as they are now. But never its leading elites had been as poor in spiritual, intellectual or educational terms. Hence the current devaluing of both history and philosophy, disciplines that are thought not to contribute to increase the commercial value of any product. Many (perhaps most) contemporary academics lack interest in the history of the very disciplines they cultivate, let alone that of the institutions they work for. Hoping to complete during 2021 both 'Philosophiae Moralis Principia Ridicula sive Manicheism, the other pandemic' and 'Orthodox Judaism: a hobby? A brief introduction to Western culture for Chinese, Indian and other readers'.

#### **Jonathan Ostry (1981)**

At the time of writing, December 2020, the busiest year of my professional life – busier incidentally than during the global financial crisis by a wide margin – is drawing to a close, and hopes are high for a brighter 2021. I have been overseeing the IMF's engagement with its member countries in the Asia-Pacific region (as Acting Director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department), which spans the gamut from disbursing multi-billion emergency financing arrangements to countries hardest hit by the pandemic, to advising them on appropriate policies to get through this period and lay a foundation for strong, inclusive and greener growth over the medium term. My two recent books – *Taming the Tide of Capital Flows* (MIT Press, 2018) and *Confronting Inequality* (Columbia University Press, 2019) have generated considerable attention in the media and academia, with endorsements

by Nobel Laureates (including Joe Stiglitz who wrote the Foreword to the second volume) and prominent academics Dani Rodrik (Harvard), Olivier Blanchard (MIT), Raghu Rajan (Chicago), and Agustín Carstens (BIS). I have published a number of high-profile professional papers over the past year that have been covered in the *Financial Times*, the *Economist* and the *New York Times*, including on the impact of the pandemic on inequality, the political economy of economic reforms (jointly with the late Alberto Alesina), and the impact of gender discrimination on economic growth and productivity. My work on financial globalisation was cited in a list compiled by leading academics as an example of research that has shaped global debates in recent years.

#### **HE Professor Stephen Vasciannie (1981)**

Published *Caribbean Essays on Law and Policy* in 2020.

This includes a memorial essay about the contribution of Sir Ian Brownlie QC (late of All Souls College) to the development of international law. Working as Professor of International Law at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.



#### **Paul Compton (1982)**

Having retired from corporate life five years ago, I've returned to my love of history. I've been travelling the country working on a project (with luck, a book) on English history, looking at each county in turn. The emphasis is on economic development and the way it's been shaped by geography. The working title is *County by County: A History of England with a Sense of Place*. Crossing my fingers that I can interest a publisher as it nears completion.

#### **David Kinloch (1982)**

A rather belated update: I was awarded a Fellowship from the Arts and Humanities Research Council in 2013 for work towards a new collection of poetry. In the same year I was appointed Professor of Poetry and Creative Writing at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. In 2017 I published *In Search of Dustie-Fute*

(Carcanet), which was shortlisted for the Saltire Award. In December 2019 I retired from my post at Strathclyde and have taken over as chair of the Edwin Morgan Trust, a charitable body which exists to support the work of young poets in Scotland under the age of 30. We also support the translation of poetry into the languages of Scotland.

#### **Andrew Marshall (1982)**

I am still in Washington, DC, at the Atlantic Council, hoping for a smoother year of transatlantic relations. No Balliol visitors this year (probably understandable in the circumstances).

#### **Paddy McGuinness (1982)**

My 2020/2021 has been shaped by the death of two Balliol men. My father Brian McGuinness (1945) died two days before Christmas 2019 and my father-in-law Leif Mills (1954), whose obituary will be published in the *Annual Record*, left us last December. I now have multiple copies of the *Balliol College Register*. It has a lot to answer for. In the days before the internet when I met my now wife Susannah, I was shocked by how much she could know about me so quickly. Leif had looked me up in the *Register*. I think he only agreed to the marriage because of what he found there.

#### **Mary-Anne Newman (1982)**

I evicted myself this year and moved to live by the river, have a more eccentric house, and lead a more dynamic life. Apart from lockdown, it's worked: but I have been undermined by all the books I had in storage, which have immediately filled up all available space and time. Hopefully I'll be able to rejoin the human race in a year or so, refreshed by American crime fiction. I'm also within cycling distance of the station, which is great for getting into London (when permitted) to see friends but not so sensible when returning. I hadn't fallen off a bike through drink since Balliol – it quite took me back. I also finished the Investigation I was working on, resolved to master DIY (so far I've bought all the tools but think them too gorgeous to use) and failed to learn Swedish.

#### **Flash Sheridan (1982)**

Olga and I, at least, are having an excellent lockdown, in splendid isolation 31 storeys above the

unpleasantness in Manhattan (e.g. the looting of the first floor of my ex-employer's building along with a beloved nearby bookstore, and attempted murder of a policeman defending another). After the closure of our gym, my principal exercise has been ascending and descending 35 flights of stairs, admittedly with more pauses than permitted in high-school gym class. We intend to escape from New York once it's safe, probably for intermittent retirement in California or Kiev, unless something more interesting turns up. In the meantime, I'm catching up on my reading and writing, and Olga is lecturing remotely at the City University of New York's City College of Technology, where we organised a celebration of the 100th birthday of the science and science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, <http://tiny.cc/asimov100>, with the editor of Asimov's *Science Fiction* magazine as guest of honour.

#### Paul Fox (1983)

I have been Pro-Vice Chancellor (Finance & Infrastructure) at Bath Spa University since September 2019. Happily married to Amanda since 21 March 2020 – brought forward from April to avoid the March lockdown. Moved to Bath in October 2020.



#### Jonathan Hall (1983)

Over lockdown, I caught the thriller bug. An old schoolfriend invited me to join him in co-writing a series which he has published for some time via a niche American press. His hero, the Reliable Man, is an ex-Hong Kong policeman turned contract killer and

the novels are set in the (now) faraway 1990s and Noughties. My addition to the canon has been a Balliol-educated private banker and spy who has a 'first class honours degree from the best college in the best university in the world' – unlike me the character read PPE not English and actually studied hard at university ... For complex reasons we write under pseudonyms which make us sound like a pair of soft porn stars from the 1970s, and our stories are unashamedly high-class pulp with a fair amount of (PARENTAL ADVISORY) sex and violence. While I do not expect to follow in the footsteps of Mick Herron (1981) and give up the day job, it makes a pleasant break from continuing to pilot my stockbroking firm through the shallows of the City of London. *Reliable in New York* and *Reliable in London* (in the latter of which Balliol has a bit part) by Valerie Goldsilk and Julian Stagg are available via Amazon and should be of interest to all literary agents and publishers among you. I am currently writing the latest instalment in the series: *Reliable in Zurich*.

