



BALLIOL
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Floreat Domus

BALLIOL COLLEGE NEWS | ISSUE NO.21 MAY 2015

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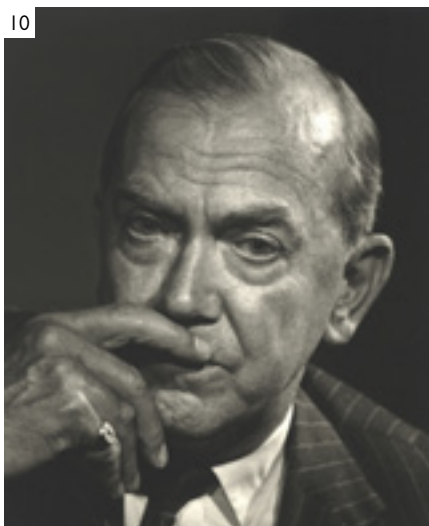
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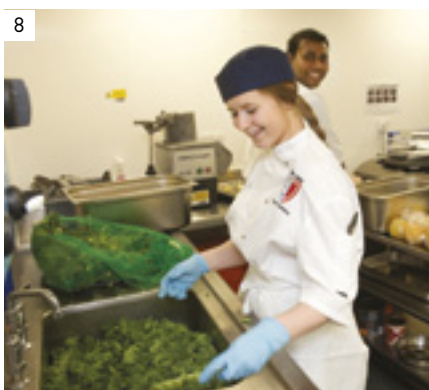
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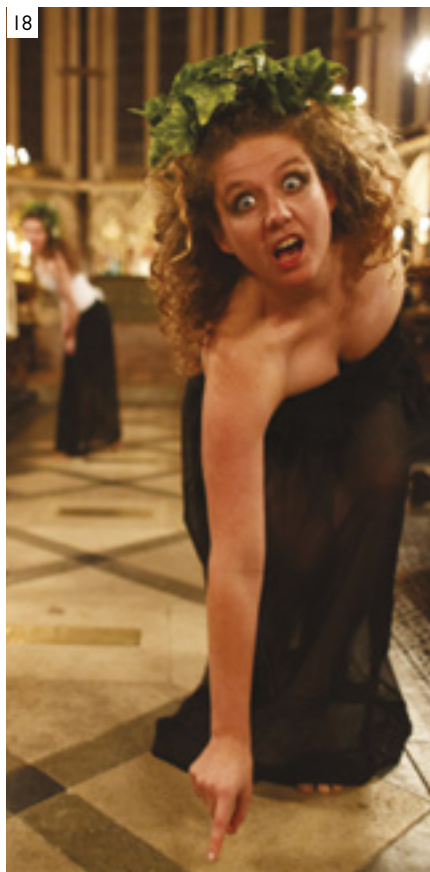
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Balliol College
Oxford OX1 3BJ
01865 277777
www.balliol.ox.ac.uk

Editor: Anne Askwith
(Publications and Web Officer)
Editorial advisor: Nicola Trott
(Senior Tutor)
Design: RBDA Studio
Print: Hunts
Front cover photograph: Rob Judges

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We are always pleased to receive feedback and suggestions: please send these by email to anne.askwith@balliol.ox.ac.uk or to the Editor at the address above.

Pathfinders anniversary year

The year 2015/16 will be one of celebrations for the Pathfinders Programme: the 60th anniversary of its creation by Bill Coolidge, and the 10th anniversary of Matthew and Siân Westerman's support for it. For a feature in next year's *Floreat Domus*, and anniversary celebrations commencing in the autumn, we would love to hear from former Pathfinders and Pathfinder hosts about their experiences and what the programme has meant to them. If you would like to share your memories and reflections, please go to www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/Pathfinders@60 or write to the Editor at the address above.

From the Master

Last year I wrote about the departures of Judy Longworth and Douglas Dupree, and signalled that Judy's successor as Development Director was to be Richard Norman from the University of Reading; this year I can write about the arrival of Bruce Kinsey, too, as our new Chaplain and Welfare Officer. Bruce comes to us from the Perse School, Cambridge, where he was Chaplain and Senior Tutor, but he also has long experience as the Chaplain at Downing College, Cambridge. As well as his Chapel duties he leads a welfare team which includes another new arrival, Denise Barulis, as Academic Work Counsellor, a new part-time position shared with St John's College. And of course Bruce works closely with the equally new Dean, Rachel Quarrell, who has been a chemistry Lecturer in College for a good number of years.

Not only do we have these crucial new members of College, but equally crucially, you might think, we have a new kitchen, and the lawn has been once again revealed from under the temporary structure. The College has also carried out a major survey of its buildings on the Broad Street site, and now has a plan in place to catch up on maintenance over the next ten years – of the order of £10M worth – and, even more importantly perhaps, a rolling programme which should ensure that it does not fall behind again, though of course we are in about as much control of the financial context as anyone else in a not very stable environment. The upcoming election has a number of serious variables built in, and what look like significant rises to both National Insurance and USS employers' contributions will add to our pay bill.

Our undergraduate performance in Final Honours Schools has been almost as unstable as the financial environment in recent years, and after a couple of years back in the top ten, we slipped again last year. Small differences can have large effects on the Norrington rankings, which mean little – but the fact of it is that we must ensure that all our students fulfil their promise, and from this year on we are making significant changes in the way they are supported in a number of subjects, where the College will provide more back-up to teaching provision supplied by the University's academic divisions. We also have longer-term plans to increase our tutorial strength by possibly as many as 12 young high-fliers in both research and teaching. Again, I fear these plans are dependent on the continuing generosity of our alumni and we are discussing them with a number of you, I know.

Sporting success has ranged from Cuppers wins in football, rugby and cycling for the men, through the Cuppers final in women's squash, to wins in both the League and Cuppers for frisbee (almost as unknown as a College sport in my time as was karting last year). Perhaps the biggest success, though, thanks to a generous anonymous donation to sports, has been the huge increase in lacrosse participation, which will surely lead to success in the future. Balliol members were also in the Oxford teams which won this year's Varsity matches in rugby, golf and women's rowing.

In Michaelmas Term and Hilary we had a wonderful range of good research news. David Lucas (Tutor in Physics) and Dominic O'Brien (Eastern Electricity Fellow, Professor of Engineering Science and Tutor in Engineering Science) had a major role in securing an over-£30M grant for quantum computing, as part of the Quantum Technology Hubs programme, which will explore the properties of quantum mechanics and how they can be harnessed

for use in technology; Edith Elkind (Research Fellow in Computational Game Theory) and John-Paul Ghobrial (Lucas Fellow and Tutor in History) won major European Research Council awards; and Tom Melham (Professor of Computer Science and Tutor in Computation) played a key part in the University's selection as a founder of the £40M-plus Alan Turing Institute for Data Science. The Royal Society honoured Emeritus Fellow Denis Noble's pioneering work on the heart by including his article in its 350th anniversary publication. Ofra Magidor (Fairfax Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy) won a major Philip Leverhulme Prize, for her work in the philosophy of logic and language, metaphysics, epistemology and philosophy of mathematics, and Andrew Hurrell (Professorial Fellow and Montague Burton Professor of International Relations) was given the Susan Strange Award.

The Buttery has now reopened in its new splendour (stamps still affixed to the ceiling, however) – come to see it and visit the College for one of our many alumni events.



Rob Judges

New Fellows

Rachel Quarrell

Rachel, now Fellow Dean, is no stranger to Balliol, having taught organic chemistry at Balliol for 15 years. As a postdoctoral researcher in medicinal chemistry at the Dyson Perrins Laboratory from 1994 to 2004, she published papers on combinatorial chemistry and the inhibition of enzymes, with a particular focus on the discovery of lead compounds with the potential to be used against targets including emphysema, malaria, the HIV virus and human dihydrofolate reductase (implicated in cancer growth). As well as being a Balliol Lecturer she teaches at Worcester and Corpus Christi Colleges. In 2001 she co-founded the Oxford Café Scientifique, a public science forum holding informal monthly science talks. She has also been the rowing correspondent for first the *Independent* and then the *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraphs* for the last 13 years.

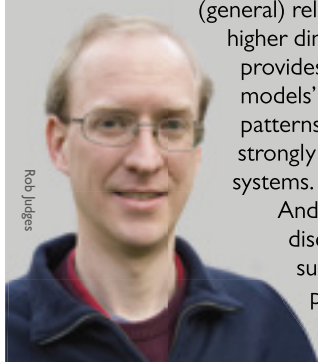


Rob Judges

Andrew O'Bannon

Andy is a Royal Society University Research Fellow in Oxford's Department of Physics and he joins Balliol as a Junior Research Fellow in the Sciences. Before his Royal Society fellowship he was a postdoc at the Max Planck Institute for Physics in Munich and then in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge. Andy's research is focused on physical systems in which strong interactions produce unusual properties, such as the quark-gluon plasma created in heavy ion collisions, which exhibits viscosity smaller than any other known substance. Few techniques exist to study such systems. Andy's research is based on an imaginative new technique called holography, which equates certain strongly interacting systems with certain weakly interacting systems in Einstein's theory of (general) relativity in one

higher dimension and thus provides theoretical 'toy models' that may reveal patterns characteristic of strongly interacting systems. The main goal of Andy's research is to discover as many such patterns as possible, using holography.



Rob Judges

David Clifton

Balliol's new Research Fellow in Engineering is a graduate of Oxford's Department of Engineering Science, where he specialised in information engineering. After his doctoral degree, during which he was a Doctoral Research Fellow of Kellogg College, David became a Junior Research Fellow of Mansfield College. His appointment in 2013 as a Research Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering will lead to a permanent position in the Department of Engineering Science. His research interests are in Bayesian methods for time-series analysis, typically using data from sensors in 'health monitoring' settings. His doctoral research resulted in engine monitoring systems used by the Airbus A380, Boeing 787 and Eurofighter Typhoon; his postdoctoral work translated this into the biomedical context, where he produced FDA-approved early warning systems for acutely ill patients in hospitals, using patient-worn sensors. He initiated the Computational Health Informatics Laboratory at Oxford, where his work is generalised to 'big data' problems in which genomic data are fused with patient healthcare. David is also the Associate Director for the Oxford Centre for Affordable Healthcare Technologies, which translates technologies into low-cost settings to improve access to healthcare in the developing world.



Ian Taylor

Richard Ovenden

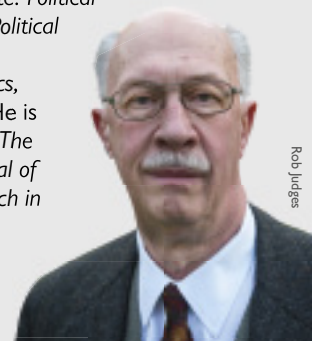
Professorial Fellow Richard Ovenden is Bodley's Librarian, which is the senior executive position of the Bodleian Libraries. His previous roles include positions at the House of Lords Library, the National Library of Scotland, and the University of Edinburgh, after which he joined the Bodleian Libraries in 2003, becoming first Keeper of Special Collections and Western Manuscripts, then Associate Director, and, from 2011, Deputy Librarian. He is active in the sphere of libraries, archives and information science, being a member of the Board of the Legal Deposit Libraries and the Expert Panel of the National Heritage Memorial Fund; Chair of the Digital Preservation Coalition 2009–2013; a Trustee of Chawton House Library and the Kraszna

Kraus Foundation; and on the Advisory Panel for Libraries and Archives of the Church of England. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.



Byron Shafer

Byron has come to Balliol from the University of Wisconsin to be Winant Visiting Professor (Politics) for Hilary and Trinity Terms 2015. As Hawkins Chair of Political Science at Wisconsin, he researches and teaches in American politics, broadly construed. He has written major monographs on reform politics, institutional change, policy divisions, structural influences, public opinion and strategic dilemmas in our time. He is currently working on two further monographs: *Widening Gyre: Social Structure and Policy Preference in the Transformation of the American Party System*, with Richard G.C. Johnston; and *Born and Raised in Black and White: Political Structure and Political Substance in American Politics, 1945–2015*. He is also editor of *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics*.



Rob Judges

Stefan Sienkiewicz

Before joining Balliol as Career Development Fellow (Ancient Philosophy), Stefan was, for two years, a Lecturer in Philosophy at Oriel College. His research focuses on Ancient Greek scepticism – in particular the Pyrrhonian variety. He is currently working on a monograph, *Five Modes of Scepticism*, which examines the logical structure of five argument forms central to the Pyrrhonian project, as well as on journal pieces concerning what the ancient sceptics had to say about

infinitely regressive arguments and about geometry. His teaching includes a range of papers in Ancient Greek Philosophy and in Ethics.



Ian Taylor

Keith Krause

Oliver Smithies Visiting Research Fellow Keith Krause (Balliol 1987) is Professor of International Relations at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, where he has taught since 1994. His research interests include the changing character of contemporary political violence, the evolution of concepts of security, and 21st-century arms control and disarmament. Current projects also include an examination of forms of resistance and subversion to post-conflict peace- and security-building practices. Keith is Director of the Graduate Institute's Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, and founder and Programme Director of the Small Arms Survey. Recent (co-edited) publications include the *Global Burden of Armed Violence* (Cambridge, 2011) and *Armed Groups and Contemporary Conflicts: Challenging the Weberian State* (Routledge, 2010). He has authored and co-authored more than 80 articles, chapters, reports and essays.



E. Anato



Ian Taylor

Laura Miguélez-Cavero

Balliol's new Junior Research Fellow in the Humanities (Classics) is the Co-Investigator of the AHRC-funded project 'Greek Epic of the Roman Empire: A Cultural History'. Prior to Oxford Laura was Juan de la Cierva Research Fellow at the University of Salamanca, where she returned after two years as a postdoctoral fellow in Oxford. Her main area of research is late antique Greek poetry, with a particular focus on Egyptian poets publishing in Greek from the third to the sixth centuries AD. She is the author of *Poems in Context: Greek Poetry in the Egyptian Thebaid 200–600 AD* (De Gruyter, 2008) and *Triphiodorus, The Sack of Troy: A General Introduction and Commentary* (De Gruyter, 2013). During her tenure as JRF Laura will be studying the cultural spaces of Imperial Greek Epic, including case studies of poetry produced at school, exhibition of poems in the public space, literary circles, and the Christian impact on the literary arena.

Bruce Kinsey

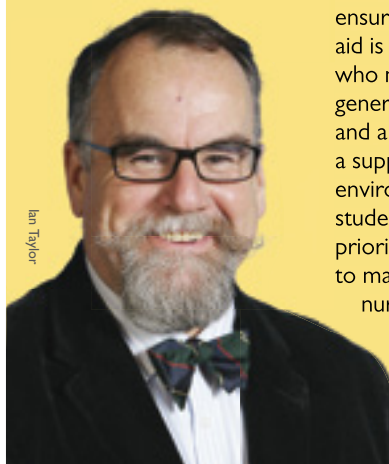
Bruce Kinsey, the new Chaplain, comes to Balliol from the Perse School in Cambridge, where he was Senior Tutor, Child Protection Designated Person and Chaplain. Before that he was Chaplain and Fellow at Downing College, Cambridge, having trained for the ordained ministry at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford and worked in parishes in London. 'Jobs like this are like hen's teeth' he says, and he was 'absolutely thrilled' to be appointed.

He found arriving in the middle of Michaelmas Term 'rather akin to being dropped into the Atlantic Ocean', and he describes his first few weeks as 'very full, exhilarating but also wonderful'. He much appreciated the help of the Chaplain's Secretary, Catherine Willbery, and the welcome he received from Fellows and staff. And, he says, 'the students have been receptive of me in a way that I've found quite overwhelming: really friendly, really warm, wanting it to work well. I think that's an incredible thing considering how fond everyone was of Doug.'

Bruce perceives Douglas Dupree's strong legacy positively – the role of Chaplain is 'well respected, it's well liked. There's none of the kind of side which other places have' – and he doesn't plan to make changes: he sees Doug's lunches, for instance, 'when all the students are in your room discussing stuff about life and about the world', as 'a great thing that I want to treasure' though they have been renamed 'Bruce's brunches'. One new introduction, though, is a half-hour period of silence in the Chapel each week, when people just sit together in stillness. He loves the energy he finds at Balliol and all the things going on, academic and otherwise, but he thinks that for some the rich Oxford diet can be difficult to digest. 'Whether you are a Buddhist, an atheist or a Christian, it can be nice to have a reflective space: that's what I hope the Chapel can offer.'

The Chaplain is no longer Dean but remains Financial Aid Officer and is now also Welfare Officer. As a psychoanalytic psychotherapist, Bruce is well qualified for this: he trained with the Cambridge Society for Psychotherapy and as a Supervisor with the Society for Analytical Psychology, is registered with the UKCP as well as British Association for Psychoanalytic and Psychodynamic Supervision, and has clinical experience in prison, AIDS/HIV and hospital work as well as in educational settings. Helping those with

serious problems, ensuring that financial aid is targeted to those who need it most, and generally 'being out and around' to provide a supportive environment for all students will all be his priorities as he works to maintain and nurture the 'great community' he says he has found here.



Ian Taylor

New Development Director



Rob Judges

'Each day I am struck by what a great privilege it is to be part of Balliol,' says Richard Norman, who came to the College as the new Development Director in June last year. He returns to Oxford having read History and Politics at Magdalen. 'Like many', he says, 'I was well aware of Balliol's distinguished academic record, its reputation for public service and, first-hand from my own time at Oxford, the outstanding calibre of its students.'

Since he arrived, Richard has enjoyed meeting Old Members in the UK and overseas and looks forward to meeting many more in the near future. He says he has found Balliol's alumni to be 'people with a diverse range of views, often with an unexpected perspective and a distinctive brilliance in their chosen field'. It is clear from the response to the appeal to mark Balliol's 750th anniversary, Richard says, 'that Old Members understand that what Balliol represents is very special and to be cherished'.

Previously, Richard was part of the Development Office at the University of Reading, where he was responsible for a campaign to raise £100 million for the university. He greatly admires what recent Development Directors, Alastair James and Judy Longworth, have accomplished at Balliol and is proud to build on their achievements with the Development Office team.

'It is such an inspiring moment to join the College', says Richard, 'as we look beyond the success of the 750th Anniversary Campaign. Balliol's Old Members and friends have helped the College to achieve a far more secure financial base, and this continuing generosity has gone a long way towards ensuring that the College can survive in its current form.' The challenge now, he says, 'is to ensure that Balliol not only survives, but continues to thrive and lead the way in teaching, in research and in the support we offer to our students'.

Awards

Distinguished Friend of Oxford

Richard Salter QC (1970) received a Distinguished Friend of Oxford award in June 2014 from the Vice-Chancellor, Andrew Hamilton (right).



Rob Judges

New Year Honours

The following people received awards in the New Year Honours list 2015:

Cressida Dick (1979), appointed CBE for services to policing



David Bostock (1966), appointed KCMG for services to public administration and accountability

Martin Burton (Research Fellow in Clinical Medicine and Director of the UK Cochrane Centre): Professor of Otolaryngology



Martin Conway (MacLellan-Warburg Fellow and Tutor in History): Professor of Contemporary European History



Ian Taylor

Seamus Perry (Massey Fellow, Tutor in English and Chair of the English Faculty): Professor of English Literature



David Wallace (Fairfax Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy): Professor of the Philosophy of Physics



Rob Judges

Panagis Filippakopoulos (Junior Research Fellow in the Sciences): Professor of Structural Biology



Recognition of Distinction

Five Balliol Fellows have received a Recognition of Distinction award from the University, and with it the title of Professor:

Outreach activities

Alice Farrell and Xavier Greenwood, JCR Access and Admissions Officers, chat to Kate Kettle (2007), David Freeman Outreach and Student Support Officer.

Xavier: Why do you think outreach is so important?

Kate: Outreach is important for school students as it shows them what it is possible to aspire to, and offers them support and advice on how to achieve that. We have found that it's good to set expectations early, so we work with students all the way from primary school up to year 13. Outreach is important not just to the schools and communities we serve but also to Balliol, as a diverse and engaged student body benefits the College and its work as a whole.

Alice: What plans do you have for outreach this year?

Kate: We are beginning to run more targeted and sustained interventions, as these yield the best results. Our main new access programme is called Floreat, which is a year-long humanities programme for 20 students who attend schools in Hertfordshire, Balliol's regional link area. We met the first selected students in Michaelmas Term, when they experienced the Oxford application process, including writing a personal statement and attending an interview. In Hilary the students have been attending a series of academic seminars in Hertfordshire. Then in Trinity Term they will come to Balliol for a week-long residential summer school, where they will pursue an academic project of their choice.

We are really excited about Floreat, because it gives us the opportunity to take Oxford teaching and academic content into the schools of potential applicants and create sustained contact with students, which we know makes a real difference. We hope to reap the rewards of this programme this time next year, and if it's successful we will replicate versions of it in other regions, and in other subject areas.

Xavier: What role do you think the JCR has in outreach?

Kate: When school groups visit Balliol, the highlight of their day with us is when they get to meet real Oxford undergraduates. As a result, the JCR has a vital role to play. This year the JCR have been amazing, as always. I know they have recently set up a Facebook page for JCR Student Ambassadors, who volunteer to offer tours of the College. Can you tell me a bit about that?

Alice: Yes. We think it is important to get as many people from the JCR involved in access and outreach as possible, and the Facebook group helps to make sure everyone knows that showing schools around is enjoyable, easy and rewarding. Balliol definitely thrives on having such a diverse range of people, and we want to do what we can to ensure that continues.

Kate: Absolutely. School students don't really want to hear me talk to them the whole afternoon; what they really want is to meet undergraduates and get a sense of student life. That's probably the most important thing that we offer. It shows that you don't need to be from a different planet to come to Balliol, and it's really nice to make sure we're properly represented. I know something else that you have been working on is a JCR Access Blog. How did that come about?

Xavier: We were talking about how we found out about Balliol during the application process, and we both remembered searching every corner of the internet for any information we could get.

We agreed that a blog about student life written by the JCR would have been really helpful. So far we have posts about the football team and Christmas at Balliol, and we're going to try to cover as wide a range of subjects as possible.

Alice: How do you think Old Members can get involved in outreach?

Kate: Anyone who is involved with young people – as a teacher, school governor or a parent – can get in touch with us and see what we can offer. We run a range of activities for school groups, which are all free of charge, and if you have a student you support as an individual they can get in touch for further support. One of the things that is exciting is the opportunity to expand the current programmes we have, such as the Floreat programme. However, costs are entailed and we are very lucky to have received donations from Old Members specifically for outreach. If any Old Members are keen on access work, they are very welcome to get in touch with me (kate.kettle@balliol.ox.ac.uk) to discuss ways in which they could get involved.



