

Michaelmas 2013 ~ Volume 26 No 1 ~ [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)

# OXFORD TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

28 | SOLE SCIENTIST

**THATCHER'S OTHER  
DIFFERENCE**

38 | DEATH WISH

**CASTING BACK TO  
NOVEMBER '63**

45 | THE RADICAL DEPARTMENT

**MUSIC AT OXFORD  
ISN'T WHAT YOU  
THINK IT IS**

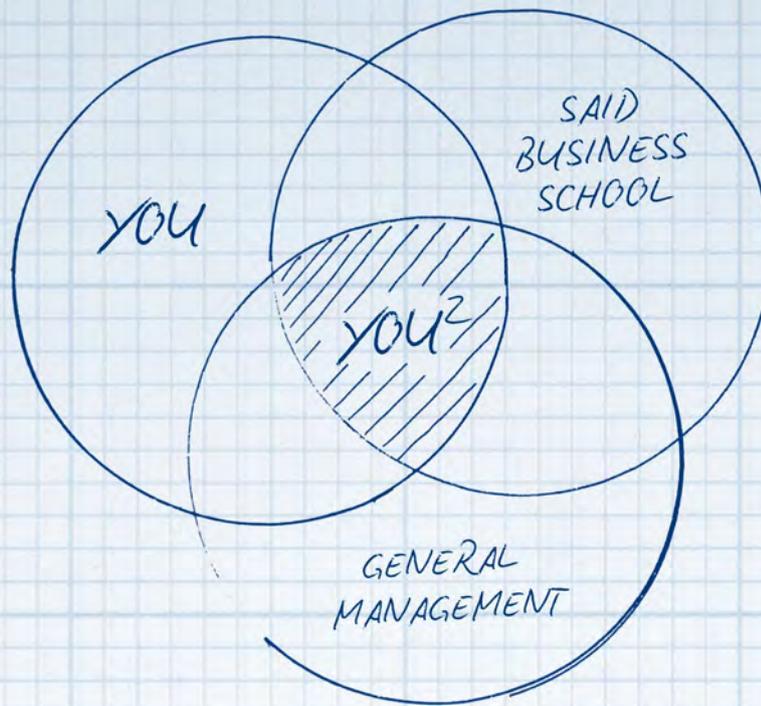
59 | TASTE-OFF

**SIX DECADES OF  
VARSITY WINE**

**AN ETERNAL  
DEBATE**

Radical  
architecture  
at Oxford





# Leadership Programmes with the Oxford Advantage

## Oxford Management Acceleration Programme

Accelerate your career with this general management and leadership programme.

Three modules of four days, starting 19 Mar 2014

[www.sbs.oxford.edu/map](http://www.sbs.oxford.edu/map)

## Oxford Strategic Leadership Programme

For experienced senior leaders. Challenge your assumptions and beliefs, encounter new ideas, and resume your role with greater clarity of thought and vision.

17-22 Nov 2013 or 11-16 May 2014

[www.sbs.oxford.edu/oslpl](http://www.sbs.oxford.edu/oslpl)

## Oxford High Performance Leadership Programme

For new leaders and experienced senior managers. A practical approach to tackling your personal and organisational leadership challenges.

23-28 February 2014

[www.sbs.oxford.edu/hpl](http://www.sbs.oxford.edu/hpl)

To learn more about how to transform your thinking contact [joanne.evans@sbs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.evans@sbs.ox.ac.uk) or on +44 (0)1865 422720

[www.sbs.oxford.edu/leadership](http://www.sbs.oxford.edu/leadership)

## Oxford Executive MBA

Applications are still open for the Oxford Executive MBA. This programme is an ideal route to board-level performance for successful leaders and managers. The programme's 21 month modular structure would allow Oxford alumni to continue to fulfil existing work commitments whilst returning to study.

At least two modules are delivered overseas.

Deadline for applications: 31 October 2013

[www.sbs.oxford.edu/emba](http://www.sbs.oxford.edu/emba)

For further information contact

Duncan Macintyre at [emba-enquiries@sbs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emba-enquiries@sbs.ox.ac.uk) or on +44 (0)1865 610082



**EDITOR:** Dr Richard Lofthouse

**DIGITAL EDITOR:** Dr Jamie Condliffe

**ART EDITOR:** Michael Poole

**HEAD OF DESIGN AND PUBLICATIONS OFFICE:**  
Anne Brunner-Ellis

**SUB EDITOR:** Jayne Nelson

**PICTURE EDITOR:** Joanna Kay

**ART DIRECTORS:** Stuart Hobbs,  
Dermot Rushe

**ACCOUNT DIRECTOR:** Clair Atkins

**EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:**

**Alun Anderson**, Author and journalist

**Anne Brunner-Ellis**, Head of Design and Publications Office,  
University of Oxford

**Sewell Chan**, Deputy Op-Ed Editor, New York Times

**Michelle Dickson**, Director and Chief Executive,  
Oxford Playhouse

**Alison Edwards**, Head of Alumni Communications,  
University of Oxford

**Liesl Elder**, Director of Development,  
University of Oxford

**Christine Fairchild**, Director of Alumni Relations,  
University of Oxford

**Jeremy Harris**, Director of Public Affairs,  
University of Oxford

**Alan Judd**, Author and journalist

**Dr Richard Lofthouse**, Editor, Oxford Today

**Ken Macdonald QC**, Warden of Wadham College,  
Oxford

**Paul Newman**, BP Professor of Information Engineering,  
Fellow, Keble College, Oxford

**Dr William Whyte**, Lecturer in History,  
Fellow, St John's College, Oxford

**Bob Abbott**, Creative Director, Future PLC

**Dr Helen Wright**, Headmistress,  
Ascham School, Sydney, Australia

**EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES:**

Janet Avison, Public Affairs Directorate

Tel: +44 (0)1865 280545

[oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk)

[www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)

**ALUMNI ENQUIRIES,**

**INCLUDING CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Claire Larkin, Alumni Office

Tel: +44 (0)1865 611610

[enquiries@alumni.ox.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@alumni.ox.ac.uk)

[www.alumni.ox.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk)

University of Oxford, University Offices,  
Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

**ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES:** Steve Hulbert, FuturePlus, Beaufort Court, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW Tel: +44 (0)1225 822849  
[steve.hulbert@futurenet.com](mailto:steve.hulbert@futurenet.com)  
[www.futureplus.co.uk](http://www.futureplus.co.uk)

**PUBLISHER:**

*Oxford Today* is published on behalf of the University of Oxford by FuturePlus, a division of Future Publishing Limited (company no 2008885), whose registered office is at Beaufort Court, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. Tel: 01225 442244. [www.futureplus.co.uk](http://www.futureplus.co.uk)

Jayne Caple, *Director, FuturePlus UK*

Mark Donald, *Head of Operations*

Scott Longstaff, *Commercial Director*

Matt Eglington, *Production & Procurement Manager*

All information contained in this magazine is for informational purposes only and is, to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of going to press. Neither Future Publishing Limited nor the University of Oxford accepts any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies that occur in such information. If you submit material to this magazine, you automatically grant Future Publishing Limited and the University of Oxford a licence to publish your submissions in whole or in part in any edition of this magazine and you grant the University of Oxford a licence to publish your submissions in whole or in part in any format or media throughout the world. Any material you submit is sent at your risk and neither Future Publishing Limited nor the University of Oxford nor their respective employees, agents or subcontractors shall be liable for any loss or damage. No part of this magazine may be used or reproduced without the written permission of Future Publishing Limited and the University of Oxford. Printed by Headley Brothers, Ashford, Kent.

The text paper in this magazine is chlorine free. The paper manufacturer and Future Publishing have been independently certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.



COVER: ARTIST IMPRESSION OF THE BLAVATNIK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT; HERZOG & DE MEURON



ROB JUDGES

Michaelmas  
2013

# Welcome

## More and better digital content

Warm thanks to the many readers who completed our recent readership survey. The results showed continued strong support for *Oxford Today* both as a print magazine and on the web, but many of you noted that you didn't realise that the website now includes exclusive online-only features, films and other bespoke content, all additional to the print magazine but held to the same exacting editorial standards. In other words, the website is no longer just a digital version of the printed magazine: it's a constantly updated site, full of fresh new content for all Oxonians.

In order to know what's new online, I encourage you to visit [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/subscriptions](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/subscriptions) and sign up for our new weekly newsletter, OT Weekly. It does what it says on the tin: we simply email you once a week to tell you what we've put online, and then all you have to do is click through directly to the content you want to read. It's that easy.

In this issue of *Oxford Today*, we've even experimented with a different kind of feature on p45, which brings print and web together. A series of brief introductions to highly creative members of the music faculty naturally leads readers online to see and hear some amazing video clips and recordings that could otherwise only be described in words. Any feedback on how well the experiment works is welcomed (email address below).

The rest of this issue considers the late Baroness Thatcher at Oxford, the anticipation of death by CS Lewis, the centenary of novelist Barbara Pym and, to my mind, a rather delicious cover story about the way that architectural innovation at Oxford always precipitates a row. How could it be otherwise. 🍷

EDITOR: Richard Lofthouse



*Oxford Today is now on the iPad. Visit Apple Newsstand to download [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)*

email [oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk)



@oxtoday



/oxfordtoday





## Trek to the Forbidden Kingdom of Mustang



DATE: 1–17 April 2014  
PRICE: £3,140

Join Professor Charles Ramble, former Lecturer in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies at the University of Oxford, on this 8-day moderate-level trek through the stunning scenery of the ancient Kingdom of Mustang following one of the oldest Nepal-Tibet trade routes.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, including flights from London.*

## Tribal and Sacred China A journey through Laos, Yunnan and Tibet



DATE: 14 October–4 November 2014  
PRICE: £3,580

Join Dr Ulrike Roesler, Lecturer in Tibetan Studies, on this unique journey through some of the world's most spectacular landscapes from the jungles of Indochina to the soaring peaks of the Himalayas. Discover an unrivalled diversity of peoples whose cultures are steeped in ancient customs and traditions.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, excluding flights.*

## More 2014 Oxford alumni trips with Distant Horizons

Art Treasures of St Petersburg  
20–25 February 2014

Along the Golden Road to Samarkand  
15–29 April 2014

A Journey through Ladakh and Kashmir  
7–23 September 2014

Ancient Routes of the Caucasus  
10–24 September 2014

Kingdoms in the Sky – Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan  
9–24 October 2014

## Burma The Art and Culture of the Golden Land



DATE: 29 October–12 November 2014  
PRICE: £3,560

Explore the magical, ancient land of Burma with visits to Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, Inle Lake and the ancient citadel of Sri Ksetra. Accompanied by Professor Janice Stargardt, specialist in the historical geography and archaeology of South East Asia, University of Cambridge.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, including flights from London.*

For more information on these trips please contact Distant Horizons on +44(0)151 6253425 / [info@distanthorizons.co.uk](mailto:info@distanthorizons.co.uk)



 OXFORD ALUMNI  
**TRAVELLERS**

Visit [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014) to view our full range of educational, small-group tours for Oxford alumni

# OXFORD TODAY

In this issue...

Michaelmas  
Term 2013

MY OXFORD

Jennifer Cole OBE, the  
Foreign Office's  
Foreign Policy  
Councillor, on her  
Oxford years

66



32



26



28

## MICHAELMAS HIGHLIGHTS



22

### Oxonians

Tracking the careers of alumni forging their own paths, including diver Karin Sinniger.



38

### JFK

How John F Kennedy, CS Lewis and Aldous Huxley were connected by their deaths.



54

### Clock tower

The recently completed Harris Manchester clock tower inspires thoughts on time itself.

## Letters

8 Your correspondence

## Oxonian & News

10 University news

14 Appointments & awards

16 Discovery

21 Alumni notices

22 Oxonians at large

24 University Voice

## Features

26 The class of 2012

Catching up with the first-years

28 The only scientist

Thatcher's scientific legacy

32 Eye of the beholder

Radical architecture at Oxford

36 Pym's centenary

The life and work of Barbara Pym

38 Rendezvous with death

22 November 1963: a day to remember

45 The sound of  
changing music

How the Music Faculty has changed

## Arts & Ideas

51 Book reviews

54 A new clock tower

59 Varsity wine-tasting

## Regulars

56 Competition

60 Crossword

62 Miscellany

65 Obituaries

66 My Oxford



The journey is just the start of the *adventure*



GREAT RAIL  
JOURNEYS

Discover  
new adventures

NEW  
CHRISTMAS  
DATE NOW  
AVAILABLE  
DEPARTING ON  
22ND DEC  
2013  
PLEASE CALL  
FOR DETAILS

Day 8: The Taj Mahal

## India's Golden Triangle

13 DAY HOLIDAY

Discover vibrant colours, astonishing beauty and a wealth of history on a tour that visits many of India's most famous and exciting places and gives you a flavour of the true magnificence of this awe-inspiring country.

**Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi.** Leave London on an overnight flight to Delhi. Arrive on Day 2 and after time to settle in, enjoy a sightseeing tour, exploring the wide, leafy avenues and admire the impressive British colonial architecture of New Delhi.

**Day 3: To Shimla.** Board the *Shatabdi Express* to Kalka, changing to the narrow-gauge *Toy Train*, recently awarded UNESCO World Heritage status, into the Shivalik mountain range to Shimla. Spend three nights at the fabulous 5-star Oberoi Cecil Hotel.

**Days 4-5: Explore Shimla.** Join a tour to explore this remarkable city, taking us past the town's Gaiety Theatre, the Victorian-Gothic Christ Church and Scandal Point. Day 5 is free to explore at your own pace.

**Day 6: Return to Delhi.** Leave by *Toy Train* for the journey back down the mountains through stunning landscapes to Kalka, joining the *Shatabdi Express* to Delhi for another overnight stay.

**Day 7: Exploring Old Delhi.** This morning we visit fascinating and colourful Old Delhi, where we enjoy a rickshaw ride around the narrow streets passing Delhi's Red Fort, a World Heritage site, and the Jama Masjid - the largest mosque in India.

**Day 8: The Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.** Join the *Shatabdi Express* to Agra, visiting the imposing Red Fort, built on a hill above Agra, then travel across the city to the Taj Mahal. Transfer to the 5-star Mughal Sheraton for the night.

**Day 9: Fatehpur Sikri.** Journey to Fatehpur Sikri, a perfectly preserved ancient sandstone city, for a guided tour then continue north to the Pink City of Jaipur for three nights at the 5-star Sheraton Rajputana Palace.

**Days 10-11: Jaipur.** Visit to the City Palace - still home to the Maharaja, the Astronomical Observatory and the colourful market. Day 11 is free for you to further explore Jaipur at your leisure.

**Day 12: The Amber Fort then return to Delhi.** Into the hills to the Amber Fort, passing the Jal Mahal water palace along the way. Admire the imposing façade, intricate interior and views of the Aravalli mountains then visit the pink sandstone Palace of the Winds. The afternoon is free for you to explore before the evening journey back to Delhi, for a final overnight stay.

**Day 13: To London.** Transfer to Delhi airport for our return flight to London arriving late afternoon.

- MORE FROM OUR INDIA COLLECTION -



India's Palace on Wheels  
15 DAYS FROM £3,695

Magnificent palaces and forts are waiting to be discovered on board the hotel train, the *Palace on Wheels*.



Kerala & Exotic Southern India  
17 DAYS FROM £3,595

During this unforgettable tour, we visit the cities, temples and tea plantations of the Tamil Nadu region before heading to Kerala.



Grand Tour of India & Nepal  
17 DAYS FROM £2,695

Explore India and Nepal on this once-in-a-lifetime grand tour including some of the world's most beautiful sights and scenery.



## EXCELLENT VALUE

- With so much included -

Scheduled return flights from London to Delhi

Rail travel in India

11 nights' hotel accommodation with breakfast each day

2 restaurant lunches & 2 packed lunches

Dinner every day (packed dinner on Day 6 and on the final evening)

Guided city tours in Delhi, Shimla and Jaipur

Visits to the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri and the Amber Fort

Rail journeys on the *Toy Train* and the *Shatabdi Express*

Accompanied by a professional Tour Manager and a local guide throughout

41 departures between 3rd Dec 2013 & 21st Dec 2014

13 day holiday from  
£1,695

You couldn't organise the same inclusive holiday yourself for less.

- BOOK NOW -  
or request a free brochure  
01904 734 029

Our UK tour advisors are here 7 days a week

www.GreatRail.com



BOOK WITH 100% CONFIDENCE FLIGHT-INCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS ARE ATOI PROTECTED, NON-FLIGHT-INCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS ARE FINANCIALLY PROTECTED BY ABTA

Dates and prices are subject to availability. Prices shown are per person, based on 2 sharing. Prices may change prior to and after publication. Itinerary may differ, please call for details. Terms and conditions apply. Calls will be recorded.

www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk

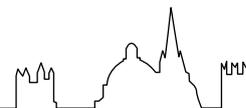
# OXFORD TODAY

DIGITAL

oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk

 @oxtoday

 /oxfordtoday



Tom Fuller, one of Oxford's online media producers, filming William Whyte at Keble College for the web-only video series *Architecture That Shook Oxford*

## Architecture that shook Oxford

Introducing a special *Oxford Today* film series

Throughout history, new buildings have changed the way Oxford looks and how its residents behave. Whether their aesthetic was met with contempt, their purpose divided opinion, or – in the case of the Cutteslowe Walls – they even physically divided social classes, man-made structures have left a tangible imprint on the city and its inhabitants.

Our new web-only video series, *Architecture That Shook Oxford*, explores how buildings have changed the city over the last 1,000 years. The first video in the series – already available to view online – sees Dr William Whyte, Tutorial Fellow in History at St John's College and specialist in the history of architecture, explore the once-radical buildings of Keble College. Still striking with their bold brickwork, the William Butterfield-designed structures on Parks Road drew their share of criticism when they were erected, and arguably still divide opinion today. 🍯

The monthly series will trace the history of some of Oxford's most influential architecture, from the walls which defined the city's limits back in 1040, through the invigorating modern architecture of St Catherine's College, to Frank Cooper's captivating marmalade factory. Visit the website each month to watch the videos as they appear online at:  
[www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/architecture](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/architecture)



Oxford Today is now on the iPad. Visit Apple Newsstand to download  
[www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)

# Letters

Your correspondence

## In response to...

### OT 25.2: Khrushchev's visit to Oxford in 1956

Oxonians remember the day the Russians came to Oxford

☉ When the Russian leaders Bulganin and Khrushchev came to Oxford in 1956, as described by Keith Tunstall, ("Letters", Trinity issue 2013,) I photographed them on the steps of the Sheldonian from the Blackwell's side of the Broad (pictured). It only occurred to me later that I could have changed the course of history. I was using a telephoto lens on my Leica, with a pistol grip, and could easily have been an assassin as far as their bodyguards had been concerned, if they had spotted me.

(I had hoped to get on the famous Russian course when I started my National Service in 1952, but was told politely that the country needed officers more than linguists. Many of my OCTU colleagues ended up fighting in Korea, Malaya or Kenya, but I spent 13 months in the Gold Coast.)

A few months later, and in almost exactly the same location, I photographed the anti-Suez protest march...

MURRAY GLOVER  
*Lincoln, 1954*

☉ Tunstall says that Khrushchev's denunciation of Joseph Stalin was published two months after their visit: however I remember being in a crowd of undergraduates outside the Sheldonian, serenading them to the strains of *Poor Old Joe*.

Were we prescient, as well as (we thought) extremely witty?  
GILLIAN WILSON  
*Lady Margaret Hall, 1953*



MURRAY GLOVER

Murray Glover took this photo with his 'pistol grip' Leica. See others (and the Leica) at: [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/grip](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/grip)

☉ It was a couple of months after the visit that the text of Khrushchev's speech denouncing Stalin was published in *The Observer*. However, the general contents and nature of the speech were known in the West before the visit. When the Soviet leaders were driven along Broad Street some of those watching started chanting 'Poor old Joe, poor old Joe'. The visitors, who presumably had no idea what was being chanted, looked delighted. At least one of them waved his clasped hands above his head vigorously in acknowledgement.  
GEORGE MANDEL  
*Balliol, 1955*

☉ I was part of a vast throng of students standing outside Blackwell's. As they emerged from the Sheldonian and

came down the steps, someone from the back of the crowd lobbed a brown-paper package over everyone's heads, and it landed near the Russians. Amid jeers, bodyguards swooped on the object and rushed off with it, while the jeers turned to the raucous singing of 'Poor Joe is dead', after Stalin. B and K stood there grinning and clapping, their hands high above their heads, presumably thinking that ours was a song of welcome.

PAUL CANNON  
*Trinity, 1955*

☉ A curious sidelight reveals one vast difference between then and now. As they sped out of Portsmouth Dockyard at the start of their journey, the sole security accompaniment for the supreme leaders of Communism was one Riley police car, leading the way. Bulganin, seated on the right in the limousine, peered out at the unappealing vista of the deserted railway station and ferry point, possibly hoping to wave to cheering crowds, but alas all he saw was a single schoolboy with better use for a lunch hour than idling in the school quad. Contrast that with, for instance, the huge security operation in 2010 complete with no-fly zone over much of Long Island for the wedding of the daughter of a president ten years out of office.  
D CONNOR FERRIS  
*St John's, 1958*

We welcome letters for publication, but may edit them to fit. Unless you request otherwise, letters may also appear on our website. Write to us at: **Oxford Today**, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD

### Making Britons

"What makes the British?" (Trinity issue 2013) was fascinating. Is there a bigger/better version available of the POBI map?

RICHARD SEAL

ED NOTE: There's a well-managed Wikipedia entry, including maps, called "People of the British Isles".

### Marcus du Sautoy

It is a good job Marcus de Sautoy is Professor of the Public Understanding of Science and not of Architecture if he thinks the new Mathematical Institute (pictured on p32 of OT 25.2) is 'beautiful'. Like the new China Centre (p10) it would probably enhance Liverpool JMU's Birkenhead Docks Campus, but in Oxford...? The University may have the best academic brains in the country but it clearly does not have the best architects if this sort of instantly forgettable mediocrity is the best that can be done.

DAVID FAVAGER  
*Brasenose, 1979*

Marcus is right to see cross-boundary research as something that goes to the root of Oxford's destiny as a leading university. I believe that the idea of treating cross-boundary research as a topic worthy of study in itself merits serious consideration. A useful start could be made by organising and analysing feedback from current (and former?) members of interdisciplinary teams, both those who believe they have collaborated effectively across academic boundaries and those who have not derived the full benefit from the joining together of different



Email your letter to:  
[oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk)



@oxtoday



/oxfordtoday

For full versions  
of these letters  
and to read  
further alumni  
correspondence,  
visit [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)



disciplines in pursuing common goals or solving common problems.

KENNETH WOODS  
*Wadham, 1950*

### Wytham Woods

Colonel Raymond ffennell, who gave Wytham Abbey and estate to the University, would have been pleased to see the notice (Trinity issue, p7) about the video series on Wytham Woods. He had originally hoped that the Abbey itself would be used for agricultural educational purposes, but would have rejoiced to know that his woods, in which his daughter Hazel had such happy times, are now one of the most researched areas of woodland in the world.

MICHAEL STEEN  
*Oriel, 1965*

### Mansoor Ali Khan

In Oxford sporting circles Khan's name (he was affectionately known as 'The Noob' among Oxford contemporaries) was mentioned with awe. Some said that had he put his mind to it, he could have been an outstanding hockey player. When the news broke, while Oxford were on tour after term, that his eye had been damaged in a car accident in Hove, while returning for a curry with his friend Robin Waters after the game, we were all incredulous. Alas, it was true! The Noob, however, did not give in and returned to Test cricket, playing some memorable innings against Australia, England and the West Indies. He played basically with one eye, having discarded the prescribed contact lenses after the first important post-injury match at

Hyderabad against the visiting MCC team. To say that he 'struggled' against bowling at a pace above military medium is only partly correct. After the loss of one eye his was a struggle against the odds against all types of bowling, particularly when one compared his later performances, quite formidable in their own right, with the quality of his batting at the beginning of the 1961 season. I would fully agree with Michael Burns that it is ludicrous, however, to suggest that he struggled against fast bowling and was by implication at ease with bowling at military medium or slow bowling.

CM AFZAL  
*Corpus Christi, 1960*

### Great Dons of the 1950s

Graham Chainey ("Letters", Trinity issue, p9) mentioned the 'Great Names' of the necessarily narrow English literary world. In my time I learnt under the 'greats' of the much wider world of Natural Philosophy including Nobel Prize winners and many FRSS. Oxford in the mid-1950s was indeed world class.

JOHN POPE  
*Keble, 1955*

Graham Chainey may have revelled in the shooting sticks of brilliant talk during his time at Oxford, but his circle was somewhat restricted: nine historians, five philosophers, five dons of literature, two classicists, and an Anglo-Saxonist. Perhaps it is just a further illustration of the two cultures that – nearly 50 years on – I recognised only 11 of his '22 household names',

but think that I would, in 1966, have recognised only six, and one of them only because he wrote two bestselling fantasy novels. The world of the science laboratory is a long way from shooting sticks along Parks Road.

NEVILLE W GOODMAN  
*Magdalen, 1966*

### Alan Garner

Thank you for a most interesting article. The reference to the local legend from Garner's home of sleeping knights in a cave in the Edge, waiting to save Britain from peril, reminds me of a very similar legend I heard as a boy in Germany. In central Germany there is a mountain called the Kyffhäuser in which there is a cave where Frederick Barbarossa and his knights sit around a stone table, through which Barbarossa's beard is growing, waiting for a circling raven to awaken them when they will ride out and save Germany from catastrophe. Somehow the raven missed 1945!