#### John Lazar (1983)

I took over as chair of the Raspberry Pi Foundation in October 2020.

#### Andrew Nevin (1983)

As more proof that one's life path is wonderfully unknowable, I have spent the last decade in Nigeria (projected to be the world's second most populous country by 2100) as a nation builder and public intellectual, playing a number of key roles to advance Nigeria's economy and society, including: founding director of the Africa Institute for Leadership and Public Administration; member of the Advisory Board at Lagos Business School; founding governor of the Financial Centre for Sustainability (FC4S) Lagos; co-founder of Binkabi, a blockchain-enabled trading platform trying to increase the incomes of the 500m farmers in developing countries ([www.binkabi.io](http://www.binkabi.io)); co-founder of iKoN, a Nigerian company focused on bringing a unique solar energy technology to Nigeria; advisor to several start-up companies led by young Nigerians; member of the West Africa Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee; faculty member of Nigeria's School of Politics, Politics and Governance; Advisory Partner and

Chief Economist at PwC Nigeria. If you have the opportunity to come to Lagos, please connect with me.

#### Professor Murray Pittock (1983)

In 2020, I was elected a member of Academia Europaea, the European Academy for the Arts and Sciences, for my research on Scottish culture, literature and history in its global context, and I gave the Gresham Lecture for the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Edward Stuart.

#### Nozomu Takaoka (1983)

Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh since 2018. In order to prevent contracting a virus, my diplomatic activities are inevitably focused on online and outdoor activities respecting social distance. On 6 August 2020, commemorating the atomic bombing of Hiroshima 75 years ago and the establishment of Royal Edinburgh Botanic Garden 350 years ago, I planted three ginkgo trees grown from the seeds which miraculously survived the bombing, together with the chairman of the Garden and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.



#### David Witty (1983)

A busy year (despite Covid). Launched a new biotech company, Eliem Therapeutics Ltd, as Head of R&D and manufacturing chemistry, focused on discovering and developing medicines for neurological conditions. Completed books (now published) on *Progress in Medicinal Chemistry* (2018) and *Complete Accounts of Integrated Drug Discovery and Development* (2020) for Elsevier and the



American Chemical Society respectively. Served as 2020 Royal Society of Chemistry BMCS award lecturer. This should have encompassed talks around both the UK and Europe but, necessarily, presentations since March have had to be online. Also now investigating the design of future Covid therapies, while staying safe and looking forward to leaving the house – roll on the vaccine!

#### **Natasha Beschorner (1984)**

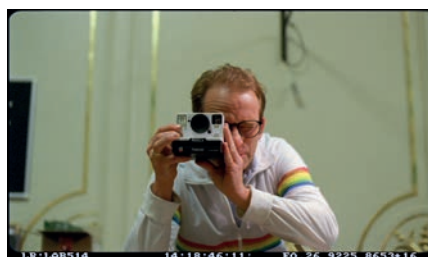
I am still working for the World Bank, now based in the Philippines. Working with countries all over East Asia, the Pacific and in Pakistan on helping to build stronger foundations for the digital economy, particularly faster and more affordable internet, digital ID systems and digital government platforms.

#### **Claire Foster-Gilbert (1984)**

*Miles to Go Before I Sleep* by Claire Gilbert, the letter diaries of my first year of diagnosis and treatment of myeloma, will be published by Hodder in March 2021.

#### **Jens Meurer (1984)**

2020 wasn't an easy year for making films, but I ended up completing two feature documentaries for cinema, shot on real film: *An Impossible Project* – a story of falling in love with analogue things again, told through the Don Quixote journey of the madcap Austrian scientist who saved the world's last Polaroid factory against all odds (pictured). And *Seaside Special* – a celebration of a most English place, the fantastic End-of-the-Pier variety show in Cromer, Norfolk, at a time when not just the waves of the German Sea but the turmoil of populism are tearing at the floorboards.



#### **Professor Cheryl Misak (1984)**

*My Frank Ramsey: A Sheer Excess of Powers*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2020. Amongst other nice reviews, Tom Stoppard, in the TLS, chose it as his book of the year.

#### **Harriet Quiney (1984)**

I have recently been appointed as a part-time judge in the Social Entitlement Chamber, so am busy getting to grips with PIP, ESA and a range of other benefits, as well as the mechanics of telephone and video hearings. When I applied (in early 2019), I certainly didn't envisage doing most hearings from my bedroom, but telephone hearings, in particular, are often better for our appellants, many of whom have mobility issues or struggle with face-to-face communication. Otherwise, I am still a partner in a large law firm, defending allegedly negligent professionals. We have two kids in uni (one at Catz) and two in school, though of course all are actually at home. Mark is doing great work with number four (year 4), who is dyslexic and needs a lot of help with school work. Add two Covid cats to the mix and our household is generally chaotic with a permanently full dishwasher. But we are all well and looking forward to vaccination and a change of government in due course.

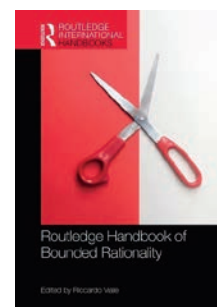
#### **Rupert Read (1984)**

My magnum opus, *Wittgenstein's Liberatory Philosophy*, finally appeared with Routledge Press in late 2020. Stephen Mulhal (1990), who first taught me Wittgenstein at Balliol back in the day, said of it, on the cover 'Rupert Read has long been one of the most passionate and prolific contributors to contemporary attempts to get Wittgenstein's way of doing philosophy properly into focus. This systematic engagement with the Philosophical Investigations pulls together his previous work in a way which highlights the unity of its underlying concerns, and clarifies the internal relation between its content and its very distinctive form. And if that task requires dispensing with stances central to his earlier writing, or even reformulating Wittgenstein's own signature concepts and claims – what one might call liberating himself from his philosophical exemplar, and from himself – then Read doesn't hesitate. It's a radical embodiment of an ethics and politics of thinking.' I was also proud to be arrested for criminal damage for pouring 'blood' over the steps of the climate-denialist 'think-tanks' based at 55 Tufton Street, Westminster, during September's Extinction Rebellion.

#### **Professor**

#### **Riccardo Viale (1984)**

New book: *Routledge Handbook of Bounded Rationality* (Routledge, 2020). I wish also to inform you about my new appointment as Scientific Head of Italy Behavioral Insights Team at Prime Minister Cabinet-Department of Civic Service: see [performance.gov.it/IBIT](https://performance.gov.it/IBIT).



#### **Joshua Rey (1985)**

I was collated as Vicar of Roehampton at Michaelmas, and *War and Religion: a Very Short Introduction* (with Jolyon Mitchell) was published by OUP in March.

