

Michaelmas Term 2010
Volume 23 No 1

OXFORD TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY
MAGAZINE

20 | WILFRED THESIGER
AFRICA SEEN
THROUGH
HIS LENS

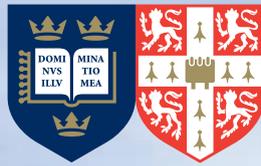
30 | SCIENCE
WHEN TO SHARE
GENE DATA?

45 | GEOFFREY HILL
SEAMUS PERRY
ON OUR GREATEST
LIVING POET

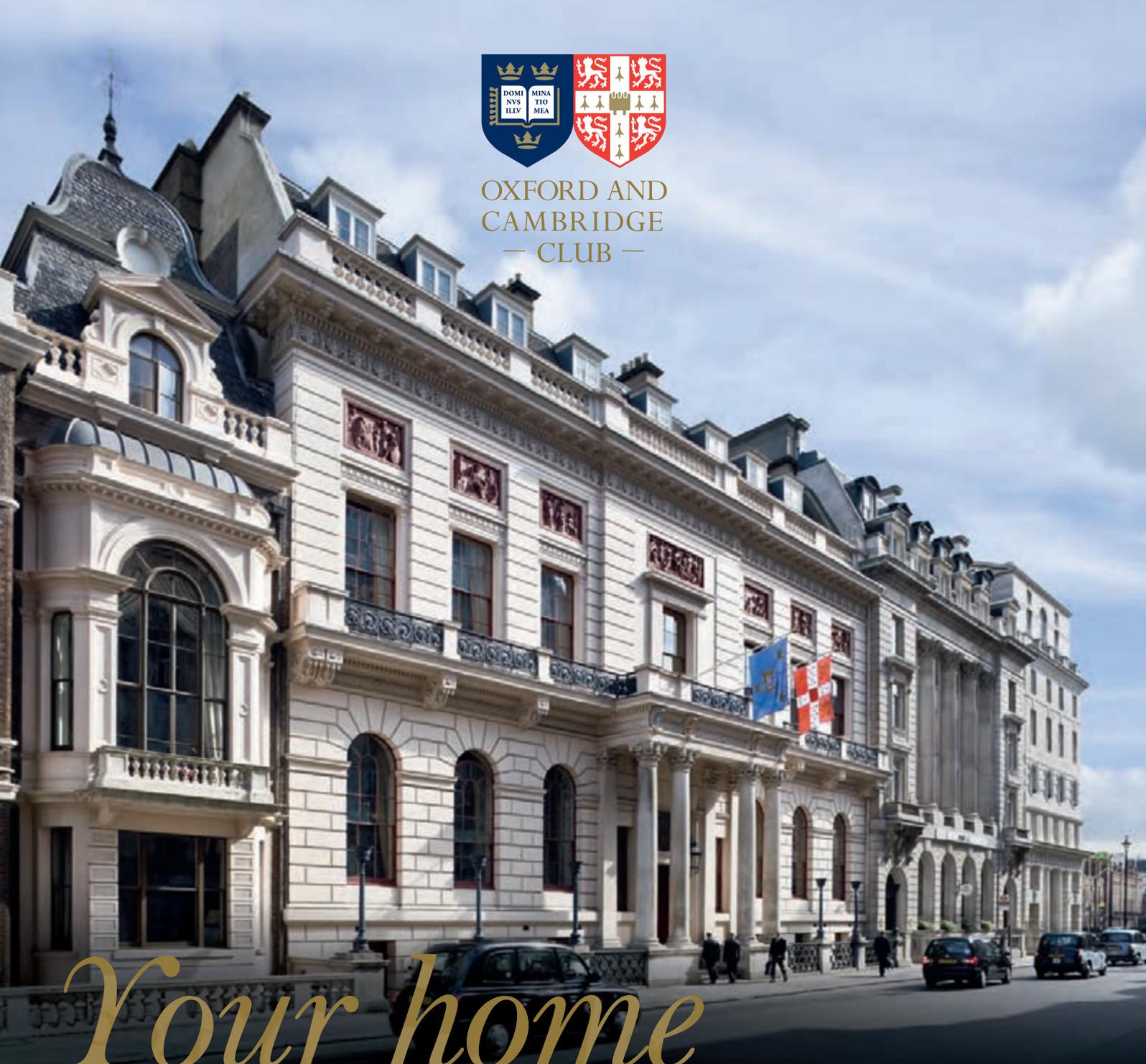
PRIME MINISTERS

Why has Oxford produced so many?





OXFORD AND
CAMBRIDGE
— CLUB —



Your home

FROM HOME

Since 1821 the Oxford and Cambridge Club has provided alumni of both universities with an exclusive home from home in the heart of the Capital.

Today members can relax, dine and meet friends in supremely elegant surroundings that also feature well stocked libraries, sports facilities and first-class bedroom accommodation. Reciprocal clubs welcome members of the Oxford and Cambridge Club in 35 countries around the world.

For more information, please contact: club@oandc.uk.com
or call +44 (0)20 7321 5110



EDITOR: Dr Richard Lofthouse
DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Steven Goldring
DESIGNER: Victoria Ford
HEAD OF PUBLICATIONS AND WEB OFFICE:
 Anne Brunner-Ellis
PRODUCTION EDITOR: Kate Lloyd
SUB EDITOR: Elizabeth Tatham
PICTURE EDITOR: Joanna Kay
DESIGN DIRECTOR: Dylan Channon
 Thanks to Simon Kirrane, Esther Woodman,
 Helen Cox, Emma Swift

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES: Janet Avison
 Public Affairs Directorate
 Tel: 01865 280545
 Fax: 01865 270178
oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk
www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk

**ALUMNI ENQUIRIES,
 INCLUDING CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Claire Larkin
 Alumni Office
 Tel: 01865 611610
enquiries@alumni.ox.ac.uk
www.alumni.ox.ac.uk

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

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES: Marie Longstaff
 Future Plus, Beaufort Court, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW
 Tel: 01225 822849
marie.longstaff@futurenet.com
www.futureplc.com

Oxford Today is published in February, June and October. It is free to Oxford graduates and friends of the University. It is also available on subscription. For further information and to subscribe contact Janet Avison (see details above).
 © The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford.
 The opinions expressed in *Oxford Today* are those of the contributors, and are not necessarily shared by the University of Oxford. Advertisements are carefully vetted, but the University can take no responsibility for them.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:

Alun Anderson,
Author and journalist
 Alan Bell,
Historian of publishing
 Catherine Bray,
Editor, www.film4.com
 Anne Brunner-Ellis,
Head of Publications and Web Office, University of Oxford
 Professor David Clary,
President, Magdalen College, Oxford
 Sue Cunningham,
Director of Development, University of Oxford
 Mary Dejevsky,
The Independent
 Alison Edwards,
Head of Communications, University of Oxford Alumni Office
 Zoe Flood,
Alumnus
 Katie Gray,
Board member, Oxford University Society
 Jeremy Harris,
Director of Public Affairs, University of Oxford
 Dr Richard Lofthouse,
Editor, Oxford Today
 Dr William Whyte,
Lecturer in History, Fellow of St John's College, Oxford
 Matt Williams,
Creative Director, FuturePlus

PUBLISHER:

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

Jayne Caple, *Director, FuturePlus UK*
 Cassie Whittell, *Operations Director*
 Katty Skardon, *Production Co-ordinator*
 Matt Eglinton, *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 accept 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.



COVER IMAGE: HARRY BORDEN/CORBIS OUTLINE, ROB JUDGES

Michaelmas
Term 2010

Welcome

2010 marks change for the University and its magazine

My first Alumni Weekend, themed this year Meeting Minds – Shared Treasures, was a glittering re-introduction to the university I graduated from in 1993 (LMH History). It wasn't just the gamelan playing, the brilliant lectures and the concerts, but also the fervent commitment to Oxford evinced by everyone I spoke to and the sheer enthusiasm for learning that accompanied it. One overheard comment went thus, "It's so nice not to have to apologise for being interested in ideas..." With the impending report of the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance chaired by Lord Browne of Madingley (please see **www.ox.ac.uk/browne_review** for Oxford's responses to the Review) and the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (both unannounced as we went to press), there was naturally interest in how universities like Oxford might be affected. In front of a packed auditorium, however, Vice-Chancellor Andrew Hamilton renewed the University's commitment to the tutorial system, insisting that Oxford is "for the world and of the world".

Meanwhile, this issue of *Oxford Today* marks a new design backed by a new publisher – London- and Bath-based magazine specialist Future Publishing. Equally significant is our completely new website **www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk**. The main advantage of the website is virtually unlimited space, allowing for a more complete publication, as well as exciting new projects. Please continue to feed back to the editorial team with your suggestions. ☺

EDITOR: Richard Lofthouse

Visit us online to read all our features from past issues, get involved with your alumni association and keep up to date with a full list of events in Oxford and beyond.



www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk





UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



Exclusive gifts from the
University of Oxford Shop
Personalised to order at www.oushop.com

OXFORD TODAY

Michaelmas
Term 2010

MY OXFORD

Kumi
Naidoo

The executive
director of
Greenpeace recalls
his time as a
Rhodes scholar and
his activist past

50



In this issue...



26



20



30

MICHAELMAS HIGHLIGHTS



8
Shared
treasures

A round-up of the recent
Alumni Weekend, celebrating
Oxford's remarkable year



40
Persistence
makes perfect

Oxonians Martha Kearney
and Bridget Kendall discuss
their high-profile careers



45
And the
winner is...

A landslide victory sees
Geoffrey Hill becoming
Oxford Professor of Poetry

Oxonian News

- 8 University news
- 10 Appointments
- 11 Science findings
- 12 Awards
- 15 Alumni news and events
- 16 Student spotlight
- 18 Oxonians at large
- 46 Events

Features

- 20 Africa through the lens
The extraordinary life of Wilfred Thesiger
- 26 First among equals
...and Cameron makes 26. Oxonians
at Number 10
- 30 A matter of privacy
Why Oxford is leading the charge in
setting a gold standard for bioethics
- 34 A question of which sport
From Tiddlywinks to surfing, how sport
at Oxford is moving with the times

Arts & Ideas

- 37 Reviews
Seven new books for your contemplation
- 40 Interview
Bridget Kendall and Martha Kearney
- 45 Poetry

Regulars

- 6 Letters
- 47 Obituaries
- 50 My Oxford



Letters

Your correspondence

We welcome letters for publication, which can be sent either by post or by email. We reserve the right to edit them to meet space constraints; the best way to avoid this is to keep letters to 200 or fewer words. Unless you request otherwise, letters may also appear on our website.

Right to Bragg?



ITV

In his article on The Royal Society (OT 22.3), Melvyn Bragg does an admirable job of navigating through the vortices between science and religion. But he is far too brief when he describes Aristotle and Augustine as “material now by many discredited”. Aristotle’s account of space is indeed refuted, but the “pantheism” that Bragg finds in Wordsworth and Humphry Davy can hardly satisfy without a dimension of transcendence such as Wordsworth does in fact preserve from Plato, Aristotle and Augustine: “...by sensible impressions not enthralled, / But quickened, roused, and made thereby more fit / To hold communion with the invisible world.”

ROBERT M. WALLACE

Balliol 1965

Melvyn Bragg compares the CERN search for “the first particle” (the Higgs boson) with “the study of medieval angels dancing on the point

of a pin...”. This trope is wheeled out by journalists as a reach-me-down comparison whenever they write about some modern and useless investigation. But did any medieval philosopher ever speculate about anything so silly? I doubt it. It sounds to me much more like a ribald take-off by an Enlightenment philosopher (Voltaire?) of medieval speculation, e.g. Aquinas’ about the sense in which an angel can be said to be in one place rather than another. It would have been funny once. Can any of your readers track this piece of rhetoric to its origin?

MICHAEL SLATER

Magdalen 1957

Melvyn Bragg is quoted as saying that Christianity “carried within it pagan acts and polytheistic and classical practices that were even carried over into the New Testament”. To suggest, as he appears to here, that Christianity is compatible with paganism or polytheism is quite wrong. However, there is no reason why pagan or polytheistic beliefs may not intimate the truths in the Bible. As CS Lewis writes in *Reflections on the Psalms*, “in the strong, if half-articulate, feeling (embodied in many Pagan ‘Mysteries’) that man himself must undergo some sort of death if he would truly live, there is already a likeness permitted by God to that truth on which all depends”.

S HANSON

BNC 1986

A life less ordinary

I was desolate to read of the tragically early death of Professor Elizabeth Fallaize on 6 December 2009 (OT 22.3). In 1999, I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Elizabeth as my supervisor on the Women’s Studies MSt course. Our academic relationship continued when she supervised my DPhil studies and I am proud to say we became friends. Much has been said of Elizabeth’s world-renowned contributions to the study of French literature, culture and her work on her beloved Simone de Beauvoir.

Elizabeth laboured unceasingly to establish her international reputation

in her chosen field and secured considerable status at St John’s College. These achievements, when viewed against the backdrop of a seemingly unassailable male saturation of positions of immense power and influence at Oxford, made her commitment to feminism and women’s studies all the more laudable.

She was a witty, funny, mischievous and formidable woman, one whom her family, college, Oxford and indeed all those fortunate enough to have benefited from her grace and wisdom, will mourn grievously.

BARBARA BARNETT

St Hilda’s College 1999

Riddle with answer

I have just been contacted by a former member of our college, Kenneth Riddle, with regard to the article in the last edition on Joseph Wright’s *English Dialect Dictionary* (pp.20–21). Chris Sladen states that the original edition may be seen only in the Taylorian’s ‘Linguistic’ room. Searching the library catalogue it would appear the original set is actually not as difficult to find as he suggests; indeed, we at St Catherine’s have a special copy.

Kenneth Riddle was a pupil of Wright’s wife, Elizabeth, and in 1952 she gave Riddle her personal copy of the dictionary, which he donated to St Catherine’s College Library in 1988. Elizabeth’s letters to Riddle authenticate it as the luxury hand-made paper original edition, leather bound and with each volume signed by the author. Please could you pass on this information to Chris Sladen? He would be welcome to make an appointment to see this set, or indeed the letters if they are of interest to him.

SALLY JONES

Assistant librarian, St Catherine’s College



ROB JUDGES

Howling mad

I refer to the correspondence over what my old Latin teacher would have referred to as ‘howlers’. I do not believe that you have been guilty of this particular blunder, but could I make an appeal for distinguished retired female scholars to be described in future as ‘emerita’ and no longer as ‘emeritus’. Even *Who’s Who* is not immune to this ghastly error.

AP WILLIAMS

Keble 1957



Email your letter to:
oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk



Write to us at:
 Oxford Today
 University Offices
 Wellington Square
 Oxford OX1 2JD



Equality plea

Yet again, the 'Letters' page of the Trinity issue includes no correspondence from women. This does not surprise me, given that the magazine typically exudes a sense of male clubbiness. The Trinity issue, 48 pages long, devotes just one page to the work of an alumna of the University (the novelist Naomi Alderman).

Otherwise, females feature in minor items about sanitary pads for Ghanaian schoolgirls (p.7), the flightless mosquito (p.23) and the Women's Boat Race (p.26). No woman appears on the page of 'Appointments and Awards'; only two among the 'Obituaries'; and only one on the 'Book Briefings' page. I doubt if the absence of women is due to a policy of deliberate exclusion; or to a shortage of distinguished alumnae, since – in my day at least – the average female candidate required a higher IQ than her male counterpart merely to obtain admission to the University. There must be some other reason: the male gender of the previous Editor, perhaps – coupled with the subconscious human tendency always to seek affiliation with near-clones of one's own self?

CATHERINE ROBINSON

St Anne's 1967

Why are there 64 men shown in the recent *Oxford Today* and only fourteen-and-a-half women? Of the women, one is shown because she has died, another because she needs surgery, another in the traditional male game of cricket, three from history, one listening to a man speak, another wearing jeans, sitting in a fairly masculine way, another because she has sanitary pads and a half which is a female figurine made of fired clay.

I quite understand that appointments and awards are given on merit, but there is a glaring lack of females. Who are the judges? Are there some women among them? Oxford is for both sexes and *Oxford Today* should be the same. There is great inequality in this issue. Look at it objectively and please do something to rectify it.

DAPHNE GIO

Ruskin School of Fine Art 1961

In response to...

OT 22.3: 'Wrongs for Latin Lovers'

"Plural pedant" Cheshire ignites passionate response...

Neil Cheshire suggests that as 'data' is plural in Latin, it must be so in English. So does he regularly refer to 'these agenda' and 'these spaghetti'? And why is Latin so often singled out for plural pedantry? Does your correspondent know the correct Japanese plural for 'tsunami'? Would he use it if he did? (It's the same word, tsunami.)

Even our own language has some traps for the pedant. 'Assets' is a noun plural in form but singular in meaning, like 'summons'. Are we to hear 'assetsets'?

Many non-Oxonians have the impression that we're a pedantic lot anyway; I don't think we should be trying to make matters worse.

FRANCIS ROADS

Pembroke 1961

Neil Cheshire takes great umbrage at the phrase "Your data is held securely...", bemoaning the fact that the Alumni Office couldn't "recognise a neuter plural in broad daylight". While I find his rant somewhat amusing, I rather pity his attitude towards our wonderful English language.

Firstly, he fails to have understood the implications of the fact that the phrase in question is in English, not Latin. In particular, discussion of neuter plurals is wholly irrelevant in a language whose noun system is almost entirely unmarked for grammatical gender. English is not Latin and any attempt

to impose Latin grammar on English is doomed to fail.

Secondly, he hides away from the real argument by saying he will not "be browbeaten by talk of... 'accepted usage'". Presumably, for prescriptivists like Mr Cheshire, English is a precious manuscript, which may only be handled by experts wearing protective gloves, lest it be destroyed by "the populists, the trendies and the rappers". This is entirely wrong. English is not defined by me or by Mr Cheshire. If English is to be defined at all, it is as the common parlance of its many millions of native speakers. Regardless of the status of the word 'data' in Latin, in English, it has been widely used as a mass noun (as well as a simple plural) for decades. Much as it may pain some to admit it, the mass noun 'data' is part of the English language by the simple virtue of being so frequently uttered and understood.

English has one great advantage over Latin: the former is alive, whereas the latter is dead. English has thrived for 15 centuries precisely because of its perpetual ability to assimilate, absorb and adapt to the many impulses to change. An attempt to freeze it in time is an attempt to kill it off. Most lexicographers recognise that far from defining a tongue, the best they can hope to achieve is to describe a subset of the language as it once was. The ongoing

evolution of English should be embraced by anyone who loves this great language. And besides, rappers have just as much right as anyone else to coin neologisms.

MATT BECKER *Univ. 2001*

I enjoyed the two letters under 'Wrongs for Latin Lovers', especially Neil Cheshire's on the absurd 'attende', which I have fumed about for years. Another solecism too often seen is 'professor emerita', which fails to take into account that 'professor' is a masculine noun. In my institution, the emeritus title is normally reserved for those who have been full professors for 10 years or more, so that the classical reference to those who have served their time seems not to be in play.

I also enjoyed the article on Wright's *English Dialect Dictionary*. I have had my six volumes long enough to have forgotten where and when they were acquired, and was glad to be reminded of the dedication to Skeat, as my most pleasant source of income as an undergraduate was overseeing the Skeat and Furnivall Library in King's College London. I can only add one word to it: when I asked a boy in St Helen's, Lancashire how his badly cut finger was doing, he replied, "It's linking, Sir," meaning that it was throbbing.

