

Brazen Notes

From the Principal

On 20 September we were privileged to have **David Cameron** (*PPE, 1985*) officially open our new kitchen and dining facilities, the result of our Quincentennial Renovations, Project Q.

The Prime Minister addressed the growing success of British Universities, the importance of philanthropy and his love of Brasenose in a speech to 150 College members in Old Quad, before adjourning for a drinks reception in the SCR, stopping to talk to our students on the way. I believe his sentiments would have touched everybody in attendance when he said, '...every time I come back to Brasenose College I have only one request which is that I could start my three years here all over again, as they were some of the happiest and most interesting moments that I've spent. I think it was here that I really learnt who I was and what I wanted to do, and the brilliant teaching that you get here, the fantastic tuition, the one-on-one attention is just a remarkable thing...'

This visit was happily marked by another cause for celebration - the completion of our recent Classics Campaign. This has enabled us to endow a Fellowship, which will permanently ensure the future of Classics teaching at BNC. We are proud of this result and particularly grateful to those who generously supported the campaign, without whom this outcome could not have been achieved.



△ David Cameron visits Brasenose, 20 September 2013

On the subject of Classics, two Brasenose Classicists, with outstanding but very different claims to distinction have also been remembered in appropriate ways in the summer of 2013. **Maurice Platnauer** was Fellow in Classics (a.k.a. 'Mods Tutor') from 1922-56 and Principal from 1956-60 and is remembered with great affection and respect by those who knew him. We have long had a drawing of him by his friend Stanley Spencer which hangs in the SCR. Thanks to the initiative of **Robin Sharp** (*Lit Hum, 1953*), almost 50 generous donors contributed to a fund which commissioned a portrait in oils by the Marlborough artist Juliet Wood. This was unveiled on 9 August at a ceremony in the Hall (where it will in due course be hung, accompanied by a eulogy in Greek verse composed by **Colin Leach** (*Lit Hum, 1951*)), attended by many of the donors and others who knew Platnauer.

Graham Richards drew my attention to a biography of **Cuthbert Ottaway** (*Classical Mods, 1870*), a King's Scholar at Eton who came up to Brasenose in 1870. He captained the England team in the first ever international football match against Scotland in 1872. Ottaway went on to a career as a barrister but sadly died of pneumonia at the age of 28, after a night out dancing, perhaps a moral there for current students (see page 8 for full feature).

Ninety-five finalists survived the last winter, however, and emerged from the Schools with an excellent set of results, once again: 33 firsts, 56 upper seconds and 6 lower seconds - congratulations to all of them! One or two individual results can have a dramatic effect on the notorious table of college rankings, in which we were this year very satisfactorily placed seventh.

Many of them proceeded to a much-changed (imagine that in Oxford!) graduation ceremony. Each college now has a single date in the Sheldonian for the graduation of its undergraduates and on 2 August we duly erected a marquee in New Quad, in which we entertained the students and their families to drinks and canapés after the ceremony.

Other kinds of change are only to be expected. I highlight one, as in the course of the summer we saw the retirement of **Pat Spight**, for 24 years the Principal's Secretary and then Fellows' Secretary. We thank Pat and all the other members of Brasenose staff who have left us this year and wish them well for the future.

Professor Alan Bowman
Principal

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Reading the future - the next 500 years

Brasenose – and its beautiful library – is blessed in its location, at the heart of Radcliffe Square, adjacent to the famous Bodleian Library's most iconic building, the Radcliffe Camera and the Church of St Mary the Virgin, where the Oxford martyrs were tried. We have grand plans for improving our library; we want to double the study space by extending down into the Old Cloisters. In the footsteps of Sir Thomas Bodley and Dr John Radcliffe, we hope our library will also carry the name of an individual who is able to transform it into a space of living, ongoing learning fit for the next 500 years.

The heart of this learning is students, undergraduate and postgraduate, who provide the life-blood of the college both now and in the future. The college supports many activities, but first and foremost is academic excellence. Our improved library will speak to the core of what Brasenose is for: a place where students come to read and think and learn.

This development is an opportunity to make a striking contribution to Brasenose's primary function: as a historic, world-class institution of study and learning. The beautiful present Library was designed in the seventeenth century to house books which were chained in place for the twenty Fellows of the College. It comes as no surprise therefore that the same basic room today can no longer support the academic needs of the College. We also want to double the study space by extending down into the cloister beneath.

We recognise that it may take time to get all the plans and finances in place but the College is firmly committed to this project, and hopes to enjoy its new library by 2018. The expertise of unanimously appointed project architect and alumnus, **Tim Lee** (1990, *History Modern*) has reinforced our conviction that we will achieve our vision: a very special place, and specifically a very 'Brasenose' place.



△ Architect's first impression of the improved Library, which will be extended into the Old Cloisters.

'This new library space will consolidate and galvanize the growing academic distinction of Brasenose's students'

Professor Simon Palfrey, Tutor in English and Fellow Librarian.



△ Brasenose College main Library, 2013

◁ Brasenose College's main Library and Old Cloisters, overlooked by the Radcliffe Camera.

The voices of those that use it...

