



THE
BRAZEN NOSE



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The Brazen Nose

2023–2024



Cover image: Based on the original *Brazen Nose* artwork, created by alumnus Henry George Willink, which was previously used from the first edition in 1909 until 1958.

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FROM THE EDITOR

by Dr Ed Bispham, Tutorial Fellow in Ancient History

Fortunate the editor who commences his tenure with the *Brazen Nose* at a major anniversary! No reader will be unaware that this issue appears on the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of women to read for undergraduate degrees at Brasenose (along with a handful of other pioneer colleges). Female students had graced the University since the last quarter of the nineteenth century, but the path of these women-only institutions to acceptance and parity within the collegiate university was far from smooth; women were allowed to matriculate as members of the University only from 1920.

The changes at Brasenose leading up to, during, and immediately following 1974, are traced in some detail in this issue, from a variety of perspectives and retrospectives. One has the impression that many of the novelties and adjustments involved were managed without great difficulty by most of those who lived through them. Yet in retrospect it is hard to argue that those changes did not, for all that, constitute the most momentous transformation in the history of the College. Other significant transformations may be invoked for comparison. There were the religious persecutions, whereby Catholics, Protestants and non-jurors were successively excluded from the pale of the university in the Tudor and Stuart periods. Then, just under two centuries ago, the repeal of the Sacramental Test Act, and the Catholic Relief Act, allowed the emancipation of Catholics and Nonconformists, significantly altering the composition of the student body. The ending of the ban on Oxford dons marrying in 1877 altered the social composition of senior common rooms, and the geography of North Oxford, beyond recognition. Finally, there was acceptance of the need to extend undergraduate recruitment within what Lord Curzon referred to in 1909 as “the lower middle classes”, and the Asquith Commission in 1922 as the “artisan class”.

Yet all these changes simply altered the relative proportions of the existing ingredients of the socio-educational compound which made up the university. A High Tory Anglican and a Nonconformist might have very different views; but they were cut from the same monist-masculine cloth. The student body was a singularity; its rapid transformation after 1974, however, created a binary in the Oxonian universe, where none

had been before. The male governing bodies spake, the Statutes were rewritten, and light was separated from dark, the earth from the waters. *Fiat lux! Fiat femina!*

There may be an irony now, for some, in celebrating the anniversary of the creation of a socio-educational binary in the student body, given the importance in (and beyond) the current student *Weltanschauung* for exploding, multiplying or abandoning that same binary. And yet that creation of a binary was fundamental, and its effects more far-reaching even than the student activism of the late 1960s (the two are not unconnected, of course); those who now feel the binary to be restrictive would be unable to go beyond it if it were not there. As importantly, fifty years on, a whole raft of issues brought to life by the emergence of binary from singularity remain central to the life of the college and the university. Without women in the student body, equality would be limited to different school types, diversity to regionalism, and inclusion to multi-denominational worship. Our whole conception of fair play has moved, from the sports field to the entire life of the institution, which it continues to change. And the story is far from over. While the College is *at least* 50% female in terms of the student body, the Governing Body is still a male majority (although female representation now vastly exceeds the two women who were present in Governing Body when the editor took his oath in First Week of Michaelmas 1999). Women are a minority within the professoriat and the higher echelons of the university – at least the departure of Birke Häcker to Bonn has been mitigated by the appointment of Brasenose’s second female holder of a statutory professorship, with the arrival of Valentina Arena from UCL as the first female holder of the Camden Chair of Ancient History. Fifty years on, there remains much work to do, to build on the legacy of the pioneers whom this issue of the *Nose* salutes.

“Theology was totally banished from Common Room, and from every private conversation. Very free opinions on all subjects were rife. ... If any Oxford man had gone to sleep in in 1846 and had woke up again in 1850 he would have found himself in a totally new world ... [a world] suddenly changed as if by the wand of a magician”. So wrote Mark Pattinson, later to be Rector of Lincoln College, on the aftermath of the Tractarian controversy and John Henry Newman’s conversion to Roman Catholicism in 1845. We might re-imagine Pattison’s thought

experiment. What would a BNC undergraduate, going to sleep in, say, 1972 have thought on waking up in 1976?

The question could be framed as one of continuity versus discontinuity: what changed, and what stayed the same with the advent of women? In many important ways, nothing was ever the same again; in another, College continued to be a place where the best students were admitted and continued to find happiness fulfilment and self-expression. There is, though, one sharp and rapid discontinuity: the quick death of the 'Brasenose Man'.

To appreciate this point we may leap back another fifty years, to 1924. The *Nose* of that year, typically for the era, contains in its few pages almost a dozen references to this species (itself a sub-division of the genus 'Oxford Man'). Anthropologically speaking, a strong cumulative case can be made by the reader of *Noses* of this era for 'Brasenose Man' being objectively distinct from Balliol Man, or Corpus Man, as it might be. There is something subtly but strongly different in the culture, pastimes, ethos and mentalities of Brasenose Man, and the keen-eyed observer will not confuse him with other species. He owes the fact that he can be scientifically categorised to the difference between himself and males at other colleges, colleges where the taxonomy also begins and ends with the male.

In 1974, Brasenose Man could still define himself against the men of other colleges. But a novel definitional strategy was also required. Brasenose Man was not such simply because he had had the wisdom not to apply to Balliol or Corpus. He was now, crucially, a Brasenose Man because he was not a Brasenose woman. In the short term, perhaps paradoxically, some forms of homo-sociability, seem to have intensified with the arrival of the gender binary in College. But the ability to be defined as belonging to the College, and participating in its culture, its pastimes, its mentalities – that was now open to women too, and was embraced by them, and reshaped by them. Within a few years, student institutional memory being what it is, given the constant renewal of the undergraduate body, no one was left *in statu pupillari* who remembered what it had been like to be a Brasenose Man. Brasenose Man thus quickly became extinct (and his pre-adapted habitats were destined to follow, not to return). The exciting opportunities of understanding, negotiating and building a College identity which embraced the binary (and later

transcended the binary) began to manifest themselves. Our hypothetical, and necessarily male, student, who closed his eyes in 1972 and woke up in 1976, would have left his set to enter a new world – our world.

The *Brazen Nose* was a spin-off from the huge exercise of archival research and collective-memory-building done for the Quatercentenary. The College in 1909 became a self-consciously historicising entity in ways which had previously not been recognised; the trauma of the Great War must have increased, consciously and sub-consciously, individual and collective investment in memorialisation. The *Nose* operates simultaneously in three spheres (without wishing to be too timey-wimey...). Each issue is a transcript of the present, a snapshot of the College; this snapshot is compiled with an eye to the future and the creation of an official record; but there is also a strongly backward-looking character, a recuperation of the past, emotion, happiness or adventure recollected in tranquillity. A good example of the genre is the recollection of W. Holbech, the Bishop of St Helena, who matriculated in 1869, and had his recollections of his time at Brasenose published in the *Nose* of 1925 (spoilers: sport, more sport, companionable dining and drinking followed by cards, a little horse-riding, long country walks, pleasant company – debunking the 1920s distaste for “mid-Victorian stiffness”). Chapel seems to have been without music when Holbech arrived; before he left hymns began to be introduced, but as yet the College lacked an organ (recent visitors to the chapel will have noted the wonderful new organ, made possible by the generosity of two benefactors, Margo & **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)**).

This multiple temporality makes the *Nose* a fascinating entity, especially to a historian (of sorts) like the present editor. From the perspective of 2024, looking back beyond 1974, 1924 calls out. In it, my predecessor of a century ago calls upon Brasenose Men to subscribe in greater numbers to the *Nose* (the cost of a life subscription was £2.00). Not only were they not paying, they were no longer writing in with recollections, as they had in the first flush of the appearance of the organ. The editor R.W. Jeffery thus had to find or create most of the content himself (my favourite is an entry to which his attention was drawn in a later-nineteenth century German dictionary: “B.N.C. = Brazen Nose

College (*berühmtes Bierlocal*)". Whether this was due to the concept of Ale Verses getting lost in translation, or other causes, is not known).

What else was communicated to alumni in 1924? The Porter, Lakin, had just left the College, having commenced his service in 1892 (his ability to recognise old members returning to the College is something which alumni can still count on today). If Lakin was much loved after thirty-two years in the Lodge, Senior Hallman A.E. Hunt had in 1924 reached a half-century in the College (when he joined as a boy, he might have crossed paths with the undergraduate future Bishop of St Helena). College 'servants' were celebrated in this issue for their loyalty to the College,¹ which took numerous forms, ranging from joining in College sport (one imagines Hunt's best days as a fly-half were now behind him) to the College Fire Brigade, which in an age long before the fetishising of health and safety regulations, won the cup for the best unit in the Oxford and District Private Fire Brigades' Association. May 1924 witnessed the third Bump Supper of the year (!), with the first and second Eights having gained 10 bumps between them over the four days of Eights.² The supper was preceded by an innovation: a photograph of the crews, followed by a boisterous dinner and the customary bonfire in the New Quad accompanied by the (again customary) bagpipes; the bonfire itself was watched, one presumes, by the cup-winning College Fire Brigade. The rest of the year was marked less by victories on the river than by plucky close losses, especially in Torpids (or 'Togger', in the idiolect of the time); the first boat ended second on the river, but the second Togger did less well. Of course, the Indian summer of Brasenose rowing was imminent at this season: in 1928 BNC became (for the last time to date), Head of the River, displacing the House and reigning supreme until 1931. Eighteen Brasenose Men were awarded Blues in this year, of whom one was OU Boat Club president, and four others team captains (football, cricket, hockey).

In other news, alumnus Sir Alfred Hirtel was congratulated on becoming Permanent Under-Secretary of State for India, after long service in the India Office. It is strange to think that, with hindsight, this very year must have marked, more-or-less, the imperial zenith for Britain – or perhaps just past it, if one accepts the thesis of Matthew Parker's recent book *One Fine Day*, which offers 29 September 1923 as the moment at which imperial declension became inevitable. Brasenose's interest in the swath of pink which wrapped the globe also

included Sir Herbert J. Read, freshly-minted governor of Mauritius (and donor to the College library to mark the occasion). The list of external appointments and honours for the year listed eight further alumni holding positions in the imperial service around the world (including Superintendent of Stamps in Karachi), an alumnus ordained for work in India, and Squadron-Leader Peck, mentioned in despatches for operations in Kurdistan in the spring of 1923. The College in this year also took delivery of a gift of a contemporary portrait of the Child of Hale (a.k.a. John Middleton of Hale, who dropped into BNC, then a markedly Lancastrian college, on his way back from being given £20 for winning a wrestling bout in front of James I). Other gifts are acknowledged with thanks, including two brandy glasses given by a young Classics don, Maurice Platnauer (still fondly remembered by matriculands of the '50s and '60s).

Was Platnauer kept busy enough to need a tippie after work in 1924? In the preceding thirty years 524 undergraduates had taken Honours. Seventy-four achieved Firsts, of whom fully a third were in Lit. Hum. There were 178 Seconds, of which Lit. Hum. and History accounted for 100. Slightly more students had achieved a Third (192), with Lit. Hum. and History accounting for 116 of those (Jurisprudence coming a creditable third with 42 Thirds). Of the coveted 'gentleman's' Fourths there were 80, with Jurisprudence most represented, followed by History and then Lit. Hum. Mathematics was the other 'big' subject in terms of numbers. Below it languished Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Physiology, Zoology, Theology and English (in which eight students took Honours in this thirty-year period); Geology and Botany had managed a solitary Fourth each. And like a tiny mammal hiding in the undergrowth from the last and greatest of the dinosaurs, the 'new Greats', PPE, had seen its first two undergraduates take (undistinguished) honours. The 524 students taking Honours in these three decades do not include the 'pass men', who naturally did not trouble such statistics, nor those who withdrew earlier. Averaged out across the period, there would have been 17 Honours men per year. Perhaps young Platnauer was not rushed off his feet after all!

This busy and contented world, rooted in its traditions, with its glacially changing roster of dons and staff, emerges also as a highly insular one. It does not appear as the world of a 'lost generation', six years on from the end of the 'war to end all wars'; nor as the world

of the Roaring Twenties, of the Charleston and the jazz age (in 1924 Bix Beiderbecke was making the records which would cement his legendary status, and Louis Armstrong was already too big a player for the groups like those of Fletcher Henderson, in which he was ostensibly a side-man; the first recordings of the Hot Fives were months away). Impressionistically and with hindsight, the world of 1924 seems closer to that of 1874 than to that of 1974. A ferment of change had already begun within Oxford *before* 1924; 1919–20 had seen sweeping changes, not just with the right of women to matriculate, but with the abolition of compulsory Greek (!) and the adoption of state patronage in the form of the government grant.³ These tectonic shifts seem not to have registered on the cultural seismograph of the *Nose*. After 1924 the impact of events in the wider world could no longer be held at arm's length. Depression, another World War, imperial dissolution, socialist government, student radicalism and momentous economic developments were the backdrop to major changes in BNC: increasing student numbers and greater social diversity of the (male) undergraduate intake between 1924 and 1974, when, as we have seen, came the greatest change of all.

It was not all change; there were continuities too. James Lees-Milne recalled his time in Oxford in his memoir; he came up to Magdalen in the late twenties, and amid other discontents excoriated the dangerous ideological irresponsibility of the communists he encountered in Oxford. Some places, however, were mercifully free of this pest – none, for example, were to be found in “the impoverished scholar circles of Jesus and Brasenose”.⁴ The labelling of the distinguished biochemist **Vincent Marks (Physiological Sciences, 1948)**, just after the Second World War, as ‘the’ college communist (see memorial in this edition) might suggest that political views in College were much the same in the early fifties as they had been in the early thirties.⁵

College history is a perpetual tension and interaction between continuity and discontinuity, as John Bowers showed in a recent blog, which has stimulated many of these reflections (<https://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/news/2878-history-of-brasenose-blog-ancient-and-modern>). We shall have more to say about John next year; but in this context it is worth noting not the least of his many virtues: a genuine and active interest in, and engagement with, the history of the institution (in itself a consequence of his wider affection for BNC). One manifestation of this is a curiosity about his predecessor, Dr Samuel Radcliffe, who

was Rector in the College living of Steeple Aston north of Oxford. Galvanised by this principalian enthusiasm, in April a group of Fellows (and the incoming principalian PA, Liz Bingham) trod in Radcliffe's steps. A lunch was organised in Upper Heyford (the Classics tutors, electing to get the train to Lower Heyford and then continuing on foot in the spring sunshine, somehow managed to reach the restaurant in good time). The whole party then had a tour of the beautiful Steeple Aston village, ably guided by **Charlotte Harris (Lit. Hum., 1995)**; see also the Archives report for more on Charlotte's generous involvement), culminating in the fine parish church. Radcliffe is commonly thought to be buried there, but Charlotte has other ideas; it is to be hoped that these will be unveiled in a subsequent *Nose*. From there the party visited the adjacent country-house seat of the Cottrell-Dormers at Rousham, specifically the magnificent gardens designed by Charles Bridgeman and William Kent in the 1720s-1740s, pioneering the hugely influential 'New English' style. The surroundings had not always been idyllic: Lees-Milne records attending an "orgy" at Rousham in the late 1920s (no details are provided, beyond one of the party leaning out of a dining-room window with a rifle and trying to shoot off various protruding elements of the statuary in the grounds).⁶ But our afternoon, in the expert hands of Charlotte Harris again, and **Rod Clayton (Lit. Hum., 1986)**, who unexpectedly bounded down the front steps of the house, somewhere between a suppositious proprietor and a *deus ex machina*, was a perfect one in gorgeous surroundings, steeped in history. The tour was capped by a surprise tea served by Charlotte and friends and family, including **Feras Al-Chalabi (Classics & Modern Languages, 1995)**; attention to detail by our hosts had discovered that it was the Bursar's birthday, and champagne was accordingly on offer in Kent's imitation Praeneste arcade. The moral of the story? Principalian historical sensitivity and recuperation of tradition bring their own rewards.

Editors and readers will, as always, be struck by the diverse and fulfilled lives led by BNC alumni, as illustrated in the obituaries and reminiscences. Brasenose alumni fought with distinction in the Second World War (Brian Wilson) or spent their lives dealing with the consequences of wars caused by others (Simon Boas). They found challenge, success and fulfilment in law, medicine, research, teaching, politics, industry and the arts. In these retrospectives, we see time at BNC as a foundation or a stepping stone for a rich and varied life, inevitably

foreshortened in historical perspective. This is as it should be where one dies full of years. When, as happens very occasionally, tragedy strikes *in statu pupillari*, the perspective is necessarily inverted, and the brilliant immediacy of student life is followed by the poignancy of might-have-beens. In June the College was convulsed by the accidental death of Wesley Akum-Ojong after PPE Prelims (for which he would never see the Distinction he had earned). We have thought it right in this issue to give Wesley the last word, as it were, and print his hugely uplifting blog-post about coming to, fitting into, and flourishing in BNC (see Articles section). In the context of over half-a-millennium's worth of changes on this little plot of land since 1509, Wesley's blog beautifully evokes the greatest, most powerful, over-arching continuity: the joy of belonging, and the happiness to be found as part of this, our well-beloved society.

[The Editor thanks all the contributors; the Principal; the Director of Development; the Chaplain; the College Archives; David Bradbury for his falcon-swift and eagle-eyed copy-editing; and last but certainly not least, John-Paul Clough, without whose patience and initiative, skill and hard work, dear *alumna*, you would not now be holding this in your hand]

Notes

- 1 See also J. Mordaunt-Crook, *Brasenose. The Biography of an Oxford College* (Oxford, OUP, 2008), 336.
- 2 For a photograph of the 1922 Bumps Supper see Mordaunt-Crook, *ibid.* pl. 78.
- 3 See Mordaunt-Crook, *ibid.* 324-36.
- 4 *Another Self* (Norwich: John Russell, 1970), 95.
- 5 See Mordaunt-Crook, *ibid.* 199: "Brasenose had never been a very political College".
- 6 Lees-Milne, *ibid.* 93-6.

Student Clubs, Societies & Activities



JCR REPORT

by Santhakumar Arjunan

Writing this report is a bittersweet moment for me; it represents the end of another amazing year at the College, and at the same time, one year closer to the end of my time here. What I can say is that the 2023-2024 academic year was truly unforgettable, and I have endless praise for all the members of the JCR, the JCR Committee and the College staff who made it all possible.

Before I get into the nitty-gritty of the events last year, I want to thank Lexi Loizou, my predecessor as JCR president. I cannot speak highly enough of Lexi; she showed me all the ropes and was always there if I had any questions. Since I've stepped into this role, I've been trying my hardest to emulate Lexi; whether that be the way she ran her committee, the flat that she chose to live in her third year (which I am living in now) or even the structure of her report for the *Brazen Nose!* Funnily enough, it seems I've been following in Lexi's footsteps since secondary school – Lexi and I both attended Bexley Grammar School. Lexi was a great JCR President; it was thanks to her strong leadership and direction that I inherited such a stable and functional JCR. Furthermore, she could always be seen around College or Frewin, and she would always give you a smile and a wave whenever she saw you. I cannot thank her enough for all her guidance, and I hope that by the end of my term I can live up to her stellar example.

It was a bustling Michaelmas, as it always is, and this was exemplified by a hectic and lively Freshers' Week; the freshers' representatives Chess Nightingale and Susie Weidmann did an outstanding job in organising so many fun events. The highlight of these for me was probably the 'White Lies' freshers' mixer, where people dressed up with a small white lie on their shirts; whilst serving it was fun to meet the new cohort, which is full of big and entertaining personalities. Noughth week madness was followed up by a classic Brasenose event, Matriculation Ball. This latest rendition was hosted at the Isis Farmhouse, a beautiful venue near Iffley Lock where many of our events are now held. It was nice to see a strong sense of community beginning to sprout, as members of our JCR from all years began to form friendships. This was followed up by a couple of notable bops such as the Halloween 'Worst Fears' bop and the Oxmas

bop; while my own costumes may have been a bit lacklustre, others certainly pulled out all the stops.

Hilary was the start of our new JCR committee's term. We had big boots to fill, but I can genuinely say that I could not have been blessed with a more capable and passionate committee. From the very second we came together at our pizza-and-team-bonding night, I could sense the chemistry and resolve in this group. Anything we achieved over the last year is solely down to them.

Hilary picked up right where Michaelmas had left off; we once again had events in spades! This included all the favourites; 'Collections Celebrations', 'Prosecco and Pals' and 'Spring Fling'. Perhaps none of these were as notable as our Saltburn bop, however; the controversial movie filmed partly in our College generated a bop seemingly just as controversial, with a student newspaper *The Tab* keen to write about it. In other news, our lovely welfare reps (Imogen Edmundson, Rory McGlade and Esme Hubbert) set the tone for the rest of their tenure, hosting lots of entertaining events and sustaining us all with their welfare teas. Our returning women's officer, Lily McDermott, also hosted many inclusive events such as the International Women's Day formal, a Valentine's arts and craft session, and a fundraiser for Against Breast Cancer. I thoroughly enjoyed our 'Halfway Hall', a formal with delicious food followed by some hilarious awards being handed out, all whilst enjoying the company of the delightful Senior Tutor Simon Smith. The end of the term was hallmarked by the Betty Morley feast, and I am truly grateful to have witnessed the age-old tradition between BNC and New College, where the Warden of the latter adjudicates on the suitability of the feast.

Before I delve into the other events of Trinity Term, I feel obligated to talk about the Brasenose Ball. Firstly, I must thank Daga Nogal, Ball President, her committee and all the College members involved in making it happen. It was truly a night to remember. The theme for the ball was 'Le Cabaret d'Or' and I can attest that the costumes on show really sold this. I could honestly talk for hours about how good the student bands were, how delectable the food was, the fun and games on show (a tarot reader, a shisha bar, arcade games and even exotic dancers!) or even the staging and decor, but all I will say here is that it truly lived up to the tales and more.

I cannot commend anyone more than our long-suffering Entz reps Eugenie Sumkoska and Matthew Grigg; they worked week in and week out delivering so many great events without a single complaint or mistake. Trinity Term was no different for them, and the JCR once again enjoyed many of their great events like the Garden Party. In a jam-packed term with all these events and the ball, we were also so lucky to once again have our Arts Week, this time organised by the talented Iona Blair. Whether it was the plays, the mug painting or the delightful guest speakers, this Arts Week was truly excellent.

Sporting-wise, this was unfortunately not the most successful year in the College's history. This trend was the same at our sports day; Harish Raghu, our sports rep, organised a trip to Gonville and Caius – our sister Cambridge college. We played a variety of sports such as netball, football and the hallowed egg and spoon race but we were unable to come out victorious. That said, friends were made, and good times were had. Not enough praise can be given to the passionate and gifted members of our various sports teams. Rugby, football, netball and badminton all did the College proud; we all had so much fun watching them at Cuppers. Watching the rowing team at Summer Eights was a particular high point, especially as the boat club ended on a net positive.

After term, we had yet another great open day led by the charming Freya Williams, access and admissions representative, in conjunction with the delightful Joe Organ, Ben Holden, Felicity Shelley and Simon Smith. I believe it was once again another record-breaker. I also thank this team for their work on the offer-holder day in Hilary Term.

I'd now like to thank all the other members of my committee not yet mentioned. I must start with the indomitable Sam Bealing; easily the hardest working member of the committee, he tackled so many issues without assistance. Whether it was doing the room ballot or arranging the ceilidh, he took it all in his stride and carried us all on his back. I must also mention Rabhya Agarwal, my secretary, who has the thankless task of trying to locate the often-elusive pizza delivery man before JCR meetings as well as taking thorough and detailed minutes of all the meetings. Without him and David Evans (Vice-President Academic), I really would not have been able to make any of our JCR meetings happen. Ren Palmer was another key member of the executive committee; she offered some experience to our fledgling committee when we needed it and always made being Treasurer look

so easy. I cannot forget Taona Makunganya (diversity and equality rep) or Andrew Achler and Gabriela Austin (freshers' reps) who all were so brave in taking on committee roles in their first year. Our environment representative Miles Oleksak, IT representative Barney Wakefield and our charities representative Chess Nightingale had their hands full from time to time, but they always prevailed and could always be counted on. Finally, I will give thanks to Angharad Thomas-De Paul, Joshua Harland and Amanda Li, who all stepped up to fill in roles when their JCR needed them.

I would like to end this report by mentioning a treasured member of our JCR whom we tragically lost at the end of last academic year, Wesley Akum-Ojong. He was, and continues to be, so deeply loved around our College. He touched the lives of everyone who met him and there was a significant JCR attendance at his funeral. He was an outstanding student and our BAME representative. We were all truly saddened by his passing and we extend our deepest sympathies as a community to his family. His gleaming smile will be long remembered by us all. Brasenose will not be the same without him.

It's been truly a privilege to serve on the committee this past year and I will honestly miss it. I am glad to have met the next generations at this College and I feel reassured that it will soon be in their hands.

JCR COMMITTEE 2023-2024

President: Santhakumar Arjunan Vice President (Domestic): Samuel Bealing (succeeded by Erin Fitzgibbon) Arts Rep: Iona Blair Diversity & Equality Rep: Taona Makunganya, Amanda Li External Entz Rep: Matthew Grigg IT Rep: Barney Wakefield Sports Rep: Harish Raghu	Welfare Reps: Imogen Edmunson, Rory McGlade, Esme Hubbert Vice President (Academic and Careers): David Evans, Joshua Harland Access & Admissions Rep: Freya Williams Charities Rep: Francesca Nightingale Environment Reps: Miles Oleksak, Angharad Thomas-De Paul
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Internal Entz Rep:
Eugenie Sumkoska

Secretary: Rabhya Agarwal

Treasurer: Lauren Palmer
(succeeded by Purav Menon)

Women's Officer: Lily McDermott

Ball President: Daga Nogal

HCR REPORT

by Shoba Laxmi, HCR President

Sitting in my favourite spot by the window overlooking the Rad Cam and All Souls College as the warm afternoon sunlight illuminates our beautiful BNC library, this *Brazen Nose* HCR report took shape. Looking out onto Radcliffe Square, the stark blue construction barriers all round Radcliffe Camera stand out vividly against the walls of sandstone gleaming in the sunlight. I am reminded of the turbulent times that we are currently in. On the other side, looking around the library and into New Quad, a sense of familiarity and comfort overwhelms – home! I say with confidence that BNC, especially the HCR, holds a special place for almost all its graduate students. Reminiscing back over this past year, we have all in one way or another relied on our HCR community to keep us going. So many wonderous adventures with much to tell, where do I start?

The season of rife enthusiasm and of new kinships etc. – Michaelmas Term – started off on an incredibly high note with the success of a fantastic Freshers' Week led by yours truly in my capacity as VP Secretary. Brasenose HCR was unofficially crowned the best college for freshers 2023 by all of the HCR freshers' course-mates and their friends in other colleges. Akin to how it takes a village to raise a baby, it takes a solid team to run Freshers' Week successfully. This would not have been possible without the efforts and hype of Mae Chester-Jones, Rachel Keane and Becci Davis. For the first time in HCR's Freshers' Week history, we held Amazing Race: BNC Edition where college families raced to locations in and around BNC taking family pictures at locations with the objects they were given before finally having to solve a riddle at the end to locate where the winning portkey equivalent was. Our next big event was matriculation, an important milestone for many freshers. Led by

our then President, Matthew Buckland, we hosted our very own BNC edition of the famous sexy sub-fusc party in the old library for HCR freshers to celebrate their matriculation with some scandalous fun. Alas! Halloween was soon upon us. Co-ordinated by Rachel Keane and Finley Bettsworth, we had a night of spooky fun with a themed formal dinner (we were allowed to wear costumes in Hall and guess who went as Piglet and Winnie the Pooh?) followed by a musical guest feature in the Amersi Foundation Lecture Room, with funk and covers band Garfunkel. Amongst all the excitement, we saw Matthew Buckland host his second series of BLURBS with Sophie Cardin (HCR speaker) and Fraydoon Rastinejad (SCR speaker). Michaelmas Term also saw the usual College formal exchanges, graduate, guest night and Christmas dinners. The term rounded off with the spirit of magical wonder of Christmas organised by our very hardworking Christmas elf, Jordan Cramer (who will never be set free with a sock if I had my way) with a myriad of Christmasy-themed activities to satisfy the lonely Harry Potters staying behind.

Nothing short of exciting and groundbreaking in Hilary Term for the HCR: apart from the staples in the HCR calendar of events – College formal exchanges, graduate and guest-night dinners, the highlights of Hilary were Ale Verses, and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Global Women’s Breakfast 2024. Ale Verses saw a strong contingent from HCR turn up to support our fellow songwriters. The song that captured the hearts of everyone in crowd (even the Principal!) and which ultimately won was beautifully crafted by the HCR’s very own Jorn Riemersma and Tim den Boer to the tune of Billy Joel’s *Piano Man*, entitled *Guide to Brasenose*. This term also saw a few hallmark initiatives implemented. Aditi Upmanyu, our equality and diversity officer, spearheaded themed second desserts for ethnic-themed formals for HCR members, notably Lunar New Year and Eid. It was heartwarming to see that it was well-received as the HCR had a scrumptious time trying delicious delicacies of the cultures being celebrated. A significant moment in BNC history, where a women-centred, student-led, event was held within these wooden walls of the Hall was the IUPAC Global Women’s Breakfast 2024. It was organised by yours truly, this time in my capacity as Chair for Oxford’s Women in Chemistry and VP Secretary, collaborating with Women in Engineering. This event drew in 100 attendees of whom half were

HCR students of all genders, as well as Fellows engaging with other students and invited guests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics about the chosen theme for this year, ‘Catalysing Diversity in Science’. It was bittersweet as we saw Matthew hosting his final BLURBS as president with two fantastic speakers, Aditi Upmanyu (HCR speaker) and Chloe Fisher (SCR speaker). As the term drew to an end, making way for the newly elected HCR Committee for 2024–25, HCR students were living by the *Guide to Brasenose* – ‘Brasenose is strange, but Brasenose is home. Cause Brasenose is where we belong’.

Parties and revision complete Trinity Term. Trinity kicked off with the Brasenose Ball: Le Cabaret d’Or. It was a sight to behold as Brasenose transformed into the beautiful dance party scene reminiscent of the 1920s. Everyone was dressed in their evening best and it was such a beautiful reunion for HCR as former members came back to partake in the ball of the year! The Ball Committee did such a phenomenal job, and everyone had a ball! As an appreciation of thanks, the HCR passed a motion to offer free garden party tickets to the Ball Committee. As the Ball withdrawal symptoms faded, I begun preparations to host my very first BLURBS as HCR President. I was thrilled to have two amazing women speakers from the SCR share their work with us – Elspeth Garman and inaugural Oxford-African Fellow, Veronica Fynn Bruey. The usual exchanges and formal dinners for the HCR were complemented by some very lovely non-formal exchanges doing walks and teas, a Mendelsohn soirée organised by some die-hard Mendelsohn HCR fans as well as some sporting fun as the days got longer. The annual HCR Garden Party was organised by Alicia Wo which saw some very interesting prizes being won. Not one to toot my own horn, but this author has now won the MVP award for the second time in a row – read next year’s report to see if she manages to make it a hat-trick. Additionally, I am pleased to report that we passed a motion to donate £500 to the Order of Malta from our accumulated charity budget from a few terms ago, with approval from College. We also saw the motion to revise and update our constitution pass (hopefully changes will come into effect before the next election!) However, it was not all rosy and cheerful. Trinity proved to be the most trying time for the HCR. We had to navigate through some tough times together, but I believe that we came out at the end stronger and better. We passed important

motions related to the Gaza conflict and encampments in Oxford to let our voices be heard.

Despite these dark times, we must find ways to keep going through it all together; to support and care for each other. As we look to the future, there are many lovely and wholesome events on the horizon. Preparations for Freshers' Week 2024 are underway, and in this next academic year it will be run by Rachel Keane as her final hurrah before graduating. Rest assured to say that incoming freshers for 2024-25 are in very capable hands. As a special treat, we are coordinating with our sister college in Cambridge – Gonville & Caius – for a spooky exchange in Michaelmas 2024 led by newly elected social secretary, Jordan Kramer, and myself. Before I end, I would like to remember the late first year undergraduate Wesley Akum-Ojong, whom we tragically lost. His passing reminds us all to treasure what we have and live in the present. With this, I leave you, till next time always keep photosynthesising good vibes. Mischief Managed 🧙.

HCR COMMITTEE 2023-2024

President: Matthew Buckland	Social Sec: Piotr Sliwa,
Vice-President Secretary: Shoba Laxmi	Anna Croft, Nishen Menerapitiyage Don
Vice President: Treasurer: Rachel Keane / Rebecca Davis (Becci Davis)	Arts: Sophie Cardin E&D: Aditi Upmanyu
Domestic: Finley Bettsworth	Environmental: Linqing Zhu
Steward: Gideon Ho	Wine and Cheese: Freddie Murley
Welfare: Robyn Haggis & Dana Vuckovic	Library: Isabelle St-Hilaire IT: Shem-Raz Idrees
	Women's: Amaris Lewis
	Garden Party: Will Brady
	Christmas Elf: Jordan Cramer

ALE VERSES

Every year on Shrove Tuesday, Brasenose staff and students partake in a very peculiar tradition known as ‘Ale Verses’. This dates back hundreds of years to when the College brewed its own ale and members of College would enjoy it together in Hall. Although Brasenose (sadly) no longer brews its own ale, we have kept the tradition alive!

Submissions from the BNC community this year maintained the usual high standards, with a plethora of imaginative lyrics, plus a healthy dose of good-natured Lincoln bashing. This year’s winning entry was from Jorn Riemersma and Tim den Boer, entitled *Guide to Brasenose*, to the tune of *Piano Man* by Billy Joel:

It’s 9 o’clock on a Saturday
 The regular crowd shuffles in
 There’s a fresher sittin’ next to me
 Makin’ love to his poached eggs and beans
 He says “*Hi, can you help me a little bit?
 I’m not really sure how things work
 All is strange and is new and I feel obsolete
 and my tutor, an absolute jerk.*”
 La, la-la, di-di-da
 La-la di-di-da da-dum
 I’ll explain it to you, you’re at Brasenose now
 I’ll explain it to you, in full
 Brasenose is strange, but Brasenose is home
 Cause Brasenose is where we belong
 Now John at the helm is a friend of mine
 He lives in the tower for free
 Andy guards at the gate, yeah, no matter how late
 And there’s no place that he’d rather be
 You can’t walk on the grass outside Trinity
 Shut your mouth, and be still, during grace
 You can get a v-cubed from the Brasenose Bar
 And Lincoln’s a despicable place
 Oh, la, la-la, di-di-da
 La-la di-di-da da-dum
 Now Ann is a history second year

But rowing is where she actually thrives
 And she's talking with Bill, who's still in the DPhil
 And probably will be for life
 And the kitchen is buzzing with busyness
 As the postgrads slowly get old
 Yes, they're sick of the port and sick of the cheese
 But it's better than staffing Deloitte
 Sing for the ale, you're at Brasenose man
 Sing for the ale, tonight
 Brasenose is strange, but Brasenose is home
 Cause Brasenose is where we belong
 It's a pretty good crowd for a Tuesday now
 And the principal gives me a smile
 'Cause he knows that the ale has a taste oh so stale
 But Lincoln's is even more vile
 And the unicorn, tall in the dining hall
 And it is something you'd usually hide
 And we sit at our meal, and the wonder is real
 Oh gosh, why's that horn so upright?
 Oh, la, la-la, di-di-da
 La-la di-di-da da-dum
 Sing for the ale, you're at Brasenose man
 Sing for the ale, tonight
 Brasenose is strange, but Brasenose is home
 Cause Brasenose is where we belong

BADMINTON

by Joshua Harland

Brasenose badminton kicked off with high hopes this year. After a strong cohort last year, I inherited a good number of consistent players but was eager for more. Luckily, the Freshers' Fair brought keen players aplenty to join the ranks (mostly thanks to our carry-over mascot, Badminton Cat). Attendance was bountiful, despite temperatures many considered to be unethical throughout Michaelmas, although we did note that the half-hour walk was made far more pleasant with the company – laughs

and a good natter *en route* were never out of place. The term went well, and we were geared up for a mighty Hilary Term in Cuppers.

I unfortunately cannot comment on our league victories (which would have been endless), since an administrative error meant we weren't enrolled and were therefore unable to crush all other colleges. We'll just have to bide our time for next year...

Our performance in Cuppers really was astounding in both ways; the women's team, for all their zeal, unfortunately could not eke out a victory against the powerhouse that was Somerville. Meanwhile our men's team, powered by the unstoppable James Perks–Harish Raghu partnership stomped their way through LMH's singles and doubles matches the same night I attended a formal at their college – the pinched water bottle becoming our monument to success. Our momentum was unfortunately no match for St John's; their vast wealth and absence of branded water bottles clearly were responsible for our downfall. Nonetheless, still a good effort from our incredible players, and a special thanks to the mighty James Perks once again for briefly laying down the oar in place of the racquet to lend us his skill.

Undeterred by the loss in Cuppers, Trinity continued as a high turnout term – perhaps as a distraction for the imminent exams of our regulars – although dark times loomed ahead for Brasenose badminton. Our home grounds of Oxford High School – despite my attempts to convince them otherwise – viewed their students' GCSE and A-level exams as a higher priority than badminton and ran us out of the hall. In our desperation, we turned to Ferry Leisure Centre in Summertown as our last hope – a full 10 minutes beyond the school, putting our total travel time to 40 minutes. Undeterred from the marathon-esque distance, our players still valiantly made the journey to continue playing.

Overall, despite the challenges and setbacks faced by Brasenose badminton, we have come out stronger and more determined. I would like to give special thanks to our veteran players, Harish Raghu, Emanuel Mavares Da Silva, Miles Johnson, former vice-captain Sam Bealing and former captain Jui Zaveri. I would also like to thank our new cohort including J.R. Carlyon, Aditya Tekriwal, Annika Tang, Amber Masson, and Evie Franks for picking up and improving in the fastest racquet sport in the world. Lastly, let me thank Andrew Achler for taking on the captaincy for next year; in rain or shine Andrew would make it to our weekly training, and will do fantastically in due course.

BASKETBALL

by Lukas Seier

After the birth of the Brasenose/New College basketball team last season, this year looked to further build on the team's initial success. Michaelmas Term brought a great start with some fresh faces attending training sessions. Our first league game ended with a comfortable win against Oriel, helping us to build team chemistry and boost confidence.

While Michaelmas Term had only one game played with a larger focus on training sessions, Hilary proved to be the opposite. With frequent rainfall leading to session cancellations at the Weston court, our only proper chance to play together was during league games. Our first match-up of the term was against St Peter's/Wadham. Despite our best efforts to contain their star player, we left defeated but kept our spirits high and remained focused. Our next game would result in a promising win against Corpus Christi, with a fantastic display of offensive talent from the team. Unfortunately, other scheduled games had to be cancelled due to a lack of players from other teams, limiting the opportunity to gain playing experience. However, our results were good enough to qualify for the last 16 of the Cuppers tournament.

In contrast to the previous term, Trinity delivered lots of sun and regular training sessions. Our Cuppers season began with a game against LMH. Having only five players compared with their ten, who included two Blues players, we were immediately at a disadvantage. We nonetheless put up an impressive fight, losing only by a narrow margin of three points. Having been knocked out of the tournament, we spent the rest of the term enjoying frequent scrimmage sessions at the Weston court.

I'm very proud of what our team has managed to achieve this year. Our successful outcomes were the result of a well-rounded team with a focus on team effort rather than star players. I wish the team all the best for future success in coming years!

BOAT CLUB

by Matthew Campbell

One would have thought the pandemic would represent the biggest challenge to rowing in a generation, yet this season may be a close second. Torrential rains mixed with the Environment Agency bombing the weir to give us a rather brief window in which it was safe to train novices: 46 hours in the first 198 days of the year.

We returned excited to better the club performance seen in 2023. Along with all four boats going positive in the Summer Eights campaign, Brasenose retained its place as a history-making club by achieving the first bump by a composite crew ever, paired with St Peter's. Thus, with big shoes to fill, the 2023-24 committee began in earnest with a pre-season camp and a successful novice recruitment campaign, developing our largest and strongest cohort since the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the rains came quick and they came hard, blunting our thrust before it began. Michaelmas Term became blighted in a brutal cycle as the river levels ebbed and flowed, edging us ever closer to a return to the river before another downpour threw a wet blanket over our hopes. Through the term, we were able to complete just a single time trial out of the seven races intended, including, most irritatingly, the annual novice regatta in late November. Nonetheless, our still fledgling roster had far outperformed the erging and gym regimens of previous years, and thus we remained confident for a drier 2024 in which to harvest the fruits of those efforts.

Man makes plans; God laughs. The vacation between Michaelmas and Hilary began the worst period of sustained flooding on the stretch since the nineteenth century. The deluge unleashed flooded the entirety of boathouse island for months, and saw almost every boathouse inundated. Standing two inches higher than the rest, we fared only a little better. But under the magnificent tutelage of head coach Tim Halliday, our indomitable spirit remained in spite of the rough conditions, taking our first crews for a training day in Gloucester. Such an excursion was extremely beneficial to us, and made possible by the continuing generous support of our alumni through the Bowman Fund.

Rowing is characterised by a pretty hefty training load, but in Hilary the number of sessions could be counted on one hand. Yet through the term, both first crews travelled to London to compete in Hammersmith

Head on the Thames, representing W1's debut on the 4.4km Tideway course. The women gave a fantastic race, coming fourth out of 15 in their category with Alex Roberts as their debutante in the coxing seat. Had I entered the men's crew into the correct division, they would have gone on to win that as well. Alas, M1 returned to the prestigious Head of the River race in early March after the strong showing last year, again putting on a solid performance even while I coxed a rather questionable line. Those in the know will recognise the notable omission of the Torpids bumps event – this was impossible with the flooding, and BNC brought its A-game to the Tug of Warpids instead.

Trinity Term rolled around, and we had saved the best of the year until last. The heavens certainly owed us one or two favours, allowing us a brief window in which to do some proper racing. Oxford City Bumps saw three BNC boats in each of four races throughout the day. M1 went in strong, catching Wallingford and Wadham to finish 7th in Division I. M2 had a strong shift against the underperformance of Hertford's men, leaving limp antlers in the dust. The women entered a varied crew with a few novices and have set themselves up for a promising campaign next year.

We welcomed back 50 boat club alumni early in the term, with the men's and women's crews of 1984, and the men's 1994, returning a little earlier for a few friendly races on the Isis before dinner. It was wonderful to see the fantastic standard of rowing that each of these rowers have retained. The present committee watched with bated breath as it quickly became clear that the rules on the river had changed rather a little in four decades. However, the near misses remained just that, and we all sat down to eat with no accidents on the record! As well as being an annual celebration, we took this opportunity to announce the formation of a new alumni boat club for ex-members to continue rowing and stay involved in BNCBC life. This effort would not have been possible without our most dedicated alumnus, Dan Brocklebank (president 1997-8), and the spearhead of this new initiative, Peter Edmondson (2018-9).

At long last, Summer Eights rolled around, with M1, M2, W1, W2, and W3 lined up behind Worcester, Regent's, St Peter's, St John's, and New College respectively. Through a gruelling four days in Fifth Week, the crews, many of them entirely novice, brought an incredible shift to produce a solid set of results. Our first women's 3rd VIII to

qualify in a decade fought their way out of footship with two incredible bumps on New College and Exeter. After a disappointing first day being caught by Worcester, W2's burning desire for revenge saw them catch St John's on day 3 before leaving Worcester in the dust on Saturday. A term of hard training allowed W1 to row confidently despite stiff competition, retaining their place in Division III. M2 shocked us all with an incredible first three days, catching Regent's, Catz and Magdalen in quick succession, but narrowly missed out on blades chasing Wadham on day 4. Finally, M1 looked to hold their position in Division II, briefly dipping down before a final bump against Exeter secured that goal.

While the weather presented serious challenges to the club, we remain confident going into next year, sporting a large contingent of returning members who will look to build on the progress made this year; our second boats are now the highest ranked they have been since 1993. The men's side returned to high-level racing in London, and the women debuted on the Thames and at Henley. A special mention must also be made for Josh Greig (our wonderful Secretary) and Tristram Walsh, who have been training with the university team. I would like to thank the hard work of the captains, Daga Nogal, Hattie Altaparmakova, Freddie Finlay, Elliot McLeod, and Oliver Christie, our Treasurer Luke Hayward, and in particular the support of the vice-presidents Oliver Burgess and James Perks. We look forward to next year's successes under the co-presidency of Luke and Daga, and keep fingers crossed for some smoother sailing.

CRICKET

by Ambrose Pailing

Taking on the captaincy this year, I have had the tough job of following a season with rarely-seen BNCCC success. Many of that team graduated last year, so 2023-24 has been about rebuilding the team and creating the foundations of a strong side for the next few years. This may have affected our chances of silverware, but I have focused on bringing in a squad of keen and committed players, male and female. Enthusiasm has been never-ending, but so too has the rain, and our sports ground has had a flooded outfield all year. Perhaps this is why BNCCC has reverted

to a year of village-level cricket, but it has been immensely fun and I hope that seeds have been sown for the team to flourish.

Our League campaign started with a visit from Trinity and we bowled first, restricting them to 109-7. My powerplay overs returned 1-0 and Rob Truell provided a fielding masterclass, helping our new leg spinner Eeshaan Iyer to take his first three wickets for BNCCC. Our chase then started with the bizarre discovery that we had only bowled 18 overs and that Trinity's scorers were not up to the job, before a scintillating 47 from Rob despite a collapse to 87. We thought the game was over but Trinity declared that we had one wicket left, so we sent in our lodge manager Omer as the only person around who had not yet batted. He came to the rescue, hitting 30* to seal a victory as Trinity watched on incredulously. A no-show from Christ Church then gave us our second dubious win in two league matches, before eventual table-toppers LMH hosted us. Despite fireworks from first year Theo Russell, we were all out for 69 and were unable to salvage the game from there, taking just three wickets as LMH trotted home with six overs to go.

Our Cuppers campaign was to start and end in that very same week. We arrived at the St Peter's ground to find that there was no boundary, no stumps, and the pitch was being cut before our very eyes. Perhaps it was because of this pitch that we were bowled out for 80 with Omer (15) again rescuing our batting. Our wicketkeeper Aditya Tekriwal completed his first stumping of the season but this was a high point: the hosts notched up 83-5 and sent us flying out of Cuppers in traditional BNCCC style. Returning to the league, we looked more confident as Freddie Murley found form in his last year representing BNCCC and Milind Khashu returned from injury, but we were still able to post just 95-7 in 20 overs against St Catherine's. The MCC Laws were nowhere to be seen as their bowlers were called for several chest-high full tosses and bent arms before Vik Mitra claimed the first wicket of his sixth and final season after an LBW appeal from a blatantly edged ball. With just three balls remaining, Catz knocked off the winning runs (97-4) and we were left in a perilous position.

It was an inspired XI, however, who emerged as we hosted Magdalen whilst needing a convincing victory to qualify for the knockouts. Vik (29) and Freddie (38*) provided ample support for Aditya (62), who reached the first BNCCC 50 of the year as we hit 149-2. Brilliant catching and a short-ball barrage gave me figures of 4-12, but Magdalen clawed back,

losing in the final over (145-8) thanks to Vik's death bowling and three run outs. Unfortunately, Magdalen took home enough batting bonus points to qualify ahead of us despite our first proper win of the year, and we were out of both competitions. This allowed us to focus on the third annual staff-student game, which saw Daniel D'Hotman (retired 53★) return from a shoulder injury to combine with Freddie (47★) for a stunning partnership to give BNCCC a total of 168-1. Even I hit my BNCCC-best (17★) before it was time for the staff to bat. Milind (3-8) unleashed frightening pace whilst Flo Brooke (3-7) with brilliant movement and Josh Sneddon (2-6) with bamboozling turn stole the show as we bowled the staff out for 88. Captain Omer was bowled for a scratchy 9 and chef-turned-secret-weapon Henry was caught with unparalleled athleticism by Rudra Thakkar for 0, but admissions fiend Dr Joe Organ's 33 runs somewhat rescued them from 26-7 off 10 overs. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and pleasing for BNCCC to find its feet so convincingly to regain the staff-student trophy after losing last year and a tough start to the 2024 campaign.

To end the season, we played a friendly fixture against Worcester. The turnout from our opposition was at times concerningly poor and filled with ringers such as a bowler from Lincoln and an OUCC IIIs all-rounder who had scored the runs to knock us out of Cuppers. Vik opened and scored exactly 50 in his last ever innings, whilst the rest of us contributed useful partnerships to take BNCCC up to a total of 148-5. Our defence of the total was initially wounded by a stunning six off the rapid bowling of Milind (2-15), but we persevered and took the big wickets periodically before a lower order collapse. Eeshaan (2-11) found form whilst our pace had lacked economy, and Avi Sengupta (2-4) wrapped up the game with Worcester all out for 100. The last wicket came thanks to a catch from Vik, sealing a perfect performance and victory for him as he left the field for the final time with BNCCC. Overall, Freddie finished as our top scorer with 138 runs at 46.00 whilst I collected 13 wickets at 7.54. In the field, Aditya completed three catches plus two stumpings as wicketkeeper, Eeshaan, Vik, Rudra, and Rob took the most outfield catches (two each), and Eeshaan produced the most run outs (three).

Thank you to all who have played and supported this year, and such a whistle-stop tour of the season cannot do justice to all who have been a part of this year's journey. Thank you to everyone who has already

featured, and to Rabhya Agarwal, Billy Arber, Sasha Bhango, Dan Cox, David Evans, Josh Harland, Miles Johnson, Aditya Kulkarni, Purav Menon (also rejuvenating our Instagram presence @bnc.swingers), Miles Nicholson, Fin Sheedy, Alex Sherwood, Gus Smith, and Jui Zaveri. A particular thanks to Daniel D’Hotman, Milind Khashu, Vik Mitra, and Rob Truell for their unerring advice and help with my captaincy, to Danny English for all his work at the sports ground, and to Omer Tariq for helping us out and for organising our annual social fixture. Congratulations to Sophie Goodman (Women’s Is), Daniel D’Hotman (Men’s IIIs), and Dhruv Talati (Men’s Is) who have all represented the University this year. Finally, I wish Eeshaan Iyer the best of luck as he takes over the reins next year, and I look forward to one last year with BNCCC.