Hertfordshire school students attending Floreat: A Balliol College Access Programme for year 12 students.

Douglas Dupree's retirement dinner

■ **DIEGO ZANCANI** (EMERITUS FELLOW)



John Castele (2011)

After 30 years in Balliol, and more in Oxford, the Revd Douglas Dupree, retiring Fellow, had two dinners dedicated to him: one at the end of an academic year, and another at the beginning of the following one, to mark his outstanding contribution to the life of the College, and the affection of all its members, past and present.

Around 7.00pm on Friday 3 October 2014, the Master's Lodgings in Balliol was overflowing with guests, from all sections of the College, congregating for pre-dinner drinks. Most people were busy moving from one room of the Lodgings to the other to see who was there. Nearly 200 people attended the dinner, which, at Douglas's request, was not a black-tie affair. The Hall was packed and certainly sounded cheerful and full of good spirit. There was a large number of colleagues, but just as many former students, among them several who had been married by Douglas, and quite a few members of staff, many of whom had helped Douglas in his capacity as Chaplain, Dean, Vice-Gerent, Financial Aid Officer, Tutor or organiser of the North American Pathfinders.

One of Douglas's interests was underlined by the gifts chosen for him by the Senior Common Room and by the College, which included a few tomes on sublime cuisine, with a bias towards that of the country in which Doug had spent part of his childhood, Italy, and which has always been dear to his heart.

This preference was respected at table, and the menu, carefully chosen by our excellent

Bertrand Fauchaux (Executive Head Chef) and approved by Doug (who still had doubts about the main course a few days before the event), started with a simple small dish of pasta with Parmesan and black truffle, arrived that morning from Italy. The main course was a splendid roast Sir Loin of beef, dry aged as it should be, and this was followed by a memorable chocolate marquise for dessert.

Towards the end of the meal there was considerable movement among tables, as old friends, students, Fellows and partners exchanged places, embraced each other and reminisced about their own connection with Douglas. Douglas personified some of the best features of College: tolerance and respect for different beliefs, spirit of charity, but also rigour when necessary, as underlined by Sudhir Hazareesingh (Fellow and Tutor in Politics), the first speaker at dinner, who stressed Douglas's qualities as 'great negotiator'. We were all agreed about Doug's ability as a diplomat being comparable to that of the legendary 18th-century Cardinal Alberoni, Prime Minister of Spain. Douglas was definitely a voice able to calm friction or even strife in a large and diverse community like ours.

After the good-humoured and inspired speech by Sudhir, Andrew Graham (Master 2001–2011) gave an appreciation of Doug's many qualities. Anna Camilleri (2007), as a representative of more junior colleagues, also paid her tribute to an exceptional person who contributed so much to so many aspects of

College life. Douglas did this by simply dealing with so many sensitive, delicate, even dangerous situations, which, once solved, could be recounted and seen in their occasionally humorous vein. Among his lasting achievements, apart from his hard work for the Chapel and the College at large, there certainly was the regular Thursday Doug's lunch, which usually took place in his rooms, except when some extraordinary speaker was invited and the lunch moved to the Master's Lodgings or to a lecture room. Personally I shared many committees with Douglas and worked closely with him when I was Dean and Praefectus, and I learned to appreciate his quiet manners and his ability to resolve conflicts of various kinds, as well as his American sense of humour. We also shared a keen interest in food, in its historical, academic and pragmatic aspects. When Douglas was Steward of the Senior Common Room he suggested sampling 'Renaissance' menus, philologically accurate, of course; and once we went as far as importing from Italy a special raw ham, prized by the decadent poet D'Annunzio, for the education of the SCR.

Douglas marked with his presence many happy and sad occasions in the life of the College, at which he always chose texts, from the Scriptures or from literary sources, that would mark the occasion and make it special, memorable and dignified.

All those who have known Douglas will remember the host of anecdotes and jokes which were shared and enjoyed with him. A book of personal messages was given to him on his retirement, and we hope that this will help him to keep in touch with what, in Sudhir's words, is 'the family'.

Sudhir Hazareesingh's speech

It is a challenge to sum up Douglas's time in Balliol: he has been here for so long, has done so much for us, in so many different roles. I think perhaps some analogies with classic American movies might be helpful.

The obvious comparison is with *Superman* – not just because you are tall and handsome like Clark Kent, Douglas, and not only because like him you have dedicated your superhuman abilities to the benefit of humanity. But because of the countless times you have saved the College from certain disaster through your watchful eye, your decisive and timely anticipations, or just by your calm and soothing words of wisdom in the middle of one of our byzantine discussions. For these gifts of yours to us, and for your selfless commitment to our common good, we will forever be in your debt.

But in thinking of your time in Balliol, another, more disturbing theme comes to



Douglas Dupree at his retirement dinner.

mind: the corruption of innocence. Your story is a classic tale of the starry-eyed ingénu who comes to the metropolis full of hope and idealism, only to be plunged into a world of senseless violence. Yes, you came here to bring us harmony and peace, but instead we made you become Junior Dean (and later Dean) – and we made you do terrible things to the students. So perhaps the movie that best captures your decades in Balliol is *The Godfather*. Like the young Michael Corleone, you came to Balliol thinking that you could remain true to your principles and values – only to discover that behind the façade of normality this place was actually run by the Mob. And hard as you tried to get away from our criminal fraternity, we refused to let go of you. Often, I imagine, you must have repeated to yourself Al Pacino's classic line in *The Godfather 3*: 'Just when I thought I was out they pull me back in.'

Of course I was being frivolous in describing Balliol as a den of criminality. Indeed, as we all know, we have always been perfect. But there have been times when we

were, how should I say, slightly less perfect than at others, and the mid-1980s was definitely one such time. The College in those days was rather more effortless than superior, and segmented into many different tribes. Undergraduate and graduate, home and overseas students, College Office and Bursary, science and humanities, JCR pantry and Hall, hearties and lefties, Chapel goers and bar props, public school and comprehensive, PPEists and the rest; even within the JCR there were countless factions (most of them affiliated in one way or another to Trotskyism). Most importantly, women had only just arrived in the College, and the College's masculine ethos was changing, but slowly, and sometimes painfully.

Douglas had a marvellous talent for bringing all these constituencies and groups together. He did this by providing informal spaces where undergraduates and graduates from different horizons could come together (this was the spirit in which Doug's lunches were later established); by his wickedly mischievous and subversive sense of humour

('I am soooo baaad'); by his infectiously eclectic intellectual tastes – desultory conversations in his room could range across anything from Cuban émigrés in Florida in the early 1970s, the history of the bicycle, how to cook a good steak, modernism in American art, the comparative merits of Jamaican and Mauritian rum, and the influence of T.H. Green on the theology of Dr J.R. Illingworth (the subject of Douglas's fine doctorate).

He also performed his magic by reminding us all that privilege and social responsibility went hand in hand; and (it has to be said) by the very Christian spirit with which he doled out the liquor in his room in Staircase III.

So my dear Douglas, it only remains for me to thank you again on behalf of us all, and to wish you a happy retirement. And, to return to the *Godfather* theme, may I gently remind you that, hard as one may try, one never really leaves the family . . .

This is an edited version of the original text.

The Kitchen Project



Rob Judges

Executive Head Chef Bertrand Fauchaux and his staff in the new kitchen.

All is gleaming and new. Chefs in white coats are working away busily, steam rising from the pans in front of them. Around them there is order and state-of-the-art kitchen equipment. Is this the set of *MasterChef*, you might wonder? No, it's Balliol's new kitchen, necessitated when the Environmental Health Officer reported that the old Victorian kitchen had come to the end of its long life. Acknowledging that there was no option but to modernise, the College took the opportunity to undertake two less essential but desirable projects at the same time: the installation of a new disabled lift to Hall, and the renovation of the Buttery, former archives area and SCR pantry. Building work began in January 2014 and was completed in February 2015.

A sizeable challenge

As is the case for anyone planning a new kitchen, the challenge was to minimise expenditure while working within the constraints of the space available and making sure that the kitchen was suitable for the service it has to provide. The College wanted it to be as future-proof as possible as well as economical to run in terms of energy consumed for cooking, refrigeration and ventilation. The kitchen also had to

satisfy the Code of Practice for food safety and hygiene, a particular aim being the five-star rating which it had been impossible to achieve before. Using the underground location of the old kitchen was found to be the best option, and the decision was taken to gut the area. Working with Sidleys Chartered Surveyors, a plan was developed, based on the ideas of the Executive Head Chef, Bertrand Fauchaux. 'No bursar in Oxford voluntarily spends money on refurbishing a kitchen,' says the Domestic Bursar, Jo Roadknight, 'but Balliol was one of the lucky ones to have held out for longest, and so was able to learn of the pitfalls other colleges have experienced, along with what has worked really well.' Bertrand visited about a dozen kitchens and learned a great deal about workflow and equipment.

The entire drainage and ventilation systems needed to be redesigned, and the first step for construction company Beard Ltd was to dig a huge hole into which to instal new pumps for drainage. Much of the floor area had to be lowered by about a metre and half. Other major preparatory work included rewiring and the installation of the disabled lift, as well as another lift replacing the old 'dumb waiter' up to the SCR pantry.

Now, in a new layout, staff go straight into a changing area before going into work. There are much-needed new cloakrooms and female staff no longer have to change in the toilets or in the organ loft: they have their own room, with smart lockers in Balliol red and blue. Previously deliveries had to be taken through the kitchen; now they go down a main passageway to an area where staff can receive them and put them straight into giant freezers and fridges or the dry storage area. The larder (for ready-to-eat food), pastry kitchen and cooking area are all much better separated from each other. All these arrangements help prevent cross-contamination and enable better hygiene. The floor is now all on one level, which is better for the movement of goods, trolleys and people; it also makes cleaning easier, as do finishes such as the special (non-slip) floor covering and wipable White Rock walls, and new appliances, many of them chosen for ease of cleaning.

Nothing but the best

The cooking area has very high specifications: 'The College acknowledged the need to have the best, especially for our private dining and banqueting clients,' explains Bertrand. Appliances using the latest technologies include some very fancy deep friers, with an



Rob Judges

inbuilt self-filtering system that keeps the oil clean for longer, making fried food (a little) healthier; three Bratt pans, with electronic programming, in which a beef stew can be ready within 30 minutes instead of three to four hours; energy-efficient vector hobs; a chargriller; a smoker; a pressure steamer that halves the cooking time of vegetables (a critical issue when additional quantities are required quickly). A sophisticated ventilation system controls steam going out of the kitchen and the air coming in.

Elsewhere details are both for culinary reasons – a marble surface for chocolate work, a special fridge for fish – and for the efficient running of the kitchen: a wipeable wall-mounted touchscreen, for instance, allows staff to access the latest requirements for events easily; there's a computer in the dry goods area so that ordering can be done in there. Better lighting, too, has transformed this underground space for those who work there.

Now Balliol's own Masterchefs have all they could wish for. 'It's the best kitchen in Oxford,' says Bertrand. Life is much easier for him and his team, who worked valiantly for a year in a much smaller temporary kitchen in the Garden Quad. And with this splendid new facility they will be able to maintain the excellent cuisine that College members enjoy and on which the fine dining and banqueting business (13 per cent of College income in 2013/2014) depends.

Now there is light

In the Buttery, where once there was little natural light, a wall has been removed and sunlight pours into the whole opened-up space through the large bay window. Likewise the adjacent area where the archives used to be has been turned into a bright and airy room. The floor has been lowered to the Buttery level and doors lead from it into the Buttery. With movable furniture, the two areas make a flexible space that can be used separately or together for seminars, tutorials, receptions or private events.

Behind it, in space that was previously wasted, there are new toilets, spacious and splendid – thanks to a donation by Jon Moynihan (1967). These include a disabled toilet by the disabled lift. Thus disabled visitors to Hall no longer have to make a 20-minute journey to the toilets by Lecture Room XXIII, while students in wheelchairs now have much more accessible social space, including a bar, than they had before.

Despite the radical changes in the Buttery, old features such as the wood

Fine cuisine for all

Bertrand's outstanding cuisine, the College wine cellar and the excellent services of the Hall staff are available for family parties, business functions, special celebrations – any kind of event, from a banquet in Hall to a more intimate dinner in the Old Common Room. The College setting also makes a unique alternative to hotel accommodation for conferences, and an attractive yet functional venue for corporate meetings. The Conference and Events Manager, Jacqui Gills, would be delighted to hear from any Old Member who is interested in hosting a business or private event here: please telephone her on 01865 277676 or email conference.manager@balliol.ox.ac.uk; see also balliol.ox.ac.uk/conferences.

panelling (complete with historic graffiti) and the floor-to-ceiling cupboard have been conserved and beautifully integrated with the new design. But behind the bar there's nothing old to be seen. 'Extremely modern, extremely functional,' is how Front of House Manager Greg Butler describes the area. Planned with different types of function in mind, it has everything staff might need, with new equipment including a dispenser for cask ale and a cocktail maker. 'It means we can really step up the level of service we offer for different types of functions,' says Greg. 'I couldn't be happier.' And it's hard to imagine that anyone visiting the new Buttery won't feel the same, as they enjoy the pleasing views on to the Garden Quad and the Oxford spires beyond – perhaps with a glass of Balliale, the JCR's new brew, which will be served here.

A 21st-century space

The whole project has been what Jo describes as 'a massive one, particularly complex because it was underground'. It cost more than the College wanted to spend, the expense being driven not so much by the equipment – chosen to last for 25 years and more – as by the structural work in the basement that was necessary. But for that expenditure, Jo says, Balliol now has 'a 21st-century space that should be fit for the 22nd century too'.

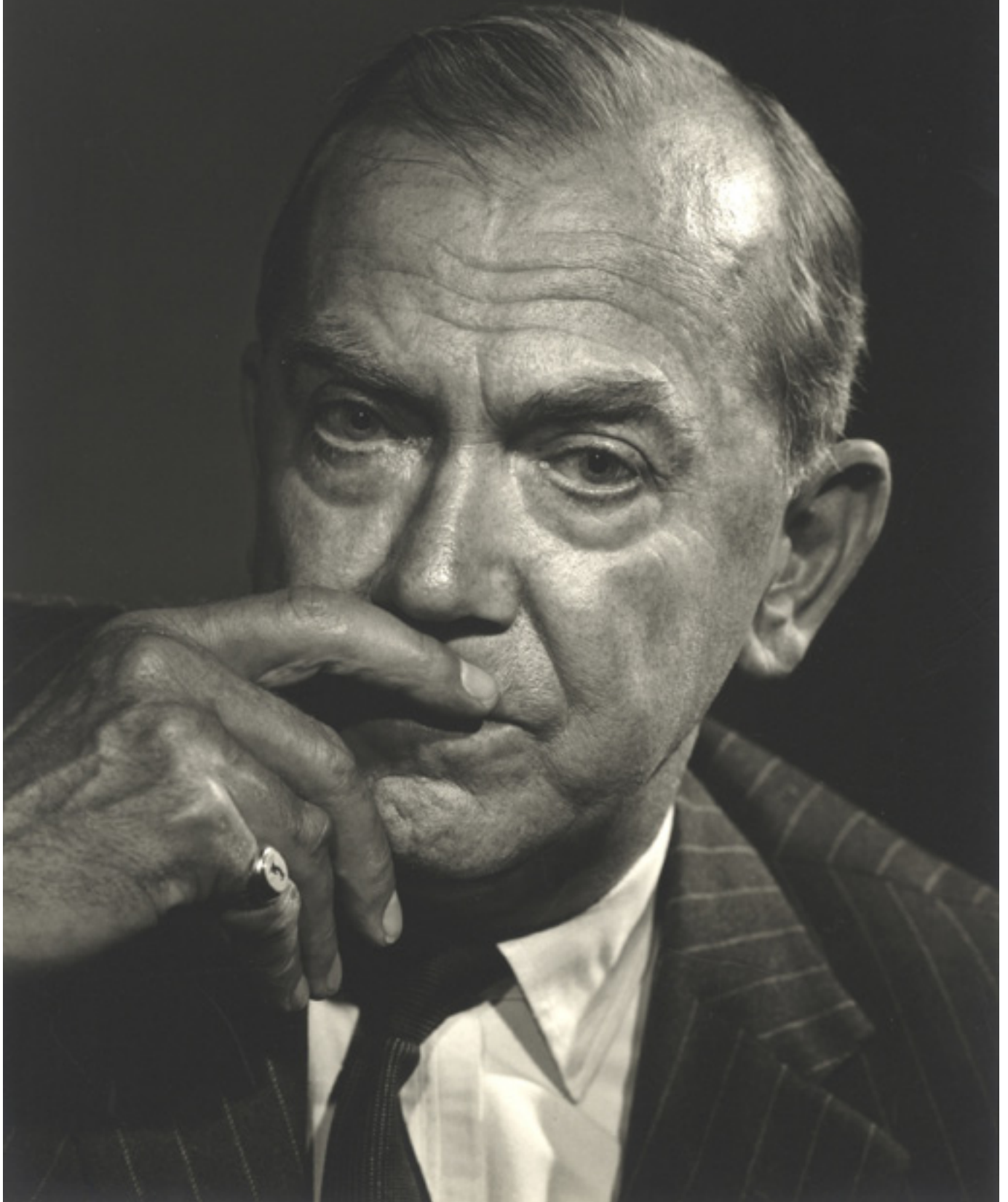


Rob Judges

Front of House Manager Greg Butler (left) and some of his staff in the refurbished Buttery.

STOP PRESS: The Environmental Health Officer has now awarded the kitchen five stars for its hygiene.

Graham Greene acquisition



Graham Greene, photographed by Yousuf Karsh.

Thanks to donations from Old Members, led by a gift from Neil Record (1972), in November 2014 the College was able to obtain a collection of personal material relating to the novelist Graham Greene (1922), for which an appeal went out in *Floreat Domus* 2014. The collection, which belonged to Josephine Reid, Greene's secretary, has been named The Cherry Record Collection of Josephine Reid's Papers and Books Relating to Graham Greene, in honour of Neil Record's late mother, who taught English in Oxford all her life. Since the acquisition, the Librarian and the Archivist have been working hard to catalogue all the material.

Josephine Reid was born in 1925 and spent her childhood on her parents' fruit farm in Argentina before coming to school in England. In her late teens she worked in the War Office. When the Second World War was over she returned to Argentina until 1950. She worked at the British Embassy in Athens for a time, and then in the Foreign Office in London, before starting to work for Greene in 1959. Alongside normal secretarial duties, she typed Greene's manuscripts from his readings on to blue plastic 'dictabelts', recorded by a Dictaphone machine, which he posted to her, especially when on his frequent travels. In 1975, Josephine moved permanently to Minehead and gave up the more secretarial side of the job, but she continued to type Greene's literary manuscripts until the year after his death in 1991. She died in 2012, aged 86.



Studio portrait of Josephine Reid as a young woman in the 1940s.

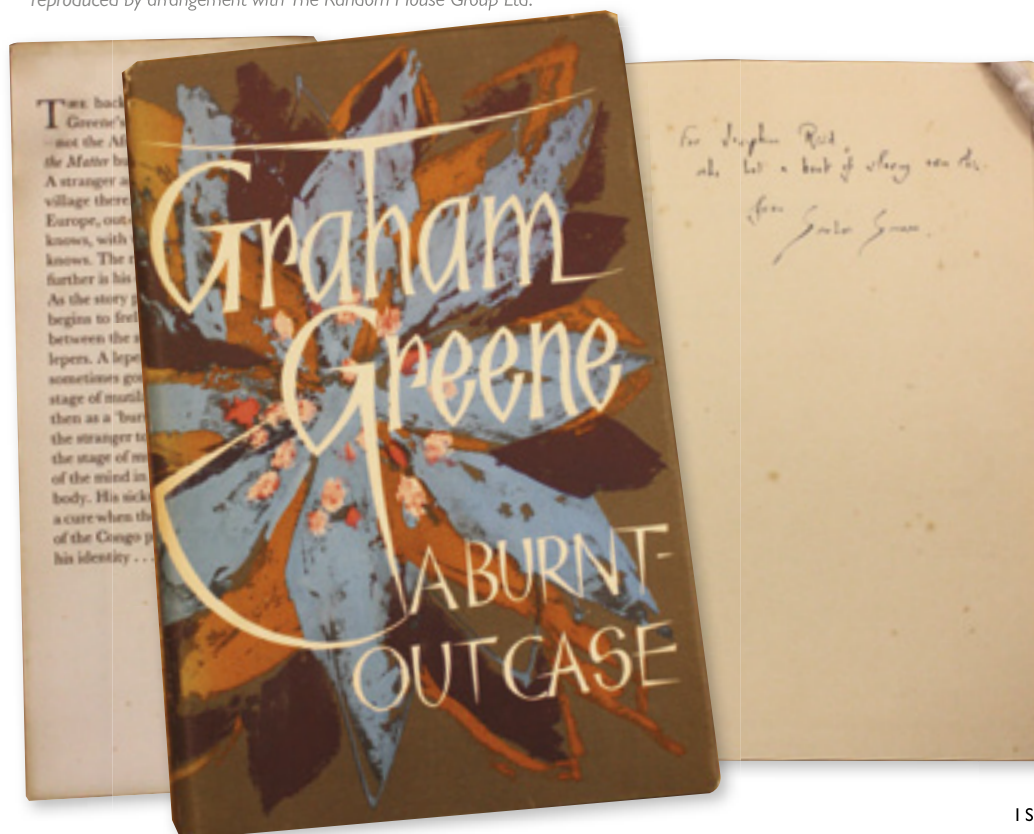
Josephine's collection is mostly new to scholarship; she preserved her Foreign Office-trained confidentiality throughout her life, and refused access to both Richard

Greene, anthologist of Graham Greene's letters, and Norman Sherry, his official biographer, whose work does not mention her. The correspondence contains many details of Greene's working practices, including word counts for novels at particular dates, publication details, his movements around the world, and his relationships with friends and people with whom he did

business. From Greene himself there are evocative autographed letters which flesh out details of his life not given in published biographies.