James Norman, (2010, *Classics*), Student:

'The library has acted as a second (and at times first!) home for me over the past three years; it is somewhere comfortable, friendly and familiar to spend late nights and early mornings studying. Brasenose library is without a doubt my favourite place to study in the university, but work needs to be done to enable it to cope with the expanding and modernising demands of undergraduates.'

Liz Kay, Librarian:

'We want the new Library to create a first class student resource that truly meets the needs of students today and in the future. The new space will be flexible and adaptive, geared to the increasingly digitised nature of modern scholarship, but also sensitive to the fact that students relish working in environments that are inviting.'

Professor Simon Palfrey, Tutor in English and Fellow Librarian:

'It is fundamentally the students' space and thus true to the basic ethos of Oxford education, in which students are encouraged fearlessly to explore possibilities, to show initiative and develop intellectual independence. It will be a suitably modern place - just as Oxford education is grounded in tutorials as much as books, so too reading, writing, and thinking are not always best experienced in frigid silence.'

In both its functions and its situation, this will become a truly enfranchising space. And this in turn is part of Brasenose's commitment to the ongoing democratization of higher education and society.' ■

Did you know?

Preparations for building the Brasenose Library started in November 1657, and the foundations were begun in March 1658.



△ Library and Old Cloisters overlooked by the Radcliffe Camera, 1835

Books were chained in place in 1664 and remained so until the interior was remodelled to designs of James Wyatt in the 1780s. During this time, the present ceiling was put up and the windows on the west side blocked to give more space for books. These remained blocked until 1955.

The present bookcases were put in during 1891 and heating and lighting were installed in 1897, the undergraduates were admitted to the Library for the first time.

In 1950 a fire broke out between the Library and the Brasenose Tower. During the repairs the Hulme (History) Library was created on the top floor (formerly undergraduate rooms).



△ The Hulme (History) Library, 1951



The work revealed a fireplace with a wall painting above it (now hidden) and two Elizabethan chimneys, which remain a feature today.

△ Exposed Elizabethan chimneys, as seen in Hulme Library today.

The previously blocked windows on the western side of the Library were reopened in 1955, allowing for a lighter and brighter space, as seen today. ■

Seeking a Principal

Before the end of Michaelmas term the College will announce publicly that it is seeking its next Principal, following the retirement of Professor Alan Bowman in 2015.



The College would like to announce his successor by October 2014 to be in post by October 2015. We would very much appreciate the support of our extended family in bringing this role to the attention of the individual who could most effectively take up this important responsibility. The advert and further particulars will be available on our website soon, after 13 November.

The College welcomes ideas or suggestions which could lead to high-quality candidates putting themselves forward or to an approach to such a candidate being made. Please contact our professional adviser Mr Anthony Archer of Bridgewater Advisory, anthony.archer@bridgewaterassociates.co.uk or +44 (0)7721 504 125.

To be the head of an Oxford College is a role without equal in the world of commerce or public service. It is a uniquely enjoyable and challenging position with no single path in life providing the best preparation. We are making very few assumptions about the type of person best suited to this role and look forward to hearing how applicants feel their experience can be usefully employed. The Brasenose Governing Body will provide a positive, intellectually stimulating and varied environment, within which its Principal will enjoy using every ounce of his/her life experience to further the stated aims of the College. ■

To be the head of an Oxford College is a role without equal in the world of commerce or public service.

Thank you for supporting Brasenose

The overall amount raised for the Annual Fund this year was a very generous £262,000, which is having a substantial impact at the time of writing. The Telethon, the cornerstone of the Annual Fund, was once again a great success with over 40% of Members contacted donating to the Annual Fund. This generosity is greatly appreciated by all our students and thank you to all those Members who took the time to speak to a current student, offering career advice and sharing memories of your time in College.

Please consider giving at whatever level you can. Your support, combined with that of your peers, has a significant impact on Brasenose students.

A very common gift to the Annual Fund is £20 a month. These regular gifts are crucial; they collectively amount to a substantial sum and allow the College to look to the future in the knowledge that the Annual Fund is established and that our plans can be realised.

Thank you again to all BNC Members who donated this year. ■

If you would like to donate to the Brasenose Annual Fund, please either go on our online giving site at:

www.giving.ox.ac.uk/colleges/brasenose.html or contact the alumni & development office on development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk

A fond farewell to Pat Spight

Fellows' Secretary and former Principal's Secretary

The College congratulated Pat on her retirement in July, after a commendable 24 years' service at Brasenose.

Pat supported four Principals over 17 years namely, **Barry Nicholas** (1978-89), **Lord Windlesham** (1989-2002), **Roger Cashmore** (2003-11) and **Vernon Bogdanor as Acting Principal** (2002-03), and the Fellows of the College for the past 7 years. With a love of travel, a membership at the Women's Institute and four grandchildren, we know she will be kept fully occupied in her post-BNC years.

We all wish you a long and happy retirement, Pat you will be missed very much.

Professor Graham Richards CBE, Emeritus Fellow in Chemistry: 'I interviewed Pat when she was first appointed and it was clear that she would make the perfect secretary for any Principal. How right that initial impression proved to be. She had the total respect of all the Fellows, never uttering a critical word about any of us however trying we were: kind and discreet. We all felt she was a true friend.'

