

# Brazen Notes

## Found: Oxford's Lost College

**Recent excavations for Brasenose's new student accommodation block at the Frewin annexe site have revealed foundations from Oxford's only 'lost' college, St Mary's.**

Oxford Archaeology, who have been working on this project along with the construction company, believe that the large limestone wall foundation would have supported the wall of a significant stone building within the college, possibly the south range of the cloister.

The story of St Mary's College is a fascinating one, and it is an important part of the Frewin site's rich history. Monks from the Augustinian Order had long studied in Oxford, but in the early 15th Century, they had yet to have their own college – the others being mainly Benedictine. This changed in 1435, when a pious man from Lancashire, Thomas Holden, bequeathed a large property in Oxford to provide a college for the city's Augustinian canons, as a way for him and his wife Elizabeth to be remembered. Henry VI approved of this, and Royal licence to establish the College was received in 1435. Thereafter the college ran for nearly a hundred years, housing around 12 students at any one time. However, throughout this period the college consisted of mainly temporary buildings, as money raised for



The limestone wall foundation unearthed at the site



The watercolour image shown above is a contemporary artist's impression of what the college could have looked like, based on available information. Artwork: Robert Eyles

***"What must occasion some astonishment is the disappearance into total obscurity of a major work by the greatest architectural patron of the age."*** John Blair (1978)

its upkeep and development was squandered by a succession of canons charged with its care. The building of a cloistered quad and a chapel, of the type we are now familiar with from other Oxford colleges, only began in earnest in the early 16th century once Henry VIII's advisor, Cardinal Wolsey, took an interest. Although we cannot be certain, it is quite possible that St Mary's College was laid out by Wolsey himself and designed by the architect, William Vertue (d.1527), who specialised in fan vault ceilings and may also have involved master carpenter Humfrey Coke, along with other royal craftsmen.

Thomas Wolsey's involvement with St Mary's did not last long however – perhaps frustrated by the continued mismanagement of the College – but we can get a sense of how St Mary's might have

looked at this time, when we consider that he turned his attention to forming Cardinal College from the newly-dissolved Priory of St Frideswide. Cardinal College later became Christ Church, and much of what is now known as Tom Quad and the Hall was started in Wolsey's time and to his design, and there is much to suggest that St Mary's might have looked much like the Great Quad at Magdalen College.

*Continues...*

### In this Edition

News .....	Page 2
Interview: Luke Davis .....	Page 3
The Principal's Blog .....	Pages 4-5
News .....	Page 6
Student Life Today: Shreya Banerjee .....	Page 7
Forthcoming Events .....	Page 8



The watercolour image shown above is a contemporary artist's impression of what the college could have looked like, based on available information. Artwork: Robert Eyles

Continued from front page...

However, notwithstanding its own administrative troubles, St Mary's was soon to find itself catastrophically affected by Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. By 1541, the college was no more, as the monasteries which once supported it had all been disbanded. The land reverted to the Crown and the site struggled on as a secular college of the University for a few years, but it was then passed around from nobleman to city council, and although it was used as a 'Bridewell' (a correctional school for poor boys) for a short time, it quickly fell into disrepair.

Brasenose acquired the crumbling site in 1580, and in around 1649 used some of the stone to build its own library and chapel complex – by this time the original chapel had become dilapidated to the point where it had been put into use as a cannon foundry (Frewin Hall itself had been used as a military hospital during the Civil War), and would have been in a very poor state. The entire roof of the Chapel of St Mary's College was sound though, and was dismantled and transported to Brasenose, stored for two years, and was eventually reconstructed as the roof of Brasenose Chapel, which remains to this day. The numbers marking the beams can still be seen in the roof void.

It is strange to consider that St Mary's and Brasenose Colleges co-existed for 30 years or so.

As historian, John Blair says in his 1978 exploration of the site "What must occasion some astonishment is the disappearance into total obscurity of a major work by the greatest architectural patron of the age." (W.J. Blair, 'Frewin Hall, Oxford: a Norman Mansion and a Monastic College', *Oxoniensia* 48 (1978).