FOOTBALL – MEN’S TEAM

by Morgan Bell

The 2023-24 season was a difficult one to navigate for men’s football, with the majority of the squad graduating leaving us without many of our best players. The new fresher intake gave the team some much needed numbers and stability, along with a couple of key new starting players.

The season was always going to be about cementing our place in Division 1, after two consecutive promotions in the two previous seasons, and of course a miraculous Cuppers win the season before. Under new captain Morgan Bell, and with a largely inexperienced squad, the season was bound to be tough.

The season began slowly, with one draw and three losses against some of the league’s promotion candidates. The squad was bolstered by the arrival of the Australian travelling lecturer David Winterton, who at 40 years of age was much needed experience and muscle in the midfield. Despite this, the team managed to fight for wins against Pembroke and St Anne’s, and double victories versus St Hugh’s, including a huge 2-3 victory away on the last day of the season to secure our safety in the division.

The squad will remain largely the same next season, current captain Morgan Bell, centre half Sam Winiarski, and winger Simon Cocks being the only departures. While goalkeeper Edward Routh secured

a one-year extension and subsequently regained a position in the Blues squad, both fourth year wingers Joshua Dow and Mazen El Sherbini also remain at Brasenose as the experienced players in the squad, and new second year captain Sasha Bhangoo earned a spot in the midfield of the University's 2s.

This season, although not as glamorous as the previous couple, has found itself as just as important an achievement. The squad showed fantastic fight and determination to earn their respect as a top division 1 team, despite difficult circumstances. This leaves the team in a fantastic position with strong foundations to build and improve to continue our drive to become a premier division team.

FOOTBALL – WOMEN'S TEAM

by Rebecca Jackson and Betty Hughes

The 2023–24 season saw the continuation of the Balliol and Brasenose joint football team, with our (merciful) rebrand from Ballnose to the Bees – a somewhat ironic renaming given that this year we replaced our yellow and black striped kits with new blue black ones incorporating Brasenose and Balliol elements. Thanks to the hard work of former captain Amelia Abbot, who revived women's football at Brasenose in previous years, we were able to start the season in a markedly stronger position than before. Hopefully going forwards women's football at the College will continue to go from strength to strength.

Despite earning promotion with last season's unbeaten run, OUFCFA's restructuring of the league placed us back in the second division. After a solid start with only one loss during Michaelmas Term, our season was somewhat undermined by our inability to play during the second half of Hilary due to waterlogged pitches and weather problems. Unfortunately, this backlog was never recovered, leaving a lingering question mark over our fourth-place finish in a highly competitive league. The Bees nonetheless had a great year with some fantastic individual performances, a brilliant overall team effort and fantastic squad spirit. In Cuppers we were knocked out 2-0 in a hard-fought quarter final against Summertown. We ended on a high however, placing second in our Trinity futsal Cuppers group, and going on to come third after being unlucky to lose a close semi-final.

This season we benefitted from some new players, with Esther O'Neill, Charlotte O'Neill, Leia Worthington, Holly Singleton, Erin Fitzgibbon and Scarlett O'Shaughnessy all valuable additions to our already strong team. Amelia Abbott, Sonia Zia, Ursy Reynolds, and Megan Jefferies returned from previous years, providing a solid foundation of experience. In midfield and defence, Amelia, Megan and Leia were all-rounders capable of being solid at the back and controlling the game in midfield too. Esther, Ursy, and Holly all proved dangerous attacking threats down the wing, combining to assist, score, and terrorise opposition fullbacks, whilst Sonia, Charlotte, Erin, and Scarlett led our sturdy defence, fearlessly challenging opposing players and providing counter-attacking threat when dispossessing them. Finally, this year, without a full-time goalkeeper, most players selflessly had a stint in goal, with some Mary Earps-esque heroics from multiple players.

We would like to thank everyone who played this year for making being captains a pleasure and contributing to the success of the team. Looking forward, the Bees will be in the more than capable hands of Megan and Leia.

HOCKEY

by Elizabeth Berryman

The college hockey league features coalitions between colleges to maximise attendance at matches. This year, Brasenose College were joined with St Anne's for the second year running, and the coalition proved successful once more. The 2023-2024 season was one of ups and downs for BNC/St Anne's Hockey. We welcomed again the enthusiasm and players provided by St Anne's, ensuring we always had a strong defensive line and matching kit. We started the season in Michaelmas with a strong win (due to lack of players on the opposition) which gave us the confidence we needed moving forwards. A strong 2-1 win against Balliol/Univ in the middle of the tournament brought along the momentum needed to see us through the colder November matches. By the end of the Michaelmas Mixed League, Brasenose/St Anne's sat happily in the middle of division 1, fourth out of seven teams, easily avoiding relegation.

Hilary Term brought more players to BNC hockey and more wins in the Hilary Mixed League. The team began to gel more, getting used to playing with each other and more passes actually going to our own team members. We were unbeaten throughout Hilary, beating Teddy Hall, Christ Church/St. Hugh's, drawing with New College and seriously outnumbering St John's/Keble which led to an automatic win. This match was an excellent demonstration of the unwavering commitment of Brasenose hockey players as we turned up to the pitch at Iffley Road with more than 15 players and the opposition only had seven. After some careful discussion to ensure this was noted appropriately, we played a friendly (yet competitive) match to end Hilary Term top of the league. This gave us hope for a formidable return to Cuppers in Trinity. The returning players ensured no-one forgot the heart-breaking loss in the final of Cuppers in Trinity 2023.

Sadly, it was not to be this year. Despite a stellar performance, in skills and turnout, Brasenose hockey struggled slightly through Trinity Term. With a bye in the first round, leading us straight to the quarter-finals, a 3-0 loss to New College ended the Cuppers dream. Some members of the team even played having run in the Town and Gown 10K that morning, another example of the outstanding commitment at BNC hockey this year. It was a sad end to a brilliant season.

Off the pitch, the coalition with St Anne's thrived as we joined in a Sports Formal swap, with the St Anne's players welcoming us to a formal, followed by some outstanding karaoke. In return, the St Anne's players enjoyed the finest food Brasenose has to offer at the Annual Sports Formal.

It hopefully goes without saying by now that Brasenose possesses many talented and keen hockey players. This year we welcomed Maia Broughton, Eilidh Quinn and Jorn Riemersma to the pitch to represent Brasenose. Thanks also must go to our returning players Fin Sheedy, Dan Cox, Steven Wood, James Nicholas, Milind Khashu, Libby Chrisp, Chess Nightingale, Sam Bealing and Robert Truell.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to some committed players this year: Jasmine Rooke, Rebecca Woodfield, Ella Lord and Ollie Nicholls, who have shown brilliant commitment throughout their time at Brasenose and will be missed on the pitch. Next year, Holly Singleton will be taking over as Brasenose Hockey captain, and I am certain she will

do an excellent job maintaining the attendance record we have built this year.

To all who played this year, whether it was one match or all matches, thank you for your effort each Sunday. You have all made being captain of Brasenose Hockey a fun and easy job and I look forward to playing with you all again next year.

NETBALL

by Francesca (Chess) Nightingale and Kara Goldsmith

Brasenose College netball has flourished this year, and we are honoured to have been the co-captains of such an enthusiastic, fun team. The year started strong, with the help of previous captain Faye Fallon, we managed to create huge interest amongst the freshers (rowing and football watch out!). Our goal for this year was to spread the joys of netball by truly developing the mixed part of 'Mixed Netball', which was definitely accomplished.

We started Week 1 Michaelmas with a freshers' introductory training session, playing games and running drills, followed by a relaxed *motivational* social. This training was needed for our subsequent matches: weekly (or, realistically, as often as UK winter weather permitted) down at LMH. We saw wins, we saw draws and we saw losses, but our focus was on the wins and the friends we made along the way. These friendships on the court were cemented by the continuous socials off the court.

Our amazing social secretaries (Nikita Lavender and Freya Williams) may have spent more hours wearing the centre bib at Jamal's than during matches, but for a team to function, we need to be a family, and that was strongly secured. Not only did this foster inter-year connections within College, but BNC Netball is now connected to either the football or rugby teams from almost every undergraduate college in Oxford!

This social buzz led to almost record numbers signing up for matches, allowing us to enter both women's and mixed Cuppers this year. We played very well, winning both of our first matches, but unfortunately, despite our very best efforts (and a few unlucky injured ankles), we were bested by Hertford for a spot in the quarter finals.

Despite this unfortunate Cuppers result, the real question that our mixed team needed answering was: who's better, the Girls or the Guys? To answer this question, and to prove to men all around BNC that netball is *not* 'just an easy version of basketball' we put it to the test (twice). We can proudly declare that although most of our girls are a foot shorter than the guys, that doesn't stop their talent and determination (and impressive ability for subtle-so-the-ref-doesn't-notice contact), and the girls won! This determination carried through to the Sports Day against Gonville & Caius, where mixed netball will now be a staple alongside football, rounders, and the egg and spoon.

Overall, this year we couldn't be prouder. We have created a family. The guys are now trapped in the team but know the girls can still show off their flair any day! We have announced our captains for next year, Sierra Warnes and Seb Steven, and we are sure that they will continue to develop the growth of netball within our lovely College, hopefully have more success getting training numbers together on a rainy Tuesday, and bring BNC netball Cuppers domination back again! Despite our year of captaincy being officially over, we are of course staying part of the team, but simply handing over the ceremonial Slazenger netball bag for the next generation to carry down the ground.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

by James Nicholas

The 2023-24 season was another great one for BNCRFC, and marked the start of a new chapter for Brasenose rugby – one where Brasenose College teamed up with Queen's College to form a joint squad. Honestly it was somewhat necessary. With many core players having graduated in the summer, we were left without a full team. Fortunately, our college rugby neighbours were also in a similar position, and so a beautiful rugby marriage of colleges ensued. Rugby at BNC was all better for it. This year was certainly the first of many successful years for Brasenose-Queen's RFC, as the team went on to win our first piece of silverware in a good few years.

In Michaelmas we began with a couple of league fixtures: first against Oriel, a 5-17 loss, and then against Jesus, another 38-15 loss. The Oriel match was the closer contest, we spent much of the match at a 5-7

scoreline as we both got on the board early in the match. Oriel's well put together back-line took control late in the second half and secured the victory. Although Brasenose and Queen's are used to sharing a pitch down the ground, albeit usually on different days, it was quickly apparent that the two teams would take some time to adjust to playing as one. Both of these games saw great moments however, and the rugby we were playing showed a lot of promise.

Unfortunately the 'promise' didn't come soon enough, and we were knocked out of Cuppers early by a well put-together LMH/St Hugh's, who beat us 10-21. Our hopes at the cup or plate competition were over, but either the bowl or an inaugural shield competition were still all to play for, which led us to a match against Pembroke/Wadham next week. The first half was very physical, with both teams bringing their defensive A-game. Two silly penalties well within kicking distance (who goes for posts in college rugby anyway?) left the score at half time at 0-6 to them. Brasenose-Queen's struck back at the start of the first half, with a strong pick and go from the base of the scrum getting us within five metres of the try line, after a couple strong carries from the forwards we were under the post, and in the lead. We spent most of the second half defending. Pembroke/Wadham scored in the last play of the match, and the game ended at 13-7. This loss hurt, as we were so close to winning, against the strongest team we'd played so far this season. It was reassuring that even though the results weren't going our way yet, each performance had been an improvement on the last, and progress was being made.

We finally broke through in the league against Magdalen/St Hilda's, on an extremely wet and cold morning at the start of Hilary. Although both teams arrived with about 13 players, it was very clear that BNCQRFC simply wanted it more. One of our season's star players, Jude Tyrrell, bagged a brace, sliding into the corner, making use of wet conditions early on in the match. The scoring was frequent and very back-and-forth, but we remained on top for the full game (and played much more *liquid* rugby). Even with a couple late scores, the Hildabeests couldn't get close to the 41 points we had built up throughout the match, and the final score was 41-29.

The start of Trinity Term marked the semi-final of the inaugural shield competition, where we were drawn against Christ Church. This was a cagey one for sure. Both Brasenose and Queen's were looking

to make up for separate losses to them last season. An early score for us was matched at the end of the half and we were all square at the break. However, Christ Church hadn't expected us to use the oldest trick in the book: putting your best player at inside centre and giving him the ball off the back of every scrum. With Otis Walker back from Varsity duty, there was no better man for the job. This age-old tactic made mincemeat of the opposition, and eventually led to the winning try. The final score was 14-7, and we were into the final!

The scene was set at Iffley on a beautifully sunny day, with a full 23-man squad. I will be honest, it was the first time I've ever witnessed it in college rugby. Our opposition Worcester/Lincoln were clearly scared by the sheer quality of the Brasenose-Queen's line up. The game began and obviously Tom Mewes got on the scoreboard immediately, scoring twice in the first half. It was honestly hard to keep track of everyone who scored a try, and was definitely the best we had played as a team all season. The final score was 41-12, and we had won the shield! It's definitely no Cuppers, but it certainly is a testament to how much better our game was by the end of the season.

Finally I want to congratulate Tom and Otis on their appearances in the Varsity Match. I also want to thank everyone who played rugby for Brasenose this year. I look forward to playing with Barney Cowles as captain, and seeing where he takes the team next. There are still some big questions to address with Brasenose-Queens: should the team be Breens for short? What about Quasenose? QBRFC, or BQRF? I'm glad these are all Barney's problems, and not mine.

SQUASH

by Freddie Murley

The 2023-24 season brought fresh faces and a new energy to the mighty BNCSC. With some promising performances in our weekly college sessions over Michaelmas Term, a strong Cuppers performance was on the cards. Perhaps this was the year we broke from recent tradition. Perhaps this was the year Brasenose Squash Club made it through the first round.

Thanks to some strong squash presence in the new freshers, progression in Cuppers was more than likely. Superstar fresher Ahmed

Diab was straight in at first seed, with Freddie Murley at 2, Daniel D'Hotman at 3, Alex Still at 4, James Perks at 5, with Lukas Seier as reserve. With the strength and depth of this assembled team, we were granted a round 1 bye and were up against St Hugh's/St Anne's in round 2.

Strong performances across the team brought us our long-awaited Cuppers victory. Ahmed Diab won his match in a brilliant three games (11-3 11-5 11-9), Freddie Murley won in similar fashion (11-3 11-7 11-2) and James Perks put a dominating performance in at fifth seed for another fantastic win (11-5 11-4 11-6). Thanks to these great results, we were through to the quarter finals, facing the mighty Magdalen 1s team.

With the Oxford University Squash Club president among the opposition ranks, this was certainly our toughest challenge. Ahmed Diab played a terrific match, but unfortunately could not prevail against his squash Blue opponent. Freddie Murley managed to recover a tough first game loss to bring the match back to a 3-1 victory (5-11 11-5 11-9 11-6), and a fantastic performance from James Perks brought another win our way with a strong 3-1 result (11-7 11-3 10-12 11-7). Alex Still and Lukas Seier faced the tough challenges of experienced squash players, and despite gutsy performances could not bring home the win. Our Cuppers campaign was ended with a tough 3-2 loss against the better team, but what a great run of matches it was! The whole team produced performances to be proud of, and BNCSC looks well set for the future.

I'd like to thank everyone who took part in Brasenose squash this year, both within the Cuppers squad and in the weekly sessions. Squash is a fantastic sport to play all year round, and I'd strongly encourage anyone interested to give it a go. BNCSC is certainly in safe hands next year, with Alex Sherwood taking up the captaincy. I wish him all the best, and look forward to the continued success of the thriving Brasenose squash community.

PPE SOCIETY

by James Forsdyke

It has been a real privilege for me to have been involved in running both the PPE Society and the Addington Debating Society this year, alongside Faye Fallon, Nikita Lavender and Freya Williams. From a personal perspective, my time at Brasenose College has been a fantastic experience, and an extraordinary opportunity that I'm very grateful to have had. It has been a real honour to have co-versed over both societies. I'd like to thank all the brilliant people at Brasenose involved in making the events such a success.

Our first event in October 2023 was with **Sir Dave Ramsden (PPE, 1983)**, who is Deputy Governor for Markets and Banking at the Bank of England. The event was one of John Bowers KC's Principal's Conversations, twinned with and supported by the PPE Society. Sir Dave Ramsden's interview was fascinating, and very well attended by the student community, his discussion being highly informative and relevant to topical goings-on in relation to Bank of England interest rate policy.

Over the course of the lockdowns, the Addington Debating Society couldn't go about business as usual. The next event after the pandemic was the inaugural Addington Debate, the first since its re-establishment, which was held in the same week. I chaired the proceedings, which saw students from a variety of academic disciplines debate whether or not UK fees for international students should be lowered.

Nearing the end of October we had our annual PPE meal, which saw **Antonia Romeo (PPE, 1993)** return to the College, now as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice. Nikita and Freya hosted the interview with her. We were delighted to welcome her to College again, with so many people later telling me how they found her audience-interactive approach to her address highly engaging and entertaining. Antonia Romeo's commitment and enthusiasm for the benefits of public service was particularly inspiring, and her optimism about the future was received very well. It was a wonderful evening.

Our final event of Michaelmas Term was with **Sir Paul Silk (Lit. Hum., 1970)**, who went on to become a Clerk in the House of Commons, Clerk to the National Assembly for Wales, and chair of the

‘Silk Commission’ on Welsh devolution. During his interview with Faye and me, Sir Paul spoke of his time as a civil servant in British politics and shared in his experience of issues surrounding devolution in Wales. The event was again very popular, notably with students from Oxford’s Welsh Society migrating over from Jesus College to hear him speak.

In February 2024, to begin Hilary Term, alongside Faye I interviewed Professor Alan Renwick, who is deputy director of the Constitution Unit at University College London. He was principal investigator for the *Democracy in the UK after Brexit* project, and led the Citizens’ Assembly on Brexit, his work focusing on public attitudes towards British politics. His reports have led to his giving evidence to government committees and he has advised on a number of issues around the world. His address ‘The General Election: What role will democratic reform play in the campaign?’ was a fascinating one, during which he warned that lack of honesty and transparency in politics is generating disillusionment among the electorate. The reception of his address was very positive, leaving students with a lot to talk about afterwards.

A week on, I hosted the second of our Addington Debates, on the motion, ‘This Society Believes That AI Will Solve Our Problems.’ The event was very enjoyable, seeing students go head to head in very passionate, robust and respectful debate. **James Johnson (History & Politics, 2010)**, JL Partners co-founder and former senior opinion researcher and strategy advisor to Theresa May between 2016 and 2019, then joined John Bowers KC for another event in late February, supported by the PPE Society. His account of his work in polling made for a highly entertaining and informative discussion, in which he covered patterns evident with respect to both the forthcoming UK and US elections. He entertained us with hilarious stories of his polling excursions in North America. The student body and staff present thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Our final event in early March was with outgoing professor in politics and international relations, Andrea Ruggeri, who is leaving Brasenose to teach at the University of Milan. He created the *International Security and Conflict* paper at Oxford, and has published works in a variety of prestigious academic journals, as well as having coauthored books such as *Composing Peace: Mission Composition in UN Peacekeeping* (2020, Oxford University Press) and *Potere, Incertezza e Identità. Elementi di Scienza Politica* (2023, Mondadori). The event was extremely popular, with

students and prominent academics alike in attendance. Our PPE and our History and Politics cohort were able to shower him with farewell gifts at the end of our discussion, a perfect way to round out a series of informative, inspiring and memorable events. *Ciao, Andrea!*

Next year, the Addington Debating Society will separate from the PPE Society. David Evans will be presiding over the Addington Debating Society, with Benjamin Surguy and Robert Ebner-Statt taking over as co-presidents of the Brasenose PPE Society. We wish them good luck, and look forward to seeing some more fantastic events at Brasenose in the future.

THE ARTS SOCIETY

by Iona Blair

When I was choosing which college to apply to, Brasenose stood out to me for three reasons: the cheap brunch, the friendly atmosphere and (above all) the Arts Week. Over two years later, getting to cultivate and shape arts in the community as the JCR Arts Representative and to chair the Arts Society has been an absolute joy. These past two terms have been jam-packed with events, and I hope next term will be the same.

As always, we kicked off Hilary Term with the annual Arts and Societies Dinner (where we were lucky enough to avoid last year's famous hair-on-fire moment!) The Jazznostrils gave a brilliant performance at the pre-dinner drinks reception, followed by brief speeches from myself and the previous year's Arts Representative, Peter Chen. Then we heard from this year's guest of honour, J.C. Niala, an Oxford-based writer, historian, artist, and Head of Research, Teaching and Collections at the History of Science Museum. Her speech was wonderful, captivating and the absolute highlight of the evening – she told us about her journey in her career and her inspirations. I must thank the Alumni Relations and Development Office team for their support in organising the event, as well as College for subsidising the dinner to make it accessible to all of the College community who engage in arts (and there's a lot of them).

The rest of the term was full of Brasenose classics like karaoke, Drunk Shakespeare and Bob Ross, along with a joint Valentine's crafting event with the Welfare and Women's reps. It was lovely to see the freshers get stuck in (I've never seen a more moving production of *Romeo and Juliet*)

as well as lots of familiar faces. None of this would have been possible without the rest of the Arts Society, who provided great support in organising and running these events.

I must also mention *NoseDive*, the revived Brasenose arts magazine. The incredible Chloe Smith and Imogen Edmundson have been in charge of editing (and making – by hand!) this new magazine, containing visual art, poetry, and prose from many Brasenose students. The first edition was Hilary Term's *Plunge*, which was a resounding success, followed by the Trinity Term edition which had the same theme as Arts Week – *Chrysalis*. It's evidence of the creativity and talent of students from across the College, and I look forward to future editions. Funding support through the King's Hall Trust for the Arts meant that free copies were available to the student body, which was wonderful.

Of course, the biggest event (or events) of the year was up next in Trinity: Arts Week. As the Brasenose Ball marquee came down, it was replaced by our own (smaller but no less worthy!) marquee. The theme this year was *Chrysalis*, and events focused on themes of personal growth, change, and creation. Our garden play, directed by Chess Nightingale and Susie Weidmann, was Alan Ayckbourn's comedy *Round and Round the Garden* and went down very well with the audiences. We heard from several speakers, to all of whom I am greatly thankful: director and former Frankland Visitor Kenny Lonergan held a workshop; Joanna Kavenna hosted two panels focusing on topics from premonitions to unlikely science to AI, with a wide range of guests; Kirsty Gunn spoke about the art of essay writing, and **Jo Strickland (*Experimental Psychology, 2012*)** and **Paul Burgess (*English, 1993*)** of the King's Hall Trust for the Arts shared a wide range of thoughts and advice for budding theatre designers. The ever-popular pottery event was a hit, as was the end of the week's friendship bracelet-making and picnic. We hosted Tuesgays with the LGBT+ Society, a salsa workshop, karaoke, the Oxford Revue, and more. I came out of the week exhausted (and somehow covered in glitter) – but with the help of the Arts Society, we put together something really exciting and kept up a wonderful Brasenose tradition.

I hope that the first two-thirds of my tenure as Arts Representative heralds a third action-filled term, particularly for the incoming freshers: there are plans for classic Brasenose traditions and perhaps a couple of new events. Arts is key to Brasenose – it's why many of us applied here

in the first place – and I look forward to seeing it continue to flourish in our community.

THE ASHMOLE SOCIETY

by Halcyon Matthews

It was an honour to take over from my predecessor, Joel Bassett, as president of the Ashmole Society. He and his committee (Vice-President Ed Routh, Secretary Erin Bridgewater, Treasurer Antara Singh, and Caitlin Darby) had overseen a long year brimming with successful events and established a strong trend of engagement within Brasenose College, transcending the confines of the subject to appeal to those not even undertaking a history degree. Having raised the bar so high for future committees, this year the Society focused on attracting an ever-greater number of historians from outside our college. My thanks go to all of our sister societies, particularly those at Magdalen and Lady Margaret Hall, who aided us in this endeavour by ceaselessly promoting our events and encouraging the growth of a cross-college space.

Due to complications in the transference process and still reeling from the retirement of Dr Rowena Archer, Michaelmas Term unfortunately lacked any events. Yet following the winter vacation, engagements quickly piled up. Dr Helen Gittos, Associate Professor of Medieval History at Oxford, gave a riveting talk to a crowded room about her recent publication, *The Cerne Giant in Its Early Medieval Context*, exploring the latest contextualisation of the giant as a Herculean figure. This speaker event was soon followed by the novel Ashmole Thesis Evening, spear-headed by Dr Will Clement and Dr Alan Strathern. Three kind third years – Erin, Antara, and Betty Hughes – gave individual presentations on their respective theses in order to help and inspire those in the lower years still considering their prospective research topics. The evening rounded out with the usual, but splendid History Supper in the Shackleton Room. This would not have been possible without the indispensable efforts of the Buttery and Kitchen Staff, to whom we direct our deepest thanks. For our final Hilary event, the Ashmole Society collaborated with the revitalised Oxford University History Society to host a lively debate that attracted historians and non-

historians alike from across the university to discuss the purpose and relevance of the discipline.

Over the final term, the Society hosted one speaker event and one hybrid panel. Dr Leah Clark, Associate Professor in the History of Art, gave a fantastic talk on her most recent book: *Courtly Mediators: Transcultural Objects between Renaissance Italy and the Islamic World*. Despite technical difficulties, the society adapted, and all in attendance enjoyed a pleasurable afternoon exploring the integration of Italian Renaissance culture into a global network of trade. As the triumphant finale, four different historians (Dr Jennifer Wallis, Dr Amy Milne-Smith, Dr Geoffrey Reaume, and Dr Sloan Mahone) gathered for an insightful panel discussion on ‘Historians and the Mind: Composing histories of mental health and psychiatry in 2024’. Dr Jennifer Wallis, Lecturer in the History of Science and Medical Humanities Teaching Fellow at Imperial College London, appeared in person alongside Oxford’s very own Dr Sloan Mahone, Associate Professor of the History of Medicine. Dr Amy Milne-Smith, Professor of History at Wilfrid Laurier University and Dr Geoffrey Reaume, Associate Professor of Critical Disability Studies at York University, provided their invaluable perspectives from Canada. All four were tremendous panellists and engaged thoroughly with one another’s thoughts on the historical study of psychiatry

I would like to express my most profound gratitude to all of the academics from both Oxford and further afield who shared with us their expertise and passion, and the College staff without whom the Society’s events could not have functioned. Particular thanks must be issued to Dr Will Clement, who provided indispensable advice and who will be leaving us all shortly. Last but not least, I wish the new committee the best of luck and look forward to what they will decide to do with the Ashmole Society over the next academic year.

THE ELLESMERE SOCIETY

by Jamie Bain Turnbull

Throughout this year ‘change’ and ‘innovation’ have been the defining characteristics of the Ellesmere Society. As President, I am happy to announce that we managed to provide new resources to our students through a partnership with the Commercial Law Academy. We furthered

the accessibility of our events for our current students by lowering the cost of tickets to our events substantially through increasing our sponsorship income and we have sought to further foster a community within the law cohort through increased social events and the creation of a new wellbeing officer role. As a college, we have also continued Brasenose's legal prominence in our academic results; Ellis Clifford and Evan Chou securing first-class degrees in their finals and Zara Chowdhury securing a first at Mods, with the rest of our students also performing incredibly well. The university does not easily give away even a single mark, so I congratulate everyone who took exams this year.

This year, a personal highlight for me and the society has been establishing the *Ellesmere Criminal Law Mooting Competition*, a new intercollegiate mooted competition sponsored by law firm QEB Hollis Whitemann. This criminal law mooted competition was open solely to first-year lawyers at Brasenose, Magdalen, Worcester, Jesus, Lincoln, Exeter and St Peter's (though we seek to expand this further). The competition sought to further the quality and uptake of mooted further down the line by providing a low-pressure and accessible competition for first-year students to participate in. We successfully put on a nine-round competition with the finals judged by academics and a King's Counsel representative from QEB Hollis Whitemann. In organising this competition, training courses on how to moot, and a 'life at the bar' panel where we heard more about life as a criminal law barrister, were also put on. Many people came together to make this competition a success; however, it would simply not have been possible without the work and dedication of Lilian Trickey (Master of Moots). The competition is a testament to her commitment to improving the accessibility of mooted within Oxford. I look forward to seeing the competition continue, this year led by Parul Sinha and Lilian Trickey.

Any *Brazen Nose* Ellesmere section would be remiss if it failed to mention our annual Ellesmere Dinner. This event, which saw those in attendance span generations of Brasenose lawyers, is a powerful demonstration of the strength of our community. I must thank our speaker, Sir Clive Lewis, for his brilliant speech in which he regaled us with stories of his time as a lawyer and judge. Next year, our guest speaker will be Sir Nicholas Lavender, and I look forward to attending for the first time as an alumnus.

This year's success would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors: Slaughter and May, Fountain Court Chambers, Sidley Austin, and 187 Chambers. I extend my sincere thanks to them for their invaluable support. I also want to acknowledge the significant contributions of our outgoing committee members, Finbarr Sheedy (Treasurer), Lilian Trickey (Master of Moots), and Sanika Pherwani (Secretary). Their dedication and hard work have been instrumental in expanding the society's activities. I am deeply grateful to them for their unwavering commitment.

As I prepare to step down from my position, I am filled with confidence knowing that the society is in capable hands. I am delighted to introduce the incoming President, Sanika Pherwani, and her team: Zara Chowdhury (Secretary), Toby Gawthorne (Treasurer), Parul Sinha (Master of Moots), and Yelena Roberts (Wellbeing Officer). I have full faith in their abilities and wish them all the very best in their new roles.

I look forward to seeing the society continue its expansion, our academic brilliance remain, and the strength of the Ellesmere community flourish.

BURSARIES AND TRAVEL GRANTS

REMIX: WRITING AND READING THE DJ

by Sanika Pherwani

Every year, the Kathleen Lavidge Bursary sends six Oxford students to study at Stanford over the summer. I was fortunate to be one of them. At Stanford, I found myself in a class I hadn't anticipated taking – a class that would reshape the way I listen to and think about music. Entitled 'Remix: Writing and Reading the DJ', it was taught by Professor Adam Banks. At first glance, the class seemed an odd fit for me – someone who, by their own admission, knew very little about music. Yet, in retrospect, it is clear – *the dots can only be connected looking backward*.¹

Music has always been the background to my life, a constant soundtrack that begins as soon as I wake up (cue: 'She put sunshine'),² sometimes loud and upbeat, driving me through a long day of studying at the Radcliffe Camera; sometimes soft and comforting, the background to a walk in Christ Church meadow. Despite its constant presence, I never considered myself knowledgeable: I couldn't name albums or artists offhand, and when Professor Banks asked us about our favourite genres, I was at a loss. All that came to mind was a Jack Harlow lyric: 'I'm vanilla'.³

As the days of class went by, mornings were spent discussing theory, while afternoons took us to the mix club to practise DJ sets. The theory was detailed, analysing the socio-political aspects of remix culture, including cultural appropriation, sampling ethics, and intellectual property. We explored how remixing acts as creative recontextualization – a perfect example being Nas's *It Ain't Hard to Tell*,⁴ which samples Michael Jackson's *Human Nature*. Nas took the essence of *Human Nature* and transformed it, aligning it with his personal narrative of growing up in Queens, reflecting the way DJs reinterpret tracks to create new stories. In this blend of theory and practice, I began to see the DJ as both a writer and reader, remixing not just beats but meaning.

One unforgettable example of sampling from class was J. Dilla's *Don't Cry*, which samples The Escorts' *I Can't Stand (To See You Cry)*.

Dilla doesn't just lift a beat – he edits the song like a film, cutting out certain frames and rearranging them. Each note is a scene he carefully chooses, then puts together to create an entirely new plot. Sampling, I learned, is not just about borrowing – it's about reimagining (cue: 'love is patient, love is kind').⁵

This concept of reimagining struck me as particularly significant, both in musical and personal contexts. So much is a remix – a mix-tape of influences, from the people you meet and the books you read on the bus, to the big hugs after vacations and the new songs that feel like travelling. Each pronunciation, each memory, becomes an experience that shapes who you are. Watching 'Do The Right Thing' and hearing *Fight The Power*,⁶ was one of those moments for all of us in class – each person in the room interpreted the song through their own lens, their own perspective shaping the meaning (cue: 'oh my, he's a long way from suburban town').⁷

I began listening to music with a new-found awareness of its complexity. Songs I was hearing for the first time revealed multiple layers that I hadn't noticed before. In 2Pac's *Do for Love*, the interplay between the bassline's groove and the drum patterns created a textured contrast for relatively simple lyrics. In Aretha Franklin's *Respect*, the layered arrangement, from the commanding brass sections to the syncopated rhythm of the drums, enhanced the political message of the song. Even in more contemporary works like Nicki Minaj and Lil Wayne's *Dark Side of the Moon*, the layering of flat and higher pitched notes and tones created a multi-dimensional piece.

The Kathleen Lavidge Bursary gave me more than a summer at Stanford. While the Computational Logic class was valuable, it was the Remix class that had the greatest impact – it changed how I listen to music. For that, I will always be grateful to the funding by Brasenose College.

Notes

- 1 Quote from Steve Jobs, Commencement Speech.
- 2 Lyric from *She Put Sunshine*, Jacob Collier.
- 3 Lyric from *Lovin on Me*, Jack Harlow.
- 4 *It Ain't Hard to Tell*, Nas, from the album 'Illmatic'.
- 5 Lyric from *Same Love*, Mackelmore.
- 6 *Fight the Power*, Public Enemy.
- 7 *Self Love*, Metro Boomin and Coi Leray.

WOMEN'S ARCHIVE

by Chiara Simpson-Gregory

The travel grant allowed me to pursue archival research for my thesis on 1980s teenage girls in Britain through magazines. Spending time in both the LSE women's archive and the Feminist Archive South in the University of Bristol gave me the opportunity to explore the various teenage magazines of the period, and give back agency to the girls behind feminist magazines such as *Shocking Pink*. The travel grant has enabled my source base for my thesis to go beyond the limited material online, which will only prove to deepen my analysis and conclusions when it comes to writing my thesis. As well as this, I particularly enjoyed my time at the Feminist Archive South, as I discussed with the archivist there about her work in preserving feminist history in this country and the role that the University of Bristol has in housing the Feminist Archive South. The valuable work of archivists cannot be fully understood until you go in person and immerse yourself in the material they have preserved, which I enjoyed doing over the summer.

FRENCH STUDIES

by Dagmara Nogal

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support I have received through the Oxford University and Brasenose College Bursary for the 2023–24 academic year. Its generosity has had a profound impact on my experience at Oxford, allowing me to focus fully on my studies without the financial stress that can often accompany university life.

This bursary has enabled me to dedicate myself wholeheartedly to my French studies, which has been an immensely rewarding experience. I have particularly enjoyed delving into the texts of *Les Quinze Joies de Mariage* in Paper VI and *La Chanson de Roland* in Paper IX. My interest in medieval French literature has only grown throughout the year.

The bursary also gave me space to focus more fully on college life in my spare time. I had the pleasure organising the Brasenose College Ball, which was a fantastic experience and a little way to give back to the Brasenose community. This notion of community and the incredible

support I receive from College and University alike inspired me to take part in the Brasenose Telethon during the Easter vacation. Speaking to alumni during the telethon showed me how strong and supportive the Oxonian and Brasenose web is, and I was proud to be able to contribute in a small way to maintaining that connection.

I am immensely grateful to the donors, and everyone involved in making this bursary possible. It has truly made a difference in allowing me to pursue both academic and personal opportunities at Oxford with confidence and with less anxiety about financial circumstances.

BORNEO: TROPICAL FOREST ECOLOGY FIELD COURSE

by Elizabeth Chrisp

The College Annual Fund allowed me to travel to Borneo for my second-year field course. This was an amazing opportunity to study tropical forest ecology in an extraordinary location.

We went away for two weeks in total which included two travel days at the start and the end and then 10 days inside the rainforest. On our way in we spent the night in Kota Kinabalu and got the opportunity to wander around the city. My highlight was going to the food market in the evening and feeling completely immersed in the culture. I have never seen so many different species of fish! We then had an early flight the next morning to take us to Laha Datu which was a 50-minute (extremely bumpy and wiggly) drive from Danum field centre, our home for the next 10 days.

During the first three days we rotated through different activities, learning about the diversity of plants and animals found in the rainforest. For example, we learnt how to set up nets to trap and identify bats and birds, how to sample trees, and how to identify and pin moths. When we were out sampling the trees, my group was extremely lucky as within the space of an hour we saw a huge male orangutan, a female orangutan and her child, then a female gibbon and her child, and finally an interesting species of lizard. This was probably the best hour of the whole trip!

At the midway point, we had a day travelling around and seeing sites where different types of logging had taken place. This was very

informative, and it was interesting to compare the structure of the forest in these regions. We also stopped for a swim in the river!

The second half of the trip was dedicated to our own research projects which would eventually culminate in a poster presentation and contribute to our grade. The aim was to use what we had learnt over the last few days to come up with a research question and then collect data to answer it. I was investigating the conglobation of pill millipedes which is when they curl into a ball in response to danger. We went around and collected the millipedes (with varied success) and then brought them back to the lab to carry out controlled experiments. This was an interesting first taste of research in the field and we definitely had varied success!

After a jam-packed 10 days, we returned home for a few days of rest before starting to analyse our data. Overall this was an amazing experience and I am so grateful for the opportunity to travel across the world as part of my degree!

BUDAPEST, PRAGUE AND AMSTERDAM

by Joel Thacker

The morning after my exams finished last year I took a bus from Oxford to Luton to go on a week-long holiday around Europe, courtesy of the travel grant, for a much-needed break. The plan for the trip was to fly to Budapest, get a sleeper train to Prague, then a sleeper train to Amsterdam, then get the Eurostar back home.

My hostel in Budapest was my favourite out of the three. It was in a grand baroque-style building, which felt surprising given it cost less per night than my room in Oxford. Indeed, I think I lived more cheaply in Budapest than I did in Oxford, as everything cost so little. I tried a variety of Hungarian food, including chimney cakes and langos, both of which were lovely. I took a walking tour of the city and visited all the usual landmarks, my favourite of which was definitely the Parliament building; it was gorgeous. Our tour guide told us two lightbulb factories were built just to supply the building. In the evening I took a boat ride along the Danube; it was lovely seeing the city lit up.

Next, I got a sleeper train to Prague. The route was along the River Danube, and was beautiful, especially as the sun set. At 8 a.m., I was

woken by a knock on my door to indicate we'd arrived in Prague. My hostel here was not so nice – a very hot, sweaty and smelly room crammed into the corner of a block. I found, despite it being such a popular tourist destination, there was less to do in Prague, though it was nice to have some time to relax – especially after a busy term. I took a walking tour. It was particularly interesting learning about the Jewish quarter, and the legends surrounding it. I visited lots of churches – all very impressive – and a less architecturally impressive, but equally enjoyable, beer garden.

My final leg was a sleeper train to Amsterdam. Unfortunately, there was no air conditioning, so me and my cabinmates had to decide between not being able to sleep because of the heat or not being able to sleep because the open window was too loud. We decided on the latter, and luckily I had some ear plugs in my bag. My hostel was clean and cool. I couldn't ask for much more given it was the cheapest hostel I could find in central Amsterdam. Amsterdam was my favourite city of the three. I really enjoyed the architecture: the diverse, high and thin buildings sitting along the canals. They are this way because properties were taxed based on how much of the canal front they took up. I tried lots of food here: herring – which was great, fries – which were okay, but not outstanding, and some Indonesian food, for which, similarly to British Indian food, Amsterdam is known, as a result of Indonesia previously being a Dutch colony. On my final day, I visited my highlight of the trip, the Van Gogh gallery. I spent hours there, and would have stayed even longer, had I not had to catch a bus. A cancelled train meant I ended up getting the bus to Brussels, and the Eurostar home from there. Everything worked out in the end, and the change in timings meant I was able to do a bit of sightseeing in London as a bonus!

JAPAN

by Kara Goldsmith

Thanks to the financial support I received, along with my personal savings, I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Japan and experience a unique blend of rural life and cultural exploration. My journey began with a week-and-a-half spent working on a giant salamander farm in a rural district near Yonago. This experience was made possible through a

workaway program, which allowed me to contribute to the farm's daily operations while immersing myself in the local culture.

During my time on the farm, I worked about 20 hours each week, engaging in a range of activities that included guiding visitors on salamander tours, carrying bamboo, planting vegetables, building fences, and painting. The work was physically demanding, especially with the intense heat, but I enjoyed the variety of tasks and found the experience rewarding. Working alongside the team allowed me to build connections with people who shared their knowledge of the farm and the importance of conserving these remarkable creatures. Despite the challenges, I found fulfilment in contributing to the farm's operations while learning more about rural life in Japan.

Outside work hours, I had the chance to explore the stunning countryside that we were in. I spent much of my free time cycling around the rice fields and along the nearby beaches, taking in the beautiful landscape. We also ventured into nearby towns and cities to experience more of the region. A highlight of this part of the trip was attending a local village festival, where I witnessed traditional celebrations firsthand and spoke to some of the villagers. Being part of such a vibrant and culturally rich event was an unforgettable experience, offering me a deeper understanding of local traditions and customs.

After my time on the farm, I spent the next week-and-a-half backpacking across Japan, visiting Osaka, Kyoto, and Tokyo. Each city offered its own unique charm, and the time I spent exploring them added another layer of cultural richness to my trip. Osaka, in particular, was a personal favourite of mine. I immersed myself in the city's dynamic atmosphere, sampling food at bustling markets, visiting shrines, and learning about the history of the region through museums and other cultural landmarks such as the castle. The city's energy and vibrant food scene made it an exciting place to explore, and I found myself deeply captivated by its lively yet welcoming atmosphere.

Kyoto, with its serene temples and traditional gardens, offered a quieter but equally enjoyable experience. I spent time visiting shrines and walking through the historic streets, absorbing the peaceful ambiance and learning more about Japan's cultural heritage. The city's beauty and the deep sense of history that pervades its every corner made Kyoto a truly special part of the journey.

Finally, my time in Tokyo was a whirlwind of excitement and discovery. The contrast between the towering skyscrapers and the quiet, tranquil parks captured the essence of a city that blends the modern with the traditional. Tokyo's energy was contagious, and every day presented new opportunities to explore different aspects of the city, from its high-tech districts to its historical sites.

This trip was an incredibly enriching and fun experience, one that I will carry with me for a long time. It gave me the chance to learn about rural and urban Japan in a hands-on way, and I returned home with a deeper appreciation for the country's history, culture, and people. The financial support I received made this opportunity possible, and I am immensely grateful for it. This fund is essential in providing students like me with the means to explore the world, gain valuable life experiences, and engage in meaningful cultural exchange. I hope to return to Japan someday, as there is still so much to discover, and I am eager to continue learning from this extraordinary country.

EUROPEAN LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN

by Lillian Trickey

The money Brasenose provided me with has allowed me to experience life as a law student in the Netherlands. In my exchange year, I am studying European law at the University of Leiden. My journey as an exchange student has been both challenging and enriching so far. From the moment I stepped onto campus, I was struck by the vibrant academic environment and the emphasis on critical thinking. Like the system in Oxford, the Dutch education system promotes active participation, encouraging me to engage deeply with the material. The curriculum is diverse, covering various aspects of law, including international law, human rights, and European Union law. I find the classes to be both rigorous and rewarding, often involving case studies and practical applications of the law that kept me engaged. The professors are knowledgeable and approachable, fostering an atmosphere where questions and discussions are welcomed.

One of the highlights of my experience has been the opportunity to visit major legal institutions, including the International Criminal

Court (ICC) in The Hague and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Touring the ICC was particularly impactful; seeing the courtroom and learning about the court's pivotal role in addressing international crimes deepened my understanding of international law. Attending a hearing allowed me to witness legal proceedings in action, which was both inspiring and educational. My grant money from Oxford was instrumental in funding these visits, covering travel expenses and registration fees.

Similarly, my visit to the Court of Strasbourg was a revelation. Engaging with cases related to human rights and observing how the court interprets the European Convention on Human Rights underscored the importance of these legal frameworks in protecting individual rights across nations. Again, my grant facilitated this experience, allowing me to immerse myself in these vital institutions.

Living in the Netherlands has also enhanced my educational experience. The blend of history and modernity is very interesting and actually quite similar to Oxford, and I've enjoyed exploring cities like Amsterdam and Utrecht. The strong emphasis on sustainability and social justice resonates with my values and adds another layer to my legal studies.

The international focus of many programs here has allowed me to connect with students from all over the world, enriching my understanding of global legal frameworks and making friends. Networking opportunities have been plentiful, with guest lectures from practicing lawyers and judges who provide valuable insights into the profession.

In summary, my experience as a law student in the Netherlands has been very enjoyable so far. The combination of rigorous academic training, visits to significant legal institutions made possible by my grant money, and a rich cultural environment have shaped my understanding of law and prepared me for a future in the legal field. I look forward to continuing this journey and making the most of the opportunities that lie ahead.

SRI LANKA – MENTAL HEALTH AND SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

by Marcella Just

During my trip to Sri Lanka I spent two weeks on the mental health programme and two weeks on the sea-turtle conservation programme. For the mental health programme we spent most of our time at the neurodevelopment ward of a nearby hospital. We got to shadow one of the doctors, an occupational therapist and a speech therapist. We had the opportunity to watch the doctor diagnose different conditions in children and also to observe therapy sessions. We also spent a small amount of time in the adult psychiatric ward observing the clinic. We also spent two days at a halfway house for patients with mental disorders who were recently out of hospital, which gave us the chance to speak to the patients as well as the staff and was much more interactive. We also spent some time in a herbal clinic learning about how they use the traditional Ayurvedic medicine to treat different conditions. Overall we saw a number of differences between their systems and the systems in the UK. The clinics there were much less formal, with doors being left open and patients just walking in without being called or having an appointment. It also seemed much easier for patients to get medication so a lot of the patients would be on multiple different medications where in the UK they might only be given one of them or therapy instead. However, they do use the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* for diagnoses, which I found really interesting as this is an American system, so there may be some elements that make more sense in the context of western culture.

The sea-turtle conservation programme mainly involved cleaning up the beach and looking for signs of turtles in the mornings and evenings. We would walk along the beach early in the mornings looking for turtles in order to complete the morning census, then we would do a beach-clean, which was just litter-picking along the beach. Then after dinner we would walk along the beach again for the beach patrol and also have a shift hatchery guarding, which was watching the hatchery to see if any eggs hatched. We also cleaned the hatchery and visited a turtle sanctuary. Unfortunately no turtles hatched while I was on this programme; however some did hatch during my first two weeks there,

so even though I was on the mental health programme at the time, I still got to watch the baby turtles being released into the sea.

During my free time in Sri Lanka, such as at the weekends, I also had the opportunity to explore the country and learn about the culture. We visited a number of Buddhist temples and learned a lot about Buddhism. We also visited tea plantations to learn about tea production and spice gardens to learn more about how they make use of the healing properties of different spices. We also got the opportunity to see a number of animals native to Sri Lanka such as elephants, monkeys and crocodiles. Overall it was a brilliant trip and I definitely learned a lot about their mental health systems, sea-turtles and the culture.

FRANCE

by Sophie Liversage

This summer, with the help of a College travel grant, I was fortunate to spend a week and a half in France. As a student of French and Arabic, I dedicated my entire year abroad to consolidating my Arabic in the Middle East, so this trip was a crucial opportunity for me to practise colloquial French and boost my confidence in speaking. Moreover, it allowed me to further explore the intersections between my two fields of study.

I spent the first few days of my trip in Paris, during which I visited l'Institut du Monde Arabe, which houses a rich collection of arts and artefacts from the MENA region. The collection was vast and diverse. You could observe the development of the Arabic script as you moved through the exhibitions, witnessing how the opaque inscriptions on ancient stones evolved into the classical Arabic of sacred texts. The institute features an array of Middle Eastern art and sacred texts from all three Abrahamic traditions, displaying the diversity of the region, which is often underappreciated. There was a section dedicated to the intellectual legacy of the Islamic Golden Age, where I marvelled at the intricate beauty of gilded astrolabes and attempted to read medieval journal entries on astronomy and astrology. From tapestries, traditional garb and classic geometric tiling to modern photography, the art collection was truly captivating.

There was a temporary exhibition on the bottom floor of the institute displaying the art of Étienne Dinet. Dinet was a French artist who moved to Algeria during the colonial era, integrating into the local community by converting to Islam, becoming proficient in Algerian Arabic, and adopting the name Nourredine. His art belongs to the Orientalist school and can certainly be criticized along those lines. However, his genuine devotion to the country and its culture allows him to render his themes with greater honesty. This intimacy contrasts with the distant colonial fantasy found in works like ‘La Grande Odalisque’ or the glorification of conquest in Horace Vernet’s art. While there is often an eroticization of Algerian women in Dinet’s work — a common element in Orientalist art, particularly in his nude portrayals — his renderings of daily rural life in Algeria emphasise humanity and universality, a quality not shared by many of his contemporaries.

My visit also serendipitously coincided with a temporary exhibition of Monet’s work at a stunning house, including ‘Impression, Soleil Levant,’ which is credited for the birth of impressionism, and his most lovely depictions of his garden and lily pond.

From Paris, I went on to Marseille, with which I became swiftly enamoured. Between the city’s stunning coastline, its unique blend of cultures, and its lively atmosphere, I was lucky to see the incredible exhibition at the MUCEM (Musée des Civilisations Européennes et Méditerranéennes), which celebrates the mixed cultural heritage of Marseille, which for centuries has served as a trade-centre and cultural crossroads.

In addition, I went to an arts centre in the charming Panier district called ‘Notre Dame de la Garde.’ It once served exclusively as a Catholic centre of worship but now houses temporary art exhibitions. My visit coincided with an exhibition concerning France’s colonial legacy in North Africa. There were educational videos of historians and sociologists examining the reverberating social impacts across the course of colonial occupation to modern-day Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as within the diasporic populations in France today. This exhibition was particularly enriching as it constitutes a major preoccupation of mine as a student of French and Arabic.