ALAN RUDRUM

*Visiting senior research fellow,
 Jesus College 1989–90*

For full versions of these letters and to read further alumni correspondence, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk

Oxonian

University & alumni news



Lots of treasures were shared

ROB JUDGES

Alumni Weekend

One thousand alumni attended the fourth Alumni Weekend in September

The main theme this year was a celebration of the University's museums and collections, as well as a chance to see college treasures, from John Keble's handbag to Corpus Christi's silverware. If you couldn't attend the event in person, selected talks are now available online via the University's presence on the iTunesU website (see www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk for more details or go to <http://itunes.ox.ac.uk>).

We hope that many more alumni will be inspired to join us (or join us again) for next year's Weekend, which will take place on 16–18 September, with a theme of 21st Century Challenges. There will be lots of sessions on work being done at the Oxford Martin School (previously known as the James Martin 21st Century School), the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, the Environmental Change Institute and many more research centres and departments across the University. You can sign up to the Alumni Weekend mailing list to receive further information via www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk or by contacting the Alumni Office.

Twitter facts

You can follow the Alumni Office on Twitter at 'oxfordalumni' or news at 'UniofOxford'. For the alumni weekend, the hash-tag adopted was #oxfordalumniweekend. Tweets included confirmation that Cyrano de Bergerac did indeed have a big nose; that 30 alumni saw Jupiter and its satellites, and that skeletons found behind Keble College may have been Vikings massacred by local Anglo-Saxons!

Geoffrey Hill

Exclusively to *Oxford Today*, the Oxford Professor of Poetry shares excerpts from an unpublished work in progress (also see p.45)

I
Medusas, basilisks, *dragons in fens*,
Eternal in their demands. Dragon's teeth
I have learned use of; with Coriolan's
Obliviousness also a plundered myth;
Determination of necessity;
Past recklessness in bruised misreckoning;
That blazed Yeatsian thing
Of *savage joy*:
The reed lake; wintering
Wild geese a-clang.
Phenomenon darkens
The comprehension of its vanes,
Lividness in fettle. Something unclear
Scales the escarpment of this eightieth year,
Prays the child's terrified
Comfort of bed.
Who is best able to
Choose whom to fable to,
Horse away on a laugh,
Prance equity,
Appear both ends of the school photograph?

VII
Such purity and sweetness of tone, that
Exquisite modulation: must I beg
The old twister's pardon for this late spate
Of malediction, stabbings *infra dig*
Into the weasand and underbelly,
Putting questions with stump ingratitude
As you but lately did
On the telly;
The bidders the outbid
For a signed nod?
A promptitude long sought
To squinny lust of the *unbought*
Grace of life miscalled – ah well! – bonuses
For known abuses, high-toned tonelessness.
Go bless the little ships,
The splendid chaps,
Brave Duke of York his men
Swept off by bursts of fun;
The nation in its loss
Horrent *mélée*
About the tumuli of bard and boss.



To read more of Geoffrey Hill's unpublished poetry, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk

notes

Solving Alzheimer's
Research by the Oxford Project to Investigate Memory and Ageing (OPTIMA) has found that high doses of vitamin B6 and B12 appear to slow the onset of dementia. David Smith, a professor emeritus in the Pharmacology Department, described the findings as "immensely promising" but added that further research was needed.



New tech fund launched

Led by Isis Innovation, the University's technology transfer company, the Oxford Invention Fund will support the commercialisation of academic research. Aiming to raise £5m, the fund "provides the opportunity for donors to the University to see their donations used to support innovation and enterprise in Oxford," says Bernard Taylor, chairman of Isis Innovation.



Pembroke's biggest-ever project

On 14 October, Pembroke launched a £30m fundraising campaign for its biggest-ever project, five buildings around two quads located on Brewer Street, just south of the college. When complete, the extension will accommodate a whole year of undergraduates in addition to an art gallery and auditorium. Completion is scheduled for 2012.





Blavatnik School of Government launches to worldwide acclaim

Extraordinary gift funds training for policy challenges

Oxford celebrated the official launch of its new Blavatnik School of Government in September, a £100 million-plus initiative funded by one of the University's most generous benefactors. The Blavatnik School will strengthen Oxford's tradition of educating world leaders by offering professional and practical graduate training designed to tackle the public policy challenges of the 21st century.

Lord Patten heralded the School as "a once-in-a-century opportunity for Oxford" and "an important moment for the future of good government throughout the world".

The School, which will admit students from 2012, is the result of a £75 million donation to Oxford by Leonard Blavatnik, the American industrialist and philanthropist. Mr Blavatnik has indicated that he may increase his benefaction to £100 million over time. The

University is contributing an additional £26 million from its own resources.

Professor Ngaire Woods, the School's academic director, explains: "The world's most urgent policy challenges are becoming more global and complex. We want our graduates to thrive amid that complexity. Tomorrow's leaders need to be equipped to reach across national boundaries and specialist fields to find innovative policy solutions."

The School will offer a full-time one-year Master's degree, with a curriculum drawn from the University's four divisions, as well as training in negotiation, budgeting and accounting, strategic communications and evaluation. The School will support 40 academic posts and have a purpose-built home in the University's Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

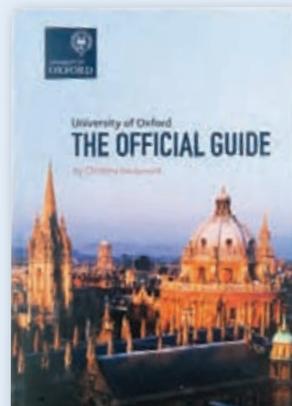


To view highlights of the launch ceremony, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk

NEW GUIDE

Oxford unveils its first official guide

Authored by the inaugural editor of *Oxford Today*, *University of Oxford: The Official Guide*



marks a first for the University. As the University's Chancellor, Chris Patten, writes, "Many a short guide to the University of Oxford has been published, but none, to date, by the University itself. In these pages you will find the inside story of this venerably ancient, but thoroughly modern, institution."

The booklet is organised around history, the colleges, Oxford traditions, Oxonian achievements and culture and the arts. It is capped by a glossary of phrases and words unfamiliar to outsiders, including: 'sending down' and 'noughth' week, plus a pull-out map that situates cultural attractions and colleges alike. The guide costs £4.99 and all profits go directly back to the University. The guide can be ordered at www.oushop.com/guide. Free delivery to anywhere in the UK for all goods purchased online.



Tuesday, 1 February 2011

Assembly Hall, Church House,
Westminster
18.45–20.00, followed by a reception

This is the inaugural Oxford London Lecture, an annual lecture series hosted by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford. Exploring the newest research emerging from Oxford, this lecture and panel discussion will consider how that research will have an impact on the 21st century.

Peter Donnelly, Professor of Statistical Science and Director of the University's Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, will talk about recent advances in genomic science and the opportunities they provide for improved healthcare and disease prevention for common diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and many of the cancers.

Professor Donnelly and a panel of experts, chaired by the *Financial Times*' editor, Lionel Barber, will then consider some of the consequences of these developments for society: Are healthcare systems well placed to take advantage of these advances? How should information about an individual's DNA sequence be handled? And how, as a society, should we consider situations in which individuals are identified as being at higher risk of a particular disease, but choose not to take reasonable personal steps to ameliorate that risk?

Special alumni rate available.

To book or find out more, visit www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/events



Advances in genomic science: what are the opportunities and challenges for society and the individual?

Oxford Chinese Dictionary released

Celebration at the completion of a landmark publication

September saw the publication of the *Oxford Chinese Dictionary*, the world's largest and most authoritative single-volume Chinese–English / English–Chinese dictionary. The product of six years of intensive language research, development and editorial work by an international team of editors, linguists, translators, language engineers, data specialists and proofreaders, the dictionary supersedes previous efforts. One of the two chief editors, Julie Kleeman, spoke of her excitement, claiming, "It is something really different from any of the others that have come before it. Not just because it is new and modern, and reflects up-to-date usage of both English and Chinese, but because it is a departure from all those that preceded it in terms of how it was developed." A launch party was held at the Great Britain China Centre in London in September.



HYOU VIELZ

Uchida supports Oxford music

Sheldonian Theatre to witness a very special concert on 11 January

World-renowned pianist Dame Mitsuko Uchida will perform in the Sheldonian Theatre on Tuesday 11 January 2011. The concert will be preceded by a reception at the Divinity School. Dame Mitsuko will play works by Chopin, Beethoven and Schumann. At Uchida's request, all proceeds will go to support the University's Faculty of Music as part of the Oxford Thinking Campaign.

Mitsuko Uchida is one of the most significant pianists working today, with a repertoire that extends from her universally acknowledged interpretations of Mozart's piano music to her exceptional performances of music by great contemporary composers such as Pierre Boulez. Dame Mitsuko received the Oxford degree of Doctor of Music *honoris causa* in 2009.

A special rate is available for alumni. If you would like to attend this very special event, please contact the University Events Office for ticket information at

www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/events

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Paediatrics

GEORG HOLLÄNDER

appointed Action Research Professor of Paediatrics

Georg Holländer, Professor of Molecular Medicine in Paediatrics at Basel University, Head of Research at Basel University Children's Hospital, Switzerland, and Visiting Professor at the Institute for Genome Research at the University of Tokushima, Japan, took up the post of Action Research Professor of Paediatrics on 1 September. Professor Holländer is a fellow of Jesus College.



Internet governance and regulation

VIKTOR MAYER-SCHÖNBERGER

appointed Professor of Internet Governance

Viktor Mayer-Schönberger, Director and Associate Professor of Public Policy, Information and Innovation Policy Research Centre at the National University of Singapore, took up the post of Professor of Internet Governance on 1 October. Professor Mayer-Schönberger is a fellow of Keble College.



Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development and External Affairs)

NICK RAWLINS

appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development and External Affairs)

Nick Rawlins, Watts Professor of Psychology and Associate Head of Medical Sciences Division (Education) and professorial fellow at Wolfson College, took up the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development and External Affairs) on 1 October.



University Registrar

EWAN MCKENDRICK

appointed Registrar of the University of Oxford

Ewan McKendrick, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education, Academic Services and University Collections) and fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, has been appointed Registrar of the University. He will take up the post on 1 January 2011. Professor McKendrick succeeds Dr Julie Maxton, who has been appointed Executive Director of the Royal Society.



Contemporary Theatre

TREVOR NUNN

appointed Cameron Mackintosh Professor of Contemporary Theatre

Trevor Nunn, theatre and film director, has been appointed Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre for the academic year 2010–11. The post is based at St Catherine's College.

Science findings Edited by Michael Gross

Plant carbon dating confirms Ancient Egyptian chronology and CoRoT discovers six new exoplanets



Targeting the right channel

The Frances Ashcroft group at the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics has identified the cause of a debilitating muscle weakness that affects newborn children. The culprit is an ion channel, i.e. a protein that serves as a selective door that allows charged particles to pass through the cell membrane under certain conditions. In a paper published in *Science*, Ashcroft's team has shown that, in spite of the muscles being affected, it is the ion channels in the brain, not in the muscle, that are the problem.



Copy number counts for autism

The Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics has reassessed the genetic evidence relating to the developmental disorder autism and highlighted the importance of the addition or removal of multiple copies of a stretch of DNA, known as copy number variation. This finding has implications for the methods used in the hunt for the genetic causes of autism, as current methods of sequencing, based on random fragmentation of the genome, can miss a copy number variation more easily than conventional mutations.



Pharaoh Djoser's reign was earlier than thought

ROGER WOODY/CORBIS

Plant perspective on pharaoh chronology

Carbon dating helps Oxford archaeologists verify Ancient Egyptian timeline

Christopher Bronk Ramsey and colleagues at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art have applied carbon dating to plant materials such as seeds, stems, textiles and baskets to improve the connection of well-established relative chronology to absolute dates. Analysing 211 plant samples directly associated with specific reigns of Ancient Egyptian kings, they have established a complete chronology of dynastic Egypt. "For the first time, radiocarbon dating has become precise enough to constrain the history of Ancient Egypt to very specific dates," said Bronk Ramsey. "I think scholars and scientists will be glad to hear that our

small team of researchers has independently corroborated a century of scholarship in just three years." While the results, published in *Science* magazine in June, broadly agree with most current estimates, they shift both the beginning of the New Kingdom and the reign of Djoser in the Old Kingdom to earlier dates than were previously assumed.



For more on these stories and other recent science findings, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk

Planet hunters hit for six as discoveries continue

Only 15 years after planets orbiting stars other than the Sun were first discovered, scientists now know of well over 400 so-called exoplanets. The European Space Agency's CoRoT (Convection, Rotation and Planetary Transits) mission has released results describing six newly discovered planets. Scientists involved in the mission scrutinise the light of stars for irregularities that might suggest that a planet is passing in front of the star and dimming its light, an event called a transit. Suzanne Aigrain and her team at the Physics Department are part of the

international collaboration analysing the CoRoT data. "My team analyses CoRoT light curves to search for transits, assesses which are the most promising candidates to follow up from the ground, and performs detailed modelling of the confirmed planets," Aigrain explains.

The latest batch of six new planets range from a modest gas giant somewhat smaller than Saturn to a brown dwarf with 60 times the mass of Jupiter. This brings the total number of confirmed planet discoveries credited to CoRoT to 15.



CNES

Awards

Queen's Birthday Honours

Four Oxford academics were recognised.

FERGUS MILLAR, FBA, FSA, Camden Professor Emeritus of Ancient History and emeritus fellow of Brasenose College, was knighted for services to scholarship. **DAVID MACDONALD**, Professor of Wildlife Conservation, Director of the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit in the Department of Zoology and fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, was made a CBE for services to natural sciences. **DR PETER CAREY**, emeritus fellow of Trinity College and co-founder of the Cambodia Trust, was made an MBE for services to the rehabilitation of the disabled in south-east Asia. **DAME VALERIE BERAL**, Professor of Epidemiology, Director of the Cancer Epidemiology Unit and fellow of Green Templeton College, was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in the Australian Queen's Birthday Honours.

Honorary degrees

Eight leading figures from the worlds of science, the arts, law and business received honorary degrees at Encaenia, the annual honorary degree ceremony.

Doctors of Civil Law

JUSTICE STEPHEN BREYER, AB, Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court and honorary fellow

of Magdalen College: "A profoundly judicious interpreter of the law..."

LORD SAINSBURY OF TURVILLE, HON FRS, former Minister for Science and Innovation at the Department of Trade and Industry: "Equally adept in business and in statecraft..."

Doctors of Letters
DAME EILEEN ATKINS, DBE, actor: "Light and glory of the English stage..."

LORD WEIDENFELD OF CHELSEA, co-founder and chairman of Weidenfeld & Nicolson and honorary fellow of St Peter's and St Anne's colleges: "Skilful publisher..."

PROFESSOR GEOFFREY HILL, FRSL, FAAAS, poet, critic and honorary fellow of Keble College, who recently became Professor of Poetry at Oxford (see p.45): "Searcher of the depths..."
SIR IAN KERSHAW, FBA, FRHS, Professor Emeritus of Modern History at the University of Sheffield and honorary fellow of Merton College: "A great master of both medieval and modern history..."

Doctors of Science
PROFESSOR BRIGITTE ASKONAS, FRS, immunologist: "A medical

scientist of masterly achievement..."
ROALD HOFFMANN, FAAAS, FAPS, FNAS, Nobel Laureate, Frank HT Rhodes Professor Emeritus of Humane Letters, Cornell University and Foreign Member of the Royal Society: "Most wise master..."

At a ceremony on 12 June, the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred on: **HENRY REECE**, former Chief Executive of Oxford University Press and Secretary to the Delegates, and emeritus fellow of Jesus College: "Outstanding publisher whose labours have brought us great benefits..."

Royal Society – Awards

Seven Oxford academics have been recognised.

PROFESSOR SIR DAVID COX, FRS, honorary fellow of Nuffield College and Warden 1988–94 was one of two recipients of the Copley Medal, the world's oldest prize for scientific achievement.

PROFESSOR ALLEN HILL, of the Department of Chemistry and an honorary fellow of Trinity College was awarded the Royal Medal for his work on protein electrochemistry.

CAROL ROBINSON, FRS, Royal Society Professor and Dr Lee's Professor of Chemistry and fellow of Exeter College, was awarded the Davy Medal for her novel use of mass spectrometry for the characterisation of large protein complexes.

DR GRAEME SEGAL, FRS, of the Mathematical Institute and emeritus fellow of All Souls College, was awarded the Sylvester Medal for his work on the development of topology, geometry and quantum field theory. **KATHERINE BLUNDELL**, Professor of Astrophysics, University Research Fellow of the Royal Society and fellow of St John's College, won the Rosalind Franklin Award.

PROFESSOR GIL MCVEAN, Lecturer in Mathematical Genetics and fellow of Linacre College, was chosen to give the Francis Crick Lecture. **DAME PROFESSOR JOCELYN BELL BURNELL, DBE, FRS, FRAS**, Visiting Professor in Astrophysics and fellow of Mansfield College, was awarded the Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture in recognition of her excellence in communicating science.

Royal Society – Fellows

Four Oxford researchers were elected new fellows.

PHILIP CANDELAS, Rouse-Ball Professor of Mathematics at the Mathematical Institute and fellow of Wadham College. **GEORG GOTTLÖB**, Professor of Computing Science and fellow of St Anne's College. **ROBERT C GRIFFITHS**, Professor of Mathematical

Genetics and fellow of Lady Margaret Hall. **IAN HICKSON**, Professor of Molecular Oncology at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine.

British Academy

Eight Oxford academics were elected fellows. **ERIC CLARKE**, Heather Professor of Music and fellow of Wadham College. **ROBERT GILDEA**, Professor of Modern History and fellow of Worcester College. **PROFESSOR CECILIA HEYES**, Senior Research Fellow in Theoretical Life Sciences at All Souls College and the Department of Experimental Psychology. **TERENCE IRWIN**, Professor of Ancient Philosophy in the Faculty of Philosophy. **ADITI LAHIRI**, Professor of Linguistics and fellow of Somerville College. **PROFESSOR EMILIE SAVAGE-SMITH**, Faculty of Oriental Studies and Senior Research Consultant of the Bodleian Library. **MICHAEL SHERINGHAM**, Marshal Foch Professor of French Literature and fellow of All Souls College. **ROLAND SMITH**, Lincoln Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art and fellow of Lincoln College.

American Academy

The Vice-Chancellor, **ANDREW HAMILTON**, was recently elected to the American Academy, one of America's most prestigious honorary societies, as a Foreign Honorary Member for his work in chemistry.

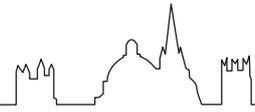


Honorands Justice Stephen Breyer, Dame Eileen Atkins, Professor Sir Ian Kershaw and Professor Brigitte Askonas (middle row, from third left to right)

ROB JUDGES



To view extracts from the Encaenia ceremony, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk



Hallowed ground?

John Henry Newman was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in September. This is the room he occupied at Oriel College



WILL IRELAND

Blessed Cardinal: John Henry Newman (1801–1890) occupied the above set, Staircase 3, Room 3, at the height of the Oxford Movement, which he led with EB Pusey. The set connects to Oriel's chapel. An undergraduate at Trinity College, he was recently proved to have occupied Staircase 14, Room 9, in the NW corner of the Garden Quadrangle. He graduated from Trinity College, Oxford, with third-class honours in 1821, and was elected to a fellowship at Oriel College in 1822



Unique signed and numbered limited edition prints of Oxford Colleges

Virtual Archive is an Oxford company producing beautifully coloured and detailed contemporary architectural prints of Oxford and the University Colleges by Ian Fraser. These prints are unique to Virtual Archive and are made with the finest quality archival materials. All the prints are limited editions, individually numbered and signed, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.