#### **Marcus Smith (1985)**

I was called to the Bar in 1991 (QC 2010) and practised at Fountain Court Chambers until 2017, when I was appointed to the High Court bench (Chancery Division). I practised in the broad area of commercial law, with specialisms in intangible property (I have written *The Law of Assignment*, published by Oxford University Press, 4th edition in progress ... but don't hold your breath!) and competition law (having been a chair at the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal since 2009). On a more personal note, in 1997 I married Louise (a barrister and a professor in international commercial law at Cambridge, where we live), and we have two children – now aged 20 and 16 – who have grown up much too fast. Also two cats, who, through their more or less perpetual crossness, are clearly extremely keen for lockdown to end, so that they can once more have the house to themselves during the day.

#### **Tracey Wolffe (1985)**

A fortnight before we went into lockdown with our disabled son, I attended the Oxford Alumni Women in Law event, and spent a wonderful night at the Savoy. I was disappointed to learn that little had changed in the past two decades in terms of working patterns in corporate law, and their impact on women and family life. Job applications were put on hold in any event as the country stayed at home. Instead I decided to help everyone to stay uplifted, strong, and supple, and



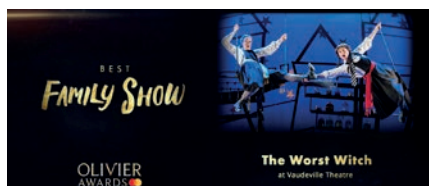
used my other qualification with the British Wheel of Yoga to teach yoga 'on my TV'. My 11-year-old daughter became my teaching assistant, and guided me in becoming proficient on Zoom. I have taught 30 students during the three lockdowns, aged 9–79, and have been studying for a Pilates teacher training diploma (100% in Principles of Health, and 97% in Anatomy and Physiology!). In 2021 I'm looking forward to developing my own blend of yoga and pilates, and delivering group and corporate classes on Zoom. Anyone interested can contact me at [traceywolffe@aol.com](mailto:traceywolffe@aol.com) ([www.traceywolffe.co.uk](http://www.traceywolffe.co.uk)). Now that I've discovered the possibilities of online and home working I've also still got my eye on part-time legal work this year.

#### **Professor Robin Choudhury (1986)**

Among all the bad news (there is much, near and far), let me offer you a small good news morsel. The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative put out a call for investigations in so-called single cell sequencing in inflammation. The 29 awards were announced in April. Of the 5/29 that were not US based, two (and the only two from the UK) included Balliol Fellows: Calli Dendrou (Sir Henry Dale Fellow and Research Fellow in the Sciences 2017–2020) and me.

#### **Theresa Heskins (1986)**

I'm still Artistic Director of the New Vic in Staffordshire. Prior to the pandemic, which has halted a great deal of theatre-making, I'd been branching out with a



show in New York and another in the West End, which won an Olivier Award.

#### **Charlotte Jones (1986)**

I am happy swimming in the sea all year round in Brighton. Still writing films, though who knows when and if they will be made. Very happily reconnected with Rachel Brooks (1986) this Christmas. She is a pastor now in Toronto. My son Dan started at Jesus College, reading Physics, in October 2020.

#### **Steffan Miles Board (1986)**

My wife Katherine, sons Isaac and Luke, and I are living in Nairobi, Kenya, where I'm posted to the Canadian High Commission. We've been here since August 2019, moving from Ankara, Turkey. For this assignment, I am Area Director for Sub-Saharan Africa for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and Minister Counsellor at the High Commission. I've particularly enjoyed working with our teams across Africa to help refugees, families, and students come to Canada, despite the difficult times!

#### **Edward Morgan (1986)**

In this strange year, a fantastic silver lining has been making contact again with friends from Balliol, via Zoom. My company Northern Town is gradually growing, with programmes this year for Sky Arts and BBC, and now plans for a film. My son Will is a designer in Copenhagen. Arthur is doing a law conversion. Charlie studying history at Leeds. Like many in their generation, they deserve better than the dismal ABC – Austerity, Brexit and Covid.

#### **Stephanie Byrne (1987)**

In a full-circle kind of way, I am now back working in Oxford as head of Oxfordshire Recovery College. We offer free courses (both online and in person) about mental health and wellbeing to adults across Oxfordshire, including workshops on 'Coping with anxiety' for university students. Delivering a workshop at Balliol in 2020 felt very moving after struggling so much myself, 30 years earlier, as an anxious student of psychology. We also make podcasts – an opportunity to talk about quirky content such as the link between birds, poetry and feeling hopeful. I am always keen to make links with others interested in mental health – do read about us at [oxfordshirerecoverycollege.org.uk](http://oxfordshirerecoverycollege.org.uk).

#### **Professor Michele Gamburd (1987)**

I recently published *Linked Lives: Elder Care, Migration, and Kinship in Sri Lanka* (Rutgers University Press, 2020), an ethnography examining the topic of ageing in a Sinhala–Buddhist village in south-western Sri Lanka. The book draws on ten years of anthropological fieldwork to discuss trends in demography and transnational labour migration.

#### **John Hancock (1987)**

Lockdown in NZ has been much less constraining than elsewhere. I even managed a 35km marathon swim from Te Anau to Manapouri in Fjordland. Slightly cheating with 23k down the reasonably fast-flowing Waiau River but kept the heart rate up, moving slightly faster than my normal running pace.

#### **Ramani Langley (1987)**

A couple of years ago, the shine had completely gone from selling and implementing IT systems, so I jacked it all in and since then I've been singing, skiing and involved with a small local charity, LinkAble. I've sung at various Proms (including the Last Night), the Barbican and the Royal Festival Hall. I've also taught skiing and spent lots of time being chair of trustees at LinkAble. Mike Richmond (1988) and I sing with the Lantern Voices Quartet. The lockdown rules are preventing us from singing together as I write, but during 2020 we've managed lots of outdoor rehearsals and even that rarity, a live concert.





### Julian Mylchreest (1987)

2020 is a year that we will all remember as the year of the virus and of lockdown, but it was also a year of landmark moments and celebrations for us. First, my wife Fiona (Macdonald, 1988) and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary – a chance to look back to our marriage day in the Chapel at Balliol and reflect on 25 years of memories and special moments together since that memorable day back in 1995.