Other documents and ephemera provide further information on work in progress. The main component is about 90 pages of transcripts of Greene's dictation of around 200 working letters to Josephine, which show that even in his last year at 86, and with the illness that took his life, his rate of work was considerable. Other papers clarify the nature of Greene's beliefs about religion, contraception and the Liberation Theology movement in Latin America; his relationship with Kim Philby, the Third Man; and the nature of the literary permission given to Norman Sherry, his authorised biographer, and Greene's crucial insertion of a comma when on his deathbed. »

Above and below: copies of Greene's books which he presented to his secretary, Josephine Reid, with dedications as follows: (above, from top) 'For Josephine, this end of a long job'; 'For Josephine, after a lot of typing'; 'For Josephine Reid with grateful thanks for all the help you have given in this wild scramble of a production'; 'For Josephine in the country from Graham in the city'; (below) 'For Josephine Reid, who had a bout of slavery over this'. Jacket artwork reproduced by arrangement with The Random House Group Ltd.





Graham Greene with his long-term companion Yvonne Cloetta.

Josephine's books constitute an extensive collection of Greene's works from the 1940s onwards, and of books and articles relating to him. Some 70 of them are presentation copies from Greene, which reveal his appreciation of the work Josephine did over many years. In the first book she typed for him, *A Burnt Out Case*, he writes, 'For Josephine who had a bout of slavery over this', and in *The Complaisant Lover*, 'For Josephine Reid with grateful thanks for all the help you have given in the wild scramble of a production'. She clearly loved her work, writing to Euan Cameron (a director of Bodley Head, Greene's publisher) as late as 1985, 'Yes I adored typing *Monsignor Quixote* and *The Honorary Consul* – I loathed the film of the latter book. I'm so fond of *A Burnt Out Case* – Oh I do hope no film is ever made of that book.' In many books Josephine inserted news clippings on Greene, theatre programmes of his plays and other material relating to him, such as a curious correspondence on the grave of Lord Rochester, about whom Greene wrote a biography.

As soon as cataloguing is complete, the collection will be made available to researchers at the Balliol Historic Collections Centre. There will also be a public exhibition, and an associated talk in the 'Unlocking Archives' series. All these events will be announced on www.balliol.ox.ac.uk, and you can read about the collection in more detail here: archives.balliol.ox.ac.uk/ModernPapers/GreeneReid/greeneraid.asp

This article is indebted to the sale catalogue (2012–2013) by Nicholas Dennys.

A kind donation

Since acquiring The Cherry Record Collection, the College has received a kind donation of a rich selection of literary papers from Graham Greene to Marie Biche, his literary agent in Paris. Having this marvellous gift as well as The Cherry Record Collection means that Balliol's Historic Collections Centre is now the UK hub for Graham Greene papers.



Thomas Hodgkin Lecture

■ WILL JONES (2004)

On 10 November 2014, Balliol hosted the annual flagship lecture of Oxford's African Studies Centre, a lecture named in honour of the pioneering scholar of Africa, unrepentant Marxist, and opponent of Imperialism Thomas Lionel Hodgkin. It was given by the Rt Hon Lord Paul Boateng (Baron Boateng of Akyem Wembley), civil rights barrister and Labour peer, on the topic 'Black Star Rising: Thomas Hodgkin, Pan-Africanism, and the role of Higher Education in Development'.



Hodgkin – read from Hodgkin's diaries to illustrate his incomparable research. Hodgkin criss-crossed the African continent on the backs of camels and lorries (avoiding planes wherever possible), because he learnt more that way. Although he was a friend of the first post-independence black African leader Kwame Nkrumah and the Afro-nationalist philosopher Frantz Fanon, and had

Che Guevara for drinks in Ghana, his diaries are also full of discussions with camel drivers, market women, trade unionists, and *marabouts*. This great democratic spirit is reflected in the wide range and ecumenicalism of his two classic works, which remain indispensable to students of Africa to this day, *Nationalism in Colonial Africa* (1956) and *African Political Parties* (1961).

Hodgkin was also a tireless supporter of preserving and advancing the voices of Africans themselves. He did much to establish and support adult education in Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan and elsewhere. His anthology of primary sources, *Nigerian Perspectives* (1960), gave priority to the writings of Africans. He was a member of the advisory council that made recommendations to the British colonial government for the establishment of the University of Ghana. It was through his work that the Workers Educational Association of the UK helped the University of Ghana to establish the Department of Extra-Mural Studies (under David Kimble) as a fully fledged department of the University.

After publishing *Nationalism in Colonial Africa*, Hodgkin became interested in Africa's Islamic history. Lord Boateng read a passage from his writings in which he emphasised that the great Islamic scholar and West African politician Othman Dan Fodio (1754–1817) enjoined rulers and potentates to ensure that they educated their wives and daughters. It is classically Hodgkin to emphasise the deep intellectualism, moderation, and complexity of African Islamic traditions, in contrast to the contemporary Islamic zealotry of movements such as Boko Haram. In 1966, Hodgkin was named the first ever Lecturer in the Politics of New States at Oxford and for a second time was elected as a Fellow of Balliol, where he remained until his retirement.

Paying tribute

After Lord Boateng's speech many individuals paid tribute to Hodgkin. Phyllis Ferguson of Oxford Transitional Justice Research recounted the story of how he managed to convince IBM to donate a mainframe to the University of Ghana for the storage of rare African historical texts. This collection, which is of immeasurable value, affords young Ghanaian historians a vivid glimpse into their past. Cameron Duodo, Ghanaian author and broadcaster, described how important Hodgkin's support was for him: 'It was through the People's Educational Association (PEA), Ghana's version of the Workers Educational Association, that the Extra-Mural Studies Department sent me and my fellow teachers at Asiakwa a box of books every month and that I developed my reading habit ... Classes organised by the PEA, conducted by University graduates [which] the Extra-Mural Studies had identified from the nearby Abuakwa State College, transformed me

into someone acutely interested [in] pursuing higher learning. I am the recipient of the benefits of adult education, as brought to Ghana by Thomas Hodgkin and others.'

Balliol and Africa are most often connected by the Hilaire Belloc poem 'To the Balliol Men Still in Africa' (where the endlessly repeated 'Balliol made me, Balliol fed me ...' stanza comes from). As the title of the

In honouring
Hodgkin, we had
an opportunity
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and independent
Africa.

poem suggests, Balliol's involvement with imperialism was deep and dishonourable. The second most famous British imperial figure in South Africa (after Cecil Rhodes) is probably Viscount Alfred Milner (1873), who created a 'kindergarten' of young Balliol graduates to rule Southern Africa (the men of Belloc's title), and used his College connections to secure the unstinting support of Balliol's 'liberal imperialists', Herbert Asquith (1900) and Sir Edward Grey (1880), for his hardline policies as Governor of the Cape Colony during the Boer Wars. But it is also worth remembering that Balliol was, in a sense, and for a time, also a proudly anti-Imperialist college, and a black nationalist one at that. The first black Rhodes Scholar from South Africa was Gordon Loyiso Nongxa, who came to Balliol from Fort Hare in 1978 (and is now an Honorary Fellow). If that Balliol tradition is remembered less often, it is to our cost. At his memorial service, his old friend Christopher Hill, former Master of Balliol, said that Hodgkin had loved only two institutions in his life: Balliol and the Communist Party. In honouring Thomas Hodgkin, we had an opportunity to repay some of that love, and remember the deep links between Balliol and independent Africa.

A commitment to education

This was the first time the Thomas Hodgkin Lecture had come to Balliol, and it was a sort of homecoming, as Hodgkin was one of Balliol's greatest sons. After doing his undergraduate degree here (in Classics, from 1928 to 1932), he went to Palestine for an archaeological dig in Jericho, before taking a job as a colonial civil servant. There, his direct experience of the British Empire, and of the treatment of the Arab population, helped form his lifelong anti-Imperialism and radicalism. He resigned from the colonial service after the 1936 Arab Revolt, and the colonial administration ordered him back to Britain, where he married Dorothy Crowfoot (who would go on to win the Nobel Prize for her work in crystallography) the following year.

Lord Boateng underlined how Hodgkin's socialism and commitment to education had been linked from that time onwards. Back in Britain, Hodgkin became a member of the Communist Party, and taught at the Worker's Educational Association of North Staffordshire. He became a Balliol Fellow for the first time in 1945, and a member of the Oxford Delegacy of Extra-Mural Studies. Two years later, as African nationalist movements gathered steam, he travelled to the Gold Coast. It was a time when most university departments did not consider African politics, history, or culture to be objects of serious study. The impetus for the development of African studies in the United Kingdom came, in large part, through the work of those like Hodgkin who first went to establish university extra-mural studies in the Gold Coast: Dennis Austin, William Tordoff, and Lalage Bown. Over the course of rest of his life, Hodgkin would do 'more than anyone to establish the serious study of African history' in the UK (wrote *The Times* in his obituary on 26 March 1982).

In the lecture, Lord Boateng – who grew up in Ghana and whose parents were friends of

Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute

Now in its fifth year, the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute (BII) has successfully supported over a dozen research projects, enabling Balliol to make a distinctive contribution to interdisciplinary research at Oxford. Established in 2010 on the initiative of the then Master, Andrew Graham, the BII was founded to cultivate and support interdisciplinary research in Balliol College. The Institute provides opportunities for Senior Members and graduate students to propose and lead research projects that straddle the humanities, the social sciences, and the physical and medical sciences. It has become a bustling centre of research activity, including packed seminars, book publications, student-run conferences, and much more.

Research projects

At the start of Michaelmas Term 2014, a well-attended BII reception showcased three student-led projects: 'Detecting Supernovae', 'Connected Life' and the 'Data Experience Lab'. The first, presented by Benjamin Pope, aims to verify the evidence for the earliest recorded supernovae by studying radiation flux in tree rings to establish a year-by-year record of the radiocarbon content of the atmosphere. This innovative project further aims to use the results to understand uncertainties in key scientific dating techniques. Next Elizabeth Dubois and Ulrike Rauer explained how for 'Connected Life' they organised the first ever student-run conference in Oxford focusing on Internet research. The success of this conference resulted in external funding that will ensure that the event becomes an annual one, attracting Internet researchers and scholars from around the world to Balliol. The final presentation of the evening was by James Williams, who is leading a project investigating digital data visualisation by using the latest virtual and augmented-reality technologies to represent large and complex data sets as environments to be experienced. These three projects – only a handful of the ongoing BII projects – demonstrate the research leadership and potential of Balliol students, which is being realised thanks to support made possible by very generous donations to the BII from Old Members.

'Duty of Care in Finance', one of the Senior Member-led BII projects, has involved alumni in other ways. Led by David Vines (Lord Thomson of Fleet Fellow, Professor of Economics and Tutor in Economics) with Nicholas Morris (1972), this brought together philosophers, lawyers, historians

and economists to discuss the behavioural aspects of the problems which persist in the financial services industry. A series of seminars held at Balliol from 2012 to 2013 resulted in the publication in 2014 of *Capital Failure: Rebuilding Trust in Financial Services* (Oxford University Press), in which the investigators argue that a loss of trust was a central cause of the recent global financial crisis, and demonstrate what is required to repair this loss of trust in the financial system. A number of the chapters are written by Balliol alumni – both people in academic posts and people, like Nick Morris, who are not – including Edward Sawbridge (1972), Natalie Gold (1994) and Joshua Getzler (1989).



David explains the value of BII support: 'The book involved a large amount of quite complicated interdisciplinary collaboration. I do not think that Nick and I could have assembled that cooperation – not least because Nick is based in Melbourne, Australia – if we had not had access to an institutional base in the form of the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute. Having the BII in place makes it possible for Fellows, and Old Members, to do things which they would not otherwise be able to do.' The alumni network played a further part with Richard Lambert (1963), chairman of the Banking Standards Review (which is working to establish a professional body to promote high standards in banking), writing the foreword,

'Having the BII in place makes it possible for Fellows, and Old Members, to do things which they would not otherwise be able to do.'

and thanks to its director, Andrew Freeman (1981), a successful seminar about the book being held at the Finance Foundation.

The BII supports not only fully fledged proposals but also gestational projects, and a different kind of success for Senior Members has been in gaining considerable external funding following pilot studies supported by the BII. For example, findings from David Clifton's 'Big Data Machine Learning' project were used as part of a successful

proposal to the NHS for a £3.6m Health Protection Research Unit, which has now commenced work at Oxford. A further grant of US\$ 40k was awarded by Microsoft, and grant applications are now being submitted for even further funding.

New awards

We're pleased to report that in Michaelmas 2014, the BII received more applications for research funding from Current Members than in any previous term ever – more than double the number received in previous application cycles. The following six projects were successful in receiving BII awards:

- **'Inheritance and Cooperation'** will bring together philosophers and biologists to explore how new work on heritability might act as a central organising principle for understanding major transitions and the evolution of cooperation.
- **'Architectural Representation in Early Medieval England c.650–1350'** will bring together researchers from literature, history, archaeology, art history, and theology to discuss the various ways in which construction and design were conceived, lived with and imbued with significance in England in the period c.650–1350.
- **'New Design of Optical Collator'** aims to develop a hybrid optical-digital portable collator using real-time image analysis techniques for use with early modern printed texts.
- **'Cultural Connections: Digitising and Disseminating Early Scottish Books (to 1700): Meeting II'** will focus on seminal early Scottish works of literature, history, theology, philosophy and classics, and organise a symposium to create a digitisation programme in collaboration with the libraries which house these texts to make them accessible to international scholars online.

- **'Connected Life 2015: A Multidisciplinary Conference for Emerging Internet Research'** welcomes academics and researchers at all stages of their career interested in the multidisciplinary field of internet research.
- **'The Planetary Response Network: Humanitarian and Crisis Response From the Crowd'** aims to facilitate a series of interdisciplinary meetings of policy and decision-makers, astrophysicists, computer scientists and developers to provide a critical connection with the Planetary Response Network, a Zooniverse project designed to harness the power of the crowd for analysis of satellite data during and after humanitarian crises.

Further information

For more information on these and other BII projects, as well as BII news and events, please explore our web pages at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/BII. If you would like to follow any of the current projects in more detail, please contact the relevant lead investigator. The BII is keen to engage with Balliol alumni and hear about ideas for potential BII projects straddling the humanities, the social sciences, and the physical and medical sciences to be taken up by Current Members: please get in touch with Rami Amin, the BII Research Coordinator, at bii@balliol.ox.ac.uk.



Portrait of Don Harris

To the delight of all who were there, a portrait of Don Harris (Emeritus Fellow) was unveiled in the Senior Common Room on 7 June 2014. Don was Fellow and Tutor in Jurisprudence 1956–1976 and Senior Research Fellow 1977–1993, and the ceremony was attended by some of his former students, who contributed to fund the portrait. Among these were several High Court judges, including Sir Michael Burton (1965), who organised the event. The portrait is by Tom Richards, the son of another of Don's former pupils, Geoffrey Richards (1966).

Masonry work

As well as the new kitchen, another major building project in the last year (completed in April 2015) has been the repair and cleaning of the masonry of the façade of the College buildings on Magdalen Street East.



Rob Judges

Library internships

In the summer of 2014 Balliol Library offered internships to two Oxford students as part of the Oxford University Internship Programme: one in the Library at Broad Street and one in the Archives at St Cross. The programme provides access to opportunities for full-time funded or part-funded research and professional experiences during the summer vacation with, among other elements, a defined project which creates real value for the host organisation and a valuable experience for the student, involving interaction with an assigned supervisor or mentor within the host organisation. Here the two interns report on their experiences.

Shelved shelving and other Library discoveries

AMRIT SIDHU-BRAR (EXETER, 2012)

'It was agreed to light the College Library by Electricity: the carrying out of this resolution was entrusted to the Bursar and Sir John Conroy.' This is recorded in the College's English Register rather earlier than one might expect, on 2 August 1892 – only about ten years after electric lighting first became available. The English Register was a volume in which were recorded the proceedings of most College administrative meetings – as opposed to the Latin Register, in which the more academic matters were usually still recorded.

This interesting fact is one of several I discovered when, as a second-year physics undergraduate at Exeter College, I had a three-week summer internship in Balliol's Library, working on a project investigating the history of the Library buildings. Having read some histories of the College and searched through the catalogue of the College Archives to identify potentially useful material, I headed over to the Historic Collections Centre at St Cross Church and, with the help of the Archivist, began my research.

Looking through documents, maps, and photographs, I searched for mention of the Library buildings, taking a photograph to look at more closely later whenever I found something of interest. Often these were amusing diversions, unrelated to my research. Reading through letters between the College and builders and the corresponding entries in College Register, for instance, gave some insights into life of the day. In a letter of 1843, the architect George Basevi (who did a lot of work in the College) wrote: 'I do indeed wish that the opposing Fellows would have a little more confidence in my skill.' The project in hand, to refurbish the buildings on the Broad Street side of the Front Quad, was abandoned later that year.

In 1827, the Fellows decided that the Library needed more space, and the Register tells us that they asked Mr Basevi to make designs for converting the first-floor room at the north-west corner of the Front Quad into an 'Auctarium for the Library'. This word caused me much difficulty. After not finding it

in the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, the full *Oxford English Dictionary* or a small Latin dictionary, I eventually located it in a larger Latin dictionary, which described it as meaning, somewhat anti-climactically, 'addition'. The plans Mr Basevi made for this room are still in the Archives. Curiously, they then drop out of the College minutes until 1836, when, having not mentioned the project for ten years, the College decides that 'the commencement of the work should be deferred to next year'. Two years later, the work was finally carried out – by a different company altogether.

By far the most useful documents were a folder full of a few hundred plans by Alfred Waterhouse, the architect responsible for Balliol's current Hall and the Brackenbury buildings on the Broad Street front. Though the Old Library has existed in more or less its present form since the 15th century, the Reading Room at right angles to it has been altered countless times. The building was the College's medieval Hall. Upon the present

Concerts seen but not heard at Balliol Archives

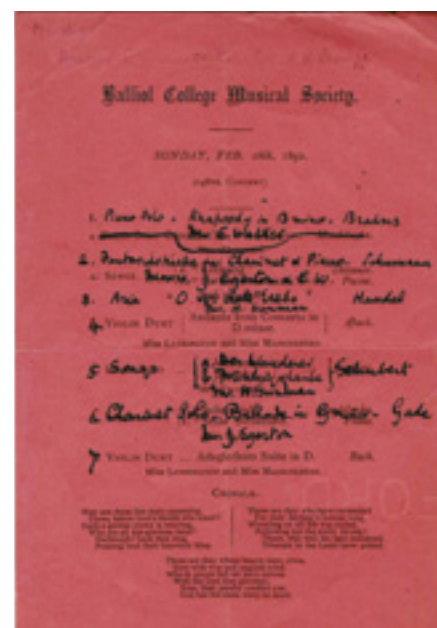
KAMILE VAUPSAITE (JESUS, 2010)

My internship at Balliol's Historic Collections Centre from the end of July to the beginning of September 2014 was designed to involve both a range of archival tasks (such as invigilating and assisting researchers, and arranging and describing archival material) and a research project on a historical collection. Both of these parts had materialised by my second day, when I helped a researcher to establish the dates of his family letters and ventured into the disorderly order of the papers of Ernest Walker (matriculated 1887, Assistant Organist 1891, Organist 1900, Honorary Fellow 1926) and the files of the Balliol College Musical Society (BCMS).

During the six-week period I worked on the Balliol Sunday Concerts from their establishment in 1885 to the present day. These concerts were the first secular music concerts in England and their variegated history deserves note. I created (or rather greatly enlarged and finished) a searchable

database of all concert programmes held in the Archives and wrote a report on changes in the concerts as witnessed by the programmes. I had a fascinating time, stumbling upon random messages on the programmes, such as 'If you wish to follow the music with a miniature score, please use it discretely [sic] and keep it out of sight of the performer.' I also had a look at the minutes of the BCMS Committee meetings, which reminded me of Victorian novels, and I browsed through the Society's correspondence with various artist management companies, which from time to time verged on the ludicrous ('Camp beds are absolutely not acceptable,' wrote the agent of the Stuttgart Trio in relation to her client's accommodation).

Alongside my research, I was able to participate in a number of stimulating visits and talks. One such visit was to the Oxford Conservation Consortium (OCC), where I witnessed how old, damaged volumes, rolls

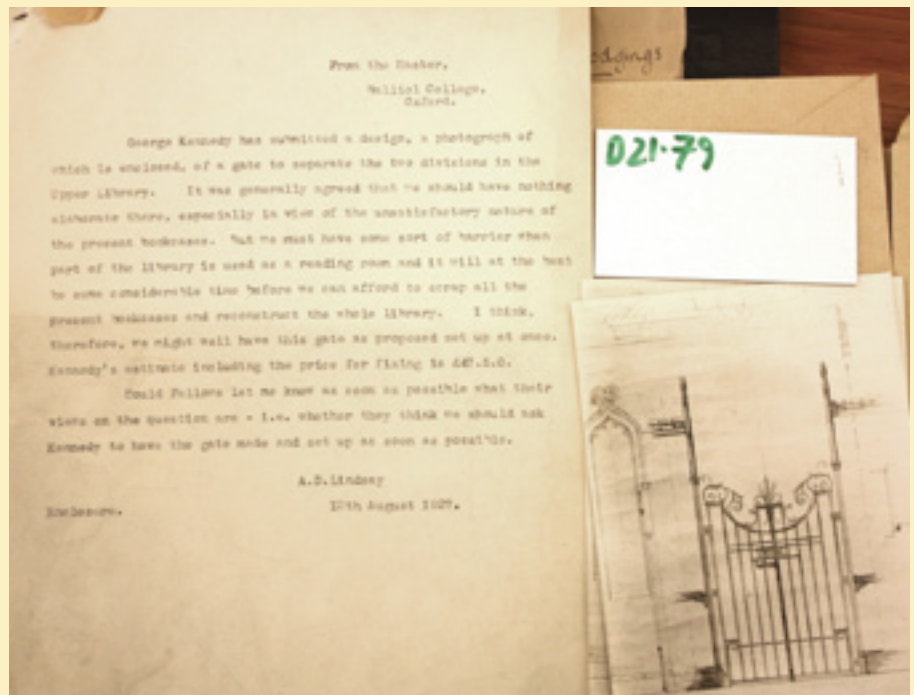




The Library gate acting as a trellis in a flower bed in the Garden Quad in 2014.

Hall being built in 1877, the College decided to convert the old one into a reading room, but opinions were divided on its arrangement. No fewer than four separate shelving plans had to be drawn up, three of them by Waterhouse, before one plan was agreed upon.