Professor Vernon Bogdanor CBE FBA, Emeritus Fellow and Former Acting Principal: 'Pat Spight was the perfect PA. Quite simply, I could not have

managed my year as Acting Principal, 2002-3, without her. I am sure that those whom she served as Principal felt the same. Someone once said that the trouble with the world is that the efficient are often not very nice, while the nice are often not very efficient. Pat Spight refutes this view. Throughout her time at BNC, she was both very nice and very efficient.

Indeed, she went far beyond the call of duty in her kindness and sympathy towards undergraduates suffering from exam nerves. I know that my own pupils were particularly grateful for that. I wish her and Bladen a long and happy retirement.'

Dr Harry Judge Emeritus Fellow: 'Although Pat Spight has indeed observed many changes from her corner of the Old Quad, she herself has contrived - fortunately - not to change at all. I do not believe that anyone has yet seen her angry, or disconcerted - either by the many absurdities generated by an ancient College or by the vagaries of its assorted Fellows. Moreover, she has long been the indispensable custodian of the collective social memory of the College, and no ingenious software will ever be able to replicate her subtle knowledge of who everybody is or to produce orderly lists from tangled data. So we can all be assured that she is as unlikely to forget us as we are to forget her.'

Professor Roger Cashmore Honorary Fellow and Former Principal: 'Having been secretary to four



△ Pat Spight (July 2013)

Principals, she always expected that when a new one came along they would want someone new. However they were always wise enough to know when they had a 'good thing' - always calm, considerate, helpful and unfailingly discreet with a thorough knowledge of the College. She particularly enjoyed the presence of distinguished politicians in College, and frequently recounted a visit of John Major and so the only way to counter that was to provide her with a BNC Prime Minister; David Cameron.' ■

Men's to mixed; a period of change

Brasenose became a co-educational College in Michaelmas Term 1974, when the first women students matriculated. Alongside Jesus, Wadham, Hertford and St Catherine's, Brasenose

became one of the first all-male Colleges to admit women. Part of a report from the 1975 issue of the *Brazen Nose* tells us that

'such a transition in the 20s and 30s would have been an enormous shock, not to say a trauma, but the changing social climate, not only of Oxford but of the whole society, has made it a non-revolutionary event'.

From the start, women students immersed themselves in College life. The archives indicate that social events were on the rise, with the formation of many new clubs, societies and committees. These included the formation of the JCR Events Committee in 1975, the re-birth of the Philosophical Society in 1977, the institution of the Music Society in 1976 and the formation of a Monogerminal Society, also in 1976, to provide a forum for creative writers in the College.

In 1977 the Pater Society had its first woman President and the Somerset women's dining club, named after the College's benefactress the Duchess of Somerset was also in existence. By the late seventies the all-male institution, the Phoenix Common Room, reported how 'this change has been good for the College' (*Brazen Nose*, p. 78).

In 1974 28 women students matriculated and from then on the number of women undergraduates continued to increase. By October 1977 the numbers stood at 294 men and 131 women. Furthermore, the Fellowship welcomed its first woman Fellow in 1981.



△ The Duchess of Somerset

News from the archives...

Georgina Edwards
Archives Assistant

Alongside Brasenose going co-educational, in 1975 the College started to develop the site at Frewin Hall to provide extra accommodation for its members. The admissions procedure was also starting to change. Whilst Brasenose first moved to create an office of Tutor of Admissions in 1948, in 1976 the College issued a 16-page prospectus with a coloured cover. This was such an innovation that the *Brazen Nose* reported that Brasenose was the first Oxford College to have one! In the same year, under the Cheshire Admissions Scheme, it was also agreed that three places per year should be reserved for pupils from Cheshire comprehensive schools, for an experimental period of five years.



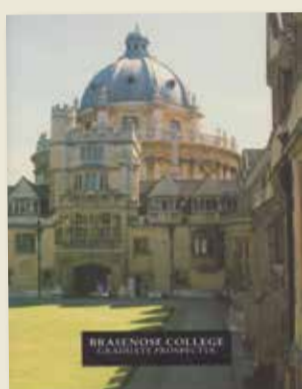
△ Frewin Hall and New Inn Hall Street (Brasenose 1978)

College in the 1970s, as today, welcomed a variety of arts and culture. Platnauer Concerts, Gaudies, plays and pantomimes, as well as countless

dinners took place in Hall. The first series of Tanner lectures was given in Trinity Term 1977 by **Professor Bernard Williams** and the Israeli poet Carmi was made a member of the Common Room. The College also welcomed **Howard Hodgkin** as Visiting Fellow in Creative Arts.

The twentieth century as a whole saw many dramatic, if gradual changes to the College as well as University life. Alongside two World Wars, the Asquith Commission and then the later Franks Commission, change in Oxford became inescapable.