## The New Student Block: Work In Progress

Construction has been progressing steadily on the new student accommodation block at the Frewin annexe. In addition to the remnants from St Mary's College, Oxford Archaeology found a great many other historic artefacts while the site was still accessible. We will examine some of their findings in the next issue of *Brazen Notes*. You can also follow the project's progress on our social media channels and on the Frewin Development blog here: [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/frewin](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/frewin)



From left to right: The first steel delivery on site; the frame of the building taking shape; a visual mock-up of the completed building as it will be.

# Interview: Luke Davis

Graduate **Luke Davis (Classics, 2017)** spent several months researching the lost St Mary's College and the historic significance of the Frewin site, following up on the 1978 work *Frewin Hall, Oxford: A Norman Mansion and a Monastic College* by **John Blair (Modern History, 1973)**



Luke Davis

## Were you already interested in Frewin to begin with? How did your research change as you discovered more?

I was interested in Brasenose generally, including Frewin, but I didn't know about all this other history behind it. As students, we often just think of it as 'the other accommodation block', or 'just a building', without thinking much more about it. It all started with finding out the basic details of St. Mary's College, but it gradually became more of an exercise in finding out why the college had failed. So I think my approach to the research, in terms of the problem that I'm solving, has changed the more that I have read about it. I hope we will all begin to look at the site in a different way, the more these historic details become known.

## What was most surprising about the things you found out?

There were lots of different things that surprised me: for example I wouldn't have expected things like the fact that Frewin Hall was used as a royalist military hospital during the Civil War, and the chapel of St. Mary's was repurposed as a cannon foundry; also when there was a fire in Oxford in 1644, apparently the massive gardens of Frewin acted as a firebreak – the empty spaces just broke the fire – and saved the city from being burnt down. I guess what's surprising on a more fundamental level is the significant role of Cardinal Wolsey; I already knew he was involved, but it was interesting seeing how St Mary's fits into the

broader plan that he had in Oxford, such as setting up Cardinal College (later Christ Church). I saw it in my mind as being completely isolated from the rest of the university, but actually it's interesting to look at how it inter-relates with the other colleges – things like the roof of the chapel, that we now have as part of Brasenose Chapel, is thought to be made by the same carpenter who made the roofs of Corpus Christi and Christ Church. I didn't expect St Mary's to be so ingrained in the Oxford that we still know now.

## Why and how did St. Mary's College come about in the first place?

One of the main reasons the college was founded was because of reputedly poor discipline in universities. There were the Augustinian canons who were already going to university before the college existed – but there was a worry that they would go to university and lose all of their religious monastic discipline. One of the examples was that they would roll their trousers above their ankles, and the phrase used in the chapters was 'glorying in their own flesh rather than the Cross of Christ', which was one of the justifications for why the discipline of a college was needed. A prior of students would also go along to look after them.

At that time Cambridge didn't have the same requirement that you had to be part of a college, but it was a ruling that the University of Oxford brought about to keep discipline for its own students. This also came up in more recent times, when Edward VII came up to Oxford – the Royal family didn't want him to be part of a college because they wanted him to be available to all of the university, as he was to the whole of England. But because of the same rules, even with his status, he wasn't allowed to be unaffiliated with a college, and he joined Christ Church but lived in Frewin Hall; it was a way of saying, 'I'm at college in Christ Church, but I'm also available to everyone'. At that time Frewin Hall was owned by Brasenose, but was not perceived as part of the College at that point.

## How do you see your research fitting in with what has already been uncovered by historians in the past, and what sources have you been using, other than John Blair's work?

I would say I'm less discovering new things, and more finding new meaning to the existing evidence, or offering vaguely new interpretations, and piecing things together in a different way. Being a lost college, it's annoying that there are no real records of day to day life, apart from things

like statutes and chapters. But it's a shame to have so little, particularly for the Civil War period, and there are no records for the period it was used as a hospital. The first step was to go to the existing secondary sources, so the articles that have already been written, mainly from the mid to late 20th century. Then there's the primary stuff which does exist, so things like the chapters of the Augustine canons, which is in Latin, so a pain to read – but my studying classics came in useful there! There are various sources which were compiled by the antiquarian Anthony Wood (1632-1695) – although he was around some years after St. Mary's – like inventories of the College and wills and grants to various people of the College. The Bodleian Archives are very good. They have items such as the original statutes, which have been very useful. Again, they are written in Latin and the handwriting is quite difficult to read, but quite interesting from the bits that I can decipher, you can basically see how they lived their lives. National Archives have the patent roll in which Henry VI allows the land to be given and the college to be founded. Oxford City Archives proved useful as well for documents from the 16th-17th century.