A particularly interesting time in my internship was the day when, having struggled to match up an undated, unnamed plan of the old basement kitchens under the old Hall with reality, I descended into the cellars below the Salvin Tower and the Old Common Room with the Assistant Librarians. In those dark rooms such delights are to be found as the stained glass that once filled the windows of the Reading Room; some Classical plaster friezes that once adorned its walls (visible in several old photographs); and a room that oddly contains, as well as piles of unused Library shelving, one large stuffed deer's head. I also squeezed up a very dusty vestigial staircase leading, after two 90-degree turns, to nowhere but a blocked-up door and the back of a ventilation grille in the toilets.



Letter and sketch from 1927 about a proposed gate in the Library.

Also among my discoveries was the provenance of a pair of gates that were being used as a trellis in a flower bed in the Garden Quad. The gardeners had discovered them in the cellars, and it was suspected that they might have had something to do with the Library. I found a letter of 1927 from A.D. Lindsay (Master 1924–1949) to the Fellows in which he asks their opinions on a proposed design for a gate to separate the rare books at the end of the Old Library from the section being opened up to undergraduates. I also

spotted the gates in a photograph of the Old Library in 1962: they were only just visible, being open and pointing towards the camera.

As well as carrying out this project while I was at Balliol, I was shown some ordinary Library tasks – book-stamping is surprisingly satisfying! My short time there was undoubtedly enlightening, not least because researching Balliol's history made me realise how little I knew about the history of my own college (Exeter). I vowed to try to find out more about it upon my return.

and sheets were brought back to life through cleaning and repair. I also had a chance to observe how Balliol Archivist Anna Sander and a lady from the OCC examined manuscripts and made decisions as to which of them required immediate action and which, on the other hand, could wait. This reminded me of my previous experience in a printing company – the only difference being that there I scratched the covers and tore the pages of specimen books to see how they were made, whereas I could not imagine Anna taking Shelley's letter out of its protective cover and trying to see whether the ink goes blurry if you spill some water on it.

During my internship we welcomed to the Archives two big groups of visitors. Some students from Texas University came to inspect – in just one hour! – different items 'from Bede to Browning'. As they gazed at Browning's manuscript of *The Ring and the Book*, held open by a ring tied on a string, and

were about to explode with excitement, Anna warned them that the ring was 'a ring' – but, hey, the book was 'the book'! We also had a workshop on bookbinding, given by a world expert in this field, Dr Mirjam Foot. She used a number of early printed books from the Balliol Archives to illustrate different bindings. I doubt that in those two hours I managed to learn even one fraction of the trade it had taken Mirjam years to master but I absorbed a great range of interesting social facts. For instance, binders, being at the bottom of the book trade, were adept at using waste material and selling it for a high price; Cambridge, unlike Oxford, had a habit of chaining even inexpensive books; women could run the

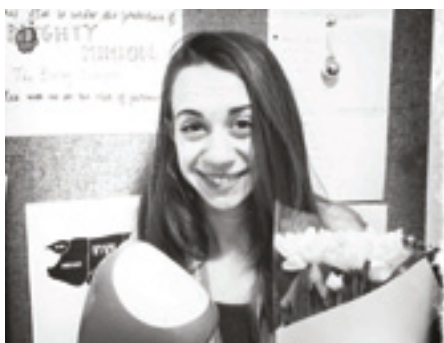
I greatly enjoyed the academic environment provided by the internship and the large degree of autonomy that I was given; I also thrived on the knowledge of Balliol Archivist and the four Balliol Librarians.

bookbinding trade, but could not do the book finishing; different countries considered different animals for cheap bindings – Italy goats, Germany pigs and England sheep.

I greatly enjoyed the academic environment provided by the internship and the large degree of autonomy that I was given; I also thrived on the knowledge of Anna, and the Balliol Library team Naomi Tiley, Fiona Godber, Rachel McDonald and Mary Addison, as well as that of the other intern, Amrit Sidhu-Brar. I hope that my report and work on the database will be helpful to the BCMS, as it reaches its 140th anniversary in 2015, as well as to Balliol for searches of ex-Balliolites' involvement in College activities.

Winning boxer

Second-year undergraduate Mariya Lazarova has become BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) Novice Woman Champion in the flyweight boxing category. Mariya, who is reading Computer Science, started training with the Oxford University Amateur Boxing Club at the beginning of 2015 and was chosen for the annual training camp in Tenerife, after which her coach and captain decided that she was ready to participate in BUCS. Following intense training for the first five weeks of term, as well as dieting to reach the required 48–58kg weight range, she became champion at the final in Sheffield in February.



Outstanding IT student

DPhil student Andrew Paverd has been awarded an Outstanding Information Technology Student Prize by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT).

The aim of the prize is to 'encourage students to pursue careers in IT, encourage an entrepreneurial and charitable ethos amongst students and . . . give financial help to students on IT courses'. Andrew was nominated for the award by the Department of Computer Science for his academic excellence and his contribution to the community.

Andrew is exploring how new technologies can give rise to novel techniques for enhancing security and privacy, in contexts such as the smart energy grid, and his many academic achievements include being selected as one of five Oxford representatives to attend the multi-disciplinary Global Young Scientists' Summit in Singapore in January 2015. He has also received a Certificate of Recognition from the University for his outreach work as a Computer Science Student Ambassador, which has seen him

give presentations about his research to visiting school students in years 10–13 with the aim of inspiring them to consider pursuing degrees in computer science.

Andrew, who was one of seven award winners, received his prize at the WCIT's 87th Business Lunch in the Saddlers' Hall, London.



City of London Sheriff Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley presenting the award to Andrew Paverd.

Gerald Sharp Photography (www.sharphoto.co.uk)

Adventurous travel

With financial help from the Gladstone Memorial Trust, to which Oxford and Cambridge students can apply for a non-academic travel bursary, undergraduates Claudia Freemantle and Jamie Mawhinney spent five weeks trekking 500km through rural ancient Turkey along the Lycian Way, carrying all their clothes, cooker, tent and sleeping stuff. They visited the Chimera on Mount Olympus, the ancient shrine to the Goddess Leto at Letoon, and the ancient city of Patara (birthplace of Father Christmas) and much more.



Cuppers victory

The Balliol football team achieved a magnificent win in the Cuppers final against Pembroke. Jacob Rabinowitz reports that in the first half Balliol conceded very early on, but 'through resolute defending managed to weather the Pembroke storm and, despite a series of dangerous corners on the stroke of half time, went into the break only one goal down' – thanks especially to Mike Wrathall, Matt Lynch, Alex Hawkins-Hooker and Hamish Hall.

In the second half, captain Laurence Warner brought on Jordan Moore, a College staff member, who 'made an instant impact via a free kick, bringing Balliol level'. It looked as if the next 40 minutes would be tense but, says Jacob, 'The underdogs, refusing to play by the script, chipped in with goal after goal – another from Jordan Moore, two from Rob Wight, and one from Alex Hawkins-Hooker in his last ever outing in a Balliol shirt. The final score was 5-1.'



Dr Gregory Warner

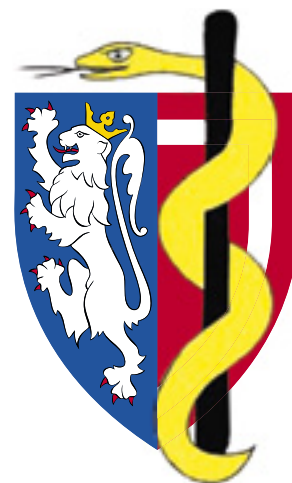
Biomedical Graduate Symposium

■ SOPHIE AVERY (2009)

The fourth annual Balliol Biomedical Graduate Symposium took place in Holywell Manor on 17 May 2014. The event saw six of Balliol's final-year DPhil students give presentations on their thesis work, which covered diverse areas of the biological sciences, ranging from electrophysiological responses to noxious stimulation in anaesthetised children, to computational models of the heart. The best presentation prize was awarded to Eleanor Grant for her talk entitled 'The Effect of Early Visual Deprivation on Corticothalamic and Corticotectal Development'. The runner-up prize was awarded to Hilary Martin for her presentation 'An Early Look at Platypus Population History Using Whole-genome Sequencing'. The event included poster presentations by first- and second-year DPhil students, which again covered a broad range of the biomedical sciences, from modelling of bacterial biofilms to the neuropsychological effects of benzodiazepines. The best poster prize was awarded to Sophie Avery for her work 'Modulation of Firing in Distinct Types of Globus Pallidus Neuron In Vivo by

Dopamine D2 Receptor Activity'. The runner-up prize was awarded to Natasha Ng for her poster 'Multiple Coding Variants in G6PC2 Cause Loss of Function and Influence Fasting Glucose Levels'. The symposium was fortunate to host the guest speaker Greg McNery, a Senior Research Fellow from the 2020 Science project. Dr McNery gave an insightful lecture on techniques for data presentation, entitled 'Small Multiples: A Simple Data Visualisation Method with Big Effects'.

The symposium was well attended by students and SCR members, including many outside the department. One attendee, Rami Amin – President of the Balliol MCR at the time – noted: 'Holywell Manor is the heart of the Balliol graduate community, so we were excited to be having the conference here. The event was smoothly organised from start to finish and I have no doubt the successful outcome of the organisers' efforts will inspire Balliol members from other departments to organize similar academic conferences at Holywell Manor.' The organisers wish to thank Manuela Zaccolo (Professor of Cell Biology and Tutor in Biomedical Sciences)



for overseeing the symposium, Jonathan Bard (Lecturer in Systems Biology), for his help on the day and his financial contribution, Tom Melham (Praefectus) for the use of Holywell Manor, and the College for its help funding the event.

Balliol Graduate
Biomedical
Symposium
2014



James Gilbert

Musical double bill

In Hilary Term 2015 DPhil student Lucy Rayfield directed *Sparagmos*, a musical double bill of Euripides' *Bacchae* and Poliziano's *Orpheus*. Ben van Leeuwen (Senior Organ Scholar) wrote an original score for the production. Many of the actors and production team were from Balliol, including Ivo Gruev (left) and Fiona Skerman (right).

Varsity triumphs

STOP PRESS

Rowing: graduate student Caryn Davies, a double Olympic champion, was stroke in the Oxford women's boat which beat Cambridge in the first women's Boat Race to be held on the Championship course on the same day as the men's race.

Golf: playing in Oxford's sixth win in a row against Cambridge, graduate student Brian Wilson (2011) won his match by 10&9, the largest Oxford winning margin achieved during the previous six victorious matches.

Rugby: undergraduates Will Beynon and Oliver Johnson-Munday were in the Rugby Union Blues Squad which formed the team that defeated Cambridge.



Double win for ethics prize

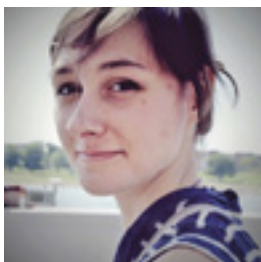
Two Balliol students have won the inaugural Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics: Xavier Cohen in the undergraduate category and Jessica Laimann in the graduate category.

The prize aims to bring students from across Oxford together to think about an issue in practical ethics, drawing on their area of study – which in Xavier's case is PPE. A vegan himself, Xav chose to address the issue of how vegans should behave if they want to minimise the harm that comes to animals from humans eating meat and using animal products, and concluded that 'to be fixated on dietary purity to the neglect of other spheres of one's life – in the way that many vegans are – is to contradict a care about harms to animals'. 'Vegans should really be looking to build a broad and accessible social movement which allows people to reduce their consumption of animal products, rather than condemning anything that isn't full veganism,' he said. 'This will lead to less harm to animals overall.'

Jessica is a BPhil Philosophy student and her winning essay was entitled 'Is Prohibition of Breast Implants a Good Way to Undermine Harmful and Unequal Social Norms?' No, it is not, she argued: even though breast implant surgery is significantly harmful, prohibition is problematic; 'Instead, we need to forcefully address the circumstances that make [people] willing to harm themselves in the first place.'



Xav Cohen



Jessica Laimann

Balliol does the Jungle Book



In Hilary Term 2015 the Balliol JCR Charity Musical presented *The Jungle Book*, directed by Judith Moore and Josh Barr.

Torpids success

Members of the Balliol College Boat Club women's second crew won blades at Torpids in Hilary Term 2015. *Left to right*: Elizabeth Byrne, Emily Webb, Beattie Sturrock, Jessica Wamala, Jennifer Bright, Kathryn Pritchard, Charlotte Suttle, Eleanor Whitchurch, Eleanor Shearer (front).



Important findings for next-generation materials

Matthew Ryder is the lead author of research which has reported a new method for investigating metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) based on how they vibrate.

MOFs are a class of nanoporous framework materials that are constructed of metal ions connected together by organic linker molecules. These molecular 'building blocks' assemble themselves to produce a variety of crystalline structures whose porosity and flexible design has resulted in the US Department of Energy naming them 'the most promising next-generation technology for carbon capture'. In addition to gas capture and sequestration, MOFs have also shown potential for use in other emerging applications, such as drug delivery and microelectronics.

Matthew, who works at the Multifunctional Materials and Composites Laboratory at Oxford's Department of Engineering Science under the supervisor of

Professor Jin-Chong Tan (Fellow and Tutor in Engineering Science), used state-of-the-art supercomputers to unravel the complete vibrational nature of the frameworks at the molecular level. The theory was then confirmed using high-resolution spectroscopic experiments at Diamond Light Source and the ISIS Pulsed Neutron facility at Harwell. The method showed how MOFs vibrate, change phase, and even 'breathe'. He explains: 'A key aspect to utilising these materials for their many possible applications is to gain a better understanding of their mechanical properties, which we have shown are intrinsically controlled by elastic responses and collective vibrations (lattice dynamics) located in the low-energy Terahertz (THz) region of the vibrational spectrum.'

'Of further significance, this method has enabled us to gain new insights into the mechanical response of MOFs, elucidating possible phase transition mechanisms (soft

modes) through which the porous framework may destabilise or collapse when subject to mechanical forces. Furthermore, soft modes may give rise to anomalous and counter-intuitive mechanical behaviour, such as negative thermal expansion and auxeticity.'

His team's findings, which have been published in *Physical Review Letters* and highlighted by multiple sources, including the Oxford University website, will aid the future success of next-generation framework materials and allow their physical properties and phenomena to be better understood.



Matthew Ryder at the ISIS Pulsed Neutron facility.

Breakthrough to help tigers

Arjun Gopalaswamy (2009) is the lead author of a report from the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford University's Department of Zoology which has found shortcomings in the methods thought to be deployed in censuses of tigers. Since the information derived from these

methods is used to inform, and direct resources towards, conservation efforts, the findings have significant implications for tigers and other rare wildlife.

The index-calibration method, which extrapolates animal numbers over large areas on the basis of data obtained from smaller

regions (which are accurate but costly to collect), has been commonly used to measure tiger populations. But, says Arjun, 'Our study shows that index-calibration models are so fragile that even a 10 per cent uncertainty in detection rates severely compromises what we can reliably infer from them. Our empirical test with data from Indian tiger survey efforts proved that such calibrations yield irreproducible and inaccurate results.' Urging ecologists and conservationists to guard against such potential errors, the study suggests alternative, more reliable methods of counting.

Professor David Macdonald (Balliol Junior Research Fellow in Biological Sciences 1976–1979), a co-author and the founding Director of the Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, explains how the findings of the study (published in the journal *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*) will be helpful to all who are working to address the global challenge of counting endangered and elusive animals: 'Many of us, myself included, for example in the context of estimating numbers of mink and water voles in the UK, have been using the [index-calibration] technique without appreciating its risks. Our intention is to help conservationists by highlighting the conditions when index calibration can be misleading. Everybody will benefit from greater accuracy when it comes to counting rare animals.'



TeachFirst Awards

As part of its commitment to access and widening participation, Balliol has, since 2011, had a partnership with TeachFirst, a charity which recruits and trains talented graduates to teach in tough schools, as a result of which the College makes awards to past or present undergraduates or graduates who have a place on the TeachFirst training programme. These £1,000 bursaries are funded by the Wilson-Wilson Trust, which focuses on the education of those from disadvantaged backgrounds. *Floreat Domus* asked two of those who have received TeachFirst Awards where they are now.

A good teacher in the end

■ **ANT PARHAM** (2008)

Applying to TeachFirst wasn't something I had planned. I had spent a large portion of my year abroad teaching English in a secondary school in Sicily. So, with some experience under my belt, I thought I'd be up to the TeachFirst challenge. If I were any good, there would be the added bonus of having helped shape the lives of young people growing up in a world far removed from my own.

After six weeks of intensive training immediately after leaving Balliol, I arrived for my 'first day at school'. The school is in south-east London, and it would be fair to describe it as challenging. University had taught me how to give off the impression of being prepared. It turned out, however, that when I was faced with a group of 30 14-year-olds, the fake air of experience and wisdom that always worked so well during tutorials didn't wash. Midway through my very first lesson, I noticed that one pupil was very quietly ripping his new exercise book into confetti-like pieces. Ten minutes later, there was screaming and laughter as the pupil threw the pieces of

paper into the air, flipped his desk and chair, and stormed out. I learnt more than my pupils did during the first few weeks.

I struggled at first, grinding through each day, returning home shattered, laden with marking and planning, before getting up at the crack of dawn to do it all over again. But slowly (painfully so in some cases) I began to win over my pupils. I built strong relationships, improved my own practice through observing others and maintained high expectations of each pupil. The key, though, was to have the courage to trust the kids to fulfil those expectations. Planning lessons in a way that gave my pupils the space in which to flourish made me a good teacher in the end.

After two years on the TeachFirst programme, I decided to leave teaching to join the Civil Service. People often ask whether it's a good thing for young graduates to swan in to struggling schools for two years and then up and leave. The answer is: I don't know. I do know that by the end of the two years my pupils already considered me an old hand,



given the high turnover of staff. I also know that for my generation teaching is not an attractive career; nor is it respected. Aside from the difference that TeachFirst makes to thousands of children's lives every day, reversing attitudes towards teaching will be its most important legacy. I'm proud to have attended a college that recognises this and, in providing TeachFirst scholarships, plays its part too.

A desire to be useful

■ **CAITLIN CARMICHAEL-DAVIS** (2008)



At Balliol I began to realise the full depth and breadth of my privilege. I had, of course, the opportunity to study at one of the best universities in the world, but this was not the full extent of my luck: behind me I had excellent schools, supportive parents, wonderful grandparents. So I thought I had a

good understanding of my position in contrast with others'. However, that understanding was only partial. I applied to TeachFirst because I wanted to be useful, but also because I wanted to be better than I actually was. I did want to be useful, and I did want to help, but TeachFirst was hardly a great sacrifice. I would work hard for two years, but I would be paid and my career would be easier to establish at the end of it. And when I started TeachFirst, my compassion for those who would not learn was very limited. I found their inability to focus and to have an understanding of their future infuriating. Although such behaviour cannot be tolerated, in the area and context in which I was working it could perhaps be understood. I did not really understand it.

Last week I was speaking to a charity worker who works with young people on the autistic spectrum. One of these young people had responded to his lesson about empathy and 'putting yourself in other people's shoes'

with 'I don't think I could put both my feet in someone's shoes, but maybe I could put one foot in, just for a bit'. This description seems to me to be pretty typical of myself, and of people in general; and it was TeachFirst that showed me how far I was from full compassion and understanding. In her novel *Gilead*, Marilynne Robinson writes, 'When you encounter another person, when you have dealings with anyone at all, it is as if a question is being put to you. So you must think, What is the Lord asking of me in this moment, in this situation?' and you have the chance to show that you 'in some small degree participate in the grace that saved you'. As I begin training for ordained ministry, I am aware that, once again, my desire to understand and to be useful is complicated by self-interest. Once again, my choice is compatible with my own comfort and enjoyment. I am not really giving up very much. However, perhaps this time I am more aware of how little I understand, and perhaps I will listen a little more.

Mentoring Balliol students

Each year a number of Old Members help Balliol graduates launch their careers by providing them with career advice and internships. Three Balliol alumni who have found that mentoring can be to mutual advantage wrote in to share their experiences.

Giles Slinger (1986): Ben Marshall, a former JCR President, rang me for advice about management consulting. As a director of a niche consulting firm that is trying to change the world, Orgvue, I was happy to talk. To the credit of Ben's persuasive skills, 30 minutes later we'd agreed that he should take our standard intern tests. Three weeks later he was starting an internship. After two months he converted to a full-time role. Ben has done a superb job and has recommended other Balliol graduates for internships. One – Tom Simpkins, a mathematician – started with us in a full-time graduate developer role in October 2014.

We have been delighted by the attitude and capability of the Balliol candidates we have seen, and would strongly encourage other alumni to make themselves available to give advice. It is always an interesting conversation, and can be helpful to both parties.

Ben Marshall (2010): I got in touch with Giles out of the blue, but I'm glad he introduced me to Concentra. I've spent over a year working in a place with a great atmosphere and people, and I really like what I do.

Tom Simpkins (2010): Whilst struggling to balance academic work and job hunting in my final year, being offered an internship at

Giles's company was a huge opportunity. I started a high-paced internship immediately after I finished, which significantly improved my development skills, as well as giving me significant client-facing time. After being offered a job at the end of the internship, I am now in my fifth month working as a graduate developer and enjoying it immensely.

Left to right: Giles Slinger, Ben Marshall and Tom Simpkins.



If you would like to consider a mentoring arrangement, please contact the Alumni and Development Manager, Laura Bianco, on +44 (0)1865 277704.

A passion for growing

While she was living at Holywell Manor, Doireann Lalor (2006) not only studied Modern Languages but also developed a passion for growing vegetables on Balliol's very own veg patch, a tiny plot of land hidden away behind the Master's Field (*Floreat Domus 2010*). And when she finished her DPhil in 2011, her career took a dramatic U-turn, from a world of books, seminars and archives to one of steel-toe-capped wellies, workshops, and polytunnels, when she co-founded Cultivate Oxford, 'a cooperative social enterprise with the mission of finding new ways to get sustainably produced, local food on to more people's dinner plates in and around Oxford'.

Since 2011 Cultivate has run a community share offer to crowdfund the start-up; built up a cooperative of over 400 people; developed a 10-acre community farm 8 miles south of Oxford; launched the VegVan, a mobile greengrocery, which sells produce

from the farm and other local growers; and had hundreds of volunteers and trainees come through its outreach and education programmes. Its latest initiative is Cultivate Online, an online shop for local food, which it has set up to help get its produce to even more people across Oxford and beyond. 'It's been a real roller-coaster ride,' says Doireann, 'fast-paced, challenging, and exhilarating.'