The archives always welcome personal accounts and information about student experiences. The following memoir by one of the first women



members, **Nancy Hulek** (*Modern Languages* 1974), is one invaluable insight into Brasenose during this period of change. ■

◀ Graduate prospectus, 1989

BNC 1974 - 1979 - From a Men's to a Mixed College

'When the first 28 women came up to BNC in 1974 it was to what was essentially a men's college; we were even addressed as Mr in the plentiful advertising mail from gentlemen's outfitters and the like that awaited us! On the whole we were treated fairly though not equally: major efforts had been made to provide for our needs: on the 2 staircases reserved for women each room received a full-length mirror and we had our own ironing room at the top of staircase 12. I also had the impression that the college staff was much aware of being in loco parentis to the women in their charge. We soon settled into the life of a men's college, climbing over the dinner tables decked with the silver of formal hall with ease despite our long skirts. We were invited to more than our fair share of parties, and expected to take part in college life. As an indifferent swimmer I even felt obliged to take part in a swimming competition representing the college at Cowley Baths. I have no memory of how well we did, but do not remember attending a coppers supper for this. No women's rowing team for my year, but the boat club did accept 2 women coxes, Jane Reid-Kay and Dot Toft.

When a women's staircase was set up in New Inn Hall Street for second year students, no one was really interested in being segregated or in need of a safe haven from the men... Here we were left to our own devices, with a shared kitchen, highly unusual in those days, as a bonus, a gas fire to make toast on, and a full-length mirror, of course. My safety-conscious brother instructed me in the rudiments of self-defence, as the unlocked front door opened into the street. Memories include a shared bathroom with dripping pullovers hanging over the bath, and once what I thought was a dead body in it, luckily turning out to be a neoprene suit left to soak after one of Dot's caving expeditions...During the first two years women were very much in the minority, with a second limited quota of women being admitted in 1975. In 1976 the Equal Opportunities Act led to the abolition of the quota, so that by the time I returned from a third year spent in Munich as part of my language studies the college had 2 undergraduate years with more women than men and a handful of women graduate students, and the character of the college had changed for ever. No more stale dinner rolls being thrown around at dinner, with the aim of lodging them behind the portraits hung high on the walls, women's sports clubs, students called by their first names, and generally a civilised atmosphere. With the transition to a mixed college, many of the old traditions had also gone: we were no longer required to send our sheets in advance of the first day of term so that the beds could be made up ready; in fact no one made the beds at all if we didn't. Gowns were no longer required for tutorials. Kitchens were making their appearance on the refurbished staircases on New Inn Hall and St Michael's Streets. I felt privileged to be at Brasenose, and in particular to experience the college at a time of transition.'



Nancy Hulek (1974, *Modern Languages*)

Comments from the 1974 year group

'In 1974 there was not a lot of difference to being in an all male college (I suspect), with only 28 females. But by 1978 when I left, the whole character of the college had changed (positively), as intake was probably 50:50 by then.'

Peter Borrell (1974, *Classics*)

'It was a turning point, a time of discovery and a sense of limitless possibilities. It gave a feeling of



being pioneers, pushing through artificial barriers in the pursuit of learning. There were no precedents, and everything to play for. We could help shape a new future.'

Anna Avebury (1974, *English*)

'We were quizzed a lot about the experience by senior staff in BNC and other Colleges (indeed I was invited to a High Table dinner at Keble in my final year and was questioned by the Warden



about my experience of being at a mixed College). Keble was male at the time - but became mixed - I hope I played a small part in the change.'

Rosalind Foskett (nee Arnold) (1974, *Geography*)



**Brasenose • Hertford • Jesus
St Catz • Wadham**



In 2014, Brasenose will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Co-Education along with **St Catz, Hertford, Jesus** and **Wadham**.

These commemorations will offer a series of events throughout the year, both in Oxford, London and overseas, and are open to Members from all matriculation years. For the full event listing, please see the back page.

We hope you will be able to join us!

Michael Palin exclusive

Following a BAFTA award of its highest honour – the 2013 BAFTA Fellowship – actor, presenter, writer, and alumnus, Michael Palin, talks Oxford and the return to his College roots.

There was before Brasenose and after Brasenose. Before Brasenose there was a shy exhibitionist from Sheffield hoping to please the city council and his father – who were paying him to be there – by getting a good degree and a decent job in a safe profession. After Brasenose, there was a confident writer and performer with a second class degree, a track record of success in revue and theatre, and absolutely no idea of what to do next.

Between my first, polite encounter with the rest of my Modern History set by the Porter's Lodge on that autumn morning in 1962 and my final evening of debauchery after Schools in 1965 (on which I bought and destroyed a suit costing £9) my life underwent a quantum change. By the time I left Brasenose I was no more certain of what I wanted to do, but I was much more certain of what I didn't want to do.

I blame Spike Milligan for much of what happened. And I can't think of a more inspirational figure to blame. The Goon Shows, of which Spike wrote most of the scripts, had come into my life in the mid 1950s, when I was still at school in Sheffield. There was something daring and audacious about their surreal silliness that I could not in any way share with my parents. My father thought they were all mad, and indeed he was right. But if freewheeling inventive character-led humour was madness, then I wanted more of it. I was not alone. The Goon Shows on radio rallied the same kind of subversive appreciation, in the same kind of people, that Monty Python was to do on television nearly fifteen years later. Almost as soon as I started a conversation with a fellow fresher named Robert Hewison, on that first morning at the entrance to the Old Quad, it was in Goon Show voices. Intolerable for those who didn't get it, but wonderfully bonding for those who did. Hewison and I got it, and soon became firm friends, playing Spike's album "Milligan Preserved" and Peter Sellers' "Songs For Swingin' Sellers" over and over again.