Second, 2020 also saw the eldest of our five children hit birthday landmarks: Finn (21st) and Macky (18th), which made Fiona and me feel suddenly much older! And then last but not least I managed to squeeze into the first month of the year a successful January trek to the South Pole, pulling a 50kg sledge the last degree in minus 40 – all in aid of the Brain Tumour Charity for whom the team of eight of us raised over £350k. And this January success made it a pair of Poles too for me and for three of my other teammates: two years ago we did the same challenge together, but to the North Pole – and successfully raised just over £750k for a charity called Borne that is dear to mine and Fiona's hearts. All five of our wonderful children were born premature and Borne is a medical research charity ([www.borne.org.uk](http://www.borne.org.uk)) that we helped found and which I now chair that funds research into the causes of prematurity and is dedicated to trying to ensure that a baby's first day is not their hardest or last.

### André Burgess (1988)

I now live with my partner (of 24 years), Kate, and our three children, in south-east London. I work in the Strategy Directorate at National Physical Laboratory, which is the UK's national measurement institute, and I lead the Assured Autonomy programme

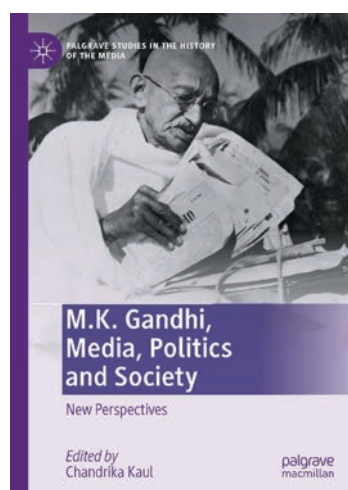
there, helping to make self-driving cars, planes and ships safe for use.

### Harriet Goodwin (1988)

To keep me from going round the twist during Covid, I compiled a little book of people's lockdown experiences (under my married name, Powell), *The Lockdown Monologues: Life in the Time of Coronavirus* (2020), and I am sending half the proceeds to Shelter. It has been endorsed by Dame Emma Thompson and features stories by a doctor, a teacher, several nurses, a member of the Foreign Office, a member of the clergy, a singer, a businessman, two Covid sufferers, students, children and shielders. It also includes accounts from people living in countries other than the UK. It's available from Amazon ([amzn.to/3eXN9KU](https://amzn.to/3eXN9KU)) and various other outlets, and also as an e-book.

### Chandrika Kaul (1988)

New book: M.K. Gandhi, *Media, Politics and Society* (Palgrave, 2020): [www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9783030590345](http://www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9783030590345).



### Professor Russell Muirhead (1988)

Elected to the New Hampshire legislature (November 2020).



### Segun Osuntokun (1988)

In September 2018, I was appointed Managing Partner of the London office of the international law firm Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner. I continue to lead the firm's Africa practice, whilst also specialising in civil fraud litigation and banking litigation. I was named Black British Business Person of the Year 2020 at the Black British Business Awards. I was named in the Powerlist 2021 as one of the 100 most influential Black people in Britain.

### Simon Dradri (1989)

After Balliol, I have mainly worked with international development and humanitarian institutions including DFID, FAO, SC-UK and WFP. I have been with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) since 2005. During the first decade, I served in technical/policy capacities in three regional offices (based in Johannesburg/Lusaka, Bangkok and Nairobi) with travels across about three dozen countries in Africa and Asia. Memorable times included travels inside North Korea, East Timor, Eritrea, Angola and Mozambique; to conflict-ravaged parts of Sudan, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Rwanda; and to flood/drought-affected parts of Burundi, Laos, Cambodia, Malawi and Ethiopia. Since 2016, I have served as Head of Area Office in Jijiga (Ogaden) in Ethiopia, and now in El Fasher, Darfur in Sudan, leading teams and managing operations to address food insecurity, malnutrition and to build resilience for 1–3 million persons to 'save lives, change lives' ([wfp.org](http://wfp.org)). The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize to WFP 'for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict'. The Committee aptly captures WFP's work across the world, including the current context of my work in Darfur, where a large proportion of the population has lived in displacement since 2003/4. It is a great privilege and honour to be leading at the front end during the challenging year of the Covid-19 pandemic and to be part of the Nobel Peace Prize team!

## 1990s

### Professor Anusha Chari (1990)

I am the incoming Associate Chair and Director of Mentoring for the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession. I was appointed Director of the Modern Indian Studies Initiative at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### Julian Green (1990)

Julian Green has been in San Francisco for over twenty years. He started Headroom in 2020, a technology start-up which is using machine learning to take the work out of video conferencing, so that meetings are more fun for us humans. [www.goheadroom.com](http://www.goheadroom.com)

### Charlotte Higgins (1990)

My book about mazes and labyrinths, *Red Thread*, comes out in paperback on 9 September 2021, the same day as my new book, *Greek Myths*, is published (Jonathan Cape UK/Pantheon US). I'm still chief culture writer at the *Guardian*. My dad Peter Higgins (1949), who lives in north Oxford, toughed out 2020 bravely, but missed out on a 90th birthday party.

### Laura Hoyano (1990)

The University of Oxford conferred a Title of Distinction, Professor of Law, on Laura Hoyano. Laura is also a Senior Research Fellow at Wadham College, Oxford, where she was elected as a Tutorial Fellow in 1999. Her academic research in recent years has focused on vulnerable witnesses in the courts, and the litigation of allegations of child abuse, and sexual and domestic violence, in the criminal, family, tort and human rights courts, taking a comparative law approach.

She also continues to practise at the Bar of England & Wales, and is a tenant of Red Lion Chambers (London). She represents the Criminal Bar Association on the Cross-Government Review of the Prosecution of Serious Sexual Offences, conducted by a Sub-Group of the Criminal Justice Board (colloquially known in the media as 'the Rape Review').



### Niru Ratnam (1990)

I opened a small art dealer's office and gallery in Soho in July 2020. It shows contemporary art made by artists of colour and women artists. A slightly counterintuitive time to open given the global pandemic, but there you go.

### Lindy Cameron (1991)

I started a new job as CEO of the National Cyber Security Centre in October 2020.

### Bruce Lambert (1991)

Continuing energies as a serial entrepreneur. I'm now preparing Smell Museum® for launch in assorted worldwide pop-up venues. Smells can trigger deep emotions and surprising memories. We continually seek iconic smells of different cultures and past generations; ideas very welcome! Contact: [mindwatch@gmail.com](mailto:mindwatch@gmail.com).

### Eleanor Naughten (1991)

Another busy year in a role running the Financial Crime Surveillance Unit for a global bank (from my makeshift study in the loft) whilst trying to manage childcare through a pandemic for my boys Daragh (five) and Lochlan (two).

### Binnie Goh (1992)

After two years working on data and privacy at Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, I have moved on from Brexit-related work to join the Electoral Commission as General Counsel.

### Michael Miller (1992)

Entered the film industry this past year and due to release our first movie, *We Are the Geordies*, a docudrama charting both personal as well as sporting highs and lows of 12 lifelong fans of Newcastle United Football Club, described by critics as being 'the nearest thing to being in a stadium during lockdown as you can get without them reopening en masse'.