## So throughout the project you were living at Frewin – how did it feel researching the place you were actually living?

As far as perception goes of my home environment, that kind of changed, being more aware of its importance and its history. I think it helps the research element as well because I'm less detached than I might be if I were studying a lost college of Paris, for example or somewhere on the other side of the world. It's very different from my degree, aside from the chronology stuff – most of my studies were about things in Greece and Rome, whereas this history is on my doorstep, literally on my doorstep! It's a very different way of looking at it because I feel a connection to the place.

Luke's research was generously funded by **James Del Favero (Engineering Science, 1978)**

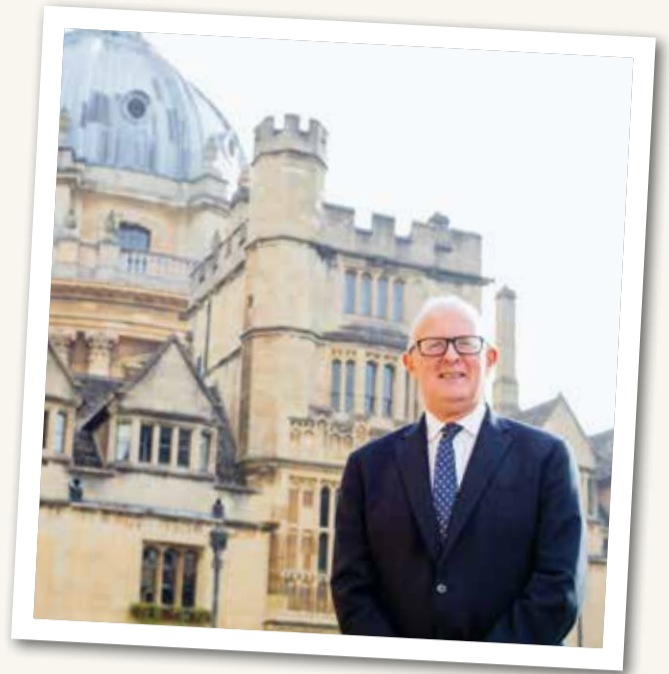


The Frewin Hall entrance in Frewin Court (currently not in use)

# The Principal's Blog

Brasenose's Principal, John Bowers QC, keeps a blog of his thoughts and impressions of Oxford College life. We have gathered some snippets from the last few months to give you an insight into Brasenose's daily running. Read the full blog here:

[www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/princblog](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/princblog)



## January 2022

Our Senior Kurti Fellow Professor Russell Foster is prolific on the radio. On 5 January he was on Inside Health talking about ways of knowing that you are not getting enough sleep and emphasising how important it is. Sleep, he says, is 'quite vulnerable to disruption' but he stressed it is good for your health and can help problem solving.



Professor Russell Foster

Gleeson, at the Churchill Hospital. They have been imaging the lungs of patients with Long Covid, who experience breathlessness, with a novel imaging technique known as 'hyperpolarised Xenon MRI', and comparing the results against their standard of care 'Computed Tomography (CT)' and lung function tests.

The team found that although the CT scans appeared entirely normal, there was a decrease in the ability of patients to move xenon gas through their lungs. This is a really important result as it may show that there are changes in lung physiology that cannot be detected with methods currently available in the clinic. There will now be a larger trial involving centres in Sheffield, Manchester, and Cardiff, funded by an NIHR award.

We heard a moving sermon in a January evensong service in Chapel to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. The Sermon was given by my wife Suzanne and she spoke about her family's experiences in the Holocaust. There was also music from the choir related to the theme – including a wonderful lullaby by the composer Gideon Klein who was imprisoned in the same concentration camp as Suzanne's mother.