For me all this comedy was just fun, a respite from wrestling with translations of the Venerable Bede and the importance of the Wardrobe in the 13th century. But Robert, metropolitan Londoner to my provincial northerner, had other ideas. He glimpsed a future well beyond the 13th century, a future which involved performing and writing our comedy creations for fellow undergraduates, and getting



△ Michael Palin, Richard Woods and Tim Connor by the Deer Park (between 1962 and 1965)

▷ Michael Palin, Bob Hewison (front row) and Richard Czerniawski, George Cook, Peter Roach, Richard Woods, Derek Winterbottom, Peter Wilkinson, Tim Connor, George Walker, James Hiller (back row), (1962).



them to pay for it. I was full of misgivings. There were thousands of people at the University, and by the law of averages some hundreds of these must have been as funny, if not funnier, than us. But Hewison was not daunted. He firmly believed in nothing ventured, nothing gained, and managed to talk the Oxford Union into letting us try out our sketches during intervals at jazz evenings in the Union Cellars. The reaction of the few who strayed from the bar to watch us was sufficiently encouraging for us to book our first independent gig. This was at the Oxford University Psychological Society Christmas Party. We played to a small, thoughtful audience who seemed quiet, but professed to have enjoyed our eclectic mix of silly, satirical and conceptual comedy so much that they'd like to ask us back.

From then on the demand for our work grew, and we could be seen on any night of the week, cramming props into Robert's Austin Seven and setting off for college rooms, church halls, and even Blenheim Palace to do our thirty-minute spot. We called ourselves The Seedy Entertainers.

My transition from staid schoolboy to the fringes of show business (David Frost came to see one of our revues at Edinburgh in 1964) was aided and abetted by my Modern History tutor, Eric Collieu. Professor Collieu was sensitive enough to appreciate the fact that I was, just possibly, more cut out for acting than Modern History. And yet he managed, very skilfully, to keep the balance right.

He encouraged me to put in the work on my essays whilst at the same time showing a genuine interest in my work in Oxford theatre and revue.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to Eric Collieu's understanding is that, though I have made a name for myself as an actor and writer I am more interested in history now than I have ever been.

So Brasenose, neither too possessive nor too proscriptive, nurtured me. It was at Brasenose that people saw a potential in me long before I saw it in myself. I must admit that BNC was not my first choice. I had been turned down by my father's old college – Clare at Cambridge – and by two other colleges at Oxford. I'd like to put on record my thanks to them all for helping me make the right choice.

A few years after I left Oxford, I received some old documents including a family tree which traced me directly back to a man called George Palyn, a Master Girdler of London. As I read through these old papers my eyes widened. In a will dated March 1610 George Palyn bequeathed money for the "maintenance of four of the poorer scholars of the foundation of Brasenose College".

When I read that I felt I'd come full circle. It was clear that Brasenose and me were meant to be. ■

Michael Palin, London, May 2013
©Michael Palin

Alumna Profile

Emma Wright on the wonders of self-employment



There's no obvious career path for Classics graduates.

Once I'd ruled out law, management consultancy and teaching, I might as well have been an English graduate for all the use my degree was in getting me a

job. I freelanced for some internet start-ups in East London for a year before landing my first permanent contract with the Orion Publishing Group. I'd never seen myself as a techie person, but I initially enjoyed managing their ebook production and it was strangely empowering to learn about coding and book design. So empowering, in fact, that I resigned last summer and set up my own publishing outfit, The Emma Press. Traditional publishing houses are failing to adapt to new digital opportunities and the expectations of readers, so rather than sit at my desk and write bitter blogs I thought I should just get stuck in.

As it turned out, my Classics degree did come in handy after all. Where else would I have learned to work long hours, in a variety of different disciplines, and exercise extreme diplomacy with my colleagues? After the exhilaration of surviving Greats (just), I couldn't be happy performing a single, specialised role within a large company. I love doing everything myself, from the editing to the publicity and sales, and I hope I never have to be an employee again.



△ Pages from 'The Flower and the Plough'

More details on The Emma Press can be found at www.theemmapress.com. ■

Emma Wright (2005, Classics)

Alumni Profiles will be run in conjunction with the 2014 Co-Education Celebrations throughout next year. Please email your news to development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk quoting 'Alumni Profile' in the subject line to share yours!



The art of science

BNC student at the centre of a unique collaboration

Oxford's Ashmolean Museum University Engagement Programme, an initiative funded by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, was established in 2012 to explore and develop the use of the collections of the Museum in the teaching and research of the University.

Brasenose lecturer in medicine, Dr Chrystalina Antoniadou, and Teaching Curator, Dr Jim Harris, took a group of undergraduate medical students to the Ashmolean, amongst whom was Brasenose student, **Jonathan Attwood** (2011, *Medical Sciences*). Having undertaken a Final Honours School research project on the phenomenon of change blindness that occurs when large changes in a visual stimulus go unnoticed by the observer, Jonathan used Museum artefacts to devise an experiment.

