

Issue 34 | Trinity Term 2024

Brazen *Notes*





Principal's Blog Highlights

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

Hilary Term 2024

Professor Daniela Bortoletto, our Brasenose Senior Kurti Fellow, was awarded an OBE in the 2024 New Year Honours for her services to Particle Physics and to gender equality. We all congratulate Daniela on this recognition for her fantastic work in Oxford and CERN. We also offer congratulations to Professor Jayne Birkby on her award from the Blavatnik Family Foundation and the New York Academy of Sciences, recognising her work in detecting water in the atmosphere of an exoplanet.

Holocaust Memorial Day

There was not an unfilled seat in chapel for the Holocaust Memorial Day Remembrance Event on 28 January. We were lucky to have Dame Margaret Hodge MP address us. She spoke movingly of her grandfather's experiences as an enemy alien when he arrived in the UK from Austria in the late 1930s. Her parents fled to Egypt (where Margaret was born in 1944) from Germany, and then to the UK in 1948, as a consequence of the Arab-Israeli War, although the UK was the fourth country to which they had applied. She emphasised how secular her family was and also spoke about her ordeal in the Labour Party after accusing its former leadership of antisemitism. She concluded with a plea against complacency in this country and cited the hostile language which various politicians have used against refugees, such as that they posed an 'existential crisis' and that there was a 'hurricane' of asylum seekers.

Blurbs

When I started here, our blurbs matched an SCR member with an HCR member on broadly similar subjects. Recently we have moved to a less rigid format with addresses on different subjects and you could not find much more diverse topics than the offering on 8 February. The SCR speaker Dr Chloe Fisher presented on 'Characterising Exoplanet Atmospheres with James Webb Space Telescopes' whilst Aditi Upmanyu talked about her research on 'Deviant Mothers and Defiant Daughters: Radical Women Novelists of the Eighteenth Century'.

We congratulate Prof. Perla Maiolino and Prof. Jeremy Robertson who have both won MPLS awards for Outstanding Research Supervision.

We were favoured with a visit by our Visitor, the Bishop of Lincoln, on 18 February. The newly installed Bishop is the Right Rev Stephen Conway whose inauguration I attended on behalf of the College in the incomparable Lincoln Cathedral. He preached in Chapel and the following day met a cross-section of our College community.

'Debating the Difficult'

We are part of a consortium of colleges putting on events entitled 'Debating the Difficult', a series intended to foster respectful debate,

while protecting everyone's right to freedom of speech. This term at Brasenose we considered the issue of assisted dying. The Colleges involved are Balliol, Brasenose, Mansfield, Regent's Park, Somerville and Worcester.

The arguments for legalising assisted dying were led by former Lord Chancellor Charlie Falconer, and Ilora Finlay, Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, Professor of Palliative Medicine at Cardiff University. They were opposed respectively by our own PPE student James Forsdyke and Yuan Yi Zhu, Assistant Professor of International Relations and International Law at Leiden University.

A poll taken before the event showed a slight majority in favour of assisted dying. Audience members of all views listened attentively to the arguments on both sides during a debate which was civil and respectful. A concluding poll showed a reduced majority in favour of assisted dying.



L-R: Lord Falconer, James Forsdyke, Baroness Finlay, Yuan Yi Zhu (Photo: David Isaac CBE)

Trinity Term 2024

During Arts Week, our Frankland Visitor Joanna Kavenna followed up her previous Hilary Term events with two panel events. One was on Strange Experiments and premonitions, with Olivia Smith and Sam Knight, which was fascinating. Kenneth Lonergan (our first Frankland Visitor, director of *Manchester by the Sea*, and now also an actor in *Ripley*) and his wife J Smith Cameron (Gerry the lawyer in *Succession*) returned to the city they love for the third time. Kenny put on a session for students on his films and they both did a Conversation moderated by Dr Agota Marton, one of our English Fellows.



Joanna Kavenna (Photo: A. Michaelis)

On Ascension Day we witnessed the ancient ritual of Beating the Bounds of the parish, which parishioners attend with sticks to beat the bounds. We had the pleasure of welcoming the former Archbishop Rowan Williams who preached in our Chapel, which was packed for his sermon. The service was held jointly with Lincoln.

As if this was not enough activity for one week, we also welcomed **Con Coughlin (Modern History, 1974)** who is Defence Editor of the Daily Telegraph on the Wednesday of Arts Week. He gave a broad conspectus of world conflicts, with particular reference to Gaza and Ukraine.

April saw the memorial for the late alumnus, **Professor Vincent Marks (Physiological Sciences, 1948)** in the form of his 'final meeting' at the Royal Society of Medicine where a number of colleagues and family talked about his life and work as a clinician and scientist, especially his work on insulin and hypoglycaemia.

On 2 May, we welcomed Margo and **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)** to view the progress installing the new organ which they have generously enabled us to commission. Work on the organ is expected to be completed over the summer ready for the new academic year.

The Brasenose PPE Society

The renowned Politics, Philosophy, Economics (PPE) course has been running for over a hundred years; however, the Brasenose PPE Society is relatively new, having been set up in 2016 by **Vivek Gupta (2014)** and **Will Feerick (2014)**. **Faye Fallon (2021)** and **James Forsdyke (2021)**, both PPE finalists, recently completed their tenure as co-presidents of the Society, along with **Nikita Lavender** and **Freya Williams** (second year PPEists); here Faye and James share some of their insights.

What are the primary aims of the Brasenose PPE Society?

FF: The Society arranges events with external speakers for the student body – primarily for the undergraduates – but we try to encourage everyone from across the college, including staff, to come along. We also arrange an annual PPE dinner, which is one of the more social aspects.

JF: The Society provides an outlet for direct learning; one of the privileges of studying at Oxford is that big names in academia, politics, journalism, etc. tend to gravitate towards the city, so there are often events here with experts that you wouldn't ordinarily encounter as a student. We approach interesting people from different aspects of the three disciplines – including civil servants, politicians, academics, and others – to come and speak, with the aim of providing extracurricular enrichment. It's a forum for students to be able to ask questions of interesting and accomplished individuals.

Is the Society formally linked to the central University of Oxford PPE Society, or do they operate independently?

FF: It does operate independently as a College society, but it can be useful for us to tie in with the University PPE Society, particularly when it comes to promoting events – we normally advertise our guest speakers on the Brasenose JCR social media accounts, but having their additional reach really helps us open our events up to a wider audience.

JF: It is rather helpful when the Oxford-wide society reposts an event of ours on social media – for example, they helped promote our final event of the year, a lecture with question and answer session by our widely admired outgoing Professor of Politics and International Relations, Andrea Ruggeri, who will now be teaching at the University of Milan.

How have you (co-presidents) found the experience of running the Society over the past year – has it been different to how you imagined?

JF: It's been a real privilege. The society is relatively new, but already prior presidents have gone on to do great things, so to hold such a position and to have been part of organising such a busy and successful year of events has been brilliant. Speakers have included:



Faye Fallon, PPE Society Co-President 2023-24



James Forsdyke, PPE Society Co-President 2023-24

Professor Andrea Ruggeri; Professor Alan Renwick, Deputy Director of University College London's Constitution Unit; **Sir Paul Silk**, who led the commission on Welsh devolution; **Dame Antonia Romeo**, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice; **Sir Dave Ramsden**, Deputy Governor for Markets and Banking at the Bank of England; and **James Johnson**, former adviser to Theresa May. To have organised, hosted and contributed to these events has been a real pleasure, and always very rewarding and interesting. To see attendees enjoy them, and to hear such positive feedback after having done a great deal of preparation was particularly fulfilling.

FF: It's been great to get some experience working as part of a group – the academic work with PPE is very individual and there's not really any group work, so it's been interesting to have the experience of collaborating with different people to coordinate these events. It's also been good to get some public speaking experience, such as giving the introductions to speakers and thanking them at the end. It's been fascinating to find out how much work goes on behind the scenes for these types of events – as an audience member you don't necessarily appreciate that, but it's much more than you would think! One unexpected factor when it came to re-establishing in-person talks was that we were belatedly affected by the impact of Covid. For example, some groups seemed less inclined to come and attend events, after so many had pivoted to online platforms – but thankfully we were able to largely overcome this effect and get some momentum going.

How does the Society decide who to invite to speak?

JF: Generally, we decide based upon the contacts we have. Having worked at the Oxford Union, I had established some contacts there, as well as others from different events in Oxford. At one stage, I came very close to drawing in John Cleese, but he'd already agreed to do an event at Cambridge – however he very kindly invited me along to that one instead. Finding contacts takes time, but it's very rewarding when it works. Anybody who has something interesting to say with regard to one of our areas of study is a good candidate for an event.



Professor Alan Renwick (Photo: Dave Leal)



Professor Andrea Ruggeri (Photo: Dave Leal)

FF: Availability is always our biggest constraint when it comes to arranging guest speakers, as there is never a shortage of interesting people we could invite to talk about PP or E! We make an effort to invite people with experience from both the academic and non-academic realms. This is why Oxford Alumni can be especially interesting and provide food for thought when it comes to thinking about our future career ambitions. Over the academic year, we were fortunate to have talks from prominent BNC Alumni, such as **Dame Antonia Romeo** and **Sir Paul Silk**, but others don't have any direct connection with the college. I am looking forward to seeing which speakers the new Presidents manage to secure for the upcoming terms.

