



BALLIOL
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

FLOREAT DOMUS

NEWS AND FEATURES FROM THE BALLIOL COMMUNITY | JUNE 2018



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FLOREAT DOMUS

JUNE 2018

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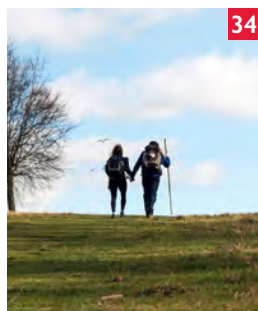
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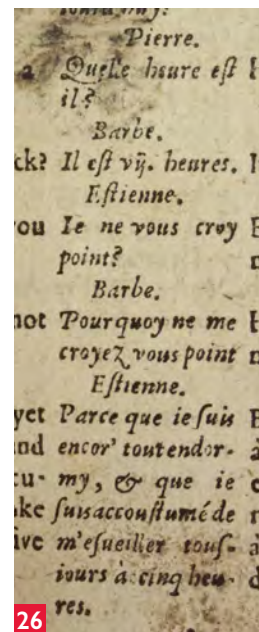
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Front cover: Balliol's first female Master, Dame Helen Ghosh DCB (photograph by Rob Judges), who took up her position in April 2018.

Thank you to all who have kindly written articles, agreed to be interviewed, provided photographs or information, or otherwise assisted in the preparation of this magazine. We are always pleased to receive feedback, and suggestions for articles: please send these to the Editor by email to anne.askwith@balliol.ox.ac.uk or at the address above.

From the Master

Dame Helen Ghosh DCB

No sooner had I set foot in the Master's study at the beginning of April than I was off to the Oxford Alumni Weekend in San Francisco, and a Balliol dinner with a terrific turn-out from alumni of all ages. I was well aware that the question in their heads would be 'Who is she?' And that's probably a question many of you are asking too.

I love Oxford. I arrived here as a student 45 years ago and will never forget the thrill of finding myself in All Souls in the study of Professor Peter Brown, who had just published his magisterial biography of St Augustine of Hippo, reading out an essay and wondering how on earth someone like him could appear to take seriously anything I might have to say on the subject. That was my introduction to the tutorial system at its very best. I have lived here ever since. It's where I met my historian husband Peter, since 1981 a Fellow of St Anne's, and where we brought up our two children. Having been a regular commuter to somewhere else, I've always felt a sense of relief and delight when I get back to Oxford. That's not just because of its physical beauty, but also because at its best, it represents the pursuit of truth for its own sake as well as for the sake of changing people's lives. I am grateful for all that Oxford has given me: not just a formal education, but a doorway into a wider world.

Three years of research for an MLitt reminded me that though I loved the academic world, I wanted to apply my mind to more concrete problems. The Civil Service seemed to me a place where intellectual and practical challenges could combine with serving the public good. In 33 years in Whitehall there were many highlights, whether working with local communities in East London or very closely with ministers as a Permanent Secretary. The chance then to lead Europe's largest conservation charity was an opportunity I couldn't resist. The National Trust combined my interests in history, the environment and public service. As a historian, I was also conscious of the role of big non-governmental organisations in changing society, alongside or ahead of governments.



The Master speaking at the Holywell Manor Festival 2018.

That was one reason why I chose to come back to the University. Whether through teaching or research, universities too are institutions which shape the world of the future. For many young people, their time at Oxford changes their lives – as it changed mine. The opportunity to play my part in that enterprise felt an exciting one.

Of all the Oxford colleges, Balliol with its tradition of academic excellence, public service and intellectual independence seemed like a place where I could feel at home. And what an honour it would be to inherit the title of Master from so many distinguished predecessors. Three months in, I feel that honour very strongly. Thanks to Drummond Bone and all he achieved as Master, the College is thriving. The people we celebrate from our history – Jowett, Lindsay, or Dervorguilla herself – are those who have planned for the future while still valuing the past. I see my challenge as the new Master as being to maintain and celebrate what makes us special, but with a clear eye on how we can meet the world ahead of us.

For the time being, the most important thing is for me to listen to what other people think. The conversations I have had

with current and former Fellows, students and alumni show in what affection the College is held and how strongly people feel about its distinctive character. The recent alumni survey is a rich source of advice (see page 43). Many people have emphasised Balliol's proud history of welcoming the very best students from this country and around the world, and support the College's focus on widening access at undergraduate and graduate level. Our Career Development Fellows have a vital part to play in maintaining and developing our teaching and research excellence. Continuing Drummond's drive to put the CDF programme on a firm financial footing will be a priority for me; the successful completion of the Master's Field building project will be another.

Most of all, I believe the role of the Master is to ensure that the College is a happy and stimulating community in which students, academics and non-academic staff can thrive – and of which alumni still feel they are an important part. I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you back to Balliol, as warmly as the College has welcomed me.

New Fellows

Mark Baker

Mark joins Balliol as Supernumerary Fellow and Career Development Fellow in Modern Global History. He is currently completing his PhD at Yale University, where he is a Dissertation Prize Fellow at the Council on East Asian Studies. Prior to this, at Oxford, he completed his BA in Modern History at Oriel College, and his MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies at St Antony's College. He also spent a year as a Visiting Research Scholar at Zhengzhou University in China.

Mark is a historian of modern China, with interests in urban history, rural-urban relations, comparative imperial/colonial history, and the history of war. His doctoral thesis, which will be the basis of a book, explores spatial change at the urban edge of the cities of Kaifeng and Zhengzhou between 1900 and 1960, examining rural-urban connections (and disconnections) during this tumultuous period. His future projects include an exploration of the competing interpretations of the life and thought of Sun Yat-sen (1866–1925) in the worldwide commemorations in March 1945.



literature, and in the study of minorities in the Golden Age. Her doctoral thesis and subsequent monograph explore the influence of Masuccio Salernitano's *Il Novellino* on early modern Spanish writers such as Lope de Vega and Calderón de la Barca, and she has published papers on the circulation of Sansovino's anthology of novellas in Golden Age Spain. Other research has focused on the representation of women in Golden Age literature, in particular the concept of *mujer ventanera* (women-at-the-window), and on the image of black slaves in Golden Age literature. Her current work explores the slaves' poetry written in Spanish.

Calliope Dendrou

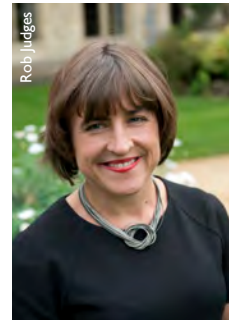
Calliope is Supernumerary Fellow and Research Fellow in the Sciences (Medical Sciences) at Balliol, whilst continuing to hold the position of Sir Henry Dale Fellow and Group Leader at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics in the Nuffield Department of Medicine. She read for a BSc in Biology at Imperial College, London, and obtained a PhD in Infection and Immunity at Cambridge University.

Calliope's research focus is on autoimmune diseases. Her research aims to increase understanding of how human genetic variation predisposes to different autoimmune disorders, by prioritising the investigation of variants shared across diseases, in order to interrogate pathways that are central to the development of these conditions, and which may be specifically modulated to provide the greatest benefit across patients.



at Newcastle University and then moved to History and to Oxford (St Hugh's and The Queen's Colleges) for her MSt and DPhil, and a JRF.

Helen is an historian of the early Middle Ages, with a particular focus on Anglo-Saxon England. Her interests lie in social, cultural and religious history, and she is a leading expert in the history of medieval liturgy. Her monograph *Liturgy, Architecture and Sacred Places in Anglo-Saxon England* (2013) draws on archaeological and architectural evidence to explore the importance of ritual to people's religious lives in this period. Helen is currently writing a book, *English in the Liturgy before the Reformation*, which explores the use of the vernacular in medieval church services.



Claire Jarvis

Claire, an Assistant Professor of English at Stanford University, California, joined Balliol in Michaelmas Term 2017 as Oliver Smithies Lecturer and Visiting Fellow. She received her

BA at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her first MA from Boston University, and a second MA and her PhD at Johns Hopkins University, Maryland.

Claire's research focuses on British literature of the 19th and early 20th centuries, with particular emphasis on the novel and theories of sexuality. Her first book, *Exquisite Masochism: Sex, Marriage, and the Novel Form* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016) explores a densely descriptive suspension of sexual gratification in the novels of Emily Brontë, Anthony Trollope, Thomas Hardy, and D.H. Lawrence. Claire's current project, *A Little Britain: Women, Genre, and Form*, considers questions relating to genre in the works of



Diana Berruezo-Sánchez

Now Balliol's Supernumerary Fellow and Career Development Fellow in Modern Languages (Spanish), Diana previously held lectureships at the Universities of Barcelona and Oxford. She completed her PhD at Barcelona University, and she won the Fifth International *Academia del Hispanismo* prize for the best PhD thesis in Spanish literature.

Diana's research interests are in the Italian influence on early modern Spanish



Helen Gittos

Helen has come to Balliol as Collyer-Ferguson Fellow and Tutor in History. Previously she was a Senior Lecturer in Medieval History at Kent University. She read for a BA in English Literature

Dorothy Sayers, Elizabeth Goudge, Barbara Pym, Tessa Hadley and Zadie Smith, as well as the scholarly heritage which connects these female authors. While in Oxford, Claire conducted research in the Bodleian's collection of Pym's manuscripts, and in Balliol's archives.

Ohad Kammar

Ohad joins Balliol as Supernumerary Fellow and Career Development Fellow in Computer Science, while continuing to hold a research associate position within Oxford's Department of



Computer Science. He was previously at Cambridge as a research associate at the University and a Bye-Fellow at Fitzwilliam College. He gained his PhD in Informatics at Edinburgh University, having completed undergraduate degrees in Computer Science and in Mathematics at the Open University of Israel.

Ohad's research focuses on the relationships between four fundamental theories of programming languages: computational effects; higher-order functions; concurrency; and polymorphism. Currently, no overarching theory exists for combining all four theories (a 'theory-of-everything'). This gap points to a deficiency in our understanding of the nature of computation and abstraction, as well as having practical implications on the way programming languages are designed. At Balliol, Ohad will focus on the interaction between computational effects and polymorphism. The aim of his research is to resolve these tensions, and thus pave the way for the design of true general-purpose programming languages which effectively incorporate features of all four theories.

Adam Nahum

Adam Nahum (2002) completed his MPhysPhil and DPhil at Balliol. Much of his academic career so far has been spent in the USA, where he obtained an MS in Physics from Chicago and where, recently, he was a postdoctoral associate and then Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He returns to Balliol as Research Fellow in the Sciences (Physics).

Adam's research is in theoretical condensed matter physics and concerns fundamental questions about quantum dynamics out of equilibrium, quantum phase transitions, topological phases of matter, and disordered systems.



Katherine O'Brien O'Keeffe

Katherine is Clyde and Evelyn Slusser Professor of English Literature Prior to the Twentieth Century at the University of California, Berkeley, and joins Balliol as George Eastman Visiting Professor.



She holds her AB from Thomas More College, Fordham University, and her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. Before joining Berkeley, she was Timothy O'Meara Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame.

Katherine's work focuses on the literary culture of Anglo-Saxon England, primarily on cultural transmission, editing in manuscript cultures, and questions of agency. Her most recent projects investigate the work of surprise in traditional poetry and strategies of bodily satisfaction in Anglo-Saxon law. She is the author of *Stealing Obedience: Narratives of Agency and Identity in Late Anglo-Saxon England* (University of Toronto Press, 2017) and *Visible Song* (CUP, revised ed. 2008), in which she investigates textual variance in the manuscript culture of Old English poetry. She is also editor of the C-text of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. She was elected Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America in 2015.

David Sehat

David is spending a year at Balliol as John G. Winant Visiting Professor of American Government. A cultural and intellectual historian of the United States, he is an Associate Professor at Georgia State University, where he joined the

faculty in 2008. Prior to that, he completed a PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and spent a postdoctoral year at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences as a Visiting Scholar.

David writes on American intellectual, political, and cultural life. He is the author of *The Jefferson Rule: How the Founding Fathers Became Infallible and Our Politics Inflexible* (Simon and Schuster, 2015), and *The Myth of American Religious Freedom* (OUP, 2011; updated edition, 2015), which won the Frederick Jackson Turner Award from the Organization of American Historians. As a teacher, David offers undergraduate courses on American culture and ideas and on religion in American life. He also teaches a graduate seminar on US intellectual and cultural history.



William Zwicker

An Oliver Smithies Lecturer and Visiting Fellow at Balliol, William is the William D. Williams Professor of Mathematics at Union College, Schenectady, NY. He received his PhD from the



Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He began his academic career in 1975 at Union College, where he has held his current position since 2006. He has also held visiting positions at universities in the UK, Canada, Spain, and France.

William's research is focused on applications of mathematics to the social sciences, including co-operative game theory, fair division, and social choice theory (specifically, the mathematics of voting). As this research is fundamentally interdisciplinary, he has worked extensively with political scientists, economists, mathematicians, and computer scientists, although continuing to approach the findings from a mathematician's point of view.

A class act

Sudhir Hazareesingh (1981 and Fellow and Tutor in Politics) pays tribute to the retiring Master

Events marking the retirement of Professor Sir Drummond Bone (1968, Master 2011–2018) at the end of March included the unveiling and hanging of a portrait in Hall (page 6); a 12-day international *valette* tour during which he attended receptions with Balliol alumni; a retirement tea in Hall, attended by Heads of House, University staff, Balliol Fellows, Lecturers, students and staff; and a retirement dinner for Fellows, alumni and friends at which Sudhir Hazareesingh gave a speech, an edited version of which is published here.

It is my great honour to propose the toast to the Master; to celebrate and pay tribute to Drummond's distinguished service as Master of Balliol.

I think nothing more readily sums up the affection and gratitude of the Balliol community towards you, Master, than the wonderful turnout of Fellows, Emeritus Fellows, Honorary Fellows, Foundation Fellows, Old Members, benefactors and friends this evening.

I would like to take a moment, in her absence, to salute Vivian. I hope, Drummond, you will pass on our collective thanks for her numerous acts of kindness and generosity towards us, and for the crucial role she has played in the achievements of your Mastership. I would also like to salute the presence in our midst of a glorious gaggle of Masters, past and future: Colin Lucas and Andrew Graham are here, and they are joined by our next Master, Helen Ghosh. It is fabulous to see these great pillars of Balliol wisdom here – and having them with us as we honour Drummond conveys that continuity of inspiration which guides the College across modern times, and for which we are immensely grateful.

These changes may of course appear seamless, but they require from our Masters an active spirit of engagement – and at times, a no less active spirit of transgression. It was evident to our own students when you returned to the College as Master in 2011, Drummond, that you were something of a subversive. *The Oxford Student* newspaper ran an article in which Balliol students gave their impressions of their new Master; they read as a postmodern take on the concept of effortless superiority. One undergraduate described you as 'totally badass', another called you 'an

'As you make your way back to your beloved Scotland, Drummond, we thank you for your service and wish you the greatest of successes in your endeavours in the months and years ahead.'

absolute lad'; a third volunteered this wondrous encomium: 'Drummond is a massive pimp ... but in a good way.'

This capacity to generate such flights of poetic eloquence among the undergraduates has been one of the hallmarks of your Mastership. Of course, this was their way of reminding us all that you first arrived in Balliol in 1968 – a year which speaks for itself. The *esprit soixante-huitard* had possessed Holywell Manor, and you too were swept away by it. Your anarcho-libertarian *insouciance* did not go unnoticed: I have it from an unimpeachable source that you were gently upbraided by Master Christopher Hill for not appearing in a College photograph. Now that Drummond's portrait hangs here in Hall, a few metres from Christopher's, we can all fully savour the delicate intertextualities of that moment.

I cannot resist a wee word or two about Balliol's Glasgow connection, which first brought Drummond to us. The Snell Exhibition is one of those very recent Balliol traditions (it dates back *only* to the year 1699). It is, as we know, an immensely distinguished association, which gave us the

great economist Adam Smith (1740). But the Snell also spawned some scrappers – such as one J. Carnegie, admitted in 1709 and expelled in 1710. There is also J.H. Christie (1808), who became a barrister but whose only subsequent claim to fame was to be prosecuted after a duel in 1821. Vivian once perfectly summed up the Snell's colourful diversity when she remarked to Drummond: 'Those of you who are not dead have done pretty well.'

This is a perfect transition to one of your many engaging qualities, Drummond: your wry sense of humour, allied with an unvarying modesty and a total lack of pomp: you take your inspiration here from the great Byron, and I cannot resist quoting from *Don Juan*:

*What is the end of Fame? 'tis but to fill
A certain portion of uncertain paper:
Some liken it to climbing up a hill,
Whose summit, like all hills, is lost in vapour*

You have combined all the magisterial virtues of your recent predecessors: a commitment to intellectual excellence, an openness to the world, an ebullient generosity of spirit, a passion for the Humanities, a compelling sense of organisation, and a reassuring deftness with numbers. To me, the Master you evoke most powerfully is Sandie Lindsay – not just because he was one of our great Balliol Scots, but also because you both shared a commitment to internationalism, progressive reform and a belief that power comes with social and political responsibility. In that famous October 1938 by-election in which he publicly defied the Munich appeasers, Lindsay stood as an 'independent progressive' – a label which sums you up perfectly.

The Master's Retirement Tea



A Master above all needs to have the capacity to embody the role (what our French friends call *l'incarnation*), and in this respect you have been absolutely superb. Countless friends and colleagues from across the University have remarked to me that you were so *nice* (always said with a mildly off-putting expression of surprise, as if that was not necessarily a quality to be expected of a Balliol person). Under your Mastership, all the different parts of the College administration have worked in great harmony. Your dedication to student academic and personal welfare has been exemplary, and much appreciated by the JCR and MCR; I should mention here that students signed a farewell card for you, and the inscriptions were unanimous in stressing how inclusive, kind, and gentle a Master you have been. Two comments stand out for me: one was from a student who wrote how disoriented he felt when he arrived in Oxford, and how much strength and comfort he drew from your welcoming speech at Freshers' Dinner. The other was from a student who said: 'Thank you for not giving me a bollocking at handshaking when I did no work at all last year.'

Your charm and your diplomatic finesse have also helped maintain excellent relations between the College and the wider Balliol alumni and benefactor

'Your ability to reach for the stars is on the cosmic scale of the greatest Inca ruler, Pachacuti, whose name means "he who overturns space and time".'

community. This has sometimes involved, I am reliably informed, the consumption of certain quantities of liquor; and so, Master, on behalf of the College, I hereby express our sincere apologies to your liver.

We have so much to celebrate concerning your Mastership, Drummond: the introduction of significant reforms to the management and oversight of student academic affairs; the spectacular renovation of our kitchens; the brilliant success of our 750th anniversary celebrations; the adoption of the Master's Field building project, which will provide us with an additional 140 rooms and thus the capacity to accommodate all our undergraduates during their time in Balliol if they so wish – an aspiration I have heard discussed for the past 35 years, but which will now become a reality thanks to your leadership.

You even inspired a Balliol team to win *University Challenge*.

With the help of many of the benefactors present this evening, our wonderful Development Office and our shrewd Investments Committee, you also oversaw a near-doubling of our endowment – a monumental achievement. At the same time, you spearheaded the rolling out of a new and exciting programme of Career Development Fellowships, which has invigorated the College's tutorial capacities and reaffirmed Balliol's leadership within Oxford as a centre for teaching innovation and excellence.

So, as you make your way back to your beloved Scotland, Drummond, we thank you for your service and wish you the greatest of successes in your endeavours in the years ahead. You are a class act. A true performer of miracles, you remind me (this will be my only motoring allusion) of the Haitian voodoo god Papa Legba, the enchanted guardian of the crossroads; your ability to reach for the stars is on the cosmic scale of the greatest Inca ruler, Pachacuti, whose name means 'he who overturns space and time'. I am certain that if you were the manager of the Scottish football team, you could somehow even make Scotland qualify for the World Cup. Thank you for sharing your magic powers with us over the past six-and-a-half years.



Professor Sir Drummond Bone, by Valeriy Gridnev, oil, 2017

Portrait of Professor Sir Drummond Bone

To mark his retirement at the end of March, a portrait of Professor Sir Drummond Bone (1968, Master 2011–2018) has been hung in Hall. The portrait, in oil, is by the artist Valeriy Gridnev. The commissioning of the portrait was made possible by the generosity of an anonymous donor.