Working with Professor Glyn Humphreys, pairs of Japanese woodblock prints, ancient Greek ceramics, and seventeenth-century English silver, were selected from the museum departments, each manifesting some variation in condition, colour or design.



△ 19th Century Japanese landscapes used in the study

The experiment enabled comparisons to be made between observations of people looking for the differences between the objects 'live' and those seeing them only on a screen, and produced data that will be of interest to both neuroscientists and the Museum as to how much visitors notice about the objects on display.

This was the first time a Teaching Curator had collaborated in the supervision of a student in



△ Jonathan Attwood

the Medical School and the largest single project undertaken by the UEP in its first year. It's hoped that this imaginative and creative approach to using the collections as a research resource will continue to develop. ■

Brasenose challenged

This year Brasenose College achieved a feat the likes of which had not been seen for a decade and reached the first televised round of BBC2's most intellectually stimulating and prestigious quiz show: University Challenge. The team, comprising **Josh Phillips**, **James Burt**, **Ben Ralph** (c) and **Turner Edwards** with **Oliver Bubb-Humfryes** in reserve, faced the daunting prospect of Newsnight's resident Rottweiler, Jeremy Paxman, and the University of Manchester,

an institution with around 100 times as many students as Brasenose College and two consecutive victories under its bulging belt. The stage was set for a David and Goliath encounter. Unfortunately, biblical precedent did not bear out, and Brasenose was fairly beaten, without disgrace, by a superior Manchester team. Yet the team was all incredibly proud to represent the College and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Hopefully, this appearance will mark the start of a new era of televised Brasenose quizzing success, after a decade where a team representing Brasenose Postgraduates reaching the second round of Only Connect was the sole highlight. ■

Benjamin Ralph (2010, *Mathematics & Philosophy*)

▽ Brasenose College team with Jeremy Paxman



A boat naming to remember

As the sun blazed and the spectators roared on Saturday of Eights Week 2013, Brasenose College Boat Club enjoyed a historic day that will live long in the memory of all who were present. It was a day that saw our M1 crew celebrate winning

blades for the first time in 25 years, and where we watched every one of our M1, W1, M2 and W2 achieve fantastic bumps. The euphoric atmosphere culminated with the Boat Naming Ceremony for our new Women's 1st VIII. The boat, which has so far

remained unbeaten in bumps racing, was given the name 'Jacqueline' in honour of **Mrs Bowman**, our Principal's wife. We were delighted to welcome the **Principal** and **Mrs Bowman** to the boathouse for the afternoon, and especially must thank **Mrs Bowman** for presiding over the ceremony with such aplomb!

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for a hugely generous donation from the **Carruthers** family, who chose the name of our new boat. This donation permitted our continued employment of professional coaches, which has been an absolutely crucial factor as we seek to keep on improving our training and the quality of rowing throughout the Club.

The Boat Naming Ceremony was a splendid way to celebrate the end of the Eights campaign, which truly was a testament to the depth of talent and sheer hard work of our squads. These attributes have characterised BNCBC's wonderful trajectory of success throughout this year and we have no doubt this will continue into the future, as we look forward to marking BNCBC's 200th anniversary in 2015. ■

Amrit Gosal, BNCBC Co-President 2012-13



◀ The Principal and Mrs Bowman celebrate the Naming of the Women's 1st VIII Boat with BNC Rowers and a bottle of fizz! BNCBC Summer Eights, Saturday 25 May

England's first Football Captain: a BNC man



One of Brasenose's most exciting sporting affiliations has returned to the limelight following recent exposure on the BBC. **Cuthbert Ottaway (1870)**, regarded amongst contemporaries as perhaps the most versatile sportsman of his generation, achieved record status after representing the University at the top level in five different sports - athletics, rackets, real tennis, cricket and football. Ottaway later went on to become a professional footballer, captaining England's first football team and leading them in their first ever international football match. His success in cricket accrued equal credibility following his 150-run partnership with sporting hero W G Grace and an invitation to participate in a 'Gentleman of England' tour of North America.

Michael Southwick's 'England's First Football Captain: A Biography of Cuthbert Ottaway 1850 - 1878' acknowledges in full why Brasenose's sporting hero isn't one to forget. For more information see BBC Sport's article, 'Cuthbert Ottaway: England's Sporting Genius Rediscovered': www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/23724904 ■

◀ Cuthbert Ottaway (1850-78)

BNC 6-a-side football wants you!

Plans for a 2014 spring Members football tournament are underway. If you would like to participate in a team from the eighties, nineties and noughties then do get in touch by emailing development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk quoting 'BNC 6-a-side' in the subject line. ■



Brasenose College runs 10k Town & Gown

On Sunday 12 May, 40 Brasenose students, staff and one alumnus took to the streets of Oxford for the annual Town and Gown 10km Race for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. 63-year-old, Tony Hill, reports:

'During my three years at Brasenose, I played hockey regularly for the college and was part of the side that made the cuppers final, losing to St Edmund Hall, in 1970. In May, after a gap of some 42 years, I was delighted once again to be part of a (40 strong!) college team competing in the Oxford Town & Gown 10km. Organised by the Muscular Dystrophy

Campaign, it's a very enjoyable run around the centre of Oxford, starting and finishing in the University Parks.