New College - The New Buildings



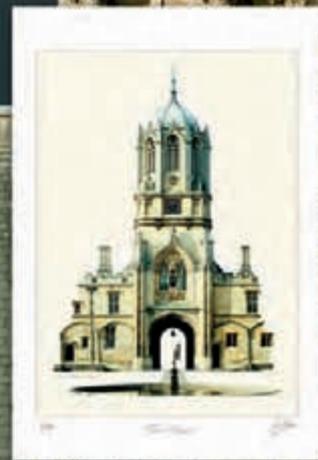
Oxford - The Oxford BluePrints



Jesus - View from Turl St



St Edmund Hall - The Quad and Chapel



Christ Church - Tom Tower



Pembroke - Chapel quad



Brasenose - View from the High

FRAMED PRINTS BY POST - UK ONLY



Bodleian Library - The Bodleian Quad



Keble - Pusey Quad - East

Oxford Cambridge Venice

These beautiful prints will make an ideal and lasting present for old members and those just graduating.

This is a small selection of the Oxford prints on our web site. All the prints cost £95 each + postage. Print sizes are 483 x 329mm and 594 x 210mm.

You can buy securely on line or by telephone with all major debit and credit cards, or call for a leaflet showing all the prints available of a particular college. Prints are posted worldwide in large diameter cardboard tubes. (UK £4.50, EU £6.00, World £10.00)

Tel: 01865 864100
www.virtual-archive.co.uk

All our Oxford prints are now available framed for delivery by post to UK mainland addresses only.

The silver gilt frame and double ivory mount complement the print beautifully and will perfectly suit either a traditional or contemporary setting.

These framed prints make the ideal gift for anyone who wants a lasting memento of their College or the timeless architecture of Oxford. All framed prints are £165 plus £14.50 p&p to UK mainland only.

- All Souls
- Balliol
- Brasenose
- Christ Church
- Exeter
- Harris Manchester
- Hertford
- Jesus
- Keble
- Lincoln
- Magdalen
- Mansfield

- Merton
- New College
- Oriel
- Pembroke
- The Queen's College
- St Edmund Hall
- St John's
- Saïd Business School
- Trinity
- University
- Wadham
- Worcester



For more information, email enquiries@alumni.ox.ac.uk



Alumni news and events



Cheer on Oxford on 9 December

JOHN SAISFORD

📍 Oxford Today bloggers

We have been overwhelmed with responses to our recent call via e-Pidge for *Oxford Today* bloggers. As part of the changes to *Oxford Today* online, we are introducing a stable of dedicated *Oxford Today* blogs on a range of themes relating to Oxford and Oxonians. We're also planning to introduce an 'Oxford Blogroll' – a directory of links to blogs already written by Oxford alumni and academics. To see who our first OT bloggers are and to read their first posts, go to www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk. If you would like us to feature your existing blog on our blogroll, please email publications@alumni.ox.ac.uk

📍 Distinguished Friends

The University made 11 Distinguished Friend of Oxford awards this spring. The ceremony took place in Convocation House, where the Vice-Chancellor presented each new Distinguished Friend with an inscribed scroll. The award recognises exceptional voluntary activity for the collegiate University, and this year's awards ranged from one to Sathi Alur, who has given long service to Exeter, strengthening and consolidating the college's relationships

with India, to Nicholas Barber, recognised for his long service to the Ashmolean Museum. Nominations for the award are invited each Michaelmas term, and are welcome from all parts of the University community. You can see the full list of Distinguished Friends and learn about the nomination process at www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/dfo

📍 Alumni events mailing list

Be the first to hear about events for Oxford alumni – from the Boat Race dinner to champagne at the House of Lords and lectures on intelligence in WWII, there's something for everyone. Simply fill in our form at www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/events_mailing_list to let us know which types of events you'd like to hear about.

📍 New additions to Card scheme

The Oxford Alumni Card offers a growing number of benefits redeemable in Oxford and beyond. These companies are now offering a discount to Card-holders:

- 50cycles Electric Bikes
- Broadleaf Timber (real wood floors, doors & accessories)
- Idbury Prints (art prints)
- Alan Young – The St James's

Place Partnership (Wealth Management Services)

- Paul Laugier Design (greeting cards)
- Companion Care Veterinary Surgery
- Skills Venture (mentoring)
- Taught by Song (resources for children)
- Hotel Palacio de Prelo
- The Tutor Pages (UK tutor directory)

For further details of these discounts and a full listing of all our Card partners, please visit: www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/alumni_card. If you run your own business and would be interested in offering a discount to alumni through the scheme, please get in touch via the form at www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/alumni_card_businesses

📍 Alumni networks

If you want to stay connected with the University, then why not join an alumni group? The main network for Oxford alumni comprises more than 170 regional alumni groups or branches, located throughout the UK and overseas. These groups offer a wide range of activities, including a varied social programme. Search for groups and events in your region at www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/networks

9 December
Varsity Rugby at Twickenham
 An occasion to cheer on the Oxford team from excellent seats near the halfway line. Meet other alumni for a picnic lunch from the Covered Market. A selection of drinks will also be served. £38 per person.
events@alumni.ox.ac.uk



CWR

11 December
Oxford10 Christmas Drinks at the Cabinet War Rooms
 Oxford10, the programme for graduates of the last 10 years, celebrates Christmas in unique style at the Cabinet War Rooms and Churchill Museum.
www.oxford10.com



6 and 7 May 2011
Oxford European Reunion 2011
 Save the date for our second Oxford European Reunion. Join us for a special academic and social programme during a spring weekend in Paris.
events@alumni.ox.ac.uk



16–18 September 2011
Oxford Alumni Weekend Meeting Minds: 21st Century Challenges
 Join us for the fifth Oxford Alumni Weekend when we will be looking at how Oxford staff, students and alumni are helping to find answers to 21st-century challenges.
www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk

Student spotlight



From left to right:
Louise Maltby,
Julian Scott, Jeffrey
Douglass, Harry
Thorrington and
Mark Simpson

GRAHAM TOPPING

To find out more about the Catz Quintet, including performance details, visit: www.stcatz.ox.ac.uk/content/catz-quintet

Top Catz

Meet the Oxford quintet taking the musical world by storm. **Graham Topping** reports

Clarinetist and composer Mark Simpson (St Catherine's 2008) enjoyed a fair few of his 15 minutes of fame before coming to Oxford, but his musical colleagues in the Catz Quintet have never been overawed. Flautist Louise Maltby got Simpson as a tutorial partner "but I never followed the BBC Young Musician competition, so I had no preconceptions". Oboist Julian Scott played alongside Simpson in the University orchestra "but I didn't make the connection". "Yeah, yeah," deadpans bassoonist Harry Thorrington, "I came looking for his autograph..."

Winning the BBC's prestigious prize in 2006 meant that Simpson became a seasoned professional before he was an undergraduate. "But I decided to take less professional work and get properly involved with student life and music-making," he says. The Catz Quintet is a happy result. Horn player Jeffrey Douglass points out that "promoters have tried to sell us as the 'Catz Quintet with Mark Simpson' but Mark's dead against it" – and with reason, as demonstrated by a remarkable performance of Carl Nielsen's great Wind Quintet in Iffley Church (May 2010), in which every bar vindicated Nielsen's claim to "think through the instruments themselves, as if I had crept into them".

Nonetheless, Simpson's name opens doors. The trip of a lifetime resulted when St Catherine's sent the group to Singapore to play two concerts for the daughter of a wealthy alumnus. "She treated us like royalty," remembers Simpson. The quintet also toured the UK



In 2006, clarinetist Mark Simpson won BBC Young Musician of the year and BBC Proms/Guardian composer of the year. He is the first person to have won both competitions. Despite this early success, Simpson is reluctant to let promoters elevate his name above those of his fellow Catz Quintet members, instead relishing in their joint accomplishments

in preparation, with a finale at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, while the college paid for coaching from renowned clarinetist and conductor Antony Pay. "That's when we realised," says Thorrington, "that this group could be really good."

It's a delicate matter to raise in Oxford's alumni magazine, but Cambridge has over decades launched a remarkable proportion of Britain's top young musicians. So what brought these terrific players to Oxford? All four music students (Douglass is a biologist), while acknowledging Cambridge's extraordinary facilities, firmly preferred the Oxford course – "more choice" and a greater contribution to Finals from playing their instrument. Another option, of going to a conservatoire, was actually the route taken by Simpson. "But among other reasons, I left because I needed more intellectual stimulus – and because, surprisingly, there are far more opportunities to play music here at Oxford!"

Maltby agrees: "Student music creates almost too many opportunities – it's one reason why we haven't played much outside Oxford. It's so much work looking for gigs elsewhere." Not that the group shirks hard work. They've just played three world premieres after an estimated 24 hours of rehearsal, far more than a professional group would give. Yet Thorrington still bemoans that academic coursework prevented more preparation. Do they wish they had more time for the quintet? With an immediate "Oh, yes!" Simpson's hitherto deeply serious features break into an utterly transforming grin. It speaks eloquently for the musical standard. 😊



To listen to an interview with Mark Simpson, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk



Imagine
 living your
 entire life
 looking like
 this because you
 could never afford
 £150 for surgery.

The Smile Train provides life changing free cleft surgery for children in developing countries which takes as little as 45 minutes and costs as little as £150.

It gives desperate children not just a new smile – but a new life.

Donate online:
www.smiletrain.org.uk
OR call: 0870 127 6269

I want to give a child a second chance at life.

- £150** towards surgery for one child **£30** towards medications for one surgery
 £75 could cover half the cost of one surgery **£**_____ We'll gratefully accept any amount

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Charge my gift to my: Visa MasterCard Maestro

Card No. _____

Valid From _____ Exp. Date _____ Issue No. _____

Signature _____

My cheque is enclosed, made payable to The Smile Train UK

Send this coupon with your donation to:

**The Smile Train UK,
 PO Box 910,
 Northampton NN3 0BG**

Use Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%

YES, I would like Smile Train to claim Gift Aid on any donations that I have made within the last 4 years and all donations I make in the future until further notice. I confirm that I pay sufficient UK income/capital gains tax to cover any tax that Smile Train will reclaim from any donations that I make.

giftaid it

These details, including your email address / telephone number, may be used to keep you informed about our future developments. If you do not want to receive such information please tick this box

Z10101U118FJY1A



SmileTrain
 Changing The World One Smile At A Time.

Registered Charity No. 1114748

© 2010 The Smile Train.

A healthy diet during pregnancy can help prevent birth defects and clefts. Eat a healthy diet that contains lots of fruits and vegetables and foods fortified with folic acid. The U.K. Government recommends women should take sufficient levels of folic acid (400 micrograms/day) during the first twelve weeks of pregnancy to help prevent neural tube defects and reduce the risk for cleft lip and palate. When folic acid is taken one month before conception and throughout the first trimester, it has been proven to reduce the risk for neural tube defects by 50 to 70 per cent. Be sure to receive proper prenatal care, quit smoking and drinking alcohol and follow your health care provider's guidelines for foods to avoid during pregnancy. Foods to avoid may include raw or undercooked seafood, beef, pork, poultry, delicatessen meats, fish that contain high levels of mercury, smoked seafood, fish exposed to industrial pollutants, raw shellfish, eggs, soft cheeses, unpasteurised milk, pâté, caffeine and unwashed vegetables. For more information, visit www.smiletrain.org.uk

Oxonians at large

Alicia Clegg meets the founders of diverse social enterprises, two athletes and a Maori specialist



Rob Breare (left) and Will Snell

Alumni with appetite to beat poverty through work

Mentoring enterprise set up by former Oxonians brings welcome boost to Kenyan business

Will Snell

Christ Church 1998

Rob Breare

St Catherine's 1997

If you would like to use your skills to combat poverty, Skills Venture, a social enterprise that helps Kenyan small businesses create jobs and economic prosperity, could be your opportunity.

Will Snell (Christ Church 1998) and Rob Breare (St Catherine's 1997) founded rural schools charity Harambee Schools Kenya as students after taking gap years in Kenya. Now, after spells in the Civil Service and marketing, they have created Skills Venture, a mentoring enterprise that pairs business people from industrialised nations with up-and-coming Kenyan entrepreneurs. "We thought there was scope to use the

skills that people have built up at work, without requiring them to spend a year or six months with an NGO," says Snell.

Most Skills Venture entrepreneurs in Kenya are successful business owners. But having got their enterprise going, they now face unfamiliar challenges, such as developing a strategy to crack new markets. The mentor's job is to offer tips to help them move forward.

Skills Venture assignments typically last two weeks and include opportunities to explore the Kenyan countryside. Most mentors have financed their trips from their own pockets, but Snell and Breare hope to persuade employers to sponsor their staff as part of their professional development. "It's not a scheme where people sit behind a computer screen, teaching spreadsheet literacy," Snell says. "It's about chats over a cup of coffee, exploring ideas and unlocking talent." ☺

www.skillsventure.com
www.hsk.org.uk

Race against the odds

Nikki Emerson

Magdalen 2006



Watching the Beijing Olympics from Stoke Mandeville National Spinal

Injuries Centre, lacrosse and modern pentathlon Blue Nikki Emerson (Magdalen 2006) made up her mind that if she could no longer do the sports she adored, she would do whichever sports were open to her. "At first, I felt, 'I can't walk, I can't do anything.' But then I thought, 'Actually, I can play wheelchair basketball, I can play wheelchair tennis,'" says Emerson, who broke her back in a car crash at the end of her second year at Oxford. "Sport was really what got me through the mental side of it."

Two years later, having graduated in neuroscience and psychology, Emerson has set her sights on wheelchair racing at the London Paralympic Games. Long-term, she has her eye on a career with the International Olympic Committee, but for the moment, her goal is 2012. "As a wheelchair racer, you are very low to the ground," she explains. "Every time you go down a hill at some ridiculous speed you get an adrenalin rush. It feels pretty amazing."

www.wheelpower.org.uk

Art imitating life's big issues

Alex Harvie

LMH 1988



Working on the art installations for the Millennium Dome

introduced writer Alex Harvie, née Madinaveitia (LMH 1988), to her future husband, artist Gregor Harvie. Now they have formed a creative partnership that opens up the big social issues of our day. "We wanted to use art to help promote deep thinking," says Alex.

Their first collaboration, Gene Meme, tackled the issue of rising world population through an exhibition in June at the Crypt Gallery in London. Designed to "pose questions about what should be done" rather than offer solutions, Gene Meme has a very tangible follow-on. With the proceeds of every picture sold, the charity Street Child Africa is providing a year's apprenticeship to a homeless child in Ghana.

The couple's next project will tackle Alzheimer's, another contemporary issue that threatens to engulf the world. Artistically, says Alex, the 'forgetting' that sufferers of Alzheimer's experience links to another form of forgetting – the 'collective forgetting' of the lessons from history that Gene Meme explores.

www.gandaharvie.com
www.streetchildafrica.org.uk



Reconnecting with the past to protect the future

Merata Kawharu

Exeter 1994

“Everyone wants a sense of identity,” says Rhodes scholar Merata Kawharu (Exeter 1994, pictured above with her husband and late father). “Everyone wants a place they call home.” The daughter of a distinguished Exeter alumnus, the anthropologist Sir Hugh Kawharu, she has continued a family tradition by becoming an authority on Maori culture. Kawharu’s husband, Paul Tapsell (Exeter 1995), also has Maori–Oxford connections. His great aunt Makereti Papakura read anthropology at Oxford in the 1920s. “Before Merata applied for a Rhodes, I was already fortunate to have been invited to read museum ethnography at the Pitt Rivers,” Tapsell says. “We had no money, so the plan was: she wins the scholarship and I would carry the bags!”

Today, the couple, who both gained DPhils, are emerging New Zealand academics. Kawharu heads the Maori Research Centre at Auckland University; Tapsell is dean of the School of Maori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies at Otago University. As well as championing the Maori language, Kawharu and Tapsell have been researching the emergence of Maori entrepreneurs and civic leaders, following recent settlements of historic Maori land claims by the New Zealand government. They are currently piloting a social network for schools in the northern regions, which explores Maori culture, landscapes and language.

“Today, most young Maori live in cities,” says Tapsell. “If they don’t have a meaningful way to reconnect to their ‘marae’, or home tribal communities, the sophisticated value systems that have sustained our culture for thousands of years may cease to exist.” 🌍

www.auckland.ac.nz

www.otago.ac.nz/tetumu

Triumph at sea

Oxford alumna and her all-female crew become first women to row around Britain

Belinda Kirk

St John’s 2004

“Back in February, I heard about how four men had rowed round the UK and I thought I’d love to have a go at that, and then when I learned there was a race I wondered if I could find a boat and three women mad enough to come with me,” says Belinda Kirk of her endeavour to become part of the first all-women team to row unaided around Great Britain.

Four months later, at 5.30pm on Tuesday, 1 June 2010, expedition organiser and TV producer Kirk (then 34), from Bristol, together with Laura Thomasson, 23, from Dover; Beverley Ashton, 29, from Oxfordshire and 50-year-old American Angela Madsen, set off from London’s Tower Bridge on a 2,010-mile adventure. Their aim was to beat all-male crew The Misfits in the first-ever Virgin GB Row Challenge.

Anchor issues forced the men to withdraw after just two weeks at sea, but the women, collectively – and affectionately – known as

The Seagals, battled on, tackling everything from huge waves, exceptional tides and severe north winds, to hunger, broken fingers and even RAF air flight weapon testing. The marathon journey lasted 51 days, 16 hours and 42 minutes.

At 10.23am on Friday, 23 July 2010, the girls’ boat, *Go Commando*, passed the finish line to a heroines’ homecoming from the gathered crowd – including a fanfare welcome from a nearby fireboat – £15,000 in prize money and a new Guinness World Record. In total, The Seagals raised £100,000 for forces charity Help for Heroes.

“The seas around Britain are known to be some of the most dangerous in the world, and they didn’t disappoint,” says Kirk, who studied biology at Oxford, of The Seagals’ epic voyage. “We had a lot of hurdles to overcome – including strong winds and rough seas. But the biggest danger came from potential collisions as we crossed the country’s busiest shipping lanes.”

One person, at least, wasn’t concerned. “I wasn’t worried,” says Kirk’s father, Maurice, who was at Tower Bridge to welcome his daughter home. “She’s a sensible girl. She knows what she is doing!”

www.seagals.co.uk

www.gbrowchallenge.com



Seagals skipper Belinda Kirk and her crew celebrate after crossing the finish line

We welcome suggestions from alumni for these pages. Please send details to the Editor at oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk

AFRICA THROUGH THE LENS

One hundred years after his birth, the Pitt Rivers Museum's Wilfred Thesiger exhibition showcases the distinguished writer and explorer's life work, as **Jenny Lunn** discovers

EVEN IN BLACK and white it looks hot, that day in Ethiopia 50 years ago. The elderly man is silhouetted against the sky, leaning comfortably on his staff, his turban tightly wound, his eyes closed against the sun (facing page). A shadow falls across his cloak, perhaps the photographer's. We see all this, and then we see the flies, dozens of them, clustered around the man's eyes and mouth, on his forehead and cheeks and neck.