## February 2022

Our Junior Kurti Fellow James Grist has recently been working with the research team in the Department of Radiology, led by Professor Fergus



James Grist

## March 2022

More exciting news from Frewin. The public open day on the 20 February saw about 500 members of the public view the site; a much higher number than expected considering the inclement weather. The BBCs 'Digging for Britain' were also onsite this week to film.

The Archaeologists have found a 13th-14th century zoomorphic head on the fragment of green-glazed pottery which is thought to have a French influence on the design. There is also a large fragment of a Roman-style ring-lamp which is unique to Oxford (oil lamps were used on high status sites at this time).

Ale Verses was an excellent event and took place as usual on Shrove Tuesday after one year's absence from our schedule. The winning verse

referred amongst many other people to someone called JBQC. It was called *Take me home Black and Gold* to the tune of *Take me home, country roads* (John Denver). The first verse was  
*Almost heaven, Central Oxford  
Brasenose College, Thames and Cherwell River  
Books are old there, older than the trees  
Younger than our tutors, teaching our degrees*

You get the picture. This was written by undergraduates Robin Newby, Jack Churchill, Iris Bowdler, Matt Joynson and Milo Mee, and I congratulate them. Other ditties were to the tunes as eclectic as Jerusalem, *Haven't Met You Yet* (BublÉ) and *Let It Be* (Beatles). Several had the theme of Willy Wonka, a new version of which was recently filmed in Radcliffe Square.

James Runcie author and broadcaster gave an excellent Sermon in honour of his father **Robert Runcie (1941)** who was the Archbishop of Canterbury between 1980 and 1991, after having been the President of the Brasenose JCR. He spoke about God and parenthood. This concentrated on parental expectations.

The latest Blurbs on 9 March (and the first in person for some time) was from Dr Eduardo Posada-Carbó, a William Golding Senior Research Fellow who presented his work on the study of the language of democracy, and how this has changed over time, and Riccardo Di Giorgi, a Wellcome Trust Doctoral Training Fellow.



Oxford Archaeology's presentation of their findings at Frewin

## May 2022

We are all saddened and horrified by the situation in Ukraine. I am delighted that we are flying the Ukrainian flag. We are also one of the colleges signed up to provide graduate studentships for Ukrainian students. The University will re-open graduate admission for a period of 6-8 weeks with a view to making offers to up to 20 Ukrainian students who will be admitted to one-year Post Graduate Teaching programmes. Selection of the PGTs will be organised centrally by Graduate Admissions, drawing on relevant expertise from our Senior Golding Fellow Professor Alex Betts gained in working with individuals who are refugee/stateless/under humanitarian protection.

Brasenose College's first undergraduate Offer Holder event was held in March, and was created as a response to Open Days and Interviews being held online during 2021, meaning that our new students had not visited the College in person. It was organised jointly by Schools and Publications Office Joe Organ, and Graduate Administrator Bronwen Tomkinson. Despite the damp weather it was a wonderful occasion, with nearly 100 of our offer holders visiting and many of them staying overnight. We did ice breaking games, tours of the College, chat with ambassadors, meetings with tutors, meals and more. Throughout the day the atmosphere was electrifying, and the excitement amongst the offer holders was palpable. All in all, it was a tremendous day which may become a regular feature in the calendar.

Congratulations to our student Rachel Martin who played a major part in the University Women's Rugby win in the Blues match and to Jack Tottem who was cox for the successful men's boat in the Boat Race.