In 2013, I was the sole alumnus taking part. Looking ahead to 2014, I hope we can do much better. For older alumni the challenge, in the words of a current porter at the college, might be to complete the event in less minutes than your age. Imagine if we could field, and sponsor, a representative from every matriculation year since (say) 1960...' ■

Tony Hill (1968, Mathematics)

▽ Tony Hill with the Town & Gown team, May 2013



The team raised a terrific sum of over £3,000 for the Campaign and we commend its commitment to the cause. If you'd like to take on the challenge for 2014, then please contact us by emailing development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk quoting 'Town & Gown' in the subject line.

Sporting triumphs

POLO

Secured a well-deserved 2013 Cuppers title after two rounds of penalties!



ROWING

M1 gained blades during Summer Eights for the first time in 25 years!



RUGBY

Claimed victory as 2013 Sevens Champions!



Appointments

Dr Konstantin Ardakov (TF, vice Haydon, Pure Maths) has been appointed an Official Fellow in Mathematics at Brasenose College and is an Oxford University Lecturer in Pure Mathematics. Dr Ardakov previously held academic positions at the Universities of Sheffield, Nottingham and Queen Mary University of London.

Professor Rob Fender (TF, vice Herz, Astrophysics) joined as an official Fellow of BNC in October. Professor Fender moved to Oxford from the University of Southampton where he was Professor of Physics and Head of Astronomy from 2004-2013.



Professor Douglas Higgs won the Buchanan Medal for his work on the regulation of the human alpha-globin gene cluster - a model used to understand how human genes are switched on and off in cells, hence improving the management of patients with human genetic disease.

David Hutchison (1980) was awarded an OBE for services to Finance in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Graham Leeke (1958) was awarded a Medal of the Order of the British Empire for services to the community in Bishop's Tachbrook, Warwickshire.

Richard Marriott (1951) has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Captain Edward Maslen-Jones (1945) was awarded the Order of Mercy for Distinguished Voluntary Service.

Michael Palin (1962) was awarded a BAFTA Fellowship on 12 May 2013. The BAFTA Fellowship is a lifetime achievement award presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) since 1971 'in recognition of outstanding achievement in the art forms of

the moving image', and is the highest honour the Academy can bestow.

Professor

Peter Somogyi

delivered the Péter Pázmány Lecture 'Chronocircuit of space-specific neurons in the brain' at the Loránd Eötvös University, Budapest on 9 May. He was awarded the title 'Doctor et Professor Honoris Causa' in a ceremony on 10 May along with Professors Dominique Combe (Paris), Helmut Koziol (Vienna) and Ferjan Ormeling (Utrecht). Professor Somogyi received his degrees, MSc in biology in 1975 and Doctorate in cell biology (1977), at his *alma mater*.



Sir Michael Stratton (1976) has been knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his services to Medical Science. A pioneer in the field of cancer genetics, his work has led to important breakthroughs in the understanding, prevention and treatment of cancer, particularly through his discovery of mutated genes in breast and skin cancers. ■

Awards

Dr Eric Albone (1959) was awarded the MBE for services to Education in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Professor Polly Arnold (1990) has been elected as the first female president of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Alumni Events 2013

flickr

See our Flickr site for the full Alumni Events Photo Gallery

www.flickr.com/photos/bnc_members

▽ Fun was had at the **Alumni Family Garden Party** on *Saturday 3 August*. Even the grown-ups enjoyed themselves, with the little help of a glass of Pimms!



▽ **Diamond Jubilee Lunch (1953)**, *Saturday 14 September* welcomed Members to commemorate their 60th Anniversary at BNC.



◁ Δ 1963 Matriculands and their guests reunited to celebrate their 50th year as a BNC Member at the **Golden Jubilee Lunch**, *Saturday 27 April*



▷ There was a lively atmosphere on *Friday 6 September*, when Matriculands **2004-5** returned to Brasenose for their first **Gaudy**.



▽ Brasenose welcomed **David Cameron (PPE, 1985)**, to the **Official Opening of the Quincentenary Renovations** on *Friday 20 September*. We would like to thank the Prime Minister for his speech and time taken to attend this event.



◁ The Rt Hon the Lord Patten of Barnes (Chancellor of University of Oxford), with the Principal, Mrs Bowman and guests.



△ **Gaudy (1993-5)**, Friday 21 June

▽ **Annual Alumni Dinner**, Saturday 21 September

△ Rhodes Scholars celebrated the 110th **Rhodes Anniversary at a Reunion Dinner**, on Wednesday 18 September



▷ Members gathered to toast the unveiling of the **Platnauer Portrait**, Friday 9 August.

◁ **Brasenose Society Summer Party**, Tuesday 4 June

100 Members and their guests gathered in London at global Law Firm, **Linklaters LLP**, kindly hosted by the BNC Society President, **Nigel Jones** (Biochemistry, 1980).