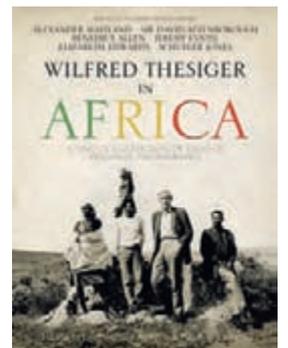
This portrait of a Boran elder is one of the most arresting photographs in the Pitt Rivers Museum's current exhibition, *Wilfred Thesiger in Africa*, which commemorates the centenary of the birth of the celebrated traveller and writer (Magdalen 1929). Christopher Morton, Curator of Photographs at the museum and co-curator, with Philip N Grover, of the exhibition, explains why this image stood out as they pored over the 17,000 negatives they had to choose from: "It's the sort of portrait that Thesiger presumably intended to show the nobility of the person, but when you look at it more closely you see the flies covering his face, and it leaves you pondering about this man's life and what he has to cope with every day; the tough environment he has to live in. It makes you realise that your first impression isn't to be trusted, and it asks you questions back. This is true of a lot of the

photos in the exhibition: something, somewhere in the frame, tells you more about the subject's life."

Sir Wilfred Thesiger (1910–2003) was best-known for his crossing of the Rub' al Khali – the 'Empty Quarter' – of Arabia, surviving on as little as a pint of water a day, and for his sojourns with the Marsh Arabs of southern Iraq before their homeland and culture were destroyed by Saddam Hussein. The centenary exhibition reflects the fact that he actually spent much of his life travelling, working and living in north and east Africa – in Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad, Morocco, Tanzania and Kenya. Africa was where Thesiger was born, at the British Legation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (then Abyssinia), and where he wished to die, among the pastoralist Samburu of Kenya, although circumstances, including his failing eyesight, finally forced him back to Britain at the age of 84.

Thesiger was modest about his achievements as a photographer, but over the years, using a series of Leica cameras, he became an accomplished one, developing a distinctive style and using his own pictures to illustrate the many books he wrote about his experiences.

In the early 1990s, he entrusted his complete collection of 38,000 negatives and 71 albums of prints to the Pitt Rivers, and when he died the museum formally acquired them through the UK government's Acceptance in Lieu of Inheritance Tax scheme. ➤



The book produced to accompany the *Wilfred Thesiger in Africa* exhibition



(Main) Portrait of a Boran elder. Ethiopia, 1959; (right) Kasbahs at Ghasat in the High Atlas Mountains. Morocco, 1955



Thesiger hated most aspects of modern life, including the internal combustion engine and colour photography



(Left) The rock-hewn church of Medhane Alam. Like the other churches in Lalibela, Medhane Alam was made during the 13th century, carved in one piece from the surrounding rock. Ethiopia, 1959;

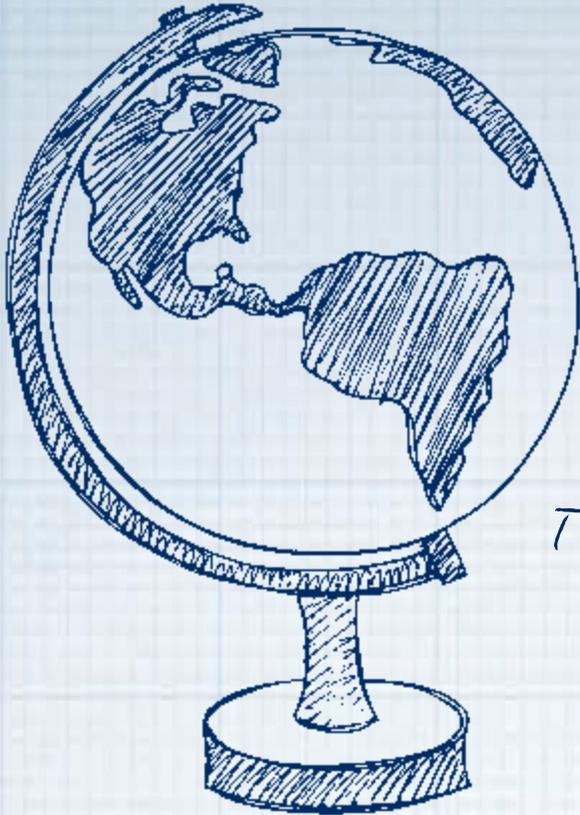
(above) Thesiger and Erope, a Turkana companion, on safari near Uaso Nyiro River. Kenya, 1970; (below) Pokot men butchering a zebra shot for them by Thesiger. Amaya, Kenya, 1961

Thesiger's choice of the Pitt Rivers was partly an acknowledgement of his frequent visits to the museum during his years as a student at Magdalen, between 1929 and 1933, and also reflected his appreciation of the care museum staff had taken of an earlier donation of artifacts collected by himself, his father and grandfather, some of which are on permanent display, while others are in the current exhibition.

The Thesiger photographs form about a fifth of the museum's entire photographic collection and generate a large number of enquiries. There has always been considerable interest in the collection from Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, because the pictures Thesiger took there of desert landscapes and people, including his friend Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first president of the UAE, are among the earliest photographs of this region.

Lawi Leboyare, a young Samburu man who became almost like a son to Thesiger, gave him





*INSPIRING INDIVIDUALS,
TRANSFORMING ORGANISATIONS*

Executive Education with the Oxford Advantage

Enhance your strategic thinking; gain inspiration from a world-class faculty that will transform your decisions, actions and outcomes with an intensive Executive Education programme from the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School.

Our wide range of programmes help shape the 21st Century leadership agenda by working with individuals and organisations to transform your performance.

- General management
- Leadership
- Strategy and change
- Finance
- Customised programmes

To learn more about how to transform your thinking contact Sarah Ellner at execed@sbs.ox.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1865 422 737

www.sbs.oxford.edu/execed



Saïd Business School
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



the affectionate nickname ‘Old Stone Age’. It referred to Thesiger’s hatred of most aspects of modern life, including the internal combustion engine and colour photography, and his love of the silence and space of sparsely populated deserts and mountains. Thesiger himself said, in a Channel 4 television interview with David Attenborough in 1994: “I reject almost all the manifestations of our civilization today. The only one I’m glad I’ve got my hands on was my camera.”

Several contributors to *Wilfred Thesiger in Africa*, the book that accompanies the exhibition, reflect on the ways in which this worldview informed Thesiger’s choice of subjects and photographic style. The 19th- and early 20th-century books about hunting and exploration that Thesiger read from his childhood onwards seem to have had a profound influence: many of his landscapes are framed in the manner of engravings, with a lone figure in the foreground of a dramatic chiaroscuro landscape. “It is a sensual record also,” writes Christopher Morton, “taking delight in the tones and textures of skin, textile, landscape and architecture.” His favourite picture in the exhibition shows the carved roof of the rock-hewn church of Genete Mariam, Ethiopia, dramatically framed across the craggy valley side from which it was formed.

But Thesiger insisted that his real interest in travel was not these awe-inspiring views but in spending time with people whose way of life he admired and the disappearance of which he deeply regretted. Speaking about his time with the Bedu in Arabia, he said: “When I went there, I felt that the difficulty was going to be living up physically to the hardships of their life. But, on the contrary, it was the difficulty of meeting their high standards: their generosity, their patience, their loyalty, their courage.” ☺

Wilfred Thesiger in Africa: A Centenary Exhibition is on at the Pitt Rivers Museum until 5 June 2011. The accompanying book Wilfred Thesiger in Africa, edited by Christopher Morton and Philip N Grover (HarperPress, 2010, £25, ISBN 9780007325245) features the exhibition’s 60 photos and a further 140 images. To buy Thesiger prints, see: www.prmprints.com

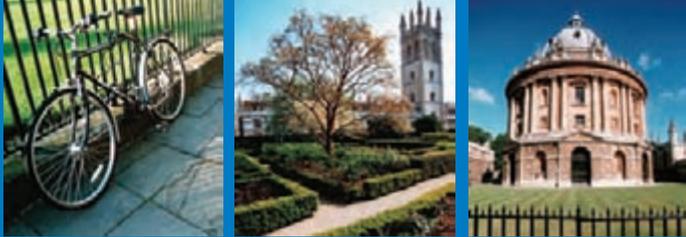
Destination Africa

If you would like to follow in Thesiger’s footsteps, you might be interested in a number of trips in the 2011 Oxford Alumni Travel Programme: learn about Morocco’s 6,000 years of archaeology, art and architecture (15–26 October 2011), visit some of Ethiopia’s most famous monuments (25 September–7 October 2011) or explore the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa (3–17 September 2011). Every tour is accompanied by an expert scholar and is open exclusively to alumni of Oxford and Cambridge. Find out more at www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel

(Above) Woman standing in a doorway wearing beaded and metal jewellery. Ahansal, Morocco, 1955; (top right) Berber riders at the annual Feast of the Throne celebrations. Morocco, 1968; (right) the monolithic rock-hewn church of Genete Mariam. Ethiopia, 1959



To see more Thesiger photographs, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk



city and village living

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 or come and see us at 10 Lime Tree Mews, 2 Lime Walk, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7DZ



Andrew Greenwood
Group MD



Lucy Taylor MRICS
Associate Director

With many landlords now reporting their buy-to-let investments form part of their pension planning you need to know your property is in safe hands, but don't just take our word for it.....

"My dealings with scottfraser began just over ten years ago. I had been toying for some time with the idea of buying a property in Oxford on a buy-to-let basis, prior to eventual retirement there. A friend who was a don spoke highly of the firm and put me in touch with Andrew Greenwood... At no stage in that first meeting was I not treated to anything but a friendly, honest and lucid explanation of all that was involved - both pros and cons. I was sent information on a regular basis and as I was often in Oxford it was easy to keep in touch and ask advice.

I discovered that the rental potential of a property did not automatically rise in line with its value, and was advised of the price range that would best suit my needs. By this stage my inner landlord was beginning to take over the academic within me and I found to my surprise that I was starting to enjoy the whole enterprise. When, therefore, a property came up that seemed to fit the bill I had a pretty good idea of just what the bill was - and, more importantly, that I could afford to pay it. Andrew accordingly set wheels in motion once more, we went to look at what was still essentially a building site; had lunch at a local pub, and I was a property owner!

Since then I have been delighted with the enterprise on just about every front. Efforts to find tenants during quite turbulent financial times have been diligent so that rent voids have been rare and never alarming. Any problems, potential or actual, have been presented along with suggested solutions; communication had been unfailingly efficient and friendly; I feel very much at home talking to the team.

Lest all this sound as if I am signing in blood and at gun point a testimonial drafted by scottfraser, or am hitting the keys randomly after a particularly bibulous dinner at their expense, I should add that I should be delighted to talk to prospective clients either by telephone or email to confirm or expand upon what I have written."
Alan Smith, Surrey



26/27 Oxford-educated prime ministers



Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington, Trinity 1690 (PM 1742-3)



Henry Pelham, Hart Hall 1710 (PM 1743-54)



George Grenville, Christ Church 1730 (PM 1763-5)



William Pitt the Elder, Earl of Chatham, Trinity 1726 (PM 1766-8)



Frederick, Lord North, Trinity 1749 (PM 1770-82)



William Petty, Earl of Shelburne, Christ Church 1755 (PM 1782-3)



William Henry Cavendish Bentinck, Duke of Portland, Christ Church 1755 (PM 1783 and 1807-9)



Henry Addington, Viscount Sidmouth, Brasenose 1774 (PM 1801-4)



William Wyndham, Lord Grenville, Christ Church 1776 (PM 1806-7)



Robert Banks Jenkinson, Earl of Liverpool, Christ Church 1787 (PM 1812-27)



George Canning, Christ Church 1787 (PM 1827)



Sir Robert Peel, Christ Church 1805 (PM 1834-5 and 1841-6)



Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, Christ Church 1817 (PM 1852, 1858-9 and 1866-8)



William Ewart Gladstone, Christ Church 1828 (PM 1868-74, 1880-5, 1886 and 1892-4)



Robert Cecil, Marquess of Salisbury, Christ Church 1847 (PM 1885-6, 1886-92 and 1895-1902)



Archibald Philip Primrose, Earl of Rosebery, Christ Church 1866 (PM 1894-5)



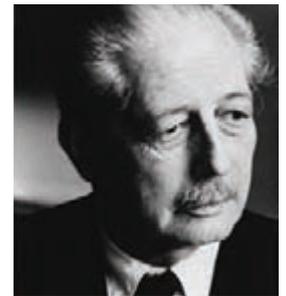
Herbert Henry Asquith, Earl of Oxford & Asquith, Balliol 1870 (PM 1908-16)



Clement Attlee, Earl Attlee, University 1901 (PM 1945-51)



Sir Anthony Eden, Earl of Avon, Christ Church 1919 (PM 1955-7)



Harold Macmillan, Earl of Stockton, Balliol 1912 (PM 1957-63)



Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Lord Home of the Hirsel, Christ Church 1922 (PM 1963-4)



Harold Wilson, Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, Jesus College 1934 (PM 1964-70 and 1974-6)



Edward Heath, Balliol 1935 (PM 1970-4)



Margaret Thatcher, Somerville 1943 (PM 1979-1990)



Tony Blair, St John's 1972 (PM 1997-2007)



David Cameron, Brasenose 1988
(PM 2010–present)

FIRST AMONG EQUALS

David Cameron’s appointment has increased the number of Oxford-educated British prime ministers to 26, writes **Richard Lofthouse**

IF THE TALLY of prime ministers morphed into the boat race, Oxford would be ahead by several lengths, with 26 to Cambridge’s 14. There’s even a reserve candidate pushing the Oxonian total to a theoretical 27: William Pulteney, 1st Earl of Bath (Christ Church 1700), conventionally discounted because he served only two days in office. Throw in 30-plus world leaders, yet the absence of a Harvard-style School of Government (until now – see page 9), and we’re left with various explanations as to why Oxford prevails in politics. These range from the Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) course to the debating Union, political clubs, royal connection and geography, plus long-standing strengths in classics, history and law.

The big picture is one of Oxbridge dominance. Of 54 serving PMs, beginning with Sir Robert Walpole (1676–1745), 41 went to Oxbridge, 10 attended no university and three went to other universities (Earl Russell, Neville Chamberlain and Gordon Brown, to Edinburgh, Birmingham and Edinburgh respectively). At the heart of Oxbridge is a tutorial/supervision system that encourages debate and in arts subjects requires students to construct what are, in effect, rudimentary speeches, laying down sustained arguments pulled together at speed with limited knowledge. However, this famous teaching method does not explain why Oxonian PMs outnumber Cantabrian ones by such a large margin.

“We also need to explain why Oxford has produced so many MPs, from which prime ministers have been

drawn,” says Richard Jarman, Oxford’s Head of Government and Community Relations. He’s right. If you skim through *Dod’s Guide to the 2010 General Election*, Oxford is prominent, counting over 100 MPs compared to a Cambridge total in the region of 50, allowing for the fact that a handful of MPs don’t list their education and others went to both universities.

The core cabinet of the current coalition is somewhat more evenly weighted, but not by much. Of 21 ministers, 14 are Oxbridge, but the ratio is 3:2 Oxford to Cambridge, while six out of nine Oxonians took their undergraduate degrees in PPE.

Modern greats

Initially dubbed ‘Modern Greats’, the PPE degree emerged at Balliol in the 1920s, its author and principal champion Alexander Lindsay (Master of Balliol, 1924–49). In 1938 he contested the Oxford by-election, losing to Conservative candidate Quintin Hogg (later Lord Hailsham). A climacteric in the history of Oxford politics, it also demonstrated Balliol’s dominance: 34/150 Union presidents between 1900 and 1950 were Balliol men (the second-largest contributing college was Christ Church, with 17, then Trinity with seven). Three of this year’s Labour party leadership candidates took PPE at Oxford, leading the BBC to dub it “a form of educational freemasonry”. Even though hundreds of colleges and universities now offer similar degrees, PPE remains synonymous with Oxford and is certainly part of the answer to the broader question.

‘Even though hundreds of colleges and universities now offer similar degrees, PPE remains synonymous with Oxford’





KURTHUTTON/GETTY IMAGES

Candidate for the Presidency of the Oxford Union, future prime minister Edward Heath addresses the floor (1938)

Oxford's dominance of British politics is much older than the dazzling sequence that starts with Asquith and Attlee and ends with Heath, Thatcher, Blair and Cameron, however. Eleven Oxonian premiers were born in the 18th century, and although few of these dusty-wigged gents are household names, they established the broader context of Oxford's political out-performance.

Peers' privilege

In the 18th century, the office of prime minister had not yet attained its modern form. Despite the trimming of royal power in the 1689 Bill of Rights following the Civil War and Restoration, the first minister remained a servant of the king, while the Commons still deferred to the Lords. 'Party' government, let alone post-Marx distinctions of 'left' and 'right', still lay in the future. If William Pitt the Elder was the first Oxonian prime minister of real stature, information on his predecessors is difficult to source. The first Oxonian PM, Spencer Compton (Trinity 1690), attended St Paul's school, then Middle Temple and Trinity, and was described by a contemporary as "a plodding, heavy fellow, with a great application, but no talents". Anyone for plum pudding?

Oxford's role in producing ministers was also unique. In the 18th century, a university degree was less of a prerequisite for entering politics than being the son of a peer, studying law and embarking on a Grand Tour. Oxford was part of the mix, not the defining moment. The so-called 'peers' privilege' meant that sons of lords could attend Oxford for a set number of terms (sometimes breaking off for travel) and then walk away with an MA conferred without exams. At the centre of it all were Eton and Christ Church.

Just consider the following stats. Of 19 future prime ministers who attended Eton, 13 went to Oxford and nine of those went to Christ Church. The four who struck out on their own, if that phrase means anything in such a narrow context, were William Pitt the Elder; Frederick, Lord North; Harold Macmillan and David Cameron, who attended Trinity, Trinity, Balliol and Brasenose respectively.

Of course, the gilded link between Eton and Christ Church no longer exists, unless we pin everything on the Right Honourable Member of Parliament for North West Hampshire, Sir George Young (Eton/Christ Church, PPE 1963). "Yes, there was still this *Brideshead* element when I attended," says Karl Sternberg (Christ Church 1988). "But it was a very atomistic place," he recalls, "there was no class faction and it wasn't at all a closed shop." He insists that it is the atmosphere of tolerance, dissent, individualism and self-sufficiency demanded by the tutorial system that furnishes a larger part of the modern answer – Oxonians self-select before they even get in – that's why they go on to do well.

But we do not need to be coy about the historical importance of Eton and Oxford to each other. Both occupy Thameside locations, the 18th century's answer to the M40 at a time when all the royal residences – St James's Palace; Hampton Court; Windsor – scattered westwards from Buckingham House (later Palace, acquired by George III in 1762). Henry I chose Oxford for Beaumont Palace. Richard the Lion-Heart was born in the city. Elizabeth I was imprisoned in Woodstock Manor. The colleges supported Charles I in the Civil War. George III was Eton's greatest patron after its founder, Henry VI, and never left southern England, attending a spa in Cheltenham. For all these reasons and more, David Butler, psephologist and emeritus fellow of Nuffield College, is in no doubt. "The reasons for Oxford's large number of prime ministers are twofold," he says, "Eton and geography." He adds, "Oxford was simply a more convenient place for the rich and powerful to send their sons."