Rachel Martin

## June 2022

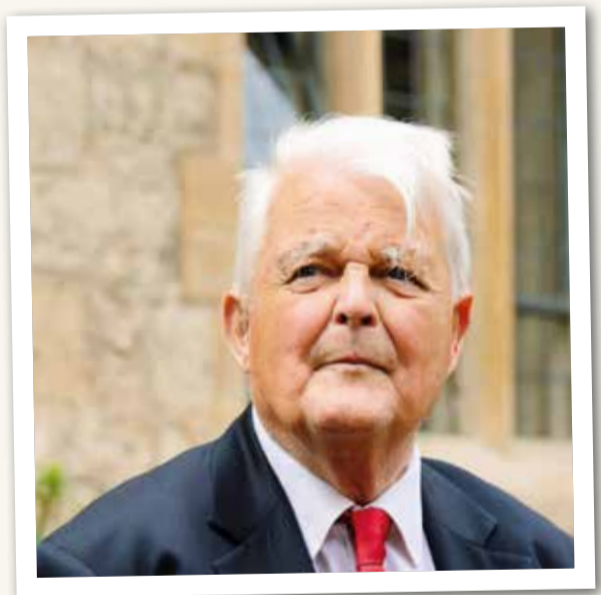
This term has been so full on that I regret this is only my second blog this term (not sure whether

anyone has really noticed!) That means that we are having a proper Oxford summer and there was great rowing in Eights week. I spoke at a rousing Rowing breakfast before it started and visited the river twice and saw our great oars people (and their amazing dedication). This was balanced by a wonderful Arts Week under the general heading Superstition between 9 and 15 May.



Dr Liz Miller

It is a great loss to College that our great Development Director Liz Miller is leaving us for a job at the Prince's Trust, which represents a great opportunity for her. We wish her well and thank her for her hard work at Brasenose. We will also miss Ferdinand Rauch, our Senior Economics Fellow, who is taking up a position at Heidelberg University.



Bruce Kent

We flew the flag at half-mast for the death of our beloved Honorary Fellow **Bruce Kent (Jurisprudence, 1949)** who died on 8 June. He was a wonderful supporter of College right to the end. Only last month he attended a Jubilee Lunch when I had the pleasure of sitting next to him. He seemed well, given his age and he was in good spirits as ever. At the end of the event, he took the microphone out of my hands to make an impromptu speech about what the College in general and this lunch in particular meant to him! He represented the radical wing of Brasenose and will be best remembered as the General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. He



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee display in antechapel\*

was a Catholic priest who left the Church. He was a man who always lived by his values. The College will miss him and I certainly will. Our thoughts are with his widow, Valerie.

As we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an exhibition in the antechapel, we particularly recalled the visit by Her Majesty the Queen in 2009 when Roger Cashmore was Principal. There is a wonderful photo of the event in that exhibition.

I hosted a wonderful Alumni Jubilee Lunch which was attended by alumni going back as far as matriculation in 1943. There was a fantastic atmosphere.

Our Diversity Lecture was given this year on 12 May by Rhys Phillip, Chief Executive Officer at Cornerstone. This was entitled *The effects of what you can't see*, and concentrated on disabilities which may not be immediately apparent to others.

I am delighted that the Senior Common Room are putting on a range of cultural events. The latest was our former Royal Literary Fund writer in residence Rebecca Abrams talking about Licoricia of Winchester a medieval Jewish businesswoman about whom she has written a book. It was a terrific talk, well delivered.

We are delighted that the new archdeacon of Southwark is a Brasenose man, **Jonathan Sedgwick (Jurisprudence, 1982)** and we wish him the best for this demanding role. Congratulations to **Lord (Christopher) Bellamy (Jurisprudence, 1964)** for becoming Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.

We were graced by a visit from the Bishop of Grantham Nicholas Chamberlain for the Joint Ascension Day service with Lincoln.

\*We were saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty The Queen just as this edition went to press

# Your News

This is where we share your news. Whether it is an award, personal achievement, a new baby, job, or just an update on how you are getting on – we want to hear it! If you would like your news to be included in a future issue of the *Brazen Notes* (or *The Brazen Nose*), email us at [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk) or use our handy submission form at <https://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/submissions>

**Marty Gross (PPE, 1972):** Congratulations to Marty on receiving the **University's Distinguished Friend of Oxford Award** (DFO) 2022!