ROBERT HENNEMEYER  
*St Edmund Hall, 1960*

### Elitism

I have read the letters on elitism and access to Oxford for all qualified with some personal interest. I left school before I was 16 in 1939, having just scraped by with School Certificate. After eight years in the RAF, having reached the rank of Sergeant Pilot, and having taken correspondence courses to obtain my Matriculation, I applied to and was accepted

by Merton College. I have ever since been inexpressibly grateful to the late Robert Levens, then Dean of Admissions. I was happy to get a Third. Later I took my PhD at Stanford, and subsequently became a professor of French Literature in a Canadian university.

JACK EG DIXON  
*Merton, 1949*

### Osney Energy

It was with great interest that I read about the success of the residents of Osney in harnessing the flow of the Thames to provide clean, sustainable energy to dozens of homes nearby. Most satisfying of all is the use of the ancient Archimedes Screw technology, which has provided a reliable, renewable source of power for homes throughout the world for many centuries.

Certainly, one influential Oxford man would have been delighted to read how simple, small-scale and sustainable technology is still relevant in modern Britain. Unfortunately, the great EF Schumacher is no longer with us. But the economic philosophy he developed as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and expounded in his seminal book, *Small is Beautiful*, still plays a huge role in the world.

AMANDA ROSS (NÉE GEORGE)  
*St Hugh's, 1973*  
ED NOTE: This letter refers to a web-only feature, which can still be read at [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/osney](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/osney)



New letters are regularly uploaded to the 'opinion' section of the OT website [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)

# Oxonian & News

## University news



Margaret Thatcher (Somerville, 1943)

## Honouring Lady Thatcher

Somerville launches major scholarship fund

Baroness Thatcher is being honoured at the University with a new £100 million scholarship trust backed by patrons ranging across the political spectrum, from Tony Blair to George Bush Senior.

The Margaret Thatcher Scholarship Trust is being established by the Prime Minister's former college, Somerville, to give young people who have succeeded "against the odds" the chance to study at Oxford University. Every year, a group of Thatcher scholars will be chosen on merit having won a place at the University through the usual selection process, with a focus on those from less wealthy backgrounds. The trust is backed by an array of eminent figures in the US, UK

and beyond. Lady Thatcher, the daughter of a grocer, studied chemistry at Somerville College. She struggled to cope with the cost of living, however, and was awarded a bursary and a scholarship. Dr Alice Prochaska, Somerville's Principal, says, "I'm very excited about it. It [the trust] is a living memory; it is going to produce people who excel at whatever it is that they decide to do. We want the best and brightest, regardless of background. We want people to succeed regardless of disadvantage. We are not going to limit this to particular subjects, and this programme will be totally without political prejudice."

See feature on page 28. 📖



THE RHODES TRUST

## Landmark £75m Rhodes donation

The McCall MacBain Foundation, a grant-making organization established by John and Marcy McCall MacBain (pictured), announced in September a donation of £75 million to the Rhodes Trust towards the future expansion of the world's most prestigious scholarship program. The gift, the largest since the establishment of the Scholarship in 1903, will enable the Trust to continue to send future global leaders to the University of Oxford.



JOBSESSIONS

## Dr James Martin

One of the University's greatest patrons, Dr James Martin, died earlier this year aged 79. The author, technologist, educator and polymath had previously donated \$150m to establish the Oxford Martin School, which explores problems of the 21st century. True to his intentions, the Martin School has forged a strong presence in multi-disciplinary research, with hundreds of academics working across subject boundaries to address global issues of the twenty-first century. To see a full obituary: [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/martin](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/martin)

## 16 The psychology of historical figures

How researchers discovered that King Henry VIII was a psychopath

## 45 The sound of changing music

Explore the shape of music study at Oxford with this website-interactive feature

## 26 The class of 2012 revisited

We catch up with the first-year students we interviewed a year ago

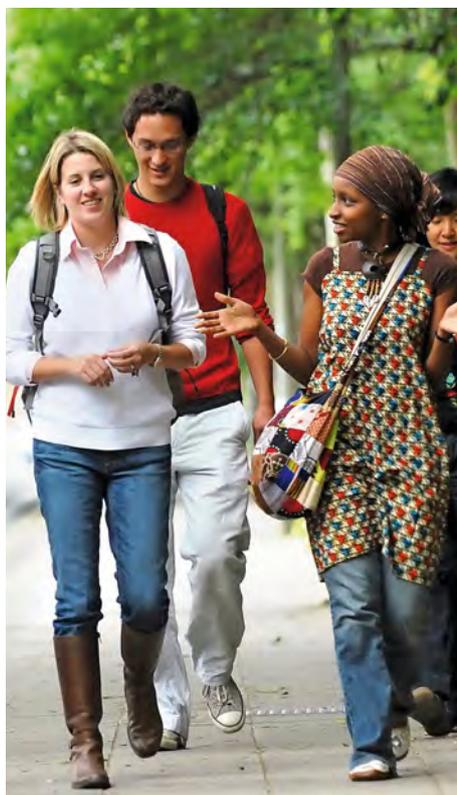


# Arts degrees an asset

Fresh research shows economic relevance of the humanities

The summer saw the Head of the Humanities Division, Professor Shearer West, announce the findings of pilot research into the economic role of Oxonians with humanities degrees from 1960 to 1989. The study, which considered the careers of 11,000 alumni, showed that these students 'predicted' growth trends in the economy and entered key growth sectors such as law and financial services before the wider

workforce moved into those same sectors. West said the report demonstrated that arts graduates had been "highly responsive to national economic needs," while today employers were "desperate" for candidates with communication skills and critical thinking skills. Funded by alumnus Guy Monson (Lady Margaret Hall, 1981), the research was widely reported in the international media. 



GREG SIMOLONSKI/OXFORD UNIVERSITY IMAGES

## Mind research centre opens

Wolfson College President Dame Hermione Lee opened the Mind, Brain and Behaviour Research Cluster. Led by Wolfson fellow and Watts Professor of Experimental Psychology, Glyn Humphreys, the cluster will bring together experts from Psychology, Psychiatry, and Social Policy and Intervention, to tackle problems such as dyslexia and brain injury.



PHIL SAYER/OXFORD UNIVERSITY IMAGES

Hermione Lee

## Port Meadow

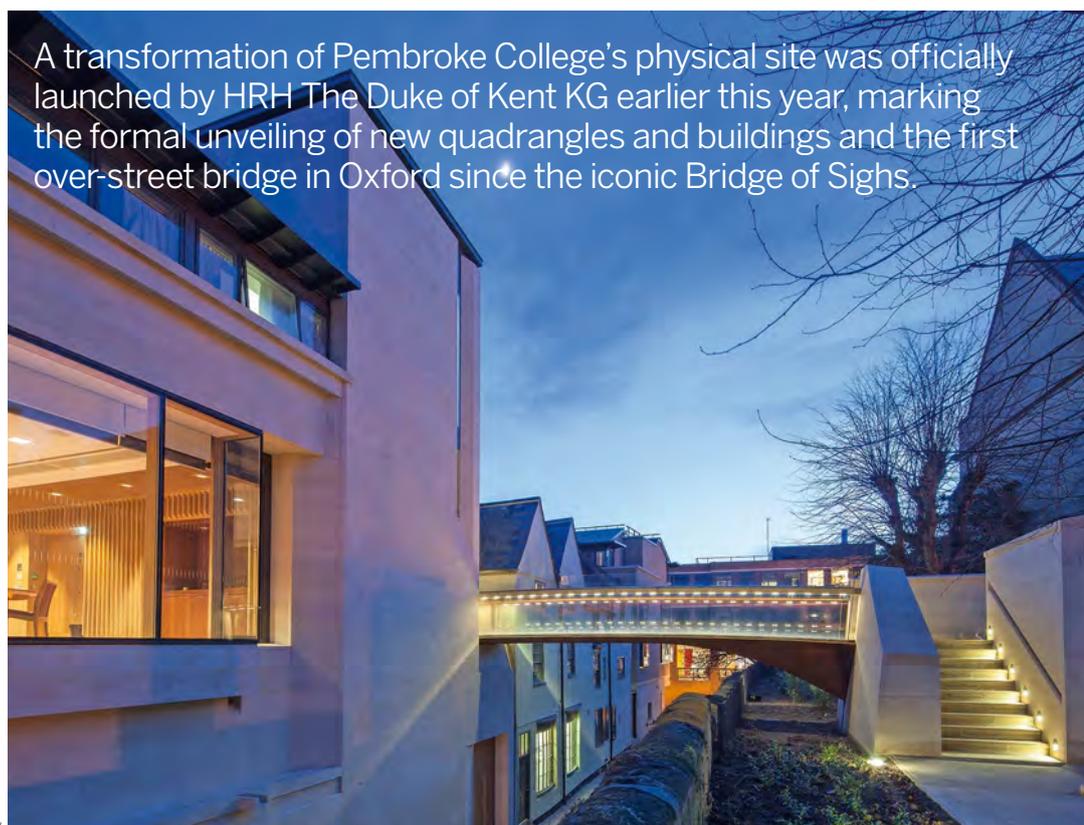
A controversy has arisen over the University's building of postgraduate housing overlooking Port Meadow. The first students moved in at the start of the new academic year, while a discussion about landscaping continued.



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Postgraduate housing, Castle Mill

A transformation of Pembroke College's physical site was officially launched by HRH The Duke of Kent KG earlier this year, marking the formal unveiling of new quadrangles and buildings and the first over-street bridge in Oxford since the iconic Bridge of Sighs.



QUINTIN LAKE



Sir Ka-shing Li greets Prime Minister David Cameron on May 3

## Big Data Begins

A new health research centre to open

The £90 million Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Information and Discovery was inaugurated, following a large donation from Hong Kong billionaire Sir Ka-shing Li's foundation and UK government and business funding. The centre will comprise two separate institutes: the Target Discovery Institute will host research generating data about disease using genomic and chemical screens, important for the early stages of drug discovery. Meanwhile, the Big Data Institute will focus on the analysis of large medical data sets in an effort to improve the detection, treatment and prevention of a range of medical conditions. The institutes that make up the centre will house up to 600 scientists, underscoring the scale of the enterprise. ☺

## Friends of Oxford

Awards given for special service

The Distinguished Friend of Oxford Award was established in 1998 as a means of recognising extraordinary volunteer service to the collegiate University. This might take any form: serving on committees, introducing Oxford to opinion leaders or prospective donors or representing Oxford to the wider world. We are grateful to these volunteers who have made significant contributions through gifts of time, expertise and selfless dedication to preserving Oxford for future generations.

Mr John W Adams,  
Mr Timothy W Faithfull,  
Mr Alan Green,  
Mrs Krzysia Gossage,  
Ms Judith B Hibbert,  
Mr André Hoffmann,  
Mr Robert W A Kay,  
Mr Julian Ogilvie  
Thompson,  
Professor Tim O'Riordan  
OBE, DL, FBA,  
Mr Geoffrey M Redman-  
Brown,  
Mr Ian T Senior,  
Mr David G Vaisey CBE, FSA  
Mrs Linda Wachner and  
Mr Andrew J Whitehouse.

[www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/dfo](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/dfo)



START THE  
ADVENTURE TODAY

## A Caspian Odyssey Luxury private train journey



DATE: 15–30 October 2014

PRICE: From £13,695 per person

Embark on this unique 15 day voyage, travelling by private train aboard the 5-star *Golden Eagle*, through the Southern Caucasus and across the Caspian Sea to the ancient trading posts of the Silk Road.

### Highlights

- ▶ Armenia's 8000 year old capital, Yerevan
- ▶ Fortresses and cathedrals of historic Tbilisi
- ▶ UNESCO World Heritage walled city of Baku
- ▶ Ancient cave city of Uplistsikhe
- ▶ Stunning Islamic architecture of Samarkand

*Price is based on sharing a Silver en-suite cabin, including economy flights from UK, transfers, 5-star pre/post-tour accommodation, all meals, including wine with lunch and dinner, and a comprehensive excursion programme.*



For more information on this trip please contact  
Golden Eagle Luxury Trains on +44(0)161 9289410 /  
[mail@goldeneagleluxurytrains.com](mailto:mail@goldeneagleluxurytrains.com)

OXFORD ALUMNI  
**TRAVELLERS**

Visit [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014) to view our full range of educational, small-group tours for Oxford alumni.



DIRECT FIRE  
THE POT  
STILLS

NEVER GO  
MULTI  
NATIONAL

BE MULTI  
AWARD  
WINNING

IN OUR  
FAMILY FOR  
6 GENERATIONS

NATURE IN  
THE FINEST  
OAK CASKS

PRIME SPEYSIDE  
LOCATION  
SINCE 1836



IT'S OUR  
SINGLE-MINDED STUBBORNNESS  
THAT SHAPES EVERY BOTTLE

THE SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE



J & G GRANT, GLENFARCLAS DISTILLERY, BALLINDALLOCH, BANFFSHIRE, SCOTLAND AB37 9BD  
TEL +44 (0)1807 500257 INFO@GLENFARCLAS.CO.UK WWW.GLENFARCLAS.CO.UK

Glenfarclas encourages responsible drinking.

drinkaware.co.uk  
for the facts

# Awards & appointments

The latest awards and honours from across the University

## Honours

### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Seven senior members of the University were recognised in this year's honours:

**ANDREW DILNOT CBE**, Warden of Nuffield College, was knighted for services to economics.

**PROFESSOR HERMIONE LEE CBE, FBA**, President of Wolfson College, was appointed DBE for services to literary scholarship.

**PROFESSOR TERENCE CAVE FBA**, Emeritus Research Fellow of St John's College, was appointed CBE for services to literary scholarship.

**ANTHONY HEATH FBA**, Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College, was appointed CBE for services to social science.

**PETER DOBSON**, Professor of Engineering Science and Senior Research Fellow of The Queen's College, was appointed OBE for services to science and engineering.

**ALISON NOBLE**, Technikos Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Fellow of St Hilda's College, was appointed OBE for services to science and engineering.

**DR LUCY CARPENTER**, Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College, was appointed MBE for services to public health.



Sir Tom Stoppard was made a Doctor of Letters at Encaenia for being "a witty, engaging and penetrating author"

**MICHAEL MORITZ** (Christ Church, 1973), businessman and philanthropist, who, with his wife **HARRIET HEYMAN**, gave the University £75 million to establish the Moritz-Heyman Scholarship Fund, was knighted (KBE) for services to promoting British economic interests and philanthropic work.

### ROYAL SOCIETY

Three Oxford researchers received significant prizes from the Royal Society in the UK national academy of science's annual set of awards for outstanding research and contributions to science.

**PROFESSOR SIR WALTER BODMER FRS**, of the Department of Oncology, received a Royal Medal for his seminal contributions to population genetics, gene mapping and understanding of familial genetic disease.

**PROFESSOR DOUGLAS HIGGS FRS**, head of the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, received the Buchanan Medal for his work on the regulation of the alpha-globin gene cluster.

**PROFESSOR FRANK CLOSE OBE** received the Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture for his work in science communication.

Six Oxford academics were elected new fellows:

**HARRY ANDERSON**, Professor of Chemistry

**JUDITH ARMITAGE**, Director of the Oxford Centre for Integrative Systems Biology and Professor of Biochemistry

**GIDEON HENDERSON**, Head of the Department of Earth Sciences and Professor of Earth Sciences

**CHRISTOPHER SCHOFIELD**, Professor of Chemistry and Head of Organic Chemistry

**ANDREW WILKIE**, Nuffield Professor of Pathology

**JULIA YEOMANS**, Professor of Physics

### BRITISH ACADEMY

Eight University professors were elected new fellows:

**MARY DALRYMPLE**, Professor of Syntax

**JOHN GARDNER**, Professor of Jurisprudence

**VINCENT GILLESPIE FSA**, JRR Tolkien Professor of English

**JOHN HAWTHORNE**, Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy

**JULIA LEE-THORP**, Professor of Archaeological Science

**COLIN MAYER**, Peter Moores Professor of Management Studies

**KEVIN O'ROURKE**, Cichele Professor of Economic History

**JENNY OZGA**, Professor of the Sociology of Education

### ENCAENIA

Eight leading figures from the worlds of science, the arts, law and sport received honours at Encaenia, the University's annual honorary degree ceremony.



**Doctor of Civil Law**  
**THE HONOURABLE**  
**ANDREW LI KWOK NANG**  
**GBM, CBE**, former Chief  
 Justice of the Court of  
 Final Appeal of Hong Kong

**DAME ANNE OWERS DBE**,  
 Chair of the Independent  
 Police Complaints  
 Commission

**Doctor of Letters**  
**ANTHONY GRAFTON**,  
 Henry Putnam University  
 Professor of History at  
 Princeton University

**SIR TOM STOPPARD OM,**  
**CBE**, playwright

**Doctor of Science**  
**INGRID DAUBECHIES**,  
 Professor of Mathematics  
 at Duke University

**BARONESS (TANNI)**  
**GREY-THOMPSON DBE**,  
 Paralympian

**MR COLIN SMITH CBE**,  
 Director of Engineering and  
 Technology at Rolls-Royce

**Doctor of Music**  
**MR MURRAY PERAHIA**  
**KBE**, pianist and conductor



## Appointments

**Rhodes House**  
**CHARLES CONN**,  
 Senior Advisor to the Gordon  
 & Betty Moore Foundation,  
 was appointed Warden  
 of Rhodes House.

### PROFESSORSHIPS

**Geochemistry**  
**CHRISTOPHER**  
**BALLENTINE** was  
 appointed Professor of  
 Geochemistry and became a  
 fellow of St Hugh's College.

**English law**  
**HUGH COLLINS FBA** was  
 appointed Vinerian Professor  
 of English Law and became  
 a fellow of All Souls College.

**Public health**  
**SIR RORY COLLINS**  
**FMEDSCI** was appointed  
 Professor of Public Health  
 and became a fellow of St  
 Cross College.

**Geography**  
**DANIEL DORLING**  
 was appointed Halford  
 Mackinder Professor of  
 Geography and became  
 a fellow of St Peter's College.

**Abrahamic religions**  
**CARLOS FRAENKEL** was  
 appointed Professor of the  
 Study of the Abrahamic

Religions and became a fellow  
 of Lady Margaret Hall.

**Mathematics**  
**BEN GREEN FRs** was  
 appointed Waynflete Professor  
 of Pure Mathematics and  
 became a fellow of  
 Magdalen College.

**Forest Science**  
**JOHN MACKAY** was appointed  
 Wood Professor of Forest  
 Science and became a fellow  
 of Linacre College.

**Anglo-Saxon**  
**ANDREW ORCHARD**  
 was appointed Rawlinson and  
 Bosworth Professor of Anglo-  
 Saxon and became a fellow of  
 Pembroke College.

**Egyptology**  
**RICHARD PARKINSON**  
 was appointed Professor of  
 Egyptology and became a  
 fellow of The Queen's College.

**Clinical neurology**  
**PETER ROTHWELL**  
**FMEDSCI** was appointed  
 Action Research Professor  
 of Clinical Neurology, and  
 became a fellow of St  
 Edmund Hall.

**Portuguese Studies**  
**PHILLIP ROTHWELL**  
 was appointed King John II



Professor of Portuguese  
 Studies and became a fellow  
 of St Peter's College.

**Mechanical engineering**  
**RONALD ROY** was  
 appointed Professor of  
 Mechanical Engineering and  
 became a fellow of Harris  
 Manchester College.

**Social policy**  
**MARTIN SEELEIB-KAISER**  
 was appointed Barnett  
 Professor of Social Policy,  
 and became a fellow of  
 St Cross College.

**Physics**  
**IAN SHIPSEY** was appointed  
 Professor of Experimental  
 Physics and became a fellow  
 of St Catherine's College.

Clockwise from top left:  
 Andrew Orchard, Dame  
 Lynne Brindley, Daniel  
 Dorling, Moira Wallace  
 and Charles Conn

## HEADS OF HOUSE

**Pembroke**  
**DAME LYNNE BRINDLEY**  
**DBE, FRSA** was elected Master  
 of Pembroke College,  
 becoming Pembroke's first  
 female Master.

**Wycliffe Hall**  
**REVEREND DR MICHAEL**  
**LLOYD** was appointed  
 Principal of Wycliffe Hall.

**Oriel**  
**MOIRA WALLACE,**  
**OBE**, Permanent Secretary  
 to the Department of Energy  
 and Climate Change, was  
 elected as the Provost of Oriel  
 College, becoming Oriel's first  
 female Provost.

# Discovery

Research breakthroughs across the University



MARY EVANS/INTERFOTO

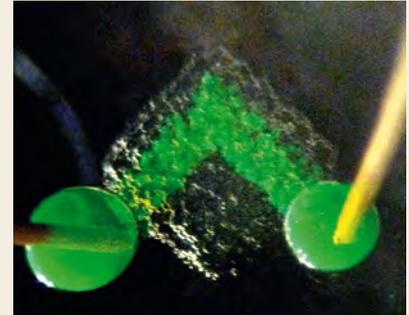
## Henry VIII was a psychopath

Oxford researchers classify the king's true psyche using a personality test

If Henry VIII were alive today he would likely be diagnosed as a psychopath, according to research by Professor Kevin Dutton from the Calleva Research Centre for Evolution and Human Science at Oxford. The research saw biographers of famous Britons rate their subjects using the Psychopathic Personality Inventory, a personality test used to assess traits associated with psychopathy. The test identifies eight main characteristics – Machiavellian egocentricity, physical fearlessness, persuasiveness, emotional detachment, rebelliousness, feelings of alienation, carefree spontaneity and coolness under pressure – present in those who are deemed psychopaths.

The average adult scores around 110. King Henry VIII scored 178, which is well over the “entry level” for the psychopathic personality at 168. Elsewhere, Magdalen College’s Oscar Wilde scored 161 and Winston Churchill 155. Interestingly, while Isaac Newton scored just 134, his score revealed a darker personality streak. “He came top for Machiavellian self-interest,” remarked Professor Dutton, “but lowest on physical fearlessness and coolness under pressure. Not a psychopath, but a cold, paranoid manipulator. Not a nice chap at all!”

Of the Britons included in the survey, the least likely to have psychopathic tendencies was Charles Darwin. ☺



GABRIEL VILLAR

### 3D printing tissue

Professor Hagan Bayley from the Department of Chemistry has created a synthetic tissue-like material. Using a system akin to an inkjet printer, researchers created aqueous droplets coated in fatty, protein-enriched membranes. When thousands are bound together they carry electrical signals that mimic those of nerve cells and, like muscle, undergo shape changes. The work could one day provide cancer-proof synthetic organs.



ELIZABETH WILLING

### Cutlery colour counts

Choose your soup spoon carefully: new research by Professor Charles Spence from the Department of Experimental Psychology suggests your choice of cutlery could affect the way your food tastes. In controlled experiments, the researchers found that food from a blue spoon seemed saltier, while a white spoon seemed sweeter. And cheese eaten directly from a knife tasted saltier than when consumed from a fork. Professor Spence is now working with Studio William and Heston Blumenthal’s Fat Duck research kitchens to design a new range of cutlery which should enhance the taste of the food.



Y.M.GERMAN/ISTOCKPHOTO

# Online news surpasses print

Digital news distribution is more popular thanks to phones and tablets

If you find yourself increasingly turning to your computer or phone to read the latest news headlines rather than picking up a newspaper, you're not alone. A new study by the University's Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism reveals that the consumption of online news is becoming the norm.

Based on the findings of YouGov surveys in the UK, US, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Japan and Denmark, the survey shows that digital news consumption continues to grow rapidly. Smartphone users, for instance, are now in the majority in many countries, and most of them use their devices to access news every week, while tablet use and associated news consumption has doubled in the UK within the last year.

While most people turn to their computers to access digital news, the survey reveals a growing trend for consuming news across multiple devices, too. One-third of people read news on at least two devices, while nine per cent use three or more. "This is important because, along with other researchers, we find that as people acquire more devices they consume more news in aggregate," explains report editor Nic Newman.

It's not all good news for digital, though, with consumers seeming rather reluctant actually to pay for digital news. While 50 per cent of those surveyed had bought a printed newspaper in the previous week, only five per cent had paid for digital news in the same time period. And there are stragglers, too: in Germany, for instance, 58 per cent of people rely mainly on traditional news platforms, compared to just 35 per cent in the US or 29 per cent in Japan. 📖 **You can read the full report at [www.digitalnewsreport.org/survey/2013](http://www.digitalnewsreport.org/survey/2013)**



MIKE FARMER

60 seconds with...

## Dr Sondra Hausner

Lecturer in the study of religion and fellow of St Peter's College

### How did you first develop an interest in the religion and culture of South Asia?

I grew up in Asia and Africa as my father worked for the UN and we were posted there. I did an undergraduate degree in public policy at Princeton, thinking I would go into international development and help the world. I worked in policy and research fields in the US for five years, and then went to graduate school at Cornell to study anthropology, where I started my research in South Asian culture, religion and language.

### Why did you decide to leave the field as a development researcher?

Initially, I didn't want to be an academic, I wanted to work in international policy as an anthropologist. I was based in Nepal doing research on women's issues and migration for development organisations between 2003 and 2006, during the civil war, and although I had never felt in danger myself, it became increasingly apparent I couldn't safely send research students into the field. I started to feel that an academic environment would be a more constant place to continue my work.