Does the committee remain politically neutral, or do the members' particular leanings come into play?

FF: The society does strive to be politically neutral, but any bias in terms of who we invite is more likely to be about having a topical sort of focus in terms of current affairs, and which speakers would have a wide appeal. We've certainly aimed to have some variety with our talks – the more variety the better with these kind of events – and I think

we managed to do that quite successfully with the range of guest speakers we have hosted.

JF: You can likely find examples of biases in a host of different forums. Hypothetically, there isn't anything concrete to prevent a bias within the Society, other than the selection process being merit-based. I think we've done a good job this year of not letting anything get in the way of an open forum selection of events. One of my colleagues had a connection-in-common with **Dame Antonia Romeo**, another

The PPE Society Co-Presidents for 2024-25



Benjamin Surguy



Robert Ebner-Statt

knew **Sir Paul Silk** and had a particular interest in Welsh devolution, but as mentioned earlier, it tends to come back to who you know and can contact, and ultimately you make arrangements according to who is available and willing to talk. For me, the focus was to let free speech reign, and bring in as many different thinkers as possible. I think we've achieved that in a way we're all happy with.

Does it tend to only be PPEists who get involved, or do those reading other subjects come along to the talks? Presumably some of the higher profile speakers generate a lot of interest around College?

FF: There's definitely a variety of people who are interested in the events, and we get a good mix of students from different subjects, especially humanities, and STEM. We make sure to invite all members of the College, and strive to make the events enticing to colleagues across the different year groups. At our first event in Michaelmas, quite a few freshers came along to do the debating, across several different subjects. It was quite informal because there weren't that many of us, but I think that made it enjoyable, because there's a lot of formal debating in Oxford that you can get involved in, but it's nice to have the opportunity to just discuss things as part of a society, but without all of the baggage that comes with the more formal debates.

JF: Often PPEists do attend the talks, but we're lucky to receive support from students of a variety of different disciplines. Often there will be a certain amount of overlap with the subjects that share common ground with PPE, such as History, Geography, Law, Theology. The highest profile events generate a huge amount of

interest amongst members of the college, but also across the wider university. Andrea Ruggeri's event saw a great many high profile Politics tutors from across Oxford's colleges turn out to hear his parting thoughts on International Politics. It's always so satisfying to organise something, and then to play your part in a fantastically popular event.

Is there a strong sense of community among Oxford's PPE students – are there PPE socials for example?

JF: Across all of the Oxford colleges there are a great many PPE students, and you'll often meet them at lectures and classes, as well as extracurricular events that go on at the university. People will come to the events at Brasenose from a variety of different colleges, and it's always brilliant to chat to people about the topics you're most passionate about. There aren't, I don't think, many university wide PPE socials, but there are society organised events where you'll meet interesting people. Here at Brasenose, I've been privileged to study alongside some brilliant fellow students, and I've made some of the best friends in my year's PPE cohort. We're a very lucky, close knit group, and I'm really grateful for having had that experience.

FF: There is definitely a sense of community, and I think there is scope for the Society to make the PPE community even more cohesive across the different year groups, and help more PPEists get to know each other better through our events and socials. I'm also keen for more people in College to hear about our events and come along to them!

With thanks to Dr Dave Leal for his assistance with this feature.

The Heffernan Sinclair Scholarship

One of the late Professor Peter Sinclair's wishes in his lifetime was to establish a Graduate scholarship in Economics at Brasenose; a fully endowed fund that would allow bright grad students to excel in the area – an award to be given in perpetuity.

Peter originally began the fund in 2017; after he passed away in 2020, his former students from around the globe came together to fulfil the remainder of the scholarship. Peter's wishes were made a reality through the kindness of those that knew him; a reflection of the kindness he showed to so many.

Peter's dedication to education, passion for economics, and commitment to intellectual curiosity have left an indelible mark on Brasenose and the countless students who have had the privilege to learn from him.

We were thrilled to welcome the first Heffernan-Sinclair Scholar, Joseph Levine, whose research interests encompass energy and health economics, among many other topics. Like those before him, Joseph has found a supportive environment at Brasenose College, where he has been able to thrive academically and personally, surrounded by a community that embodies the values and principles that Peter held dear.



Professor Peter Sinclair

"Brasenose college has provided a fun and supportive environment, including my friends in the HCR, my college supervisor Dr. Demir, and friends in college sports."

Joseph Levine (Economics, 2022), the first Heffernan-Sinclair Scholar.

"In a few short months he had a profound influence on me. When I was floundering in my Oxford entrance interviews – I hadn't got a clue what was going on as I was being grilled by the formidable philosophy tutor – Peter was the one beaming and nodding and encouraging, as though everything was going brilliantly. And when I decided to drop economics and specialise in philosophy, Peter took the trouble to send a long, handwritten letter, full of encouragement, gently suggesting that I reconsider. I remember it vividly. I took his advice. It changed my life."

Tim Harford (PPE, 1992), economist and broadcaster

Economics at Brasenose in 2024

Associate Professor of Economics and Brasenose Tutorial Fellow **Professor Banu Demir Pakel** gives an insight into the strands of economics where her research is focused.

While I am a relatively new faculty member and Fellow at the University of Oxford and Brasenose College, I am not new to the Oxford academic life. I pursued my graduate studies at Oxford from 2008 to 2012 and received my DPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford in 2012.

My research is at the intersection of international trade and development economics, with a focus on how firms adjust to trade-related shocks and how their adjustment shapes the aggregate economic outcomes including growth and income. Before delving into the details of my research, allow me to briefly explain the importance of international trade. There is likely one statement on which nearly all economists would agree: free trade is better than protection. Countries gain from specialisation through trade. More trade fosters competition, induces innovation, helps firms exploit scale economies by expanding markets beyond national borders, and allows consumers to access product varieties that may not be available in their home market.

My research focuses on a number of topics related to international trade. One line of my research focuses on international and domestic transport (shipping) costs. It is well known that economic activity is unevenly distributed across regions, generating high interregional inequalities. To address this issue, governments around the world allocate large sums of money to transport infrastructure projects. So, the question stands: is this level of spending justified? Public investment in transport infrastructure is justified because high transport costs are thought to impede economic growth as people and firms located in isolated regions face high market access costs when selling their goods, and buying inputs or final goods. Investment in transport infrastructure improves growth prospects by facilitating both domestic and international trade, as well as the mobility of people and firms. Unfortunately, quantifying the economic effects of transport infrastructure projects presents significant challenges to researchers because the relationship is characterised by complex interactions among economic agents and feedback mechanisms. My work complements the existing literature by offering novel and convincing empirical evidence on the benefits of improvements in transport infrastructure or improvements in shipping technologies using rich micro-level data.

Another topic that I study in my research concerns the ways in which firms respond to trade-related shocks, such as changes in border taxes. As many countries rely on exports as a driver of economic growth, their economic performance is significantly affected by changes in trade policy or the competitive environment in the export markets. My research explores new margins, such as provision of trade credit or evading border taxes, along which firms adjust to shocks related to international trade. For instance, one of my papers, *Don't Throw in the Towel, Throw in Trade Credit* (co-authored with Beata Javorcik), shows that the ability to provide financing can give

producers a competitive edge in foreign markets, which rationalises why many governments are engaged in the provision of trade financing by establishing import-export banks.



Photo: David Fisher

Professor Banu Demir Pakel

Let me now explain how my more recent work contributes to the field of international trade and informs policy making. One of my recent papers, *"O-Ring Production Networks"* co-authored with Cecilia Fielser, Daniel Xu, and Kelly Yang, combines data and theory in a coherent way to shed light on an old and important question: what is the role of international trade in economic development? The punchline of the paper is that trade with high-income countries could enhance skill upgrading not only by direct exporters but also by a broader set of domestic producers through their domestic production linkages.

We emphasise the quality complementarity embedded in a firm's production process, meaning that higher quality output requires high quality inputs. This novel mechanism places the "quality" instead of "scale" of international trade at the centre of economic development policymaking. In short, our results highlight the role of international trade as an important driver of skill upgrading in developing countries.

Currently, I'm working on a research agenda that is at the intersection of international trade and climate change. Climate change is undoubtedly the most pressing global issue of our time. Policy makers are confronted with the critical task of mitigating climate change without causing significant harm to economic growth and international competitiveness. In the pursuit of climate objectives, globalisation serves a dual role—it can either advance global environmental standards or exacerbate carbon leakage, where businesses shift production to regions with lax environmental regulations. The case of carbon leakage demonstrates that globalisation has the potential to exacerbate environmental harm by incentivising manufacturing in low/middle-income countries with more relaxed environmental regulations, leading to a weakening of environmental protections. Conversely, it can also serve as an effective tool to propagate global environmental standards. Hence, understanding the dual role of globalisation in climate objectives and how it might influence businesses to gear up for a future with reduced carbon emissions, in a way that aligns with current growth goals, is of paramount significance. My research agenda will explore the complex dynamics between globalisation and the environment, highlighting the critical need to factor in diverse elements such as innovation, policy frameworks, and buyer-supplier relationships, with the aim of gaining a deeper, more refined comprehension of this complex interplay.