Privilege ends

There's a broader confusion over politics, Oxford and the emergence of meritocracy. If, like this writer, you attended Oxford in the last quarter of the 20th century, there was an unwritten assumption that Wilson, Heath and Thatcher were part of an inevitable tide away from privilege. It started with Ramsay MacDonald, the illegitimate son of a farm labourer and a housemaid, who became the first Labour prime minister in 1924. Privilege ended, says Douglas Hurd, with Sir Alec Douglas-Home's arrival at Number 10 in 1963, "the last flowering of a highly sympathetic tradition of political service based on a mixture of patriotic duty, personal ambition and inherited land". The comment is diluted by the election of Cameron, a direct descendant of King William IV as well as an Old Etonian. Yet the broader historical point concerns the terrifically English manner by which low birth was no obstacle to high office long before the rise of the Labour party; and also the degree to which there was a long tail of privilege.

Self-described as an "Irishman born in London", the brilliant George Canning (Christ Church 1787), whose impecunious mother turned to acting to pay the bills, was an outsider turned insider. Rescued by a wealthy relative, he was a brilliant success at Eton and Oxford. His famous couplet, "Pitt is to Addington / As London is to Paddington" betrays his outsider status as much as it pinpoints Addington's minor gentry social origin. As for the 'peers' privilege', it died only slowly. Robert



Cecil, Lord Salisbury, electorally the most successful Conservative leader of the 19th century, as well as the most fearful of democracy, was awarded an honorary fourth class in mathematics before claiming the privilege of founder's kin to enter All Souls. Douglas-Home (Christ Church 1922) was awarded only a 'gentleman's third' in history in 1925, put down to illness and champagne. None of which undermines Simon Jenkins' point in *Thatcher & Sons*, that Oxford "was a citadel of meritocracy".

Meritocracy's rise

Barred from the Union by gender, Thatcher (Somerville 1943) instead became president of the Oxford University Conservative Association. Yet the debating union ('the Union') retains a powerful if controversial role in producing prime ministers, among them several true heavyweights, including Gladstone, Salisbury, Asquith and Macmillan. There are at least five ex-Oxford Union presidents currently in parliament, ranging from William Hague to Alan Duncan, suggesting continued strength.

Political biographer Richard Thorpe, who recently published a new biography of Harold Macmillan, argues to the contrary that "the list of PMs who had nothing to do with the Union is as great or greater than the list who did – it includes Rosebery, Attlee, Eden, Home, Thatcher, Blair and Cameron".

Polarising and controversial as the Union continues to be (Shirley Williams commented that it was good training for parliament because both institutions were "dotty, out-of-date gentleman's clubs"), it mimicked parliament and, according to Macmillan, "provided an unrivalled training ground for debates in the parliamentary style". For most of its Victorian heyday, it was an extension of a vibrant, self-electing club culture at the great public schools, especially Eton. It also housed a superb library that fed Clement Attlee, even though he never once entered the debating chamber.

Macmillan (Balliol 1912) also joined the Liberal Club, the Conservative Club and the Fabian Society. There was a Canning Club, a Chatham Club, and later the Labour Club (which Hugh Gaitskell joined to

'...the role of "Oxford" precedes the role of any club in producing future prime ministers'

support the General Strike in 1926) and a Conservative Association. There were hundreds of other college clubs that came and went much as they do today, gaining traction one minute and sliding away the next.

Yet the role of 'Oxford' precedes the role of any club in producing future prime ministers. The Union's greatest president, Gladstone, in 1830, was a superb orator before he came up to Oxford. Like countless other future presidents, he had the gift of boundless self-belief. At its centenary dinner in 1924, one Union member wrote: "Everyone felt that it was only some extraordinary accident that had prevented all of us becoming archbishops, premiers and Lord Chancellors."

As the 20th-century University's historian Brian Harrison says, becoming prime minister "is about self-belief and thinking that you're better than everyone else, not getting a first". Cameron's first is unusual in this regard – although Harold Wilson got one and so did Peel and Gladstone. Thatcher, Heath and Blair all earned second-class degrees, while plenty of their forebears flunked, Heath only rising to the presidency of the Union because of an organ scholarship that gave him a fourth year of campaigning.

Classics and politics

Why did the Union member dream of "archbishops, premiers and Lord Chancellors" rather than "scientists, bankers and mathematicians"? It wasn't that Oxford spurned science – it was the birthplace in the 1650s of the Royal Society, after all. Rather, it was that statecraft demanded legal training, classics and history. Oxford obliged, attesting a political culture that continues to the present and is not separate from the 'generalist' qualities sought in PPE.

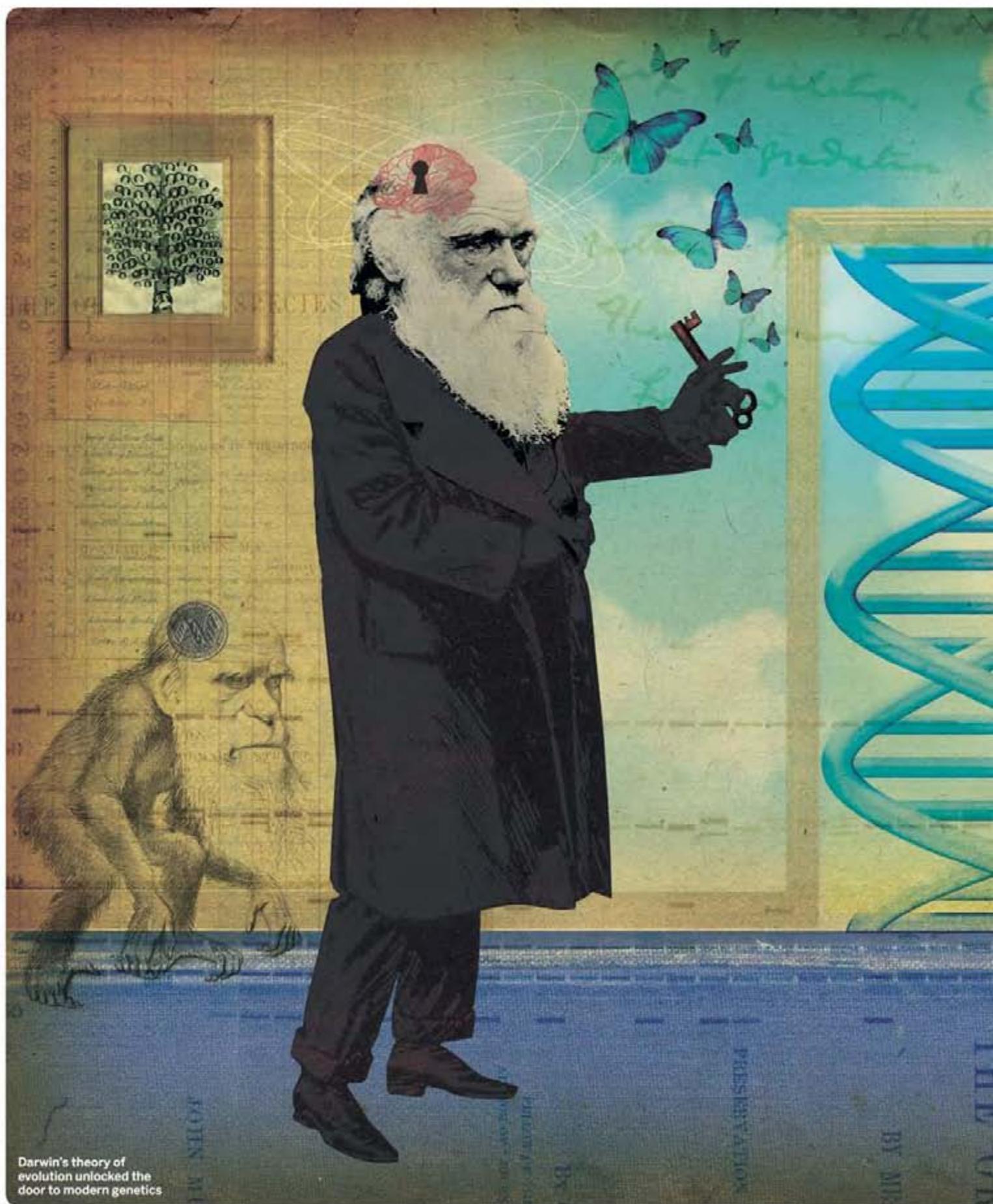
Sir Robert Peel achieved a double first that included unfashionable mathematics – a feat Gladstone exceeded in 1831 only by dint of cramming, having left Eton proficient in Greek and Latin, competent in French, with bare adequacy in mathematics and "largely ignorant of the sciences". Hating Eton and Oxford, William Pitt the Elder sent his son to Pembroke, Cambridge, where although he "read extensively in the classics and English literature, he became interested in chemistry and was fascinated by Newton's *Principia*". Thatcher really was unusual in this regard. She studied chemistry at Somerville and before becoming an MP researched ice-cream preservatives.

Says biographer Thorpe, "You can't generalise, but Oxford is simply more worldly. Cambridge is fenland; it's more scientific and in the 1920s and 1930s it's Rutherford splitting the atom. Oxford was always easier to get to from London." You have to get to Attlee's *Dictionary of National Biography* entry before reading a single mention of east London, and thus proximity to the Great Cambridge Road, today's A10. There is a *Yes Minister* joke about Oxford having two motorways to Cambridge's one because so many civil servants needed to get home at the weekend. The hearsay, like the geography, is cumulative, just as George III's preference for southern England is indistinguishable from Oxford's ascendancy in the 1700s. Oxford is not Cambridge – and it's the more political of the two universities. ☺

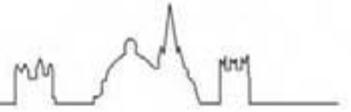
Children supporting the candidature of Master of Balliol AD Lindsay against Conservative politician Quintin Hogg in the Oxford by-election of 1938



HULTONARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES



Darwin's theory of evolution unlocked the door to modern genetics



A MATTER OF PRIVACY

In the absence of specific legislation regulating all aspects of the research uses of genetic information, Oxford bioethicists are trying to set a gold standard of good practice. **Michael Gross** reports

THE RECENT DEBATES over Facebook's privacy policies have highlighted how difficult it can be to find the right balance between sharing information widely over the internet and keeping personal things private. Researchers in the field of genetics, who have over the last 10 years accumulated an ever-more rapidly growing amount of highly sensitive and personal information, namely the genetic information in the genomes of individual, living people, are now facing a similar dilemma.

While genome datasets help the fight against numerous conditions from cancer to malaria, they also carry problematic legal and ethical issues. As researchers are constantly improving the amount and quality of information they can read from a human genome, such sequences may soon reveal as much personal information as the Facebook profile of an average teenager. Knowledge of future afflictions that cannot be cured or prevented, from hair loss to early-onset Alzheimer's, could affect people's life options and career prospects if it became accessible. Thus, the issue of what data to share, and how to share it safely, is becoming highly important in bioethics.

With over 40 academics specialising in bioethics, Oxford is at the centre of efforts to develop a 'good practice' standard of responsible use of genetic data. Jane Kaye is the Director of the HeLEX centre (Centre for Health, Law and Emerging Technologies) based at the medical campus in Headington. Originally trained in law, she leads a group of social scientists investigating the governance frameworks and legal requirement of the emerging ability to sequence many human genomes very quickly and inexpensively.

"The Human Tissue Act 2004 does not cover the use of extracted DNA," Kaye explains, "so much of research practice in the area of genetics and genomics is dependent upon ethical principles rather than legal requirements." In a survey conducted among medical researchers, her group found that a majority want legal structures, as long as they are helpful and still allow space for creativity. The difficulty is that much research is global in nature, but our regulatory mechanisms tend to be nationally based. "This means we must

think very carefully about developing new governance mechanisms for genomics research," says Kaye.

Meanwhile, a few international research projects have already set a precedent for free access. The 1000 Genomes Project, for instance, which also involves a number of Oxford researchers, was launched in 2008, and the sequence information produced is already freely available via the internet, albeit without the personal and medical information.

Open access studies must rely on informed consent, which means that the participants read and sign a document detailing what the researchers will be allowed to do with the information content of their DNA. In a version that experts call "broad consent", which is often used for collections of samples kept for further research, the participants agree to not only a specific type of analysis, but also to one or several fields in which the samples may be used. This gives researchers more flexibility if new types of analysis become possible, but it also leaves the participant with weaker protection. ▽



Jane Kaye,
Director of Oxford's
HeLEX centre

ILLUSTRATION: SCOTT RHODES; WILL HUNTER

However, there are situations where open access becomes problematic. For instance, MalariaGEN (Malaria Genomic Epidemiology Network) is a study aimed at trawling human genomes for genetic traits that affect resistance or susceptibility to malaria, launched by Oxford's Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics in 2005. As malaria mainly affects sub-Saharan Africa, this work necessarily involves participants with little understanding of medical research, who may not appreciate the consequences of open access to their data.

"We had a policy discussion at the start of the project," remembers Jantina de Vries, one of three ethicists from the Ethox Centre working closely with MalariaGEN researchers, "and we realised that, contrary to standard policy, uncontrolled data release was probably not going to be appropriate."

Delicate balance

Within limits, researchers can educate the study participants about the implications of their research. But what others might do with the data either now or in the future is beyond the scope of such efforts, and often beyond prediction. Thus, the concept of informed consent from DNA donors may become problematic.

"Because we are aware of the limits of consent in such cases, we have decided not to release data without regulation," explains De Vries. In close consultation between researchers, ethics committees, funding bodies and others, MalariaGEN set up a dedicated review panel to control access to the genomic data generated by the project, the IDAC (Independent Data Access Committee). Its six members, all experts in relevant disciplines, review all requests for access to MalariaGEN data. Anybody interested in the data can file an application online, justifying their request with a short description of their research interest.

A second reason to control data access, says Michael Parker, who chairs the Ethox Centre for Bioethics and leads the ethics research attached to the MalariaGEN project, is to protect the emerging capacity of African researchers. If raw data were to be released immediately, researchers in the wealthier nations with their more powerful computer resources might be able to produce publishable results much more rapidly than the scientists who gathered the data in the first place. Therefore, MalariaGEN's data release policy includes the option of delaying access for nine months after the date when the researchers who created the data first had access to it. Parker is convinced that the malaria work will provide a boost for science in Africa, specifically because the



A Kenyan child receiving a heel prick to collect a small blood sample that will have the DNA extracted for genotyping or sequencing

future research building on the DNA finding will depend on local knowledge of disease patterns.

Thus, the bioethics work is aimed at supporting the researchers, rather than hindering their progress. "Scientists often see ethics as an obstacle to what they are trying to do, but we try to help them do their work more successfully," Parker says. In teaching medical ethics to University of Oxford students from around the world, Parker aims to build capacity for such bioethics support in the developing countries as well. Apart from the close collaboration with the scientists, he describes global outreach as the second defining feature of the work he leads at Ethox.

Whenever the IDAC grants access to biomedical datasets, the data is released only to specifically named applicants, who have to sign a legally binding contract banning them from passing the data on to others. Some other researchers and institutions appear to think that this much protection is unnecessary. "We see our approach as a contribution to the debate," says De Vries. "It shows that such research can be done in an ethical way." The Oxford ethicists are observing an increasing amount of interest from other research groups. "There is a genuine interest in our approach," Parker concludes. "People are beginning to see it as an important part of the scientific process."

While the MalariaGEN example is unusual in that it involves highly vulnerable participants, it highlights the key issues in the ethical pursuit of modern genetics. In the UK, informed consent isn't quite as problematic, but it can become tricky if the information is combined with other medical information in so-called biobanks, large-scale projects aiming to mine the genome for clues to the causes of common diseases.

In order to defuse potential conflicts of interest and enable vital medical research to go ahead, Jane Kaye and her co-workers at the HeLEX Centre are working towards a strategic plan for the ethical handling of research in this field. "We use tools from law, sociology and philosophy in our research and work alongside scientists with the aim of developing a 'gold standard' of best practice in biomedical research," Kaye says. As the director of the Oxford Bioethics Network, Kaye is well-positioned to ensure that "Oxford" becomes a byword for high ethical standards in genomic research. ©



Renée C Fox

A pioneer in bioethics, Fox has just published her autobiography (*In the Field: A Sociologist's Journey*, Transaction, 2010). Her narrative is less memoir than ethnographic exploration of questions of meaning posed by illness and death. The reader is taken from a Manhattan childhood in the 1930s, via Central Africa and Belgium. This rich life is also the backdrop for the emergence of medical sociology and bioethics, culminating in her previous work, *Observing Bioethics* (OUP, 2008). She is now working on a study of Médecins Sans Frontières.

5,000 YEARS OF HISTORY...

Voyages to Antiquity combines the excitement of exploring the remarkable classical civilisations of the Mediterranean with the excellent comfort and service of boutique-style cruising.

From the wonders of Pharaonic Egypt and the classical elegance of ancient Greek architecture to the monumental splendour of the Byzantine Empire and the dazzling legacy of Norman Sicily, our aim is to bring to life the exciting and inspiring history of the Mediterranean.

We also promise outstanding value
**as shore excursions, wine with
dinner and gratuities are included**

...TWO WEEKS YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

Our new 2011 brochure features 24 historic Voyages to Antiquity – many with pre- or post-cruise hotel stays included! It also includes some fantastic early booking offers*:

FREE FLIGHT UPGRADE
FREE CABIN UPGRADE
LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS

**FOR OUR NEW 2011 BROCHURE
CALL 01865 302 557**



ABTA
ABTA No. Y2206

VOYAGES TO ANTIQUITY

CRUISES TO CLASSICAL CIVILISATIONS

www.voyagestoantiquity.com

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 0845 437 9737

*Early booking offers apply to selected cruises and cabin categories, are subject to availability and cannot be combined.



Ivan Lubenko and Helen Pearce dancing the waltz for Oxford at the 2010 Varsity match

A QUESTION OF WHICH SPORT

From ballroom dancing and tortoise racing to the more traditional football and rowing, sport at Oxford has never been more popular or diverse, as **Graham Topping** discovers

TO A STUDENT of the punky late 1970s, the idea that ballroom dancing would ever be a prominent sport in the University would have caused consternation. Its then-recent award of a Half-Blue was widely derided. But in 2010 the OU Dancesport Society boasts 900 paid-up members, and more than 1,500 students take one of its dance classes during a year. It's even more surprising that such popularity largely pre-dates the TV phenomenon, *Strictly Come Dancing*. According to the society's publicity officer, Samantha Roberts, the driving force has been the word 'sport' in 'dancesport'. "There's a large recreational membership, but the club really took off when we created more opportunities for dancers to compete," she explains.

"There are now 150 or more competition dancers, and it's those highly motivated students who have organised the club better – and who are passionate about spreading the word." And say what you like about the greasepaint and the sashays, these budding Rogers-and-Astaires do have to be seriously fit.

The landscape of Oxford sport has changed enormously in half a lifetime. As the University has expanded, more outré sporting tastes have gained a critical mass. Now you can cheerlead, surf, trampoline, kick-box or even save lives competitively, wearing the dark blue of Oxford. There are now more than 80 sports clubs trying to use a sports centre built in the '60s, when there were just 22. The internationalisation of the student body means that until an Iffley Road



(Above) Man of the match Sam Agarwal in the Varsity Twenty20 match, June 2010



(Clockwise from above) Regent's Park women's eight during Eights Week 2010; the Corpus Christi annual tortoise race, 2009; after winning the Headship of the River in 2009, the Christ Church men's crew burns a boat in celebration



extension is realised, a globally popular sport like basketball can't satisfy the demand for court time, and many devotees are turned away. Meanwhile, though most colleges went mixed in 1979, women's sport still struggled for opportunities and for equal funding into the late '80s. Now that the student-run Sports Federation hands out club grants, some women's clubs are better funded than their male equivalents – because they submit better grant applications.