### You're currently writing a book on an obscure ritual observed by a group in Southwark. How did this come about?

A few years ago, an old family friend introduced me to a small, alternative community in Southwark, which gathers

to perform a ritual commemorating the histories of medieval sex workers.

### What is the purpose of the ritual?

The ritual is about the construction of sex work, about how sexuality, femininity, and social hierarchy are construed by different activist groups at different points during history. The group invokes the story of unjust relations between majority society and subordinate women, in a way that can speak to contemporary concerns, too.

### Does this ritual have any contemporary relevance?

It appears that these brothels paid rent to the Bishop of Winchester, but although money from sex work was going to officials of the Church, it didn't necessarily translate into equal treatment of these women. However, my research suggests that they were allowed freedom of movement and there may have been genuinely protective policies in place. There's a link here with gender and mobility that's relevant today, as we have to be very careful about what protection looks like.

### So, what's your next research project?

I'm moving onto a new project on shamanic ritual in South Asia to look at the dynamics of healing practices in particular. I'm just in the process of putting together funding applications now.



To read more interviews like this (and web exclusives) visit [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Descartes' Dogs

Theory pondered 300 years earlier

Ivan Pavlov famously demonstrated that dogs could have their behaviour conditioned by ringing a bell and then giving them food – until the sound of the bell alone would make them salivate. But a letter uncovered by Oxford University's Electronic Enlightenment project suggests that René Descartes devised a similar experiment 300 years earlier. Writing to a friend, he explained: "Those who have in the past enjoyed dancing to a certain tune feel a fresh wish to dance the moment they hear a similar one... I reckon that if you whipped a dog five or six times to the sound of a violin, it would begin to howl and run away [upon hearing the violin] again." Luckily Pavlov's technique was a little kinder. ☺



DRAYSON RACING TECHNOLOGIES

## Electric speed record broken

Oxford company motors ahead

A car developed by Drayson Racing Technologies, and powered by electric motors from Oxford University spin-out company YASA Motors, has smashed the electric land speed record. The Lola Drayson B12/69 EV supercar is powered by four electric motors manufactured by YASA, which are lighter and more efficient than conventional electric motors. Providing 850bhp, they helped propel the car to a top speed of 204.2mph on a racetrack at RAF Elvington in Yorkshire, England – beating the previous record of 175mph set in 1974. ☺

## Underhill's Punting Map of Oxford



Folded Map £4.99 Poster £9.99. Worldwide shipping  
[www.puntingmapoxford.com](http://www.puntingmapoxford.com)



theo & the major

Fully finished hand made needlepoint cushions. 18"/46cm square £90 to £104  
 Schools, Oxford and Cambridge Colleges etc



Order online [www.theoandthemajor.com](http://www.theoandthemajor.com)  
 or t: 01725 551255 | e: [sales@theoandthemajor.com](mailto:sales@theoandthemajor.com)  
 Manor Farm Bungalow | Monkton | Wimborne St Giles  
 Wimborne | Dorset BH21 5NL | United Kingdom



# START THE ADVENTURE TODAY

## Medieval Alsace-Lorraine



DATE: 20–26 June 2014  
PRICE: £2,550

Accompanied by Dr Rowena E Archer – Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Oxford – travel by hotel barge through beautiful scenery, visiting Medieval towns, including Strasbourg and Colmar and sampling local wines and cuisine.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, excluding flights/trains.*

## Magical Madagascar



DATE: 17–30 August 2014  
PRICE: £3,190

Discover the amazing diversity of wildlife and remarkable fossil record of Madagascar, with lectures on the evolution of this fascinating island by Dr Matt Friedman, Lecturer in Palaeobiology at the University of Oxford.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, excluding flights.*

## Galapagos and Ecuador



DATE: 2–13 October 2014  
PRICE: £4,850

Visit the historic colonial city of Quito then experience the astonishing flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands on an exclusive alumni cruise in the company of Professor Christopher Perrins, Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow at the University of Oxford.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, excluding flights.*

## More 2014 Oxford alumni trips with Temple World

In Livingstone's Footsteps

8-18 Mar 2014

Ultimate Nile

14-26 Apr 2014

Jewels of the Dodecanese

21-28 Jun 2014

Eastern Turkey

24 Jun–4 Jul 2014

Wine, Whales and Wildflowers

23 Aug–6 Sept 2014

The Turquoise Coast

20 Sept–4 Oct 2014

Minoan Crete and Santorini

24 Sept–2 Oct 2014

Ancient Ethiopia

25 Sept–7 Oct 2014

For details and prices, visit :  
[www.templeworld.com/oxford2014](http://www.templeworld.com/oxford2014)

For more information on these trips please contact Temple World on +44(0)20 89404114 / [alumni@templeworld.com](mailto:alumni@templeworld.com)

OXFORD ALUMNI   
**TRAVELLERS**

Visit [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014) to view our full range of educational, small-group tours for Oxford alumni





UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

# LOVE TO READ?

Did you know that alumni benefit from:

- Continued access to the Bodleian libraries, in Oxford and online
- Journal articles and research papers online through JSTOR and Oxford's Open Access database
- 15% discount at Blackwell in-store and online, as well as their exclusive alumni bookshop featuring Oxford authors
- Oxford Today book reviews
- Exclusive author events and book signings
- And coming soon - an alumni book club!

Join the alumni **books and learning** mailing list for regular news about all this and more...

[www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/learn](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/learn)

LOOK OUT  
for our exclusive alumni  
authors reception at the  
**Oxford Literary Festival,**  
March 2014

Join the mailing list for advance booking notification

**ALUMNI**  
BOOKS AND LEARNING

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Oxford Literary Festival Reception for authors and Oxonians

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

Mingle with a number of Oxford authors and Festival-speakers at this exclusive event  
> Further information and booking

**BOOKS**

OT Book of the Week

Alumni Bookshop

*the Day Parliament BURNED DOWN*  
Caroline Shenton

CHRIS PATTEN  
WHAT NEXT?  
SURVIVING THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

15% off

The Day Parliament Burned Down  
Alumna Caroline Shenton weaves a gripping tale of how the 1834 disaster unfolded  
> Read the full review

Reading list for the Alumni Weekend  
15% discount on a range of books by our academic and alumni speakers at the Blackwell Alumni Bookshop  
> Visit the shop

**LEARNING**

Featured podcast

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
CHALLENGING THE CANON

Challenging the Canon  
This unique mini-series aims to challenge the literary canon by asking the question 'why'

MSt in Creative Writing

Applications now open  
This two-year, part-time master's degree course offers a unique combination of high calibre teaching, hours, genre specializations



# Alumni notices

Careers special feature – and resources for alumni



ROB JUDGES/OXFORD UNIVERSITY IMAGES

Dr Michael Moss by his whiteboard, at the University Careers Service, 56 Banbury Road

## Words of wisdom

Oxford offers a new, alumni-dedicated careers service

Stalled career, new ambitions or just curious to raise your head above the parapet? Anyone who went to Oxford can now contact Dr Michael Moss, the University's first alumni-dedicated careers adviser. Since moving to Oxford from a senior scientific post within Procter & Gamble, he has been seeing as many alumni as he can schedule and Skype-calling many more.

"This is just incredibly rewarding," he says. "At the start of the year I was in Brussels, and now I'm focused on a role that didn't previously exist."

Why now? Mainly because the priority used to be with the recently graduated, on the assumption that careers, once begun, would just lead on and ever upwards. "But they don't do that any more," reflects Moss. He has been seeing a lot of

people in their late 20s and early 30s who've already made their mark but want a change. Some of them are lawyers, consultants and bankers.

It prompts Moss to note how much Oxford students are still targeted by these types of employers.

Moss has four daughters, is an inventor with 54 patents to his name, a marathon runner, and produces wine and olive oil at a smallholding he owns in Italy. He says this by way of confirming his belief in work-life integration. "That's not the same as work-life balance," he adds. "There's just life, and work is part of it."

So what is the most common advice he gives to Oxonians? First, to attain self-awareness and begin networking to help identify the right target sectors.

Then he gets into CVs, interview preparation and social media.

And finally: "It's a hell of a privilege for me to have these conversations, which are enriching for me, too." As if to demonstrate, we wander over to Mike's computer and start having a play with LinkedIn, which has a new function that allows us to isolate Oxonians working at, for example, *The Times*. There are 21 of them, any of whom you could approach for advice, based on being a fellow Oxonian. It took ten seconds to reveal this superbly focused network, "but not everyone knows about this yet," Moss adds sagely. ☺  
[michael.moss@careers.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.moss@careers.ox.ac.uk)

## Alumni resources



### Academic content

Alumni benefit from continued access to books, journals and current research via JSTOR, the Bodleian and the University's open access database.  
[www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/learn](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/learn)



### Networking

The University's new LinkedIn page enables you to search alumni by work sector and employer. Don't forget to connect with alumni by joining the Oxford Alumni group on LinkedIn.  
[www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/linkedin](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/linkedin)



### Mailing lists

Don't miss out! Sign up for our mailing lists to receive regular updates and information of interest to you. You can get weekly or monthly news bulletins, or join specific lists for books and learning, careers, events, sport and travel. [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/subscribe](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/subscribe)



### Alumni groups

Engage with Oxonians wherever you are, and whatever your interests, by joining one of the regional, subject or interest-based alumni networks.  
[www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/networks](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/networks)



### Alumni Number

Found on your Alumni Card, you need this number to register for events, the email service and an alumni account. With the Alumni Card you can access colleges and a range of discounts.  
[www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/card](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/card)



### Graduation and MAs

A list of forthcoming degree days can be found on the University website, but whether you still need to graduate for your first degree or want to get your MA, booking is via your college.  
[www.ox.ac.uk/students/graduation/ceremonies/dates](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/graduation/ceremonies/dates)

# Oxonians at large

What Oxonians are getting up to. Words by **Lindsey Harrad**



ALAN HESSE

## The champion of the Gran Chaco

Strengthening South American conservation

**Erika Cuéllar**

Lady Margaret Hall, 2005

“When I went to the Chaco for the first time and felt the connection between indigenous people and their environment, it was a magical experience,” says Bolivian conservation biologist Erika Cuéllar, describing the moment she fell in love with the idea of working in the Gran Chaco, a vast wilderness that spans Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina. Cuéllar, who completed her DPhil at Oxford in 2011, has focused her research on the guanaco (a wild ancestor of the llama), which has declined in numbers due to overhunting, uncontrolled logging and competition with livestock.

“The guanaco is a species listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species,” she says. “However, it is a flagship species to spearhead the expansion of my conservation initiative.” Cuéllar has pioneered a strategy of empowering and training locals to become ‘parabiologists’ who can be advocates for conservation issues in their own territory. The initiative also creates local employment opportunities and reduces labour-driven migration of young people to urban settlements. In 2012 Cuéllar received a prestigious Rolex Award for Enterprise. “The award has transformed the initial idea of an international conservation effort into reality,” she says proudly. ☺



**Word wrangler**

**Naomi Alderman**  
Lincoln, 1993

After reading PPE at Lincoln, Naomi Alderman got a job in a law firm before witnessing the collapse of the World Trade Center first-hand. “I left the law firm because I felt that there had probably been people in the World Trade Center who had been thinking exactly what I was thinking: ‘I’ll just do this for another few years and then I’ll take time off to write that novel I’ve always meant to write.’” Her first novel, *Disobedience*, earned her the Orange Award for New Writers. “One must only ever write the book one wants to write,” she says. “To focus on anything else is to lose the thing that made you want to do it in the first place.”

[www.naomialderman.com](http://www.naomialderman.com)



**Leading the way**

**Mark Pegg**  
Corpus Christi, 1972; Nuffield, 1975

“My job is to develop the leaders of people who say they don’t want to be led,” says Mark Pegg, chief executive of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, created ‘by the sector for the sector’ to improve leadership in UK universities. “Those who work in the HE sector are traditionally fiercely independent and prefer to operate free from political interference,” says Pegg. “But, paradoxically, they need excellent leaders to create the conditions in which they can fulfil their potential. Our job is to help build environments in which these individuals can thrive. It’s an empowering and engaging type of leadership.”

JON BARLOW

We welcome suggestions from alumni for these pages. Please send details to the Editor at [oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk)



## World-record diving

How to explore the globe, both above and below the waterline

### Karin Sinniger

St Catherine's, 1983

Karin Sinniger has logged more than 1,000 dives in more than 100 countries. She has experienced everything from being shot at by African border guards to diving in a volcano and dodging great white sharks, but in order to break the world record for diving in the most countries, she wanted to do something really special. In her 115th country she dived with Rajan, a 63-year-old retired logging elephant in the Andaman Islands, India. "They are very curious animals and we sang to him to get his attention, and when this gigantic elephant makes eye contact with you it's just remarkable," she says. Karin finds the dives a way to switch off from the hectic pace of her daily life. "Diving is the one thing I can do when I can switch off all the noise in my head. It's certainly addictive." ☺

[www.diveandtraveltheworld.com](http://www.diveandtraveltheworld.com)

MARCUS JIMI IVAN

## The world's a stage

Bringing outdoor theatre to the Alpujarra

### Anna Kemp

Somerville, 1989

"If you want to put someone to the test, make them do a stint as a script editor for a foreign language film," laughs Anna Kemp, who moved to Spain after graduating from Oxford. "I took evening classes in film-making and started taking on roles as script supervisor." It was working on a Fernando Colomo film in the Alpujarra mountains in Southern Spain that led to her current preoccupation, the Open Air Theatre Project, a plan to build an outdoor theatre on the outskirts of the village of Laroles. "I grew up going to the

Minack Theatre in Cornwall and the Alpujarras region is equally stunning, with huge, expansive views of the landscape," she says. Thanks to a grant, work on creating the stage has already begun, and Kemp plans to launch crowdfunding in January 2014. She has visions of staging an annual theatre festival and other events that will attract the local community and tourists alike. "I love the idea of rescuing something for the community to use." ☺

[www.theopenairtheatreproject.com](http://www.theopenairtheatreproject.com)



Full versions can be seen at [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)



JANA SANCHEZ

# University Voice

**Tom Rutland** on what he wants to achieve during his presidency of the student union, OUSU



*Tom Rutland (Jesus, 2010)  
OUSU President 2013-14*

**W**e are in a time when students are facing unprecedented challenges: tripled

undergraduate fees, inaccessible postgraduate education and a sluggish graduate jobs market. Universities and student unions must adapt to meet these challenges, and I was inspired to get involved in the student union when I saw the incredible access bursaries won by OUSU when undergraduate fees were tripled in 2010.

As the cost of higher education is shifted from the state to the student, ensuring access to our institution becomes more important than ever.

Access to education is not social engineering – far from it. It ensures that our student body is truly representative of the brightest and best across the country, regardless of socio-economic background. Promising steps are being made on undergraduate access, but postgraduate education remains inaccessible to some of the country's brightest students who cannot afford the fees. It is time both for an increasing focus on graduate financial support at a university level, and a post-graduate loan scheme at a national level.

I ran for the OUSU Presidency to defend and improve the student experience at a time of vast government cuts to the sector. My focus this year is on building a stronger student union that is better funded and more in touch with its members, so that our members can tell us what they want done, and so that we can tell them how we've done it. OUSU recognises that the Oxford experience is far more than just hitting the books – our students' talents extend beyond the Examination Schools into successful campaigns for a living wage, brilliant victories on the pitch and in

the water and ever-increasing, student-led access initiatives.

Students' expectations of teaching, services and their student union are rightly rising and it is more important than ever that institutions support their student unions with the resources to be true advocates for students. The assault the sector has faced in recent years, combined with the uncertain future ahead, will require universities and student unions to work together as genuine partners in order to defend an accessible, modern and world-leading higher education sector – and Oxford

**'It is time for an increasing focus on graduate financial support at a university level, and a post-graduate loan scheme at a national level'**

must set a stellar example of such partnership to the nation. Challenging times call for innovative and radical solutions and there is no set of students and academics better equipped to provide them than here in Oxford. ☺

*Tom studied PPE and was elected to the OUSU presidency in Michaelmas term, 2012. Tradition has it that incoming presidents take over in the 9th week of Trinity. As such, Tom's term of office extends until 8th week of Trinity Term 2014. All 22,000 students are eligible to vote and Tom beat his main opponent by a margin of 2:1. His main election pledge was to get the University to increase OUSU's funding, which is much lower than other Russell Group universities' student unions. He hasn't decided yet if he wants a career in politics.*



# START THE ADVENTURE TODAY

## Pompeii and Herculaneum



DATE: 2–6 April 2014

PRICE: £1,380

Delve into the remains of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and lesser-known sites preserved by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79, in the company of Dr Damian Robinson, Director of the Oxford Centre of Maritime Archaeology and an authority on the archaeology of the Bay of Naples.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, exc flights. Single supplement: £95.*

## Ancient Japan



DATE: 6–23 May 2014

PRICE: £5,320

Join Dr Simon Kaner from the University of East Anglia to discover the origins of Japanese civilisation – from Jomon flame pots to the Ainu – on this fascinating journey exploring the archaeology, history and culture of this extraordinary country.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, exc flights. Single supplement: £625.*

## Ice Age Art in the Dordogne



DATE: 8–13 September 2014

PRICE: £1,765

Journey through the lush landscapes and limestone plateaux of the Dordogne Valley with Dr Iain Morley - University Lecturer in Palaeoanthropology. Enjoy privileged access to some of the world's most ancient engraving, sculpture and paintings.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, exc trains. Single supplement: £235.*

## Stonehenge, Avebury and Ancient Wessex



DATE: 14–19 September 2014

PRICE: £1,600

Discover the history of Wessex, from prehistoric henges and Iron Age hillforts, to Roman mosaics and Norman Cathedrals. Professor Gary Lock and guest lecturers from Oxford's Department for Continuing Education will share their insights.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room. Single supplement: £150.*

For more information on these trips please contact Andante Travels on +44(0)1722 713800 / [tours@andantetravels.co.uk](mailto:tours@andantetravels.co.uk)

OXFORD ALUMNI   
**TRAVELLERS**

Visit [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014) to view our full range of educational, small-group tours for Oxford alumni





# THE CLASS OF 2012

We met the first cohort of increased-fee paying students a year ago. **Josie Dixon** revisits them in Oxford

Oxford's first intake of full fee-paying students are one year into their studies and taking stock of what Oxford has delivered in return for their £9,000. Catching up with the group who were interviewed last summer, I ask how they feel they've changed.

Increased self-reliance is a strong theme. "You have to fend for yourself," says Montana Jackson, while Evie Snow observes that the demands of independent study mean "you've got to have the initiative".

The intensity of the Oxford term is also a challenge. "The pace is much faster," Tess Colley confirms, and surviving the all-night essay crisis a rite of passage. "Learning to do that is quite something!" she laughs.

"I've pushed myself here in a way that would be hard to mimic in any other situation," adds Maura Collins. "You pick up lots of self-discipline; you really can't be passive in Oxford."

The first term evidently delivers a few shocks to the system. "School can be really quite spoon-fed," admits Snow, who found Oxford a "totally different ball game", compounded by culture shock after a gap year in Togo.

Nine months in a full-time graduate job before a second BA in law have given Seth Kitson a different perspective. "Other



The class of 2012 (left to right): Maura Collins, Tess Colley, Seth Kitson, Michelle Lai and Eliot Ball

students talk of the holidays,” he says, but for him, learning is a valuable break from the world of work.

On the question of money, day-to-day budgeting hasn't been a major concern. “I've been quite good at being frugal, and don't really have time to splash out,” says Jackson. Most are clearly putting longer-term financial issues on hold while concentrating on their studies.

“Paying off debts is still a worry, but very much in the future,” says Colley. “I'll deal with it when I get there.”

Eliot Ball, meanwhile, recognises his own financially privileged position (though the advantages are self-made), having “solved any potential financial difficulties” with a job in computer science last summer. This summer a job offer in Silicon Valley will take him to Palo Alto on more than twice the salary.

Opinions are divided on whether the

Class of 2012 is in any way different from its predecessors. “They definitely don't have the same level of debt on their shoulders. I think [our cohort] and later years will feel hard done by,” says Collins.

“It does sting a bit sometimes,” Colley agrees. “I don't feel we get any more.”

But resentment is less evident than resolution. Michelle Lai, though less affected by the change as an international student, recognises that her year group “is very sure that they have to make the most of it”.

Snow sees fewer differences. “I don't think I know anybody here [whose choices were determined] simply by the money, or anybody in years above us who wouldn't have made the same choices.”

Ball dismisses it as “a non-issue”, while Kitson's observation that the predicted shift in student attitudes hasn't happened is reassuring: perhaps Oxford “inspires a bit more reverence”, but “we haven't seen the increased cost of a degree translated into a more hawkish consumer attitude.” He goes on, “If universities themselves are becoming far more market-oriented, I don't think students are.”

Has their sense of university education as a financial investment changed? Vocational degrees such as medicine, law and computer science made the equation obvious for some from the start; others have developed clearer ideas about a career during the year. Last summer Collins was emphatic that regarding a degree as a financial investment represents an unnecessarily instrumental view, devaluing the intrinsic point of intellectual activity. Now, as her passion for Sanskrit is becoming a career objective (to work in academia or the museum sector), the two are converging. “I feel I am getting pretty good value for money because I already have quite a definite idea of what I want to do when I graduate,” she says. “I've come to terms with the fact that if I want to do my dream job, I'm going to have to part with a lot of money.” She maintains, however, that the return on investment need not be viewed in financial terms: “One of my favourite quotes is: ‘The best work never was and never will be done for money.’”

So, is Oxford worth £9,000 a year? For most the answer is a resounding yes. “Simply because of the way an Oxford degree is viewed,” Kitson explains. From an international perspective, Lai likewise cited the external validation of “world league tables”.

But what about their own experience? Jackson recommends medicine as “one of the better-value degrees” in view of the

‘They don't have the same level of debt. I think our cohort and later years will feel hard done by’

number of contact hours, and several interviewees identified the benefits of the tutorial system as crucial. “It has taught me to argue, and completely changed the way I think,” says Lai.

Comparing Oxford tutorial essays (“vehicles for learning”) with essays at St Andrews (“vehicles for assessment”), Kitson finds himself becoming “a bit braver intellectually”. Ball sees the tutorial system as “the icing on the cake – at other universities they don't get as far as the icing”. He also cites friends studying law who felt they often didn't understand a concept until their tutorial. But in computer science, he sees less value beyond “ten minutes spent identifying correct answers and errors”, and suggests “perhaps the tutorial system is slightly lost on the sciences”. His harshest criticism is reserved for lectures (“almost universally very poor”), suggesting problems “inherent in the method of teaching” and commenting that “research ability doesn't correlate with teaching skills”. In this context, he declared tuition fees were “absolutely not” good value for money and that three years would be enough, seeing the optional fourth year as “extremely bad value” in view of the opportunity costs of delaying by a year his future earnings, and the opportunity to develop more specialist, applied knowledge in a job. Nevertheless, he is happy to be at Oxford for the wider social and intellectual benefits in college: “I can't picture life without all this.”

Much evidently comes down to Collins' observation: “A large amount of the value of your university experience comes from yourself: you'll get out what you put in.” The Class of 2012 are applying themselves to the challenge with plenty of relish. The final word goes to Snow, reflecting on Oxford as an arena for transcending one's own limits: “What we've all found is that we can go a lot further than we thought we ever could.” ☺

*Josie Dixon (University, 1983) is a Publishing and Research Training Consultant.*



The original article was in OT 25/1, p30, or visit: [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)

# THE ONLY SCIENTIST

Baroness Thatcher was the first, and only, British Prime Minister with a science degree. **Jill Rutter** expounds upon how science influenced her leadership

**B**aroness Thatcher has been celebrated as our first – and thus far only – woman Prime Minister. But she was equally exceptional in another regard. She was our first, and thus far only, Prime Minister who had a science degree rather than one in the arts or social sciences. Recent commentary has bemoaned the scientific illiteracy of our political and administrative elites. So what is the legacy of our only scientifically-trained Prime Minister?

A few of the tributes in Parliament to Thatcher after her death focused on her scientific background. Lord Tebbit drew attention to the “two great influences in her life. One was her scientific training. The other, of course, was her religious belief.” Lord Waldegrave, a junior environment minister under Thatcher and later himself a science minister, underlined the point with a story about how Thatcher used her scientific training not just to see off a proposal for regulation of the coal industry, but to intimidate her German counterpart, Helmut Kohl, on a day when Bonn was suffering from a smog which could have been used to justify the policy change. “Now, Helmut,” she said to the cowering Chancellor – he was always a little nervous of her, as were others. ‘I will tell you what you have here. You have got an inversion and a smog. If you had proper clean air laws, like we do in England, that would have put paid to all that. I will explain the chemistry to you if you like.’ He did not want to know the chemistry.”

If Thatcher had gone to Eton rather than Kesteven and Grantham Girls’ School, she might have studied law or PPE rather than science. By her own accounts she was good at chemistry at school (though abandoned maths, as it was so poorly taught). She claims that

she studied chemistry not just because she liked her teacher but because, in words reminiscent of the advice to Dustin Hoffman in *The Graduate*, her “natural enthusiasm was whetted by reports of breakthroughs which were occurring – for example, splitting the atom and the development of plastics.”

But in passages that resonate with those of us who came from cautious girls’ schools with relatively little Oxbridge experience, the option of doing something other than a school subject never seemed to cross the mind of Thatcher or her teachers. So while she was clearly a diligent student who did her hours in the lab, and may have worked herself into the ground to such an extent she took her finals in the sanatorium, intellectual excitement at Oxford came from reading Hayek and earnest policy debates with her Oxford University Conservative Association (OUCA) friends. Indeed, the fourth research year option in chemistry was a release which gave her

**‘Thatcher was a second-class chemist in a time when Oxford did not split seconds’**

“a little more time” to be President of OUCA and indulge her burgeoning passion for politics.