Read more about Professor Pakel's work and her published research papers on the University of Oxford Department of Economics website www.economics.ox.ac.uk/people/banu-demir-pakel and on her own website <https://sites.google.com/site/banudemirpakel/>

Politics at Brasenose in 2024

Professor Katerina Tertychnaya is Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the Department of Politics and International Relations and Tutorial Fellow of Brasenose College. Her research interests include public opinion, protests, and authoritarian politics.

Can you summarise your academic journey and path to becoming a Tutorial Fellow at Brasenose?

I completed a DPhil in Politics at the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR) and St. Cross College in Oxford, spending the fourth year on a Fulbright Schuman Fellowship at Columbia in New York City. After that I returned to Oxford to take up a Junior Research Fellowship at St. Anne's.

The support was fantastic in terms of providing career opportunities for a recent DPhil graduate to build a research portfolio. I then moved to University College London, where I was a lecturer, and later, associate professor for five years. I've now been at Brasenose for a year, and I've been very impressed by the quality of our students, their ambition, and their achievements.

When did you first get interested in politics?

I was born in the former Soviet Union and raised in Cyprus, so I think my life trajectory was marked by political developments. Firstly, there was the collapse of the Soviet Union, and then growing up in Cyprus – a divided country – politics was very much part of everyday life. Growing up I spoke many languages, and I love travelling, so initially I wanted to become a diplomat and travel the world. Fulbright had a bi-communal program that would send Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots over to the US to meet – we travelled to Vermont in the United States to meet people from the other side of Cyprus! It was quite a formative experience, and it was the very first time I met members of the Turkish Cypriot community. Overall, it was a positive experience of peace-building and reconciliation. But in the end academia drew me in, and I'm very glad to be here.

Do you teach students who are reading PPE, History & Politics, or just Politics?

I teach students who study philosophy, politics and economics (PPE), but also provide teaching for history and politics students – I teach political sociology, comparative government, introduction to politics, and also Soviet and post-Soviet politics. I also provide graduate teaching in comparative government and European politics for DPIR, and supervise MPhil and DPhil students.

Which kinds of topics does your research examine?

Primarily I study authoritarian politics and the resilience of non-democratic forms of government, with a focus on the interaction between the state and its citizens – there is currently a lot of

interest in this field. More people now live in autocracies than in democratic regimes!

I draw on insights from political sociology and comparative government, such as the study of social movements and public opinion, to understand the dynamics of mass support for non-democratic regimes in times of crisis. I also ask how opposition

parties can generate support in repressive settings and how contemporary autocrats, like Russia's Vladimir Putin, use repression, indoctrination, and propaganda to lower the costs of holding on to power. Two of the projects I'm involved with look at what authoritarian governments do to reduce these costs, or otherwise maintain support. One project looks at strategies of non-violent repression, so how governments use the law and bureaucrats in order to repress their populations. This has funding support from UKRI's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). It's an interesting area to study, because when we study violence in politics, we look at armies and police and how they bait populations. However, increasingly we see governments repress in more subtle and insidious ways.

Another project looks at the strategies of indoctrination. This is a larger European Research Council (ERC) project that's based at the University of Glasgow. We've collected indicators of propaganda and indoctrination in media and in schools, from 1945 to the present. It's not just about repression but it's also indoctrination: autocrats combine these two tools.

And then finally, there's a study looking at public opinion in Russia, for which we've had support from the National Science Foundation in the US. We surveyed how Russians thought before and after recent elections, and looked at the implications for politics.

What do you think are the key factors that allow authoritarian governments to hold on to power, and is there anything that affected populations can do to make a difference?

Autocratic governments combine tools like propaganda and repression, both violent and non-violent. The flow of goods can also be used to favour or punish people, through targeted redistribution: allowing goods and services to be provided to some people, but also withholding them from others, preventing them from getting access to certain things.

Also a big part of it, which is definitely seen with the Russian election, is making sure that there is no competition to their rule – elections in particular are often rigged, and the falsification starts well in advance,



Professor Katerina Tertychnaya

'More people now live in autocracies than in democratic regimes'

even before people take to their polls. Dictators are very good at generating an image that there is consensus and widespread support for their rule, so their support is socially constructed and maintained.

In terms of how governments and people interact, protest is a large part of the process – it's one of the most consequential actions that people can take to influence democratisation, or indeed to make any difference in non-democracies.

Do you think the Russian public are fully aware that their choice is 'limited', and if so, do they still feel that it is worth participating?

We recently asked a question about this in one of the surveys we fielded online in Russia, about whether people felt that participation in elections is meaningful, and the majority answered 'Yes, it's meaningful to participate in elections.' Some people say that it's their civic duty to vote.

Opinions vary of course, though there's a consensus that there are no serious opponents to the regime. Some Russians accept that there's a 'competent, experienced leader' in place, with no credible opposition – that's the state of things. But also, there are people who do support the opposition, and there has been extensive migration out of the country as a result of Russia's invasion and the draft that was introduced.

Do you think social media is having a positive or negative effect overall on politics and public engagement with politics?

Well, I think this is a difficult question, and it's one that we examine in political sociology – the impact has been mixed really. Social media, especially in non-democratic regimes, is helpful to the extent that it helps like-minded people to express their views, allows protestors to coordinate, and discontent to become known. In dictatorships a big concern is that you don't know how many people dislike the dictator so you can feel like you're alone. It's good to the extent that social media allow for this expression.

At the same time, we know that social media have also allowed the state to engage in preventive repression, to monitor dissidents, and to make sure that protests do not go ahead, which in itself is detrimental for collective action.

Are there any political figures that you admire?

When I was in high school, I had to write an essay about the person I admire the most, and I wrote about Condoleezza Rice – though I must be clear that it was her, not her policies that I admired. She was Secretary of State, she'd studied Soviet politics, she was a woman of colour at the top echelons of the American government, and she had such grace, will and determination to succeed.

What helps Brasenose stand out from other colleges in terms of research and teaching in politics?

Firstly, there's the high quality of undergraduate and graduate Politics students and the strong tradition of politics at the college; secondly, there's the BNC Research Fund, which enables academics to apply for grants from the college to cover expenses, such as our annual outreach and engagement activities. For example, with support from this fund, we organised a one-day workshop in college on *Non-Violent Repression: New Actors and Agents*. Academics and practitioners joined us in Oxford from Europe and the US, and it was a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase the college. Such workshops are open to our students so they too can be, part of this cutting-edge research, as it is formed. We also have a PhD workshop on *Authoritarian Politics*, organised with the support of College, with graduate students joining us to present their research from around the world. This is one of the ways we can use our research funding to engage with the students.

I think it is fantastic that the college enables these kinds of networking connections and research conferences. It also creates opportunities for students to participate in events and activities as research assistants, and we can bounce ideas off them and share our work – learning can be done in a more rounded way through research. Both undergraduate and graduate students can have these opportunities – even if they are not looking towards an academic career, the skills learned will help them with data literacy and analysis, engaging with literature, summarising information, and teamwork. It is always such a proud moment when I see our students participating in other workshops and conferences across the university!



Find out more about Professor Tertychnaya's research on her website at www.katerinatertychnaya.com, and listen to her podcast appearances at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001x4tr and <https://ucl-uncovering-politics.simplecast.com/episodes/the-impact-of-banning-protests>

One of Professor Tertychnaya's workshops at Brasenose



Brasenose Treasures

This beautiful silver-gilt Russian Kovsh (beaker) was given to the College in 1932 by H. N. Spalding, a friend of Principal Stallybrass. A Kovsh was usually placed in the middle of a dining table with mead or wine. The contents would have been ladled out and handed to guests. This particular Kovsh was presented by Catherine the Great (Empress Catherine II), to Nicephore Mitriassoff, Ataman of the Zimovaia Stanitza of the Eitzsky Cossack Army for faithful services, at St. Petersburg, in 1767, and bears an inscription to that effect.

Frewin Hall's Regal Legacy

In amongst the fascinating history of Frewin Hall, one noteworthy period is when it served as home to The Prince of Wales, later Edward VII.

Brasenose's connection with The Monarchy goes all the way back to 1509, with the College's foundation being approved by Henry VIII, less than two months after he came to the throne.

Henry's daughter and successor Elizabeth I visited Brasenose in 1592, and over the subsequent centuries the College has been associated with many Royals, including Charles I, George III, Edward VII, Edward VIII and Elizabeth II. The latter first visited Brasenose in 1948 as Princess Elizabeth; she would return in 2009 – as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – for the College's Quincentenary celebrations.