This trip not only allowed me to practise my French but also deepened my understanding of the cultural and historical connections between France, North Africa, and the Middle East. The exhibitions

I visited offered valuable insights into the region's rich heritage, colonial past, and enduring legacy, making the experience both personally and academically fulfilling. I am thus deeply grateful to have been granted this opportunity!

DEUTSCH UND WIRTSCHAFTSSPRACHE AT KARL-RUPRECHT-UNIVERSITÄT, HEIDELBERG

by Saskia Maini

With the grant received from Student Support Funding, I was given the amazing opportunity to attend the Internationaler Ferienkurs für deutsche Sprache und Kultur at the Karl-Ruprecht-Universität in Heidelberg. I took part in the Deutsch und Wirtschaftssprache – Oberstufe course which was CEFR Level C1 German.

The course consisted of 80 hours of intensive teaching during August 2024. In the morning each day we had our classes in a group of 10 students. During these sessions, we discussed a wide variety of topics relating to business and economy. Such themes included the stock market and bonds, different currencies, the effects of population growth on economic growth, and interest rates. With economics being intrinsically linked to politics, we also discussed topics such as the role of the European Union and watched the Tagesschau each day to discuss current affairs. One aspect I found particularly interesting during the course was discussing these themes with a diverse selection of students: my classmates, for instance, came from various countries such as China, Russia, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Hungary and Slovenia. This permitted us to explore a unique broader range of examples and perspectives. These discussions also exposed me to a wide variety of specialist German vocabulary which I aim to put into practice in the future, whether during future studies in my remaining years at Oxford, an internship, my year abroad, or my future career.

I was very pleased to achieve the highest grade (1 – *sehr gut*) by the end of the course. This grade was an accumulation of scores from my class participation, Referat (a short essay and a spoken presentation on my chosen topic 'Warum ist deutscher Discounter Lidl im Vereinigten

Königreich so bemerkenswert?’ and the final exam (on which I was pleased to achieve 133/140 or 95%).

In the afternoons, the course offered the fabulous opportunities to take part in seminars to further our own interest areas. I endeavoured to try as many of these as possible. Each week I participated in a seminar called ‘Deutsche Geschichte nach 1949’. I found it particularly interesting to learn about the role of women in the German Democratic Republic (the former East Germany) and the *Autofreie Sonntage* in the 1970s in Germany. Alongside this seminar, I participated in many others, including *Bewerbungstraining* (preparation for job applications in German), *Märchen* (a seminar which concerned itself with fairy tales and the German Romantics, a topic which I have, as a result of these seminars, chosen to pursue as part of a Final Honours School paper), *Demokratie in Gefahr*, *Grammatik*, and *Deutsche Literatur*.

It was brilliant to hear the German I had studied in class during my first year at Oxford in practice, to speak with Germans each day, and to witness the culture about which I had learnt so much play out before my eyes.

Outside study, I also took up the opportunity to pursue the sports and musical activities offered by the course. I attended beach volleyball sessions each week and had great fun competing in the final volleyball tournament at the end of the course. Similarly, I took part in multiple hours of dance classes each week, covering waltz, rumba, tango and more. After hours of practice, I performed alongside others in the group cha-cha-cha performance at the course’s *Abschlussfeier*. I enjoyed this tremendously; dancing is not something I had experienced much opportunity to take part in previously.

One weekend, I took the chance to go around Berlin as I was in Germany. As a student of German, finally getting the chance to visit the capital city was incredible. I toured around the Bundestag, visited museums on Museuminsel, and saw the Berlin Wall. It was such a memorable opportunity to see all these key places in real life for the first time.

On the course I was also able to meet lovely students from all over the world, all sharing an interest in Germanistik with me. I have certainly made some friends for life amongst them.

I was extremely grateful for this opportunity enabled by the student funding scheme. It was an incredibly educational experiencing and advanced my spoken German hugely. It also allowed me to enrich my subject-specific economics language, knowledge of German history and culture, and grammar. Thank you very much for the chance to have this experience: it really was formative in my German learning journey and was an unforgettable time.

PARIS

Tallulah Tilley

In July 2024, I was lucky enough to travel to Paris to expand and consolidate the learning I had accomplished in my first year of history undergraduate study here at Brasenose. I visited many fascinating sites across the city, most notably the Louvre, the Basilica of Saint-Denis, the Saint Chapelle and Les Invalides. The opportunity to visit such places of architectural grandeur and historical significance deepened my understanding of their contemporary importance and enduring influence, as well as providing a more assured grasp of both the Capetian monarchy and the events of the French Revolution, both of which I explored in my first year of study. (*See photos in plates section.*)

IGEM PROJECT - SUMMER GRANT

by Vedat Habib Papo

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Brasenose College for awarding me the summer grant, which played an essential role in supporting my participation in the iGEM (Synthetic Biology) project, representing the University of Oxford. This financial assistance was invaluable in covering my accommodation costs, enabling me to dedicate myself fully to the project over the summer.

Being part of the iGEM team has been an incredible learning experience. Our project, OneRing, focuses on developing an innovative system to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a growing global health challenge. This project required intense collaboration among

team members, and thanks to the grant, I was able to work on-site, which was critical for coordinating laboratory experiments, troubleshooting technical challenges, and discussing key decisions with the team in real-time. The ability to be physically present also gave me access to Oxford's outstanding research facilities, which was vital for the experimental phases of our work.

The summer grant allowed me to maintain an uninterrupted focus on the research, without the burden of worrying about accommodation expenses. This focus was essential for making meaningful contributions, especially when we were preparing for important presentations and finalizing key aspects of our project. In particular, I worked on the OneRing system's applications in agriculture, highlighting its potential to address antimicrobial resistance in agricultural settings, a critical and often overlooked area in AMR research.

This opportunity also allowed me to grow academically and professionally, gaining valuable hands-on experience in cutting-edge synthetic biology techniques. I was able to apply and expand my knowledge in biochemistry and molecular biology, as well as deepen my understanding of how to develop solutions that have a real-world impact.

The generosity of Brasenose College was a crucial element in making this all possible. Its support not only helped ease the financial burden but also empowered me fully to immerse myself in this research project, furthering my academic development and contributing to a team that is striving to solve global health challenges.

It has been a privilege to represent Brasenose and the University of Oxford through iGEM, and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity provided by this grant. I will be updating the College about the results of the competition, once the judging phase is completed.

Alumni Activities





The Brasenose Alumni Society

REPORT OF THE BRASENOSE ALUMNI SOCIETY

by Dan Chambers (PPP, 1988),

Alumni Society President September 2023 to September 2024

*A society that helps its members maintain
a strong connection with the College community and each other.*

This report covers the 12 months up to and including the Society's AGM and dinner in September 2024.

The Brasenose Alumni Society

The Brasenose Alumni Society is Brasenose's alumni association. All matriculated Brasenose members automatically become members of the Brasenose Alumni Society when they go down, as can certain former employees and academic staff of the College. There is no membership fee.

The Society exists to foster closer relationships between BNC alumni and between alumni and the College community (students, Fellows, staff, the Alumni Office and the institution itself). It also encourages special interest groups and societies, and seeks to bring less-connected alumni and their ideas and skills closer to the College.

Please see the participation paragraph below if you would like to be involved in the Society's activities.

A full copy of the Society's Rules (its name, object and purpose, membership, committee, general meetings etc) is set out on the College's website at https://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/downloads/bnc_society/Brasenose_Alumni

Regular events arranged by the Society

The Society hosts two annual events in collaboration with the Development Office:

- The President's Summer Party, usually held in London
- The annual Society Dinner, usually held in College during the University's annual Alumni Weekend in September.

These are advertised on the College website as well as by email. Both are limited by numbers, so early application is advisable.

Report on 2022–23 events**The President's Summer Party**

We were delighted to host a Summer Drinks Party on 25 June at the Royal Society, Carlton House, St James's, London. It was a lively event attended by 110 alumni. We were intrigued to discover that one of the founders of the Royal Society was Elias Ashmole, a Brasenose alumnus. He also founded Oxford's Ashmolean Museum.

Annual Dinner

The Society's Annual Dinner was held on 14 September at Brasenose with 120 attending. The main theme of the evening, covered in speeches by Principal John Bowers and outgoing Alumni President Dan Chambers, was the fiftieth anniversary of the first women joining Brasenose. It was the end of September 1974 that the first cohort of female undergraduates, 28 in all, joined College, bringing 465 years of male exclusivity to an end. Pride was expressed that Brasenose, along with four other colleges – Jesus, Hertford, Wadham, and St Catherine's – took the lead in admitting women, setting a trend that would in time see all Oxford colleges becoming co-educational, transforming the undergraduate gender mix from just 20 percent women in 1973 to an even split today.

Alumni Society members Sarah Jackson and Drusilla Gabbott immersed themselves, over several months, in back issues of the *Brazen Nose*, compiling a list of Brasenose women's 'firsts' (the first female JCR President, the first female Fellow etc). The impressive piece of research, designed to be added to or when helpful, amended by BNC alumni, will be made available online in the coming months. It was referenced several times over the course of the evening, and the Society is grateful to them for all their hard work.

Regular drinks

The Society's monthly drinks at the Red Lion Pub in London took place throughout the year, and provided a regular, if numerically restricted, gathering for alumni.

In order to attract a wider audience along with the habitual attendees, the Society has decided to change arrangements for the year ahead. The drinks are now expected to be termly. The first one is planned for 26th November at The Green Man, 36 Riding House Street, London, W1W 7EP, where a previous successful women's alumni event was held. All alumni are welcome to come to these; no prior notice is necessary. Details are advertised on the College website and by email.

September 2024 AGM

The Society's AGM was held in College, just before the Annual Dinner.

The following officers and Committee members were elected or confirmed at the AGM, to run for the year from September 2024 to September 2025:

- President: Jane Johnson (1987)
- Vice President: Will Palin (1989)
- Committee member elected: The Committee is delighted to welcome new member Chengkai Xie (2018)
- Existing committee members re-elected: Nigel Bird (1969), David Bradbury (1981), David Clark (1970), Paul Dawson-Bowling (1962), Rosie Duthie (2016), Drusilla Gabbott (1982), Penny Gilbert (1978), Amanda Holland (1988), Sarah Jackson OBE (1977), Alexandra Marks CBE (1977).
- Committee members not requiring election/re-election: Penny Andrews (1979) Secretary, Amanda Pullinger (1984) Treasurer; ex-Presidents Rod Clayton (1986), Narmada Thiranagama (1996) and Dan Chambers (1988); ex Officio College members John Bowers, Principal, and Julia Diamantis, Director of Development. Anne Davies, Vice Principal, became academic representative to replace Ed Bispham.

The meeting noted that the Society's funds remain in good health.

The Committee extended their gratitude to Ed Bispham, the previous academic representative, who has now stepped down from the Committee.

Participation in Society activities

As noted before, the Brasenose Alumni Society is here to reflect the full diversity of our alumni community – ex-students and ex-staff. The Society would welcome alumni who have ideas for events (whether on a larger scale or smaller, more local ideas such as arranging a walk or curry evening for fellow alumni in the area) or networks, possibly including current students or College staff.

If you would like to be involved, please do come forward, even if you have not been involved before.

Otherwise, if you would like to be active in shaping the Society's activities or in helping the College and its students, please do consider joining the Society's Committee. Election to the committee is at the AGM in September and there is a nomination form at the back of this issue. If you think you might be interested in joining and would like to attend a committee meeting as an observer, please let us know. For further information and support, please contact the Society Secretary at plem.andrews@gmail.com. The society also runs the Year Rep scheme, which has its own report as follows.

THE YEAR REP SCHEME

by Drusilla Gabbott (English, 1982), Year Rep Co-ordinator

Year Rep report: 2024-25

This report has two parts: first, what the role is, and second, what reps have done this year.

Want to be a Rep? Is there a vacancy in your year?

2025 is the year we intend to fill all outstanding vacancies in the list of Year Reps. We also plan, via phone calls or emails from the Brasenose Alumni Society (BAS) to make sure everyone currently doing the job still wants to, and is enjoying it. If you think you might be interested, please look on the list and see if there is a gap in your year. Each year can

have both a JCR and an HCR rep, so look carefully, as even if the year seems to be ‘taken’ it may be that one of those roles is actually vacant. In recent matric years we lack JCR reps in particular.

What is the Year Rep scheme?

The year rep scheme, run jointly by BAS and the Alumni and Development Office has been running for around 25 years, and is regarded as very successful by BNC and other colleges in Oxford. The objective is to keep BNC cohort groups in touch and feeling a live connection to BNC and each other.

Repping is focused on friend-raising, not fundraising. Reps say they find it rewarding when they get positive feedback from their year, can help put alums in touch with each other, or answer questions.

Most reps feel it is not too much work; you should aim to do as much as you can within the minimum guidelines, and as much as you feel is appropriate for your particular cohort.

What does the Rep need to do?

- The rep’s role is to communicate with and update their whole year, not just a small group of personal friends.
- Reps get a dedicated email link from BNC that allows them to send messages to the year group without needing to hold any individual contact details.
- A minimum guideline is to contact your group once a year using this email link.
- BNC informs alumni about events via magazines, website and emails, so the rep’s role isn’t information, but *encouraging* peers to get together at a BNC or self-arranged event. People mainly want to go to events they know friends will attend. Convenient BNC events are the summer drinks in London and Oxford or Alumni dinner in September.
- In addition, there are one-off opportunities: for example, to support a peer in speaking at BNC, performing or launching a book. News of the year group is often welcome.
- Drusilla, the Rep Co-ordinator can help you by providing example email templates.
- We have two Rep meetings in 2025 to share ideas: one in Oxford in the afternoon before the Alumni dinner, Saturday September 20th and on Zoom on Tuesday April 29th at 6pm.

Extras

- It is welcome when reps organise their own events. Lives are busy, so this isn't regular. It can help to do this with reps in adjacent years. The Year Rep Co-ordinator has a tip sheet with ideas and venues. Formal venues can be expensive and a bit more work. But there are some suitable pubs, and in-home drinks, if you have the space, are really well-received. Gaudies happen every 7-10 years so a mid-point between them is a good time.
- Social media: a Facebook or other social media group for your year is a low effort and fun way to exchange news and views. The Alumni & Development Office can advise on this if you want to set one up, and may be able to act as joint admin.
- Gaudies: Reps are helpful in forewarning their year group to 'save the date.' BNC can ask reps for ideas for speakers, seating plans or suitable people to read the grace.

The 'three stages of repping'

Reps' roles differ by life stage:

- 7-10 years post-graduation: this is an important time. Reps can keep their year group together socially in an affordable, informal, and accessible way when you've all moved on to your working lives. Research indicates that if a post BNC bond doesn't form at this time, it may not happen for a while! Young reps before their first gaudy are invited to apply for grants from the Brasenose Alumni Society for bottle parties or picnics.
- In the busy career or family forming stages it is often a matter – as some will know – of 'well done for managing to do *anything!*' However, many alums, including those in domestically-focused roles, may enjoy the opportunity to organise something completely different (I certainly did!). Alumni may not regularly be able to attend events in this busy period, but being in touch with news is often valued.
- In mid and later life there is often more time and motivation to reunite and get together with a like-minded group. Some of our most active and purposeful reps are the oldest.

HCR vs JCR repping:

- There are separate JCR and HCR reps for more recent matriculation years. BNC's HCR expanded from the mid-1990s onwards, and

JCR and HCR cultures are now different, with less overlap than in earlier years when BNC took in fewer students overall.

- In the HCR some study for several years, and some just for one-year degrees. The HCR have an active social schedule with each other and in the wider university.
- We plan more consultation this year on whether the Rep role might be a bit different for former HCR members, many of whom are geographically scattered. Jenny Pagliuca (2019) has suggested HCR reps could cover cohorts of 3-4 years rather than just 1, as they do now, and has suggested separate international and UK based HCR reps for such cohorts. HCR people, what do you think? Please get in touch with views.

What Reps have been up to in 23-24

- George Fisher (1972) arranged a successful croquet match for eight alums and six wives in August 2024, with tea and coffee in New Quad and lunch afterwards at the Vaults Café. He thanks the BNC conference team for this. (N.B. for any private in-College events, it is worth planning as far ahead as possible, as BNC is invariably busy with private bookings in the summer vacation).
- Angela Boobbyer, (1982) reported a women's boat club reunion on the river. She and Sarah Shekleton (1983) suggest reps encourage year members once in the boat club to contact Dan Brocklebank of the 1815 Club and Bowman Fund: details are online.
- Drusilla Gabbott arranged a 3-day residential walk on Hadrian's Wall for 9, including 5 1982 alumni, which she recommends to other year groups. You can contact her for details of how to replicate this. She can also supply maps and notes for 3 short walks in Oxford or London 'off the peg' for your year.
- Amanda Pullinger (1984) celebrated the 40th anniversary of her cohort's matriculation by pulling together an impressive and fascinating 'where are we now' yearbook with photos and biographies in time for her gaudy. She co-operated with her adjacent reps in extending the invitation to their year groups.
- New rep Peter Sunderland (1960) has done a massive amount in his first few months in post. He has located and contacted 43 of the surviving 52 members of his year. During this, he discovered that, unknown to each other, two members of his year were living

in Australia, and they have met up. He recently spent time in the College library gathering past news notified to College, and traced some obituaries for members to read.

- Duncan Greenland and Donald Rushton (1966) continued their Christmas 'at home' get-togethers, which their year group look forward to greatly.

Upcoming

- Drusilla Gabbott (1982) and Graham Dransfield (1974) will arrange a London pub quiz.
- London Drinks: The Society is experimenting with a new model replacing the Red Lion drinks to gauge whether termly drinks and new locations draw in a wider attendance. Do please consider coming along to informal drinks with some of your year. Dates will be advertised through Development Office's usual communication channels.

Several reps responded to the testing of a the BAS questionnaire on activities that alumni might be interested in. Many thanks to them. The results indicated an alumni survey is better run once our programme of filling reps vacancies this year is completed.

Arrivals and departures

- Peter Sunderland has joined as new rep for 1960, replacing the late Robin Barron, who arranged many gatherings and is much missed by his friends.
- Shylett Anthony has joined as HCR rep for 2023
- Chengkai Xie has joined as JCR rep for 2018

David Bradbury notified us of the death, in January 2024, of Bill Higman (1952), a charming and active rep. Robert Cashmore (2010) resigned as HCR rep and is thanked. Robert participated in the scheme and the Brasenose Alumni Society for several years and we are sorry to lose him.

Benefits

Reps benefits include free accommodation at their gaudy, free tickets at events if they attract 5+ attendees from their year, accommodation upgrades and the possibility of dining in hall once a year in termtime via prior arrangement with the DO. All are, of course, subject to availability.

All, including existing reps, can get detailed information at www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/bnc-society/year-reps (or just search for 'Year Reps' on the BNC website).

Please contact Drusillagabbott@gmail.com or the Alumni office at development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk if you are interested in being a rep. If you see former Rep Co-ordinator David Clark (1970) at an event he will tell you all about the scheme!

CURRENT YEAR REPS

There is a role for a separate JCR and HCR rep in each matriculation year.

Where only one rep is listed for any year, this means there is a vacancy for the other position.

Year	Year Rep	Info
1952 & before		JCR
1953	John Buckler	JCR
1954-58	VACANT	JCR
1959	Robert Hawes	JCR
1960	Peter Sunderland	JCR
1961	VACANT	JCR
1962	John Morris	JCR
1963	James Edmiston	JCR
1964	Clive Evans	JCR
1965	John East	JCR
1966	Duncan Greenland	(Joint JCR)
1966	Donald Rushton	(Joint JCR)
1967	William Verdon-Smith	JCR
1968	Christopher Moss	JCR
1969	Patrick Ovans	JCR
1970	David Clark	(Joint JCR)
1970	Stephen Smith	(Joint JCR)
1971	Moray Thomas	JCR
1972	George Fisher	JCR
1973	John Bagshaw	JCR
1974	Graham Dransfield	JCR
1975	Liz Annesley	JCR
1976	Frances Stobbs	JCR
1977	Alexandra Marks CBE	JCR
1978	Nicholas Denton	JCR

1979	David Barker	JCR
1980	Angela Boobbyer	JCR
1981	Ceri Hutton	JCR
1981	Barry Peden	JCR
1982	Drusilla Gabbott	JCR
1983	Tony Murphy	HCR
1983	Sarah Shekleton	JCR
1984	Amanda Pullinger	JCR
1985	Lyndall Squire	JCR
1986	David Foster	JCR
1987	Jane Johnson	JCR
1988	James Drace-Francis	JCR
1989	Deidre Duignan	JCR
1990	Linus Gregoriadis	JCR
1991	Graham Thomas	JCR
1992	Aman Merchant	JCR
1993	Tom Cartwright	(Joint JCR)
1993	Alastair Dick	(Joint JCR)
1994	Sander Evers	HCR
1995	Simon Borwick	JCR
1996	Marcos Veremis	JCR
1997	VACANT	JCR/HCR
1998	Daryush Farshchi-Heidari	JCR
1999	Jessica Drapkin	JCR
2000	Laura Shtaingos	JCR
2001	VACANT	JCR/HCR
2002	Ellen Catherall	JCR
2003	Samantika Gokhale	JCR
2004	Rhiannon Williams	JCR
2005	Chris Tudor	HCR
2006	Andre De Haes	JCR
2006	Jen Glennon	HCR
2007	Charlie Furness-Smith	HCR
2007	Lara Gouveia Simonetti	JCR
2008	Elena Netsi	HCR
2009	Christoph Voelk	HCR
2010	James Johnson	JCR
2011	Michael Young	JCR
2012	Zed Kahale	HCR
2012	Rosie Thomas	JCR
2013	Franziska Kohlt	HCR
2013	Sarita Shah	JCR

2014	Henrik Jacobsen	HCR
2014	Isobel Moseley	JCR
2015	Mehroz Ehsan	HCR
2015	Miles Overton	JCR
2016	Rosie Duthie	JCR
2017	Matteo Clarkson-Maciel	HCR
2018	Samuel Chau	HCR
2018	Chengkai Xie	JCR
2019	Jennifer Pagliuca	HCR
2020	VACANT	JCR/HCR
2021	VACANT	JCR/HCR
2022	VACANT	JCR/HCR
2023	Shylett Anthony	HCR

UPCOMING GAUDIES

Brasenose is delighted to invite each year group back to College around every seven years for their gaudy. This involves a free dinner in Hall and subsidised accommodation in student rooms in College.

‘Save the Date’ invitations will be sent out in advance of your gaudy. If you have recently moved home or changed your email contact details, or for any other reason think we may not have your current email or postal address, please get in touch at alumni.events@bnc.ox.ac.uk

Matriculation Year	Date of Gaudy
1970-1972	Friday 27 June 2025
1998-1999	Friday 26 September 2025

THE KING’S HALL TRUST FOR THE ARTS

by Paul Burgess (English, 1993), Chair

The King’s Hall Trust continues to support small-scale projects by BNC students, as well as students and emerging artists from the wider Oxford community and beyond. Recent funding has included Accidental Donkey’s film *It’s My Party* and *Dead End* by Show Don’t Tell at the Edinburgh Fringe. A project that stood out for its ambition and global reach was *The Amu Darya Project*, a collaboration between Oxford University students and students from Karakalpakstan and Khorezm to

create an oral history film about the Amu Darya Delta in Uzbekistan. We have also continued supporting the Andrew Chamblin Memorial Concert at Christ Church.

We were particularly delighted to support *NoseDive*, a student-run arts magazine that acts as a portfolio for creativity at Brasenose. We were greatly impressed not only by the work of the contributors but also by the eye-catching bold design of the magazine itself.

Two trustees, Joe Strickland and Paul Burgess, visited the College during Arts Week to meet students and share some of their experiences as theatre professionals.

As the funding situation for projects changes, we need to change, too, and we are constantly reviewing how best to focus our small grants. If you are unsure whether your project is eligible or have an idea that's different from the norm, we are always happy to chat. We are also happy to offer advice to those starting out in arts careers.

The current trustees are **Rikesh Shah (Mathematics, 1993)** (treasurer), **Nick Herbert (Mathematics, 1993)**, **Joe Strickland (Experimental Psychology, 2012)**, **Mia Bennett (Mathematics, 1993)**, **Charlotte Clemson (Music, 2007)** and **Paul Burgess (English, 1993)** (secretary and chair).

If anyone is interested in becoming a trustee or supporting the Trust in other ways, please get in touch.

To contact us or find out more: khta.org.uk

College Reports



ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

by Dr Julia Diamantis, Fellow, Development Director

October 2023 saw the first students move into the award-winning new accommodation block at the Frewin Annexe site. However, they were not the first to experience the facilities; that distinction went to over 20 alumni who enjoyed the space at the Brasenose Alumni Society annual dinner in September 2023. Reports about their experience of the 30 new ensuite rooms were very positive, and the snagging list greatly helped getting things ready for the undergraduates to move in. Developed with alumni support, the new building marks the first phase of a major redevelopment programme aimed at significantly improving provision for our students.

The next step, almost exactly a year after the first undergraduates moved into the new block, began with major works on Frewin Hall, one of the College's most fascinating historic buildings. As layers of previous, unsympathetic conversion are pulled from the walls, the historic significance of the building is being uncovered. The restoration of the building will not only preserve its heritage but also include steps to reduce its carbon footprint, with a ground source heat pump, and a clever insulation and ventilation system. These will ensure the building stays warm in winter and cool in the summer, while still allowing students to open their windows on sunny spring days to enjoy the fresh air. The work at Frewin Hall will contribute to our understanding of how to reduce the environmental impact of our other historic buildings, and will help shape the College's plan for the future.

Frewin Hall will also offer much needed amenity space for the 200 or more undergraduates living at the Annexe. For the first time, it will feature reading rooms and collaborative study spaces; so many of Oxford's most exciting developments stem from the cross-disciplinary conversations that flourish in its social spaces.

One of the great pleasures of the Alumni Office's location, positioned on Staircase VII, is the stunning views across both Old Quad and Deer Park with a sliver of New Quad. We are often treated to glorious impromptu piano performances as extraordinarily talented students take time to practice. This year, however, I have missed the sounds

of the organ wafting across the quad, which have been absent since the existing instrument was dismantled. A new instrument has been commissioned to sit within the existing casing. Skilled artisans from Orgues de Facto of Belgium spent many months this year carefully crafting the new instrument and fitting it in situ (please refer to the Music Report for further details). Entirely funded by alumnus **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)** and his wife Margo, the new organ is a much-anticipated treat. It is only through the generosity of our community that Brasenose can continue to offer the fertile and stimulating environment that generations have enjoyed.

This brings me to the extraordinary support our community has given to the College this year, with many responding to the call to support Brasenose students during both the Giving Day campaign and the annual telethon, in addition to those who so faithfully contribute every month. It is not only the awesome headline-catching major donations that make a significant difference; regular monthly gifts and one-off donations also play a vital role. These contributions enable the College to continue to provide the rich and varied education and experience that Brasenose does so well, contributing well over half a million pounds to the College's budget for student-related expenses each year – this funding directly supports student activities such as sports and music, subsidized meals and accommodation, hardship and travel grants, and much more.

The past academic year has also been one where we have been delighted to see so many alumni return to College for drinks, dinners, talks, tours, concerts, lunches, and tea. Amongst other events, we held three gaudies, a very successful family-friendly garden party, and many subject-specific reunions. Others returned for the Boat Club dinner, and more than 100 came together for the Brasenose Alumni Society annual dinner in September. One group of friends came to play croquet and have a cup of tea over the summer.

A number of events took place in London, including the first 'Brasenose In Business' networking event at the Rio Tinto offices in St James's, the Brasenose Alumni Society President's Summer party at the Royal Society, and the 1974 Women's Network gathering. There was also a wonderful dinner in Manchester, several in Singapore, and a drinks reception along with several dinners in Hong Kong. A heartfelt

‘thank you’ to all those who kindly and generously hosted these events outside of Oxford and all those who joined us to enjoy them.

My thanks also go to the team in the Alumni and Development Office for making these occasions possible. There were a few changes of personnel during the year. In December 2023, we welcomed Begina Cox, who brought her fundraising experience from the Central University Offices and Corpus Christi College. In September, Emily Reeve made a sideways move to run our regular giving campaigns, including Giving Days and the telethon. Graduating student, Joel Bassett joined us almost immediately after finals and will be with us for a year. We said goodbye to George Balkwill and later in the year to Emilie Messenger, and at the very end of the academic year, we waved a cheery farewell to our events person, Chloe Bossward, who has since had a son. Congratulations to Chloe and we look forward to welcoming her back from maternity leave in Michaelmas 2025. Her role is, in the meantime, ably covered by Gauri Verma.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

by Philip Parker, Bursar

Financial Review for the year to 31 July 2024

The College is not a particularly large organisation, with about 100 Fellows and Lecturers and 120 professional and support staff. In addition to delivering our charitable purpose through teaching and research, we support our academics and students with a range of activities that is sometimes bewildering, even to those of us in the midst of it every day! This year saw the return of our new organ ready for commissioning in autumn 2024, the return of a full programme of commercial conference business in the vacations, and the return of the builders – to be honest they never really leave us! In the summer of 2024, we started work to refurbish and restore Frewin Hall. With this project we will convert 13 student rooms to ensembles and provide social and working spaces at the heart of the Frewin Annexe for the 200 students who now live there, while also revealing and celebrating the layers of architectural history within the Hall from the Norman undercroft onwards.

The refurbished Frewin Hall has been designed to the highest environmental standards with Ground Source Heat Pumps and high-quality insulation and air management systems allowing us to run the building with minimal energy. This will increase comfort while also reducing our bills and our carbon emissions. This is part of our ongoing programme to reduce the carbon impact of all our College buildings while respecting their historic importance. During the year we commissioned a report to map how we can decarbonise all four of our sites and are now working out how to take these ideas forward as effectively and as quickly as possible, while also balancing the books and meeting the needs of our current students.

The costs of running the College continue to rise each year and our total expenditure reached £17.0m million in 2023-24. These ongoing costs were partially offset by the £2.3m one-off benefit of the unwinding of pension provisions, as both our pension schemes moved from theoretical deficits to surpluses thanks to the rises in interest rates.

Almost half of our running costs are met from benefactions past and present. The endowment has been built up from donations since the founding of the College, and we drew down £6.1m in the year to support the College. In addition, the College was grateful to receive new donations of £2.1m in the year, with £0.7m given to the endowment and a further £1.4m for the immediate support of College activities. The College's other income was from student fees (£3.3m), student rents and catering purchases (£3.2m) and our commercial conferences and events activities (up to £1.7m).

As at 31st July 2024, the endowment was valued at £198m and the investment returns were 7.1% per annum over the previous five years. The College is very grateful to the members of the Investment Advisory Committee for the expertise of their advice and their generosity with their time: thanks to Nigel Wightman (Chairman), Mark Boulton, Charles Scott, Hermione Davies and Gerald Smith.

The full Trustees' Report and Financial Statements are available on the College website at www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/official-information.

Income 2023-2024	£000s	income
Academic income (fees etc.)	3,345	21%
Student rents etc.	3,205	20%
Conferences	1,732	11%
Donations (excluding capital)	1,386	9%
Endowment transfer	6,077	37%
Other income	554	3%
Total	16,299	100%
Capital donations for the endowment	676	
Expenditure	£000s	
Tuition and Research	5,038	
Student support	859	
Domestic costs	8,865	
Conference costs	706	
Development and AR	621	
Investment mgmt	922	
	17,011	
Pension provision unwound	-2,331	
	14,680	

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES REPORT

by Liz Kay, College Librarian and Helen Sumping, College Archivist

Library

A few of the highlights of the library year:

Outreach activities 2024

This has been a busy and exciting year for special collections outreach. We continued our Michaelmas teaching sessions with English and History first years, displaying a selection of rare material for students to view and handle. Each session provided positive feedback and cemented the importance of learning about the history of the printed book.

We have continued to organise well-attended rare book displays each term, open to all students and staff, and have exhibited important historical items such as the book thought to be the first printed on parchment in England (*Expositio super tres libros Aristotelis de anima* 1481 UB/S I 91), as well as a book containing a working 16th century volvelle (or wheel-chart) (*M. Blundevile his exercises, containing eight treatise [...] in cosmographie, astronomie, and geographie*, 1597 Lath L 4.13).

Alongside our library displays it has been a privilege to collaborate with our archives team on joint exhibitions, which have been equally well attended and on interesting topics: Brasenose benefactors, Brasenose in the 19th century, and the life of Thomas Traherne. This year, we have also worked closely with the Development Office, curating unique displays for alumni and donors.

The outreach project concerning our 15th century genealogical roll of Henry VI (MS 91) is ongoing. Two Brasenose students are continuing to research and transcribe the roll, comparing it to others of the period, and are hoping to publish their findings in the future.

Conservation/preservation

(Funded in part by the Delafield Trust)

The aforementioned genealogical roll of Henry VI was digitised at the beginning of January. Similar rolls had already been digitised, including those at Magdalen College, Oxford, the Society of Antiquaries (London) and the University of Canterbury (New Zealand); scholars across the globe are now able to compare the BNC roll alongside these. Closer to home, those involved in the roll project have access to significantly better images than had already been supplied, and the bonus of being able to view the roll in its entirety. Crucially, digitising the roll has ensured that it is not overused and will remain in good condition. The roll can be viewed on Digital Bodleian at <https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk> (search for ‘Brasenose College MS 91’).

Two items were sent to Temple Bookbinders for conservation work this year:

- UB/S II 45 – *Malleus Malificarum*. This pocket-sized volume is perhaps one of the most famous, or rather infamous, medieval treatise on witches. Written in 1486 by Heinrich Kramer, an inquisitor of the Catholic church, it was first published in Cologne; our later edition

(c.1500) was published in Paris. Although initially endorsed by Pope Innocent VIII, it was eventually banned by the Vatican; however it remained a popular tome among both Catholic and Protestant witch-hunters, eventually selling out over thirty editions throughout the two hundred years that it was in print.

- MS 13 – manuscript of works by Seneca, Lucius Annaeus and Saint Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, which belonged to belonged to William Smyth, co-founder of the College. Dating from the late 12th/early 13th century and originating in France, the volume has 191 parchment leaves. It is written in dark brown ink by various hands and has some decoration including several very large initials in red and blue, four of which are touched in gold.

Both items have been much improved visually and, more importantly, are more robust and resilient to handling thanks to the beautifully executed conservation work.

Celebrating alumnus Thomas Traherne, poet and spiritual writer.

Back in 2023 The Oxford Traherne, a collaborative project to edit his works, alerted us to the upcoming 350th anniversary of Traherne's death and proposed series of celebratory events in October 2024. Brasenose, as Traherne's old college, was the obvious choice of collaborator and in early 2024 planning began in earnest. We were keen to get students on board and proposed an art workshop led by Roger Wagner (an artist and poet influenced by Traherne's work) and fellow artist Rachel Woods, the idea being that students create some form of Traherne-inspired artwork which could be displayed during the week of celebrations and also used for publicity. Although attendance was low, three collages were produced and subsequently used in the promotional material. Many thanks to Doug Vernimmen who very kindly photographed the artwork for us.

The schedule of events was soon established with undergraduate Imogen Edmundson and DPhil student Paul Norris collaborating on audiovisual material for the exhibition to accompany the events held at Brasenose.

Donations

In addition to the donations of contemporary works, it is worth noting that Roger Billis donated three works to our collection of older and rare books. Details of all these and of the other generous donations can be found in the list of presentations to the Library.

Special events

In early June Richard Cooper hosted a dinner for The Arcades (an Oxford and Cambridge dining society) at Brasenose. Assistant librarian Joanna Mills and I chatted to the guests as they assembled in the Deer Park, where the winning combination of the early evening sun on the buildings, Richard's legendary hospitality and fine champagne ensured that everyone was in a bright mood. We were delighted to show our beautiful library to the distinguished diners and take them up to the Treasury. I am proud of all areas of the library and always hope that visitors will be impressed and appreciate the quality and ambience achieved; it is still a thrill when they do, so it was a delight to see the guests enjoying both the library and the items we had on display for them. They spent some time poring over the books and chatting, at the same time appreciating the splendid views from the Treasury and casting their eyes over the College Chest. In fact, so happily ensconced were they that we had to usher them down the spiral staircase quite quickly to ensure that they were not late for dinner (something which would not have gone down well with our lovely colleagues charged with preparing and serving the special meal).

Rare Books and Special Collections Cataloguing

During 2024 Sophie Floate, our rare books cataloguer, concentrated on completing the cataloguing of the older titles in our Brasenose authors collection (see Sophie's blog post of September 2024 at <https://brasenosecollegelibrary.wordpress.com/2024/09/>). Her cataloguing focus has now returned to books belonging to the late 17th and 18th centuries that are held in the Basement XII collection. Although there are some large tomes in our pre-1640 collection that are yet to be catalogued, these are not currently being prioritised due to the difficulty in carrying the weighty volumes down a spiral staircase and across two quads. Planning for a new ground floor location to house this collection is under way and, although some years off, will provide accommodation for the books that is much more appropriate, practical and accessible.

Archives

At the beginning of September 2024, we welcomed new assistant archivist Salomea Chlebowska, who will be working three days a week alongside the College archivist.

This year has seen a marked increase in exhibitions and other outreach activities, which has been made possible with the help of research assistant Emma Howes and through greater collaboration with the Library team. Exhibition themes have included College benefactors, 19th century Brasenose, College balls, and alumnus Thomas Traherne, in addition to displays put on for the Development Office.

In June we had a visit from students of Dr Radcliffe's Church of England Primary School, Steeple Aston, which was founded by former Brasenose Principal and Rector of Steeple Aston Samuel Radcliffe in 1640. The visit was organised by Brasenose alumna **Charlotte Harris (Lit. Hum., 1995)**. We put out a display of documents in the College Treasury relating to Radcliffe and the school, and Dr Joe Organ took the children on a tour of College with the help of finalist Olivia McQuaid (Classics and English, 2020). The children enjoyed the steep climb to the top of the tower, and enjoyed hearing about how it was used to store supplies during the English Civil War when Radcliffe was Principal. Back in April, Charlotte had organised a visit for Fellows and staff to Steeple Aston, where the College historically owned the advowson and land. The tour included the original schoolhouse and church, as well as nearby Rousham gardens. Charlotte has been spending a lot of time viewing all of the records that we hold relating to the school, and it has been fascinating to learn more about Brasenose links with the area.

Something else that we have spent quite a bit of time on this year is our recent oral history project. This is not something we had done formally before, and required a lot of research and thought to ensure that memories were captured in the best possible way. It started off as a means to capture the stories of long-serving staff members (so far, the head chef and College carpenter), but has now expanded (we interviewed Emeritus Fellow Bernard Richards in June), and we intend to interview some of the first cohort of women for the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of women this autumn. All interviews will be kept in the digital archive for posterity.

We have had some lovely donations to the Archives this year, including a 1973 ball poster, a 19th century letter to the College Bursar,

a 1931 Oxford University Summer Eights programme (generously purchased by **William O’Chee (Jurisprudence, 1984)**), postcards of College, a 19th century sketch of College, a photograph of students, a programme of events for the Brasenose Women’s Group in 1987 and several editions of the recently resurrected College magazine *Nosedive*.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Presentations to the Library 29th September 2023 – 30th September 2024

Presentations by Members of College – own composition

Richard Bourne

(editor)

Brazil after Bolsonaro: The Comeback of Lula da Silva, 2024.

Emma Bridges

Warriors’ Wives: Ancient Greek Myth & modern Experience, 2023.

Jonathan Cole

Losing Touch: A Man Without His Body, 2016.

Anne Davies

Catholic Social Teaching and Labour Law: An Ethical Perspective on Work, 2023.

Chitty on Contracts volume I and II, 2023.

Human Rights Due Diligence and Labour Governance, 2023.

Labour and the Wage: A Critical Perspective, 2020.

Putting Human Rights to Work: Labour law, the ECHR, and the Employment Relation, 2022.

Reforming age Discrimination Law: Beyond Individual Enforcement, 2022.

Shaping Contracts for Work: The Normative influence of Terms Implied by Law, 2023.

Strike Ballors, Democracy and Law, 2020.

Valuing Employment Rights: A Study of Remedies in Employment Law, 2024.

David A. Jackson

The Rawlinsons from Furness Fells, 2023.

Tim Jarvis

The Woman in the Wings, 2024.

Abigail Green

Jewish Country Houses, 2024.

Martin Gross

(preface by Martin Gross, essays by Benjamin Morison and Barbara Scalvini)

Aristotle: From Antiquity to the Modern Era, 2021.

Kirsty Gunn

Caroline's Bikini, 2018.

Going Bush, 2016.

Infidelities, 2014.

My Katherine Mansfield Project, 2015.

Pretty Ugly, 2024.

Rain, 1994.

The Big Music, 2012.

The Boy and the Sea, 2006.

This Place You Return to is Home, 1999.

Duncan Marlor

Churchill The Liberal Reformer: The Struggle for Modern Home Office, 2024.

Jeremy Mitchell

'An Old man on Board Who Calls Himself a King': The Curious Arrival of Bourbon Royal Exiles in Britain, August 1830 (offprint from *The Court Historian: The International Journal of Court Studies*, volume 29, number 1, April 2024.)

[At 95 years of age we think Mr Mitchell may be the oldest published BNC author to date – but if you know differently, please do let us know!]

Jim Ring

Storming the Eagle's Nest: Hitler's War in the Alps, 2013.

Stephen Romer

(edited with Anthony Rudolf and John Naughton)

Transcript 28. Chaos and the Clean Line: Writings on Franco-British Modernism, 2024

Yves Bonnefoy: Prose, 2020.

Chris Ruffle

The Barter Trade, 2024.

Siddarth Shrikanth

The Case for Nature, 2023.

Presentations by Members of College**Stephen Bernard**

Milton's Complex Words: Essays on the Conceptual Structure of Paradise Lost, by Paul Hammond, 2023.

Roger Billis

M. Velerii Martialis Epigrammata: cum notis Farnabii et variorum, geminoq[ue] indice tum rerum tum auctorum, 1661.

Lucii Apuleii Madaurensis Platonici Philosophi opera (two volumes), 1778.

Fazio: A Tragedy, by H. H. Milman, 1815.

Giovanni Pico della Mirandola: His Life, by Giovanni Francesco Pico, 1890.

Martin Günther

Das Kunsterwerk im Zeitalter seiner technischen Reproduzierbarkeit, by Walter Benjamin, 2023.

Fortschritt und Rhgression by Rahel Jaeggi, 2024.

Kulturindustrie by Max Hoekheimer & Theodor W. Adorno, 2024.

The Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche volume 8: Beyond Good and Evil / On the Genealogy of Morality, translated, with an afterword, by Adrian Del Caro, 2014.

Chris Kennard

A generous donation of many titles covering a range of subjects.

Kate Leadbetter

Amerika, 2004.

Das Bildnis des Dorian Gray, 2004.

Shakespeare in Deutschland: 1864-1964, 1964.

Die Verwirrungen des Zöglings Törleß, 2013

Die Weber: vollständiger Text des Schauspiels, Dokumentation, 2017.

Wiederschen in Howards End, 2004.

Wittgenstein's Poker: The Story of a Ten-minute Argument Between Two Great Philosophers, 2002.

Laiq, Nur

(joint editor)

The Search for Peace in the Arad-Israeli Conflict: A Compendium of Documents and Analysis, 2014.

Talking to Arab Youth: Revolution and Counterrevolution in Egypt and Tunisia, 2013.

Bernard Richards

Shakespeare in Bloomsbury, by Marjorie Garber, 2023.

Alan Strathern

Sacred Kingship in World History: Between Immanence and Transcendence, by Moin A. Afzar. 2022.

John Weeks (named in acknowledgements)

The Folds of Olympus: Mountains in Ancient Greek and Roman Culture, by Jason König, 2022.

CHAPEL REPORT

by Revd David Sheen, Chaplain

One of my favourite writers and poets is the contemporary American poet Wendell Berry who, to quote one reviewer, "...is one of those rare individuals who speaks to us always of responsibility, of the individual cultivation of an active and aware participation in the arts of life." Themes which are essential to Brasenose College and to Chapel life. Berry in his work *A Small Porch, Sabbath Poems 2014 and 2015* writes the following poem:

Sabbaths 2015, XIII.

The best of human work defers
 always to the in-forming beauty
 of Nature's work. But human work,
 true to the nature of places
 as it should be, is not natural
 and is not a mirror held up
 to nature. At best it is
 the gift of the Heavenly Muse
 to the farmer's art or the poet's
 by endless learning learned,
 forever incomplete.

It is only Christ-life,
The life undying, given,
Received, again, again,
That completes our work.

This ‘in-forming’ and ‘endless learning learned’ are part of the education and research activity of our College, its reason to be here, but also the physical building of our beautiful Chapel set at the College’s heart, seeks to articulate in a real way the last four lines of the poem, to point beyond the learning and the everyday activity to the numinous, to that which can give purpose and meaning to our lives and our common endeavour through art, music, praise, prayer and celebration.

The drawing to a close of the long vacation starts with a celebration of Holy Communion on the Sunday after the Alumni Society dinner, and a little later, the last College Gaudy service of the year as we near the end of September. It is a joy to meet and talk with our alumni from different generations. This marks the beginning of preparing for the arrival of our new first year students and all the busyness of Michaelmas. The Chapel remains open 24/7 and is in regular use for music practice, music-making, services, celebrations, talks and concerts, and, importantly, as an oasis of calm for many students who seek it out to reflect, pray, and simply find some quiet in the busyness of College life.

It was a joy to welcome Polina Sosnina as our new Director of Music. She is a hugely talented musician and choral director who has built up and maintained a strong choir of around 35, including our choral scholars and exhibitioners. Polina has settled well into College and Chapel life this past year and the whole community is thankful for her presence and work. This past year we have continued the daily round of term-time services and concerts, of celebrations and memorials.

In Michaelmas 2023, indeed my first Michaelmas in post, we had a variety of invited chapel preachers, who included the Revd Hannah Cartwright, the assistant priest at our neighbour, the University Church of Saint Mary the Virgin. Hannah is known as a gifted preacher. We then heard from the Revd Jesse Smith, a parish priest who serves in an urban priority area and is active in pursuing social justice and community organising. For All Saints’ Sunday, we celebrated a choral eucharist with the Revd Canon Dr Mark Clavier, who is no stranger to Oxford having been sometime Vice-Principal of St Stephen’s House,

Oxford. Our final guest preacher of term was the Revd Liz Griffiths, the director of training for Bridge Builders Ministries, which focuses on mediation and conflict resolution. The students really appreciated the range of speakers' backgrounds and interests. As ever in this term, we keep Remembrance Sunday, and we mark Armistice Day, with Acts of Remembrance. Once every term we also host the University Catholic Chaplaincy who celebrate a College mass in the Chapel. This term always finishes with a vibrant celebration of Oxmas (an anticipatory 'Christmas' celebration observed by undergraduates on 25 November), and on the last Sunday of term, a carol service. I have to say this year it was somewhat disorientating to be celebrating Christmas even before we had started Advent.

In Hilary Term with the early dark nights of winter, the Chapel lights shine through the windows as a beacon of light around New Quad and the Deer Park. In the cold of winter, Chapel is always warm. This term always hosts our Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration, and we heard the Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge DBE MP, Member of Parliament for Barking and the Parliamentary Chair of the Jewish Labour Movement (since ennobled as Baroness Hodge of Barking). Dame Margaret spoke to a full Chapel as part of our special service to mark this commemoration. Our other keynote service is the Runcie Sermon, and this year we were truly blessed to hear the Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie, clergyman, writer, and author of several books. During a long train journey, he once compared on Twitter Archbishops of Canterbury to different packets of crisps; Lord Runcie was Cheesy Wotsits! It was a pleasure to welcome back James Runcie to hear this year's sermon. Another guest preacher was the Revd Dr Jeff Crittenden, a Canadian Methodist pastor and professor of homiletics at Huron University. It was also a great pleasure to welcome to College and to Chapel the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Lord Bishop of Lincoln, our new College Visitor. Formerly the Bishop of Ely, he has recently been translated to the See of Lincoln. This term saw the start of Lent and we often have an intercollegiate service at the University Church for Ash Wednesday; this brings together the congregation and the united choirs of three or four colleges. It was a joy and a privilege to be the preacher on this occasion, my first time preaching from that venerable pulpit.

Longer and sunnier days mean that Trinity has begun; spring and Eastertide bring a sense of joyfulness to the term, as well as croquet on

New Quad and some summer parties to look forward to. Ascension Day brings some eccentricity and tradition to College life with the Beatings of the Bounds by the two parishes that bisect the main College site, going through to Lincoln College for Ivy Ale, madrigals, and the Penny Drop. We crown the day with a joint choral eucharist uniting the choirs of Brasenose and Lincoln chapels. We were honoured to have as our guest preacher for this event Bishop Rowan Williams (the Rt Revd and Rt Hon, the Lord Williams of Oystermouth PC FBA FRSL FLSW), sometime Master of Magdalen College, Cambridge, and sometime Archbishop of Canterbury. Again, we had a range of guest preachers: the Revd Irving D. Hamer, vicar of St Martin in Roath, Cardiff, and the Revd Professor David Thomas FBA, a College alumnus. David had also given an interfaith talk earlier in the year as he is Emeritus Professor of Christianity and Islam at the University of Birmingham. We welcomed the Revd Paul Gurnham, team vicar in the parish of the Holy Trinity, East Ham, London, where the College is patron for the church of St Mary Magdalene (one of the oldest churches in London). Last but certainly not least, we heard the Revd Delyth Liddell, Methodist minister, leader of The Gathering (an LGBTQI+ church) and co-ordinating chaplain at Cardiff University.