### Paola Tinti (1992)

Whilst dividing my time between the Isle of Wight and Reading, I continue to head the fundraising function for both Henley Business School and the Reading Real Estate Foundation. Additionally, I am now a trustee of the Encephalitis Society and Special Advisor to LBT Global, formerly known as the Lucie Blackman Trust.

### Tom von Logue Newth (1993)

Fifteen years or so living in Los Angeles and environs has been free-flowing, the current current being band Hamscholar, available on platforms. In recent years, out of the city, I thrived for a while in the pine mountains to the north, and currently amongst the oaks and boulders of Topanga Canyon. I continue to make furniture and, in theory, movies.

### Katharine Knight (1994)

I finally – after arguably the longest medical studentship in history (20 years from start to finish!) – qualified as a doctor from Oxford in the middle of the global pandemic. My first job was in Acute General Medicine at the John Radcliffe in Oxford, so 'baptism of fire' springs to mind. Our eldest daughter, Florence, started university (at Cambridge, I'm afraid, reading English, following in her dad's – Joe Winkley, English, 1992 – footsteps) just as I was finishing university after 25 years of student life (PPE, followed by medicine). Bringing up six children (Flo, Cicely, Seth, Rufus, Esme and Jago, who range in age from 20 to 7 – pictured with Joe and myself at Christmas) with Joe, who is now a director at Winterflood Securities, is part of the reason it has taken me until my forties to get to the bottom rung of my career ladder. I couldn't give up being a perpetual student altogether, though: I'm now training to be a





### Adam Heppinstall (1995)

I am happy to record that I was appointed QC in December 2020, effective from March 2021.

### Carol McQueen (1995)

I remain Canada's Ambassador to Burkina Faso, working very hard to provide assistance related to continued insecurity and 1m displaced persons, as well as to programme additional development aid related to the Covid-19 pandemic. My oldest daughter is now 13, and we are preparing to return to Canada so she can finish high school there. Here is a picture of me at the Domes of Fabledougou in the Cascades region of Burkina Faso.



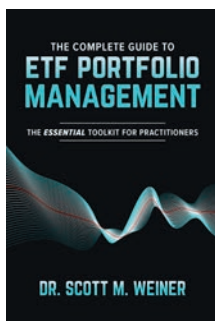
psychoanalytic psychotherapist at the Tavistock Clinic in London, alongside my work as a junior doctor. I hope to specialise in psychiatry or general practice after my foundation training.

### Robert McCaw (1994)

I have started writing up the conclusions of a decade's thought on Islamic inheritance law. With two sons under ten, this could easily run to another ten years, though.

### Scott Weiner (1994)

I'm delighted to announce the publication of my book *The Complete Guide to ETF Portfolio Management* (McGraw Hill, 2021), the most comprehensive resource available for managing exchange-traded funds. For more information, please visit [www.swetf.com](http://www.swetf.com).



### Athar Yawar (1994)

Finally finished my PhD, 'From Madness to Eternity', which compares modern psychiatry and Sufi healing. Hoping to publish it – if necessary, by producing packets of cake with surprisingly long lists of ingredients. Doing a bit of university teaching (anthropology and physiology). Would love to catch up with Balliol contemporaries – including those to whom I owe massive apologies! Wishing everyone the best in these difficult times. [athar.yawar@doctors.org.uk](mailto:athar.yawar@doctors.org.uk)

### Roopa Unnikrishnan (1995)

As of October 2020, I am the Chief Strategy Officer at Vontier. In this role I lead Vontier's overall strategy efforts, creating new paths for growth and unlocking opportunities to catalyse innovation and strengthen our competitive position. Prior to joining Vontier in 2020, I was Head of Strategy at HARMAN International, where I established the strategy function and developed the strategy for the Connected Car Division, the company's largest growth driver. I have also just finished my novel, set in mid-20th-century India, a quixotic mix of crime and romance. Also happy to report that my twins are college bound, off to Duke and one yet-to-be announced destination!

### Sam Carr (1996)

Still working as a Head of Software Development at Tesco – nearly five years in – helping to making prices and promotions work just so, and to revolutionise the tills. Engaged in July 2020 to Nicky, but wedding plans hard to put together recently.

### Aran Scutcher (1996)

I can be often found in my vegetable garden, which I have been preparing to support a future restaurant at [www.corzаноepaterno.com](http://www.corzаноepaterno.com) in Tuscany, pestilence permitting. The farm makes award-winning wine, cheese and olive oil and has guesthouses. There is a regular stream of Balliolites passing through, though we are always happy to welcome more. Sibilla Gelpke (Wadham, 1997) and I moved here in 2016 after five years in Singapore where Max (eight) and Lilly (four) were both born. We also have a truffle dog who finds enough for regular meals. This may surprise many but I have been seen with the odd Erlenmeyer flask which I use for making yeast starters for brewing beer.

### Chris Nattrass (1997)

In November 2020 my wife Anne Lind and I welcomed a baby girl, Eleanor Elizabeth Lind Nattrass. We live in Brooklyn, New York, and would love to host visitors once we can all travel safely again.



### Sam Sandiford (1997)

I became a father in 2020. Lynn gave birth to Isabella Grace Sandiford at the Matilda in Hong Kong on 11 July. Isabella reminds me of second-year quantum mechanics – challenging, rewarding and I'll never have a complete solution.

### James Dingley (1998)

In October 2020, James Dingley joined the leading Russian law firm of Ivanyan and Partners as a partner in its international arbitration practice. With his new colleagues, he will be continuing to defend the Russian Federation in several important investor-state arbitration and public international law matters,



as well as developing a wide-ranging international commercial arbitration practice. He is helping establish the firm's first international office in London in the coming months.

#### **Kathryn Howard (1998)**

We (my husband, Jonathan Howard, and I) had our third daughter, Audrey May, on 18 October 2019. Her older sisters are Evelyn Rose (five) and Lily Martha (four).

#### **Ruth Brown (1999)**

On 17 November 2020 I welcomed my third child, a son named Julian Bo David.

#### **Heather Ellis (1999)**

Publication of *A Cultural History of Education in the Age of Empire, 1800–1920* (Bloomsbury, 2020), edited by Heather Ellis: [www.bloomsbury.com/uk/a-cultural-history-of-education-9781350035560](http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/a-cultural-history-of-education-9781350035560).