Thatcher was a solid second-class chemist at a time when Oxford did not split seconds. Charles Moore notes that Thatcher’s tutor, Somerville’s Nobel Laureate, Dorothy Hodgkin, rated her student (and research assistant) “as good” and was pleased she chose the fourth year research option – a more generous assessment than the antipathetic Principal, Dame Janet Vaughan, who described her “as a perfectly adequate



GETTY IMAGES

chemist. I mean, no one thought anything of her.” Thatcher herself realised that she lacked the inspiration of a Dorothy Hodgkin, that would allow a scientific career to flourish. When she was elected a fellow of the Royal Society as Prime Minister, she noted that she would never have got there for her science. But in contrast to many science graduates these days, the first employment she sought used her science. Nonetheless it was clear that the attraction of her post at BX Plastics in Manningtree lay less in science practice than in the hope of practical



(Above) A young Margaret Roberts, later Thatcher, works as a research chemist in a laboratory in 1950

business experience. It didn't turn out that way, and it is clear that she saw neither of her two science jobs as her real career. They paid the bills as she devoted herself to politics. Once she could rely on her husband's income, she moved over to study law. Touchingly, her science came in useful as they bonded over paint on a first "date". She recalled years later, "His professional interest in paint and mine in plastics may seem an unromantic foundation for friendship, but it also enabled us right away to establish a joint interest in science. As the evening wore

on I discovered his views were non-nonsense Conservatism."

Thatcher's first cabinet job was as Education Secretary, because, as Moore puts it, in 1970 education was still regarded as the sort of job that was "not worthy of the full attention of men" and a "woman's subject". But in those days, her department encompassed the science brief as well – and from her own account →

## Thatcher and Oxford

**In 1985, the Prime Minister was refused an honorary degree. Authorised Thatcher Biographer Charles Moore considers how this affected her**

Thatcher was refused an honorary degree by the University of Oxford in 1985. When I speak about Thatcher abroad, I find this refusal creates more puzzlement than any other subject. It must have lost the university hundreds of millions in potential donations. It definitely lost Thatcher's own papers, which she bestowed upon Churchill College, Cambridge, instead.

Although she said nothing about it in public at the time, Thatcher was deeply hurt by the refusal. Oxford had given her the first big chance in life, and she had a reverence for the place. She told me that she learnt the laws of God at Grantham, the laws of science at Oxford, and the laws of man at the Bar. She also cut her political teeth at Oxford, making a public mark for the first time. She was not allowed to join the Oxford Union, because it refused admission to women, but the Oxford University Conservative Association (OUCA) had no such scruples. She became its second-ever woman President, and gained confidence and contacts as a result. She also fell in love for the first time at Oxford with an undergraduate on a wartime short course at Brasenose. Her upset about the honorary degree never caused her to abandon her old college, Somerville. She gave it strong support, and this is the basis of its current, huge scholarship appeal in her name.

Thatcher brought to Oxford, as in so many other fields, a sense of the need to compete in global terms. She also, in the view of critics, removed some of the autonomy which universities had previously possessed. Her biggest benefit to Oxford, however, is simply that it produced Britain's first woman Prime Minister. This remains the biggest public achievement of any woman in this country. It adds hugely to Oxford's lustre in the eyes of the world that she started out there.

**Charles Moore studied history and English at Cambridge. *Margaret Thatcher, The Authorised Biography: Not For Turning* (Allen Lane, £30), is out now. The second volume, *Margaret Thatcher, The Authorised Biography: Herself Alone*, is anticipated in 2015.**

her science training influenced some of the decisions she made. She convinced the government of the case for backing the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) on the basis that international cooperation on such an expensive project was essential. She was at odds with the prevailing government policy of funding only applied research and thought politicians really did not understand the process of scientific advance: "Great scientific advances have not come from practical plans... but from creative scientific minds. Politicians are reluctant to accept this; they want a quick technological fix and pay-off into the bargain." Her view was that government should pick up the tab for pure science while leaving the market to fund its application. One commentator, Dr Jon Agar, has argued recently that this stance may have acted as a catalyst for her more general stance on the role of markets, part of the process that turned Thatcher into a 'Thatcherite'. Neither Thatcher herself, nor her authorised biographer, makes the connection.

Thatcher's role as Prime Minister was much more strongly influenced by her extra-curricular reading at Oxford than her scientific training, and many of her policies were driven by strong beliefs

## 'She was at odds with the prevailing government policy of funding only applied research'

rather than evidence. The idea that some of her flagship policies – privatisation, tax reform, labour market reform – were hypotheses to be piloted and tested to mimic the scientific method would have appalled her. She might have survived longer as Prime Minister if she had treated the early roll-out of the poll tax in Scotland as an experiment which failed, and was therefore not to be replicated. But her scientific understanding was far from irrelevant and she used it for more than simply scoring points against Chancellor Kohl. One of the major reasons why climate change debate has never been as partisan an issue in the UK as in the US, was Thatcher's very early embrace of the science in the late 1980s, which convinced her of the case for action. The speeches she made in 1988 to the Royal Society and in 1989 to the UN General Assembly on the emerging science and the need for action have stood the test of time very well. ☺

*Jill Rutter (Somerville, 1975) studied PPE. On graduating, she joined HM Treasury and was a civil servant there, at No 10 and most recently at Defra. She is now a programme director at the Institute for Government, a charity dedicated to the improvement of government effectiveness.*

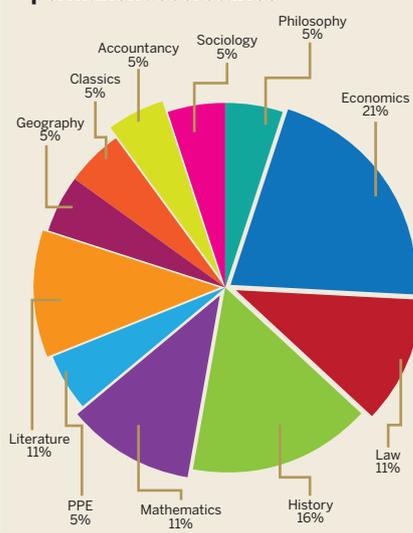
*The figures on the right are drawn from work done by Jonny Medland for the Institute for Government's contribution to a collection of essays, edited by Robert Doubleday of the Centre for Science and Policy and James Wilsdon, on the future of science advice in Whitehall. It was published on 18 April.*

## Examining Thatcher's legacy

Although Thatcher herself did very little to promote the cause of women in government (in her entire time in office she appointed one woman to the Cabinet, abolished her department shortly thereafter and demoted her), other women have seen Thatcher as a role model and followed in her footsteps. But she has inspired no similar embrace of politics and government from scientists and people with science degrees.

The statistics today are quite striking:

### Degree backgrounds of permanent secretaries



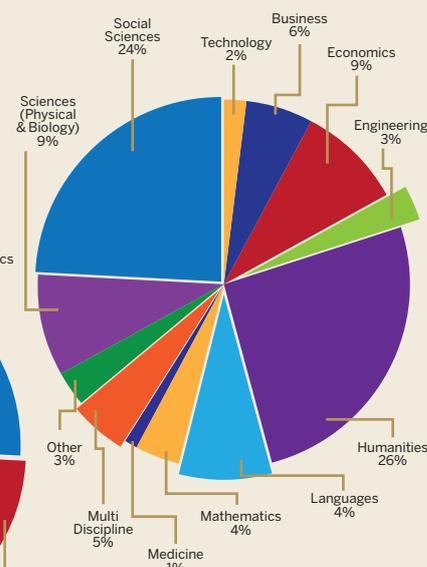
Not a single government department is headed by a Cabinet member with a science or technical degree. The nearest science comes to the Cabinet is Dr Vince Cable, who did Part I Natural Sciences at Cambridge before switching to economics. PPE, economics and history remain the dominant disciplines among Cabinet ministers. The position among their permanent secretaries is little different. There are two mathematicians, and a bit more rigour in the economics. But again the top leadership remains a pretty science-free zone. No one has entered government as a scientist and gone on to become a permanent secretary, while professional economists have established a recent lock on the position of Cabinet Secretary.

But those are people who started their careers – and had made their degree choices – at or before the

start of the Thatcher era. What of the newest cohort, who were just being born when Thatcher fell from power? We looked at the academic backgrounds of those accepted into the civil service fast stream in the last three years.

This is how they assessed their academic background:

### Fast stream recruitment 2009-11



This does not show the whole picture. There is a small, fast stream entry for science and engineering graduates used by three departments. Some people will join the Government Economic Service and then follow the path laid down by Lord O'Donnell and Sir Jeremy Heywood and cross over.

So where do all the scientists go? What, for instance, do Somerville chemists choose to do after Oxford? Of those who matriculated since 2000, precisely one Somerville chemist has gone into the civil service. Another two (in successive years) have gone to the Bank of England. The rest have either applied their science as scientists in business or academia – or opted for a more general role in business, usually in accountancy, consultancy or banking. These figures suggest that the likelihood of another Somerville chemist being Prime Minister is remote.

If we want to look to a powerful scientist politician, the real heir to Thatcher is not in the UK but Germany's Chancellor with a PhD in Industrial Chemistry, Angela Merkel.

# WEXAS Travel Club

Free-for-life membership  
for Oxford alumni

Oxford alumnus Dr Ian Wilson (Brasenose, 1966) wishes to extend the benefits of the company he started in 1970, soon after leaving Oxford by making this very special offer to fellow Oxford alumni



WEXAS offer a tailor-made travel service to their members

*"The beauty of tailor-made travel is that every trip is designed around your individual needs. Our destination specialists will work with you to create a holiday that matches your tastes and interests, as well as your available time and budget.*

*Whether your focus is on wildlife, culture, adventure or relaxation, our specialists can help you hand-pick hotels, choose the best sights and excursions, arrange private guides and smooth out your transfers and travel requirements.*

*You can go at a pace that suits you and build in time for independent exploration. Our aim is simple – to help you create your ideal luxury holiday, and to organise it flawlessly." Dr Ian Wilson*



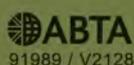
Oxford alumni are offered free membership of the WEXAS travel club (usually £85 a year), which includes the following benefits:

- ▶ Access to exclusive online and print content
- ▶ Special discounts and offers on travel products
- ▶ Access to experienced staff who are able to tailor-make a trip for you
- ▶ Free UK airport lounge access on qualifying WEXAS holidays
- ▶ Family and friends can also book using your WEXAS membership
- ▶ 24/7 emergency assistance abroad
- ▶ UK's best cover-for-cost annual travel insurance
- ▶ Full financial protection through ABTA and ATOL

A small contribution will be made by WEXAS to the University of Oxford Alumni Office for each Oxonian who signs up for free membership.

To become a WEXAS member and receive your personalised membership card please call **+44(0)207 5900670** or join online at [www.wexas.com/oxfordtoday](http://www.wexas.com/oxfordtoday)

You will receive a WEXAS White membership card with all the numbers you need to talk to one of our destination experts about plans for your tailor-made trip



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

WEXAS TRAVEL  
Tailor-made







# EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Architecture in Oxford has long been a talking point. **William Whyte** takes a critical look at the delights (and eyesores) lining the streets

**A** hundred years ago, Oxford was convulsed by debates about a proposed new university building. It would, claimed some, destroy a much-loved view. It was, alleged others, not just bad in its own right, but positively damaging to the city as a whole. “To put it up,” declared Bodley’s Librarian, “would be little short of an aesthetic crime.” Still more scandalously, the city council was believed to be conniving in this architectural abomination: jobbing it through the planning process in a series of dubious meetings.

To the critics’ despair, the building was erected. And what was it? The Bridge of Sighs – a structure now so beloved that Hertford is hosting an event this year to celebrate its centenary. The “aesthetic crime” of 1913 is in 2013 one of Oxford’s most familiar and most photographed sights, even if it does still obscure a nice view of New College tower.

It would be gratifying to be able to argue that the story of the Bridge of Sighs has a simple moral: that any building – however controversial – will, with time, become accepted, even loved. But, of course, that just isn’t true.

Take the modern Warden’s Lodgings at Merton. Little liked when they were first built, by the time Bill Bryson encountered them in the early 1990s he was just one of many who were appalled at what he described as, “A little dash of mindless 1960s excrescence foisted on a otherwise largely flawless street.” So ashamed was the college that the whole building was subsequently re-faced, disguising the original facade behind a new front.

The truth is that there is a very long history of architectural controversy in Oxford. In 1440, for instance, a new mason was employed to complete

the half-finished Divinity School. Dissatisfied with the existing work, the university authorities instructed Thomas Elkin to “hold back in future” from the “superfluous” and “frivolous curiosities” that had disfigured the project thus far. The north walls of the School still show the sudden abandonment of one plan in place of another.

The succeeding centuries would witness many similar changes of taste and style. In 1669, Wren’s triumph over the ‘Gothic rage’ was celebrated at the opening of the Sheldonian Theatre. Nearly 70 years later, in 1736, the properly Palladian Sir Nathaniel Lloyd celebrated the end of the Baroque era that it had inaugurated, thrilled that there would be no more buildings like William Townsend’s Queen’s College and Nicholas Hawksmoor’s All Souls. “Hawksmooring and Townsending,” he declared, “is all Out for this Century.” Less than a year after that, James Gibbs began the magnificently Baroque Radcliffe Camera.

It was the Victorian era that saw many of the most violent building battles. The University Museum – condemned as a “cockatrice’s den” by one don – was attacked for its function as much as its form. Keble was hated for its use of polychromatic bricks. By the start of the twentieth century, as the art historian Kenneth Clark recalled, “It was universally believed that it was the ugliest building in the world. Undergraduates and young dons used to break off their afternoon walks in order to have a good laugh at the quadrangle.” At neighbouring St John’s, the Destroy Keble Society was formed, with the aim of removing the college brick by brick.

For John Ruskin, in particular, these changes became unbearable. As Slade Professor of Art from 1870, his passage through Oxford grew ever more difficult with each succeeding year. He could not bear to walk near Keble or the University Museum, seeing both as abominations – a conclusion made all the more painful by his close involvement in the design of the latter. He refused to go near the newly-opened Examination Schools,

**Visualisation of Zaha Hadid’s Softbridge building for the Middle East Centre, St Antony’s College, currently under construction**



Artist's impression of the Blavatnik School of Government building

condemning them as “rooms for the torture and shame of... scholars”, built “in a style as inherently corrupt as it is un-English”. He loathed the Ashmolean and was forced to abandon his trips to Port Meadow: the mere threat of seeing Jericho was enough to spoil the place. Given the range of buildings he sought to avoid, it’s hard to imagine how he made it through the city. By 1884, he had had enough, mourning that “Every beautiful view, either of Oxford or from it, is now scarified and blasted.” He resigned his Chair in 1885.

It was in this mode that Bodley’s Librarian, EWB Nicholson, attacked the proposed Bridge of Sighs. Indeed, in his pamphlet of 1910, ‘Can We Not Save Oxford’s Architecture?’, he went further still, denouncing almost all the buildings of the last two generations. “No money,” he maintained, “can ever compensate” for the “ungraceful” Radcliffe Science Library.

For Nicholson, the problems did not end there. The Taylorian, the Indian Institute on Broad Street, the external staircase to the Radcliffe Camera: all stood condemned. And as for the recently-built accommodation for the Warden of Merton: this was a “monument of inconcinnity”; “debased” and “thoroughly out of keeping with the College and the Street”. “Unfortunately,” he concluded, “we can hope nothing from earthquakes; but perhaps the bombs of a hostile yet discriminating aviator may someday ‘bring relief’!”

That these Lodgings would be succeeded by the sixties building Bryson so deprecated might be

seen as merely unfortunate. That another prospective home for the Warden erected in between the two was itself condemned by its putative inhabitant as “Agamemnon’s Tomb” could simply suggest that Merton has been unlucky in its choice of architects. But, in reality, what these examples reveal is a more general problem.

Oxford has always been celebrated as a uniquely beautiful place. It has also been the location for important and innovative architecture, from the radical classicism of the Sheldonian to the defiant Gothicism of the University Museum. Both these buildings, in fact, were not just stylistically pioneering but broke new ground in engineering. The metal work at the Museum was unprecedented. Wren’s plans for the roof of the Sheldonian were so remarkable that they were exhibited at the Royal Society.

Yet the question of how to integrate new buildings within the fabric of the city as a whole has never been resolved – and the changing tastes of each generation make building in Oxford an enterprise always freighted with controversy. Much of the worst architecture here is the product of people seeking to avoid unpleasant questions or debate. When the architect Lionel Esher was asked to account for his disastrously drab Broad Street addition to Exeter, for example, he observed that Oxford “gave him stage-fright”. Similar impulses led to the 1960s “excrescence” in Merton Street, and dozens of other offensively self-effacing structures across the city.

Deliberately ignoring the context, however, often produces a worse result. The city can cope with a lot



– in its history there have been numerous changes of style, of material, of the means of construction – but scale remains all-important. The reason that no one has ever said a good word about New College’s Sacher Building is not that its fabric or even its facade are inherently offensive. It is rather that it doesn’t belong in Longwall Street at all.

The same would also have been true of the 25-storey Zoology tower proposed for the Parks in 1962. It was, suggested the Vice-Chancellor, intended to bring “a touch of San Gimignano” to Oxford. It was sensibly resolved that this was something the city could well do without.

As the current controversy over the university’s graduate accommodation at Castle Mill in Jericho suggests, the need to temper boldness with a sensitivity to scale remains an issue of real importance. It’s not just that this is a numbingly dull development, defended oxymoronically as a “timeless contemporary design”. It’s also that opponents believe it to be much, much, much too big. Still in Jericho, the designs for the new Blavatnik School of Government, opposite the University Press, raise similar questions about both ambition and massing. There can be no doubt that this is bold: the big issue is with its size. For critics, its mass is simply too great – and somewhat spurious claims that its form is inspired by the curved facades of the Sheldonian and Radcliffe Camera do not compensate for its impact on the surrounding buildings. Its admirers, naturally enough, disagree.

Perhaps the most intriguing intervention to be proposed in recent years is a striking addition to St Antony’s designed by Zaha Hadid. Although this is another bridge, it is superficially unlike the Bridge of Sighs as one could imagine: all sinuous steel and futuristic curves. Yet, just like Hertford’s iconic extension, this is a building which is bold and scaled perfectly for its situation. It is a real sign of

## ‘We are now in a period of quite remarkable architectural expansionism... the question remains, where is all this growth to go?’

hope. I suspect all the right people will hate it.

This is not, though, a story of unremitting continuity – a perpetual battle between the proponents and opponents of change. The differences between Hertford’s bridge and the one about to go up at St Antony’s makes that plain. Hertford built at almost the very last moment that central Oxford was open to radical change. The new quads at St John’s (2010) and Pembroke (2013) may yet be the final large-scale additions. All that’s left is the sort of infilling and patching together that can be seen at St Antony’s – or in the new lecture theatres that have been squeezed into Corpus, St Edmund Hall, and Lincoln.

We are now in a period of quite remarkable architectural expansionism, fuelled by the generosity of benefactors like Leonard Blavatnik, and the sort of loan-financing that underwrites a lot of student accommodation. The question remains, where is all this growth to go? What has to be lost for the University and its colleges to continue on this path? The battles of the future look likely to be less about individual buildings and more about the nature of the city itself. ☺

*Dr William Whyte (Wadham, 1994) is a Fellow at St John’s. His book, Redbrick: a social and architectural history of Britain’s civic universities, will be published next year*



To watch the film series *Architecture that shook Oxford*, go to: [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk)



GREG SMOLONSKI/OXFORD UNIVERSITY IMAGES

**Keble College:** controversy raged over the colour of its bricks





# IN PRAISE OF PYM

Jean Harker delights in Barbara Pym (1913-1980) in her centenary year

I first encountered Barbara Pym's novels when I was organising a one-day conference on her life and work at St Hilda's in the mid-1980s, for Pym was a St Hilda's alumna and our most distinguished writer of fiction. It was too late for her to know, sadly; she died in 1980. A similar gathering had already featured in her novel *No Fond Return of Love*, where the heroine's attendance at a learned conference is her way of trying to mend a broken heart.

I rushed through all the Pym novels, discovering her distinctive voice and her elegant, witty, ironic style, with closely-observed, often hilarious detail. She manages to sympathise with her characters as well as laugh at them, as they strive, probably in genteel poverty, to maintain standards, deal kindly with one another, uphold the principles of the Church of England, and organise jumble sales.

Pym's world is middle-class, mostly home counties, well educated and often slightly disappointed (especially the women) but putting on a brave face. She wrote about familiar people in familiar circumstances. Her characters are typically minor academics, pompous clerics, harassed editorial assistants, overbearing deaconesses, timid ladies' companions, and Oxford-educated women who type up their husbands' manuscripts. Pym's novels reflect her times, the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, with just a touch of the 1970s.

The 1950s are now perceived as glamorous, as indeed they were for a rarefied few, but for most Britons the decade or so after the war was distinctly unglamorous, and its plainness and austerity are depicted in Pym's novels of the time, when a whist drive was a key social event and church flowers provided a guide to delicate social nuances.

Pym is particularly good on detail, minutely observed with a gimlet eye. We learn a lot about her characters' tastes in food, clothes, household accessories, and literature. There is much literary quotation and allusion, particularly as a means of

expanding the vision of her characters beyond their humdrum worlds.

For Pym, life, work and her writing were inextricably linked. She wrote about what she knew, and kept diaries and notebooks (now archived in the Bodleian) in which she jotted down snatches of conversations that she had overheard and little details that she had noticed. Her work at the International African Institute – 28 years as assistant editor of the journal *Africa* – provided rich pickings and a considerable amount of material. At coffee-times her colleagues would wonder out loud, archly, which of them would feature in Miss Pym's next novel – an interesting example of the observer observed.

For the 1986 conference, we were fortunate to secure one of her former colleagues from the African Institute, Edwin Ardener, to speak about his memories of Miss Pym. Two other memorable speakers at that first conference were Victoria Glendinning, who gave a paper on the Pym Man, and Hilary Spurling, who gave a paper on the

**'Pym's world is middle class, mostly home counties and often slightly disappointed'**

Pym Woman. Ripples of laughter increased to helpless mirth as Hilary Spurling spoke at length about "the knitted sock as sexual currency, with particular reference to curates".

Pym's writing career started early. She wrote her first novel when she was 16, heavily influenced by Aldous Huxley's *Chrome Yellow*. She continued to write and make notes during her Oxford years. She came up to St Hilda's Hall, as it then was, in 1931, formed several lasting friendships and embarked on a few passionate but ultimately unsuccessful romances: "Pleasure and pain in an agreeable mixture. That's what I feel when I think of Oxford and my days at St Hilda's."

She was given to codenaming attractive men glimpsed in the Upper Reading Room, and it was one of these, Henry

Harvey, 'Lorenzo' in the diaries, who definitively broke her heart. He came to speak at the 1993 Pym conference, was very charming, spoke of her warmly and with great affection, and was later observed, during the last conference session, to be punting down the Cherwell with the two youngest and prettiest female delegates.

As a writer myself, I am fascinated by the trajectory of Barbara Pym's career. She had six novels published by Cape between 1950 and 1961; they did well, established a solid readership, and were praised by critics. Then, when she offered Cape her next novel in 1963, she was told abruptly by the publisher (without even being given lunch, as Philip Larkin remarked) that it was not wanted. Times had changed. The year 1963 might have been an annus mirabilis for the Beatles, but it was terrible for Pym. She could not find another publisher. Her readers were furious. Philip Larkin was furious.

The next 16 years passed without publication, but Pym continued to write. By 1977 she had retired and was living with her sister Hilary in a small cottage in Oxfordshire. Then came the game-changing moment, when she was the only writer named twice as the most underrated novelist of the century in a poll of critics organised by the *Times Literary Supplement*. Comparisons were made with Jane Austen. Allusions were made to pictures painted on ivory. And publishers beat a path to her door; unpublished novels were published. *Quartet in Autumn* was shortlisted for the Booker. She appeared on radio and television, and was photographed at home in Finstock by Mayotte Magnus, who was working on a portfolio of pictures of notable women for her next exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. The last three years of Barbara Pym's life were anni mirabiles, as if to make up for the previous 16 years.

Her sister Hilary reckoned that she would be hugely amused by the wealth of Pym scholarship that has since arisen, and I hope that she would be pleased to know that her centenary year also marks the 19th birthday of the Barbara Pym Society. ☺

*Jean Harker (St Hilda's, 1967), is a scriptwriter (as Jean Buchanan).*



# RENDEZVOUS WITH DEATH

When JFK was assassinated on 22 November 1963, it overshadowed the deaths of Oxonians Aldous Huxley and CS Lewis that same day. Their views of life and death lead **John Garth** to construct an unconventional comparison of the trio

---



## ‘Kennedy’s death was like a comet trailing others in its wake’

just under eight hours after Lewis.

Americanist Godfrey Hodgson, (Magdalen, 1952) is currently working on a book about JFK and Lyndon B Johnson. Hodgson heard the newsflash while lunching with a fellow correspondent. At Andrews Air Force Base he stood beside National Security Advisor McGeorge ‘Mac’ Bundy as Bobby Kennedy pushed past the newly sworn-in LBJ onto Air Force One, and Jackie Kennedy emerged from the plane in her blood-spattered pink suit.