In the portrait Sir Drummond sits in front of the 1892 design by T.G. Jackson for a Balliol annexe, conceived by Benjamin Jowett (Master 1870–1893). Only part of the scheme was executed: the King's Mound in Mansfield Road (on the far right of the image below), where recent Masters have lived.



Deans on display

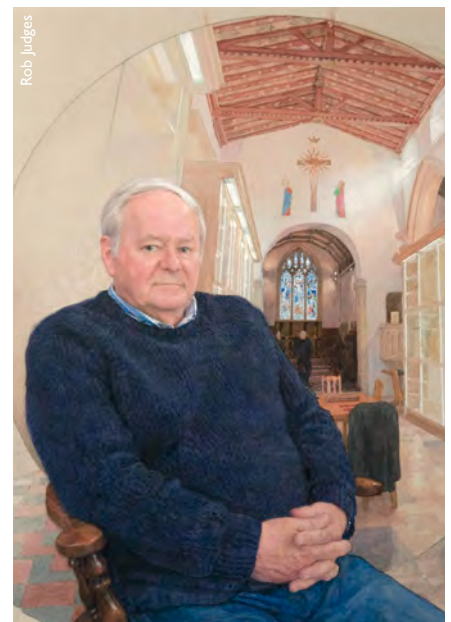
A portrait of John Jones (1961, Fellow 1966–2010, Dean 1972–2002, Fellow Archivist 1981–2009, Emeritus Fellow) has been presented to the College by an anonymous benefactor – a 'most personal honour', John says, by which he feels humbled. The portrait is by Bob Tulloch, in watercolour, coloured pencil and pastel, and it shows John in St Cross Church, Holywell: John headed the restoration of the church and its conversion into Balliol's Historic Collections Centre, completed in 2011.

John's portrait has been hung on the SCR landing leading into Hall as part of a new display of portraits of the five Deans who are honoured at the Deans' Dinner. It is next to one of Douglas Dupree (Fellow and Chaplain 1987–2014, Dean 2007–2014, Emeritus Fellow) by Kevin Arthur, 2016, in oil, which has been presented by the Balliol Society. The other three Deans



Douglas Dupree, by Kevin Arthur, 2016

are F.F. Urquhart (Fellow 1896–34, Dean 1918–1933); A.B. Rodger (Fellow 1924–1961, Dean 1933–1952); and F.L.M. Willis-Bund (Chaplain and Fellow 1945–1972, Dean 1952–1972).



John Jones, by Bob Tulloch, 2017

Awards

New Year Honours

Timothy (David) Rossington (1976) was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) for public service. Until 2017 he was Finance Director at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and has served in a number of other roles in DCMS. He was previously Finance Director of the Department for Communities and Local Government.



Professor Ngaire Woods (1987), founding Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government and Professor of Global Economic Governance at Oxford, was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to higher education and public policy. As well as leading the creation of the Blavatnik School of Government, she founded the Global Economic Governance Programme at Oxford, and co-founded (with Robert O. Keohane) the Oxford-Princeton Global Leaders Fellowship programme.

David Buttery (1997) was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to transport. From 2012 to 2017 he was Deputy Director for High Speed Rail Legislation and Environment at the Department for Transport, in which role he led the Parliamentary process for the HS2 Phase One hybrid Bill: the planning application for the high-speed railway from London to the West Midlands and the largest piece of legislation ever submitted to Parliament. His previous roles in the same department include Head of EU Regulation and Infrastructure in the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, and Head of Highways Agency Sponsorship.

David Johnston (2000) was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to social mobility and education. He is Chief Executive of the Social Mobility Foundation, a charity that runs programmes to help young people from low-income backgrounds enter universities and professions. He has also been Director of Future, a charity which supports organisations working with young people, before which he was Coordinator of the Oxford Access Scheme.



Academic awards



Robert Field (Professor of Engineering Science, Lubbock Fellow and Tutor in Engineering Science) was awarded an Academies Partnership in Supporting Excellence in Cross-disciplinary research award (known as an APEX award) for a project entitled 'Exploring Water Re-use – the Nexus of Politics, Technology and Economics', in which, he says, he aims 'to understand the limitations of planned water recycle and re-use for a wide range of regions around the world, taking into account the constraints of government and of politics as much as the technological possibilities.'

Jin-Chong Tan (Associate Professor of Engineering Science and Tutor in Engineering Science) has been awarded a five-year European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant of €2.4 million. With this support Professor Tan, who leads the Multifunctional Materials & Composites Lab in Oxford's Department of Engineering Science, will establish a project called 'PROMOFS':

Nanoengineering and Processing of Metal-Organic Framework Composites for Photonic Sensors', which will make possible the design and fabrication of fine-scale porous materials with bespoke physical and chemical properties, to afford disruptive photonics sensing technology.



Frances Kirwan (1981, Professor of Mathematics and Emeritus Fellow) was elected Oxford's 20th Savilian Professor. The chair was founded in 1619 and she is the first woman to be elected to any of the historic chairs in mathematics. A specialist in algebraic and symplectic geometry, she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2001 (only the third female mathematician to attain this honour) and she was President of the London Mathematical Society from 2003-2005 (only the second woman ever elected).

Professor Martin McLaughlin (1973) was awarded the Serena Medal for Italian Literature by the British Academy. The medal is awarded annually 'for eminent services towards the furtherance of the study of Italian history, philosophy or music, literature,

art, or economics'. Professor McLaughlin has recently retired from his Chair as Professor of Italian Studies at Oxford and is an Emeritus Fellow of Magdalen College.



Andrew Paverd (2011) won a postdoctoral Fulbright Scholar Award 2017-18 in Cyber Security at the University of California, Irvine. His research focuses primarily on the use of secure hardware to build trust in computer systems. During his Fulbright exchange, he will explore the use of hardware security techniques in new application domains.

Matthew Ryder (2013) was awarded the Clifford G. Shull Fellowship at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in the United States. ORNL is the largest US Department of Energy (DOE) laboratory, a world-leading neutron science and nuclear energy research facility, and home to



some of the world's top supercomputers. An Engineering Science DPhil graduate, Matthew is the youngest person ever to be offered the prestigious Fellowship. He says: 'It will provide me with access to some of the best neutron scattering and diffraction instruments and supercomputers in the world. I intend to initially focus on the stability of next-generation framework materials upon external stimuli such as the thermal and high-pressure response properties. However, with the world-leading facilities available and a team of brilliant scientists to work with the possibilities are limitless.'

Other awards

Elizabeth Kiss (1983) is to be the next Warden of Rhodes House, succeeding Charles Conn (1993). She will be the first woman in the role. Currently President



of Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, she was previously founding director of Duke University's Kenan Institute for Ethics. Prior to that she taught at Randolph-Macon and Deep Springs Colleges and then at Princeton University, as well as holding research fellowships at Harvard and at Melbourne University in Australia.

David Gibling

(1941) was posthumously appointed to the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur by the President of the French Republic, in recognition of his 'military engagement and steadfast involvement in the Liberation of France during the Second World War'.



New Domestic Bursar

Following Jo Roadknight's departure 'over the wall' to Trinity, Balliol has a new Domestic Bursar: Frances Wright.

Fran comes to Balliol from Oxford's Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, where she was head of Human Resources. When she decided that it was time to move on, her sister, who works at Pembroke, urged her to try college life. From a choice of Domestic Bursar posts available at the time, Fran chose Balliol 'because of its ideals', she says, especially that of social responsibility – she was impressed by the refugee scholarship which was in the news then. The website 'threw it at you that a lot of good was going on' here.

'Starting afresh after ten years in my

previous job was very odd, but within two to three days I felt as I had been here for ages – it felt just right,' Fran remembers. A few months on, she is still 'getting a picture' of how Balliol works – the 12 committees she sits on, for instance – but she is excited by the challenges and interest of a job which involves 'doing a bit of everything'. Her immediate priority will be the much-needed modernisation of Balliol's HR systems. Otherwise she expects she will be 'pulling things together' rather than making any major changes.

Asked what she likes best about Balliol, Fran replies, 'I love the buildings and the gardens, and the feeling that we are preserving something old and historic.' The



Dunn School's 75-year history – which includes the development of penicillin – seems as nothing compared with Balliol's 750-plus years. 'I want to help make sure that Balliol's here in another 750 years.'

Visit from the Met Commissioner

Jonathan Windsor (2015) reports from the Younger Society

On Saturday 2 December 2017, the Younger Society had the honour of receiving Cressida Dick, the current and first female Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, as the guest of honour at its 71st Annual Dinner. Cressida Dick is familiar with Oxford, particularly Balliol, having grown up in the city and come from a long line of people affiliated with the College, and being an Old Member (1979) herself. She has previously served as Area Commander for Oxford and as a Superintendent in the Thames Valley Police (she was interviewed by this publication back in 1997 on her appointment to that post).

The Younger Society comprises every current and past Balliol lawyer, and holds its annual dinner at the end of Michaelmas Term in Balliol's Hall. Thus after a good half hour of socialising and drinking in the Buttery, guests were invited up to the Hall for dinner, which consisted of a delicious three-course meal served to Balliol's typically high standards. After dessert, the Younger Society's President, Talia Keskin, gave a short speech introducing Cressida Dick to the Society before giving her the floor.

Ms Dick began by thanking the Younger Society for allowing her to attend, as the Society is reserved for Balliol people involved with law, though she observed that her invitation was merited through her career in enforcement of the law. How she came to her current position stemmed a great deal from the influence of her father, M.W. Dick (1939 and Fellow), she said, even though, despite being a Balliol Dean, he was not overly fond of law enforcement himself, especially traffic wardens. Recalling a number of anecdotes relating to escapades Balliol students committed during her time as a student, most of them directed at a specific college in close proximity to Balliol, she wryly noted that the Metropolitan Police's intake of Balliol alumni was not large and several had been rejected on the basis of College misdemeanours. She revealed that she herself had managed



Katie Lawrence-Smith (Secretary), Professor Timothy Endicott (Blanesburgh Fellow and Tutor in Law), the Commissioner, Grant Lamond (Frankfurter Fellow and Tutor in Law) and Talia Keskin (President)

to meet the physical requirements for entry only by convincing her doctor that she was four inches taller than she actually was. However, she made it clear that obstacles such as insufficient height or minor infractions no longer prevent people from joining the Metropolitan Police.

The Commissioner said that in the course of her career she had observed an immense change in law enforcement, both in its culture and in its methodology. When she was starting out, there was a prevailing attitude amongst those who enforce the law that they enjoyed special rights and privileges above the rule of law, and that the judicial system would not pursue them for any alleged wrongdoing. The Metropolitan Police was also quite racist and sexist. Since then, however, it has made great strides in addressing these issues, by including minorities and women in its ranks and making progress in ensuring that law enforcement keeps within the legal and judicial system. In this respect she welcomed the use of body cameras on police officers to ensure that they carry out their duties properly and transparently. She emphasised that law enforcement has become a highly trusted process and that it is important that police continue to have the support and trust of the public. Returning to the theme of technology

aiding police, she observed that currently the vast majority of police cases are solved through the use of technology, specifically surveillance and forensics, rather than older methods such as the use of witnesses.

The Metropolitan Police Service is experiencing a difficult time, Ms Dick noted. It is grappling with a large expansion in its duties, while facing considerable budget cuts, at the same time as being careful to maintain the public's trust and meet its high expectations. Brexit and the related political turmoil it has brought have also raised issues for the Met, particularly in relation to funding and security, and has increased the pressure on it to serve as a force for, and symbol of, stability. She also touched upon the Met's relationship with the current Prime Minister, Mrs May having served for a considerable amount of time as Home Secretary prior to her elevation.

The Commissioner's speech received much applause, as the audience found her discussion about her career and her broader discussion about law enforcement engaging and stimulating, and were pleased to learn of the progress that the police have made in addressing criticisms of them. The Younger Society is most grateful to Commissioner Cressida Dick and we look forward to her continued involvement in our Balliol College community.

New Outreach Officer

As a former deputy head teacher at an inner-city school with a high proportion of disadvantaged students, Pravahi Osman knows how hard it can be for teachers to support a small number of able students within a school to apply to Oxford. She is also passionate about students being able to achieve their full potential through higher education. So she saw the post of David Freeman Outreach Officer at Balliol as an opportunity to help, using both her teaching experience and also skills she learned during a spell as an education consultant. 'I see my role at Balliol as bridging the gap between schools and the Oxford admissions process,' she says.

Since arriving at Balliol in Michaelmas 2017, she's been enjoying the diversity of the job. One day she might be briefing the Student Ambassadors who help her with visiting school groups and open days; another she'll be working with graduate students who are teaching on Balliol's

Floreat access programme for year 12 students; another she'll be giving talks to schools in Hertfordshire, the College's link region.

What is the main challenge in her work, does she think? 'It's about raising aspirations,' Pravahi says. 'Misconceptions about Oxford and a lack of understanding of the admissions process among teachers can be a toxic mix that permeates through to students.' Working through teachers, she believes – communicating what Oxford offers, directing teachers to information and resources, helping them to navigate their way through the admissions process – is the way to improving students' access to Oxford.

In particular, she wants to help teachers build their own programmes for able students, so that they can nurture their appetite for learning, ensure that they make the best curricular choices and give them sustained support from the



moment they enter secondary school. 'By helping teachers we can stop the pipeline for able students narrowing.' For more such initiatives that Pravahi will be developing at Balliol, watch this space.

Admissions video

Watch, like and share: Balliol has a new undergraduate admissions video! Through interviews with students, the video aims to show potential applicants what Balliol is like and to address some of the concerns they may have, such as the admissions process and whether or not they will fit in. We hope that the positive sentiments of students from different backgrounds and cultures – who variously describe Balliol as 'a close-knit community', 'made up of people like me', 'a place to grow and learn', 'an institution which genuinely cares about its students' – combined with scenes of JCR life will encourage potential applicants to apply.

The video will be a tool for the Outreach Officer to use at school visits, Open Days and outreach events, as well as improving what potential applicants can learn about Balliol from the website; it is also available on YouTube. The first Balliol admissions video since 1987, it was created by Angel Sharp.

By a happy coincidence the producer and editor was Suzy Shepherd (2012), who graduated from Balliol in Classics in 2016. 'I really loved making this film,' she says. 'It was great to be back at Balliol (however briefly), and everyone went out of their way to make things easy for me – I could always find someone willing to be in a shot or to wave at the camera, and all the interviewees spoke about Balliol with genuine warmth and conviction. I saw some familiar faces and got to know a few new ones. Nice to know Balliol is as friendly as ever!'

We hope that everyone in the Balliol community will enjoy it. We ask you to help disseminate it as widely possible by liking it and sharing it on social media and bringing it to the attention of any school students, parents, teachers or schools who you think may be interested.

Watch Balliol's new video at:
<https://youtu.be/TxexGQ79SGA>





Our Oxford trip

Year 11 students at Wilnecote High School describe their visit to Balliol with their teacher **Ian Farrell (1984)**

We woke on a Monday morning bright (well, brightish) and early, and set off slightly bleary-eyed for Oxford. Thanks to the usual M42 mayhem, the journey was a long one (slightly too long for the bladders of some), but we eventually arrived at the Park and Ride. We were on our way to Balliol with stereotypical expectations of a 'posh' college for 'posh' people – nothing like us – and the grandiose approach on Broad Street did nothing to allay our fears; but what we found could not have been further from our expectations.

When we entered the grounds of the College, the enormity of it took us aback as we stood surrounded on all sides by the magnificent stone buildings. However, when we went inside the buildings we were surprised by how intimate and cosy the College felt. We were shown round by Daisy Porter, a third-year student, who gave us an insight into student life at Balliol and at Oxford generally. She explained how Oxford isn't at all what you might think it is

like and that students do have fun. She told us about the range of independent roles that exist for students, such as being a JCR officer responsible for organising themed social events, and reassured us that the view of life at Oxford we had arrived with was far from the truth. In short, meeting Daisy opened our eyes and made us realise how wrong some of our preconceptions were. Daisy also told us about the College's extensive emotional and spiritual support network, before showing us the magnificent Chapel, the majesty of which was unmistakable whatever creed you were.

Lunch was in the Hall, which was breathtaking; it felt like walking into Hogwarts, with Balliol's 'greats' gazing dramatically down from the walls as we ate. It was then on to the Library, where we were able to see a 1632 portfolio of Shakespeare's complete works and even had a go at translating some Latin. We then separated into groups to compare and contrast two title pages from books

printed in 1616. After a hesitant start, we surprised ourselves and impressed the Librarian with how much we were able to discover as we delved deeper.

Sadly we had to get back to the Park and Ride to avoid the rush-hour traffic, so Mr Farrell prevented a quick trip to Greggs or Five Guys, but we had thoroughly enjoyed the day and valued the experience of gaining an insight into what university life could be like for us in the future; we particularly enjoyed seeing the College from a student's point of view. Oxford University seems unattainable for many people because of money worries or negative preconceptions. While the academic expectations are certainly high, we found that Oxford provides great support with financial issues and it is an excellent option for anyone prepared to work hard. On behalf of the Wilnecote students, we would, therefore, like to offer our sincere gratitude for the brilliant time we had when we visited Balliol College.

Chinese visitors

Balliol welcomed a group from Tsinghua University

On 25 January 2018 Balliol had the pleasure of receiving a visit from 64 students and four professors from Xinya College, Tsinghua University. Chinese Balliol students took time out of their studies to meet their compatriots and to give them a tour of the College.

'I was delighted to welcome my peers from Tsinghua's Xinya College, a newly established residential liberal arts college within the most prestigious institution in China,' said Aohan Qu, a first-year Balliol undergraduate reading Economics and Management. 'It was a pleasure showing them around the places that I live, work, and play in on a daily basis, and chatting with them about the daily life of a typical Oxford student. They asked very interesting questions about Oxford, mostly about the collegiate system and our traditions. One of the things that impressed them the most was the change of colour of carnation that students wear to exams, which is both fun and reflects the academic rigour of Oxford's exams.'

Xinyu Luo, a first-year Engineering student, was another Balliol guide. 'When I heard a cohort of students from Tsinghua was going to visit Balliol, a stream of thoughts echoed with a part of me that had long ceased to exist. I was once like them, being top of the year group, receiving a scholarship and preparing to prove my values and hard work with an excellent score in the Gaokao, the National Higher Education Entrance Exam, in order to enter one of the top unis, Tsinghua and Peking, in China. But cut off from the Chinese education system at the age of 16, I came to Balliol instead. The tour was memorable. The looks on the students' faces when touring our Library reminded me of the same excitement I had when I was fresh off the boat. And it was both interesting and thought-provoking to see how we can take a different path yet eventually meet again at a point in space and time, with totally different identities. It was unfortunate that I had academic

commitments in the afternoon; otherwise I would have offered to show them some really cool places around Oxford.'

Following the tour Dr Nicola Trott (Senior Tutor) showed the visitors a video of Professor Adam Smyth (Fellow and Tutor in English Literature) talking to an Oxford student about her work on Shakespeare, and conducted a group reading of W.B. Yeats's poem 'Sailing to Byzantium'. She and Professor Gao Jin led a discussion among the students, after which they had lunch in Balliol Hall.

The Tsinghua group came to Balliol as part of a week-long trip to Oxford, during which they learned about an Oxford University education and student life through talks and tours at three other colleges, as well as visiting Oxford's museums and libraries. Pravahi Osman (David Freeman Outreach Officer), who arranged the visit, said, 'We hope that our visitors enjoyed the occasion as much as we did and that it will be the beginning of a lasting relationship with Xinya College.'

'One of the things that impressed them the most was the change of colour of carnation that students wear to exams, which is both fun and reflects the academic rigour of Oxford's exams.'





Groundbreaking ceremony at the Master's Field

In one of his final acts as Master, on 24 March 2018 Professor Sir Drummond Bone broke the ground at the site of the Master's Field Project in a ceremony that marked the start of work by the construction engineering company BAM. The ceremony followed the completion of demolition and enabling works by Maylarch, including the demolition of Eastman House, the old sports pavilion, and St Cross 3a, 3b and 5 and their garages, and the removal of asbestos and vegetation. The ceremony

was attended by Balliol's new Master, Dame Helen Ghosh, Anthony Nagle (Construction Director for BAM Construction-South East), as well as representatives from Bidwells (project managers) and Niall McLaughlin Architects Ltd, and others who have been involved in the project.