I would like to conclude by expressing my thanks to our Director of Music, Polina Sosnina, already mentioned in dispatches, to this year's Bible Clerk, James Hartley, and to the assistant Bible Clerk, Nishen Menerapitiyage Don, for their energy and commitment to the Chapel services and community. Thank you also to our senior organ scholar, Sean Cohen and our organ scholar Emma van Setten, who provided music on Sundays and Tuesdays, as well as all the members of our fantastic Chapel choir. Many thanks to Kirsty Jackson for providing such helpful administrative support. And, as ever, a personal thank you to all the Fellows, staff, students, and alumni of Brasenose College for continuing to make me feel welcome as my second year here draws to a close.

Chapel and Music People

Bible Clerk – James Hartley

Assistant Bible Clerk – Nishen Menerapitiyage Don

Senior Organ Scholar – Sean Cohen

Organ Scholar – Emma van Setten

Occasional Offices: October 2023 – September 2024

Services were officiated by the Chaplain and took place in Brasenose Chapel unless otherwise stated.

Baptism

Louis Hans Singh FARTHING, child of Bianca and George FARTHING, 20 April 2024.

Marriages

Katherine SIMMONS and Peter KERR-DAVIS (2014), 21 June 2024.
Emily SMITH and Dirk van SETTEN (2012), 2 August 2024 (*Officiant, the Revd Ruth Edmonds*)

Elisabeth CHESNUTT and James THOMAS, 10 August 2024.

Wedding Blessing

Jessica WARD (2014) and William SZYMANSKI (2013), 24 August 2024.

MUSIC REPORT

by Polina Sosnina, Director of Music

“The object of education is to teach us to love what is beautiful. I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning”

Plato, *The Republic*

It has been my great privilege to take on the role of Director of Music at Brasenose, where music is an integral part of the educational life of the College. This year, we bade farewell to my predecessor Christian Wilson, expressing heartfelt thanks and good wishes to him as he left to take up his new post as Director of Music at Keble College. In addition to his excellent work training the choir and running our concert series, Christian oversaw the design of our new pipe organ, and the Klop chamber organ on which we have relied this year, leaving the Chapel with a rich offering of world-class musical instruments.

Michaelmas began with a fifty-strong choir singing the exuberant *Exsultate Justi* by Viadana and Gibbons' *Short Service*. In the absence of the main pipe organ, the choir embarked on a journey exploring early English music from composers such as Richard Farrant and Henry Purcell, as well contemporary offerings from Eleanor Daley and Bob Chilcott. With the new academic year came the appointment of four instrumental scholars and a new cohort of choral scholars. Instrumental scholarships were awarded to Holly Bartlett (bagpipes), Maia Broughton (trombone), Victor Joss (piano) and Aditya Kulkarni (guitar). The choral scholarships were held by Anna Ahlberg, Elizabeth Berryman, Harriet Downer, Dillon Lim, Saskia Maini, Purav Menon, Rosie Morgan-Males, Ambrose Pailing, Henry Rose and Jack Whitehead. We also welcomed a new junior organ scholar, Emma van Setten, who assisted Sean Cohen, our senior organ scholar, in accompanying College Prayers and eucharist services. As the term drew to a close, we celebrated Nearly Midnight Mass and our Christmas carol service at the end of November, before Advent had even started, something I had not experienced since my student days at Magdalene College, Cambridge. We were fortunate to be accompanied by a talented brass ensemble – Maia Broughton, Rebecca Woodfield, Morris Harper, Douglas Brown and Min Lee – who supported a packed Chapel in renditions of all the Christmas favourites.

Our Platnauer Recital Series continued this year with three varied concerts. The first, given by pianist Emma Abbate and mezzo-soprano Hanna Hipp, was *Folklore*, an exploration of folk songs from different countries, culminating in a captivating performance of *Siete canciones populares españolas* by Manuel de Falla. In Hilary, we heard *The Fantastic Violin*, an exploration of the Biber violin sonatas, performed by Jenny Bliss Bennett (violin), Yair Avidor (theorbo) and David Gordon (chamber organ). Trinity's Platnauer Concert was performed by the award-winning Piatti Quartet, with a programme showcasing Puccini's *Crisantemi* and Dvořák's 'American' String Quartet in F.

Hilary saw several notable events for the Chapel Choir, including two intercollegiate services at St. Mary the Virgin, the University Church. The choir sang beautifully at our Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration, performing music predominantly by Jewish composers Mendelssohn, Gerald Cohen and Sarit Aloni, as well as a movement from James Whitbourn's *Annelies*, a musical setting of extracts from

the Diary of Anne Frank. At the end of the term, our choral scholars performed a concert of English song, showcasing their talents as solo performers. I would like to express my thanks to our singing teacher, Stephen Taylor, whose expert tuition prepared our scholars for this recital. In Trinity, our dedicated choir members persevered through the exam season to sing at our Ascension Day service. We were fortunate to be accompanied by members of St Martin's Chamber Ensemble for a rousing performance of Mozart's *Missa Brevis* in D (K 194) and *Lift up your heads* by Handel, jointly with Lincoln College Choir. At our Leavers' Service, we said farewell to several longstanding choir members, as well as our two organ scholars.

On 13 and 14 July, Brasenose Chapel Choir went on tour to London, giving three performances over the course of the weekend. The tour launched with an evening concert at St James's, Sussex Gardens, featuring movements from Victoria's *Missa O quam gloriosum* paired with liturgically relevant anthems, and two brilliantly performed organ solos by senior organ scholar, Sean Cohen. On the Sunday morning, the choir navigated through disrupted public transport to perform mass at St Peter's London Docks before heading to St. Martin-in-the-Fields for choral evensong. The programme of English choral gems from Rose, Stanford and Tavener competed against the football chants in Trafalgar Square for the Euro 2024 final. The tour was a wonderful way to wrap up a successful year for the choir before their well-deserved summer break.

Over the summer vacation, Brasenose's long-awaited organ was installed in the chapel, which has been made possible thanks to the tremendous generosity of Honorary Fellow, **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)** and Margo Smith. After two years using only the chamber organ and piano, the Chapel now boasts a fine new instrument ready for use in our Chapel services and concerts. The instrument has been built by the team at Orgues de Facto in Belgium, following the English romantic model of William Hill, who built and installed the original organ back in 1892. The original casework by T.G. Jackson has been expertly restored and houses the brand-new sound boards, mechanical actions, internal frames, wooden and metal pipework, and a new console. The west-facing façade pipes from the 1892 Hill organ, which had been retained as non-speaking (dummy) pipes in the organ provided by Peter Collins in 1972 and rebuilt by Robin Bower in 2001-2, have been re-lengthened and are now speaking pipes within the

façade of the new organ. In order to best replicate the work carried out by Hill, the Orgues de Facto team carried out composite analysis of the original pipework, paintwork and varnishes. The result is a beautiful, 15-stop instrument that emulates the organ installed by Hill at the end of the 19th century – see specification below.

To conclude, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Chaplain, the Revd David Sheen, who has helped me navigate my first year at Brasenose, and to Sean Cohen and Emma van Setten, who were both a great support. Thank you to the choir, whose unwavering enthusiasm and hard work have made the music-making in chapel a great joy, and to Tim Jenkins for taking on the role of choir librarian and tirelessly working to improve the music library. Lastly, thank you too to all the Fellows, staff, students and alumni of Brasenose College, musicians and non-musicians alike, who have made me feel so welcomed in my first year in post.

Organ specification

I. Great, 58 notes

1.	Open Diapason	8
2.	Hohl Flute	8
3.	Viola di Gamba	8
4.	Principal	4
5.	Harmonic Flute	4
6.	Trumpet	8

II. Swell, 58 notes

7.	Geigen Principal	8	(1-12 from 9)
8.	Gedeckt	8	
9.	Salicional	8	
10.	Celeste	8	(from f ⁰)
11.	Gemshorn	4	
12.	Twelfth	2	
13.	Fifteenth	2	
14.	Horn	8	

III. Pedal, 30 notes

15.	Bourdon	16	
16.	Octave	8	(from 1)
17.	Flute	8	(from 2)

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- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---|----------|
| 18. | Cello | 8 | (from 3) |
| 19. | Octave Flute | 4 | (from 5) |
| 20. | Trumpet | 8 | (from 6) |

Couplers:

16 Swell to Great

8 Swell to Great

4 Swell to Great

Tremulant

Great to Pedal

Swell 8 to Pedal

Swell 4 to Pedal

Articles



50 YEARS OF WOMEN AT BRASENOSE

by John Bowers KC

The introduction of women students at Brasenose is arguably the most momentous event in the College's long history since 1509. Many readers may not appreciate that this happened only fifty years ago. We are celebrating this important fiftieth anniversary with a series of dinners, panel discussions, events, an exhibition of alumni portraits and a permanent marker in College, but I wanted briefly to tell the story of how this reform came about.

The history of women studying at Oxford is of course much longer than half a century. Two notable dates are the creation of all-female halls of residence in 1879 and the conferring of degrees in 1920 when for the first time women became full members of the University. What we are celebrating at Brasenose is the first establishment of undergraduate co-education in the 1970s. Instead of joining single-sex colleges, students could apply to study at a college admitting both men and women.

This development was set against the backdrop of the wider societal context of women's liberation movement, the introduction of equal pay legislation in 1970 and the imminent arrival of the Sex Discrimination Act, although there were exemptions for single-sex educational establishments. Within the UK and also internationally, social and economic factors also favoured entry of women into higher education and the labour force more generally, notably in the USA. The 1970s saw a rise in the average age of marriage and an associated increase of women entering professions, including those for which a degree level education was needed.

One of my predecessors as Principal, Professor Herbert Hart, is reputed to have said that BNC was full of "Old Turks and Young Fogeys" in his time. This renders it the more surprising that Brasenose was in the vanguard of reform. It is also said that Brasenose's Junior Common Room protested against the change but the level of concern is hard to establish at this distance. In the early 1970s the Oxford Union voted 1,039 to 426 in favour of admission of women.

Women of course came to Brasenose and contributed to its history long before the 1970s. Two Queen Elizabeths visited Brasenose well before women were admitted as students. We entertained Queen Elizabeth I in 1562 and 1592. Queen Elizabeth II first visited in 1948 as

Princess Elizabeth and then once again after the admission of women. We also had two major benefactresses, the Duchess of Somerset (1631–1692) and Joyce Frankland (1531–1587) who did not seem concerned that members of their sex were not permitted to take degrees at the College yet gave prodigious sums of money. Women provided other types of support as well, contributing to the College's domestic service in particular. There were also some examples of women living at and associated with Brasenose, including Elizabeth Gilbert (1826–1885), the daughter of Principal Ashurst Gilbert. Blinded by scarlet fever at the age of two, Elizabeth rose to become a prominent advocate for the education of women and founded a charity to promote employment opportunities for people with visual impairment.

There were also of course many women teaching, studying and graduating in Oxford before 1974 – but all at the women's colleges such as Somerville, St Hugh's, St Hilda's, LMH and St Anne's.

The story of Brasenose becoming co-educational is one of a long slog and there were heroes and one or two villains in the tale. There were also many forks in the road to getting to the destination desired in particular by younger fellows. A strong motivation for change was the correct perception that a shift to co-education would enhance the calibre of undergraduates, resulting in higher student attainment. Academically able young men and women, it was believed, would prefer to study in a mixed gender environment. Competition between colleges for the brightest students served to incentivise the push to admit women.

The process started in our College on 30 November 1966 (some eight years before the actual admission) when a committee was appointed consisting of the Principal (Sir Noel Hall), Vice-Principal, Bursar, Senior Dean, Barry Nicholas (later the Principal) and Dr Graham Richards (a chemistry Fellow). The immediate initiative came from a scheme for additional accommodation on the New Inn Hall site and this committee was tasked with drawing up a paper outlining the possible impact on the architectural design if it were to house women students as well as the men. The provision would be different depending on the decision.

On 24 May 1967 the committee reported that it had extended its inquiry to a consideration of the admission of women to College at all levels. It asked College for a view as to whether:

- (i) to amend the Statutes so as to allow women to become members of the College;
- (ii) to envisage the accommodation of women within the present curtilage of the College.

The first was answered in the affirmative by 17 votes to 3, and the second by 14 votes to 11.

The committee considered all the problems involved, drew up alternative practical schemes, and suggested a timeline for their implementation. A significant development happened six months later when Dr Laszlo Solymar was appointed to the committee. He was a young engineering Fellow who had escaped from Communist Hungary. He regarded single-sex education as “unnatural”. Another key player throughout was Graham Richards, who had been a post doc at Cité Universitaire in Paris and preferred the mixed environment to that which he had experienced at Brasenose as an undergraduate.

An experiment took place with Somerville to see whether places could be given to near-miss candidates. However, on 21 February 1968 the Governing Body received a report which said that the scheme had not proved to be a success, although the reasoning for this verdict is not clear from the documents.

Much of the opposition to the plans for co-education came from women’s colleges. On 1 May 1968 the college officers reported in detail on a meeting they had held with the women principals of those, and it was distinctly frosty. As these heads of house made clear, “mixed colleges were against the interests of the women’s colleges”; they were concerned in particular that there would be fewer opportunities for female academics if the male colleges admitted both sexes. The women’s colleges were indeed academically very successful. The main anxiety for women’s colleges was the fear that there would be a drop in quality of female applicants as the most talented would, they feared, apply to the co-ed colleges.

The College accepted *nem con* the committee’s recommendation that no further action should be taken in this matter until such time as it can be resumed by more than one men’s college in agreement with at least two of the women’s colleges. It took a while for other colleges to join the party.

In 1970 it was agreed that the College would like to be associated with proposed intercollegiate discussions about the admission of women to the present men's colleges. A new Committee on the Membership of the College was constituted from the previous one. The decisive move was taken on 16 June 1971 by a majority of 24 in favour to 8 against, to alter Statute I by the deletion of Clause 2 which read "No woman may become a member of the College".

On 26 April 1972 Governing Body accepted a report sent to Hebdomadal Council (the decision-making body of the University in those days) in which arrangements agreed between the women's colleges and Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, St. Catherine's and Wadham Colleges (which became known as 'the five') and suggested that the first admissions should be in October 1974. It took until 24 January 1973 for a report to come back to Governing Body that the Queen in Council (the Privy Council) had approved the changes in the statutes, as it had to do.

So it was that 28 women matriculated in Michaelmas 1974 at the same time as four other colleges: in Brasenose they were allocated to staircases 12 and 16. This included an undergraduate of colour, Raksha Shah, and two mature students, Sheila Mahon and Nina Goodchild. Six women postgraduates were recorded in the following academic year, 1975-6, after a further decision had been made to admit them. John Habbakuk, the Principal of Jesus College, rightly predicted that in ten years' time no-one would give these changes a second thought and so it proved.

However the depth of hostility, suspicion and fear at this time can be seen at Princeton where Gardner Patterson (who headed a committee looking at co-education there) asked heads of administrative offices about the likely effect on their operations of enrolment of women, and Arthur Horton, the director of development, replied that "we will run headlong into a huge problem (as any co-ed place will confirm) that if surnames are changed (i.e. when alumna Joyce Jones becomes Mrs John Smith). This is a problem and would require more indexes and cross references and of course just plain more of everything in the record keeping world. Plus a lot of confusion" (cited in Nancy Melkiel's *Keep the Damned Women Out: The Struggle for Co-Education* (Princeton) p.111). Apparently that did not prove an insurmountable problem at Brasenose or probably anywhere else.

E.N. Willmer, a professor of histology at Clare College, Cambridge, said that admitting women would contravene the “fundamental physiological fact” that “woman is attractive to man and man to woman... The proximity of women is inevitably a distraction to men and as such is likely to interfere with their sustained study and mental effort” (Melkiel p.517). That may have been more of an issue! There was a lot of straightforward misogyny not least the US College “Leader” who wrote what became the ignominious title of Nancy’s book *Keep the Damned Women Out*.

The move to becoming co-educational contributed to Brasenose developing the capacity to offer undergraduates accommodation in all years of study. Prior to the 1970s, it was normal for students to ‘live out’ for at least a year of their degree and sometimes more. Within a few decades, for the first time in its history the great majority of students were able to spend all of their time living alongside Brasenose students on either the main site or the Frewin annexe. This in itself constituted a profound change and Brasenose was in the vanguard of this shift, partly because it had taken a lead in 1974 to admit women alongside men.

The Fellowship

There were women teaching male undergraduates before 1974. The history of women being paid to teach in temporary posts, but not appointed to well-salaried tenured posts, is a long one. It was suggested in a report presented to Governing Body in December 1972 that the College should elect a woman Fellow in anticipation of the admission of women. On 24 January 1983, however, Governing Body decided not to do so. Brasenose had engaged a woman lecturer from 1973 (Margery Grace Ord, Lecturer in biochemistry) and Janet Dyson in medicine. Mary Archer covered for Graham Richards while he taught at Stanford for a year in 1974 (she was married to a former Brasenose student called Jeffrey). On 28 April 1976, Susan Treggiari of the University of Ottawa (although originally British) was elected as a Visiting Fellow for the academic year 1976-1977. She is a classicist and remains an active member of our Brasenose community.

On 1 October 1981 Mary Stokes was the first woman to be elected to an official fellowship (an achievement that is celebrated by a plaque outside our Stallybrass Law Library). As Ms Stokes had a fellowship at Harvard Law School, she did not take up the fellowship at Brasenose

until October 1982. Rosa Beddington (who was amongst the first cohort and gained the first female first class degree at the College) was elected as a Fellow soon after with effect from 1 October 1982. She became Jenner Fellow and Fellow of the Royal Society moving on to head a lab at National Institute for Medical Research. Sadly she died at the age of 40. After Dr Stokes' departure to a successful career at the bar there was a gap in Governing Body Fellows until the arrival of Anne Edwards in 1994 (also part of the first cohort) and later Sos Eltis in 1997. Both remain Fellows.

We now have 14 women out of 42 members of Governing Body, and nine of our Research Fellows are female. This is still not enough, but we are on an upward trajectory and of course not so many Fellowships come up each year. We are however making progress and we have female Fellows in what might have been seen as traditionally male-dominated subjects like physics and engineering. The first female Chaplain was the Reverend Julia Baldwin, appointed in September 2017.

The first cohort

So what was it like in those first years? Women students started soon to run clubs and societies and succeeded well academically. The *Brasen Nose* reported somewhat haughtily that “there is every indication that the women have taken their place in the academic community without prejudice to their identity, and that their contribution to the life of the College is of the highest value.”

Jane Raymond was the first woman JCR Secretary in Michaelmas 1975. By 1981-82 there was the first female JCR President, Lucinda Riches. The first recorded all-women's dining society – the Somerset (named after our benefactress) started in 1977 or 1978. Sarah Woodward (now Sarah Martin, married to BNC alum Alastair Martin) was the first woman to chair a society – the Pater, an arts society. The first BNC undergrad couple to marry in College were Huw Williams and Alison Playfer in July 1980.

Writing in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* in October 1974 one reporter described the scene this way: “It only needed a beginning of term stroll through the porters' lodges where Habitat bags and vanity cases were piled up against the usual trunks to realise that things were going to be very different.”

Nancy Hulek (née Thorpe), who matriculated in 1974, has provided a fascinating ringside account that “When the first 28 women came up to BNC in 1974 it was to what was essentially a men’s college; we were even addressed as ‘Mr’ in the plentiful advertising mail from gentlemen’s outfitters and the like that awaited us! On the whole we were treated fairly though not equally: major efforts had been made to provide for our needs: on the two staircases reserved for women each room received a full-length mirror and we had our own ironing room at the top of staircase 12... No more stale dinner rolls being thrown around at dinner, with the aim of lodging them behind the portraits hung high on the walls, women’s sports clubs, students called by their first names, and generally a civilised atmosphere. With the transition to a mixed college, many of the old traditions had also gone: we were no longer required to send our sheets in advance of the first day of term so that the beds could be made up ready; in fact no-one made the beds at all if we didn’t.”

Habbakuk was right; after a few years no one noticed there were women in the College. Soon most other colleges went mixed, including the women’s colleges. Eventually, co-education was accepted as preferable and superior to the alternative. It was a momentous, hugely successful and civilising decision and I am proud that Brasenose was amongst the first five colleges to go down this road. It is appropriate we should celebrate.

With thanks to Dr Eltis, Dr Smith, Jane Johnson, our Archivists and to alumnae Drusilla Gabbott and Sarah Jackson who produced a brilliant booklet called Brasenose Women’s Firsts.

THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN TO BRASENOSE

*by Brasenose College Archives
(originally compiled by Elizabeth Boardman)*

In an attempt to recapture how the admission of women was perceived at the time, we have republished some extracts from the *Brazen Noses* of the period.

The Brazen Nose 1975

Pages 17-18

The first women students matriculated in Michaelmas Term 1974:

- Miss K. S. Allen
- Miss R. Arnold
- Miss R. S. P. Beddington
- Miss K. S. Child
- Miss C. I. Collier
- Miss J. A. O Cowap
- Miss A. Edwards
- Miss M. L. Fawcett
- Miss E. A. Gallagher
- Mrs M. B. H. Goodchild
- Miss S. M. C. Jones
- Miss A. J. Kelly
- Miss J. S. Lawson
- Miss S. Mahon
- Miss R. M. S. Merfield
- Miss J. M. E. Mole
- Miss A. D. Piantkiwskyj
- Miss S. J. Raymond
- Miss S. F. Rayner
- Miss J. S. Reid-Kay
- Miss R. Shah
- Miss N. M. Thorpe
- Miss D. Toft
- Miss E. E. Tynan
- Miss E. G. Walkington
- Miss A. F. Whittaker
- Miss S. A. Woodward
- Miss E. J. Woolley

Pages 6-7:

“... the most significant thing about 1974-5 is that this is the year that has seen women undergraduates come into residence. It has taken a long time for the dream that T. H. Huxley outlined in ‘Emancipation — Black and White’ to come to fruition in Brasenose: let us have ‘sweet girl graduates’ by all means. They will be none the less sweet for a little wisdom; and the ‘golden hair’ will not curl less gracefully outside the head by reason of there being brains within. Nay, if obvious practical difficulties can be overcome, let those women who feel inclined to do

so, descend into the gladiatorial arena of life, not merely in the guise of *retiariae*, as heretofore, but as bold *sicariae*, breasting the open fray. (*The Reader*, 20th May, 1865)

At least one of the girls has ‘breasted the fray’, as it were, not exactly in the arena, but on the river, and tough old rowing men who celebrated being 2nd of the River in 1875 would have been not a little surprised to be told that the 1975 1st Eight would be coxed by a diminutive girl: Jane Reid-Kay. One recalls the verses at the beginning of the Rowing Club’s minute book (1837):

‘That self-same pluck which erst has shone
On Isis waters is not gone,
But still remains, perhaps unseen,
And will again come on the scene...’

and imagines that the thought of female talent helping to raise Brasenose ‘to its own pinnacle of fame’ was especially invisible in the first year of Victoria’s reign. However, it seems likely that in realms of sports and academics women are likely to be a feature of Brasenose life from now on, and their presence is particularly appreciated at social gatherings. Their advent has been as undramatic as it has been welcome; such a transition in the 20s and 30s would have been an enormous shock, not to say a trauma, but the changing social climate, not only of Oxford but of the whole society, has made it a non-revolutionary event. The greatest shock was undoubtedly sustained by an ancient gown, which was borrowed by a girl, and returned to the scout washed, ironed and intact, even though exposed to so novel an experience at its advanced age. Twenty-seven women matriculated in Michaelmas 1975: they live on staircases 12 and 16. For male undergraduates it will never be quite the same, and the comforting masculine enclave into which young men could retreat after the wounds of love and the humiliation of sporting defeats is gone for ever, so that they can only sigh nostalgically, with Marvell: ‘Two Paradises ‘twere in one/To live in Paradise alone.’ But they will find compensations.”

Junior Common Room report for 1975

“Anticipation, fear or indifference were the feelings of Junior members towards the prospective First-year in 1974. The admission of ‘Nosewomen’ which took place in Michaelmas must rank historically

as one of the College's great changes. Admittedly the process is gradual, with some 26 women having been admitted initially, but for those of us who have witnessed the transition, albeit partial, it seems difficult to identify the beginnings of any dramatic changes in College life beyond those which have already been taking place; a greater level of conversation at breakfast is said to be the most notable effect, for good or ill depending on one's temperament.

A notable innovation this year, in which several of the girls have played an important part, is the creation of the Events Committee (a name of little merit adopted in the absence of anything better). This has provided several Sunday evening discussions during the year with distinguished guests, those with Professors Wain and Khan Freund being particularly memorable.' (J.M. Fletcher and R.A. Kyprianou in the *Brazen Nose*, page 62)

Brasenose Players report for 1975

"It is with pleasure that I can report another successful year for College dramatics. In Michaelmas Term, Julian Hilton wrote a pantomime for Cuppers which was very well received by the O.U.D.S. judges, and which only narrowly escaped a place in the final three. Sarah Woodward particularly deserves mention for her achievement in pulling the production together in just little over two weeks." (H.G.L. Russell in the *Brazen Nose*, page 65). Sarah Woodward was the Secretary and Sara Williams (?) the Treasurer for the Brasenose Players in 1975.

Women had a role in the Boat Club for the first time:

'we found a lady cox, Jane Reid-Kay, who was not only lighter than most men, but also made a very good cox.' (Boat Club report, page 68). Jane Reid-Kay coxed the First Eight.

The Brazen Nose 1976

Page 3:

"Any system of education which sets before women the cultivation of the intellect and the attainment of knowledge as the ends for which they ought to strive are grounded on erroneous notions as to what woman is'. That is the Visitor to Brasenose writing: Christopher Wordsworth (Bishop of Lincoln from 1869 to 1885). But the whole experience of Brasenose, now in its second year of co-education, is emphatically against the spirit in which observations of that kind were once made,

since there is every indication that the women have taken their place in the academic community without prejudice to their identity, and that their contribution to the life of the College is of the highest value.”

Pages 9-10:

“Undergraduate life goes on its equable way. Brasenose did not distinguish itself in the Norrington table this year – coming 26th. However, not all is gloomy: there were four Firsts in Law, and Miss Jeannie Lawson shared with a woman undergraduate from Hertford the distinction of being the first woman from a mixed college to get a First in Classical Honour Mods. On the river Miss Sara Williams distinguished herself by being a member of the crew that defeated Cambridge VIII in the thirteenth race. It was the first time the Oxford VIII had won.

Blues and half-Blues 1975-76: Miss K. S. Child in swimming and Sara Williams in rowing.”

In 1976 Miss S. J. Raymond was JCR Secretary. Jane Reid-Kay wrote the report for the Boat Club in the 1976 *Brazen Nose*.

Page 59, Ellesmere Society report

“We welcomed ladies to the Society for the first time in Michaelmas term and the presence of ladies as members and guests at the Annual Dinner on November 14th, 1975 contributed to a most enjoyable evening.”

Brazen Nose 1977

Pages 8-9:

“The Events Committee has continued to inject a good deal of life into the College. This year Patricia Hitchcock and John Dovey were editors of *Isis*. The Pater Society was supervised by its first woman President, Sarah Woodward. One wonders what Walter Pater would have thought, who did, after all, write in his ‘Essay on Style’ that the scholarly conscience was male, since the female conscience traverses the ground “so lightly, so amiably’

The presence of women residents in the College is by now so normal and unremarkable that it is no longer news in this magazine. It was news in a T.V. programme on 10 October 1976 which attempted to register some of the changes in Oxford. A star of the show was Jane Reid-Kay (1974), who was heard in full voice from the cox’s seat, and summed up the bliss of what it was like to be alive in the dawn of the experiment in co-residence. Of the women undergraduates, one made history by

being the first to gain a First Class Degree in Brasenose (of her sex that is): we congratulate Rosa Beddington.

Brasenose improved its position in the Norrington Table this year, coming 18th. The entry of women has not made a dramatic difference to our performance in the Schools, but it is too early to come to any conclusions yet about the impact on academic achievement. The general view has been that mixed Colleges are going to follow suit, with the exception of Christ Church, Merton, Oriiel, St Hugh's, St Hilda's and Somerville. The changes will probably increase the number of women undergraduates from the present 27 per cent to something nearer the national average of 36 per cent."

In 1977 Sara Jones was Secretary of the JCR.

Page 69, Pater Society report

Presidents: Sarah Woodward, James Flynn, Sara Jones.

"Sarah Woodward began her Presidency with a paper on 'The Arab Horse and the History of the Thoroughbred' in which she traced the descent of a breed now admired all over Europe and America... Sara Jones continued the linguistic theme with her paper 'The American Language: Judicious Neology or Barbarous English?'

Miss J. S. Lawson seems to have been President of the Philosophical Society in 1977 and Secretary of the Music Society – Michaelmas Term 1977 saw the rebirth of the Philosophical Society and the Music Society was instituted in Michaelmas Term 1976.

The Monogerminal Society was founded in Hilary Term 1976 to provide a forum for creative writers in the College (page 72). Caroline Collier was Treasurer in 1978.

Page 73, Boat Club report

"The women also decided to return to the river after a term's absence (rainy weather in Hilary term), dragging with them the unfortunate secretary [P. Boddington, male, writer of report] who, having offered to coach, was all too often to be seen rowing when one or more of the crew failed to show up. On a more serious note, though, the women seemed much better this year, and showed determination in proving that rowing is not just a male sport, and it is to be hoped that the numbers will continue to swell in the future.

It is more than disappointing to have to report that, after so much early promise, the 4th VIII and Ladies' VIII failed to qualify in the face of rather stiffer competition than usual."

The Brazen Nose 1978

Page 9:

"The undergraduates continue to perform well; the College's place in the Norrington Table was 16th. There were 11 Firsts, 69 Seconds and 13 Thirds. There were some women firsts, including ...Kim Tither. After four years of co-residence we now have a happily integrated society: we are a long way from the world of Peacock's Anthelia: 'In our sex a taste for intellectual pleasure is almost equivalent to taking the veil'. The numbers stand in October 1977 at 294 men and 131 women. This grand total of 425 includes 89 graduates. In Hilary 1978 ... there were 269 junior members in residence: 146 in the main College buildings and 123 in Frewin.

Many of the older clubs have disappeared ... but new ones arise. The Somerset is an example, a women's dining club named after the College's benefactress the Duchess of Somerset."

Page 12:

"We look forward with interest to December 1978 and the shape of the entry. Suddenly nearly all Oxford colleges have become co-residential, including Lady Margaret Hall, and as we go to press yet more are deciding to keep up with the times. Brasenose hopes that it will continue to attract a good calibre of candidate, and from a wide variety of schools."

Page 78:

'In the dusty little corners where Nosemen (and women) drink together, there has been argument about when the sudden rise in the fortunes of the all-male Phoenix Common Room really began. Perhaps the most propitious moment was a certain October evening in 1974 when B.N.C. admitted women to its ranks for the first time. There is little doubt now that this change has been good for the college; it has certainly been good for the club.

Frantic searches for members ha[ve] disappeared, and functions multiply despite inflation. Surrounded by female patter the new B.N.C. man has learnt to cherish the few functions that remain an all-male

preserve: a new dimension has been added to the relationship between the B.N.C. man and the all-male club.’

Page 80:

Pater Society: “Jeannie Lawson spoke on the De-schooling of Society.”

Reminiscences

Janet Dyson

As Brasenose celebrates the 30th anniversary of the admission of its first female undergraduates, I thought that it might be worth noting that in fact BNC had two female college lecturers during the academic year 1973-74, the year before women undergraduates were admitted. I was Lecturer in mathematics, during Bryan Birch’s sabbatical, and I believe there was another one (not in maths), though I never met her. It was my first teaching job and I have happy memories of my year in the college. It was a good introduction to tutorial teaching. I was made very welcome by the fellows, though I remember one being polite but clearly horrified by the presence of a woman at lunch in the Stocker Room.

Nancy Hulek (matriculated 1974)

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

When a women’s staircase was set up in New Inn Hall Street for second-year students, no-one was really interested in being segregated

or in need of a safe haven from the men. Finding ourselves tenth and eleventh from the bottom of the room ballot for the second year Dot Toft and I resigned ourselves to compiling a list of the ten worst rooms the college could offer – and in those days this even included one with a gurgling water tank in the middle of the room. What a relief when there were still two rooms left in 38 New Inn Hall Street and no need to share a room with the water supply... Here we were left to our own devices, with a shared kitchen, highly unusual in those days, as a bonus, a gas fire to make toast on, and a full-length mirror, of course. My safety-conscious brother instructed me in the rudiments of self-defence, as the unlocked front door opened into the street. Memories include a shared bathroom with dripping pullovers hanging over the bath, and once what I thought was a dead body in it, luckily turning out to be a neoprene suit left to soak after one of Dot's caving expeditions. My room had obviously been divided from the one next to it; there was a gap at the bottom of the dividing wall that you could put your hand through, but luckily my neighbour was quiet and spent long hours in the labs or on the lacrosse field.

During the first two years women were very much in the minority, with a second limited quota of women being admitted in 1975. In 1976 the Equal Opportunities Act led to the abolition of the quota, so that by the time I returned from a third year spent in Munich as part of my language studies the college had two undergraduate years with more women than men and a handful of women graduate students, and the character of the college had changed for ever. No more stale dinner rolls being thrown around at dinner, with the aim of lodging them behind the portraits hung high on the walls, women's sports clubs, students called by their first names, and generally a civilised atmosphere. With the transition to a mixed college, many of the old traditions had also gone: we were no longer required to send our sheets in advance of the first day of term so that the beds could be made up ready; in fact no one made the beds at all if we didn't. Gowns were no longer required for tutorials. Kitchens were making their appearance on the refurbished staircases on New Inn Hall and St Michael's Streets. I felt privileged to be at Brasenose, and in particular to experience the college at a time of transition.

Susan Bewley (matriculated 1976)

We had such problems being “allowed” to use a boat. The male members of BNC BC were so hostile and discouraging of our efforts, suggesting that we’d have no sense of direction and would crash the boat. There were problems even getting eight of us to train and take part, so everyone was vital. On one occasion we only had seven rowers available so we had to borrow a young man from Wadham who wore a blonde wig. Not that it helped – all I recall of Eights Week was glorious failure.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY AND WOMEN: A VIEW FROM 1953–6

by David Harrison (Modern Languages, 1953)

Following the reunion and online discussion between five distinguished women graduates of Brasenose in the autumn – marking 50 years since women were admitted to College – Principal John Bowers invited David Harrison, at BNC from 1953-6, to offer some thoughts on life in College when it was strictly single-sex.

David writes:

Going up to Brasenose in October 1953 was something of a cultural shock. Just three weeks earlier I had disembarked from an army transport plane flying home from Egypt. I had just spent 13 months of my two years National Service serving as a junior officer in 16 Parachute Brigade; also living in a tent alongside the Suez Canal.

Our job there was to ‘mind’ the Canal and to ensure the regular passage of shipping at a time when President Nasser of Egypt was toying with the idea of ‘nationalising’ the Canal. We did some parachuting on the Sinai Peninsula and one memorable drop in Cyprus.

There was little social life. At regular dinners in the officers’ mess the subalterns made up verses about parachuting to try to draw a smile from guests. In 13 months the only woman I remember talking to was a popular singer who came to entertain the garrison.

Now that was over and I had to turn my mind to getting through Prelims in French and German, relying on a Higher School Certificate (now ‘A’-level) and some time spent with a brilliant family in Normandy.

Studying French at Oxford, as I was soon aware, involved rather more about the history and development of the language through Vulgar Latin and Old French than chatting in French to friendly undergraduates or spending a term in France which I would have welcomed.

In my second-year life moved on, as I wrote home: “It transpires that this term my education is to be in the hands of three women tutors. One for 19th century literature, one for mediaeval texts and the third for 17th century syntax”. That meant regular tutorials in St Hilda’s, and alternative weeks at Lady Margaret Hall and St. Anne’s.

I added in my note: “Their approach is quite different and I have a feeling that their less formal attitude pays dividends. At all events it makes a pleasant change to go somewhere different”. It was my first view of a women’s college, but these weren’t exactly social exchanges. We didn’t stay for as much as a cup of coffee.

There was another distraction. As it happened, the RAF/Army Parachute Training Base was at Abingdon, only five miles from Oxford. After a couple of sessions of ground training I was able to do the odd parachute jump. It was a great thrill to ‘Stand in the Door’ as we flew over the university spires then parachute at Weston on the Green and be back in time for a morning lecture.

With three other ex-National Service Paras from other colleges we used to meet for regular suppers at the Mitre Hotel, not far from BNC, and toast our parachuting exploits, while being rather patronising about those youthful students who hadn’t yet done National Service; perhaps even more so about those who had served in what Paras, including me, called “Crap Hat Units”. No ladies were invited.

I had another preoccupation – trying to get in to the university football team. After the freshman trials I was picked at right half (now right midfield) and kept my place as we played a series of fixtures against pro clubs, all leading to the University Match against Cambridge at Wembley in December.

One such game was on 12 November 1953. We were due to play West Bromwich Albion at Iffley Road. It was my 21st birthday but I didn’t let on. We lost 7-0. That night I had an essay to write for a tutorial the next day. So that was that. Not a glass raised nor a smile exchanged.

Then came the Varsity match at Wembley. We drew 1-1 with Cambridge before a crowd of 6,000. The *Daily Express* wrote of a

“display of soccer that would have delighted any of Wembley’s 100,000 crowds”. Afterwards came the traditional dinner between the two teams, plus partners. With no regular girlfriend I invited the waitress from the Isis Hotel in Iffley Road, Oxford, where we met for pre-match lunches before games. That night I think I paid my partner’s train fare back to Oxford.

We were proud to be playing in one of the longest standing competitive matches in the history of football. The first varsity match was in 1875. The game scheduled for 15 March 2025 will mark the 150th anniversary of the fixture. The first ladies’ match was in 1986.

Another activity was to find myself elected President of the Brasenose J.C.R., the Junior Common Room, representing fellow undergraduates. The duties were not exactly onerous – discussing the state of the communal showers in the bath house, amending library opening hours. Another issue was the hours at which ladies were allowed into this all male college. Up to 6pm. was the rule. After some discussion in my third year, followed by a vote, we extended to 10pm.

As JCR President I had a special set of rooms including my own bathroom close to the High Street. The window in the bathroom opened onto a passage from where late night revellers could climb in or out of college after the Front Gate closed at 10pm. I had “the privilege” of keeping the window open. It was a well used access and exit point; I don’t remember it ever being used by ladies. We were a pretty unadventurous bunch.

An annual activity of the JCR was to encourage fellow students to prepare their ‘Ale Verses’ for for College Supper on Shrove Tuesday, verses like those about “The Nose” i.e. Brasenose, which took pride of place in my year. They were launched at a special dinner in Hall when a silver bowl of spiced ale was passed around. They just about summed up our all-male ethos:

“I hear the Nose got thirteen Firsts,
 Good God it can’t be true.
 Who starts these ghastly rumours?
 For ‘Firsts’ do they mean ‘Blues’?”

Oh no, old chap, it’s true enough,
 I’ve just been back there now.

Someone did say the place has changed.
It's changed all right and how.

But are those days now over?
Those cheery, beery days?
The place is full of dull young men
With academic ways.

What do they find to do, these chaps?
They can't just work all day.
The best years of their blooming lives,
Are simply thrown away."

THE RULE OF LAW

by John Bowers KC

The rule of law; what is it and why is it so important

"Be you ever so high, the law is above you"¹

Dr Thomas Fuller 1733

"Sentence first, verdict afterwards", the Queen of Hearts (Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*)

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar resigned on 14 April 2022 from his role as a minister at the Justice Ministry. His letter was more notable than most. In fact, it was a collectors' item. The perceived infringement of the rule of law was at the heart of the concerns that led him to leave the Johnson government. The impetus for this missive was Johnson's failure to resign over the fixed-penalty notices that had been issued to him by the police over 'Partygate'. It was sent some three months before the mass of ministerial resignation letters that precipitated the Prime Minister's ultimate fall from power. As an experienced barrister, Wolfson's primary concern was the infringement of the rule of law. The letter referenced the *Somerset Case*, decided in 1772, where Lord Mansfield importantly said "justice prevails though let heavens fall". This is the essence of the complex (yet essentially simple) concept of the rule of law.

Wolfson said that the PM's actions were "inconsistent with the rule of law" and that it would be wrong for "that conduct to pass with constitutional impunity". He stressed that "Justice may often be a matter of courts and procedures but the rule of law is something else – a constitutional principle which, at its root, means that everyone in a state, and indeed the state itself, is subject to law". It goes all the way back to 1297, when Magna Carta was put on the statute books, and this is clear: "We will sell to no man, we will not deny or defer to any man either Justice or Right", as Article 29 proudly proclaims.

The legal scholar Brian Tamanaha calls the rule of law the "pre-eminent legitimating political ideal in the world today". It is both a legal rule and political ideal. The rule of law is central to our constitution and goes beyond the law as it is applied day to day. But what *does* it mean? There is a lot of talk about it but what is it in theory and in practice?

What is it?

The use of the term is promiscuous,² and the separate nuances of meaning depend on your legal and political standpoint and why you are considering it. It is ultimately more of a political construct and philosophy than a legal principle.

Overall, it comprises the control of politics by legal standards and the fair enforcement of the law for everyone (so that there are no special favours). The rule of law is a political ideal which a legal system may possess or may lack to a greater or lesser degree. There is indeed a spectrum. It should never be weaponised to serve purely partisan political ends.

It is "an overarching principle of constitutional law".³ People of goodwill can probably detect a threat to the rule of law when one comes to light just as they can understand what an elephant is but probably not define it.⁴ It (the rule of law, not the elephant) is defined in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* as "the mechanism, process, institution, practice, or norm that supports the equality of all citizens before the law, secures a nonarbitrary form of government, and more generally prevents the arbitrary use of power."

The World Justice Project definition involves "accountability, just law, open government, and accessible and impartial justice." We often define the rule of law by what it stands in contrast to. It implies that every citizen is subject to the law and may be seen as a contrast to the

idea that the ruler is above the law, for example by a divine right to rule. Jeremy Waldron, for instance, draws a clear distinction between ‘the rule of law’, which is a philosophical and legal ideal, and ‘a rule of law’, which is much more mundane, referring to a specific rule that is required by law.

Most legal theorists point to purely formal characteristics of the rule of law and contend that there are no requirements with regard to the *content* of the law. These components are, it seems to me, the key features:

- a. *authority*: Express legal authority must be shown for interferences with individual rights so that in effect you can do anything which is not expressly prohibited. Its ‘twin sister’ is that Governments should comply with the judgments made by the courts. There should be general rules that apply to classes of persons and behaviours as opposed to individuals.
- b. *prospective*: Laws should be general, prospective, open, clear and stable and give effective guidance to those who are subjected to them. There should be little or no retroactive law.
- c. *known to all*: Laws should be known to people and not be unnecessarily complex; people should be able to understand what they have to do and not do.
- d. *Equal under the law*: the Government is to be treated no differently from ordinary citizens in terms of the applicable laws. Lord Bingham’s important work *The Rule of Law* defined the central premise of the concept as, “that all persons and authorities within the state, whether public or private, should be bound by and entitled to the benefit of laws publicly made, taking effect (generally) in the future and publicly administered in the courts”.⁵ It is indeed at the heart of the human rights framework, especially the European Convention of Human Rights, and it closely interacts with it.⁶ Bingham also saw as part of the concept that “ministers and public officials at all levels must exercise the powers conferred on them reasonably, in good faith, for the purpose for which the powers were conferred and without exceeding the limits of such powers”,⁷ and also to maintain proper public standards.⁸

That applies whether you are Prime Minister or a Secretary of State or even a member of the Royal Family. No one should be above the

law and everyone is subject to the ordinary courts. Magna Carta itself formulated so many centuries ago requires that the Government should not be treated differently from ordinary citizens. The great constitutional scholar Prof A.V. Dicey many years ago said that all officials should be bound by the “ordinary law of the land and amenable to the jurisdiction of the ordinary tribunals” and that “the rule of law is imperilled where certain people are able to defy the law”.⁹ Dicey made the important but basic point that, whilst the government has powers beyond those of ordinary citizens, every official from the prime minister down to a constable or collector of taxes is under the same responsibility for every act done without legal justification as any other citizen.¹⁰ The rule of law “excludes the idea of any exemption of officials or others from the duty of obedience to the law which governs other citizens or from the jurisdiction of the ordinary tribunals”.¹¹ Bingham also opined that “Legal questions should be determined according to law, not by the exercise of discretion”;

- e. *Access to the courts*: For the rule of law to have real meaning, a citizen must also be able to challenge illegalities through the courts which must be open to all. Lord Irvine in *Boddington v BTP* [1999] 2 AC 143 at 161 commented that “It is well recognised to be important for the maintenance of the rule of law and the preservation of liberty that individuals affected by legal measures promulgated by executive public bodies should have a fair opportunity to challenge these measures and to vindicate their rights in court proceedings”. This is another crucial aspect of increasing importance. As Lord Reed said in the *UNISON* case regarding the imposition of fees for applications to employment tribunals (which was declared unlawful by the Supreme Court), “The constitutional right of access to the courts is inherent in the rule of law”.¹²
- f. *Fairness or natural justice*: Others use the term to describe the bare irreducible minimum for legal regulation in a modern democratic society. As Lord Steyn said in 1997, “the rule of law enforces minimum standards of fairness, both substantive and procedural”.¹³ Part of this is that the nature and limits of encroachment on civil liberties should be clearly stated in advance of any action taken in the name of the state. Another sense of the concept is, as Frank Vibert put it, “There should be conformity between the law on the books and

the law in the real world and that laws should be publicly accessible and inapplicable retroactively”¹⁴

- g. *An independent judiciary*: the rule of law depends upon there being an independent judiciary with individual independence in their decision making and institutional independence. That is vital to ensure an effective system of adjudication and that the powerful – for example governments, large corporations and trade unions – have no special advantage in the courts.
- h. *The ethical underpinning*: Genuine rule of law probably requires a common set of values to underpin it, beyond the formality of a document, and these must include the key ethical principles such as those laid down in the Nolan Report. When standards slip too much, public disrespect for the State presents a real and important threat to it.
- i. There should be consistency of application and (no contradictory laws).

International

The rule of law is at the heart of the human rights framework, especially the European Convention of Human Rights, and it closely interacts with it¹⁵, and that is true in particular of article 6 of the Convention which guarantees the right to a fair trial. Bingham also saw as part of the concept that “ministers and public officials at all levels must exercise the powers conferred on them reasonably, in good faith, for the purpose for which the powers were conferred and without exceeding the limits of such powers”¹⁶ and also to maintain proper public standards¹⁷. Human rights are universal. Human responsibilities including good standards of public conduct should be similarly universal in scope.

Asia

Rule *of* law can be distinguished from rule *by* law, according to political science professor Li Shuguang: “The difference ... is that, under the rule of law, the law is preeminent and can serve as a check against the abuse of power. Under rule by law, the law is a mere tool for a government, that suppresses in a legalistic fashion.”

East Asian cultures are influenced generally by two schools of thought, Confucianism, which advocated good governance as rule by leaders who are benevolent and virtuous, and Legalism, which advocated strict adherence to law.

The Government as law breaker

So we can see that the rule of law is inevitably undermined where the Government itself (as well as senior government officers) breaks the law, whether this is domestic or international law, where there is seen to be one law for those in power and other rules for everyone else. This is what Wolfson was talking about.

Both Boris Johnson (then Prime Minister) and Sunak (then Chancellor of the Exchequer) received a fixed-penalty notice for their role in parties in Number 10 Downing Street during the Covid pandemic. More than this, the Johnson years saw a level of contempt for the rule of law; it was almost Trumpian in intensity. For example, his government proposed post-Brexit legislation that was clearly and admittedly in breach of international law. This feature returned in May 2022, when the Government decided to repudiate the Northern Irish Protocol to which they were bound. The Internal Market Bill would break the binding agreement with the EU but only in “a very specific and limited way”, as the then-Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Brandon Lewis, rather laconically said.¹⁸ This was later withdrawn from the Northern Ireland Internal Market Act 2020, but Sir Jonathan Jones, the respected head of the Government Legal Service, resigned in protest. Bizarrely Lewis eventually became Secretary of State for Justice in September 2022, although only under the forty-nine-day premiership of Liz Truss.

This notion of the rule of law was put at risk time and again under the Johnson government, for example in the excusing of Dominic Cummings for breaching lockdown rules, in the proroguing of Parliament to avoid debates on Brexit that might not have gone as planned (which was eventually found to be unlawful by the Supreme Court)¹⁹ and in the apparent immunity of those ministers breaking ministerial rules, such as Priti Patel.

The rule of law is under threat from declining standards in public life. We have a uniquely powerful prime ministerial constitutional model, so the character of the PM is really important. Thank goodness for the rule of law.

The final word comes from our alumnus David Cameron, now Britain’s Foreign Secretary: on the anniversary of Magna Carta he said “Our freedom doesn’t come from thin air. It is rooted in our parliamentary democracy and free press. Our sense of responsibility and the rule of law is attached to our courts and independent judiciary”.

This is the slightly modified text of a talk delivered at Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur, in December 2023

Notes

- 1 Cited in Bingham *The Rule of Law* p62.
- 2 See the chapter ‘Rule of Law and its Virtues’ in Joseph Raz *The Authority of Law*, OUP, 2009.
- 3 Lord Steyn, ‘Democracy Through Law’ 2002 *European Human Rights Law Review* (2002) 723, 727.
- 4 Lord Diplock in the House of Lords in *R v Rimmington* [2005] UKHL 63 said, “The acceptance of the rule of law as a constitutional principle requires that a citizen, before committing himself to any course of action should be able to know in advance what are the legal principles which flow from it”.
- 5 In September 2005 the Council of International Bar Associations said “the rule of law is the foundation of a civilised society. It enables a transparent process accessible and equal to all. It ensures adherence to principles that both liberate and protect”.
- 6 See Bingham *ibid*. It is described as “the backbone of our civilisation”: Geert Corstens, *Understanding the Rule of Law* (Bloomsbury, 2017), 13.
- 7 Lord Bingham [2007] CLJ 67 at p78.
- 8 *Ibid*.
- 9 p194.
- 10 p193.
- 11 Dicey *The Law of the Constitution* (1885), 202.
- 12 [2017] ICR 1037 para 66.
- 13 Bingham at p62.
- 14 *The Rise of the Unelected; Democracy and the New Separation of Powers* (Cambridge, 2007), 60. Other aspects which have been identified by Raz are that laws should be relatively stable; the judiciary should be independent; natural justice; and that discretion should be limited.
- 15 See Tom Bingham, *The Rule of Law* (Penguin, 2010).
- 16 Lord Bingham Cambridge lecture, [2007] CLJ 67 at p78.
- 17 *Ibid*.
- 18 8 September 2020.
- 19 *The Guardian* 11 February 2022.