The next day, a fellow journalist said to him: “Have you heard the joke? Lyndon Johnson isn’t deer-hunting this season – because Lee Harvey Oswald has got his rifle.” Hodgson is as sceptical as anyone that Oswald could have killed Kennedy alone and unassisted, but remains unpersuaded by the many conspiracy theories.

Hodgson also covered the killings of Oswald and Jack Ruby. Kennedy’s death was like a comet trailing others in its wake, right down to the waiter who had served him his last breakfast. It was also, in the popular construction, prefigured by the deaths of his elder brother Joe Jr and his sister Kathleen (Joe died in 1944 when the explosive payload of his plane detonated prematurely; Kathleen in 1948 when her flight went down in the Ardèche). In *Kennedy: An Unfinished Life*, Robert Dallek argues that these experiences lent urgency to JFK’s pursuit of power, not to mention women.

Both Lewis and Huxley’s bereavements came earlier in life, and surely bit more deeply. Each lost a 45-year-old mother in 1908, to aggressive cancer. Lewis, just shy of ten, was sent almost immediately from his Belfast home to a brutal English boarding school. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Narnia features children pitched suddenly into other worlds, as well as a delicious school revenge fantasy (*The Silver Chair*). And in *The Magician’s Nephew* young Digory poignantly restores his dying mother to life with a magic apple.

Huxley, at 14, had been just settling in at Eton when his mother died; a further sad blow came six years later with the suicide of his brother Trevenen. Both losses appeared, disguised, in his novels. Huxley said that his 1950s drug experimentation was an attempt to retrieve some childhood memory, but biographer Nicholas Murray (*Aldous Huxley: An English Intellectual*) believes, “It is more likely that it centres on the trauma of his mother’s early death.” And yet Huxley’s 1939 novel *After Many a Summer* displays a Swiftian scorn for the dream of defeating death: a millionaire seeks the key to immortality in the archives of an 18th-century Earl, who is eventually discovered still alive at 201, “a foetal ape” skulking in a dank cellar.

Huxley was exempt from military service due →



Everyone whose memory stretches 50 years back remembers the moment they heard President Kennedy had been shot. Few, however, realise that two other major figures – world-shapers in their very different ways, and Oxonians both – died the same day. The shots fired in Dallas echoed almost instantaneously around the world. The deaths of CS Lewis (Univ, 1917) and Aldous Huxley (Balliol, 1913) were mute, private events, only reported in *The Times* three days later.

Lewis died first, at 5.30pm after tumbling from his bed at the foot of the stairs in The Kilns, Risinghurst. One hour later (12.30pm in Texas) the President was shot. At the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles, Huxley’s second wife Laura, bearing his request for an LSD injection, found the doctor and nurses watching in shock the news of the assassination. Huxley died at 5.20pm local time,



TIME & LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

(Above) CS Lewis in the late 1950s  
(Main pic) Aslan the lion from Lewis’ Narnia stories

to severe eyesight problems, but Lewis and Kennedy, in their respective wars, each became closely acquainted with death. In his autobiographical *Surprised by Joy*, Lewis wrote of the trenches of 1917-18: “the horribly smashed men still moving like half-crushed beetles, the sitting or standing corpses”. A British shell fell short and obliterated his sergeant; Lewis, knocked out, had an out-of-body experience. “He looked down on his own body and the thought arose in his mind, ‘Here is a picture of a man dying,’” says Dr Michael Ward, Senior Research Fellow at Blackfriars and author of the acclaimed literary study *Planet Narnia*. “That experience, he said, meant he understood what Kant meant when he talks about the phenomenal and the noumenal self.”

In plainer terms – for the future US President was no philosopher – a wartime scrape with death was central to the making of the phenomenon ‘JFK’. During a night operation in the Solomon Islands in 1943, the patrol torpedo boat he commanded was rammed by a Japanese destroyer. Despite his agonising back condition, he performed heroically to bring his crew to safety. To his father Joe Sr, bent on seeing a Kennedy son succeed in politics, it was all capital, as valuable as the multi-million-dollar family fortune that greased the wheels of power. JFK used his PT boat drama as an excuse to publish a book in 1955, *Profiles in Courage*, which won a Pulitzer and did no harm to his 1960 White House campaign.

Hodgson dismisses the idea that Kennedy’s war experiences gave him any significant surplus of insight or sensitivity, pointing out: “In 1960 almost all politicians would have had military experience. A lot of people were being killed in 1944, all over the place.” But Kennedy’s experiences as a junior officer in the US Navy undeniably gave him a healthy contempt for the military top ranks – cemented in the first year of his Presidency after he let himself be guided by Pentagon ‘intelligence’ into the Bay of Pigs fiasco. Arguably it was this contempt for the top brass, more than anything, which was to save the world from a rain of death.

In October 1962, he faced Khrushchev in a standoff over Cuba. Huxley told a friend, “If only [Timothy Leary] could get into a Summit Meeting and give some mushrooms to the two Mr Ks – the result might be world peace through total lucidity and breaking out by both parties from the prison of their respective cultures and ideologies.” In fact Kennedy and Khrushchev did bend the bars just enough to reach out to each other at the eleventh hour. Just as vital, however, was Kennedy’s 13-day rearguard action against the Pentagon hawks who wanted aerial bombing, invasion, dizzying escalation. JFK was horrified by the prospect of nuclear war; and so (behind an insouciant veneer) was Khrushchev.

Kennedy’s reluctance meshed with an outlook

inherited more from his worldly father – a Catholic for show – than from his pious mother. “A man who believes that he will survive death in a nuclear holocaust is going to behave differently from a man who doesn’t,” Hodgson observes. “I once asked Mac Bundy whether he thought Jack Kennedy believed in life after death; to which he said, ‘Of course not, don’t be silly.’”

Huxley’s focus was on this life, too, but he increasingly sought to penetrate beyond its mundane appearances. The subject of an anniversary conference last month at his college, Balliol, he started out in the intellectual tradition of his naturalist grandfather TH Huxley, who had coined the word ‘agnostic’. But *Eyeless in Gaza* in 1936 began a shift towards mysticism: Aldous came to espouse Leibniz’s view that all great religions are reflections of a ‘perennial philosophy’, and to seek enlightenment on Earth.

His 1954 book *The Doors of Perception* recorded his attempt to achieve this with the aid of psychedelics. It later became a hit with the Flower Power generation, but Huxley scorned those who sought the ‘little death’ of temporary oblivion in narcotics. After all, his prophetic *Brave New World* had long before predicted a society enslaved by the drug soma. Nevertheless, it is questionable whether mescaline and LSD gave Huxley the

‘Huxley was exempt from military service, but Lewis and Kennedy, in their respective wars, each became closely acquainted with death’



(Right) The funeral of assassinated President John F Kennedy, 25 November 1963. His three-year-old son, John F Kennedy Jr, salutes his father’s coffin as his mother and uncles Ted and Robert stand silent

GETTY IMAGES



## START THE ADVENTURE TODAY



### Polar Nights and Mystical Northern Lights

DATE: 26–30 January 2014

PRICE: From £1,429

Take a voyage along Norway's stunning coastline in search of the Northern Lights, with expert lectures on the aurora borealis and night sky, and a range of pre-bookable Arctic excursions including polar history tours and dog-sledding.

#### Trip Scholar

Professor Roger Davies, Philip Wetton Professor and Head of Astrophysics, University of Oxford.

*Price is per person based on sharing an inside cabin, inc flights from London.*



### North West Coast of Greenland

Arctic Wilderness Adventure

DATE: 14–27 June 2014

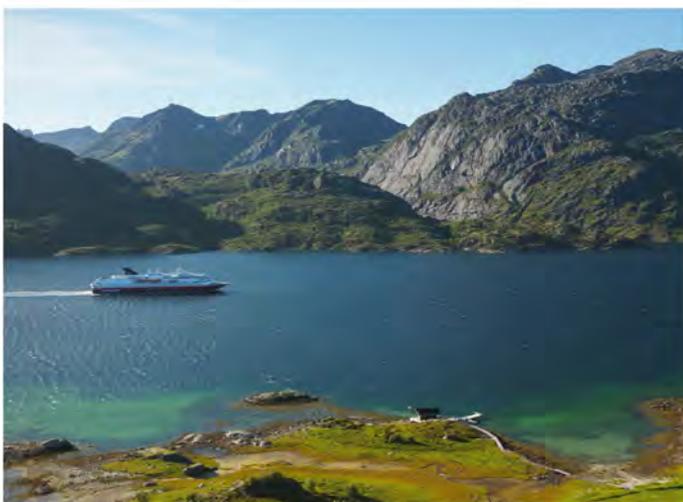
PRICE: From £5,199

Join this exciting expedition to witness colossal icebergs, mountains, fjords and wild flowers along with an amazing array of wildlife. Visit local settlements and gain a genuine insight into Inuit culture.

#### Trip Scholar

Professor Paul Smith, Director of the University Museum of Natural History at Oxford.

*Price is per person based on sharing an inside cabin, inc flights from London.*



### Voyage North

Heritage of the Vikings

DATE: 3–11 September 2014

PRICE: From £2,199

Explore Norway's Viking heritage with this voyage along the beautiful Norwegian coast, from Bergen to the Arctic Circle, culminating in two nights in Oslo. En route, there will be a series of Viking-based excursions and lectures.

#### Trip Scholar

Dr Elizabeth Ashman Rowe, Lecturer in Scandinavian History, University of Cambridge.

*Price is per person based on sharing an inside cabin, inc flights from London.*

For more information on these trips please contact Hurtigruten on +44(0)20 88462633 / [uk.groups@hurtigruten.com](mailto:uk.groups@hurtigruten.com)

OXFORD ALUMNI   
**TRAVELLERS**

Visit [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014) to view our full range of educational, small-group tours for Oxford alumni



# HINE

VINTAGE COGNACS



publiccommunication.eu - Photos: © G. de Beauchêne, except port still photo: S.N.I.C.

**HINE MAKES LITTLE, BUT THE BEST.**  
 HINECOGNAC.COM

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, TOO, CAN HAVE THE OXFORD EXPERIENCE

**THE OXFORD TRADITION** (grades 10-12)  
**THE OXFORD PREP EXPERIENCE** (grades 8-9)

Every summer these academic programs bring students into  
 Pembroke, Corpus Christi, and Oriel Colleges

Our students come from the USA, Canada, and  
 more than 70 other countries around the world

**COURSES INCLUDE:**

*British History, Medical Science, Classical Civilization, Physics,  
 Entrepreneurialism, English Literature, Psychology, Drama,  
 Molecular Medicine, International Business, Studio Art,  
 Politics & Economics, International Relations  
 and many others*

**WWW.OXBRIDGEPROGRAMS.COM**  
 OR CALL US AT (800) 828-8349  
 OR +1 212 932 3049

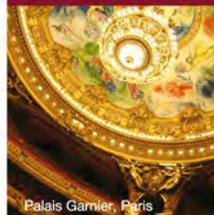
**OXBRIDGE**  
**ACADEMIC**  
**PROGRAMS**

CELEBRATING OVER 25 YEARS IN OXFORD



## TRAVEL FOR THE ARTS

The UK's leading opera, classical music  
 and dance tour specialist



Palais Garnier, Paris



Teatro La Fenice, Venice

Our group tours generally include top-category  
 tickets for outstanding productions featuring  
 the finest performers, together with excellent  
 accommodation, a full sightseeing programme  
 and dedicated assistance throughout.

For further details and a free copy of our brochure

Tel: +44 20 8799 3350  
 E-mail: [tfa@stlon.com](mailto:tfa@stlon.com)  
 or visit [www.travelforthearts.com](http://www.travelforthearts.com)



Travel for the Arts is a division of Specialised Travel Ltd



enlightenment he craved. “He envied people like William Blake who had these wonderful visions of alternative realities,” says Murray. After being diagnosed with cancer in 1960, Huxley approached the end in denial. “Death is one of the great unknowns too, and you would have expected him to be more curious, reflective, articulate about it,” Murray adds. “It wasn’t until virtually the day of his death that he realised the game was up.”

In stark contrast to Huxley and Kennedy, Lewis – who gets a memorial stone at Poets’ Corner on 22 November – came to see life as defined by his Christian faith. Biographer Alister McGrath (Wadham, 1971; *CS Lewis - A Life: eccentric genius, reluctant prophet* (2013)) views Lewis’ father’s death in 1929 as a catalyst for his belief in God. His fraught response to the death in 1960 of his wife Joy Davidman – at 45, from cancer – was recorded in *A Grief Observed*. Ward describes it as “a whirlwind of sorrow, fear, regret, anxiety” but also an attempt to give an Everyman’s account of grief. “He entertains all sorts of dark ideas about God and meaninglessness, and whether his faith is all a house of cards that has come tumbling down. But in part four he’s beginning to recover.” Lewis devoutly hoped to be reunited with loved ones in Heaven. He knew death itself was dreadful. But some time before his own – from complications from an enlarged prostate – he told his brother, “I have done all that I wanted to do and I am ready to go.”

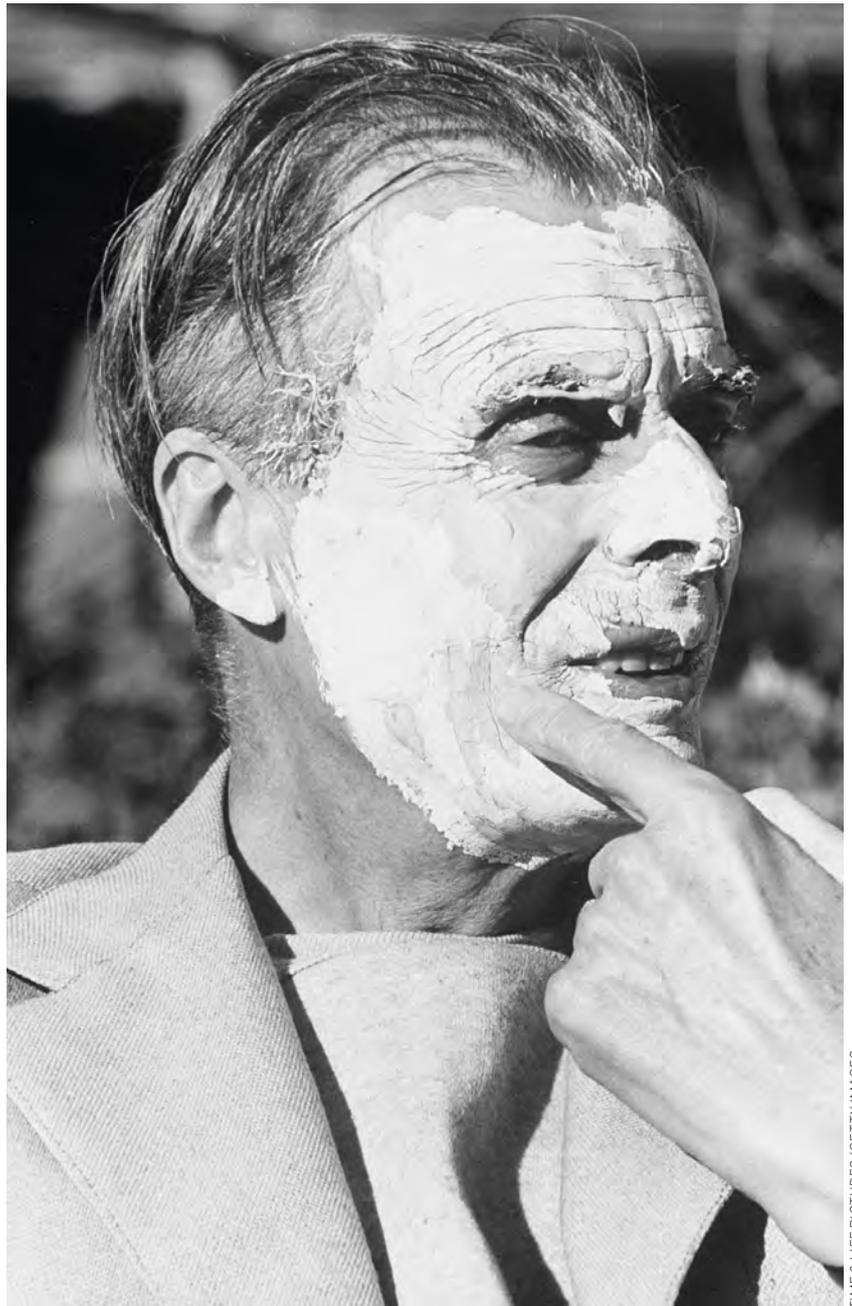
The idea of the dying god had once struck an acute chord with the young Lewis, who awoke to myth and ‘Northernness’ when he read Longfellow’s words, “I heard a voice that cried/Balder the beautiful/Is dead, is dead...” In his Christian apologetics, he admitted he had “loved Balder before Christ”. And in Narnia he had created his own myth of the dying god, in the sacrifice of Aslan on the Stone Table – a reconfiguring of Calvary for a world of talking beasts.

William Manchester, in his best-selling 1967 book *The Death of a President*, argues that Kennedy fulfilled the perennial roles of Balder, Osiris and

## ‘The most arguable personal virtues may be sanctified by a sudden and violent death’

others: autumnal deaths to expiate the sins of a people and appease the heavens so summer might return. Subsequent revelations – that the President was a serial philanderer battling his near-crippling back troubles with the aid of an impressive pharmacopia of drugs – have only served to polarise opinion. Yet youth, beauty, apparent vigour and even the most arguable personal virtues may be sanctified by a sudden and violent death.

Of the three who died that same day, Kennedy alone had no time to prepare. Yet the manner of his going transfigured him utterly. What does the



TIME & LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

departure of these three men on the same day tell us? Not whether CS Lewis truly went to meet his maker, or whether Aldous Huxley, aided by LSD administered by his wife, passed through the doors of perception. What his assassination tells us about Kennedy is infinitely less valuable than what it tells us about our capacity to build myths in the face of mortality. It is surely in their achievements in life that we must really measure these men: the writings of Huxley and Lewis which look beneath and beyond the world; and the 13 days in 1962 when Kennedy ensured the survival of that world in which we can continue to read them. ☺

**Aldous Huxley at a health spa in January 1959**

*John Garth is a freelance writer and regular contributor to Oxford Today and the OU staff magazine Blueprint, and the author of Tolkien and the Great War. He read English at St Anne’s and lives in Oxford.*



## Shropshire Country Houses

DATE: 7–12 July 2014

PRICE: £1,195

Exclusive access to the splendid country houses in the area around Ludlow, with private tours and the opportunity to enjoy refreshments and meals as guests of the owners.

### Trip Scholar

Roger White (Wadham, 1973), architectural historian and former Secretary of the Georgian Group.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, excluding transport. Single supplement: £120*



## Munich Opera Festival

DATE: 21–27 July 2014

PRICE: £2,620

Enjoy dynamic opera performances, song recitals and chamber music concerts in Munich's historic theatres and opera houses, including two comedic operas by Strauss and Mozart's *Figaro*.

### Trip Scholar

Professor John Deathridge (Lincoln, 1964), King Edward Professor of Music, King's College London.

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, excluding flights. Single supplement: £190*



## Across the Front Line

The Great War in Flanders

DATE: 29 September–4 October 2014

PRICE: £1,330

Visit the battlefields, cemeteries, memorials, trenches and tunnels of Flanders 100 years on from the First World War.

### Trip Scholars

Professor Hew Strachan, Chichele Professor of the History of War, University of Oxford and military historian Professor Christopher Catherwood (Balliol, 1973).

*Price is per person based on sharing a room, including return coach travel from London. Single supplement: £175.*



For more information on these trips please contact ACE Cultural Tours, on +44(0)1223 841055 / [ace@aceculturaltours.co.uk](mailto:ace@aceculturaltours.co.uk)



OXFORD ALUMNI

# TRAVELLERS

Visit [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel2014) to view our full range of educational, small-group tours for Oxford alumni



# THE SOUND OF CHANGING MUSIC



PHOTO BY HELEN ADAMS. © PITT RIVERS MUSEUM

The Pitt Rivers Museum turned into a rainforest soundscape

The study of music at Oxford has changed utterly in recent years, reports **Howard Swains**. In an experimental feature, he speaks to the music faculty's new generation of innovators. A longer version of each interview appears on the *Oxford Today* website, accompanied by links to some fantastic video clips and recordings: [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/music](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/music)



‘Perhaps looking at things like music and art is a slightly more accessible way to discuss diversity in the UK’

**1. MARTYN HARRY** is a contemporary classical composer and the head of the postgraduate programme at the music faculty. His acclaimed works include *Restraint for Handcuffed Pianist* and *Fantasy Unbuttoned*.

“We’re trying to move on and combine the best of traditional Oxford with new opportunities and possibilities. Students have a bit more autonomy at Oxford, and that, combined with various lecturers here who are doing new and imaginative things, means we are getting a very interesting blend of the old and the new. New music has changed. It’s become less doctrinaire. I think we’re just reflecting the fact that contemporary music is much more diverse. It’s individualistic. We are now challenged to engage more with society than ever before, and that is what we are trying to do. For composition it’s certainly been very liberating and a valuable thing.”

**2. NOEL LOBLEY** is an ethnomusicologist working full time at the Pitt Rivers Museum, the home of Oxford University’s anthropological and archaeological collection, which includes hundreds of musical instruments from across the world.

“I develop ways for the music and sound collections to be experienced by new audiences. I apply approaches from anthropology, sound studies and DJ-ing to develop new uses for field recordings, especially through public events in the gallery spaces and online. I collaborate with composers and sound artists, and this had led to the sounds of Bayaka water-drumming bathing the galleries of the Pitt Rivers, and being watched live back in the Central African Republic.”

**3. JASON STANYEK** was appointed to the music faculty in 2012 and taught the mandatory course on global hip hop for the first time last Michaelmas. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, and spent six years as Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology at NYU.

“Hip hop is not radical at all. You are dealing with a repertoire of pieces, works; you’re dealing with rhythm, melody; you’re dealing with musical borrowing. Rappers and the hip hop producers didn’t invent borrowing, they didn’t invent intertextuality. You could study the whole history of music as being the history of borrowing. The mere teaching of hip hop in a way reinforces the traditional boundaries between the disciplines. And it reinforces some of the standard notions of what the study of music should be. I think it’s incumbent upon us as professors at an elite research university to give students the requisite tools with which they can deal with the world as it exists in front of them at this moment, and hip hop is everywhere.”

**4. ERIC CLARKE** is has researched and written extensively on the psychology of music and has supervised doctoral students writing

theses on subjects as diverse as reductional theories of atonal music, music and consciousness and music and parapsychology.

“Musicology has become a very much more interdisciplinary subject than it used to be. It has become much more open to sociological and psychological questions. From five years ago, students have had the option to study courses in the perception of music, and the psychology of musical performance; and I’m teaching a course on music and consciousness to the Masters students this coming year. That is a significant change for Oxford and represents the way in which psychology, and people’s psychological responses to music, have become quite a powerful part of musicology.”

**5. TOM HODGSON**, until a recent move to King’s College, London, was a music lecturer at Magdalen. His work has focused on the music of the Muslim communities in Bradford and Pakistan.

“One of the tenets of ethnomusicology is that you’ve got to understand these musical cultures from inside. Perhaps looking at things like music and art is a slightly more accessible way to discuss diversity in the UK. There’s a huge diversity of ethnicities and faiths that live in Britain and there’s so much great music going on. It’s a way that people can access culture, think about culture and mix culture. It’s all going on, it’s right on the doorstep and people don’t know much about it.”

**6. DAN JEFFRIES** is a composer of both acoustic classical and electroacoustic music, and is one of the organisers of OxLork, the Oxford Laptop Orchestra.

“The laptop orchestra is very performance orientated; its purpose is to write music that is to be performed in interesting ways, that will make people literally enjoy the form. Laptop orchestras are, in a way, a reaction to this tradition of: you turn up to a gig of electronic music and there’s a slightly nerdy guy sitting behind a laptop who hits play and looks like he’s just checking Facebook, and there’s music coming out of a speaker. There’s so many more possibilities for a performance that can make it better for an audience member, and yourself as a performer.”

**7. ADAM HARPER**, a third year DPhil student based at Wadham, is the author of *Infinite Music – Imagining the Next Millennium of Human Music-Making*. He is currently researching the aesthetics of “lo-fi” in popular music, and also teaches a course called “Musical Thought and Scholarship”.

“Nowadays popular music is a complicated field and what I’m doing is a bizarre cross between ethnomusicology and a sort of historical archiving of stuff that hasn’t been touched before. Much like



musicologists did 50 years ago, I'm going into the archives and finding what they say and writing the history. I am studying 'bad' music. To a Beethoven scholar of 50 years ago, this would be insane."

### 8. ELIZABETH EVA LEACH'S

**principal focus is the music and poetry of the fourteenth century, but she is also the faculty's leading exponent of electronic media as a means of disseminating musicological ideas. She interacts with people interested in medieval music across the world via her Twitter account and blog, on which she also aggregates open access copies of her publications, and lists of digitised musical manuscripts for use in teaching and research.**

"Medieval studies as a whole, not just medieval musicology, have taken on board critical fashions and have started to use new technologies, particularly digital technologies. It is particularly useful for the things I do. Manuscripts are available in very good colour digital images online and I can just surf between one manuscript and another. I can turn the pages. I can suddenly have access to medieval visual and musical culture in a way that I didn't have before."