The development will transform Balliol's accommodation offering to both undergraduates and postgraduates by creating over 200 study bedrooms for students; accommodation for Fellows, a

new sports pavilion and other facilities for College Members are also part of the scheme. The first of the new student rooms are due to be completed at the end of 2018/early 2019, so that students living in the Martin and Dellal buildings can move into them, following which Martin and Dellal will be demolished. The current schedule (which may be subject to change as work progresses) is for phase one to be completed by April 2019 and the whole project to be completed by June 2020.



Kristi and Richard Old Coyote and horses dressed in full Crow regalia, ready for the Crow Fair parade.

Horses and art in Northern Plains tribes

Natalie Hill (2012) did fieldwork with North American Indians

My research for my DPhil traces the history of human-horse relations in North American Indian communities and how these relationships are represented in art – specifically in the Northern Plains region, from c. 1700 to the present day. I am interested in how historic relationships were represented in art and craft items, at a time when horses were a major catalyst for change within Plains tribes, as well as how horses and horse-related activities are represented in Plains Indian art today. The representation of animals in art is a cognitive understanding of a lived experience made material: an illustration of the importance of animals in human culture. In my thesis, I ask if these representations

– and indeed the importance of, and interaction with, the horse – change over time to reflect changing relations between humans and animals, and if so, how these changes manifest themselves.

I spent almost 10 months in the United States, both visiting museums and doing fieldwork. I travelled around the Northern Plains, especially Montana, where I lived on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and the Crow Reservation. The distances are vast, and nothing can prepare you for the incredible landscapes, from the Rocky and Bighorn Mountain ranges, to the Badlands and multitudes of buttes, canyons, and river systems; the Plains are hardly ever flat! I also visited the Blackfeet Reservation (Montana),

various sites in Wyoming, some Blackfoot Reserves and historical sites in Alberta (Canada), and important sites and project participants in North and South Dakota.

I was lucky enough to be invited to join a Lakota youth group from the Cheyenne River Reservation, who were one of many groups retracing the steps of their ancestors on their way to the Battle of the Little Bighorn. My research often consists of participant observation – getting involved where I can, finding out about peoples' relationships with horses through experiencing them, and conversing with people. In this case I found out about things such as why the youth group was set up, how taking part in the ride helps the group,

how the individuals connect to horses, and what role horses have in their lives.

I followed several Indian Relay teams through their training and races. This sport, said to have evolved from the horsemanship of buffalo hunters and horseback warriors, is enjoying a huge surge in popularity. It involves one rider, three horses, and several 'muggers' who hold the extra horses at the side of the track, so that after one lap on a horse, the rider can leap off and on to the next horse for the next lap. It is all done bareback, at incredible speed, and at considerable danger to horses and humans alike. The horses are painted with designs that can also be seen in historical visual sources, such as ledger art.

Another form of horse decoration is the beaded and embellished regalia that are worn in parades. People combine old family pieces with newly made items in displays that visually communicate crafts(wo)manship, wealth, family connections, cultural pride and enjoyment. Such a parade is held at Crow Fair (also known as the Tipi Capital of the World), the biggest event of the year in Crow Country. I was very fortunate to stay with the Old Coyotes in a tipi at the Real Bird camp. Here I observed the preparations for the parade, the 'dressing' of the horses, and the making of some of the regalia. I was able to talk to beadworkers about their art and closely examine regalia items, such as the keyhole headpiece shown above. I researched similar items in museum collections.

The opportunity to examine human-horse relations and art items in contemporary life was made possible for me by my Peter Storey Scholarship, in conjunction with an AHRC Award and Travel Grant. When I experienced mishaps – my car, camera and mobile phone all broke at some point – extra funding, including Balliol Graduate and Maintenance Grants, enabled me to replace these, and to buy other essential equipment, such as cold weather gear for when the temperature reached -4 to -27°C .

I am enormously grateful for this opportunity for research, which I am combining with research into historical sources, to give me a more in-depth and multi-faceted picture of the story of how people relate to horses in the Northern Plains.



A keyhole design headpiece made with dyed horse hair.



Travelling with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe on their ride from Lame Deer towards the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.



Natalie arrives with the group at their next camp site.



Sheridan WYO Rodeo Week Parade.

Having a blast in Bangladesh

Miina Hiilloskivi (2015) interned in a legal aid service

I had a wonderful experience interning at the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) in Dhaka for eight weeks last summer. BLAST is a leading legal aid organisation that works on a wide range of human rights issues in Bangladesh. To name a few of its activities, BLAST takes on cases on a pro bono basis, provides training for lawyers and paralegals, holds legal clinics in economically deprived areas and works on public interest litigation. It was eye-opening to be part of an organisation that makes such a significant impact and to meet and work with the leading human rights lawyers in the country.

As a legal intern, I worked on a variety of projects, the topics ranging from ILO regulations to SRHR rights and juvenile death sentences. It was my wish to explore different topics, and I learned a great deal about international and Bangladeshi human rights law, as well as becoming confident in doing research into different jurisdictions. I got to do legal research and editing, and to write policy briefs and research reports. BLAST also took us interns on field trips to the Magistrate, Labour and Supreme Courts, a legal aid clinic in a local slum, the Liberation War Museum and different student events. The whole experience reaffirmed my decision to go into the legal sector, which for someone starting their final year was very useful.

Whilst communication difficulties were inevitable, everyone at BLAST was very friendly and welcomed me and the other interns. I was very happy to work closely with the amazing Honorary Executive Director Sara Hossain (Wadham, 1985), who regularly checked up on us interns to make sure that we had enough interesting work and were enjoying ourselves. I was so inspired by the people I worked with, and their ambition encouraged me to go on and have a career with a social impact.

Additionally, simply living in Dhaka was a great experience, even if a bit challenging at times. I stayed with a host family that I met through an old friend from school. It was good to live with local people, and I was really treated as a part of the family: I ate the same food, I visited my host sister's school and relatives, and the family took good care of me when I got the inevitable stomach bug during my second week in Dhaka. I'd never been to Asia before, so it was a bit of a culture shock for me, but the family was very supportive and I hope to keep in touch with them.

As an organisation that relies solely on donations, BLAST is unable to offer paid internships, although the trust paid for my daily commute and lunch in the office canteen. Without the financial support I received from Balliol, I wouldn't have been able to afford to do the internship. I'm so

grateful for the opportunity, and I believe that it made a significant impact on my future, both professionally and personally.



Miina Hiilloskivi, wearing a sari given to her by her host family

The opportunities described on this page and page 14 were made possible by the generosity of Old Members. If you would like to support Balliol students, please visit www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol/support.

Balliol climbers at BUCS

On 17 February 2018 four members of the newly formed Balliol Climbers group made their way up to Sheffield as part of the 22-strong team from Oxford University participating in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) climbing championship. The competition was stiff, with 259 men and 171 women vying for the title, and some semi-professional climbers amongst them. After a short brief about the rules, the climbers were released upon the 25 qualifying climbs. Three hours of pulling hard, teetering around

on tiny edges and falling off followed. The emphasis of the competition is on climbing the routes without making any mistakes, with climbers winning 10 points for getting to the top on the first try, and then 7 and 4 points for second and third attempts; but mostly people weren't taking things too seriously and were just enjoying the routes that had been set.

When all the chalk dust had settled, an order was established. Balliol scored strongly, with Felix Peterken finishing joint 35th and Stephanie Gaglione finishing

46th, the highest placed male and female representatives from Oxford University. Additionally, Zachary Leather placed 141st, only a few points away from finishing in the top half of the field in his first ever competition. Everyone in the club said the BUCS was worthwhile as a chance to meet more of their fellow climbers.

On the whole, it was a promising debut for the Balliol squad, who are looking forward to planning their first trip away sometime soon.

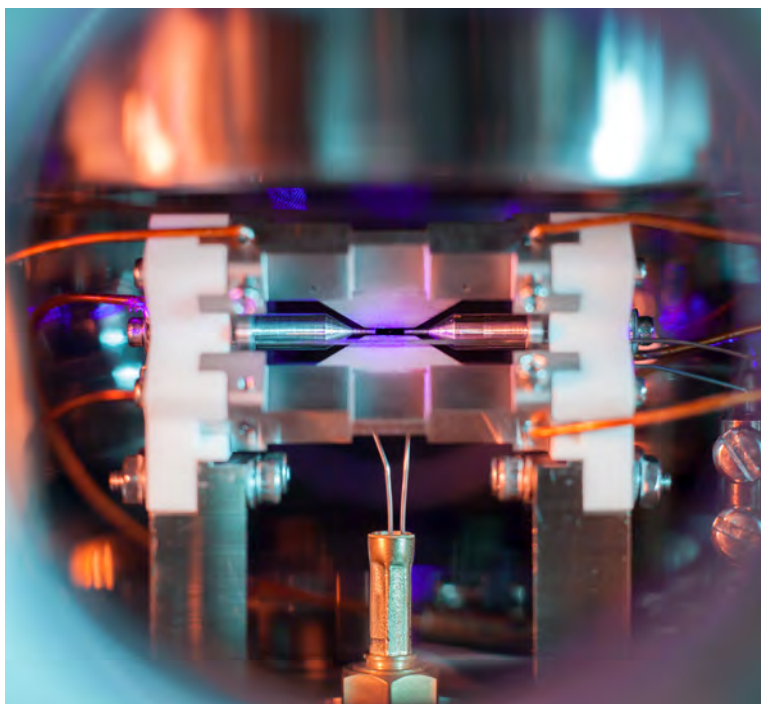


Photo of single atom wins national competition

David Nadlinger's photograph 'Single Atom in an Ion Trap' won the 2018 Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council science photography competition. In the centre of the picture a single positively charged strontium atom is held nearly motionless by electric fields emanating from the metal electrodes surrounding it: the atom can be seen as a small bright dot. David, who is reading for a DPhil in Atomic and Laser Physics, captured it through the window of a vacuum chamber that houses the trap, using an ordinary digital camera on a long exposure shot. 'The idea of being able to see a single atom with the naked eye had struck me as a wonderfully direct and visceral bridge between the minuscule quantum world and our macroscopic reality,' he said.

Orchestra tour

In December 2017 the Oxford University Wind Orchestra – including Balliol undergraduates Rhys Underdown (alto saxophone) and Alex Toal (trumpet and orchestra manager) – undertook an ambitious tour to the USA. The tour was entirely student-run, and the 56 members raised a total of £54,000 to fund the project, by organising bake sales, busking, and applying for travel grants from over 20 colleges across the University.

During their 12-day stay in the States, the orchestra visited Cornell, Massachusetts, Tufts, Brown, Princeton and Columbia Universities, playing in concerts

and workshops with the universities' own wind orchestras, and it was warmly welcomed across board. The tour was a wonderful opportunity, not only for music-making but also for sharing ideas and passions across the Atlantic, and many OUWO members are still in contact with their hosts from the States.

Alex and Rhys would in particular like to give thanks to Dr Quarrell (Fellow Dean and Lecturer in Chemistry), who was incredibly useful in giving advice, and to the College and the JCR, which both contributed financially to the tour.



Judo medal

Representing Oxford and Balliol, Vidar Skretting won a bronze medal in the European Universities Championship in judo at the Coimbra University Stadium in Portugal in July 2017 in the men's under 100kg category. Vidar, who comes from Norway, started judo when he was six years old and was on the Norwegian National Squad for many years. He is Men's Captain of Oxford Judo.

JCR introduces CAFG officers

In Trinity Term 2017, Balliol JCR voted to introduce a new committee position: Class Affiliations and First Generation (CAFG) Officer. Since Hilary 2018 Mollie Cross and I (Isis Kearney) have been working as the first ever CAFG Officers to serve a full term on the Balliol JCR committee.

What are CAFG Officers?

We aim to represent and support first generation students, and students from working-class backgrounds, low-income households, socio-economically deprived regions and state schools. 'Class Affiliations' represents the fact that we are trying to bridge a social gap and integrate everyone into our JCR regardless of their class. 'First Generation' highlights that we work for all first generation students, regardless of whether or not they identify as working class.

What challenges do the students we represent face?

Background is complicated, and no pair of individuals will share exactly the same feelings. However, issues often raised are:

- Feeling lonely in Oxford. Only 11.2% of the Balliol cohort is first generation, and students from working-class or low-income backgrounds are also underrepresented. Therefore, when we

discuss our homes, our towns, or the pressures we're under, whether they stem from university or home life, we can find ourselves describing experiences which no one else can relate to. This can be isolating.

- Feeling lonely at home. If our family and home friends are unused to higher education, it may be difficult for them to understand the pressures we're under as students, no matter how caring they are. We may also be unable to ask our parents for advice in the way that other students can.
- Financial difficulties.
- Academic difficulties. Schools' resources and philosophy can differ drastically by school type. State-educated students may find themselves struggling to write essays or adapt to tutorials if they haven't been taught some of the skills that other people have before coming to university.

How are we helping?

We have created a Facebook group and arranged events, aiming to foster a community atmosphere and remind those we represent that they aren't alone. With the JCR Access and Admissions Officers we organised a screening of a

documentary about social mobility, in the hope of raising awareness of class and access issues among the student body. We have gathered information about financial support to distribute it around the JCR. We are in the process of collating advice about how to structure essays for the JCR website. We have raised awareness of how background can impact academic performance at the College's Academic Committee, and we are working with the committee to implement change. We are also organising workshops for Freshers in which background will be discussed, in order to prepare students for difficulties they may face. We are providing a friendly face for any student who needs someone who can relate to their circumstances.

Already we have observed that our efforts are having a positive impact. There is now more awareness and discussion of class within our community in comparison to when we arrived, which we hope means that students feel less confused or alone about difficulties arising from their background. By offering more help for individuals to make the most of their time here, we hope that as CAFGOs we are broadening access to Oxford.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us: mollie.cross@balliol.ox.ac.uk or isis.kearney@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

First place in an international finance competition

MBA student Anders Smedsrud was one of five students from the Saïd Business School who represented Oxford University in the 18th Annual Wharton MBA Private Equity Buyout Case Competition.

Billed as 'the premier MBA-level LBO case competition in the world', the competition brings together teams from business schools around the world to evaluate and make recommendations for a proposed PE buyout transaction. Their presentations are judged by a panel of private equity professionals.

'The presentation was an investment analysis of a proposed buyout case of the American sports apparel and footwear

manufacturer Under Armour,' Anders explains. 'All the teams were given the same prompt ten days prior to the event, and it was up to us to decide whether or not to recommend a transaction to the investment committee. We argued that in the current market environment, with the strategic tools that are available to the company, it would be too expensive to take the company private to yield an attractive return with an exit planned in the next five years.'

'The competition was fierce, as we were put up against 26 of the world's top-ranked business schools. Fortunately, we had put in a lot of work and executed the presentation well, which led us to take first place overall!'



#VoteLeave or #StrongerIn

Yin Yin Lu (2014) considers resonance and rhetoric in the EU referendum



I came to the Oxford Internet Institute (OII) for the DPhil in Information, Communication, and the Social Sciences from a background in English language and literature, because I am fascinated by the art of rhetoric. My thesis attempts to answer an age-old question in a new media context: *What makes persuasive content work?* Why do people engage with content, and what makes some content go viral?

The 2016 EU referendum was an obvious context for my study of rhetoric: unlike in an election campaign, there were two clearly defined (and thereby polarised) sides, and the vote had significant implications for the future of the UK, Europe, and the rest of the world.

I settled upon Twitter because of data access: Facebook and Instagram share very limited information, whereas millions of real-time public tweets can be collected every day at no cost. What's more, almost all politicians and journalists tweet actively, so it was a centre of EU referendum debate online. I gathered 26 million tweets from March to September 2016, 12 million of which were from the referendum period (15 April–23 June).

Given the complexity of rhetoric, the size of the dataset, and the interdisciplinarity of the OII, I am employing a mixed methods approach. I have manually coded a random sample of 3,000 original tweets from the referendum period, computed multivariate regressions, and qualitatively analysed the outliers. The coding encompassed content,

context, and user features: attention-arresting elements, institutional support, message framing and structure, emotions, thematic content, action-orientation, and playfulness. I will scale up my coding to the entire dataset using semi-supervised natural language processing algorithms. Finally, I am interviewing key users to better understand their motivations and strategies.

It is important to note that over half of all tweets do not get a single retweet or like. Thus, success cannot be conceived of as virality; even getting one share or like can be considered as resonance. My main finding from my statistical analysis is that *content does not matter very much* – even if expressed with flair; humour, or strong emotions. What does matter is arresting attention visually: including an image or video in the message.

‘One thing is clear: social media companies need to be far better regulators of content. Bots and trolls are growing more and more influential.’

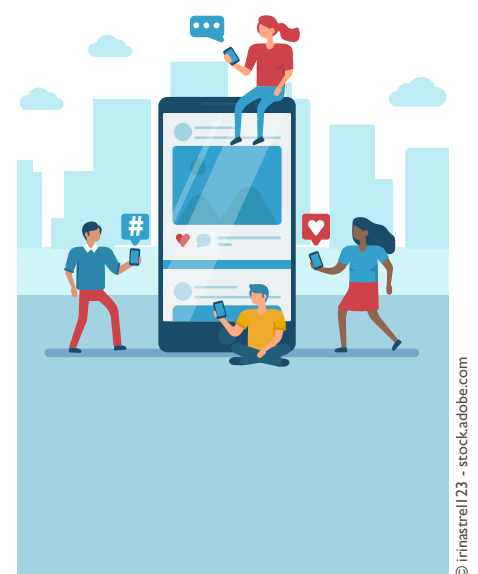
Institutional users, however, have a competitive advantage: their tweets are far more likely to resonate regardless of visual content. Thus, my results indicate that new media reinforces power structures in old media; politicians, journalists, and leaders of organisations are as dominant on Twitter as they are in newspaper headlines, despite the vast literature on the democratisation potential of social media.

All is, however, not lost for non-institutions. A unique minority of users who do not have institutional support manage to become extremely influential on social media. New theory is required to understand why they are so successful, and my thesis will contribute empirical evidence for such a theory.

I cannot comment on the impact of Twitter on the referendum result, as

Twitter users are not representative of the UK population. However, it is significant that many users who tweeted about the referendum had Brexit-related usernames, descriptions, or photos. This indicates a higher than usual degree of engagement with a political event. It is also important to note that journalists love Twitter: Tweets achieve prominence when they are quoted in the media; sometimes news articles are written about trending hashtags (#CatsAgainstBrexit is an excellent example). If the virality is orchestrated, news coverage can be skewed – which might affect popular opinion.

The significance and timeliness of the EU referendum has allowed my research to have public impact. I wrote a piece for the *Conversation* in the run-up to the referendum, and an analysis for the University of Oxford the month after the referendum. More recently, I have been approached by *The Times*, *The Guardian*, Sky News, CNN, the BBC, *The Economist*, *Huffington Post*, *Wired*, and other news outlets to investigate Russian interference in Brexit on Twitter. No solid evidence has emerged, but one thing is clear: social media companies need to be far better regulators of content. Bots and trolls are here to stay, and they are growing more and more influential.



Target democracy

Philip Howard (Professor of Internet Studies at the Oxford Internet Institute and Professorial Fellow) and Lisa-Maria Neudert (2016)

share their findings about computational propaganda on social media

Social media offers a powerful platform for pinpoint political campaigning, mobilising electoral support, and distributing news and information to a global audience with the click of a button. Networks like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have given a voice to the victims of sexual harassment in the #MeToo movement; offered activists during the Arab Spring a safe forum in which to coordinate; and in 2008 fuelled Barack Obama's successful presidential campaign. However, increasingly evidence accumulates that – far from empowering the public online – social media poses a threat to democracy.