HADRIAN'S WALL WALK

by *Drusilla Gabbott (English, 1982)*

Fancy a walk? The Brasenose Society road-tests a three-day stroll on Hadrian's wall, a choice with strong BNC connections.

The Brasenose Society arranged a three-day walk on Hadrian's Wall 23-27 April 2024. The objective was to test potential alumni interest in walking and road-test a walk BNC year reps or friendship groups might attempt too. It was the third of three we've piloted.

In all, 18 alumni expressed an interest – one friendship group from the 1970s finally deciding they wouldn't join us but might well do the walk themselves – and 10 others deciding to make up a party. The lure for most wasn't simply walking, but the historic pull of the wall.

We had four walkers from 1982, one from 1978 and one from 1990. Two other walkers dropped out at the last minute due to injury. All knew the organisers. In addition, we had a stalwart husband (my own), and a friend from 'the other place'. We had a lot of fun: it was lovely to get to know each other better.

A great coup was the idea of the original organiser David Clark (1970) of asking former Principal Alan Bowman to give us a pre-walk Q&A on Zoom. Alan was the first transcriber of the writing tablets found in Vindolanda's compressed anaerobic mud, which preserves organic artefacts, wood, leather or fabric to an extraordinary level. These tiny wooden tablets bring life on the Roman border to life. Alan's book *Life and Letters on the Roman Frontier* carries transcripts of many of them. Alan told us that the Birley family excavators and original landowners of Vindolanda – had strong BNC connections, with Eric Birley, first chairman of the Vindolanda Trust, having studied at BNC and becoming an honorary Fellow in 1987. Alan patiently answered laymen's questions: how high was the wall originally, how much of it had been stolen, etc, politely flattering our total lack of knowledge by prefacing remarks with 'you may well know this, but'. To the simplest question 'why was the wall built' he encouraged us to think of the Roman border as fluid, with the Romans having 'conquest in their DNA'. Rather than the wall being a defence to keep the Picts out and mark the edge of empire, as we had assumed, the wall might be thought of more as a repository of provisions, troops and defences from

which the empire could flexibly advance or retreat in line with various emperors' ambitions.

To demonstrate this, the National Trail, and Hadrian's Wall, along which we walked, runs a short distance north of a previous Roman transport and fortification line, the Stanegate on which the settlement at Vindolanda is positioned.

We booked a 'highlights of Hadrian's Wall' trip with four nights and three days of walking, the first nine miles, the second 13 and the third eight. This proved fairly demanding as the walk is hilly.

We started at Corbridge (ancient *Coria*), passed through through Chesters and Housesteads Roman forts, mourned over the sad scene of tree-murder at Sycamore Gap and finished at Gilsland, near Birdoswald. The April weather, to our surprise, was sunny!

Want to organise this walk yourself? - some suggestions

We'd recommend anyone considering the walk adapt it to take in Vindolanda, surely the most impressive Roman site in Britain. This can be done simply by staying on for a full or half day at the end of the holiday rather than going straight home on the final morning. We also recommend arriving a few hours early in Corbridge on the first day, and visiting its outdoor Roman town. Both sites have modern museums and stunning artefacts. Housesteads and Chesters, which sit on the trail itself, have less sophisticated site interpretation and Chesters has an authentic Victorian museum: historically important for its own reasons, but a little reminiscent, as Alan observed, of the Pitt Rivers.

To visit Vindolanda, prebook a taxi to drop off and pick up from Hexham, or leave one car at Gilsland and one at Corbridge.

The advantage of booking the tour via one of many professional operators is taxi and luggage transfers and excellent accommodation: a relief at the end of a long day. A highlight was the Beaumont Hotel, Hexham, the restaurant of which is praised both by the *Guardian's* Grace Dent, and by us. The vegetarian on the trip told us she continued to fantasise about her ravioli for the rest of the journey. Our night in Hexham coincided with the Abbey's choral evensong. Almost all of us attended and looked, in our own view at least, impressively devout in our pew.

Any walk like this is a private alumni venture, not a BNC one; so as organisers and walkers you carry the responsibility. Logistics in our case included the two party leaders needing to temporarily advance a deposit

upfront to secure the date and the fact that walkers must have their own travel insurance in case of cancellation or injury.

Having someone slightly more experienced at walking in the party also adds to a feeling of security. Ordnance Survey skills aren't necessary as a guide-book and national trail map get supplied, but a couple of the party were frequent walkers and their more confident map interpretation and GPS apps were helpful.

Investigate and assess the rigours of any walk chosen (easy, medium, difficult). We shared the length of the walk in our BNC advertising, but possibly assumed we could translate miles into a mental picture of difficulty. The walk was hillier than anticipated and walking three days in a row is demanding. Day 2 in particular, at 13 miles, was a bit much for two of us, especially as the walk leaders were nervous about resting for lunch until they reached a key break point with a bus stop. Fortunately, a bus (terminating at 4.30pm sharp) runs on Day 2 from the inhospitable and loo-less Housesteads, at the 10 mile point, to the pub and accommodations at Twice Brewed. This meant anyone who by then had had *quite* enough could cut the 13 mile day short. Getting off the trail at most points if you aren't feeling too good isn't possible.

An organiser should stay with walkers at the back of the party to make sure they are OK, offer poles or retail the bus timetable!

You can book in independent travellers for parts of the walk once you have the contacts to arrange luggage transfers, taxis and accommodation.

Finally, for harmony, split the bill fairly. Dinners weren't included with our package. Over-enthusiastic overspends at dinner (e.g. via ordering two bottles of wine "for the table") initially threatened to be a source of friction, but all the hotels and restaurants were able to split the bill at a very detailed individual level so, for the majority of the trip we took the approach of 'pay only for what you consume'. Important when some drink and others don't!

Summing up

Is there potential for a BNC Alumni walking group? As organiser I feel that for residential walks like this it is unlikely there are enough BNC-ers (vs people in the university as a whole) with a strong interest in walking. Also, a residential walk is a big commitment. I infer from this experience that people are nervous about committing to spending four days and evenings with complete strangers, Nosepersons or not! Walks

seem ideal for friendship or year groups, it is also important to cluster walkers according to the difficulty of walk they can manage.

Our supplier was Mickledore of Keswick – excellent, but of course ‘other brands are available’. Do get in touch with Drusilla@oxygen.uk.com if you’d like to discuss further, get a link to Alan’s video Q&A or look into replicating the trip independently.

LAUS REMIGII

*Introduction by Dr Llewelyn Morgan; Poem by R. C. Lehmann
(originally published in Punch May 7, 1902, p. 330)*

Rudolph Chambers (R.C.; Rudie) Lehmann (1856–1929) was a lawyer, Liberal politician, rowing coach and contributor to *Punch*. The poem reproduced here combines the latter two occupations, and its presence in the *Brazen Nose* is justified, to the extent it has any justification, by Lehmann’s role as coach of the Brasenose College Boat Club from 1887 to 1891. Here, in *Punch* on 7 May 1902, p.330, he celebrates the rowing cultures of Oxford and Cambridge in a *Laus Remigii*, “Praise of Rowing”. The Latin *iners* necessary to generate a rhyme with “-am an urs-” and “-aminers” means “idle,” “sluggish,” while a Wrangler is a high-performing mathematician at Cambridge.

The Springtime, what a mercy ’tis to both our Universities:
They realise the curse it is to read for Trip or Greats.
They both forget their ologies, lay down their load of
knowledges,
And, lo, the giddy colleges divide themselves by Eights.
The Proctor takes it vernally, and, though he fines nocturnally,
Grows kindlier diurnally, and acts like me or you.
If men will get their hands away and swing, he understands
a way
Of putting airs and bands away and cheering on his crew.
Your Don may sometimes sham an ursine manner (like
examiners).
He may declare “I am *iners*, and find my fellows bores”;
But *now* each college resident, Dean, Master, Provost,
President,

By every word he says identifies himself with oars.
 The wrangler hasn't got an use for tangent or hypotenuse:
 He doesn't deem it rotten news to hear about the rows;
 And gentlemen, whose bliss a row of sentences from Cicero
 Is found in, wouldn't miss a row for reams of Latin prose.
 Now coaches—on their star equestrian mounts they're heard
 afar—request
 Their pupils not to mar a quest for bumps by playing
 pranks.
 And mites who do not fear a natatorial risk can steer an
 eight,
 And try to find how near an eight can travel to the banks.
 So here's the praise of boats in May, of many-coloured coats
 in May,
 Of One my mem'ry notes in maiden meditation free,—
 But, since she left me high and dry, her charms I now defy
 and rhyme
 a stave or two to try and dry the tears she weeps for me.

DAVID BRISTER BNC 1971-74

**'He only lived until he was a man,
 But like a man he died.'**

by David Clark (PPE, 1970)

When David died on Mt Nuptse on 14 May 1975, 50 years ago, at the age of 24, he had already achieved as much as many men would achieve in a lifetime.

He had graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as a Second Lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps spending a year in Northern Ireland and elsewhere with the 3rd Battalion the Light Infantry Regiment before coming up to Brasenose College in 1971 gaining a 2nd in Modern History. He had married Eirlys Howell at the end of his first year at BNC and had been selected to take part in the joint British Nepalese Army expedition to climb Mt Everest in 1976 for which the Nuptse expedition was preparation.

He left us with memories of a strong, kind, unaffected and infectiously happy Christian.

David had attended Douai School, where his father also went. Douai was a Roman Catholic School run by English Benedictine monks whose community had started life in Paris in 1615. Douai only left France for its current site in Berkshire in 1903 at a time of intense anti-clericalism in France. Its long history in France and its monastic influence meant that Douai, although an independent boarding school, had in large part escaped the influence of the public-school ethos that had developed in 19th-century England¹. Although the school closed down in 1999 the Abbey remains and the old chapel is now the Roman Catholic parish church of Woolhampton in Berkshire. Two stained glass windows commemorate David; one of them, his life with the arms of Brasenose together with those of Douai School, the Intelligence Corps and the Army Mountaineering Association; the other has an image of Mt Nuptse showing the path of the expedition marked in red (*see photos in plates section*).

David was, in the words of his obituary at Douai School, “always cheerful and good natured, generous and warm to other people. One always got the impression of rock-like stability combined with great gentleness and sensitivity.”

At Sandhurst he was “Self-confident, capable, intelligent and mature. One of the best Officer Cadets of this type that we have had at Sandhurst.” He climbed the Matterhorn during his time there.

David’s father was also a Noseman. His obituary in the Guardian was republished in the Brazen Nose². Reading it one can readily see how David’s character developed.

“Bill was educated by Benedictine monks at Douai Abbey, Berkshire. In 1942 he went up to read law at Brasenose, but his studies were interrupted by wartime service in the Intelligence Corps. He graduated in 1949.”

“It was above all a deep sense of duty and service, and a firm belief and commitment to the Prison Service’s mission of rehabilitation, that underpinned Bill’s career. Rehabilitation was not, in his eyes, an ‘add-on’, but fundamental, and a demonstration of his Christian belief in the capacity of those who have taken a wrong turning to change, flourish and contribute to society.”³

David's upbringing would have been nomadic as his father moved from one prison to another. William served from 1973-1975 in Northern Ireland as an advisor on prisons to Lord Windlesham (later Principal of Brasenose).

David's family were Catholics. His mother's father came from a long line of Lancashire Catholics. "We have a certified copy of a marriage certificate from 1839 recording the marriage in the 'Roman Catholick chapel' (St John's) in the district of Wigan between James Speakman, a shop keeper who could sign his name, and Ellen Coup, a sizer. A cousin has traced the Speakmans further back than this as well"⁴. Speakman is generally a Lancashire name meaning "advocate" or "spokesman". It was also a nickname which means "gentle, wise, clever," or "quick, eager". All these of course are characteristics of a Brasenose man.

At BNC David captained the rugby team and the Brazen Nose reported "David Brister our captain has been a great example to everybody – he has made training bearable and playing a real pleasure. I am sure that everybody in the Club is very grateful to him."

Revd Dr J E Roulston (1970) described David as the epitome of an officer and a gentleman. Dave Tyrell (1970) described him "He was indeed a delightful man who was liked by all who met him whether academically, on the rugby field, or in the college bar. He seemed to have the charisma of a born leader." Geoff Hunt (Chemistry, 1970) who eventually joined the same regiment as David's brother Anthony, was a good friend.

David was a member of the Oxford University Mountaineering Club and of the Exploration Club. He was a strong Catholic and listed the Newman Society amongst his clubs.

For their honeymoon David and Eirlys "took a student charter to Bangkok and then flew to Calcutta from where we made our way back overland using 3rd class railways, buses, tops of trucks sleeping where we could on Chai house roofs, railway stations and local hotels. It took us 10 weeks to get home"⁵.

David Stockton wrote to the Registrar in December 1972 asking for approval that, Brister be exempted from the requirement to be resident for 9 terms as he would be taking Trinity 1973 off to prepare for the 1975 Everest expedition⁶. "He is a good and conscientious student and there is no doubt that he will obtain a respectable second in the end."

On going down Eirlys and David moved house from Oxford to Ashford, sending their movables by van, while they went by bicycle.

On the way they stopped off at his old school, Douai.

The Expedition⁷

The expedition was a joint British and Royal Nepalese Army expedition to climb Mt Nuptse, a mountain of 25,850 ft in 1975. The expedition was intended to be preparation for the ascent of Everest (29,028ft) the following year. Only one previous attempt was known to have been attempted. A team of 20 plus 13 reserves were selected for the ascent together with half a dozen Gurkhas.

The Approach

“We turned a corner on the track high above the promontory and saw the whole panoply of the high Himalaya in front of us. Just visible through an advancing squall was Everest, black, squat, powerful and flying the familiar banner. To its right Lhotse, in front the Nuptse ridge looking so very much lower.”

“The party camped at the famous monastery at Thyangboche where the call to prayer reverberated around the surrounding mountains and from where they picked out their intended route on Nuptse.”

The Climb

“Rising at 4:30 on the 9th May the lead pair (David and his climbing partner, Pasang came later) left Camp VII at 07:15 for the top of Mt Nuptse. They climbed the 2,000 foot couloir which led to the col on the summit ridge. There they planned to follow the summit ridge for about 400 ft to the top of the mountain. By 10:00 they were about halfway up. At this time those lower down the mountain heard a stone fall. They saw red and orange objects identified as a ruck sack and an orange survival bag. At the same time observers at Base Camp noted that there was no one in the couloir. Later on 11th May the bodies were identified by a Nepalese Army helicopter.”

“Despite this, movement up and down the mountain continued. Brister and Pasang moved across from Camp VI to Camp VII. By 08:00 on the 13th it was snowing hard and no movement was possible on that day. One more attempt on the summit was planned but to get a good rest it was decided to evacuate the mountain. Descending the mountain Brister and Pasang were catching up the pair ahead of them using their

footholds. Visibility was down to 20 ft. At 16:30 the clouds parted and the leading pair saw the other two only 200 to 300 ft above them. They shouted words of encouragement to them. The first pair pressed on down to camp V arriving at 20:00 in the dark.”

“All day the next day, 15th May, there was no movement from Camp VI. A new black dot was noticed under a crevasse. At 17:00 two climbers went up towards Camp VI and shouted up. There was no response. Later the helicopter flew up again and took photographs. The black dot had been identified as Brister.”

The way out

“When we left Base Camp things had altered from when we had been here before; the rivers were more swollen, cattle were grazing in the high pastures, men and women were working the fields in Dinghoche, the shrubs were flowering in profusion. The next day we moved on past hillsides ablaze with colour from the Rhododendrons.”

In 2017 an Army expedition went to Nuptse base camp to build a permanent memorial to the 1975 expedition. A ceremony was held to mark the occasion and to pay tribute to members of the expedition.

At David’s memorial service at Douai, Fr Bernard said “they say that men go mountaineering, not to explore the mountains, but to explore themselves, to discover in that lonely and dangerous challenge, resources of bravery and self-discipline and strength, that they did not know they had.”

At the end of David’s obituary in the Douai Magazine they quote poems written by David when he was 17, which were discovered after his funeral service. I quote in part:

*At night, far away from the hills, my dreams
Are filled with sighing wind that moans
Around the canvas of my tent,
Singing me to sleep.
And they have shown me eternity.
On their hard flanks I have found
The absolutes of life, and man’s nobility*

David is survived by his brother Anthony and sister Anne-Marie. Eirlys remarried and has had four children; the eldest is named after David.

†Macbeth act 5 scene 8

Notes

- 1 *The English Benedictine Community of St Edmund King and Martyr. Paris 1615 / Douai 1818 / Woolhampton 1903–2003. A Centenary History*, edited by Geoffrey Scott (Worcester: Stanbrook Abbey Press, 2003), p. 149. ISBN 0-900704-43-8
- 2 Brazen Nose vol. 51, pp. 198 – 199 reprinted from the Guardian
- 3 ibid
- 4 Anne-Marie Brister
- 5 Eirlys Ellams (formerly Brister)
- 6 The Everest expedition was subsequently put back to 1976.
- 7 The following text is extracted from the report of “Nuptse 1975 - The Joint British Army Mountaineering Association and Royal Nepalese Army Expedition”

A MECCA FOR REWILDERS: THE COMMUNITY-LED PROJECT RESTORING SCOTLAND’S SOUTHERN UPLANDS

by Ben Martynoga

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About 6,000 years ago, most of southern Scotland was covered by broadleaf woodland, interspersed with patches of rich scrub, heath and bog. In stark contrast, the landscape today is dominated by close-cropped, severely nature-depleted hills, punctuated by sharp-edged blocks of non-native spruce plantation.

Now, thanks to the Carrifran Wildwood, one of the UK’s first community-led rewilding projects, patches of habitat resembling Scotland’s primeval forest are staging a comeback.

Carrifran, now nearly a quarter of a century old, gives us a glimpse of a world that once was. But it also shows what large parts of this land could be: a sink for climate-heating carbon, a flood-mitigating sponge for freshwater; a generator of biodiversity, and a source of wonder, identity and hope for people, locally and globally.

Carrifran's revival began on 1 January 2000, when the project's founders and their friends – including me, then a local biology student – broke the thin soil and planted the first 100 saplings.

Nearly a quarter of a century and 750,000 planted trees later, the project is achieving ecological lift-off. The valley is now shaggy with diverse native trees. Freed of grazing pressure, wildflowers are flourishing: even on a cold early March day, the first primroses, wood anemones, coltsfoot, and emerald green honeysuckle leaves offer bursts of colour. On the high ground, peatbogs are healing and rare arctic-montane scrub and heath are thriving. The whole place now echoes with birdsong, and golden eagles can often be seen wheeling above the crags.

Philip Ashmole (Zoology, 1954), a zoologist, was one of the visionaries who launched the project in the mid-1990s. “We wanted to make a small repayment of our debt to nature,” says Ashmole, 90. “We just felt there should be somewhere people could go to see an undisturbed woodland ecosystem, looking and functioning as it did over much of Scotland before humans made a significant impact.”

Ashmole, his wife, Myrtle, and a group of local friends – environmentalists, artists and ecologists among them – set about turning that vision into reality. This grassroots, volunteer-led initiative can lay fair claim to several innovative ‘firsts’.

Almost all the funds needed to buy the 660-hectare (1,600 acre) Carrifran valley were crowdfunded, nearly a decade before that term was coined. A largely pre-internet fundraising campaign inspired about 600 people to donate a few hundred pounds each to become founders of Carrifran Wildwood.

With less reliance on institutional funders from the start, the group, supported by the Borders Forest Trust (BFT) – a charity established, in part, to own and manage the project – have been able to operate with an unusual degree of independence ever since.

And though the group tend to avoid the sometimes inflammatory word rewilding, that is essentially what they set out to do, 13 years before *Feral* by **George Monbiot (Zoology, 1982)** popularised the term.

The group's decisions have been guided by a rigorous, science-first approach. Ashmole says habitat restoration plans were informed by soil and vegetation surveys and the results of meticulous analysis of peat

cores, in which preserved pollen grains reveal the shifting plant and forest cover at Carrifran over the past 10,000 years.

Long centuries of livestock grazing had erased almost all trees, except a lone rowan, the ‘survivor tree’, so waiting for natural regeneration was not an option. Over the years, scores of volunteers have stepped up to plant and nurture the trees that now breathe fresh life into the valley. “There’s just been so much love for the site and it has really paid off,” says Andy Wilson, the BFT’s project officer, responsible for daily management of this site. “It wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for all of us,” concurs Ashmole, with characteristic understatement.

Since establishing Carrifran, the BFT has acquired two further significant landholdings in the vicinity, key steps toward the charity’s mission to “revive the wild heart of southern Scotland”, a catalyst for community-led rewilding

Kevin Cumming, the rewilding director of Rewilding Britain, cites Carrifran as one of the triggers for the recent increase in community-led rewilding efforts across the UK. “A group of people driven by a common interest to make a difference – how could that not be inspiring?” he says. “It certainly inspired me.”

Cumming previously led the Langholm Initiative, which in 2022 completed the south of Scotland’s biggest community buyout to establish the 4,100-hectare Tarras valley nature reserve.

Cumming is hopeful that rewilding will drive what he calls “a just transition for rural economies, [that creates] the sort of green jobs that can come from restoring nature and natural processes”.

Peter Cairns, the executive director of Scotland: The Big Picture, agrees. “Pioneering rewilding initiatives such as Carrifran demonstrate that rewilding is for everyone and delivers benefits to people as well as nature and climate,” he says.

His organisation runs the Northwoods network, which ensures rewilding is done by local communities rather than wealthy landlords.

Last week the Scottish Rewilding Alliance launched a campaign to make Scotland the world’s first ‘rewilding nation’. Its charter urges the Scottish government to commit to nature recovery across 30% of its land and seas “for the benefit of nature, climate and people”.

Carrifran is one of the seeds that this movement has grown from. It is a reminder of how meaningful change usually unfolds in practice:

pioneers must first challenge the status quo, then, gradually, momentum can build.

For Ashmole and Wilson, one urgent priority is the establishment of more wildlife corridors that could weave Scotland's growing patchwork of rewilding sites and nature-friendly farms into a continuous, ever-shifting wild tapestry. Like them, I look forward to the day when many more landscape-changing mammals – including beavers, wild boar and, eventually, lynxes – can move freely across the country.

Carrifran has become a mecca for would-be rewilders from the UK and beyond. They come here for practical knowhow and an injection of hope. "I just love seeing the excitement on people's faces," says Wilson. "They look at the valley and just go, 'Wow!'"

Ashmole says: "That word 'inspiration' comes up, again and again. It's what we always hoped this valley would offer."

THE RUNCIE SERMON 2024

by the Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie

I shall take as my text this evening something that Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." (2 Kings 2:9)

Archbishop Robert Runcie, in whose memory this sermon is preached, used to tell an anecdote whenever he was asked to preach a memorial sermon. When he was Bishop of St Albans, he had been invited to a garden party at Lambeth Palace thrown by his predecessor. The event had been billed as a strawberry tea. Such catering plans proved too ambitious for the Church of England. As Runcie arrived he was handed a carefully folded note: "owing to the unseasonable unavailability of strawberries, prunes will be served".

Tellingly, Runcie did not tell this anecdote against his predecessor, although there is something deliciously camp about the combination of Donald Coggan and prunes. In typical style he told it against himself. The inference was that he was the prune, a stand-in for something more expected. He would have found it very amusing that the anecdote was used at his own memorial service in 2000, even more so perhaps that it was still being trotted out almost 25 years later here at his old college.

It is my hope to channel some of that spirit today as I preach before you, as an undoubtedly poor stand in. I stand here in the pulpit as a mere

prune. More seriously, Runcie's spirit might well be something we seek to invoke in other ways.

The spirit with which he held the great office he held, the spirit with which he engaged with ordinary people. The spirit with which he told the truth: it was he, after all, who remarked that he had done his best to die before his memoirs came out, lest the truth be too difficult for some of those mentioned to handle. The spirit with which he led the liturgy: as one relative of the late Princess of Wales said, "nobody – not even Diana – could intone 'I, Diana Frances Spencer, quite like Robert Runcie.'"

Runcie encapsulated much in his spirit. His was a spirit that could ironise, a spirit that gave the gift to realise which things are worth taking seriously and which are not, a spirit, specifically to present oneself to the world in such a way as to speak of something beyond self. That is the spirit that sings from the anecdotes of Runcie's life.

It was the same spirit which caused him to howl with laughter when, on a visit to a school, a group of children – who had been briefed to use the proper form of address for the Primate of All England – became convinced that his name was 'Grace' and exclusively addressed him as such.

Even a half share of that spirit would be a very great thing in today's Church of England.

Perhaps precisely because it involves not taking oneself too seriously, to have this sort of spirit takes bravery. Holy Scripture is very clear on the relationship between the two. In our first lesson, Elisha is brave simply for asking Elijah for a share of his spirit. The older prophet was, after all, not exactly the most cuddly and approachable character in the Old Testament.

The other thing that the Bible makes clear is that this spirit, this bravery isn't as the world thinks it is. This Runcie, of all people, knew for his bravery was also borne out in the ways recognised by the world as brave. That bravery was never in doubt – the Military Cross, the war record, being one of the only people to successfully say no to Margaret Thatcher. All these are indisputably examples of bravery, demonstrations of spirit. Yet they do not stand on their own, nor are they the full story of a life defined by spirit.

No, this spirit is deeper. This bravery is of a different order. It is about where we place our hearts, where we put our value. To view

death as part of a seam with eternity, to view humanity as transfigured by the Divine, to view life as necessarily revolving around love. These are brave statements to make, still braver principles to live by, brave ideas to predicate your treatment of your fellow human beings upon. They are, of course, at the heart of the Gospel, at the centre of the life to which Robert Runcie was called, and might be at the centre of each of our lives today, if we so wish.

With bravery comes risk of course. Elisha asks for a double share of the spirit, not because he wants to be greater or better, not because he wants to outdo his master, but because he will need it. Because the road ahead for him – living that controversial, spirit-led life – will not be easy.

Yet, God is faithful to equip us for such challenges. As Runcie himself said, when faced with criticism, to him things were clear. “I am clear in my faith in Christ Jesus. And I believe in authority – the authority of love”. That encapsulates the very heart of the Christian religion, the very essence of the spirit which we might properly pray for this evening, and it gives a perfect justification of what it is that makes such spirit, such bravery, possible: the authority of love. This sermon might be preached in Runcie’s memory, but he himself would say that it and our worship and indeed, all our good and proper acts of love and service, are to the greater glory of God.

Put another way: none of the those brave, dangerous, love filled things that we are called to are things we do for ourselves or on our own. The very word spirit has its etymology of being breathed on or into. As Elisha makes clear, the spirit is, therefore, an external gift. A gift of God and a gift of faith. Those fruits of the spirit are not to our own credit but rather are workings out of a faith in one who has authority over all things, and who choses to show that authority not through the conventional ways in which power makes itself known, but instead through love.

Love which looks on us and sees the frail and limited and broken individuals that we are, sees the moments when we are not brave, when we fail and fall and still loves us. Love that calls us to a life simultaneously higher and deeper, that calls us to look on one another, radically, in and with love. Love that wields an authority beyond any other, and invokes a name which is above every other name. That love made perfect in the person of Jesus Christ.

That is the love which can and does make us brave. Why? For it can never fail. For it, unlike strawberries at Lambeth, has no substitutes. Spirit therefore, is the gift to see and know this love for what it is and to then act accordingly. To live fully for God, fully for love. That spirit was what Robert Runcie had. We could do much worse than pray for a share of it in our lives today.

A SERMON DELIVERED ON THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THOMAS TRAHERNE'S DEATH

*by Bishop David Thomson,
chair of the Traherne Society, retired Anglican bishop and historian
(sermon preached in Brasenose Chapel, 20 October 2024)*

Thank you for this opportunity to join you as we mark the 350th anniversary of the death of Thomas Traherne, in the chapel of his Oxford college. I need to confess first that though I have had a slim volume of Traherne on my bookshelf for many years, it was only on retiring to Hereford a few years ago that I took proper notice of him, walking as I now do in his footsteps along the same route to the cathedral, to help out as he did.

Walking too, metaphorically, in the steps of perhaps the finest Traherne scholar. the late and much-missed Denise Inge, whose husband preceded me as Bishop of Huntingdon, and who now rests in a Herefordshire churchyard. Much of what I will say is indebted to her, and much else to many others. The faults and ramblings are all mine.

Walking is also the title of one of Traherne's *Poems of Felicity*. Book artist Paul Johnson has gifted our chained library in Hereford with a wonderful re-imagination of it – complete of course with paper chain – and its vibrant colours echo how Traherne in his youth found wonder in the world around him, as so beautifully captured in Tom Denny's windows also in Hereford, echoing Traherne's well-known poem on 'Wonder':

“The streets were paved with golden stones,
The boys and girls were mine,
Oh how did all their lovely faces shine!

The sons of men were holy ones,
 In joy and beauty they appeared to me,
 And every thing which here I found,
 While like an angel I did see,
 Adorned the ground”.

This capacity for joyful wonder was my starting point in reflecting on Traherne’s faith and spirituality. He recollects and celebrates the vibrancy he saw in the world around him in his youth, shimmering with God’s glory, and now as an adult seeks to re-inhabit that wonder, but as an adult must, not by turning the clock back, but by deploying his intellect, yet with a passionate appreciation that is no dry mental appropriation but a lively and grateful engagement in which he is known and loved even more than he knows and loves, in which every atom has infinity in it and every individual person receives the infinity of creation as a gift of infinite love. So, in the poem *Walking* Traherne tells us that

“To walk is by a Thought to go;
 To mov in Spirit to and fro;
 To mind the Good we see;
 To taste the Sweet;
 Observing all the things we meet
 How choice and rich they be.”

But not all of Traherne’s childhood was so rosy, nor his world or theology unstained by sin. Born in Royalist Hereford just before the start of the Civil War, he saw the Parliamentarians occupy the city and arrest his father. Going up to Puritan Brasenose offered little respite, nor did studies there lead to the felicity he sought, though he relished Oxford’s glories and soaked up its new scientific interests, mingling them with Neo-Platonist thinking from the Other Place, and in the end became a benefactor to this Chapel, having taken his BD and I suspect aiming for a DD and preferment. Our picture of Traherne might look quite different if he had lived longer, and perhaps become a bishop, God help him.

So, when in 1657 he “came into the country” as he put it to the rectory of Credenhill just outside Hereford, it is little wonder that, “being seated among silent trees, and meads and hills, [with] all my time in mine own hands, I resolved to spend it all... in the search of

happiness.” There was much in another sense to resolve. He is a poet of desire who deliberately chose a celibate life; a self-confessed chatterbox who sought reservation and silence; a seeker of retirement with his eyes perhaps on preferment; an alumnus of a Puritan college whose writing is more akin to that of Lancelot Andrewes or the Catholic-minded Susanna Hopton; a man of good company who could be censorious of the Roman Catholics and the Independents alike.

Such complexities may disappoint some, but they make him all the more interesting for me. I see him as on a journey of discovery, exploring how, after the turmoil of the Reformation and Rebellion, the established church could offer God’s peace and a home for serious complexity and even contradiction within a carefully orthodox framework, cohering with scripture, reason, and the inherited teaching of the church in what we now see as the classic Anglican way. His writings are shot through with all three, though his habit of not citing his sources and embedding them in the flow of his writing hides them from the casual reader, while offering plenty of scope for editors and doctoral students for many years to come.

But, stepping out of the study, what features of this surprisingly complex man and his spirituality might resonate with us today?

First, Traherne made a choice, a challenging choice, to seek God’s peace and purposes for all in and through the established church. At a time once more of heightened separatism, and growing conflict, those of us who have inherited the Anglican tradition can still make that choice, and seek the peace and felicity of our communities, whether rural ones as in Herefordshire or colleges as in Oxford where a C of E foundation is not a sectarian statement but a door open to all. For Traherne such a recognition of the value of every community member simply flowed from the same flow of God’s love that animates the whole world: we are all the sole heirs of God.

“You never enjoy the world aright, till the Sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars: and perceive yourself to be the sole heir of the whole world, and more than so, because men are in it who are every one sole heirs as well as you”.

Secondly, writing in a pre-Lockean world, Traherne was confident to enter intellectually and spiritually into what the philosopher Charles Taylor calls the interspace between our reachings out towards a deeper

truth, and the Other, the ‘Som Great Thing’ of Traherne’s first *Century*, that we cannot capture within our categories, but which gives life and meaning to them and us. As Rowan Williams speaking recently in Hereford stressed, for Traherne it is precisely in the grateful receiving of God’s gift of all things to us that we truly know and comprehend them.

Luke Bretherton and Justin Brierley, in their different ways, have written recently about a turn to faith, among public intellectuals. Such a turn cannot hope to bring back either the Middle Ages or childhood (we can do neither), nor will not I hope promote a sectarian orthodoxy, but will seek the peace that Traherne also sought. Can we find the confidence to open up such an interspace between knowledge and faith, whether in places of learning like this, or in our everyday lives?

Thirdly, and linked to that turn to faith, as the cartoon-like debate between fundamentalist atheists and fundamentalist Christians runs out of steam, a door is opening again to allow scientific enquiry and religious faith to work together as friends not foes, and for us to recapture the excitement that such synergy can bring – a joy I saw for instance in the late Tom McLeish. Such excitement was still in the air in the time of Traherne. He imagined other worlds and visitors from them. The Bishop of Hereford wrote a science fiction novel about travel to the moon in a chariot pulled by geese. Hooke and Wilkins tried to build one at Wadham. Can it be in the air again? I mean the synergy and excitement, not the chariot, or at least not one pulled by geese.

Fourthly, all this requires us to keep on doing the hard work of personal spirituality. Beyond the wall of words, the Puritan habits of biblical immersion and meditation, and the university ones of wide reading and careful thinking, never left Traherne, and they put him in a place where quite simply what he says is worth listening to, and is very often more profound than we might first have thought. In his own words, “Be not a Bubble; be solid like God, & let all thy Worth be within.”

But finally, as that is rather a serious quest and is meant to be, we must return to wonder and joy and to hope; to the felicity and happiness that is we believe, beyond all our desiring of it, God’s desire, God’s infinite desire for us. May that felicity and the hope that it brings be God’s gift to each of us this evening as we enjoy the world aright. Amen.



Stained glass windows in the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary, Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton commemorating David Brister
(Photos thanks to Lydia Clark / David Clark)



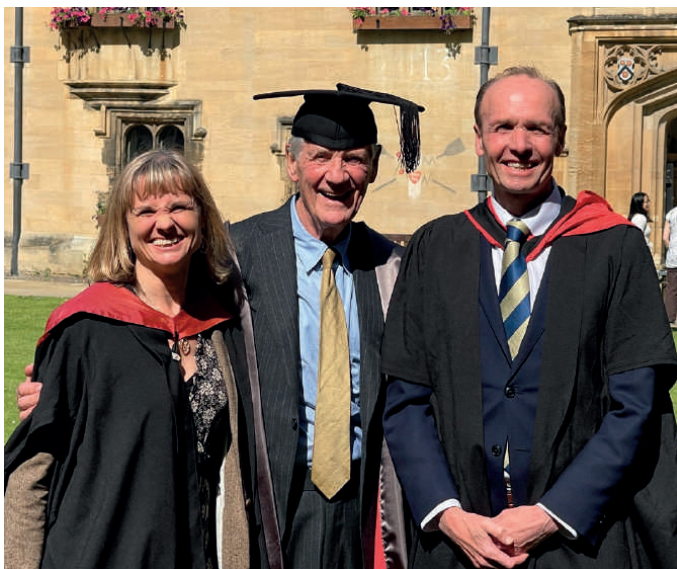
Rousham Gardens
(Photos: Ed Bispham)



Top: Rousham Gardens; Bottom: Steeple Aston Church
(Photos: Liz Bingham)

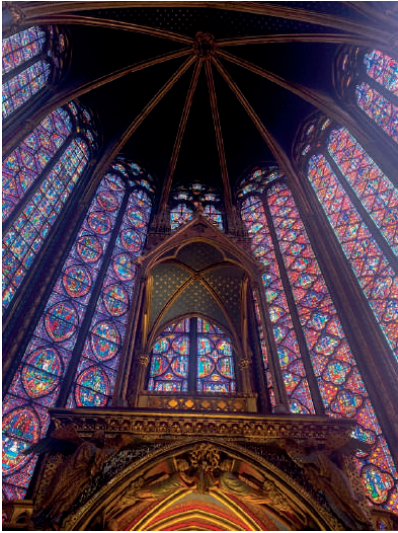


*Three Camden Professors of Ancient History (left to right):
Professor Nicholas Purcell (2011-2023), Professor Valentina Arena (2024-present),
Professor Alan Bowman (2002-2010)*
(Photos: Ed Bispham)



*Top: Sir Michael Palin with Professor Suzanne Franks and John Bowers KC,
on the day he would receive his Honorary Degree at Encaenia 2024
(Photo: Liz Bingham)*

Bottom: Rachel Palin, Sir Michael Palin, Will Palin



Paris: Saint Chapelle
(Photo:Tallulah Tilley)



Paris: Les Invalides
(Photo:Tallulah Tilley)



Paris: Les Invalides
(Photo:Tallulah Tilley)



Paris Tallulah at Les Invalides
(Photo:Tallulah Tilley)



The new organ in Brasenose Chapel, Michaelmas 2024. It was installed in the original T G Jackson casework by Orgues De Facto of Belgium, thanks to the generosity of Margo and Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)
(Photo: J P Clough)



Mock up of the Panelled Room, Frewin Hall, as it will be after the current refurbishment work

(Illustration: Robert Eyles)

Editor's note: Wesley Akum-Ojong was a very promising first-year PPE student before he died in a tragic accident at the end of his first year. In Trinity 2024 he wrote the following blog post about his initial impressions of Brasenose which was published on the college website. It's a wonderful insight into college and much more importantly into the warm and engaging personality of Wesley.

STUDENT BLOG: THE GOOD PLACE

*by Wesley Akum-Ojong, first-year PPEist
(formerly at Watford Grammar School for Boys)*

Sometimes I forget I go to *the* Oxford University everyone is always talking about. Even after two terms, living and studying here feels surreal. Admittedly, making it here was always part of the plan but that does not mean I had no worries before actually coming. Are the tutors really that mean? What if I don't fit in? Did I really have to book all my meals the day before? Of course, none of these fears materialised, and arriving in Oxford started (possibly) the best period of my life so far.

Sitting in my room just after my parents had unpacked for me, I couldn't bring myself to go down to the JCR and begin meeting people. Once I actually did go, I wondered why I hadn't sooner. The collegiate system meant I could socialise in a small, unintimidating environment perfect for bonding with soon-to-be best friends. Being at the friendliest college certainly has its advantages. By the end of my first night, I knew that I had definitely made the right choice with Brasenose. Before coming, I had expected my days to consist of aesthetic study dates straight out of Pinterest, interrupted by the occasional bop or ball. I definitely didn't think Brasenose would be as vibrant and social as it has turned out to be. I could never have imagined I would be at the bar long enough to hear Riptide multiple times a week!

Getting involved in activities outside of college has been almost as big a part of life as what goes on inside college. I don't think I've successfully made it through a conversation with someone new without mentioning that I've taken up gymnastics, for example. You would expect the high academic workload to prevent something so time-intensive but as I quickly discovered, a good schedule solves all problems. Especially during Hilary Term (our spring term), I have enjoyed going to events run by a wide range of societies. I was even able to get more involved with

activities inside college by becoming a Racial and Ethnic Minorities rep and maintaining my 100% B.O.P (Big Organised Parties – college socials) attendance rate.

One thing I've really appreciated is how central Brasenose is. No event worth going to is more than a ten-minute walk away from college. Even more important than this is the amount of green space in the centre, useful for regular gossip study sessions. When friends at unnamed distant colleges complain of their arduous treks to Cornmarket Street, I can't help but think about what a good choice I made.

After reading all of this, it may come as a shock that I have a degree to study for as well. I always knew I wanted to study something containing politics, and the moment I discovered PPE I knew I had to study it. Narrowing down academic choices was anathema to me – I had refused to choose between History and Geography at GCSE and ended up taking four A-levels for much the same reason. A-level Politics was by far my favourite subject, but I would always think of the missing economic context for the content we studied. I was initially less sure about philosophy – before applying, my knowledge extended little beyond Hegel and certain postmodern French philosophers I referred to in English classes. Thinking back now, this lack of knowledge should not have discouraged me – it provides space for new perspectives and thinking on existing ideas!

I knew that by choosing PPE I would be able to enjoy reading, writing and using mathematical skills to answer the questions I find most important. The list of alumni has certainly given the subject a (possibly unfair) reputation for producing unsympathetic career politicians but as with any other subject, there are many who do not fit this stereotype and I have made great friends within my subject as well.

The workload does take some getting used to, and for much of the term it feels like I'm constantly writing and not actually understanding anything. This is what makes tutorials all the more refreshing, as I discover I actually *have* learned something and I get to ask all the burning questions raised by my reading and by the lectures. Without them my notes would definitely not be as useful as they are now. It also helps that tutorials help tutors to get to know you both academically and personally, which makes asking questions that extra bit easier!

It's odd to think I only have eight weeks left of being a first year. So much has changed, and I've made so many great memories. It feels

both like I arrived just yesterday but also as if I've been here for years. There really is no place like Brasenose.

GEORGE MAINWARING: INTERNATIONAL MAN OF MYSTERY

by David Bradbury (Ancient & Modern History, 1981)

George Mainwaring was the third of four brothers from the Shropshire gentry who in turn all attended Brasenose late in the 16th or early in the 17th century. I have written before about the eldest brother, Sir Arthur, the scandal-ridden courtier, and the second brother Sir Henry, the pirate, MP, naval administrator and admiral. The fourth brother, Sir Thomas (rather younger than the other three) was a successful lawyer whose rich widow went on to marry Elias Ashmole (also a Brasenose man, of course) and provide the wealth to build up his collection.

But George, the only one of the four brothers not to be knighted, is the hardest of them to pin down. We can be sure of his descent, and that he went to Brasenose, but whether or he was the same individual as several other references to a George Mainwaring about that time is unclear. Did he travel to Persia with two of the well-known Sherley brothers right at the start of the seventeenth century? Did he get military and naval experience in the years immediately after college? Did he become known as an art connoisseur in Venice thereafter? Was he commissioned to recruit a mercenary regiment to serve in Germany in the Thirty Years War? Did he serve as Richmond Herald in the run-up to the Civil War? Did he play a significant role in the escape of the future Charles II after the Battle of Worcester in 1651? This article is an attempt to disentangle these matters and shed some light on who is really whom.

Firstly, let's look at the Brasenose man. His parentage is clear and well-documented: his father Sir George Mainwaring was a gentleman from Ightfield in Shropshire, for whom a marriage was arranged with Anne More, daughter of Sir William More of Loseley Park, near Guildford. Sir George studied briefly at the Inner Temple, as did many gentry sons did, but did not attend university. There are two versions of his descendants' pedigree: the one Sir George gave the heralds in their visitation of Shropshire in 1623, and what is recorded on the More

family monuments in St Nicolas, Guildford. These two agree that there were four sons, in order Arthur, Henry, George and Thomas (though the Guildford monument lists Thomas, who was knighted, ahead of his elder brother George, who was not) but disagree on the number of daughters.¹ As all four brothers turn up in the college and university records, we can be confident they were the same as the men referred to in the two family pedigrees. George is recorded as having matriculated on 19 November 1602 aged 15, implying he was born in around 1587, and took his BA in May 1605.²

But now we need to turn to the various other references to a George Mainwaring and ask whether these relate to him or to someone else. In chronological order the others are:

- 1) A man who had earlier accompanied the noted travellers Sir Anthony Sherley and Sir Robert Sherley to the court of Shah Abbas of Persia around 1598;
- 2) A man who served as muster-master to the Shropshire militia in 1615 after military service abroad;
- 3) A man who travelled to Venice in 1618 as one of the captains of the fleet of seven English ships hired by the Republic to boost their defences and who built a reputation as an art connoisseur during his time there;
- 4) A man who was commissioned in 1633 by the Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel to raise a regiment to fight in the Thirty Years War;
- 5) A man who was appointed to the position of Richmond Herald in 1635;
- 6) A man who was considered for, but did not get, a captaincy in the Ship Money fleet of 1637;
- 7) A man who for a time commanded the Royalist garrison at Tong Castle during the English Civil War and who seems to have twice been taken prisoner by the Parliamentarian army as the King's cause crumbled; and
- 8) A man who was asked for advice by other Royalists when they were trying to smuggle the future Charles II to safety after the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

We need to ask how many of these were the same man as the first, the Brasenose man. I believe, that with the exception of number (1) above, they are all likely to be one and the same person.

Starting with (1), this is someone whom we can be all but certain isn't our man: the George Mainwaring who travelled east to Persia with the Sherley brothers. These English adventurers, whose exploits would form the basis of a pot-boiler play on the Jacobean stage, would cross paths in various ways with Sir Henry Mainwaring, older brother of the Brasenose George Mainwaring, but when they set off from England in 1598 our George would only have been ten or eleven years old.

After the Brasenose George Mainwaring took his degree in 1605, I find no references to anyone of that name till 1615, when the Privy Council recorded that a George Mainwaring was muster-master of Shropshire, "having heretofore spent some tyme in service beyond the sea, thereby the better enabling him for this employment."³ Certainly the gap between 1605 and 1615 is long enough for him to have served abroad as a soldier, perhaps in the Low Countries, and if this is our man, Shropshire would have been his native county.

In 1618, amidst heightened international tensions, his elder brother Henry was retained by the Venetians to scout out merchant shipping available for hire in London to reinforce their naval capacity in the Adriatic. Seven ships eventually set off. Despite being knighted by King James I at this time, Sir Henry was passed over for command of the expedition, undoubtedly because of his bad reputation as an ex-pirate; instead the job went to Sir Henry Peyton, a soldier of fortune with considerable experience in the Dutch Wars. Six of the seven ships were unremarkable, and the English, Venetian and Spanish sources agree on their identities. But the seventh ship stands out: she is variously listed as by the Venetians as the *Anadem*,⁴ by the Spanish as *El Diablo* of Dunkirk, and by the Privy Council as "another shipp knowne by the name of Sir Henry Manwaring's Shipp."⁵ The Venetians, however, listed her owner as George Mainwaring. The suspicion must be that she was originally one of the men-of-war operating out of the Spanish-held port of Dunkirk, had been captured by Henry Mainwaring in his pirate days and renamed *Anadem*, probably in an attempt to conceal her background, with the fiction that George, not Sir Henry, was her owner further to confuse the scent. Certainly, on his pardon for piracy, Sir Henry had brought back other captured ships and tried to conceal

their true identity – for example one, the *Barbary*, put in to Dover but was soon recognised as actually the *Golden Lion* of Lubeck; and her lawful owner sued successfully for her return.⁶ Having been rejected but not put off, Sir Henry travelled overland to Venice and tried to interest the Venetians in a scheme to ask King James for the loan of several English warships. He returned to England shortly thereafter to promote this notion, in his haste leaving some books and scientific instruments with his host Sir Henry Wotton.⁷ Meanwhile George seems to have remained a little while in Venice after his voyage with the 1618 Peyton expedition, getting involved in a commercial dispute there with John Win, another Englishman, and also becoming something of an art connoisseur, even apparently patronising a painter of miniatures and becoming the dedicatee of a volume of prints. He was still in Venice in the summer of 1620, when the merchant and traveller Peter Mundy, who was travelling back from Constantinople to London in the entourage of the outgoing British ambassador, met Sir Henry Peyton and several of his captains, including a Captain Mainwaring. The Hakluyt Society editor wrongly thought this a reference to his brother Sir Henry, but the use of the title “Captain” not “Sir Henry” and the fact that Sir Henry had returned to London a year earlier make this impossible; it must have been George.⁸

In September 1633 Landgrave William V of Hesse-Kassel issued a commission to a “valiant, faithfull and well beloved” George Mainwaring to raise a regiment of foot in England or elsewhere to fight in the Thirty Years War.⁹ Presumably the Landgrave was looking to bolster his forces in the aftermath of the death in battle of his ally King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden the previous winter. Given his previous military experience in Europe, the George Mainwaring who was muster-master of Shropshire may very well be the same as this man. Beyond the mere survival of this commission in the National Archives, however, I do not know whether he actually succeeded in raising any volunteers or travelled to fight in the war.

Then in 1635 a George Mainwaring was appointed Richmond Herald, one of the senior positions in the College of Arms. One history of that body sums this man up in the index as ‘history unknown’. A later list of heralds describes him as being a captain in the army before his appointment and probably having resigned his commission in 1637 ‘after which his attendance at College [of Arms] was exemplary down to the

Civil War'.¹⁰ It sounds as if the muster-master, the mercenary captain and the herald might well be the same man, given the military background in common. Moreover, the heralds owed their appointments to the Earl Marshal, at that time the Earl of Arundel. This man was clearly prepared to favour his connections when making heraldic appointments – in 1622 he appointed his secretary John Borough as Norroy Herald despite complaints from some of the other heralds that he was neither of gentle birth nor had ever practised heraldry, and he made Edward Norgate, who had acted as his agent in buying art abroad, Windsor Herald in 1633 and Edward Walker, another of his secretaries, Chester Herald in 1638.¹¹ There were previous connections between Arundel's family and the Mainwarings. George's father, Sir George, had in 1608 become steward of the manor of Wem, owned by Anne, dowager Countess of Arundel and the Earl's mother. This office he still held at least as late as 1623.¹² Moreover the Earl was among England's leading art connoisseurs and pioneered on his Italian travels the later habit of wealthy Grand Tourists buying up and shipping back ancient sculpture and old masters. Furthermore his formidable wife Aletheia, Countess of Arundel, herself also a major patron of the arts, had been in Padua and Venice in about 1620–22. She certainly knew Sir Henry Peyton and some of his colleagues in the 1618 expedition, and both as such and as an art connoisseur it is likely that George Mainwaring was among these.¹³ At the Restoration in 1660, Henry St George, the son of Mainwaring's predecessor as Richmond Herald, was appointed, which suggests that this George Mainwaring was dead by then.¹⁴

Next we find that a George Mainwaring was considered for command of a ship in the 1637 Ship Money fleet, recommended by Arundel, the Earl Marshal, who as we have seen also supervised and appointed the Heralds. This recommendation was clearly unsuccessful, as Sir Henry is the only Mainwaring who appears on the lists of that year's captains, in command of the *Unicorn*.¹⁵ While one cannot be certain that the George who was considered but passed over is our man, given the Arundel connection it seems likely.