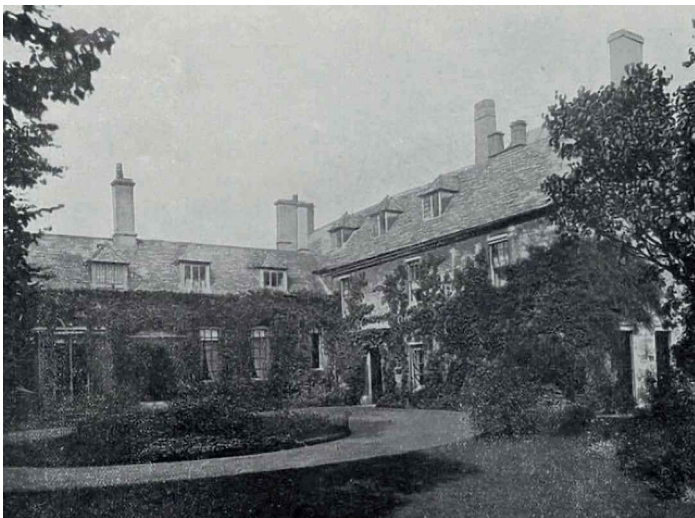
The Royal association with Frewin Hall is much more personal: in 1859, The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) enrolled at the University of Oxford. The second child and eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, Edward (known as 'Bertie' among close family) was a popular figure, known for his affable nature. He matriculated

as a student at Christ Church, but it was decided that in terms of accommodation he would reside at Frewin Hall.

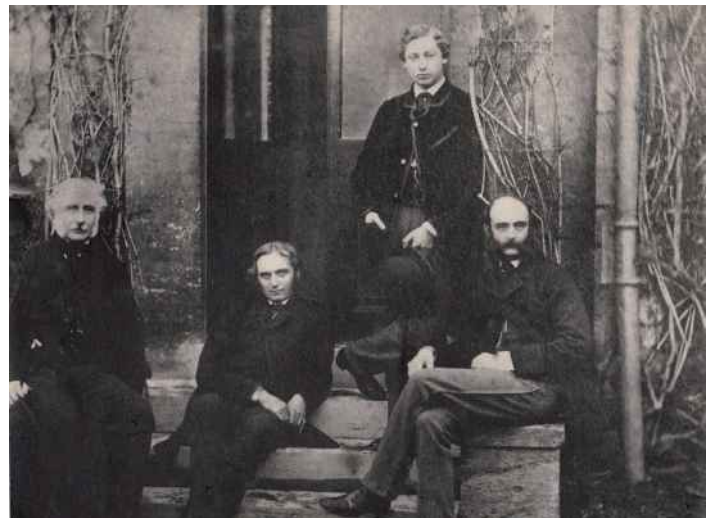
The Prince's home at Frewin was shared by his governor, General the Hon. Robert Bruce, who had been with him for nearly a year, and Mrs. Bruce. A body of professors directed the studies of the Prince, including informal lectures on English History.

The drawing room and study were depicted by the watercolour painter Joseph Nash during the Prince's residence as shown [below] and it is believed that the original artworks remain in the Royal Collection.

During his time at Oxford, the Prince developed a great love for Frewin Hall, and after his marriage to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, he brought her to Frewin to show off his beloved student home.



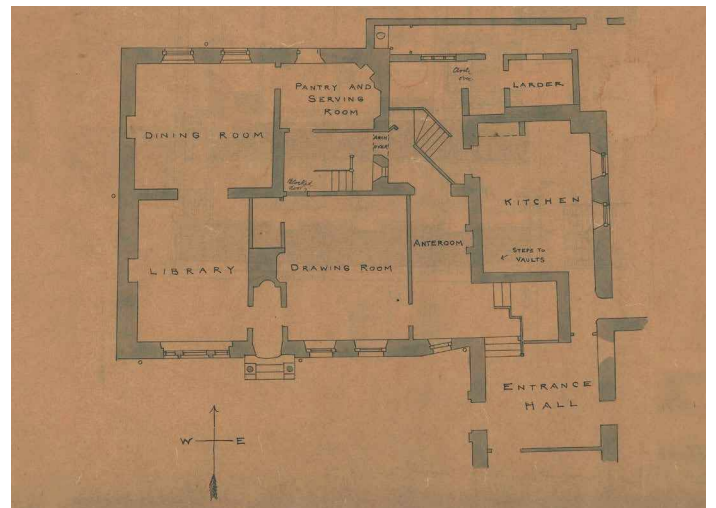
Frewin Hall, as it was at the time King Edward resided there whilst at Oxford University (from a photo by Hills & Saunders). Credit: Gillman & Soame.



Left General Bruce, Mr Fisher and right Prince of Wales, Col. Keppel [PIC 2 A1], 1859



Drawing Room at Frewin Hall – After Joseph Nash © Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 | Royal Collection Trust



Floorplan of Frewin Hall at the time of the Prince of Wales' residence.



Heritage Redefined

Frewin Hall's Renaissance as a Social and Study Hub

The restoration of Frewin Hall, including its Norman Undercroft, stands as one of Brasenose College's and Oxfordshire's most historically significant projects. Meticulously planned, the redevelopment will seamlessly integrate historic spaces with modern amenities, harmonising heritage preservation and environmental sustainability. This approach not only honours the past but also lays the foundations for a vibrant future.

Currently serving as a student bedroom, the Prince of Wales' Drawing Room will undergo a transformation as part of the project. This initiative aims to turn not only this room but the entire Hall into a cross-disciplinary and dynamic hub for the College. The goal is to reshape the way our students study and live, fostering an atmosphere of learning, exploration and knowledge exchange.

The project will have a particular focus on removing modern partitions and reinstating the authentic historical wall lines that

were disrupted by reconfiguration work in the 1970s – the aim is to rediscover and reclaim the history of the Hall, whilst also rejuvenating the internal spaces and the ways in which they can be utilised.

Moreover, the full integration of historically significant spaces such as the Prince of Wales' Drawing Room and the Norman-era Undercroft with other ground floor areas in Frewin Hall will provide open access to these areas for the first time. This integration will foster a sense of unity and community, enriching the collegiate experience for all. As we realign Frewin Hall with its original floorplan, we will prioritise the preservation of its historical integrity and the protection of its unique legacy. This meticulous attention to detail ensures that the spirit of the Hall endures, even as it evolves to meet modern needs.



Official portrait of Lord Janvrin, by Roger Harris Photography, Wikimedia Commons CC BY 3.0

"In 1966, I spent my first year at Brasenose living in Frewin Hall and was aware of its distinguished history as the residence of the Prince of Wales in the nineteenth century. It is wonderful to see the College's royal connections enduring into the present century, exemplified by the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2009 to celebrate the College's 500th anniversary—an occasion made even more special for her as the College had provided two of her nine Private Secretaries. I am heartened that Brasenose College continues meticulously to preserve this historic site, honouring its timeless legacy. This commitment ensures that Frewin Hall will stand as a testament to our rich heritage for millennia to come."

(Lord) Robin Janvrin

From Heritage to Hub

Will Palin on the Frewin Hall Fundraising Campaign

Will Palin (English, 1990), is an expert in architectural history, heritage, and conservation, and is currently Chief Executive of Barts Heritage at St Bartholomew's Hospital. He has contributed his expertise to numerous significant projects in the UK and beyond, and we are delighted that he will be the inaugural Patron of our Frewin Hall Fundraising Campaign.

“Here is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for philanthropists to become involved in a nationally important building conservation project which will deliver real benefits to students and visitors for generations to come. I know that every donation and every gesture of support will be vital to the success of this adventure.”

Contact us

If you'd like to learn more about our plans for the Frewin Annexe and wish to support the Frewin Hall redevelopment campaign, please email our Alumni Relations and Development Team at development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk. Thank you.

With a wealth of experience in conservation, and the fact you have lent your expertise to numerous significant projects in the UK and beyond for over 25 years, brings a unique perspective to your work. What distinctive features and historical narratives of Frewin Hall set it apart from other projects you have been involved with, and what aspects captivate you the most?

The built fabric of Frewin Hall dates back nearly 1000 years – that is old even for Oxford. Its history is extraordinary and complex, and many of its treasures lie hidden or obscured. During my time at Brasenose, I had little or no idea how special Frewin was, and it's been a pleasure to have an opportunity to get to know this special building a little better.

The many physical changes to Frewin over its long history has created a puzzle – and solving this puzzle is crucial to the success the current scheme – and it is also what makes the project particularly enjoyable. The painstaking work already undertaken by the architectural team has identified the main phases of alterations and this has informed the approach to solving the mysteries of Frewin. It will be tremendously exciting to witness this process of unpicking the layers and revealing the beauty and meaning of the building.

Are there any innovative techniques or approaches being employed in the restoration of Frewin Hall that you find particularly exciting or promising for the field of architectural conservation?

The architectural history of Frewin is unusually well researched – and this provides a good basis for decision making in terms of extent of proposed changes. What is particularly exciting about the project is the opportunity it gives for embedding best practice in terms of sustainability and energy efficiency – in a way that doesn't detract from or harm the precious history fabric. The building needs to work for the college and its students in terms of facilities and comfort, but it should also inspire through its beauty, rich history and special atmosphere.

With your generational connection to Brasenose, how do you foresee the restoration of the Hall reshaping student life at Brasenose and its impact on Oxford City and the wider public?

Frewin is undervalued and little known, despite the role it has played in the development of Oxford and its university. The project will be of tremendous benefit to students in providing a wonderful new environment for study and relaxation – but it will also re-energise this largely forgotten enclave in the centre of Oxford.