Computational propaganda – the use of information technologies for political manipulation – is on the rise. Both state and non-state actors employ algorithms and automated political bots to demobilise opposition, generate false support, and disseminate junk news to sway public opinion. In some circumstances, the way coded automation interacts with human users is unforeseeable. In others, individuals and organisations work to build software that purposefully targets voters, activists, and political opponents. Highly targeted, viral messages used as computational propaganda fuel a new weaponisation

‘Increasingly evidence accumulates that – far from empowering the public online – social media poses a threat to democracy.’

of information. Powerful propaganda campaigns can be orchestrated from a smartphone, exploiting the dynamics of social networks to spread messages. The deep threats to democracy such actions present reach beyond Russian meddling. Promulgating alternative facts, seeding conflicting narratives, and hacking attention with information designed to go viral, are techniques that have reached the political mainstream.

It is because of its interconnectedness and openness that social media offers a vulnerable forum for foreign intervention into political public discourse. While US President Donald Trump questions claims of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential campaigns, and social network

companies downplay the networks' political potential, European leaders caution vocally about the threat of computational propaganda. UK Prime Minister Theresa May issued a stern warning to Russia over its attempts to 'threaten international order' with election meddling, hacking, and fake news. Following a cautionary speech by Chancellor Angela Merkel in front of the Bundestag in the wake of the US election, Germany has fast-tracked regulation to enforce the deletion of illegal fake news and hate speech from social media. Following in Germany's footsteps, French President Emmanuel Macron has announced plans for a law to combat fake news in January 2018.

Our project on computational propaganda at the Oxford Internet Institute seeks to dispel the fog surrounding propaganda campaigns and foreign intervention in pivotal moments of public life. Using social data science, we seek to educate the public during elections and referenda, to shed light on manipulative junk news and misinformation stories, and to investigate the strategies and actors in propaganda campaigns. Over the course of the last year, our project has studied elections in the US, UK, Germany and France; and it has researched the use and creation of computational propaganda campaigns in Brazil, China, Canada, Germany, the US, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, and Taiwan. With multiple elections in Latin America and Africa on the horizon as we write, a flourishing alternative media landscape, and junk science on issues such as climate change rapidly gaining support, eventful times lie ahead of us.

Computational propaganda spreads rapidly over social media, crossing international borders and reaching across multiple platforms. Propaganda messages take on a multitude of forms to reach their audience: hyper-targeted political advertising, the polarisation of junk news stories designed to go viral, automated political bots disseminating a flood of



Rob Judges



messages, or public pages operated by trolls taking on fake identities tailored to resonate with vulnerable groups in the population. To study the algorithms that create and disseminate political content, our research applies real-time, computational data science of social media, combined with fieldwork to study the phenomena in their social context. To engage the public in key moments of political life, we collaborate with the media; and we engage closely with multi-stakeholders in regulation and technology to disseminate our research results.

Our global and multiplatform research has manifested an insistent conclusion. The manipulation of public discourse on social media is a mainstream phenomenon, impacting regimes, democracies, elections, referenda, and everyday public life. In 2014 the World Economic Forum declared the spread of misinformation online as one of the top ten perils to society. In our comparative analysis of the spread of junk news during elections – hyperpartisan, ideologically extreme, or conspiratorial political news and information and often deliberately produced false reporting – we found that every country studied shared some significant amount of junk news over social media. In France, where users value traditional media outlets, the ratio of professional news to junk news was the highest, with 7:1. In Germany and the UK we found a ratio of 4:1 with junk news accounting for roughly a fifth of all news and information circulated. In the US, our research documented a ratio of 1:1 with one piece of junk news for every piece of professional news and information being shared. What is more, we found that polarisation was concentrated in swing states, suggesting a strategic dissemination of misinformation to impact public life.

Despite this clear evidence of propaganda campaigns, scepticism about interference in elections is prevalent,

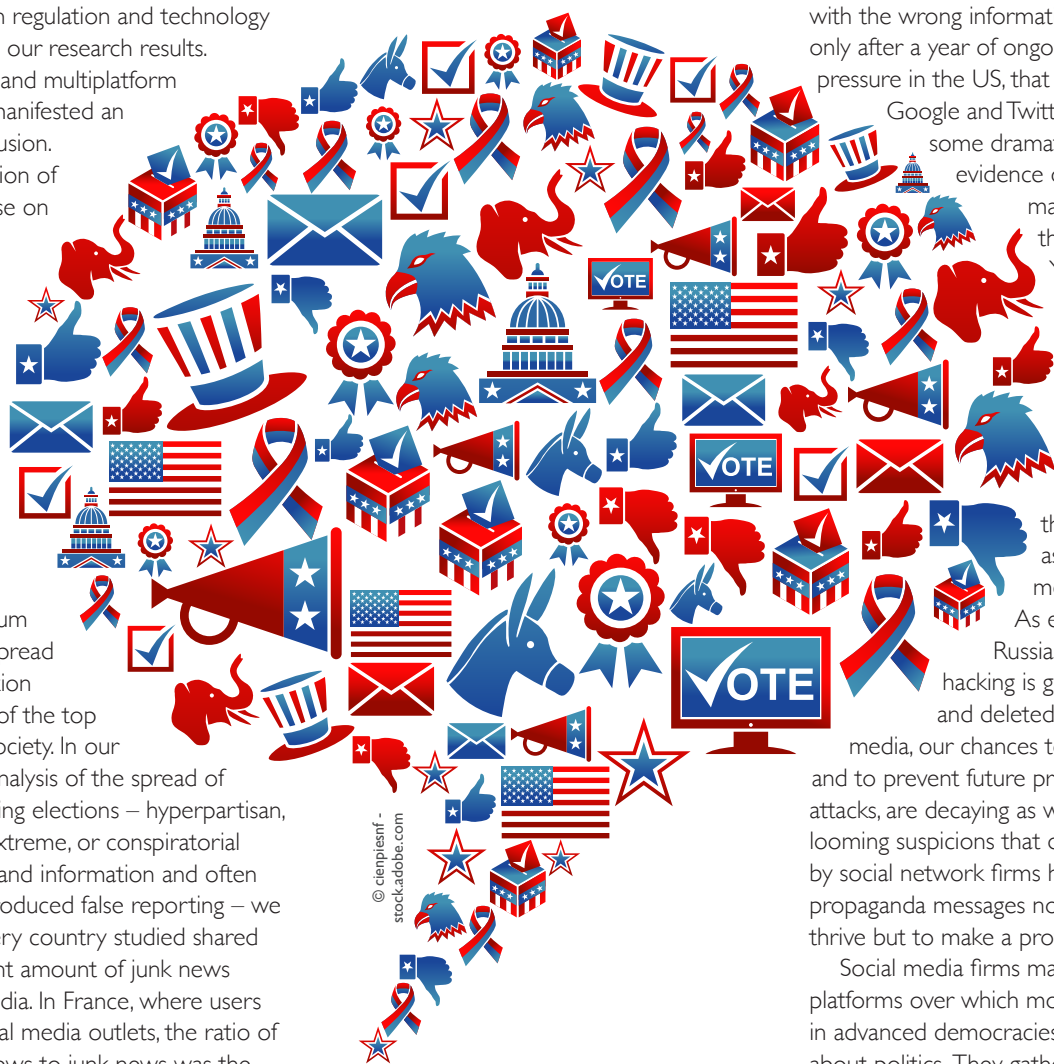
hard evidence scarce, and culprits remain faceless. Social media platforms are partly to blame for sending us into a democratic deficit, and exposing our public discourse to foreign attacks. Junk news, campaigns of misinformation, and hate speech on social media have eroded our ability to deliberate and make informed decisions. Certainly, social media networks like Facebook and Twitter do not produce propaganda. But they do serve it up to citizens.

However, the real sin, on the part of social media firms, has been an act of omission: they have failed to contribute the data that democratic public discourse needs to flourish freely. While sitting on immense troves of information on propaganda campaigns and election meddling, social media firms watched as international leaders, journalists and civil society groups made bad judgements about foreign interventions in their democracies, and poor decisions with the wrong information. It was only after a year of ongoing public pressure in the US, that Facebook,

Google and Twitter have shared some dramatic pieces of evidence of Russian voter manipulation on their platforms. Yet the evidence remains fragmentary and inaccessible to inspection through independent third parties, such as research or media institutions. As evidence of Russian election hacking is gradually buried and deleted from social

media, our chances to analyse, and to prevent future propaganda attacks, are decaying as well. Instead, looming suspicions that data offered by social network firms has helped propaganda messages not only to thrive but to make a profit, prevail.

Social media firms manage the platforms over which most citizens in advanced democracies now talk about politics. They gather valuable data about public discourse and could strengthen our institutions and bring to light the information attacks on our democracies. We thought social media firms would give us access to lots of different people. Instead, they give us access to many people with the same point of view. Some technical redesign and quality control would take a lot of the propaganda and junk news out of circulation. But the next step is actively to help policy makers, journalists and civil society groups understand the nuances of public opinion.



‘Junk news, campaigns of misinformation, and hate speech on social media have eroded our ability to deliberate and make informed decisions.’



Dynamics, vibration and uncertainty

Alice Cicirello (Career Development Fellow in Engineering Science)
explains her research interest and passion



Many industries require that design constraints relating to vibration and acoustic performance are met. For example, a car manufacturer needs to limit interior noise in a car to acceptable levels (usually below 50 decibels), in order to avoid complaints from customers. Imagine: you finally get to buy the latest model of the car of your dreams. While driving, you start to hear an annoying noise (and it is definitely not coming from your partner complaining about how expensive the car was). You are not happy about it and you try to fix it, but you can't. In despair, you return the car to the manufacturer. If you were not the only person experiencing the problem, the manufacturer might have many expensive cars being returned. Not only would the manufacturer have to withdraw that model from the market

and perform costly modifications to it, but there would be loss of reputation. Likewise in the space industry vibration levels must be considered to ensure that vibration, both during launch and in orbital operation, does not damage sensitive equipment or hinder performance. Think about sending a satellite into space and then not being able to communicate with it because an electronic component was damaged during launch: there would be very expensive consequences in that case too.

What these two examples have in common is that they involve structures made of many components. These structures are subject to broad-band loadings – for example, the engine noise of a car and the interaction of that car with the pavement – which can excite multiple vibration and acoustic modes. To avoid

this type of problem, one solution that a manufacturer could consider would be to build several physical prototypes of the actual structure and test them. But this approach could be very expensive and time-consuming; moreover, it might be difficult to reproduce the same operating conditions of the manufactured product during testing.

Advanced computing capabilities have supported the widespread use of Computer-Aided-Engineering tools to explore rapidly the performance of the design of large structures (such as cars, satellites, drilling tools) by building full-scale virtual prototypes – so-called ‘digital twins’ – instead of building multiple pricey physical prototypes. Going back to the car example, an engineering team can build a three-dimensional mathematical model (known as a Finite Element model) of a car to verify its noise performance. Such a model will take into account all the main structural components of the car – the

frame, doors, seats, engine, and so on. The model looks like a drawing of the car, but it also includes all the mechanical properties and the mathematical relationships to describe how the car will respond to different types of loadings (for example, the engine noise and the interaction of the car with the pavement). The mathematical model can then be used to assess the response of the virtual car under specified loadings, and the car design can be optimised to ensure that the noise of the final product is below 50 decibels, before the product is manufactured.

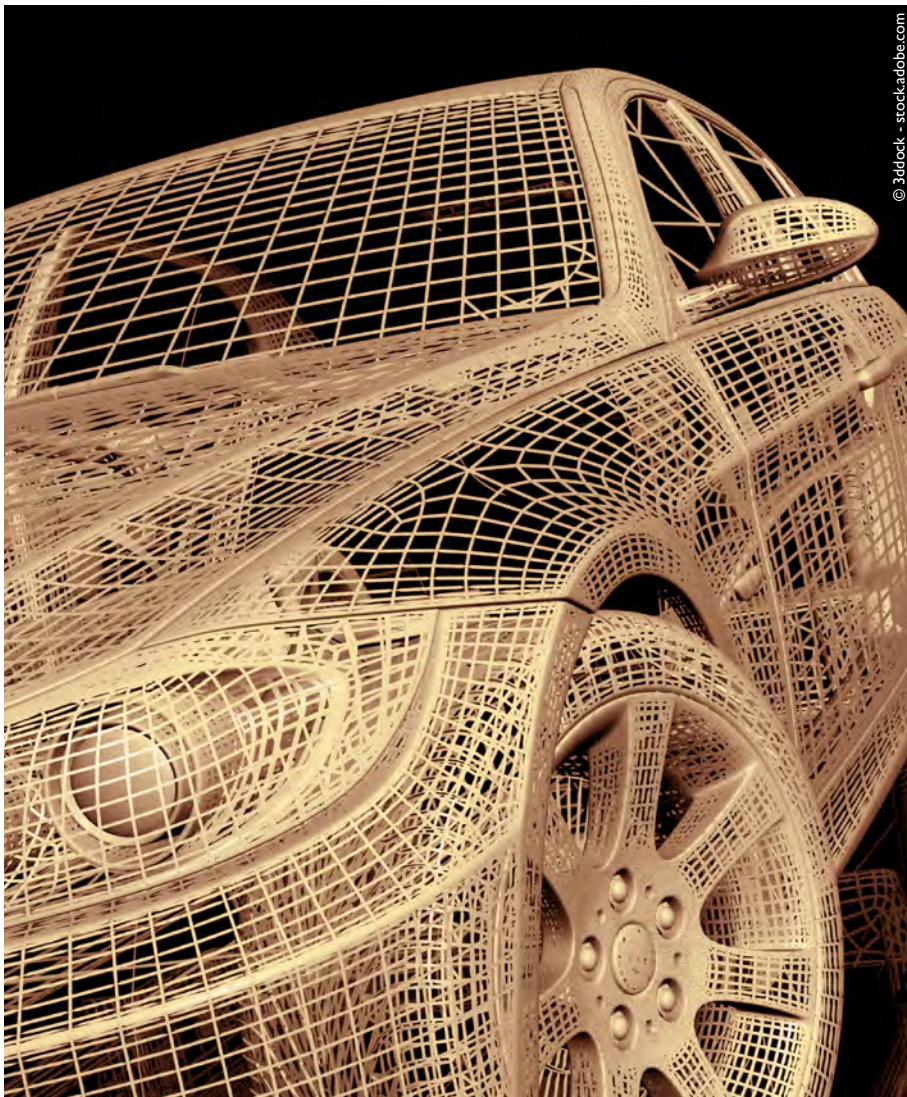
Problem solved. Well ... not quite! Building a digital twin that is a true representation of the real structure is very difficult. You need to capture the underlying physics of the problem, using very detailed information about the mechanical and geometrical properties of all components, contact regions, and so on. Even if you are able to build the perfect digital twin you then have to face

another problem: the predicted vibration and noise performance obtained with the digital twin might be significantly different from the one obtained via testing of the real structure. For instance, the measured interior noise levels of cars from the same production line may vary by around 10 decibels from one car to another. This problem is due to manufacturing tolerances of the various components of the car and to variability in the material properties of the roof and window panels; it may also be due to the presence of small attachments, such as the bundles of wires to power windows, which were not included in the model because they are installed at a later stage of the design. Such variability leads (again) to expensive modifications of the manufactured product in order to meet the performance requirements.

I hope you can now appreciate that, in order to assess the performance of engineering structures, it is important to understand the fundamental physics of the problem; develop efficient experimental and modelling strategies; validate advanced models with experiments on substructures and/or on the full assembly; and account for manufacturing variability. This is my research interest and my passion!

I work on the development of advanced mathematical models of engineering structures which account for uncertainties and manufacturing variability by using parametric uncertainty modelling (including intervals, probability density functions, imprecise probabilities) and non-parametric uncertainty modelling (such as Statistical Energy Analysis) to yield the performance envelope of an ensemble of engineering systems. This ensemble may be real (for example, cars from a production line) or virtual but realisable (such as an ensemble of manufactured satellites, when only one satellite can be built). I have recently established the Dynamics, Vibration and Uncertainty (DVU) Laboratory and I currently supervise five research students who are working on constrained damping layer models and experiments, dynamic friction models, manufacturing variability assessment through acoustic testing, and dynamic analysis of shafts with geometrical discontinuities.

If you want to know more about my research and current projects in the DVU Lab, please do not hesitate to contact me at alice.cicirello@balliol.ox.ac.uk.



Bookshelf

Everyone Brave is Forgiven

Chris Cleave (1991)

Sceptre, 2016

The Second World War is the setting for Chris Cleave's fourth novel. Based on the lives of his grandparents, it follows the lives of three young people: Mary, who abandons finishing school to become a teacher; Tom, who wants to ignore the war and falls in love with Mary; and his roommate Alistair, who enlists and is sent to serve in Malta. As London endures the Blitz and Malta comes under siege, all three of them – and the connections between them – are tested to their limits.



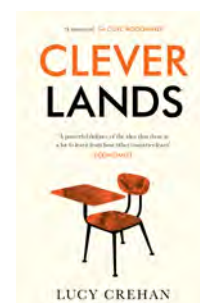
'Cleave's foray into historical fiction is both grand and intimate. The novel's ability to stay small and quiet against the raging tableau of war is what also makes it glorious, an absorbing account of survival, racism, classism, love and pain, and the scars left by all of them.' *New York Times*

Cleverlands: The Secrets Behind the Success of the World's Education Superpowers

Lucy Crehan (2005)

Random House, 2016

As a teacher, Lucy Crehan became exasperated with ever-changing government policy claiming to be based on lessons from 'top-performing' education systems and curious about what was really going on in countries whose teenagers ranked top in the world in reading, maths and science. So she set off through Finland, Japan, Singapore, Shanghai and Canada, teaching in schools, immersing herself in their cultures and discovering surprising truths about school life. In *Cleverlands* she weaves together her experiences with research on policy, history, psychology and culture to offer her insights.



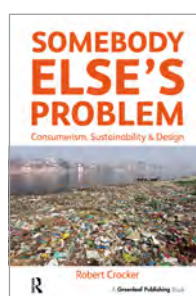
'A powerful defence of the idea that there is a lot to learn from how other countries learn.' *The Economist*

Somebody Else's Problem: Consumerism, Sustainability and Design

Robert Crocker (1979)

Greenleaf UK, 2016

This book calls for a radical change in how we think about our material world, and how we design, make and use the products and services we need. Rejecting the idea that individuals alone are responsible for the environmental problems we face, Robert Crocker challenges us to look again at 'high carbon' development and its role in depleting resources and degrading environmental systems; he considers the problems of consumerism and their environmental effects; and he explores new methods of production that can reduce our excess consumption and help us achieve a sustainable future.



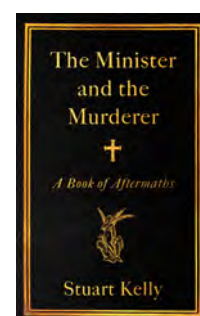
Winner of the Axiom Business Book Award 2017 (gold), sustainability category

The Minister and the Murderer: A Book of Aftermaths

Stuart Kelly (1990)

Granta, 2018

When a convicted murderer applied to be ordained as a minister, the Church of Scotland was sorely divided in its response. Forty years on, literary critic and former Man Booker prize judge Stuart Kelly explores the case and the ethical, moral and spiritual dilemmas it posed, combining his narrative with a history of the church, analysis of biblical and literary accounts of forgiveness and sin, and personal memoir.



'What an extraordinary book. It follows no known laws, fits no existing genre. It is, unmistakably, the work of a polymathic thinker who is also a writer of rare elegance.' Robert Macfarlane

Economics as Applied Ethics: Fact and Value in Economic Policy

Wilfred Beckerman (Tutor in Economics 1964–69 and 1975–1992 and Emeritus Fellow)

Palgrave Macmillan, 2017

In this substantially revised edition, the author highlights the main value judgements in the analysis of what policies contribute to society's economic welfare, and includes perspectives addressing the moral limits of the market, the latest behavioural economics



literature, and the changes in inequality over the years. Descriptions of basic philosophical concepts are followed by conventional welfare economic theory and policy, and by applications to topical economic problems such as income distribution and sustainable development.

'This book is witty and wise, and a delight to read. It will enlighten economists – both students and teachers – and will encourage non-economists skeptical of the subject's ability to contribute to human welfare to think again.' Wendy Carlin, Professor of Economics, University College London

The Reputation Game: The Art of Changing How People See You
David Waller (1981) and Rupert Young
 Oneworld, 2017

Arguing that reputation – for individuals, companies or countries – is more valuable than money, the authors analyse how reputation is formed and why it matters. They draw on academic research and interviews with high-profile people – LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman, musician Jay-Z and Booker-prize winner Hilary Mantel among them – to show how the game works, including how reputation can be lost and regained, and to demonstrate winning strategies.