#### **Lina Nerlander (1999)**

Lina Nerlander is working for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), which is the EU public health agency based in Stockholm. For most of 2020 she has been heavily involved in the agency's Covid response, heading up the work related to giving countries guidance on contact tracing. Lina has also led the work on mobile apps for contact tracing at the ECDC. Prior to moving back to her native Sweden for this work in 2017, Lina worked for six years at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) based in Atlanta, Georgia. Lina has a budding career as a stand-up comedian which she has had to pause during 2020 for obvious reasons.

#### **Hana Ross (1999) (née Hanako Birks)**

I was delighted with my efforts at making bagels over the first lockdown. Alas, I struggled with croissants. Any tips from Balliol members on how to get the dough to rise without the butter leaking everywhere are most welcome.

## **2000s**

#### **Marzena Brzezniak (2000)**

James Daniel Sellamuttu was born on 27 July 2018.

#### **Nicholas Rowan (2001)**

Settled back in the UK after five fantastic years in Moscow with the family. Despite the challenges of 2020, delighted to have had my second book published, *The Silk Road Revisited*, by Hertfordshire Press and eagerly waiting to be able to resume my Silk Road travels once more.

#### **Laura Harbidge (2002)**

After a year in Berlin helping Germany with their G20 presidency, I returned to HM Treasury in London to lead the indirect tax team through our Covid-19 economic response work; and I've just moved roles again to become Head of Income Tax, Economics and Receipts at the Treasury.

#### **Tom Lane (2002)**

In February 2020 I travelled to St Ann's Warehouse in New York with the Gate Theatre's *Hamlet*. My composition and sound design were an integral part of this highly successful production, directed by Yaël Farber and starring Ruth Negga in the title role. Tragically, this was to be one of the few plays to complete its full run of performances in New York before theatres across the world were forced to close due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite countless cancellations, I have been lucky enough to be able to continue working from home in Dublin on a variety of composition commissions. These include a new work for Northern Ireland Opera and preparations for a production of the *Oresteia* Trilogy in Theater Regensburg in Germany.

#### **Tom Murray-Rust (2002)**

My wife Laura and I are pleased to introduce James Stirling Murray-



Rust, who arrived safely on Tuesday 15 December 2020 weighing in at 2.7kg; his arrival turned an eminently forgettable year into a completely unforgettable one!

#### **Megha Kumar (2003)**

In 2020, I completed ten years at the global analysis and risk advisory firm Oxford Analytica, where I advise major governments and corporates about ways to leverage new technologies responsibly. My book *Communalism and Sexual Violence: The Politics of Gender, Ethnicity and Conflict* was published by IB Tauris/Bloomsbury for the global market in 2016, and by Tulika in South Asia under a slightly different title in 2017. My partner Jonah Wilberg (1999) and I have two children – Mira Sophia arrived in 2019 and Martin Umrao in 2017. Having them at home, blissfully unaware of the pandemic, made 2020 easier to get through.

#### **Joni Taleb (2003)**

Joni Taleb (née Hollis) and her husband Karim (Merton, 2001) welcomed a son, Max, in October 2018 and are expecting number two in February 2021. We recently moved to Orkney, Scotland, and would love to hear from any other alumni located in the Highlands and Islands.

#### **Rebecca Hodes (2004)**

I received the University of Cape Town's Social Responsiveness Award in 2020, which is the university's highest honour for research with a social impact. The award was made for a research study, begun in 2013, about medicines-taking and sexual health among young people living with HIV in South Africa. In other news, I have worked as part of the Department of Health's Covid Emergency Response team, doing case and contact tracing, since March 2020. I am currently



collaborating with the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition to capture and relay the impacts of Covid-19 on people living with HIV in 14 countries in the global south.

#### **Guy Westwood (2004)**

My book *The Rhetoric of the Past in Demosthenes and Aeschines: Oratory, History, and Politics in Classical Athens* was published by Oxford University Press in April 2020. Through a close study of the surviving public speeches by the two politicians in the title, it examines how they and their rivals created, shaped, and packaged competing (and often misleading) versions of Athens's historical and mythical past to persuade mass audiences in the city's lawcourts and Assembly.

#### **Lucy King (2005)**

My TED talk came out online in 2020 and it has now reached 2.34 million views. It was listed as fourth in the top ten TED Talks of 2020, just under Bill Gates. [www.ted.com/talks/lucy\\_king\\_how\\_bees\\_can\\_keep\\_the\\_peace\\_between\\_elephants\\_and\\_humans](http://www.ted.com/talks/lucy_king_how_bees_can_keep_the_peace_between_elephants_and_humans). Secondly, I have now joined the Elephant Crisis Fund team at Save the Elephants to expand support for human–elephant co-existence projects around the African continent. This vital fund has directed over 25 million dollars since 2013 to fund critical, rapid-response funding to the most urgent elephant conservation issues around Africa and has contributed significantly to the reduction in poaching and demand for ivory. The fund has been negatively impacted by Covid and we are looking for more private and corporate support, as elephants and their wild habitats are under ever-increasing threat.

#### **Alexander MacDonald (2005)**

I have been named the Chief Economist at NASA, as well as the Program Executive responsible for the International Space Station National Laboratory: [www.nasa.gov/about/alex-macdonald-chief-economist-office-of-the-administrator](http://www.nasa.gov/about/alex-macdonald-chief-economist-office-of-the-administrator).

#### **Dan Nicolau (2005)**

I have been one of the leads on a clinical trial in which we've recently shown that budesonide, an asthma inhaler, reduces Covid-19 hospitalisations by 90% – more



effective than the vaccines, and cheap and safe. Recently, we welcomed our first into the world, a handsome and well-mannered young man, delivered in the room above the one in which Alex Fleming discovered penicillin.

#### **Keith Tse (2005)**

The lockdown has caused numerous practical difficulties in pursuing my academic career in Linguistics, though I have persisted in doing my research and have published two papers this year and a couple more that are forthcoming for early next year, one of which has already been put online ([doi.org/10.1017/cnj.2020.35](https://doi.org/10.1017/cnj.2020.35)). Furthermore, although the global lockdown has caused most of the conferences in my field to be cancelled or put on hold indefinitely, many of them have taken place online in a virtual format and I have recorded some of my conference presentations and uploaded them onto my YouTube channel: [tinyurl.com/j84fwz3x](https://tinyurl.com/j84fwz3x). Moreover, I have joined the Institute of Globally Distributed Open Research and Education (IGDORE) as their Researcher-in-Training, which gives me institutional credentials and access to many academic resources and opportunities. We live in truly difficult (though also fascinating) times but our persistence in doing what we love drives us forward despite all the difficulties that have plagued us this year and we shall continue to do so in the long and tough recovery road ahead.

#### **Arvinda Atukorala (2006)**

Arvinda and his wife Saveeta celebrated the birth of their son, Nikhil, on 16 February 2020.