**Monica Wyatt (Education, 1977):** has received the Platinum Champions Award in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. She made the 490-shortlist from more than 3,000 nominees. Together with Royal Voluntary Service President, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, and in partnership with The Big Jubilee Lunch, the awards celebrate outstanding volunteers across the country who are making a difference every day. Monica has always been involved in a range of voluntary work, particularly in emotional and mental health and latterly in the Deaf, BSL-using community. She is a former long-serving trustee of SignHealth and has been a listening volunteer with Samaritans for nearly 37 years, during which time she has held a variety of roles at local, regional and national level. She currently lives near Wargrave, Berkshire.

**David Wright (Jurisprudence, 1950):** This year, as usual, my wonderful family gathered for my birthday, my 92nd: four children, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, together with 13 in-family partners. This all started with the 1952 Commem Ball, for which I needed a partner. I decided to put 'juris' to one side and pursue 'prudence'. My helpers, in somewhat drunken mode, proposed a media approach of, for the time, a very unconventional nature: an advert in the *Isis*. Such was the response that they found themselves plunged into an elimination process: strictly NOT come dancing for all but one. But what a one! The original choice was made on "yes, she'll keep talking all night." But how much more this led to. So much love and care in my advancing years! Marvellous good fortune, but can I be just a little bit smug about my 'prudence' at Oxford?

**David Gill (1957):** At the beginning of July 2021, I reached my 85th birthday and my wife Amy and I celebrated our 60th (diamond) wedding Anniversary. The latter is very much linked to Brasenose as I proposed in the Beer Cellar during the 1959 Summer Ball. My Best Man was Colin Smith, whose death sadly was reported in the 2020-2021 Brazen Nose. Because of the Covid situation the party had to be confined to the immediate family in our daughter's Cotswold garden, but none the less it was a great occasion.

**Simon Douglas Lane (Geography, 1966):** Has completed 25 years as a day chaplain at St. Paul's Cathedral. Continuing as chair of The League of Friends Charity at Teddington Memorial Hospital, with funding in excess of £2 million in the last 5 years and ongoing!

**Catherine Howarth (Modern History, 1993):** Has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2022 – congratulations Catherine!

**Iain Griffiths (PPE, 2002):** After completing my posting in Beirut during the pandemic and after the explosion, I have now returned to London as Private Secretary to the PUS, Sir Philip Barton KCMG.

**Simon Danes (Theology, 1983):** Appointed vice-chair of Trustees for Bedford Foodbank, for whom he runs their annual fundraising Doctor Who convention, Bedford Who Charity Con – to which all Brasenose Whovians are most warmly invited!

**Robert Cashmore (Modern History, 2010):** In October 2021, Robert Cashmore MBE joined Octopus Investments as the Director for the Middle East, leading Octopus' relationships across all asset classes with Middle Eastern investors, including venture capital, social infrastructure and real estate, and renewable energy.



**Professor Dame Jane Harding (Clinical Medicine, 1978)** Huge BNC congratulations to Professor Dame Jane Harding (pictured on the right) and her team on winning the Prime Minister's Science Prize in New Zealand! She's pictured here with **Professor Dame Juliet Gerrard (Chemistry, 1985)** the PM's Chief Science Advisor.



**Kitty Chew (Fine Art, 2015)** I exhibited a small show garden/border at BBC Gardener's World Live, for which I won a Gold medal, and one of the main awards for best interpretation of the theme. The garden was called '(We Deserve A) Wild Life'; it is about women's rights, and about raising awareness about the struggles women still face in today's society. It features the colours of the suffragettes blending into a riot of pinks, and I utilised as many plants named after women as I could. I created two wire sculptures to represent women reaching across history to support each other, the planting was kept wild and free to reflect the message of women being able to live in complete freedom. My promotional material also had details for domestic abuse support and helplines.

**James Nugent (Molecular & Cell Biochemistry, 2014):** James Nugent married Karina Shooter (Economics & Management, 2014) on 19 March 2022 at Beamish Hall in Durham (near Karina's family home). James and Karina started dating in 2015 while they were in their second year at Brasenose. Despite getting married up North, they managed to weave memories from Oxford into the day – for instance, instead of traditional table numbers, the tables at the wedding breakfast were named after prominent locations in Oxford (James and Karina's friends from college were of course sat on the Brasenose table!)