**9. CHRIS FEREBEE is a composer and folk music obsessive who is one of the principal organisers of M@SH, (Music At St Hilda's) a performance group at Oxford. He is working with Alistair Anderson and Andrew Arci on the first release on the M@SH record label.**

"The interesting thing about M@SH is that you have this massive range of influences from everywhere and there are no stylistic boundaries.

We're doing all kinds of weird stuff. It's not normal. It's not that we're not interested in what the Establishment is doing, because anything goes and anything from the Establishment is absolutely fine. It's just that we don't have any real boundaries in terms of what we're going to do. We follow our own beat, as it were."

### 10. JONATHAN HICKS' DPhil

**in music focused on the French pianist and composer Erik Satie, placing Satie's work in the context of Parisian urban geography at the turn of the twentieth century. His current project looks at the performance and depiction of street music in nineteenth-century Paris and London. Previously Jonathan has written about the English experimentalist Cornelius Cardew and the interaction between elite and popular cultures.**

"Back in the 1980s, there was a very traditional approach. You looked at scores, you looked at notes on the page and you talk about composers. And then there was a big critique through the 1980s, just like there was in humanities, where people said, 'There's more people involved than the authors. There's the public, there are listeners, critics, producers. All these people are really important so why don't we talk about them too? Why only talk about what's on the page?' Music is experienced live and that's what matters to people."

*Howard Swains is a feature writer whose work has appeared in The Sunday Times Magazine, The Times, The Guardian, The Independent and Wired and on CNN.com. He is based in London.*



## Have your say...

We would welcome feedback on this experimental style of feature. The print medium is its own creature, and so too the web, but for a feature like this one, covering music, there is an obvious opportunity to take readers from print to web. There you can access recordings and video clips recommended by the ten individuals interviewed here, prefaced by the full version of each interview.



For all feature extensions and recordings, please visit:  
[www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/music](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/music)

## Unique signed and numbered limited edition prints of Oxford Colleges

VA Prints is an Oxford company producing beautifully coloured and detailed architectural prints of Oxford and the University Colleges.

**New prints of Balliol, Keble, New College, Oriel, St. Catherine's, St. Hugh's, Trinity and Wolfson. 5 different prints of the Bridge of Sighs - 100th anniversary this year.**



Bridge of Sighs by Tom Milner-Gulland



Magdalen St. John's Quad by Ian Fraser



Queen's View from the High No.2 by Ian Fraser



Christ Church Tom Quad by Ian Fraser



New College Front Quad by Rod Craig



Corpus View from Merton Street by Ian Fraser



Lady Margaret Hall View from the Gardens by Ian Fraser



St. Hugh's by Peter Farley



St. Catherine's The Quad by Cathy Read



Merton View from The Meadow by Ian Fraser



Brasenose Along the High by Ray Rawlings



Balliol The Chapel and Fellows Garden by Sarah Moncrieff



Oriel Oriel Square by Ian Fraser

### FRAMED PRINTS BY POST - UK ONLY



St. Edmund Hall The Quad and Chapel by Ian Fraser



Keble Liddon Quad by Ian Fraser

## Oxford Cambridge Venice

This is a small selection of the Oxford prints on our website. Our prints make an ideal gift for alumni and those just graduating. They are a lasting memento of the college and the timeless architecture of Oxford.

You can buy securely online or by telephone with all major debit and credit cards. Prints sizes are 483 x 329mm or 594 x 210mm. Unframed prints cost £109 each + p&p and are posted worldwide in large diameter cardboard tubes. (UK £6-50. EU £8-00. World £12-00.

**Tel: 01865 864100**  
**www.vaprints.co.uk**

All our prints are also available framed for delivery by post to UK mainland addresses. They can be framed in a silver-gilt or gold frame with a double ivory mount for a traditional look or choose a black, white or oak frame for a more contemporary feel. Framed prints are £183 plus £16-50 p&p to UK mainland only.

All Souls	Harris Manchester	Lincoln	Oriel	St. Peter's
Balliol	Hertford	Magdalen	Pembroke	Saïd Business School
Brasenose	Jesus	Mansfield	The Queen's College	Trinity
Christ Church	Keble	Merton	St. Catherine's	University
Corpus Christi	Lady Margaret Hall	New College	St. Edmund Hall	Wadham
Exeter	Linacre	Nuffield	St. Hugh's	Wolfson
			St. John's	Worcester

# Arts & Ideas



© THE ESTATE OF FRANCIS BACON. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. LENT BY MUSEO DE BELLAS ARTES DE BILBAO

Lying Figure in a Mirror (1971)  
by Francis Bacon (1909-1992)  
from Francis Bacon: Henry Moore  
Flesh and Bone, Ashmolean Museum  
(12 Sept 2013–19 Jan 2014)

## 51 Book reviews

Fourteen reviews, including *Silence: A Christian History*, *Divided Nations* and the location of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon revealed...

## 54 Time for a change

Judith Keeling on the merits of the new Harris Manchester clock tower and its inscription: "It's later than you think. But it's never too late."

## 56 Photography

See the winning photographs from our 2012-13 competition on the subject of extreme weather





# MARTIN RANDALL TRAVEL

THE UK'S LEADING SPECIALIST IN CULTURAL TOURS

Martin Randall Travel offers tours for people with intellectual curiosity. Our itineraries are imaginative and meticulously planned, and we pride ourselves on quality and cultural integrity.

With over 220 tours running in the UK, Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, India and America, we hope there is something to tempt you.

Image: Tallinn, the Upper Town, lithograph c. 1840.

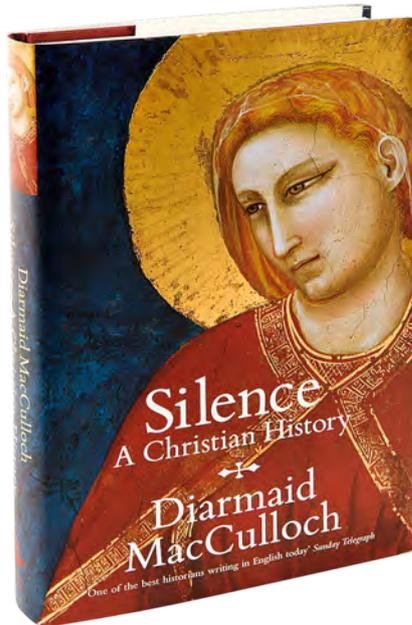
CATHEDRALS OF ENGLAND  
WALKING HADRIAN'S WALL  
VENETIAN PALACES  
ST PETERSBURG  
ANDALUSIAN MOROCCO  
CLASSICAL TURKEY  
SICILY  
THE WESTERN BALKANS  
ART IN TEXAS  
PALERMO REVEALED  
JORDAN REVISITED  
ETHIOPIA  
BENGAL BY RIVER  
CONNOISSEUR'S NEW YORK  
EL GRECO 1614

Contact us:  
+44 (0)20 8742 3355  
[www.martinrandall.com](http://www.martinrandall.com)



# Book reviews

All books are Oxford-related; their subject matter is the University or city, and/or the author is a current or former student or academic



## Silence: A Christian History

By **Diarmaid MacCulloch** (reviewed by Richard English)  
Allen Lane, 9781846144264, £20

Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of the History of the Church at Oxford University, is not only the author of justly celebrated specialist academic works, but also now a public historian of the highest quality. His compelling new book, *Silence: A Christian History*, emerged from his delivery of the prestigious Gifford Lectures in Edinburgh, and it offers a subtly developed series of arguments about its intriguing theme.

What is not said can, of course, be every bit as important to the historian as what has actually been uttered. With impressive erudition and originality, MacCulloch develops this idea very powerfully indeed in this elegantly written and very entertaining book. As he points out, “Christianity is a religion of historical events,” and (as with his magisterial *History of Christianity*, published in 2009) his own historical and geographical range in this new book is remarkably impressive. The reader is led on a long and vivid journey: from the Bible’s depiction of various kinds of relationship with God, through differing versions of monastic silence and an authoritative discussion of the often noisy 16th-century Reformation, and on to some much more recent controversies and future possibilities.

There is rich analysis of theological debate and church history, as well as the unveiling of some arresting historical stories (as in the case of the fourth/fifth-century hermit Agathon,

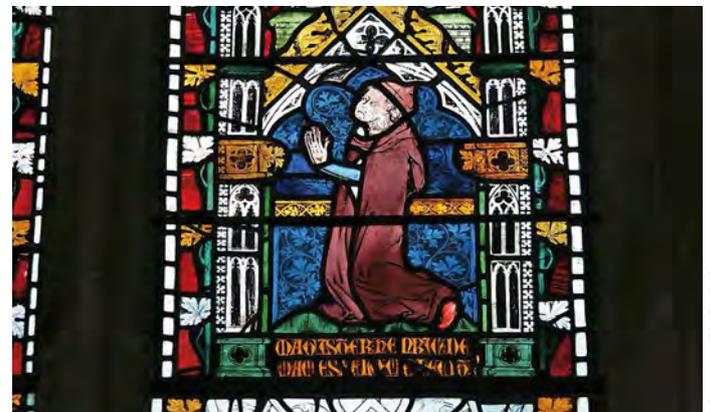
who was “reputed to have spent three years with a stone in his mouth to encourage him in his practice of refraining from speech”).

MacCulloch presents history as “a subversive discipline”, and his book certainly does not avoid engagement with the more embarrassing silences to be detected in Christian history. There is an admirably lucid denunciation of the too-lengthy ecclesiastical silence within the Catholic Church regarding the atrocity of clerical child abuse; there is also stark commentary on various Churches’ shameful silences regarding the Nazi Holocaust of the Jews, and also the institution of slavery.

The book is thoughtful in its treatment of the homosexual sub-culture within High-Church Anglicanism (though it mischievously cites my own favourite quotation from Evelyn Waugh, in which an Oxford undergraduate is advised, in *Brideshead Revisited*, “Beware of the Anglo-Catholics – they’re all sodomites with unpleasant accents”). Again and again, the author demonstrates a capacity for valuably addressing extra-Christian themes and developments, as seen through the sharply-focusing lens of consideration of Christianity itself.

Necessarily, the book considers much noise as well as silence. There are engaging passages about, for example, Choral Evensong, and what the author dislikes in some Mozart. There is adumbration of some delightful squabbles and bickering – accounts which manage to leave one simultaneously entertained, informed and still rather sympathetic to many of the flawed but intense adversaries being depicted in the book’s pages.

It is sometimes claimed that too many historians fail to engage effectively with wider-reading publics; it is also the case that much public discussion of religion lacks historical depth and contextual explanation. This splendid new book provides evidence that such problems can be overcome. It is a work built on strong scholarship, has been written accessibly and very wittily, and it treats its complex and Protean subject with due respect for contextual interpretation. ☺

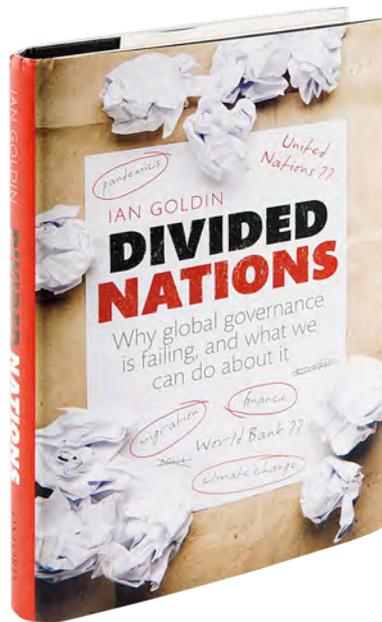


A scholar from the eastern arm of Merton chapel. Merton’s stained glass is the subject of a two-volume study by Tim Ayers (2012).

‘Again and again, the author demonstrates a capacity for valuably addressing extra-Christian themes’

Richard English (*Keble*, 1982) is Wardlaw Professor of Politics at the University of St Andrews. His most recent book, *Modern War: A Very Short Introduction*, is published by Oxford University Press.

We welcome review suggestions from authors and publishers. Please send brief details to the Editor at [oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk)



## Divided Nations: Why Global Governance is Failing, and What We Can Do About It

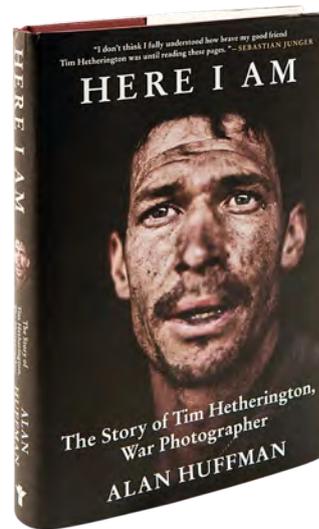
By Ian Goldin

OUP, 9780199693900, £12.99

“The underbelly of globalisation is systemic risk,” says Goldin. Citing a beautiful passage by Singaporean academic and former diplomat Kishore Mahbubani, we are all ushered into a twenty-first century more akin to a single vessel adrift on the high seas ‘without a captain or a crew’, in which all the nation states inhabit adjacent cabins, compared to a post-war settlement in which nations were like separate ships and the rules of cooperation merely ensured that they didn’t collide.

Professor Goldin directs the Oxford Martin School and was formerly Vice President and Director of Policy at the World Bank, and as he sees it there are five particular worries to concern planet Earth and its seven billion inhabitants: financial crisis, pandemics, cyber attack, migration and climate change. He argues persuasively that the organisations born of previous, last-century crises (UN, WHO, IMF, WTO) have experienced mushrooming mandates and are increasingly unfit for purpose. To cite just two obvious examples, the Kyoto Protocol on climate change has failed utterly because there was no mechanism for enforcing what was agreed to. Separately, trade reform associated with Doha in 2001 has also failed. These and other examples suggest the need for root and branch global governance reform.

The book is better at distilling problems than prescribing solutions, but that appears to be where the debate is right now. One of the thorniest problems concerns the opposing needs of legitimacy and efficacy, leading Goldin to compare nostalgia for dinner table negotiation at the G8 and much looser, larger multilateral formulations now emerging (the G20 and friends). Right at the end, we are presented with a five-stage framework for global action in the face of rampant globalisation, technological progress and population and economic growth: Subsidiarity; Selective inclusion; Variable geometry; Legitimacy and Enforceability. There isn’t room here to explain in detail what these apparently dry terms mean, still less where they might (or more likely might not) lead to, and it is a shame that the book so often reads like a frustrated seminar in which the answers are on the table but don’t get enacted. But it is important. ☺



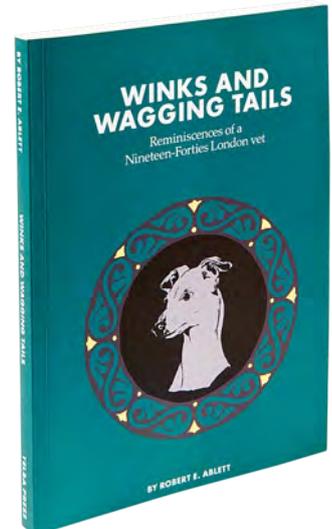
## Here I Am: The Story of Tim Hetherington, War Photographer

By Alan Huffman

Grove Press  
9781611856095, £12.99

Huffman has created a prose equivalent of the Academy Award-nominated documentary that aired earlier this year, *Restrepo*, in which we enter the harrowing, thrilling, and ultimately tragic world of the war photographer, in this case Tim Hetherington (LMH, 1989; killed in Libya in 2011).

The book is hugely readable, being a first-class instance of accurate reportage but told with vigour and pace. You slice through it. When reaching the colour plates, you stop in your tracks as you start to encounter both the subject of the book and the subjects of the subject: mostly young soldiers on all sides of several different conflicts and the image from Afghanistan that was named the World Press Photo of the Year, securing Hetherington’s place at the very top of his chosen profession. His legacy is one that reverberates unabatedly. ☺



## Winks and Wagging Tails

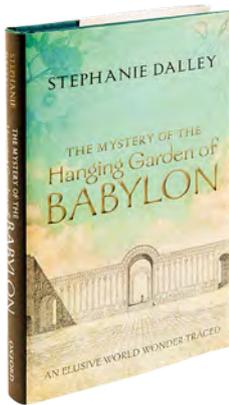
By Robert E Ablett

Telba Press  
9780955509810, £3.29 (Kindle)

A humorous memoir of a London vet who qualified in 1947 and subsequently became a lawyer and businessman, eventually reading theology at Oxford (Harris Manchester, 1997) aged 74, at the time the oldest known matriculant! In equal parts an unexpected peek into the colourful life of post-war London pet owners and a shrewd insight into the professional life of a vet (almost wholly recognisable to vets today, one suspects), we are taken on a great tour agreeably fuelled by personalities and anecdotes. “Gentlemen,” said his professor before the final veterinary exams, “never forget that 90 per cent of your cases recover in spite of your treatment.” Ablett describes the London carthorse as a “delightful animal, docile, unflappable and sometimes very stubborn, but in a friendly way”. That aspect of London is gone forever, but wonderfully evoked here, alongside so much else. ☺



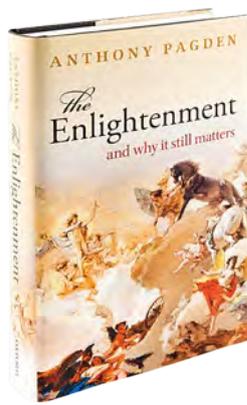
For our new ‘book of the week’ feature, visit [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/bookoftheweek](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/bookoftheweek)



**The Mystery of The Hanging Gardens of Babylon**

By Stephanie Dalley  
OUP  
9780199662265, £25

The location of this leafy Seventh Wonder has long been disputed; Dr Dalley presents meticulous, fascinating evidence for its siting in Assyria. History books will be rewritten. ☺



**The Enlightenment and Why it Still Matters**

By Anthony Pagden  
OUP  
978-0199660933, £20

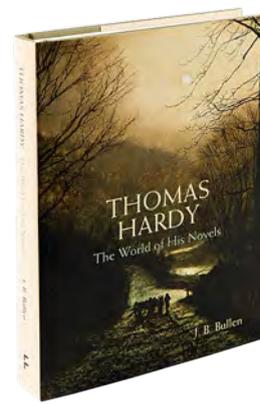
A sensationally good piece of cultural and intellectual history reminds us how the 'Western' view of the world came into existence and why it's worth defending. It does still matter... ☺



**Kierkegaard: Exposition & Critique**

By Daphne Hampson  
OUP  
9780199673230, £25

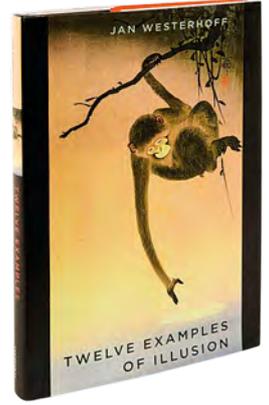
To be read after (or before?) Pagden for a maximal sense of personal conflict, for placed in his Lutheran context (instead of air-lifted up into 'philosophy') the Dane is beguiling once more. ☺



**Thomas Hardy: The World of His Novels**

By JB Bullen  
Frances Lincoln  
9780711232754, £20

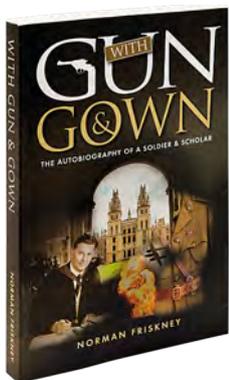
So crisply printed and illustrated is this compact volume that Kindle stumbles backwards. The master of Hardy's Wessex takes us deep into the half-imagined world, and it is wonderful. ☺



**Twelve Examples of Illusion**

By Jan Westerhoff  
OUP  
9780195387353, £18.99

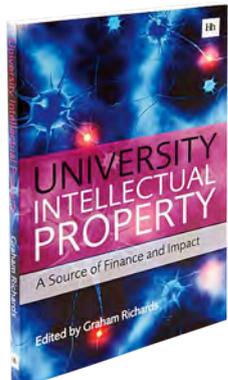
Utilises a plethora of insights from modern science, philosophy, optics, artificial intelligence, geometry, economics and literary theory, to bring alive much older notions of illusion in Tibetan theology. ☺



**With Gun and Gown**

By Norman Friskney  
Memoirs Publishing  
9781861510099, £12.99

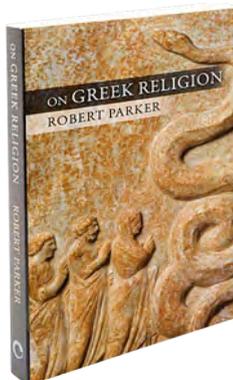
Friskney recounts his World War Two days before regaling us with tales from his time at Oxford and his later life as a school headmaster. The book suffers from a few punctuation issues but fascinating and often humorous reminiscences soar above them. ☺



**University Intellectual Property**

Edited by Graham Richards  
Harriman House  
9780857192325, £30

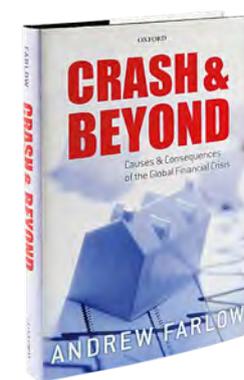
A former head of Oxford chemistry, Richards deals directly with the issues around commercialising publicly funded research. Brilliantly lucid, it deserves a very wide audience. ☺



**On Greek Religion**

By Robert Parker  
Cornell University Press,  
9780801477355, £29.95

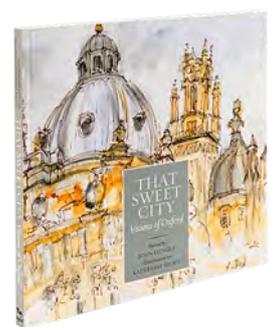
Oxford's Wykeham Professor of Ancient History considers, in seven thematic chapters, the notoriously difficult subject of Greek religion. Ranging across the archaic, classical, and Hellenistic periods, he also suggests a new theoretical approach to the subject. ☺



**Crash & Beyond: Causes and Consequences of the Global Financial Crisis**

By Andrew Farlow  
OUP  
9780199578016, £25

Another Oxford name to watch, not least because Farlow had already called attention to the crash before it happened. A lively narrative, scholarly but with lay appeal, too. ☺



**That Sweet City: Visions of Oxford**

By John Elinger and Katherine Shock  
Signal Books Ltd  
9781908493781, £12.99

An eclectic collaboration between a sometime Warden of Keble College and an Oxford-based painter results in a subtle, gently revelatory series of walks, expressed through poetry and painting. Very fine. ☺



# TIME FOR A CHANGE

**Judith Keeling** extolls the virtues of the new Harris Manchester clock tower – and of time itself

**A** graceful new Oxford landmark will join Great Tom and other ancient University bells when they chime to celebrate Christmas this year. The recently completed clock tower at Harris Manchester College will house a new bell, chiming the hour on a deep note of D-sharp.

“There is a wonderful sense of heritage in the bell chimes of Oxford,” says the college’s Principal, Rev Dr Ralph Waller. “Today’s students have their day punctuated by the same bells that Robert Boyle heard when he was working to discover the laws of physics in the laboratory or that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, listened to as he was preparing his sermons at Lincoln College. When listening to the bells of Oxford one gets a sense of both time and eternity – and now a new voice is being added to the choir in the form of our own clock tower bell.”

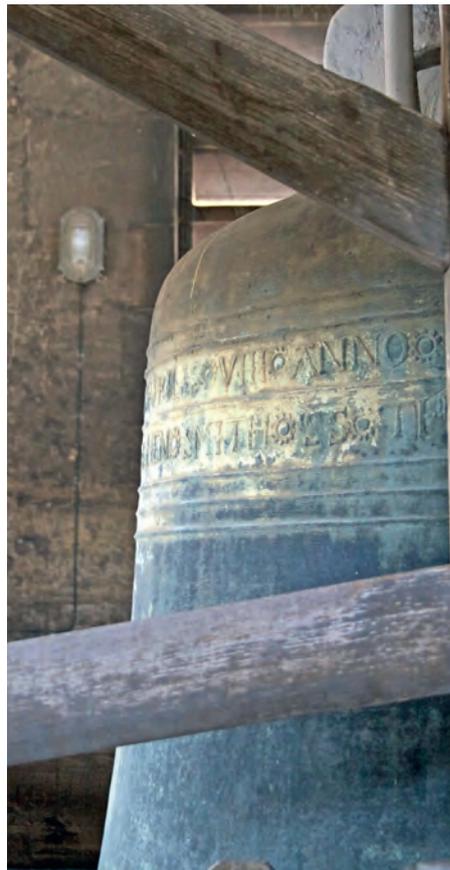
The clock tower at Harris Manchester bears the inscription: “It’s later than you think. But it’s never too late.” This is a borrowed quotation from a Dorothy Sayers novel and a neat nod to the college’s role in educating only mature students. The bell’s chimes also reflect this ‘It’s later than you think’ theme, as they have been deliberately set to ring out at two minutes past the hour. This may seem individual to say the least,



(Above) Artist's impression of the new clock tower and student rooms at Harris Manchester College, designed by Yiangou Architects. (Above right) Great Tom, the six ton bell that tolls over Oxford

but in fact the Harris Manchester clock fits comfortably into Oxford's idiosyncratic history of timekeeping. Great Tom, the Christ Church bell, famously rings out the hours, but the College timetable runs five minutes behind the clock, a tradition originating from the fact that Oxford is five minutes behind the Greenwich Meridian according to the position of the sun, explains Dr Eric Eve, Keeper of the Rolls and a theology tutor at Harris Manchester. "So the sun is actually directly overhead at noon in Oxford five minutes later than in Greenwich," he says, adding that it was not until the advent of the railways that timekeeping was standardised across the UK.