Music Diary 2013-14

Our Members are warmly invited to attend College concerts. Details of the next Platnauer Concerts are as follows:

The Marian Consort directed by Rory McCleery
Sunday 27 October 2013, 9 pm

Taking its name from the Blessed Virgin Mary, *The Marian Consort* was formed at Oxford University in



2007 to explore the repertory of the Renaissance and Baroque, combining academic insight with the highest levels of performance practice. Since then, this (The Herald) ensemble has given concerts throughout the UK and Europe. The programme draws on the rich corpus of music written by William Byrd, England's greatest Renaissance composer, and is entitled **'Singing in secret' - Music from Recusant Renaissance England**

Clare Booth - Voice

Sunday 2 February 2014, 9 pm

Clare Booth has established a reputation as one of the most talented and versatile singers of her



generation in opera and concert. Her repertoire ranges from Handel and Mozart operas to complex 20th and 21st century works.

She has performed with the BBC Symphony, London Sinfonietta, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Schoenberg Ensemble, The King's Consort, Early Opera Company, City of Birmingham Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Nash Ensemble. ■

Jonathan Newell

Director of College Music

For full information about all musical events, please visit the College's website, www.bnc.ox.ac.uk, or email jonathan.newell@bnc.ox.ac.uk.

Contact us


The Alumni Relations & Development Office is always keen to welcome Brasenose Members returning to College. We are also pleased to be able to arrange Alumni Dining in Hall, during term time, for you and your guest and assist you with booking College accommodation should you require it.

If you would like to visit us we're located on staircase 7:2, just before the Library. Our usual office hours are 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays.

The Alumni Relations & Development Office
Brasenose College
Oxford OX1 4AJ

Tel: **+44 (0)1865 287 275**
Email: development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk
Web: www.bnc.ox.ac.uk

Join our online BNC Communities:

 www.facebook.com/pages/Brasenose-College

 www.twitter.com/bnc_members

 www.linkedin.com

Noticeboard

Inspire at Brazen Futures Career Event

Thanks to our Members this motivational careers event can be offered to our current students during Hilary Terms. If you would like to volunteer to speak about your career or area of expertise at a future event then please get in touch. Email - development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk quoting 'Brazen Futures' in the subject line.

The Brasenose Strollers Rediscovered

Are you an alumni cricketer? Then the Brasenose Strollers want to hear from you! Formed in 1923, this is one of the oldest alumni sporting clubs associated with BNC which is still in effect today. The Strollers continue to tour Devon for the second week of August each year and hold an annual match against the College at the Brasenose cricket ground in May/June. To find out more or enquire about joining, then do contact Treasurer and Secretary, **Peter Aylott** (1984), directly - aylottpeter@aol.com.

Brasenose Priests and Martyrs Under Elizabeth I

Due to popular demand, requests for copies of this free pamphlet, published by the College's Francis Ingleby Society, are still being taken. Email - bncpriestsandmartyrs@gmail.com.

Events Diary

Gaudies

Gaudy 1974 - 1976, Friday 28 March 2014

Gaudy 1980 - 1982, Friday 27 June 2014

Gaudy 1996 - 1997, Friday 12 September 2014

Gaudy 2006 - 2007, Friday 26 September 2014

Alumni & Guest Events

Jubilee Lunch (for Martication Years prior to and including 1962)

Friday 4 April 2014

Guests welcome.

Brasenose Society President's Summer Drinks

Lloyd's of London, Thursday 5 June 2014

Guests welcome.

Alumni Family Garden Party

Saturday 2 August 2014

Guests (and children!) welcome.

Brasenose Society Annual Alumni Dinner & AGM

Saturday 20 September 2014

Guests welcome.

Alumni BNCBC Event

Torpids Dinner

Saturday 8 March 2014

Alumni Subject Events

Classics Reunion Lunch

Saturday 7 June 2014

Guests welcome.

The Ellesmere Society Dinner (Law)

Saturday 15 November 2014

Guests welcome.

Donor Event

Alexander Nowell Circle Lunch (Legators)

Friday 21 November 2014

Guests welcome.

2014 CO-EDUCATION CELEBRATIONS



Panel discussions

Women in Law, Wadham College

Thursday 6 February 2014

Lessons in Life and Work: What I wish I'd known at 18, University of Oxford Alumni Office

Thursday 6 March 2014

Women in Media, Jesus College

Thursday 8 May 2014

Women in Science, University of Oxford Alumni Office

Thursday 6 November 2014

Women in Literature, Hertford College

Date TBC

Women and Work, St Catz

Date TBC

Women in Finance, Brasenose College

Date TBC

Oxford Alumni Weekend

Will also feature a range of sessions focusing on the co-education anniversary. 19 - 21 September 2014

Invitations will be sent three months prior to the event date.

All events will be held in College, unless stated otherwise. For more information contact us on +44 (0)1865 287 275 or development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk

Brasenose Christmas cards



Our 2013 Christmas card is available in packs of 10, from the Oxford University Shop. Visit www.oushop.com/Oxford-Colleges/Brasenose-College to purchase yours.

Gillman & Soame IMAGEBANK

Brasenose College PHOTOGRAPHS

You can access the Gillman & Soame photograph archive for Brasenose College online using the following details:

www.gsimagebank.co.uk/bnc

Login: Brasenose 2013

For more information:

Email enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk
Tel 01869 328200