'This interesting book places the issue in its rigorously argued context – an important matter for every senior executive in the public and private sectors.' Lord Patten, Chancellor of Oxford University



WTF: What have we done? Why did it happen? How do we take back control?
Robert Peston (1979)
 Hodder and Stoughton, 2017

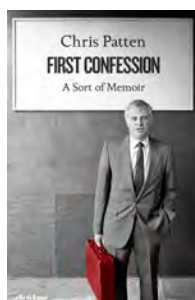
In the wake of recent political shocks, Robert Peston draws on his experience as a political, economics and business journalist to analyse what went wrong: what brought Corbyn, May and Trump to prominence, economic reasons for the Brexit vote, why immigration has come to dominate politics and much more. Addressing the challenges of the age and giving his views on how we might do things better in the future – for example, how it is possible to make a success of leaving the EU, lessons that can be learned from the Grenfell Tower fire, how to mend the fractures in society – he argues that at least some of what went wrong could be put right.

'Richly argued and brilliantly written ... a deeply thoughtful analysis that should be mandatory reading for anyone seeking to understand where we have gone wrong.' *Financial Times*



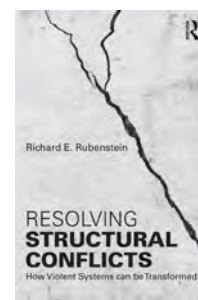
First Confession: A Sort of Memoir
Chris Patten (1962, Chancellor of Oxford University)
 Allen Lane, 2017

Setting out to explore 'the relationship between politics and identity', Chris Patten combines an account of the things that have shaped him in his life and career – as MP, cabinet member, last Governor of Hong Kong, European Commissioner, Chairman of the BBC, Chancellor of the University – with his opinions on what has happened in the world in his lifetime. How far Balliol made him – especially his tutors ('a galaxy of brilliant and eccentric historians, all of them both clever and kind') and his Pathfinder award (Balliol's 'equivalent of the lottery') – is among his reflections.



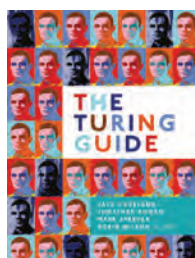
Resolving Structural Conflicts: How Violent Systems Can Be Transformed
Professor Richard Rubenstein (1959)
 Routledge, 2017

This book analyses structural or system-generated conflicts and poses the fundamental question: 'If there are social or political systems generating this conflict, how can they be changed?' Showing how systems established to maintain order sometimes end by generating serious violence, the author (who is University Professor of Conflict Resolution and Public Affairs at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University) discusses how to envision and implement new methods of transforming violence-prone systems in order to create the conditions for positive peace.



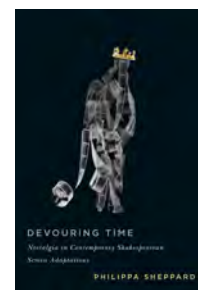
The Turing Guide
Professor Robin Wilson (1962), Jack Copeland, Jonathan Bowen and Mark Sprevak, eds
 OUP, 2017

This book brings together articles from experts on Alan Turing, to create a comprehensive guide to Turing that aims to serve as a useful resource for researchers in the area as well as the general reader. The book – which is extensively illustrated – covers aspects of Turing's life and the full range of his intellectual activities, including mathematics, code-breaking, computer science, logic, artificial intelligence and mathematical biology, as well as his subsequent influence. Some of the 33 contributors worked at Bletchley and knew Turing personally.



Devouring Time: Nostalgia in Contemporary Shakespearean Screen Adaptations
Philippa Sheppard (1989)
 McGill Queen's University Press, 2017

Analysing 27 films based on Shakespeare's works, from Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V* to Justin Kurzel's *Macbeth*, the author investigates the filmmakers' nostalgia for the art of the past. Addressing a range of topics, including gender, ritual, music, setting, rhetoric, and editing, she argues that the directors' choice to adapt these 400-old plays is an act of nostalgia, not only for the plays themselves, but also for the period in which they were written, the association of genius that accompanies them and the medium of theatre.



'It is, I think, pretty much the last word on the subject.' *New Scientist*

Nicholas Crouch reconstructed

Naomi Tiley (Librarian) shares some discoveries

Thanks to generous funding by the Wellcome Trust, in 2016–2017 the Library was able to bring to light the remarkable collection of Nicholas Crouch (1634 and Fellow 1640–c.1690). Nikki Tomkins (project conservator) and Lucy Kelsall (project cataloguer) described the first part of their work in *Floreat Domus 2017*. Now that their work is complete, I would like to share some of their discoveries.

One of the great finds of the project was a manuscript hidden among the printed books: Crouch's lending book. It records Crouch's personal connections through the use of his library, as well as giving an idea of who was reading what in the College community and further abroad at the time. Another telling manuscript is Crouch's diary. Its sparse entries record momentous occasions such as the deaths of Charles I and of his own parents but also occasional treats such as eating deer pasty or buying a fashionable fabric for a coat, which suggest that luxuries were notable for Crouch.

The diary begins with an enigmatic inscription:

*For Heavens & fortune both agree
Noe woman 'ere should pittie mee*

We do not know what Crouch (a bachelor) meant by this, but perhaps we can infer that he was happy in a life in which he was fully occupied, travelling the country to visit friends and family and look after the College's business, and pursuing the wide range of interests that his books show him to have had.

Crouch's books – 2,000 individual works ranging from contemporary textbooks on gynaecology to a novel with a Persian setting – open a window on to the 17th century. Before the project started we did not have a clear idea of what was in the collection and many of the books were too fragile to open without seriously damaging them. Now a full catalogue of the collection is available through SOLO



Nikki Tomkins repairing a paper tear.

(Oxford libraries' online catalogue) and the books are safe to be handled carefully.

Through his books and manuscripts, Nicholas Crouch the man has emerged. In meticulous, handwritten contents lists, recording prices paid for each title in each volume, and mathematical annotations in the texts, we see a picture of a careful administrator with an interest in numbers. Crouch's neat handwriting can also be found throughout the College's administrative archive.

Crouch was particularly interested in medicine and this is reflected in the high

number of medical books in his collection and his surviving manuscript prescription book. An intriguing number of these books are on gynaecological subjects and there is an entry in his diary which suggests he attended at the birth of a friend's daughter.

His curiosity evidently extended far beyond medicine. He was a member of the Oxford Philosophical Society, which held meetings in the Ashmolean Museum to pursue what we would now think of as scientific enquiry but was then known as natural philosophy. His library gave Balliol its first volumes of *The Philosophical*



A severe case before and after conservation [Balliol shelfmark 915 f 8].

Transactions of the Royal Society, the world's first scientific journal. At the back of an early chemistry book, we see Crouch conducting his own experiment.

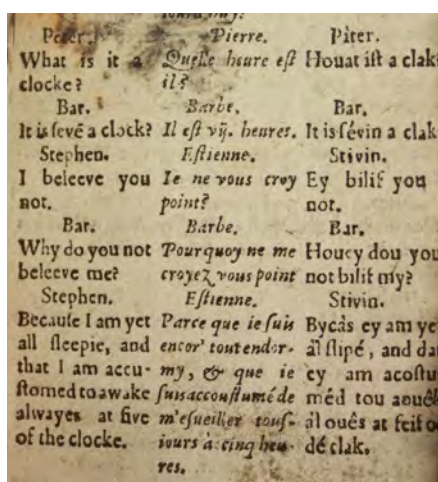
Languages abound in the collection, including Persian, Armenian, Amharic, Latin, Greek, Arabic, Hebrew, French, and German. Language learning also features: a 1622 edition of Jacques Bellot's *Familiar Dialogues*, unique to Balliol, promises to help French people to learn to pronounce English. Why Crouch might have needed this we do not know; perhaps for the comedy value of the dialogues. Each page has three columns of text, side by side: English, French and an attempt at a phonetic rendering of the English pronunciation, designed for French speakers.

Crouch's reading ranged too over religion, politics, history, and even to such fiction as a novel drawn from a contemporary description of the life of Shah Safi II.

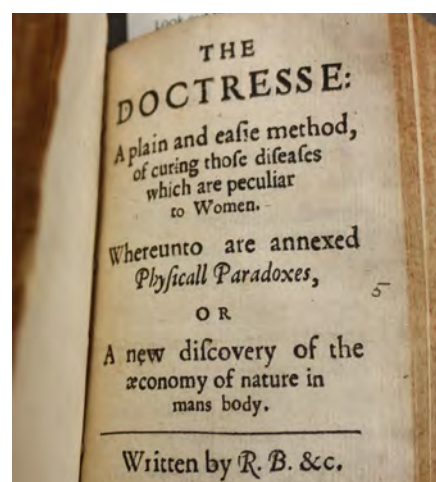
His copy of *Museum Wormianum*, an illustrated catalogue of Ole Worm's collection of curiosities, has a 17th-century musical manuscript bound at the beginning and the end. Unfortunately the College was not given, or did not choose to keep, any books of music belonging to Crouch. We know he had both a book of songs collected by John Playford and John Hilton's rounds and catches, as his lending book records their loan on 27 February 1672 to Robert Hawkins, another member of the College.

There is still plenty of Crouch's life to reconstruct and Crouch himself is just one aspect of the collection which calls for further research. The Library plans to share with the public what we have learnt about Crouch through a dedicated exhibition to coincide with Oxford Open Doors 2018, and in new schools sessions based on the material. We also plan to promote the potential of the collection to the academic community through a research day in autumn 2018.

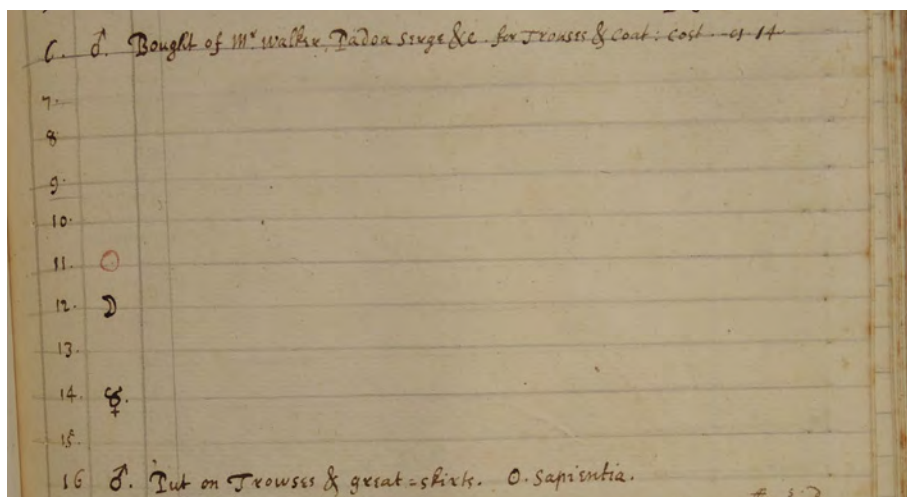
The success of the project has been in a large way due to collaboration: between library, academic, development and accounts colleagues to secure and administer the Wellcome Trust funding, and between conservators and cataloguers to deliver the project outcomes. We hope that Nicholas Crouch's library will continue to inspire collaboration, and research, in order to answer some of the many questions raised by the documents discovered in it.



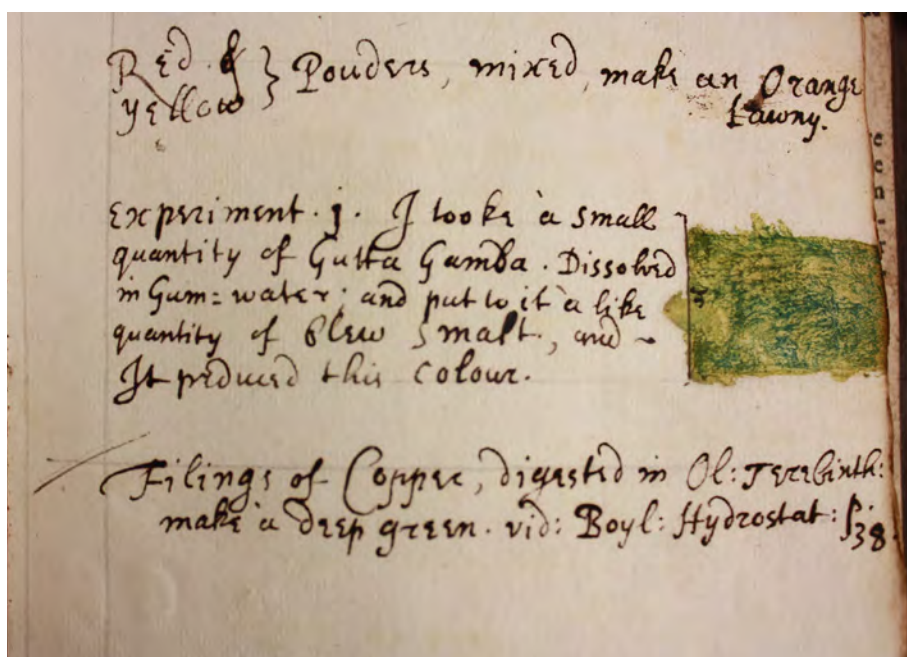
Dialogue in which children argue about getting up in the morning from Jacques Bellot's *Familiar Dialogues* [Balliol shelfmark 910 a 5 (3)].



The Doctrines [Balliol shelfmark 910 a 2 (5)], one of several gynaecological books in Crouch's library.



Nicholas Crouch records commissioning trousers and putting them on in December 1664.



Crouch experiments with making different colour inks [Balliol shelfmark Arch A 4 2].



Professor Stephen Hawking (centre) with, left to right, Joey Goldman, Ben Pope, presenter Jeremy Paxman, Freddy Potts and Jacob Lloyd

How Balliol won University Challenge

Jacob Lloyd (2014) remembers the journey to the trophy

I first met Joey Goldman when we both made the Balliol *University Challenge* team in the first year of my DPhil. We did not get selected for that series, but we were determined to do better next time.

I told Joey that I had a friend who would be a good addition to the team. This was Ben Pope. A DPhil astrophysicist, he had studied Classics as part of his undergraduate degree. The breadth of his knowledge was intimidating. I had got to know Ben, a real raconteur, at the Megaron, the MCR bar. I was pleased to see him at the University Challenge trials the following year. After the written test and buzzer trials Ben, Joey (as captain) and I were all selected. We were joined by two Freshers who had impressed: Kitt Rasmussen and Freddy Potts (who was the reserve).

For our audition with the producers, we prepared by planning answers to questions we knew they would ask, especially about why we had chosen our subjects. Ben was the star of the show, explaining how he had been short-sighted, but undiagnosed, as a child and when he was given glasses he had

'I wasn't nervous, exactly. I was no longer aware of the audience, of my teammates, just Paxman.'

seen, for the first time, the amazing beauty of the stars. After that, what else would he want to study but astrophysics? Ben later admitted to us that this story was at least 'partly true'. Overall, I think we came across as a group of romantic, amusing young men. We thought we had done well on the written quiz as well. A few weeks later, Joey informed us via Facebook that we had been selected for the show.

Unfortunately, Kit had to drop out. Freddy replaced him in the team, while Laurence Warner became the reserve. It is a thankless task being the reserve, but Laurence was brilliant throughout: always supportive, never complaining, despite the fact that he had Finals to revise for.

Before the first match, the producer checked that we were happy with the Balliol introduction. I requested that Gerard Manley Hopkins (1863) be added to the list of alumni mentioned, to which Joey assented because none of Balliol's poets would be included otherwise.

Our series did not start well, as Imperial College London got the first question ('Umberto Eco'). After the bonus set, Paxman began reading out the next starter:

'In an Act of the same name of 1713, Parliament voted to provide a public reward ...'

I recalled a two-part drama series I had watched as a 13-year-old.

'... for such person or persons as shall discover ...'

I looked down at my buzzer and pressed as hard as I could.

'... within certain presc—'

'Balliol, Lloyd!'

I wasn't nervous, exactly. I was no longer aware of the audience, of my teammates, just Paxman.

'Longitude?' There was a hint of uncertainty in my voice.

'Correct.'

It was the first correct buzz by anyone on the team. I had buzzed early and I still think it was my best buzz of the series.

We struggled in the game for a bit. Imperial got two starters, but Ben came to our rescue. First he buzzed in with the answer 'Jericho' to a question asking for a city on the West bank of the river Jordan, and then with 'Taylor Swift' as the name connecting the author of *A Modest Proposal* and the actress who won an academy award for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* After bonuses, we were never behind again. We won 220–55.

For our second match, against Robinson, Cambridge, Freddy had his strongest game with four correct buzzes, and Joey was on form with six. There was one incident which became, bizarrely, controversial. Asked to identify the actor who founded RADA, Joey suggested 'Laurence Olivier' and then had the temerity to answer back when mocked by Paxman for the answer: 'Well, we might as well guess something.' Some viewers seemed to find this impertinent. This impression was deepened when Paxman said the answer was 'Sir Herbert Draper Beerbohm Tree' and Joey appeared to offer a sarcastic 'Terrific' in response. In fact, it was Ben who, with good-natured enthusiasm, said 'Terrific name' upon hearing the answer.

Against Wolfson, Cambridge, for our first quarter-final, we encountered Eric Monkman, their star player. Unfortunately, I got muddled on the first starter and made an incorrect early buzz (my first 'neg' of the series), losing us 5 points. My bad start set the tone for a frenetic, error-filled match. At one point we were 60 to -5 behind, but thanks to Joey and Freddy, we fought back, and late on, even took a 125–110 lead. However, Monkman then got three starters in a row. Although Joey got the final starter, it was too late and we lost 165–135.

It was a really exciting match, but at the time we could only think of our defeat. Aside from Freddy, we had pretty much all had bad games, sharing six incorrect early buzzes. I felt responsible because I had

made no correct buzzes. My teammates were really supportive, though, and told me not to worry. We were determined to come back stronger.

Before our next match, Ben managed to book us a visit to Chetham's Library, where Marx and Engels became intimate. By now we had become really close, and practised enough that we knew how each other thought.

Against Birmingham we started well, but, after we failed to get any of a bonus round on 'Australian deserts', Paxman made one of his snide remarks: 'What's the point of having an Australian if he doesn't know things like that?' Joey responded, 'Well, he knows physics.' After I got the next starter, we had a bonus set on physics. Ben supplied all three answers. The incident demonstrated Joey at his best as a captain: uncowed and showing his confidence in the rest of the team. From then on, we steamed ahead and we ended up winning 265–65.

'Whenever we met up, we couldn't resist whispering, 'We won University Challenge.' The experience created an extraordinary friendship between the four of us.'

It was the widest margin of victory in any match in the series. Having got two starters, I was relieved to be contributing again.

Our remaining quarter-final, against Corpus Christi, whom we knew from quizzing in Oxford, and the semi, against Edinburgh, were both games which we expected to be tough. However, we started both matches strongly, and maintained a clear lead throughout.

For the final, we had a reunion with Wolfson, Cambridge. There was a bit of socialising between the teams beforehand: the two Bens (Pope and Chaudhri) were fairly matey, since both were physicists, and Laurence had become friendly with Wolfson's reserve, Louis Ashworth.

We had agreed a strategy for the match: we would not try to buzzer-race Monkman, but play at our usual (still quick) pace. We felt we could outscore them on bonuses if we did not make buzzer mistakes.

The game got off to a good start, as Ben recognised the description of 'Paris' for the first starter. Wolfson then took charge, answering the next four starters correctly. Their performance on the bonuses was not strong, so they opened up a lead of just 40 points. Ben got the next starter on statistics and Monkman negged twice in a row. For the second one, which was the location of the 'Iron Crown of Lombardy', Freddy signalled with his fist to leave the question to him. We waited and he answered, correctly: 'Monza'. We took a brief lead, but Wolfson's Chaudhri took the audio round, and scores were level at 80–80.