"All time was local, and was governed by the position of the sun overhead," agrees



Dr Stephen Johnston, acting director of the Museum of the History of Science. Dr Johnston adds that early medieval clocks did not have a dial or show the time. "They simply relied on the drone of a bell to order people's daily lives and tell them when to work or pray or whatever."

But as the mechanisms were not very sophisticated, people also needed to use sundials to check the time and reset the clocks when necessary. After the invention of pendulum clocks in the seventeenth century, however, clocks became much more accurate.

Another Oxford timekeeping oddity is that Oxford University lectures generally start five minutes later than scheduled and end five minutes early – though this is for practical reasons, rather than tradition, enabling students to get from one to another in sufficient time.

"Time management is one of the keys to success for students at Oxford," says Dr Waller. "Those who do well here are generally those who work efficiently and use their time to good effect. Hopefully our new clock will help to push them in the right direction!"

Indeed, the Harris Manchester clock will only strike between 8am and 8pm. But timekeeping is only one function of the striking new £1.5 million tower, which will also provide extra student

## 'The Harris Manchester clock fits comfortably into Oxford's idiosyncratic history of timekeeping'

accommodation and studies for tutors. The project began because the college needed to repair the side of a building that was listing dangerously into Mansfield Road, but it blossomed into the clock tower after being generously funded by overseas benefactors, who are Foundation Fellows and Regents of the college. "Our benefactors are two sisters from Thailand," says Dr Waller, "Maevadi Navapan [nee Karnchanachari] and Dr. Karnitha Karnchanachari, who had studied in England, and whose father believed English education was very important. They have very generously gifted the college by contributing for the entire project and beyond, in loving memory of and gratitude to their parents, and as part of the Anglo-Thai bilateral relationship entering fifth-century celebration. They were happy to remain anonymous but we have suggested we name the tower The Siew-Sngiem Tower, and name the hall The Siew-Sngiem Hall after their parents."

The benefactors' involvement is also acknowledged in the keystone to the gateway arch that bears the emblem of an Asian elephant. The gateway is named in honour of Dr Sukum Navapan. On top of the building, a weather vane shows a member of the college peddling a bicycle – a reference to the college's endowed free bicycle scheme for all its employees.

"The building has a certain folly-like quality. I wanted to do something reverential and appropriate," says architect Ross Sharpe, of Yiangou Architects, responsible for the design of the building. "The clock tower is a combination of classical and exotic, and yet it also reflects something of the flamboyance of Oxford's unique architecture."

His brief for the college was to design a "jewel-like building" which would fit in with the existing architectural tradition of Oxford, yet also be a distinctive landmark. It surely won't be long before Oxford's army of tour guides adds Mansfield Road's newest building to their city itineraries. ☺

*Judith Keeling contributes to a wide range of national newspapers and magazines. She is editor of Oxfordpeople, an interactive community website.*

# Photography competition winners 2012-13

*The theme for this year's competition was 'extreme weather'*



The four judges noted the overall creativity displayed in this year's entries, and also the high number of cameraphone shots, perhaps because of the theme of 'extreme weather' and the need for spontaneous capture! However, this led to some technical issues and some pictures were marked down accordingly, leading to a smaller shortlist of potential winners than in previous photo competitions.

**The winners are:**

**1st** *Storm Tide, Sanday, Orkney*  
Roderick Thorne  
(Christ Church, 1974)

**2nd** *Natural Electricity*  
Afshin Ahmadian  
(Linacre, 2009)

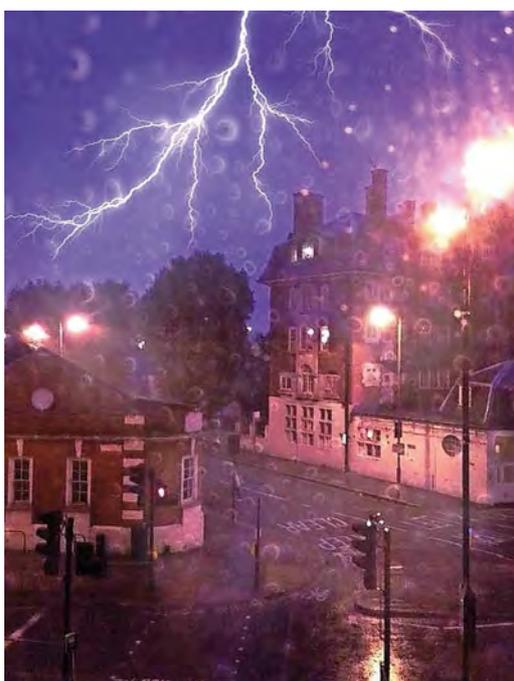
**3rd** *Near Charlbury, January 2013*  
John Rux-Burton  
(Lincoln, 1992)

**The prizes are:**

**1st** Oxford University Camera bag made from full-grain caramel leather with vintage design and snug protective fitted insert. Value £180.

**2nd** Hine Antique XO Premier Cru, a blend of over 40 different cognacs, aged for over a decade. Donated by Maison Hine. Value £129.

**3rd** Glenfarclas 105 Cask Strength. A knock-out malt whisky donated by Glenfarclas, Speyside. Value £40.



(Top) *Storm Tide, Sanday, Orkney*  
(Left) *Natural Electricity*  
(Above) *Near Charlbury, January 2013*

→ To see a gallery of photographs, visit [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/photo](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/photo)

**VJV  
PRICE  
GUARANTEE**

# VOYAGES JULES VERNE

## discovering a World of Wonders . . .

Travelling with Voyages Jules Verne, with over 30 years of experience, opens the door to a World of Wonders, rich in history, culture and natural beauty. Our tours of limited-sized groups span the globe following carefully devised itineraries by air, road, river and rail that capture the true essence of your destination.



### Venice from the Water

**4 nights full board from £695**

A leisurely stay on the MS Michelangelo close to St. Mark's Square, with sailings in the Lagoon and to Chioggia. Optional visits to the Doges' Palace and Padua. Drinks with meals included. No Single Supplement (limited dates/availability).



### Treasures of Indochina

**13 nights from £1995**

Journey through Indochina's most fascinating destinations, steeped in religious traditions and ancient cultures. Visit Ho Chi Minh City, the fabled temples of Angkor, serene Luang Prabang, Ha Long Bay and Vietnam's capital, Hanoi. VJV Special Events included.



### 'Ice' Land of the Northern Lights

**3/4 nights from £885/£985**

Iceland, on the edge of the Arctic Circle, is well-placed to observe this literal highlight. Staying in Reykjavik and in the Selfoss area, enjoy a Golden Circle tour and visit Vik and the 'the volcano area', Gullfoss, Thingvellir National Park and the Blue Lagoon.



### Splendours of Southern India

**13 nights from £1795**

A scenic tour of southern India's rich history, varied culture and diverse landscapes. Travel from eastern Chennai across the state of Tamil Nadu, to Periyar National Park, the inland waterways of Kerala and the charming city of Cochin. Extension available.



### Grand Tour of South America

**16 nights from £3695**

Fly high into the Andes to Cuzco, travel by train to the majestic peak of Machu Picchu, sail by catamaran to the Island of the Sun and drive across Bolivia to La Paz. Explore Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro, visiting Iguaçu Falls and Christ the Redeemer.



### Classical Tour of Albania

**7 nights from £795**

Discover a fascinating country protected by vast mountains and rich in biological diversity, revealing Ottoman fortresses, prehistoric dwellings and ancient citadels. Visit Apollonia, Saranda, Durres, Kruja, Gjirokastra, Berat, Tirana and Butrint.

For more information on these and other arrangements, please call or visit our award-winning website

**0845 166 7376 | 020 7616 1000** quoting OXTO

**www.vjv.com/oxford**



Sales & Information: 8am-8pm weekdays; 9am-5pm Saturdays; 10am-4pm Sundays & bank holidays

The Kuoni Travel Ltd. Group





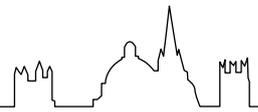
# Have you ever had anything you've written published?

If you've written a book or had an article published, the Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS) could be holding money owed to you. ALCS collects secondary royalties earned from a number of sources including the photocopying and scanning of books.

Unlock more information about how you could benefit by visiting [www.alcs.co.uk](http://www.alcs.co.uk)

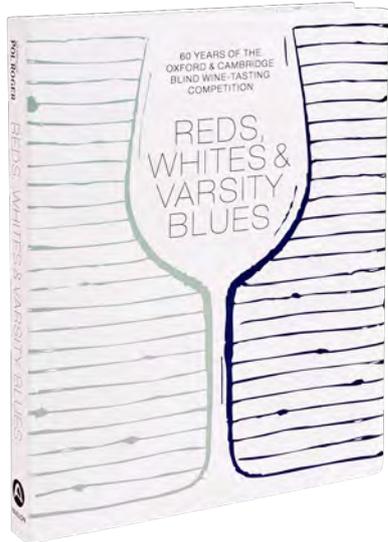
protecting  
and promoting  
authors' rights

# ALCS



# Oxford Today

## 60 Years of varsity wine tasting



### Reds, Whites & Varsity Blues: 60 Years of the Oxford & Cambridge Blind Wine-tasting Competition

Ed Jennifer Segal Pavilion, ISBN 9781909108288, £35.00  
[www.polroger.co.uk/the-varsity-blind-wine-tasting-book/](http://www.polroger.co.uk/the-varsity-blind-wine-tasting-book/)

It might not be a conventional 'sport' and doesn't command an official blue, yet the annual varsity blind wine-tasting match, under the careful patronage of Pol Roger UK since 1992, is now the most serious competition of its kind in the world. Taking part is the wine equivalent of being offered a prize fellowship at All Souls, and the contest has produced an extraordinary crop of participants, as this amazing volume makes emphatically clear.

Comprising an immense scrapbook of photos and individual recollections, arranged decadal, Robert M Parker Jr kicks off the action with a tribute to the late, great Harry Waugh (1904–2001), the man who came to embody wine merchants John Harvey & Sons of Bristol, and thereby visit the majority of Oxbridge colleges... to whom they sold port and sherry. It was via this connection that Waugh founded the varsity match in 1953. It is to his eternal credit that he elevated wine-tasting to the level of the blindfold. He noted in his diary, "It is so easy to pronounce with the labels in full view, but impossible to overcome prejudice." He also eschewed the daft vocabulary of today's tasting notes. "It's all about three," he'd note, "good body, good structure, good fruit."

Occasionally a memoir betrays a slight shakiness of hand, but the inclusiveness of the editorial approach has netted numerous brilliant dons shown in a fresh light (Jack Plumb, Denis Mack Smith). It gets better as women were admitted, and by the end globalisation has transformed the contest and the participants. ☺

➔ To win a free copy of the book, answer a tie-breaker at:  
[www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/varsitywine](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/varsitywine)

## EXCLUSIVE

# Oxford Today Wine offer



We've simplified the offer and reduced the minimum quantity qualifying for free shipping in the mainland UK to just six bottles, which could be a mixed half-case of three reds and three whites. We recommend the full tasting notes on the *Oxford Today* website (see below).

The infinitely supple, right-bank blend of the Moueix claret exemplifies the extraordinary vintage of 2010, while the white is a whole story unto itself, an exceptional burgundy, the result of 80 year-old, organically farmed Puligny-Montrachet vines planted in gravel. Both wines have been reduced in price.



Company Reserve Claret, J-P Moueix exclusive to Corney and Barrow (2010)  
**£9.99 per bottle** (normally £11.99)

Bourgogne Aligoté Olivier Leflaive 2011  
**£9.99 per bottle** (normally £11.99)

**3 + 3 Mixed case (6 x 75cl) for £59.94**  
**or (12 x 75cl) case price £119.88**

To order contact  
[guy.seddon@corneyandbarrow.com](mailto:guy.seddon@corneyandbarrow.com)  
**020 7265 2438**



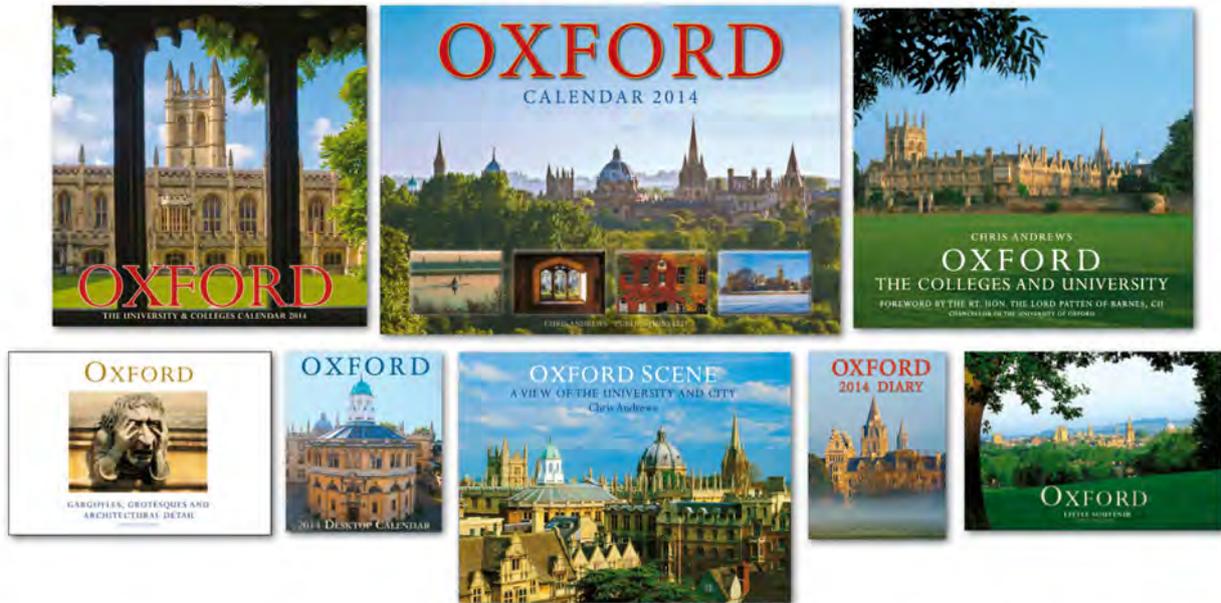
➔ For full tasting notes on these wines visit:  
[www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/wine](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/wine)

# Chris Andrews Publications

Evocative publications, a reminder of your time at Oxford  
Do please visit our web site to see the latest products

Commissions undertaken. Accolades include the Spear's award for outstanding book production. Finished works from £5 to £2,500

## OUR OXFORD PUBLICATIONS:



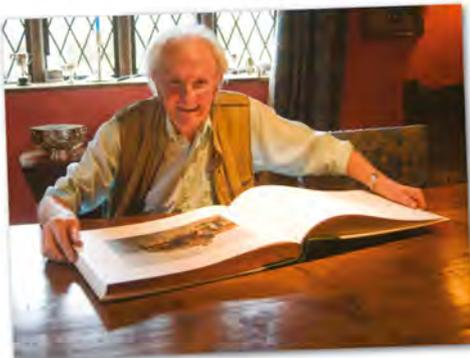
IN ASSOCIATION WITH GATEWAY PUBLISHING LTD, SARK:

Fine books published to archive standards in Limited Editions



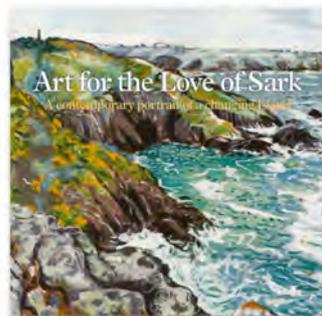
### THE DAVID SHEPHERD ARCHIVE COLLECTION

Over 120 pictures selected by David from his life's work. Fine reproductions onto archive paper and hand bound in English vellum and leather with 22ct Gold decoration. A Limited Edition Book of only 1,000 copies. Includes full size framing print and film.



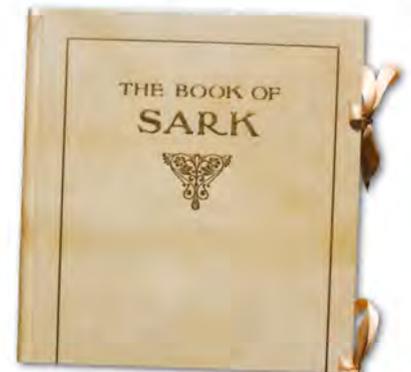
### ART FOR THE LOVE OF SARK

Includes over 250 fine pictures selected from the original work of twenty different internationally known wildlife artists and sculptors showing the life, the people, the land and the sea. Standard version or hand bound Limited Edition (100 copies) with exclusive framing prints



### THE CENTENARY BOOK OF SARK

A Centenary edition of the 1908 classic. Republished using the original 100 year-old copper half-tone printing plates for the colour illustrations. Text printed letterpress on archive quality material throughout. Edition 500. Full vellum or cloth bound, includes commentary.



Contact Chris or Annabel for free catalogue and DVD.

Oxford (01865) 723404 Email: [enquiries@cap-ox.com](mailto:enquiries@cap-ox.com) Web: [www.cap-ox.co.uk](http://www.cap-ox.co.uk)

Post Chris Andrews Publications Limited, 15 Curtis Yard, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford, OX2 0LX

# Miscellany

Classified advertisements & services



To advertise call Steve Hulbert 01225 442244 (ext 5205)  
or email [Steve.Hulbert@futurenet.com](mailto:Steve.Hulbert@futurenet.com)

## Intelligent dating

For graduates of all years.  
Where minds matter.

[www.ivoryTowers.net](http://www.ivoryTowers.net)

bluesmatch

## Dating for Oxbridge and the Ivy League

"...on my third BM date, I met someone with whom I clicked almost immediately. We've been seeing each other ever since... thank you for playing your part in bringing us together!"

**BluesMatch.com**

Established in 2001 • Hundreds of friendships, relationships and marriages formed  
Rated in the top five dating sites by Daily Telegraph • Over 3,700 current members

### ARTISTS' OXFORD

Over the past twenty years, Contemporary Watercolours has commissioned members of the Royal Watercolour Society to produce over eighty paintings of Oxford Colleges. From these we have produced a portfolio of limited edition (350/500) prints. Artists include Ken Howard R.A., R.W.S., John Doyle P.P.R.W.S., Dennis Flanders R.W.S., Jane Carpanini and Dennis Roxby Bott R.W.S.

Image size is 18" x 12" ( approx.) and price is £99 inc. P&P in the UK, for overseas delivery please add £15.

Ken Howard



Exeter - Broad Street

Dennis Flanders



Hertford - OB Quad

John Doyle



Queen's - Library

Ken Howard



Jesus - Front Quad

Cliff Boyly



Sheldonian - Degree Ceremony

Jane Carpanini



Univ - Radcliffe Quad

For a full range of Oxford, Cambridge & Schools prints visit our website

[www.contemporarywatercolours.co.uk](http://www.contemporarywatercolours.co.uk)

You can order securely online or alternatively telephone 01474 535922

57 Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent. DA12 1BB

## Don't get mad. Get ARCHIE

Isn't it annoying when lever arch files go wrong? When pages catch and come out of the gaps in the arcs, wasting your time?

ARCHIE is designed:

- to bridge the gap and align the arcs
- to save hassle, expense and waste

Made from steel in England. Reusable.

Only £5 for a pack of 10.

Use the code "archie1013" for 10% off 5 packs or more.



Buy Archies now at [www.archielondon.com](http://www.archielondon.com)

If you would like to reach our exclusive alumni audience of 170,000, please don't hesitate to call or email

Steve Hulbert

Telephone: 01225 442244

Email: [steve.hulbert@futurenet.com](mailto:steve.hulbert@futurenet.com)



## BOOKS FOR SALE

### BAWA SINGH'S GARDEN

A Poem 2646 Lines Long. By Dr. Gurdev Boparai. An e-Book at Amazon/Kindle for \$5US

### DAHAB / RED SEA

**CHIC** newly-built apartment close to sea & Assalah village. Sleeps 5. Excellent diving, trips to Mount Sinai & desert safaris. From £140 per week. Call 07740 429931

## EVENTS

### C.S. LEWIS IN POETS' CORNER

Participate in the Westminster Abbey memorial project, November 2013. Visit [www.lewisinpoetscorner.com](http://www.lewisinpoetscorner.com)

### EXERCISE INJURY & NUTRITION

**CREDIBLY** Safe Exercise/Injury Expert. Biomechanist. 46 years experience. MSc. Biomechanics. BSc. (Hons 1st) Nutrition. [www.alangordon-health.co.uk](http://www.alangordon-health.co.uk)

## FRANCE

**DORDOGNE** Charming farmhouse and converted barn. Lovely views, large grounds, complete privacy, pool. Sleeps 12/5. Tel. 01865 862519 or email [linda.flores@orinst.ox.ac.uk](mailto:linda.flores@orinst.ox.ac.uk); [www.lavaure.co.uk](http://www.lavaure.co.uk)

**HOTELS** The best independent guide to charming, unpretentious hotels in Paris, Provence and the most scenic regions. [www.memorablehotels.co.uk](http://www.memorablehotels.co.uk)

**NICE** Overlooking rooftops of the old town. Quiet, sunny 2 room balcony flat. Lift. Sleeps 2/3. £450pw. Tel 020 7720 7519 or 01736 762013.

### PROVENCE ENTRECASTEAUX

Charming converted Silkworm House in peaceful valley. No pool, but lovely river. Sleeps 6. £120 (long winter lets) – £650pw. [djbadger@ntworld.com](mailto:djbadger@ntworld.com)

### PROVENCE/LUBERON

Exceptional holiday properties to rent in Provence and abroad. Call "UN MAS EN PROVENCE" Real Estate + 33(0)490767500 or visit [www.unmasenprovence.com](http://www.unmasenprovence.com)

### PROVENCE, VAISON LA ROMAINE

Delightful old cottage amongst

vineyards. Lovely views, garden, private pool, barbeque and terraces. Sleeps 4. See [www.dubois.me.uk](http://www.dubois.me.uk) or call 01628 521002

**PYRENEES** Comfortable 4 bed /2 bath classic house on edge of Nay, 30 min from Pau or Lourdes. 4 star official rating; sleeps eight. Large pool; BBQ; all mod cons. [www.maisonberchon.com](http://www.maisonberchon.com)

**SECLUDED**, staffed Chateau - Lott Valley. [www.chateaujoncasses.com](http://www.chateaujoncasses.com)

### TARN-ET-GARONNE

Comfortable, fully modernised farmhouse, sleeps 6-10 (3 bath/shower rooms). Pool, large gardens, views. Wonderful area: medieval villages, outdoor activities, masses to explore. Visit [www.landouhautfarmhouse.com](http://www.landouhautfarmhouse.com) or email [richard.smyth@live.co.uk](mailto:richard.smyth@live.co.uk).

## ITALY

**TUSCANY/UMBRIA** Luxury suite in medieval townhouse. Stunning location, views, antiques. [www.anghiariapartment.com](http://www.anghiariapartment.com).

**UMBRIA/TUSCANY** Beautiful farmhouse with tennis court and pool, in magnificent hillside location near Monterchi. Sleeps 12 (6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms). Call 01732 762013 or visit [www.belvederediprato.com](http://www.belvederediprato.com)

## PERSONAL

### STUNNING, SCIENTIST

This rather special woman is a tall, slim brunette 54. She is exceptionally bright, modest and understated. An academic who is warm and sociable and enjoys the company of others. She is a keen traveller, photographer and fundraiser. She is naturally beautiful but has little interest in her looks and is more interested in getting out there in the world and living rather than fussing about hair/clothes make up. Her friends are from different backgrounds, ages and religions and she has a huge capacity for spontaneous fun and living for now. She is looking for a committed loving relationship with an interesting, sociable, compassionate man. Oxford/London. For a complimentary introduction please contact Carpe Diem introduction 020 313 0918 [sarah@carpediemintros.com](mailto:sarah@carpediemintros.com)

## www.carpediemintros.com SPECIALITY HOLIDAYS

### AN AFRICAN SAFARI

The holiday experience of a lifetime: game drives, walking safaris, local culture, Victoria Falls. Call 0121 472 1541 or visit [www.AfricaAway.co.uk](http://www.AfricaAway.co.uk)

### IRELAND - A COUNTRY HOUSE WRITERS' WEEKEND

Creative writing course with an elegant, houseparty atmosphere. Excellent tuition from authors and publishers. See [www.writersweekend.net](http://www.writersweekend.net) or call Yasmin (St.Anne's) on 0035387 4166316

### WALKING IN LESSER-KNOWN EUROPE

Choose from 18 self-guided routes at [www.onfootholidays.co.uk](http://www.onfootholidays.co.uk) or talk to a knowledgeable specialist on +

+44 (0)1722 322652.  
**TO LET**

**RESIDENTIAL** and offices to rent on private country estate near M4 and M25. [rachelcunninghamday@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rachelcunninghamday@yahoo.co.uk)

## TURKEY

**AEGEAN TURKEY - NEAR EPHEBUS/PRIENE** - boutique hotel in traditional village; courtyards, pool, garden; extensive library of archaeology/history; Free WiFi. [www.musehouse.com](http://www.musehouse.com)

## WALES

**PEMBROKESHIRE FARMHOUSE** Tastefully renovated, sleeps seven, two en-suite bedrooms, secluded grounds. Coastal path twenty minutes walk. Telephone 0161 4428422.

Brighten your spirits with my cheerful green-eyed beauty. In her young, 40's, successful, delightful books man 40's-50's to live, laughter, and romance. Reply Please! Signature! began! International! fun!