The foment of sporting activity is promoted as ever by inter-college rivalry. Football has a staggering 680 officially refereed games per year – some 80 per cent more games than the Premier League season. Perversely, 'footie' may be a victim of its own popularity, of the sense that anyone can kick a ball: it perennially lacks the kudos of rowing or rugby. Still lower down the pecking order, it's a surprise to find beer-in-hand 'anti-sports' such as darts or pool as popular and eagerly contested as they were in the old single-sex colleges. And, of course, beyond the anti-sports, youthful wit spawns spoofs like the (sadly defunct) Varsity Tiddlywinks, with its ironic Quarter-Blue, or the inter-college Tortoise Race at Corpus (still alive and crawling).

Back in the 1950s or '60s, it would have been commonplace to see a college fellow or two supporting a team in a big 'Cuppers' game. One alumnus of my

'Despite the temptations of 80-odd other sports, rowing has held on to its exalted position'

generation suspects that even in 1980, the rowing Headship mattered far more to a few 'old-school' dons at his college than the Norrington Table. On the other hand, one alumna of the mid-'80s recalls a personal visit from a tutor during the long vacation, in which she was pressured not to row for the University – despite her very respectable 'Mods' exam result. Of course, these attitudes were the extremes: a straw poll of alumni suggests that most tutors raised concerns about sport only if academic work was clearly suffering. A similar spectrum is seen in college grants to University athletes – a handful of colleges are very generous.

What is clear is that sport nowadays has been squeezed by social and professional pressures on academics. Before the 1980s, tutorials were rarely scheduled between 2 and 5pm, and the Isis was a happy playground in the afternoons. Nowadays, research and admin drive the don, who also very reasonably wants to get home to his or her family in the evening (hence, too, the decline of High Table). So lectures, classes, practicals and tutorials cram the daylight hours and the river flows untroubled, except at 7am, when it resembles a Scandinavian logging operation, with Eights queuing bow-to-stern in the morning mist.

Still, despite the antisocial alarm-calls and the temptations of 80-odd other sports, rowing has held on to its exalted position in Oxford. Nearly 10 per cent of the University's students compete in Torpids or Eights each year. When boathouses were built in the 1960s and '70s, SCR members could be heard grumbling that it would be money wasted because as the public school intake decreased, rowing would decline in popularity. Instead, it has attracted ever-more beginners eager for a somehow quintessential Oxford experience. Just watch out, boat clubs. By 2050 that essence of Oxford sport may be the Cha-cha-cha. 🌟

Talking points

Michael Kirby (Hertford 1954, college rowing) "The Bump Supper in Hall in 1957 was a great college occasion. Principal Murphy was seen jumping over the VIII being burnt in the Quad."

John Bothwell (Merton 1996, rugby union Blue) "Merton's attitude to sport bordered on the horizontal. Being shy, I liked the fact that I could come back to college and no one cared that I'd played for the Blues against Western Samoa."

Jenny Mercer (SHC 1968, sailing Half-Blue) "In women's colleges, college sport was definitely recreational and University sport was largely ignored."

Bill Parry (Queen's 1955, Oriel don and rowing coach) "If a student commits to hard physical training, they have grit, and there's a chance they might go for hard intellectual training, too."

Jonathan Ross (Magdalen 1977, cricket Blue) "My tutors were pleased for me that I played for the Blues. I think they perhaps expected less of me academically."

Annabell Watson (SHC 2007, tennis) "UK universities do not promote sporting success enough: there is nowhere near the funding seen in the US at Harvard and Yale, for example."

Alison Salvesen (SHC 1979, rowing Half-Blue) "As a research don myself now, I think rowing is rather frowned upon by tutors – a shame! I certainly encourage rowing, the group context is good mentally as well as physically."

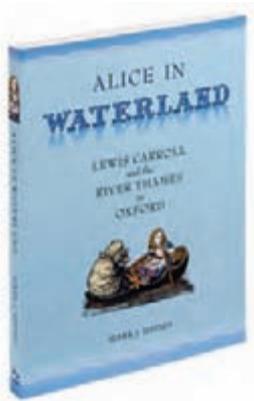


BRETT TULLY, JOHN GAISFORD, ROB JUDGES, ERIC MEYER, JOHN SINCLAIR

Arts & Ideas

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



Alice in Waterland: Lewis Carroll and the River Thames in Oxford

By Mark J Davies, Signal, 9781904955726, £9.99

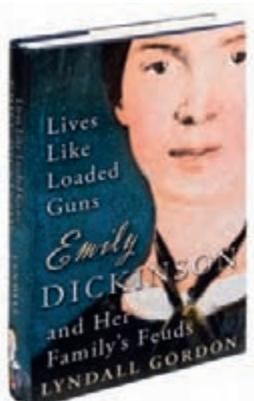
It was on a boating expedition to Godstow in July 1862 that 10-year-old Alice Liddell begged Charles Dodgson to write down the stories he had invented for the dean of Christ Church's children. The excursion would go down in history as Dodgson went on to publish, under the pen-name of Lewis Carroll, tales that have intrigued and delighted generations: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and its sequel, *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*.

Oxford historian Mark Davies' retelling of this famous story is rich in anecdotal and period detail, from Prince Leopold's black eye to Carroll's description of his stories as "interminable". He explores the important influence of the River Thames

on the *Alice* stories, and on the circumstances of their creation and publication. Carroll's fantasy was both inspired and constrained by the horizons of his material world, and even the seemingly boundless imaginative sphere of *Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass* is found to have its roots firmly in the watery Oxford landscape that gave it birth.

A historical and literary study, *Alice in Waterland* deals with the river in various sections, using extracts from Carroll's diaries and images of Oxford beauty spots, alongside descriptions of locals thought to have provided Carroll with character inspiration. ☺

Susie Cogan (New College 1997) is Company Secretary of Oxford's Daily Information and a freelance writer



Lives Like Loaded Guns: Emily Dickinson and her Family's Feuds

By Lyndall Gordon, Virago Press, 9781844084531, £20.00

"My Life had stood – a Loaded Gun – / In Corners – till a Day". So begins the 1863 poem by Emily Dickinson that provides the leitmotif for this biography. Lyndall Gordon (senior research fellow, St Hilda's College) specialises in the exploration of women's lives. Her new book deals with a group of individuals whose lives were like "loaded guns".

Dickinson published 10 poems in her lifetime and left behind 1,789 others. "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant," she wrote. Gordon tells it straight. Setting aside the legend of the spinster in a white dress, she presents Dickinson as a spirited, highly educated woman.

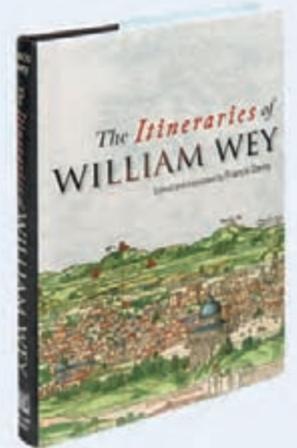
The family division began in 1882. Dickinson's brother Austin fell in love with the married Mabel Loomis Todd. Many of the

lovers' meetings took place in the house where the poet lived with her sister Lavinia, next door to Austin and his wife Susan, Emily's girlhood friend and finest reader.

When Dickinson died, her sister handed over the manuscripts to Mabel, who published a collection. In the next generation, Mabel's daughter Millicent and Susan's daughter Martha produced rival editions and biographies.

Gordon's biography is both a family saga of Jamesian complexity and a compelling story of the shaping of a literary oeuvre. ☺

Pamela Clemit (Mansfield 1979) is Professor of English Studies at Durham University. The first volume of her edition of The Letters of William Godwin will be published by OUP in February 2011



The Itineraries of William Wey

Edited by Francis Davey, Bodleian Library, 9781851243044, £27.99

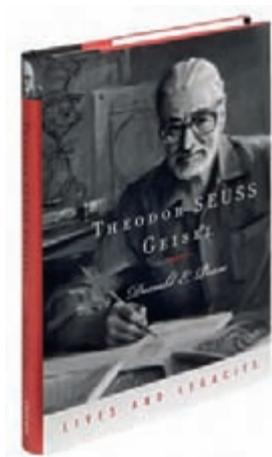
The 15th-century Devon priest and sometime fellow of Exeter College, William Wey, was granted special dispensation from King Henry VI to go on lengthy pilgrimages, journeying to Compostella (nowadays Santiago de Compostela), Rome and Jerusalem between 1456 and 1462. Francis Davey (New College 1951) has translated and edited Wey's travel narratives. As well as describing the religious significance of the places he visited, Wey provided practical advice for future travellers. He explains that in Venice one can buy a feather bed near St Mark's Square for three ducats and sell it back afterwards for one-and-a-half, and recommends essential provisions for the long sea journey to Jaffa in the Holy Land. ☺

Book reviews are edited by Jenny Lunnon

Oxford Alumni bookshop

Blackwell offers a 10 per cent discount to all Alumni Card-holders on book purchases in any of its 56 UK stores or via the Oxford Alumni Online Bookshop. In addition, this website offers free UK deliveries on orders over £20 and access to more than 4 million titles.
www.blackwell.co.uk/oxfordalumni

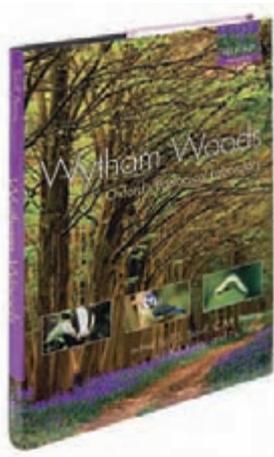
We welcome review suggestions from authors and publishers. Please send brief details to the Editor at oxford.today@admin.ox.ac.uk



Theodor SEUSS Geisel

By Donald E Pease,
OUP USA,
9780195323023,
£12.99

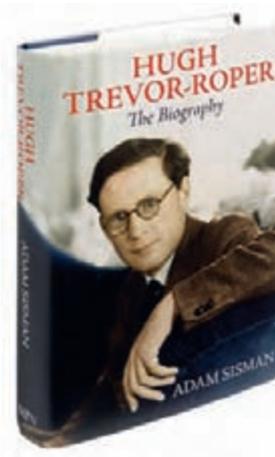
It was a doodle that founded an empire: the flying cow that Theodor 'Ted' Geisel drew on his notes in an Anglo-Saxon class during the year he spent at Lincoln College in 1925–26. Fellow student Helen Palmer leaned over to admire it and told him that he would be crazy to pursue an academic career when what he really wanted to do was draw. Helen was to become his wife and collaborator and Geisel himself (1904–1991) turned into Dr Seuss, the much-loved author and illustrator of children's books that have sold 200 million copies in 15 languages. In *Theodor SEUSS Geisel*, Pease delves into the origins of Dr Seuss' unique idiom, and describes the wartime experiences that caused him to develop the egalitarian world view reflected in such books as *Horton Hears a Who!* Dr Seuss' career began in the era of dull primers of the *Janet and John* variety, and Pease emphasises just how influential these zany, joyful and above all child-centred tales have been in the story of modern children's literature. ☺



Wytham Woods: Oxford's Ecological Laboratory

Edited by Peter Savill, Christopher Perrins, Keith Kirby, Nigel Fisher,
OUP, 9780199543205, £55

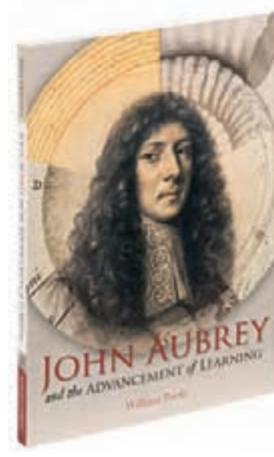
Edited by former and current Wytham researchers Peter Savill, Christopher Perrins and Keith Kirby, and the woods' conservator, Nigel Fisher, *Wytham Woods: Oxford's Ecological Laboratory* charts the emergence of the discipline of ecology, and how important the painstaking work of hundreds of scientists in Wytham Woods has been in this. These beautiful but essentially ordinary ash, maple and hazel woods, famous for their bluebells, have been the subject of many long-term studies of individual species, plant–animal interactions, and habitats. The longitudinal data collected for decades before climate change became an issue of widespread concern is now proving invaluable. ☺



Hugh Trevor-Roper: The Biography

By Adam Sisman,
Weidenfeld & Nicolson,
9780297852148, £25

Having in his old age declined to write an autobiography, the influential and controversial historian of Nazi Germany and early modern Britain, Hugh Trevor-Roper (1914–2003), who was Oxford Regius Professor of Modern History from 1957 to 1980 and counted George Orwell, Margaret Thatcher, Katharine Hepburn and Rupert Murdoch among his friends and acquaintances, instead gave biographer Adam Sisman access to his personal archive. *Hugh Trevor-Roper: The Biography* reminds readers who recall only Trevor-Roper's ill-judged verification of the faked Hitler diaries for Murdoch's News International in 1983 that this was just one brief incident late in the life of someone who deserves to be remembered for many other reasons, including his brilliant and distinctive writing style. ☺



John Aubrey and the Advancement of Learning

By William Poole,
Bodleian Library,
9781851243198, £25

Published to accompany the recent Bodleian exhibition, *John Aubrey and the Advancement of Learning*, by fellow of New College William Poole, is a lively introduction to the author of *Brief Lives* and one of the founding members of the Royal Society, which celebrates its 350th anniversary this year. Extensively illustrated, it explores the Trinity man and keen mathematician's friendships and broad range of intellectual interests, which included the megaliths at Stonehenge and Avebury and the development of a universal language, as well as his prominent role in the British scientific revolution. ☺



For more book reviews and this issue's crossword, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk



Enjoy comfort and events in London and Edinburgh



London Club in Grade 1 listed building
offers joining fee discount



The Royal Over-Seas League is a non profit making mutual society which offers members a wide variety of benefits including access to centrally situated clubhouses in London and Edinburgh. The present Chairman of the League and his two immediate predecessors are Oxford graduates.

The London clubhouse, comprising Vernon House and Rutland House (Grade 1 listed), is in a prime location bordering Green Park and near the Ritz Hotel. It has a private garden, al fresco dining, restaurant, buttery for light meals, bar, drawing room, 80 air-conditioned bedrooms and seven conference and private dining rooms. The Edinburgh clubhouse is centrally situated at 100 Princes Street with bedrooms, bar, restaurant and family flat.



In addition to economical central London pricing*, ROSL offers a varied events programme, inter-club younger members' group, quarterly journal, in-house art exhibitions and concerts, and short term access to over 80 other clubs around the world in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Kenya, Gibraltar, Ireland, Spain, USA and elsewhere.



Specially discounted joining fees for *Oxford Today* readers range from £59.00 to £138.50 depending on place of residence. Annual subscriptions range from £80.00 - £277.00 and are **effective from 1 November** of the preceding year for new members if wished.



For further information please contact the Royal Over-Seas membership department at the address below remembering to quote OXFORD TODAY.

Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Tel: 020 7408 0214 Fax: 020 7499 6738

(Enquiries: 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday - exts. 214 and 216)

Website: www.rosl.org.uk E-mail: info@rosl.org.uk

*London clubhouse: gin & tonic £4.70; pint of beer from £4.20; house wine from £3.90; bar food £5.00-£6.00; three course lunch/dinner in the restaurant from £25.60; in the garden £23.50; scones, Devon cream and preserves with tea or coffee in the garden, buttery or drawing room £7.85; evening events from £4.00; air-conditioned bedrooms £95 - £180; e-mail and computer facilities in Central Lounge, broadband internet connection in bedrooms. Prices correct at time of design, September 2010.

Interview

Persistence makes perfect

The World at One host Martha Kearney and BBC diplomatic correspondent Bridget Kendall talk to **Alicia Clegg** about presenting, politics and avoiding pigeonholing

I CAN ONLY manage things if I have a big deadline looming over my head," says Martha Kearney (St Anne's 1976), grinning broadly. As presenter of *The World at One*, Radio 4's pacy and enjoyable lunchtime news and current affairs show, she has found her perfect job.

The same might be said of her colleague, the BBC's diplomatic correspondent Bridget Kendall (Lady Margaret Hall 1974, St Antony's 1980). As a DPhil student researching the interaction between Russian literature and dissent, Kendall abandoned the archives for the immediacy of news broadcasting. "I thought what really intrigues me about this place is what is happening now, not what happened 60 years ago. Someone said, 'Why don't you apply to the BBC?' So I did." In 1989, she found her language skills and ability to dissect the subtext of contemporary Soviet discourse in hot demand when she was sent on a long-term posting to Moscow – just as the simmering tensions in Eastern Europe reached a tipping point and the Soviet Union began to unravel.

My meeting with Kearney, which has been put back by a few hours, takes place at the Royal Over-Seas League clubhouse in London on a sultry summer's evening. Seated in the reception, I spot a fresh-faced woman in a green and white sundress who somehow looks familiar. She jumps up and launches into a string of apologies for making my day longer. We settle in the garden and, over orange juice and sparkling water, begin talking.

Kearney was inspired to read Greats at Oxford by a teenage encounter with ER Dodds' *The Greeks and the Irrational*, a present from her father, the historian Hugh Kearney, and by the example of her *Monty Python*-loving classics teacher, Mrs Ungar, in whom she sensed a kindred spirit. But her first term left her wondering if she had picked the wrong course. Not completing her gap-year reading got her off to a bad start. Worse was to follow. "Everything seemed much more dry than I had expected it to be. There was a sense that as an individual you couldn't bring anything new to what you read because people had been studying Homer for two-and-a-half thousand years." Only after Mods did her course come alive. "I did ancient history and philosophy and loved both subjects. I felt there was scope for creativity of expression."

So if Kearney was not a natural library swot, what was she into? Hackery, perhaps? Not a bit of it. As it turns out, the future lobby correspondent and *Newsnight*



Bridget Kendall

Lady Margaret Hall 1974,
St Antony's 1980

*BBC diplomatic
correspondent*

Bridget Kendall hosts
The Forum every
Sunday at 9.05am
on BBC World Service



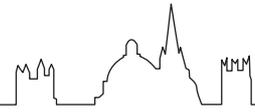
Martha Kearney

St Anne's 1976

Journalist/Presenter

Martha Kearney
presents *The World
at One* Mon-Thurs at
1pm on BBC Radio 4





political editor was more into punk than politics. “I was very big on Wreckless Eric. And I used to go up to Oxford Poly, where I saw Elvis Costello, and I saw Talking Heads at a tiny club in Aylesbury...” In her last year, having studiously avoided the example of career-minded friends who wrote for *Isis* and *Cherwell* – “At that age it didn’t really appeal to me” – she tried her hand at student and hospital radio, and found out what she wanted to do.

From Russia with love

I interview Kendall surrounded by chatter and clinking crockery in the café at TV Centre. The weekend news has been full of the ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan and her BlackBerry is switched on. Mercifully, there are no urgent summonses and my interviewee treats me to a relaxed discussion followed by a nose around the studios.

“I started doing Russian and French, then just did Russian. I really loved all aspects of it: the language, the literature, the philology and history. It was so cohesive as a degree.” Outside her course, Kendall immersed herself in art and theatre – she had nearly gone to art school instead of university – by working on stage sets and making costumes for the Oxford and Cambridge Shakespeare Company and OUDS.