As a Patron of the Frewin Hall Fundraising Campaign, what drives your commitment to advocating for Brasenose's heritage and preservation? How do you aspire to inspire fellow alumni and individuals beyond our community to join in supporting this project?

Frewin has always been secondary or ancillary to the main Brasenose campus. Here is an opportunity to for the site to develop its own special character and importance through the uncovering of its precious historic fabric – and exploring the deeper links to buildings such as Brasenose Chapel – where roof timbers salvaged from Frewin were used in the 16th century. The archaeological excavations already carried out at Frewin have drawn global scientific and media attention and here is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for fellow alumni to become involved in a nationally important building conservation project which will deliver real benefits to students and visitors. I know that every donation and every gesture of support will be vital to the success of this adventure.

Accounts from an Account Book

19th Century Brasenose tutor Samuel Hall's Account Book, with its annotations and carefully preserved letters, allows us a glimpse into the lives of Brasenose students from around 200 years ago. Here are some of their stories. By Brasenose alumna **E. Howes**, Research Assistant.

Samuel Hall (1787-1853) was at Brasenose College in the early 19th century. He matriculated in 1806, received a Hulme Exhibition scholarship, and graduated with a first-class degree in 1810. Along with his academic successes, Hall was a member of the enthusiastic but short-lived Brasenose Chess Club, which lasted from 1810-1811. He became a fellow in 1811, and was made Junior Bursar in 1821. From 1824-32 Samuel Hall was Vice-Principal of Brasenose.

The Brasenose Archive possesses Samuel Hall's Pupils' Accounts Book from c.1822-1831. At that time, tutors were in charge of monitoring their pupils' finances, and Hall's book records charges and payments for each of his students. Mostly these concerned battels or monies owed to the College, however sometimes other expenses were included. For example, Richard Whitfield Ashworth, who was Hall's pupil in 1823, is marked as having paid his debts to 'sundry tradesmen,' including Thompson the Print seller, Hulme the Druggist and Giles the Coffeehouse Keeper. Sometimes the names of authors or books, such as Herodotus, Virgil and the Iliad, are pencilled-in on the students' pages, suggesting that these were texts purchased by undergraduates to keep up with their studies (which, in those days, centred on ancient Greek and Roman classics).

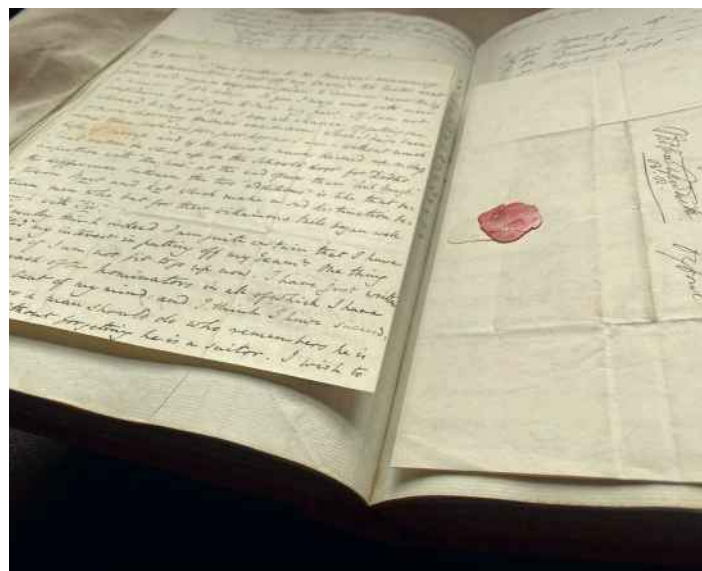
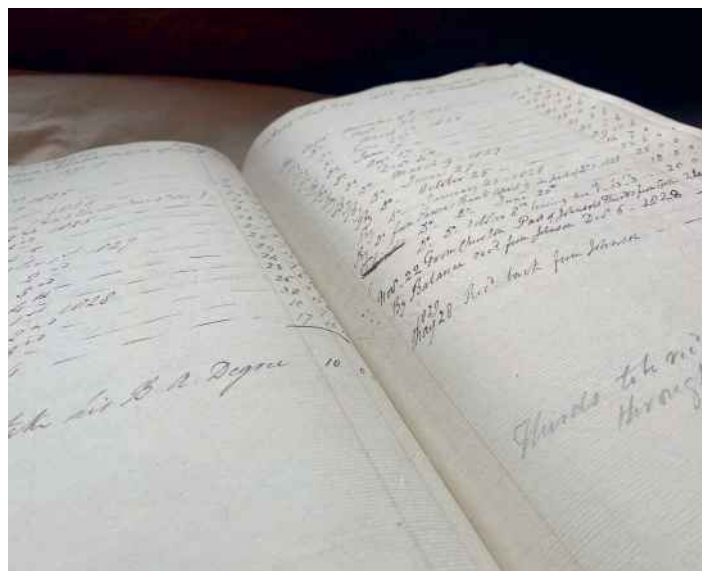
Hall's book has more to offer than records of students' expenses, however. It also contains brief comments by Hall on a number of

his pupils. One student he labeled 'an excellent scholar', another 'a fair scholar', and yet another he deemed to be 'a very indifferent scholar'. Two pages of the book contain a list of University fees at matriculation, as well as College fees on admission.

This provides us with information about such things as the difference in fees paid by different 'categories' of student.

For example, a 'nobleman' paid £50, compared to a 'commoner', who paid £25, or a 'scholar', who paid £20.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Accounts Book is that Samuel Hall kept letters from some of his old students between the book's pages. These offer a fascinating look into the lives of Brasenose students in the early nineteenth century. Many of the letters request something students still ask their professors for today: 'testimonials', and Hall's former students often asked him to testify to their 'good conduct during [their] residence at Brasenose'. These recent graduates were frequently applying for posts in the Church of England, such as rectorships (a very common occupation for Oxford graduates at the time). Robert Courtenay Windham, who was planning a legal career, put Hall on the spot by asking for a letter for Lincoln's Inn by 'Wednesday,' with an apology for the short notice. Octavius Brock (who, as his name implies, was an eighth son), was visiting Brasenose when he wrote to Hall asking for a testimonial. He told his former tutor how pleased he was to be back in his old



college: 'I delight in the old scenes by which I am surrounded, and with how great satisfaction I slept last night in my old hole of a bedroom – and the Quad appears so familiar, and natural, and beautiful...'

In 1830, Richard Edmund Tyrwhitt wrote to Hall for another favour sometimes requested by modern-day students: the postponement of examinations. Tyrwhitt asked Hall to 'take [his] part' in his request to have his exams 'put off' until Easter the following year as 'I am not fit to go up [undertake the exams] now'. Concerned that he might not be able to stay on at Brasenose, Tyrwhitt wrote: 'If I am not allowed to stay at BN. I lose all chance of getting one of those charming Hulme's exhibitions which I have been some time working for – poor dog as I am – without much hope of success'. He pleads: 'Will you Sir not forget your old pupil's interest in the affair of the Examinations? I am sure you can prevail with the Principal'. We gather from a subsequent letter that Hall agreed to support his pupil.

The last letter Hall includes from Richard Tyrwhitt in his book dates from March the following year. While the examinations have been postponed, giving him more time to prepare, Tyrwhitt confesses that he still is not very hopeful about the results he will achieve: 'You will ask "What in the name of wonder have you been doing?" I constantly ask myself the same question... only with luck, I may still yet get a second class.' He also tells Hall of how he dreads leaving his home in Wales to return to Oxford: 'When I come to Oxford I shall sneak about like a rat in the daytime and get through the Examinations if possible without any of my Oxford friends or enemies [sic] knowing anything of the matter.' Despite Tyrwhitt's fears, he was actually successful in receiving a Hulme Exhibition in 1831, as we know from his entry in the Brasenose College Register.

'You will ask What in the name of wonder have you been doing? I constantly ask myself the same question... only with luck, I may still yet get a second class.'

Samuel Hall also kept letters from his pupils' parents in his Account Book. One father, apparently worried about his son's dedication to his studies, wrote to Hall in 1830 asking him to watch over



Photo: E. Howes

the young man during his time as Hall's pupil. Another father, concerned about the location of his son's room, asked Hall to 'secure rooms in the Old Quadrangle' – this apparently being thought to offer the best accommodation. Another letter preserved by Hall was written by the guardian of an incoming student, Richard Rainshaw Rothwell, affirming that his ward's education should 'prepare him for [being] a Country Gentleman.' The letter writer states that while his ward is 'wholly free from Vice of every kind,' he requires guidance as to the 'choice of his acquaintances' and 'habits and pursuits' because he is 'easily persuaded and is soon led to do what is wished'. From this letter we can see that much might be expected from college tutors in the nineteenth century!

Samuel Hall had a reputation in Brasenose for being friendly. He is briefly mentioned in the Brasenose 'Ale Verse' of 1832, where a footnote describes him as 'Hall of convivial fame'. Student George Benjamin Sandford wrote to Hall to let him know he was unable to

pay the full amount of his battels, but that his 'knowledge of [Hall's] kindness' led him to hope he might wait till next term to pay the rest of the amount, rather than borrowing it for immediate payment. In a letter arranging repayment of a fee, former student Samuel Frederick Dickson tells Hall to 'believe me I shall always feel grateful for your attention and kindness during the time I was your pupil.'

