

MAGAZINE

NEVER RUNS FROM US AWAY,
BUT TRULY KEEPS HIS FIRST,
LAST, EVERLASTING DAY.



THE RECORD OF
HERTFORD COLLEGE
2021-22





HERT
FORD

MAGAZINE 2021-22



Editor: Ian McBride
Sub-editor: Frances Wheare
Design: www.dougdawson.co.uk

Produced by:
Development Office, Hertford College, Oxford OX1 3BW
01865 279428 | development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk | www.hertford.ox.ac.uk



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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Editor thanks all those who have contributed to and advised on this year's Magazine, including Frances Wheare and the whole Development team. You will notice some mentions of the Donor Report, which is sent with this Magazine to those who have opted in to fundraising materials. You can review and change your contact preferences online or by contacting the Development Office: development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk



PRINCIPAL'S REVIEW: 2021-22

Tom Fletcher writes:

The question I have been asked most by alumni and visitors in 2022 is: "Is it back to normal?" After months of lockdowns, masks, hand sanitisers, distance, loss, anxiety, and upheaval, it's a good question. Most restrictions have gone, but few of us yet feel normal again.

In many ways, the search for normality has indeed been the theme of the last three terms. This year has been about remembering and rebuilding what a normal Hertford College feels like. And yes, in many ways it is back to normal: the rites of passage (from matriculation to graduation via so much more), rituals, and thousands of human interactions that make up a college experience are back: this magazine is packed with

examples of them. We have been rebuilding the connective tissue that brings a community like this together. For many of us – in fact, for most of the college community of 1,000 or so – we are doing so without always knowing everything about what we're refreshing, and we have relied heavily on the institutional wisdom of those who do.

Part of that process of renewal is also to move forward. As you know, our Hertford 2030 programme is built around four aspirations, and they provided the scaffolding as we progressed through this year.

Firstly, excellence in teaching and research. Senior Tutor Claire Vallance led an ambitious overhaul of our Academic Strategy. We appointed a Fellow for

Research, Sid Parameswaran, to lead support for our researchers across the common rooms. Meanwhile, as this magazine describes, our academics won another impressive haul of awards and grants, from A(rchaeology) to Z(ooology). Three Fellows were made Professors: congratulations to Jieun Kiaer, Lambros Malafouris and Vlad Vyazovskiy for their work on the fantastically varied fields of Korean grammar, the anthropology of handmade pottery, and how the brain behaves during sleep. We were also delighted to elect two new Emeritus Fellows, Christopher Tyerman and Dame Kay Davies.

Over the year our community also made much of this expertise accessible to the public. Switch on BBC Radio 4 and you are likely to hear Emma Smith on Shakespeare, Mike Wooldridge on AI, Ian McBride on Northern Ireland, or Ciaran Martin on cyber. Do look out for new books from Emma Smith, Sebastian Page, Alex Preston, Suzanne Heywood, Louisa Reid, Paul Muldoon and many more.

Secondly, we aim to be a pioneer of sustainability, opportunity, and diversity. The Governing Body has set out a plan to get to carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and by 2030 at the latest. This will involve tough choices. Climate has been a strong theme in my discussions with alumni, and we'll need commitment, help and advice from across the community. I hope that bold action, alongside the research of Jamie Lorimer, Louise Slater, Anette Mikes, Elizabeth Baldwin and so many others, will position us as an active voice on the climate crisis. In our end of year lecture, cli-fi writer Kim Stanley Robinson challenged us to direct more brainpower towards that. Meanwhile we have continued our efforts to be a better neighbour in Oxford and beyond,

and have just agreed to ensure that all staff are paid at least the Oxford Living Wage.

Thirdly, we aspire to be an academy that prepares young people for life, work and citizenship. I enjoyed leading two versions of a new course for students: 'Head, Hand and Hertford'. Guest speakers included a whistleblower, spy chief, Artificial Intelligence guru, bestselling author, FTSE 100 CEO, education pioneer, Britain's youngest ever black ambassador, Olympic rower and many more. A Nobel Prize winner will join us for this in the autumn. Meanwhile, visitors to Hertford included an FGM activist, human rights lawyers, writers, three former Permanent Secretaries, three former Ministers, Britain's most decorated soldier, and pioneering journalists. Students provided online training for Syrian refugees and security for Ukrainian journalists and climbed Kilimanjaro for endangered species. We hosted displaced Afghan and Ukrainian academics. Alongside lighting the bridge, we sent a lorry full of essential supplies collected by staff, students, and our friends at the Oxford Polish Association to refugees in Poland, an effort led by Ewa Gluza from the Bursary. We launched the new John Porter Diplomacy Centre, with announcements on scholarships for displaced academics, research on the Sustainable Development Goals, and initiatives on the peace processes of the future, including with our planet, with technology, and with our descendants.

Fourthly, we aim to underpin these aspirations with an excellent estate. In October we announced a landmark pledge of £25m from John Porter, a transformational gift that will enable the building of our new graduate centre. The centrepiece of our Hertford 2030 efforts will be the library redevelopment campaign, launched in Trinity term, led



by Pro-Principal and Fellow Librarian and Archivist, Professor Emma Smith.

A quick aside: an alum recently teased me that Hertford was an 'academy of woke'. I'm not sure what he meant by that. Hertford has in the past year made progress towards becoming carbon neutral, hosted speakers from across the political spectrum, led efforts to make Oxford safer for cyclists, proudly flown the rainbow flag, lit our bridge in the colours of the Ukrainian flag, hosted pupils from schools and communities that are underrepresented in Oxford, and continued to consider how we create opportunity for those from less privileged backgrounds. We're also adamant that freedom of speech and argument is at the core of what we do and why we do it, supporting rather than threatening our values. So if you don't agree with what we're doing, let us know and we will debate it.

Elsewhere, normality took the form of a busy programme of gaudies and reunions, as well as several excellent Hertford Society gatherings; Simpkin's preposterous ban from Exeter College; the arrival of two jellyfish in the MCR; a Wonka film set; decent University Challenge runs by student and alumni teams; visits from Ralph Fiennes, Hugh Grant and Timothée Chalamet; our first ever Cuppers hockey victory; the launch of the new Terry Hughes boat; and the end of the marquee after two years as the heart of the college. We celebrated John Donne's 450th anniversary with music, food, drink, and poetry, including a moving rendition of his poem *A Lecture Upon the Shadow* by former JCR Presidents.

The alumni were also busy. Hertford is the college for news presenters, led by Krishnan Guru Murthy, Fiona Bruce, Adam Fleming, and Natasha Kaplinsky. Jacqui Smith stormed the

podcast charts and Carole Cadwalladr stormed the courts. Congratulations to Bridget Phillipson on her appointment as Shadow Education Secretary. More alumni achievements can be found on p154 of this Magazine.

With sadness we said farewell this year to Emeritus Fellows Gerald Stone (an expert on Slavic languages, notably Sorb), Tony Cockshut (renowned for his work on Trollope) and Rebecca Sitsapesan (nationally recognised for her work on the Ryanodine Receptor and important ion channel in heart muscle); Rosemary Sloper (who worked in the bursary for 25 years); John Porter (Foundation Fellow); and Victor Altherr (a bright student and prolific chess player). We also paid tribute to Derek Conran (founding member of the Hertford Society) and scattered his ashes on the river. They are all part of our story, and very much missed.

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The family of the late Terry Hughes (Physics, 1982) join current Boat Club members and Boat Club Fellow, Professor Pat Roache, to christen the new M1 eight

Beyond the gates of the college and university, much will not be normal again. I write this update on a day when temperature records across Europe have been shattered, a striking reminder of our changing climate. War is back on mainland Europe. The UK is about to get its fourth Prime Minister since I left No. 10 a decade ago. The pace and intensity of the news cycle is exhausting. Demographic earthquakes. Geopolitical power shifts. New weapons. Failure of international cooperation. The onward march of Big Tech and authoritarian capitalism. Inequality. A frightening combination. It is normal to feel anxious about the instability around us.

So it is also a good moment to learn the lessons of this period of distance. Some of those will be challenges for

society more widely. Will the response to this period of flux be that we resolve to decrease inequality, or let it continue to grow? Will we defend reason and science, or slide further towards the simpler panacea of soundbites and social media distraction? Will we restore competence to how we govern the country, perhaps with a dash more kindness and empathy? Can we renew democracy in a way that delivers more for its citizens?

What does all this mean for Hertford? I would argue that it should shape the way we develop our students; the way we seek to live and work together as a community (including with the fourth common room, our alumni); and the way we aim to be a positive force in society more widely. It challenges us to

ask ourselves some tough questions. And, to use a controversial phrase, it requires us to take back control.

I've written in the past about how we could better prepare our young people for life, work and citizenship. If a generation of humans online and on the move is not equipped with the skills they need, then extremism, inequality, drift, intolerance, and distrust will increase. If we fail at this, our children and grandchildren will find themselves the refugees of the near future. That's why we've launched our Head, Hand and Hertford course, and why we are working with our students to identify where they need most support. I hope that they will leave Hertford able to build networks in a time of institutional failure; consensus in a time of arguments; and bridges in a time of walls. We can help them to become open-minded in a time of closed minds.

This is becoming more urgent because of the pace at which the world they will enter is changing. No previous generation needed to be so aware of the precariousness of their chosen vocation. Should young people today really become lawyers, engineers, bankers, surgeons, academics, diplomats? Should they be learning what we learned?

What many Hertford students had in common in the year 2000 was few of us really considered that we were signing up to a job for life, and yet the underlying assumption was often that we were. Many of us were looking for camaraderie, even if only in an office. Some aspired to a certain amount of prestige and money, but not huge amounts. Advances in social mobility made it less likely than for previous generations that we would enter the same profession as our parents. Yet it didn't feel so precarious: something would probably come up. The decisions

were often driven as much by location as by a sense of craft, purpose or vocation. Few of us chose our jobs on the basis of how we could change the world, but the jobs quickly became a key part of how we defined ourselves. We went straight from Hertford to saying, 'I'm a mechanic/lawyer/doctor/teacher/accountant/diplomat.' Like our ancestors who literally took their name from their role in the community, the job was often part of our identity.

The class of 2025 will look back on how many of us made our career choices in the late twentieth century in the way that we now think about the idea that we simply join the family trade. They will look back on the notion of a nine-to-five job with retirement at 65 like we look back on the idea that women don't work.

Should young people today really become lawyers, engineers, bankers, surgeons, academics, diplomats? Should they be learning what we learned?

They will carry more debt. Getting on the housing ladder will seem remote, and pensions and retirement increasingly unlikely. They will have a sense that the first job they take will be a stepping stone rather than a life choice, and that they will move between jobs, not just over a lifetime but during their twenties. Many of our students already have side hustles, consultancies, unicorns in San Francisco. They are less location specific: mobility matters more to them than place. They don't see owning a property as an early objective. They are impatient with the idea that they should move from being apprentices to toilers to experts to managers to partners to retirees. They are digital natives. Consider a 22-year-old graduate in 2025: Skype was launched in the year they were born, Twitter was founded when they were three, and the first iPhone

was released when they were four. They understand that there will be even more intense competition from automation, offshoring and outsourcing.

All this, and exposure to so much more information about the world, has given many young people an inspiring sense of purpose and agency: they think more than previous generations did about making the world better. But it has also given them a greater sense of fragility. We no longer take for granted that our children's lives will inevitably be better than ours.

The three trends in politics and society that have the greatest potential to derail our Hertford 2030 aspirations if we fail to anticipate and understand them are rising distrust; increasing awareness of inequality; and fear of technology.

The loss of trust is corrosive. The West couldn't save Syria because the Iraq War

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Kim Stanley Robinson gives our end of term lecture from California, accompanied by an in-person panel.



destroyed trust in the foreign policy establishment. Many in the UK rejected the EU because MPs' expenses, the banking crisis and EU mismanagement destroyed trust in Westminster, the Square Mile and Brussels. Trump was a rejection of the establishment and mainstream media. Public trust is not just plummeting in politics, media, and the banks, but teachers, doctors, and police. The smartphone gives us a sense of individual agency, but it takes away our confidence in traditional authority. What does this mean to a 20-year-old in 2022? A healthy dose of scepticism could be replaced by a sense of being unable to rely on anyone.

The second big trend is the growth in the perception of inequality. This is the oxygen on which extremists in all our societies rely. And if the economic trends continue, we are right to worry. How do we create more winners from all this change while better protecting those left behind?

The third big trend is a more existential

one. We now face as much technological change in the next century as in the last 43. This is like going from cave painting to driverless cars in 100 years. As I've described, it will rip through everything we think we know about society and politics. Imagine the impact of the printing press on steroids. No wonder we feel uneasy at the prospect.

So those are three big questions for Hertford. Are we gaining or losing trust? Are we increasing or decreasing inequality? Are we using technology or being used by it?

And yes, that also means taking back control. We can do that in the way we anticipate the future and plan for it; in the investment we make in our resilience and human, physical and financial infrastructure; and in how we choose to spend the precious currency of our time.

This is daunting. But through our emerging discussions of Hertford 2050 (not a typo) we are trying to do so with humility, reason, and creativity. I am

full of confidence that Hertford will be thriving in 2030. For us to be thriving in 2050, I believe that we will need to have moved towards making our expertise more accessible, finding ways to be more inclusive, demonstrating more robustly the impact we make on society, supporting more lifelong learning. The pandemic placed huge strain on universities. But the two big, noble, old ideas that it revived were a massive opening up of access to quality content (Tyndale might approve) and the university as an idea not a place.

At the core of all we do must remain the human connection that we missed so much during the lockdowns. Whatever is happening around us in the world of 2050, I predict that the tutorial will be an essential part of the response.

Thank you once again for all your support and solidarity for Hertford as we balance change and continuity; challenge and reassurance; tradition and the future. It is good to know that there are 10,000 of us who care so much about this brilliant college and this vital idea.

And back to normal? Hertford is never normal.

A perfect rainbow over Catte Street captured by Porters Nikki and Franklin.



HERT
FORD



HIGHLIGHTS



PROFESSOR NICK BARTON'S VALEDICTION

Professor Mark Robinson writes:

Nick Barton retired in September 2022 after nearly 40 years of teaching archaeology, the last 19 of them as Tutor in Archaeology at Hertford College. Hertford was one of the small group of colleges that admitted undergraduates to read for the new degree in Archaeology and Anthropology at its inception in 1992. The college did not create a new tutorial fellowship; Martin Biddle, then the Astor Senior Research Fellow in Archaeology, took on the role, with great success.

In 2002, Martin was due to retire and the fellowship would also come to an end. The college was initially pessimistic as to whether it could continue with the degree. No students were admitted for 2003. Anne Haour, who was a British

Academy Researcher in Archaeology at the college (and one of Martin's first year intake of Arch & Anth students), and I were tasked with seeing the remaining undergraduates through their degrees. However, the then principal, Walter Bodmer, and Barry Cunliffe, who as chair of the School of Archaeology had set up the degree, did not let matters rest. Derek Roe, Professor of Palaeolithic Archaeology, was due to retire in 2003. His fellowship was attached to St Cross College, which was persuaded to relinquish it to Hertford.

One problem remained: the University would not release funding for Derek's successor until 2004. The School of Archaeology wished to advertise the post immediately to maintain continuity

of teaching for Palaeolithic archaeology and promised somehow to support the post for a year. Thus I ended up advising Nick shortly before the start of Michaelmas term 2003 as to how the Arch & Anth tutorial system worked. I seem to remember that by a happy coincidence, the University had received a sum of money from the estate of Charles Boysey for African Palaeolithic archaeology. Boysey, who had funded some of the work of the Leakeys on human origins, had probably been thinking more of the Rift Valley than the Maghreb but Nick's research met the terms of the bequest, so it could be used.

Nick had a childhood interest in archaeology which was fostered by participating in an excavation of an Anglo-Saxon settlement at West Stow, Suffolk. He went on to graduate with a BA in Archaeology from the University of Birmingham. By then, he had developed an interest in the Palaeolithic, that is the Old Stone Age, which covers human prehistory (2.4 million years or more) up until the end of the last Ice Age, a mere 12,000 years ago. Nick turned to France, which has a particularly strong tradition of Palaeolithic archaeology, to study for a DEA (diplôme d'études approfondies, equivalent to a Masters Degree) in Quaternary geology and archaeology at the University of Bordeaux before completing his doctorate at Oxford as a student of Hertford College, under the supervision of Derek Roe.

Nick's professional career began with short stints at Washington University in St Louis (1988) and as an Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage (1989-91) where, despite him being their only expert on the Palaeolithic, he was tasked with reporting on the industrial heritage of England. In 1991, he took up a lectureship in Archaeology at

University of St David's, Lampeter (1991-4) before moving back to Oxford in the Department of Anthropology at Oxford Brookes University, where he was promoted to professor in 2002.

His research interests focus on modern human origins in North Africa, prehistoric technologies, and long-term palaeoenvironmental change. This has involved much fieldwork, both in the UK and around the western fringes of the Mediterranean. He has co-led or led excavations in the Wye valley (in the Herefordshire borders) and Hengistbury Head, near Bournemouth. Further afield, he engaged in a particularly challenging type of archaeology: cave excavation. This included the famous Neanderthal sites of Gorham's and Vanguard caves in Gibraltar, as well as a major project with Professor Bouzouggar of Rabat University, excavating at Taforalt Cave (Grotte des Pigeons) in Morocco which was occupied by early *Homo sapiens*.

A particularly important discovery at Taforalt Cave was the presence of marine shells dated to around 82,000 years ago which had been pierced to make beads. This was the earliest example of explicitly symbolic objects in the archaeological record and marks a fundamental stage in the emergence of modern social behaviour in humans. They confirmed evidence of similar ornaments from other less well-dated sites in North Africa and adjacent areas of South West Asia which was at least 40 millennia before the appearance of similar cultural manifestations in Europe. Lately, he has co-directed excavation and survey at open sites in the Chotts lake basin in Tunisia and is Principal Investigator of a Leverhulme-funded project (*Agencies of behavioural change in early modern humans in NW Africa* (CAVES; 2022-2025), to investigate the impacts of climate change on early

modern humans over the last 300,000 years.

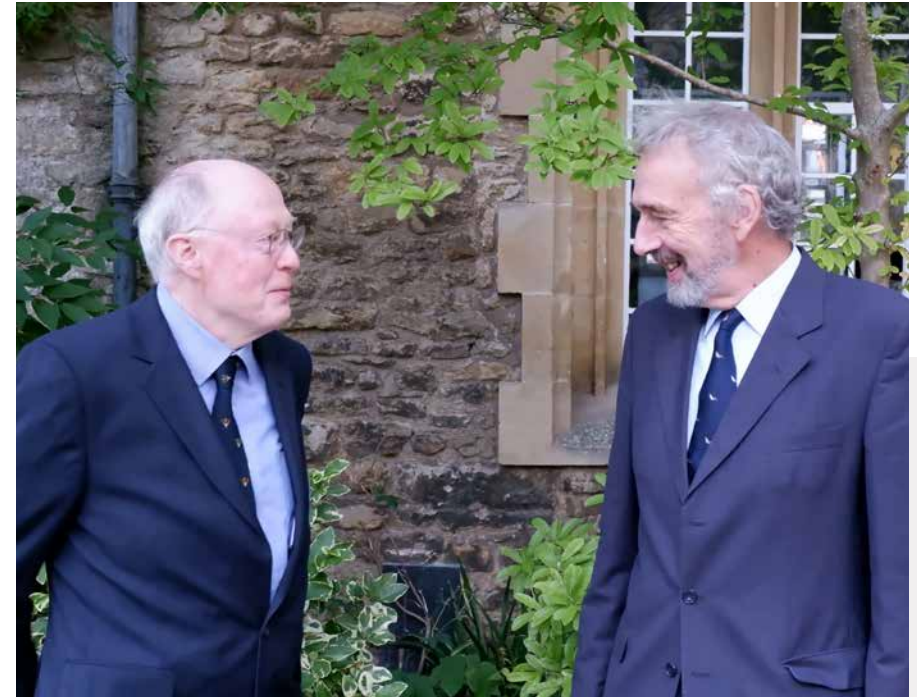
These projects have required the ability to bring together specialists from many disciplines, for example ranging from zoologists to identify the shells to archaeological isotope chemists to undertake uranium series dating on them. They are also expensive, and Nick was one of six co-investigators who persuaded NERC within its RESET framework ("Response of Humans to Abrupt Environmental Transitions") to part with £3.4 million to study the impact of abrupt environmental transitions on human populations in North Africa. Not least, Nick has shown the diplomatic skills necessary for international projects where local partners are required

for projects and local concerns need to be placated. His research has generated numerous papers and several monographs. However, Nick has been keen to popularise his subject, with *Stone Age Britain* published by Batsford in their English Heritage series in 2003, updated as *Ice Age Britain* in 2005.

Nick's academic achievements have been duly recognised. He was elected FSA (Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries) and in 2007 he was awarded the title of Professor. In 2022, Nick was elected as President of the British Institute of Libyan and North African Studies, a UK academic body and charitable organisation. It is part of the British International Research Institute, sponsored by the British Academy, which since 1969 has fostered links between UK and North African scholars in a wide range of fields including archaeology, history, geography, the natural sciences, and linguistics.

Nick was a well-liked and effective tutor who, in the best Hertford tradition, cared for his students. His Mods lectures and tutorials on 'Perspectives on Human Evolution' were sufficiently popular that his Finals option on Palaeolithic Archaeology was usually over-subscribed, although Hertford undergraduates were always given priority. One reason for the popularity of his teaching was that he made the most of the splendid museum collections of the University. He also demonstrated the skill of flintknapping, having learnt it from the same expert as his friend Phil Harding of 'Time Team' fame.

My main interactions with Nick were reviewing student progress over lunch – bring back the era of traditional fish and chips every Friday! – and the interviews. One of his favourite questions which related to his research was 'What makes



Nick Barton and Mark Robinson

My main interactions with Nick were reviewing student progress over lunch – bring back the era of traditional fish and chips every Friday! – and the interviews.

us human?' We always seemed to agree which candidates should be awarded places. Skype interviews presented a particular challenge because the candidates were required to comment on artefacts, and I have memories of trying to rotate a hand-axe in front of a camera to show the working on it. The woomera was very popular amongst candidates, the better of whom would stand up and whirl it around, but it is beyond Skype.

Nick also had up to eight doctoral students at a time, many at Hertford,

some of whom now have successful careers in Palaeolithic archaeology. He of course had the usual college and departmental duties. He was Dean of Degrees for a while, and, I believe, Director of the Institute of Archaeology. We sometimes overlapped as FHS examiners, and I have happy memories of spending sunny afternoons in one of our gardens agreeing marks. Indeed, I found Nick a most congenial colleague during our time working together at Hertford.



THE CYBER WAR THAT WASN'T, AND ISN'T...

Professor Ciaran Martin (Academic Visitor; History, 1993) writes:

In 1995, at the height of the horrors of the last major land war in Europe in the Balkans, *Time* magazine published a famous front page with the headline: 'Cyber War'. The image showed a futuristic mock-up of a US Marine with, in effect, a computer on his head and hi-tech goggles to utilise it. Some fifteen years later, *The Economist* published the same headline on its cover, but the



pictorial representation this time was an exploding tower block à la 9/11. This reflected a message reinforced solemnly by countless presidents, prime ministers, defence secretaries and national security opinion formers that the next war will be fought in cyberspace.

Over the course of the same period, Russia emerged as one of the most potent and feared cyber adversaries to the West. It pulled off a spectacular intelligence coup against the United States in 2020, in effect 'poisoning' the product of a key digital supplier to the US government. Five years earlier, Moscow's intelligence services were widely held to have been responsible for a highly sophisticated operation that took the French broadcaster TV5Monde

offline, despite the hackers pretending to be acting on behalf of so-called Islamic State's caliphate. Following the annexation of Crimea, Ukraine became known as Russia's 'cyber playground', with a series of aggressive hacks which included two disruptions of the Kyiv power grid in the middle of winter, both affecting hundreds of thousands of people for several hours.

So in the run-up to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine it was inevitable that the coming conflict was portrayed as likely to herald the first 'cyber war'. Importantly, the risk of Russia's prolific and skilled state hackers was not seen as confined to Ukraine. It would be a powerful tool against the West too; should sanctions appear too severe, expect a cyber bombardment. Three days after the invasion in February, thousands of stranded British Airways passengers had to be convinced that the delays were caused by yet another routine IT failure rather than a Russian cyber attack. The following weekend, *The Sunday Times* ran a lengthy feature entitled *Internet warfare: how the Russians could paralyse Britain*, painting an apocalyptic picture where case machines, light switches and traffic lights didn't work. Even cyber



security professionals less prone to such sensationalism, including the author, worried that cyber attacks aimed at Ukraine could cause unintentional devastation well beyond the borders of the conflict. Only five years earlier, a Russian operation (known as NotPetya) against Ukrainian business had gone spectacularly wrong, with the computer virus unintentionally rampaging throughout the world and causing nearly \$10bn of economic damage in as diverse ways as wrecking Maersk's global shipping schedules to halting chocolate production at the Cadbury's factory in Tasmania.

In the event, little, if any, of this has happened. The 'next' war was not fought in cyberspace, primarily at least. The physical brutality and inhumanity of the conflict has been all too recognisable in its conventionality. Even those closely following the war who do not have a detailed understanding of cyber operations will struggle to recall a strategically important moment in the conflict attributable to a cyber operation.

Why is this and what should we learn from it? There are all sorts of theories and, given that many of them relate to the intentions of Vladimir Putin, the ultimate truth will never be fully known. In terms of attacking Ukraine via cyber means, it could be that that the cyber dimensions of the invasion plan were as poor as the rest of Russia's preparation. It could be that Russia's cyber commanders were left in the dark until it was too late: the previous attacks on the Kyiv power grid each took well over a year to plan and execute. It could be that the anticipation of a quick march to victory meant the Russian plan was for critical Ukrainian infrastructure to remain functional so that the occupied country would be easier to govern. It

could be that the Russian military knew that their poorly equipped troops would need things like Ukraine 4G networks and GPS location systems for their own communications and so the country's Internet infrastructure should remain intact. It could be that a combination of Russian technical errors and what were evidently massive improvements in Ukrainian cyber defences blunted the impact of those cyber operations Russia did launch. It is likely to have been some combination of all these things.

It is likely also that Russia chose not to attack the West via cyber means. That is because it has not chosen directly to attack the west any other way. One myth about cyber is that it is easily deniable activity. That's sometimes true, but increasingly less so. Anyone can do a basic hack, but few can do the sort of highly sophisticated disruption. Had there been, say, a major power outage in Miami via sophisticated malicious code, and technical and security analysis pointed to the same actors as those behind the Kyiv power outages and French TV disruption, Russia's denials would have been as unconvincing as those that followed the Salisbury chemical weapons attack. And a major hostile cyber operation against the West would have led to demands for retaliation – via cyber, or more likely even tougher sanctions – just as any other act of aggression would have. Cyber is not some sort of isolated domain where normal geopolitics do not apply.

But the biggest reason of all why this has not been the 'cyber war' so many predicted is that the characterisation of 'cyber war' was fundamentally wrong. There was never going to be a 'cyber apocalypse' in the context of this sort of invasion. The sensationalism of magazine covers, Hollywood movies and political rhetoric on cyber over the

past few decades has simply been wrong.

Cyber capabilities are not really hi-tech 'weapons': a hi-tech weapon is still a weapon that is designed to hit something and do physical damage. Cyber capabilities are, essentially, just computer code: and what you do with them depends entirely on the context. They can disrupt, delay, annoy, spy, and influence. They rarely, if ever, kill or physically harm because, unlike a missile, they don't do 'primary' damage. Think of it this way: even if an attacker carried out a sophisticated operation on a railway signalling system – something that is quite hard to do and would require a significant amount of time, skill, and luck – in a properly designed system the trains would stop where they are. This would cause significant disruption and cost, but not mass fatalities.

Once that is understood, it is clear that there has, in fact, been plenty of cyber activity during the war. Some of it – such as a seemingly well executed hack of a satellite communications system used by the Ukrainian military – show that cyber can be used to degrade battlefield military capabilities. (This operation also had minor impacts on Western customers of the same company; that there has not been a repeat of NotPetya is partly a matter of luck). A second set of operations, just before or around the time of the invasion, were designed to cause both disruption of some services and to intimidate Ukrainians. These included disrupting banking services (but not in a way that threatened the banks existentially; this was temporary disruption). The third, and most active and vigorously contested, cyber contest has been in the information space: disrupting media outlets and Government websites, countering the spread of false information, restricting or expanding access to information,

and so on. In this part of the conflict, the Ukrainians, and a plethora of non-state actors seemingly acting in support of them on their own initiative, have proved strikingly effective, though there are concerns long-term about legitimising the involvement of non-state actors with laptops in international armed conflicts. Finally, it is certain that a largely invisible but fierce intelligence contest around digital espionage is taking place.

All this is consistent with what Western countries already experienced, outside of a state of war with Russia, from cyber operations. Indeed, whilst the West has not suffered from Russia's cyber aggression in 2022, the year before the invasion provided a sharp and stark reminder of critical cyber vulnerabilities. The torrid cyber summer of 2021 saw serious economic and social disruption at the hands of Russian cyber hackers, but in this case, it was criminals looking for money rather than the state. So called 'ransomware' operators hacked systems and locked the users out of them until money was paid. Victims included a major US pipeline company which switched off supplies to the eastern seaboard, causing a fuel crisis. Worse, the entire Irish healthcare administration system was ransomed, causing severe delays to essential operations and care (evidence that cyber attacks can have consequences for life and limb, but normally in a secondary way). Other serious attacks took place on UK education, Swedish food retail, and American, French, and German healthcare. These attacks require far less skill and planning than the type of operations launched by the Russians against French TV or the Kyiv power grid; the saving grace of such operations is that they are very hard to do at larger scale.

This more realistic understanding of cyber capabilities and what they can and

cannot do provides two very different lessons for western policymakers. One is about our defences, the other about our capabilities. In respect of our defences, we need to move beyond the apocalyptic vision of cyber threats of the *Time* and *Economist* covers and look to improve the defences of our hospital administration networks, food retailers and so on; the soft underbelly of our economies and societies, so easily disrupted. Governments must of course ensure the security of critical infrastructure but must also recognise that the all-out digital paralysis of the *Sunday Times* warning is an extremely difficult feat for an adversary to pull off at scale, and therefore likely to occur at a time of full scale war between a Western country and the likes of Russia. The other attacks could happen at any point.

But in terms of our own capabilities, the experience of the Russian invasion of Ukraine reminds of the limitations of cyber as a 'weapon'. In November 2021, Boris Johnson defended cuts in army manpower, claiming that 'there are other big things we should be investing in [like] cyber'. But as his inquisitor, Defence Select Committee Chairman Tobias Ellwood, said in response, 'You can't hold ground with cyber'. More recently, General Sir Patrick Sanders, a long-time champion of digital transformation in the Armed Forces, noted caustically that 'You can't cyber your way up a river'.

Quite – the cyber domain is an important but secondary dimension of modern conflict and a crucial, and very challenging, aspect of the so-called 'hybrid' or 'grey zone' contest that takes place outside of full-on war. But the invasion of Ukraine has reminded us that for all the talk of the next war being fought in cyberspace, no invisible digital battlefield has replaced the brutal horror of the real one.



THE MAGIC OF MOIRÉ MATERIALS

Professor Siddharth Parameswaran writes

Over the past few years, a new type of material has taken the physics world by storm: 'moiré heterostructures', obtained by layering two-dimensional crystalline materials with a small relative twist angle or difference in atomic spacing. Stimulated by the observation of an array of novel physical phenomena – ranging from new forms of magnetism to superconductivity (resistance-free electrical current flow) – research groups worldwide, including mine at Oxford, have reoriented their efforts towards understanding these materials.

To understand why moiré materials are special, one must delve a little deeper into how electrons move through crystalline materials, examples

of which range from table salt to the silicon in your mobile phone's processor. Using rules from the 1930s, physicists understand how the properties of electrons change as they interact with a periodic array of positively charged ions. Techniques for computing electronic behaviour – 'band theory' in physics jargon – have been honed to a fine art, explaining many properties of materials, such as why are metallic and others insulating, but usually require one to ignore how electrons interact amongst themselves – assuming 'weak correlations' in physics jargon.

Band theory describes how electrons move in individual atomically thin crystalline layers. However, when two such layers are twisted relative to

each other, electrons in one layer also experience forces due to ions in the other. This creates a 'superlattice' with a period that can be a hundred times bigger than a single layer. This leads to very different properties that can be tuned by adjusting the twist angle, or by applying electric fields. Often, these structures never repeat precisely – unlike in a traditional crystal – and even when they do, each repeating unit can have many thousands of ions, challenging standard techniques.

It has only become possible to engineer moiré superlattices for electrons relatively recently, but the underlying effect is familiar to anyone who has ever photographed or filmed a striped pattern. (The French term *moiré* has origins in the textile trade and the English *mohair*, and refers to the rippled pattern produced by pressing together two sheets of fabric with slightly differently-spaced or rotated weaves). Atomic-scale moiré patterns are far more challenging to create than their textile counterparts. The first requirement, the ability to

produce atomically-thin crystalline materials, was only achieved in the mid-2000s when Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov, both then at the University of Manchester, and Philip Kim, at Columbia University, made flakes of graphene – pure carbon – by the breathtakingly simple trick of peeling off single layers from graphite crystals using Sellotape! The work bagged Geim and Novoselov a Nobel Prize in 2010, but it took nearly a decade of work to produce twisted layers on demand. Andrea Young, now at the University of California, Santa Barbara, among the first to accomplish this feat, likens it to 'reusing [cling film] – it gets wrinkled and it's a mess,' he said. 'Now imagine [the film] was 30,000 times thinner!'

In parallel, Allan Macdonald and Rafi Bistritzer at the University of Texas developed ingenious techniques to compute how electrons move through moiré heterostructures. In 2010, they predicted that, at a twist of approximately one degree between two graphene layers, electrons would dramatically slow down, enhancing

Band theory describes how electrons move in individual atomically thin crystalline layers. However, when two such layers are twisted relative to each other, electrons in one layer also experience forces due to ions in the other.

the effect of interactions, so that they are no longer 'weakly correlated'. This was spectacularly confirmed in the laboratory of Pablo Jarillo-Herrero at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who found that electrons in twisted bilayer graphene formed a variety of insulating states thought to originate from strong interactions, and most spectacularly, became superconducting at a few kelvin above absolute zero. Several teams worldwide have now replicated these results, kicking off explorations of a dizzying array of moiré heterostructures built not only from single-, double-, and triple-layer graphene, but also a variety of other two-dimensional materials.

Moiré graphene violates two of the assumptions of standard materials modeling: they are neither weakly correlated nor captured by simple band theory. Strongly-correlated problems are computationally difficult, since the

Moiré graphene violates two of the assumptions of standard materials modeling: they are neither weakly correlated nor captured by simple band theory.



difficulty of simulating them scales exponentially: the resources required roughly quadruple each time a new electron is added to them. Condensed-matter physicists, such as myself, who work on such problems, use various tricks and approximations to circumvent these challenges, often exchanging ideas with particle physicists. Besides symmetry – long beloved of physicists – another organising principle that has emerged over the past two decades is the use of mathematical ideas from topology to describe how electrons can quantum-mechanically 'knot' into distinct patterns. Moiré materials have emerged as an important proving ground for these ideas.

Over the past two years, my group has tried to build better theoretical pictures of moiré graphene. This has involved postdoctoral researcher Dr Nick Bultinck and DPhil student Yves Kwan (about to take up a prestigious fellowship at Princeton), and close collaborations with my colleague Steve Simon and his former student Dr Glenn Wagner. We were delighted when our papers linking the mysterious insulating behaviour to an entirely new phase of matter where electrons lock into a slowly varying wave-like structure called a 'Kekulé spiral' were published in two of the most selective journals in the field, *Physical Review X*² and *Physical Review Letters*³. Other highlights include a first microscopic study of unusual excitations called "skyrmions" and their role in superconductivity⁴ and the prediction of an unusual new type of excitation⁵. We continue to work towards the holy grail: a consistent explanation of both the superconducting and insulating states seen in experiments.

The moiré revolution has changed how research in the field is done. Normally, experimentalists

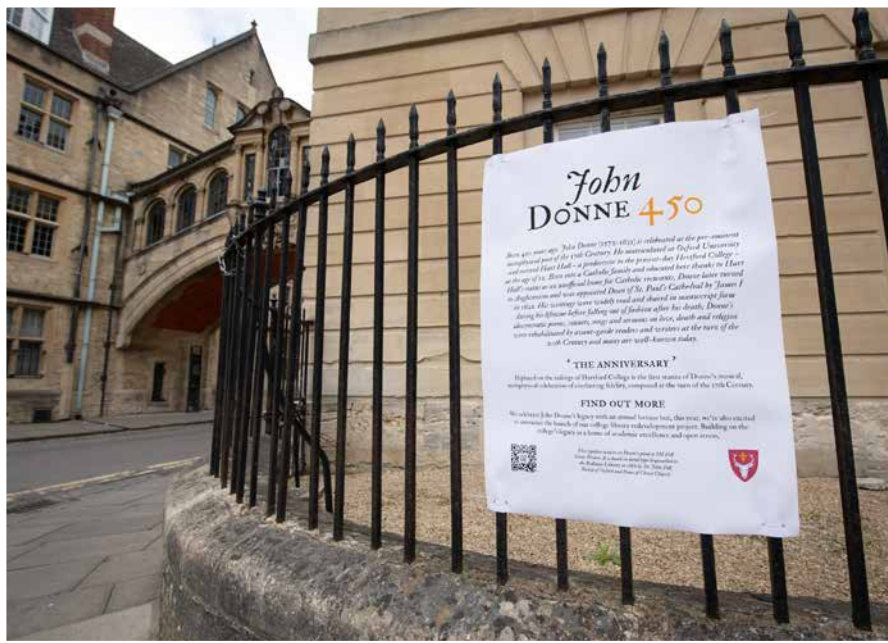
painstakingly grow several different samples of a crystal each with a set density of electrons, cool each down to low temperature, and then often only *indirectly* infer what happens deep inside a three-dimensional crystal, since many probes literally just scratch their surface. Different materials often require entirely different techniques, and the timescales run into several years – leaving theorists like myself starved of data in the meantime. In contrast, the mix-and-match aspect of creating moiré structures, combined with the ability to tune their electron density with electric fields, and the direct access to their properties allowed by their two-dimensional nature, means

that the pace of progress is frequently astonishing. As an example: over the past year, Yves and I have been working with my Oxford colleague Shivaji Sondhi and an experimental team led by Sanfeng Wu at Princeton University, to understand a new two-dimensional moiré material, tungsten ditelluride (WTe₂). Our joint theory-experiment publication appeared in *Nature* earlier this year⁶. A few days after the paper was accepted, Sanfeng emailed me with this: 'I wonder if you will be available to chat some time this Friday? [My postdocs] are summarising some new data that we would love to discuss with you...'

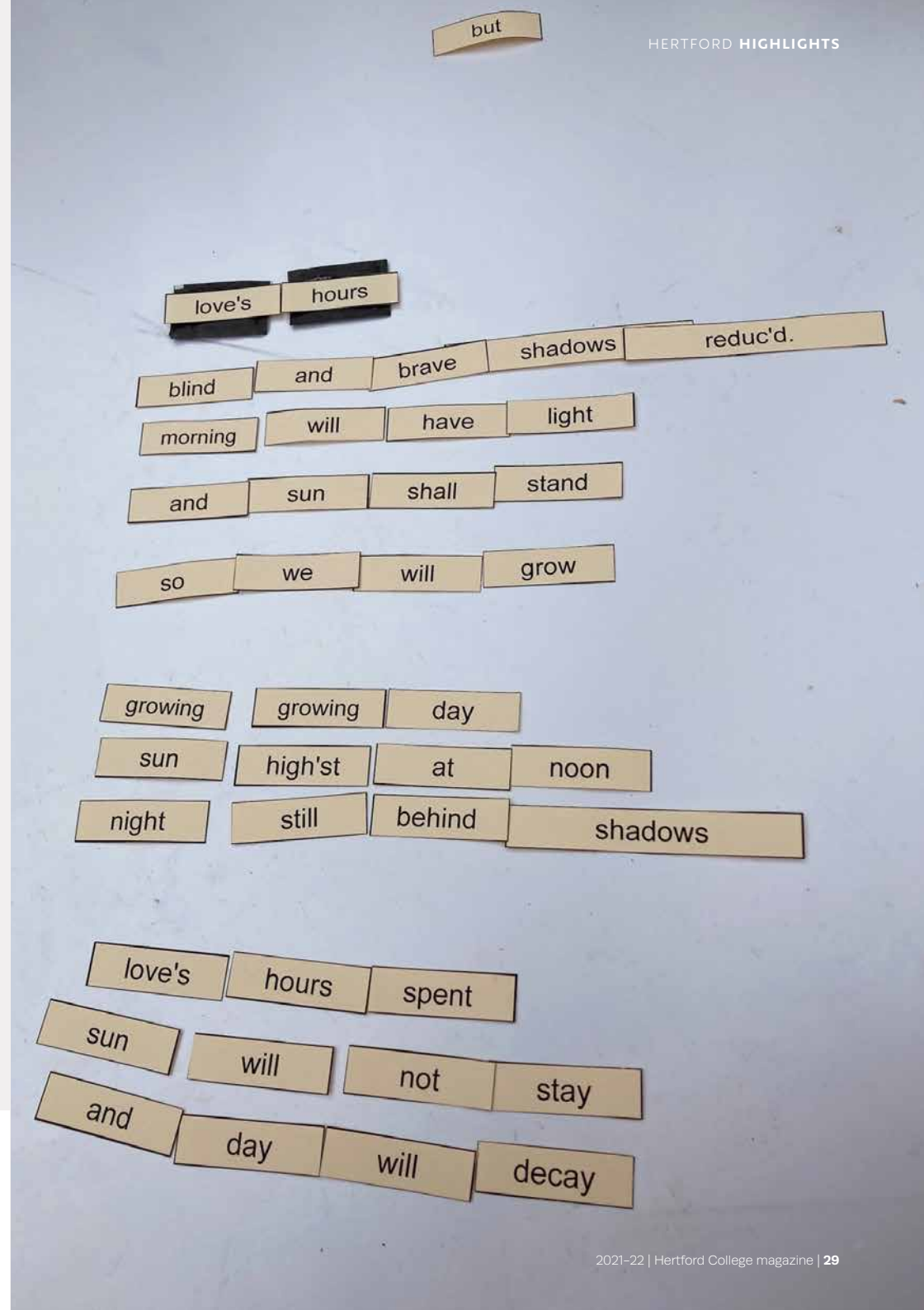
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JOHN DONNE 450

In April 2022, Hertford celebrated the 450th anniversary of one of our most famous alumni, the poet John Donne. The following transcriptions offer a flavour of the day.



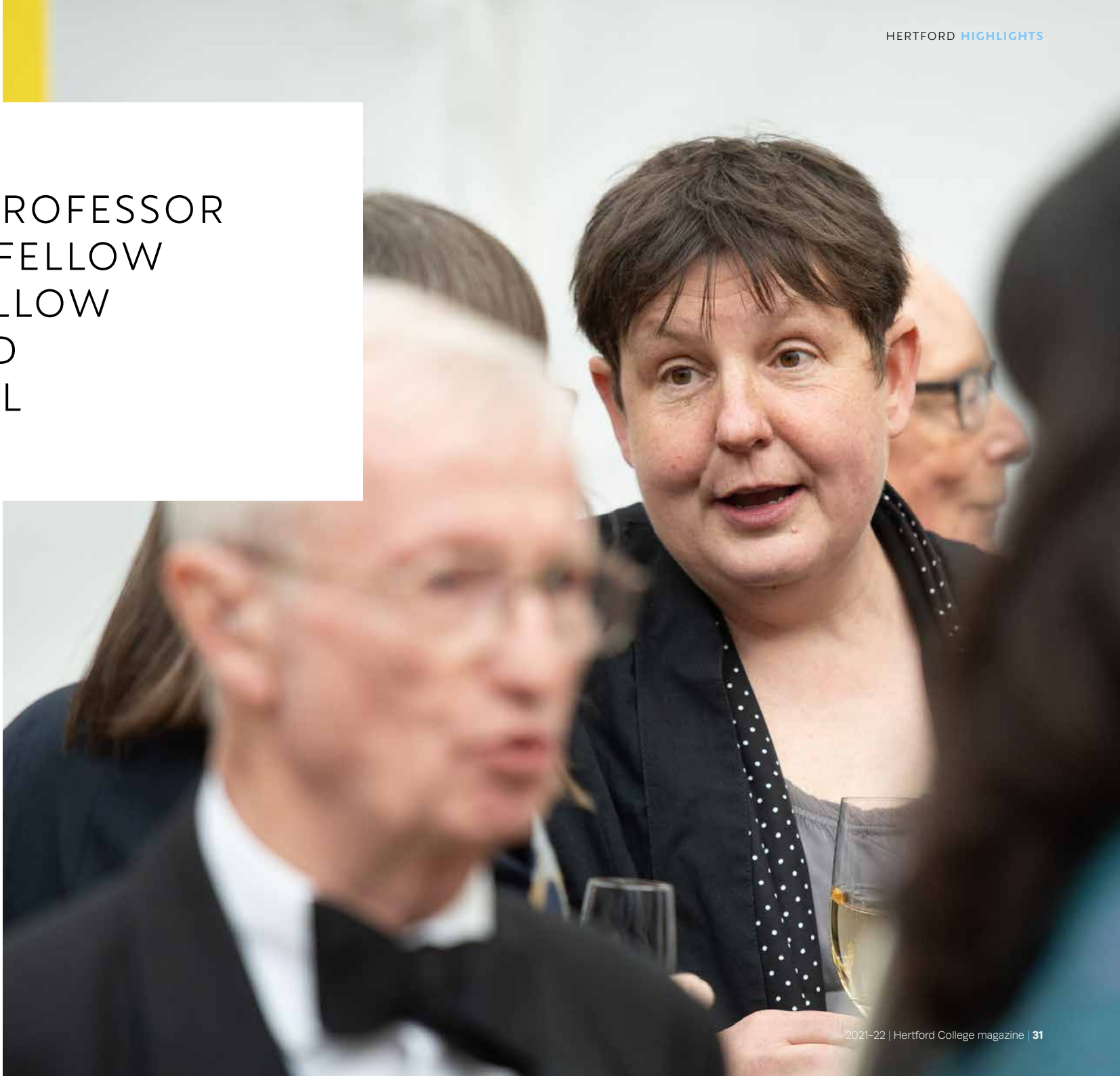
Undergraduates Megan Lee, Hannah Stovin, Hannah Richmond, Beth Bakewell-Smith, Freya Hart and Isobel Todd composed a poem using words from Donne's *A lecture upon a shadow*



A SPEECH BY PROFESSOR EMMA SMITH, FELLOW LIBRARIAN, FELLOW ARCHIVIST AND PRO-PRINCIPAL

John Donne matriculated at Hart Hall, Hertford's institutional predecessor, in 1584, aged just 12. Elizabethan Hart Hall was an unofficial shelter for Catholics: three years before Donne arrived, one of Hart Hall's famous religious dissidents, Alexander Briant, had been executed for his faith at Tyburn (he is our only college saint – so far). Donne, born to a Catholic family, knew up close the costs of religious dissidence. Hart Hall must have been a temporary refuge from the requirements of conformity, and from a dangerously hostile environment outside our walls.

We've focused today on perhaps Donne's most recognisable sentence –



No Man is an Island – and you can see members of college discussing what it means to them on Facebook.

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less.

It's an image typical of Donne's interest in new technologies – of surveying, mapping, and understanding the world. But just before this famous passage, he turns to a different image – not landmasses, but books – bibliographical, not geographical. It's less well-known so I'll read it out:

all mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated; God employs several translators; some pieces are translated by age, some by sickness, some by war, some by justice; but

God's hand is in every translation, and his hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again, for that library where every book shall lie open to one another;

We are all, I think, conscious of living at a moment when those translators must be working overtime. But that we might be tatty or dog-eared books, or detached pages, forgotten printouts, waiting for our ultimate redeemer librarian to tidy us into place, is a nice image. I hope, Reverend Mia Smith, it is not blasphemous to hope that, like our own temporal, but heavenly, Hertford librarian Alice, the Almighty also bestows spare mobile phone chargers, and foam ear plugs, and occasional deer-shaped biscuits, and other necessities of modern libraryhood. No man may be an island, but we all need ear plugs sometimes.

Looking at Donne's patterns of thought in this reflection is striking. A library, a bell, a sense of community. Christopher Tyerman has just discussed Hart Hall

as unique among similar institutions in having a library – that seems relevant here. Might that combination of ideas somehow resonate with Donne's early adolescent experience in that place of relative safety that was Hart Hall? Perhaps this is one place where a trace of the Hart Hall years resurfaces, just for a moment. We can't know, but it's nevertheless important that Donne's first image for our interconnectedness and our human community is a library of carefully curated books.

It's a theme picked up elsewhere, most pithily by the Argentinian author Jorge Luis Borges's suggestion that 'Paradise is a library'. I think at Hertford we'd want to tweak this a bit: Paradise is a library with temperature controlled archives, spaces for digital work and creativity, natural light in a basement reading room, nooks and corners to study in, height adjustable desks, areas for communal study and debate, space to grow the physical collections, future-minded technology, display space, the reconstitution of our rare books

collection, a lift to make OB1 including this hall accessible, heat pumps for better environmental sustainability, and did I mention the roof terrace with views across Radcliffe Square?

We'll follow up after this evening with our plans for this library and what it means for us as a college and for our continued ambitions to combine access, diversity, and excellence. In between the courses of this wonderful dinner isn't the moment to do that in detail. But what I wanted to do here in acknowledging John Donne as the symbolic founder of our feast was to think about the specific form of human collegiality he imagines. It is very recognisable to me, and to my sense of Hertford, that Donne's library should be an image of fellowship and collegiality; a microcosm of the college itself. It is not a place where individuals work away on their own or follow their own pursuits, but where we are more than the sum of our parts. No man is an island. All humankind is one volume. Paradise is a library. With a roof terrace.

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less.





WELCOME HOME

A poem by Lucy Ayrton



Welcome to a place where pets get shared across generations,
Cats all called the same,
Where bicycles sway from flagpoles,
Where friends stay friends for fifty years,
Where love has no decay.
Welcome home.

To where a scout might turn
A blind eye to a girl
Who'll be your wife one day.
(They don't have to climb through windows anymore –
Women walk through the front door now.)
Welcome home.

To a university,
Which is to say, a community,

Collegiality is the point.
I can buy my own books but
Shared resources are better.
In a library, we share treasure.
It's important to follow a guiding star
In an academic field that will never be tilled,
We must look up.
So stand still
And look up.
And welcome home.

We can belong not just to a place,
But a way of thinking about life.
A willingness to accept what's gone before,
Assurance to adapt it to today.
It's fair to say that
This has been a precarious world,

But go.
Step safely to the future.
You won't fall.
And welcome home.

And ask not for whom the bell tolls,
This first generation since Donne to be
Quarantined on arrival.
Things might have looked more hopeful
in 1969,
But we emerge from lockdown into a
brighter time.
Like Donne, shaped, not defined, by
times of plague,
That have been, are, will be passed
through.
In three years' time we'll be drinking on
the library roof.

Not everyone can buy their own books
But a library is a leveller. It makes us all
the same.
A beating heart of a place that was and
is your home.
Welcome home.

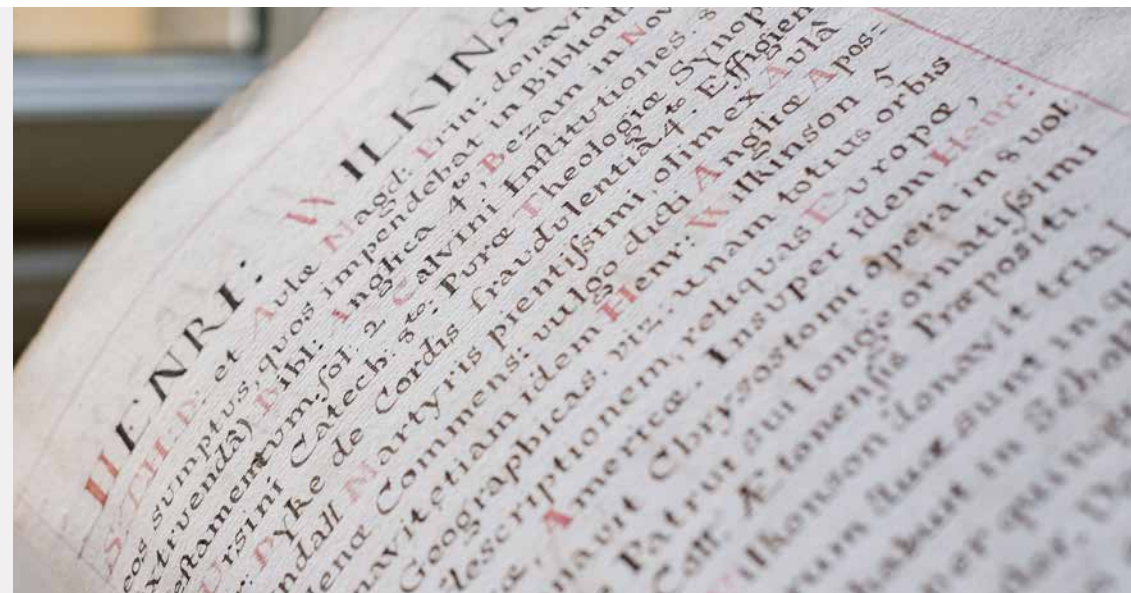
And raise a glass of champagne
Bought for a party that was cancelled
years ago.
I've been told
It just got better in the waiting.
We that have been made islands of
Now rejoin the main.
There are students here again.
Hertford made us,
And will make them too.

We'll make the world anew.



'USEFUL BOOKS'? THE LIBRARY AND THE COLLEGE OVER 700 YEARS

Emeritus Professor Christopher Tyerman gave the following lecture for the annual John Donne dinner



The Benefactors' Book, showing the first entry from Principal Wilkinson

To a modern audience it may appear self-evident that an institution formally committed to teaching, learning, scholarship and research is in need of a library – i.e. both a collection of books and a space in which to consult them – available to all members. Yet for most of the time since Hart Hall began to accommodate students in c.1300, this was not so. In the Middle Ages, undergraduates reading for a BA did not need books to study for their degree; they relied on lecturers who went through the set authorities line by line. Manuscript books were expensive. Even graduates studying for higher degrees that required actual reading of books would, like Chaucer's Clerk of Oxford, have relied on family,

friends, or patrons to help pay for them. Students of all grades provided for themselves, like the very wealthy commoner at Black Hall, Hart Hall's neighbour on New College Lane (roughly where OB2 is today) who spent 7/- on two books in 1424. Corporate libraries were for the privileged few; the earliest university library at St Mary's initially restricted readers to graduates who had been reading philosophy for eight years.

The first college libraries in Oxford were found in the thirteenth-century houses of the friars, mendicants who could not individually own property. The model was soon copied by the early secular colleges. However, until the foundation of New College in 1379, scholars on the foundation of colleges

numbered perhaps only around 60 individuals across the six pre-1379 colleges, out of a total university population of perhaps 1,500 – and nearly all fellows of colleges were graduates. Even by the later fifteenth century, the vast majority of Oxford students – perhaps c.90% – were still not members of colleges but of halls, like Hart Hall, non-corporate bodies with no formal endowments; in essence glorified, often very cramped, boarding houses for undergraduates run by their Principals as profit-making enterprises with perhaps a few graduate tutors providing, along with the Principal, private tuition to supplement the centrally organised university classes. Although some halls attracted book donations, and Principals

and MAs could borrow books from the university collection for teaching purposes, libraries reflected a corporate identity and autonomy that these early halls lacked.

While the advent of printing and falling prices from the late fifteenth century meant individual students could assemble quite extensive personal libraries, even with the secularisation and hugely expanded numbers of college undergraduates in the sixteenth century, college libraries continued to be for fellows and graduates. In 1608, the great re-founder of the university library, Thomas Bodley, dismissed the idea of a library 'for the younger sort', arguing 'there is much to be said against it' – chiefly money, policing, and space. The

Bodleian restricted readership to BAs and a few aristocratic youths (it did not normally admit ordinary undergraduates until the 1850s). Trinity College's late seventeenth-century innovation of a Lower Library for undergraduates failed when the whole collection was stolen.

Oxford library collections remained largely unfit for undergraduate purposes until after the introduction in 1800 of more rigorous BA exams, followed by the innovation of class lists and written examinations. Colleges then gradually opened their libraries to undergraduates and even provided books they might actually wish to consult. The modern Oxford academic library, like the modern university itself, is really a creation of Victorian reforms from the 1850s, with their new courses and greater numbers of undergraduates. In 1862, the Radcliffe Camera was opened to undergraduates. In 1867, All Souls allowed undergraduates reading the joint school of History and Law access to the Codrington. The Union Society's innovative lending library of 1878 proved massively popular. Released from old restrictive statutes and eager to compete in the undergraduate market, colleges began to supplement their ancient collections with books and journals directly relevant to undergraduate studies and to provide new space for readers. By the later twentieth century, college libraries had moved decisively from the scholarly ornaments of medieval and early modern Oxford to necessary (if often, until the weeks before Schools) only occasional features of undergraduate life.

Fast forward half a century to today and how different the scene looks. Reared on an intensive examination culture, and survivors of an increasingly competitive admissions process, more undergraduates are more instinctively

serious – or anxious – about their academic work and hence they make more demands on library resources. The COVID pandemic revealed college libraries occupying central institutional roles. During lockdowns, at Hertford and across the university, the college library became the embodiment of the college, providing the single most active academic channel of collective collegiate engagement with students through the provision of books, online material, reading lists, advice etc. In this dramatic and unprecedented fashion, today's library confirmed a historical constant. Libraries have always provided a commentary on the academic, educational, and cultural nature of the institutions they serve, barometers of change. The history of the library is the history of the college and, in Hertford's case, of the two academic halls and the defunct college from whom it descends. For the rest of my time, I shall try to demonstrate how, beginning with Hart Hall.

For the first 250 years of its existence as a home for students, until the late sixteenth century, Hart Hall was supported and protected by serving as an academic annexe to an established endowed college, Exeter College, except for 20 years at the end of the fourteenth century when it acted in a similar fashion for William of Wykeham's nascent New College. Exeter was the ground landlord to which rent was annually due, most of the Principals were Fellows of Exeter, and the college paid for the often not inexpensive physical maintenance of the buildings. The Principals made money from rents and private teaching fees. By the early sixteenth century, much of Exeter College's teaching was expected to occur in Hart Hall. In addition to the Principal, undergraduates, and servants, Hart Hall had a few graduates on its

books, paying rent and making money as private tutors.

Remarkably, Hart Hall also appeared to have its own library – a unique feature at the time for any hall for arts students (Greek Hall – for lawyers, who were required to have books – apparently had a library by 1472). The account rolls of the Rector of Exeter for the Hilary Term of 1496 record the expenditure of 4/6d on plumbing repairs above the library and other rooms at Hart Hall. From earlier accounts dating back to the 1390s we know that there were teaching rooms in the hall, perhaps on the first floor of a building on the site of OB4. The library may have been there. If, already, by the

1490s, Exeter was using Hart Hall as a college teaching annexe – as opposed to just renting out rooms to private tutors as well as undergraduates – then the college may have provided books for the tutors. Exeter had had its own library since 1375. Alternatively, the 1496 library was simply the Principal's own collection or that of graduates in residence, or just a space to read. William Hamlyn, MA, of Hart Hall, perhaps a tutor, left a private collection of 13 volumes (mainly of staple texts in theology, logic, philosophy, and natural science texts) on his death in 1534. The library may even have been of long standing. In 1462, a chaplain from Hart Hall appeared in the Chancellor's

The title page of Thomas Hobbes' *Opera Philosophica, Quae Latinè Scripsit, Omnia*



The title page of John Donne's *Sermons*

court trying to force a local ne'er-do-well Catte Street bookbinder to honour a contract to bind a book of canon law. It seems probable that, like other larger halls, by 1496 Hart Hall was already adopting settled academic customs, structure, habits, and status, operating a system of board and lodging for undergraduates – perhaps up to 20 or even 30 at a time – together with formal in-house teaching by resident dons, as the presence of a library might suggest. If so, it was pioneering the academic model that endowed colleges only began following in the next century, one that became the pattern of Oxford academic life for the following five centuries. The 1496 library, therefore, suggests Hart Hall was a nursery for this

profound innovation.

This early existence of a library might explain why there is no mention of one being created under the transformative Principalship of Philip Rondell (1549-99) who, still under the nominal auspices of Exeter, gradually established Hart Hall's de facto autonomy. Similarly, no mention of a library surfaces during the rebuilding work of Principals Theodore Price (1604-22) and Thomas Iles (1622-33). Surviving the emptying of the hall and takeover of the site by royalists in the early years of the Civil War, a small revival under the imposed parliamentary regime of Principal Stevens in the later 1650s, and a period of relaxed anarchy after the Restoration of 1660, late seventeenth-century Hart Hall settled into a fair



The Benefactors' Book, showing the library rules

copy of a socially and politically well-connected late Stuart college. As part of this image, a new room for a library was created during the principalship of William Thornton (1688-1707) over a grand new gatehouse on Catte Street.

It has traditionally been assumed that Thornton's library met the requirements of a growing collection and demand, supported by subsidies and donations from two benefactors, both of whom worked at the Bodleian: the Librarian John Hudson and one of his assistants, Emmanuel Pritchard. However, it might be wondered what exactly had happened to the Hall's books during the Civil War. Between 1644 and 1651 no-one had matriculated at Hart Hall; in 1646 the three remaining scholars

were transferred elsewhere leaving only the cook with nobody to cook for or to pay his wages except the royalist lodgers. Who minded the books then? There were a number of booksellers in Catte Street who would have been happy to take advantage. Even if the collection had survived, the role of the two benefactors appears to have been significant. The evidence for their contributions comes from their Bodleian colleague, the indefatigable diarist Thomas Hearne. Under the year 1706, we are told that Hudson 'to his immortal Honour had contributed both money and books to the new library', although given Bodleian Librarian Hudson's ominous nickname of the Bookseller, we might wonder just where the books

came from. According to Hearne, in 1704, Pritchard, an old member of the hall who had matriculated in 1656 as a servitor – i.e. a poor scholar who waited at table to afford his commons – left £200 to the then Vice-Principal of Hart Hall, Nicholas Martin, who allegedly spent part of it 'on the building of a library or room for Books in the Hall'. Intriguingly, Pritchard's actual will, now in the university archives, left £20 to Hart Hall for building a chapel, and appointed Martin as executor, but made no mention of a £200 bequest. Nicholas Martin was an active and supportive Vice-Principal and close friend of the great Oxford antiquarian Anthony Wood. He may well have been more instrumental in instigating the new library than the rather inert Principal Thornton. Certainly, the new

gatehouse and library were expensive. Whatever donations were received, there remained a deficit on the project of over £120 still unpaid in 1710, three years after Thornton's death. Thornton's library project evidently came towards the end of his Principalship. The library room may have been quite extensive. Despite a steady flow of acquisitions, it remained where the hall's and then the first Hertford College's books were kept until the dissolution of the first college in 1816 and the transfer of the books to the possession of Magdalen Hall.

Thornton's library collection was developed further by Richard Newton, Principal of Hart Hall from 1710 and founder of the first Hertford College in 1740. Difficult, irascible, and opinionated, Newton nonetheless believed in educating undergraduates through a strict academic regime that required a library. Ever keen to promote collegiate identity, Newton instituted a college bookplate. As well as donating copies of his own works, Newton bought books and sought donations, for example from the leading London publisher and bookseller Jacob Tonson, who not only sold books to Newton but in 1733 also gave a benefaction to the library worth £50. Some of Newton's acquisitions would have been useful to diligent undergraduates as they included dictionaries, lexicons and thesauruses. Other benefactors included college fellows; Newton's widow; his successor, Principal William Sharpe (1753-57); his former non-Hart Hall pupil, the arch-political fixer of the age, the Duke of Newcastle; and the great antiquarian, bibliophile and Bodleian benefactor, Richard Rawlinson, who in 1755 left several books to Hertford. Additions continued even as the college itself stumbled towards dissolution. Most significant, in 1777 an old member, John

Cale (matriculated 1739), a lawyer from Kent, left all his manuscripts and books – perhaps some hundreds – to the college, along with money for shelving and a catalogue, and a douceur of £50 for the Principal. In addition, Cale left the college £1,000 of East India Company stock to pay for a Librarian; at 3% this gave an income of £30 a year. The Cale bequest significantly increased the capital assets of the poorly endowed college; on its dissolution in 1816 his East India Company Stock constituted 40% of the college's total endowment. In the deal that allocated Hertford's property to the benefit of Magdalen Hall, the stock, and its purpose to pay for a Librarian, was transferred wholesale.

The old Hertford College library holdings were very considerable, a register of ambition for the college that in the end far outstripped achievement. A catalogue of 1800 gave the number of single volumes at over 4,000, covering: ancient languages, including Hebrew and Arabic; modern languages; theology from the Church Fathers onwards; philosophy; a large law collection; natural science; mathematics; geography; hagiography; medicine; history; architecture; archaeology; politics; topography; astronomy; and prophecy (eg Nostradamus); but also gardening and modern literature, such as *Robinson Crusoe* and the complete works of Jonathan Swift. The sole work of old member John Donne was his essay on suicide, *Biathanatos*. The shelving appears random; a separate copy of Swift's *Tale of a Tub* appearing between William Molyneux's 1698 book on the power of the English parliament over Ireland and Edward Pocock's 1650 *Specimen historiae Arabum*. In the chaos surrounding the decline and dissolution of the first Hertford College, the fate of the library fell into hazard. A catalogue

of 1820 of the college's books, prepared for the incoming Magdalen Hall just as Thornton's library room and gatehouse were being demolished, recorded fewer than 2,000 volumes. Many books had been bought by the Oxford bookseller Robert Bliss even before the clear-out of duplicates that followed the merging of the college library with that of Magdalen Hall. One Hertford volume, a 1601 Italian edition of Tacitus's *Orationes*, ended up in the possession of John Keats.

The library with which Hertford's merged traced a different path. Magdalen Hall, housed on a site now occupied by the St Swithun's Quad of Magdalen College, had emerged in the last years of the fifteenth century as an annexe for grammar students, many of whom hoped to gain admission to the college next door. It grew rapidly and, like Hart Hall, assumed the academic form of a college, housing graduate tutors as well as undergraduates. Its lack of statutory restrictions allowed ease of entry and a certain freedom in its internal policies, like Hart Hall acquiring a de facto independence. Magdalen College lost its power to appoint the Hall's Principal in 1602, although it made unsuccessful attempts to revive its patronage in 1681 and 1694. Under Principal John Wilkinson (1605-48), the hall became one of the most popular destinations for students in Oxford, matriculating dozens of undergraduates every year, often having well over 100 names on the books at any one time. A succession of able and distinguished scholars and tutors entrenched the hall's reputation as one of the leading puritan houses in the university. However, it lacked a designated corporate library.

After the headwinds of the hostile environment to Calvinist thought and practices engineered by the busy-body Chancellorship of Archbishop Laud

Thornton's library collection was developed further by Richard Newton, Principal of Hart Hall from 1710 and founder of the first Hertford College in 1740.



in the 1630s, and the near collapse of numbers and expulsion of Wilkinson and his tutors during the Royalist occupation of Oxford in 1643-46, the Parliamentary triumph of 1646 restored the Calvinist regime at Magdalen Hall as well as imposing it elsewhere, John Wilkinson ending his days as President of Magdalen College. He was succeeded at the hall by his nephew, Henry Wilkinson (1648-62), who, after graduating with a BA from the hall in 1635 and an MA in 1638, stayed as a tutor and by the 1640s was effective deputy to his ageing uncle. By the mid-1650s, secure in numbers, income and official favour, Henry Wilkinson constructed a library at his own expense on the western side of the hall's quadrangle. He had begun buying books for the hall as early as 1653. Rules were agreed in 1656 when the library opened. In his printed catalogue of 1661, the first printed library catalogue in Oxford, Wilkinson noted that the idea for a library had been the ambition of his uncle, John, only prevented by the circumstances of the times from achievement. This was not the entire story.

In the early 1620s, with the hall bulging with members, John Wilkinson had raised a collection from them towards constructing a 'ball-court' (Hart Hall already had one, roughly on the site of the present library) and a library. In 1623, a group of disgruntled MAs officially complained to the university authorities that, among many other abuses, Wilkinson had turned the place earmarked for a library instead into student rooms 'whereof he makes a great comoditie', i.e. profit. The university visitors, dominated by Wilkinson's allies, exonerated him from the other accusations, but were forced to admit that he had misspent the library money on enlarging the buttry

and other improvements, concluding that 'we hould it fitte that the Principal shall be as good as his word concerning the building of a library'. He wasn't. So perhaps, 30 years on, nephew Henry felt an especial need to make amends.

Henry Wilkinson's scheme addressed four issues: access; finance; acquisitions; and, more intangibly, collegiate loyalty and identity. It provided for a scholarly resource to graduates, senior commoners and wealthy other commoners – i.e. those with serious academic intent. Only the Principal and Librarian were allowed to borrow books. (Wilkinson was both.) The subscriptions to use the library (10/- for upper commoners; 10/- on graduation for MAs and 5/- for BAs; other commoners 20/-) created a fund to cover running costs, such as supplying chains for the volumes and buying books. Many graduates initially donated books in lieu of the charges specified in the Rules, although as the collection grew, commutation for money became the norm. Any fines for breaking the rules went towards library costs. As early as May 1657, duplicate copies were sold to allow for more book purchases, suggesting that the hall had possessed some sort of collection before 1656. As the hall could not possess corporate wealth or build up any endowment, the funding of the library was entirely a private enterprise on the part of the hall's members. This led to the third element of Wilkinson's scheme: the attraction of donations from outside the hall from old members and others, their names and gifts to be recorded in a Benefactors' Book that still survives in the college archives. Wilkinson took courting outside benefactions seriously. He transcribed what reads like a formula letter of thanks, in Latin and English versions, into his common place book (now in the Bodleian). The specimen, a

copy of the letter to the old member and regicide John Lisle in January 1659, not only assures the donor of the Hall and the inscription of the donor's name in the Benefactors' Book, but makes the general case for active charitable giving, not just in legacies: 'how much better it is to do good in our lifetime and make our own eyes sometimes overseers and our own hands executors: for by so doing Benefactors may see with comfort an acceptable successe of their liberality and may likewise fare the better for the prayers of the many'. Wilkinson's psychological insight into

the incentives of charitable giving shines across the centuries. In fact, Lisle's gift, a Polyglot Bible in six volumes, was actually disposed of after the merger with Hertford in favour of one given to Hertford by the Duke of Newcastle in the eighteenth century.

The Lisle letter hints at the final aspect of Wilkinson's concept for the role of the library: the fostering of corporate identity through sentimental nostalgia. An early donor, the baronet and London lawyer Sir George Pratt, who matriculated in 1623, talked of his 'love and goodwill' to the hall inspiring his donation that paid for 11 volumes of

The Benefactors' Book, showing the inner cover



Calvin's *Opera Omnia*. In 1692, Samuel Thurner (matric. 1651) gave a significant collection of over 150 volumes, chiefly scientific and medical, 'for his affection that accompanies his mother Magdalen', a formula repeated by other donors. The conceit of a nurturing parent operated as a fundamental element in the development of institutional sentiment. More pragmatically, eliciting library donations provided a means of direct generosity to the hall that its non-corporate status otherwise denied. Wilkinson's library provided a physical focus to match his wider promotion of collegiate identity: he had supplied Anthony Wood – although a distinctly hostile witness – with details of Magdalen Hall's history that stressed both distinguished old members and the line of influential puritan tutors; and he had given the library a portrait of William Tyndale (which may or may not be the same as that hanging in Hall today) as an icon of his projection of Magdalen Hall as a godly institution.

Initially, apart from Wilkinson himself (who gave almost 100 volumes) his wife, and surviving sons (he had had to bury three infant children at exactly the time he was establishing the library), the whole hall community contributed: tutors, paid up undergraduates and graduates, and college servants, including the hall's butler, porter, and barber. Roger Fry, the hall's mangle – a sort of entrepreneurial profiteering bursar – in 1657 gave two fifteenth-century printed books, one of which, a 1489 copy of Peter Lombard's twelfth-century *Sentences*, a staple of the old theology and canon law syllabus, remains in the college library, the oldest printed book now in the college's possession. More widely, early and subsequent donors included old members and former tutors; such as John Wilkins, a founder

of the Royal Society (who perhaps disappointingly only gave an edition of works by the fourteenth-century Oxford mathematician and physicist, Thomas Bradwardine); or John Tombes, a leading early Baptist who had taught at the hall in the 1620s; or John Oxenbridge, whose career after expulsion from his tutorship at the hall in the 1630s (by Laud) embraced preaching in the West Indies and North America with an incongruous interlude in the 1650s as a Fellow of Eton. Other early donors included Heads and Fellows of other Oxford colleges and theologically sympathetic contacts of Wilkinson. One catch was the polymath essayist Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle, writer of philosophy, science, poetry, fiction, and drama, the first woman to attend a meeting of the Royal Society (in 1667). Beginning in the late 1650s, she gave at least eight volumes. Those not directly connected with the hall tended to be academically minded professionals, from clerics to booksellers. While the majority of the earliest donors shared Wilkinson's Calvinist confessional colouring, later donors – such as Wilkinson's successors as Principal – displayed no such uniformity.

Ironically, the reformed Protestant identity that Wilkinson was projecting was almost immediately overtaken and outlawed by the Restoration. The Act of Uniformity of 1662 imposed on clergymen and office holders conformity with the new Prayer Book and hierarchical ecclesiastical settlement. Unlike his hall protégés, Josiah Pullen and the future founding Keeper of the Ashmolean Robert Plot, Wilkinson refused to conform and was ejected from the Principalship. Just four days before his formal departure, he rendered his final accounts as Librarian to his time-serving colleagues, including Pullen. Wilkinson's own handwritten minutes perhaps

capture the tension of the occasion as he pointedly described himself as 'the present Principal'. His library scheme survived. In his final act he had secured agreement that, given the scale of funds, the priority was books not building, and books continued to flow in, including Thomas Hobbes' gift of his own *Opera philosophica* of 1668, 60 years since he had graduated from the hall. Wilkinson's own continued affection for his creation was displayed a decade later when he was again a donor, one of his gifts being – perhaps pointedly in view of the absenteeism of his courtier successor, James Hyde – a copy of Archbishop Laud's *Aularian Statutes*, outlining the duties and conduct of academic halls and their heads. Wilkinson may not have been too chuffed if he could have foreseen that one of his earliest donations, Daniel Dyke's *Mystery of Self-Deceiving (De cordis fraudulentia)*, was sold by Hertford College through Blackwell's in 1891. Yet his legacy remained, in the physical library, its rules, and its preservation of works by his ideological and theological allies, like him most definitely *personae non gratae* in the Restoration university.

In 1657, the library contained 332 volumes; by 1661, 646. On Wilkinson's departure, the omnivalent Vice-Principal, Josiah Pullen, became librarian and kept the Benefactor's Book until his death in 1715; another book was continued to 1746, by which time it had recorded 790 donations – a figure that probably omits books simply bought out of the library fund. In 1729, it was recorded that the library was full, with over, possibly well over, 1,000 volumes, inconveniently for readers, if not librarians, shelved according to size not subject. Library dues were temporarily diverted to the construction of a chapel. Donations and purchases declined as

the eighteenth century progressed, leaving the library intellectually largely stuck in the late seventeenth century.

How far the books were actually read and by whom is not entirely clear. The early collection was dominated by theology, much of it contemporary seventeenth-century polemic, as well as Biblical and patristic scholarship. Next in prominence were classical texts and commentaries, including philosophy, especially logic, still a central part of the BA curriculum, although these seem not to have been acquired in any systematic or comprehensive fashion that might indicate a coherent policy to accommodate undergraduate requirements. History, both ancient and more modern, also featured, both standard texts and more recondite works. The natural science and mathematics collection ranged from Galen to Boyle and Hooke, with three significant donations in the 1690s providing a large collection of works on anatomy, surgery, and medicine. Geography was less popular with donors than with the hall authorities, even the famous old member and tutor Robert Plot only giving his *Natural History of Oxfordshire* of 1677, not his *Natural History of Staffordshire* (1684). Eighteenth-century acquisitions reflected more niche concerns, in botany, gardening and commerce. With the removal of Wilkinson's guiding spirit, acquisitions seem to have been driven by serendipity, not design. John Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690) only came as a gift because the donor, old member William Thomas, was a friend of Locke. However, the relative lack of legal books might have been deliberate, reflecting the tiny numbers who successfully read for the BCL (nine between 1715 and 1816) although many more old members became lawyers. If

the library witnessed donnish interest rather than undergraduate need, it might be noticed that about 40% of eighteenth-century undergraduates at Magdalen Hall took no sort of degree at all. The decline in donations and the end of a vigorous buying policy also matched a decline in hall membership: between 1730 and 1811 only one year – 1788 – saw undergraduate admissions in double figures. The rarefied nature of the collection only deepened with age.

The merger with Hertford after 1816 allowed for a new start. The bulk of the Magdalen Hall books escaped the 1820 fire that destroyed much of the old buildings next to Magdalen College. Once moved to the Hertford site after 1822, the combined library was housed in a newly built block on the north side of the quadrangle, where it stayed until 1887 when the building was demolished to make way for OB2. It then migrated to the Old Hall where it stayed until finally moving to Newton's old Hertford chapel following the construction of the present chapel in 1908. After 1822, the Librarian initially was the Vice-Principal, William James (1813-32). Thereafter, the library was effectively taken under the wing of Principal John Macbride (1813-68) who, like Henry Wilkinson, saw it as a projection of the hall's identity, witnessed by his aggressive rebinding volumes with the legend Magdalene Hall – spelt with a final 'e' stamped on their spines – a double solecism in its misspelling of Magdalen and suggestion that the hall corporately owned these books. It didn't because it couldn't. Technically, the library belonged either to the Principal or to the university in trust for the hall. However, this anomaly, like so many in Oxford, was left undisturbed. Macbride was also tacitly admitting the increasingly ornamental and antiquarian nature of the collection. Sales from the

old collection continued throughout the nineteenth century (a third of the titles in the Benefactors' Books are no longer in the college).

As we have seen, the sweeping academic and institutional changes in Oxford after 1850 onwards led to demand for a very different sort of library: one that housed, and even lent out, currently useful books. A start was made with old member Edward Phillips's large bequest of 'modern books' in 1855. The utilitarian turn accelerated, if fitfully, after the foundation of the new Hertford College in 1874 and the move to the more spacious old chapel under the auspices of the long-serving Fellow Librarian and college historian, Sidney Hamilton (1855-1916). The rag bag of medieval and modern manuscripts began to be deposited in the Bodleian (a process that continued to the 1960s). Useful book donations from recent or current Fellows continued (as they still do). Three members killed in the First World War bequeathed much needed books on law, maths, and the sciences. However, old habits died hard. This from the college magazine of 1921:

'The library was never famous for its completeness and had remarkable powers of concealing the few useful books it did possess. During the war it became less up-to-date than ever. Since the war it has started on a new life... it was decided that the Library must do more to assist the ordinary reading of undergraduates. The college has voted considerable grants ...which have been spent almost entirely on books wanted for the Schools. Meanwhile the new librarian has made an arrangement of the books according to subjects (previously ... they were arranged according to shape) and those parts of the Library which are in ordinary use have been freshly catalogued'.

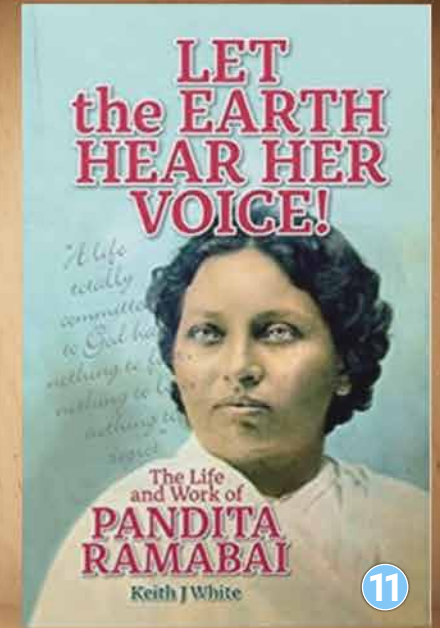
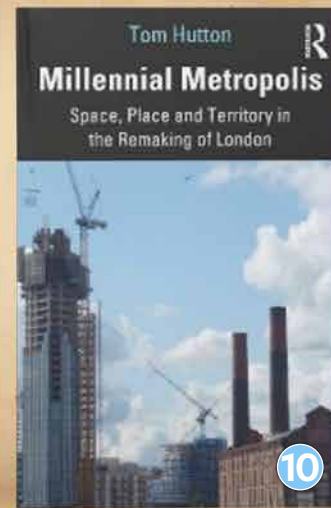
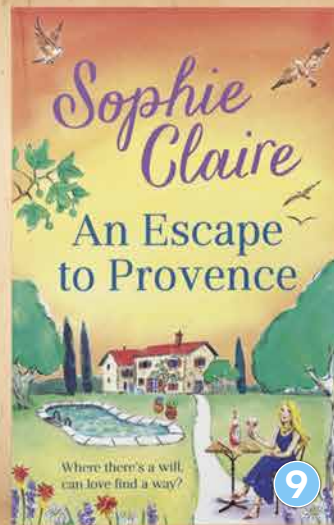
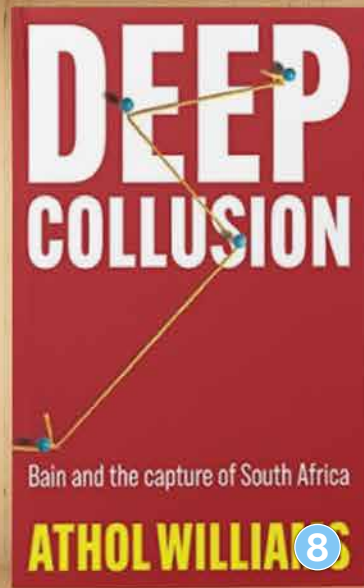
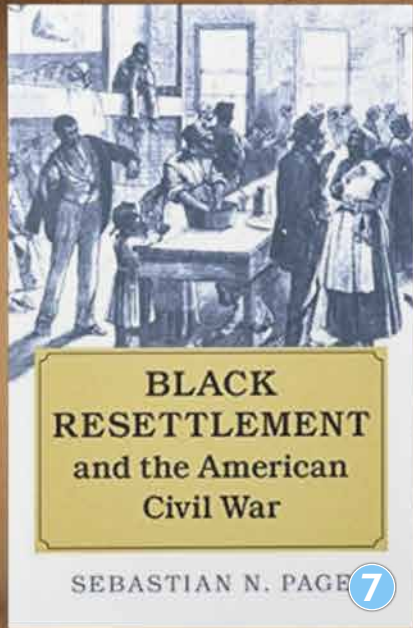
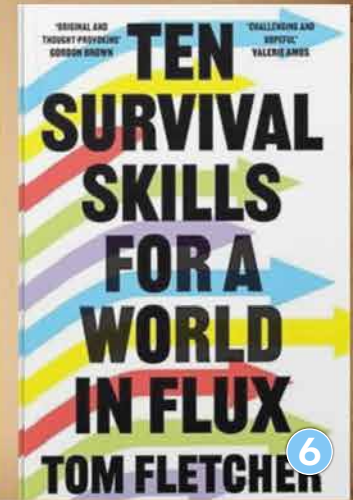
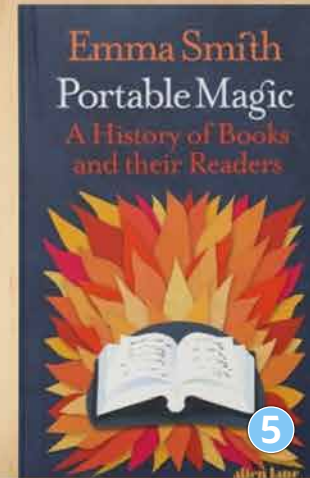
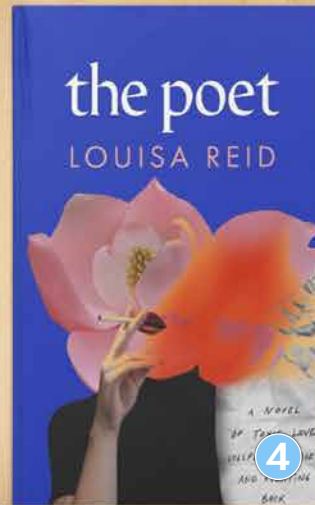
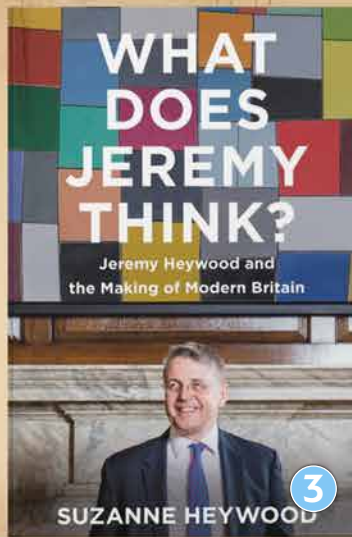
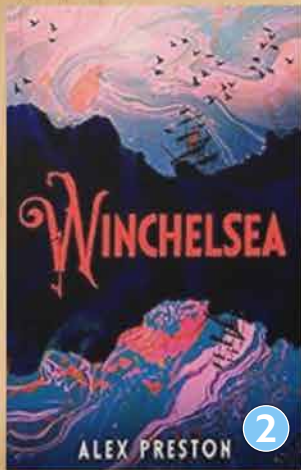
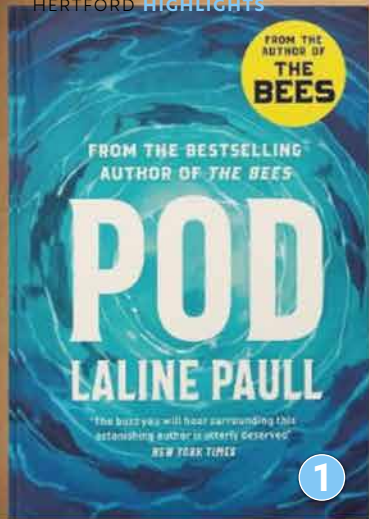
The undergraduate writer ended with the condescension typical of his order: 'It is becoming a very fairly useful College library'. The new reforming Librarian was the forceful Mods don, JD Denniston.

The undergraduate in 1921 identified two historic problems that persisted for the next century: funding and space. The college lacked access to adequate endowment to provide much more than a basic library service, despite Dean's fines periodically being directed to library purposes. With undergraduate incomes decreasingly allowing for compensating private book expenditure, demand on the library only grew. Pressure on space made expansion problematic. Denniston's successor – the Ancient History don, Charles Hignett – solved the problems of space and money through an almost adamant reluctance to buy any new books at all. However, the antiquarian books were finally separated from the living collection. Some were temporarily deposited in the Bodleian (where the college manuscripts still are) until repatriated in the 1970s. The old books were then housed variously upstairs in the current library, in Old Hall and in the Old Library until most were re-shelved in the Old Lodgings in the last decade.

Meanwhile, by the mid-twentieth century, the situation of the modern collection in the old chapel remained parlous. In 1958, the German dictionary was so old it lacked a word for aeroplane and by 1960 75% of the maths and science books were pre-1945. In 1961, the JCR debated whether to establish a second-hand bookshop to sell books to Freshers acquired from departed finalists (this entrepreneurial idea was that of an undergraduate called Roger van Noorden). Finally, as part of the transformation of the college begun in 1959, in 1963, when accommodation that

had been provided by the university in the Indian Institute was withdrawn, the library was extended, with a new floor inserted and an extension built over the site of the toxic communal lavatories between the old and new chapels. Since then, as successive librarians have sought to keep the collection relevant and up to date, the library has gradually quarried into more and more basements until there is now nowhere else to go in or under the existing buildings. The historic conundrum of money, space and function remains to challenge the modern college as it did its three predecessors.

If the challenges are the same, circumstances differ. As I said earlier, at times during the pandemic the library in many respects WAS the college. There was no slackening of the demand for books. What of the future? Some argue physical books are becoming obsolete. Perhaps, but it might be noted that they have survived the change from paper to animal skin and back again; some of the manuscripts across the road are well over a thousand years old and still legible; printed books, including a number in our own library, have lasted for over 500 years. Will IT recovery systems last that long? Not all reading material needs to be hot off the press or fresh in the file. I suspect libraries will continue to house actual volumes as well as being *vade mecums* to the world online and beyond. They will adapt to provide academic resources appropriate to need. In the future, as in the past, libraries will continue to reflect who we are and play an evolving role in what Principal Rondell's Hart Hall lease of 1559 described as a 'house ordained for the advancement of learning'.



1 THE POD LALINE PAULL (English, 1983)

Ea has always felt like an outsider. When tragedy strikes her family of spinner dolphins and Ea feels she is partly to blame, she decides to make the ultimate sacrifice and leave. But a chance encounter with a group of arrogant bottlenoses will irrevocably alter the course of her life. The novel explores the true meaning of family, belonging, and sacrifice within an ocean that is no longer the sanctuary it once was, and which reflects a world all too recognisable to our own.

2 WINCHELSEA ALEX PRESTON (English, 1998)

Goody Brown, saved from drowning and adopted when just a babe, has grown up happily in the smuggling town of Winchelsea. Then her father is murdered in the night by men he thought were his friends, and Goody must enter the cut-throat world of her father's killers. *Winchelsea* is an electrifying story of vengeance and transformation; a rare, lyrical, and transporting work of historical imagination.

3 WHAT DOES JEREMY THINK? JEREMY HEYWOOD AND THE MAKING OF MODERN BRITAIN SUZANNE HEYWOOD

As a young civil servant, Jeremy Heywood's insightful questioning of the status quo pushed him to the centre of political power in this country for more than 25 years. Inevitably, when faced with a new policy initiative, a Prime Minister's first response would be: 'but what does Jeremy think?' This book began as a joint effort between Jeremy and his wife Suzanne, working together in the last months of his life

and completed by Suzanne after his death.

4 THE POET LOUISA REID (English, 1994)

Bright, promising Emma is entangled in a toxic romance with her old professor; cruel, charming Tom is idolized by his students and peers. Soon, he will push her to the limit and she must decide: to remain quiet and submit, or to take her revenge. Written in verse and charged with passion and anger, *The Poet* is a portrait of a deeply dysfunctional relationship, exploring coercive control, class and privilege.

5 PORTABLE MAGIC: A HISTORY OF BOOKS AND THEIR READERS PROFESSOR EMMA SMITH

Most of what we say about books is really about the words inside them: the rosy, nostalgic glow for childhood reading, the lifetime companionship of a much-loved novel. But books are things as well as words, objects in our lives as well as worlds in our heads. All books are, as Stephen King put it, 'a uniquely portable magic'. Here, Emma Smith shows us why. *Portable Magic* unfurls an exciting and iconoclastic new story of the book in human hands, exploring when, why and how it acquired its particular hold over us.

6 TEN SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR A WORLD IN FLUX TOM FLETCHER

To thrive in the twenty-first century, we all need to understand the challenges coming our way. And start adapting, now. We all know there are major, overlapping, global crises ahead of humanity. Rather than be daunted,

this book charts a way that we can respond. Tom Fletcher offers a practical manifesto that can help us transform the way we learn, live, and work together. Vital, practical, and accessible, this is a book about how we can anticipate the threats and opportunities of tomorrow and be ready for them – individually and collectively.

7 BLACK RESETTLEMENT AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SEBASTIAN PAGE

This work draws on research in six languages to offer the first comprehensive, comparative account of nineteenth-century America's greatest road not taken: the mass resettlement of African Americans outside the United States.

8 DEEP COLLUSION: BAIN AND THE CAPTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA ATHOL WILLIAMS (MPhil Political Theory, 2015)

Drawing on his testimony before the Zondo Commission, Williams reveals the full extent of what Bain did not want the public to know, and uncovers the inner workings of state capture design. While this book exposes corporate corruption and lifts the lid on foreign profiteering and the weakening of South Africa's public institutions, it also highlights the lonely burden of the whistleblower, and the great personal cost of telling the truth in the face of overwhelming pressure.

9 AN ESCAPE TO PROVENCE SOPHIE CLAIRE

When cynical divorce lawyer Daisy Jackson unexpectedly inherits a ramshackle farmhouse in Provence,

she sets off for the French countryside to oversee renovations herself. But Gabriel Laforet has other ideas. A local builder with ties to the property, Gabriel is determined to see Daisy off and preserve the characterful, charming farmhouse – which, but for a missing will, he knows is rightfully his.

10 MILLENNIAL METROPOLIS: SPACE, PLACE AND TERRITORY IN THE REMAKING OF LONDON TOM HUTTON (Geography, 1972)

This text offers a critical perspective on complex and consequential aspects of growth and change in London, viewed through the lens of multiscalar space and brought to life through exemplary case studies. It demonstrates how capital, culture, and governance have combined to reproduce London, within a frame of relational geographies and historical relayering.

11 LET THE EARTH HEAR HER VOICE! THE LIFE AND WORK OF PANDITA RAMABAI KEITH WHITE (English, 1966)

Ramabai was an extraordinary Indian scholar, feminist and educator. Though still little known in the West, she was a pioneer for women's education and participation in public affairs, becoming the first woman to address the Indian National Social Congress; a widely-travelled Sanskrit scholar, despite never having a day at school or college during her childhood; and the author of several pioneering books. Set in social and historical context, *Let the Earth Hear her Voice!* draws from extensive original material to describe Ramabai's extraordinary life.



HERT
FORD



YEAR



HERTFORD SOCIETY

Barry Lester, Chairman of the Society, writes:

This year the Hertford Society is 60 years of age. It was launched in 1962 at a reception in the hall of Lincoln's Inn by Hertfordian Bill Atkinson and his friends. Its aims have remained the same since that day: to keep old members of Hertford in touch with the college and bring them together for events, in Oxford and elsewhere; and to find ways of supporting the college, principally by funding a range of small-scale projects which are significant but might not normally be given priority by the college.

The celebration is being marked by two events. The first was a dinner in college on 9 July, attended by the new President of the Society, Lord Pannick QC, and the Principal, Tom Fletcher.

The food and wine were first rate, and we were treated to a speech about the rigours of college life in the early 60s by Roger Westbrook, former President of the Society.

The second celebratory event is a 60th anniversary tea, on Thursday 27 October in the House of Lords, open to both Society members (and their guests) and other Hertford alumni.

The Committee has been turning its mind to the age profile of the Society: particularly to the fact that we do not have enough younger members. One of our younger Committee members Mitchell Tate has written an impressive paper highlighting reasons why younger, junior members of the college and recent graduates might not be joining

and suggesting ways in which the situation might be remedied.

Chris Mockler, our membership secretary, and I think Mitchell's ideas are very much on the right lines. One such is that the Society, in addition to its traditional buffets and formal dinners in college, should organise other events, probably in London, which are cheaper, perhaps even free. We also need to make the Society more visible to current junior members of the college and recent graduates.

In line with one of Mitchell's suggestions, the Committee has already approved the proposal that current members of the JCR and MCR and those in their first year after going down be charged a reduced



Guests at the Hertford Society 60th anniversary dinner, held on Saturday 9 July



subscription of £10 a year for three years.

This is not to say that we are complacent about the number of older alumni who are members of the Society. Quite the opposite. Some older graduates have never joined; others used to be members, but their memberships have lapsed. We are keen to encourage these Hertford graduates from earlier years to join or renew their memberships, for a modest £25 a year.

In February, the Committee held its annual dinner in the Oxford and Cambridge Club. Among those attending were the Principal, former Society President Roger Westbrook and Teresa Taylor, MCR President. At the Committee meeting immediately before the dinner, it was noted that, with the recent addition of two former Principals – John Landers and Will Hutton – the Society's Vice-Presidents numbered six in total. The Committee agreed that we should identify distinguished women graduates of the college who might be willing to be nominated.

I am happy to report that Dr Zöe Lee (Geography 2004) has been elected as a new Vice-President. Zöe took up rowing at Hertford and went on to an incredible rowing career, representing Great Britain for nine years. At the 2016 Rio Olympics, she was in the women's eight which, though in last place at the halfway point of the Olympic final, rowed through for silver and won the first ever Olympic medal for a British women's eight. In the same year, she stroked the women's eight to a gold medal in the European Championships.

Finally, the Society was recently invited by the Development Office to be a matching sponsor of the college's Giving Day in June and match donations to the college for specific projects up to a maximum of £1,000. The Committee



Left: Hertford Society Committee meeting

Right: Principal Tom Fletcher with two of his predecessors, Sir Walter Bodmer and Dr John Landers

welcomed this approach, feeling that such a sponsorship was very much in accord with the Society's aims and values. The college was able to match all of our £1,000 sponsorship; and the Development Office have told us that our support encouraged donations from alumni for two key college programmes: the Foundation Fund (helping to provide exceptional facilities and experiences for students) and the Opportunity Fund (providing funds to eliminate finance as a barrier to study).

If the Hertford Society is to thrive and grow, we need more members of all ages. Please visit the Society's pages on the college website (hertford.ox.ac.uk/the-hertford-society). The membership fee is £10 a year (for the first three years) for JCR and MCR members and graduates in their first year after going down, and £25 a year for other Hertford members. Or contact Chris Mockler at chris.mockler@talk21.com





ACADEMIC OFFICE

Lynn Featherstone, outgoing Registrar and Director of Admissions, writes:

This year represented a return to some form of normality for many aspects of academic life, with most teaching, meetings and many exams returning to their in-person format.

At the start of the year, we welcomed another bumper intake of undergraduate Freshers, the majority of whom were from state school and under-represented backgrounds, and all of whose sixth-form studies and preparations for university had, inevitably, been disrupted by the pandemic. In anticipation, we bolstered our programme of offer-holder support, including electronic reading lists and online resources from our Librarian, Alice Roques, and study skills sessions

with Dr Catherine Sloan, Porter Fellow for Academic Skills. We were very pleased that this cohort received a warm, in-person welcome from the college and Freshers' committee, and that the students had the opportunity to experience the Freshers' dinner and matriculation ceremony.

Whilst the Freshers experienced disruption at school or college, this year's Finalists' university experience has been shaped by the pandemic. For many, the summer was the first time they had sat formal university examinations, since most Prelims exams were cancelled or replaced with informal assessments in 2020. A variety of exam formats were in place this year – some students were assessed by in-

person, closed-book papers, and others sat online, open-book papers in their college rooms. We are grateful to the JCR and MCR committees and college support staff in helping us maintain quiet and minimise disruptions. A third of our Finalists achieved a first class degree this summer, with the vast majority of the rest securing a 2.1. Congratulations are due to all students for their individual achievements after such a challenging period.

Our outreach activities remained online in the first half of the year, which gave the team the opportunity to maintain and develop our online resources and initiatives, including the popular Unsung Heroes of Science competition. Once face-to-face activities were permitted, they were taken up with enthusiasm by schools. By the summer, the college hosted over one hundred sixth form participants on UNIQ, the University's flagship summer school programme for UK students from areas of socio-economic deprivation and low progression to higher education. We were also delighted to run the first in-person Open Days since 2019, and it was a pleasure to welcome so many enthusiastic prospective applicants to college, even if the weather put a literal dampener on proceedings.

Other new initiatives included EMPOWER Oxford, a new collaboration between the Engineering, Materials and Physics Departments to encourage students of Black heritage to study these subjects at university, and a Code Club aimed at giving students from Oxford's most disadvantaged areas the technology and skills they need to get ahead in digital careers. Building on the connections forged over the last two years, the team also piloted an afternoon teacher conference for schools and colleges in Essex. And we

were finally able to run an in-person Swiftstream programme for Medway sixth formers, after two years of virtual activity. Participants enjoyed online meetings and interactive workshops before coming to Oxford for a two-night residential.

Our outreach programme would not be a success if it weren't for our student ambassadors – a group of nearly a third of our total undergraduate body – who give up their time to participate in our events and activities. Four Tanner Prizes were awarded to the most active ambassadors in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

I am grateful to the entire Academic Office team for their dedication, hard work and good humour supporting the college's academic activities, in

At the start of the year, we welcomed another bumper intake of undergraduate freshers, the majority of whom were from state school and under-represented backgrounds



Principal Tom Fletcher leads this year's Freshers to their matriculation

what has been another busy year. This year, there are a number of changes to report. Last September, we welcomed a new Admissions Officer, Anna Matthew, who has taken on the role with great aplomb. Our Academic Officer, Kim Jones, moved (fortunately not too far!) to the college Bursary to take up the role of Finance Assistant (Sales Ledger). Emma Budd, who originally joined us in January to coordinate academic projects, has taken on the Academic Officer role, and has already made her

mark supporting graduates and visiting students.

Nathan Stazicker, who has been so instrumental in enhancing our outreach and communications work, moved this summer to take up the role as Communications Manager at Worcester College. He may now enjoy palatial surroundings and a lake, but we hope he won't be a stranger to the college.

I am also moving on from my role this summer to join Wadham as their new Senior Tutor. I shall be very sad to

leave Hertford, where the fellows and staff have provided such a supportive environment over the last five years. It has been a pleasure to have been involved in so many activities and initiatives in pursuit of the college's academic ambitions in access and excellence, in a period which has seen direct applications to the college increase by a third, our state school intake rise by 10%, and a programme of academic support for students introduced.

The college looks forward to welcoming my successor, Megan Roper, in November 2022, who has a wealth of experience in supporting students, and we are particularly grateful to Julia Howe for acting up as interim Registrar and Director of Admissions in the meantime to ensure that the start of the next academic year runs smoothly, as I know it will under her direction.



THE BURSARY

Bursar Jamie Clark writes:



A view of OB Quad from the Bursar's window

I'm lucky enough to have a wonderful view of OB Quad from my office window. For the last couple of years, this has changed term by term, reflecting not just the passing seasons, but also the ups and downs of life through the pandemic. The installation of the marquee in autumn 2020; the varying numbers of people sitting at any of its tables, as rules and restrictions changed (and changed back); the trial excavations underneath it over Easter 2021, with five meter deep pits; the new nightlife in OB from running the evening bar, full and lively on a fine evening, and eerily empty when it was too cold; the sudden loss of that regular hubbub when we re-opened the basement bar in NB Quad. And finally, the dramatic

transition back in the last two weeks. The marquee has gone, and new turf has been laid, restoring my view to its former glory. With this comes a very visible break with our recent past, and a symbol of wider restoration. If only I had captured the whole cycle with some form of time lapse photography, it would have provided a clear record of extraordinary times. But we had other things to worry about at the time, of course.

But while we celebrate – unusually – a noticeable step back in time, I wanted to also record progress on our plans for the future, many of which are now accelerating ahead. In many ways, we are in the calm before the storm. The grass may be green right now, but in less

than twelve months my view will have changed again – and this time it's going to be of a building site, for next summer we hope to be breaking ground on our £16m library redevelopment. Ultimately, this will extend under half of OB Quad, and while we shall of course restore the ground and the lawn once done, there is going to be an extended period of time when my outlook will be over a rather large pit. It's going to take a couple of years to complete, during which time we shall need to run an alternative library service, the planning for which is already underway. It will clearly be a disruption; there is no way to avoid that. But the end result is certainly going to be worth it. The new library will be over twice the size, and will include

For next summer
we hope to
be breaking
ground on our
£16m Library
redevelopment.

a varied range of high-quality reading and meeting spaces, state of the art archive facilities, and – of course – a roof top terrace affording a wonderful new vantage point from which to view the Quad. At which point, we shall try to keep OB in a calm and steady state for a good few years to come.

At the same time, we are also gaining momentum with our new graduate development in North Oxford. Having spent over five years developing plans to their current state, including design competitions and countless planning reviews, a public consultation, and having joined forces with two University departments and two other colleges along the way, we are poised to submit

our application for this major new project. Our ambition is to create far more than an accommodation centre. The Winchester Road development will breathe new life into the area, setting new accommodation within the existing Victorian setting, restoring the quality of the landscaping, establishing a place where graduates can live and work, not just sleep. The site will eventually comprise around 120 units of accommodation, including a mix of traditional Victorian villa housing, modern ensuite rooms, apartments, and a range of shared social spaces and catering facilities.

Alongside these two major investments, we continue to pursue

our more general upgrade and refurbishment plans for main site, and our various annexes and other buildings across Oxford. We are presently working with Exeter College on plans to improve our adjacent sports grounds, developing plans to connect our OB and NB Quads and establish routes to key shared facilities in an accessible way, and have recently acquired a small ex-hotel in South Oxford, expanding our range of ensuite and conference accommodation.

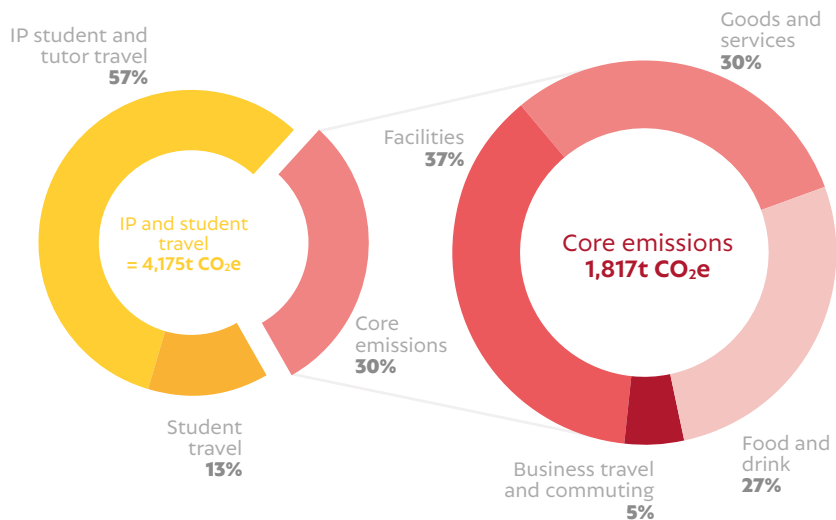
It will come as no surprise that a central consideration for our estates projects – large or small – is to ensure we take every available opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint. This

applies to the way we build, as well as the ongoing operating impacts. While important, these are but part of our broader ambitions, under our 2030 Sustainability plans. Having established a baseline position using the GHG (Greenhouse Gas) Protocol and 2019 data (pre-pandemic, in order to capture a more typical year), we now have clear targets to make a meaningful reduction in our total emissions. By 2030, we aim to have achieved a net Zero position for scope 1 and 2, and eliminate 25% of scope 3 (core). This would reduce our overall core emissions by 50% – or 910 tCO₂e.

We have identified five priority areas for focus, to help us get there: replacement of fossil fuel heating; switching our remaining non-renewal power supplies (we are already using renewable sources for the majority of our needs); making a shift in our food and drink consumption; taking a more informed approach to procuring goods and services; and reducing travel. In addition, we plan to reduce our downstream supply impacts (non-core emissions) by shifting the focus of our commercial activities, and incentivising a shift in student travel practices to less intensive modes. We hope to achieve a 25% reduction here, saving a further 1,050 tCO₂e per annum. Our plans have been shaped by the entire college community – students, staff, fellows and alumni – who have been generous and energetic with their input to the strategy. Our success in realising our ambitions will be equally reliant on this broad support, and our collective efforts.

I should also say a few words about the impact of current inflation rates. Coming fast on the heels of the financial impacts of COVID, our budgets remain tight and under significant pressure.

Total emissions for 18/19 academic year = 5,992t CO₂e



| Scope per GHG protocol | t CO ₂ e |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Scope 1 | 496 |
| Scope 2 (market-based) | 26 |
| Scope 2 (location based) | 468 |
| Scope 3 core | 1,295 |
| Core Emissions | 1,817 |
| Scope 3 non-core | 4,175 |
| Total Emissions | 5,992 |

With the recovery of conference business still a long way behind previous volumes (this summer will see only around 10% of pre-pandemic highs), and near-static fee income for the majority of student courses, meeting increased costs is extremely challenging. We are unlikely to be able to do this for a while yet, so will need to use some of our reserves to see us through. The issue affects us all, of course. In that context, we are considering not only how we balance the college books, but how we can assist our staff and students. Reluctantly, we have had to increase domestic charges for the coming year by the highest percentage for many years but have been able to keep this below national rates. We are actively considering how we might improve our bursary and financial support schemes, to target support where it is most needed.

For staff, we have taken the decision

to move to the Oxford Living Wage rate as our minimum pay level, which will provide an immediate boost, as well as an enhanced annual uplift rate for many, in combination with a one-off discretionary payment we made this summer. We have also established a dedicated budget for the coming year, to allow us to consider further options for direct staff support as they arise. Despite all these challenges, we are pleased to be able to maintain our major capital investment programme, which we hope to fund, for the most part, through the generosity of our alumni.

On a completely different theme, we are also making some very good progress on our IT strategy. COVID forced the pace somewhat on the need to provide support for increased digital working and learning, so we took the opportunity to replace our core network infrastructure. We also

adopted the approach seen in many pubs and restaurants everywhere, and established app based ordering for catering and bar services as standard for much of COVID, which has opened up a new range of digital service benefits. We are busy this summer replacing our core room management and conferencing system, and establishing a student online battels viewing service, with enhanced payment portal. For international students in particular, this should provide a better deal on exchange rates for payment of fees and other charges, which can be significant. We shall also be migrating to a new intranet platform over the course of the next year. Much of this change goes on behind the scenes, and within a year we forget how we ever managed without it. But it is certainly helping to keep our administrative costs down and, hopefully, making a

steady improvement to the day-to-day experience for students and staff alike.

Finally, as "normality" has resurfaced, we have had to deal with a (relatively) sudden change in gear, with new pressures and demands – not least that our collective memory of how we do things can slip away quite fast, and we find we have had much to relearn. I think it is fair to say, for the most part, we have bounced back without missing a beat. That is down to a tremendous collective effort, and an essential part of that has been the loyalty, commitment, and sheer hard work of our staff. I wanted to end by recording our grateful thanks to them, as ever. As I sit here and contemplate the simultaneous return to the past and march towards the future, it is clear that they are one of the most important things that connect the two. Views from my window may come and go, but it's nice to have some constants too.

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LIBRARY

Librarian Alice Roques writes:

The past year in the library has seen many favourite activities return, including in-person training sessions and book displays. Our plans for the library renovation have also continued, with building work expected to begin in summer 2023. The library team, including Graduate Assistant Alex, Rare Book Cataloguer Sophie, and seconded colleague Jenny, have enjoyed being able to work together on site again. Tiffany, after a very productive time in the Library and Archives, has joined the Development team. We are delighted to continue to work with her as we fundraise for the library's renovation plans. The digitised editions of our older college Magazines, going right back to 1910, are a testament

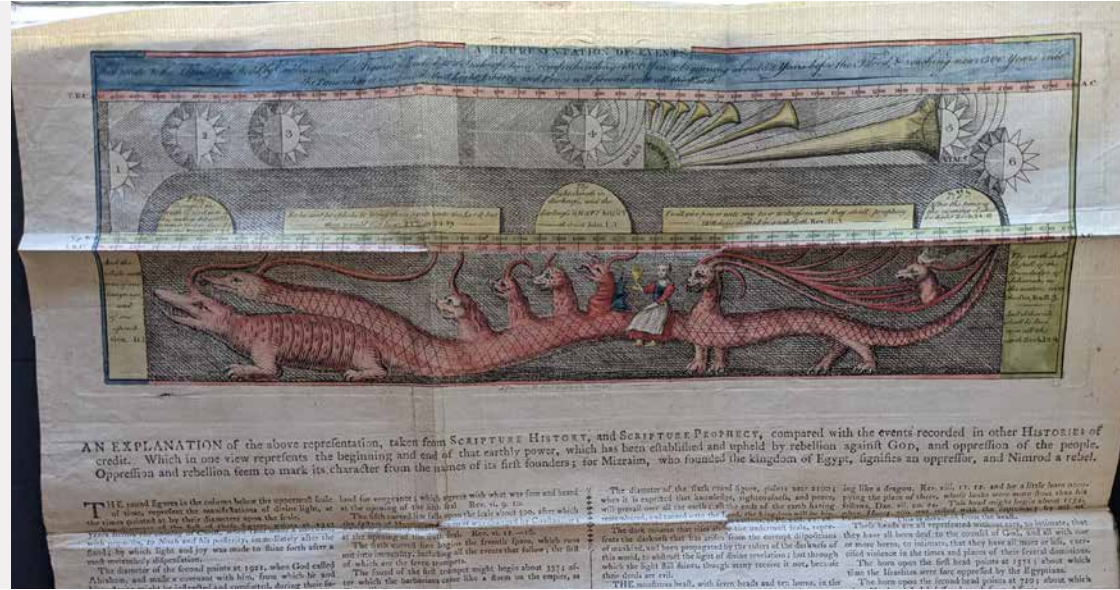
to the memorable contribution she made to our team.

The library has had a busy and productive year. We've enjoyed receiving requests for book purchases not just via our online form, but in person too. Our research skills training sessions for thesis writers have also taken place in person, with some elements continuing online to make the best of both formats. Students have quickly re-established the library as a popular study space and continue to value our flexible 24/7 opening hours.

Our plans for the redevelopment and extension of the library and archives have also continued following the granting of planning permission in Christmas 2021. The Library staff and

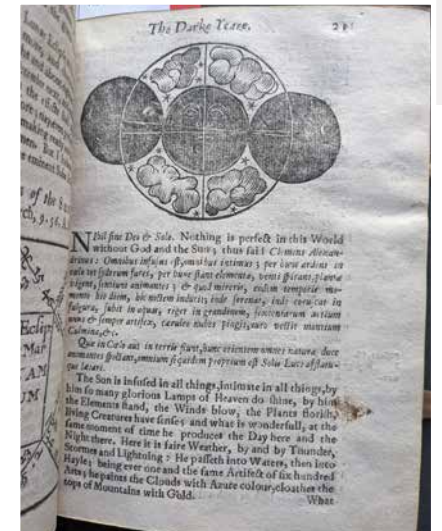
domestic teams are now carefully crafting arrangements for temporary library services during the two-year project. We are looking forward to working closely with the readers to ensure they still have access to study space, resources and staff support (and, of course, phone chargers). Removing all of the books from the current library is going to be a big job. Our modern collections would stretch from Catte Street to Folly Bridge if the shelves were laid end to end!

The rare book cataloguing project continues to highlight unusual items in our historic collections. Sophie's expert knowledge is linking our collection up with research projects around the world. She recently catalogued a copy



Upper image: item 3[star] representation of events XXX.4.30

Lower image: item 2 Darke Year illustration XXX.4.30



of Cyrano de Bergerac's *The Comical History* that had very interesting ownership markings. You can read more about this in the [post she wrote](#) for the *Early Modern Female Book Ownership* project. Our many sets of small bound volumes often include more obscure or unusual items, and Sophie's detailed cataloguing of each item on the publicly accessible SOLO Oxford library catalogue will make these easier to discover. An example is a set of astrological tracts, shelfmark XXX.4.30, bound as one volume that can now all be [found on SOLO](#). It includes

astrologically themed works on Ireland, France, the weather and eclipses, along with some fascinating images.

Hertford's small manuscript collection, currently housed in the Bodleian and available to consult in their special collections reading rooms, has also benefited from a cataloguing project. Ten of Hertford's manuscripts, all in Persian and Arabic, have been added to the shared [Fihrist catalogue](#) by a specialist Bodleian cataloguing team funded by the Mellon Foundation. We hope that increasing the discoverability of these titles, which were previously only listed in a handwritten catalogue stored in the Bodleian, will encourage researchers to study these volumes.

Sharing our collections with visitors and readers is always a particular pleasure and we have had the opportunity to display some Hertford treasures this year. Our Politics and English students have had handling sessions tied to the courses they were studying on the history of political theory and early modern literature. Works by Margaret Cavendish and Thomas Hobbes were popular in both displays, and brought about discussion on how the books were made and found their way to Hertford, as well as the links between the two thinkers via Hobbes's work for the Cavendish family.



Leviathan through magnifying glass



Plot's Natural History, Dinosaur Bones TTT.6.16

Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* and works by Tyndale were shown to Hertfordians and the public at a special conversation between Hertford alumnus James Hawes and Fellow Librarian Professor Emma Smith. The event coincided with the BBC TV series *The Art That Made Us* and James's companion book *Brilliant Isles*. We rounded off the academic year with a display as part of the celebrations for Hertford's *Unsung Heroes of Science*

competition. The shortlisted young filmmakers enjoyed some of Hertford's scientific works, including some ghoulish sounding eighteenth-century recipes for snail water and Robert Plot's 17th century puzzlement on discovering dinosaur bones in Oxfordshire.

Hertford library has exciting plans: if you'd like to know more about our new building, do contact the Fellow Librarian, Professor Smith.



ARCHIVES

Archivist Lucy Rutherford writes:

This year has been extremely busy as preparations for the redevelopment of the Library and Archive gather pace. We have been working with conservators to provide staff training and to ensure that the collections are in the best possible condition to be moved and eventually brought back to new, professional standard storage. This is going to be a complicated process which will require meticulous planning and we are delighted to have recruited a new assistant archivist, Bettie Hall, to help deliver this. Bettie will be cataloguing, repackaging, boxing, and barcoding the collections ready for their safe removal into temporary storage. In addition, she will be digitising more frequently

used records. Whilst we will not be able to retrieve our records from storage during the rebuilding period, we will aim to provide a core service through a small archive collection which we will keep on site, and increased provision of digital images. A move to a new office has provided us with more processing and storage space, as well as an area to carry out digitisation of archival material. The Magdalen Hall Buttery Books will remain on site throughout the rebuilding, and we will make much more use of this fascinating set of records during that period.

In the meantime we have made some interesting discoveries as we work through our uncatalogued material. One is a beautiful album of photographs

taken by the Oxford photographer Henry Taunt and presented to the College in 1915, showing a mixture of familiar and more unusual views of the college around this time. We have also catalogued several sets of audiocassette tapes, one of which contains the undergraduate memories of Roger Teale, who read Physics with Radio at Hertford from 1941 to 1944. More unusual is a set of tapes recorded by Bill Young, a college servant who came to Hertford as a boot boy in 1936 and then worked as a scout until 1960. As with all magnetic media, cassette tapes always deteriorate over time so have been digitised along with other video and sound recordings from our collections. We hope to publicise the recordings more widely in the coming year, although some research will be needed to find family members and copyright holders.

Occasionally an enquiry has led to rather more detective work than usual. We were contacted earlier in the year by the Sisters of a convent in Shoreham, who for many years have possessed a large plaster reredos thought to be the model made by Sir George Frampton in preparation for the marble reredos which he sculpted for the Hertford College Chapel in 1919. A search through the correspondence of Sir Hugh Cecil confirmed that Frampton had indeed made a plaster model in his studio in London, which a number of Fellows had been to view. Whilst the provenance is not definitely confirmed, it seems likely from this that the plaster model held by the sisters is indeed by Frampton and was the model for our own Chapel reredos.

It has been a great pleasure this year to welcome back researchers in person to the archives; including a Norwegian PhD student carrying out



New College Lane, before the Bridge of Sighs was built. From an album of photographs taken by Henry Taunt & presented to the college c. 1915, now held in the college archives

research into British tourism to Norway in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with a particular interest in Principal Henry Boyd and Bursar Clement Jackson who spent many of their vacations in Norway. Recently we met Roy Pennington, whose father Alan studied Jurisprudence at Hertford and was a keen runner who competed in the 1936 Olympics. We were able to find photographs in the archives of Alan and his younger brother Roy, who also studied briefly at Hertford and is commemorated on the WW2 Memorial outside the Chapel.

We welcome enquiries from college members or other researchers, so if you are interested in any aspect of the archive collections, or would like to consult our records, please contact the archive team on archives@hertford.ox.ac.uk.



CHAPEL

Reverend Mia Smith writes:



Chapel dinner

The early nineteenth century was not the most auspicious in our college's history. Our website states that, 'In a striking symbol of the college's demise, the decrepit medieval front of the now defunct Hertford College collapsed into Catte Street in 1820.' A painting of this collapse hangs in the SCR. Amongst the rubble, the elegant beauty of the Bodleian can be glimpsed, as the collapse enables the viewer to envisage a new vista, and new possibilities.

I have often thought about this artwork as I have pondered the challenges of the pandemic. How do we recover what has been lost? How do we pass on the traditions which tell the story when the narrative chain has

been broken by lockdowns and college closures? How do we know what to leave behind? This year in Chapel we have focused on what we do best – community, teamwork, and tradition.

In Michaelmas Term we invited back some tried and tested preachers, such as Honorary Fellow Jeffrey John, and Police Chaplain Helen Arnold. We also welcomed an Ordinand from Wycliffe Hall, Andrew Gilmour, who delighted us with his sermon illustration of taming a wild Shetland pony during lockdown. Our annual Service of Remembrance took place in person again, with wreaths laid by staff and all three common rooms. We were fortunate to welcome Padre Chrissie Lacey, Chaplain to the RAF, as our preacher. As Christmas

approached, we were delighted to hold our Carols by Candlelight service, and to welcome back our donors for a Carol Recital.

Hilary Term brought with it the welcome return of the Macbride Sermon. Professor Anthony Reddie, Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture at Regent's Park, both entertained and challenged us with an introduction to liberation theology, and as is customary, we all enjoyed Madeira, Madeira cake, and whisky afterwards. We held a moving interfaith service for Holocaust Memorial Day, which included readings, poetry, survivor testimonies, and music from Hertford College Chapel Choristers.

Preachers at our Evensong series 'Who

Am I?' included Dr Sharon Dirckx ('Am I just my Brain?'); Chrissie Chevashutt, Transgender Outreach Worker; and Revd Dr Roger Revell of the Oxford Character Project. The annual pancake race became a fast walk around the quad due to the inclement weather. Our term ended with the installation of a photography exhibition for Lent, entitled 'The Stations'. Drawing on the emotional suffering represented by the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross, the photography exhibition by Marksteen Adamson encapsulates the experiences and stories of refugees as they embark on a harrowing emotional and geographical journey.

By Trinity Term we felt the growing confidence of a new normality as our



Contestants at Hertford's annual Pancake Race

The confirmation of Juliet Dyrud and Tendai Makamure



May Day Madrigals once more took place on the bridge. Signs of new life were confirmed with the baptism of Juliet Dyrud at our Easter Carols service, followed by the confirmations of Juliet and Tendai Makamure at University Church. Our sermon series 'I've been wondering...' covered questions such as 'Did Old Testament Women Rebel?' (Revd Clare Hayns), 'Is God a vindictive Bully', (Professor Paul Copan), and 'Was Jesus Beautiful' (Revd Dr Judith Gretton-Dann). We enjoyed a trip to sing Evensong at St Luke's church in Garford, at the invitation of Dr Skipp, who opened his home to us for an enjoyable BBQ afterwards. Our Leavers' Eucharist offered ample space for leavers to receive a prayer of blessing, and so popular was it that we were all late for our delicious celebration dinner.

The choir concert this year, entitled 'Love and Destiny', raised funds for an

enjoyable tour to Malta, where alongside the usual services and concerts, the choir were invited to sing at the Red Cross fundraiser at the British High Commission.

The charity sector has struggled during the pandemic, and we are proud that Chapel offerings have supported the rebuilding efforts of some wonderful charities. This year we have given to Refugee Resource, The Children's Radio Foundation (selected by MCR member Adam Parr), and UNICEF's Ukraine fund. Our offerings from our Service of Remembrance went towards the charity Support our Paras, which enabled us to adopt their mascot Shetland pony, Pegasus.

Any kind of rebuilding takes a team, and as ever, I want to express my gratitude to the Chapel Committee for their creativity, generosity, wisdom, and support.

As we say goodbye to our Senior Organ Scholar, Andrew Liu, we record our gratitude for all he has done, as our 'Choirantine' director and, in particular, for his efforts to diversify our choral music. We now have a 'Liu Rule' – that we will make sure we never have a programme of exclusively white European male composers. We also say goodbye to our Chapel Music Advisor, James Potter, as he leaves us for Magdelene College, Cambridge. James has been an important part of our rebuilding efforts this year.

The richness of our community life in Chapel, the traditions we pass on, and the teamwork displayed have offered rich opportunities as we rebuild. Your Chaplain thanks you.



Top: Photographic exhibition, The Stations

Middle: Certificate of adoption for Pegasus

Bottom: Brunch after the Macbride Sermon



DEVELOPMENT

Director of Development
Frances Wheare writes:



Simpkin welcomes Old Members back for Hertford's first post-pandemic Gaudy

Academic institutions are known for provoking divided opinion; indeed, some might say their role is to inspire debate. But I would like to hazard a guess that the most divisive thing that Hertford has produced in recent history is the marquee, which took up residence on OB Quad in Michaelmas 2020 and has just come down, two years later. Depending on your opinion, the marquee was either a godsend, a COVID-secure space to gather with friends, colleagues, or tutors, and a welcome shelter from heavy rain at Gaudies or Open Days; or, to borrow a phrase from the then Prince of Wales, 'a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much loved and elegant friend.' I confess that I am in the former

camp, and I feel quite wistful now that it's gone.

Like it or loathe it, the marquee helped us play host to our first gaudies since January 2020, which took place in the autumn of 2021. For our first post-COVID, in-person event, we welcomed back alumni who had matriculated in 1970 or before for one of the most well-subscribed events we have ever held at Hertford; managing the waiting list became a full-time job in itself! I won't say it was plain sailing from then on. COVID was an ever-present sword of Damocles, and it was guaranteed that each event would see a swathe of COVID cancellations if it could even go ahead at all.

That said, we enjoyed some

wonderful events throughout the year, both in person and online. A personal highlight for me was singing along (quietly, I assure you) with the choir at our annual Donor Drinks and carol service. We're also grateful to alumnus Athol Williams (MPhil Political Theory, 2015) for talking to us about his new book, *Deep Collusion: Bain and the Capture of South Africa*. You can find Athol's book and other works on our Hertford Bookshelf (p50) – and do seek out our audio version of the Hertford Bookshelf, which can be found on your podcast app of choice.

It was only really in Trinity Term that we were able to proceed as something approaching normal. We kicked off with a day of celebrations for John Donne,

whose 450th anniversary fell this year, culminating in our annual John Donne lecture and dinner which this year celebrated the legacy of John Donne himself; transcripts can be found on p28-49. I'd like to say a special thank you to the group of former JCR presidents, who came together to recite Donne's poem, *A Lecture upon the Shadow*.

From there, Trinity Term passed by in a blur. In May, we welcomed a small group of legators back to Hertford for an informal Warnock Society gathering; our annual lunch will take place on Saturday 29 October, and we look forward to welcoming many of you back then. The same day saw a return to the river for Summer VIIIs, and although Hertford was cruelly denied victory on the



Former JCR Presidents come together to read John Donne's A Lecture on a Shadow

We were overwhelmed by how many of you did so: 208, in fact, helping us reach over 1,000 donors over the course of this year, our largest total to date.



water, it was fantastic to get everyone together again. A panel of academics from Oxford and beyond came together to respond to a lecture by Kim Stanley Robinson, and we're grateful to Clifford Chance for supporting this event.

Behind the scenes, the Development team was busily preparing for Hertford's first ever Giving Day, which took place on 16 and 17 June. Over a period of 36 hours, we took over your email inboxes to update you on our fundraising priorities and ask for your support. We were overwhelmed by how many of you did so: 208, in fact, helping us reach over 1,000 donors over the course of this year, our largest total to date. You can read more about the Giving Day and find a full overview of this year's fundraising activity in the enclosed Donor Report.

We know that this approach is not for everyone, and we're grateful to those

of you who tolerated (or perhaps even enjoyed) the increased level of email activity during that period. Any new approach is a gamble, but with nearly £70,000 raised, including matched funding, we think it paid off. Rest assured that our emails will now return to their usual format of college news, event notices, and, of course, updates on Simpkin.

No sooner was the Giving Day done and dusted than Professor Emma Smith and I boarded a plane to the US for our first trip since 2019. Emma and I loved meeting our East Coast alumni; thanks are due to Helen Mumford Sole (Geography, 1981) for hosting a reception in New York. I then travelled to San Francisco where I took full advantage of the CalTrain network to meet Hertfordians living in the Bay Area. Thank you all for such a warm welcome, and for listening so receptively to our exciting plans for the future. We're hoping to return next year

and to squeeze in a trip to East Asia as well.

We've also welcomed two new colleagues to the Development team: Hannah Bironzo (Stewardship and Engagement Manager) and Tiffany Luo (Development Coordinator) have both joined us from Hertford's International Programmes team. Hannah and Tiffany are enjoying getting to know members of our alumni community and look forward to meeting you at an event or in college over the coming year. Finally, we have welcomed Deputy Development Director, Olga Batty, back from maternity leave.

I will end with my customary thanks to everyone who has participated this year in some form or another, whether it's contributing to our new Bridge Blog, serving on one of our committees, or simply sharing with us your thoughts on Hertford's future strategy. We look forward to welcoming more of you back to college over the coming year.

An entry into the 'Home is where the Hert is' Bake Off





SPINNING PLATES:

A day in the life of Carl Isham,
Head Chef at Hertford College

To whet your appetite for our alumni experiences from the food and drink industry, we interviewed Hertford's Head Chef, Carl Isham.

How do you start a typical day?

I'm up at 6am. I get dressed and make porridge; quick and easy. Slightly embarrassed to say I make it in the microwave! I drink a strong coffee and 20 minutes later, I'm out of the house. No pottering, my morning routine is fast-paced. I either walk into college, along the river, or get the bus, it depends

on the weather. If I have worked a long day the day before, I will jump on the bus.

What goes through your mind in the morning?

I start to put work tasks into order in my mind. I think about what needs to be done and when and what are the priorities. A lot of chef work is about multi-tasking – being able to achieve two or three things at once. Say if you have a roast dinner cooking, you put the roast pork in earlier and you then move onto something quicker and colder whilst that is cooking, like the salad or veg prep.

What happens when you arrive in college?

I am in around 7am and am checking who else is in. The kitchen is the only department in the college that has to hit three, four, possibly five deadlines a day. Breakfast has to be served at 8am. Lunch has to be ready to serve at 11.30am, SCR at 12pm, and Early Hall (informal hall) has to be ready at 6pm. If there is a Formal Hall, dinner is served at 7.15pm. Those deadlines must be hit every day.

Tell us about your morning tasks

Part of the morning is spent checking the products for quality. We've had problems in past with fruit and veg supplies, coming in too much plastic and not good enough quality. We have now changed to Bonners in the Covered Market and they have been great. Bonners is an old school fruit 'n' veg stall and if they sell poor produce on the market stall, customers will go. It's the same with our fish, which comes up from Cornwall. You develop an eye for how delivery people behave. If they scurry in, hastily get you to sign off the delivery and run out, this will flag something up for me.

I'll catch up with Simon (Robinson, Head of Catering Services) for a coffee around 10.30 and we discuss the day and service later that evening.

Is it a busy environment to work in?

Sometimes we are up against it but we have to push on, regardless. This is what generates the stress factor because there are deadlines to hit, like 200 people coming up to lunch at midday. I have to think on my feet if we come up

against a hurdle. I might need to quickly change the menu but I can't be flippant as I always need to consider health and safety factors, allergens, dietary requirements and make sure that the food is being stored properly – this is the most important thing.

Talk us through your day

Typically, by about 9am, you know how the day is going to pan out. Any sickness or staffing issues have been dealt with by then, supply issues too. At the back of my mind is always the next day. I am always thinking about tomorrow and what needs to be prepped ahead of time.

By 10am, emails and calls start as other departments are in the office and have queries etc. My workload tends to have me working three days in the kitchen and two days in the office. I cook every day though.

By 10.30am I am looking at production in the kitchen – are we ahead for lunch? This is when we can start tasting things. We start to discuss what the allergens are and finalise the menu for lunch. We have a team catch up in the kitchen and lunch will start at about 11.30am. Food will come up to the servery in Hall and I will put it out and make sure it looks good.

By 12.30pm the late shift comes in. On a shift, we typically have two chefs in the morning and three on the late shift, if there is a dinner. We also have our kitchen porters. I am always keeping an eye out to make sure we are on top of cleaning.

We tend to get a busy wave around midday and again around 1pm so we keep an eye on how the food is looking and refresh supplies as needed. The food comes down to the kitchen around 2pm and the chefs will eat what comes back for their lunch – although I



Hertford's chefs prepare for the evening's John Donne dinner

am known to eat in the office, checking emails and ordering supplies for the next day. We will then decide what to do with leftovers. Can we use it the next day? Can we introduce it into a salad or a soup? We try to avoid food waste as much as possible. Our menus run on a three-week cycle. Whatever is left, we will freeze down in store and use again in week four, amending quantities etc.

What's different on a Friday?

We usually have a big dinner on that night, plus we get a larger veg order in to cover us for the weekend. A typical order can be 60 kilos of onions, 20 kilos of peppers, 30 kilos of carrots, plus lots of mushrooms for brunch – about 20 kilos.

Of the three chefs, one of us will be thinking ahead to the weekend and next

week. One is dealing with informal hall at 6pm (something simple like chili with rice) and someone might be thinking about a weekend event, such as a Gaudy dinner. We also need to prep for brunch on Saturday morning (we serve a Full English to about 300 students in total, over Saturday and Sunday mornings).

On Friday afternoons, I catch up with our Head of Events & Operations, Jordan Davies, to finalise the following week. I then brief the team (check all the menus are done for the forthcoming week and answer any questions). Then it is all about the dinner. How many courses? What is left to do for that evening to get ready? Two chefs will be pre-plating cold food (starters and desserts) and then one chef will be taking care of the hot food. I help out and fill in the gaps.

Talk us through the serving of the Gaudy Dinner

Our guests usually sit down at 7.15pm. I will be up in the servery at 7pm. I check that the hot cupboards are on, there are enough plates, and the servery is clean and tidy. The cold food comes up and we check all dietaries are taken care of. Service starts. I stay up in the servery on the phone with the chef in the kitchen and I orchestrate service.

If you have a nice piece of seabass to cook, the timing is crucial. During the afternoon we may have prepped 120 pieces of seabass and cooked them, skin down, and prepped the garnishes. I call the chef to signal the final bit of cooking in the oven. They are then brought up to the servery on covered trays. It is all about timing, resting, and making sure the food is cooked perfectly.

What about pudding?

If it is cold, like a nice lemon tart, we will have prepped it in the afternoon and arranged the garnish. These all get stacked up on small plates. We are quick to clear down after the main course and we then serve dessert. If it is a formal in 4th or 8th week, there is an extra course to serve – something special and a bit fancy like Welsh Rarebit, or Oysters Rockefeller, or a colourful sorbet with dry ice for a bit of theatre.

How do you know when a day has gone particularly well?

We pretty much know after the main course how the night went. By that point, I'll know if everyone's dietary requirements were managed well and that I got the menu right and it

wasn't too complicated, if service went smoothly. I can then step back and make sure the cleaning checks are done (around 9pm/9.30pm) and allow the chefs to finish up.

How do you keep your team happy?

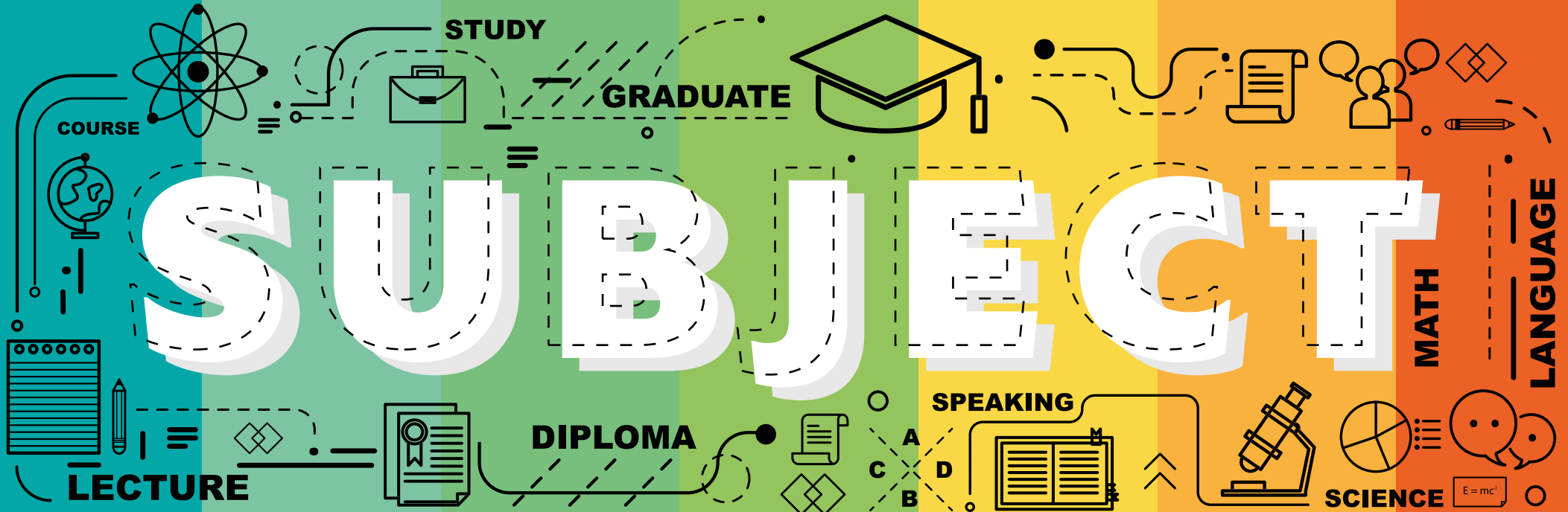
My key point on team management is that I never want to see my team going home on a downer. They have been working hard all day to achieve a common goal and I want them to feel happy and proud. We want a high standard in our kitchen where we are as good as we can be, and this all really depends on how the night ends. The best nights are when everyone can come together, we feel good, we clean down the kitchen and have a beer together to wind down. There needs to be closure, whether we have had a good or a challenging shift. Sometimes you don't have to say a lot, it can just be a pat on the back or a smile. For me, recognition is one of the most important parts of the job.

What do you value about your job?

My team, 100%. I feel lucky to have a group of hard-working honest individuals working alongside me at Hertford College.

What do you like to do on your day off?

On Sundays, I get up early to walk the dog, and I like to cook a family roast dinner. I put BBC Radio 6 on and relax in my kitchen at home. My partner, Kate, takes a lot on during the week so Sunday is about having a break together.



REPORTS

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Professor Nick Barton writes:



It has been a momentous time for Archaeology and Anthropology at Hertford. This year we appointed a second tutorial fellow to the subject – Dr Dylan Gaffney – in advance of Nick Barton's retirement in September. It has been a long-held ambition to have

two full-time Fellows to support the subject and we are very pleased that we can add to the teaching and research strengths of both subject areas. We would also like to congratulate our third-years who did very well in their Finals. Two of our third-years were awarded First class degrees (Dandy Doherty and Liberty Hinze). Moreover, two of our three first-year students (Evie Raja and Jessica Hughes) achieved Firsts at Moderations (there were only four Firsts in the whole year). We should also add congratulations to our second-year student Leah Stein for publishing her first academic paper, 'Post-Colonial North American Indigeneity', in the *Archaeological Review from Cambridge*.

For me personally, it's been a busy and eventful year getting ready to retire, or should I say preparing to devote more of my time to actively pursuing my research interests and writing. Hopefully, a freer timetable will mean more frequent trips to Africa (Morocco and Tunisia) to study human origins, as well as continuing my long-term

projects concerning the Lateglacial occupation of caves and open sites in southern Britain. Research highlights this year included the publication in *Libyan Studies* of the first results of excavation and survey at open sites in the Chotts lake basin in southern Tunisia. If you would like to read more, search online for the article titled 'New insights into the late Middle Stone Age occupation of Qued el Akarit, Southern Tunisia'.

We also received the good news in March of the award of a large Leverhulme grant (*Agencies of behavioural change in early modern humans in NW Africa* (CAVES; 2022-2025)), to investigate the impacts of climate change on early modern humans over the last 300,000 years. And in June I was delighted to learn that I had been elected as president of the newly formed British Institute of Libyan and North African Studies (formerly Society for Libyan Studies), a UK academic body and charitable organisation. It is part of the British International Research Institute, sponsored by the British Academy which

For me personally, it's been a busy and eventful year getting ready to retire



Above: Prof Malafouris and the HANDMADE team working with ceramists in Kastraki (a,c) and Sifnos (b,d).

since 1969 has fostered links between UK and North African scholars in a wide range of fields, including archaeology, history, geography, the natural sciences, and linguistics. I hope very much to be able to help facilitate the work of the Institute in training programmes and in providing financial, academic, and logistical support to young researchers.

Lambros Malafouris, who had the title of Professor of Cognitive & Anthropological Archaeology conferred in the Vice-Chancellor's annual Recognition of Distinction awards, continued his anthropological research in Greece for the HANDMADE project, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) and working with ceramists in Kastraki, Serifos and Sifnos (pictured above). His latest research paper in this context (co-authored with Maria-Danae Koukouti), 'Where the touching

Below: Sian and Leah cleaning the brazier stand while tourists watch.





Above: Mark Robinson (back middle) and the Hertford team, Sian back left, Rose and Leah front middle.

Below: Sian finds an antefix (end decoration from a row of roof tiles).



is touched: The role of haptic attentive unity in the dialogue between maker and material', has been just published in [Multimodality & Society](#). In addition, Lambros also published (with Amy Bogaard and Chris Gosden) a special journal issue for *World Archaeology* on [Process archaeology](#). His paper, 'Making hands and tools', looks at the creative aspect of human becoming, taking hands and tools as the focus of reference. In April Lambros was Visiting Research Professor at the Department of Architecture and Design, University of Rome "La Sapienza" where he gave several public talks and seminars and developed new research collaborations.

Professor Mark Robinson once again invited the participation of our first-year students on his exciting fieldwork project in Pompeii. It had been

intended to take the first Archaeology and Anthropology undergraduates to Pompeii in 2020 to complete our excavations with the Free University of Berlin in the palaestra of the Stabian Baths but this had to be cancelled as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. Another attempt was made to set up the fieldwork for September 2021. The university health and safety requirements were strict, the testing requirements exacting, but we were able to convince all concerned that we would be safe living together in a self-contained Oxford apartment and working outside in the sun. Italy helpfully dropped quarantine restrictions for arrivals from the UK soon after we started. Hertford was the only college whose students were able to participate in fieldwork in 2021.

The team for 2021 comprised Sian Morris, Rose Smith and Leah Stein (Arch & Anth 2020). They were joined by students from Berlin and the Eastern University of Naples. It was anticipated that only small-scale work was necessary but we soon found otherwise. We discovered that there was a large laconicum (sauna) of the second century BC from the first phase of the baths occupying what was thought to be part of the earlier palaestra. It was only through the extremely hard work of the team that it was possible to excavate and record sufficient of the structure so as fully to understand it.

The Stabian Baths are often used as a 'type site' for Roman baths because they are so well preserved in their final form. The work of Hertford undergraduates from 2016-2021 has resulted in a major re-interpretation of the development of these baths and our students have the pleasure of knowing that their discoveries will be studied by students of classical archaeology throughout the world (see Robinson et al., 2020; Trümper et al., 2019).



Drone view of our trench. The laconicum is the circular structure with a stone brazier stand in the centre. The diagonal structure is the roof of a first century AD drain, and the black circle at the bottom right is the manhole for the drain junction from which Rosie emerges (bottom)

BIOCHEMISTRY

Professor Petros Ligoxygakis writes:



This year was a time of in-person lectures and tutorials again, with the slight modification of live streaming lectures to ensure that SARS-CoV2-positive students, healthy enough to concentrate, were able to follow the course from their rooms in isolation

(the pandemic is still here!). This was the first time I taught an intro to immunology in the new 'full immersion' format of the course where students are doing only one thing for a week. We had a week of immunology lectures and tutorials that culminated with groups of second-year students presenting their take on a subject that had to do with immunology in a broad sense: from evolution, to mechanisms, to host-pathogen interactions, to emerging pathogens (which contrary to my expectations was not the most popular choice). Students were focused and asked a lot of questions, showing how the first two years of a pandemic can catapult a subject into the centre stage of what people are thinking even in their everyday lives.

Hertford students as all students, were entering a new era: that of in-person exams! Our third-years were somewhat more stressed as this would have been their first 'real' exam since A-level. In the event they did brilliantly, achieving high 2.1s and Firsts, some even going as far as getting >80% on individual papers. Their results but also those of the rest of the cohort, were excellent, reflecting their work and mitigating the harm done by lockdowns and COVID. I also want to pay tribute to the fourth-years here. Usually, you are not an undergrad twice in your life and given the situation they went through during their degree they were incredibly able to pull together, work hard, and achieve good results. Their hard work was evident from the discussions we had about their research projects and their results were a happy confirmation of their abilities. Most of all, however, they went in and loved the special atmosphere a research laboratory can offer. Some of them have already planned their next steps that will be as varied as anyone would expect: science communication, research jobs or joining the world of finance.

Hopefully, this year will be even more of a face-to-face set up and for the new Freshers the year will not be out of the ordinary. For my part, I want to thank the teaching team, namely our brilliant lecturers, Dr Delia O'Rourke and DPhil student Aleksy Kwiatkowski, as well as our mentor, Professor Alison Woolard, fellow travellers in this journey.

Zorba the Greek (Biochemist) aka Petros Ligoxygakis

BIOLOGY

Professor Martin Maiden writes:



It has been a very busy year for Biology in Oxford generally and in Hertford in particular. During the long vacation a brand-new Department of Biology will be formed by the merger of the Departments of Zoology and Plant Sciences. The two

departments have been teaching a shared degree in Biological Sciences for many years with the merger finally catalysed by the closure of the Tinbergen Building in 2017 and its subsequent demolition. Anyone visiting the corner at the junction of South Parks Road and St Cross Road will see the ambitious Life and Mind Building emerging from the capacious hole where the Tinbergen Building once stood. The LaMB is intended to be the home of the new department and future generations of academics, researchers, and students for the remainder of the century and beyond.

The new degree in Biology now offers a three-year BA, which can be extended by one year to a MBiol. The current third-year students are the first to undertake this course and have just entered their fourth and final 'master's year', which they spend embedded within research groups, where they plan and undertake a research project. They will not, however, be the first to receive the MBiol degree as the last cohort of the old Biological Sciences

course were offered the opportunity to undertake the master's year due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Seven of them chose to do this, undertaking a wide range of projects with enormous success, including studies of the molecular biology of development, honeybees (guess with whom), immunity, crayfish, and Ethiopian wolves. Very many congratulations to them all for navigating a difficult four years.

In Hertford, we were both delighted and sad to lose Jeri Wright to Jesus College: saddened to lose her teaching expertise and her enthusiasm for Hertford but delighted that she was elected as the Hope Professor of

The LaMB is intended to be the home of the new department and future generations of academics, researchers, and students for the remainder of the century and beyond.



Biology Schools Dinner. Back row finalists: Susie (MBiol), Abi (MBiol), Eve (MBiol), Sarah (MBiol), Beth (BA), Jess (MBiol), and Harriet (MBiol). Front row tutors: Martin, Jeri, and Timothy.

Entomology. We celebrated in style with tea in the now late-lamented marquee in OB Quad followed by Jeri's inaugural lecture at the Museum of Natural History. Jeri will have an ongoing relationship with us and her research on bee neurophysiology and nutrition, including an innovative spin-out company, continues apace.

Martin and Timothy are looking forward to welcoming Dr Beth Mortimer to the biology teaching team at Hertford as a new Fellow from Michaelmas Term. Although Beth is still early in her career, she comes with an extensive portfolio of experience in outreach, teaching, and research, the latter spanning animal biology from spiders to elephants. Martin continues his work on bacterial

population biology and public health, doing his best to interleave this with his numerous responsibilities in the college, department, University, and beyond – which this year included sitting on the Committee for Nominating the Vice-Chancellor.

We had hoped to restart the Darwin Dinner this year, as an event for current students and recent (post-2000) alumni, but due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation this had to be first postponed and then changed to a solely within-College event; however, we are hoping to revert to the customary format in the coming academic year and we look forward to welcoming members of the Hertford Biology community back to college very soon, to experience some of the changes at first hand.

CHEMISTRY

Dr Mike Laidlaw writes:



It has been a very welcome joy for the Chemistry tutors and students at Hertford to return to in-person teaching and studying for the whole of the 2021/22 academic year after the challenges, frustrations, fatigue, and somewhat less personal aspects, of remote learning

and teaching in 2020/21 due to COVID limitations. The chemistry department re-opened the teaching laboratories for 'proper' practicals too! All Hertford chemists have come out the other side of this no doubt more adept with technology, appreciative of one another under difficulties, re-valuing face-to-face meetings and having grown in resilience with a 'can-do' attitude. Lectures have been in-person as well as being recorded and uploaded to the website – presenting the benefits of 'both worlds'!

Claire Vallance, our intrepid professor of physical chemistry, has been surviving juggling lots of academic matters as Senior Tutor for Hertford alongside leading her research group. 'Molecular movies' may not be far off as her group's research gains detailed mechanistic information on photon-induced and electron-induced reactions using covariance-map imaging and related techniques to follow molecular structures on the femtosecond timescale. In addition, spectroscopy with machine learning is being applied

to develop diagnostic monitoring methods to clinical problems with cardiologists and neurosurgeons. Outside, Claire continues to justify the informal title of 'Fitness Fellow' by winning a silver medal in the marathon kayak national championships!

To take over Claire's tutorial teaching, we have welcomed two physical chemistry tutors this last year: Dr Thomas Player, who completed his DPhil in Oxford in 2021 on how biological systems interact with magnetic fields (think birds and their navigation), has found Hertford very welcoming and enjoyed his first year teaching first and third-years. He also works for the department as a Science Communicator. Dr Patrick Robertson is a post-doc in Claire's group and

In addition, spectroscopy with machine learning is being applied to develop diagnostic monitoring methods to clinical problems with cardiologists and neurosurgeons.

teaches the second-years. Originally from Perth, Australia he has been an avid basketball player and international competitor in professional trading card game tournaments (!) being one of the best players in Australia for a few years. He has a son (aged two) with an encyclopaedic knowledge of dinosaurs!

Fernanda Duarte Gonzalez, our great organic tutorial fellow, who researches on computational modelling, has excelled being awarded with the Royal Society of Chemistry Harrison-Meldola Medal and won the Open Eye Outstanding Junior Faculty Award (ACS). She has become Hertford's Fellow for Equality and Diversity, a highlight being the celebration of Women's Day. She is

Our first years,
great to welcome,
have developed
strong supportive
friendships with
one another
during the year.
A variety of non-
academic interests
have been pursued



pleased to announce she is expecting her first child (very soon) and will be on maternity leave for the academic year (2022-23). We send her our very best wishes. We will be welcoming two organic chemists imminently to take on the tutorial load – the returning and very experienced Dr Sarah Jenkinson, and Dr Matt Rattley who has been tutoring for a number of years in Oxford.

Consequently, Dr Mike Laidlaw, the aged white bearded one (me!), will be taking on Organising Tutor duties for the coming academic year alongside his normal tutorial duties. Apart from lots of tutoring at Hertford (Merton, Univ, Balliol and Magdalen) this last year, Mike has embraced the technology from lockdown and now uses a 65 inch screen with iPad Pro for routine in-person tutorials in his college room. Although continuing his piano playing, very much enjoying learning works by Nikolai Kapustin (a kind of formal fusion of jazz-classical style), he has bought a bass clarinet followed by an even larger (and lower sounding) contra alto clarinet to learn (not having played woodwind before). A deal has been struck with Claire on piano for a 'Pink Panther' duet in due course!

Our first-years, great to welcome, have developed strong supportive friendships with one another during the year. A variety of non-academic interests have been pursued: Jeremy Pirt has got stuck into rowing with the Hertford M2 crew and written articles for the college Boat Club website on the City of Oxford Royal Regatta. Arun Spencer has been flexing his muscles competing in the University Powerlifting Club together with committee responsibilities as 'Kit Officer'. Apart from some rowing, Alex Graham has been creating some impressive paintings! Bella McKenna, after working very hard during the year

(gaining excellent Prelims results) has been inter-railing around Europe. Minyu Zhang has shared, in a heart-warming way, some of her experiences from this year coming to live and study in an unfamiliar country, communicating that together there are crucial, sometimes below radar, positives of the chemistry community here.

"...with all kinds of problems – language barrier and cultural shock – I kept silent and rarely communicated (at least for the whole of Michaelmas Term). ...I knew such living wouldn't work forever and I tried to push myself to change and adapt....Luckily all Hertford chemists are so friendly and patient... providing great help and support... without which I would not feel such a strong sense of belonging to this college (even if they don't know that)Every time someone listens to me without impatience builds my confidence. I feel I have changed a lot – more positive psychologically....speaking English more fluently....[and] a new hobby, ultimate frisbee"

Lizzie Bateman, one of our lovely second-years, has been involved in lots of things this year – hockey, water polo and the university swimming society – and has taken on the JCR role of Arts Rep which organised Hertford's first Ceilidh in Hall. She has very much enjoyed time in the chemistry research laboratory (CRL), synthesising the immunomodulator drug Fingolimod and analogues, utilising new analytical techniques.

Joseph Welsh describes his Hertford life as 'great fun, full-on but also

manageable'. He has developed some skills scootering to tutorials, captaining the Hertford hockey team and playing university hockey too. He comments: 'Hertford is a great chemistry college not least because we have sound tutors ... but they encourage us to collaborate.... which creates a really nice supportive atmosphere.' Meanwhile, Krystian Gierczak has experienced challenge, reward, a sense of mind-opening and spiritual awakening (!!!) through the Quantum Supplementary course this year.

The third-years celebrated concluding their part 1B exams. Kamen Petrov performed exceedingly well. When the results came out, Mike had pleasure in emailing him to say he had done better than in his 1A exams.... wherein his second place across the university chemistry school became a first place!

Many congratulations to all our students for their academic achievements, especially to Kamen for his very special result, and to all our concluding fourth years (Maddy Buffet, Tom Mills, Yi Sun and Iain McLauchlan) who, with a clean sweep, gained excellent First Class MChem degrees! Iain was awarded the part II thesis prize for organic / chemical biology, following his Gibbs Prize for Organic Chemistry in his Finals. He is starting work in a patent firm very soon. Yi Sun has started graduate study in Cambridge using theoretical techniques to model organic reaction mechanisms and is developing virtual reality software for use in teaching organic chemistry.

With sincere wishes to all our present and past Hertford Chemists!

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Professor Michael Wooldridge writes:



The start of the 2021-22 academic year marked the end of my seven-year tenure as Head of Department of Computer Science here at Oxford. Being a head of department at Oxford is an enormous privilege – you get to meet

the most amazing people, and have the opportunity to influence, in a small way, the direction of one of the world's great institutions. But it is challenging – intense, constant, all-consuming, and at times extremely stressful. Anyone who has been in such a role will tell you that the only question that really matters when you come out of it is whether you made a difference: whether you left things in better shape than when you started. And seven years is certainly long enough to make a difference, one way or another.

As I now look back, I am very proud of what I achieved. We made a substantial difference to the number of tutors in Computer Science, increasing our undergraduate intake for the first time since Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister. I secured a £10m donation for a new building and got the building project launched (it will be adjacent to the new humanities building on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter: we are expected to move in around 2027.) And, perhaps most importantly, we had our best REF outcome in 25 years – amongst the best in the university. So, I think I

have a lot to be proud of. But for all that, I was relieved to hand over to my successor Leslie Ann Goldberg (who, coincidentally, used to be a colleague of mine at the University of Liverpool).

The start of the 2021-22 academic year also marked the start of my Turing AI World Leading Researcher Fellowship, a £4.2m project that will fund me and my group for the next five years. It's a large and complex project, and an incredible privilege for me to run this. We've already got some nice results, with pandemic modelling systems in which we model COVID transmission in the UK. The system has to model the behaviour of millions of individuals, at work, school, and at leisure. The big challenge is to be able to do that in such a way that we have confidence (in the statistical sense) in what the model is telling us. Watch this space!

After a two-year hiatus, academic travel started again – something of a mixed blessing, for academics and for the environment. In May I visited Iceland for the first time, to give some lectures at the University of Reykjavik. We also managed to fit in some sightseeing, and I wholeheartedly recommend Iceland. An astonishing country. I serve on the scientific advisory committee of AI Singapore, a national funding initiative in that country, and that necessitates regular meetings – in August I was delighted to visit for the first time in three years. It is always a thrill to drink a cold beer in the tropical night by the Singapore River.

In June, I gave a talk entitled 'Life Lessons from Game Theory' at the Hay Festival. I have spoken at Hay previously, but only to an audience of about 200. I was somewhat startled to discover I had 1,100 in the audience this time. I received lovely feedback from audience members. It is such a thrill to



Michael Wooldridge and Tom Fletcher take Hertford to Hay Festival

visit Hay and speak in such a beautiful setting.

Finally, I am honoured to be able to report that in May I was elected to be Editor-in-Chief of *Artificial Intelligence Journal*. The journal dates from 1970, which makes it truly ancient in computing terms, and over the decades it has published many of the key articles in the field. It is one of the most widely read and respected journals, not just in AI, but in computing generally, and Editor-in-Chief is one of the most respected and prominent positions of responsibility in the field. But it is going to mean a lot of work. Oh well – out of the frying pan...

I secured a £10m donation for a new building and got the building project launched

ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

Dr Steve New writes:



We were thrilled to appoint Professor Yoann Bazin, Professor of Business Ethics at EM Normandie Business School, to provide sabbatical cover for Dr Steve New's teaching this year. Yoann did a wonderful job and it was great to have him as part of

our academic community. During his sabbatical, Steve had continued his work on environmental and social issues in supply chains, and has begun to turn his attention to the impact of artificial intelligence on management education. Professor Anette Mikes has continued her work on risk management, especially in the context of the environment.

This year we were particularly delighted to involve two outstanding people in management-related alumni events. In February Athol Williams (MPhil Philosophy, 2015, and, inter alia, poet and literacy campaigner) spoke about his extraordinary experience as a whistleblower about the management consultants Bain's complicity in the 'state capture' scandal under the Zuma regime in South Africa. Athol participated in an online interview,

after meeting in person with a group of current students. His book on the subject, *Deep Collusion* is well worth the read: you can see a brief summary of the story at www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-59205368.

In June, the college, in collaboration with the Said Business School, hosted a fascinating virtual talk with the leading science fiction writer Kim Stanley Robinson. Organised and led by management fellow Anette Mikes, the event centred on the ideas in Robinson's extraordinary book about the climate crisis, *The Ministry for the Future*. A distinguished panel contributed to the discussion: Professor Gordon Clark (formerly Director of Oxford's Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment), Professor Rebecca Henderson (Harvard Business School), Professor Roger Luckhurst (Professor of Modern Literature at Birkbeck College), Professor Gillian Rose (Head of School of Oxford's Geography and the Environment) and our own Professor Michael Wooldridge (Professor of Computer Science). The event can be watched on the college's YouTube channel. Steve and Anette are now working with Robinson to develop a further publication from the talk.

The most exciting news of the year, however, was the arrival of Rowan Baldwin: economics fellow Prof Elizabeth's Baldwin's newest tutee!



ENGINEERING

Professor Manolis Chatzidis writes:



In the academic year 2021-2022, we welcomed six new Engineering Freshers whose performance in their Prelims examinations was excellent, recording four distinctions. Our four

s e c o n d - year students had their first form of examination this year and progressed well in year three. Four of our third-year students progressed in year four with strong performances, with two of them currently performing at a first-class level. Our seven four-year students performed exceptionally well: Erik, Isidora, J and Qianwen (Irene) graduated with a first. Oliver, Miles and Alex graduated with a very high 2.1. Alex also received an award for both his fourth-year project and his poster presentation. This adds to Isidora's Gibbs Prize for her third-year project. They have all had four exceptional years and we wish them all the very best to the next step.

ENGLISH

Professor Emma Smith writes:



We're full of admiration for the students who have continued to cope with disruption: congratulations to the matriculation year of 2019 who have sat their final exams online. It was great to wish them well with a final dinner, after two years without

that ritual (although last year's picnic in Parks was celebratory in its own way). We've also said goodbye to Dr Ayoush Lazikani, who has gone to a post at Jesus College. In her place teaching early literature is Rachel Burns.

Short updates from the tutors follow.

Charlotte Brewer writes: 'I have been working on [an exploratory edition of the Murray Papers](#) in the Bodleian Library and elsewhere (letters written to and from the main editor of the *OED*, Sir James Murray, which helped him to create the first edition of this dictionary) in collaboration with a former student now working in Cambridge, Stephen Turton. Do have a look to see how the *OED* struggled over 'correct' English, treating women equally to men, including obscene words (or not), etc – and read letters to Murray from William Gladstone, George Eliot and Thomas Hardy as well as from ordinary men and

women, all discussing a host of word-related matters.'

Rachel Burns has had an enigmatic year working on Old English and Anglo-Latin riddles. In March, her article 'Spirits and Skins: *The Sceapheord of Exeter Book Riddle 13* and Holy Labour' was published in *The Review of English Studies*, and in July she presented on the riddles of Tatwine at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds. She is presently wrapping up an edited collection of essays on Old English Metre, of which she is the co-editor, and writing her monograph on the object-world of Old English poetry. Next year, in addition to teaching at Hertford, Rachel will be lecturing on Old English in the Oxford English Faculty and joining a research project at the University of St Andrews as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

David Dwan reports that: 'I've enjoyed a year of research leave, kickstarting a project on intellectuals in twentieth-century Ireland and finishing a book on modernism and philosophy. The workshop on literature on political thought that I have been planning and postponing throughout the pandemic finally took place in July. It was a brilliant day and worth the wait.'

Emma Smith has published a book about books: *Portable Magic: A History of Books and their Readers*, and enjoyed meeting a surprising number of former students at publicity events. Sensational Books, her co-curated Bodleian exhibition on books and the senses, delayed from 2020, was opened by Edmund de Waal in June 2022.

We look forward to welcoming our new students in October.

GEOGRAPHY

Professor Jamie Lorimer writes:



Hertford Geographers enjoyed the resumption of in-person teaching and fieldwork this year. It felt like a return to normality after the disruption of the last two years and the students were finally able to enjoy a proper summer in Oxford. We celebrated another productive year, with

two of our students achieving Firsts at Finals. Students completed research dissertations on a diverse range of topics spanning urban exploration in Sheffield, African dust, urban farming in London, and China's involvement in infrastructure development in Sri Lanka. Kitty Atwood was awarded the Met Office Academic Partnership Prize for the best Climate Science dissertation and will be starting a DPhil in the School of Geography next year. Livia Barreca was nominated for a dissertation prize at the Royal Geographical Society. The first-year students have settled well into college life and have proved to be a sporty group, with Louis Bowker and Megan Cottee helping to propel the Men's and Women's Blues hockey teams. This summer the second-years are underway with an array of creative dissertation projects, and the E.W. Gilbert Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner in September.

The academic team have been equally productive.

Prof Jamie Lorimer, Tutorial Fellow, has continued his research on how the UK food system is adjusting to the challenges of climate change. He has been working with farmers to understand the rise of regenerative agriculture as a new model of farming practice. He is also helping to lead the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery, that was launched this year. His work will examine the social dimensions of rewilding, initially focusing on Oxfordshire and the Cairngorms in Scotland. He will be developing new digital methods for engaging publics with conservation and for exploring how people understand the natural world on social media platforms. He has also worked with a local artist to produce a free illustrated book on *The Wildways of the Oak*, available to download.

Dr Janet Banfield, Stipendiary Lecturer, recently celebrated the release of her third book entitled *Spaces in Popular Culture: Grotesque Geographies of the Borderscape* and



has started work on a further volume examining the political potency of puppets, covering geopolitics, place identity, and identity politics. This builds upon a paper published this year following the visit to Oxford by Little Amal (a 3.5m tall puppet of a Syrian refugee girl) who walked across Europe in 2021 to highlight the plight of child refugees. Jan's documentary film-making work on the psychological phenomenon of flow (loss of spatial, temporal, and self-awareness due to deep immersion in an activity) has continued this year, and has stimulated plans for a book elaborating the

explicitly spatial nature of flow (much neglected in geography), which she aims to draft over the 2022 long vacation.

Dr Linda Speight, Career Development Fellow, joined Hertford in October 2021 following a move from the University of Reading. Linda is a hydrometeorologist; her work focuses on developing effective solutions to communicate uncertainty in flood forecasts. She is currently working with a consortium of universities and organisations to develop and deliver flood forecast bulletins to support the humanitarian response to impactful tropical cyclones, funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Closer to home Linda will probably be found doing rain dances this summer to help test surface water flood forecasting tools in Yorkshire as part of an iCASP project partnership with the University of Leeds. Following a rather whirlwind experience of science communication in the media after the devastating floods in Germany last summer, Linda is currently leading a special edition of the Hydrological Research journal on 'Learning from the floods of 2021'. She also continues to serve as a member of the Editorial panel for the Journal of Flood Risk Management. Linda has enjoyed getting to know Hertford's geography students this year and leading physical geography tutorials. In the department she teaches techniques for Prelims fieldwork and on the Geographical Data Science Option. Next year she will also be leading the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations FHS Option. At graduate level she teaches hydrology on the Water Science Policy and Management MSc course.

Prof David Thomas, Professorial Fellow, has finished leading part of the UK National Research Excellence Framework (REF2020) assessment of university research. He chaired the Geography and Environment Panel (SP14) as well as being a member of the social sciences Main Panel. This work was in effect a full-time secondment to UKRI. As his research has been greatly hindered by COVID-19 effects, with no international research travel possible, REF2020 at least provided something to keep him off the streets. Nonetheless, he has also been working on the outputs of the major Makgadikgadi (Botswana) geoarchaeology and palaeoenvironments project he led, with five papers currently in review for a special issue of the journal *Quaternary Science Reviews*. His four-year grant, won from the Leverhulme Trust, aiming to address how the Indus Civilisation responded to environmental change with multi-method approaches (see www.leverhulme.ac.uk/research-project-grants/collapsed-or-evolved-what-happened-bronze-age-indus-valley-civilisation), has recommenced, with fieldwork conducted in April 2022. He is also a PI on the Oxford Martin School *Dryland Bioenergy* project (see www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/bioenergy/). Research in Namibia has continued remotely via in-country links, with new commercial links developing with potential users and major corporations (including B2Gold) that seek re-use of degraded lands in sustainable ways.

Dr Louise Slater, Tutorial Fellow, is currently on maternity leave, and is looking forward to returning after the summer.

HISTORY

Professor Giora Sternberg writes:



This has been a year of transition for History at Hertford. As COVID restrictions have eased, there has been more scope for social life as well as the resumption of in-person teaching. We are proud of this year's Finalists, the 'Covid generation' of Hertford historians,

who have successfully completed their studies in the face of adversity since their Fresher year.

This has been the first year of retirement from Hertford teaching for Christopher Tyerman, but he has continued work on the history of the college. He gave a lecture on 'Useful Books? The Library and the College over 700 years' at this year's John Donne event, which coincided with Donne's 450th anniversary and the launch of the campaign for Hertford's library (see transcript on p37). We look forward to welcoming Emily Winkler as Lecturer in medieval history next year; Emily has been Principal Investigator of an Arts and Humanities Research Council project, 'The Search for Parity: Rulers,

Relationships and the Remote Past, c. 1100–1300'.

Following a heroic stint as Senior Tutor which had culminated in the outbreak and height of the pandemic, David Hopkin has this year been on research leave, continuing his tour of the lacemaking centres of Europe, including Saxony, Liguria, Val d'Aoste, and Catalonia. Jonathan Krause, a historian of France and the French Empire in the First World War, has covered for David's teaching and also contributed to wider college life, including organising an object-handling session at the Pitt Rivers Museum and a diplomacy game for history and politics students. He is going to New Caledonia over the Long Vacation, having won a travel grant from the Beit Fund. Jonathan will remain at Hertford as SCR Associate Member and will continue to tutor some of our students next year.

We were delighted to welcome back Luke Blaxill this year, as Lecturer in modern British history. Catherine Sloan has continued to play an indispensable role as Porter Fellow for Academic Skills, while also contributing to History teaching, notably in Disciplines of History. Deirdre Foley, the Roy Foster Irish Government Research Fellow, lent a hand in History teaching and admissions.

Giora Sternberg is looking forward to a year of research leave, for the completion of his monograph on the power of writing in the ancien régime.

HUMAN SCIENCES

Clive Hambler writes:



Our Finalists emerged from the torments of lockdowns and the pandemic with a First and two Upper Seconds, as grade inflation in the university is paused or reversed. This year's dissertations were on pollutants in water that mimic male hormones, on

attitudes to vaccines in pregnancy, and on differences between genders in the expression and functions of humour.

After Prelims we have two new Scholars. The notorious Quantitative Methods exam will now change to include more computer programming (coding), which is another transferrable skill. In the first year we welcomed a transfer from Biochemistry – an extremely rare event requiring a successful interview. We now have four students preparing for Finals in 2023, three second-years and expect three Freshers as usual.

Most teaching was in person in 2022, with the few benefits of online teaching retained where they were popular. Finals were in student rooms, online and open-book, meaning students could look things up but also had to cope with the risks of technology. The days of taking finals in Texas are over! Second-year students currently favour open-book exams and there is discussion about the format of exams in future years in all degrees. With some student handwriting even harder to read than

my own, a compromise may be word-processed but otherwise traditional exams.

COVID was an interesting experience for Human Scientists, who are exposed to a far greater diversity of approaches and opinions than most people. This has led to much stimulating debate, including, as one would hope in Oxford, with global experts. I've not had time to pursue my ideas on COVID and diet, although some results have supported my prediction that zinc deficiency correlates with disease severity.

I was interviewed by the journal *ECOS* about my influence on conservation. In the 1980s I started the debate on rewilding, challenging the conservation establishment on management obsessions such as coppicing and grazing. The interview is available here: www.ecos.org.uk/ecos-interviews-clive-hambler/

I have reverted to my youth and the study of succession. I'm synthesising the Upper Seeds Experiment – which alums may vaguely remember from your very first tutorial with me...!

Most teaching was in person in 2022, with the few benefits of online teaching retained where they were popular.



LAW

Dr Kate Greasley writes:



It has been a sad and difficult year for Law at Hertford this year, in the wake of the tragic death of law student Victor Altherr last November. Victor was a sharp-minded young person, full of promise. Our thoughts are still very much with Victor's friends and

family, especially his twin brother, as they continue to come to terms with this terrible loss.

The resilience of our finalists this year, who supported one another in pushing on with their studies and exams after the upsetting loss of a member of their small cohort, is remarkable, and we are full of admiration for them. We wish them all the very best with their Finals results, and with the next, exciting, phases of their lives.

MATHEMATICS

Professor Alan Lauder writes:



The great pleasure this academic year was to get back to in-person teaching, or what we used to call just teaching. Thankfully the whole business of having all

your students in tiny square boxes on a screen now seems like some kind of bad dream. I was quite shocked though to discover how big they all were in real life.

Writing this reminds me that the preceding year I did make a bid for internet stardom, by featuring a cute dog in the introduction to my second year linear algebra videos. I got this idea from an old childhood friend, the sports commentator Andrew Cotter, who shot to worldwide fame along with his dogs Olive and Mabel during the first lockdown. My video was posted on YouTube by the Maths Institute and had six thousand hits in the first few days. Then not a lot happened. Checking it again now I see it has crept up to ten thousand. The great inequity though with the YouTube algorithm is that somehow my close colleague James Maynard's first-year linear algebra videos have two and a half million hits. He has no cute dog and was using my lecture notes. (I suspect it all may be related to that fact that James is a brilliant



Alan and his dog, Cosi

and very famous mathematician and doesn't need the prop of a cute dog.)

STOP PRESS!!! As I type it has been announced that James has won a Fields medal, the highest prize in mathematics. I feel a great and rather paternal pride in this, as I interviewed him when he came up as a graduate student and was his adviser during his doctoral studies. I should probably explain at this point though that, unlike in the US, the adviser in Oxford does not direct the academic work (that is the supervisor), but in practice does nothing. And I did nothing so well that I don't think James ever realised I was his adviser and by the end of his studies I could no longer quite remember who James was. But since he became famous for his work on primes some years ago I have taken great pleasure in telling people I was his doctoral adviser.

To get back on track though, I know our students very much enjoyed getting back to in-person teaching too. And in-person exams, where you don't subfusc and sit in the Exam Schools rather

than your bedroom. I think these Oxford traditions, of tutorial teaching and not doing exams in your pyjamas, will be really cherished now by us all. And on this note, Tom Fletcher passed on to me recently a fascinating letter from a mathematician who was here in the mid-sixties and recalls a student who sat his exams in full military attire, including a dress sword. Does anyone else remember seeing such wonders in the Exams Schools?

To end with some good news, my colleague Dawid Kielak has been awarded a prize from the London Mathematical Society for his work in algebra, and our former applied tutor Fernando Alday was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society recently. Fernando has gone on to great things over the last few years, and now fills Roger Penrose's old shoes as the Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics at Wadham. Indeed Wadham is a fitting place for him to be, as the Royal Society was founded there in 1660 by the then Warden John Wilkins, an alumnus of Hertford College (Magdalen Hall).

MEDICINE

Professor David Greaves writes:



The past 12 months saw the emergence of new strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus even more infectious than the ones that saw all our students studying away from Oxford and our tutors working from home and teaching remotely. Thanks to the success of the vaccine and booster

programmes and regular lateral flow tests I was able to give my departmental lectures and run practical classes in haematology and inflammation for groups of 150 students. In college I was giving tutorials to our first-year students in groups of three with the windows of my office in NB6 wide open.

In my laboratory at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology my graduate students and postdoctoral fellows worked hard to keep our research programme looking for new anti-inflammatory drugs going strong. Their experiments lead to the publication of important papers in peer-reviewed journals including the *British Journal of Pharmacology*, *Advanced Materials*, *Technologies* and *Frontiers in Immunology*.

After Easter 2022 we welcomed a Hertford second-year medical student Josh Salvin (matric 2020) to test cancer medicines for their ability to dampen down inflammatory reactions in a key cell type called macrophages – see the photograph of Josh with a 96 well plate

assay he ran in my lab supervised by my graduate student Annabell Roberti.

The goal of our research is to find currently approved medicines that can be repurposed to treat human diseases with a strong inflammatory component such as rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory disease.

Prof Vladyslav Vyazovskiy writes:

One of the highlights of the academic year 2021-2022, according to our second-year medics, was the appointment of Associate Professor Alex Green as College Lecturer in Medicine, and we fully share this view. Alex is both a scientist and a clinician, and his time is split between seeing patients and leading a research group based at the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences. He is a neurosurgeon

My graduate students and postdoctoral fellows worked hard to keep our research programme looking for new anti-inflammatory drugs going strong.

with a special interest in deep brain stimulation and spinal cord stimulation, which is achieved by applying small electrical currents to nerves, which can have beneficial effects in disorders like Parkinson's disease or chronic pain.

Alex has published more than 200 papers and is the current Vice-President of the British Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. At Hertford, Alex works alongside Vlad, teaching neuroanatomy to the second-year students, who greatly enjoy his tutorials. His teaching goes beyond merely classroom setting; he also invites students to watch his surgeries (and even help!), which is a unique experience very few students at Oxford have. Alex told us that he 'very much

enjoyed my year of teaching at Hertford and the enthusiasm of the students has been a great inspiration!' We are delighted to have Alex in our team of tutors for preclinical medicine.

Mr Simon Brewster writes:

During this academic year, as we emerged from pandemic restrictions, our Clinical Medical students were once again allowed full and free access to the wards, clinics and operating theatres of the Oxford hospitals. Hertford College clinical tutors (myself, Dr Sujata Biswas, Dr Henry Bettinson, Prof Max Gibbons) were once again able to give the Years 4, 5 and 6 Hertford students regular face-to-face bedside teaching tutorials in small groups.

In contrast to the situation this time a year ago most of the sixth year students managed to organise an elective period outside the UK, supported by the Vaughan Williams Fund.

I'm delighted to report that all five Year 6 students passed their Finals and started on the wards in August. Congratulations to Drs. Alhussni, Kelly, Watson, Streeter, and Greenan-Barrett! Further congratulations go to Dr Hamish Streeter for attaining a Merit in Finals and to Dr Adam Watson, winner of this year's Vaughan Williams Prize for excellence in clinical medicine.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming the current Year 3 students 'up the hill' in the autumn as they begin their time in Clinical school.

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MODERN LANGUAGES

Dr Katherine Lunn-Rockcliffe writes:



This year we were sorry to lose our Linguistics lecturer, Sandra Kotzor, who has returned to Germany after eight years in her post – we have been particularly grateful for her stalwart presence during a period when Linguistics became a faculty in its own right and

the Modern Languages and Linguistics course became a joint school, and wish her all the best for the future. We have welcomed in her place Afra Pujol i Campeny, who specialises in historical linguistics and is the author of *Word Order in Old Catalan*.

Our students have continued to adapt to new arrangements in the wake of COVID, with the traditional three-hour literature exams being sat as eight-hour online papers this year for the first time. The year abroad has continued to pose bureaucratic challenges since Brexit, but the experiences of individual travellers have been as stimulating and productive as ever.

Oliver Noble Wood has been kept very busy with his role as Dean, and Thomas Clark has been assisting with teaching in Spanish.

Katherine Lunn-Rockcliffe has enjoyed teaching the new first year French syllabus, which now includes a novel by the Caribbean writer Maryse Condé and poetry by Paul Verlaine. Francophone

writing is increasingly central to the syllabus for all year groups, with Algerian novelist Assia Djebar a popular addition to the FHS course. Katherine is still endeavouring to complete a monograph on Victor Hugo's poetry of progress.

Our Lecturer in German, Joanna Neilly, featured on the BBC Radio 3 Free Thinking Programme, discussing the Romantic author, composer, music critic, artist, and lawyer E.T.A. Hoffmann on the 200th anniversary of his death. Her second-year students have participated in the faculty's Diversity Translation Project, which aims to highlight the variety of writing in contemporary German-speaking culture, and the translations may be selected for publication. They have translated an essay by Iranian-born German writer and journalist, Asal Dardan, which reflects on questions of migration, identity, and what constitutes the (ever-untranslatable) 'Heimat'.

The experiences of individual travellers have been as stimulating and productive as ever.



MUSIC

Dr Benjamin Skipp writes:



Should we replace the degree 'Music' with 'Music Studies'? So asks one of the first-year tutorial questions in recognition of the plurality of the subject. The Music degree continues to evolve as a consequence of recent discussions concerning curriculum reform. It is now a broad discipline which encompasses skills which might be considered more traditional such as music history and analysis – areas with which I am personally concerned – but now also

There are two or three students per year and friendships within and across year groups are strong.



engages with, for example, ethnographic studies, psychology and education. In this last area particularly, the degree has widened in scope to allow students to study the theory and practice of teaching music in a range of contexts.

Undergraduates who now wish to have a practical element to their degree other than composition and performance have been able to explore a different sort of creativity while standing in front of a classroom. The broadening of the degree has meant that our undergraduates now come with a range of experiences and gifts. This has undoubtedly enriched Hertford's musical provision but has meant that, with so many avenues of study and possible combinations of modules, there are challenges in arranging these almost bespoke degrees. Because of this I continue to be grateful to our two 'in-house' lecturers, Dr Tom Czepiel and Dr Alice Barron, who between them teach an impressive number of options. Nevertheless I have had to outsource a number of papers this year and special mention should go to Dr Oliver Chandler, who is fast making a name in high level analytical systems, and from whom Hertford students have benefitted in FHS tutorials.

We are fortunate in some ways to be the smallest subject in Hertford. There are two or three students per year and friendships within and across year groups are strong. This has a useful pedagogic outcome in that older years are willing to impart their advice concerning resources, how to deal with crotchety tutors, and where to encounter the most exhilarating musical performances. The three finalists this year have been inspirational mentors to the younger years both in outlook and results. All three finalists were awarded first-class degrees which is testament to

their hard work through three difficult years. Perhaps it is the trials of COVID which has impacted their decisions for post-degree life. For the first time that I can remember, two of the three finalists are taking stock of their options before deciding on any definitive plans while the third, our Organ Scholar Andrew Liu, leaves for future study in Yale. A 'gap year' after a degree of such lockdown fluctuations is, for many, probably sensible.

College members may like to watch a chamber recital with two of our three finalists, Katherine Lewington and Lydia Bennett, along with BBC Young Musician Ewan Millar (St Anne's) which was recorded at the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building in Trinity 2022 and is available on YouTube. Our Schools Dinner which, given our size, is open to all students, always provides a merry occasion to say goodbye and this year it was particularly joyous as we sent three much loved students on their way.

Schools dinner for Music students



ORIENTAL STUDIES

Professor Bjarke Frellesvig writes:



This year, many things returned to a semblance of pre-pandemic times and practices, especially as we all tried very hard to pretend that the pandemic was over from around the beginning of Hilary Term. Most of the teaching resumed in person this year, even if

many people were still wearing masks, and it was a relief to be able to meet in this way for teaching. For all the virtues of online teaching, it is not the same, especially not for tutorials. However, much tutorial teaching continued to take place in a hybrid format as people of course still fell ill with COVID despite all our attempts to wish it away, as well as with some of the other bugs we hadn't been exposed to in two years.

Japan's borders remained closed, so our second year students could not travel out to their year abroad, but thankfully travel restrictions were gradually lifted and finally in March they were able to go. This was a big relief for everyone. Our students had managed online teaching from Kobe during the first half of the year, but being out there is of course much better. I was myself able to travel to Japan in July this year, with plans both for research and for meeting with our students in Kobe, but

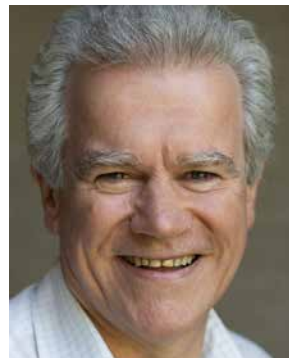
unfortunately I managed to get infected with COVID while there and in the end was not able to meet our students in person. I did, though, attend their end-of-course presentations and was greatly impressed both by the topics they had chosen for their research, and by their level and confidence of Japanese.

Early in Trinity Term we were able to resume the nascent tradition known as the 'Hertford Orientalist's School Trip' (a great envy of students in other colleges), which we first held in 2019 using funds from the Academic Enrichment Fund in college. The entire cohort of Oriental Studies undergraduates in college travelled, together with Hagiwara Sensei, Dr Kiaer and myself, to London and visited the East Asian holdings at the Victoria and Albert Museum, followed by dinner in a Japanese restaurant. This was the first event we had been able to hold across the year groups since the onset of the pandemic. It was very successful and for many of the students the first time they actually met each other, returning a much-missed sense of cohesion and community to our strong and large group of Oriental Studies students. It also set up our three finalists nicely for their exams which were held in person at the end of Trinity Term; as I had expected, they acquitted themselves with aplomb and resilience, despite two and half years of study under adverse circumstances, and they must be congratulated on their results.

In this way, the year ended on a much more positive note than the previous two years, and we are all hopeful that at least with respect to COVID we can now look forward.

PHILOSOPHY

Professor Peter Millican writes:



In last year's *Hertford College Magazine*, I applauded how wonderfully the Hertford staff coped with the difficulties of Covid, preserving as much college life as possible (with the help of our excellent marquee), and doing whatever they could to support students through

those extraordinarily hard times. But it has been a huge relief this year to be finally escaping from the shadow of Covid, seeing much more of each other in person, and with traditional events returning. The marquee has now been replaced by a beautiful, lush lawn, and the incoming Freshers in 2022 should experience relative normality after those strange couple of years, which have caused such huge difficulties for at least three cohorts of undergraduates.

A particular pleasure this year has been to see the return of a number of students who suspended on health grounds during that period – two in Computer Science & Philosophy and two in PPE – coming back to do very well in their Finals despite the interruption (which experience suggests is not at all easy). Our other students too have generally been doing well, though an overall dip in Finals performance for our latest cohort bears witness to the impact of the pandemic. Unlike the previous two cohorts, they had to endure written closed-book (rather than online open-book) examinations,

and unlike yet earlier cohorts, they generally had to face these examinations for the first time, having missed out on the "practice" of Prelims. To come through as well as they did against these challenges is very much to their credit. In PPE, David Holroyd deserves a particular mention, achieving a well-deserved Tri-Partite First, a year after he had, exceptionally, won a Calvin Cheng PPE Prize in all three subjects (from a fund generously donated by one of our alumni). In Computer Science & Philosophy, Charlie Griffin and Julius Vidal both achieved fourth-year Firsts, while Charlie also won the University Hoare Prize, having last year been very narrowly beaten by Ewen Edmunds and Georgie Lang for the third-year Gibbs Prizes (in Computer Science and Philosophy respectively). With three University prizewinners and another strong First, this was an exceptional cohort! Our Prelims results were also very pleasing, with three Distinctions out of eight in PPE, three Distinctions out of six in Computer Science & Philosophy (including the Computer Science Departmental Prize for Louis Thomson), and a Distinction in Physics & Philosophy for Ken Zhao.

Turning now to staff activities, first mention should go to my colleague Carissa Véliz's 2021 Herbert A. Simon Award from the International Association of Computing & Philosophy. This prestigious award 'recognises scholars at an early stage of their academic career who are likely to reshape debates at the nexus of Computing and Philosophy by their original research'. Carissa's book *Privacy is Power* has been doing just that, making waves both within the academy and beyond. She has since won a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship to support the writing of a further book

on the ethics of predictive algorithms – this is bringing her leave from teaching throughout 2022-23, during which time she will be replaced by a joint College-Faculty appointee.

Carissa's appointment resulted from a major donation which also founded the University's Institute for Ethics in AI, of which both of us are active members. This has enjoyed a rich year of events, including the Obert C. Tanner Lectures on Artificial Intelligence and Human Values, delivered by Demis Hassabis from DeepMind, and the Inaugural Annual Lecture, which was on Ethics in AI and Aristotle, delivered by Professor Josiah Ober of Stanford University. There have also been very stimulating weekly colloquia, in which we have discussed democratising work and AI, the role of AI in the law, and free speech on social media, amongst many other topics. But perhaps the most important single development has been a new undergraduate Philosophy course in Ethics of AI and Digital Technology, taught by a team of which Carissa has been a key member. Five of our own students took this in its first year (with good results), and overall it has been very successful, both in the number of students it has attracted and in the quality of the experience. We are hoping that it will continue to thrive and become a permanent addition to the Oxford Philosophy programme.

Meanwhile, my own long-delayed year as Visiting Professor at the

National University of Singapore finally began this spring, taking me away from Oxford teaching until Trinity Term 2023 (though thanks to Zoom, I was able to offer revision sessions to finalists online, and was temporarily back in June doing revision sessions for Freshers). This overlapping absence of myself and Carissa would have been quite impossible without our wonderful Philosophy Lecturer Dr Nick Tasker, steadfastly holding the fort not only as Philosophy Director of Studies, but also PPE Coordinator (while Professor Elizabeth Baldwin has been on maternity leave). Nick is now a permanent appointee at the college, which makes a huge difference in these circumstances. I've never before felt able to take such a long sabbatical, and it's been an interesting experience working seven time zones away and almost on the equator. The teaching is fun, the colleagues excellent, and my research has been going well. Of course the climate is a challenge, and the Covid restrictions made things both relatively dull and seriously difficult in the early months (e.g. having to wear a mask in the tropical heat, even when outside and alone). But since August, the new academic year has been hugely better than the last, with everything opening up and far more life around the university. I'm hoping while there to build up some international links with Hertford, and look forward to reporting back in the next Magazine.

PHYSICS

Professor Siddharth Parameswaran writes:



After the pandemic disruption of 2020/21, the teaching and tutorial experience moved back towards the norm, with (mostly) in-person lectures, labs and tutorials, whilst being ready for late changes in response to isolation requirements or illness.

On the whole, things went smoothly, and the opportunity to come together for Tanner Society dinners was greatly appreciated. All of the University exams returned to the usual in-person format and the finalists acquitted themselves well. Everyone is looking forward to a normal start to the coming year.

After three years as Chair of the Physics preliminary examinations, Professor Pat Roche was on sabbatical leave. He had planned to attend his first astronomy conference in three years in June 2022, but tested positive for COVID just before he was due to travel, and so will have to wait for a while longer. During this time, he did preparatory work on programmes with the James Webb Space Telescope, which had a spectacularly successful launch on Boxing Day, followed by a remarkably smooth commissioning and verification phase. Exciting results are now flowing from JWST and our first papers (on infrared spectra of galaxies) have been submitted for publication. The progress

in sensitivity and resolution afforded by JWST since Prof Roche's pioneering work in the 1980s and 90s is quite dramatic.

Pat has worked closely with the Bursar to develop and oversee the designs for the planned developments for our graduate students on the Winchester Road site, and is looking forward to a planning submission later in 2022.

Sid Parameswaran has continued to grow his research group, but has also seen the first wave of students and postdoctoral researchers graduating from the group. Two DPhil students graduated in quick succession and will take up top postdoctoral jobs at Princeton and the École normale supérieure in Paris, while recent postdoctoral alumni have moved on to a more senior postdoctoral role in Europe, a junior faculty position in the US, a leadership role in a quantum computing start-up, and a prestigious Royal Society University Research Fellowship at Oxford. A research highlight of the year was the publication in *Nature* of a piece of research in collaboration with an experimental group at Princeton, described more fully elsewhere in this magazine (p24). Of course, all of this pales in comparison to the birth of his first child, Alexander, in summer 2021!

Sid is also excited to begin a stint as a College Officer, in the newly-created role of Fellow for Research. Part of the remit of the job will be to create a more welcoming environment for researchers at all career stages, especially in the years between doctoral study and finding a permanent academic post. Another is to highlight and communicate Hertford research more broadly – so watch this space in the future.

POLITICS

Dr Blake Ewing writes:



It has again been a busy year in politics, both at Hertford and around the globe. Dr Radek Zubek, Hertford's Politics Fellow, spent a sabbatical year on a Jean Monnet Fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence, working on a project looking at how multi-

party governments shape legislative institutions in European democracies. This autumn he will be at Science Po University in Paris as part of the OxPo research collaboration in partnership with Oxford University's Department of Politics and International Relations. To learn more about Dr Zubek's research, one can visit his website ParlRulesData.org, which includes an online database of the formal procedural rules in various parliaments.

In Dr Zubek's absence, Dr Blake Ewing, a College Lecturer in Politics at Hertford, coordinated the politics teaching alongside Franziska Brandmann, a DPhil student writing a thesis on right-wing populism in Europe. Dr Ewing, a political theorist specialising in the 'politics of time' in its various forms, has a forthcoming article in the *Journal of Language and Politics* on the use of the concept of 'crisis' in British Parliament from 1820-2018. With a research affiliation at the Smithsonian, a network of museums and research institutions in Washington, DC, he is also involved in several collaborative research projects

funded by the Smithsonian and the British Academy. These include a project using polling data to measure the impact of the COVID pandemic on climate action and wildlife conservation efforts, with a focus on how political actors and the general population weigh immediate and long-term priorities. A separate project is on the idea of 'the Anthropocene' and its impact on political thought.

On the teaching side, we bid farewell to our Finalists, who performed admirably given their disrupted studies over the past three years. The Hertford Political Theory Reading Group continues to flourish. This year's text was Machiavelli's great play *Mandragola* (The Mandrake), which the group read aloud together. As in past years, the pace (and depth of discussion, of course) meant the group only made it through to the middle of Act IV. But covering this much ground was an achievement by comparison to past years, and some Italian red helped everyone along.

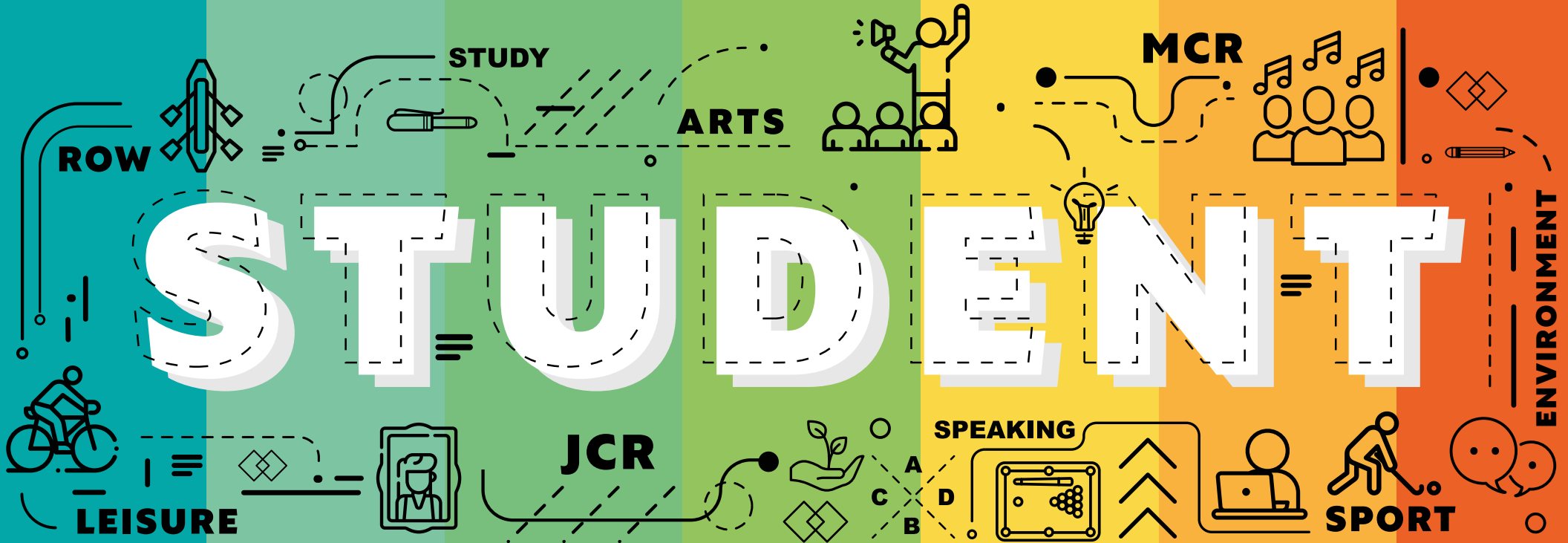
The JCR remains a ripe case study for an analysis of political behaviour.



Meanwhile, a college fund generously provided nourishment for a number of lively 'Pizza and Politics' lunches. Topics ranged from the Ukraine conflict and various elections to the ongoings in US and UK politics.

The Hertford PPEists and History & Politics students have been equally busy in their own exploits. The JCR remains a ripe case study for an analysis of political behaviour. And as you can read elsewhere in these pages, the Hertford

Politics and Economics Society hosted a selection of prominent speakers. Early on in the year, the society hosted Ciaran Martin, the first CEO of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre, as well as Nimco Ali, a prominent social activist and CEO of The Five Foundation. Later on, they hosted Sir Graeme Lamb, one of the most decorated soldiers in British history, as well as James Fletcher, director of 'The Accidental President'.



LIFE

JCR

Eloise George (History, 2020) writes:

The start of the 2022/23 academic year created a sense of nervous excitement within Hertford. After two abnormal years, the prospect of a normal year at university was alien to the majority of us, and entirely new for the incoming Freshers. Yet within days of returning to Oxford, excitement won out; a renaissance for college life at Hertford began.

Freshers Week, organised by FComm President Mary Mawhinney and her team, began this process, as we welcomed a new year of students to the college. Thanks to a programme of activities, the new students were rapidly integrated into college life. In part, this was due to a keen sense

of making up for lost time from the older years! This helped to reinvigorate the strong community culture of Hertford, rebuilding social bonds that the restrictions of the pandemic had often limited. This community culture and sense of fun was furthered by the reintroduction of the legendary college Bops. The Entz committee, led by Francesca Topel (2021-2022) and Julia Eden (2022-2023), put on a wonderful array of Bops and bar nights this year, giving everyone the opportunity to socialise and don some often questionable fancy dress!

Similarly, the JCR must extend its thanks to Simon Robinson and the catering team. The reintroduction of

full capacity formals has given us all the opportunity to make the most of this uniquely Oxford experience. The Hall became the sight of many amazing JCR events this year, from the revels of Halfway Hall to the unique fun of the Hertford Ceilidh. Additionally, the reopening of DTB in Hilary Term was a watershed moment in terms of feeling as though college had truly moved through the pandemic as a community. A huge thanks to Simon and the team, and to Antonia Ren (JCR Exec 2021) and Kirsten Fletcher (JCR Exec 2022) for their efforts as JCR Food and Housing Reps.

One positive of the pandemic that continued throughout this year has been the emphasis on the importance of welfare. We have seen more members of the JCR become fully trained Peer Supporters, helping to build a supportive community in Hertford amongst the JCR itself. We were also treated to excellent termly Welfare Weeks, organised in Michaelmas by Cass Baumberg and Matt Unwin (JCR Exec 2021) and in Hilary and Trinity by Fergus Trower and Mary Mawhinney (JCR Exec 2022). These helped us to brush away the fifth week blues through fun activities, including dog walks, painting, and the ever-popular Welfare Tea. We look forward to seeing what our Welfare Officers have in store for the Michaelmas Welfare Week!

Hertford JCR also continued its strong tradition of charitable work. In Michaelmas, the Movember fundraiser once again went ahead and was in honour of Hertford student, Victor Altherr, who tragically died in Michaelmas 2021. We also took part in the Big Night In, raising money for anti-spiking charities through a bar night. Additionally, the JCR worked with the college Accounts Clerk, Ewa Gluza, and the Oxford Polish community to help pack boxes for an

aid lorry commissioned by the college to take supplies to those displaced by the conflict in Ukraine. We also released a statement in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and pledged a donation to the Red Cross as part of this commitment. In Trinity, the Ramadan Sponsored Fast made a return thanks to the efforts of Aminah Memon and Isaac Hilsley, an event which hopefully will become an annual staple of our fundraising calendar.

We were also lucky enough to have great success on the sports field. After a valiant loss to the formidable Teddy Hall in the Michaelmas rugby Cuppers, our rugby team redeemed themselves with an excellent sevens performance, making it to the semi-finals. Our netball team also reached their semi-final, losing in a thrilling game supported by our very

One positive of the pandemic that continued throughout this year has been the emphasis on the importance of welfare.



noisy cohort of spectators. We also saw good progress for our footballers in the Hassan's Cup, with newer sports such as water polo beginning to rise through the ranks of college sport. The Boat Club also put in strong performances in both Torpids and Summer Eights, with many JCR members taking part. However, applause must go to our hockey team, who resurrected the sport at Hertford this year. Their rise to Cuppers victory was nothing short of meteoric, and a great source of pride for us all.

Our Outreach work has also been able to continue in a greater in-person capacity, with full-scale Open Days and tours returning. Hertford has also been able to once again host Uniq Summer School, which we hope will encourage future applicants. Credit to both Husna

Argandiwal (JCR Exec 2021) and Thomas Coyle (JCR Exec 2022) for their work in organising our Outreach events, and for running the wonderful Humans of Hertford Instagram account.

Reflecting on this year, it is clear that Hertford's sense of community is as strong as ever and will continue to grow in the future. As I enter my final term as President, I am so thankful for and inspired by the support and vibrant cooperation of the whole college community to improve Hertford as a place for one another. To me, this interconnectedness is at the heart of the culture we create here, and I have no doubt that the next Exec, and the generations of Hertfordians to come, will keep this flourishing.

Reflecting on this year, it is clear that Hertford's sense of community is as strong as ever and will continue to grow in the future.

Principal Tom Fletcher is joined by JCR President Eloise George and MCR President Teresa Taylor, as the Bridge of Sighs is lit up in the colours of the Ukrainian flag

MCR

Teresa Taylor (MPhil Politics, 2019) writes:

Taking on the MCR after years of COVID-19 meant there was much cleaning of cobwebs to be done, both metaphorical and real-life physical improvements that the tower needed after being without life in it for a long time. Luckily, this year saw the largest committee in the MCR's history, with 22 officers and gender parity. While it was quite the logistical challenge to set up communication channels suitable for this many people, the sheer number of bodies meant that the MCR could be taken to new heights, working on projects in social, academics, sports, equity, and welfare, improving the MCR itself, and steadily re-building a community. To mark the occasion of a post-pandemic new life,

the MCR adopted some pet jellyfish in Michaelmas term. Their arrival was marked by an unveiling ceremony attended by Tom Fletcher, who got to meet his aquatic counterpart, Jom Fletcher. Simpkin was not in attendance to meet his spineless twin, Jimpkin, but rumour has it they get on well.

The year was marked by getting back into the swing of things. As always, the Hertford community showed resilience, especially returning students who indulged in re-Freshers activities with a zest for life that only two years of a global pandemic can bestow upon usually slightly worn-out graduate students. After two years of pandemic, the incoming Exec faced a loss of institutional knowledge that

threatened great MCR traditions, such as celebrating the Waugh night on Evelyn Waugh's birthday and ceillidh dancing in the Octagon for Burn's night. The annual wine and cheese with the Hertford Society, too, had suffered because of the pandemic. With great determination, the social team created a social calendar befitting a new beginning post-COVID, combining the old with the new. The traditional three weeks of Freshers went ahead with nods to traditions, such as the Matriculation Ball. In total, we held a total of nine formals, offered pottery classes, enjoyed plenty of (themed) wine and cheese events in the Octagon, got aboard for two (legendary) boat parties, took museum trips to London, visited castles all over the country, attended an Uncomfortable Oxford tour, and played plenty of Pango Pong.

We set out to harness the magic of the MCR tower on the main site, so that the physical space could support the needs of the students even better. To this end, we cleared out the computer room, the space beneath the famous Octagon, with the help of the wonderful maintenance team. The room had been lent to college for storage purposes during the pandemic. In our last GM, we renamed it the Alain Locke Study Room, to commemorate the first African American Rhodes Scholar and Hertford MCR member. The Waugh Room, named for Hertford alum and author Evelyn Waugh, also got a makeover to turn it into a social and game space or quiet retreat.

The equalities team worked tirelessly on making the MCR a more equitable and welcoming space as well as promoting awareness for global and local issues within the MCR. The team produced an MCR sexual harassment policy, supplied pillows and blankets

for late-night studying in the building, renamed a committee position to Queer and Women's Officer, and proposed a GM motion to support the Oxford living wage at Hertford. When Russia invaded Ukraine, the committee made a statement in support of Ukraine and collaborated with multiple organisations to collect donations. Our amazing welfare officer, Guopeng Chen, created an environment that supported student welfare, safety and wellbeing with free weekly welfare teas, walks, and brunches, as well as delivering welfare quarantine packages to keep

The equalities team worked tirelessly on making the MCR a more equitable and welcoming space as well as promoting awareness for global and local issues within the MCR.

spirits high when COVID struck in the community.

This year's MCR was also quite an active one, collaborating with the JCR on an Iffley gym membership for all its members, and ensuring ample opportunities to frolic on the rivers around the city via a punting scheme. At the end of Trinity Term, a group of members was spotted cycling to Cambridge to emulate the charity Bridge to Bridge ride from Venice to Hertford.

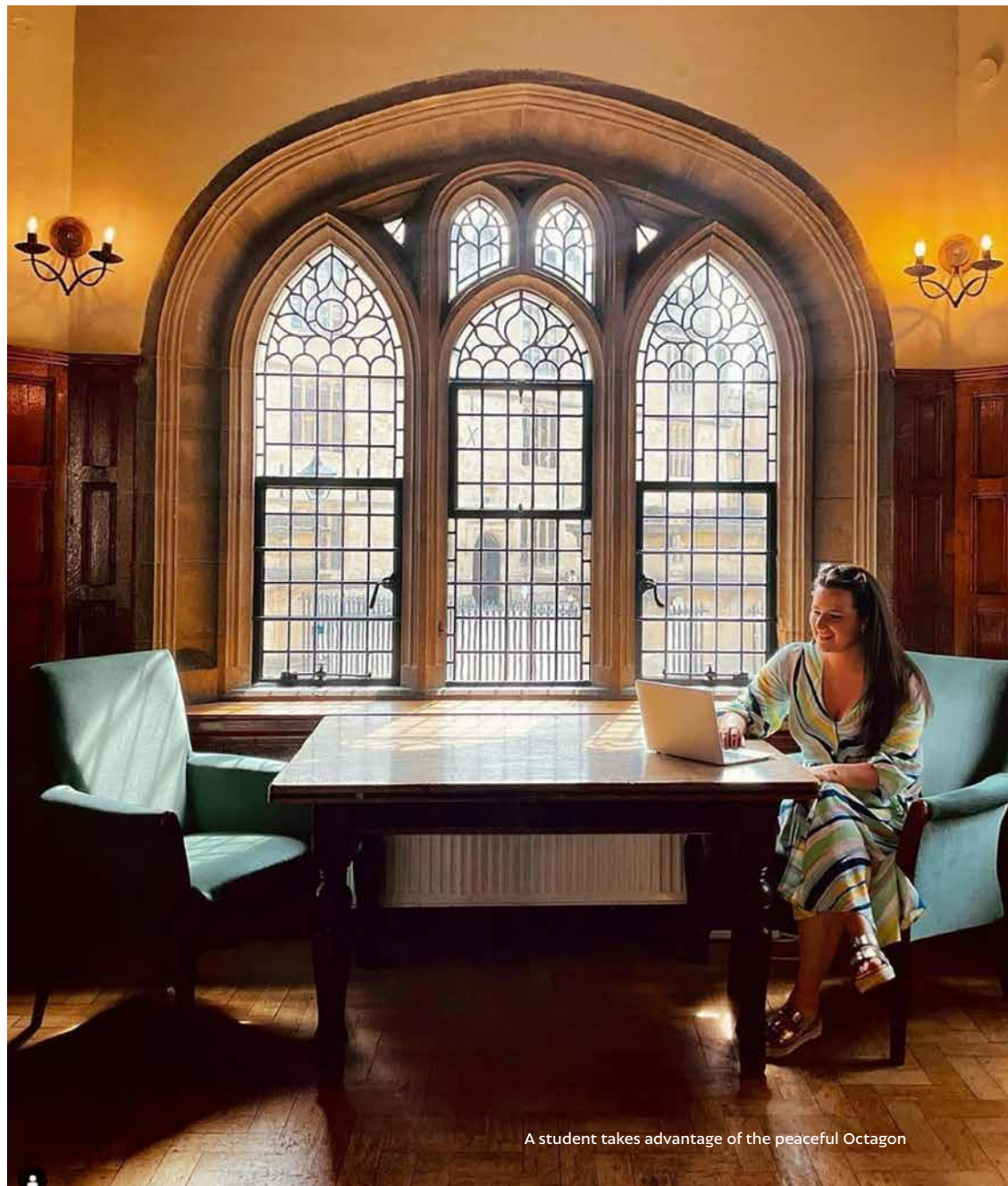
Academically, the year was marked by three fantastic MCR-JCR-SCR academic soirees, organized by our very own Michael Cerny. In addition to getting the opportunity to present their research at these termly events, MCR members could also participate in more casual themed research workshops.

Besides the wide variety of research and academic work produced by masters and doctoral students, we

showcased our brains and brawn in other ways, too. The 2021 University Challenge Team consisted of an all-MCR member team, representing Hertford to an international audience. Some MCR members participated and won categories at the HEC MBA Sports Tournament, and Rakhshan Kamran won the OSU Paving the Way award.

I would like to extend an extra special thank you to Thibault Jouen-Tachoire (Treasurer) and Matthew Bowen (Secretary/VP), without whom I could have never done this job. No short report like this one will ever truly capture the work and love that the committee poured into their roles, but I sincerely hope that those MCR members who wanted to, managed to find community in the hallowed halls of Hertford. As I move on to my next adventure, I wish the Hertford community, and especially the MCR, all the best – may you never cease fearing the deer!

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A student takes advantage of the peaceful Octagon

MUSIC

William Jeys (Music, 2020 and Organ Scholar) writes:



Hertford's choir performs at this year's John Donne dinner

After the significant disruption caused by the pandemic, the members of the Chapel Team (the outgoing Organ Scholar Andrew Liu, the similarly outgoing Chapel Music Advisor James Potter, the Chaplain Mia Smith, and the Junior Organ Scholar Will Jeys) were hopeful that the year 2021-2022 would be somewhat less problematic. Luckily, this hope worked in our favour; despite the odd minor outbreak of COVID within various segments of the Oxford student community, we were able to continue with a full schedule of services and concerts both within Hertford and beyond.

The year began rather quietly; as members of the choir were wary of the actual virus as well as the possible disruption to service patterns, numbers

were somewhat subdued. However, we were luckily able to see a steady increase during the course of the year. We all felt very positive that this number will continue to grow over the coming years, in order that we might be able to share Chapel life with as many areas of the Hertford community as possible.

Despite the challenges that COVID presents to such environments, there were several significant highlights of the year, two of the most significant being our Hilary Term concert and our tour to Malta.

The concert that the choir put on in Hilary Term was entitled 'Love and Destiny', as a celebration of the reuniting of our community after such time apart. We are all very grateful to the outgoing Senior Organ Scholar Andrew Liu who, pretty much single-handedly, organised every

aspect of the concert from the publicity, programmes and repertoire, to hiring a 25-piece orchestra. The music included Brahms' *Schicksalslied*, portions from Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, and other popular choral music taken from our liturgical structure. The opportunity to perform such a concert with a choir as well as orchestra, in the setting of the University Church of St Mary, will definitely be a memory that all performers involved will not quickly forget.

The culmination of our year as a choir served as an eight-day tour to Malta, where we led services and performed concerts in multiple notorious locations such as the Mosta Dome, the Sanctuary of St Theresa and St Dominic's Church Rabat. However, COVID was still affecting our arrangements as our flights were

cancelled and we had to depart from East Midlands Airport at 4.30am; many of the singers were not overly thrilled. Our Principal, Tom Fletcher, kindly got the Organ Scholars in contact with the Maltese-British Embassy which meant we were able to facilitate a concert to mark Armed Forces Day at the Maltese Ambassadorial Residence; we are very grateful to Tom for providing us with such a memorable experience.

We are very excited about the year to come, with a new Junior Organ Scholar, James Norton, as well as a new Chapel Music Advisor, Hannah Towndrow. As ever, anyone and everyone is welcome at our bi-weekly services and it would be really great to see some fresh (or returning...!) faces.

SPORT

Oliver Bingham (English, 2020) writes:

Hertford College always seems able to surpass their prosaic yet zealous underdog status and the sporting calendar of 2021-22 proved no different. Many an example immediately springs to mind: the gutsy netball team who barged and battled their way to a third place finish in both their league and Cuppers competitions (an effort that continued the decade-long trend of Hertford outperforming themselves to a top five finish); the undersized and under-practised rugby sevens team playing with a by-any-means attitude to reach the semi-final of Cuppers; and, finally, the persistent pancake race participants who continued to sprint round the OB Quad, frying pan in tow, in spite of the treacherously soggy

the gutsy netball team who barged and battled their way to a third place finish in both their league and Cuppers competitions



Principal Tom Fletcher joins the hockey team to celebrate Hertford's Cuppers victory

conditions in an attempt to entertain the working masses.

Indeed, Hertford sport was motivated by the desire to entertain the masses this year as routine crowds showed up to cheer on their fellow friendly reds. The finest example of such behaviour was manifested in the Hertble (Hertford and Keble) women's football team. The team showed exemplary flair and determination in last year's 5-a-side tournament and, under the new leadership of Rudi Wilmshurst, converted this success to the 11-a-side field this year. Dominating their league, the excitement surrounding a possible Cuppers run continued to grow with an outstanding victory against St John's that only worked towards catalysing such notions. A dreary day foreshadowed the unfortunate loss to Worcester College in the quarter finals, however the weather and score refused to dampen the

thunderous support shown by Hertford throughout. The men's football team managed to emulate a similar trend to their female counterparts. While the first division of league football provided many closely-fought losses that would have disheartened more weak-minded squads. In the cup competition Hertford utilised their raucous support to reach the Hassans's Cup quarter final, only missing out on a final four space in the last twenty seconds. The team had no shortage of highlights, however: a prime example being a depleted team (devoid of key players due to being ravaged by injury) outplaying a strong St Anne's side to an away victory that would have made Leicester's 2015 side proud.

Hertford's mixed touch rugby team managed to combine the cup form of these two football teams and go one better. They performed extraordinarily well in hot and sweaty conditions to

reach the plate final only to once again, unfortunately, slip at the last hurdle and finish, stoically, as runner ups. The team was partially made up of determined men's rugby players who, having sadly been defeated early on in their Cuppers campaign, capitalised on their success in the OKU Trophy. This is an annual memorial tournament where Hertford rugby members both old and new play numerous sides, including London Japanese, Oxford University and Kew Occasionals. Donned in the classy maroon, Hertford strutted out onto Iffley's hallowed turf (barely making an indent – such was their subtle dexterity) to face up against much bigger and, seemingly, more formidable opposition only to dust them aside with gritty tackling, hard running and 'never say die' attitude. Defeating an Oxford University rugby team compiled of second and third team players epitomised how any Hertford sport watched over by the Moose (our mascot outfit) and his loyal supporters fears no opposition.

Nowhere was this manifested more clearly than in the sport with sticks: mixed hockey. Players from all backgrounds put down their tennis racquets, stripped out of their swimsuits and cast off their rowing oars to unite with one

goal in mind: achieving Cuppers glory. With their outfit no longer resembling a packet of Liquorice All Sorts, the team embodied the look of their brand new kits and progressed to the final in an ordered and eye-catching fashion. With the cricket side unable to replicate last year's Cuppers success, falling early on and instead turning their focus to utter league domination, our hockey players found themselves firmly and rightly in the spotlight. Could they pick apart a St Edmunds Hall side littered with regular university representatives and appearing hungry for the taste of venison? A resolute, defensive performance allowed for attacking brilliance to shine through and Hertford walked away covered in prosecco and wielding a trophy to make all that wore the Deer-besmirched badge this year proud.

It has been an absolute pleasure to witness and help facilitate Hertford's vast and diverse commitment to sport this year. From contemporary dance, to skiing, to pancake racing, to badminton, to swimming: no terrain or climate appears to be safe from the sight of the Friendly Red's ferocious, fair, and fun engagement. Long may it continue.

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HERTFORD COLLEGE BOAT CLUB

Penny Hyde (DPhil Inorganic Chemistry, 2019) writes:

Michaelmas term kicked off with more of a bang than last year, that's for sure! With record numbers of participants for the annual taster weekend it was bound to be a good year. The club saw two men's and two women's boats entered for ChCh novice regatta; unfortunately, no podium places this year but undeniable enthusiasm all round. The term was consolidated with Hertford's first ever Oxmas regatta. Three mixed crews braved the weather to race side by side (or more bow to rigger in some cases – who knew that culprit would go onto cox M1?). After a huge effort, unfortunately much of it not transferring into the water, all crews were beaten by our

The club saw two men's and two women's boats entered for ChCh novice regatta



Hertford's rowers return to the river, and celebrate in Hall

very own W2 coach, Jake Liebers, in a single scull. Egos were soon re-inflated by winter cocktails and a club Christmas dinner.

After the Christmas break the true grind begins in the run up to Torpids. Both first boats had a large novice contingent, but nothing could phase them as they took it in their stride and stepped up to the mark. Weather conditions unfortunately saw the coxes of both squads sidelined for racing. W1 even adopted a cox from St Catz who turned up on the first day of racing with everyone's names and seats memorised; someone had clearly done their homework! Overall, the campaign saw M1 claw their way up Div 2, M2 hanging on in Div 5 and W1 lose two spots but still remaining well in the pack in Div 1.

Trinity term always welcomes back any members who have spent the rest of the year training with the blues squads. This year W1 welcomed back Harriet Thomas (OUWLRC) and Alison Carrington (Osiris), both of whom first put a blade in the water with HCBC. The men welcomed Princeton alumnus Tassilo von Mueller (Isis) to the crew. M1

were still on the climb up Div 2, whilst W1 still clung on in Div 1 by the end of the campaign. M2 and W2 both climbed and fell over the course of the week but still retained their spots in Div 5. This term also saw the purchase of two new VIIIIs for M1 and W1- the men's new Filippi was made possible by donations made in the memory of alumnus Terry Hughes (Physics, 1982) for whom the boat is named. The women received the Filippi used by OUWLRC in this year's boat race and was named after Phoebe White (Physics and Philosophy, 1990), OUWBC stroke woman and former under-23 international sculler.

Finally to summer, and the rowing hasn't stopped! August saw the entry of a Hertford IV and VIII entered into the City of Oxford Royal Regatta. Entering as the underdogs didn't stop either crew cruising through their first rounds. The podium however was not to be this time...

For more detailed race reports for all crews this year, and further information on getting involved with HCBC please see the website at www.hertfordcollegeboatclub.co.uk, and check out our Instagram @HECBC. FTD!



ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS

Nell Miles (Biology, 2020) writes:

It's been an exciting year for environmental action at Hertford. After disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a return to more normal life meant more opportunities to enact changes across the college to help us align with Net Zero 2030 commitments. JCR involvement in Sustainability Strategy Working Group meetings meant the student body could provide input and develop initiatives to complement the overall strategy – this has so far included small acts like replacing plastic bags with paper ones in the library and introducing a drop-off scheme where they can be returned for reuse. Based on research from the Department of Biology, catering staff

have introduced 'nudges' in Hall to encourage more planet-friendly food choices, and we continue to work with the team to look at how to further reduce the impact of food.

We are also utilising the power of social media to help the Hertford community work towards a more sustainable future. Hertford College JCR social media pages have been used to share tips for more sustainable living, and a student group chat has been formed to share ideas and collaborate, for those wanting to promote change in college.

Hertford illustrates its recognition of the intrinsic link between people and the planet by having representative

positions covering both environment and ethics. With this in mind, the Environment & Ethics and Charity representatives collaborated to host a fundraising event for two charities: Friends of the Earth and Against Malaria Foundation. The evening featured themed drinks and student-made decorations made of recycled materials and was a great success. A total of £188 was raised, split equally between the two charities.

Approaching the next academic year, we look forward to seeing further change across the college. Committing to develop a better relationship with nature and our planet reflects the values of community, equality, and excellence intrinsic to Hertford; collaboration between staff and students will help us grow, to achieve a better future for us all.

Hertford College JCR social media pages have been used to share tips for more sustainable living, and a student group chat has been formed for those wanting to promote change in college to share ideas and collaborate.

ARTS

Elizabeth Bateman (Chemistry, 2020) writes:



Hertford's students enjoy the first college ceilidh

The academic year was kicked off by the previous Arts Rep, Liberty Hinze, who put on lots of themed craft events such as Halloween crafts with mask making, pumpkin carving and decorating a spooky-themed house. My favourite of the pumpkins was one which transformed our beloved Simpkin into carved-squash form! December hosted a crochet workshop, making a college blanket to be donated to a child in need of comfort, with each square of the blanket made by Hertfordian artists. A visit to the Tokyo Art and Photography exhibit at the Ashmolean Museum was organised and was great fun for all involved.

On picking up the Arts Rep mantle in early spring, I got straight to business

by posting weekly art prompts and tutorials to keep students busy outside of academic tutorials and essay writing. The regular knitting and sewing meet-ups were reinstated in the JCR, which was a fantastic opportunity to bring together Freshers and Finalists alike with stitching and snacks, creating a great creative community.

In Trinity Term, the arts were brought to the spotlight by HARTfest, a yearly festival celebrating the art at Hertford. This was kicked off by a watercolour and wines night in Hertford's very own bar, with students creating watercolour masterpieces including incredible portraits of each other; all from the cosy heart of Hertford. A life drawing workshop gave students a wonderful

opportunity to practice their portraiture and drawing skills.

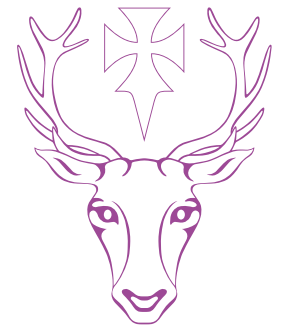
This year also featured Hertford's very first ceilidh! Teaming up with Hertford College Music Society and with music from the Oxford University Ceilidh Society, students had an opportunity to learn, dance and, most importantly, laugh in an evening of music and dancing. I was blown away by the enthusiasm of all those who took part as well as the queues down the spiral staircase. After such a long time of restricted numbers, it was so lovely to see Hertford's Hall lively and full of laughter and music.

In Trinity Term,
the arts were
brought to the
spotlight by
HARTfest, a
yearly festival
celebrating the
art at Hertford



AFTER

HERT
FORD





ALUMNI STORIES

Caroline Conner (Archaeology and Anthropology, 2006) writes:

Oxford was a dream. Not in the sense that I had fantasised about studying there, it was more that it existed the way Hogwarts existed in my imagination. It was an unreal place, shrouded in magic, and it was certainly no reality for a screwed up American teenager like me. When I landed in London at 16 to live with the father I barely knew and attend my fourth high school in three years, I certainly had no expectations of attending such a prestigious university.

I was a misfit, completely unable to function within the family I'd grown up in back with my mother in California. Coming to London was a last resort. They put me in the American School in St John's Wood, but I was only accepted

under the condition that I repeat a year since I had barely attended school at all the year before. Being held back was humiliating. As a 'smart person' it felt like a punch to the gut, but at least I was far enough away from everyone who knew me that nobody had to know.

The following year I dated the brother of a friend who was a student at Hertford. Oxford had never been on my radar as a place that I could go but spending time at Hertford made me fall in love with it. Sam wasn't posh, and his friends weren't like the snobby kids I'd grown up with in Silicon Valley. Despite the weight of the institution, the heart-achingly beautiful OB Quad and the thrill of walking across the private Bridge of Sighs, Hertford was just very chill.

We broke up, he graduated, and I decided that I would try to get into Oxford.

American students have no preparation for choosing a degree in advance. I had no idea what to study, but I loved the movie *The Mummy* and I thought Archaeology & Anthropology sounded interesting, so that was that. I realised that Oxford wouldn't even look at the grades from my previous three high schools, and that all that mattered was getting good results on my SATs and my APs. My college counsellor at the American School in London told me not to apply because I wouldn't get in. Nobody ever had before.

I asked for a different counsellor, and I was the first person to go to Oxford from ASL (but not the last).

At Hertford it didn't matter that I was different, my friends were from all sorts of backgrounds, many of them from working class families living anywhere but London. We did not fit the usual Oxbridge type.

While the bulk of my life was based around college, in my second year I discovered the subject that would form the basis of my career. A jaunt through Freshers Fair saw me requesting to join the Oxford Wine Circle. This prestigious club was invite-only, and I only went to a couple tastings filled with posh teenagers in tweed blazers before realising that it was not my vibe. But I'll be honest, I liked the wine.

Just as I had been lucky to find a haven for oddballs at Hertford, so I found The Oxford Blind Wine Tasting Society, a splinter faction of the Wine Circle. We would meet up once or twice a week to taste six to 12 wines in a windowless room, silently swirling, sniffing, and sloshing the wine around our mouths, spitting, and scribbling notes. After an hour of this, we'd argue for another hour

over the origins of said wines. This was not a room for preening or networking, this was a committed group of weirdos doing something extremely strange.

By my third year, I was a wizard at blind wine tasting. Competing in the Varsity match against Cambridge is a Very Big Deal in the UK wine trade as it is judged by Hugh Johnson and Jancis Robinson, and it was an honour to be awarded Top Taster in 2009. Like many others who have competed in the match both before me and since, by that point it was clear that I would go into the wine industry.

While the bulk of my life was based around college, in my second year I discovered the subject that would form the basis of my career. A jaunt through Freshers Fair saw me requesting to join the Oxford Wine Circle.

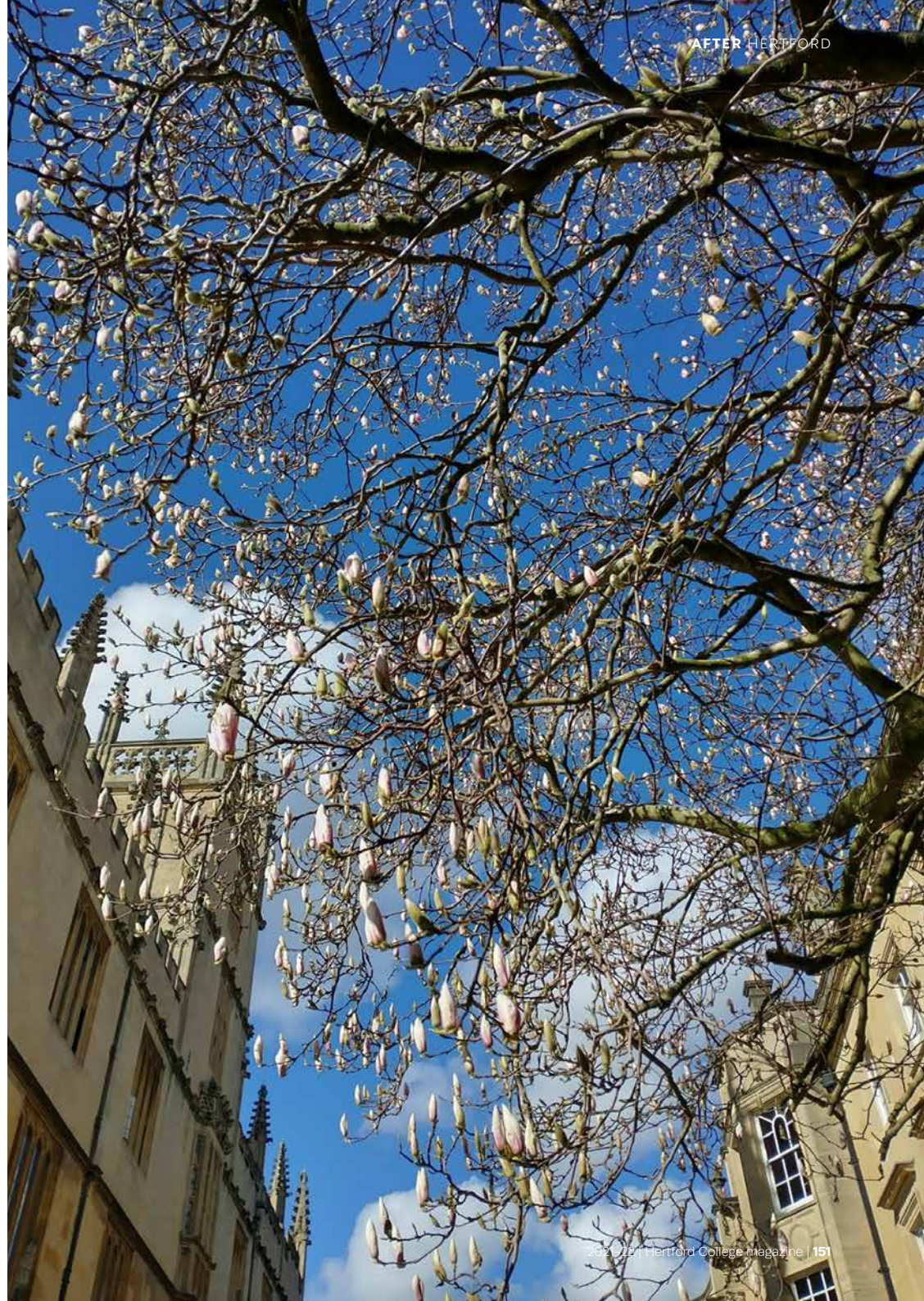
Today I can see the parallels between my relationships with Oxford and Hertford, and the Wine Circle and Blind Tasting Society. In both of the latter I found a place where I could exist without fearing judgment from the societal expectations of the former. At Hertford and in the Blind Tasting Society, I could just be my weird self. I didn't have to look or sound like everyone else, being different was fine.

Oxford is a big word that still follows me around, as it does all alumni. I won't pretend it doesn't still provide me with advantages. But having that word hover above me can feel more like a haunting sometimes, identifying me as a certain type of person. Parts of me are that person; I am privileged and smart.

But most of me is still a misfit. Except today I'm one who embraces her weirdness, a process that began when I opened my mouth and shared this Hollywood accent with 100-plus

British students during that first week at Hertford and found that it was ok because many of them had funny accents too. At Hertford we were always proud of being different from the other colleges, triumphant of staying down to earth amidst the Dreaming Spires. Inclusion and accessibility weren't words we knew back then, but they were always at the heart of Hertford.

I'm grateful and honoured to have learned these qualities during my time in college. I've kept them with me throughout my career in the notoriously elitist wine trade, striving to make wine fun and approachable for normal people. There is a place for us, the outsiders, in even the most unattainable of rooms. We carve out our corners and then we work to enlarge them for those who come after us. Hertford has always been ahead of the curve, looking forward to creating a better place for its students, and I'm proud to carry on that legacy.





ENOUGH

Nick Jefferson (Jurisprudence, 1994) writes:

Enough of pesticides. Enough of herbicides. Enough of animals pumped full of antibiotics because their living conditions mean they get sick without them. Enough of lice-ridden fish farms and their impact on wild stocks. Enough of sad little plastic trays of meat and prawns being shipped in from Indonesia.

We all deserve better.

Luckily, in the UK, 'better' is already here. It's always been here. We just somehow collectively forgot about it. Our waters brim with seafood that is the envy of the world. Our forests teem with life. Animals and fish that have lived free. Plants that have grown without chemicals.

In an age where all of us are thinking

more and more about what – and how – we eat, wild, local food has to be part of the conversation. It's ethically sound, it has the lowest of carbon footprints, it's free from any nasty additives and – just as importantly – it tastes amazing.

The challenge for lots of us has been getting hold of it. So after a lot of kvetching about the problem, I decided that I had to be part of the solution.

Gently guided by a distinctly Hertfordian advisory board (I'm looking at you Shonagh Primrose, and you too Dave Hart), our team has been creating www.wildbritishfood.com, an online marketplace where producers of wild food – the UK's fishermen, foragers and hunter-gatherers – can sell direct to folk who want to buy from them, in a way

that is mutually beneficial and mutually reinforcing.

It's been a labour of love, for sure, but huge fun. It's also made me think a lot. About food, about community, the interplay between the two, and the centrality of both to our own mental and physical wellbeing. In a polarising world, and a digital one at that, sitting down and breaking bread together is still something that – thank God – really, really matters to us *homo sapiens*. For all our gadgets and delusions of sophistication, we might not be so different from our ancestors after all.

It's truly absurd that it's easier to buy a wild Scottish langoustine in

Salamanca than it is in Oxford. And it's equally absurd that we intensively farm pigs and cattle – with all the suffering and risk to our health and theirs that this entails – when we're surrounded by over two million wild deer causing untold damage to all sorts of other British flora and fauna.

Eating sustainable wild food is an act of rebellion against those absurdities, and against the excesses of industrialised farming.

If you'd like to join that rebellion, do let me know!

www.wildbritishfood.com launches *this autumn*.

Our waters brim with seafood that is the envy of the world. Our forests teem with life. Animals and fish that have lived free. Plants that have grown without chemicals.

ALUMNI NEWS



L-R: Graham Jones (Chemistry, 1964), Emeritus Fellow Keith MacLauchlan and Andrew Turrall (Chemistry, 1964)

JULIAN WHITEHEAD (HISTORY, 1963)

Having spent a career in military intelligence, Julian Whitehead has written a number of books on 17th century espionage. More recently his books have moved to other subjects, e.g. *Cromwell and his Women*, and his latest book is broader still: *Calais, a History of England's First Colony* covering Calais in English history from 14th century to Brexit, showing its importance in the Hundred Years War and Wars of the Roses, through attempted invasions by Philip II, Louis XIV, Napoleon and Hitler, to its role in the Dunkirk evacuation and D-Day deception. Julian lives with his wife, Diana, in a village near Oxford within easy reach of the Bodleian Library

where he admits he spends far more time than as a Hertford undergraduate!

GRAHAM JONES (CHEMISTRY, 1964)

Andrew Turrall and I matriculated in 1964 to read Chemistry. At the beginning of our second year, we acquired a new Chemistry Tutor, Keith MacLauchlan. He was a new young Fellow then and continued at Hertford for the rest of his academic career. It was great to see him at the 2021 Gaudy, 56 years later. There can't be many examples of a former tutor meeting his former undergraduates, 56 years after their first encounter.

PAUL LUSK (PPE, 1966)

I am continuing, following my book *The Jesus Candidate* (2017), to write on legal cases brought alleging 'persecution' of religious believers in the UK, and the religious right thinking underpinning some of these. My next book has been accepted for publication in 2024 – *Democracy After Christendom* is based on the idea that modern democracy arises from the dissolution of Christendom, starting in parallel transatlantic movements in the seventeenth century, and raises the question of whether and how democracy can survive the conclusion of this process. I am more and more conscious of how my thinking is shaped (for better or worse!) by PPE at Hertford.

BRYAN MASSINGHAM (GEOGRAPHY, 1972)

Congratulations to Bryan Massingham and his wife, Rosie, both of whom were awarded the British Empire Medal for services to education, charitable work, and local community support in Northern Thailand. Bryan and Rosie are the co-owners and managers of the Maekok River Village Outdoor Education Centre, which provides high quality programmes for students and teachers from around the world.



GRAHAM KINGS (THEOLOGY, 1973)

The Rt Revd Dr Graham Kings retired to Cambridge in 2020 and is Hon Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Ely and Research Associate at the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide (CCCW).

He studied at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Utrecht and was an Hon Fellow of Durham University 2015-2018, while serving as Mission Theologian in the Anglican Communion.

Previously, he was Bishop of Sherborne, Vicar of Islington, founding Director of the CCCW, Vice Principal of St Andrew's College, Kabare, Kenya, and Curate at St Mark's Harlesden, London.

His latest books are: *Nourishing Connections: Collected Poems* (Canterbury Press, 2020); *Nourishing Mission: Theological Settings* (Brill, 2022); and *Exchange of Gifts: The Vision of Simon Barrington-Ward* (Ekklesia, 2022), co-edited with Ian Randall.

ANDREW LEONARD (PHYSICS, 1974)

Congratulations to Andrew Leonard and his wife, Caroline (St Catherine's College, 1976), who celebrated their belated ruby wedding anniversary in July 2022. Andrew and Caroline were married in the Hertford chapel 42 years ago, and we were delighted to welcome them back to celebrate with family and friends.

Andrew Leonard (Physics, 1974) and his wife Caroline celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary, a couple of years late

JANET MACKINNON (ENGLISH, 1980)

Janet Mackinnon (English 1980) is currently putting together a series of articles for the British Association of Nature Conservationists online journal ECOS. Entitled *Conflict, Post-Colonialism and Conservation*, the series examines international challenges for large scale nature conservation and recovery in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-30. Beginning in Ukraine and bordering countries, case studies review the immediate effects of war and potential longer-term impacts on transboundary projects. A subsequent article considers recent historical "decolonisation" of conservation programmes in the UK Overseas Territories, which represent over 90% of biodiversity for which the UK government has responsibility. There are also plans for the series to visit different Commonwealth nations, including Australia where land stewardship by Indigenous communities is of growing importance for future management of the natural environment. Alongside narratives from various regions of the world, it is hoped the article series will explore more general roles for conservation geopolitics in both international peacebuilding and the promotion of nature positive sustainable

development. As part of her work, Janet has connected with previous and current members of Hertford College and always values such opportunities.

CALVIN CHENG (PPE, 1995)

Advised by fellow alum Cameron Crawford (Jurisprudence, 1995), Calvin has launched Calvin Cheng Web3 Holdings, the first fully-regulated NFT investment holding company in Dubai. The company will invest in NFT projects that integrate blockchain technology into fashion, media and entertainment.

BRIDGET PHILLIPSON (HISTORY AND MODERN LANGUAGES, 2002)

Bridget was appointed Shadow Education Secretary in November 2021

CHARLOTTE CORDEROY (MUSIC, 2017)

Recent graduate and former Organ Scholar Charlotte Corderoy has been chosen to take part in the Royal Philharmonic Society's inaugural Women Conductors (WoCo) training programme.

OBITUARIES

We record with regret the deaths of the following Hertfordians, listed in order of the dates of matriculation. Use of an asterisk (*) indicates that an obituary follows; we are most grateful to those who have supplied this material.

This year we have also included an obituary of Lord Greaves, whose death was recorded in the previous edition.

EMERITUS FELLOWS

Gerald Stone *
Antony Cockshut *
Rebecca Sitsapesan *

1943

Reginald Fair

1944

Philip McKearney

1948

Steward Richards
Patrick Jackson-Feilden

1949

Timothy Wood
Anthony Hardy

1950

Norman Hart

1952

Michael Harris

1953

Michael Williams

1955

Richard Jeffries
John Harding

1956

Deryke Belshaw
Peter Twining

1958

Richard Hill Brown *

1960

Thomas Addiscott *

1962

Neville Gaffin
William Philips

1963

Eric Evans

1969

Colin Berry
David Marsden

1970

Stephen Davies
Peter Strickland *
John Wells *

1971

John Porter
David Worskett *

1972

Mark Shingler *

1973

Simon Barker

1981

Peter Haslett

1990

Mark Schofield

1998

Thomas Ralis

2014

Hannah Lovell *

2019

Victor Altherr

GERALD STONE

Gerry came from Nottingham to Hertford as University Lecturer in non-Russian Slavonic Languages in 1972, and his first book was published in that year, *The Smallest Slavonic Nation: the Sorbs of Lusatia* (London). A steady output of solid research and publication brought his election in 1992 to the Linguistics and Philology Section of the British Academy. Retirement appeared not to reduce his enthusiasm, and the list of his publications culminated in *Slav Outposts in Central European History: the Wends, Sorbs and Kashubs* (London/New York, 2016).

Not many undergraduates combined Russian with Latin or Classical Greek, so we had few pupils in common. But I got to know Gerry much better after I sought his help when I was invited

to lecture in Poland in the late 1980s. The initiative came from the Classics department in Poznan, but colleagues in Torun, Krakow, and Warsaw were also involved. Poland seemed very remote in those days; pessimistically I imagined that I might find myself marooned in a maze of tower blocks and at a loss for a common language in which I might seek help. (This gloomy vision was quite unfair to my hosts; there was never any danger that I might get lost and Polish classicists, not fluent in English, were happy enough with German.)

I asked Gerry if he could recommend an elementary Polish textbook. Happily he had actually published one quite recently. He would also run a Beginners' Polish class weekly in Trinity Term, at which I would be welcome though it was intended primarily for undergraduates reading Russian. Gerry enlivened elementary language instruction with a wide range of curious information, bringing out the intrinsic interest of what might too easily be dismissed as an outmoded preoccupation with grammar. Thus, knowing that my itinerary would involve much train travel, he urged me to pay particular attention to the form of address used by ticket inspectors and other railway officials: was it the more formal third person or the matey second, better suited to a Socialist state? Basic as my Polish was, friendships formed on that visit proved extremely durable.

The importance of hospitality in cementing intellectual contacts may be generally appreciated in theory but not many academic couples put it into practice as successfully as Gerry and Vera. Among many enjoyable evenings it's a particular pleasure to recall one when Russian, Polish, German, and Sorbian were all to be heard. There were two Sorbian speakers, one a priest on holiday from Germany, who regularly

celebrated Mass in his mother tongue for his elderly parishioners, while the other, raised in an anglophone environment, had been unable to put a name to the language which his parents spoke until Gerry identified it for him.

Reflection on languages might be expected to conduce to melancholy. Perhaps the skill and energy with which Gerry maintained his garden provided an antidote: as Kipling said, 'the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye'.

With thanks to Professor Stephanie West

ANTHONY COCKSHUT

Born in London, Anthony O. J. Cockshut (1927-2021) was a scholar at Winchester College and came to New College, Oxford in 1945 to read Greats, changing to English when he arrived. As he later described, 1945 was a unique year for Oxford Freshers. 'Suddenly the streets were full of war veterans, some of whom had reached the rank of major or colonel', mingled with 'boys straight from school (of whom I was one), who had moved in a few weeks from positions of authority at school' – a memory taken from one of Tony's last publications, a personal and intellectual memoir of C. S. Lewis in post-war Oxford (*Journal of Inklings Studies*, 2016).

After graduating, Tony went straight into military service (then compulsory), returning to Balliol College from 1950-1954 as the Andrew Bradley Fellow. After a few years teaching at Manchester Grammar School, he was appointed the first G.M. Young Lecturer in nineteenth-century English literature at Oxford in 1966, concurrently taking up a fellowship at Hertford. He was thus one of the small number of fellows participating in a time of great change at the college,

with the Tanner admissions initiative bringing generations of state-school boys (and from 1974 state-school girls) to Hertford, precipitating a sharp rise in academic standards.

In the early 1950s, the Oxford English undergraduate syllabus had finally extended beyond 1830 to include the Victorians, and Tony devoted both teaching and research to this period throughout his career. At a time when erudite and distinguished scholars in the humanities often published very little, he was astonishingly prolific, and his two books on biography and autobiography (*Truth to life: the art of biography in the nineteenth century*, 1974, and *The art of autobiography in 19th and 20th century England*, 1984) presciently anticipated the role such works play in literary studies today. Numerous other studies of Victorian literature, philosophy, and religion appeared alongside these books, including an edition of Ruskin's autobiography, *Praeterita* (1994), as well as works on Dickens, Trollope, and Ruskin.

While an undergraduate, Tony converted to Catholicism, and his faith dominated every aspect of his life. He was an intellectual through and through, continuing to read Greek tragedies and Dante in their respective original languages well beyond his retirement in 1995. In 1952 he married Gillian Avery (1926-2016), the well-known children's novelist and historian of childhood education and children's literature.

As Tony's colleagues remember, he was a lifelong test cricket fanatic and could quote scores accurately many years later. His family add that he thrived on clever talk but was utterly useless with his hands – and drank large amounts of very strong tea.

With thanks to Professor Charlotte Brewer

REBECCA SITSAPESAN

Rebecca Sitsapesan was an undergraduate in Pharmacology at the University of Aberdeen, before moving to Leeds where she read for an MSc in Cardiovascular Sciences, followed by a PhD at the University of Strathclyde. After post-doctoral studies in cardiology at Charing Cross and Glasgow, she moved to The National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College, London. Here Rebecca was part of a world-leading centre for the study of ryanodine receptors (RyRs), the major mechanism for releasing calcium in heart cells and controlling their ability to contract.

In 2001 Rebecca moved to the University of Bristol, at first as a Lecturer, then Reader, and finally as a Professor of Pharmacology before coming to Oxford in 2013 to join the Department of Pharmacology and taking up a Tutorial Fellowship in Medicine at Hertford College. At Oxford, Rebecca continued to champion the challenging technique of single channel recording, and she was recognised nationally and internationally for her work on the ryanodine receptor. Mutations in this channel are associated with sudden cardiac death.

In addition to leading an active research laboratory Rebecca was admired by all those members of college who worked closely with her. Louise Wing (Hertford Lecturer in Anatomy) summed this up well when she wrote to me, 'Rebecca was such a lovely, kind person and a formidable tutor.'

Rebecca was a great tutor much loved by our medical students. One of many Hertford medical students who wrote to me following news of Rebecca's death was Amelia Bowman (2017) who wrote, 'I am very saddened to hear of Professor Sitsapesan's passing. She'll be greatly

missed. It was only a few weeks ago that I was telling the current first years about what an amazing pharmacology tutor she was, and how lucky we were.

'As a tutor, Professor Sitsapesan was so organised yet thoughtful. Her door was always open, and she made sure we got through our exams. I wish there was some way to repay the kindness she showed me throughout preclinical school.'

For me personally, Rebecca Sitsapesan was the best of colleagues, a good friend, and the nicest person you could wish to meet. I am going to miss her greatly.

With thanks to Professor David Greaves

RICHARD HILL BROWN (MODERN HISTORY, 1958)

Richard, born in Swanage, Dorset, went up to Oxford to study Modern History after completing his National Service. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at Hertford; the friendships he made that lasted a lifetime, rowing in the college First VIII and the many opportunities for making music and singing that college life gave him.

After completing an MA in North Carolina, he began his career teaching history in secondary schools – first in Belfast, then in East London. After marrying he settled in Portsmouth and became Head of History in a local school.

He led a full life in retirement, becoming the local British Legion poppy appeal organiser for nearly 20 years, Navy Cadet unit leader, volunteer reader at a primary school, an active member of the local branch of the Historical Association, and a member of choirs and walking groups.

He led an active life until the very end;

he said he had had a good life and felt lucky for all the wonderful experiences he had had and the lovely people he had known. He died after a short, unexpected illness and leaves a wife, two children and a granddaughter. He had asked one of his best friends from Hertford, Michael Brignall (Mathematics, 1958), to conduct his funeral service.

With thanks to Richard's son, Jonathan

TOM ADDISCOTT (CHEMISTRY, 1960)

Tom Addiscott's years at Hertford (1960-63) will be recalled for his diligent studies, his oarsmanship, his wry humour, and, by those with whom he shared accommodation, the homemade socks which he always had in plenty. He developed his lifelong interests in science, music, and religion, and trained with the college Boat Club when others were still in bed.

Tom was born in Hertfordshire in 1942 and attended Berkhamsted School. After graduating he spent a year as a volunteer in Tanzania prompting a lifelong interest in African farming.

In 1966, Tom started a long career at Rothamsted, the agricultural research organisation, completing a PhD in 1973. There he developed some of the first computer models for the leaching of nitrate and phosphate from soil. His work laid the foundations for much of the current environmental computer modelling of the movement of water, nutrients and pollutants. He shared his expertise at many international gatherings. The Prince of Wales presented him with the gold medal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 1991. He was appointed a visiting professor at the University of East London in 1997 and awarded an Oxford DSc in 1999. He retired in 2002.

It is remarkable that most of this was accomplished after he had been diagnosed with a glioma, a type of brain tumour, in 1974. The necessary surgery and high doses of radiotherapy saved his life but much later caused increasing problems. He showed great courage and never complained. He spent his final years at Verulam House in St Albans where, despite the COVID restrictions, he was visited regularly by his wife Sally, his daughter Catherine, her family, and friends from Rothamsted, and the church in Harpenden where he had served as a lay reader for many years.

Tom will be remembered with enormous respect for his loyal and caring friendships, his pioneering career and his fortitude throughout his ill health. He will be missed with great sadness especially by those who so much enjoyed his distinctive and distinguished company at Hertford, in Hertfordshire and in many places elsewhere.

With thanks to David Smith (Chemistry, 1960)

LORD (TONY) GREAVES (GEOGRAPHY, 1960)

Tony and another student from Wakefield grammar school both came up in the same year as I did. In that year about half of all students arriving were from the state system, due in part to Neil Tanner's outreach endeavour and because there were then the grammar schools to give state educated children the strong academic background needed to enter Oxbridge.

He was already interested in the radical politics of Jo Grimond's Liberal party, and when the Orpington by-election was called I suggested he came on a day's campaigning. He was a bit reluctant at first, as he was not sure

how a northern lad would go down in a leafy London suburb. But he did go and enjoyed his day very much. It gave him a love of campaigning. That Liberal victory was much celebrated at the time, and set in motion the revival of the Liberal party at national level.

After he graduated and took on a teaching job in Lancashire, it was natural for him to start campaigning locally. This was an area of totally moribund Labour lands but with a strong radical non-conformist tradition, so success came quickly at this local level. At the time the Liberals had only 250 or so councillors in the whole country, and Liberal hopes focused on lucky parliamentary by-election success. However, his success at local level soon gained traction across the country, leading to a huge increase in Liberal party support at local grass-root level, with thousands of councillors giving rise to subsequent success at parliamentary level. This rise of party politics by all parties at local governmental level was not welcomed by traditionalists, but is now firmly established across the whole country, and Tony and the Liberal party led the way in this movement.

He was famous for his outspoken radical views and his drive for local involvement and campaigning on local issues. As such, he was often regarded as disruptive and difficult by party leaders, but nobody doubted his sincerity. He was elected to Colne Valley council, then Pendle and Lancashire county council. He was very doubtful about working with David Owen's new party but served on the merger negotiations that gave rise to the new Liberal Democrats as a combined centre-left party.

Later he was nominated by the party membership to be one of the People's Peers in 2000. As a working peer he was very active in the Lords, where

he campaigned over the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. He also had a strong interest in the moors and wild places, and found himself sometimes in alliance with the most aristocratic land-owning members of the House. He was still very active at the time of his death.

He died suddenly at home from heart failure, and is survived by his wife Heather and daughters Vicky and Helen.

With thanks to Jeremy Good (DPHIL Physics, 1960)

PETER STRICKLAND (ENGLISH, 1970)

Peter was born 3 March 1952 and died 2 January 2022. He grew up in York, attending Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School, founded in 1546. Peter was their first pupil to win an Oxbridge scholarship. He was Bible Clerk 1971-1972.

After graduating, Peter joined the then recently established Post Office as a trainee graduate in the Procurement Department and thereafter had a long and successful career with what became British Telecom. This included assisting in the purchase and installation of submarine fibre optic cables across the Atlantic, North Sea and Mediterranean. He later worked for BT's Regulatory Advisory Department, speaking at several international conferences.

During his working life, Peter pursued qualifications in Ancient History and Classical Greek, as well as being awarded an MBA by the Open University. His continued passion for English Literature was particularly evident as a tutor for the Workers' Educational Association in North London, Chelmsford and Colchester which continued after he retired. Peter taught a variety of topics including Dante's *Divine Comedy*, the

Diary of Samuel Pepys, plays by William Shakespeare, and novels by Walter Scott and Charles Dickens, while the romantic poets, as well as the works of Seamus Heaney, TS Eliot, Philip Larkin and WH Auden were arguably his favourites.

Peter's other interests were equally extensive. He was an active member of the Labour Party and Chairman of CND when living in Ilford. Peter enjoyed visits to the ancient sites of classical Greece, walking Hadrian's Wall, and parts of the Yorkshire Moors and Snowdonia. He maintained his membership of Duxford Air Museum and was a keen supporter of the Shuttleworth Collection, especially its aeronautical exhibits. In later life, Peter became proficient in playing the flute and was a Server at Chelmsford Cathedral.

Peter died as a result of the effects of Alzheimer's Disease, leaving behind his wife, Liz, and sons, George and William. They remember him for his love of learning, never being without a book in his hand, generous nature, constant interest in what they were doing, and his determined (if not necessarily always successful) efforts at skiing in the French Alps. Peter has left a strong and memorable legacy to his family and all who knew him.

With thanks to Peter's widow, Liz Strickland

JOHN WELLS (PHYSICS, 1970)

Much loved by friends and family, John passed away aged 70 on 3 December 2021.

Born in Essex, the elder of two brothers, he grew up in Leigh-on-Sea. After studying hard at Westcliff High School for Boys, he achieved 11 stunning O-levels and 4 Grade A A-levels leading him to be the first in the family to go

to university. He studied Physics as an undergraduate at Hertford College.

At Oxford, John made new, life-long friends and obtained a First at the end of his first year; as a result he was awarded a scholarship. After graduating he moved onto Wolfson College, obtaining a doctorate in Particle Physics.

John had two spells in London colleges and one at Glasgow. He also worked at CERN in Geneva whilst building up associations with many Oxford colleges, including Sommerville where he became a college lecturer.

When twenty-one, John severely injured his back resulting in his first spinal operation. His treatment led to some contrast dye (Myodil, Iofendylate) being left in his back, causing arachnoiditis. Consequently, he lived with extreme pain and limited control over his legs. By the age of 35 he had to take early retirement. He was understandably very frustrated by the pain and became dependant on morphine.

John settled into a life of retirement, though he continued to supervise many Oxford Physics students, which he loved doing. He showed immense grit, courage, and determination to deal with his health issues and have as normal a life as he could. He swam regularly and gained new interests, including history and archaeology. He was an eccentric man with a large 'O' scale model railway, which he ran into his garden and through holes in internal walls between rooms. His much-loved Siamese cats and visitors were thoroughly entertained by this.

John was a very caring and kind person, who would go out of his way to help people with their problems. He had multiple Godchildren and was well-known in his neighbourhood, especially following him chaining himself to a tree to stop it being cut down. He was

active in his work for disabled charities and relentlessly wrote to combat issues experienced by the disabled.

As John moved into his 60s, life became even more challenging. He developed sarcoidosis, an auto-immune disease. Sadly, this rendered him blind.

A wonderful man, who is much missed by friends, neighbours, and family, including his brother Stephen, sister-in-law Sheida, and niece.

With thanks to John's niece, Fiona Wells.

DAVID WORSKETT (ENGLISH, 1971)

David Hallows Worskett was born in Antwerp on 5 May 1952, the son of Laurence and Mary. He attended Bradfield College and studied English Language and Literature at Hertford College, Oxford. Upon graduating, David joined the Home Civil Service and worked in the Departments of the Environment and Transport for 15 years, contributing to areas including transport policy, international aviation negotiations, representation of the UK in the EU, and road safety. He was posted briefly to Hong Kong before returning to the UK and marrying Pamela in 1981, a partnership that would last 41 years.

David left the Civil Service in 1989 joining the old RAC Group as its Corporate and Public Affairs Director. He was instrumental in ensuring that the RAC, ahead of almost the entire motor industry, took environmental issues seriously and sought to address them. He established the RAC Foundation primarily for that purpose and remained a Trustee for many years.

Upon the Group's break-up, David led a Government backed review into the governance and future strategy for the

UK Engineering sector before heading the Engineering and Technology Board as its start-up Chief Executive. In 2001, he assumed the role of Commercial Director at the law firm Bevan Ashford, ultimately restructuring the business and forming Bevan Brittan LLP. He remained on its board as a non-Executive Director for a further three years following his departure in 2007.

David's final executive role was as Chief Executive of the NHS Partners Network, the trade association for private healthcare companies working in the NHS. During his tenure he steered the sector through one of the most fraught periods in NHS history, gaining the confidence and trust of senior leaders in the NHS and private healthcare sectors in the process.

Upon his retirement in 2013, David continued to contribute via numerous non-executive roles, as well as becoming the founding chair of the Association of Dental Groups which grew into a major force under his watch. He later became heavily involved in CPRE Avon and Bristol and Iford Arts (now If Opera), indulging his lifelong passions for the countryside and opera up until his death.

David's successful and varied career was characterised by a desire to contribute to issues he felt mattered. He did so with good humour and generosity of spirit, combining a sharp intellect with an appreciation for common sense. This was complemented by a loving and fulfilled family life. Outside of work he enjoyed walking his beloved border collies, riding, and sharing his enthusiasm for good wine, literature, and classical music – particularly Wagner. David is survived by his wife, Pamela, and his children, Louisa and Hugh.

With thanks to David's son, Hugh Worskett

MARK SHINGLER (ENGLISH, 1972)

Mark was a Tanner boy who always remembered Hertford with great affection, not least because he met his wife Cathy there. They had two children, Tom and Polly. He spent all his working life at Josiah Wedgwood & Sons in Barlaston, Staffordshire, and retired in 2009.

With thanks to Cathy Shingler (English, 1974)

HANNAH LOVELL (GEOGRAPHY, 2014)

Our dear friend Hannah passed away from unexplained cardiac arrest in the early hours of 22 December 2021. Her spectacular personality is almost impossible to sum up in words, but in honour of her own eloquence – and given her unfaltering friendship – I owe her at least a try.

Born and raised in South West London, Hannah grew up in a warm, loving, and boisterous family environment, with her parents, Dee and Howard, and her siblings, Nick and Izzy. Hannah was always acknowledged as the 'engine' of the family with her insatiable energy and appetite for life, and she combined this with an enormous capacity for kindness and compassion. Hannah really cared about people and, from a very young age, would do whatever it took to support and help them. Just last year, on the way home from a very late night out, Hannah came across somebody who had collapsed, and stayed with him for an hour until an ambulance arrived.

Hannah arrived at Hertford from St Paul's Girls' School in 2014 to read Geography, a subject she loved and was immensely passionate about. At university, she had an impressive talent for balancing her thriving social life



with exceptional academic work. She graduated with a First-class degree, and her undergraduate dissertation – *Implicit influence on body image: methodological innovation for research into embodied experience* – was subsequently published in *Qualitative Research*, a testament to her intellectual calibre and industrious attitude.

Hannah was the life of the party and – as we found out over the years – strangely gifted at limbo. She made you feel like you were all that mattered when you spent time with her, and loved nothing more than a night out laughing and dancing with friends and family. Despite her many friends, she was independent to the core and often ventured off on solo adventures of self-discovery. She was incredibly courageous in all aspects of life, both within herself and through her many accomplishments.

Exploring the world was incredibly important to Hannah, and after graduation in 2017 we visited Central America for a post-Finals wind-down. On reflection this location was not actually that suitable given her fair complexion, and she spent many a day hiding from the sun under a mass of white linen shirts and factor 50 sun cream. There, she swam with sharks on the Belize Barrier Reef, explored the ancient Mayan ruins of Tikal, and leapt from a subterranean waterfall into the gloomy waters of the Kanba Caves. She also successfully summited the 13,041 ft Acatenango volcano in Guatemala, where she beat us to the top to watch the sun rise against the backdrop of its active and lava-spewing neighbour, Volcan de Fuego. Further trips to Australia, New Zealand, South East Asia and Brazil saw Hannah skydive, drive the Great Ocean Road, and create a huge network of friends across the

world.

Hannah started her career working as a strategy consultant at Monitor Deloitte and, as of early December last year, was embarking on a new chapter to improve healthcare outcomes across society with Synetic Life Sciences, a specialist consultancy. Her ambition knew no bounds and she was driven to leave a positive imprint on the world.

In her 26 years, Hannah undoubtedly packed a lot in, as was to be expected given her fiercely motivated character. At home in London, or at her family home in East Sussex, Hannah could be found wrestling with her cat, or spending quality time with those that meant the most to her – often with a G&T in hand. She spent many a weekend at Lord's, Twickenham, or Rosslyn Park, found time to read novels when she could, and loved to host a dinner party. How she balanced it all is beyond me, but we can take solace in the fact that she truly made the most of what life can offer.

Hannah will be greatly missed, most notably by her family but truly by all who knew her. Her passing has devastated us all, but it is a blessing to have known her and spent so many happy times together. For all of the many billions of people that have ever graced this earth, we can count ourselves lucky to have known and loved Hannah.

With thanks to Chloe Frampton (Geography, 2014)