In the second half, the lead switched back and forth. Monkman was extremely quick, but he also negged a further three times, twice allowing Joey to come in with the right answer. Ben had carried us in the first half, but in the second it was Joey. His speed in recognising the picture starter (Velázquez reinterpreting Picasso) was testament to his knowledge of art history and restored our lead. Joey got the next two starters, but then Monkman did the same. The match was still close. We were 165–140 ahead when Joey named the Chinese dynasty whose time spanned the lives of Gavin Douglas, Thomas Malory and Edmund Spenser: Ming. We picked up all three bonuses on German cities. The gong sounded before Paxman could finish the next question. We had won 190–140.

Ben and I had lost all sense of time: we had not realised we were so close to the end of the match, so there was just an immediate sense of relief. Our strategy had worked. Afterwards, we felt huge pride at being the first Balliol team to win the trophy. Whenever we met up, we couldn't resist whispering, 'We won University Challenge.' The experience created an extraordinary friendship between the four of us, which has lasted well beyond the TV series.

The producers had told us that the trophy presentation would take place some time later because someone really exciting was going to present it. When we were informed that the presentation would take place in Cambridge, we were pretty confident we had guessed who it would be.

When Professor Hawking entered the oak-panelled room in Gonville and Caius College, the excitement was palpable. Our experience of the show had been incredible, and we concluded it by drinking sherry with Wolfson, the best of rivals, all of us in awe of the eminent scientist.



The Garden Quad in Wartime

John Jones (1961 and Emeritus Fellow) tells the story of a Balliol painting

The College's most interesting 20th-century painting hangs in the College Office corridor. By the distinguished artist Richard Eurich (1903–1992),¹ it has been called *Officers and Men of the Allied Nations, Balliol*, although there are in fact several women in it. I used this great picture as a major illustration in the revised College history, where I called it *The Garden Quad*

in Wartime, and my interest was renewed last year when Eurich's daughter Philippa Bambach visited in connection with the catalogue raisonné of his work which is being compiled.

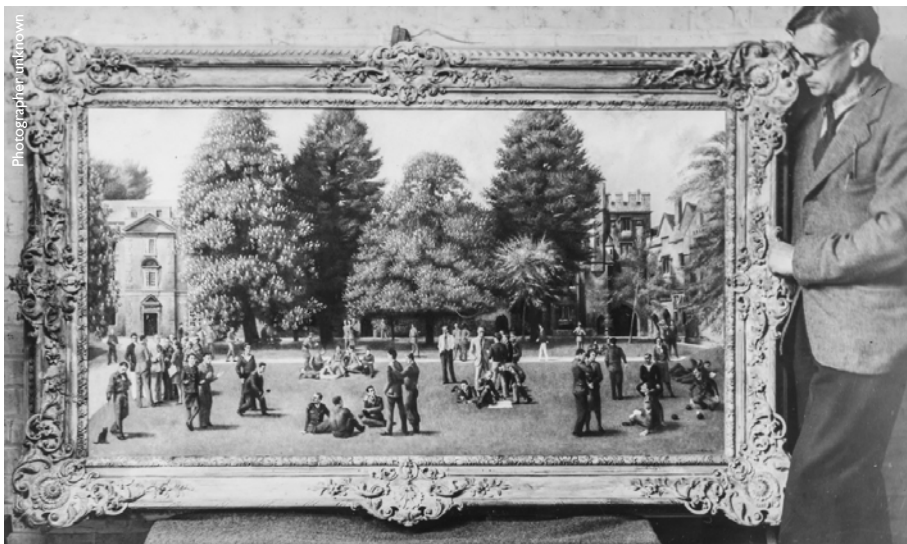
The painting, in oils on coarse-grained canvas, is in a reused antique frame which has been stripped and altered to fit. Beautifully carved, the frame was

expertly examined and conserved by Victoria Boyer in 1997. It was probably made in France during the early 18th century, and was originally gilded – traces of the gesso base remain.

Eurich signed the painting without date, but entries in his unpublished diary show that it was painted in 1946–1947, although what it represents took place in 1943–1945. He started his studio work on 24 September 1946, daunted by a 'hell of a job and undertaking', and did not decide to 'call it finished' until 3 October 1947. He made several special trips to Oxford, including one on 21 May 1947 to see the chestnut trees in bloom. Although he is best known for his seascapes and as an official war artist, trees feature frequently in his later work. Christie's sold a simple small landscape of his concentrating on flowering chestnuts in 2002.



Detail of the carved frame.



Richard Eurich with his painting.

Our painting was commissioned by Vincent Massey (1911, later Governor General of Canada) as a thank-offering² for the survival of his sons Lionel and Hart Massey (1935 and 1936), who had both been wounded in action during the First World War. Intended for the Massey Room, which Massey had funded in the mid-thirties, it hung there for around 40 years before removal to its present location. Massey was evidently pleased with it: he thought Eurich's fee too modest at £400 (including £60 for the frame) and paid him £500.

The military people in the picture were not members of the College, but were attending one of the Short Leave Courses for junior officers and other ranks which were staged in Balliol from 1943 to 1945. Lasting about a week, the courses comprised a few lectures and discussions on cultural and political topics, and a lot of social activity. Some seventy or eighty Americans and Canadians, along with a few other Allied nationalities, took part in each

session. A couple of thousand must have passed through the College this way by the time the scheme was wound up in the autumn of 1945. Although some Balliol dons gave lectures, the associated bureaucracy was independent of the College, so we have no systematic records. Most of what we do know³ is derived from ephemera presented by people who attended. We know that the courses left a lasting impression on many of those who took part. One at least, the late Malcolm Hardwick QC (1945), who attended a course in 1944, later became a full-blown member of the College.

The College buildings, including the elegant Waterhouse building on the right which was demolished in the mid-1960s to make way for the present frightful Staircase XX, are very accurately shown. Most of the trees shown have gone, but the big white horse chestnut which appears centrally survives, now dominating the lawn in front of Staircases XV–XVIII. The lawn topography is accurate for 1947, but not for 1943–1945:

the banking of the standing water tanks for use by the Dean's Fire Brigade was not all cleared until after the war.

The scene is generally true in character to the many Ministry of Information photographs which were taken during one of the courses and survive at the Imperial War Museum. But the figures are imaginary, except for the three in civvies. These are mini-portraits. Giles Alington of University College is shown centrally, smoking a pipe. For him, Eurich might have worked from a photograph such as the one below of him at his desk as Course Organising Secretary. But Eurich sketched Lord Lindsay (Master 1924–1949), in the group on the left, and John Bryson (1923) from life for the picture.

The striking drawing of Lindsay matches well with the Hall portrait⁴ so far as likeness is concerned, but conveys a sterner impression, which reminds me that Christopher Hill (Master 1965–1978), who knew the characters of both men very well, thought Lindsay Cromwellian.

The drawing of Bryson is, as far as we know, a unique image of him in his prime. He taught English at Balliol 1923–1963, and was wartime Acting Dean and Fellow Librarian 1947–1963. His teaching was somewhat casual by some accounts, and he published relatively little under his name. He has been under-rated as a result. But he was a prolific anonymous reviewer of books, theatre, and art before the war; a friend of Tolkien, Betjeman, John Piper, Osbert Lancaster, and Helen Gardner; and a serious art collector.⁵

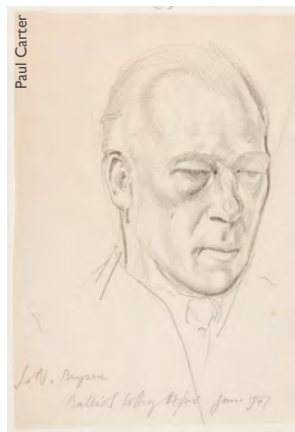
We are delighted to have learned about these two important drawings of major Balliol figures.



Lord Lindsay: sketch by Richard Eurich.



Giles Alington in his office.



John Bryson: sketch by Richard Eurich.

¹ See the Official Website of Richard Eurich R.A. at <http://www.richardeurich.co.uk/frame.html>

² Richard Eurich to JHJ, 26 July 1989, Balliol Archives MISC.306.14.

³ For information on the Short Leave Courses, see J. Jones, *Balliol College: A History* (2nd revised edn, 2005), pp280–282, and material there cited, some of which is available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/balliolarchivist/sets/72157625279691367>

⁴ By Lawrence Gowing, whom Eurich met while both were working on their commissions in Balliol in 1946.

⁵ See the Papers of John Norman Bryson at <http://archives.balliol.ox.ac.uk/Modern%20Papers/bryson.asp>.

I am grateful to Philippa Bambach for locating and sharing the drawings, permission to reproduce them, and information from her father's diary; and to Anna Sander (former Archivist and Curator of Manuscripts) for assistance.

Tutorials remembered

William Haines (1947) pays tribute to 'Rodge'

Floreat Domus 2017 has some cameos of past tutors. Here I submit one of A.B. Rodger, Fellow and Tutor in Modern History 1924–1961 as well as Dean of the College. While he was not as eccentric as Tommy Balogh (Fellow and Tutor 1945–1973), Rodge's tutorials were still memorable. In his study, now the site of the SCR, he would stand in front of the gas fire, jingling the coins in his pocket. Unlike Balogh, he did not interrupt, but at the end of one's essay, he would invite the other undergraduate to contribute to the discussion. Only then did he put searching questions, in the style of Benjamin Jowett (Master 1870–1893), until the hapless

reader realised his own shortcomings. During nine terms with him, Rodge never once showed impatience, providing always one had done all the work for the essay.

Coming up straight from school in Australia, I had no idea of how to write an essay, until Rodge taught me. He would take a simple question like 'Was Alfred a Great King?' Firstly, he would get one to define greatness, then greatness in a king and, finally, greatness in a king in the England of the ninth century. That completed the first paragraph, leaving the rest of the essay to develop the themes. Rodge made the point that the examiner was not interested in the answer but only

in one's thought processes. With that approach to essay writing, I was averaging Beta++ by the end of Hilary Term, enough to 'bag a second' (Rodge again).

Apart from his tutorial skills, Rodge was up to date in four special subjects: the French Revolution, Peel's Government, the Peninsular War and Slavery and Secession in the USA. His forte was naval history and books on the Royal Navy are peppered with references to ABR. In passing, he was born too late: he belonged on the quarterdeck of a frigate carrying out Nelson's signal 'Engage the enemy more closely.'

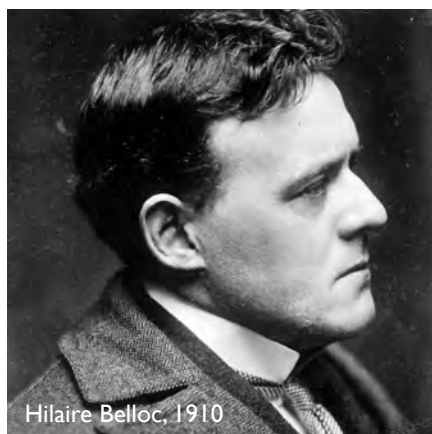
Walking in the footsteps of Belloc

Geoffrey Adkins (1951) recalls a vacation during his Balliol days

When I came up to Balliol in 1951, I decided that I would spend each of my three summer vacations in a different European country. Spain and Portugal were the first, by train, bus and boat in 1952. Italy was planned for 1954, leaving France for the middle year. Money was short, so travel had to be by hitch-hiking ('autostop'). I also wanted to see the Lascaux caves and then press on to Andorra.

This latter destination was because I had recently borrowed a book by a Balliol man, Hilaire Belloc (1893), describing a footpath starting from Foix which would take me to Andorra, following a stream up and over a pass of 2,000 metres above sea level. I considered his description – coming from a Balliol man – trustworthy but I had forgotten that his book, *The Pyrenees*, was written in 1909 and that some things might have changed ...

I went by train to Limoges and then by autostop to the Lascaux caves: my first visit to well-conserved cave-paintings of bison, ibex and horses, dating back 15,000 or so years. I understand that a concrete copy of the caves has now been made, to protect the artwork from thousands of visitors: I



was fortunate to see the originals.

Now back to 'autostop' under a sweltering July sun. Finally a tiny Citroen 2CV stopped, containing an important lady and her soldier son. 'Where are you staying tonight?' I muttered something about a *pensione*, to which the reply was: 'No, you will stay with us tonight.' We arrived in Villefranche-de-Rouergue, at a chateau overlooking the town. Now I understood that the lady was the Baroness and her husband the Baron, and their son had two sisters. While I

described – in my limping French – life in an Oxford college we ate an excellent dinner and finished with an Armagnac.

The next day I reached Foix by local bus and autostop. Now the Pyrenees loomed ahead. I found the stream and the footpath and set out, to find the first problem: a dam was being built over the stream. Hearing my objective the engineer thought I was a mad Englishman and just said: '*Doucement; tenez la gauche.*' I walked and scrambled onwards and upwards, afternoon and evening, and met many mules loaded with contraband cigarettes descending with their drivers.

Finally, exhausted and drenched after a thunderstorm, I reached the landmark Lac du Fontargent at dawn. From there a scramble over a rocky scree took me to the pass from which – far below – Andorra, my objective, came into view!

A long descent over grassy fields took me to Andorra la Vieja where I found a *pensione* and collapsed exhausted on a bed. I slept profoundly but was awakened at midnight, and the waiter asked if I wanted dinner! I had forgotten that in Spain mealtimes are somewhat later than ours ...

Social enterprise in Rwanda

Jonathan Scherer (1980) has set up a natural oils company to help farmers

Five years ago my business partner Stephen Louis (Keble 1984) and I started a social enterprise in Rwanda: Asili Natural Oils. Asili (the name is a Swahili word meaning 'from the source') presses seeds from various plants to produce cold-pressed vegetable oils, which are exported and used in the international cosmetic industry, for example in hand creams, shampoos and body butters. The main oil produced comes from the moringa tree, best known perhaps for the use of its leaves as a food supplement, although the oil is now becoming better known internationally.

Today Asili employs about 40 people directly, all Rwandans, and works with approximately 2,000 out-grower farmers, loosely grouped in co-operatives. Asili provides the farmers with saplings or seeds, along with water, compost and training to help ensure that the plants thrive, and the farmers supply Asili with seed from the trees they grow.

To provide a core level of production for the company, Asili has also invested in two Asili-owned plantations (totalling 56 hectares on which 55,000 trees have been planted). One of these, in the arid south-east of Rwanda near the border with Tanzania, is a mile away from the 60,000-strong Mahama UNHCR refugee camp (the refugees having fled from Burundi); Asili now employs daily up to 200 people from the camp, including two agronomist interns who have recently graduated there. More than 70% of the people Asili works with are women; more than 60% of the full-time employees are unskilled and would likely otherwise not have found employment; and more than 68% of the employment is in very poor rural areas.

Our ambition is to make Asili a stand-alone, enduring and profitable business, but the difficulties of agriculture in this poor arid part of Africa (to which theoretically

the moringa tree is well suited, once established) are considerable, as are the challenges in developing reliable long-term demand for the product.

My and Stephen's role has been to provide start-up capital as well as advice and strategic input (and once even, when our CEO was due to attend a trade show and had his visa application declined by the UK authorities, direct marketing and sales efforts, which is not a particular strength of mine!). We travel to Rwanda about twice a year to support Asili and to look for other interesting social enterprises in which to invest. We have now invested in/ supported three other businesses there: a bean producer, a yoghurt manufacturer (two-thirds of whose workforce are deaf), and a fish farm.

If any Balliol alumni know the region or market, have suggestions, or would like to visit or learn more, please do get in touch (jonathan.scherer@sevenpeaks.co.uk).



Some of Asili's out-grower farmer leaders, in yellow shirts, with Jonathan (left) and his business partner.

‘The primary aim of the journey was to explore responses to refugees and asylum seekers’



Isabel and Christy in Kent.

A Listening Pilgrimage

Christy Hawkins (1997) walked, talked and listened from Dover to Iona

Last spring my fiancée Isabel and I walked 700 miles from Dover to Iona. We called our walk a Listening Pilgrimage. We were sponsored and supported by the charity Projects For All, who saw this project as a way to learn from individuals and communities about ways to support displaced people seeking sanctuary in Britain.

The primary aim of the journey was to explore responses to refugees and asylum seekers; however, Isabel and I also wanted to get to know our own country more thoroughly at a time of instability and division. We were living in London and felt that we were in a bubble, with only the media to tell us what was going on elsewhere. We decided to walk out of that bubble as pilgrims, dependent on the hospitality of friends and strangers.

Dover was our point of departure. As England's gateway it faces towards Europe and the unprecedented waves of

migration from troubled locations in the world beyond. We also wanted to cross a national border on our walk in order to compare the distinct cultures of England and Scotland. We chose Iona as our end point because of its historic status as a pilgrimage destination. This 'island off an island' seems far removed from war and famine, yet it has much to teach us about human movement, hospitality, and the promotion of tolerance.

The line between Dover and Iona allowed us to visit cities which are notable for their reception of migrants and refugees, namely London, Nottingham, Leeds and Glasgow. These great urban centres and the spaces between them gave us unique lessons in geography, history and culture which could be learned only by travelling slowly and on foot.

Our journey began on well-trodden pilgrims' routes to Canterbury, London and St Albans. In Kent we met teenagers

who had arrived as unaccompanied minors and exchanged with us stories of journeys on foot and of holy places. In London we spoke to former refugees in a community garden where they helped each other to heal with assistance from local experts in counselling and law.

In Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire we were confronted with views which we found difficult to accept, but we were able to listen without judgement, and these face-to-face encounters were always amicable. It was here in the south that we saw the one piece of racist graffiti visible from our path. We covered it up and planted wildflower seeds which had been given to us by a friend whose grandmother had fled from Nazi Germany.

Heading north through the coal country of the Midlands we learned about the changing social structure of the recent past. Stately homes, agricultural landscapes and windmills ancient and modern told

their own stories about shifting patterns of wealth, labour, and relationships with the land. In Nottingham we joined huge celebrations of St George's Day and attended performances of poetry and music by migrants and refugees from all over the world.

The land grew hillier and the accents broader as we passed through Yorkshire. In Batley we met friends and family of Jo Cox, the MP murdered in 2016, and learned about her legacy of tackling loneliness and nurturing friendship across multi-ethnic communities. In Leeds we visited the West Yorkshire Playhouse: a Theatre of Sanctuary in a City of Sanctuary. We spoke to former refugees now working to help new arrivals and joined separate groups for teenagers, mothers and men, each with distinct needs and gifts with which to enrich their new homes.

North of Leeds we walked through scenery of increasing grandeur along the Pennine Way to Hadrian's Wall. In Malham we saw how the countryside is being made accessible to refugees who have been settled in urban areas. Walking and working on the land are powerful experiences for displaced people, many of whom originated in farming cultures and feel alienated in the cities they have been sent to.

As spring turned to summer we found ourselves in Scotland, having followed trails of bluebells and fattening lambs all the way from Kent. Our route took us westwards via Dumfries and Glasgow, where we met some of the

most inspiring advocates for refugees. The hospitality of the Scottish people and their empathy for the downtrodden exceeded all our expectations.

Staying with a retired farmer and his wife we were struck by their compassion for refugees, prompted by the practice of indefinite detention of migrants in the nearby Dungavel Removal Centre. Over 30,000 migrants are detained in the UK every year. Unlike most of western Europe, the UK has no maximum time limit on immigration detention. People can be and are detained for months or even years.

In Glasgow we met an English expat who had set up a night shelter for destitute asylum seekers cut off from state support. We also spoke to an ex-detainee who was reliant on charity because he is not allowed to work while his asylum application is being processed. He expressed warmth for and gratitude to his Scottish hosts but felt frustrated that he was unable to make a greater contribution to the local economy.

On Bute we met a Syrian man who had

'We met many diverse and inspiring people and gained a wealth of insights about ways to help refugees.'

been relocated to the island as a refugee. He has now set up a barber shop and his children attend the local school. He spoke warmly about his welcome, though we also learned of the prejudices faced by new arrivals to this isolated community.

Pilgrimage is part of many religious and secular traditions, and though our journey was not religious by nature we took the time to investigate the sites of worship that are prominent throughout the land.

As we walked through England and Scotland the buildings told a fascinating history. We learned about the successive occupations by people from across the sea whose genes, languages and buildings are still with us. We saw evidence of religious transition and pondered the lives of the pilgrims in whose footsteps we walked. We saw monuments to the great and the humble, and we stepped inside buildings shattered by bombs and the ravages of time.