**Llewelyn Morgan** is celebrating 25 years of teaching Greek and Latin literature and language at Brasenose. He points out that his predecessor but one, Maurice Platnauer, took up his fellowship one hundred years ago, in 1922, and his predecessor but three, Charles Buller Heberden, in 1872, 150 years ago, and that anyone should feel free to send him a cake if they want to.

**Editor's Note: This is a selection of the news we have received. If you cannot see your submission printed here, it may appear in the next edition of the Brazen Notes or The Brazen Nose. Please note that Brasenose College reserves full editorial control over all its publications.**

# Student Life Today: Shreya Banerjee

We caught up with **Shreya Banerjee (Classics, 2019)** just before the end of Trinity Term 2022 to get an insight into her Brasenose experience so far....



*Shreya Banerjee in Rome*

## Could you tell us a little bit about your experience of coming up to Brasenose?

Well, I'd wanted to apply to Oxford for quite a while, because of its reputation of being the best place to study in the UK. But my path getting here was bit of an odd one, because at first I'd wanted to apply to read physics, but once I'd started my A-levels (maths, further maths, physics and classics), I changed my mind quite quickly and I realised I was more interested in the literature and humanities side of things. I attended a Classics, English and French study day that Brasenose Schools and Publications Officer Dr Joe Organ ran, and that was my first taste of what it might be like at Oxford. But I wasn't too confident of my chances of getting in. I found the interviews process quite challenging, but also quite fun, and at that point I had fingers crossed that I would get into Brasenose.

## Did your school have a particularly academic focus, and were the staff supportive in terms of you applying to Oxford?

I went to a girls' grammar school in north east London with a very high ethnic minority population, and there was really a lot of academic ambition – there was always an atmosphere that you can do anything as long as you work for it and you really try.

## How you have found Oxford as a person of colour – has it felt inclusive and welcoming?

When I first got here, it was obviously a shock compared to my previous school and the area in London where I'm from, which are very, very diverse. So I think maybe any university would have been a bit of a surprise, but I did find Brasenose to be a really welcoming environment regardless of that. I've been involved in quite a lot of access events and societies, such as the Christian Cole Society – the society for classicists of colour – which helped me to meet lots of different people. I often tell people that, obviously you have your college community, but that's not what you're limited to, and you can meet people and make friends through the various societies and events across the whole university community.

## How did you and your contemporaries cope through the various lockdown periods?

That first Trinity Term 2020, which we dubbed 'Virtual Trinity', when most people were at home and doing tutorials remotely, was probably the most challenging part because it was so isolating. But I was lucky in that I got to come back to College for Michaelmas and I stayed right the way through to the end of Trinity 2021. I genuinely think I couldn't have asked for Brasenose to be any better or more supportive, to be honest, and I think that sense of community really did persist. Some of us couldn't go home because our families had Covid, and there were international students who couldn't go home either. But we really did make the best of it. We had a big Christmas dinner, did Christmas karaoke and things like that, and one of the porters, Iain, dressed up in an elf costume! It was really nice, still being able to have that space in College. Now that things are more approaching normality, I think it has made me appreciate so much more the spontaneity and the fun of having face to face conversations – you appreciate those little things like seeing your friends for coffee or even going for walks and all those kinds of things.

## I understand you are quite an accomplished vocalist and guitarist?

Yes, I used to lead the Brasenose jazz band. Since then, I have moved on to the more professional scene in Oxford, and I'm one of the lead singers for Garfunkel, one of Oxford's biggest funk bands. We play a lot of college gigs, especially in ball season, and we've got a lot coming up in the next few weeks, which is really exciting. It was really nice starting from Brasenose jazz with a very nice