In her penultimate year, Kendall landed a British Council Scholarship to study at a Russian provincial university. For three terms she spoke Russian, lived off potatoes, onions and pickled cabbage supplemented by vitamin pills and iron, and absorbed Russian culture. “Sometimes when I talk to young Russians, I realise I know more than they do about what [*Soviet provincial*] life was like. It was a real privilege because I saw into a world that has gone.” Suddenly Russia was no longer just a language and a literature. It was a place and a people.

Neither woman had an easy ride into broadcasting. First time round, the BBC told Kendall that, at 26, she was too old for a graduate traineeship. But she persisted and eventually persuaded her future bosses that a smattering of broadcasting experience picked up on student radio and her fluency in Russian made her employable. Her first job on a radio current affairs programme, broadcast four times a day, was, she confesses, “completely terrifying”. “For two weeks I didn’t sleep. But, at the end of a fortnight, I thought, ‘This is great. I like the adrenalin, I like the analysis, I like having to think quickly on my feet. I like the fact that I’m putting on a show.’”

Kearney’s media debut was an even bigger battle. Having applied to every BBC graduate scheme going and having been turned down by every one, she picked up some shifts at the independent radio station LBC. One of her jobs was switching callers into radio phone-ins – while intercepting the inevitable odd-balls before they could get on air and derail the show. ‘Leslie of Willesden’ was, she recalls, “particularly unpleasant”. Having survived that ordeal – “The first night, I came home in tears” – she got onto LBC’s training scheme, did a series of reporting jobs and ended up covering the 1987 general election from David Steel’s battle bus. Her next move was to Channel 4’s *A Week in Politics*, followed by a move to the BBC’s *On the Record*, from where she became *Newsnight* political editor in 2000 and host of *The World at One* in 2007. ➤

Despite making their names as political journalists – Westminster politics in Kearney’s case and East–West relations in Kendall’s – neither has allowed herself to become pigeonholed. From Moscow, Kendall went to Washington, in 1994, to find out how, now the Cold War had ended, “America was coping with the loss of its old enemy”. In 1998, she morphed again into her present role as the BBC’s diplomatic correspondent, reporting on global diplomatic and security issues. Outside politics, Kendall hosts *The Forum*, a weekly ideas programme on the World Service, which brings together leading thinkers from different disciplines. Kearney occasionally hosts arts programmes, has chaired the Orange Prize for Fiction and, for several years, juggled political reporting on *Newsnight* with presenting *Woman’s Hour*.



(Clockwise from above) Kendall in her Oxford days as a student of Lady Margaret Hall; St Anne’s College graduate Kearney; Kearney and Kendall photographed at the BBC Television Centre in London

Changing perceptions

Do women have to jump through more hoops than men to prove themselves in broadcasting, I wonder? Having been educated by strong, inspiring women at her girls’ school and St Anne’s, Kearney arrived on the scene assuming “the battles had been won”, only to discover that old-fashioned sexism was going strong. “I do think women were judged more harshly than men. Either you were thought too weak [to handle politicians] or you were labelled ‘a harridan’,

‘Despite making their names as political journalists, neither Kearney or Kendall has allowed herself to become pigeonholed’



ST ANNE’S COLLEGE, JESSE WILD

she muses. “There was also an idea that to be on air women had to be deep-voiced like men. Twenty-odd years ago one BBC boss told me I was too smiley to be on *Panorama*, but things have moved on hugely since then.” The style of news presenters, both male and female, “has definitely lightened up”. The one area where gender inequality still visibly persists, in Kearney’s opinion, is in the senior ranks of political reporting where, with a few notable exceptions, men dominate. Why is this? “I think part of it is the hours at Westminster, which makes life very difficult for women with families,” says Kearney reflectively. “And still the majority of MPs are men. Sadly, I think politics is still very much seen as a man’s world.”

I ask both women what changes they have witnessed in their careers. When she was posted to Moscow in 1989, Kendall stepped into a world of intrigue, counter-intelligence and surveillance that might have been lifted from the pages of a John le Carré novel. “I can remember some miners who wanted to see us,” she recalls. “They refused to talk in the office, because they were worried it might be bugged. So we met in a local park. There was enormous paranoia.”

The digital revolution, and in particular the growth of social networks such as Facebook and LinkedIn, has brought massive changes to broadcasting, collapsing the distance between the public and the media and enabling programme makers to find individuals who know about obscure topics or people in the public eye. As an example, Kearney mentions how when news of the US–Russian spy ring broke in July, *The World at One* gave the story a British twist by interviewing an Oxford academic whom the producer had identified online as an acquaintance of one of the alleged spies. The flipside of global connectivity is that no journalist can risk being cavalier with the facts. “There is less of a sense of home and abroad,” says Kendall. “What you say may be heard back in the country from which you are reporting or by someone, elsewhere, with a sophisticated knowledge of that country. It’s a good thing, because it forces journalists to be accurate and precise.”

I ask both women if they have tips for Oxonians bent on media careers. “Be incredibly persistent, make yourself distinctive by developing an expertise, but don’t get boxed in,” advises Kearney. “Learn an unusual language, especially one that’s not too easy,” says Kendall. “It opens a new world, connects you with people who think in a different way and is good for your head.”

A well-chosen specialism and the persistence to stick at it can get you a long way. Any takers for Tajik classes? ☺



DON'T LOOK NOW. LISTEN INSTEAD.

The seven concerts of A Festival of Music in Venice: The church of Sta Maria dei Miracoli; Odhecaton, led by Paolo da Col; Imago Virginis, by Josquin Des Prés; Johannes Ockeghem, Jean Mouton and Nicolas Gombert; Palazzo Pisani Moretta; Christopher Maltman and Malcolm Martineau; Songs of Venice, by Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Fauré and Hahn; Ateneo Veneto; La Venexiana with soloists Roberta Mamei, Martina Belli, Valentina Coladonato, Claudio Cavina and Alberto Allegrezza; Monteverdi, L'incoronazione di Poppea (highlights); Palazzo Zenobio; I Sonatori della Gioiosa Marca with Giorgio Fava; Italian late Baroque music with Vivaldi, Giovanni Reali, Francesco Mancini, Francesco Durante and Domenico Sarri; Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari; Iestyn Davies with the Accademia Bizantina and Ottavio Dantone; Vivaldi's Nisi Dominus and Porpora's Salve Regina. Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista; La Serenissima and Adrian Chandler; with soloists to include Mhairi Lawson, Sally Bruce-Payne and Hilary Summers; Vivaldi, Catone in Utica. Scuola Grande di San Rocco; The Gabrieli Consort & Players with Paul McCreesh; canzonas, motets and sonatas by Giovanni Gabrieli.



FROM THE PAINTING of Tintoretto to the cinema of Nicolas Roeg, the depiction of Venice has enthralled visual artists for centuries.

But while the art and architecture of La Serenissima may ravish the eye, it is worth noting that the city was also the centre of European musical life from the Renaissance to the Age of Baroque.

And of all the composers who made the churches and palazzos echo with their creations, the names of Gabrieli, Monteverdi and Vivaldi are most prominent. Their sublime talents helped fuel the passion for beauty and spectacle at the heart of Venetian life.

Which is why, for 2011, we are organising A Festival of Music in Venice. This event places you in the world's most beautiful city, where you will listen to the finest interpreters of the region's music playing in some of the most glorious interior spaces in Europe.

We have arranged a balanced programme of seven concerts in seven contrasting venues. The performances are private, which means they can be enjoyed only by participants on the tour.

We begin in one of the best-loved buildings in Venice, the exquisite church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli, in which the acclaimed Odhecaton, led by Paolo da Col, will play a selection of Renaissance and pre-Classical pieces.

Other highlights include a Monteverdi opera performed by La Venexiana in the 16th century Ateneo Veneto; Iestyn Davies singing in the great mediaeval church of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari; and the world-famous La Serenissima



performing Vivaldi's Catone in Utica.

The tour concludes with a concert given by The Gabrieli Consort in the lavishly decorated halls of the Scuola Grande di San Rocco.

To these musical and visual delights are added the wit, erudition and enthusiasm of our guest lecturer, the music historian and broadcaster Roderick Swanston.

Our Venetian event takes place in March next year. Alternatively, you might want to consider our other events in 2011: A Festival of Music in Castile (June), The Seine Music Festival (July), The Danube Music Festival

(August) or A Festival of Music in Florence (October). All these festivals feature a similar blend of richly atmospheric venues and leading specialist performers.

As one participant wrote last year, "it was glorious in accommodation, food, venues and music – a surfeit for the ears and the soul."

For more details of all our music festivals and small-group tours, please call 020 8742 3355 and ask for a copy of our brochure.

Or, of course, you could visit our site, www.martinrandall.com We recommend you take a look now. ✚

MARTIN RANDALL TRAVEL

ELEGANT WEDDINGS
INSPIRED ENTERTAINMENT
DIVINE DINNERS



at the BODLEIAN LIBRARY



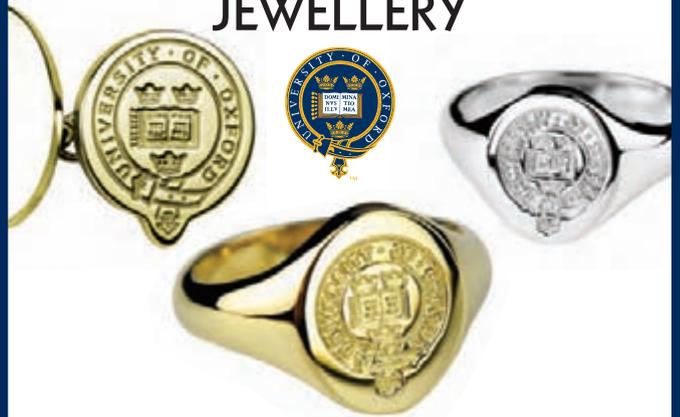
Located beneath Duke Humfrey's famous library are the magnificent Divinity School and Convocation House. These spectacular historic rooms can be the venue for your corporate reception or presentation, an exclusive private party or your unforgettable wedding reception.

Guided tours of Duke Humfrey's medieval library may be arranged to enhance your evening. Our experienced events team will be delighted to help you tailor your evening to suit your particular requirements in one of Oxford's finest venues.

Contact the Historic Venues Team
T: +44 (0)1865 277224
E: tours@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
W: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD COMMEMORATIVE JEWELLERY



Prices start from £25. Engraving is available on selected items. Please contact us or visit our website for up to date prices and to place an order
Tel: +44 (0)1572 822405 Email: info@commemorativejewellery.co.uk
www.commemorativejewellery.co.uk/oxfordtoday

Hand made needlepoint cushions
Fully finished – 18"/46cm square
Complete with inner feather pad
Universities • British Army •
Scottish Clans • Schools • etc

HERALDIC
NEEDLEPOINT



See www.heraldicneedlepoint.com for the full range of Oxford cushions and for on line ordering • from £81.00 + £6.00 p&p



HERALDIC NEEDLEPOINT • 1 BUTTS CLOSE • WIMBORNE ST. GILES • WIMBORNE
• DORSET • BH21 5NB • UNITED KINGDOM

tel: +44(0)1725 517927 • fax: +44(0)1725 517835 • email: enquiries@heraldicneedlepoint.com

MATRICULATION & GRADUATION RINGS



EVA LONDON

+44 (0)1865 988 332

www.evalondon.com

/oxford

Geoffrey Hill

Professor of Poetry

The Worcestershire-born poet becomes Oxford's 44th Professor of Poetry after a record turnout, writes **Seamus Perry**

GEOFFREY HILL, whom AN Wilson once described as “probably the best writer alive, in verse or in prose”, was elected Oxford's Professor of Poetry in June. Having beaten nine other candidates to win by a large majority, he becomes the 44th occupant of one of the most distinguished literary chairs in existence, succeeding Christopher Ricks in a line of incumbents that includes Matthew Arnold, WH Auden, Robert Graves and Seamus Heaney.

The Professorship of Poetry is an idiosyncratic academic post with a small number of official duties to discharge over a five-year office, including the delivery of three public lectures a year, the judging of several University prizes and, biennially, the Creweian Oration, in which the events of the past year

the University adopted a new web-based voting system and extended the voting period over a number of weeks. More than 2,500 votes were recorded, a huge increase on previous turn-out. The field of candidates was bigger than ever too, representing the full diversity of beliefs about what poetry is and how it might best be professed. Hill's closest contenders were Michael Horowitz, veteran poetry impresario and Beat poet; Sean Haldane, poet and neuropsychologist; the South African poet Chris Mann; and Roger Lewis, biographer of Anthony Burgess. The election was newsworthy: “The contest has become popular,” observed *The Times Literary Supplement* in pleasant surprise. There was no repetition of the sorry controversy that surrounded the last election, but there was also no shortage of passion: Horowitz appeared

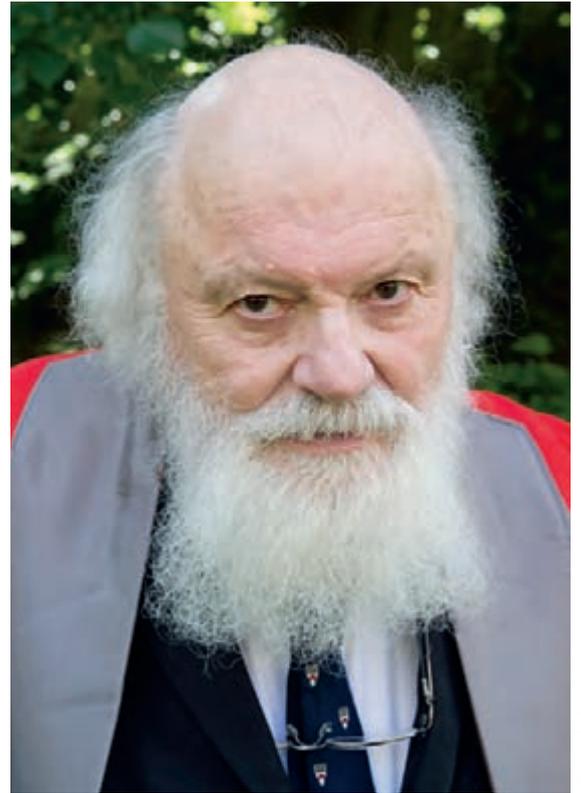
Hill was still a student at Keble when his first book of poems appeared from the Fantasy Press

are summarised and the University's benefactors commemorated. Otherwise, the chair has the broadest of remits: “generally to encourage the art of poetry in the University”. Its holders have each shaped the job in their own image. Auden would sit in the Cadena Café and lecture student-writers on the importance of form; Graves would address literary societies darkly about the mysteries of poetic inspiration. The outgoing chair, Christopher Ricks, organised a highly popular series of readings, pairing poets from Oxford and North America.

Uniquely, this professor isn't chosen only by other academics, but by votes cast by members of Convocation – that is, former Oxford students who have taken their degrees and members of Congregation. In previous elections, Old Members seeking to vote had to show up in person, but this time round

memorably in the press at one point in the campaign to accuse a rival of “pseudo-intellectual chutzpah”.

Geoffrey Hill was still a student at Keble when his first book of poems appeared from the Fantasy Press. Later volumes include *Mercian Hymns* (1971), *The Mystery of the Charity of Charles Péguy* (1983), *Canaan* (1997), and, most recently, *A Treatise of Civil Power* (2005). Together they constitute an extraordinary series of meditations – at once lyrical and ironic, autobiographical and metaphysical – that contemplate the burdens of history and the visitations of grace. Hill is also a scholar and an academic (Leeds, Cambridge, Boston) and he has produced a remarkable body of prose, now gathered in *Collected Critical Writings* (Oxford University Press, 2008). His essays cover an immense range, from Dryden to Philip Larkin, and show a practitioner's insight as well



ROB JUDGES

Oxford's new Professor of Poetry, Geoffrey Hill

as a strenuous moral (but not moralistic) intelligence. “One has a sense of a powerful intellectual and spiritual centre,” wrote John Casey, “an inner coherence, a philosophy that grows out of a continuously intelligent engagement with the culture.” He is a compelling lecturer, as the full house that listened to his recent talk at Wolfson College on poetry and war would testify.

Hill's voice is unmistakably his own (“What / ought a poem to be? Answer, a sad / and angry consolation”) and no one could mistake a Hill piece for one by Matthew Arnold. But he shares with his great Victorian predecessor an impassioned concern with the largest questions of cultural health and an awareness of the corruptions that threaten public speech. The American critic Harold Bloom has called him “the central poet-prophet of our augmenting darkness”. There is no more powerful voice in contemporary poetry, one capable in quick succession of stark denunciation and sheer loveliness: “This is a fabled England, vivid / in winter bareness; bleakly comforting / the faded orchard's hover of grey-green. / We have come home”. We look forward to a memorable five years. ☺



To read excerpts from an unpublished work by Geoffrey Hill, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk



Events

Museums & galleries

Florence from Bellosguardo, 1863, by John Brett (1831–1902)



TATE, LONDON

Ashmolean Museum

Until 5 December
The Pre-Raphaelites and Italy
 Includes the Ashmolean's collection of early Pre-Raphaelite pictures and loans from museums and private collections. A visual delight. £8/£6 concessions
www.ashmolean.org

Bodleian Library

4 December–27 March 2011
Shelley's Ghost: Reshaping the Image of a Literary Family
 A major exhibition dedicated to the Shelley family – a unit blessed with genius but marred by tragedy.
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions

Christ Church Picture Gallery

Until 19 December
Sacred Faces: Icons in Oxford
 Showcases some of the gallery's least known, but most captivating, treasures.

Museum of the History of Science

Until 20 March 2011
Al-Mizan: Sciences and Arts in the Islamic World
 Looks at the balance of creative and practical judgement employed by scientific instrument manufacturers across the Islamic world.
www.mhs.ox.ac.uk

Pitt Rivers Museum

Until 5 June 2011
Wilfred Thesiger in Africa: A Centenary Exhibition
 Explores Thesiger's lifelong relationship with Africa. Includes stunning photographs and objects. See p.20 for further information.

Until 21 November
The Burial of Emperor Haile Selassie: Photographs by Peter Marlow
 When Emperor Haile Selassie was buried 25 years after his death, only a few European journalists witnessed it. Magnum photographer Peter Marlow documents a remarkable event in recent Ethiopian history.
www.prm.ox.ac.uk

The University Museum of Natural History

Until 31 December
A Wonderland of Natural History
 Contemporary documents, photographs and engravings trace the building of the museum as a home for Oxford science.