#### **Timothy Trudgian (2006)**

Good times in Canberra! My sons, Archie (nine) and Monty (six) are sending balls to all parts of the boundary in their club cricket matches. Archie has kept alive the Trudgian tradition of the son beating the father in chess at an early age. My wife, Di, is taking over gardens here, there, and everywhere, and starting a Master's next year. I started to learn Italian for that time when international travel resumes ... so 2030? Plenty of music with the boys. Archie is learning piano and saxophone, and Monty is learning the violin. We still make each Sunday arvo an opera-and-pizza affair, having made our way through 45 operas this far. Debates rage in the house as to the all-time favourites: Archie votes *Rigoletto*, Monty votes *Madame Butterfly*, and I can't go past *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Surely this is the defining electoral moment of 2020?

#### **Thomas Arnold (2007)**

Alice Hallewell (2009) and I (2007) got married on 11 July in a smaller service than anticipated in Streatham.

#### **Anna Christie (2007)**

In 2020, I joined the University of Edinburgh Law School as an Assistant Professor of Banking, Corporate and Financial Law, and the University of Cambridge Centre for Business Research as a Research Associate.

#### **Raffaella Tomassi (2007)**

Raffaella Tomassi-Russell and her husband Adam Tomassi-Russell (2010) celebrated the birth of their first child, Vincenzo Francis Tomassi-Russell, on 26 July 2020.



**Andrew Whitby (2007)**

I published *The Sum of the People: How the Census has Shaped Nations, From the Ancient World to the Modern Age* (Basic Books, 2020).

**Alf Bo (2008)**

I live in Oslo. Positions: Assistant Professor in Legal Philosophy and Ethics at the Department of Business, Marketing and Law at the University of South-East Norway; Lecturer in Introduction to Legal Philosophy at the University in Oslo; Lecturer in the History of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science and Ethics at Kulturakademiet, Norwegian School of Philosophy (Campus Rome).

Publication: in Norwegian, titles translated as 'This is Rome' and 'Hold the Mast!' in *The Corona Papers* – a literary company's octomeron (Kulturakademiet Publishing, 2020).

**Dilyana Dimova (2008)**

My family was blessed with a baby boy, Boyan, on 8 August 2020. He has made our life joyful, exciting and purposeful all over again.

**Kirsty Duffy (2008)**

I graduated with an MPhys in Physics from Balliol in 2012, and am now working on neutrino physics research at Fermilab in the US. I've recently launched a new YouTube video series all about neutrinos and the physics we're studying. The first episode is out now on the Fermilab YouTube page, with more to come soon! [youtu.be/bGGGrdeZuFWo](https://youtu.be/bGGGrdeZuFWo)

**Rusiru Kariyawasam (2009)**

I married Mr Philippe Raisin on 4 September 2020.

**Nick Parkinson (2009)**

On 16 October 2020, I married Hayley Patricia Mitchell at All Saints Benhilton Church in Sutton.

**2010s****Zoe Davies (2010)**

I started a new job as Senior Policy Adviser at the Royal Society in November 2020, leading their work on domestic environment policy. Later this year, we will publish a report on multifunctional landscapes, aiming to advise Westminster and the Devolved Administrations on how to design land use policies that address the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, while still producing enough food for a growing population and supporting resilient rural communities. We will host launch events in all four UK countries in September and October. More details can be found here: [royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/living-landscapes](https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/living-landscapes).

**Sophie Panzer (2010)**

News from Christian Panzer (2011) and Sophie Panzer (née Wragg): Lyra Alice Panzer was born to Sophie and Christian on 6 November 2020. (Christian is also finally graduating from Oxford, having completed his Master's in Learning and Teaching!).

**Anna Comboni (2010)**

I got married on 19 December 2020, to Robert Seiger. The wedding was at Ventnor Baptist Church, Isle of Wight.

**Sungwoo Um (2010)**

I've been working as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Bioethics in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the US since 2019. I'm happy to share the news with my Balliol friends that I will begin a new position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ethics Education at the Seoul National University (SNU) in South Korea from 2021. I'm also delighted to share that I have been awarded the Mark S. Ehrenreich Prize in Healthcare Ethics Research for the best paper (Asia) from the 2020 World Congress of Bioethics.

**Farhaana Arefin (2011)**

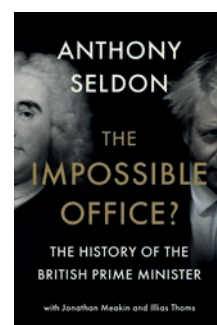
It was a horrible year, but one good thing came of 2020: I co-founded Hajar Press, an independent political publishing house by and for people of colour. Hajar will publish its first six books in 2021, by writers including Lola Olufemi, Yara Hawari and Sarah Lasoye. More info at [hajarpress.com](https://hajarpress.com).

**Laurie Laybourn (2011)**

I put the first lockdown to use finishing *Planet on Fire: A Manifesto for the Age of Environmental Breakdown*, which will be published by Verso Books in April 2021. It draws from a research programme on the environmental emergency I led at the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and explores the systemic change needed to prevent catastrophic changes to the biosphere. This year I'll be grappling with the question of how millennial and younger generations can accelerate the change we need to slow the emergency while also handling the growing destabilisation resulting from it. Please do get in touch if you're interested in this question. I hope everyone is safe and well.

**Illias Thoms (2011)**

I have a book coming out in the spring, published by Cambridge University Press, on the office of the prime minister for the 300th anniversary of Walpole's taking on the post in April 1721. The book is written by Anthony Seldon with me and Jonathan Meakin.







### Greg Lehman (2012)

Greg Lehman has been appointed as Pro Vice Chancellor, Aboriginal Leadership at the University of Tasmania. The role encompasses research and curriculum development across University of Tasmania colleges, as well as direction of a range of scholarship and engagement programmes. Professor Lehman completed a Master of Studies in the History of Art and Visual Cultures in 2013. Upon returning to Australia, he took up a position as Research Associate at the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University. He was appointed Senior Lecturer at Deakin University the following year, following his graduation with a PhD in Art History from the University of Tasmania, and was appointed as a McKenzie Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne in 2018. Greg's research at Balliol on the life and work of the Huguenot artist Benjamin Duterrau – who arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1832 and became well known for his creation of Australia's first grand history painting, *The National Picture* (1845) – led to the curation of a major exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia. Titled after Duterrau's painting, *The National Picture: Art of Tasmania's Black War* was awarded 2018 Best Travelling Exhibition by Museums and Galleries Australia. The exhibition catalogue was also honoured with the Green Family Award for Tasmanian History in 2019;

copies are held in the Balliol and Sackler Libraries. Greg continues to be an active research scholar in Australian colonial art history and is a regular donor to the Holywell Manor Fund.