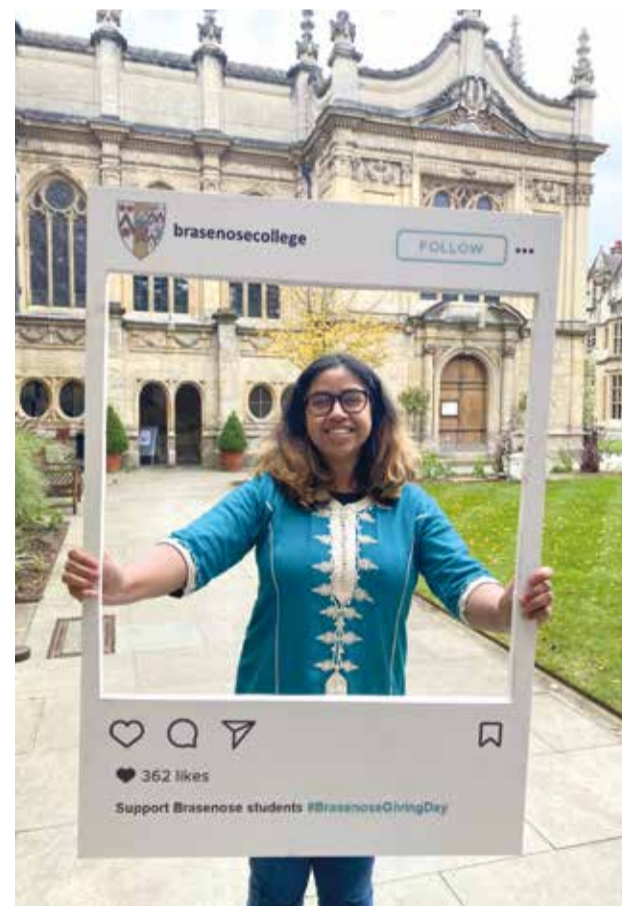
college feel, playing around the Uni, and it gave me confidence to join one of the big funk bands. That was really, really fun.

## Do you feel there is generally a good music scene around the college?

Yeah, and Brasenose music continued and even improved through the pandemic, because we had a lot of outdoor music events. Obviously, there are the more formal and organised musical events in Chapel, which are really well attended. There's also a lot of effort to make music at Brasenose accessible and not intimidating, which is something that has been really successful, in my opinion.

## Do you think Brasenose lives up to its reputation as the 'friendliest college in Oxford'?

I would say that people in Brasenose are genuinely very friendly and they feel a sense of community spirit. From what I've witnessed and experienced, they are very welcoming and understanding, and there's just such a wide variety of people here. And that's something that makes us a strong community as well, because we're always learning from each other.



*Shreya Banerjee*

# Save The Date

## Forthcoming Events

### **New Graduates Event**

6:30pm, Thursday 13 October 2022

The Apple Tree, 30 Clerkenwell Green,  
London EC1R 0DU

(Please note this is the venue's temporary 'Pop Up' location, not the regular building that you may have been to previously)

### **Principals Conversations:**

The Right Honourable Mark Harper MP

5.30pm, Thursday 20th October 2022

College

### **Principal's Conversations:**

Jo Baring

5.30pm, Wednesday 9th November 2022

College

### **Ellesmere Annual Dinner**

Saturday 12th November 2022

College

### **Classics Reunion Lunch**

Saturday 19th November 2022

College

### **1974 Network: Women in Law**

Tuesday 22nd November 2022

London (details TBC)

### **Principal's Conversations:**

Professor Vernon Bogdanor

5.30pm, Tuesday 22nd November 2022

College

### **Gaudy for 1973-1976**

Friday 17 March 2023

College

### **Golden Jubilee Lunch**

(Date TBC) April 2023

College

### **Diamond Jubilee Lunch**

(Date TBC) May 2023

College

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. For online bookings, please note that if you don't already have an alumni account, you will need to set one up. For new registrants, please be aware that we will need to verify your account (during normal College working hours) before it can be made active for event bookings. 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)

## Recent Events

A selection of photos from recent BNC events, including the Brasenose Alumni Society's Annual Dinner, the President's Summer Party, Diamond Jubilee Lunch, and Gaudies for 1990s matriculands.



## 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**

Alumni Relations and Development Office  
Brasenose College  
Radcliffe Square  
Oxford  
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**

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

 [www.twitter.com/BNC\\_members](http://www.twitter.com/BNC_members)

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

Once a Member of Brasenose,  
Always a Member of Brasenose



Brasenose  
College  
UNIVERSITY of OXFORD