We also catch fascinating glimpses into Samuel Hall's life as a tutor and vice-principal at the college. In 1831, Hall became the Rector of All Saints in Middleton Cheney, near Banbury. This made it possible for him to marry, something not permitted to Oxford college fellows at the time. The key facts of Samuel Hall's life are recorded under his entry in the 1868 Admissions Register of Manchester School, where he had been a pupil, and there is a monument to Hall's memory in All Saints Church in Middleton Cheney.

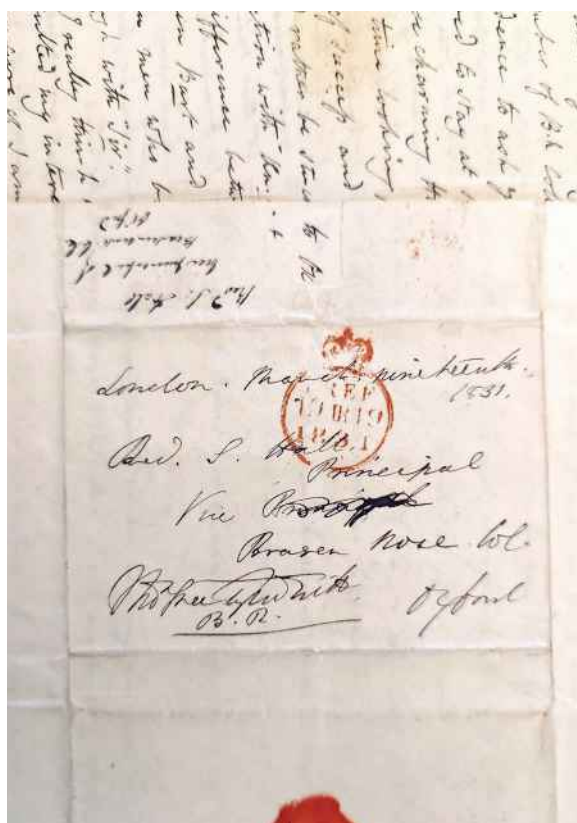


Photo: E. Howes

The original version of this article appeared on the Brasenose College Library blog: <https://brasenosecollegelibrary.wordpress.com>

Philosophy at the Large Hadron Collider

Professor Chris Timpson, Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy investigates the intersection of philosophy and physics to explore the very nature of reality.



View of the LHC tunnel sector 3-4. Photo: Maximilien Brice (CERN), CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a triumph of scientific ingenuity and engineering, is typically viewed as a machine solely for discovering new particles. However, several physicists, including a group from Oxford involving Professor Chris Timpson, Brasenose Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy, propose that its experiments can extend beyond this purpose. They are exploring whether the LHC can also delve into the fundamental principles underlying quantum theory and its perplexing portrayal of reality. This could revolutionise our approach to understanding the universe, offering the potential to delve into experimental metaphysics and test broad principles shaping our relationship with the physical world. These principles delve into the notion of our access to, or the very existence of, a mind-independent material reality. In essence, it's akin to using the LHC not just to add new pieces to the puzzle, but to question whether the puzzle itself is the correct one we've been working on.

Professor Timpson, alongside Professor Alan Barr from Merton College, has been featured in an article entitled "A new kind of experiment at the Large Hadron Collider could unravel quantum reality" in *New Scientist* magazine. In a recent online talk, Professor Timpson explained how these concepts relate to historic theories and current scientific understanding, and where they might lead in the future.

An example of simulated data modeled for the CMS particle detector on the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. Here, following a collision of two protons, a Higgs boson is produced which decays into two jets of hadrons and two electrons. The lines represent the possible paths of particles produced by the proton-proton collision in the detector while the energy these particles deposit is shown in blue.

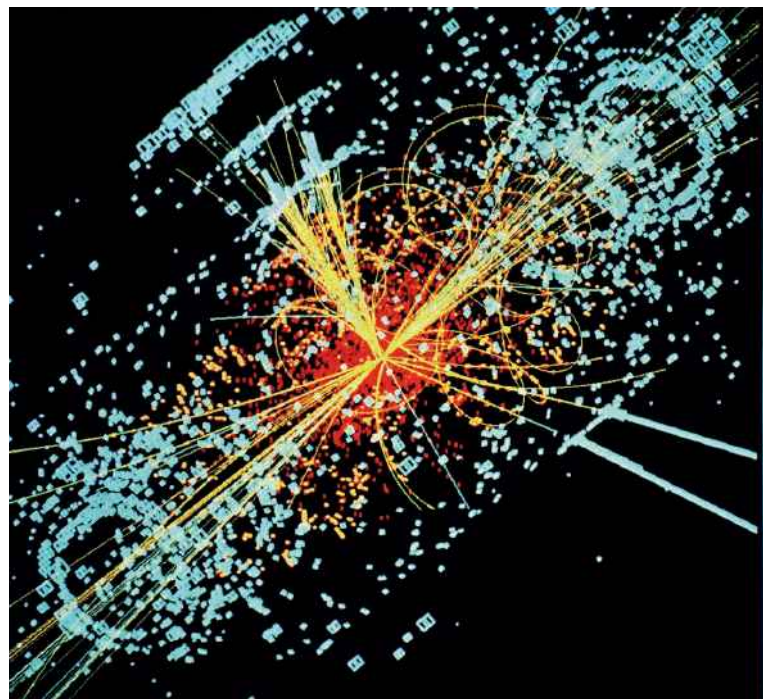
Photo: Lucas Taylor / CERN, CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

"I spend a lot of time working with these puzzles, asking what it means for quantum theory to be a good description of the world."

– Professor Chris Timpson



Professor Chris Timpson



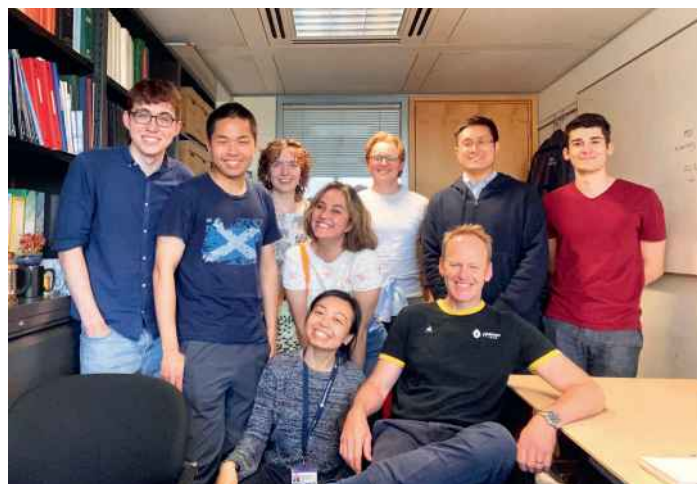
A Matter of Molecules

Professor Jeremy Robertson, Tutorial Fellow in Organic Chemistry and recent recipient of an MPLS Award for Outstanding Research Supervision, explains the type of work carried out by his research groups, and some of the outcomes.

I started my independent academic career in Oxford in October 1992. I lead a group comprising mainly DPhil and 4th year project students in the Chemistry Department and an international group of post docs and technicians. Both groups research the invention of methods and strategies for constructing organic molecules, whose chemical structures are built mainly from rings and chains of carbon atoms adorned with hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen atoms.

These molecules dominate the metabolic processes in living organisms and their interactions with other organic molecules which, for us, includes nutrients, flavours and fragrances, medicines, and non-pharmaceutical drugs such as caffeine and alcohol. Many organic molecules have desirable properties; some, like aspirin, have simple chemical structures and are both cheap and easy to prepare but those with complex or unusual three-dimensional structures, like taxol, which are either scarce or unknown in Nature are much more compelling to us.

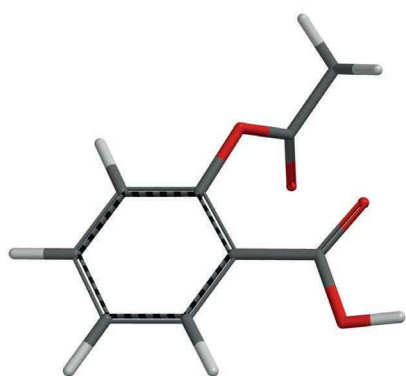
Our research focuses on devising efficient ways to build these tiny structures – of which there may be $\sim 10^{21}$ in a teaspoonful – by combining two or more simple molecules or transforming one structure into a more structurally complex one. One measure of efficiency is the number of transformations or 'steps' required to progress from a commercially-available inexpensive precursor to the desired molecule: the fewer the better. Our current research is mainly concerned with engineering new biological catalysts (so-called cytochrome P450 enzyme variants) which insert a new oxygen atom at specific sites on a molecule's surface which cannot be reached by



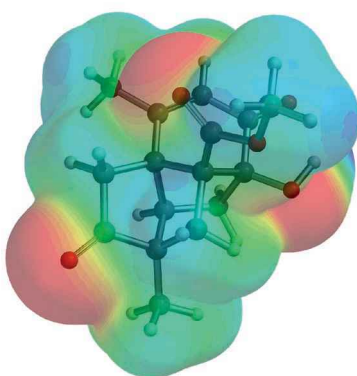
Professor Jeremy Robertson (bottom right) with his research group

chemical reagents. This approach can dramatically simplify synthetic routes to all sorts of molecules with our current focus being on drugs for dementia and leukaemia, as well as 'fragment molecules' which support the discovery of new pharmaceuticals.