These days Doireann works more with people than with veg, for as well as being on the Board of Directors, she is the Community Manager, responsible for training and supporting staff and volunteers, engaging members, and developing Cultivate's cooperative governance processes. 'This wasn't the life I thought I was building up to when I came to Oxford to study literature, that's for sure. But none of this would have happened if I hadn't cut my teeth in food growing in the Balliol veg patch!'





Mothing in and around Oxford

■ JAMES RAINEY (2012)



Moths don't exactly hold a special place in the hearts of the masses. When our paths cross, it's usually with the handful of species that have expanded their territories into ours. But these clothes-gobbling, flour-spoiling nemeses of tapestries are in no way representative of the wider mothospere, which in Britain and Ireland includes around 2,500 species. Ranging from spectacular pink and olive-green Elephant Hawkmoths the size of your thumb to understated and self-explanatory Clouded Drabs, our moths are much more variable (and arguably more exciting) than their celebrated butterfly cousins. They also occupy a dazzling variety of habitats, largely because of the evolutionarily malleable mouthparts of their caterpillars: fungi, deadwood, owl pellets, wasps' nests, aquatic plants and, more commonly, land plants (roots, shoots and leaves) are all consumed. Furthermore, moth caterpillars are typically fussy eaters, with many species completely reliant on one tree, shrub or herb for sustenance. It is this property – specificity – that makes moths great indicators of environmental conditions; in a simple, monotonous habitat only a few (often common) species will be present, whilst a complex and diverse environment will support many.

Adult moths are often held hostage by the culinary tastes of their



offspring – spending much of their time around sites where the larval food plant is present – in spite of enjoying a more varied diet themselves (sipping nectar from a range of plants, or sugar from fermenting fruit). However, there are exceptions: Charles Darwin famously predicted the existence of a long-tongued moth, *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*, to complement the foot-long nectaries of a Madagascan orchid. A few British and Irish moths are prolific pollinators, and some of our own orchids rely upon them – for example, the Greater Butterfly Orchid is moth-pollinated (despite what the name suggests). And many adult moths also possess a curious propensity to fly towards light . . .

Which is why, in Michaelmas Term 2013, a dense yew hedge masks an eerie blue-violet glow in the Master's Garden. In order to assess how well Balliol's gardens are provisioning wildlife, I have set a moth trap: a contraption consisting of a bucket, egg boxes, translucent plastic funnel and UV bulb. In theory, moths, drawn to the light, will accidentally enter the bucket through the funnel and finally settle amongst the egg boxes. However, around 12 hours later the trap is empty; the cool November night air is a strong moth deterrent, and most British species have already completed their life cycle by now. The next week I repeat the ritual. Again, nothing. But the draw of moths can be powerful; I hail from the Pikachu generation,

and emptying a moth trap reminds me of opening a packet of Pokémon cards – suspense followed by delight. So after this disappointment, I seek mothing thrills away from Balliol.

In Brasenose Woods, flanking the eastern border of Oxford city, splashes of wood anemone and bluebell welcome me and two moth traps to the ancient oak-hazel woodland, offering a taste of the warming spring. The traps, kindly loaned by Shotover Wildlife, are more elegant than my own. I leave one in the woodland core and continue to Shotover Hill whilst dusk sets in. I deposit the second in a wet meadow, hidden at the clayey base of the sand-capped hill. It's a good night for moths: warm and muggy. And the moon is obscured by clouds, reducing competition for the light traps.

Next morning at sunrise I return with a friend. A disorientating thick fog envelops the woods, which – after a few wrong turns – we eventually navigate to find the first trap. Hiding amongst the egg boxes are one Satellite and two Dotted Borders, both typical woodland moths (with larvae that feed on various trees and shrubs). An acceptable catch for this early in the year. After releasing our quarry, we wander onwards through the murk to the second trap. As we approach the meadow, it's apparent that someone has got to the trap before us: its entrails are strewn in the adjacent woods, and the battery has gone. In spite of this, three Hebrew Characters, one Common Quaker and another Dotted Border shelter beneath the shrapnel. We record and release them, pick up the trap remnants and run for lectures. The drama!

Deterred by the prospect of losing another trap (even worse when it doesn't belong to you), I start mothing at Balliol again. It takes six frustrated attempts, but on 9 June 2014, Balliol finally yields its first moths: a Willow Beauty and *Agriphila tristella*. However, this success pales in comparison to the 14 species (and 47 moths in total) I trap at Magdalen Deer Park the next week. Perhaps Balliol gardens are currently unsuitable, with many exotic ornamental plants which are unpalatable to British moths. Or maybe inner-city light pollution distracts them from visiting the trap. Whatever the cause, we will soon know how widespread the no-moths phenomenon is, as the student-run Oxford Moths Project starts this year – which will be deploying moth traps across at least 30 Oxford sites during June 2015. Watch this space.

There is no fun like Chebfun

■ **NICK TREFETHEN** (PROFESSOR OF NUMERICAL ANALYSIS)

Discrete or continuous? This polarity is as old as philosophy and science, and for the past ten years, it has been daily business for me and the rest of the Chebfun team based in the Mathematical Institute in Oxford, including Balliol graduate students Anthony Austin and Hadrien Montanelli.

In physics, the most important fact of all (according to the great Richard Feynman) is that *everything is made of atoms*. Our world may look and feel like a continuum, but it is discrete. Planet Earth has about 10^{50} atoms, and a pint of beer about the square root of that number. Vibrating and bouncing atoms can explain almost everything in our human-scaled physical world, such as how the pressure in a balloon increases if you compress it, as was figured out by Boyle and Hooke in Oxford in the 1660s.

In chemistry, one might have imagined that the substances we live with would be drawn from a continuum: that a metal, say, might have pretty much any density, stiffness, or conductivity. But no, that's not the set-up. There are just 90 or so discrete chemical elements, arrayed famously in Mendeleev's periodic table. An element can have *this* property, or *that*, but nothing in between.

In biology, Hooke discovered that plants and animals are made of discrete *cells*: your body has about 10¹³ of them. Who would

have imagined such a thing? Centuries later came another great discovery of discreteness in biology: that the designs of plants and animals are encoded in an alphabet. Your personal blueprint is written in three billion letters AACAGGTATGAA Darwin never knew this.

In mathematics, two great crises turned on discrete and continuous. The Greeks imagined that every number must be a discrete integer or a ratio of two integers. What a shock when it was proved that some numbers, like $\sqrt{2}$, don't fit that pattern! Two millennia later, Cantor proved that the continuum of all numbers is *infinitely bigger* than the discrete subset of rationals in a precise mathematical sense. This discovery upset everybody and changed mathematics permanently.

And then we have computers and technology. I grew up analogue, i.e. continuous (Kodak film, radios with wires and capacitors inside), but my kids were born into the world of discrete pixels and megabytes. The sounds we hear and images we see nowadays have mostly been digitised. ('Reality is 80 million polygons per second', proclaimed animation pioneer Alvy Ray Smith.) Civilisation got along well with analogue technology for a long time, but in the end, digital wins. And this doesn't just apply to electronics. Manufacturers used to cut and melt and bend



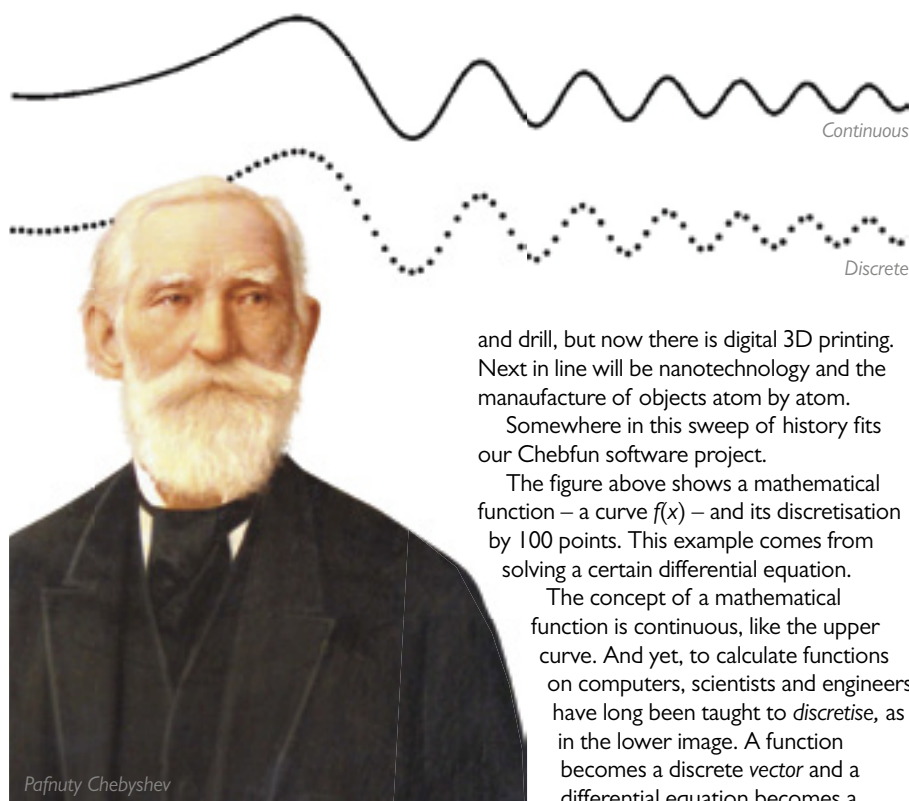
Professor Trefethen

discrete *matrix*. Millions of scientists and engineers carry out such calculations with the programming language MATLAB, which makes vectors and matrices easy. (I am proud to have been the very first MATLAB customer, in 1985. There's a plaque on my wall.)

The Chebfun project, now with thousands of users, aims to rebuild MATLAB as continuous instead of discrete, with discrete implementations hidden away like those bouncing atoms that implement the laws of physics. To achieve this, each MATLAB command is overloaded (as the object-oriented programmers say) to a continuous analogue. For example, in MATLAB, `sum(v)` adds up the entries of a vector, while in Chebfun it computes the integral of a function. The name Chebfun comes from 'function' coupled with Pafnuty Chebyshev, the great Russian mathematician of the 19th century, on whose ideas we rely. Chebyshev worked at St Petersburg State University, where Mendeleev joined him as a tenured professor in the same year that Robert Browning became an Honorary Fellow of Balliol.

Our team of ten spent a thrilling year leading up to June 2014 working on a complete rewrite of the software, Chebfun Version 5 – 100,000 lines of code. We are now an open-source, freely available BSD-licensed project hosted on GitHub (if you don't know what these words mean, your kids do). If you have MATLAB, you can download Chebfun and start playing immediately. For a demonstration, take a look at my three-minute video at www.chebfun.org/docs/videos.

A 60th birthday conference will be held in Professor Trefethen's honour in August 2015, with a banquet in Balliol Hall: see www2.maths.ox.ac.uk/new.direction2015/.



and drill, but now there is digital 3D printing. Next in line will be nanotechnology and the manufacture of objects atom by atom.

Somewhere in this sweep of history fits our Chebfun software project.

The figure above shows a mathematical function – a curve $f(x)$ – and its discretisation by 100 points. This example comes from solving a certain differential equation.

The concept of a mathematical function is continuous, like the upper curve. And yet, to calculate functions on computers, scientists and engineers have long been taught to *discretise*, as in the lower image. A function becomes a discrete vector and a differential equation becomes a

Lady Dervorguilla and medieval Scotland's manuscript treasures

■ KYLIE MURRAY (JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW IN THE HUMANITIES)

Balliol College is Oxford's distinctively Scottish medieval foundation. But did you know that it was not so much John Balliol himself who lies behind our Scottish identity but rather his wife, Lady Dervorguilla of Galloway? By a delightful serendipity, my British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship project, 'Boethius in Scotland, c.1120–c.1570', has allowed me to shed new light on this fascinating woman and the Galloway family from which she came. In particular, I have worked closely on the books connected with her and her wider milieu.

An unusually powerful woman

We should begin by asking: exactly who was Lady Dervorguilla? Born c.1210, she was the daughter of Alan, Lord of Galloway (d.1234). Her mother, Margaret of Huntingdon, was a niece of two Scottish kings, Malcolm IV (1154–1165) and William the Lion (1165–1214), making Dervorguilla a woman of royal descent. Her name is a Latinisation of the Gaelic 'Derbhorgail', reflecting her Galloway ancestry.

Most of what we know about Dervorguilla pertains to her identity as wife of John de Balliol, whom she married in 1223. This is seen in the example of our college: although it is named after her husband, it was in fact Dervorguilla who created a permanent

endowment for Balliol and its earliest statutes in 1282, before she died in 1290. And while her husband had been keen on attracting poor students from his native Durham, it was Dervorguilla who sought to encourage young Scots to pursue an Oxford education. Documentary sources suggest, too, that the foundation and endowment were directly attributable to Dervorguilla's inheritance from her father, who had died without a legitimate son. In short, Dervorguilla was an unusually powerful and active woman for this period.

Dervorguilla's autograph?

The books connected with Lady Dervorguilla and her wider family network illuminate the context of such remarkable agency for a 13th-century woman. Fewer books have survived from the medieval Gaelic-speaking region (Gàidhealtachd: including the Highlands and Western Isles) than from any other part of Scotland. And Galloway, on the south-western edge of the country, geographically and linguistically nearer to Ireland than to the cultural and political centre of the medieval Scottish kingdom, has been largely

Dervorguilla and her family are connected with at least four of just 12 surviving manuscripts of this period with a Scottish provenance.

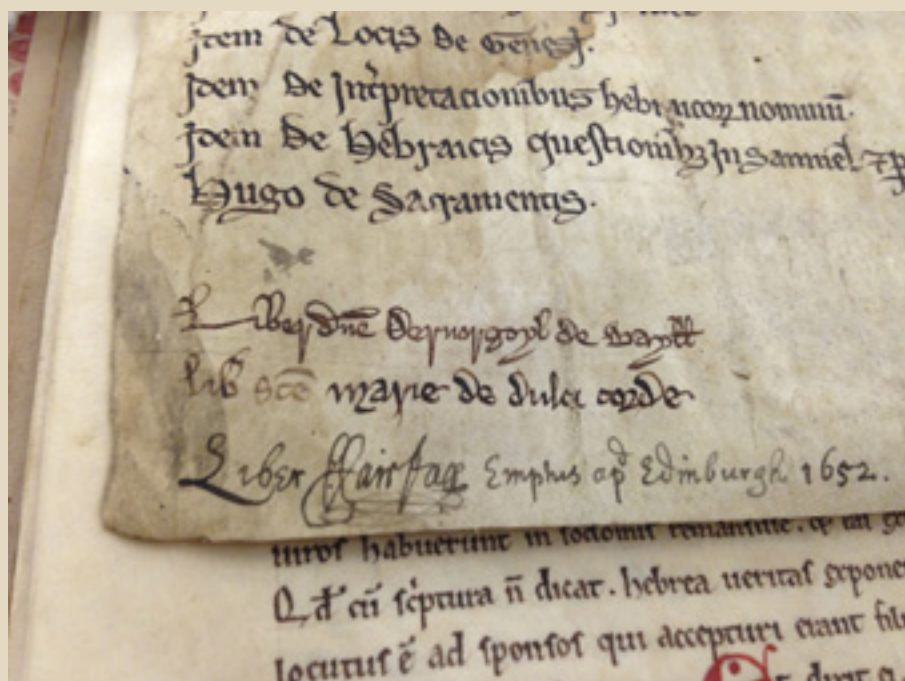
overlooked in studies of Scotland's cultural, literary, and intellectual history. But the largest group of manuscripts so far identified as coming from the medieval diocese of Glasgow are all connected with Dervorguilla, and with Sweetheart Abbey, the Cistercian community she founded in Galloway in 1273.

We are fortunate to have the first of these in Oxford, at the Bodleian Library. This 12th-century scriptural manuscript contains five treatises of Jerome, followed by

Hugh of St Victor on the sacraments. The flyleaf includes an *ex libris*, or statement of ownership, of Lady Dervorguilla and of Sweetheart Abbey. 'Liber domine dervorgoyl de bayll' (book of Lady Dervorguilla de Balliol) can be seen on the first line, followed by 'liber sancte marie de dulci corde' (book of St Mary of Sweetheart), and Fairfax's note of the book's acquisition in Edinburgh in 1652. Although we cannot determine conclusively who was responsible for the Dervorguilla inscription, the hand dates to a century later than the manuscript and is exactly contemporaneous with Dervorguilla's lifetime. It is not impossible that we have here her autograph. The book clearly passed to Sweetheart Abbey after her death, but it is striking that her connection with the book is so precisely documented.

A further Galloway and Dervorguilla-associated provenance is found in the 12th-century manuscript of Gregory the Great's *Dialogues* on the miracles of St Peter, now in Edinburgh University Library. The ownership inscription here locates the book at Sweetheart Abbey, and includes a curse, in 15th-century gothic script, on anyone who may be tempted to steal the volume: 'Liber Sancte Marie de dulci corde/qui alienauerit anathema sit' (Book of St Mary of sweet heart/let he who would steal this be anathema [i.e. cursed]). Given that Sweetheart Abbey was not founded until 1273, the book cannot have been produced there, although it travelled there. The Oxford manuscript is understood to have been in Dervorguilla's possession first, and it is probable that this is the case for the Edinburgh manuscript too.

What little scholarship has been done on these books has largely assumed that they are English or French productions, mainly because there are just a handful of books which survive from 12th-century Scotland for



The flyleaf of a 12th-century manuscript (Bodleian Library, MS Fairfax 5) which includes a statement of ownership of Lady Dervorguilla: 'Liber domine dervorgoyl de bayll' (book of Lady Dervorguilla de Balliol) can be seen on the first line.



In the Bible from Sweetheart Abbey the shield in the mouth of a monster opposite the opening of the book of Joshua appears to represent Balliol's arms (Garrett MS 27, volume 1, f.326r, Manuscripts Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library).

comparison. As the Scottish book-historian John Higgitt first observed, however, the clear, beautiful script and the vibrant, colourful decorated capital letters are equally likely to be Scottish work. It is perfectly plausible that these books were commissioned by Dervorguilla's ancestors, which would explain her subsequent possession of them. We cannot conclusively determine how Dervorguilla acquired them, but her father, Alan, employed men of learning in his retinue and it is distinctly possible that he had a library.

What we can deduce from these volumes is that Dervorguilla's Galloway ancestry was learned and Latinate. It was also literary: the early 13th-century French Arthurian *Roman de Fergus*, although surviving only in manuscripts in France, is a romance set in Scotland, about a 12th-century ancestor of Dervorguilla: Fergus, Lord of Galloway.

More Galloway connections

Fergus, Galloway, and by implication Dervorguilla, are all connected with the earliest manuscript I have found of a Boethius text with a conclusive Scottish provenance.

A three-leaf fragment of Boethius' logic text, the *Liber Divisione* (Book of Division), is inscribed in the back of a mid-12th-century Latin Psalter prayer book, now in the Vatican Library. The first leaf of the manuscript contains a clear *ex libris*, 'Liber sancte marie de Cupre' (Book of St Mary of Coupar Angus). This refers to the Cistercian house of Coupar Angus in Perthshire, also part of Scotland's Gaelic-speaking community in this period. This Boethius text has curiously been overlooked. It has been omitted from the international inventory of all Boethius manuscripts in existence, and is mentioned by just two scholars, neither of whom work on Boethius or on Scotland.

The script of the main text here is Irish in appearance, and it closely resembles work from a northern Irish Cistercian scriptorium in this period. The Galloways owned lands in northern Ireland, and Thomas of Galloway, uncle to Dervorguilla, had served under King John in Ulster. When he died in

1231, Thomas was buried at Coupar Angus Abbey: an indication of significant patronage and benefaction, which thus presents a clear route by which this book might have arrived at Coupar Angus, if it was produced in Ireland.

Yet the book may also have been made in Scotland, in Galloway itself. The distinctive, colourful style of decoration and the later ownership at Coupar Angus tell us that the book was made by Cistercians. I have discovered that Malachy, Bishop of Armagh (d.1148), who introduced the Cistercian order to Ireland, sailed to Scotland and brought with him monks who formed a Cistercian community where they landed at Souleseat in Galloway. Malachy's Cistercians, newly arrived from Ireland, may well have produced our manuscript. Fergus of Galloway met Malachy alongside David I, King of Scotland, and became founder, patron, and benefactor of several Cistercian houses in this part of Scotland subsequently. Fergus has been associated particularly with the foundation of Souleseat and Dundrennan Abbey in the 1140s. He may well have commissioned this manuscript, including its

Boethian work, although I cannot yet be conclusive about this. But whether the book was made in Galloway or travelled there on its journey to Coupar Angus, it is highly probable that it was known to the Lords of Galloway, and to Dervorguilla.

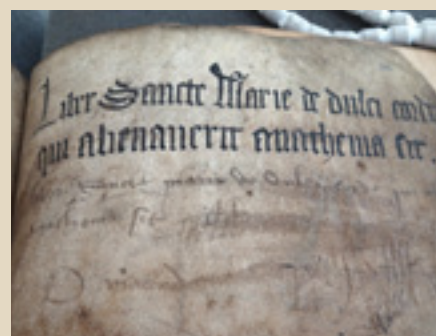
The Bible from Sweetheart Abbey, now in Princeton University Library, contains the same *ex libris* and curse as the Edinburgh manuscript. This volume has a northern-French appearance, but dates to the period of Sweetheart's foundation by Dervorguilla, and may in some way be connected with her, especially as it may make visual references to both Galloway and Balliol: a fitting commemoration of her marriage to John de Balliol. As John Higgitt suggests, a partially visible chevron on a centaur's shield drawn in the book of Genesis may portray the arms of Carrick, part of Fergus's Galloway territory, while the shield in the mouth of a monster opposite the opening of the book of Joshua is a clearer representation of Balliol's arms.

All the volumes I have mentioned here are a measure of the cultivation and sophistication of Dervorguilla's intellectual circle. She and her family are connected with at least four of just 12 surviving manuscripts of this period with a Scottish provenance. Dervorguilla's importance to our understanding of medieval Scottish cultural, intellectual, and book histories cannot be overstated.

Access to manuscript treasures

A key principle informing my work in Balliol and in Oxford is opening up access to these and other manuscript treasures from the medieval Scottish kingdom. I have established a research network, 'Digitising and Disseminating Scottish Books', at the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute, involving academics and librarians from a number of institutions including the Bodleian Library, the National Library of Scotland, and Edinburgh University Library. We intend to create an online resource which provides access to digital reproductions of these national and internationally significant manuscript treasures. Anyone interested in finding out more is warmly invited to get in touch:

kylie.murray@balliol.ox.ac.uk.