Until 31 July 2011
Ghost Forest – exhibition
 A group of primary rainforest tree stumps has been installed in front of the museum. Artist Angela Palmer (Exeter College 2002) highlights the impact of deforestation on indigenous populations and the Earth's climate.
www.oum.ox.ac.uk

Music

Oxford Bach Choir

4 December
Haydn: The Creation
 London Mozart Players
 Conductor: Nicholas Cleobury

18 December
Carols for All
 Conductor: Timothy Byram-Wigfield

12 March 2011
Fauré: Requiem; James MacMillan: Seven Last Words from the Cross
 English Chamber Orchestra
 Conductor: Nicholas Cleobury

All concerts are in the Sheldonian Theatre, 19.30
www.oxfordbachchoir.org

Oxford Philomusica

28 November
Classical Romanticism
 Beethoven Violin Concerto in D, Op. 61; Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D, Op. 73
 Conductor: Marios Papadopoulos
 Sheldonian Theatre, 20.00

11 December
Chopin Piano Recital to celebrate the 200th

anniversary of the composer's birth
 Piano: Marios Papadopoulos
 Sheldonian Theatre, 19.30

16 December
Christmas Concert featuring the music of Howard Goodall
 Conductor: Howard Goodall
 Sheldonian Theatre, 19.30
www.oxfordphil.com

Student theatre

Oxford Playhouse

17–20 November
A Streetcar Named Desire
 (Tennessee Williams)

Burton Taylor Studio

16–20 November
Cuppers
 OUDS and TAFF present a week-long inter-collegiate competition – a festival of short theatre produced by Freshers, in which the new generation of student theatrical talent can be spotted for the first time.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Detail of a Persian astrolabe by Muhammad Muqim al-Yazdi, made in 1647/8



MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

Obituaries

Edited by Alan Bell

☉ Anthony Quinton

25 March 1925–19 June 2010

The philosopher Lord Quinton, FBA, President of Trinity, 1978–87, died on 19 June 2010, aged 85. He graduated from Christ Church in 1949, after a period of war service in the RAF, then became a prize fellow of All Souls before moving to a New College fellowship from 1955 to 1978. A popular and effective tutor, his work in philosophy, which ensured his election to the British Academy in 1975, was only a part of his life. He was known to a wide public as the genial quizmaster of 'Round Britain Quiz', a voluminous reader and an urbane wit. He was awarded a life peerage in 1982, and three years later became chairman of the British Library board, taking a leading role in preparing for the library's move to its new building at St Pancras, eventually retiring from Trinity to give more time to public duties.

☉ Ann Smart

30 April 1934–18 February 2010

Ann Smart, formerly a lecturer in the Law faculty and an emeritus fellow of St Anne's College, died on 18 February 2010, aged 75. She graduated from St Anne's with firsts in jurisprudence and in the Bachelor of Civil Law examination, and had special interests in Roman law, as well as jurisprudence and criminal law. In 1958 she was the first woman lecturer of Magdalen.

After a break to have a family, she returned to teaching as a lecturer (1972) and then a fellow (1977–98) of St Hugh's. The college's commitment developed rapidly during her career there, and a fund was raised to endow a fellowship named in her honour. She was for many years her faculty's representative on the board of the Bodleian Law Library.

☉ Anthony Hopwood

18 May 1944–8 May 2010

Anthony Hopwood, Dean of the Saïd Business School, 1999–2006, and Professor of Management Studies

there (and also a student of Christ Church) died on 8 May 2010, aged 65. An LSE graduate in accountancy, he moved to the United States for further study, becoming MBA and PhD at Chicago. He then held posts at the Manchester Business School, before returning to LSE as its Professor of International Accountancy and Financial Management. He came to the Saïd Business School (as Professor of Management Studies) in 1995, and became a notable dean of the still-emerging institution. From 1970 he had been a founding editor of the international journal *Accountancy, Organizations and Society*, and had a number of prominent books to his credit, including *Accounting and Human Behaviour* (1974). He latterly took a prominent role in the Prince of Wales's Foundation for the Built Environment.

☉ Roger Van Noorden

8 July 1939–12 April 2010

Roger Van Noorden, fellow (and later an honorary fellow) of Hertford College, died on 12 April 2010, aged 70. Himself a Hertford undergraduate, he became a dedicated and successful tutor in economics and also a shrewd investment bursar. Outside the college, he became a prominent figure in University administration, known as one of the 'wise men of Wellington Square', and a leading financial negotiator between University and Government. Among other achievements, he devised the 'Van Noorden Index', calculating the impact of inflation on Oxford's major costs, such as levels of student rents.

☉ Kenneth Dover

11 March 1920–7 March 2010

Sir Kenneth Dover, FBA, who died on 7 March 2010, aged 89, had two Oxford incarnations – as a fellow of Balliol (his undergraduate college) from 1948 to 1955, and later as President of Corpus Christi College (1976–1986). Arriving at Balliol in



ROB JUDGES

☉ Daphne Park

1 September 1921–24 March 2010

Baroness Park of Monmouth, CMG, a life peer since 1990, died aged 88 on 24 March 2010. She was known to Oxford as Principal from 1980 to 1989 of Somerville, her undergraduate college, to which she had returned after a full career in government service. Her diplomatic career had taken her to understated heights of secret service administration in highly sensitive and demanding appointments. Parts of her work in the Special Operations Executive (SOE) and then as an MI6 executive became public knowledge as strict secrecy requirements were modified, and in retirement from Oxford she was able to speak with relative freedom about her career, not least in the House of Lords.

At Somerville she settled into an environment very different from her diplomatic career, and soon won many friends. She raised funds for a fine new building that provides much student housing together with a conference centre, named (even-handedly) after two of the college's most distinguished and very different graduates, Dorothy Hodgkin OM and Margaret Thatcher.

1938, he was starting his Greats course when military service took him into the army, from which he returned to take high honours and (after a short period at Merton) to become a fellow of Balliol. There he developed as a Greek scholar of wide range and penetration, working on Thucydides and Aristophanes, among other authors, and publishing both technical works (e.g. *Greek Word Order*, 1960), as well as wider studies of Greek culture (including the notably fresh view of *Greek Homosexuality*, 1978, 1989), and a startlingly candid autobiography (*Marginal Comment*, 1994).

After a highly successful professorial career at the University of St Andrews, he was brought back to Oxford as President of Corpus. He was knighted in 1977, and became President of the British Academy from 1978 to 1981. On retiring from Corpus, he returned to St Andrews, where he was Chancellor from 1981 until 2005. ☉



BULGARIA

AEGEAN THRACE. The Fig House is our romantic stone-built villa with swimming pool right on the Greek border. A perfect base to explore the fascinating history and wildlife of this undiscovered region. Sleeps up to six. www.fighouse.com or call 07791 986177

ENGLAND

CORNWALL. Delightful Cornish holiday cottage available to rent. Full details at www.teazlecottage.co.uk

SOUTH NORFOLK. Available for Holiday Letting from Easter 2011. Large comfortable family country house, with two swimming pools. Self catering. Sleeps up to 16 plus 2/3 children. See www.langleygrange.co.uk, or contact Annie or Matthew Hutton (ChCh 1971) on 01508 520775 or aehutton@tiscali.co.uk. Attractive introductory prices for 2011.

FOR SALE

AUDE (France). Recently restored house in unspoilt village on Med. 2 beds, 2 baths, dressing rm. Sitting/dining rm, kitchen. Air conditioning. Garage, terrace, balcony with sea view. Small garden. 50 m from beach and pristine, white-sanded 4km beach. 45 mins from Spain/Pyrenees. £350,000 contact: Isolde.bo@hotmail.com

FRANCE

NICE. Overlooking rooftops of the old town. Quiet sunny 2 room balcony flat. Lift. Sleeps 2/5. £410pw. Tel 020 7622 4036 or 01736 762013

TARN-ET-GARONNE. Beautiful farmhouse, comfortable, fully modernised, sleeps 8 - 10 (3 bathrooms). Pool, gardens, views. Wonderful area - medieval villages, outdoor activities, masses to explore. Details phone 01745 870345 or email richard.smyth@live.co.uk.

PROVENCE, VAISON-LA-ROMAINE. Delightful old cottage for all seasons, amongst vineyards. Lovely views, garden, pool, barbeque. Log fire and central heating. Sleeps 4. Call 01628 521002 or see www.dubois.me.uk

GREECE

PELION. No swimming pool, just a sparkling sea. No Busy roads, just cobbled paths. No nightlife, just nightingales. Simple. Stunning. Sleeps 2-4. www.palaiofournos.com

ITALY

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

FLORENCE. Quiet and sunny apartment in central Florence, within walking distance of all major monuments. Sleeps 4. Visit www.casarenti.com or ring 0039 0 55 730 9126

TUSCANY/LAZIO BORDER. Large, luxurious, recently restored farmhouse near San Casciano dei Bagni. Sleeps 12 with private pool and unspoilt views over Monte Amiata. See www.villafelceto.it or call 07785 237036

SOUTH AFRICA

CAPEWINELANDS. Escape northern winter. Spend a month or more in historic farm setting. Variety newly renovated self-catering accommodation. Close proximity airport, golf, sea and fine restaurants. Email rplum@mweb.co.za

SPECIALITY HOLIDAYS

WINTER WALKING IN UK AND SPAIN. Self-guided walking holidays available throughout the year. Call the specialists on +44 (0)1722 322652 or visit www.onfootholidays.co.uk.

AN AFRICAN SAFARI. The holiday experience of a lifetime: game drives, walking safaris, local culture, Victoria Falls. Zambian safari specialists. Call Juliet Gutierrez (Jesus) 0121 472 1541 or visit www.AfricaAway.co.uk

WAUNIFOR CRAFTYBREAKS. Pottery and craft holidays in west Wales. www.craftybreaks.com email: info@craftybreaks.com Tel: 01559 362922

TURKEY

AEGEAN TURKEY. Restored stone house in Selcuk near Ephesus. Sleeps 4 in comfort, large kitchen, sitting room. Sunny courtyard. Car-hire, wi-fi available. £390 p.w. Tel 01865-558603 lorimerr@superonline.com

To advertise in Oxford Today please call Daniel FitzHenry at FuturePlus on: 01225 788247

SERVICES

APENNINE VILLAGE

DO YOU LOVE ITALY? AND DOGS??

MANDELA (RM) Apennine village, 50km Rome, 3 dogs (2 Dalmatians, 1 Yorkie) need TLC from someone (or 2) who loves Italy and the countryside mid June-mid July 2011. Great walking, mountains, eagles, bears, wolves. Apartment in old castle. Domestic help and use of Land Rover included. Also cats. **Geraldine Tomlin (St Hugh's) +39 0774 492572 or gvtomlin@libero.it**

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 Web: www.tuscanycastello.com

Fine selection of genuine old maps and prints.



Oxford, Cambridge, Public Schools. UK and foreign topography. Antique Maps & Prints P.O.Box 5446, Oakham, LE15 8WW

www.antiquemapsandprints.co.uk



BOOKFINDING SERVICE

Out-of-Print and Antiquarian titles. All subjects. Also, CDs & videos. 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

Intelligent dating

for graduates of all years. Where minds matter.

www.ivorytowers.net



BluesMatch

Bringing Oxbridge people together

www.BluesMatch.com

Complimentary Memberships

GENTLEMEN REQUIRED

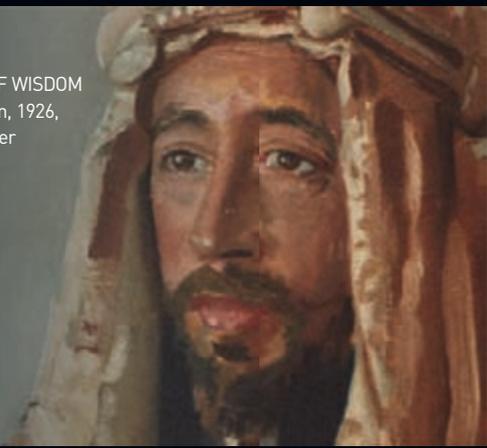
Carpe Diem Introductions; a traditional established agency for the over 50s, currently have more female clients than male. They are therefore looking for genuine, successful professional chaps over 50 to meet their elegant, educated, beautiful clients of the highest standard. For companionship and committed relationships. Primarily in London and the home counties. Please telephone in the first instance. 0208 313 0918. sarah@carpediemintros.com www.carpediemintros.com



LYON & TURNBULL
ESTABLISHED 1826

RARE BOOKS, MAPS,
MANUSCRIPTS & PHOTOGRAPHS
Valuations & three specialist auctions per year

T.E. LAWRENCE
SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM
Subscriber's edition, 1926,
with autograph letter
Sold for £41,250



For information contact **Simon Vickers** on **0131 557 8844**
or e-mail: auctions@lyonandturnbull.com

Edinburgh | London | Glasgow | Tel 0131 557 8844
www.lyonandturnbull.com

**OXFORD
TODAY**

THE UNIVERSITY
MAGAZINE

To advertise in Oxford Today
please call Marie Longstaff on
01225 442244, or email
marie.longstaff@futurenet.com



save up to **25%**
off 2010 & 2011 brochure prices

ALL YEAR
ROUND
DISCOUNT

Call us
for a copy
of our new
brochure!



TO BOOK CALL OUR PRIVILEGE HOLIDAY TEAM ON
0800 1 388 399 quote **HD592** (lines open 7 days a week 9am- 9pm)
OR VISIT www.warnerleisurehotels.co.uk/phc

Warner Leisure Hotels
EXCLUSIVELY FOR ADULTS

*Save up to 25% offer excludes Bank Holidays, Christmas and New Year, Special Themed breaks, Spa breaks and 2 night midweek breaks. Offers are from current Warner Leisure Hotels 2010/2011 brochure prices and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and apply to new bookings only. All bookings are subject to availability and terms and conditions in the current Warner Leisure Hotels brochure. All persons in your booking must be over 21 years of age. Warner Leisure Hotels reserve the right to change or reduce these offers at anytime without prior notice. Bourne Holidays Limited (trading as Warner Leisure Hotels) is a company registered in England and Wales with company number 01854900 whose registered office is 1 Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4YL.

My Oxford

Kumi Naidoo – Magdalen 1987

The executive director of Greenpeace International and former Rhodes scholar tells Alicia Clegg what he took away from Oxford – and relates some of his experiences since

Why did you apply to Oxford?

To be honest, I didn't know much about Oxford. I was 21 years old and standing trial for violating the state of emergency [*in South Africa, 1986*]. Some progressive professors at home encouraged me to apply for a Rhodes Scholarship, really to get me out of the country. On the day I heard I had been successful, my home was raided. For the next four months, until I fled to Oxford, I was basically on the run.

What were your first impressions?

It was a big culture shock. The night I arrived, I slept for 12 hours and was woken by a knock on the door. When you are on the run, you become very sensitive to knocks on doors. But here was a lady offering me breakfast. And I remember it had snowed overnight.

What did you study?

I started doing an MLitt on the resistance movement in South Africa and finally – it took for ever – converted it into a DPhil.

Why did it take so long?

When Nelson Mandela was released, I went home. I got caught up in the elections and discontinued my studies for about five years. I didn't submit my thesis until June 1999.

Why did you go back to it?

I had a sense of responsibility. I was told I was the first black activist to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. In fact, I think there was a big doubt over whether to give it to me, given my unconventional background. I didn't

want my example to count against other activist students who might apply in the future. And I don't like to not finish things that I've started.

Did you enjoy Oxford?

It wasn't the most enjoyable time. It was a very repressive period in South Africa and my family and friends paid the price. My younger brother was imprisoned and my best friend was murdered. You feel guilt because you aren't there. But friends in Oxford were warm, generous and supportive.

How did you spend your time at Oxford?

My journey to Greenpeace through non-governmental organisations [NGOs] really began at Oxford. I spent a lot of time with Oxfam. Before I came to Britain, I had never heard of Oxfam or Greenpeace. Through the University, I was involved in setting up Rhodes Scholars Against Apartheid. I was also quite active in the Oxford Coalition Against Apartheid.

You went on a hunger strike?

I did seven days on just water to raise money for South African kids living in exile. The times when I could do things connected to home were probably the times I felt most at peace. I was contributing in some small way, even if from a distance.

What did you take away from Oxford?

The nature of the apartheid system and those who organised against it meant that in South Africa I generally interacted with people who had the



SHAYNE ROBINSON/GREENPEACE; JOHN GIBBONS/THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE



Naidoo in his university days

same world view as I had. At Oxford, I had to learn how to engage with people who had different perspectives. A lot of my work since has been as a bridge-builder, pushing people to focus on the large number of things they agree upon and to disagree respectfully on the smaller number they don't. The other things I took away were some really strong friendships, through which my time at Oxford lives on, and my degree.

Has your degree been useful?

For many people I come into contact with, people who are struggling and living in poverty, a DPhil from Oxford doesn't hold any meaning. But, there are some parts of my work – trying to influence heads of state and international bodies such as the UN – where it does help that I have a DPhil.

What role would you like Oxford to play in climate-change politics?

Obviously Oxford has things it can contribute to climate science. I do think, more generally, Oxford graduates are an important body of opinion-makers. Ultimately, every professor and student has an interest in securing the future of the planet. ☺



To listen to an interview with Kumi Naidoo, visit www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk

WHEN IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE ... WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Oxford Thinking

The Campaign for the University of Oxford



WildCRU was founded on the vision of one man, and came together in one place with the aid of one legacy.

David Macdonald, Oxford's first Professor of Wildlife Conservation, has driven an extraordinary group of researchers who strive to balance the needs of sustainable development and conservation.

WildCRU's base in Tubney House was the result of one generous bequest from supporters of the University of Oxford who felt deep concern for the future of wildlife and habitats.

However, the continuing ability of WildCRU to find practical solutions to resolve conflict between the health and well-being of people and the protection of wildlife – and to influence policy change across the world – is entirely dependent on the generosity of people like you.

A legacy is the only donation that just about anyone can make, and is often the greatest donation anyone does make. Your gift is important to WildCRU, and to man's future relationship with wild things and places.

www.giving.ox.ac.uk/legacies

Your legacy

If you would like to play a part in delivering the science necessary to saving wildlife for the next generation, you can find out more about including WildCRU in your Will by contacting:

Diana Roberts, WildCRU,
Department of Zoology,
University of Oxford
Tel: +44 (0)1865 611122
Email: diana.roberts@zoo.ox.ac.uk

or

Rebecka Reid, Development Office,
University of Oxford
Tel: +44 (0)1865 611520
Email: legacies@devoff.ox.ac.uk

WILDCRU 
Wildlife Conservation Research Unit

NEVILLE JOHNSON

Let us clear away your clutter
with a handcrafted, bespoke furniture solution



Order NOW to avoid the VAT increase and have your furniture installed in time for Christmas*

As specialists in bespoke home interiors we appreciate the desire for stylish, clutter free living. Our furniture maximises every inch of available space making it excellent value for money in comparison to freestanding or modular alternatives.

For over two decades we have been helping our client's discover space they never knew they had, with handcrafted, bespoke furniture. Whether you need room for a valued book collection, an efficient home study, a sumptuous bedroom or a stylish cinema room, we can design a handcrafted solution for almost any area of your home.

So why not call us today for a no-obligation meeting with one of our designers and a free copy of our extensive 96 page colour brochure. **Please remember, Neville Johnson furniture needn't be as expensive as it looks.**

CALL TODAY FOR A **FREE** BROCHURE
0161 873 8333

QUOTE CODE **OXFM19** LINES OPEN 7 DAYS
www.nevillejohnson.co.uk/oxford

THE NEVILLE JOHNSON DIFFERENCE IS...

...bespoke furniture designed around you
and your individual specification.

...endless choice.

We have a huge range of styles, materials
and colours to suit any home.

...your local Designer and the
Neville Johnson Team will take care of you
from the first sketch to the final polish.

...handcrafted by British Cabinetmakers.

...guaranteed for 10 Years.

Buy Now & Pay in 12 Months**

*Furniture must be installed and fully paid for by 31st December 2010 to have the current rate of VAT applied at 17.5%.**Buy now pay in 12 months, finance offer is available on orders over £3,000 +VAT placed between 29/10/2010 and 31/12/2010. Finance offer is subject to acceptance, terms and conditions apply. Typical finance example: total cash price £7,500, £1,875 deposit, balance £5,625 and nothing to pay for 12 months. Option 1 pay balance in full £5,625. Option 2 pay 48 monthly repayments of £154.07. Total amount repayable on option 2 is £9,270.30 (inc. deposit), finance charge £1,770.30. Typical APR 9.9%.

STUDIES

BEDROOMS

LOUNGES

LIBRARIES

HOME CINEMA