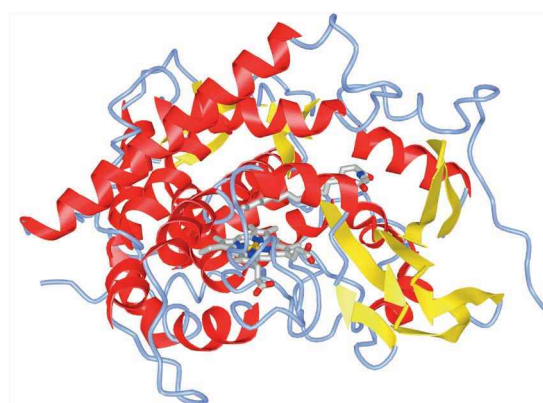
Overall, the members of my research team are 'molecular engineers' whose work interfaces most directly with the biomedical sciences and advances our fundamental understanding of how molecules interact with each other.



Aspirin



Daphnenoid A



Cytochrome P450

Read more about Professor Robertson's research here at the following links:

pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/jacs.3c10542
www.nature.com/articles/s44160-022-00166-6

College page www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/academic-staff/308-professor-jeremy-robertson

Departmental page www.chem.ox.ac.uk/people/jeremy-robertson

Group page users.ox.ac.uk/~jrobert/index.html

Nurturing Tomorrow

The Power of Monthly Donations



Every alumnus of Brasenose College knows firsthand the impact of a Brasenose education, shaping careers, values, and perspectives. That transformative experience has only ever been made possible by a strong tradition of philanthropy. Brasenose's success relies on the support and generosity of its community, enriching the experience of each generation of who pass through its gates.

Committing to regular contributions can have a significant impact on the education Brasenose offers. Monthly and annual donations provide a stable source of income enabling a positive student experience in an increasingly challenging financial landscape. Through careful planning and resource allocation, raised funds support essential services such as the well-used library, subsidised meals and accommodation, and create a rich and affordable learning environment for current students. Together with returns from the endowment, gifts cover half of the College's annual expenditure.

UK students today face increasing financial challenges and maintenance loans usually require a parental contribution. Brasenose has a diverse community of students with varying levels of needs.

Some students are estranged from their families, a few have experienced local authority care, and many have families who find it difficult to supplement the maintenance loan sufficiently. Bursaries are awarded on a sliding scale to those from homes with a household income of less than £50,000. However at Brasenose all students, regardless of their circumstances, benefit from the contributions made to the College.

Monthly donations have a significant collective impact, enhancing the experience of every student and enabling exploration of and excellence in sport, the arts, debate, music and academics, making the years spent at Brasenose memorable and impactful.

"Through the generosity of those who've donated to the Annual Fund, I've been able to enjoy as many opportunities as I can at College. I've really enjoyed trying out various new sports that I'd never played before, such as Rowing and Hockey! Brasenose's sports culture is fantastic - we have several teams that are among the best in Oxford, but we also ensure that every team is accessible to players of all abilities. College Sports is perhaps one of the most important ways for us to foster a cross-year sense of community in College"

– Harish Raghu





“Without Brasenose College’s opportunities, I would not have adopted such an expansive approach to my future plans. Brasenose will always hold a special place in my heart, knowing firsthand the profound impact such contributions can have on students’ lives”

– Sanika Pherwani

Giving monthly to Brasenose is more than a financial commitment; it is an investment in the future of the College and its community. It is through your continued support that Brasenose College can nurture future leaders, thinkers, and innovators who will shape our shared future with compassion, excellence and intellectual curiosity, those values which define our community.

To set up a direct debit, visit www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/supporting-bnc/the-annual-fund or contact us at donations@bnc.ox.ac.uk

How student funding works in England*

- ❖ All students can receive a loan to cover university fees of **£9,250**
- ❖ All students can receive a loan to help cover living expenses from September to June of at least **£4,767**
- ❖ The University of Oxford estimates living costs for undergraduates to be between **£11,000** and **£16,000**
- ❖ Students with lower household incomes are eligible for a higher maintenance loan up to **£10,227**
- ❖ At Brasenose, donor-funded bursaries and awards are allocated to those with household incomes below **£50,000**

*Rules and fees differ for students from Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and international students.



“I had a fantastic year with the Varsity Blues, and it would not have been possible without the help from the Student Support Fund and the support from College. I am incredibly grateful. Please extend my sincere thanks to all the donors and to all involved with the programme”

– Matt Downer

Thank you to everyone who has chosen to support Brasenose College.

Brazen News

Dr Anup Surendranath (Jurisprudence MPhil, 2007) was recently interviewed for The Innovators Journey podcast, hosted by social entrepreneur Jonathan Winter. Anup is Professor of Law at the University of Delhi and Director of Project 39a, a criminal justice programme. Project 39a employs empirical research to re-examine practices and policies in the criminal justice system. It aims to trigger new conversations on legal aid, torture, forensics, mental health in prisons, and the death penalty as well as striving to bring reforms in India's criminal justice system to ensure fair and equal access to justice for every individual.

Dr Emma Bridges (Classics, 1995)'s book *Warriors' Wives: Ancient Greek Myth and Modern Experience* compares the experiences of mythical characters with those of contemporary military spouses. Dr Bridges discussed the book with Dr Miranda Melcher on the *New Books Network* podcast.

Dr Karen Angus-Cole (Biochemistry, 2005) has co-written a book with two of her University of Bath colleagues entitled *From Wellbeing to Welldoing: How to Think, Learn and Be Well*, which aims to provide practical strategies to help students manage their learning and wellbeing.

Dr Amy Koenig (Classics, 2009)'s forthcoming book, *The Fractured Voice: Silence and Power in Imperial Roman Literature* she discusses the trope of muteness in imperial Roman literature, arguing that this understanding of silence is incomplete.

Former diplomat **A N D Haksar (Modern History, 1954)** has translated more than 20 Sanskrit works into English. His latest translation is *Hanuman Drama* by Damodara Mishra, which was published in August 2023.

Patrick Ovans (1969) and **David Clark (1970)** hosted a party for their respective year groups on 10 January 2024, with a view



The Brasenose Alumni Society London drinks at The Red Lion on 6 February had a good turnout and plenty of



bonhomie, with several different BNC cohorts represented.



to bridging the gap between the 1967-69 and 1970-72 gaudy groups – a gap across which there are many from both cohorts who knew each other well whilst at BNC.

In May 2024, Professor Alexander Betts hosted a Bannister Mile lunch with 'Mile World Record Holders', in celebration of 70 years since Sir Roger Bannister's record-breaking sub-four-minute mile run at the Iffley Road Track. Attendees included Steve Cram, Allison Curbishley, Hicham El Guerrouj, Filbert Bayi, Eamonn Coghlan, Nnenna Lynch, Noureddine Morceli, Thurstan Bannister and Clive Bannister.

Angela Hug (MPhil, 2002) has won the 2024 Mark Golden Book Award for her monograph, *Fertility, Ideology, and the Cultural Politics of Reproduction at Rome* (2023). The award is presented biennially to

the best scholarly monograph by a member of the Classical Association of Canada published in the previous four years. She is also the co-editor, with **Benjamin Kelly (DPhil, 1999)**, of *The Roman Emperor and His Court* (2022). They live in Toronto with their children, Eamon and Pippa.



Congratulations to **Robert Cashmore MBE (Modern History, 2010)** and Hamira Khan, who got married on 13 Jan 2024.



Congratulations to **Revd James Hanson (Mathematics, 1995)** who has just started a new role as Vicar of Burpham Church, near Guildford, Surrey.

The Brasenose Strollers

The Brasenose Strollers cricket team held a centenary dinner in College in September.

Peter Aylott (Biochemistry, 1984) has kindly summarised a brief history of the Strollers as follows:

The Brasenose Strollers were founded by William Stallybrass, then Vice-Principal of Brasenose College, in 1923, and have toured Devon every year since except the war years and 1987. The current President is **Richard East** and BNC alumni players include **Peter Kaufmann, Tim Hammond, Andrew Jenner, Michael Lindley-Jones, Sir Robert Peel,**

Peter Aylott, Chris Townsend, Duncan Wethey, Roland Turnill, Ben Bailey, Adrian Hadfield, Tom Attenborough, James Summers, David Jones, Richard Sykes, Pranav Bharadwaj, Alex Thomas and Cal Flintoff. We provide a scholarship each year for undergraduates to attend the tour, and this has been particularly successful in recent years. We are hoping to see current undergraduate Daniel D'Hotman de Villiers in Devon soon.

In 2023, our centenary, we played 8 matches spanning 2 weeks in August in

Gloucestershire, South Devon and North Devon, and were unbeaten. This included a number of clubs that we first played in 1923 such as the North Devon Cricket Club celebrating their bicentenary, Devon Dumplings, Somerset Stragglers, Budleigh Salterton and Shrewsbury Saracens. It was lovely to see BNC alumnus **Roger Billis** (1968 lawyer who read Modern History) at Lynton and Lynemouth (Valley of the Rocks) supporting a resounding victory against the best Devon club players – so good of him to come up from Exeter after a broken hip earlier in the year.