The ownership inscription of a 12th-century manuscript of Gregory the Great's *Dialogues* (Edinburgh University Library, MS 101), locating the book at Sweetheart Abbey. It is possible that the book belonged to Dervorguilla.

Music and physics

■ **BRIAN FOSTER** (PROFESSORIAL FELLOW AND PROFESSOR OF EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS)

As well as being a particle physicist, Brian Foster is a keen amateur musician. Here he tells *Floreat Domus* about playing the violin and the fruitfulness of combining music with science.

Please would you tell us about your interest in music?

Like most people from a non-musical family, my interest in music was aroused at school. When I was 11, a peripatetic violin teacher arrived, administered some aural aptitude tests and invited those passing to try out the violin. I did this, became hooked and made quite rapid progress until my teacher left when I was 16. This led me to a major mistake: to imagine that you can make progress on an instrument as difficult as a violin without a teacher. Although I was a member of the University of London Orchestra as an undergraduate, and played in college orchestras as a DPhil student in Oxford, gradually I got diverted from music making. Once I became a professional particle physicist, the endemically punishing foreign travel schedule to Geneva and Hamburg made regular orchestral membership impossible and then a young family removed any other outside interests for the duration!

It wasn't until I returned to the UK from a long residence in Hamburg in 2002 that,

inspired by a concert by the violinist Joshua Bell at which he played as an encore Ysaÿe's Sonata No. 3, I returned to my dusty violin. Shortly afterwards I met Jack Liebeck, then a rising young English violin virtuoso, and discovered that he was as interested in physics as I was in violin playing. He quickly became not only my teacher but also a close friend, with whom I have shared a decade of

There seems to be some sort of congruence between the scientific and the musical mind which means that music seems a very congenial pursuit to those of a scientific bent.

music making. With such an inspiring teacher – and at least 30 minutes' practice a day – I have made enormous progress as a violinist and am now much better than I was when I was young. I find it very encouraging that, even at my advanced age, one can still make big progress in mastering a musical instrument.

In recent times I have mostly concentrated on playing the classical and romantic concertos. There is a sort of hierarchy that the aspiring student – usually 50 years younger than me – works through which starts with 'teaching concertos' such as that by Accolay, runs through the two Bach and the

five Mozart concertos, then Bruch's Concerto No. 1, possibly Beethoven or Mendelssohn and then into the 'big league' – Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Sibelius, etc. I have learnt all of these with Jack up to the Beethoven, which I have just spent a year learning. The Sibelius will remain forever beyond me, but I have set my sights on the Brahms; not only is it my

favourite concerto, but I think I can just about manage the technical demands – although I am far from sure that Jack agrees with me!

As I was fighting the good fight with Beethoven during a practice session a few months ago, it did occur to me to wonder why I was doing this. After all, no one in their right mind is ever going to let me perform it with an orchestra or come to hear it if I did. I think the answer is one of understanding the piece from the inside. I had never particularly cared for the Beethoven, but having spent so long with it, I can now recognise it for the glorious piece it is. The same is true for pieces I always loved, such as the Mozart concertos. Playing these masterpieces for yourself gives a different insight into the composer's intentions, which repays all the hard work of learning them.

Can you tell us something about the relationship between science and music?

The relationship between physics and mathematics and music is a complex one. At a superficial level, there are clearly complex mathematical structures in the fugues of J.S. Bach and the understanding of harmony and counterpoint. More generally there seems to be some sort of congruence between the scientific and the musical mind which means that music seems a very congenial pursuit to those of a scientific bent. There are many examples of great scientists who were enthusiastic musicians.

Closest to my heart, since Jack and I have been talking about him for more than a decade now, is Albert Einstein. On discovering Mozart's sonatas, he became an enthusiastic violinist who, until the very end of his life, would go out of his way to attract people to play chamber music with him. He often remarked that he had had more joy in his life from his violin than from anything else. His wife wrote that he would often break off from work in his study to pick out tunes on the piano, returning refreshed to the secrets of Relativity. I personally believe that this is the core of the influence of music on science: not a direct one but rather as a cognate activity, intellectually very taxing but totally different to that required to solve an equation or devise an experiment. Playing an instrument can often release a subconscious idea that can lead to a solution of the problem at hand.

As for the physics of music, then clearly acoustics is of paramount importance in the design of concert halls. Increasingly, instrument builders are using techniques of physics, such as MRI imaging, to gain insight into how to construct new instruments and to try to solve 'the secret of Strad'. The physics of music seems to me to be very much a growth field at the moment.



Brian Foster



Poster for Brian Foster and Jack Liebeck's 'Einstein's Universe' lecture.

How do you use music in your work as a physicist?

In 2005 Jack and I devised the first of our lectures on Einstein, for the World Year of Physics. In these lectures (www.einsteinsuniverse.com), we present Einstein's ideas in the context of the music that he loved, often with accompanying violin and piano recitals. We thought that we would be able to attract people who loved classical music to hear about science and vice versa, and this does indeed seem to be the case: our polling after lectures – we have now given more than 150 to over 30,000 people right across the world – indicates that a substantial fraction of the audience was new to science and/or classical music and appreciated this exposure. We have received many messages over the years, any one of which would make the effort worthwhile; many say that they have been inspired to take up physics as a career. Since we conclude our lectures with an introduction to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN and our current picture of the Universe 60 years after Einstein's death, we can also take people to the cutting edge of research on the structure of the Universe.

In the last week, as I write this, we did two schools lectures in London. The enthusiasm and kindness of our audience inspires us to continue giving lectures at schools and festivals for the foreseeable future. Indeed in November Jack and I joined my old friend Brian Cox in a festival in Brisbane, Queensland, over four days, to sell-out audiences in the main concert hall. This

expanded our theme to include the Planets and a new violin concerto by another friend, Oscar-winning composer Dario Marianelli.

You also started the Oxford May Music festival with Jack Liebeck. Please could you tell us about this?

Oxford May Music came from the same inspiration as our 'Einstein's Universe' lectures – a conviction that we could bring new audiences to both science and music by staging lectures from the world's leading scientists together with concerts from some of the world's leading musicians. We seem to have been right, as the festival is now in its eighth year and goes from strength to strength – artistic if not financial! As with all festivals it is a continual struggle to raise the money to keep going, but thanks to long-standing support from organisations such as Oxford University, the Science and Technology Research Council and Oxford Instruments, and equally importantly from our individual

'Friends' as sponsors, we just about break even. The festival is based in that marvel of Oxford, the Holywell Music Room, the earliest purpose-built concert hall in Europe, just along the Broad from Balliol. Our visiting musicians always get a thrill from playing where Haydn stood to conduct rehearsals for his 'Oxford' symphony. This year we have lectures from Nobel Laureate Sir Tim Hunt and Professor Brian Cox, and distinguished Australian clarinettist Paul Dean and the Trio Dali as musicians in residence. The full programme can be seen at www.oxfordmaymusic.co.uk.

We are very pleased that all Balliol students under 26 can attend the festival free of charge, under the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust scheme, and we are happy to extend a 10 per cent discount to all Balliol alumni if you apply to me via the link on the website. As our motto goes: 'Science and music in creative harmony'. I hope to see you all at Oxford May Music!



The Oxford May Music festival, which Brian Foster founded with Jack Liebeck, is based at Holywell Music Room.

Balliol maths: a plurality of women

Much has been written about the under-representation of women in mathematics. Oxford has long been at the forefront of progress in this respect, and the Mathematical Institute is continuing to address its gender imbalance as part of the department's efforts to ensure that all students and staff can achieve their full potential. A happy conjunction of circumstances means that Balliol is currently bucking the trend, with the majority of our senior mathematicians being female. In addition, in the last academic year we were fortunate to be joined by Tara Holm, as Oliver Smithies Visiting Fellow and Lecturer. Each introduces herself here.



Ian Taylor

Jennifer Balakrishnan

I came to Balliol as a Junior Research Fellow in 2013. Before my time at Balliol, I spent several years in Cambridge, Massachusetts: first as an undergraduate at Harvard, then as a graduate student at MIT, then as a postdoctoral fellow back at Harvard. Having spent some time prior to Oxford in a department with no tenured female researchers, I find it striking to be part of a plurality of female mathematicians at Balliol. There is a wonderful sense of camaraderie here, and I am so grateful to be a member of the Balliol community.



Ian Taylor

Coralia Cartis

Originally from Cluj, Romania, where I also did my undergraduate degree, I have been in Britain now for more than a decade but at Balliol and Oxford, as Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics, for just over a year. My UK itinerary has taken me to Cambridge for Part III (Masters) and PhD studies, to Oxford for a postdoctoral position, to

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory for an industry research stint, and to Edinburgh University for my first lectureship position. Moving to Oxford meant moving south, to warmer weather and closer to my native Romania, but also most importantly to a wonderful research and teaching environment. The short time I have been at Oxford also brought the birth of my first baby, Ana Sofia, which has kept us doubly busy but also doubly, infinitely, happy. The many anxieties and worries I had about having my first baby soon after starting at a top university were quickly alleviated by the incredible support I received from my colleagues in College and the department.

My research deals with optimisation, 'the science of the best' – I develop and analyse algorithms for finding extrema of landscapes of diverse shapes and sizes. Recently, I have been collaborating more and more with climate scientists to try to come up with automatic and efficient ways to tune climate models to match observed data.

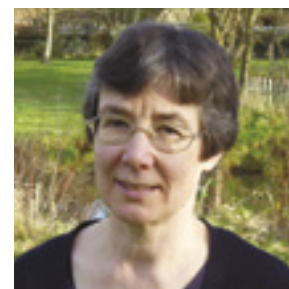


Tara Holm

I spent Hilary and Trinity Terms 2014 as Oliver Smithies Visiting Fellow and Lecturer at Balliol and as a visitor at the Mathematical Institute in Oxford. I was on a sabbatical leave from Cornell University, where I am an Associate Professor. In my research, I address questions that arise in symplectic geometry and often have applications to other fields of mathematics. Symplectic geometry is the mathematical framework for describing phenomena in mathematical physics, from classical mechanics to string theory.

As part of my Lectureship, I gave a public lecture entitled 'The Geometry of Origami: How the Ancient Japanese Art Triumphed over Euclid'. I discussed how the ancient Japanese art of origami can be turned into a framework for studying geometry. This paper-folding alternative can do everything Euclid could do, and more! Indeed, this seemingly abstract mathematical theory has surprising and useful applications, from solar sails for satellites to heart stents.

As a Visiting Fellow, I was welcomed into all aspects of College life. I particularly enjoyed getting to know the other Fellows over lunch and Wednesday night dinners, Balliol Musical Society's Sunday night concerts, and a BUMS (Balliol Undergraduate Maths Society) dinner. It was amazing to be part of such a flourishing group of women mathematicians, which is a real feather in Balliol's cap.



Frances Kirwan

I've been a tutor at Balliol for many years now, since I became a Tutorial Fellow in 1986.¹

In fact my connection with the College goes back even further than that: I was a graduate student at Balliol in the early 1980s, after being an undergraduate in Cambridge. I also spent a couple of years in the other Cambridge (the Massachusetts version) as a Junior Fellow at Harvard. From 1988, when my first daughter was born, until a few years ago, most of my life outside Balliol/maths involved my three children, but they are all in their twenties now and therefore independent of their parents; the eldest is working in Australia. When she moved down under, she took with her a still-treasured possession known as 'Balliol Bear' in our family: a teddy bear given to me (for her), just before she was born, by that year's cohort of Balliol maths undergraduates!

One of the many things I've appreciated about working as a female mathematician in Oxford, even when I first arrived in the Mathematical Institute as a beginning graduate student in 1981, has been the presence of plenty of other women also doing maths here, as students and faculty members. Well, perhaps 'plenty' is something of an exaggeration, as I wouldn't want to suggest that we were or are anywhere close to a majority . . . but Oxford has had far more women than other maths departments I've known.

¹ Frances is Billmeir-Septcentenary Fellow and Professor and Tutor in Mathematics, and was made a dame in the New Year Honours list 2014 for services to mathematics.

Vicky Neale

I am the Whitehead Lecturer at the Mathematical Institute and at Balliol. I moved to Oxford (from Cambridge) in the summer of 2014, and have been made to feel very welcome by my many new mathematical colleagues. My role combines undergraduate teaching with the public communication of maths.

My interest is in people in mathematics rather than specifically women in mathematics: I would like everyone to have the opportunity to experience what mathematics is really about, and to pursue their mathematical studies as far as they like. I am very fortunate that the new post of Whitehead Lecturer allows me to try to work towards this goal.

I am delighted to find myself part of such a friendly community in Balliol, and am enjoying working with my new colleagues and our students.



Giovanna Scataglini Belghitar

I have been a College Lecturer at Balliol since 2005. I was only meant to stay for five years, but one thing leads to another and ten years on I am still here. I spend most of my time in College, tutoring first- and second-year students over a range of pure mathematics subjects as well as statistics, and I thoroughly enjoy it.

These days I spend a lot of time with my children as well as tutoring. Any remaining time is dedicated to mathematics education: specifically, I am interested in the way students adapt to learning mathematics when moving from secondary to tertiary education.

Balliol is the most prestigious among the academic institutions I have been to, both in the UK and in Italy; it is also the most welcoming and supportive. It is a real privilege and a pleasure to be here.

A supportive maths community

■ ANNA HUFTON (2012)

I'm not sure what my expectations were before arriving as an undergraduate at Balliol, but I couldn't have anticipated just how much I would love living and studying here. The College is incredibly friendly and tends to embrace people's quirks and strange interests – meaning Balliol is always a fun and lively place to be.

Studying maths can be challenging, but with such supportive tutors and fellow undergraduates to help you, it's never unmanageable and I've learnt that sometimes the struggle to get through a problem teaches you much more than finding the answer itself. The community of maths tutors and students at Balliol is so much more relaxed and sociable than anyone would imagine. I didn't expect to be singing strange maths songs with my eminent tutors at our Balliol Undergraduate Maths Society (BUMS) dinners, or making maths-themed cocktails with the other students ('Sets on the Beach', in case you were wondering). As well as being lots of fun, I've found that these things create a culture of support that is invaluable.

I'm now in my third year and it's amazing to think how much maths I've learnt and yet how much more there is to discover. Being taught by so many female tutors in a generally male-dominated subject is hugely inspiring and encouraging. I was also lucky to be in a predominantly female year group – something that is unfortunately still very surprising and unusual in maths. I hope that the success of women in mathematics worldwide will encourage more and more girls to study this wonderful subject.



UK Mathematics Trust Summer Schools for Girls

Balliol has now hosted two UKMT summer schools for girls, each enabling about 40 girls (aged 15 or 16) to spend a week in Oxford in August immersing themselves in mathematics, exploring mathematical topics they hadn't come across at school, and getting to know other mathematically inclined young women, as well as meeting current undergraduates and more senior members of staff. Planning is well under way for another summer school for girls at Balliol in August 2015, and we hope to continue to be able to host similar summer

schools in the future (subject to finding sources of financial support).

As it happens, Balliol has rather close connections with the UK Mathematics Trust: Frances Kirwan is the Chair, and Vicky Neale is a long-standing UKMT volunteer. In addition, our undergraduates are involved in helping with the summer schools, which is both inspiring for the girls participating and a valuable and enjoyable experience for the undergraduates themselves. We are delighted that Balliol is able to support this innovative activity.



Balliol's modernist venture

■ **OSWYN MURRAY** (EMERITUS FELLOW)

Recalling the building of Jowett Walk, to mark the death of Sir Richard MacCormac (1938–2014), its designer.

When in 1991 the College decided to build new accommodation on Jowett Walk we knew we wanted a set of buildings that would enhance the area without disturbing existing traditions. We visited every new student block in the south of England, rapidly discovering that, although almost any architect can put up stunning prestige buildings, very few know how to create user-friendly student blocks that do not resemble motels; we drew up a list of suitable names, and to help them we wrote a detailed brief of what we wished to see inside the accommodation, leaving the outside to them. Plans were submitted in a competition, and MJP Architects, the firm of Richard MacCormac, was chosen by a majority vote of the Fellows: I could have predicted the result, since much of our brief was written after visiting his buildings for Fitzwilliam College in Cambridge.

Richard was already President of the RIBA and the most distinguished architect in the tradition of fusing modernism with classical forms, deeply influenced by Sir John Soane and by Lutyens, whose Castle Drogo became a source of inspiration for Jowett Walk. He had built for Worcester, Wadham and St John's in Oxford, the

Ruskin Library at Lancaster and the amazing Cable and Wireless Building in Coventry; in the future lay his election to the Royal Academy, his plan for Cambridge University Science Area and his Piranesi masterpiece of practical architecture, Southwark Underground station.

We soon discovered how skilful Richard was in the use of space. His design for the Jowett Walk Buildings squeezed initially 65 rooms and a theatre on to two tennis courts. He also provided a master plan for a potential total of 180 rooms, of which a further 47 were built in 2005. So economical was he with space that telephone booths and bathrooms had to be replaced by individual shower pods and computer points. We passed the city planning stage without opposition, and with praise from the various conservation groups, the police and fire services. The plan was exceptionally ingenious – octagonal staircase towers borrowed from the Tudor-Gothic tradition of Cambridge gave each room multiple views; the entrances to the four-storey towers were on the first floor, and this elevated walkway allowed us both



Twenty years later Jowett Walk is still one of the most elegant new buildings in Oxford.

to keep the public rooms separate from the accommodation and satisfy security needs with a single gateway, and to claim that each successive tower would be a new building exempt from VAT, not an extension. Hand-made bricks and specially designed stone concrete lintels kept the price down.

Thanks to a brilliant site architect, Jeremy Estop (now senior partner in MJP), and our dedicated local builders Benfield and Loxley, the building was surely a first in Oxford, being finished below budget and on time. It is still recognised as setting a new standard for student accommodation, with full en-suite facilities and communal kitchen-dining rooms on each floor. I remember asking Richard what it would look like a century from now: like all architects he refused to reply, but 20 years

later it is still one of the most elegant new buildings in Oxford, and certainly the most distinguished building put up by Balliol in the 20th century. We were very fortunate to choose such an imaginative, modest and sympathetic architect for our venture into modernism.

Jowett Walk, photographed on completion of the second stage of the project in 2005.



A Balliol link: 1943 to 2014

■ **WILFRED BECKERMAN** (EMERITUS FELLOW)

Miroslav Lansky, who died in July 2014, aged 89, was a member of Balliol, but never at the same time as me. And, in the course of similar careers in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946, we also served on the same ship, but, again, never at the same time. Nevertheless, thanks to the researches of Mr Bill Forster, it transpires that our paths did cross, for a few hours, in May 1945, in the manner described below.

Lansky was at Balliol for one term in 1943 and then came back to Balliol to complete a degree when the war ended. But I did not arrive at Balliol (as a Fellow) until 1964. Like me, Lansky had been born in England in 1925. And, like me, he became an officer in the Royal Navy in early 1944 in spite of having foreign parents. (At one stage during my progress towards a commission I tried to convince a suspicious Selection Board that my ancestors had, in fact, come over to England with William the Conqueror, but had gone back to the Continent because some people are just very hard to please and they did not like the weather here. I don't think the members of the Board believed me, but they must have liked the concept.)

On being commissioned I was sent to join a destroyer called HMS *Venomous*. The engineering officer on the ship was Lt Forster, RNR, whose son, Bill Forster, carried out the research for a book on the history of the *Venomous*,¹ in the course of which he noticed the link between Lansky and me. After being commissioned Lansky was sent to HMS *Cassandra*, an aptly named ship since it was torpedoed whilst on Arctic convoy duty in late 1944. Lansky was the only surviving officer. In February 1945 he was assigned to HMS *Venomous*, where he replaced me, for I had been transferred to a 'fleet destroyer' called HMS *Oribi*.

But we met up just the same in the following manner. When the war ended, HMS *Oribi* and two big cruisers (HMS *Diadem* and *Devonshire*, I think), were sent to Copenhagen to show the flag. There was some talk about this being necessary because two German battlecruisers (*Prinz Eugen* and *Nurnberg*) that were in harbour there were rather reluctant to surrender, but I doubt whether this was true. Anyway, my arrival there soon put a stop to that. We had a wonderful week or two in Copenhagen. The locals welcomed us with open arms and were eager to express



Wilfred Beckerman in 1944 (above) and 2014 (below).

their gratitude; we had plenty of liquor on board; and food was amazingly abundant. I have kept in touch ever since with two of the friends I made there and we have visited each other a few times.

On our return to Britain the *Oribi* had to escort back a German tanker, the *Nordmark*. Three British officers had to sail on it to take turns on watch and keep an eye on the German crew, and I was ordered to be one of them.

This was because I had a Germanic-sounding name and under tough interrogation I had confessed to remembering some German I had learnt at school. My superiors judged that this would come in handy on the trip. But since it consisted mainly of some poetry by

Heinrich Heine, it turned out that they were mistaken. I never had occasion to say to any of the German sailors 'Du bist wie eine Blume; so hold und schön und rein' ('You are like a flower; so sweet and beautiful and pure').

Anyway, as soon as we all arrived back in the Firth of Forth I was able to go back on board the *Oribi*. And then I spotted that my previous ship, the *Venomous*, was at anchor not far from us. I was given permission to go aboard the *Venomous* to greet my old shipmates. It was in the course of the rather riotous reunion in the wardroom that I met Lansky, for the first and only time. I remember nothing of our conversation, which is not surprising, since I was probably drunk much of the time. How I have changed!

Our paths
crossed for a
few hours in
1945.



¹ Robert J. Moore and J.A. Rodgaard, *A Hard Fought Ship: The Story of HMS Venomous*, Holywell House Publishing, 2010

Chalet questions

■ **STEPHEN GOLDING** (SUPERNUMERARY FELLOW, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

As a medical academic, I couldn't have predicted that I would find myself spending early retirement researching the history of the reading parties at the Chalet des Anglais in the French Alps; but, in the event, having become interested in the story of this remarkable institution over the 18 years of my involvement, it seemed natural to accept the suggestion of the other Trustees to write a definitive history. And absolutely fascinating it has proved to be.