During the English Civil War, all four brothers supported the King. It seems from the Brasenose account books that at various points Sir Henry, George and Sir Thomas all were in Oxford. They lived back in college, referred to as 'strangers', presumably as they were not formally part of the college structure. Clearly we can be certain from their titles

that Sir Henry and Sir Thomas are the Brasenose men; and it would seem very highly likely that the man on the books as either ‘Mr’ or ‘Captain George Maynwarding’ was their brother. As he seems to have had more military experience by land than any of his siblings,¹⁶ it is not surprising that he later found himself back in military service in and near his native Shropshire, where he is reported to have commanded the garrison of Tong Castle for a time. Prince Rupert, in a letter of December 1644 to the Shropshire Commissioners of Array, is quoted as saying:

“Gentlemen, Itt is knowne to you that Captain George Mainwarding, a gentlemen of your own Countrey, did sometime command in chiefe Toungue Castle, and itt is by him signified to me that in Regard there was noe Established pay for that command, he was & still is unrecompenced for his services, I desire you that he be paid out of the next contribucon coming to the garrison of Bridge North after the proportion of five poundes a week for the time of his continuance in that command being from 18 July to the last of October 1644. By which he may be encouraged and enabled to apply himself to his Majesty’s farther service either in your parts or where else he shall be required.”¹⁷

After that, a George Mainwarding is listed among the prisoners taken when the Roundheads stormed Shrewsbury in February 1645, and again someone of that name was among the garrison of Worcester when it surrendered to Parliament in July 1646. Whether either or both is our George Mainwarding is unclear, but again it seems likely.¹⁸

Finally a George Mainwarding was involved in the margins of Charles II’s escape from the Battle of Worcester in 1651. It is well-known that at one point the King had to hide in an oak tree, on land in the hands of the Penderell family. While that was happening, they sought another safe house. As one account published in 1660 has it:

“In the mean while George Pendrill... was sent to Wooler-Hampton 3 miles thence being a Market Town to buy Wine and Bisket... for the King; and withal to speak with one Mr. George Manwarding, a person of known Integrity and Loyalty from Col. Careless, with some instructions about the King’s removal, though not expressly the King, but one of that ruined Party: in effect it was to know of him, whether he knew

of any sure privacy for two such Persons? to which he answered he had not himself, but would inquire if a friend of his, one Mr. Whitgrave of Mosley... could do it.”¹⁹

Interestingly Colonel William Careless, who suggested Mainwaring as a possible helper, had himself commanded Tong Castle for a while during the first Civil War, while Whiteladies, one of the houses where the King hid out, was in the parish of Tong.²⁰ This it makes seem likely to me that this man was the same Mainwaring who had earlier commanded at Tong and fought at Shrewsbury and Worcester.

We cannot be certain about these identifications I have made, but I feel on the balance of probability that (apart from the traveller to Persia) these men are all one and the same, and one of our alumni. As a younger son of the gentry with two older brothers, he would have known that he could have little chance of inheriting, and would need to make his own way in the world. Despite an Oxford education that would have fitted him for a church or law career, and a taste for art and culture, he clearly preferred a life of action, dependent mainly on the precarious opportunities presented by the continental wars. Like so many, this experience was valuable in the England of 1642, but like so many his fortunes were to be wrecked by his loyalty to his king, and seems not to have lived to see the monarchy restored.

I must thank Steve Webber (Jurisprudence, 1981) for drawing my attention to the travel journals of Peter Mundy.

Notes

- 1 Sir George listed just one daughter, Anne, whom we know married Sir John Corbet of Adderley, the adjoining parish to Ightfield; but the More family monument records that one of her mother's two daughters married Sir Richard Baker of Middle Aston (a Hart Hall contemporary of John Donne and Sir Henry Wotton) and agrees that the other married Sir John Corbet. It does not actually give the Christian name of either daughter, but we know from other sources that Sir Richard Baker's wife was called Margaret. It is not clear why her father omitted her from the family tree he gave to the Heralds' Visitation.
- 2 C.B. Heberden (ed.), *Brasenose College Register* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1909), p.96; Andrew Clark, *Register of the University of Oxford* (Oxford: Oxford Historical Society, 1887-88), vol. 2, part 2, p.261, and part 3, p.260.
- 3 E.G. Atkinson (ed.), *Acts of the Privy Council 1615-1616* (London: HMSO, 1925), p.127.
- 4 Some historians try to make sense of this name as *Anne Adam*, but in fact there is a word 'anadem', which means a wreath of flowers worn round the head.

- 5 Allen B. Hinds (ed.), *Calendar of State Papers Venetian 1617-1619* (London: HMSO, 1909), pp.188-9; Marquese de Pidal, Marquese de Miraflores and Miguel Salva (eds), *Colección de Documentos Inéditos para la Historia de España* (Madrid: Imprenta de la Viuda de Calero, 1865), vol.46, pp.374-6.; J.V. Lyle (ed.), *Acts of the Privy Council 1618-1619* (London: HMSO, 1929), p.97.
- 6 The National Archives (TNA), HCA 13/98: High Court of Admiralty Examinations Criminal, ff. 178-80, 202-8, 212; E.G. Atkinson (ed.), *Acts of the Privy Council 1613-1614* (London: HMSO, 1921), pp.407, 430 and 435-6, and *Acts of the Privy Council 1615-1616* (London: HMSO, 1925), pp.139-40, 213-6 and 488-9.
- 7 It is possible that these books are the ones he later gave to the college: see the *Brazen Nose*, vol.53, 2018-19, pp.129-34.
- 8 Sir Richard Carnac Temple (ed.), *The Travels of Peter Mundy, in Europe and Asia, 1608-1667*, volume 1 (London: Hakluyt Society, 1907), pp.91-2.
- 9 The National Archives, SP 81/41: State Papers Foreign German States, ff.225-6.
- 10 M.A. Noble, *A History of the College of Arms* (London: J. Debrett and T. Egerton, 1804), p.247 and index; W.H. Godfrey, *The College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street* (London: London Survey Committee, 1963), p.146.
- 11 Anthony Wagner, *Heralds of England: a History of the Office and College of Arms* (London: HMSO, 1967), pp.235 and 248-9.
- 12 S. Garbet, *History of Wem* (Wem: publisher unknown, 1818), p.58.
- 13 Allen B. Hinds (ed.), *Calendar of State Papers Venice 1621-1623* (London: HMSO, 1911), p.304; Mary F.S. Hervey, *The Life, Correspondence and Collections of Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel* (Cambridge: CUP, 1921), p. 209.
- 14 One source, the Rev. Mark Noble, *A History of the College of Arms* (London: Debrett, 1804), pp.268 and 289, suggests that Mainwaring was restored to office in 1660, but gives St George's date of appointment as 18 June 1660, so soon after Charles II's return in late May 1660 that I am inclined to think the supposed reappointment of Mainwaring is an error.
- 15 He commanded the *Unicorn* in 1636 and 1637, the *Charles* in 1638, the *Henrietta Maria* in 1639 and the *Charles* again in 1640.
- 16 As a courtier and lawyer respectively, Sir Arthur and Sir Thomas seem to have had no military experience at all, and while Sir Henry had been in at least one stiff fight, this was at sea.
- 17 Joyce Frost (ed.), *Auden's History of Tong* (Bury St Edmunds: Arima, 2004), vol.2, pp.41-2.
- 18 A.E. Corbet, *The Family of Corbet: its Life and Times* (London: publisher unknown, 1919), vol.2, p.334; William Douglas Hamilton (ed.), *Calendar of State Papers Domestic 1645-1647* (London: HMSO, 1891), p.456.
- 19 G. Colborn, *A True Narrative and Relation of His Most Sacred Majesties Miraculous Escape from Worcester* (London: G. Colborn, 1660), p.6.
- 20 H.C.G. Matthew and Brian Harrison (eds), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004), vol.10, p.137; Colbron, *A True Narrative*, p.2.

THE STEWARD, THE ADMIRAL, THE POISONER AND HER LOVER: AN ADDENDUM

by David Bradbury (*Ancient & Modern History*, 1981)

In last year's *Brazen Nose* I wrote an article that sought to disentangle Sir Arthur Mainwaring, who studied at Brasenose in the late sixteenth century, from two other men of the same name who are often confused with him. One of these other Arthur Mainwarings was pursebearer to Lord Ellesmere, carrying the embroidered purse which held the Great Seal of England; but for the reasons I put forward last year was not the Brasenose man,

Now, following a chance discovery in the National Archives, I think it is proven that the two men are quite separate. The document in question, catalogued as LC 2/4/6, is an account of the issue of black cloth to courtiers and royal servants to make mourning clothes for the funeral of Prince Henry in 1612. Not surprisingly, Sir Arthur Mainwaring, who was a close household servant of the prince, holding the position of carver, appears on folio 38 with his three fellow carvers as recipients of this largesse. But on folio 45 we find a different entry – another recipient is “Mr Manwaringe”, described as “sealebearer to ye Lo: Chauncellor”. This separate entry proves, I think, beyond any doubt that Ellesmere's pursebearer cannot have been the same man as the Brasenose Sir Arthur Mainwaring.

Obituaries



DEATHS NOTIFIED

October 2023 – September 2024

The editor welcomes correspondence concerning any members of Brasenose who have passed away; personal reminiscences are welcome. Please let us know if you would like to provide an obituary by contacting: development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk, or call +44 (0) 1865 287275.

* denotes full obituary

Name	Matriculated
Anthony John Tobitt	1942
Brian Denis Wilson*	1943
Samuel Richard Gallop*	1946
Vincent Marks*	1948
G J Ross McHardy	1949
David Cooper Jackson	1950
Geoffrey Christopher Rivett	1950
Trevor John Tarring	1950
Patrick Graham Lowe*	1951
Jagdish Chand Ajmani	1952
Michael George Flint	1952
William Hamer Moss	1952
William Penrose Higman*	1952
Francis Edward Watson	1952
Ian James Bartlett	1953
Hubert Rogers Moore*	1953
Peter Beverley Walker	1953
David Norman Baldock	1954
Michael John Garms	1954
Glyn Hugh Jones	1954
Robert Wilson Stewart	1954
David Reginald Hegan	1955
Adam Kellett-Long	1955
Trevor John McNamara*	1955

Julian Russell Story	1955
Peter Joseph Wedge	1955
Michael John Dorling	1956
Patrick Lavelle	1956
John Woodman Blair	1957
John William Perry	1957
Andres Imre Sandor*	1957
Norman Leslie Jones	1958
Alistair Frank Pitty*	1958
G Oliver Trigg	1958
Christopher Stephen Wates	1959
J Robin Barron	1960
Simon Howard Leigh	1960
Richard John Allen	1961
Robert Jeremy Allan	1962
James Brian Allsopp	1962
John Richard Beale*	1962
Ian Kenneth Jones Perrin	1962
Graham Petrie	1962
J Alastair Carruthers*	1963
John Walker	1963
Michael John Duncan*	1964
Peter Hardress Lavallin Puxley	1964
Martyn Richard Edwards	1965
Malcolm Ian Morris	1966
Alan John Dyson	1967
David Hill*	1967
K Jeremy Plummer*	1967
Richard Anthony Skipton Seaford*	1967
Robin Geoffrey Kemp	1968
Mark Howard Wakley Roberts	1969
Robert Christopher Peach*	1970

Thomas Bruce Bolton	1971
David Brooker-Carey*	1972
Anthony John Evans	1973
James Flynn*	1974
Jeremy Simon Whale	1975
Paul William Birkett*	1976
George Edward Rosmond Simey	1978
Richard George Rowland	1979
Penelope Joanna Lane	1983
Paul Klein*	1989
Helen Lesley Eastcote Jackson	1995
Simon Charles Boas*	1996
Isabelle Olga Jane Lawrence*	2003
Lu Na Hu	2020
Wesley Akum-Ojong	2023
Mary Merdinger	
Nathaniel Thomas Allen Fiennes, Lord Saye and Sele	

John Beale (Chemistry, 1962)

by Aqsa Saeed

John was a great innovator, responsible for starting, owning and developing many vibrant businesses including Early Learning Centre, Past Times, and Museum Selection Ltd. He was a giant of the mail-order world in the eighties and beyond and had a strong influence on high street retailing.

He was the eldest of four siblings, born in Torquay, Devon on 13 June 1944 to Muriel and Colin. As for many at that time, his early years were affected by family separation and bereavement. His father was away at sea, serving in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and less than two months after John was born, Muriel's much-loved brother, serving in the Royal Navy, was lost in HMS *Quorn* when it was sunk off the Normandy beaches on 8 August 1944.

John had an inquisitive and sharp mind and, as a schoolboy at Blundell's, developed an interest in Germany. After finishing school in 1961, he took an overland trip to Moscow via Berlin, where he witnessed the beginning of the erection of the Berlin Wall which turned him against communism.

He completed his O-levels at the age of 14 and was influenced to choose science at the time of the first Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's journey into space and of Harold Wilson's "white heat of technology" speech. He won a Trevelyan Scholarship and read Chemistry at BNC from 1962. At Oxford he met people from a wider range of backgrounds, finding an intellectually exciting environment and making many lifelong friends there.

He became strongly interested in business whilst at BNC. John joined the College and University dramatic societies, running the business management, front of house, ticket sales and advertising for the BNC/Balliol/LMH production of Vanbrugh's *The Relapse*. He was the business manager for the OUDS production of Aristophanes' *The Frogs* at the Minack Theatre, Porthcurno, travelling to Cornwall from Oxford on his Vespa scooter!

John learned much from Norman Leyland, tutor in economics and Bursar, subsequent creator of the Centre for Management Studies, and a formidable investor. In his penultimate year at BNC John spent time at ICI in Warrington, Proctor and Gamble in Newcastle and Leyland Motors in Leyland. After graduation, his first job was with Shell International, initially in the Netherlands, then in Brussels, and he left in 1970 to pursue an MBA at Columbia University, New York.

He enjoyed applying his scientific bent to running businesses and loved the analytical possibilities and potential of mail order retailing, becoming an innovator of the highest order. At its peak the Early Learning Centre had more than 200 stores in the UK and 500 worldwide. He was highly regarded by his staff, genuinely interested in people, and was a leader who had that rare talent of being able to see the destination and take people with him. His attention to, and retention of, detail at board meetings and shop visits was legendary.

John continued living in Oxford for much of his adult life. As well as running businesses, he had interests in art history, archaeology and museums. He chaired the commercial board at the Ashmolean Museum and the board of the trading company of the Watts Gallery (which holds

much of the work of G.F. Watts, the Victorian painter and sculptor, and that of his artist wife Mary). He was a founder trustee of the Dresden Trust (founded in 1993 to assist with the rebuilding of the city's Frauenkirche after German reunification), was chair of the board of trustees of the Levantine Foundation (which conserves ancient Near Eastern manuscripts), and sponsored archaeology at the universities of Oxford, Reading and Kent.

He became fluent in German, Dutch and French, studied Turkish, and was a keen traveller. He went around the world to explore Islamic art with his wife Aqsa before their son was born in 2014, and enjoyed archaeology trips with his friends, exploring sites in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Australia and Morocco.

John's enthusiasm, drive and commitment were extraordinary and those who knew him will miss his unerring support and positivity, his charm, eloquence and incisiveness. He was much loved by friends, colleagues and family and will be missed by all. He leaves his widow and four children.

Paul Birkett (Chemistry, 1976)

by David Birkett

Brasenose contemporaries of my younger brother will remember him as a stalwart of the darts team, as a great man for crosswords and general knowledge (he really should have been on the University Challenge team instead of first reserve), a keen hill-walker, a Tolkien fan, an enthusiastic member of the Brazen Squires and the Stamford Club, and the possessor of a very loud voice.

But unless they kept in touch with him, they wouldn't think of Paul as a serious political left-winger, for this only developed when he started work. He got involved with the engineering trade union TASS while working at Lucas in Birmingham (his first job after he completed his degree). In the circles that he developed, he is fondly remembered as a dedicated champion of workers' rights, equality and bringing the fragmented Left together at quite a senior level. He also kept up his hill-walking and took up pub quizzing as a (successful) major hobby. And if there was no quiz on, he was always great company in the pub anyway.

Those who were at the gaudy for years 1973-6 in the spring of 2023 will remember Paul in apparently fine form, interrupting Lyn Roberts'

speech with a classical and apposite Ale Verse. They were, or will be, surprised at his sudden death. But that was the last time that he could or would attend such a function.

He spent the next year and a half in and out of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, following a series of falls. It was obvious to my wife Jacquie and myself that he had a lot of mental and physical problems, and in retrospect he was showing signs of these the previous Christmas.

When he took early retirement in 2018, he planned to keep himself busy with trade union, Labour Party and pension fund trustee activity. But then Covid came along and all these moved to Teams or suchlike. For a year or two he was generally alone with only a bottle of whisky for company. Covid also ruined his appetite, which never recovered.

Unsurprisingly he got into a downward spiral of alcoholism, depression, delusions and dementia plus several other physical problems. In his last year we were braced to hear that he had fallen downstairs and broken his neck. But in the end, it was a heart attack that took him away.

Paul and I had been great friends for most of our lives and I miss him dreadfully, as does Jacquie, who had been firm friends with Paul before she and I got together. The rest of the extended family had lost patience with his growing bad temper and unreliability, but that's forgiven now.

Simon Boas (English, 1996)

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After Simon Boas learnt last year that he had terminal throat cancer, he wrote the first of three articles for the *Jersey Evening Post*, describing his plans to visit the South Pole while dealing with chemotherapy. His second appeared five months ago, striking a chord with readers by quoting his "favourite bit of understatement" from Emperor Hirohito of Japan.

"In August 1945, following Japan's defeats in every recent battle and the obliteration of two cities with nuclear bombs, he broadcast that 'the war situation has developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage'. Well, I'm sorry to have to announce that my cancer situation has also developed not necessarily to my advantage," he wrote, adding that his lungs were riddled with tumours. "The prognosis is not quite 'Don't buy any green bananas', but it's pretty close to 'Don't start any long book'."

Boas spent much of his career in overseas development, including working with victims of torture in Sierra Leone, Ukraine and Gaza. "I won't name the Hamas minister for whom I used the UN's diplomatic privileges to smuggle in bottles of whisky, but it helped ensure their security forces stopped arresting my employees," he wrote.

A 6ft 6in Byron-esque figure with a twinkle in his eye and often sporting a beard, he lived hard and played hard, squeezing everything possible out of life. He smoked, drank and experimented with illicit substances, none of which he regretted. In fact, he said, speaking in a gentle and measured voice, he had "lived far longer than most of the humans in the 300,000-year history of our species".

He had "dined with lords and billionaires, and broken bread with the poorest people on Earth" in between accomplishing "prodigious feats of drinking", being a Samaritan and a policeman, and getting off "an attempted murder charge in Vietnam (trumped up, to extract a bribe) by singing karaoke in a brothel," he wrote. He also climbed the Great Pyramid, sailed across the Mediterranean, chipped chunks of concrete off Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, travelled on five continents, sang in choirs on three of them and crossed borders with diplomatic immunity. "I have seen whales and tigers and bears in the wild. I have seen airstrikes, rockets and gun battles, the despair of the bereaved and the vacant stares of the ethnically cleansed. I've rolled a car, been shot in the leg and pulled one of my own teeth out," he added.

Boas's humour, honesty and lack of regret touched his readers. His first article was reprinted in other publications, led to an interview on BBC Radio 4 and now forms the basis of his book *A Beginner's Guide to Dying*, which will be published in September and has already, pre-publication, reached No 2 on the Amazon bestseller list.

By the time his third piece appeared, Boas's days were numbered. "Instead of shrivelling like a vampire in sunlight, [the cancer] appears to have acquired some kind of horse and has been galloping all over my body sowing new tumours," he wrote. "Liver, spine, pelvis, sternum, various soft tissues, more lung; not quite A.A. Gill's 'Full English' but certainly the ingredients of a cheap hot dog."

Simon Charles Boas, known as Bob, was born in London in 1977, the son of Tony Boas, a businessman, and his wife Sarah (née Beveridge), a book editor; they survive him with his younger sister, Julia. He was educated at Dulwich College prep school and was three years

ahead of Rishi Sunak at Winchester College, where he campaigned against the school's Combined Cadet Force with the slogan "make love, not corps". At 14, he joined the druids in a vain attempt to avoid compulsory attendance at chapel but was more successful by "converting" to Catholicism because no one checked his attendance at St Peter's Catholic Church in town. "On the Sundays when I thought it expedient not to be caught in bed at 10am, I worshipped in McDonalds," he said.

Boas caught the "aid bug" at 16 after joining a convoy delivering supplies to a refugee camp near Mostar in Bosnia, "where mass graves and bombed-out villages had a profound effect" on him.

He then spent a gap year in Cambodia and Vietnam, gravitating to American war veterans "who were there trying to lay old ghosts... and heal their own trauma and guilt".

Back in Britain, he read English literature at Brasenose College, Oxford, but during his third year was involved in a car accident and did not complete his degree, something he described as a pivotal moment in his life. He was a tour guide in Egypt, Turkey and India, studied Arabic at Birzeit University on the West Bank and spent four years as a researcher and programme co-ordinator with the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute. Meanwhile, he completed an MSc in international policy analysis at the University of Bath.

In 2008, he met Aurélie Veyret on a bus at Ben Gurion airport in Israel. They were married in Winchester two years later, with 24 nationalities represented at their wedding. They weathered the disappointment of ten years of unsuccessful IVF treatment. "We're so close, we're a really annoying couple to everyone else," he told Rosamund Urwin in the *Sunday Times*. Aurélie survives him.

They lived in Gaza, where Boas ran the local office of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, commuting at weekends to the West Bank. In 2012 they moved to Nepal, where he managed a large UN project on animal diseases covering eight south Asian countries. Soon after their marriage, Boas began writing to *The Times*, opining on subjects from university tuition fees and the dumbing down of BBC weather bulletins to Lords reform and rail delays. He was thrilled when a couple of his letters appeared in the coveted bottom right-hand corner of the page.

In 2014, he joined the British civil service and two years later was appointed executive director of the charity Jersey Overseas Aid, quickly falling in love with the island. He became a trustee and chairman of Jersey Heritage, was a volunteer with the Samaritans and kept a Picardy shepherd dog called Pippin. He and Aurélie were volunteer police officers, though he never made any arrests and only used his blue lights and siren on one occasion. His illustrated poem, *Cyclists are C***s*, came with a health warning: “Please only search it out if you’re not easily offended and can tolerate awful language.”

Boas first noticed a problem with his throat in 2022 but was told he had acid reflux. A year later, when cancer was diagnosed, the tumour was already at stage four. Boas spent his final months on “death-min”, including choosing the hymns for his funeral: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* and *Guide Me Oh Thou Great Redeemer*. While in a hospice he received a letter from the King and Queen praising his courage and his significant contribution to charity work.

Through his writing, he “wanted to try to explain this apparent paradox: that it is possible to leave life with a sense of equanimity not because one is fed up with it, but because one loves it so much”. Simon Boas, aid worker, was born on 6 July 1977. He died of cancer on 15 July 2024, aged 47.

David Brooker-Carey (Modern History, 1972)

by Robin Lane (Chemistry, 1972)

David and I met within a few days of coming up to Brasenose in October 1972 and we remained firm friends for over 50 years. I shall miss him greatly.

David came to BNC from King’s School Worcester and was the son of Brian and Gin and had one brother, Andrew. He was, I believe, the first in his family to go to university. David read History under Dr Jones and Eric Collier though his time in the college was very nearly cut short after only two terms as he seemed incapable of applying himself to Prelims sufficiently to pass. During his third term a ‘council of war’ convened in his rooms in New Inn Hall Street (Steve Dalby, Andy Higgins and I) where we told him that we could not bear to see him leave and begged him to do the necessary to stay on. Possibly as a result (but who will ever know?) he did the absolute minimum and

passed the exam on the third (and final) attempt much to all of our relief and a joyous time was had by all of us as a result for the rest of our time in College.

The description above may make it sound like David was lacking in intelligence; nothing could be further from the truth as he was one of the most intelligent and well-read people I have ever had the pleasure to meet and we spent many a happy hour in our rooms late at night, accompanied by a bottle of Laphroaig (or some other beverage), putting the world to rights. David left with an extremely distinguished Third Class Bachelor of Arts honours degree (as did most of us, I would add). Is it still possible to get this gentleman's degree or have they now been abolished, as were Fourths before we were up? I do hope not. When he went down BNC lost one of its more dapper members.

On leaving Brasenose David spent his working life in the scrap metal industry (as it was called then), starting at the bottom (learning how to sweep a yard and sort the metals) to becoming MD of the aluminium sector of a Footsie 100 international company: the Cookson Group.

He was very successful and one of his claims to fame was helping to get secondary aluminium listed on the London Metal Exchange. When he started in the trade it was a little valued metal whereas today quite the reverse is true as it has so many applications in industry. His success meant he could indulge in his hobbies.

David's main passion was motor racing a subject about which he had an encyclopaedic knowledge. For many years he raced a series of MG Midgets in the Classic Car Championship. Another 'sideline' was buying a series of houses all over Europe at one of which, in the Dordogne, he managed to upset practically everyone in a 50-mile radius, by attempting to establish a motor racing circuit in its grounds.

David was good at spotting opportunities and was fearless to take on any establishment that seemed to have too much control in a negative sense. He always had a project on the go whenever we caught up with each other which wasn't, in retrospect, nearly often enough.

David was married first to Sue with whom he had a son William and a daughter Becky and then subsequently to Sandra (Sandie). He is survived by all of them.

I was truly fortunate to have lunch with David just two weeks before he died in an accident at his latest French home. I have a photograph of us in the restaurant on my desk as I type this. You can't make new

“old friends” which is why friendships like mine and David’s are so precious. Make the most of them while you can, please.

David was born on 13 February 1953 and died on 26 September 2023.

James Alastair Carruthers M.D (Physiological Sciences, 1963)

by William Coleman III MD

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<https://journals.lww.com/dermatologicsurgery/fulltext/2024/10000>

Alastair Carruthers, age 79, died on 19 August 2024 at his home in Vancouver with his family at his side. He left behind his beloved wife and collaborator of 50 years, Jean, his three children Thomas (Jennifer), Robert (Mollie), and Graham (Steve Hunt) and four grandchildren, Ogden, Hazel, Benjamin and Audrey.

Alastair was a giant in the world of dermatologic surgery. Together with Jean, he discovered the cosmetic use of botulinum toxin A. The two became internationally famous and led much of the clinical trial work on Botulinum A for Allergan Aesthetics and many other companies over three decades. Alastair served as both the president of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery, as well as the Canadian Dermatology Association. He received countless awards and honors. But behind all this professional success was an incredible man.

Alastair was extremely bright, standing out in a field of exceptionally intelligent individuals. He was a lifetime learner in many areas, but especially history, archeology and oenology. Homer would have called him *πολύτροπον*, versatile. The ancient Romans would have suggested *dignitas*. He was a gentle, courtly man and just wonderful to be around. He was also my dear friend. We served on boards together, shared podiums, drank countless first growth Bordeaux, dove and snorkeled, exchanged book suggestions, and explored the ancient world.

Alastair was always neat and well groomed. Even when he went swimming, his hair seemed to stay in place. He had a keen sense of humor and we laughed together a lot. He was precise and nuanced in everything he said. He always had interesting ways of looking at things.

Once, after we went diving together, he said of the tropical fish “it was like visiting old friends”

Alastair was good to be with when things went wrong. One time we got lost off-road in the mountains near Pylos, Greece after visiting the Mycenaean Palace of Nestor. Driving the wrong way into the forest, we got stuck in the mud. With no mobile service to call for help, we had a sense of foreboding. But Alastair went to work and soon found some stout logs to build a ramp so we could escape.

Alastair was an excellent athlete. He crewed at Brasenose College, Oxford, and skied difficult mountains. He was an intrepid scuba diver, a good golfer, biked all over the world, and hiked in rough places. He grew up swimming in 50 degree water in his backyard pond in Cheshire. He always amazed me by snorkelling without fins, and still keeping up with his comrades. If you have ever seen him in the gym on an elliptical machine with headphones on you probably did not know he was listening to lectures on the ancient world.

One of Alastair’s favourite virtual teachers was Professor Ken Harl of Tulane who is an expert on ancient Anatolia and owns one of the world’s largest collections of ancient coins. I arranged for Alastair and Jean to meet and have dinner with Ken and even after all the celebrities they had treated over the years, for them it was like be introduced to royalty.

Alastair had an encyclopedic knowledge of French wines. His interest in Burgundy lead him to be elected Grand Seneschal of the Chevaliers du Tastevin in Vancouver and Grand Pilier General for the National Tastevin organization 2008–2010. He was a long-time member of the Canadian Commanderie de Bordeaux and I was privileged to be with him when he was inducted into La Jurade de St Emilion in full robes. For several decades, Alastair, Steve Mandy and I organized a fine wine tasting at the annual ASDS meeting. We invited other dermatologist wine lovers, shipped our wines ahead and had lively discussions of the merits of the vintages we selected. Alastair would sometimes spring a surprise from his cellar bringing a nineteenth century Madeira or an old first-growth Bordeaux.

Alastair loved to teach. He organized numerous sessions all over the world inviting the top experts on the subject, usually botulinums. But in more intimate settings he was a patient and generous teacher to beginners. As an assistant editor of this journal he was a stickler for proper design of studies and reviewed most of the articles on neurotoxins which

have been published over the last thirty years. He enjoyed teaching new reviewers how to review a manuscript.

Alastair was always delighted to visit archeological sites. He came prepared, reading extensively ahead of time. He had a deep curiosity about the ancient world and it was great fun to discuss the past with him.

In spite of his busy life, Alastair was a dedicated family man. He was proud of his children and grandchildren and they were very close. They, much more than all of us will deeply miss this wonderful father, grandfather, and friend.

Michael J Duncan (Education PGCE, 1964)

*Originally published by the Eton Fives Association,
reused with kind permission*

22/02/24: Michael Duncan, who has died of cancer aged 83, was Master i/c Fives at Harrow from 1969 to 1974 and Membership Secretary of the EFA from 1980 until 2010.

Michael was educated at Denstone, where he played rugby fives, as well as representing the school at cricket and rugby football. After taking his degree in mathematics at St Andrew's University and a DipEd at Brasenose College, Oxford, his first teaching post was at King Edward's, Birmingham, 1965-68. He then moved to Harrow where he stayed until his retirement in 2002.

At Harrow, Michael converted to Eton fives with enthusiasm and played for the Old Harrovians, the Beaks, who in those days had regular fixtures with the School and Westminster masters, and The Hill Club. He was soon persuaded to take over the running of the school fives from Michael Vallance, whose limited fives experience had been based on the Brighton College code (a buttress but no ledges or step).

From 1982 to 1992 and again from 1998-2002, Michael was organisation master, which involved constructing timetables, arranging cover and invigilation, and generally organising the academic side of the school. Before the advent of computers, this was a role that required considerable analytical as well as diplomatic skills, accommodating the demands of heads of department with the idiosyncratic needs of masters and boys. This was achieved on a huge wall chart – forerunner of the Excel spreadsheet – the entries being in multicoloured inks. It was a

work of art in itself. In between his two terms as organisation master, Michael was director of studies.

In 1966, Michael married Jeanie née Davidson and they had three children: Fiona, a teacher; Colin, a Royal Navy helicopter pilot; and Hamish, a veterinary surgeon. Hamish, playing with Jamie Fleming, won the Schools Eton Fives Championships for Harrow in 1991.

Later that year, Michael and Hamish reached the final of the Abercrombie Cup for father and son pairings, where they lost to Gerald and Simon Barber.

Dale Vargas writes: “I knew Michael Duncan for more than fifty years and I count him as a really good friend. We worked together in the mathematics department at Harrow and for many years we taught parallel A-level divisions. We both coached and played cricket and fives, and in the very early days, I can even remember our taking to the rugby field together.

“Michael was an absolute stalwart: efficient, reliable, dedicated and happy to take on unglamorous jobs and to do them without complaint – even with enthusiasm. He brought the same qualities to the thankless task of managing the EFA database as he did to the role of Organisation Master. When handing over to Gareth Hoskins in 2010, he wrote, ‘I took this on from Jack Gaywood when I was a member of the committee, which must have been around 1980. Dale persuaded me to do it as I think he thought that I had some idea about computers. At that time the computers were in a special room in the Maths Department so I could never do anything at home and everything had to be saved on disc.... In a funny way I will miss updating the EFA database of addresses, but I cannot say I will miss having to produce address labels as it did not seem to matter what I did over the years, there was always a hitch somewhere in their production. Anyway, this is my last...’”

“This was a typically self-effacing assessment of thirty years of devotion. We forget how laborious much of this clerical work was in the early days of computers and before email.

“After retirement, Michael and Jeanie built a house for themselves overlooking Drumoig golf course, just outside St Andrews. Unsurprisingly, Michael became a prominent member of the club as both player and official. He was playing golf until a few months before he died. Michael was also a skilled gardener and I can remember being

amazed by his display of dahlias on an occasion when we were staying with them.

“Michael was a man who could be accurately described as the salt of the earth and I mourn the passing of a dear friend.”

James Flynn (Jurisprudence, 1974)

First published by GCR

www.globalcompetitionreview.com/article/james-flynn-1956-2024

James Flynn KC, a pioneering competition law barrister who worked on some of the UK's most influential antitrust cases, passed away on 10 October, aged 68.

A standout figure within London's competition bar, Flynn spent the majority of his career at Brick Court Chambers, working on seminal antitrust cases and mentoring countless colleagues, many of whom are now leaders in the field.

Joining Brick Court in 1996, he went on to work on multiple precedent-setting cases, including *Sky/Ofcom* and *Paroxetine*, the latter of which was the UK's first pay-for-delay case and included the country's last preliminary reference to the European Court of Justice.

Flynn also helped the Road Haulage Association secure certification in the UK's first-ever opt-in class action, while also advising the European Committee for Interoperable Systems, the main complainant, in the EU's landmark Microsoft abuse of dominance probe.

Calm, incisive, elegant and understated in his advocacy style, he was known as one of the finest competition minds in London.

An expert also on matters at the intersection of competition and intellectual property law, he represented Qualcomm and Samsung in high-profile cases concerning the licensing of standard essential patents and FRAND terms.

“At every phase of his career, [Flynn] was at the cutting edge of legal developments,” said Robert O'Donoghue KC at Brick Court Chambers.

“He touched many, many hundreds of people in his professional life and he left a very fine impression on all he came across,” said Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan partner Trevor Soames, who worked with Flynn while in Brussels in the 1990s.

Away from the law, Flynn followed the arts with real sophistication. He was an amateur poet, with an encyclopaedic knowledge of classical music and opera.

“Language meant a great deal to him. It was a pleasure hearing him advocate,” said David Scannell KC, who worked with Flynn at Brick Court Chambers for nearly two decades. Judges particularly enjoyed hearing Flynn’s submissions, said Scannell. “He chose his shots very well and had a keen sense for a good point.”

Sir Geoffrey Vos, Master of the Rolls, once commended Flynn for the “charming and gentlemanly way he presented his arguments during an urgent application”, said O’Donoghue.

Flynn started his career at Goldsmith Delvolvé in Paris in 1979, where he rose to become of counsel before completing his pupillage at Monckton Chambers in 1981 alongside influential competition lawyer Lord Christopher Bellamy.

He joined Linklaters in 1982 before leaving four years later to become a legal secretary to advocate general Sir Gordon Slynn at the European Court of Justice. He returned to Linklaters in 1989 and joined the partnership in 1993.

Flynn left Brussels in 1996 to join Brick Court Chambers in London, where he would spend the rest of his career, taking silk in 2003.

Scannell remarked that “James’s elegance and generosity were defining characteristics. He was curious about everything around him and addressed everything he turned his hand to in a sensitive, sophisticated way.”

Flynn also went out of his way to support junior barristers, Scannell added. “He was always willing to add their input and give them the opportunity to speak.”

He “had a youthful elegance about him, which was always quite striking”, Scannell said.

“Following the *Paroxetine* case, James attended a summer poetry camp, where amateur poets go to write during the day and come together in the evening to discuss their work. Had he not become a fine lawyer, he might have become a fine writer,” Scannell added.

Flynn “had a great depth to him” and took real pride and joy in everyone doing well, said O’Donoghue.

He was an “enormously supportive friend and generous colleague”, who took junior barristers “under his wing”, O’Donoghue added.

“His advocacy style was calm, incisive and elegant,” said Soames. “He was such a charming, lovely man, who was eternally young.” Flynn took a “risk” leaving the partnership at Linklaters to join Brick Court, but he was extremely ambitious and driven to work at one of the best sets in London, home to hugely influential lawyers such as the late David Vaughan, Soames added. He also had a “fabulous and beautiful voice” from his time singing in a choir in Brussels, said Soames.

Thomas Vinje, senior counsel at Clifford Chance, who advised the European Committee for Interoperable Systems with Flynn, said he was “extremely easy to work with and not in the least bit arrogant”. Vinje described Flynn as “analytically brilliant, and a really adept writer and oral advocate”.

Despite his great talents, Flynn remained humble, Vinje said. “The thing that meant the most to me was James as a person, he was a great friend, extremely gentle, never stubborn and always open to other ideas.”

CMS partner Brian Sher, counsel to GlaxoSmithKline in the *Paroxetine* case alongside Flynn, said he was a “lovely, gentle, creative man” and one of the smartest competition lawyers in London. Sher said he instructed Flynn in *Paroxetine* because he had a real insight into matters at the interface of competition and intellectual property. “It was a very analytical case, being the first pay-for-delay case in the UK, and one that played to his strengths,” he added. “His written advocacy in particular, as we took it from the Competition Appeal Tribunal to Luxembourg and back, was exceptional.”

Steven Meyerhoff, a director at Backhouse Jones in Lancashire, who advised the Road Haulage Association alongside Flynn, said he had an “extremely cool head and was unflappable no matter the circumstances”. Flynn was “hugely respected by his peers” and had a wonderful manner with lay clients, he said. “More than that though, he was a wonderful person. Thoughtful, funny and very supportive,” he said. “A true gentleman and a huge loss for the competition community. My thoughts go out to his family.”

Flynn is survived by his wife Anna Morfey and their daughter Olivia, and by his children from his first marriage, Hugo and Harriet.

Sam Gallop (PPE, 1946)

by his family

Sam Gallop died on 17 October 2023, aged 101.

He was an extraordinary man who led an extraordinary life. He was also extraordinarily modest, so some of what follows here may surprise you.

He was born in Croydon on 11 August 1922. He went to school in South London and joined the RAF shortly after the war started. In 1943, Flight Sergeant Gallop was ordered to go on a training flight. As visibility was poor he questioned the instruction and was told it was an order. Minutes later he was involved in a mid-air collision that ripped a wing off his Spitfire.

The plane caught fire when it crashed: his lower legs were badly burnt, both arms broken, one wrist burnt, one finger lost, his jaw smashed, with lower spine crush injuries and some hearing loss. He was admitted to RAF Cosford hospital and later transferred to Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead. Here he was treated by Sir Archibald McIndoe and so became a member of the Guinea Pig Club. Both legs were amputated below the knee, his treatment took 18 months.

After the war, a brief spell of clerical work was followed by studies at Brasenose College where he read PPE. He joined the British Electricity Authority in 1949 and continued working in the industry, eventually running IT services for the Central Electricity Generating Board. He retired early in 1977 and then began his main life's work.

He set up Employment Opportunities, a charity recruitment agency to get disabled people into work; it grew from two small rooms in the Bank of England into a UK-wide service. He created Aim Hi, a charity for hearing impaired students linked to Oak Lodge school for the deaf; he established the All Party Parliamentary Limb Loss Group to influence emerging disability legislation; he was the first chair of the Limbless Association, the chair of Opportunities, and involved with innumerable charity boards.

His work was recognised first with an OBE in 1993 and later a CBE in 2002. Amongst many life-time achievement awards, this citation gives a concise summary:

“Throughout his life, Sam has worked tirelessly for the rights of disabled people. He successfully campaigned for improved access to

employment and has enhanced the lives of innumerable disabled people through his charitable work. Even in his tenth decade he remains a passionate advocate who is greatly respected for his wisdom, energy and pragmatism.

When you consider the life-changing injuries that Sam suffered over 70 years ago and the challenges that he faced, his achievements are even more incredible. His enduring commitment and determination to ensure that disabled people have equal opportunities to lead independent and fulfilling lives is humbling and the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association recognises his life-long work by the presentation of the Hambro Award."

Dad loved Renée throughout a 71 year marriage, he was a father of three, grandfather of six and great grand-father of eight children. He loved his family, was proud of them and got great joy from them.

While he became physically frail, his lively intellect remained to the end. He mastered new technologies: drove cars, flew the occasional jet, banked and shopped online, read the *Times* and *Spectator* on their apps. He was interacting on email and by phone to a grandchild during the morning, before he died in the afternoon.

He lived every moment of his remarkable life to the fullest possible extent.

William Penrose Higman (Jurisprudence, 1952)

*First published in the Dulwich Society journal,
republished with kind permission*

Bill Higman, former chairman of the Dulwich Society between 1995 and 2000, died in January. Prior to taking over the role at the 1995 AGM he had been vice-chairman and leader of the Society's negotiating team in the intensive discussions over the Dulwich Estate's plans to pull out of running the Scheme of Management. Its intention was to set up a free-standing and separately-funded 'Dulwich Trust', which would carry out the same role; but the plan fell away when the Estate refused to allow its own land to be included and was unable to provide adequate start-up funding.

William Penrose Higman was born in Paignton in Devon in December 1932. The family later moved to Chippenham in Wiltshire where Bill attended Chippenham Grammar School and was head boy.

In 1951 and 1952 he did his National Service in the Royal Artillery, and then went up to Brasenose College, Oxford University, to read law – one of the very few people to go to Oxbridge from his school. He qualified as a barrister but lacked the financial independence then required to pursue a legal career and decided to follow his other interest, finance.

He joined the Bank of England in 1958, the same year that he married his wife Janet – she had been head girl at Chippenham Grammar School the year after he was head boy – and they were married for over 65 years. From 1960 he worked for the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC. Returning to England, he and his family lived in North London before buying a brand-new Wates townhouse in Pymers Mead. Early in 1967 Bill took a job with the Central Bank in Jordan and the whole family, including three young children, moved to Amman. In June that year the Six Day War with Israel broke out and the family were evacuated back to the UK, but things calmed down, and they returned to Jordan.

In 1970, Bill moved jobs again, to Morgan Grenfell International, in the City of London. The family relocated back to Dulwich, buying a house in Eynella Road, later moving to Burbage Road. In 1989, Morgan Grenfell was taken over by Deutsche Bank and Bill retired with more time to pursue his other interests – theatre, archaeology, and travel. In addition to his work with the Dulwich Society, he also served as Treasurer of UKCOSA (the United Kingdom Council for Overseas Student Affairs).

David Hill (PPE, 1967)

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The first rule of being a government ‘spin doctor’ is “quit when you become the story”. Tony Blair’s press spokesman Alastair Campbell duly resigned in August 2003 during a nadir in the government’s relationship with the media.

Blair claimed that portrayals of Campbell as a machiavellian bully, shouting and swearing down the phone at journalists in an attempt to prevent publication of a story detrimental to the government, were caricatures. What was not in doubt was that New Labour spin doctors had become synonymous with overbearing manipulation and distortion. Trust had been eroded.

Enter Campbell's replacement David Hill, a clubbable working-class Brummie with a thick moustache who was well liked by the press pack after many years working for the Labour politician Roy Hattersley and then as director of communications for the Labour Party between 1991 and 1997. He and Campbell both supported football teams with claret and blue strips, Campbell Burnley and Hill Aston Villa. There any obvious comparisons ended, though Hill could be as forthright as his predecessor and was just as conversant with the 'dark arts' of spin doctoring – only he was less visible to the public and more likely to have a friendly beer with hacks than launch broadsides down the phone.

As such the man who lived in unfashionable Walthamstow – further up the Victoria Line from New Labour's Islington heartland of trendy cafés serving guacamole on sourdough toast – was seen as the perfect candidate to rebuild New Labour's relationship with the fourth estate. "The rule I have always abided by in every operation I have done in 20 or 30 years of working is that you never lie to the media," Hill said. "It's a golden rule. It's wrong in principle and you get caught out."

The start of his tenure coincided with the Hutton inquiry, which investigated claims that the government had "sexed up" a dossier on Iraq and weapons of mass destruction to increase the justification for going to war. "The relationship between Downing Street and the media was not good, because the media had written the outcome before the Hutton report was written, and was condemnatory of government and individuals within it," Hill recalled.

Thereafter, what he called "crazy Saturdays" were spent at battle stations when he would have rather been at Villa Park. "If there is a serious problem story from a Sunday paper, things will start getting hectic on a Friday evening," he told the *New Statesman*. "The paper will come back to us on a Saturday morning, by which time you are having dozens of conversations with other correspondents, as well as monitoring the television and radio bulletins.

"The first editions on Sundays arrive at 8.30pm on a Saturday evening. Often I speak to the correspondents after looking through the first editions. If it is a genuine non-story, you go to bed confident that you have persuaded the other Sundays not to follow up a rival's front page. You then wake up at 7am on Sunday to discover the BBC has followed up the story. Suddenly you find the other correspondents who had rejected the story earlier are under pressure to run with it

because it was in the BBC bulletin. Meanwhile, a new set of stories has developed from GMTV, *Frost*, Sky and lunchtime programmes. These programmes are there to cause problems and make news for the Monday papers. So correspondents from the Monday papers get back to us late in the day about the interview programmes.”

He swam against the tide, especially as there was “a general media appetite for anything which might precipitate a speeding-up of the prime minister going if for no other reason than he had been there a long time and the media needed something new”. By the time Blair finally stood down as prime minister in 2007, Hill had, by his own admission, succeeded in “calming down” the government’s relationship with the media.

Passing judgment on him, *The Independent* wrote in 2007: “Though it cannot be said that Mr Blair left the political arena as he would have wished, with the cheers of the nation ringing in his ears, Mr Hill undoubtedly helped to minimise the amount of rotten fruit hurled by the press at the departing premier.”

David Roland Hill was born on a council estate in Birmingham in 1948 to Roland Hill, an accounts clerk, and Rita, a secretary. His mother was on the Labour committee of the Sparkbrook constituency; Hill attended his first party meeting in a pram. He gained a scholarship to attend King Edward’s School. Short and stocky, David captained the school rugby team and continued to play while studying philosophy, politics and economics at Brasenose College, Oxford.

He began his career as an industrial relations officer for Unigate dairies in Birmingham but quit within six months to work as a research assistant for Hattersley, then shadow education secretary and his local MP. Hill had aspirations to enter parliament himself, unsuccessfully contesting the seat of Burton and Uttoxeter for Labour at the two general elections in 1974. A moderate of the centre left, he failed to be selected for any future seats as the party lurched leftwards.

He remained with Hattersley during his years as secretary of state for prices and consumer protection from 1976 to 1979, shocking civil servants unused to interference from a special adviser. “The No 2 in the department went to Roy and said: ‘Mr Hill is sending round memos in this department which are far too political. He has to go.’ Roy responded: ‘The only circumstance in which I would sack him is if he

stopped sending round such memos.' The civil service machine had to recognise they were operating in a more political atmosphere."

Over the years Hattersley got used to being quoted on the radio without having uttered a word. "Many's the time I've found myself driving down the motorway and heard how I had been outraged or flabbergasted," he said. When he became deputy leader of the Labour Party in 1983, Hill became his chief of staff, and claimed that he and Hattersley persuaded a sceptical Labour leader Neil Kinnock to appoint Peter Mandelson as the Labour Party's director of communications in 1985, an appointment credited as the birth of political spin doctoring.

Labour increasingly regained the centre-left ground under Kinnock, which coincided with Hill being appointed as the party's director of communications in 1991. When the *Sunday Times* prepared to break a story about Kinnock's links with Soviet diplomats before the general election in 1992, several stories attempting to undermine the article hit the streets before the exposé. Hill even persuaded the *Mail on Sunday* to run a story undermining the *Sunday Times's* scoop.

He worked for John Smith after he replaced Kinnock as Labour leader in July 1992, finding his new boss entirely unversed in the emerging craft of spinning his image. He recalled Smith's puzzlement when he briefed journalists before the leader's speeches. "John just didn't understand the process. He wasn't interested in the art of presentation, but he was happy for me to do it. He was fantastically clever, single-minded and tough. On occasions he could be terrifying."

Hill could go into attack-dog mode when required, such as when he threatened to end the government's co-operation with the BBC after John Humphrys interviewed the social security secretary Harriet Harman about the government's cut to single parent benefit in December 1997. The leaked memo said: "I found Humphrys' interviewing style abusive and that a sneering tone had come into his voice when he was interviewing cabinet ministers."

It was one of his final acts for the government before he doubled his salary by moving into corporate PR for Good Relations, part of the Bell Pottinger group with Lord Bell, formerly an adviser to Margaret Thatcher. He briefly returned, at Blair's request, to work on Labour's general election campaign in 2001. Other than that he stayed away as government press relations became toxic and press aides of Blair and the chancellor Gordon Brown stepped up the briefing against each other's

masters. He returned to government again two years later, this time to take over from Campbell.

At Good Relations, Hill reportedly helped to arrange meetings between his clients and cabinet ministers. He was said to have called in a favour, on behalf of his client Tesco, to persuade the solicitor-general Lord Falconer of Thoroton to label prospective legal advice to supermarkets as “Tesco Law”. “Networking activities” on behalf of Securicor Custodial Services were said to have not been unhelpful in the company winning a £100 million government contract in 1998 to run private prisons. He strove to improve the image of BP after it was accused of market manipulation and for Coca-Cola after it was claimed that its products caused hyperactivity in children.

Hill returned to Bell Pottinger after leaving Downing Street in 2007 and retired in 2013, though he continued to work as a PR consultant and represented the charity Since 9/11, aimed at tackling extremism in the classroom. His first marriage to Janet Gibson ended in divorce. He is survived by their children, Lucy and Sam. He later married Hilary Coffman, a former press officer for Neil Kinnock. She survives him along with two stepchildren.

Though he would not have necessarily recommended government PR as an occupation to avoid going prematurely grey, he always believed it should be fun. He generated the biggest photo opportunity of the 1997 general election campaign with his idea of using a bulldog to demonstrate that the Tories did not have a monopoly on patriotism. The only problem was the dog was called Fritz.

David Hill, PR executive, was born on 1 February 1948. He died of pneumonia on 4 November 2024, aged 76.

Paul Klein (PPE, 1989)

*First published by the Institute for International Economic Studies,
Stockholm University; reproduced with their kind permission*

We have recently been informed that our colleague and friend, Professor Paul Klein, Swedish and Canadian citizen, passed away on Monday, 19 August 2024. The news came as a complete shock and is immensely sad.

For a long time, and in a number of different capacities, Paul was a regular participant in our departmental activities. He earned his PhD degree from the IIES in 1997 and remained here as a research fellow

1997–2000. From 2000 and until 2015, he then worked abroad: at the University of Western Ontario, the University of Southampton, and Simon Fraser University in Canada. During this time, he frequently visited us, and he also held visiting positions at a number of institutions in the United States and elsewhere; in 2015 he took up a position at the Department of Economics at Stockholm University. Paul was a macroeconomist and, in most of his papers, applied macroeconomic theory in order to study important phenomena from a quantitative perspective. Paul was well known for his uncompromising rigour, which he applied in his own work and in his commentary and advice on the research of others. His presence here will be sorely missed on a purely professional level. He also played an important role in the PhD programme here as a teacher of a number of different courses over the years, and in his role as a PhD advisor.

For those of us who were blessed with knowing Paul on a personal level, what will remain in our memories is, first, a fundamental kindness. He was also a very humble person; the sharp irony he sometimes expressed in his commentary was more often than not applied to his own statements and actions, with balance and fairness at centre stage. Perhaps most importantly, Paul was a person with sharp wit who could make us laugh, and laugh very joyfully: his ability to make interesting observations, and retell them, from a humorous perspective, was unsurpassed. He had an amazing command of language – and many of the jokes we became used to hearing Paul deliver were indeed language twists. He was also a very good singer and he loved the outdoors. He very much enjoyed good food and wine, especially when consumed surrounded by good friends. All these friends are suffering right now and trying to get over the irreversibility of the terrible news that we will no longer have Paul among us.

Isabelle Olga Jane Lawrence (Biological Sciences, 2003)

by her family

Isabelle was the light of our lives. She was courageous and took all life's opportunities without fear, showering love and kindness on her friends, family, and children along the way. Endlessly inventive and creative, she took her Biological Sciences degree from Oxford and applied it towards communicating positivity in the world. Her projects were

as diverse as her passions, reflecting a curiosity about people and our culture that inspired everyone lucky enough to spend time with her. We remember her as a soulmate, beautiful daughter, sister, devoted mother and wife. Our family has been overwhelmed by her sudden death and we are infinitely grateful to her many friends for their outpouring of love.

Patrick Lowe (Engineering Science, 1951)

*First published by the Electrical Contractors' Association,
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The ECA is saddened to hear of the death of past president Patrick Graham Lowe, who passed away aged 90 following a short illness.

Patrick was a well-known, active member of the charitable community and served the ECA both locally and nationally as president. He was extremely well-respected amongst his peers and helped develop and restore many of Oxford's and the country's most prestigious buildings.

Following completion of an engineering science degree at Brasenose College, Oxford, Patrick joined the University Air Squadron prior to serving in the Royal Air Force before returning home to run the family business in 1958.

Throughout his career he was a mentor to a vast number employed within both Lowe and Oliver and throughout the Oxfordshire electrical community, nurturing and passing down the high standards and values he so passionately believed in.

Patrick will be greatly missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him and our heartfelt sympathies go out to his family and friends.

Vincent Marks (Physiological Sciences, 1948)

*A tribute by Alexandra Marks (Jurisprudence, 1977) and
Lewis Marks (Jurisprudence, 1980)*

Our father, Vincent Marks, a highly respected figure in the fields of biochemistry and forensic medicine, died on 6 November 2023 aged 93. He was renowned for his pioneering research into insulin and hypoglycaemia, his significant role as an expert witness in numerous murder trials, and his unwavering commitment to truth and

justice. He has left behind a legacy of scientific breakthroughs and a devoted family.

Vincent was born on 10 June 1930 in the Grand Junction Arms pub in Harlesden, northwest London. A challenge of his early life was wearing callipers from the ages of three to six to correct his ‘knock-knees’ – a condition he later described as “the fashionable non-disease of the time.” This experience perhaps seeded his later scepticism towards medical fraud, and his founding and passionate support of HealthSense, an organisation dedicated to combating health fraud and ‘quackery’.

The pub provided a dynamic and stimulating environment for the warm family life enjoyed by the young Marks children and their parents, Lewis and Rose. However, in 1940, amidst the upheaval of war, nine-year old Vincent was evacuated to Bishop’s Nympton in Devon, where he chose to live on the outlying Sheepwash farm. Once there, Vincent was slow to settle as all the food was non-kosher. His older brother John was sent by the family with a message that the Chief Rabbi had decreed that kosher rules had been suspended during wartime. This marked the beginning of the end for Vincent’s commitment to Judaism! However, Vincent loved farm-life and thrived under the care of the Hayes family, forming bonds that lasted for many years afterwards. This early demonstration of resilience and a profound sense of family commitment were threads that ran throughout his life.

On returning to London, Vincent attended Tottenham County School like his older brother, John, who later became a GP, and then chairman of the British Medical Association 1984–1990. In 1947, Vincent was turned down by UCH medical school for being too young, but in 1948 he won a scholarship to read medicine at Brasenose. He revelled in his moniker as the ‘college communist’ for advocating the inclusion of *the Daily Worker* amongst JCR newspaper subscriptions. His medical training culminated at St Thomas’s Hospital, London, where he qualified in 1954. Originally aspiring to psychiatry, Vincent shifted focus to clinical pathology – a decision that led to extraordinarily fruitful endeavours in biochemical research.

At the newly established University of Surrey in 1970, Vincent accepted a professorial chair (at the then youthful age of 39) to establish a leading centre for clinical pathology. His work there on insulin testing methods and glucose measurement had a transformative impact on diabetes management. His pioneering research with Ellis Samols laid

the foundations for the understanding of insulin-releasing peptides, now the basis of Ozempic and other anti-obesity medication. His teaching was animated by his booming voice and his infectious intellectual enthusiasm, making him popular amongst his students, several of whom later became colleagues and friends for decades afterwards. Vincent was also a prolific author, publishing over 300 peer-reviewed research papers and nearly 20 books, including the seminal *Hypoglycaemia*, co-authored with neurologist Frank Clifford Rose. Even towards the end of his life, Vincent was active in academia and science, collaborating with Professor Peter Flatt on a paper about peptides published just two days after he died.

Perhaps the most intriguing chapter of Vincent's career was his role as an expert witness in significant criminal trials involving insulin. The most notable of these was Vincent's part in the acquittal of attempted murder by Claus von Bülow of his heiress wife. The high-profile trial in 1985 was later dramatised in a 1990 film called *Reversal of Fortune* starring Glenn Close and Jeremy Irons whose performance won the Oscar for best actor.

Vincent's involvement in the 1990s conviction of nurse Beverly Allitt for the murder of four babies led to requests from Lucy Letby's legal team just months before his death to give expert advice in her case. Vincent's ability to give clear testimony, and explain complex medical concepts in ways that were accessible and compelling to a jury, made him the expert of choice in many other cases.

In 2007, Vincent co-authored with Caroline Richmond *Insulin Murders*. The book explored fifty years of insulin-related legal trials, highlighting Vincent's role in using scientific rigour to explain, or challenge, the alleged use of insulin as a murder weapon.

Vincent was not only outspoken against medical fraud but also a vocal proponent for dignified death. He was a long-standing member of the campaign groups Dignity in Dying, and My Death My Decision. He even asked for someone to speak specifically on the topic at the Celebration of Life event to be held after his death. Vincent's relentless pursuit of justice and his advocacy for truthful science were complemented by his dedication to family relationships.

Vincent married Averil Sherrard, a sculptor, in 1957, and enjoyed a close-knit family life with their children, Alexandra and Lewis (both Brasenose alumni – 1977 and 1980). Together Vincent and Averil

encouraged their children's independence and treated them with the respect and seriousness of equals. In the 1960s while Averil managed her children's wear shop on Saturdays, Vincent became – for his generation – an unusually hands-on father. He dedicated those weekend days to educational activities with his children, organising outings to the library, cinema and even his laboratory at West Park Hospital where the animal house was a particular favourite.

Vincent was a man of vast personal and professional integrity whose life's work bridged science and advocacy. He was a charming, engaging personality valued as much for his contributions to science as his commitment to family.

Vincent Marks leaves an indelible legacy – a source of inspiration, affection, and academic advances. He is survived by Averil, their two children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren as well as his sister, Sheila.

Professor Vincent Marks DM, FRCP, FRCPath, MAE, pathologist and clinical biochemist, born 10 June 1930; died 6 November 2023.

Trevor John McNamara (English, 1955)

by Filiz McNamara, Aylin McNamara and Peter Whisson

Trevor was born in Woolwich, southeast London, to parents John and Maude. Both John, a First World War veteran, and Maude worked at Woolwich Arsenal making munitions during the Second World War. Trevor was just about to turn five when the Second World War started. Even at this young age, he remembered clearly the Blitz, the sirens and his family making the local papers. A bomb had dropped right next to their air raid shelter leaving a deep crater. He realised how lucky they had been to survive.

His father died when Trevor was only 11, and his eldest brother Will took over running the household. Trevor would speak fondly of Will as having a great influence on his political views, and early love of classical music. The family moved from Woolwich to Eltham. Being intelligent and studious, Trevor gained admission to the Haberdasher's Aske's grammar school. He prospered there with a clear passion for learning and a spark for life. He was active in sports, edited the school magazine, and became a school prefect, making life-long friends.

On leaving school, he completed his National Service with the British Army of the Rhine, in Hamburg, Germany. Here he saw the country redefine and rebuild itself after the devastation of war. He competed in running trials at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, a memorable moment of his time there, after the historic 1936 Olympic Games.

In 1953 Trevor was awarded a scholarship to read English at Brasenose College. He was among some of the first 'working class' students to be admitted at Oxford. His family were naturally very proud of the achievement, particularly his mother. She sadly died while he was in his first year which affected Trevor deeply.

Even with this tragedy, Trevor would always look back at life at Oxford with great enthusiasm. He enjoyed the social side of university life, the punting on the Isis, the debates and discussions among friends, meeting those who challenged his intellect. He was a fantastic speaker. After graduating he went on to a lecturing and teaching career. It complemented his passion for adventure and he travelled widely. He worked in Spain and Sweden, before returning to further his studies at the University of Wales (Linguistics, and TEFL, 1966), and Sussex University (MA in English, 1967).

Subsequently, he served with the British Council in Libya, at the Tripoli University Faculty of Science (1967-70). There followed overseas postings in Sweden with the Swedish International Development Authority, Karlstad, and Umea University (1970-73); later in Turkey at the Ege (Aegean) University, Izmir (1979-81); and finally again in Libya at Garyounis University, Benghazi (1983-85). Throughout his career, he always worked hard to have a positive impact on young minds and open up the world of English to them. He cared deeply about this. In 1986 he moved with his family to Broadstairs, and settled permanently, teaching English in local schools. However, he continued to travel widely in Europe and beyond when the opportunity arose.

He loved books of fact and books of fiction, building up a large library at home. Equally he loved poetry, drama, film and music, and took great pleasure in sharing and reviewing his experiences with friends. With a lifelong involvement in education, he had a conviction that it should be a living thing that ignited a quest for thinking, questioning and exploring. He had strong political views, joining many protests with like-minded friends, against wars and the self-interested policies of powerful elites. He supported socialist ideals of equality and freedom

and was always ready to speak out. Trevor never forgot his working-class roots. His personal motto was ‘Be Kind, Be True’.

Towards the end of his life illness curbed his adventurous spirit: he was compelled more and more to divert his mental and physical energies to coping with suffering. Trevor McNamara’s death on 10 August 2023 leaves an enormous gap in the lives of his family and friends. His wit and charm will be forever missed.

Hubert Moore (Classics, 1953)

by Terri Edwards (Ancient and Modern History, 1981)

It is with great sadness that I write of the death in April 2024 of the poet Hubert Rogers Moore, who was my English teacher at Cranbrook School in Kent from 1975 to 1980. No other person outside my immediate family ever had a greater influence on my life, and nothing I can write here will even begin to do him justice, but I will try my best, as I know he would have expected me to try in any and every piece of writing.

Hubert was born in Oxford in 1934: his father Will was Dean of St John’s and Reader in French Literature, and his mother Joy was an active Labour supporter and holder of radical views. Hubert attended the Dragon School in Oxford then transferred to Kingswood in Bath, where he won an Exhibition to study Classics at Brasenose. One of his loveliest poems, *I have a pain in your head – discuss* (1979) was based on his BNC days:

“We had a week to do it: make,
over pub lunches, our first mockery –
‘Is this, by any chance your finger
in my pie?’, ‘The Philosophy tutor
is a pain in the neck. Discuss’ – ;
in midweek listen to a lecture;
on the sixth day, corner a friend – ‘This
essay-title, what’s the point of it? –;
at 10 p.m. on the seventh, write.

After that we had twenty years
in which to go off blindly in pairs,

and not write a line, not even
discuss it; then, and only then, one
of us might look and cry out seeing
beyond his folded hands (this vein
of hers in his wrist) the pain of being
twenty and himself, lifted
bodily, there in the other's head."

Like the man himself, the voice is quiet and wryly observational; humorous, but never trivial. Hubert had the poet's great gift of being able to broaden out from minute observation to human universals, and like all great poets, he could be upbeat and yet articulate the most intense feelings of grief, love and loss. Most importantly, there is never a wasted word.

A physically imposing man and a natural athlete, Hubert gained a Blue for rugby in 1956 and captained the Brasenose cricket team. During my time at Cranbrook School, he coached rugby and played cricket for the staff cricket team. I often watched him play: he was an excellent bowler and a formidable batsman, with an easy long-limbed grace and the power to hit huge sixes. He also played a good game of squash, and was an excellent swimmer. He frequently shared the school squash courts and the tiny school swimming pool with the students who bashed and splashed there in the holidays. Whenever he was with us, we did our best to live up to the civilized standards of behaviour that he embodied just through his physical presence and his beatific smile. I always think of him as a man who smiled because he loved life.

Hubert had already taught at three schools before he arrived at Cranbrook School in 1969: at Rose Lane Secondary School in Biggleswade, at a school in Grahamstown, South Africa, and at Sherborne in Dorset. Legend has it that he was originally taken on at Cranbrook to teach Classics, but on arrival was asked to teach English instead. Our headmaster, Peter Rowe, a well-read and deeply cultured man, correctly intuited that Hubert was similarly well-read and perfectly placed to pass on his love and understanding of literature to his students. We did not know, however, that Hubert himself was a poet until his first collection, *Down by a Bicycle* (Hippopotamus Press), came out in 1979, when he was 45 years old and I was 17. I must have written a review of the book and chosen the book as a prize that year, because when I

opened it for the first time in many years to write this obituary, I found his congratulatory inscription on the flyleaf: “to the book’s best critic and the author’s best pupil”. The generosity of his words still brings me to tears, and Hubert correctly foresaw my future as a reviewer rather than a poet or a novelist. I suspect he thought I had a tendency to overdo my literary efforts, and he was quite right about that.

After *Down by a Bicycle*, Hubert published three collections with Enitharmon Press: *Namesakes* (1988); *Rolling Stock*, (1991), and *Left Handers* (1995). These collections show very much the same qualities as his first volume: attention to the details of everyday life, immaculate craftsmanship, and a quiet yet assured poetic voice. He went on to publish nine more collections, eight with Shoestring Press: *Touching Down in Utopia* (2002), *The Hearing Room* (2006), *Whistling Back* (2012), *The Bright Gaze of the Disorientated* (2014), *Owl Songs* (2019), *The Tree Line* (2017), *The Feeding Station* (2019), and *Hello Dear* (2022). Shortly after the death of his first wife, Diana, in 2001, he also published *Beautifully Kept Things* (2003) with Smith/Doorstep Books. The Moores had been married since 1960 and had four children: Alison, Hilary, Andrew and Elinor. Diana was well-liked and highly respected, tall and athletic like her husband, but I remember her as outspoken and bold, never shy. As house parents at Cranbrook, the Moores complemented each other and made a perfect team. Hubert’s poems are deeply imbued with the strength of his love for her, but they are never mawkish or over-sentimental.

The themes changed in Hubert’s later works after his retirement in 1999. Hubert became involved in charity work, as a listener with the Samaritans, a visitor to the Dover Detention Centre, and a writing mentor at the anti-torture organization now called Freedom from Torture. Through these new ventures, he met Jane Champion, one of the founders of the Kent Refugee Action Network (KRAN). She became Hubert’s second wife in 2010. Hubert’s contacts with torture victims and refugees becomes the predominant theme of his poetry from *The Hearing Room* (2006) onwards. In this and subsequent collections, Hubert brilliantly captures the trauma of refugees and the tortured, and gives voice to the voiceless. The craftsmanship, attention to detail, and command of voice never waver. Hubert’s 2022 collection, *Hello Dear*, may sound like a return to domestic or intimate concerns,

but actually the eponymous greeting comes from a young refugee who has written a message in a bottle.

Over the course of his career as a published poet, Hubert gave occasional readings, but he was a modest man, not at all given to self-publicizing. This meant that his poems never attracted the critical or public attention they deserved. An edition of his *Selected Poems* (2023) was published by Shoestring Press shortly before his death. I hope that a *Collected Poems* will come out in future, as some of his earlier collections are difficult to find, and all of them are best read in their entirety and in sequence. I hope, above all, that Hubert will finally be recognized as one of the most accomplished poets of his generation.

On the news of his death, tributes appeared on social media from Hubert's former students and colleagues at Cranbrook School. The same descriptions came up again and again: "inspirational", "gentle", "encouraging", and above all, "kind". His kindness extended to encouraging us to write our own poems, stories and reviews, which he frequently praised, with our best efforts going into the school magazine. His feedback on our adolescent fumbblings with the English literary cannon was never harsh and always fair. I remember being devastated when he gave me a B- for a critique of a passage from a Thomas Hardy novel, after he'd given me a perfect run of As. As he gently pointed out, I had not successfully brought out the brilliance of Hardy's handling of the sensory details. It would have been more accurate to say that I had completely missed the point of the entire passage. Inspirational, gentle, encouraging and kind – yes, not just to the budding literati in his classes, but to all of his students, at all times.

Hubert was also kind enough to tutor the seventh term Oxbridge candidates in his free time after 4p.m., when he had already taught a full day and had marking, preparation and house duties still to do, not to mention a family of four children to look after. As Head of English, he could presumably have delegated the Oxbridge tutorials to another teacher. Those classes were among the best I ever had at school, as Hubert encouraged us to read ever more widely and deeply. He gave us guidance without ever patronizing us or dismissing our nascent, often under-informed, views. I am forever grateful that he encouraged me to apply to Oxford and when it came to choosing colleges he recommended Brasenose. He described it as a small, friendly college where he thought

I would fit in well and be happy. It was the best recommendation anyone ever made to me.

We lost touch over the years, though I once bumped into him when I made a rare visit home in 1998 and was walking in some woods near Cranbrook. He did not seem to have aged at all. That was the last time we met in person. Hubert never really took to social media, but he did have a Facebook page. I found it in 2022 and messaged him privately to thank him for everything he'd done for me. To his immense credit, he responded to my messages. As far as I know, he never blamed me for abandoning English Language and Literature at the end of my first year and switching to Ancient and Modern History. I suspect he had the same equal yet competing love of both Classics and English Literature as I have. His passing has reminded me, however, that a return to literature is long overdue. In his honour, I have started to study on an online course about contemporary poetry. I am also working my way through all of the volumes of poetry he wrote: a published total of more than 620 poems. There is still so much to learn, love and admire from his work and from his life, during which he touched the lives of so many people in such positive and lasting ways. I could say much more, but I will leave it there, as Hubert would definitely point out that the biggest literary sin is overwriting.

Robert Christopher Peach (Physics, 1970)

by Mike Peach

Robert Peach matriculated at Brasenose College in 1970 as a Physics Scholar from the Cathedral School at Hereford. His academic career at BNC was successful, culminating in a First Class degree and subsequently DPhil for research on acoustic wave devices.

After completing his DPhil, Robert pursued a successful career in applied physics, beginning at the GEC Hirst Research Centre in Wembley. His passion for research led him to COM DEV in Cambridge, Ontario, where he worked on advanced technological projects and rose to the position of Chief Scientist. Robert lived in London, Ontario, for many years and outside work continued his interest in matters technical.

In 2023, he returned to England to be closer to his family and sadly and unexpectedly passed away in May 2024. Robert will be remembered

as a Physicist of no mean ability. He will be missed by his sister Gillian, wider family and work colleagues.

Alistair Frank Pitty (Geography, 1958)

*by Ian Stewart (Modern History, 1958), with additional material from
Ian Douglas and Malcolm Kelsall (English, 1958)*

Alistair (Ali) Frank Pitty was born on 5 September 1939, two days after war was declared on Germany. He was brought up by his teacher parents in Hyde and was proud to maintain his North-Cheshire accent throughout his life. He won a place at William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester, a school established with Hulme Trust funds. From there he won a Hulme Schools Exhibition to Brasenose College, Oxford, to read Geography. As a student he played lacrosse for the University, earning his half-blue. He joined the Oxford and Cambridge Combined Universities' lacrosse tour of the USA in 1961. Contemporaries will remember him as a short and stocky figure with a crop of dark, curly hair. Gaining a first in 1961 he proceeded to work for the DPhil. This he was awarded in 1966 for a thesis on landform studies in the Peak District of Derbyshire.

A gregarious only child, he made many friends and had many interests into which he always entered enthusiastically. The railway alongside his parents' garden perhaps explains his life-long interest in model railways. Cycling was another life-long interest maintained from school to racing for the University as a student, joining the Hull Thursday Road Club as a young lecturer and the Norfolk Road Club in middle age. Still a serious cyclist in his later years, it was not unknown for him to turn up unexpectedly in cycling gear as a visitor many miles from home.

In 1963 Ali was appointed an assistant lecturer in Hull progressing to senior lecturer in 1974. It was in this period that perhaps his best work was accomplished notwithstanding the demands on a new university teacher to prepare his courses and to care for his family. He had married Penny, a fellow geographer, in 1963. They had two children, Edward and Alice. Edward became a microchip architect but was tragically lost to cancer in 1993 leaving his wife, Gail, and daughter, Angharad. Alice became a professional dancer specialising in Asian contemporary performing arts.

1963 was a challenging time for a young geomorphologist. There was a strong, well established, indeed entrenched, tradition of analyses of evolution of landforms dominated by a belief in the existence of sequences of penepains that was being challenged by a new way of understanding the processes currently fashioning the landscape and the ways they had worked in the past. Ali successfully straddled both camps. He became a master of the details of the landscape, often seeing things that both his predecessors and his contemporaries had missed.

At Hull he produced a rapid succession of significant scientific papers dealing with slope development and slope angle measurement; the solution of limestone (particularly the biotic controls of carbon dioxide release to cave waters and the seasonal fluctuations of water chemistry and temperatures at springs and stalactite drips); and the nature of Saharan dust that fell on Hull in 1968. Perhaps, the widest impact of his work has been through the slope pantometer he devised, now used by many academics and one of the key field techniques for pupils studying geography at secondary schools. His important textbooks included *Introduction to Geomorphology* (1971), *Geography and Soil Properties* (1979), *The Nature of Geomorphology* (1982) and *Landforms and Time* (1987). The first three were reissued by Routledge in 2021.

A man of boundless energy, Ali thought nothing of planning to build the fire surround in their first house in Hull, a new-build semi, or of himself fitting out their camper van. Later they moved to an Edwardian semi in Cottingham Road where there was plenty of space for the family and all their interests.

In 1977 Ali resigned his post in Hull. Thereafter he engaged in consultancy and contract research intermingled with visiting lecturer appointments. These activities took him all over the globe and led to many reports and publications on geomorphological topics including radioactive waste and risk. His enthusiasm for fieldwork remained undimmed. Ali used his slope pantometer during his consultancy work in geoarchaeology and in examining natural analogues for the materials which could be used to contain high level nuclear waste for a million years. He made major contributions to research consultancies in these two fields.

From 1987-92 he was a senior research associate at the University of East Anglia and visiting lecturer and research associate at Anglia Ruskin University from 1999-2004. In the early 1980s he and Penny separated,

and Ali moved to Norwich. He joined in community activities, becoming secretary for the Norfolk Road Club, treasurer for Norwich in Bloom as well as becoming a keen allotment gardener. He met Joyce Divers in 1999, and he was her consort in 2004-05 during her busy period of office as Lord Mayor of Norwich. In 2007 they married, and it was Joyce who cared for him as his arthritis increasingly took hold curtailing his activities and eventually consigning him to a wheelchair existence. Sadly it was in this condition that in 2022 he paid his last visit to BNC. His daughter Alice, who also lives in Norwich, did a great deal to make his life as interesting as possible. In particular she kept check of his publications and ensured that his royalties did not go astray. She drove him and Joyce on his last visit to BNC during which he was delighted to find himself included in the display of BNC authors.

Ali died on 27 June 2024. A Memorial Service arranged by Joyce and Alice was held in the beautiful, eighteenth century, Octagon Unitarian Chapel in Norwich on 26 July 2024. There was a large attendance with representatives from all the periods of his life. All his family were present including the granddaughters of whom he was so proud, Angharad and Maia, who is Alice's daughter. Inspired by Alice and Joyce, all had contributed to a series of exhibits illustrating the many periods of Ali's very full life.

More information can be found at: www.alistairpitty.info

Jeremy Plummer (Music, 1967)

by Paul Plummer

My father Jeremy, who has died aged 75, was a funny, talented, devout and fundamentally generous man. He spent his life pursuing ways to help others – whether teenagers that he taught, or adults seeking solace in times of stress and uncertainty – and stood unwavering by their side. Every day was also dedicated to the service of God – he grew up Methodist and became a lay preacher, but in latter years was a stalwart member (and local officer) of the Franciscan Third Order.

Dad was the only child of Arnold and Catherine, northern working-class parents who had settled in comfortable Dorking. His main outlet was music, via the South Street Methodist Church and Dorking Grammar School; and thanks to the excellence of the latter, he gained an organ scholarship to Brasenose. At BNC he encountered not only

beer and a wider variety of chums, but also my mother, who arrived as a soprano in the chapel choir. Their swift and impressive courtship ritual began with Dad chivalrously accompanying Mum back to St Hugh's after choir practices, and they celebrated their marriage in BNC Chapel in September, 1970. Dad had just finished his degree, Mum's Botany still had a year to go; the organist of the ceremony was the distinguished James Dalton of Queen's, and both Methodist and Anglican chaplains officiated.

For most of his working life, Dad taught Music: A-level where possible, since he wished to share his passion for really serious, excellent classical music; however he was not above teaching a full range of ages and styles. Indeed, in the 1990s he started and ran a class called Singing for the Terrified. But his key position was as head of music at Hayes Manor, a comprehensive in north-west London – at first experiencing the school's last years as an ambitious grammar school, and then nursing its transition into comprehensive status. He was utterly passionate about maximising the potential of everyone that passed through the department – staff and students alike – and the results were impressive. Some of the tributes I received when preparing my eulogy for Dad's funeral showed how strong his influence had remained – after four decades.

He had a life-long affinity with left-wing political thinking, and it excited him to work at a comprehensive school – a place with the heritage and facilities of a good grammar school, but offering its opportunities to a wider range of students. However, when it came to my own education, both he and Mum were conflicted – I was also a musician, and likely to be a professional performer; it didn't seem possible to offer me all the education I needed in the schools nearest to home. Thus, I left home to become a chorister at St John's College, Cambridge – fee-paying, but subsidised by the college. When I was thirteen, and won a large music scholarship to Eton College, Dad took a while to swallow the identity of an Eton parent – for me to be in a place of such privilege was understandably difficult to square with his principles. Ultimately it was the sheer integrity of the actual teaching, and the awe-inspiring splendour of the facilities, that eventually swung it with him – and he was able to attend events at the school without too much discomfort.

His years directing the chapel music at Brasenose stood him in very good stead; he accompanied and directed the music in many churches

wherever he and Mum lived in England, ranging from humble village music to establishments with the grandest of Anglo-Catholic ambitions. They were both catholic in their ecclesiastical tastes, zoning in on the fundamental spirituality behind all traditions.

It was part of Dad's personal development, in a sense, that he watched both me and Mum go on to flourish while remaining essentially humble about his own ambitions. He took early retirement when he was in his fifties, and began to focus on particular aspects of work and learning that really mattered to him. Meanwhile, I was beginning to build my career – after my own organ scholarship (at New College), I studied piano accompaniment and now work as a pianist and vocal coach in the European opera business; and Mum became ordained a priest and has worked in a wide variety of parishes and settings. Dad's influence was still felt, but in a much more direct and personal way, through his tireless counselling and supporting of many people over the last couple of decades.

Music continued to be the greatest constant in his life, of course. I always knew that whenever I visited Mum and Dad, the piano – and any other musical instruments about the house – would be in excellent condition, with unusual (and sometimes technically challenging) music waiting on the music desk. He played – technically on an amateur basis, but with the flexibility, tenacity and precision of a professional – for many singers and instrumentalists in various contexts, and hundreds of people would remember how their lives were changed by the experience of working with him. The absolute pinnacle of our musical world was the music of J.S. Bach, whose keyboard works were Dad's daily bread and water; I too have enjoyed many opportunities to express this passion – for 13 years I conducted an annual charity concert presenting the choral works with the Oxford Bach Ensemble, and it was a great joy to have both Mum and Dad present at most of the performances. Dad sometimes played harpsichord in the orchestra, and Mum would give of her noble first alto in the chorus.

Across the next two seasons, I will also be performing all of Bach's *Wohltemperiertes Klavier* – the 48 Preludes and Fugues – at the Staatstheater, Oldenburg. These eight short concerts will be dedicated to Dad's memory.

Requiescat in pace.

András Sándor (Modern Languages, 1957)

by Dr George Gömöri

András Sándor (pen-name Sándor András) was born in Budapest, Hungary in March 1934. He studied Hungarian language and literature at the University of Szeged from where he graduated in 1956. Having taken part as a journalist in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, he left Hungary on 17 November 1956, and after a short stay in Vienna was selected for further studies in Oxford by an academic delegation from Oxford University. In Oxford, on the advice of Max Hayward, he chose German literature for the subject of his dissertation. He joined Brasenose College in the first term of 1957–58 and it from here that he graduated in 1962 with a B.Litt. degree for his study of Heinrich Heine (later published under the title *The Exile of Gods*). Sándor then proceeded to München for further studies, which were abandoned thanks to an offer from Princeton University where he became teaching assistant for a year. He continued his academic carrier with studies at the University of Southern California, from which he earned a doctorate in German Literature in 1967. At that time Sándor had already a job in Berkeley at the University of California, where he taught Hungarian Language and Literature between 1965 and 1969. In 1969 he moved to the East Coast to take up teaching German literature at Howard University, Washington DC, from where he retired as associate professor in 1996. He retired then to his native Hungary and became a much-published writer and poet who received numerous awards including the Attila József Prize (1999), the Milán Füst Prize (2007) and the Cs.Szabó Prize (2021).

Sándor wrote in three languages, apart from Hungarian in English and German. As a poet he published several volumes of which *emberpassió* (2000) had most critical acclaim. He also wrote an ‘anthropological’ crime novel in Hungarian, *Gyilkosság Alaszkában* (*Murder in Alaska*, 2006) for which he received a prize, and several studies on linguistics and fine art, such as *Heidegger és a szent* (*Heidegger and the Saint*, 1994) as well as a book on Malevich (2016) and the Hungarian artist, Károly Klímó (2024). He also published book reviews in *World Literature Today*. Of his three marriages (two of them in the United States) the last was the longest; from 2006 until his death he was married to Edit Kukorelly. He is survived by his wife and a daughter, Andrea, born in 1987 from his second wife, Catherine J. Allen.

Nathaniel Saye and Sele (New College)

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When Nathaniel Fiennes succeeded to the ancient barony of Saye and Sele in 1968 as the 21st incumbent, he also inherited the moated Broughton Castle, set in an 1,800-acre estate, near Banbury in Oxfordshire.

Described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, a historian, as “the finest and most complete medieval house in the county”, the actual building, which had been in his family for about 600 years, had deteriorated badly. After his father had restored the roof in 1957, the new lord and his wife Mariette overhauled the stonework and windows, and carried out extensive redecoration. He was helped by his training as a chartered surveyor and land agent.

In the early eighties he and his wife embarked on the main structure, with a £1 million, 12-year programme, supported by English Heritage and completed in 1994. Crumbling stonework, rotting window lead and timbers riddled with deathwatch beetles were all replaced.

With money often scarce, Lord Saye – as he was known – helped to manage the dairy and arable farming on the estate. He welcomed paying visitors (the family moved to the east wing) and rented the castle to film companies, including the makers of *Shakespeare in Love* (1998). The film starred Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes who, with his fellow actor and cousin Ralph, is part of a distinguished extended family, which includes Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer. More recently Broughton provided the backdrop to scenes in *Wolf Hall* and *The Crown*, and the discovery on the estate of one of the largest Roman villas in Britain prompted a visit by Channel 4’s *Time Team* in 2021.

Before becoming the castle’s custodian, Lord Saye had fought in the Second World War. He landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day plus six, was mentioned in dispatches twice, and was one of the first people to enter the disease-ridden Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

He was born Nathaniel Thomas Allen Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes in 1920 in a grace and favour apartment in the House of Lords. He discarded his triple-barrelled surname (encapsulating various family cognomens), shortening it to Fiennes by deed poll in 1965. In the same spirit as his parliamentary forebear, the 8th Baron Saye and Sele, who railed against episcopal pomp and privilege under Charles I, he never sat

in the House of Lords, and opposed voting rights for hereditary peers in the constitutional reforms of 1999.

Educated at Eton and New College, Oxford, where he briefly read History (attending tutorials with Isaiah Berlin, though often he would not get out of bed), he was a gifted cricketer – a deft wicket-keeper and a classically elegant batsman who considered it close to a moral failing to hit the ball in the air. He captained his school's First XI, as well as the Public Schools XI in 1939. But for the war he would certainly have played in the first-class game. Instead he appeared for Oxfordshire, and enjoyed club cricket well into his sixties for the Green Jackets and I Zingari. As the longest-serving member of Marylebone Cricket Club, even in the past decade he would take the train to London and sit contentedly with his sons in the pavilion at Lord's, sometimes joining a friend in the so-called Death Row reserved for members of 50 years' standing or more.

The war having interrupted both his education and sporting recreation, he immediately tried to sign up to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry as a private, but was deemed too young. He soon joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as an officer and was initially tasked to guard the University of Oxford's Museum of Natural History against damage from bombs. He transferred to the 8th Battalion, Rifle Brigade which took him to France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

On the approach to Arnhem in Holland in September 1944 he was credited with saving his friend Major Tom Bird's life, dragging him to safety after their company was attacked with mortars. However, he never spoke of his war exploits. When this heroic effort was mentioned at Bird's funeral, he was visibly surprised and acknowledged his name with a self-effacing wave of his hand.

He later recalled how he had known nothing about concentration camps before reaching Bergen-Belsen, where about 50,000 prisoners died, in April 1945. He was genuinely unable to distinguish the dead from the living. "They were just lying in heaps of squalor. There was a great pit with hundreds of bodies... It was a sight you wouldn't have believed possible to see... If anyone ever denies the Holocaust I'm very glad to stand up and tell them that I saw Belsen."

He remained in the army until early 1950. Returning to help his then newly ennobled father with the estate, he pursued a career as a

chartered surveyor. After qualifying, he was employed by John D Wood before starting his own partnership with a friend, George Laws. At Laws & Fiennes he acted as land agents for Oxford's Trinity, Lincoln and Brasenose Colleges, and Winchester College as well as other estates including Ditchley and Ousden Hall.

While skiing in Switzerland in 1958, he met Mariette Salisbury-Jones, the daughter of a major general, on the Gornergrat railway in Zermatt. They were married at St Margaret's Church, Westminster. With her creativity and warmth, she proved a perfect partner in running and restoring Broughton in what became a new golden age in its history.

Respected in his local community, Lord Saye devoted himself to the stewardship of owning a great house. Even in later years he pitched in, often unobtrusively performing tasks such as helping in the car park, wearing a hi-vis jacket. He loved taking people around the house and took pride in the garden (designed with advice from the American landscape architect Lanning Roper), pointing out favourite roses with his walking stick.

A warm, modest man with a dry wit, he was known to friends and family as Nat and eschewed extravagance. He loved the natural world, relishing the return of swifts to nest in the eaves of Broughton in early May. Among his other pleasures were horse races on television after lunch, poems by Tennyson, Housman and Hardy (many of which he knew by heart), Beethoven symphonies, and novels by Trollope and Tolstoy. The contents and language of the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer informed his personal style and approach to life.

Family was particularly important. He and Mariette had five children, including four sons – Martin, who inherits the title, is a partner in the university-linked company Oxford Science Enterprises, while William is an author – and a daughter Susannah, Martin's twin, an artist who has worked closely with the King. Their eldest son, Richard, had epilepsy, which led to his premature death in 2001, aged 41. Another son, Thomas, died in an accident aged two. The ups and downs of Richard's illness are lovingly depicted in his brother William's book *The Music Room*.

Lord Saye's forebears could be traced back to the Norman Conquest. An ancestor, Geoffrey de Say, was one of 25 barons who signed the Magna Carta and was charged with its implementation. Another ancestor, James Fiennes, fought at Agincourt and befriended the young

Henry VI, serving as chamberlain of his household; he was elevated to the peerage as the 1st Baron Saye and Sele in 1447, but his wealth and influence made him a target of the Kentish rebels under Jack Cade in 1450 when he was imprisoned and beheaded.

The 2nd Lord Saye and Sele married a descendant of William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester. As a result the family inherited a fortified manor house in Oxfordshire, for which in 1406 Sir Thomas Wykeham, William's great nephew, had obtained a licence to "crenellate and embattle". So emerged Broughton Castle, which Richard Fiennes, the 6th Lord Saye and Sele embellished into what is still essentially the Elizabethan mansion that stands today.

The family played a significant role in the English Civil War. The 8th baron became a leader of the Parliamentary opposition to Charles I, alongside John Pym. In 1642 his four sons all fought against the royalists at Edgehill, the first major battle of the war, just seven miles from Broughton Castle. His second son, Nathaniel Fiennes, MP for Banbury, was notable for his calls for the abolition of the episcopacy. As an officer in the parliamentary army he led the defence of Bristol against Prince Rupert in 1643. When the city surrendered he was arrested, sentenced to death and later pardoned. Nathaniel remained close to Oliver Cromwell and attended his death bed. At the Restoration he and his father were pardoned for their parliamentary sympathies.

In the 19th century, agricultural depression diminished the family fortunes. For a while the house was rented out, but it retained its essential charm. In 1877 Henry James remarked: "It has a deep clear moat all around it, spanned by a bridge that passes under a charming old gate tower, and nothing can be sweeter than to see its clustered walls of yellow-brown stone so sharply islanded while its gardens bloom on the other side of the water."

In 2014 Lord Saye vacated the castle for a nearby flat. On the wall behind his desk he kept a snippet from an interview in which Tom Stoppard said if he had not been a playwright he would have been a land agent. Next to that was Patrick Eagar's photograph of Andrew Strauss's flying slip catch to dismiss Adam Gilchrist in the 2005 Ashes, and then, in his own handwriting, W.B. Yeats's poem *He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven*.

Lord Saye and Sele, land agent and army officer, was born on 22 September 22 1920. He died on 20 January 2024, aged 103.

Richard Seaford (Classics, 1967)

by Prof. Douglas L. Cairns, first published by the Classical Association

It was with great sadness that the Association learned of the death of Richard Seaford, Professor Emeritus of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Exeter. Richard was president of the Association in 2008-9, in recognition not only of his enormous contribution to classical scholarship, but also of his pivotal role in the restructuring of the Association itself in the early 1990s. This brought, among other things, a wholesale transformation of the annual CA conference, vastly increasing the number of participants, making it infinitely more attractive to students and early-career scholars, and generally ‘intellectualising and democratising’ an event which has become the highlight of the UK classics calendar (Malcolm Schofield in *The Classical Association: The First Century 1903–2003*, p.76).

Richard’s presidential address, ‘The Ancient Greeks and Global Warming’, delivered at the joint Classical Association / Classical Association of Scotland conference in Glasgow in April 2009, was a characteristic example of his approach to scholarship: utterly original, deeply thought-provoking and inspiring, personally and politically engaged, and delivered with the absolute clarity and precision that was typical of his style as a lecturer. He will be remembered as one of the most consistently original and intellectually ambitious classicists of the last 50 years, his reputation established in a stunning set of 1980s articles on the ways in which ancient Greek myth and ritual shaped the culture’s literature and thought and further enhanced by a series of ground-breaking monographs, including *Reciprocity and Ritual* (1994), *Money and the Ancient Greek Mind* (2004), *Cosmology and the Polis* (2012), and *The Origins of Philosophy in Ancient Greece and Ancient India* (2019).

Brian Wilson (Jurisprudence, 1943)

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On 10 September 1944, Lieutenant Brian Wilson’s platoon in Number 2 Company, 3rd Battalion Irish Guards (3IG), took part in the daring capture of the Grote-Barreel bridge over the Meuse-Escaut canal in Belgium close to the Dutch border. They had outrun their artillery support, relying instead on the firepower of a troop of Sherman tanks

of 2nd (Armoured) Battalion Irish Guards to cover them, and then signalling for the tanks to make a dash across.

Two Shermans made it, followed by two rifle platoons, including Wilson's. The 'Micks', as the Irish Guards were (and are) affectionately known, had secured the critical bridgehead for what would become Operation Market Garden, the attempt to 'bounce' a crossing of the Rhine 65 miles further north at Arnhem.

In Richard Attenborough's epic film *A Bridge Too Far* (1977), which tells the story of the Allied airborne forces' attempt to capture critical bridges on the British XXX Corps' route to the Rhine, Wilson's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel J.O.E. ('Joe') Vandeleur, is played by Michael Caine. When the corps commander, Lieutenant General Brian Horrocks, played by Edward Fox, briefs his senior officers in the cinema at nearby Bourg Leopold on September 16, he announces that 3IG will lead the advance. "Christ, not us again," mutters Caine. "What do you say to that, Joe?" asks Fox from the stage, to which Caine replies to much laughter, "Delighted, sir, truly delighted."

Wilson like many another officer, though, wondered why they had waited so long. After their capture of what became known as 'Joe's Bridge' they had sat for six days, giving the Germans time to organise their defences. In his memoir *The Ever Open Eye* – the name of the formation badge of the Guards Armoured Division, which comprised an armoured and an infantry battalion from each Guards regiment except the Scots – Wilson asserts that the delay was imposed by the airborne planners: the parachute and glider-borne operation could not be mounted in any shorter time. It was also claimed that XXX Corps needed time for replenishment, along a thin supply line under periodic attack, but, wrote Wilson, "while short at times, the supply situation was never desperate".

Besides allowing the Germans time to recover, there was the problem of the narrow frontage on which the Irish Guards battlegroup – 3IG and 2(Armoured)IG – would lead. Because there was little or no off-road going either side of the embanked single carriageway, the advance would be on a one-tank front. Without room to manoeuvre, they would have to rely on artillery and rocket-firing aircraft circling on call, the so-called cab-rank system, to clear the way. Their fire could not risk cratering the road, however, so the battle-group's infantry might have to dismount to finish the job. And the major bridges at Eindhoven,

Nijmegen and Arnhem, which the three airborne divisions would try to take by surprise, as well as minor ones between, if blown would have to be replaced by the Royal Engineers. The planners estimated that 1st (British) Airborne Division, who would drop at Arnhem, could hold on for 72 hours, four days at most. Wilson and others thought that 65 miles in that time might have been possible if they had pressed on after taking Joe's Bridge, but they were now uncertain.

Early in the afternoon of 17 September, with the airborne operation under way, Guards Armoured began the advance, the tanks of 2IG leading. Wilson's platoon, in soft-skinned vehicles, followed with the rest of Number 2 Company behind Vandeleur, who was commanding from his scout car: "The Germans had placed infantry with bazookas close to the road, while 88s [88mm high-velocity Flak guns used in the anti-tank role] were hidden further away in the edges of the woods. By knocking out the second troop of tanks, the first was trapped, unable to retire down the blocked road or to advance, or to deploy off the embanked road. There was a heavy loss in tanks and crews."

By evening they had covered ten miles and reached Valkenswaard, halfway to Eindhoven. To Wilson's surprise, though, "having broken the crust of German opposition", they were ordered to halt for the night. They resumed next morning after more delay as troops from another division came up to take over defence of the town, Number 2 Company quitting their soft-skinned vehicles to ride ready on 2IG's tanks. They were soon witnessing a "trail of destruction much the same as on the road to Valkenswaard", both knocked-out 88s and Shermans, with Wilson's now the lead platoon.

As evening approached, they at last made contact with the 101st (US) Airborne Division, but learnt that the bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal, one of the bridges the 101st were meant to have taken near Eindhoven, had been blown during their drop. It meant more delay as XXX Corps' sappers came forward to build a Bailey bridge overnight.

The Grenadier battle-group took over the lead next morning, with 3IG 'mopping up' and dealing with Dutch civilians. Late in the afternoon, the Grenadiers having entered Nijmegen, the Irish Guards battle-group was called forward to take up defensive positions. They had little sleep that night, with Germans still in the town and the sound of armoured vehicles the other side of the Waal bridge. Next morning, as Wilson did the rounds of his platoon's trenches, German artillery shelled Number 2

Company's position. A round exploded close, and suddenly for Wilson the war – and very nearly his life – was over. His foot was completely severed, and the continued shelling hindered his evacuation.

Brian Denis Wilson was born in 1924 in Penang, now in Malaysia but then one of the Straits Settlements, the only child of Bernard Wilson, a former First World War officer and Dublin lawyer who had quit Ireland during the civil war and who would die in Ceylon while working in military intelligence after the fall of Singapore. His mother, Violet (née Moore), a Dubliner too, was evacuated from Penang to England before the Japanese overran the rest of the Malay peninsula, joining her son, who had entered Charterhouse School in 1937.

In 1942 Wilson won an exhibition to read law at Oxford but wanted to join the army. However, he was persuaded to take up his place for two terms, which would give him priority to return at the end of hostilities, and to join the Officer Training Corps. The following year he enlisted in the Irish Guards, joining the Brigade Squad (for potential officers) at the Guards Armoured Training Wing at Pirbright, Surrey, and then officer training at Aldershot. On commissioning in January 1944, he joined 3IG who were training with the rest of Guards Armoured on the North York Moors.

The Guards Armoured Division, formed in 1941, was regarded as a *corps d'elite*, although some had argued that putting guardsmen – the quintessence of infantry – into tanks was inapt, and that cavalry dash or Royal Tank Regiment mechanical expertise was preferable. The division crossed to France in July 1944 and first saw action near Caen, in which they shed much blood. Wilson was called forward from the reinforcement group to take command of a platoon whose officer had been killed. A fortnight later he was wounded leading his platoon in an attack at Sourdeval with inadequate supporting fire and an unimaginative brigade plan that gained little at the cost of 110 casualties in 3IG. He was sent to recover behind the lines but quickly returned to duty, leading the platoon in the subsequent advance on Paris and Brussels, and thence to Nijmegen.

After amputation of his shattered lower leg at a field hospital, Wilson was flown to England where a second amputation just below the knee was carried out to ensure better circulation. In the next bed to him in hospital in Roehampton was Marmaduke Hussey, a Grenadier subaltern who had also lost a leg and who would become chairman of the BBC.

In May 1945 Wilson received a prosthetic leg and in October returned to Brasenose College, Oxford, where he was soon playing squash again and, being relatively short and carrying no weight, coxed the college eight.

On graduating he joined the Colonial Service and was posted to Hong Kong with his newly wedded wife, Margaret (née Phillips), from Perth, Australia, whom he had met in London where she was working for the Australian Red Cross. Margaret died in 1992. He is survived by two of their three children: Sarah, a naturopath in Sydney, and Katharine Jane (Kerry Jane), a development manager in the aid sector in Bangladesh and Afghanistan. In 2016 Kerry Jane was held for ransom for more than four months in Afghanistan before being released home to Australia.

In Hong Kong, Wilson rose to be the highly regarded director of municipal affairs. Having been persuaded to stay beyond retirement age, he finally left the colony in 1983 and settled in Australia, where he pursued his love of gardening and birdwatching.

He remained critical of the generalship at successive levels in the failure of Operation Market Garden, though never resentful at having lost a leg. Indeed, he never disclosed the loss unless absolutely necessary: “Looking for sympathy is a step on the road to feeling sorry for oneself, and to drink, sadly the fate of some amputees”, a philosophy he tried hard to instil on his many visits with limbless ex-servicemen.