### Phoebe Lowry (2012)

Phoebe Lowry (née Grant-Smith) and her husband Dr Andrew Lowry are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, John Francis Lawrence Lowry, on Monday 25 January 2021, at 6.56am, weighing 8 pounds 3 ounces.

### Georgina Wilson (2012)

A small 'career development' news or note! I submitted my PhD in Early Modern English Literature in December 2020 in Oxford, and was delighted to begin my Early Career Research Fellowship at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge this term.

### Laia Josa-Culleré (2013)

On 11 December 2020, Arnau Perdigo Oliveras and I married in a beautiful town hall in Barcelona, accompanied by my grandfather, our parents and siblings.

### Paul Razzall (2013)

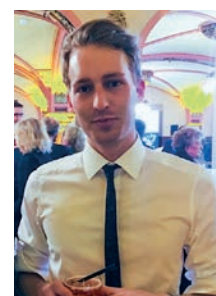
Awarded Joint Service Commendation Medal by US Department of Defence.

### Giuseppe Dal Pra (2014)

I successfully ran an online festival, Saturnalia 2020, commemorating the once-in-20-year alignment of Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn on 19 and 20 December 2020, with over 1,300 streams over the occasion. Several genres of music were presented and, in lieu of dancefloors, Amor Fati delivered a multi-genre experience to over 1,300 listeners.

### Lukas Meier (2014)

I have completed my PhD at St Andrews and will be joining Churchill College, Cambridge, as a Junior Research Fellow in April.



### Lorin Samija (2014)

After my BA in Mathematics and Philosophy, I travelled and learned a lot about yoga and meditation. In fall 2019, I moved to Stuttgart, Germany, to pursue a Master's called ITECH, combining architecture, computer science, robotics and natural sciences to enhance computational approaches and digitalisation in the AEC (Architecture, Engineering and Construction) industry. I focus now mainly on tech topics around cybersecurity, privacy, and more generally humane technology. Besides my studies, I am working part-time in cybersecurity consulting. Feel free to connect via email, LinkedIn or Signal Messenger.

### Julia DeVoy (2016)

Julia DeVoy, Boston College Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Students LSEHD and Director of the Experience, Reflection & Action (ERA Program), was selected to present the ERA First-Year Program at Columbia University's esteemed 38th Annual Winter Roundtable: A Pandemic of Racism, 25–27 February 2021. Dr DeVoy and her ERA leadership team's presentation, 'Raising Environmental, Racial and Social Justice Awareness in Predominantly White Higher Education Settings', was chosen by



program committee blind review for special topic conference inclusion. Her innovative ERA First-Year program is a course which embeds and utilises 'Design Thinking' tools (cognitive, social-emotional and applied processes) to support the intellectual, social, and ethical development of undergraduate students as they strive to address wicked global problems and enduring societal challenges. ERA students work in collaborative teams that cut across disciplines, empathise, research, iterate, prototype and move to real-world environmental, racial and social justice action on global issues that cannot effectively be understood, tackled, or addressed by any single person, approach or discipline alone.

#### **Arman Karshenas Najafabadi (2017)**

I wanted to share the news that upon graduating from Balliol, I have joined Trinity Hall at the University of Cambridge for an MPhil in Genetics under the supervision of the world-known Professor Richard Durbin. I was awarded two fully funded studentships from Trinity Hall and



the Department of Genetics, and I am currently developing a computer vision/machine learning algorithm that allows morphological measurements to be extracted from high-resolution fish skull CT-data. The goal is to extract hundreds of measurements and use them for a Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS) to better understand the genes or more precisely loci within the genome that are associated with the development of craniofacial features in fishes which is closely linked to humans.

#### **Antonio Potenza (2017)**

I have pleasure in sharing news of the launch of CrowdFund17, our UN SDGs-aligned crowdfunding platform, purely grants based, in 2020; and about the recognition that we obtained from the UK government which, through Innovate UK, awarded CrowdFund17 grant funding as part of its Sustainable Innovation Fund in order to develop a digital entrepreneurial ecosystem for advancing Sustainable Development Goals ([tinyurl.com/76s9usb9](https://tinyurl.com/76s9usb9)). We have developed the product with a lot of support of the University of Oxford ecosystem, including academics of the Saïd Business School and Oxford University Innovation; and EvZein – our use case in the UK government contract – was co-founded by Dr Vasiliki Kiparoglou (2017). Balliol is prominently represented in this context and we are delighted to have a chance to submit our successes to our alma mater for further dissemination and sharing with our community.

#### **Emma Gattey (2019)**

I was awarded the Beit Essay Prize for best dissertation in the Master's in Global and Imperial History (2019–2020). The thesis, supervised by Balliol's own Professor James Belich (Beit Professor of Commonwealth and Imperial History, and Professorial Fellow), is entitled 'Forgotten "Insider" and Revisionist Anthropology at Oxford: Makereti and Māori Agency in the Construction of European Knowledge.'



#### **Max Nunn (2019)**

Balliol alumni (Mide Griffin, 2019, and Max Nunn, 2019) and current graduate students (Andreas Prenner and Andrea Stykkt) have come together to work on NABIO, a charity working to empower rural communities in Kenya through agriculture. Together with Kenyan co-founders and a local community, we are working to build a scalable and sustainable model that empowers farmer groups through providing financing for greenhouse facilities, agricultural training, market bargaining power, and community support. Microfinance has been one of the most promising interventions to empower these populations in the past few decades, but proves only to benefit already skilled farmers with access to land and buyers, often creating debt traps for poor people entering loans at 30–40% interest rates. NABIO greenhouses will offer loans at 2% interest that are repaid as a percentage of sold produce to large buyers. The first pilot in Samuli has successfully employed a widow group of 20, who operate a greenhouse producing 10 tonnes of produce each year; they are trained by-weekly by an agronomist, and have a market contract securing the income streams. We are now aiming to expand with three new greenhouses. This would enable us to spread the opportunity to new groups, hire a full-time agronomist to manage operations, and bargain with the market.





## Keeping in touch

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

We are always pleased to hear what Old Members of Balliol are doing. You can send us any news, at any time during the year, by email ([development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk)) or by post (Development Office, Balliol College, Oxford OX1 3BJ). If you have news you would like to share in the next issue of News and Notes, please email it to [newsandnotes@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:newsandnotes@balliol.ox.ac.uk) or send it by post to the Development Office as above: deadline end of January 2022.

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

**The Balliol flag flying on an Old Member's property near Barnard Castle in County Durham, overlooking land that once belonged to the Balliol family.**