The bare bones of the Chalet's history are these: Francis Urquhart (1890) ('Sligger' to all) opened his family's summer retreat on Mont Blanc to fellow students in 1891, while still a Balliol undergraduate. He led parties as a Balliol Fellow until his death in 1934 and provided for its continued existence. The Chalet fell out of use in the Second World War and Univ, as a result of family connections, opened it again in 1952, in partnership with New College, until Sir Anthony Kenny (Master 1978–1989) brought Balliol back in 1970. This led to the three-College Trust which administers the Chalet today.



Sir Anthony Kenny (far left) scaling Tête Rousse with members of the 1979 party.

After 120 years, however, there are significant questions to answer. How did our Chalet uniquely survive the demise of the Edwardian reading party, once so common? What has made it so popular with students and staff? Why do some Old Members claim staying there as among their most powerful memories of Oxford? And how is it that academics whose lives have become progressively busier have been ready to devote effort to its survival?

While addressing these questions I have developed new respect for those who research into history. Medical research has its challenges but essentially one does experiments to generate results that (one hopes) get published. In history I find one simply has to do the footwork, and long and arduous it can be. I now appreciate the meaning of the typical reviewer's comment:

'This book is the product of painstaking research.' And Sligger gave his researcher serious challenges, because he directed that his personal papers be destroyed after his death.

That said, the Balliol Archives still contain a great deal of value, not least the diaries of each Chalet party since 1891 and Sligger's personal, extensive and very well documented photograph albums. I have been fortunate that the Archives are so well presented and especially lucky that in Anna Sander, the Archivist, I have the support of someone who is not only an expert but also shares my passion for the Chalet and everything to do with it.

Research gets really interesting when it produces unexpected findings. In this case a major find was an unknown friendship between Sligger and the Everest pioneer George Mallory. This has been reported separately to the Alpine Club of Great Britain (not a speaking gig I ever expected to see on my CV). On the other hand, mysteries appear: at the Chalet there are books that belonged to Cottie Sanders (later Lady Mary O'Malley and the novelist Ann Bridge), who was George Mallory's early climbing partner in Wales and the Alps. The link with Mallory seemed the obvious way we acquired them, but not so: some date from after Mallory's death on Everest in 1924. Lady O'Malley retired to Oxford and her son John O'Malley (1936), who predeceased her, was a Balliol man, so perhaps there's a route there, but if so no record has come to light.

Most of all, however, I find that it is the personal stories of the Chalet party members and their leaders which most seize the



'Sligger' Urquhart (second from left) with the first Chalet party in 1891.

attention and bring the story of the Chalet to life. Benjamin Disraeli would not have been surprised: he held the view that biography is the best form of history. For this reason I am especially grateful to those Old Members who have already written to share their memories of being there.

What is also tantalising is that there have been several points in the last 120 years when the Chalet could have been lost and the parties come to an end. At each point there was someone on hand to ensure that it continued, and we owe them a big debt of gratitude. We are lucky to share this unusual and valuable institution and, although naturally I intend my book to be as definitive as possible, it is my earnest hope that after a decent interval – say about another hundred years or so – the Chalet will still be in operation and someone will have to consider writing the history of its second century.



Douglas Dupree (middle row, second from right) and Carol Clark (back row, second from right) (both Emeritus Fellows), with members of the 1997 party.



If you stayed at the Chalet during your time at Balliol and would like to share your memories, Dr Golding would be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch by email at stephen.golding@univ.ox.ac.uk or by post at University College, Oxford, OX1 4BH.

University Challenge update

We are most grateful to all who wrote in about Balliol's participation in the first 50 years of *University Challenge* (*Floreat Domus* 2014). Thanks in particular to Graham Fife (1978), and also to those whose recollections are quoted below, we have been able to correct and flesh out the record.

1962/1963

Bill Trythall (1962): While Guy Brown was the reserve for the opening round or two in 1962/1963, I was the reserve for the later ones, up to the final, and as such I got the *Oxford English Dictionary* that Edward [Mortimer] refers to – and the sumptuous post-final dinner which the Bernsteins gave – without having at any point appeared on air.

1968

Bill Griffin (1966): I recall that there was a Balliol team in 1968, which lost in the first round to St David's, Lampeter, then an obscure theological college. This failure was the cause of deep shame and considerable recriminations in the JCR, so it is not surprising that the details have not remained in the records. Apparently, our team of scholars knew all the answers – they just were not quick enough in pressing the buzzer!

Den Childs (1967): The magazine mentions Chris Dunabin as having got his place in 1971 on the College team as a result of 'some self-appointed person who had been in the team the previous year', but makes no mention of that previous year's team (it was I think actually 1968, but you know what they say about the 1960s). That team certainly included Chris Hitchens and – if my memory serves me right – Sir Michael Burton (1965) [In fact Sir Michael was not in the team]. It was sufficiently talented to get knocked out in the first round, much to everyone's chagrin.

1973/1974

Stephen Dobson (1970): The team swept aside all opposition until the final against Trinity, Cambridge, when they hit the rocks in an oddly under par performance. They recovered sufficiently to drink Trinity under the table in the drinking match which followed.

Peter Grant (1973): I know that the captain (and main scorer) was Ian Williamson [J.G. Williamson] . . . My main memory of Ian, apart from his trombone playing, was when a crowd of about eight students were working on a cryptic crossword in the JCR and were stuck on their last clue. After they had struggled for a while, Ian walked through the door and one of them asked if he could help,

and shouted out the clue. Ian didn't even break stride as he gave the answer. He had a tremendous knowledge on a wide range of subjects, so was perfect for *University Challenge*, and I recall him scoring the majority of the points which got the team to the final.

1978/1979

Edward Handyside (1977): The bear in the Balliol wrap in your picture was called Dylan and it was donated by a very close friend of mine from St Anne's. (Her daughter still has it.)

1981/1982

Peter Bateman (1981): Balliol also entered in my first year, 1981/1982. I wasn't a participant but twice travelled to the Granada studios in Manchester (it was on ITV in those days) to support the team. Balliol beat Dundee University before losing to Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. Memories of the trips are a bit hazy, possibly because the JCR Committee decided to pay for a couple of crates of beer for team and supporters to enjoy on the journey back to Oxford!

Peter Telford (1980): The first round was the narrowest of squeaks, in which we beat Dundee University 205–200. There were some arguable answers on both sides, which led to Dundee being invited back, and to our being introduced the following week (off camera) as 'Balliol, who lost last week'. No such doubt in the second round, when Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, beat us convincingly, scoring over 300.

1998/1999

Athar Yawar (1994): We did indeed lose in the first round in 1998, but that's not quite the whole story. We lost 200–205 after a refereeing error near the end docked us five points for a correct answer to a starter! In any case, we went through to the next round as high-scoring losers, and beat City University, before losing to a very good team from Birkbeck.

Ironically, the *University Challenge* performances of that era did not really reflect Balliol's quizzing eminence (if that is the right word). A team of Bayley, Clark, Yawar, and someone else (who to my shame, I cannot remember) won the 1998 National Academic Quiz Tournament, a kind of untelevised *University Challenge*, and Bayley-Clark-Yawar-Hutchings won the 1999 Oxford Intercollegiate Quiz Tournament. Balliol (Bayley-Clark-Yawar-Hutchings again?) represented Britain in the USA, where we found that our hosts had an entirely different conception of general knowledge.

Updated record

1962/1963

Edward Mortimer (1962), David Wickham (1961), Timothy Ades (1960) and Oliver James (1961) (captain); reserves Guy Brown (1962) and Bill Trythall (1962). **Lost to Leicester in the final round**

1968

Christopher Hitchens (1967), David Palmer (1966), two others.

Lost to St David's, Lampeter, in the first round

1971

as in *Floreat Domus* 2014

1973/1974

Simon Walker (1971), Jonathan Kay (1970), John [Ian] Williamson (1970) and Ralph Clarke (1972); reserve Simon Jones (1971). **Lost to Trinity College, Cambridge, in the final round**

1975/1976

as in *Floreat Domus* 2014

1978/1979

Graham Fife (1978), Christopher Taylor (1977), Robert Reed (1978, Visitor), Jim Hankinson (1976); reserve: Edward Handyside (1977). **Lost to University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology in the third round**

1981/1982

Mike Davies (1979), Ged McCabe (1978), Martin Yates (1979), Peter Telford (1980). **Lost to Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, in the first round**

1998/1999

Nicholas Hutchings (1995), Athar Yawar (1994), Rebecca Hughes (1996), Jonathan Wilson (1995); reserve James Gulliford. **Defeated in the third round**

2000/2001

Saul Lipetz (1998), Helena Strathdene (1998, now Hawthorn), Ian Bayley (1997), Andrew Clark (1993) [?].

Reached the quarter-finals

2004/2005, 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2013/2014

as in *Floreat Domus* 2014



Pathfinder adventures

A life-changing Asian journey

■ **OLIVIA BADDELEY** (2010)

In 2010, the Pathfinders programme was extended, after a generous donation from Matthew Westerman (1983), to allow students with an interest in Asia to venture there. Last summer, I was lucky enough to become one of two in the fourth generation of Pathfinders to embark on an Asian journey, and it was a truly life-changing experience.

I was drawn to the programme because while at Balliol I had spent one summer teaching Chemistry in Shanghai and another teaching English in Korea. I had also taken Japanese evening classes during my final year. However, the overwhelming attraction was the opportunity to meet alumni who have made careers and lives in Asia – something I was becoming more and more attracted to do myself.

I arrived in Bangkok, where I spent most of the time struggling with jet lag, but

managed a night cycle tour of the temples. I then visited Chiang Mai, where I explored the local countryside for a few days. After a near-death experience in a white-water raft, I boarded an aeroplane to Jakarta. This was where the experience really took off. I had the pleasure of staying with Don Bobiash (1984), the Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia. Don was a lovely host, and fascinating to talk to. He guided me around the city at a weekend, and I was able to accompany him to the embassy for a morning, and to a large corporate Ramadan party, which was a unique cultural insight.

From Jakarta, I flew via Kuala Lumpur, where I stayed one day, to Nagoya, Japan, where, thanks to the generosity of Llew Thomas (1997), one of Walk Japan's directors, I joined a six-night Walk Japan hiking tour along the Nakasendo, the historic highway that

The Pathfinders programme now includes not only the William Westerman Pathfinders awards to North America, but also two other schemes: the William Westerman Pathfinders awards to the East and the Foley Mexican Pathfinders awards.

connected Kyoto and Tokyo. This was an enormous privilege. We stayed in *ryokan*, traditional Japanese inns, bathed (communally, and naked) in *onsen*, hot springs, and learnt about the history, food, art and religion associated with the region. On the penultimate day, we hiked to the summit of Mount Ontake, a gorgeous holy volcano, whose name you may already know as it erupted later that summer, killing many with no warning.

From the Nakasendo, I journeyed to Tokyo, where I had the pleasure of staying with Alexis Mavropoulos (1998) and his fiancée, and to Kyoto, where I indulged in some sightseeing, before heading to the nearby town of Kameoka, where Alex Kerr (1974) lives for half the year. Alex was a Rhodes scholar in Chinese Studies, having previously studied Japanese, and I found him a most interesting and welcoming host.

Balliol meets Mexico

■ **SARA DUTTA** (2009) AND **EMMA LIVINGSTON** (2011)

The Mexico Pathfinders scheme was established this year, thanks to a kind donation from, and the impetus of, Martin Foley (1951). Similar to the long-running American Pathfinders scheme, the Mexico scheme is an opportunity for Balliol students

to travel to Mexico, meet Balliol alumni, and pursue a research interest of their choice. We were inspired to apply as the programme offered the chance to spend time in a new country and learn about its history, culture and people, and we had the privilege of being selected as the pioneer Mexico Pathfinders. We spent a month travelling in Mexico and we both selected research projects that would focus our travel: Mexican folk dancing and the Jewish community of Mexico. Unlike the American programme, the scheme required us to travel together for the entire time, which meant that we benefited from learning about each other's projects and travel interests.

Starting and ending in the vast, sprawling metropolis of Mexico City introduced us to modern Mexico. This was also our primary opportunity to meet alumni, who kindly gave up their time to meet us for dinner and provided us with somewhere to stay. Conversations with them helped to give us 'an insider's view' of the city and they introduced us to contacts who were exceptionally helpful with our projects. Though folk dancing is present across Mexico, with a breadth that corresponds to the changing geography, it was in Mexico City that we had the best

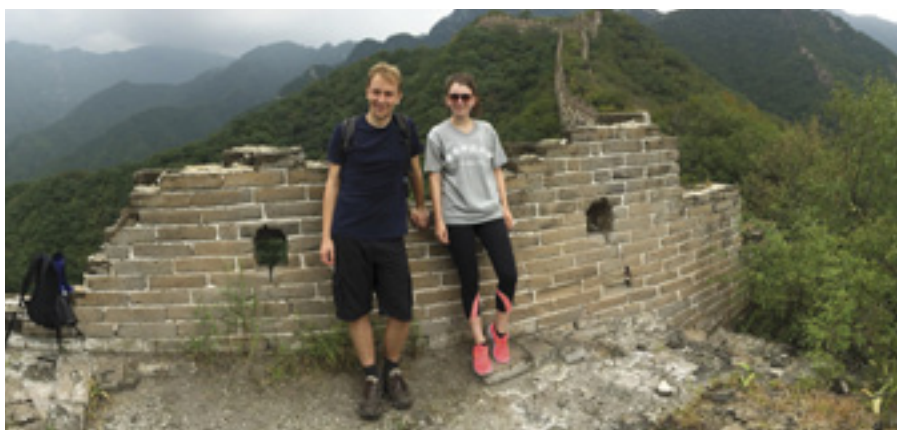
opportunities to watch dance performances and rehearsals and to attend dance classes. The Jewish community is largely concentrated in Mexico City, and the range of Jewish historians, archivists and community leaders there who very kindly gave up their time for us was incredibly useful, giving us a perspective on the community today, its history and its challenges. The wealth of museums, art galleries and markets in Mexico City and its large historic centre meant that our time there was a highlight, though not exactly relaxing.

Leaving behind the traffic of the city, we travelled to Puebla, seeing small-town life in Mexico and the industry that supports it. We especially enjoyed the festival celebrating the apple harvest in Zacatlan, attended by local celebrities and even an 'apple queen'. In Puebla we were introduced to some impressive cottage industries, but we would see far more of this in Oaxaca, which has thriving textiles and pottery industries, as well as excellent markets, which were perfect for lunch – and some very good souvenirs. The beautiful city of Oaxaca de Juárez was our base for visiting Mitla and Monte Albán, the finest Meso-American sights we had seen, but perhaps the most impressive were still to come. Two days in



After taking three weeks out to attend an intensive Mandarin course at a university in Shanghai, as part of the British Council's Study China programme, I began a big loop through China. The ability to order a bottle of water, if not much else, in the official tongue definitely came in handy in the height of summer. My route comprised Shanghai to Beijing, Pingyao and Xi'an to the west, Guilin and Yangshuo to the south, and then further west, to Yunnan province. In Beijing, I met Chris Buckley (1979), with my fellow Pathfinder Paul Moroz (2011), and together we went for a hike up to and on an abandoned section of the Great Wall. Gazing at the wall as it wound into the distance was exhilarating, and a total contrast to the commercial, reconstructed parts which are more convenient to visit. Sincerest thanks to Chris for one of the most memorable days in my life so far.

Other highlights of China included rock climbing on, and kayaking through, the famous karst limestone mountains in Guangxi province; circumnavigating the top of the old city walls in Xi'an by bicycle; and an overnight hike along the beautiful Tiger Leaping Gorge. Finding my way in towns where nobody spoke English, communicating with locals by mime and broken Mandarin, and making friends in the process, was immensely rewarding; eating nothing but yak and getting



Olivia Baddeley and Paul Moroz on the Great Wall of China.

mild altitude sickness near the Tibetan border less so.

The final leg of my journey was to glittering Hong Kong, and to the home of Matthew Westerman. I was lucky enough to catch him and his wife Siân on a relatively free day, so in the evening, we joined friends of theirs for dinner. Hong Kong was abuzz with Balliol alumni, and those I had the good fortune to meet were: Regine Sun (2010), who took me on a great day out with her friends, hiking the Dragon's Back and then gorging ourselves on street food; Sarah Moore (1999), with whom I had a lovely

Vietnamese dinner; Victoria White (1999), who gave me some valuable guidance over a fantastic lunch; and Graham Rhodes (2009), one of the first Asia Pathfinders.

Only ten days after I returned home, I booked a flight back. I am now living in Tokyo, helping out at Walk Japan part-time while attending intensive language school. It was a decision I probably would not have taken if it had not been for this experience and I hope I have managed to convey my gratitude for being chosen. To the students reading this, please do apply: it could be the experience that changes your path!



the rainforest in Chiapas allowed us to discover hidden temples in the jungle and swim down rivers and under waterfalls. Finally we got the chance to sit back and relax with a few days on the beach on the Oaxacan coast. A night we spent on the beach looking for nesting turtles unfortunately was unsuccessful, but it gave us the opportunity to learn about conservation efforts, and was more comfortable than our very choppy voyage to see them in the water the following day.

Our trip allowed us to experience many different sides of Mexico. We both gained a greater understanding of Mexican history and

culture, learning from each other's projects, archaeological sites, museums and art galleries. However, what was probably more important were the many people we met, from the alumni and those to whom they introduced us, to the people our own age who volunteered to take us out for the evening and those whom we met just briefly, such as tour guides and fellow tourists. Thanks to the help from Balliol alumni, in offering their time, hospitality and local knowledge, we were able to experience more of Mexico than an ordinary tourist trip could ever allow.

There is much more for us to see in Mexico, more to learn and more to understand, and we will certainly be going back; but our Pathfinders experience was a remarkable introduction to the country and one that we hope many more Balliol students will get to enjoy in the future.

Sara Dutta and Emma Livingston with Martin Foley (opposite, Sara on the left); with Timothy Heyman (left); and with Karim Lara Ayub (right). You can see more photographs on Sara's blog: <http://balliolmeetsmexico.blogspot.co.uk/>.



Global Balliol: China

For our regular feature about Balliol alumni working around the world, Victoria White, intellectual property and brand strategy lawyer at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Hong Kong, and Edgar Wang, Assistant Professor at Sichuan University, share their experiences.

Riding the Dragon

■ **VICTORIA WHITE** (1999)

The Mandarin connection

China was firmly on my horizon when I was at Balliol. I was fortunate to win a Coolidge Pathfinder award (as it was then called) to spend the summer after Finals in the US



Victoria White at the launch of *Fashion Law*, which she co-authored.

visiting Balliol alumni and researching my project on the history of real tennis in the States. During these travels I came to realise the growing power shift on the international scene and the rising importance of China. I returned to do a vacation placement with an international law firm in Milan, where the clients on one project were Chinese. There was only one interpreter in northern Italy who could speak Chinese and the communication gap really hindered progress in passing instructions between the sides, which meant even longer Italian espresso breaks than usual! Having seen that knowing Chinese and Chinese business practices would be a huge advantage for professionals, when I returned to Balliol the next term for my MSt in European Literature I signed up for Mandarin classes at the Oxford Language Centre.

I enjoyed the challenge of learning to read, write and speak Chinese. As well as being a linguist – my undergraduate degree was in Modern Languages and Linguistics (Italian) – I've always had an interest in languages that contain symbols, and my Master's thesis involved investigations into codes and ciphers.

Olympic escapades

After my MSt degree, I did a law conversion course at BPP Law School, while continuing my Chinese studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies. I then started working for the international law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and soon had the chance to go on secondment to the firm's Beijing office.

This was a fantastic opportunity, because I was working in Beijing in 2008 at the time of the Olympic Games there. As a keen athlete (I was captain of the Oxford real tennis team and am an Oxford blue in women's football and snowboarding), I was thrilled to be able to watch the preparation and build-up for the Games and to see how their success meant so much to China. I saw Usain Bolt's historic 100-metre final win at the Bird's Nest stadium and I was at the handover celebrations with Boris Johnson (1983), Mayor of London, David Beckham, Leona Lewis and Jimmy Page for the 2012 London Olympics. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

A budding academic career

■ **HAO (EDGAR) WANG** (2008)

The reason that I came back to China was mainly a family one. My wife and I are both from Chengdu, which is a modern city in south-west China's Sichuan Province that has over three thousand years' history and is famous for its abundance and relaxing lifestyle. We decided in late 2011, shortly after she had finished her Master's degree in Norway, that we would come back to Chengdu to settle down and build our own family.

After I finished my DPhil in Mathematics in 2013 it took me a while to figure out what suits me most and what I would like to do. At first I was seeking a job in the financial industry, but I found that there were few opportunities in Chengdu for a person with advanced knowledge in mathematics, as the Chinese financial market was still not well developed. So I decided to stay in academia

and finally took my current position in September 2013 as an Assistant Professor at Sichuan University (SCU), where I did my undergraduate degree, after being interviewed by several of the national key universities in Chengdu and welcomed by each of them.

I quickly adapted to this job and soon realised that it is the right choice for me. The systematic training in being an independent researcher in Oxford has endowed me with the ability to find and conduct new research topics without supervision. The high quality of research and publication record helped me to build connections and cooperative relationships with world-leading researchers in other universities, both in China and all over the world. Moreover, the curiosity and

knowledge in a wide variety of fields that was developed by Oxford's incomparable collegiate system and my unforgettable experience at Balliol made me an interesting and confident lecturer and teacher in class.

Interestingly, there is a college in SCU named Wuyuzhang College, which is similar to an Oxford college but with only a JCR, where selected undergraduate students of different majors live together and each has an academic advisor. Since I was a member of this college when I was studying at SCU, I have often been invited to give talks to the current students there on different subjects, such as my undergraduate experience in SCU, my life in Oxford, and how to develop one's interest in scientific research. Recently, Wuyuzhang College signed an agreement with St Edmund Hall in Oxford

Intellectual property in China

Next I moved to Hong Kong to be based with Freshfields' Asia intellectual property law team. I have been there for the last seven years, specialising in brand strategy and development, media, data and IT (tech and e-commerce) matters.

Being on the ground in China has enabled me to be involved in many of the leading developments in the market – both projects in China by international companies and, more recently, Chinese companies looking for investment opportunities abroad.

I cover the whole of the Asia region, often travelling to Singapore, Shanghai, Tokyo and Indonesia. I work a lot with luxury brand and consumer retail companies on brand expansion in new markets in Asia. Last year I collaborated with the Fashion Institute of Technology on a book, *Fashion Law*, for designers and business directors in the fashion and luxury brand industry. The book is a guide to the legal aspects of those businesses and I co-authored the chapter on international brand development. We launched the book in Asia in May 2014 at a suitably glamorous event in Hong Kong, attended by many international fashionista and brands.