Brasenose Strollers Centenary Dinner, September 2023



Brasenose Strollers, North Devon 2023

Bernard Richards' English Reunion 2023

Drusilla Gabbott (1982) attended Dr Bernard Richards' English Reunion in Michaelmas 2023.

On 18 November 2023, 35 alumni from as far afield as Islamabad and Florida came to BNC to re-live the treasured youthful experience of a Bernard Richards tutorial.

Bernard chose the novel as his broad theme for the day. It started with an excellent lecture from him on 'learning from novels'. This was followed by an audience discussion session on AI and the novel with reference to *Machines Like Me* by Ian McEwan and *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Some alumni who worked with words professionally, in journalism, copywriting and translation took part in a Q and A on whether they felt AI was likely to undermine their jobs.

Geraldine Brodie, Professor of Translation Theory at UCL described several fascinating experiments she had made with automatic translation services. Following a buffet lunch



in the Medieval Kitchen, the afternoon's sessions gave insights into the contemporary world of the novel. A talk and reading by **Anne Atkins** was followed by a panel with **Siobhan Harrison** (S.A. Finlay), **Henry Russell** (Hugo Grylls), **Jim Ring** and **Juliette Mead** discussing the contemporary publishing scene. **Sarah Vaughan** then talked us through the very modern experience of transforming her own novel into a screenplay for the major Netflix production *Anatomy of a Scandal*. The day was wrapped up by **Diane Roberts**, a familiar voice from Radio 4 giving a masterly contemporary review of the novel and the American scene.

It was, as always, a privilege, as well as great fun, to be invited back to BNC, and all his students thanked Bernard profoundly for his kindness and energy in organising the day.

The 1509 Society at Brasenose

Named after the year of our foundation, the 1509 Society was created to celebrate the enduring legacy of benefaction at Brasenose, and recognise the role that the College's supporters of today will play in sculpting the Brasenose of tomorrow.



What is the 1509 Society?

Donations have always, and continue to, underpin a Brasenose education for all students at the College. The 1509 Society provides an opportunity for the College to recognise the extraordinary contributions of BNC's dedicated supporters, and celebrate the transformative impact of the philanthropic leaders in the Brasenose community.

At the heart of a Brasenose education

The impact of the 1509 Society spans every aspect of a Brasenose education. Last year alone 1509 Society members raised over £850,000 for College, ranging from support for a Tutorial Fellowship, to College's newest building at the Frewin Annexe, and leadership gifts to support students, including graduate scholarships, emergency hardship funding, book grants, and bursaries.

Could you be our newest member?

Get in touch with Emily at 1509.society@bnc.ox.ac.uk for more information on making your first qualifying gift, entry starts at £125 per month. New members will be welcome to join us for a 1509 Society Drinks Reception in London this December.

1509 Society Drinks Reception – Save the date!

Wednesday 11 December 2024

Oxford and Cambridge Club, London

We can't wait to celebrate another year of philanthropy at Brasenose with you.

Invitations to follow.



Thank you to every single donor, past and present, who has supported Brasenose as a member of the 1509 Society.

Save The Date

Forthcoming Events

Alumni Society Annual Dinner

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!

Saturday 14 September 2024

1974-2024: Celebrating 50 Years of Women at Brasenose – Dinner and Disco

For the first of our celebrations, we will be hosting a 70s-themed dinner in Hall, followed by a disco in the Bar with a DJ. The theme will be 'dress for your era'.

Saturday 21 September 2024

Bookings for these events will open a couple of months before the event dates.

Go to 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 and follow the 'Update your information' link.

Five at Fifty Panel Discussion

In 1974, Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, St Catherine's, and Wadham became the first five traditionally male colleges to admit female students. In this discussion, alumni come together to celebrate what has been achieved over the last 50 years, and look to the future.

Saturday 21 September 2024

Gaudy for 1983-1985

Friday 27 September 2024

Principal's Conversation: Celebrating 50 Years Of Women – the Struggle for Coeducation

Wednesday 6 November 2024

Principal's Conversation: Women in Humanities at Brasenose

Wednesday 27 November 2024

Recent Events



Brasenose Alumni Society President's Summer Party, July 2024



Inaugural Brasenose in Business event, June 2024



Gaudy for 2006-2007, March 2024



Bernard Richards' English Reunion, November 2023



Gaudy for 1963-1966, June 2024



Diamond Jubilee Lunch March 2024

Call-out for Your Memories!

Do you recall the early years of women at Brasenose? What has been the impact on you and on BNC? As we approach the 50th anniversary, we would love to hear from you if you have any comments or photos that you'd be happy to share!

Contact Us

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Join us on social media

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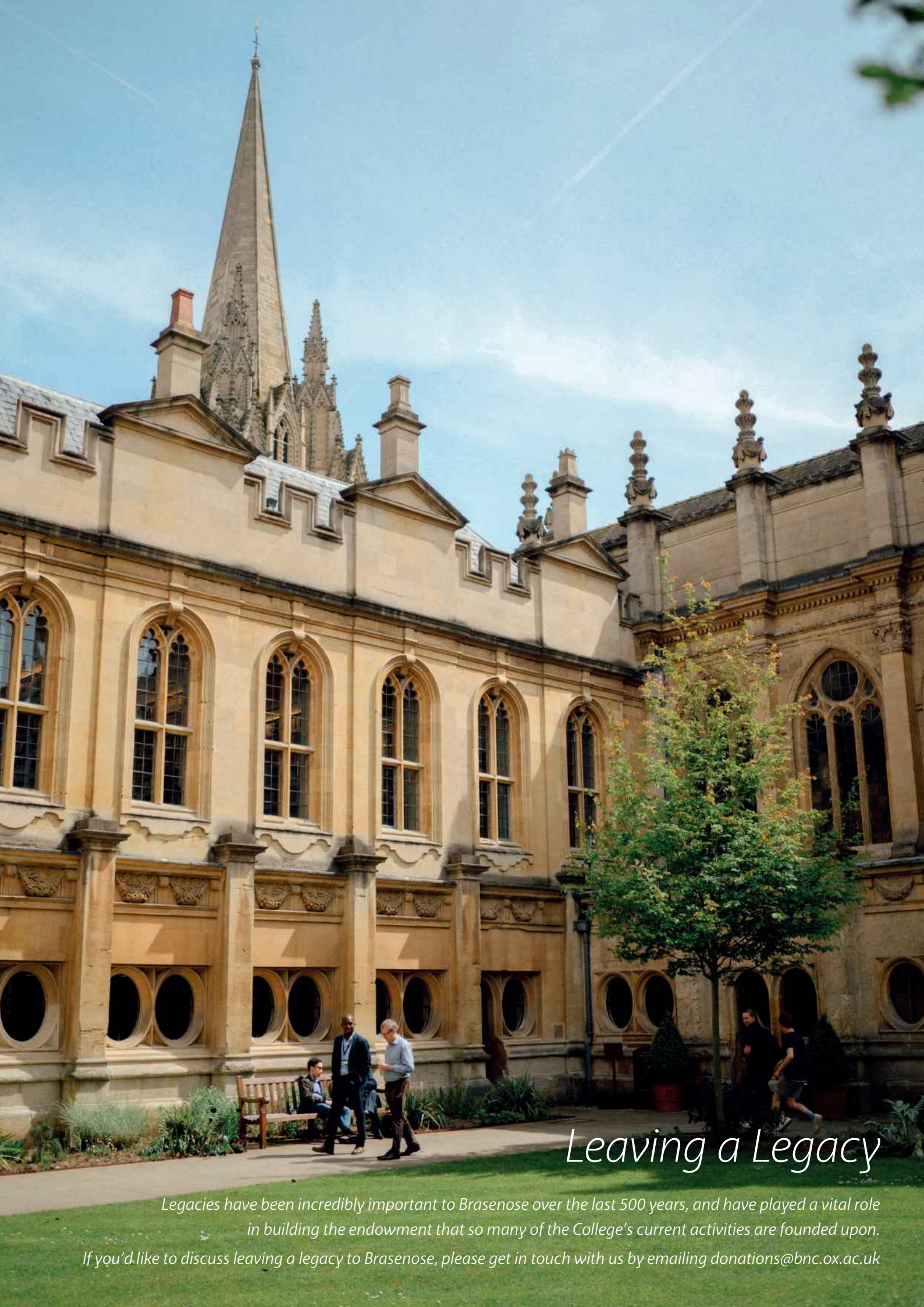
 www.twitter.com/BNC_members

 www.instagram.com/brasenosecollege

Once a Member of Brasenose,
Always a Member of Brasenose



Brasenose
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UNIVERSITY of OXFORD



Leaving a Legacy

Legacies have been incredibly important to Brasenose over the last 500 years, and have played a vital role in building the endowment that so many of the College's current activities are founded upon.

If you'd like to discuss leaving a legacy to Brasenose, please get in touch with us by emailing donations@bnc.ox.ac.uk