Our walk connected us to recent



The route.

events in Britain and the wider world. In Lockerbie we found a peaceful memorial to the victims of the infamous bombing; on the same day we learned about the terror attack in Manchester. Near Dumfries we discovered a World Peace Centre founded by Japanese visionaries in the wake of Hiroshima's bombing.

At our journey's end we were welcomed by the Iona Community and in St Columba's Abbey we heard a moving sermon about a refugee victim of the Grenfell Tower fire. To mark the end of our pilgrimage we placed a small piece of Dover chalk in the ancient chapel where Columba's body once rested. That evening we met a woman from Dover, who gave us a pebble of Iona marble to carry home.

In the course of our pilgrimage we met many diverse and inspiring people and gained a wealth of insights about ways to help refugees. You can hear some of the interviews we recorded on our blog: www.listeningpilgrimage.org.

Projects For All recently helped to set up the network International Initiatives for Migrant and Refugee Education (IMRE). You can learn about their work at www.projectsforall.org.

The Listening Pilgrimage was the most remarkable experience, and we are deeply grateful to all the kind people who helped us on our way. Our journey bears no comparison with those undertaken by refugees, but it has given us a greater appreciation of the ways strangers can welcome travellers, and how important this is for individuals, communities and the world.



Christy meets Chaucer in Canterbury.

Global Balliol: Canada

Ilse Treurnicht (1979), CEO of MaRS Discovery District, works at the intersection of science, business and capital

How did you come to live in Canada?

I met a Canadian Rhodes Scholar while in Oxford, and agreed to test the winters in Canada. More than thirty years and four kids later, I am still here.

How did your career develop after you left Balliol?

During my post-doctoral fellowship in Canada I came to the realisation that the application of science had more appeal than pursuing an academic or research career. I joined a fast-growing green chemistry start-up out of the University of Toronto, and learned business by jumping in at the deep end. After working with a few other young companies, and some consulting while the kids were young, I was recruited to develop a new seed-stage venture capital fund focused on advanced technology opportunities. During this period, the idea of MaRS crystallised, and I joined the fledgling organisation. For the past 13 years, we have been building this ambitious non-profit innovation hub in the heart of Toronto's Discovery District, with a wide range of support programmes for scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs who want to change the world. MaRS is now well positioned for the next phase of growth, and I am exploring new adventures.

What have been the challenges and satisfactions in your career?

Both the challenges and satisfactions have been shaped by a non-linear career path, building new organisations and working at the intersection of science, business and capital – often playing the role of translator, broker, and catalyst for new models of collaboration. None of it was neat and tidy, but it fuelled new thinking and bold experiments.

What qualities do you feel it has taken to achieve all you have achieved?

I have been lucky to work on projects that matter to our community, and with incredible people drawn to a shared mission. That combination makes anything possible.



What do you enjoy about living and working in Canada?

I feel very fortunate to live, work and raise a family in this amazing country, with its endowment of natural beauty, bustling cities and creative and generous people. Toronto is a vibrant diverse global city, which in many ways serves as an important experiment of inclusive innovation for the world. We are working hard to foster a uniquely Canadian innovation ecosystem – one that amplifies Canada's strengths to create both economic and societal prosperity. This model is in short supply in our troubled world. We believe it can flourish here.

How did your time at Balliol influence you?

It was a magical time! I arrived at Balliol from South Africa, a place of riots and upheaval. Oxford expanded my horizons: I became a citizen of the world during my time here. On the one hand, graduate work at Balliol deepened my passion for science, and also allowed me to explore many other areas of interest – politics, economics, international affairs. Following that, curiosity shaped my path in a meaningful way. And I still treasure friendships forged with wonderful travelling companions from a wide variety of backgrounds and many parts of the world.



Ilse (above) speaking at Balliol's 750th Anniversary Celebration Weekend and (below) during her Oxford days with the late Cynthia Stallman (1979) and Cheryl Hume (1979).

For Ian Macdonald (1952), President Emeritus of York University, Toronto, academic interests and ice hockey have been key in his post-Balliol life

Just over 65 years ago, I arrived in Oxford for the start of my Rhodes Scholarship. Never did I imagine how much that would challenge and change my view of life. I chose Balliol (and thankfully it chose me) for two reasons – one practical and the other inspirational. For four years as an undergraduate in the University of Toronto, I was a commuter student; in Oxford, I wanted to be in the very centre of the community. More importantly, I had learned that Balliol represented the very essence of my ideal sense of the academy: an international mosaic of students drawn together by tolerance, mutual respect and intellectual curiosity. For three years at Balliol, I found my horizons to be broadened on a daily basis.

However, the beginning of a career involves the narrowing of horizons and the selection of an initial path. The challenge is to convert that path into a journey of exploration over many roads and in numerous directions. Happily, that has been my experience from the Balliol launching pad. After two years in PPE followed by completing a BPhil in my third year, my narrowing world settled into a choice among three opportunities: entering a management training programme provided by a major British corporation; moving to Switzerland to be the playing coach of an emerging ice-hockey team; or returning to the University of Toronto to teach Economics in the Department of Political Economy. I chose the third option because it provided the opportunity to blend a place that I knew well with the continuing stimulus of my three years at Balliol. The outcome was a degree of confidence that enabled me to pursue a 60-year career whereby I never took up any role for which I had been occupationally prepared or which I had planned to assume.

One year ago, at age 87, I gave up formal classroom teaching, but I still maintain an office at York University where I give guest lectures, mentor students (and even graduates) and participate in the social life of the university. I cannot imagine



‘My favourite form of recreation, playing ice hockey, helped me to realise the potential of international sport for friendship and goodwill, culminating in my becoming Chair of Hockey Canada for seven years.’

my life being otherwise. Throughout a varied career, academic interests have provided my centre of gravity. My ten years in the Ontario Government, first as Chief Economist and then as Deputy Minister (viz. Permanent Secretary) of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs, nourished my love of public policy and my appreciation of the contribution that the academy could make to good governance. The fact that those years corresponded with a notable period of transformation in Canada's Confederation made that part of my career all the more enlivening. For example, representing the Ontario

Government in the negotiations that led to national medicare provided a satisfaction that is difficult to replicate.

My ten years as President and Vice-Chancellor of York University provided a different vantage point for viewing the academic life, as well as an extraordinary challenge. When I joined York, the university was only 14 years old – a mere institutional adolescent with all the growing pains of that stage of life. In that role, of all my sources of satisfaction two are hard to surpass, particularly in the current sociological environment: the establishment of salary equity for women faculty members, and the creation of the first centre to deal with sexual harassment in any Canadian university – the first, in the late 1970s, followed by the second in the early 1980s.

Beyond that, my life evolved in directions clearly born of the Balliol experience. I was elected in 1954 to represent the Balliol JCR at the International Union of Students Conference in the former Soviet Union. That became my inspiration, leading to the Presidency of World University Service of Canada and, in particular, to placing 183 Hungarian students in Canadian universities at the time of the 1956 Hungarian revolution; and later, to serving for ten years as the volunteer Chair of the Commonwealth of Learning. Even my favourite form of recreation, playing ice hockey, took on an international dimension as the result of three years with the Oxford University Ice Hockey Club and its winter tours on the Continent. That helped me to realise the potential of international sport for friendship and goodwill, culminating in my becoming Chair of Hockey Canada for seven years, responsible for our Olympic and international ice-hockey programme.

So much of my life's satisfaction I can trace to Oxford in general and to Balliol in particular. What a totally different life from that of my immigrant parents who had left school in Scotland at the age of 14 and yet made all of this possible for a wide-eyed young Canadian.

Notes from the next revolution in housing

Helen Lawrence (1979) reports from her job at the WikiHouse Foundation

We face a huge housing challenge in the coming decades. Yet the way that we approach housing has barely changed in over a century. We are still reliant on the same model of speculative mass housebuilding, and we are still getting the same results. In order to really change anything we will need to totally rethink the way our building industry works.

I joined WikiHouse Foundation at the start of 2017, intrigued by the ambition of a small organisation that was taking on this huge, complex challenge. Over the course of my career I had heard the phrase 'making money' too many times, and I wanted to shift focus towards social innovation. I thought that my (rather generalist) skillset might be a good complement to the impressive design and coding skills of the others.

In the past I've explained the generalist role within an organisation as being the mortar between the bricks that your specialist colleagues are putting in place. But in WikiHouse Foundation that feels like a really bad analogy: WikiHouse has designed building technologies that use plywood. No bricks or mortar involved.

The point of this plywood technology is both that anyone can assemble it, making house building more accessible, and that its digital design means it can be locally

manufactured – two important steps in a rethink of how the building industry works. Now our focus is on reducing the complexity. So much of the cost of housing lies in the risk inherent in the building process, with so many 'unknowns' along the supply chain. It is a process so fraught with drama and agony that it makes a good TV programme. When was the last time you saw a *Grand Designs* project that didn't go over budget?

The web-based platform we're currently prototyping, BuildX, dramatically reduces the unknowns in the building process. Instead of a series of professionals each using a different proprietary software package, on BuildX everyone involved in a building project has access to the same data and files. Our aim is for the platform accurately to calculate the cost and energy impacts of a design decision. Our underlying mission: to put the power to build sustainable homes into the hands of individuals, communities and small businesses.

What I love about the ethos in WikiHouse Foundation is its focus simply on creating free open digital infrastructure. Just as no one owns the white lines which make it possible for vehicles to share roads safely – and no one owns the world wide web itself – so no one needs to



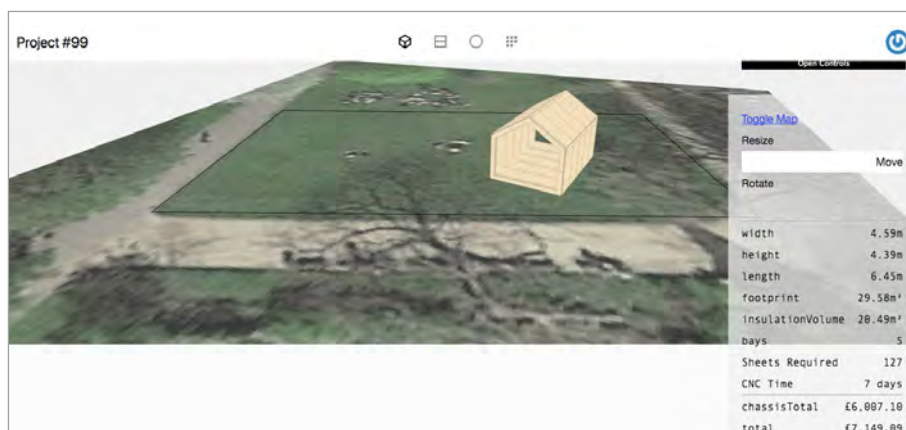
A design that anyone can assemble – no bricks or mortar involved.

own the new digital language for the built environment, a language which will allow the construction industry to participate in a more circular economy.

To get this far WikiHouse Foundation has been funded by a range of organisations which support innovation for social good. Nesta, headed by Geoff Mulgan (1979), has been a great supporter of the Foundation's work. Significant funding has also come from Innovate UK and Power to Change. In 2017 we were one of three winners of the European Social Innovation Challenge – testament to the value of European collaboration as well as the power of housing to change lives.

Everything we do is open source, and produced in collaboration with other innovators and industry leaders. You can join the WikiHouse community via the website (www.wikihouse.cc), and I'd love to hear from anyone who wants to get their company or organisation involved in the digital transformation of housing and the built environment.

helen@wikihouse.cc



The BuildX platform: calculating the cost of design decisions.

Balliol entrepreneurs

We invited a few Balliol people who have founded their own companies to tell us about their businesses, the challenges they have faced and any lessons learned



Stephen Maher

Stephen Maher (1980)

CEO of MBA; Chairman of the Marketing Society

'All of our actions take their hue from the complexion of the heart, as landscapes their variety from light.' So penned Francis Bacon. I founded the digital marketing agency MBA in London in 1994 with a belief – as with so many entrepreneurs – that I could do better. I felt strongly that in the world of marketing communications, it was not about offering clients brand advertising or direct marketing: it was about offering them *both*. When we then relaunched our business as a fully fledged digital agency 10 years ago (after a management buy-out from Omnicom, who part-owned us) this belief became even more relevant and enshrined in our agency strapline: 'Where Digital and Direct Interconnect'. Today MBA delivers all forms of digital communication, from email to social to web platforms, for our clients, who include O2, Investec, Cambridge University (sorry!) and Money&Co (founded by the prolific Nicola Horlick, 1979) – but always with a strong ROI focus.

My top three learnings from all this:

1. Follow your instinct and ignore the doubters. If you believe and you are truly dedicated to the cause, you stand every chance of winning, especially if your customers see this passion in you and your business.
2. The team is everything, both at work and at home. One of the most difficult challenges I had was to change the management team very early on, because the chemistry was not right – so hard but worth it. Importantly, make sure your partner and family at home are behind you, as times will be tough and sacrifices will need to be made.
3. The rewards are greater because they are down to you. MBA winning 'World's Leading Agencies' accolades three years running and industry gold for our talent management five years running are worth those many weekends at work and at least some of that stress!

www.mba.co.uk; @sfmaher

Mark Neale (1986)

CEO Mountain Warehouse

I graduated in Physics in 1989 with little idea of what to do next. After a brief career as a management consultant, I decided to set up a business in my mid-20s, before I had to worry about supporting a family, paying a mortgage, any real responsibilities; I was living in a shared house with a couple of friends from Balliol and just needed to be able to pay the rent each month. After a number of false starts (rollerblades, greetings cards, educational toys) my fourth attempt at a retail business was Mountain Warehouse.

We sell great-value, everyday outdoor wear for all the family – whether it's for a skiing trip, gap year backpacking, festival visit or simply walking the dog. The first store

opened in 1997 and we now have almost 300 stores in 7 countries including the US, Canada, Poland and Germany, with total turnover in excess of £200m. Our most recent opening, at the end of last year, was on Broad Street just opposite Balliol in a store that my college room used to look out on!

Plenty going on still: we have plans to open a couple of stores in New Zealand this year as well as the Netherlands and Czech Republic. We're always on the lookout for new customers - the code 'Balliol' will give readers 20% off at www.mountainwarehouse.com.



Mark Neale

Alexis Richardson (1988)

CEO Weaveworks

After Balliol I started a trading job at Goldman Sachs but got bored. I thought that making software products could be more rewarding than derivatives, and left to start a software company. This is not the same as an internet company, which uses technology to advertise and sell people things over the web. I'm talking about the software and cloud services that power all these websites and much else besides, from banks to robots and rockets.

I found all this exceptionally hard at first. Britain in 2000 was a hostile climate for tech and entrepreneurs and largely remains so. Also I knew absolutely nothing. Doing things is a good way to learn, though, and eventually I discovered how to make things people might even want to buy. The best known is RabbitMQ, which is used all over the world. We sold the company to VMware in 2010. An earlier company, Cohesive, is still going. Today I'm doing Weaveworks, a tool for speeding up software development using automation and cloud technology.



Alexis Richardson

Starting tech companies and building teams around them is very satisfying. From tiny first steps you can make things millions of people use daily. Customers are not limited by geography; talking with them is the best part and a reminder of the limits of parochial concerns. Having an international perspective helps you succeed.

Talk to as many people as you can. There are a few Balliol folks out there – just in the last year I've seen Paul Fremantle (1987), Jez Humble (1995), Tracy Dorée (2003) and Hephzi Pemberton (2004).

I'd happily speak to anyone wanting to start a tech company. You absolutely will need help and there is more available today.

www.weave.works



Melissa Holloway

Melissa Holloway (2001)

Founder of Speaking Diabetes

As a history postgrad at Balliol, I grew tired of hearing stories of fellow students with type 1 diabetes having trouble managing at university. In early 2003 Andrew Copson (1999), as OUSU VP for Welfare, helped me to set up a diabetes outreach network. Within two weeks of posters going to GP surgeries and college nurses, 40 people had joined the group.

In July 2003, I received over 150 emails in response to a guest column on the website Medscape Diabetes & Endocrinology, including a job offer from a US-based investor newsletter. By early 2004, I had decided not to complete my DPhil on the social and political roles of families of married clergy in England and Wales from 1560 to 1750.

Between 2004 and 2014, I worked in medical devices, healthcare business consulting and healthcare advertising. Since 2013, I've directed my passion for improving diabetes care into serving as Chief Adviser with INPUT Patient Advocacy. Going freelance as a medical copywriter in 2014 ignited my interest in entrepreneurship.

At a Balliol Entrepreneurs event in late 2015, Katie Hodgson (1986) challenged me to focus on my passion for diabetes. A year later I set up Speaking Diabetes, which offers consulting and training services regarding diabetes. So far, I have worked with four clients, all of whom are shaping the future of diabetes care.

The biggest challenge has been making time for business development. I'm on-site within an advertising agency for an average of four days a week. INPUT takes up a few lunchtimes a week, plus the occasional day of meetings. My husband is a Westminster City Councillor in addition to his full-time job, so I have our three-year-old son three evenings every week and most Saturdays. I need to launch a company newsletter ... somehow.

My main tip is to remember that you probably know more than you think you do. I've had three weeks of unplanned downtime in nearly four years as a freelancer and I won Runner-Up in the IPSE Freelancer of the Year awards in June 2017. My other tip is to try not to take rejection or lack of response personally and instead to focus on maintaining good relationships.

www.speakingdiabetes.com

Rachel Carrell (2002)

Founder of Koru Kids

I'm the founder of Koru Kids. We're building the world's greatest childcare service, starting with after-school care in London.

After I left Balliol in 2007 I went to McKinsey for six years; then I became CEO of a healthcare company. In that job I had a baby. But when I went back to work and tried to find childcare, I discovered how difficult it was: incredibly expensive, very hard to find someone great, emotionally exhausting. My friends who were having



Rachel Carrell

kids at the same time all had their own variations of the same struggle.

So I quit my job and founded Koru Kids, in order to build a better alternative. My vision is that Koru Kids becomes the best childcare service in the world, bar none.

We've faced lots of challenges. I had IVF earlier in the year which was successful (yay!), so I've been running the business while pregnant, which has been more tiring than I could have imagined. Definitely the hardest thing I've ever done in my life.

There have also been lots of highs. We've attracted financial backing from some of London's top investors, and won a few awards. The best thing, though, is the fast growth of the business. Just about every week is a 'record week', which feels so exciting – and we get feedback every day about how our service has changed parents' lives.

Starting a business is super tough, but having tangible evidence that you're helping people makes it all worth it. The London start-up community is also incredibly vibrant and fun, and very supportive, full of talented, hardworking and passionate people.

We're hiring all the time, so I'd love to hear from any Balliol grads interested in getting involved with our mission. And of course if you need childcare in London, drop us a line!

www.korukids.co.uk

Tracy Dorée (2003)

Founding partner at Kindred

In the summer of 2015, nine years after graduation, I shook hands with three exceptional people to build a venture capital fund: a firm that would seek to back the most ambitious founders, to find, fund and fight for the highest potential entrepreneurs in the UK market and to assemble an army around each one of them; a firm that would encourage collaboration between the founders it backed by sharing the upside of the fund. We wanted to build the fund we wished had existed when we were founders ourselves.

Kindred is an £80M, London-based venture fund, of which I am one of four founding partners and one of 48 economic partners, including 38 entrepreneurs running the 19 companies we've backed so far.



Tracy Dorée

The first member of my family to go to university, I was welcomed into Balliol. I loved the fact that my peers were empowered and took ownership of their future, and that a melting pot of people of different backgrounds, perspectives and experiences came together around a common set of values and a vision for how things could be done differently.

That is my inspiration today. I believe that fast-growing business is the only place where true meritocracy can exist, where through hard work you can create value and be directly rewarded for it. By sharing the profits of our fund with the founders we back, I believe we're building a collective – a group of change-makers where the community is greater than the sum of its individual parts. I share that feeling with my Balliol family – my husband and my half-dozen adopted sisters and brothers who are still today my strongest critics and loudest cheerleaders – and with a generous alumnus who financially supported me at Balliol and who continues to be a sounding board for my career. Building value is hard, and impossible without a group of like-minded people around you.

www.kindredcapital.vc

David Mack (2009)

Co-founder of SketchDeck

SketchDeck is a high-quality graphic design service, used by some of the most famous brands in the world.