Oriental opportunities

Hong Kong is a very energetic city. People are very positive and like to try new things, which is good for launching new products and creating opportunities. Equally, it is very competitive, so you have to be fast and efficient; otherwise you won't last long. The city is incredibly international – the supermarkets stock everything from Heston Blumenthal's Christmas puddings to Italian amaretti and Singaporean kaya. More

recently we've seen increasing Chinese input: the RMB is now accepted as payment in many stores in Hong Kong and, amongst business professionals, fluency in Mandarin and English is a must.

I've had the chance to be involved in many interesting projects – with Gucci, Stuart Weitzman, Christopher Bailey, Tory Burch, Luca Montezemolo, Lorde and the Paris St Germain and Chelsea football teams. I've also learned how to get business done and work with teams in Asia according to local practices, which is something that you can't do from London! You have to be humble and continually willing to learn new things, because change happens here very quickly and you have to anticipate and prepare for what is coming next.

I love the warmer weather in Hong Kong, which allows me to train all year round and continue my competitive sporting pursuits. Since moving to Asia, I've raced in international sprint events and won the Hong Kong International Marathon 10K, the Macau International Marathon 6.5K and the Beijing Great Wall Marathon 5K. The races are usually held very early in the morning (5.00am) because of the humidity and heat but, as they say, the early bird catches the worm!

Balliol in the East

I enjoy catching up with fellow Balliol alumni – and the Master on his visits – at alumni events and Oxford University Society gatherings in Hong Kong. I've also met many of the Asia Pathfinders when their travels take them through Hong Kong, and they keep me up to speed with the latest news from Broad Street.



Victoria White receives her prize for winning the Macau International Marathon.

for SCU to send visiting students and scholars there and I think this is a good starting point for future cooperation between the two universities; it may also be advantageous for Balliol to get involved in similar projects.

The work in SCU is pleasant, with different tasks such as research, teaching and some non-academic responsibilities like those talks. What I enjoy most is the open atmosphere both in research and teaching, which enables you to investigate what you are deeply interested in and to build active interactions with students. I will continue my career here and I believe it will bloom in the near future.

I would like to welcome Balliol alumni to Chengdu if anyone is coming; please email me at wangh@scu.edu.cn.



Edgar Wang standing in front of the sign for Sichuan University in Chengdu.

Rethinking Economics

■ DAVID KELL (2010)

Yuan Yang (PPE 2008) grins at me across the tarka dal. We've opted to bulk order dishes and share them around – 'It's not Pareto efficient,' remarks a former physicist at the end of the table, but it seems that won't bother the others. For I'm sitting with the core organisers of Rethinking Economics, who are campaigning to broaden and deepen our view of economics: as academics, students, the media and the general public.

And there seem to be many who agree with them. Yuan describes her work with other Rethinking organisers and academics as members of the Institute for New Economic Thinking's Curriculum Committee, which was formed as a result of a proposal by the economist Robert Skidelsky. They hope to cross-pollinate ideas from other thinkers, universities and countries to get together a 'truly critical, diverse undergraduate curriculum in economics'. Then she pauses to respond to one of the organisers, a former political philosopher who is examining their new £40,000 grant. It's from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and backed by the New Economics Foundation, to support member groups in universities across the UK (and internationally), and expand the educational programmes of said universities.

And barely a moment later we are discussing the ISIPE (that's the International Student Initiative for Pluralism in Economics to you) and their Open Letter, a tangle of acronyms and enthusiasm written together with groups in France and Germany and signed by 65 others across the world.

Yuan Yang founded the Rethinking Economics movement in 2013, with a conference at the LSE in the early summer. It sprang directly from her experience of the economics curriculum.

Her first concern was the lack of real world applicability: Yuan explains this by reference to her experience of paid economics research, in the course of which she would have appreciated some prior knowledge, for instance, of why the Chinese state created the shadow banking sector, or

about the sorts of relationships the World Bank has with its target programmes. 'On a really practical, basic level, it would have been great if we had learnt more about actual economies, how to read a bank's balance sheet, and about the histories of major economies.'

And her second, that economics as taught in universities fails to qualify as what Yuan describes as a 'critical liberal education': it lacks all discussion of why we study the theories we do, what the alternatives are, how we might improve our methodologies, what the political or historical context is, and so on.

The extreme here is microeconomics, where, from the student's point of view, for a number of years ('a significantly large number, definitely bigger than five – your Master's won't get better') you're required to learn everything by rote and not question it. But she's clear that the problem applies more generally, and recalls a curriculum reform forum where one professor proclaimed that having multiple schools of thought would be too confusing for students. 'That's as if debate should be a luxury reserved for the middle-aged and tenured. I don't think it is.'

Instead, Yuan envisages a curriculum where economics students are taught to debate and doubt what they are taught with their peers; a curriculum with the effect that 'economics students leave their weekly classes still arguing doggedly with one another, as politics and philosophy students already do.'

But 'Rethinking Economics' implies the bolder aim of reforming the discipline itself and not just the curriculum, and I put this to Yuan. She agrees, and it is indeed one of the movement's aims, for despite many parts of the mainstream discipline having moved beyond the toy models taught to students, Yuan believes there remains an 'uncritical level of consensus around the basic methodology of neoclassical modelling' and the fact that 'until we break out of our methodological silos, we won't be going anywhere'.

There's a dearth of mango chutney at our end of the table, and after making progress



Kaiyng Yang

towards a competitive equilibrium I ask Yuan how her experiences of Balliol feed into her discontentment with economics and its teaching. She speaks highly of her tutors, who lifted her from the narrow course outline with their personal critiques and enthusiasm; and of Balliol's large and vibrant community of PPE students. 'It's a big family to be part of, and there's no point in studying PPE if you don't have someone to talk about it with' (as I recall it, one didn't need to be a PPEist to get caught up!).

And most poignantly, she recalls Bob Hargrave, Balliol Lecturer in Philosophy from 1996 ('but more of a moral tutor'), who passed away in 2012. It is he whom most of her favourite memories recall: 'It's both lovely and sad to think about these, as most of them will no longer be experienced by current PPEists.'

On a final note, I ask Yuan what advice she would give such current students, and she answers: 'If in doubt, talk about it. If not in doubt, try being in doubt.' I was fortunate enough to attend Bob's final 'If' lecture series, which challenged the orthodoxy in the philosophy of language; and reflect that perhaps it is appropriate to see those sentiments echoed in a twentysomething with the audacity to challenge the curriculum she was trained in.



Intelligent computers

■ ROBIN PIEDELEU (2013)

'I believe we have the capacity to build systems that get closer and closer to how we think.' Ed Grefenstette (2008), co-founder of Dark Blue Labs, aims to do just that.

Dark Blue Labs was an artificial intelligence (AI) start-up acquired by Google at the end of last year, only a few months after its creation. Along with his fellow Oxford academics and co-founders, Ed has since joined Google DeepMind, another British high-tech company recently bought by the internet giant, whose mission statement is to 'solve intelligence' by combining so-called machine learning techniques and neuroscience.

Aimed not just at heavy-hitting researchers but also the teamwork that they already had in place, this type of acquisition is symptomatic of the growing interest of Silicon Valley's largest firms in the relatively untapped talent at Oxbridge. In this context, where a lot of the best and most mature academic groups are being bought up by industry, there is only a small pool of players for companies interested in developing their research on AI. So how do I get on Google's radar? The answer is simple: 'publish'.

But why leave academia? Apart from the promise of financial incentives, a company like Google guarantees access to

engineering resources beyond the wildest dreams of any Oxford department: 'In academia, you have a lot of freedom, but it is hard to get people to implement all your ideas and to manage a team until you are fairly senior, which we were not,' says Ed. 'We could have waited ten years and missed the boat on research problems, or we could get money and hire interns, engineers and other researchers to speed things up.'

Rest assured: academia still has a role in training the researchers of tomorrow. A lot of the speculative, long-term thinking has to come from academia, as it is often the starting point of innovation. But, according to Ed, 'Academia needs to rethink how it structures its relations with industry, especially in Computer Science.' Currently, academia is bleeding a lot of good researchers into industry because it is not competitive economically.

Ed and his colleagues constituted one of the leading research groups in machine learning and natural language processing, which you could think of as training computer programs to learn, recognise and react to patterns in language (such as English, Mandarin, Xhosa, etc., as opposed to formal programming languages). Often inspired by how information flows through neural pathways in our brains, 'We build very small



Ed Grefenstette

and simple virtual brains and train them to solve tasks,' explains Ed. 'Our objective is to solve natural language understanding': that is, develop and sell technologies that allow computers to interact with us in a way that is much closer to how we interact with other humans. This work attempts to capture the 'fluidity of our dialogue, how we collaboratively solve problems and how we react to each other's actions and intentions'. In practice, the technologies that result mean better search or product recommendation engines and better interaction within a computerised household.

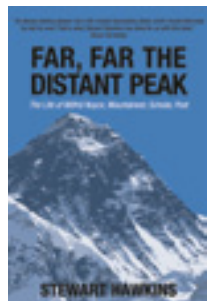
With the improvement of natural language processing techniques such as those developed by Dark Blue Labs, it is possible that one day far into the future everyone's work will become a target for automation. We may see first an intermediary stage during which intelligent systems will assist us in collaboratively solving problems. According to Ed, these may enhance, speed up and streamline the way we work, but not replace us.

One of the reasons that machine learning is so successful today is that it bridges different areas at multiple levels, such as vision and language, mathematics and physics. Similarly, Ed's research qualifies as strongly interdisciplinary: 'Not only did the Oxford Department of Computer Science provide an environment in which I could do this research, but interdisciplinarity is also something that is fostered and encouraged within the graduate community at Balliol. Living at Holywell Manor for two years and making friends with philosophers and English literature scholars, historians and economists, kept my desire to connect different areas alive.'



istockphoto.com/Henrik5000

Bookshelf



Far, Far the Distant Peak: The Life of Wilfrid Noyce, Mountaineer, Scholar, Poet

Stewart Hawkins (1958)

Curbans Books, 2014

Best known for his mountaineering exploits – he was a member of the 1953 Everest expedition – Wilfrid Noyce was also a scholar with a distinguished war record, a popular master at Charterhouse, and a writer and poet, until his early death in the Pamirs in 1962. Stewart Hawkins tells his story, drawing on sources that include letters held at Balliol in the papers of Noyce's friend Ian Grimble (1940).

'As always delving deeper into a life reveals fascinating detail, which would otherwise be lost for ever. That is what Stewart Hawkins has done for us with this book.' David Dimbleby



The Unexpected Professor: An Oxford Life in Books

John Carey (Honorary Fellow)

Faber & Faber, 2014

In this memoir, John Carey writes warmly of his sojourn at Balliol (he was Andrew Bradley Fellow 1959–1960) – 'a civilised place where disagreement could resolve itself in laughter, not anger', where class distinctions counted for nothing and where as Junior Dean he had what he describes as 'the most beautiful room I've ever lived in in Oxford' – as he describes his journey from a wartime childhood to a career immersed in books as an Oxford English Professor.

'In a perfect world, intellectuals would be original, logical, funny and full of common sense. That is, they would be like John Carey.'

Julie Burchill



Is the Planet Full?

Ian Goldin (editor) (Professorial Fellow, Professor of Globalisation and Development, and Director of the Oxford Martin School)

Oxford University Press, 2014

What are the impacts of population growth? Can our planet support the demands of the ten billion people anticipated to be the world's population by the middle of this century? Might a larger population bring potential benefits? In this book, academics with wide-ranging expertise explore the economic, social and environmental consequences of a burgeoning population: the opportunities and risks they present; and the effects which – now that we live in a 'global village' – they will have on us all.



The Importance of Not Being Earnest

Richard Heller (1966)

Richard Heller, 2014

Readers who enjoyed Richard Heller's description of the eccentric genius Luke Upward in the *Annual Record 2014* will be delighted to know that after years of painstaking research Heller has now completed his definitive collection of Upward's finest mots and has finished piecing together his dramatic but deliberately mysterious life. Here are Upward's aphorisms, aperçus and apophthegms (his 'apps', as he called them); the story of how he invented Google; an account of his sensational trial (resolved by a hyphen and a leopard); and other stories about this forgotten writer.



Verdun: The Longest Battle of the Great War

Paul Jankowski (1967)

Oxford University Press, 2014

'The ambition of this book is to tell the story of Verdun by mixing the old history with the new, the cold calculus of terrain gained and shells expended and lives lost with the depths of human experience on both sides. It aims to give the total history of a battle,' writes Paul Jankowski, Professor of History at Brandeis University, dedicating the book to the memory of his Balliol tutors, Richard Cobb and Maurice Keen.

'A well-respected scholar of French politics and culture, he has delved deeply into the contemporary sources from that nation, but he is no less at home in the copious German archives. The writing throughout is of the highest order.'

Books & Culture



Turbulent Times

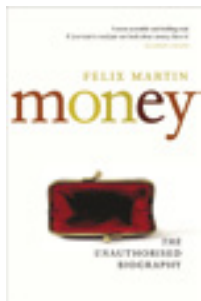
Ronald McIntosh (1938)

Biteback Publishing, 2014

'What we really wanted to do was to get to know our peers and sit up half the night discussing the great issues of the extraordinary times in which our generation lived,' writes Sir Ronald McIntosh of his time at Balliol, which was interrupted by his wartime service in the Merchant Navy. His memoir goes on to recount what those 'extraordinary times' meant for him in his career in public service, as Director General of the National Economic Development Office during the industrial disputes and inflationary pressures of the 1970s, and later in the City and in post-Communist Russia.

'You read his chapters and you are in the hands of a sensitive and highly knowledgeable guide to the achievements and the vicissitudes of Britain since 1945.'

Peter Hennessy



Money: The Unauthorised Biography

Felix Martin (1992)

Bodley Head, 2013

Longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, this book argues that the conventional understanding of money is wrong; explains why this is a big problem because it presents a major obstacle to formulating the policies that can extricate us from the global debt crisis; and offers an alternative explanation of what money really is – with radical implications for economics, finance and the future of capitalism.

'A superb synthesis . . . a lucid, colourful introduction to 3,000 years of monetary history . . . replete with literary and historical examples.'
Financial Times



The Postcolonial Orient: The Politics of Difference and the Project of Provincialising Europe

Vasant Kaiwar (1975)

Brill, 2014

Vasant Kaiwar, Visiting Associate Professor of History at Duke University, presents a far-reaching analysis of the political, economic, and ideological cross-currents that have shaped and informed postcolonial studies preceding and following the 1989 moment of world history.

'A landmark achievement. Measured, articulate and incisive.'
Neil Lazarus, University of Warwick



The Compassionate Englishwoman: Emily Hobhouse in the Boer War

Robert Eales (1969)

Middle Harbour Press, 2014

Robert Eales presents the story of the courageous humanitarian work of Emily Hobhouse during the Boer War, describing her campaign against the scorched earth and concentration camp policies followed by Britain in that war. Balliol has a small part in the story.

'I found it very moving and enlightening and it certainly kept my interest . . . I was delighted to note the role the then Master of Balliol had in supporting Emily's second meeting in Oxford at the beginning of her tour.'
Ian Pollard (1973)



In the Light of What We Know

Zia Haider Rahman (1987)

Picador, 2014

A 40-year-old investment banker finds a haggard, dishevelled figure on his doorstep in a state of agitation. Only when he hears him mention a man who gave his name to a mathematical theorem does he recognise a friend, Zafar, whom he met when they were both students at an Oxford college two decades before. As the friends talk, a strange and complex story unfolds . . .

'Bristling with ideas about mathematics and politics, history and religion, Rahman's novel also wrestles with the intricacies of the 2008 financial crash. It is an extraordinary meditation on the limits and uses of human knowledge, a heartbreaking love story and a gripping account of one man's psychological disintegration.'
Observer



The Alford Saga

Paul Almond (1949)

Red Deer Press

The Gunner (2014) and *The Hero* (2015) are the sixth and seventh books in the Alford Saga. Paul Almond continues his series of romantic adventures set in Canada from 1800 to 2000 with the story of Eric Alford, first as a young man who sets off from Gaspé Coast to be a gunner in the First World War and is changed forever; and then during Canada's Great Depression when, having found his lost British sweetheart, post-traumatic stress disorder causes them both injury and anguish.



The House at the End of Hope Street

Menna van Praag (1997)

Allison and Busby, 2015

Distraught that her academic career has stalled, PhD student Alba is walking through Cambridge when she finds herself in front of a house she's never seen before. A woman invites her to stay, on the house's condition: she has 99 nights to turn her life around. Alba soon discovers that this is no ordinary house: past residents include literary figures such as George Eliot and Beatrix Potter, and they have hung around to help newcomers – as talking portraits on the wall.

'Beguiling and bright, van Praag's . . . novel delights with deft writing and charming characters.'
Kirkus

Enriching conversations

Have you received a call from a Balliol student in the last year? Student callers spoke to more Old Members than ever before as part of telephone campaigns for the Annual Fund in March, September and December 2014, as well as April 2015. The College's first Christmas telethon reached out to alumni in the USA and Canada, with fantastic results: a record-breaking 77 per cent of those we spoke to pledged their support for the Annual Fund.

As well as giving current students the unique opportunity to talk to Old Members from a variety of backgrounds and professions, telethons afford a vital source of funding for them. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, the three 2014 telethons raised a remarkable £430,000, and this year's April telethon raised over £185,000. This level of support is hugely important to Balliol's graduates and undergraduates, funding the things that matter most to them: financial aid,

which ensures that the College remains supportive and diverse; tutorial teaching to maintain the highest academic standards; and funding for the JCR, MCR, clubs and societies that strengthen the student community.

Tara Heuze (2013), a second-year undergraduate in Oriental Studies who has taken part in two telethons, knows from personal experience what a difference the Annual Fund makes. 'The bursaries I receive have allowed me to participate fully in College life, which simply wouldn't have been possible without the Annual Fund,' she says. Appreciation for what Old Members have given her motivated Tara to encourage alumni to support more current students.

Ellen Ellis (2013), a second-year English student, loves chatting to like-minded Old Members. 'When you share the same subject, the conversations can be fantastic. I recently had a wonderful discussion with an Old Member in Vancouver who was

studying style and rhythm in 18th-century prose fiction. He gave me some really valuable insights into the topic which shed new light on my own studies!'

But rich conversations can be had between alumni and students from different subject areas too. Ellen continues: 'Some of the best conversations I've had have been with Old Members with whom (at first glance) I have nothing in common other than Balliol. It's amazing how quickly you find a common ground. One of my most enjoyable conversations in December 2014 was with a chemist working on plastics in California. It was fascinating finding out about his day-to-day life, and the surprising ways his experience at Balliol had prepared him for the future.'

We hope you are looking forward to receiving a call this year, as students like Ellen and Tara are looking forward to getting to know you, and to telling you more about what your annual donation can achieve at Balliol.



Generous support for the 1975–1977 Gaudy Campaign

Old Members who matriculated in the years 1975, 1976 and 1977 celebrated their Gaudy on Saturday 28 June 2014 with a drinks reception in the Master's Lodgings and a very enjoyable dinner in Hall.

In the months running up to the big event, the Gaudy Committee – chaired by Ian Williams (1977) – reached out to hundreds of Old Members in the three matriculation years and invited them to make a special Gaudy gift to the College's Annual Fund. It is a mark of the Balliol ethos that so many responded generously, collectively raising over £150,000.

We would like to thank the members of the committee, listed opposite, for their time and their commitment to Balliol, as well as all the other alumni who kindly contributed to the campaign. The Gaudy donations were used to fund projects across College that enhance the student experience – such as

bursaries and grants, additional tutorial support for undergraduates, and student clubs and facilities.

'It was a pleasure to catch up with Old Members and chair a responsive committee guided by the expert Development team. Balliol has been an important influence in my life and my own contribution simply reflected a wish to say "thanks" and to help maintain that opportunity for future generations of students.' Ian Williams



The 1975–1977 Gaudy Committee

Stephen Bradley (1976)
David Christie (1977)
Eddie Filus (1975)
Anthony Giles (1977)
Roger Gray (1975)
Jeremy Mayhew (1977)
Ian Pearson (1977)
Julian Powe (1975)
Ian Williams (1977),
Chairman



Ian Taylor

Calendar of events up to June 2016

2015

Saturday 30 May

**Young Alumni Garden Party
and Summer Eights**

Saturday 27 June

**Gaudy for the matriculation
years 1968–1970**

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 September

**Meeting Minds: University
Alumni Weekend in Oxford**

Saturday 3 to Sunday 4 October

Balliol Society Weekend

Dinner in Hall at 7.45pm
on 3 October AGM in the JCR
at 9.30am on 4 October

Thursday 19 November

Usborne Dinner

Speaker: Simon Stevens (1984),
Chief Executive, NHS England

2016

Saturday 12 March

Greville Smith Society Lunch

Saturday 19 March

**Gaudy for the matriculation
years 2000–2002**

Saturday 30 April

Deans' Dinner

Saturday 28 May

**Young Alumni Garden Party
and Summer Eights**

Saturday 25 June

**Gaudy for the matriculation
years 1978–1980**

Gaudies 2017

March: for matriculation years 2003–2005

June: for matriculation years 1987–1989

**For more information,
see balliol.ox.ac.uk/events**

Leaving a legacy to Balliol is one of the greatest gifts you can make

“ I was a kid from a council estate, and the first in my family to go to university, and Balliol introduced me to eye-opening new ideas and opportunities. Balliol provided me with much-needed financial support on multiple occasions and the gift that College will receive after I die will be my final ‘thank you’ for the belief they had in me. It will allow me to ‘pay it forward’ to future students from similar backgrounds. [Michelle Cale \(1986\)](#) ”



Over the centuries, legacies of every size have helped Balliol support its students and stay at the forefront of learning and discovery. Old Members' bequests have endowed Fellowships, established scholarships, preserved our historic buildings, and supported student clubs, societies and sports teams.

Michelle and more than 270 other alumni belong to the Greville Smith Society, which recognises all those who have included Balliol in their will. At its annual lunch last March, the Society, Master and Fellows warmly welcomed 43 new members. We are very grateful to them all. Please consider joining them by remembering the College in your will.

To discuss your legacy gift, please contact
Laura Bianco, Alumni and Development Manager:
+44 (0)1865 277704
laura.bianco@balliol.ox.ac.uk



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