## BOOKFINDING SERVICE

All subjects. Also journal articles, bibliographic research, CDs & DVDs. Books are willingly mailed overseas. Visa, MasterCard and American Express welcome.

### Barlow Moor Books

29 Churchwood Road, Manchester M20 6TZ  
Tel: (0161) 434 5073 Fax: (0161) 448 2491  
email: [books@barlowmoorbooks.co.uk](mailto:books@barlowmoorbooks.co.uk)

## Our House in Tuscany

Perched on a vine and olive clad hillside near Lucca. Less than an hour from Pisa and Florence. Peace, walks, breathtaking views and food/wine. Enjoy being in a real Italian hamlet. To let when we're not there. Sleeps 4/5. £590 a week. Or ask us about local friends' houses which may be available. Similar to ours, or larger or smaller. Some with pool. Tel 020 7602 3143 or 0039 0583 835820 Mike Wilson (Christ Church, Oxford) and Jessica Corsi (St John's, Cambridge) Email: [to-mike@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:to-mike@hotmail.co.uk) Web: [www.tuscanycastello.com](http://www.tuscanycastello.com)

## SIMPLY BHUTAN

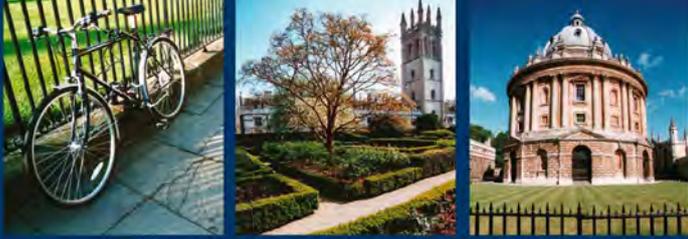
Culture | Festivals | Trekking | Nature | Adventure



Taktsang - The Tiger's Nest, Paro

Exclusive & tailor-made holidays in the magical Kingdom of Bhutan  
[www.simplybhutan.com](http://www.simplybhutan.com) | Karma Choden | [bhutan@simplybhutan.com](mailto:bhutan@simplybhutan.com) | +44 (0) 796 898 3926

\*Special offers for Oxford Alumni and early bookings for Summer and Autumn 2013



# LOOKING TO INVEST IN BUY-TO-LET PROPERTY?

For gross annual yields of 5% plus then look no further than the Oxford property market.

scottfraser, Oxford's leading property investment consultancy, specialises in the purchase of investment property and in residential lettings and management in the UK's strongest letting market.

We offer expert advice on:

- Investment Property Search
- Refurbishment & Furnishing
- Residential Lettings & Management
- Asset Management
- Residential Sales
- Private Finance

To enable you to own a quality property in the heart of Oxford, whether for investment or occupation, we provide a complete service.

For your **FREE** consultation, call us today on 01865 760055, visit [scottfraser.co.uk](http://scottfraser.co.uk) or come and see us at 10 Lime Tree Mews, 2 Lime Walk, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7DZ



Andrew Greenwood  
Group MD



Head Office, Investments  
& Property Management

Many investors come to us because of our expertise in managing their whole journey. Here is just one example of a scottfraser investor story...

In 1999, a High Street estate agent in Oxford was approached by John and Sylvia Griffiths, who wished to build up a significant portfolio of residential property in the city. Somewhat daunted by the task, the agent recommended that they speak to scottfraser.

For John and Sylvia, it was a case of meeting the right person at the right time. On their first meeting with Andrew Greenwood, they viewed an apartment and, deciding it was the right investment for them, made an offer then and there. Thus the journey began.

Building a strong relationship of trust over the coming months, we sourced a further four flats and a pair of brand new houses and advised on what would be necessary to prepare all the properties for the lettings market. We project-managed the refurbishments, some of which included significant works such as replacement kitchens and bathrooms, as well as creating and sourcing full furnishing packages.

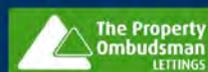
In 2000, an opportunity arose to acquire a site with potential for residential development. Guided by our's knowledge and expertise they went on to build of a small block of five flats. These were then sold off-plan to scottfraser clients, and all are still let and managed by scottfraser today.

Such was the success of this venture, John and Sylvia went on to build another development, this time of fourteen flats in the heart of Headington. They cherry-picked their favourite, which they retained and the remainder were again sold to scottfraser acquisition clients, having been built with the buy-to-let market in mind.

Although John and Sylvia were living in the UK, they did not want to be responsible for looking after their properties, and have always retained scottfraser to manage their whole portfolio, including dealing with service charges and management of the two blocks of flats.

In 2008, following the loss of her husband, Sylvia returned to live in her home country of Switzerland. Once settled, she made the decision to dispose of all her properties. This has been a gradual process, with some flats being passed on through our acquisition department, and others sold to owner-occupiers by our own sales department. Using specialist solicitors and our network of contacts, scottfraser have also been able to guide Sylvia through the sale of the freeholds of both developments.

The Griffiths embody the very essence of scottfraser; a long-term relationship built on absolute trust. *"I can look back and say that it was a real success story. We were so happy with all the results and felt proud about the new flats, as they fitted into the neighbourhood and were generously built. scottfraser have managed our properties faultlessly over the years, always doing their best to give great care and dedication."*  
Sylvia Griffiths



# Obituaries

## ☉ Robin Nisbet

21 May 1925–14 May 2013

Robin George Murdoch Nisbet FBA, Corpus Professor of Latin from 1970 to 1992, died on 14 May 2013, aged 87. The son of the Latin scholar RG Nisbet (with whom he was often confused), he was educated at Glasgow Academy, Glasgow University and Balliol College, Oxford. He graduated in *Literae Humaniores* in 1951, and was appointed to a junior research fellowship at Corpus Christi College, beginning an association which lasted more than 60 years. He was appointed a tutorial fellow there in 1952, and on retirement was elected an honorary fellow. He published essays on Latin poetry and prose and excelled as a teacher. He was elected an FBA in 1967. His wife Anne predeceased him.

## ☉ Geza Vermes

22 June 1924–8 May 2013

Geza Vermes FBA, Reader in Jewish Studies from 1965 to 1989, and Professor of Jewish Studies from 1989 to 1991, died on 8 May 2013, aged 88. Born in Hungary into a Jewish family which had converted to Christianity, he was educated at the Gymnasium and university in Budapest, before joining a Catholic seminary. He survived the deportation of Hungarian Jews in 1944 but lost both his parents. After the war he trained for the priesthood at Louvain, but left in 1955 after falling in love with an Englishwoman, whom he married two years later. From 1957 to 1965 he taught at the University of Newcastle. He translated the Dead Sea Scrolls and wrote extensively on early Christianity, notably in *Jesus the Jew* (1973). From 1971 to 1996 he was editor of the *Journal of Jewish Studies*. He had by this time returned to his Jewish roots, becoming a member of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. His first wife, Pamela, died in 1993 and he is survived by his second wife, Margaret, and a stepson.

## ☉ Jean Floud

3 November 1915–28 March 2013

Sociologist Jean Esther Floud CBE died on 28 March 2013, aged 97. Born Jean McDonald in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, she was educated there and at the LSE, graduating in 1936. From 1940 to 1946 she was assistant to the Director of Education for the City of Oxford; she then returned to the LSE as a lecturer in sociology. She was perhaps best known for her book with AH Halsey, *Social Class and Educational Opportunity* (1956). From 1963 to 1972 she was an official fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford. She was Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, from 1972 to 1983, and was appointed CBE in 1976 but declined the offer of a life peerage. She is survived by two daughters, her husband Peter having predeceased her.

## ☉ Gertrud Seidmann

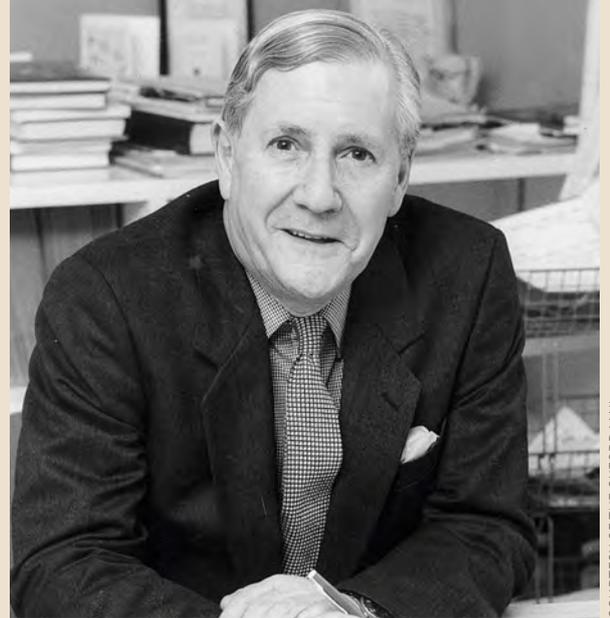
16 September 1919–15 February 2013

Gertrud Seidmann, believed to be the oldest student to have registered at Oxford, died on 15 February 2013, aged 93. Born in Vienna, she fled to Britain after the Anschluss in 1938. She studied modern languages at Queen's University, Belfast, then taught German at Battersea County School, the Institute of Educational Studies at Oxford and Southampton Universities, meanwhile pursuing a parallel career as an historian of jewellery. After her retirement she taught German at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford, and in 2004 registered as a graduate student at Wolfson College. Although she was unable to complete her DPhil, she was awarded a certificate of graduate attainment in 2011.

## ☉ Acer Nethercott

28 November 1977–26 January 2013

Acer Gary Nethercott, rowing cox, died on 26 January 2013, aged 35. He was educated at Mark Hall Comprehensive, Harlow, The Broxbourne School, and



COURTESY OF THE OXFORD MAIL

## ☉ Sir Patrick Nairne

15 August 1921–4 June 2013

Sir Patrick Dalmahoy Nairne GCB, MC, Master of St Catherine's College from 1981 to 1988, died on 4 June 2013, aged 91. He was educated at Radley College and, following war service with the Seaforth Highlanders (taking part in the battle of El Alamein and the invasion of Sicily), University College, Oxford, where he read Modern History. After graduating in 1947 he joined the civil service, working first in the Admiralty and then in the enlarged Ministry of Defence. He moved to the Cabinet Office in 1973, overseeing civil contingencies arrangements during the three-day week. He was then Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security until 1981. Knighted KCB in 1975 and GCB in 1981, in retirement he was involved in many educational organisations, and was Chancellor of the University of Essex from 1983 to 1997. He is survived by his wife Penelope and their six children.

University College, Oxford, where he read physics and philosophy. After a year teaching in America he returned to Oxford, where he took his BPhil in 2003 and DPhil in 2008, the latter for a thesis on the semantics of complex demonstratives. He coxed the Oxford women's crew to Boat Race victory in 2000, and the successful men's Boat Race crews in 2003 and 2005. In 2008 he coxed the GB men's eight to a silver medal in the Beijing Olympics. Soon after this he was diagnosed with a brain tumour, which he fought with courage and humour.

*Obituaries are edited by Dr Alex May, research editor at Oxford DNB*

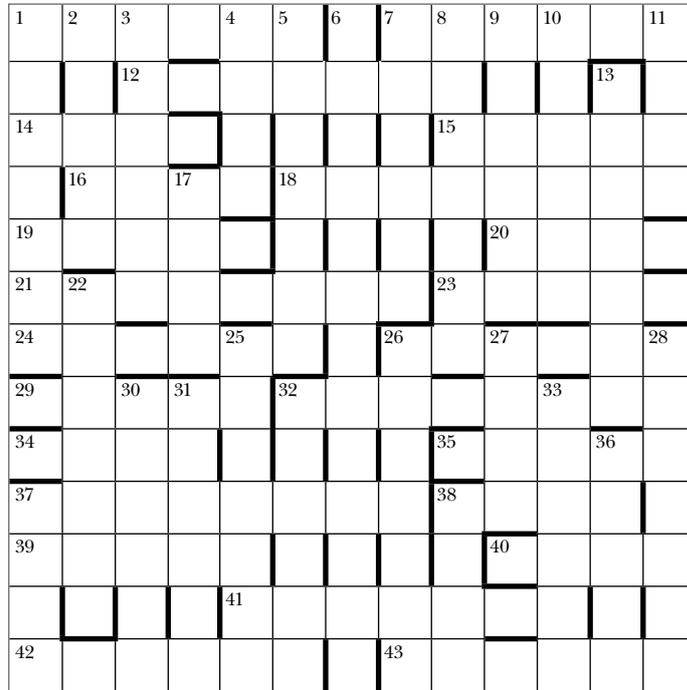


A more comprehensive list of obituaries of Oxonians is at [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/obits](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/obits)

# Crossword

## Across

1. Keeping quiet about custom in home of Moses (6)
7. Topic initially broached by runner (6)
12. Type of beet from field in area around Dublin (4,3)
14. Grove in part of old Ireland (4)
15. At length journalist's written about feature of certain riders (5)
16. Part of bend coming from border travelling westwards (4)
18. Performer confronting dancer mustn't put off audition after vacation (5,3)
19. Pertaining to rains, as before, actually occurring around north (5)
20. Singer contributing to chore in Hampshire town, mostly (4)
21. Knight, say, with false liege – one's usually off before oath is taken (8)
23. More slippers? Rely for a change on ultimate in presents (5)
24. Ploy concealed by Porsche mechanics (6)
26. Part of bill in Spain leading son to complain (6)
29. Soldiers in wood backing character in Bude's history (5)
32. Hirst has a position in English painting (8)
34. Note leaves from single plant yielding better juice (4)
35. One who dials number with a bow (5)
37. Something glowing inside Wedgwood factory? (3,5)
38. Think work retrogressive – some deem otherwise (4)
39. Type of gum chewed by Attorney General (5)
40. Want British fish (4)
41. No longer retail article to plug broken tunnel (7)
42. Flying biker writing note about places (6)
43. Vessel sometimes involved in blending with skill a mixture of rye (6)



Each clue contains a misprint of one letter in its definition part. Correct letters spell out a quotation whose author constitutes the unclued entry.

*Michael Macdonald-Cooper (St Catherine's, 1962).*

## How it works:

Every month during the academic year 2013-14, correct entries to the *Oxford Today* Crossword Competition will be thrown in a hat and a winner drawn. The winner will receive a bottle of wine (see below). There is one crossword puzzle in each of the *Oxford Today* print issues, published on 17 October 2013, and 17 April 2014 respectively, and then online during the other ten months, with alumni alerted to their going 'live' by the 'Oxford Today Extra' email service. The deadline for the competition on this page is 29 November. Please post entries to Janet Avison, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD.

**Please include your full name, alumni number if known, college and matriculation year, and postal address and phone number.**

## About the prize:

### Macon-Verze Domaines Leflaive 2009

This is a fantastic, full-bodied, dry white burgundy from Macon-Villages, exclusive to Corney and Barrow in the UK. This wine punches well above its weight, setting a new benchmark for Macon, and can be enjoyed now or laid down 2013–2014.

*\* Please note that for the purposes of this competition we cannot deliver wine outside the mainland UK.*



## Down

1. Those diving nowadays see danger signal hoisted in Belgian town (7)
2. Mend truck which goes round North Island (5)
3. Freud unofficially celebrated around Puerto Rico (6)
4. Seaweed sometimes looked remarkable value when docked (4)
5. Perhaps next time, after unloading of more supplies (7)
6. See preamble (7,6)
7. Ryde peasant's garb found in bale, oddly, beside river (6)
8. Upside-down poster is showing effect produced by riddle (7)
9. Former accountant brought up compound found in cab (6)
10. As the cook might react, misinterpreting my call (6)
11. Managed to get around old folly, perhaps (4)
13. Greek coins, or gold or silver, say, found on fringes of Rhodes (7)
17. Tin in bundles over in science laboratory (4)
22. Record kept by English company shows study of biological farms and environments (7)
25. Part on organ everyone in Maine associated with America (7)
26. Red Sea parts here: time to restrict measure of volume (not large) (7)
27. See yob in Ancona oddly ignoring activator (4)
28. Exerciser of Egyptian mule sadly left empty, with nothing to eat (7)
30. Change order of props, to put up in value (6)
31. Scorn for a number of players prepared to clinch record time (6)
32. Hinge's first game making Brenda very upset? Somewhat (6)
33. Winter coal from Royal colliery (6)
36. Ambrose, tall denizen of Lebanon, some disgraced aristocrat (5)
37. Hole in net seen from below (4)
38. Eve's output, bits of recondite arcana (4)

➔ Monthly crosswords, including this one, will appear on [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/puzzles](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/puzzles)



VINCENT DOYLE/PURELY PORTRAITS

# My Oxford

## Jennifer Cole (née Evans) – St John's 1997

The Foreign Office's Foreign Policy Counsellor in Washington, awarded an OBE in a previous role for kidnap resolution, talks to **John Garth**

### Why did you apply to Oxford?

As a teenager at the City of London Freeman's School I wanted to be a scientist, but while studying German in the Alps I realised I was more interested in how different cultures interact than what atoms get up to. So I decided to join the Foreign Office and thought history would be good training. The Oxford course offered the freedom to explore the history of many countries across the centuries. Fortunately the St John's history tutors weren't put off by the fact that I had only started teaching myself history A-level five months before. I'd taken myself off to Gladstone's library at Hawarden in North Wales in the summer holiday and autumn half term to read voraciously.

### What were your impressions of Oxford?

I've always found Oxford a very inspiring city. Dawn and dusk, Merton Street seemed the same as it could have been for centuries.



NICHOLAS COLE

Jennifer in her student days

### What kind of student were you?

I had my favourite desk in the Rad Cam – I was fairly studious! The lectures I remember most vividly are James Campbell on medieval history and Niall Ferguson on the two World Wars: opposite ends of the spectrum. I came up wanting to specialise in German history but migrated eastwards – early 19th-century Russian history.

### What about your social life?

Dinner parties cooked on student cookers with only two rings: that was student life for me. My birthday is close to Bonfire Night, so I'd have a dinner party and insist everybody brought scarves and hats to watch the St John's fireworks beforehand.

### Did you take part in any extra-curricular activities?

I was president of the Oxford University European Affairs Society for a term, and organised the St Petersburg Ball. It was a great place to run a student society because so many politicians, religious leaders and statesmen wanted to come and explain their ideas. Christian Noyer – now Governor of the Bank of France but then at the European Central Bank – suddenly decided he wanted to stay over, so I was asked to help; and an hour later we were guests of the President of Magdalen, who had invited David Trimble for the evening. There aren't many universities that have that draw. I also did some debating and acting.

### Has your Oxford qualification helped your career?

The majority of successful applicants to the Foreign Office aren't from Oxbridge, but having the freedom to explore the past for three years was a great grounding for a career in diplomacy, where the past still so often matters. Michelle Obama said when she visited, "If you can see yourself at Oxford you can see yourself anywhere." That's true and very empowering.

### What else did you take away from Oxford?

Meeting my husband Nicholas at the Fresher's Debating Competition at the Oxford Union is probably the most significant thing! He was a Fresher at Univ. We were opposite each other at the Freshers' Debating Competition. We also made our maiden speeches in the Chamber opposite each other again and didn't actually speak on the same side for at least a year. He's now a junior research fellow in History at St Peter's. We celebrate our tenth wedding anniversary this year.

### Does Oxford have a role to play in your field?

Diplomacy is about influence, and Oxford is one of the world's great institutions – something distinctive about Britain that contributes to our influence in the world.

### How do you think of Oxford now?

In a sense I've never left: my husband's still there. Whenever I've been abroad and come back to Oxford, at whatever hour, there's always somebody who looks as if they've just discovered the meaning of life.



To view an uncut version of this and previous subjects, visit:  
[www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/interviews](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/interviews)

# *Nurturing minds that change the world.* Oxford Thinking



“Having been born and raised in the Brazilian Amazon, Oxford was a distant reality – literally and metaphorically. Studying here would not have been possible without the scholarships received from the Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust and St Anne’s College, to which I am deeply thankful.”

This is Priscilla Santos, MSc Nature, Society and Environmental Policy, St Anne’s. She is studying at Oxford in order to equip herself with the skills and knowledge needed to make a significant impact to the lives of indigenous peoples and forests which are still under threat in Brazil, and to a more sustainable development in her region.

Her Oxford education is funded thanks to the support of Oxford’s generous donors. The education she receives at Oxford will help her to change the world.

## Oxford Thinking

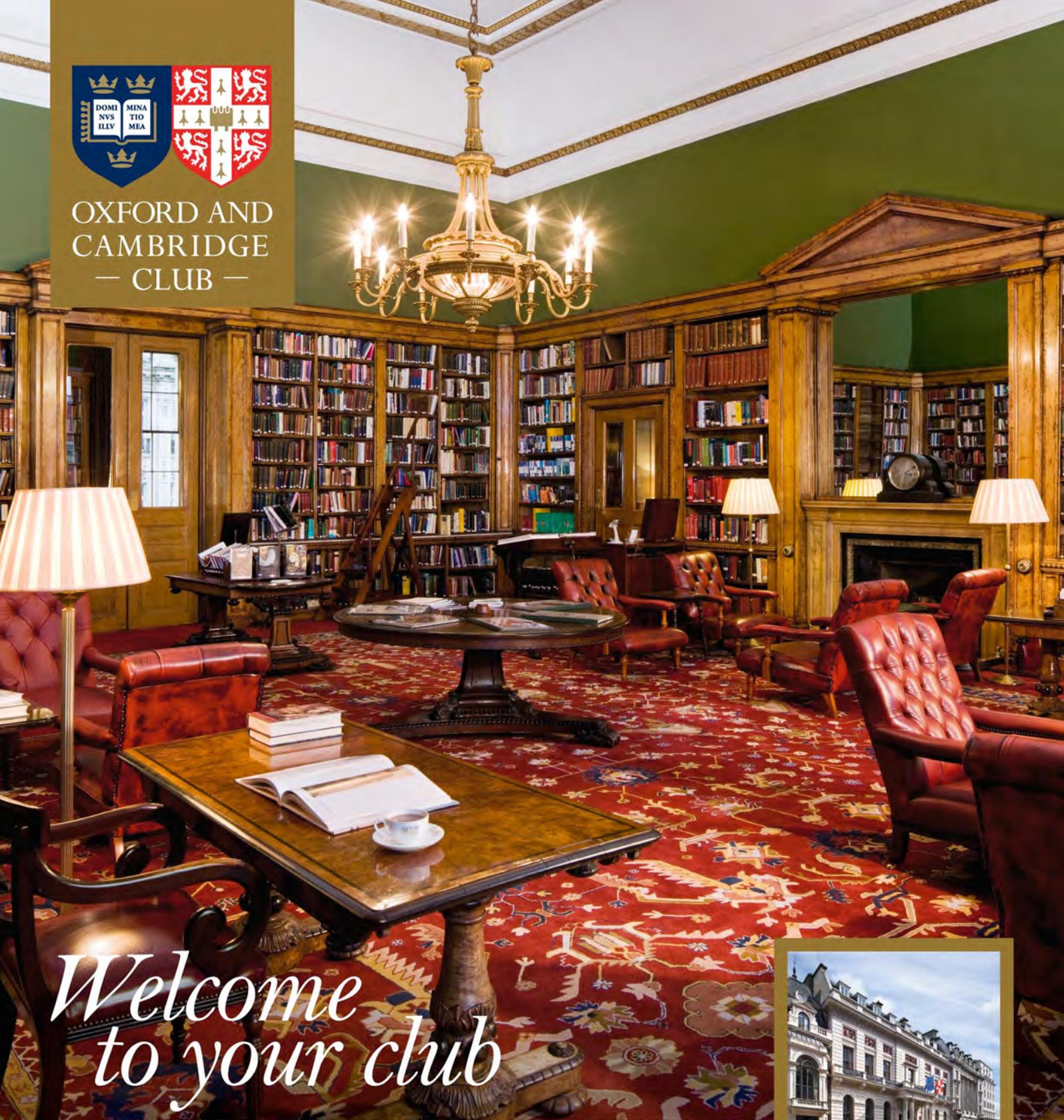
*The Campaign for the University of Oxford*

You, too, can support  
students like Priscilla...

*To read more inspirational stories and to support  
outstanding students like Priscilla, visit*  
[www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/ChangeTheWorld](http://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/ChangeTheWorld)



# OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE — CLUB —

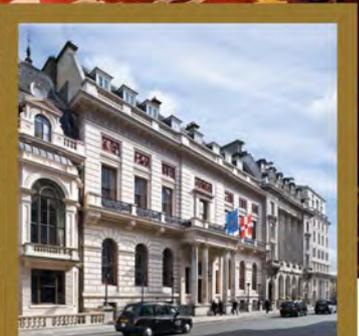


*Welcome  
to your club*

For nearly 200 years alumni living in or near London have enjoyed the unique privilege of a spacious and elegant private club in the heart of the capital.

The Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall is the perfect place to meet for a drink, entertain friends and colleagues in magnificent surroundings, play squash, take a break, host a party or just find a quiet corner to prepare for a meeting.

A thriving social scene, sports facilities, a lively calendar of events including talks, tastings, dinners and balls, a well-stocked library, extensive wine cellars and more than 40 bedrooms means our members use their club for recreation, relaxation and business - and now you can too.



The Club welcomes all alumni, from home and abroad, with membership for those living or working within 100 miles of Pall Mall starting from just £258.00.

For more details please visit [www.oxfordandcambridgeclub.co.uk](http://www.oxfordandcambridgeclub.co.uk) or call 020 7321 5103.