We've built a collaboration platform that essentially automates running a

design agency. Through that we work with designers all around the world, who deliver design every day to our clients.

We started out trying to do something quite different – we were trying to build an AI system that would turn your sketches into slides, for people working in banks and management consultancies. Thanks to feedback from our advisors and customers, this morphed into a human-powered high-end design service.

The biggest challenge we faced was when we realised that, because of some recent changes in business, the company was going to run out of cash and had four months left to live. We came up with a risky plan to become profitable, and told the whole company the big changes we needed to make. We did not know if it would work out. Thankfully, the changes and discipline that came out of that gave us one of our best years so far.



David Mack

Our biggest satisfactions have come from growing our revenues, signing new clients, getting positive reviews and seeing all the creative ideas our designers generate.

So many lessons learned the hard way over the last four years. I've learned to be much more selective and rigorous when hiring, and to fire faster. I've learned to embrace the dominant dynamics in people and commerce, rather than try to fight them. I've seen how all business is much simpler to do than it sounds in lectures.

I'm really enthusiastic to help more Balliol alumni go through Y Combinator, who backed us, here in California. Email me (david@sketchdeck.com) if you'd like to talk about it.

Raising standards in literacy

Harriet Goodwin (1988) describes her work as a visiting author

I've spent today at a school about as far removed from the privilege of Oxford as it is possible to be, in this country at least: a school in Cannock, a deprived part of the West Midlands, where I've been working with Year 6 students (ten- and eleven-year-olds). Many of them had reading and writing ages of about six; most were on free school meals; more than a handful did not own a book (and never had done). Such deprivation is something I experience all too frequently.

For as long as I can remember, writing and music have been my twin passions. As a child I was always either writing stories or playing the piano: luckily for me, people at school seemed to like my eccentricity. It could so easily have gone the other way.

At Balliol, I studied English Literature (medieval: I was one of the few who took Course Two), and every spare second of my free time was taken up with music of some kind: Chapel Choir, The Arcadian Singers, Schola Cantorum. After Oxford I trained as a singer at the Royal Northern College of Music, and then spent some time singing with The Sixteen and The Monteverdi Choir, touring all over Europe. I did a bit of opera too, but increasingly came to prefer my concert work: I am a real home-bird and wanted a big family.

Shortly after the birth of my fourth child, I had a dream which was the starting point of my first children's novel, *The Boy Who Fell Down Exit 43* (Stripes Publishing, 2009). I wrote it in ten minutes a day over eight months, in longhand and completely in secret. Within a few weeks of publication, the book was shortlisted for the 2010 Blue Peter Book Award's 'Book I Couldn't Put Down' category. Since then I have written three more novels: *Gravenhunger* (2011), *The Hex Factor* (2012) and *Dark Tide* (2013) (all published by Stripes), as well as two short ghost stories for Collins.

Visits like the one today in Cannock are the by-product of writing for children: I now spend much of my time going into schools, inspiring students of all ages (right up to sixth formers) about books, reading and writing. A typical visit consists of a presentation, in which I talk about my



journey to becoming an author (starting with a blast of Puccini to break the ice), and a series of creative writing workshops: we discover how to get words to spring off the page, work on gripping openings and story structure, and explore characterisation.

Over the past few years, I have been lucky enough to receive a discretionary award from a wonderful foundation called Cockayne Grants for the Arts, which has allowed me to go into eight or nine schools a year in seriously deprived parts of the country which could not otherwise afford an author visit.

Of course, I get plenty of requests to visit extremely well-to-do schools as well, and I enjoy meeting and working with their students immensely. But I am at my most fulfilled when I can motivate students for whom the world of books is a million miles away.

Amongst the children I met today was a boy with a pale face and dark rings around his eyes. He clearly loved

reading and desperately wanted a copy of one of my books, but his parents were poor and books weren't part of their lives, so he had no money for one. I gave him one anyway. Then there was the unhappy-looking girl with a ginger plait who wrote about ... a girl with a ginger plait with an abusive stepfather and an alcoholic mother. I could go on. And on.

I hadn't bargained for this aspect of being an author. It doesn't matter how often I do these visits: they always shock me, and they always leave me with a mixture of emotions: sadness; frustration; and a tiny flicker of hope that I might have helped a few children in a very small way.

I wasn't very politically aware at Balliol – I was too busy having a good time – but now, in my late forties, I have finally woken up and found my conscience. I only wish I could make more of a difference.

To enquire about a school visit, please go to www.harrietgoodwinbooks.com

What do alumni really think about their College?

In 2017 Balliol began a two-year research project in order to better understand its Old Members and how the College may best serve them, as well as to provide a briefing to the incoming Master on the global Balliol community. The results have provided us with invaluable insights into the thoughts and views of our alumni.

Working with Holly Palmer, an independent consultant and specialist in conducting alumni research, we aimed to find out what Old Members really thought about:

- their time at Balliol and how it shaped their lives;
- their relationship with College now;
- their views on how we can improve the experience for Old Members in future.

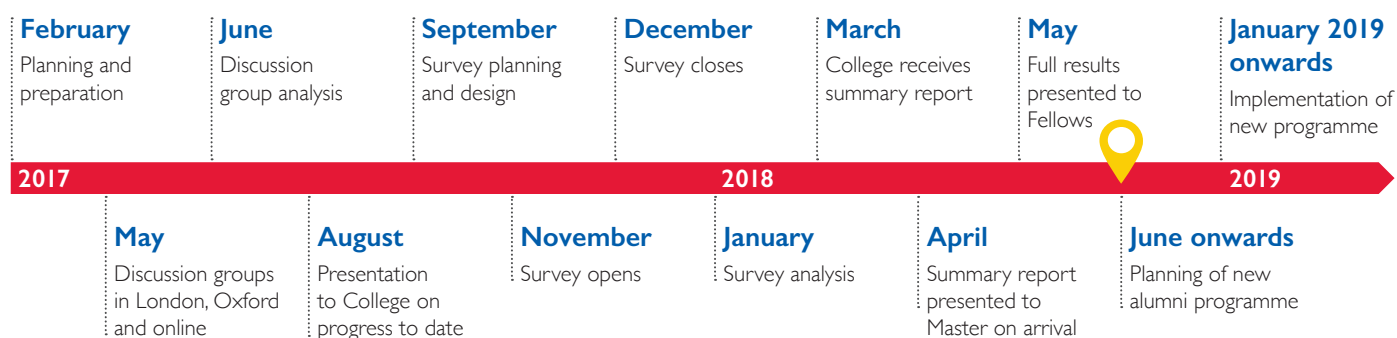
In the first, qualitative phase of the research, Old Members from around the world were invited to participate in facilitated group discussions which covered how they felt about the College, what they need from the College and their thoughts on Balliol's charitable priorities. In total, we ran 11 discussion groups: face-to-face discussions took place in Oxford and London, while 6 discussions took part online to ensure that the views of Old Members around the world were represented.

Building on the findings from these groups, the second, quantitative phase took the form of an online questionnaire exploring Old Members' attitudes, behaviours and opinions through questions on: their experiences as a student and Old Member; volunteering; giving to Balliol; events; publications,

e-newsletters, the alumni website, social media and communications; and current and potential alumni benefits.

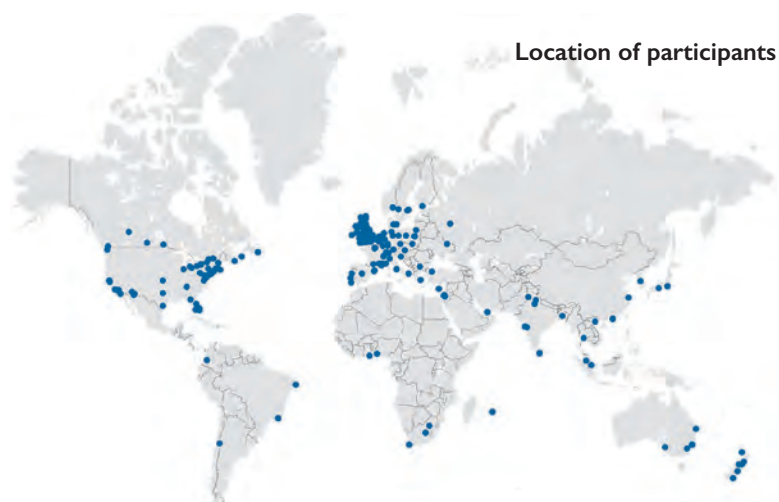
Old Members were also invited to write a message to the incoming Master on the subject of what makes Balliol special and what they would like to see from the College in the future. This questionnaire was sent to over 7,500 contactable Old Members by email and post and was open for completion from 16 November to 31 December 2017.

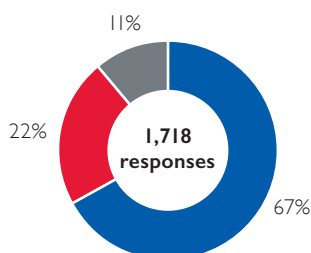
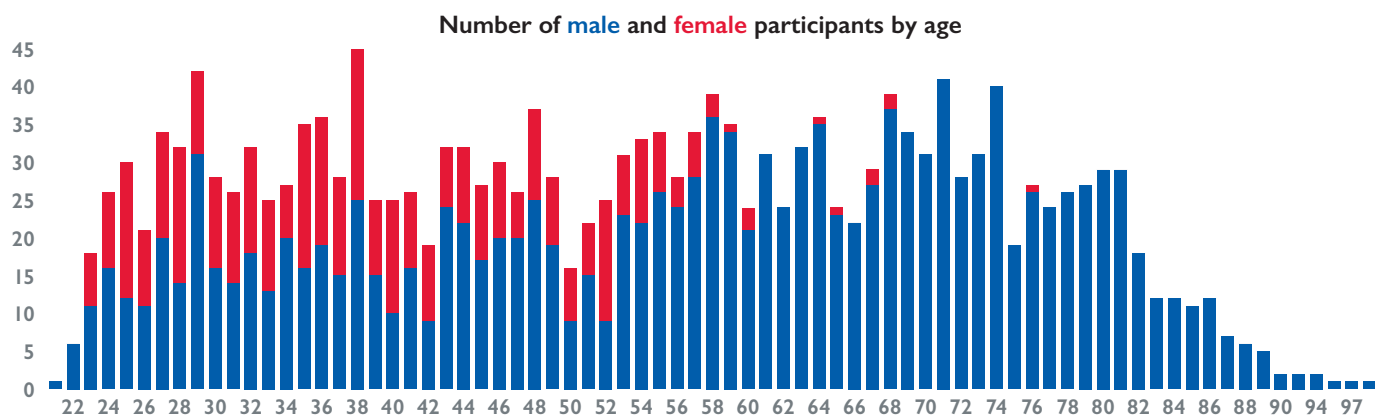
We received the results of this survey in early 2018. A summary was presented to the Master on her arrival in April and the full results will be presented to the Governing Body. We also plan to give a summary of the key findings to all those who participated, followed by further updates in the coming months.



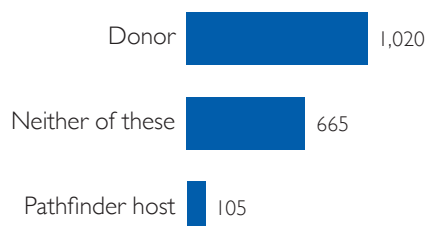
Who took part?

We are delighted and grateful that many Old Members of all ages wanted to get involved with this project. In total, over 2,000 Old Members participated in the discussion groups and responded to the survey. Of those who completed all elements of the survey 51% were donors, 5% were Pathfinder hosts, and 34% were alumni who are yet to volunteer with or donate to the College. 10% did not declare. Most (67%) read at undergraduate level. Participants were well spread across matriculation decades; 74% were men, 21% women, compared to the whole alumni body of 75% men and 25% women (5% did not declare their gender); and participants lived in 57 different countries.

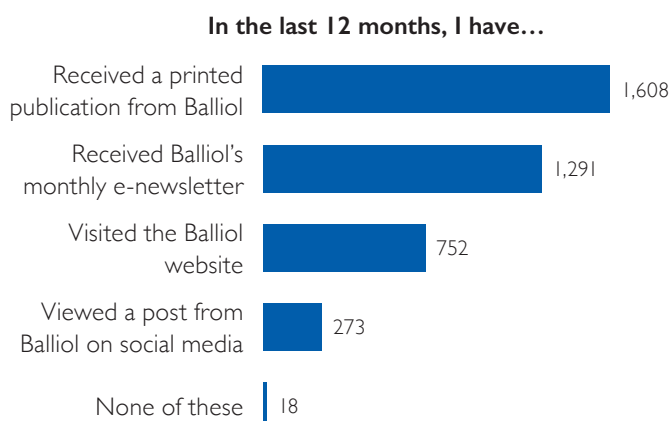
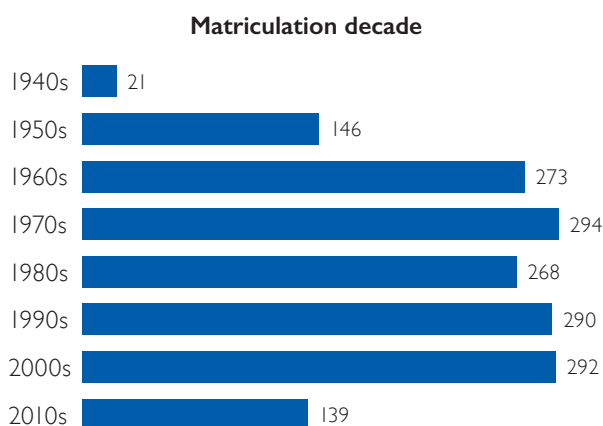
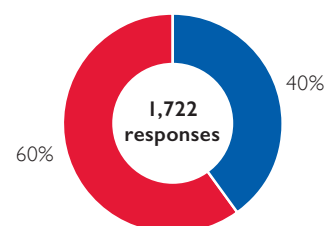




I am a...



Have you attended a Balliol event in the last 3 years, or not?



A few findings

In the survey we asked Old Members both general questions and questions specific to their own relationship with Balliol – for instance, event attendees were asked about recent events, while non-attendees were asked about why they did not attend Balliol events. In total there were 22 possible question categories. In addition to providing participants with a more detailed summary later this year, we present here an overview of some of the things the answers have revealed.

Balliol identity

Asked to choose three words to describe Balliol life, Old Members are most likely to describe Balliol with words relating to academic rigour, warmth and openness – a finding that has provided us with useful insight into perceptions of College.

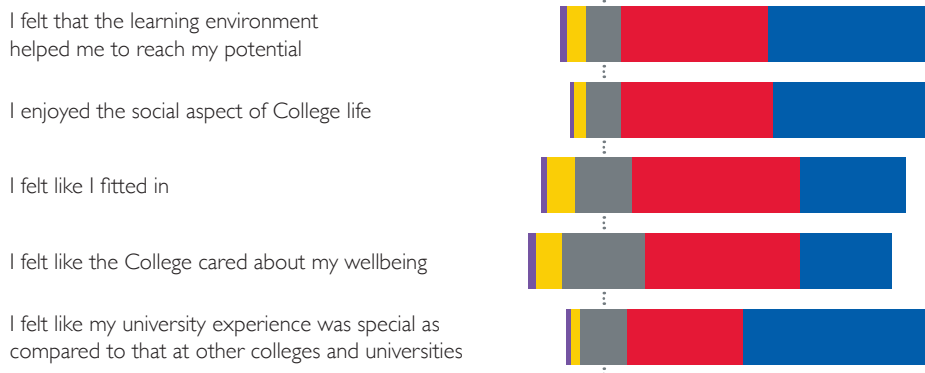


Experience of Balliol

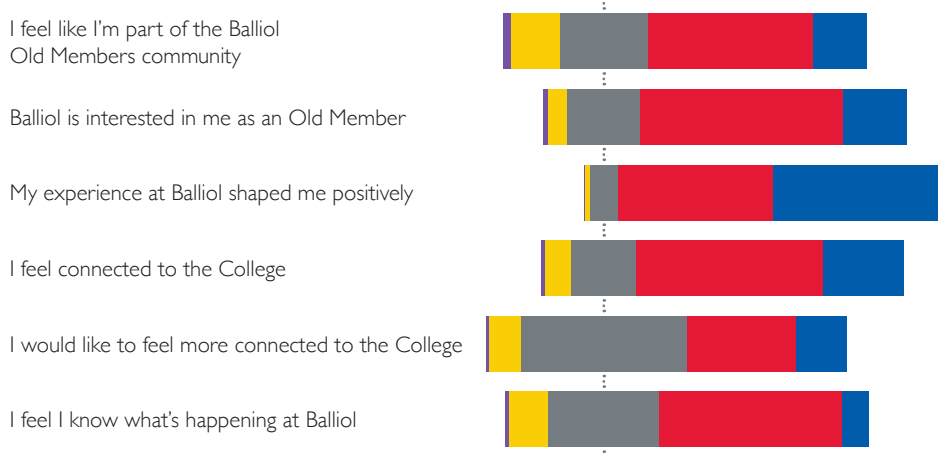
Old Members are generally positive about their student experience, their Old Member experience and the communications and activities the College offers them. Publication readership and event attendance is high, the website is serving its purpose, and almost all Old Members feel that it is appropriate to ask them for support. The survey results also show that a smaller but significant number do not feel part of the Balliol Old Member community. Student academic achievement, wellbeing and welfare, diversity and financial support are all key areas of interest for Old Members. The comments accompanying these responses have also given us plenty to consider as we explore how to broaden the appeal of our alumni relations programme.



Student experience

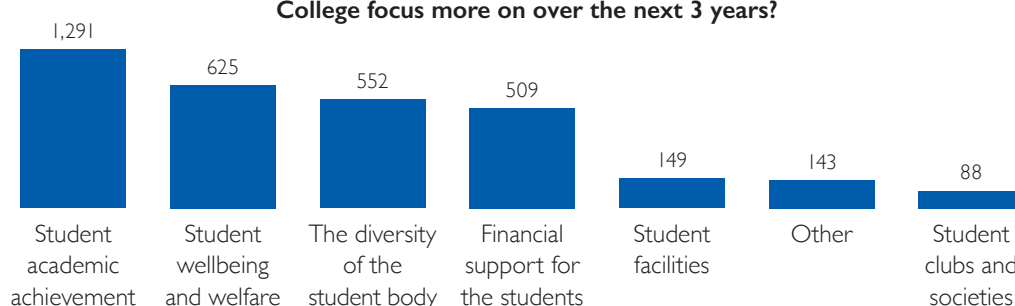


Old Member experience



Future priorities for the College

In the findings (right) themes in the 'other' answers – such as investment in Fellows' research, career services for students, and connecting Old Members to each other and to students – provided further indications of what Old Members see as priorities.



Which of the following do you wish to see the College focus more on over the next 3 years?

What next?

We are enormously grateful to everyone who took part in a discussion group or who completed the online survey. Your responses have provided a huge amount of insight and they will prove invaluable as we develop our plans for the future.

As a result of the survey we have already begun to make small changes to our activities; for instance, responding to the finding that donors wish to know more about the impact of their gifts, we

plan to make more effort in this area.

Over the coming months, we will be incorporating your feedback into a review of all aspects of our programme including: the type of events we offer; the communications we send, how we report on the impact your donations are making and how we keep people informed about student welfare, diversity and widening access.

From this review we will be developing a new alumni programme on the basis of

the survey findings. Once the Fellowship has received and approved this plan, more significant changes to our activities will be forthcoming in the 2018/19 academic year.

We look forward to sharing our plans for the future with you. Thanks to the feedback from Old Members around the world, we hope to deliver an even better experience for all Balliol alumni.



The Greville Smith Society

SUPPORTING FUTURE GENERATIONS



Remembering Balliol in your will is a straightforward way to contribute something special to the Oxford experience of future generations.

Gifts of all sizes have a transformative impact on the lives of our students so, once you have provided for the needs of those close to you, **please consider including Balliol in your will**. To say thank you, the College would be delighted to invite you to join the Greville Smith Society and to welcome you back to lunch in Hall each year.

Over 250 alumni and friends are currently members of the Greville Smith Society. [Will you join them?](#)

To discuss your bequest to Balliol, contact the Development Office at development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk