

Issue 32 | Trinity Term 2023

# Brazen *Notes*



# Prof. Sleep And The Immutable Body Clock

**Rory Cellan-Jones** and **Professor Russell Foster** spend some time catching up on sleep.

At a dinner at Brasenose College a few months ago I was telling my neighbour about my battle against insomnia and my interest in finding out more about the subject, from a professional as well as a personal point of view. He told me he knew just the man to help me – another fellow of the college was actually the Oxford Professor of Sleep.

A likely story, I thought, draining a glass of port and a coffee and munching one more chocolate truffle before tottering off to another broken night in which I barely got four hours sleep. Come on, Oxford may have professors of everything from Artificial Intelligence to Ancient Greek but surely sleep was not a subject worthy of a Chair? How wrong I was. It turns out that sleep, how it works, and what happens when we are deprived of it, is an area where science is making big advances and Oxford's Professor Russell Foster is one of the world's leading authorities.

His title is in fact Professor of Circadian Neuroscience and his work has been all about showing the vital role played in every aspect of our physical and mental health by circadian rhythms – our internal body clock. His new book *Life Time: The New Science of the Body Clock and How It Can Revolutionise Your Sleep and Health* is an enthralling combination of scholarly treatise, personal memoir and layman's guide to living and sleeping better.

I learned a lot from the book, not least that my Oxford dinner of rich food, alcohol and coffee was a recipe for a bad night's sleep. A chapter on metabolism quotes a 12th century sage – 'Eat like a king in the morning, a prince at noon, and a peasant at dinner.' But Professor Foster says all sorts of factors have pushed the major sugar-rich meal of the day to the mid to late evening: 'If you were designing a schedule to be particularly bad for our circadian regulated metabolism this would be it.'

When we met on a video call, his passion for his science and his mission to get politicians and the public to take seriously its implications shone through. Here are some extracts from our conversation:



A star is born! Rory Cellan-Jones with #sophiefromromania

**Rory Cellan-Jones** is a technology correspondent with a keen interest in healthcare innovations. He is married to economist and Brasenose Honorary Fellow **Dame Diane Coyle DBE (PPE, 1978)**, and together they are guardians of the social media sensation known as #sophiefromromania. This article was originally published through Rory's *Always On* newsletter <https://rorycellanjones.substack.com>

**RCJ: Explain why circadian rhythms are so important.**

RF: Circadian systems are embedded within every aspect of our biology, whether it be an immune function, metabolism, memory consolidation, processing of information; it's all being modulated by this internal clock.

**RCJ: You had this big breakthrough, which kind of proved how tied up we were with light by finding this other kind of light monitor within the body. It involved an experiment with blind mice. Tell us about that.**

RF: What the Circadian system needs is an overall measure of the amount of light in the environment at dawn and dusk over long periods of time, and I couldn't see how the visual system, which was a sort of a 'grab and forget' sensory system could also measure light intensity for the clock.

We started with very simple experiments, using mice with hereditary retinal disorders. They had lost their visual cells, their rods and cones, and we then looked at their ability to regulate their clock by light, and it was unaffected. It was quite breathtaking, these animals with visual blindness but no diminished capacity to regulate their clocks by light.

**RCJ: And you got some pushback at a conference in the United States?**

RF: I said these animals are visually blind, but not clock blind, and our tentative conclusion is that there's a third photoreceptor within the eye, different from the visual cells, the rods and cones. Somebody stood up and shouted 'Bullshit!'



**RCJ: You talk a lot in the book about something called SCRD – Sleep and Circadian Rhythm Disruption – and its damaging effects. Explain why it's so important.**

RF: We have, as a society, tended to marginalise sleep. The 80s perhaps was the low point when people would come in and say 'I did another all-nighter.' Well, you know, well done – you're vanquishing this illness that needs a cure, sleep.

But what's happened of course since the 80s, primarily over the past 20 years, has been the realisation of the importance of sleep and, if you don't get it, what are the consequences?

We can think of the consequences of poor sleeping in three domains. One is our emotional responses, another would be cognitive responses, and the third would be our long term physiological and behavioural health.

**RCJ: You mention MPs at one point in the book – might they have more empathy if they had better sleep?**

RF: I think that's right, they'd also be less impulsive, they'd less be inclined to take risks. There's one beautiful study showing that the tired brain has what's called a negative salience. It remembers the negative experiences, but forgets the positive ones. And so therefore, by remembering the negative stuff, your whole worldview, and therefore your decision-making processes, are based upon the negative experiences that dominate over positive ones.

**RCJ: How much sleep is enough?**

RF: Sleep is genuinely like shoe size: one size does not fit all. And so in the healthy population, the sleep range can go from six hours to nine or 10 hours – outside that there are likely to be problems but that is the range. It's not rocket science. I mean, how do you know if you're getting enough sleep? Well, are you able to perform at the level you want to perform during the day? Are you able to work at the level that you feel is optimal? There are other guidelines. Do you need an alarm clock to wake you? Are you irritable? Do you feel fatigued? Do you crave a nap during the day? Do you find yourself doing unreflective impulsive behaviours? Do you crave caffeine

and sugar rich drinks, and do your friends, family and colleagues talk about increased irritability, loss of empathy, or you being more disinhibited? Now, if it's yes to those then okay, I'm not getting the sleep I need.

**RCJ: You do some mythbusting in the book. There's been a lot of talk about blue light from the screens of smartphones and other devices stopping people getting a good night's sleep – but you say the light isn't the real problem?**

RF: These devices allow you to constantly switch between catch up radio, news events, Twitter, emails, and they are very, very alerting. And so I would not advise using these devices 30 minutes before trying to get to sleep because of the brain alerting effects, rather than the light effects. But for some people, a Kindle could be a very relaxing way of getting off to sleep.

**RCJ: You feel so strongly about sleep, you seem to be convinced that we almost need to put it on the national curriculum – it's that important?**

RF: It's 30% of our biology, you know, and we don't arm either our young people, our workforce, frontline staff, even our medical students with the importance of this biology. It is, I think, breathtaking. I think the low hanging fruit would be to introduce basic sleep education into the

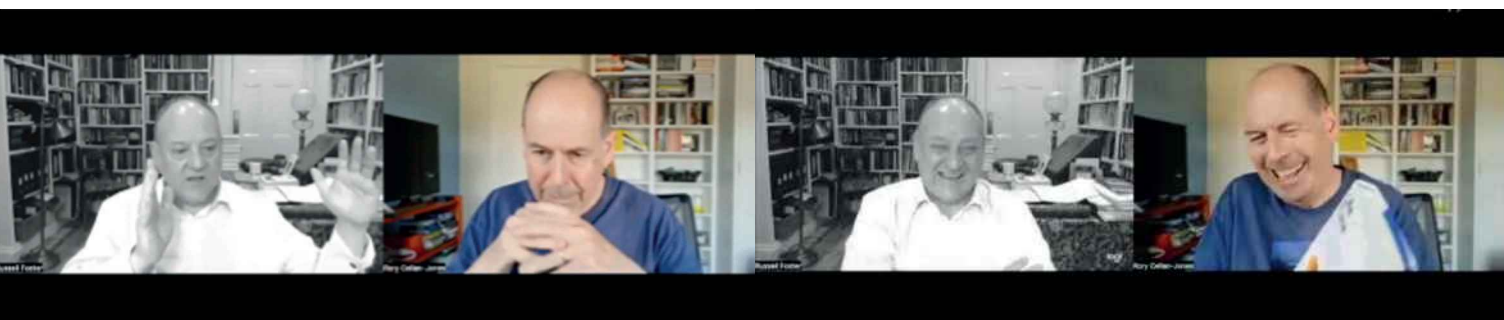
schools as part of the national curriculum to arm the kids not only for now – and the data are very clear in terms of improved grades, reduced self-harm, reduced truancy, reduced depression – but it also arms them with this information as they age as well.

There's no education for night shift workers generally explaining how this will affect their health, not only them but also their partners. The divorce rate is sometimes six times higher in some groups during the night shift versus the day shift. And the partners need to know that it's not that the wonderful person that they married earlier in their life has turned into a monster. These are the consequences of driving our biology outside of its normal physiological range.

You can watch the original interview in full via this shortcut to Rory's online newsletter: [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/sleep](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/sleep)



*Professor Foster does not restrict his studies to Earth-native species.*



# Welfare Provision For Students At Brasenose

Students come to Brasenose from a wide variety of backgrounds and there are many issues they might experience during their years studying here. The wellbeing of students is a serious concern of the College, and Brasenose has an extensive Welfare Team in place whose aim is to address problems promptly and to provide help. In these pages we look at some of those involved in providing frontline support.

## Chaplain: The Revd David Sheen

### How are you finding the Brasenose experience and being in Oxford?

I am settling well into both the College and the city. I had some earlier experience of the University of Oxford as a part-time DPhil student, something which is ongoing alongside my work as the College Chaplain. Oxford is a vibrant and engaging place to live, and the College is a welcoming and friendly place to work.

### Having already been a university chaplain, you will be familiar with the welfare needs of an educational community; do you see any major differences being here at Brasenose compared with your time at Cardiff?

Yes, indeed. Having worked for nine years as one of the chaplains at Cardiff University I have experience of working with a wide range of students seeking support for a variety of pastoral and welfare concerns. Part of the attraction of working in Brasenose is being an integral part of a smaller community where I can get to know everyone and everyone can get to know me. In some ways it's more like being the parish priest of a village rather than a large town.

### How does the role of Chaplain fit in with the overall welfare team?

I believe it fits in well, after all chaplaincy is in many ways the root of welfare, and a holistic approach that considers the care and wellbeing of the body, mind, and spirit. This is especially true when one considers the origins of many Oxford colleges.

### Is it challenging to balance your religious duties with the other elements of the role?

I suppose my answer is both yes and no. On the one hand, there is the daily challenge of time management. On the other hand, priestly ministry is a vocation. Being a chaplain is not about career but service, and whilst there is a clear separation of roles between the different aspects of chapel and welfare, I try to live an integrated life.

### Brasenose is known as a friendly and inclusive place; how do you and the team go about ensuring that people from a wide variety of backgrounds, and those of all faiths (and none) feel comfortable and welcome?

The College is a genuinely warm and welcoming place and a lot of that is about good positive relationships within the team and with students. Strategy, though important, only gets you so far. What is vital is having integrity and maintaining good relationships, good communication, and being present and available to all members of the community. As the community changes year to year, it is about keeping the message and practice of welcome to all at the forefront.



### I believe you spent some years as a physiotherapist; can you tell us a little about that, and how you eventually changed direction to become a chaplain?

It's some time ago now, I've been ordained for 18 years, but before ordination, my first degree and profession was Physiotherapy. I worked for several years in the NHS in Coventry, Cardiff, and Newport. When I was a physiotherapy student in the early 1990s, one of my special interests was HIV/AIDS which back then was still very much a life limiting illness, and I did my elective placement in London, and my final year research dissertation in that area,

something which brought me into contact with a rich variety of people from different backgrounds. I mention this because some people think that clergy don't get out a lot, but for myself and most of my ordained friends, there are very few situations and conditions of life that we have not come across. Physiotherapy practice, like priestly ministry, is very much people orientated. We first encounter each other as human beings, something that unites us all.

### You are also studying for a doctoral degree?

For the next year or two, much of my spare time will of necessity be spent writing my doctoral thesis. My research focus is a nineteenth century American Episcopal priest who was active around New York City. Last spring, after a long wait due to the pandemic, I was finally able to have a few weeks in New York to visit my primary archives, though my daughter is still not fully persuaded that my visit constituted work!

### What are your main interests when you have spare time?

I enjoy holidays with my family, and we all enjoy long walks with our dog. I'm also a keen runner and it's great discovering new running routes all around the city – I particularly enjoy running along the Oxford Canal which is beautiful and peaceful. I'm keen, perhaps unsurprisingly, on visiting churches, of which Oxford has an abundance.

**The Lodge** For students living in College accommodation, the Lodge is often the first point of contact and is staffed 24/7. The Porters aim to create a safe and welcoming environment. They tend to know the students well and will refer onwards to members of the welfare team as appropriate. Brasenose is part of a 'Safe Haven' scheme that provides a line of communication between College Porters in Oxford, so that any student in distress can enter the nearest college Lodge. The student's home college will be contacted, and they will undertake any further action necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of the student.

The current Welfare Team includes:

**Dean** (the welfare lead)

**Chaplain**

**Diversity and Equality and Harassment Officer**

**Tutor for Graduates and Senior Tutor**

**Domestic Bursar**

**Domestic and Academic Disability Leads and Officers**

**Sub Dean**

**Junior Deans**

**College Nurse**

**Student Support Adviser** (Counsellor)

There are also a number of student reps who interact with the College's Welfare Team:

**HCR Welfare Reps**

**HCR Equalities & Diversity Officer**

**HCR Women's Rep**

**JCR Welfare Reps**

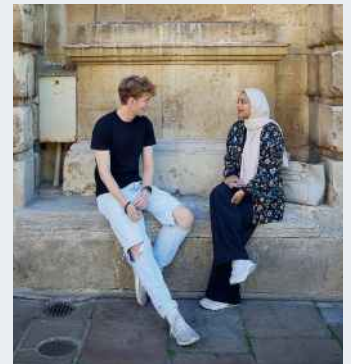
**JCR Diversity and Equality Rep**

**JCR Women's Officer**

There are also JCR and HCR volunteers such as the 'Peer Supporters' and allocated 'College Parents' that students can talk to.

As nearly all undergraduates and a number of postgraduates live in College accommodation, there is a need for staff trained in first aid and able to act as first responders on Main Site and Frewin. The Lodge Porters provide this support and are supervised by the Safety and Security Manager

"Our welfare philosophy at Brasenose is to try to address small issues before they turn into big ones, so it's important to us that students feel comfortable asking for help when they need it." **Professor Adam Perry, Dean**



### Sub Dean: Dr Arnaud Petit

The Sub Dean role was brought in as a new position this year, as a way to supplement the welfare provision in College and to support the Dean. I was Junior Dean for four years before starting this role, so I already have experience of the Welfare Team and the types of cases we encounter.

There are three Junior Deans on duty in the evening, at night and over the weekend who may be called to assist students in connection with any welfare or discipline issues. In most cases they can deal with these, but if there are more serious cases that need to be escalated, these will then come to the Dean and I.

Outside of working hours, students who want to raise an issue will usually contact the Porters first who will then call on the Junior Dean on duty as necessary. The Porters are actually pivotal in terms of welfare because they're very often the first point of contact for students and they're available 24/7. That's why it matters that we have such a great team of Porters at the Lodge that know and are known by the students.

If there's an issue during the day and a student wants to talk to someone, they have quite a few options across the Welfare Team. They can talk to our Chaplain (David Sheen), our College Nurse (Kinneret Milgrom), or to myself. They can also book an appointment with our Student Support Adviser (Sebastian Petzolt) who offers more formal counselling. There's a lot of overlap between the various welfare roles, and it's intended as such. Students need to



feel comfortable reaching out, and having several 'faces of welfare' to choose from is really helpful. The JCR and HCR also have dedicated welfare representatives and peer supporters, who are themselves students and have received training in active listening and peer-support.

It's important because we want to respect the autonomy of students and it's also important to build relations of trust. Trust is hard won,

but it's easy to lose.

Sometimes of course there are issues of discipline to address. I would say that even when there are clear breaches of discipline, the Dean and I try to approach these from a welfare perspective. We are not there to fine students just for the sake of fining students because they've broken a rule. The rules are there because people have to live together as part of a community. What we're very sensitive to is the kind of misconduct which has an effect on others, or which raises safety concerns. For example, students might find that we are harsh when it comes to fire safety violation, or smoking in rooms. But it's less for the sake of simply upholding the rule and much more about protecting the safety of others.

Our welfare set up works well, because it's well organised and well structured, but also because it revolves around individuals who care very much, and spend a lot of time and effort making sure that we live in a community where people feel safe, and feel comfortable reaching out if they need help or support.

## College Nurse: Kinneret Milgrom

Although most of us (in the Welfare Team) are not psychologists, we are all mental health first aiders – we have training, and we know how to signpost. Then the question is, what next? What do we do until they access the appropriate care, until they're feeling a bit more settled and sorted?

I'm sure some alumni reading this will remember things like sleepless nights, feeling nervous socially and perhaps feeling uncomfortable eating in Hall. These are all the kinds of situations which are within the spectrum of the norm. But then there are the few students who actually have very intense difficulties and you want to be there for them. For example, if someone hasn't left their room to go for meals, you want to find out what the problem is – is it about communicating with the kitchen, or being able to order the right foods? Sometimes it's a very practical conversation about making College accessible.

One of the things that I always clarify at the very start with the students is that anything that's said in the room is confidential and is not shared with College. I want to make sure that the students know they can trust this resource as a place where they can feel safe and listened to, and are not going to be subject to any repercussions.

It's a very delicate space to work in and can be really tricky because often it would be very useful to confer with the others in the welfare team about a specific student, but no, absolutely not. There are



very few cases where I feed into the wider team. But I really try to encourage the students to take that step and contact others in the Welfare Team on their own.

A classic example is a student who's having a very difficult time and doesn't want to admit or doesn't recognise that it's a welfare issue.

Someone might not be eating or sleeping well.

They find themselves staying in bed for hours and unable to get up in the mornings; they might not understand whether it is depression, anxiety, or something else entirely. For those types of issues, maybe your body is actually manifesting something here that needs serious attention. When you're eighteen and all of a sudden you're living on your own, recreating your routine can be tricky.

Sometimes the whole Welfare team will gather and one will mention a student on 'no names' terms,

and another one mentions a very similar case on a no names basis. And so we've all been seeing the same person. But it's important because that's how we can all tie in and consult each other, but it's very, very important that the 'no names' basis is kept because the students often don't want to disclose certain information. It's in their best interest to reach out, but if they don't, for whatever reason, you want to give a good supportive response. And what support means to one student is not what another student might need or expect.

## Student Support Advisor: Sebastian Petzolt

I offer a space where students can talk about anything in their lives that they find stressful or upsetting. I'm there to listen to their thoughts and feelings and worries, and help them reflect on their experiences, both present and past. Together, we can then try to make sense of what the student is going through. This will hopefully help them feel less in the grip of their problem, so they become freer in their choices and can begin to change something in their life.

There are a wide range of issues that might come up, for example, academic pressure and anxieties around exams; difficulties staying focussed or motivated; exhaustion, fatigue, and restlessness; intrusive thoughts; feelings of loneliness and isolation, social anxiety, and low self-esteem; a general sense of dread or low mood; concerns about their sexual and gender identity; or a conflict in a romantic or family relationship. Some students come feeling that something is bothering them, but they can't quite say what that something is. I can then help them put their concerns into words.

The service I offer is confidential, free, and takes place in an informal one-to-one setting. We usually start with an initial 30-minute consultation, with the option to book further sessions if needed. Some students come to see me once or twice, but it's sometimes also possible to have a 'block' of appointments over the space of a few weeks, which allows us time to explore the issues in a bit more depth. We sometimes discover that a different service would be more useful to the student, in which case I can make a referral.



Students tend to use my service when their other support no longer feels enough, from their friends, say, or our Peer Supporters and Junior Deans. They can then come to me for help and benefit from my experience as a mental health professional.

I offer short-term support, akin to counselling but different from psychotherapy, which refers to a longer and more intense form of support. I am a qualified psychotherapist, however, and my background is in psychodynamic therapy. That's a direct descendent of Freud's psychoanalysis, although I feel personally more drawn to Jung than Freud. What I do is quite different from what

people may have in mind when they hear Freud's name. (For one thing, I don't expect anyone to lie down on a couch.) I do interpret dreams with a student when it seems useful. I pay attention to their unconscious mind, as well as their conscious thoughts and feelings, as the unconscious can affect how we experience ourselves and interact with the people around us, sometimes without knowing why we feel or act the way we do.

I work in this role only part-time, which can sometimes limit my availability. That said, it also makes it less likely that students will run into me outside of our sessions. That can help them feel that our conversations will stay within the confines of our appointments and don't have to spill over into the rest of their lives.

# JCR President: Lexi Loizou

Brasenose is committed to ensuring an Oxford education is available to those with the ability, regardless of background. We are proud to share that there are a number of care-leavers in our undergraduate body including the current JCR President, **Lexi Loizou (English, 2021)** who reached Brasenose through our access programmes.

**You went through some difficult times before you came up to Oxford – can you tell us a little about your journey, and how you came to apply to Brasenose?**

My application process was quite interesting. Following sitting my GCSEs, I became an orphan and started living independently at the age of 16. This really affected my academics at the start of sixth form. I was still grieving and was suddenly studying six subjects for the IB! It was a rough time. My grades started to slip, and I started to think Oxford wouldn't be an option for me. Luckily my English teacher saw potential in me and with the College's guidance (and especially thanks to Sos Eltis), I was invited to interview, achieved the grades necessary to study here and the rest was history!

**Has your experience of Brasenose and Oxford generally been as you expected?**

Yes and no, I'd say. For years, I completely believed the assumption that only students from affluent backgrounds, the ones that are ridiculously wealthy and have studied at private schools, could attend Oxford University. No one in my family had ever gone to University, how could I get into Oxford? But that assumption is wrong.

Whilst there certainly are students that fit the description above, Brasenose is quite a different environment and there are loads of students from similar backgrounds to me! People here are so friendly and kind, I have never felt lesser than anyone here, and I have surrounded myself with people with vastly different upbringings and life-experiences, all of which have helped me become more empathetic and well-rounded as a person.

The workload is exactly what I expected it to be though, I basically live in the library at this point! It's a lot of constant work: constant reading, writing essays and formulating better arguments. That



said, it's completely worth it – I absolutely love studying English and couldn't imagine doing anything else.

**How was the adjustment from your previous life in London – have you found it easy to fit in?**

Quite easy, yes. A lot of people at Brasenose are from London, so that was a nice way to have similarities in Freshers Week. But I also enjoy meeting new people from different places, I have friends from all over the UK and even some international ones. Honestly, I think it's really easy to fit in at Brasenose, everyone is just super friendly, and the college community is so good that fitting in has never been an issue for me.

**Congratulations on your election as JCR President! What made you want to apply for the post?**

Thank you! I've always been super involved with student councils in my secondary school and sixth forms, I really enjoy speaking out and attempting to improve the communities that I involve myself in. There are two main reasons I applied for the post: the first was to show my gratitude to Brasenose and the people I have surrounded myself with here, studying here has been life-changing for me and I wanted to give something back; the second reason was to spread further awareness of the care-experienced and minority experience within Brasenose, and to push for greater access support within College as it continues to reach more students of different backgrounds.

**What do you hope to bring to the role? Is it difficult to balance this with your studies?**

I hope to shed some insight to the College of how to further support care-experienced students, students of colour and students from disadvantaged backgrounds. I have experience with all three and hope that my understanding of them will be useful to assisting college in improving student well-being within Brasenose.

Fortunately, I seem to be quite good at balancing presidency duties with my studies. I usually try to do both 50/50 throughout a day, though sometimes I will need to prioritise the other in order to get things done. For English, we sit all of our final papers in 3rd year, so the workload is much more manageable in 2nd year, which means I can spend quite a bit of time making sure my goals are achieved.

**Do you have any future plans or ambitions for after you graduate from Brasenose?**

I want to be an academic, I think. I adore studying English, and that would be a way to get paid to do something I love. Other than that, I would enjoy working with organisations or charities that help students from disadvantaged backgrounds apply to University and further increase outreach.

## Financial Support available for Undergraduates

- Student Bursaries.
- Emergency cash mini bursaries: those in need can apply mid-year for up to £500.
- Targeted support is available for students facing unexpected adversity.
- Grants for specific activities, including arts projects, sports, travel, and more.

Further details are available on our website [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk) Bursary schemes and the access programme are supported by the generosity of our donors, for which we are incredibly grateful.

# Library Treasures

Assistant Librarian **Joanna Mills** introduces us to a fascinating world of rare books and manuscripts in the Brasenose Special Collections. These items have been owned by College for hundreds of years and are inaccessible most of the time – Joanna is keen for them to be seen, used and appreciated, as was their originally intended purpose.

We have an absolutely fascinating collection of rare books and my aim is to get as many students, staff, and alumni engaged with our collection as possible. I wish for more people to experience the true delight of viewing and examining material of such historical significance, which is why I will continue to create displays and exhibitions open to everyone in College. We have had a number of very successful Library displays in Medieval Kitchen, with students and staff dropping in on their lunch breaks. Students have been particularly engaged, which is lovely, and eye-opening because for the vast majority of them, this is the first time they have seen or been so close to items this old.

In the most recent academic year, I have also tried to promote the use of special collections material in teaching. I know from first-hand experience, it is a true shame to be a university student and unaware these items exist and are accessible for study. Along with our antiquarian cataloguer, Sophie Floate, I developed a session titled 'Introduction to Rare Books and Handling' for our History and English students. It can be very daunting requesting a rare book or medieval manuscript for the first time, so in these sessions we develop student confidence by explaining the history of the printed book and showcasing best practice and handling techniques, which they can then take to the Bodleian and further afield in their research journey. Of course, we also have on display some of our treasures for students to handle. These sessions were a delight and very well attended, so we will continue to do these next year.

I have now been at Brasenose for over a year, having previously spent three and a half years working with rare books and manuscripts at the Wellcome Collection, a history of medicine museum and library in London, which is part of the Wellcome Trust. From there I went to work in a clinical library within the NHS for just over a year, and as you can imagine it came with its own challenges during the pandemic, but I have been absolutely thrilled to be back engaging with early books and manuscripts here at Brasenose, and have loved every minute.

Here are some fantastic examples from our rare books special collections:

## **De historia stirpium by Leonhard Fuchs (1542)**

This book all about herbal plants is by Leonhard Fuchs, a German physician and botanist. Fuchs founded one of the first German botanical gardens, and the plant genus *Fuchsia* is named in his honour.

This book covers about 497 plants and has over 500 woodcut illustrations, which are all hand coloured. Over 100 of the plants in the book were first descriptions. In our copy there are manuscript notes, written in a contemporary hand, under each illustration giving the plants their English common names. It was illustrated by Albrecht Meyer, who made drawings based on actual plants; Heinrich Füllmaurer, who transferred the drawings to woodblock; and Vitus Rudolph Speckle, who cut the blocks and printed the drawings.



*De historia stirpium* by Leonhard Fuchs (1542)

**Natural History of Carolina (1731)** by Mark Catesby. Catesby was an English naturalist who studied natural history in London before travelling to America and the West Indies. In 1722 he was recommended to undertake a plant-collecting expedition to Carolina on behalf of the Royal Society. He returned from his expedition in 1726 and spent the next seventeen years preparing his two volume *Natural History*. Catesby was the first to use folio-sized coloured plates in natural history books, and he learnt how to etch the plates himself.

**The Founder's Missal (1520)** published by R. Pynson on vellum (calf-skin) in 1520 and purchased by the College in 1893, this missal (prayerbook) belonged to Sir Richard Sutton, Founder of the College. A Prayer for his soul, or for that of one of his heirs is found on page eighty-five. The only other known copy on vellum is in the Bodleian. There are several full-page illustrations and pages of music in addition to the illuminations.

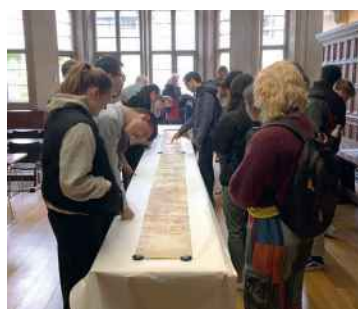


The Founder's Missal (1520) published by R. Pynson on vellum

## **Early 15th century genealogical roll of Henry VI.**

Genealogical rolls evolved in the 13th century in England and became very popular in the 15th century as a way to show dynastic claims at the centre of conflicts (particularly during the War of the Roses, 1455-1487).

Our roll, which shows the descent of Henry VI from Adam, was commissioned to consolidate his position and reign (1422-1471) in the second quarter of the 15th century. The roll is made from vellum, and decorated in the distinctive colours of red, green, and yellow. It is a manuscript (hand-written) with names in roundels. Roundels in the left margin contain the names of archbishops of Canterbury. Thanks to one of our students, we discovered during the session that roundels with three circles depict saints.



Early 15th century genealogical roll of Henry VI



# Brazen Living: Building Brasenose

This summer sees the College's newest student accommodation near completion. Thirty new en suite study-bedrooms are being built creating a modern, and as yet unnamed, enclosed quad at Brasenose. The first new quad in College since 1911 when Sir Thomas Graham Jackson's designs for 'New Quad' were completed.

## Why Is It Needed?

In recent years, student numbers at Brasenose have risen dramatically, increasing the already high demand for College accommodation. Student numbers have risen, in part, because more University courses have offered a fourth year integrated Masters. In addition, local housing pressures have pushed up private rental costs in the city of Oxford which means living in College is a more viable option for most students. Brasenose guarantees college accommodation for the length of students' undergraduate course, although until now, some undergraduates have been housed in graduate flats away from the rest of their peers. The new rooms will go some way to ease the issue of accommodation for Brasenose students and will improve their university experience.



## Environmental Credentials

The buildings of the quad have been created with an eye on sustainability. For example, they are powered using a ground source heat pump and there are solar thermal tubes on the sedum roof. Interior materials have been chosen to limit maintenance and all but eliminate the need for periodic repainting; the rooms are clad in timber and stone.



## A BNC Building

Architect and alumnus **Tim Lee (Modern History, 1990)** has been careful to reference both Frewin Hall and the College itself in the design. The three lower ground rooms reference the vaulted ceiling of the Norman undercroft of Frewin Hall and are similarly expressed in stone, whilst the interior of the upper rooms is timber clad.

Old maps show the site of the building was once the orchard of Frewin Hall, and this horticultural theme served as inspiration for the architect with strong columns like tree trunks and walkways suspended within the 'branches'. When looking out from the rooms, you look through a screen with a specially designed apple tree motif complete with the Brazen Nose emblem.

## Accessible To All

The finished building will include a lift and fully accessible bathrooms so all the rooms can be used by those with limited mobility.

## Thank You

The College would like to thank all those who have so generously supported the build and helped with the burden of cost to the College. Many of those who have contributed will be recognised within the building itself and will have an individual room or area named in recognition of their generosity.

# Ukraine: Law In A Time Of War

When the war in Ukraine started last spring, Brasenose teamed up with the Institute of European and Comparative Law (IECL) to facilitate the visit of a Ukrainian legal scholar to Oxford during the academic year 2022–23. Last September, we were delighted to welcome **Dr Volodymyr Venher**, Executive Director of the Kyiv-Mohyla Rule of Law Research Centre. Here he talks to **Professor Birke Häcker**, former Director of the IECL and Fellow at Brasenose.

**BH: Volodymyr, it's wonderful to have you in Oxford! You have now been at Brasenose for most of the year. How is your research going?**

VV: Thank you, this is a really new and interesting experience for me. Oxford University is a hub and epicentre for academic activities. It provides access to excellent sources of information (the libraries are wonderful!) and allows people to test research ideas more or less immediately through communicating with representatives of different countries and different legal systems. For my research, this is incredibly useful, because for the formulation of substantive conclusions in comparative constitutional law, it is valuable not only to be able to read modern research papers, but also to communicate with colleagues who have 'practical' information and a deep understanding of legal reality. All that is to be found in Oxford.



**BH: What exactly are you working on at the moment?**

VV: Right now, I am working on the comparative aspects of limiting legislative activity in extraordinary circumstances, primarily in wartime. Ukraine's current experience is quite indicative and a really interesting case for analysis. My research is all about the main substantive requirements that the legislative activity of a parliament has or ought to meet in wartime conditions (such as the preservation of the constitutional model of parliamentarism). The war in Ukraine is the first case for many decades in continental Europe; and the challenges of war are testing not only the army, but in fact the entire legal system. The usual processes and instruments of legislative regulation in peacetime cannot be applied in conditions of active hostilities, shelling and occupation, without at least some modification. Therefore, a careful analysis of the limits of such legislative influence is useful not only for Ukraine, but for the whole of Europe and indeed potentially the entire world.

**BH: This is the big picture relating to the organisation of government and the state, but I understand that your research is in fact wider. It is not merely about the legal system in general, but also about the specific challenges of protecting individual rights, isn't it?**

VV: In a democratic state with a developed legal system, war creates a great number of challenges and threats to people's everyday life. So, for example, the following questions can be very acute and need lawyers to think about them: Can military officers at checkpoints look through everything in my mobile phone? My business is not working due to the war – do I have to continue filing and paying tax? My employer doesn't

allow me to be evacuated, I'm forced to stay at work, despite being under military threat. Is that allowed? Who is responsible for registering a person's death and what documents should be prepared before the burial?

The Ukrainian legal system is now tackling and overcoming these challenges. We have by and large succeeded in safeguarding the constitutional model of judiciary (in some cases involving the evacuation of whole courts!) and in keeping public administration functioning (including and especially the provision of humanitarian support for the many internally displaced persons). All these activities are carried out on the basis of legislation adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament and the Government of Ukraine when the war first broke out. Maintaining and balancing the legal system in wartime conditions has yielded a number of achievements, but also thrown up some problematic issues. It is therefore extremely

important to carry out a proper legal study of these various aspects.

**BH: Your own longstanding underlying research interest in the 'rule of law' predates the war, so it doesn't stop at – or concentrate solely on – what one might call 'extraordinary' legislation?**

VV: I am indeed working on a more general topic provisionally entitled 'Limiting Legislative Discretion: Scope, Constraints and Principles for the Ukrainian Parliament'. The research will be based on the analysis of developed theories of democracy. It will serve as a starting point for identifying the legal nature of parliamentary legislative powers and their limits. The comparative analysis of, on the one hand, international parliamentary experience and, on the other hand, Ukrainian parliamentary practice is a key part of my research. Finally, the study will include a detailed examination of the main Ukrainian legislative acts, which could provide some useful lessons for implementing a new quality of law-making procedures in Ukraine.

**BH: While you are here, how do you maintain contact with your home university in Ukraine and the 'Rule of Law Research Centre' you lead? I know that you have been keen not to let anything slip back in Kyiv during your visit to Oxford.**

VV: It is more than maintaining contact; it is in my case full and active work at the National University 'Kyiv-Mohyla Academy'. Our Kyiv-Mohyla Rule of Law Research Center continues to implement research activities in Ukraine and has done so throughout. Several interesting research projects supported by the Council of Europe aimed at fostering the rule of law and the democratisation of Ukraine have just

## Responding To The Conflict

The collaboration between the College and the IECL which brought Dr Venher to Oxford was generously supported by a Brasenose alumni donation and the Law Faculty. But Professor Venher was not the only Ukrainian to come to Brasenose this year. Thanks to two further alumni donations, we have been able to offer a place on a one-year taught graduate study course to a Ukrainian graduate student in the 2022-23 academic year, and to another in 2023-24. These are part of the Oxford University

Graduate Scholarships for Ukraine Programme, which is designed to assist Ukraine in 'building back better', the aim being that the scholars should be able to return and contribute to the reconstruction of Ukraine with the knowledge and networks gained from their one-year course. More details are available on the University website at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-funding-and-scholarship-search/graduate-scholarship-scheme-for-ukraine>.

been completed, even in wartime. For example, we developed a Needs Assessment Report entitled 'Organisation and Holding of Elections in Post-War Ukraine: Prerequisites and Challenges' so as to function as a solid basis for the establishment of relevant policies in the future. Our experts have an excellent cooperation with national authorities to provide prompt expertise on urgent issues for the Parliament of Ukraine, which is crucial in wartime. In addition, I continue to teach several courses at my home university.

**BH: Moving onto the logistics of providing legal education in wartime conditions, how is the teaching currently in Kyiv? Can and do students continue to attend courses in classrooms?**

VV: In general, the studying processes continue. At our university, we use a hybrid format where those students who are able to can come to the classroom and others can attend classes online. It is an interesting fact that in the first year cohort of the bachelor's programme in law, 110 of 120 students actually came to the first offline lecture in September 2022. That is a fantastic turnout given current conditions. And the opportunity of bringing some fresh perspectives as a result of my time at the University of Oxford is, of course, very valuable.

**BH: At Oxford, you have already given a number of presentations related to your research. What aspect or aspects of College life do you enjoy and value most?**

VV: It is a great honour and pleasure for me to be hosted at Brasenose. The College is well-known for law and has a long history

of influencing the development of legal thought, not only in the common law system. Outstanding personalities who worked and studied here made incredible contributions to the development of legal science worldwide. For example, (former Brasenose Principal) HLA Hart comes to mind – his *Concept of Law* and his famous discourse with Lon L Fuller have been really influential. The traditions and values of the College are really special. Being within these walls, I actually feel many parallels with my home university. After all, the National University 'Kyiv-Mohyla Academy' is only about a century younger than Brasenose and as such in fact one of the oldest in Eastern Europe. It was founded in 1615 by Ukrainian Cossacks. In Ukraine, our university was and remains a symbol of freedom, patriotism and integrity.

I feel incredible support from the Principal, Fellows and staff alike, and I see many interesting aspects that can become a stimulus for university life back home. The College's internal procedures and decision-making process are a good example of inclusive and open development of institutions in higher education. And the way in which teachers communicate with students in tutorials is a unique educational model. For me, this is a fantastic experience that will strengthen not only my own research potential, but also the institutional capacity of the Faculty of Law at the National University 'Kyiv-Mohyla Academy'. I am incredibly grateful to the College and everybody involved for making all of this possible.

**BH: Volodymyr, thank you very much indeed for the interview.**

## In Memoriam

### Dr Simon Altmann

We were all sad at the College about the death of Dr Simon Altmann albeit at the age of 96. Simon had an extraordinary life which was captured in his autobiography, a copy of which he gave me. He was a regular visitor to College even to his last years in his nineties.

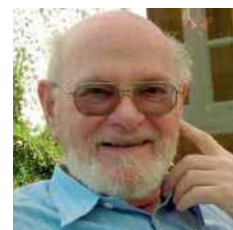
His funeral took place, as were his wishes, in our Chapel on 31 October 2022. It was a sombre yet somehow also joyous occasion as his life was celebrated through songs, poetry and tributes from family and friends.

As I said at the service, for me Simon epitomises Brasenose being open to world; he was welcomed into our college community and then was welcoming to others. He was a polymath, a family man. He was passionate as perhaps only South Americans can be.

John Peach said of Simon on his retirement in a piece he wrote in *The Brazen Nose* 'he is entirely without rancour, and his principles are held with no dogmatism or intolerance for others, firm and fixed through they be for him'. I finished with 'Te extranare mucho. Estabas unico – una persona excepcional.' The music was exceptional including Pal Banda, a member of the Allegri Quartet and a friend of Simon's, who played a Grancino cello, more than 300 years old.

**John Bowers KC, Principal**

*The full text of John Bowers' spoken address was published in The Brazen Nose 2021-2022, Volume 56*



# The Pinnacle Of Fame

Rowing historian, former Australian Senator, and erstwhile Brasenose College Boat Club cox **William O'Chee (Jurisprudence, 1984)** has published his book on the history of BNCBC's first 200 years, from the club's founding in 1815 through to its 200th anniversary. This extraordinary endeavour took over ten years to complete, and the printed book is over 600 pages in length. This excerpt takes us back to 1889, when BNC bumped Magdalen to go Head in Summer Eights, having held the Headship in Torpids since 1886.

For Eights, Brasenose had the luxury of fielding a crew which contained six men from the Childe of Hale of the previous year. These included Puxley, Rhodes, Kent, Wilkinson and Holland. However, New College who started behind them, had an Eight that was timed as being 20 seconds faster than B.N.C. in training. There was the very real prospect that, after years in second place in Eights, Brasenose would be denied the Headship by being bumped from behind. When Barbour, who had taken his B.A. the year before, returned for a visit, he was immediately drafted into the crew to row at six. The rest of the stern was shuffled, with Kent moving to stroke and Holland to seven.

Given the advantage New College enjoyed in training, the bungline on the first day would have been a nervous place: if Brasenose were not to bump Magdalen there was the very real prospect that they would fall prey to New College behind them. Brasenose made steady, if unspectacular progress off the start, but had closed by the Gut and thereafter improved rapidly to claim a bump at the Red Post. The Headship was now theirs, if only they could hold their place for the next five days.

The second day saw B.N.C. untroubled as they rowed away from Magdalen, who succumbed to New College in due course. Saturday, the third day of racing, would not be as easy a row. As the Minute Book records:

*New College were rather out of their distance at the Red Post, but came with a great rush at the Crossing, and were within half a length at their own Barge, from which point they continued to gain till at the 'Varsity Barge they were within a few feet. Kent made a series of spurts and succeeded in getting the crew home.*

On the fourth day, both Holland and Kent were unwell, which was clearly a source of great concern, although Holland did his best to make light of his illness. The Rev Warre came up from Eton that day to watch the racing, and advised Holland that the crew should raise their rate by one pip at O.U.B.C. so that they could row hard all the way to the finishing line.

The two leading crews remained separated by their starting distance as they came out of the Gut, an advantage that the Brasenose men held up the Green Bank. At Saunder's Bridge, however, New began to close. Their stroke put in a big push and had closed the gap to half a length at the Second Cut as they continued to close, rating 42. Kent rallied his men about 150 yards from the finish, raising the rate to 44, which saw them pass the Finishing Post with five feet separating them from the New College bow. Although the race had been a close one, the opinion of the press was that Brasenose had New College's measure.

In the hope of doing better, New changed their tactics on the Tuesday evening, and made their effort along the Green Bank.



*Brasenose Eight 1824 (etching by John Whessell)*

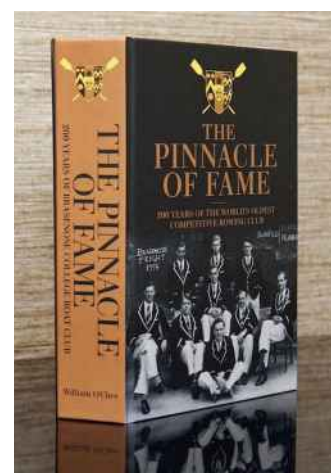
Although they were close to B.N.C. at the Crossing, they fell off the pace, and were a quarter of a length in arrears at the finish.

On the final night, the Brasenose men rowed to the start determined not to be caught. New College began their charge even earlier this time, although Brasenose improved on them slightly along the Green Bank where New College once again began to push. The pursuivants closed by a series of spurts until they were just a few feet away at the Christ Church barge. Kent, however, kept his head, and responded brilliantly by raising the rate and sprinting for home the entire length of the wall to cross the line a quarter of a length to the better.

After eight years in which they had been within striking distance of the Headship, but unable to claim it, the Childe of Hale once more reigned supreme in Eights. There was understandable jubilation on the Brasenose barge, where the crew was greeted with great ovation.

This meant Brasenose now held the Headship in both Torpids and Eights. The crew headed back to College, where a Bumps Supper had already been prepared, and which drew the attendance of several of the dons, and presided over by Mr Lodge, the Treasurer of the Boat Club. Afterwards, there was a splendid bonfire to conclude the evening, although there is no evidence this involved a boat burning, a practice which had seemingly begun at Cambridge in the 1870s, but was eschewed at B.N.C.

*For further details and a list of the book's full contents, please visit [www.thebowmanfund.org](http://www.thebowmanfund.org)*



# Your News



Year Rep **George Fisher (Physics, 1972)** arranged a get-together for his cohort with a scenic Oxford river walk, ending with a pub lunch at The Trout Inn. Reports suggest that it was a thoroughly convivial day out!

Congratulations to **Henry Zeffman (PPE, 2012)** on his new role as Chief Political Correspondent for the BBC.

**Revd Gordon McGuinness (Geology, 1979)** writes: I have recently retired from full time ministry in the Diocese of Chester and moved to North Wales. I continue to be involved in my former diocese, as well as my local community.

Photo credit: England Rowing



**Clare Jamison (Geography, 2012)**, pictured left, represented Great Britain at the World Rowing Offshore Championships in 2021 in Portugal, coming 9th, and at the European Championships in Italy, placing 5th. In 2022 she won silver in both the Beach Sprint Championships and Commonwealth Coastal Rowing Championships. She is the current British Champion for coastal rowing in three boat classes, and Home International Champion.

**Elizabeth Barber (Biochemistry, 1990)** was able to get a Victorian era home that she inherited in the USA accepted by the state for listing on the US National Register of Historic Places, having managed a massive renovation to save it.

**Murray (a.k.a. Harry) Seccombe (Classics, 1973)** writes: In October 2022, after seven years' hard graft, I was awarded a PhD in History by Lancaster University for a study of highways, law and governance in the parish of Halifax, c.1550-1700.

Congratulations to **Professor Jonathan Cole (Medicine, 1971)**, who has been elected President of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology, the world organisation of this medical specialty. In its 75-year history he is only the third British person so honoured and the first for over forty years. Additionally, the British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology awarded him its highest honour, The Grey Walter Medal, at its AGM.

In September 2022, **John Gower-Jones (Jurisprudence, 1964)** organised a reunion for the lawyers who matriculated in 1964. From left to right: **Robert Chick, John Gower-Jones, Humfrey Malins, James Edmiston, Mark Hodgkinson, Sir Nicolas Bratza, and (Lord) Christopher Bellamy.**



**Lara Marlowe (International Relations, 1978)**: My memoir, *Love in a Time of War, My Years with Robert Fisk*, was recently published, which recounts 20 years of my life with the late Robert Fisk, against the backdrop of wars in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. As a foreign correspondent for The Irish Times since 1996, I was twice named features writer of the year in Ireland have received two awards for my reporting from Amnesty International. I have been based in Paris,

except for 2009–2013, when I covered Barack Obama's first term. I reported from Ukraine for six weeks in 2022.



**Billy Kenber (History, 2006)** married Dr Samantha Pogue in August 2022 at the Elmley Nature Reserve. In attendance were a strong cohort from BNC (left to right and back to front): **Mike Sweeney (History), John Davies (Medicine), Simon Harker (Jurisprudence), Billy Kenber (History), Pete Forster (English), James Levisour (PPE), George Smibert (History), William Fortune (Engineering Science), Harry Bradwell (Classics), Lizzy Szanto (PPE), Finn Toner (Experimental Psychology), and India Pumphrey (Medicine)** – all 2006.

Congratulations to Brasenose DPhil candidate **Dr Sasi Shanmugam Senga**, a Neurosurgical Oncologist and Lecturer in Medicine, who has been granted the 'Future star in the world of cancer research' award from UKRI (U.K. Research and Innovation) for outreach activity in Oxford state schools to enlighten them about medicine at Oxford. He met with the Vice Chancellor, Professor Irene Tracey (herself a neuroscientist), to commemorate this achievement.

We were very saddened to learn of the death of **Mike Rountree (Chemistry, 1949)**, who will be well known to many readers through his time as Year Rep, covering not only his own year, but stepping in to assist with several other adjacent year groups as well. Our thoughts are with his family, and we hope to include a full obituary in the next Brazen Nose.

In October, **Robert Cashmore (Modern History, 2010)** collected his MBE (for services to Trade and Investment) from Buckingham Palace, which was presented by Princess Anne.

# Principal's Blog Highlights

To read Principal John Bowers KC's blog in full, please visit [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/princblog](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/princblog)

## Michaelmas 2022

I congratulate Perla Maiolino who received a gold teaching award from the Engineering Department for this year's teaching and Sos Eltis who received her Recognition of Distinction in this year's awards.

On a momentous day when Liz Truss resigned we had a long arranged Principal's Conversation and PPE Society event with **Mark Harper MP (PPE, 1988)**, our alumnus and MP for the Forest of Dean. It is fair to say he was not a supporter of Liz Truss, and forcibly made the point that a crucial mistake of her Premiership was to appoint only those who supported her for the leadership. He did not believe in trickle-down economics either. He was however confident that under the right leadership the Party could pull together. The event was attended by at least a hundred people; standing room only.



## Hilary 2023

We were delighted to read of the knighthood bestowed on our Emeritus Fellow Vernon Bogdanor in the New Year Honours List. Vernon gave a wonderful address on 22 November to a joint Principal's Conversation/PPE Society event.

We warmly welcome Prof Irene Tracey the new Vice Chancellor, who has latterly been the Warden of Merton. She made an excellent Inauguration Address.

I have never been to a 'topping out' ceremony before which made the event held at Frewin Court for our new student accommodation building particularly special. It brought together the many trades and professions involved in this major venture.

On 12 January, a group of some 25 Alumni of all ages gathered in the lovely home of **Peter Folkman (PPE, 1964)** and his wife Judy in Didsbury, Manchester for a Brasenose Regional Gathering. It was a great evening, and I am always keen to get around the country to meet alumni. A major vote of thanks to Peter and Judy Folkman who did this for a second time.

On 22 January, Frewin Hall was featured in *Digging For Britain* on BBC2.

We were greatly saddened by the death of D.R. Thorpe, the biographer who was an active member of our Senior Common Room until recently. Significantly, when Lord Hurd was asked to nominate the best five political biographies over the past 150 years he mentioned two by Richard Thorpe, those of Macmillan and Eden. He also produced the lives of Selwyn Lloyd, Anthony Eden, and Alec Douglas-Home as well as being a long serving school teacher.

Christian Wilson put on excellent concerts three weeks running. In another outstanding Platnauer Concert on 3 February our recent alumna **Bethany Reeves (Music, 2017)** played piano and Nick Budd (a very loud) trumpet in a range of repertoire from Jacques Ibert to Jean Hubeau via Pulenc and Debussy. Bethany now serves as Director

of Music at St Mark's English Church in Florence as well as much freelance playing.

Jonathan Katz, Lecturer in Classics, and Christian Wilson, Director of Music gave a wonderful Bach concert in the Antechapel on 17 February. I have run out of superlatives to describe this duo of talents. Christian's rendition of the Prelude & Fugue No 22 in B flat minor was unforgettable, only then to be matched by Jonathan's playing of Jesu, joy of man's desiring.

Our distinguished Honorary Fellow **Dominic Barton (Economics, 1984)**, the former Worldwide Senior Partner of McKinsey, and

Canadian Ambassador to China, addressed a group of alumni at a dinner in London on 6 February. He provided a fascinating overview of relations between the West and China.

On 25 February our College football team won the 1sts Cuppers Final, the first time Brasenose has done so since 2015. We beat St Hugh's 1-0 in the final, with Inigo De La Joya as our scorer with a brilliant goal. It was a very tough battle, but we worked extremely hard and remained strong, and mentally knew how to hold on after our 4-3 win in extra-time against Jesus College, last year's winners, in the semi-final!

Congratulations to our Senior Kurti Fellow Professor Russell Foster CBE FRS who has been appointed as the Special Adviser for the House of Lords Select Committee on light and air pollution, and to Alex Betts for his appearance on CNN on 13 March.



## New Honorary Fellows

At our Betty Morley Feast on 11 March we bestowed well deserved Honorary Fellowships on **Sir Dieter Helm (PPE, 1975)**, centre, Oxford Professor of Energy Policy and author of *Net Zero: How We Stop Causing Climate Change*, **Simon Lewis OBE (PPE, 1978)**, right, the former Communications Director at Downing Street and Buckingham Palace, and **Tim Harford OBE (PPE, 1992)**, left, the economist, writer and radio presenter.

# Latest On The New Chapel Organ

Director of Music **Christian Wilson** updates us on the new organ's progress.

Last September, Brasenose's ailing organ was finally dismantled by a group of organ builders. The casework was exported to Stavelot in Belgium (a couple of miles from Spa) to the firm of Orgues de Facto, who had previously won the tender to provide a new organ for the College. Pipes from the 1970 Peter Collins organ were transferred to the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady, St John's Wood by Martin Renshaw after an appeal from their Director of Music, **Martin Toyer (Mathematics, 1990)**.

Work is now underway to build an entirely new organ for Brasenose with a full restoration of the original TG Jackson casework. This is an extensive process involving numerous elements including: the construction of new sound boards, mechanical actions, internal frames, wooden and metal pipework, and a new console. Meanwhile in Oxford, structural surveys of the screen will assess stability, and a new secondary staircase will be constructed to access the north side of the screen to allow for future maintenance. Work in Belgium is well underway, and all elements of the historic casework have



now been restored, with wooden splits filled and other damage secured. The west-facing facade pipes from the original Hill organ of 1892 were retained as non-speaking (dummy) pipes in the new organ provided by Peter Collins in 1972 and rebuilt by Robin Bower in 2001-2. These dummy pipes had been cut down in 1972 to fit the outside dimensions of the casework. Orgues de Facto have

undertaken composite analysis for surviving pipework, original paints and varnishes, in order to replicate the best work carried out by William Hill in 1892. The surviving dummy pipes have now been carefully re-lengthened in the workshop and will become speaking pipes within the facade of the new organ.

The completed instrument will be

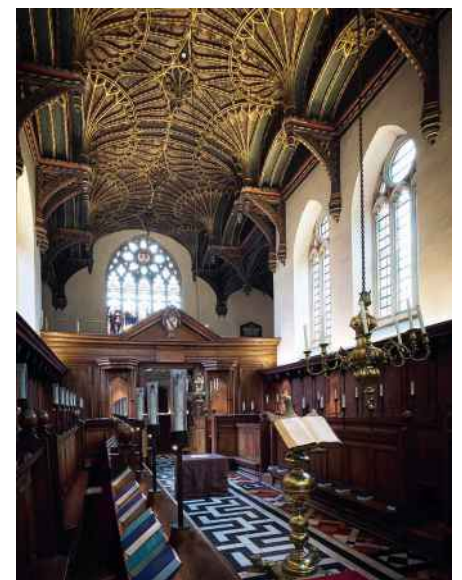
returned to Brasenose and ready for use in early 2024. The entire organ replacement project has been made possible through an incredibly generous donation from **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)** and Margo Smith; College is extremely grateful for their longstanding support.

## A View From Brasenose History

Anyone who's visited Brasenose Chapel recently will have noticed how the organ is conspicuous by its absence.

There are good reasons for this, as Christian Wilson has explained. However, as has been pointed out by **Dr Andrew Sillett (Classics, 2006)**, the Chapel temporarily looks very similar to how it would have appeared before the original organ was installed in the late 19th Century.

We thought it would be appropriate to mark this brief but significant period in the Chapel's history with a photo (courtesy of Ian Wallman), and compare it with a historic image (credited to F Mackenzie and J Le Keux). Enjoy this view towards the west window while you can; the Chapel won't look like this for very long...



Left, the original print (F Mackenzie and J Le Keux) and Right, a photo taken by Ian Wallman, April 2023

# Save The Date

## Forthcoming Events

### **Brasenose Alumni Society Annual Dinner**

Saturday 16 September 2023

Alumni of all years are welcome back with a guest. It's a chance to catch up with old friends, and meet some new ones, too!

Go to [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events) for an up-to-date list of our upcoming events, and to register.

Please note that any new alumni accounts will need to be verified (during normal College working hours) before making event bookings via the online service.

To update your contact details using our online alumni community, visit our alumni pages at: [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni) and follow the 'Update your information' link.

### **Gaudy for 1996-1997**

Friday 22 September 2023

1996-1997 matriculands are invited for a free black-tie dinner in College.

### **Ellesmere Society Dinner**

Saturday 11 November 2023

The Ellesmere Society President invites alumni who read Law to a dinner in College with some of the current students.

### **English Reunion**

Saturday 18 November 2023

Dr Bernard Richards invites his former students who matriculated between 1970-1996, to an English Reunion in College.

### **Classics Reunion**

Date to be confirmed.

## Recent Events



Diamond Jubilee Lunch 2023



Diamond Jubilee Lunch 2023



Diamond Jubilee Lunch 2023



A clear trend emerging at the Golden Jubilee Lunch



Diamond Jubilee Lunch 2023



Principal's Conversation with Kenneth Lonergan and J Smith-Cameron

## Changed Your Contact Details?

If you have a new address, email or phone number, do please let us know so we can keep our records up to date. If you would prefer not to receive Brasenose publications and mailings by post, please get in touch and we will update your contact preferences.

### **Contact Us**

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Brasenose College

Radcliffe Square

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OX1 4AJ

Tel: +44 (0)1865 287275

Email: [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

### **Join us on social media**

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 [www.instagram.com/brasenosecollege](http://www.instagram.com/brasenosecollege)

Once a Member of Brasenose,  
Always a Member of Brasenose



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