Brian Wilson CBE, wartime Irish Guards officer, and colonial administrator, was born on 12 June 1924. He died on 22 May 2024, aged 99.

Records





THE KING'S HALL AND COLLEGE OF BRASENOSE

Tierced in pale: (1) Argent, a chevron sable between three roses gules seeded or, barbed vert (for Smyth); (2) or, an escutcheon of the arms of the See of Lincoln (gules, two lions of England in pale or, on a chief azure Our Lady crowned seated on a tombstone issuant from the chief, in her dexter arm the Infant Jesus, in her sinister arm a sceptre, all or) ensigned with a mitre proper; (3) quarterly, first and fourth argent, a chevron between three bugle-horns stringed sable; second and third argent, a chevron between three crosses crosslet sable (for Sutton)

The present foundation, dating from the 16th century, has a direct and unbroken connection with Brasenose Hall, which existed at least as early as 1262. The college was founded in 1509 by William Smyth, Bishop of Lincoln, and Sir Richard Sutton of Prestbury in Cheshire.

It was one of the first colleges to admit women as well as men and is open to graduates as well as undergraduates. Generous gifts and bequests over the centuries enable the college to offer scholarships and other awards for undergraduate and graduate study.

The corporate designation of the college is 'The Principal and Scholars of the King's Hall and College of Brasenose in Oxford'.

Note on symbols

ρ Former Rhodes Scholar.

‡ Holder of a statutory professorship or readership.

★ Deceased (within the academic year)

A date in the left-hand column indicates the year of election to the current fellowship (or other position) held.

Visitor

The Bishop of Lincoln

Principal

2015 Bowers, John Simon, KC, BCL MA Oxf

Fellows

2013 Ardakov, Konstantin, MMath Oxf, PhD Camb *Tutor in Pure Mathematics*

2016 Bano, Masooda, BA MBA Pakistan, MPhil Camb, DPhil Oxf *William Golding Senior Research Fellow*

2017 Betts, Alexander Milton Stedman, BA Durh, MSc Brist, MPhil DPhil Oxf *William Golding Senior Research Fellow*

2020 Birkby, Jayne Louise, MSci Durh, PhD Camb *Tutor in Physics*

1999 Bispham, Edward Henry, MA DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Ancient History, and Vice-Principal*

2015 Bortoletto, Daniela, BSc Pavia, MSc PhD Syracuse *Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow*

2010 Bourne-Taylor, Carole Juliette Angelique, MA Oxf, PhD Grenoble *Supernumerary Fellow in French*

1986 Burd, Harvey John, MA DPhil Oxf, CEng, MICE *Tutor in Engineering Science*

2023 Creswell, Catharine Sarah, BA Oxf, PhD DCLinPsy UCL *Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow*

2001 Davies, Anne Caroline Lloyd, MA DPhil Oxf ‡ *Professor of Law and Public Policy*

2020 de Ferra, Sergio, Laurea Sapienza, MSc MRes PhD LSE *Tutor in Economics*

2022 Demir, Banu, BSc MET, MA Bilkent, MPhil DPhil Oxf *Tutorial Fellow in Economics*

2005 Dennis, Paul David, BA BM BCh BSc Oxf *Supernumerary Fellow in Medicine*

2022 Diamantis, Julia, BSc PhD Sussex *Supernumerary Fellow and Director of Development*

2023 Drashchow, Dejan, BSc MSc Munich, PhD Frankfurt *Tutor in Experimental Psychology*

2022 Dustin, Michael, BA Boston, PhD Harvard ‡ *Kennedy Trust Professor of Molecular Immunology*

- 2022 Earp, Brian David, BA MA MPhil PhD Yale, MPhil Camb, MSc Oxf *WilliamGolding Junior Research Fellow*
- 1995 Edwards, Anne, MA Oxf, MRCP *Supernumerary Fellow and Diversity and Equality Officer*
- 2023 Eijking, Jan, BA Utrecht, MPhil DPhil Oxf *William Golding Junior Research Fellow*
- 1997 Eltis, Sos Ann, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf *Tutor in English*
- 2022 Fisher, Chloe, BA MSCi Camb, PhD Bern *Nicholas Kurti Junior Research Fellow*
- 2006 Foster, Russell Grant, BSc PhD Brist, FRS *Professor and Supernumerary Fellow in Circadian Neuroscience*
- 2022 Friedrich, Matthias, BA MSci PhD Munich *Nicholas Kurti Junior Research Fellow*
- 2006 Gaffney, Eamonn Andrew, BA PhD Camb *Tutor in Mathematical Biology and Tutor for Graduates*
- 2023 Gogola, Ewa, BSc MSc Cracow, PhD Amsterdam *Nicholas Kurti Junior Research Fellow*
- 2014 Goldberg, Paul Wilfred, BA Oxf, MSc PhD Edin *Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow*
- 2007 Goulder, Philip Jeremy Renshaw, BA MB BChir Camb, MA DPhil Oxf, FMGEMS, FRCPC, MRCP, MRCPC *Professor of Paediatrics and Supernumerary Fellow in Clinical Medicine*
- 2000 Green, Abigail Frances Floretta, MA Oxf, PhD Camb *Tutor in Modern History*
- 2001 Groiser, David Simon, BA Sus, MA DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Modern Languages*
- 2017 Hamnett, Gillian, BA Newc, MA MSt Oxf *Supernumerary Fellow*
- 2001 James, William Siward, BSc Birm, MA DPhil Oxf *Professor of Virology and Tutor in Medicine*
- 2002 Jones, Jonathan Alcwyn, MA DPhil Oxf *Professor of Physics and Tutor in Physics*
- 2023 Katz, Jonathan Bernard, MA DPhil Oxf *Supernumerary Fellow and Lecturer in Classics*
- 2009 Kennard, Christopher, MB BS PhD Lond, FMedSci, FRCP, MRCP, MRCS *Supernumerary Fellow*
- 2016 Kiaer, Ian Leslie Sonne, BA UCL, MA PhD RCA *Tutor in Fine Art*

- 2023 Kistnareddy, Ashwiny, BA Warw, MPhil Nott, PhD Camb
William Golding Junior Research Fellow
- 2003 Krebs, Thomas, LLB Kent, BCL MA DPhil Oxf *Ellesmere
Tutor in Law*
- 2018 Krishnan, Sneha, BA Madras, MSc DPhil Oxf *Tutor in
Human Geography*
- 2021 Lakhal-Littleton, Samira, BSc UCL, DPhil Oxf *Tutor in
Pre-Clinical Medicine*
- 2022 Langrognnet, Fabrice, MA Paris, PhD Camb *William Golding
Junior Research Fellow*
- 2019 Larson, Greger John, BA CMC California, DPhil Oxf *Nicholas
Kurti Senior Research Fellow*
- 2007 Lewis, Owen Thomas, MA Oxf, PhD Leeds *Tutor in Zoology*
- 2022 Lythgoe, Katrina, BA Oxf, MSc Imp, PhD Edin *Tutorial
Fellow in Biology (Infectious Diseases)*
- 2000 McKenna, Christopher Davis, BA Amherst, MA PhD Johns
Hopkins, MA Oxf *Tutor in Management Studies*
- 2018 Maiolino, Perla, BSc MSc PhD Genoa *Tutor in Engineering Science*
- 2021 Mason-Brown, Lucas, BSc Brown, MSc Dub, PhD MIT
Nicholas Kurti Junior Research Fellow
- 2022 Mathur, Varsha, BSc PhD British Columbia *Nicholas Kurti
Junior Research Fellow*
- 2024 Miller, Elizabeth, MA DPhil Oxf *Supernumerary Fellow*
- 1997 Morgan, Llewelyn William Goronwy, MA Oxf, PhD Camb
Reynolds Fellow and Tutor in Classics
- 2017 Nag, Sonali, BA MA Hyderabad, MPhil Bangalore, PhD Port
Supernumerary Fellow in Education and the Developing Child
- 2005 Palfrey, Simon David, BA ANU, MA DPhil Oxf *Professor of
English Literature, Tutor in English and Fellow Librarian*
- 2010 Parker, Philip Christopher Liam, MA Camb, ACMA *Bursar*
- 2015 Perry, Adam Drew, BCL MPhil DPhil Oxf *Garrick Fellow and
Tutor in Law and Dean*
- 2017 Posada-Carbó, Eduardo, BA Bogotá, MPhil DPhil Oxf
William Golding Senior Research Fellow
- 2021 Rastinejad, Fraydoon, BA Northwestern, PhD Pennsylvania
Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow
- 2020 Rechter, David, BA MA Melbourne, PhD Hebrew *William
Golding Senior Research Fellow*

- 2021 Rigopoulou, Dimitra, MPhys Ioannina, MSc PhD QMUL
Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow
- 1992 Robertson, Jeremy, MA DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Organic Chemistry*
- 2014 Ruggeri, Andrea, BA Genoa, MA PhD Essex *Tutor in Politics*
- 2022 Sheen, Rev'd David, BSc Cov, BA MA MSc Card *Chaplain*
- 2017 Shogry, Simon, BA Claremont, MA PhD Princeton *Tutor in Ancient Philosophy*
- 2011 Smith, Simon David, MA PhD Camb *Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions*
- 2011 Strathern, Alan Leiper, MA DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Early Modern History*
- 1997 Swadling, William John, BA CNAAL, LLM Lond, MA Oxf *Tutor in Law*
- 2023 Tertychnaya, Katerina, BA Cyprus, MPhil DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Politics*
- 2005 Thun, Eric, AB PhD Harvard *Peter Moores Fellow and Tutor in Chinese Business Studies*
- 2007 Timpson, Christopher Gordon, BA BPhil DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Philosophy*
- 2016 Todd, John, BSc Edin, PhD Camb *Jeffrey Cheah Fellow in Medicine*
- 2013 Walsh, Edmond Joseph, BEng PhD Limerick *Supernumerary Fellow in Engineering*
- 2004 Wiggs, Giles Frederick Salisbury, BSc PhD Lond *Tutor in Geography*
- 2016 Willan, John, BA Camb, BM BCh DPhil Oxf, FRCP (Lond), MRCP *Supernumerary Fellow and Tutor in Clinical Medicine*
- 2007 Wilson, Mark, MA DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Theoretical Chemistry*
- 2019 Winkel, Matthias, MA Oxf, PhD Paris VI *Supernumerary Fellow in Mathematics*
- 2023 Winter, Curtis W, BA California, DPhil Oxf *William Golding Junior Research Fellow*

Emeritus Fellows

- 1998 Birch, Bryan John, MA PhD Camb, MA Oxf, FRS
- 2010 Bogdanor, Sir Vernon Bernard, CBE, MA Oxf, FBA, FRSA
- 2015 Bowman, Alan Keir, MA DLitt Oxf, MA PhD Toronto, FBA
- 2012 Boyd, Charles Adam Richard, BM Lond, BSc MA DPhil Oxf

- 2001 Cook, Peter Richard, MA DPhil Oxf
2016 Cooper, Richard Anthony, MA DPhil Oxf
2011 Courakis, Anthony Stylianos, BA Manc, MA Oxf
2017 Daniel, Ronald William, BSc Brun, MA Oxf, PhD Camb,
CEng, MIEE
2010 Evans, Robert John Weston, MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf
2021 Garman, Elspeth Frances, BSc Durh, DPhil Oxf
2001 Gasser, Robert Paul Holland, MA DPhil Oxf
2014 Haydon, Richard Geoffrey, MA PhD Camb, MA Oxf
1992 Hockaday, Thomas Derek, MA DPhil Oxf, FRCP
2020 Houlsby, Guy Tinmouth, MA DSc Oxf, PhD Camb,
FICE, FREng
2011 Ingram, Martin John, MA DPhil Oxf
2009 Knowland, John Sebastian, MA DPhil Oxf
2003 Peach, John Vincent, MA DPhil Oxf
2017 Popplewell, David Arthur, MA Oxf, PhD Sus
2003 Proudfoot, Nicholas Jarvis, MA Oxf, PhD Camb, FRS
2024 Purcell, Nicholas, MA Oxf, FBA
2008 Richards, Bernard Arthur, BLitt MA DPhil Oxf
2008 Richards, William Graham, CBE, MA DPhil DSc Oxf, FRS
2004 Rowett, John Spencer, MA DPhil Oxf
2010 Solymar, Laszlo, MA Oxf, PhD Budapest, FRS

Honorary Fellows

- 2006 Allen, Katherine Susan, BA Oxf
2017 Amersi, Mohamed, BA Sheff, MA Oxf
2003 Baker, the Rt Hon Sir (Thomas) Scott (Gillespie), PC
2010 Barton, HE Dominic Steven, BA MPhil Oxf p
2010 Beatson, the Rt Hon Sir Jack, LL D Camb, DCL Oxf, FBA
1989 Blundell, Sir Tom Leon, BA DPhil Oxf, FRS
2013 Brand, Andrea Hilary, MBiochem Oxf, PhD Camb,
FMedSci, FRS
2011 Bratza, Sir Nicolas, MA Oxf
2015 Burrows, the Rt Hon Andrew Stephen, Lord Burrows, Hon
KC, LL M Harvard, MA DCL Oxf, FBA
2006 Cameron, David William Donald, Baron Cameron of
Chipping Norton, BA Oxf
2011 Cashmore, Roger John, CMG, MA DPhil Oxf, FRS

- 2023 Cavendish, Camilla, The Rt Hon Baroness Cavendish of Little Venice, BA Oxf, MPA Harvard
- 2016 Cheah, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Sir Jeffrey, AO
- 2018 Coyle, Dame Diane, CBE, BA Oxf, MA PhD Harvard, FRSA, DBE
- 2010 Crook, Joseph Mordaunt, CBE, MA DPhil Oxf, Hon DLitt Lond, FBA, FSA
- 2019 Del Favero, James, MBA, MA Oxf, MS
- 2020 Forde, Martin, KC, BA Oxf
- 2004 Gill, Sir Robin Denys, KCVO, MA Oxf
- 2018 Greenland, Duncan Taylor, CBE, BA Oxf
- 2022 Harford, Tim, OBE, BA Oxf
- 2022 Helm, Sir Dieter, CBE, BA Oxf
- 2013 Hill, Catharine Bond, MA Oxf
- 2018 Jackson, the Rt Hon Sir Peter Arthur Brian, Rt Hon Lord Justice Jackson, BA Oxf
- 1999 Janvrin, Robin Berry, Rt Hon Lord Janvrin, CB, KCVO, MA Oxf
- 2013 Johnson, Michelle Denise, MA Oxf
- 2017 Kosterlitz, John Michael, MA Camb, DPhil Oxf
- 2022 Lewis, Simon, OBE, BA Oxf
- 2018 Marks, Alexandra Louise, CBE, BA Oxf
- 2003 Mellor, Dame Julie Therese, DBE, BA Oxf
- 2023 Monbiot, George, BSc Oxf
- 2003 Palin, Sir Michael Edward, KCMG, CBE, FRGS, BA Oxf
- 2019 Rose, the Rt Hon Dame Vivien Judith, Rt Hon Lady Justice Rose, DBE, BCL Oxf
- 1998 Saville, Mark Oliver, Rt Hon Lord Saville of Newdigate, BA BCL Oxf
- 2015 Smith, Gerald Thomas Edwards, BPhil Oxf, MA St And
- 2021 Stratton, Sir Michael Rudolf, BA Oxf, MB BS Guys, PhD Hon DSc Lond, FRCPath
- 2013 Tucker, William Guise, BA Oxf, RA
- 2018 Turnbull, the Hon Malcolm Bligh, BCL Oxf, BA LLB Sydney
- 1997 Vallance, Iain David Thomas, Lord Vallance of Tummel, Kt, MSc Lond School of Business Studies, MA Oxf, FRSA
- 2010 van Heerden, the Hon Mrs Justice Belinda, LLB Stellenbosch, MA Oxf

- 1993 Wates, Sir Christopher Stephen, BA Oxf, FCA★
2010 Wiggins, David Robert Priestly, MA Oxf, FBA
2013 Wightman, Nigel David, BA MPhil Oxf

Lecturers not on the Foundation

- Altshuler, Daniel, BA UCLA, PhD Rutgers *Linguistics*
Archer, Rowena *History*
Bath, Eleanor, BSc New South Wales, DPhil Oxf *Biology*
Beyt-Movsess, Ani, BA Islamic Azad, MA Tehran *Middle Eastern Languages*
Bocksberger, Sophie, BA MA Lausanne, DPhil Oxf *Classics*
Burkert-Burrows, Stefanie, Staatsexamen Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, PGCE Manc Met *German*
Carroll, Ian, MPhil Oxf *Politics*
Chan, Kenneth King Nip, MPharm St George's, MBBS Barts *Medicine*
Christoforou, Panayiotis, MPhil DPhil Oxf, MA St And *Ancient History*
Clement, William D M, BA Durh, MSt DPhil Oxf *History*
Colyer, Greg, MA Camb, DPhil Oxf *Physics*
Czepiel, Maria, BA MSt Oxf *Spanish*
Dawes, Matthew, MMath Oxf, PhD Bath *Mathematics*
Dorigatti, Marco, Dott Lett Florence, DPhil Oxf *Italian*
Dumbalska, Tsvetomira, BA Brown, DPhil Oxf *Psychology*
Durcan, Julie, BSc Sheff, MSc RHUL, PhD Aberystwyth *Geography*
Edwards, James, MA Camb, BCL DPhil Oxf *Law*
Eynard, Jean David, BA Queen Mary, MSt Oxf, PhD Camb *English*
Ferbrache, Fiona, BA PhD Plym, MRes Exe *Geography*
Formentini, Andrea, BSc MSc PhD Genoa *Engineering*
Gibbs-Seymor, Ian, BSc MSc PhD Durh *Biochemistry*
Gittos, Helen Beverley, BA Newc, MSt DPhil Oxf *History*
Gowland, Ben, BSc MRes PhD Glas *Geography*
Grabowska-Zhang, Ada, BA DPhil Oxf *Biology*
Gussoni, Alice, Laurea Verona, DPhil Oxf *Italian*
Harker, Anthony Henry, MA Camb, DPhil Oxf *Solid State Physics*
Harrison, Pegram, BA Yale, MBA Lond Business School, PhD Camb *Management*
Horton, Sophie, BSc Durh, MSc PhD Otago *Geography*
Jackson, Justin, MA MPhil Oxf, MA Birkbeck, MSt Dip Camb *Politics*
Jewell, Thomas Jun, MPhys Manc *Mathematics*

- Jones, Polly Alexandra, BA MPhil DPhil Oxf *Russian*
Juhász, Péter, MSci Camb, DPhil Oxf *Physics*
Kuznetsov, Vladimir, MSc PhD Moscow *Inorganic Chemistry*
Lau, Henry, MA DPhil Oxf *Engineering*
Leal, Dave, BA PhD Leeds *Philosophy*
Liu, Zihang, BA Camb, BCL Oxf *Law*
Manganis, Charis, BM BCh Oxf, MRCP *Medicine*
Marton, Agota, BA MA Babeş-Bolyai, DPhil Oxf *English*
McAuliffe, Thomas, BA MSt Oxf *History*
Middleton, Anthony N, MA Oxf *Physics (Mathematics)*
Morton, John, MA Camb, DPhil Oxf *Engineering*
Nowatzki, Maike, MSc MSc Tübingen *Geography*
Nxumalo, Sfiso Bernard, LLB Witwatersrand, BCL Oxf *Law*
Orr, Alva, MPhys Oxf *Physics*
Oswald, Lucy, MSci Camb *Physics*
Ozarowska, Lidia, BA Warsaw, MSt DPhil Oxf *Ancient History*
Pakpoor, Julia, BM BCh Oxf *Medicine*
Palano, Silvia, MA Oxf *Economics*
Parker, Eleanor, BA MPhil DPhil Oxf *English*
Petit, Arnaud, BA MA Ottawa, DPhil Oxf *Philosophy*
Pfeffer, Michelle, BA PhD Queensland, MSc Oxf *History*
Pinon, Carmen, BSc PhD Rio de Janeiro *Psychology*
Pokorny, Fabian, BSc MSc Innsbruck, PhD Stockholm *Physics*
Reddy, Priyanka, MB ChB Birm *Medicine*
Roberts, Mark Andrew James, MBiochem DPhil Oxf, PGCAP Lond, SFHEA *Biochemistry*
Robinson, Damian Jason, BSc PhD Brad, MA Oxf *Classical Archaeology*
Romer, Stephen, MA PhD Camb, FRSL *French*
Sekita, Karolina, Magister Warsaw, DPhil Oxf *Classics*
Shanmugam Senga, Sasi, MD Harvard, MSc ANU, MSc QMUL *Medicine*
Sillett, Andrew James, BA MSt DPhil Oxf *Ancient History*
Spring, Byron, BA MSt DPhil Oxf, LLB University of Law *German*
Tsuji, Hayato, BEng Tokyo IT *Chemistry*
Turner, Adam, BA BCL Oxf *Law*
Vogel, Christopher, BE Auckland, DPhil Oxf *Engineering*
Weatherseed, Miles, MMath Oxf *Mathematics*
Xie, Cheng, MB ChB Birm *Medicine*

STAFF 2023-24

Accommodation

Ryan Shaw	Accommodation Manager <i>(until July 2024)</i>
Anthea Robinson	Interim Accommodation Manager <i>(from September 2024)</i>
Gill Walker	Head Housekeeper
Gabi Nacheva	Deputy Housekeeper – College and St Cross
Emma Gomez Gil	Deputy Housekeeper – Frewin and Hollybush
Toyin Atalabi	Scout
Bobby Cox	Scout
Suchada Dekowski	Scout
Rabie Deliallisi	Scout
Ezequiel Dos Santos Gusmao	Scout
Anchan Drewett	Scout <i>(from February 2024)</i>
Debra Hall	Scout
Mindaugas Jocas	Scout
Kristina Jocience	Scout
Monika Kaczkowska	Scout
Phillip Kershaw	Scout <i>(from January 2024)</i>
Julie Lee	Scout
Sofiane Lehama	Scout
Val Mack	Scout <i>(until December 2023)</i>
Sheila Mobbs	Scout
Clair Moss	Scout
Emil Nachev	Scout
Renata Pacholec	Lead Scout <i>(until April 2024)</i>
Desislava Paneva	Scout
Leandro Pereira	Scout
Laura Ratkiene	Scout
Laurinda Saldanha	Scout <i>(from January 2024)</i>
Kana Sawazaki	Scout <i>(until February 2024)</i>
Joanne Simms	Scout
Eugenia Soares	Scout
Salvador Soares de Costa	Scout <i>(until November 2023)</i>

Liam Swatton	Scout (<i>from January 2024</i>)
Fernando Tjing	Scout
Brigida Valente	Scout (<i>until December 2023</i>)
Darren Watts	Scout
Steven Yousaf	Scout

Alumni Relations and Development Office

Julia Diamantis	Development Director
Regina Cox	Engagement and Major Gifts Executive (<i>from December 2023</i>)
George Balkwill	Senior Development Officer (<i>until December 2023</i>)
John-Paul Clough	Development Officer (Alumni Communications and Database)
Emilie Messenger	Annual Fund Manager (<i>until September 2024</i>)
Emily Reeve	Junior Major Gifts Officer
Chloe Bosward	Events and Volunteer Co-Ordinator
Gauri Verma	Events and Volunteer Co-Ordinator Maternity Cover (<i>from September 2024</i>)

Bursary

Philip Parker	Bursar
Kris Sadler	Domestic Bursar
Kirsty Jackson	PA to Bursar, Domestic Bursar and Chaplain

Buttery

Martin Wiseman	Steward
Nathan Pyle	Butler
Becky Dandridge	Assistant Steward
Mara Iavarone	Assistant Steward
Yeva Basarab	SCR Assistant (<i>from July 2024</i>)
Merson Muderere	SCR Assistant (<i>April 2024 to June 2024</i>)
Kim Smith	SCR Assistant
Shauna Curtin	Hall Assistant
Olivia Newbold	Hall Assistant
Penny Smith	Hall Assistant
Nikita Subba	Hall Assistant

Stephen Adams	Plate Room Assistant (<i>from September 2024</i>)
Martin Bainbridge	Plate Room Assistant (<i>from September 2024</i>)
Geoff Geer	Plate Room Assistant (<i>until July 2024</i>)
Tallulah Morris	Plate Room Assistant (<i>until September 2024</i>)

Chapel

David Sheen	Chaplain
Polina Sosnina	Director of Music

College Office

Simon Smith	Senior Tutor
Henry Jestico	Academic Administrator
Bronwen Tomkinson	Graduate Administrator
Eliza Flindall	Graduate Administrator Maternity Leave Cover (<i>until April 2024</i>)
Felicity Shelley	Admissions Officer
Joe Organ	Head of Undergraduate Access and Retention
Benedict Holden	Outreach and School Liaison Coordinator (<i>until September 2024</i>)
Holly Plater	Outreach and School Liaison Coordinator (<i>from September 2024</i>)
Antonia Mansel-Long	Academic Assistant (<i>from November 2024</i>)
Amelia Woodhouse	Academic Assistant (<i>from September to November 2023</i>)

Conferences & Events Office

Alex Moore	Conference and Events Manager
Amanda Gooding	Events Coordinator
Denise Rees	Conference and Events Administrator
Lorraine Baker	Summer Conference Coordinator (<i>from June 2024 until September 2024</i>), Accommodation and Conference Co-ordinator (<i>from September 2024</i>)

Lena Zlock
Accommodation and Conference
Administrator
(from June 2024 to August 2024)

Domestic Bursary

James Hellyer
Head of Accommodation and
Conferences *(until October 2024)*
Nicholas White
Estates Manager

Finance Bursary

Gillian Chandler
Finance Director
Goshia Czarna Adams
Financial Controller
Neil Gould
Payroll Manager
Naomi Massie
Project Accountant *(from January 2024)*
Kerry O'Callaghan
Assistant Accountant
Alexander Wilson
Junior Accountant
Laurence Guntert
Finance Assistant - Student Billing
Umar Randawa
Finance Assistant - Accounts Payable
(from February 2024)

Human Resources

Julia Dewar
Director of Human Resources
Holly Richards-Morris
Human Resources Manager
Eden Kewley
Human Resources Adviser
(from January 2024)
Sasha Merrell Brown
Human Resources Administrator

ICT

John Kinsey
IT Director
Garrith Blackhall
ICT Infrastructure Manager
Bekki Tordoff
ICT Officer
Sol Young
ICT Officer

Kitchen

Lorraine Watkins
Head Chef
Erik Poslusny
Sous Chef
Henry Crowther
Deputy Sous Chef
Chris Alexa
Third Chef
Matthew Ware
Senior Pastry Chef
Siraj Bayaa
Chef de Partie

Boniface Odhiambo	Chef de Partie (<i>until September 2024</i>)
Carl Tano	Junior Chef de Partie
Toufik Ferkoun	Commis Chef (<i>from October 2023</i>)
Kamrunnaher Beauty	Servery and Kitchen Assistant (<i>from July 2023 to January 2024</i>)
Fakrul Islam	Servery and Kitchen Assistant
Timmy Luk	Servery and Kitchen Assistant (<i>from July 2024</i>)
Beata Szalai	Servery and Kitchen Assistant (<i>April 2024 to April 2024</i>)
Miriam Vargiu	Servery and Kitchen Assistant (<i>until July 2024</i>)
Olivio Assuncao	Kitchen Porter
Pedro Ribeiro	Kitchen Porter

Library and Archives

Simon Palfrey	Fellow Librarian
Liz Kay	College Librarian
Sophie Floate	Antiquarian Cataloguer
Joanna Mills	Assistant Librarian
Helen Sumping	Archivist
Salomea Chlebowska	Assistant Archivist (<i>from September 2024</i>)

Porters' Lodge

Andy Talbot	Security and Safety Manager
Omer Tariq	Lodge Manager
Roy Creighton	Lodge Porter
Mark Eastley	Lodge Porter (<i>until June 2024</i>)
Maria Jabal	Lodge Porter (<i>from July 2024</i>)
Ray May	Lodge Porter
Adam Tarnet	Lodge Porter
Iain Covell	Night Lodge Porter (<i>from February 2024</i>)
Mel Fontaine	Night Lodge Porter
Nicholas Jones	Night Lodge Porter (<i>until December 2023</i>)
Derek Musto	Night Lodge Porter
Damien Thomas	Night Lodge Porter

Principal's Office

John Bowers KC	Principal
Liz Bingham	Principal's Personal Assistant <i>(from March 2024)</i>
Anna Malkin	Principal's Personal Assistant <i>(until April 2024)</i>
Kate Roberts	Principal's Deputy Personal Assistant
Anu Dawson	Part-time Event Co-ordinator <i>(from September 2024)</i>

Welfare

Simon Shogry	Dean <i>(until August 2024)</i>
Mark Wilson	Dean <i>(from September 2024)</i>
Arnaud Petit	Sub Dean and Study Skills Supervisor
Sebastian Petzolt	Student Support Advisor
Kinneret Milgrom	College Nurse
Arthur Disegna	Junior Dean <i>(until August 2024)</i>
Bessie O'Dell	Junior Dean <i>(until March 2024)</i>
Amine M'Charrak	Junior Dean <i>(from January 2024 to February 2024)</i>
Faojia Sultana	Junior Dean
James Smith	Junior Dean <i>(from September 2024)</i>
Dana Vuckovic	Junior Dean <i>(from April 2024)</i>
Georgia Lin	Study Skills Adviser <i>(from October 2023)</i>

Workshop

Clifford Jones	Clerk of Works
Mike Rochford	Workshop Manager
Danny English	Groundsman
Phillip Axtell	Assistant Groundsman <i>(from May 2024)</i>
Billy Burnell	General Maintenance <i>(until April 2024)</i>
David Ronchka	General Maintenance <i>(from March 2024)</i>
Rob Walker	Facilities and Maintenance Assistant
John McNamee	Carpenter and General Maintenance
Julian Drake	Plumber and General Maintenance
Simon Jones	Plumber and General Maintenance <i>(until April 2024)</i>
Jack Shirley	Plumber and General Maintenance <i>(from July 2024)</i>

CLASS LIST

Final Honour School 2024

ANCIENT & MODERN HISTORY

- I Nathaniel Downham
- II.1 Antara Singh

BIOCHEMISTRY

- II.1 Billie Delpino
- II.1 Ella Shalom
- II.1 Sophie Von Torklus

BIOLOGY (BA)

- II.1 Morgan Bell

BIOLOGY (MBIOL)

- I Emily Brannigan
- I Milo Mee
- II.1 Wei Chen Taylor Bi
- II.1 Matthew Joynson
- II.1 Frederick Murley
- II.1 Kane Powell

CHEMISTRY

- I Amelia Abbott
- I Oliver Christie
- I Joshua Greig
- I Pdraig Meehan
- II.1 Francesca Pike
- II.1 Presiyan Tsvetkov
- II.2 Mohammed Ahmed
- III Amy Bryan

CLASSICS & ENGLISH

- I Olivia McQuaid
- I Jui Zaveri

ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT

- I Madeline Connolly
- I Mitra Stainsbury
- II.1 Morgan Banham-Wright
- II.1 Oyindasola Bello
- II.1 Matthew Campbell
- II.1 Adya Manoj

ENGINEERING SCIENCE

- I Zhibo David Dai
- I Nishen Menerapitiyage Don
- I James Perks
- II.1 Benjamin Pollock
- II.1 Boyuan Yu
- II.2 Ella Lord
- II.2 Cameron McCaffrey

ENGLISH & MODERN LANGUAGES

- II.1 Elizabeth Babalola
- II.1 Kate Leadbetter

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

- I Alice Lock
- I Anna Wright
- II.1 Jennifer Black
- II.1 Tyler Daly
- II.1 Madeline Flaherty
- II.1 Jennifer Lake
- II.1 Alexia Loizou
- II.1 Joshua Sneddon

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

- I Georgia Claxon
- II.1 Lauren Palmer

FINE ART

- II.1 Hermione Robinson

GEOGRAPHY

- I Lola Francis
- I Niamh Gallagher
- I Jasmine Rooke
- II.1 Nerjess Alfellani
- II.1 Amy Belben
- II.1 Jessica Hazlewood
- II.1 Rebecca Woodfield
- II.1 Tracy Zhou

HISTORY

- I Joel Bassett
- I Oliver Nicholls
- II.1 Erin Bridgewater
- II.1 Zain-Ul Haq
- II.1 Betty Hughes
- II.1 Rebecca Jackson

HISTORY & ECONOMICS

- II.1 Yusriya Abdullatif

HISTORY & POLITICS

- I Abigail Bacon
- I Edward Routh
- II.1 Christopher O'Neil
- II.1 Roman Pitman

JURISPRUDENCE

- I Evan Chou
- I Ellis Clifford
- II.1 Oliver Burgess
- II.1 Zahra Lahrie
- II.1 Alexandra Ogundipe
- II.1 Jamie Turnbull
- II.1 Patrick Wol-Carty
- II.1 Alexa Yeo

LITERAE HUMANIORES

- I Josephine Wells
- II.1 Thomas Bristow
- II.1 Kian Moghaddas
- II.1 Jocelyn Robertson

MATHEMATICS (BA)

- II.1 Emma Palmer
- II.2 Jerome O'Toole
- II.2 Louis Sutton
- II.2 Nick Whittles

MATHEMATICS (MMATH)

- Distinction Eleanor Barrell
- Distinction Mario Marcos Losada
- Merit Anushka Chugh
- Merit Sean Cohen
- Merit Anthony Roizin
- Merit Aidan Wong

MATHEMATICS & PHILOSOPHY

- I Jonathan Medcalf

MEDICAL SCIENCES

- I Samuel Bealing
- I Mazen El Sherbini
- I Leia Worthington
- II.1 Elysia Sarsam
- II.1 Syed Tahmid

MODERN LANGUAGES

- I James Hartley
- I Ursy Reynolds
- II.1 Lorna McLaughlin
- II.1 Sonia Zia

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS & ECONOMICS

- I Iseabail Duncan
- I Jordan Edwards-Zinger
- I Wyatt Radzin

- II.1 Alice Benoit
- II.1 Faye Fallon
- II.1 James Forsdyke
- II.1 Lucy Higginbotham
- II.1 Amelie Marescaux
- II.1 Ria McDonald
- II.1 Hafeez Merali
- II.2 Fatmata Kposowa
- II.2 Zhenhao Cory Wen

PHYSICS

- I Lukas Seier
- II.1 Daniel Manole
- II.1 Juliet Telfer

PHYSICS & PHILOSOPHY

- I Antoine Levie
- I Alexander Roberts

PSYCHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY & LINGUSITICS

- I Lucas Foo

GRADUATE DEGREES

DPhil

James Ashford	DPhil Medical Sciences	Michaelmas 2019
Lampros Bisdounis	DPhil Clinical Neurosciences	Michaelmas 2019
Helene Borrmann	DPhil Infect, Imm & Trans Med	Michaelmas 2019
Morgan Breene	DPhil History	Michaelmas 2019
Emerson Csorba	DPhil Theology (Part Time)	Michaelmas 2016
Rhiannon D'Arcy	DPhil Population Health	Michaelmas 2004

Matthew Downer	DPhil Clinical Neuroscience	Michaelmas 2019
Rachel Gardner	DPhil Education (Part Time)	Michaelmas 2017
Phoebe Griffith	DPhil Environmental Research	Michaelmas 2012
Raphael Heim	DPhil History (HSM and ESH)	Michaelmas 2017
Jennifer Herrmann	DPhil Genomic Medicine and Statistics	Michaelmas 2019
Wei Wen Vivien Ho	DPhil in Interdisciplinary Bioscience (DTP)	Michaelmas 2018
Eri Ichijo	DPhil Experimental Psychology	Michaelmas 2018
Fiona Jelley	DPhil Education	Michaelmas 2018
Ignacio Juarez Martinez	DPhil Environmental Research (NERC DTP)	Michaelmas 2013
Katarzyna Kedzierska	DPhil Genomic Medicine and Statistics	Michaelmas 2018
Danish Khan	DPhil History	Michaelmas 2014
Nur Laiq	DPhil History	Michaelmas 2003
Seoyun Lee	DPhil Clinical Neuroscience	Michaelmas 2019
Xintong Li	DPhil Clinical Epidemiology	Michaelmas 2020
Thomas Marjot	DPhil Biomedical and Clinical Sciences	Michaelmas 2020
Dorota Michalska	DPhil Fine Art	Michaelmas 2018
Bessie O'Dell	DPhil Psychiatry	Michaelmas 2019
Olga Smolyak	DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages	Michaelmas 2013

Sunjuri Sun	DPhil Population Health	Michaelmas 2020
William Szymanski	DPhil Ancient History	Michaelmas 2013
Robert Toth	DPhil Clinical Neuroscience	Michaelmas 2018
Lennart Van Sluijs	DPhil Astrophysics	Michaelmas 2020
Chenglin Yang	DPhil Oriental Studies	Michaelmas 2017
Jiarui Zong	DPhil Organic Chemistry	Michaelmas 2019

BCL

Rhea Gupta	Distinction
Shuen Him Ho	Merit
Cleopatra Khattab	Merit
Dimitrios Papadopoulos	Distinction
Luca Williams	Distinction

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

Isabella Busa	Pass
Katerina Gramm	Pass
Emily Hoyle	Pass
Vikram Mitra	Pass

EMBA

Ellen Catherall	Pass
Aviv Yehezkel	Pass
Philippe Dalcher	Pass

MBA

Ifeoma Donnellan	Pass
Matthew Kelling	Distinction
Meagan Loyst	Pass
Edouard Tessier-Blais	Pass
Harshal Thaker	Distinction
Zixuan Xu	Pass

MFA

Kyra-Sky Foster	Distinction
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MJur

Batuhan Akkus	Pass
Ines Morfin Kroepfly	Merit
Federica Nava	Distinction
Jakob Timmel	Distinction
Fengquan Wang	Merit

MPP

Jose Mejia Ciro	Pass
James Potticary	Pass
Henry Thompson	Merit

MPhil

Divya Agarwal	MPhil Development Studies	Pass
Amelie Berz	MPhil Law	
Sophie Cardin	MPhil Politics: Political Theory	Distinction
Joseph Levine	MPhil Economics	Pass
Matai Muon	MPhil Development Studies	Merit
Jan Riemersma	MPhil Development Studies	Merit
Sarah Skinner	MPhil International Relations	Merit
Despoina Vasilaki	MPhil Law	
Julia Wang	MPhil Economics	Pass

MSc(Res)

Daniel Lesman	MSc(Res) Statistics
Jia Wan	MSc(Res) Engineering Science

MSc

Maia Alfonzetti	MSc Economics for Development	Distinction
Georgios Apeitos	MSc Archaeology	Distinction

Naema Araya	MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine	Merit
Genevieve Beaufof	MSc Nature, Environmental Research and Governance	Distinction
Morgan Brady	MSc Learning and Teaching	Distinction
Gita Briel	MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment	Distinction
Gustavo Cabrera Castellanos	MSc Biodiversity, Conservation and Mgt	Merit
Pengpeng Chen	MSc Archaeological Science	Merit
Beth Costar	MSc Learning and Teaching	Pass
Lawa Dilan	MSc Statistical Science	Distinction
Jessica Espinoza	MSc Genomic Medicine	Distinction
Olivia Francis	MSc Archaeological Science	Distinction
Alisa Ghura	MSc Environmental Change and Management	Distinction
Peter Hallsworth	MSc Educational Assessment	Merit
Jane Hutchings	MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment	Merit
Gregor Ilsinger	MSc Political Theory Research	Pass
Odelia Kong	MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry	Distinction
Jing Xian Joseph Lee	MSc Statistical Science	Distinction
Avinindita Lestari	MSc Genomic Medicine	Merit
Amaris Lewis	MSc Clinical and Therapeutic Neuroscience	Merit
Eleanor Mullin	MSc Learning and Teaching	Merit
Jan Mutkovic	MSc Economics for Development	Merit
Narhitya Nawal	MSc Modern South Asian Studies	Pass
Olha Popova	MSc Law and Finance	Merit
Kexin Qiu	MSc Nature, Society and Environmental Governance	Distinction
Jonathan Ratcliffe	MSc Learning and Teaching	Merit
Mariano Ratto	MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine	Merit

Kayla Seggelke	MSc Global Health Science and Epidemiology	Pass
Benjamin Vidmar	MSc Latin American Studies	Distinction
Yanzhe Xu	MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry	Distinction
Chujun Zhao	MSc Statistical Science	Merit

MSt

Juliet Buffey	MSt English (1900 – present)	Distinction
Amanda Chiu	MSt Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies	Merit
Alex Still	MSt Medieval Studies	Distinction

PGCE

Lauren Coleman	PGCE – Geography	Pass
Lianne Ducker	PGCE – Biology	Pass
Abigail Hyde	PGCE – Modern Languages	Pass
Ersia Louroutziati	PGCE – Mathematics	Pass
Grace Miller	PGCE – Religious Education	Pass

MATRICULATIONS 2023-24

Thomas Abel, *Ilkley Grammar School*; **Andrew Achler**, *Chancellor’s School*; **Rabhya Agarwal**, *Sardar Patel Vidyalaya*; **Batuhan Akkus**, *Ankara Universitesi*; **Wesley Akum-Ojong**, *Watford Grammar School for Boys*; **Maia Alfonzetti**, *Australian National University*; **Joel Alsterlind**, *International School of Prague*; **Shylett Anthony**, *Pune University*; **Georgios Apeitos**, *University of Cyprus*; **Naemi Araya**, *Orotta School of Medicine and Dentistry*; **William Arber**, *Settle College*; **Gabriela Austin**, *Dane Court Grammar School*; **Harry Bentley-Bonsey**, *Devonport High School for Boys*; **Luca Bernstein**, *One Sixth Form College*; **Diego Bettas-Begalin**, *Universite de Paris IV (Paris - Sorbonne) France*; **Sasha Bhangoo**, *Hereford Sixth Form College*; **Isabelle Blackburn**, *Yarm School*; **Katarina Bonnier**, *International School of the Stockholm Region*; **Gita Briel**, *University of Cape Town*; **Florence Brooke**, *Godolphin and*

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COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PRIZES 2023-24

Undergraduate College Prizes

First in Finals:

Nathaniel Downham (Ancient & Modern History); **Emily Brannigan** (Biology); **Milo Mee** (Biology); **Amelia Abbott**

(Chemistry); **Oliver Christie** (Chemistry); **Joshua Greig** (Chemistry); **Padraig Meehan** (Chemistry); **Olivia McQuaid** (Classics & English); **Jui Zaveri** (Classics & English); **Madeline Connolly** (Economics & Management); **Mitra Stainsbury** (Economics & Management); **Zhibo David Dai** (Engineering Science); **Nishen Menerapitiyage Don** (Engineering Science); **James Perks** (Engineering Science); **Alice Lock** (English Language & Literature); **Anna Wright** (English Language & Literature); **Georgia Claxon** (Experimental Psychology); **Lola Francis** (Geography); **Niamh Gallagher** (Geography); **Jasmine Rooke** (Geography); **Joel Bassett** (History); **Oliver Nicholls** (History); **Abigail Bacon** (History & Politics); **Edward Routh** (History & Politics); **Evan Chou** (Jurisprudence); **Ellis Clifford** (Jurisprudence); **Josephine Wells** (Literae Humaniores); **Jonathan Medcalf** (Mathematics & Philosophy); **Eleanor Barrell** (Mathematics); **Mario Marcos Losada** (Mathematics); **Samuel Bealing** (Medical Sciences); **Mazen El Sherbini** (Medical Sciences); **Leia Worthington** (Medical Sciences); **James Hartley** (Modern Languages); **Ursy Reynolds** (Modern Languages); **Iseabail Duncan** (Philosophy, Politics & Economics); **Jordan Edwards-Zinger** (Philosophy, Politics & Economics); **Wyatt Radzin** (Philosophy, Politics & Economics); **Lukas Seier** (Physics); **Antoine Levie** (Physics & Philosophy); **Alexander Roberts** (Physics & Philosophy); **Lucas Foo** (Psychology, Philosophy & Linguistics)

First Class or equivalent in interim examinations:

Joshua Dow (Biochemistry, Part I); **Elizabeth Chrisp** (Biology, Part IA); **Jiya Soomal** (Biology, Part IA); **Oliver Cashmore** (Chemistry, Part IA); **Finlay Johnston** (Chemistry, Part IA); **Jude Tyrrell-Broad** (Chemistry, Part IB); **Zitong Wu** (Chemistry, Part IB); **Alexander Sherwood** (Engineering, Part A); **Oscar Jones** (Engineering, Part B); **Kartikeya Kaushal** (Engineering, Part B); **Joel Thacker** (Mathematics, Part A); **Zilin Liu** (Mathematics, Part B); **Finn Barber** (Physics, Part A); **Elizabeth Berryman** (Physics, Part A); **Sophie Goodman** (Physics, Part A); **Emanuel Mavares Da Silva** (Physics, Part A); **Felix Mountford** (Physics, Part B); **James Nicholas** (Physics, Part B); **Luke Hayward** (Physics & Philosophy, Part B); **Iona Blair** (Psychology and Linguistics, Part A)

Distinction in Mods/Prelims:

Sky Giles (Ancient & Modern History); **Vedat Habib Papo** (Biochemistry); **Diana Gusta** (Biology); **Oscar Potts** (Biology); **Hamish Robertson** (Biology); **Andrew Achler** (Chemistry); **Siyu Li** (Chemistry); **Molly Clark** (Classics & English); **Russell Chee** (Economics & Management); **Shannon Howell** (Economics & Management); **Ishan Kundu** (Economics & Management); **Shaikh Ameen-Ur Rahman** (Economics & Management); **Greta Sikora** (Economics & Management); **Kira Forber** (English Language & Literature); **Rory McGlade** (English Language & Literature); **Ruth Watts** (English Language & Literature); **Kristian Wong** (English Language & Literature); **Chak Yim** (Experimental Psychology); **Sasha Hardy** (Fine Art); **Theo Jones** (Fine Art); **Lillian Tagg** (Fine Art); **Hannah Griffiths** (Geography); **Theo Russell** (Geography); **William Arber** (History); **William Cuhls** (History & Economics); **Zara Chowdhury** (Jurisprudence); **Olivia Brown** (Modern Languages); **Wesley Akum-Ojong** (Philosophy, Politics & Economics); **Robert Ebner-Statt** (Philosophy, Politics & Economics); **Sebastian Steven** (Philosophy, Politics & Economics); **Aditya Tekriwal** (Physics); **Sierra Warnes** (Physics); **Wanxiang Zhang** (Physics); **Charlotte Stevenson** (Physics & Philosophy)

Undergraduate University Prizes

Finn Barber (Physics): Gibbs Prize for performance in the Physics Department Speaking Competition

Russell Chee (Economics & Management): Examiners' Prize for the highest mark in the General Management paper

Oliver Christie (Chemistry): Physical & Theoretical Chemistry Part II Prize

Madeline Connolly (Economics & Management): Saïd Foundation Prize for the best performance in the Global Business History paper

Nathaniel Downham (Ancient & Modern History): Gibbs Prize for the best performance of a joint school candidate in History papers

Lucas Foo (Psychology, Philosophy & Linguistics): Proxime Accessit for Gibbs Prize for the second-best overall performance in the Honour School of Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics

Ishan Kundu (Economics & Management): Saïd Foundation Prize for the best overall performance and Examiners' Prize for the highest mark in the Financial Management paper

Olivia McQuaid (Classics & English): Passmore Edwards Prize for best performance in Classics & English FHS

Lauren Neville (Biology): Prize for contribution to Vice-Chancellor's Colloquium

Miles Oleksak (Philosophy & Modern Languages): Claude Massart Prize for best performance in French Literature, and joint winner of both the Marjorie Countess of Warwick Prize for the best performance in French by a female candidate and the Mrs Claude Beddington Prize for best performance in French

Beth Parker (Literae Humaniores): Chancellor's Latin Verse Prize

Alexander Roberts (Physics & Philosophy): Gibbs Prize for the best performance in the Physics papers in Part C of the Honour School of Physics and Philosophy and Johnson Memorial Prize for MPhys Project in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics

Graduate College Prizes

Distinction in Graduate Exams:

Maia Alfonzetti – MSc Economics for Development

Georgios Apeitos – MSc Archaeology

Genevieve Beaufoy (MSc Nature, Society and Environmental Governance) – *2023 leaver but missed 22/23 list*

Morgan Brady – MSc Learning and Teaching

Gita Briel – MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment

Juliet Buffey – MSt English (1900-present)

Sophie Cardin – MPhil Politics: Political Theory

Lawa Dilan – MSc Statistical Science

Jessica Espinoza – MSc Genomic Medicine

Kyra-Sky Foster – MFA

Olivia Francis – MSc Archaeological Science

Alisa Ghura – MSc Environmental Change and Management

Rhea Gupta – BCL

Matthew Kelling – MBA

Odelia Kong – MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry

Jing Xian Joseph Lee – MSc Statistical Science

Mathieu Lise – MSc Mathematical Sciences

Federica Nava – MJur

Dimitrios Papadopoulos – BCL

Kexin Qiu – MSc Nature, Society and Environmental Governance

Alex Still – MSt Medieval Studies

Harshal Thaker – MBA

Jakob Timmel – MJur

Benjamin Vidmar – MSc Latin American Studies

Luca Williams – BCL

Yanzhe Xu – MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry

Graduate University Prizes

Rhea Gupta (BCL) – Law Faculty Prize in Principles of Civil Procedure

Federica Nava (MJur) – Law Faculty Prize in Dissertations

Jakob Timmel (MJur) – Law Faculty Prize (Proxime Accessit) for the Second Best Performance in the MJur

Luca Williams (BCL) – Law Faculty Prize in Corporate Insolvency Law

ELECTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS, 2023-24

IN ANCIENT & MODERN HISTORY

TO AN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Joseph Andrews, formerly of Ardingly College

IN BIOCHEMISTRY

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Megan Jefferies, formerly of Gordano School

Scarlett O'Shaughnessy, formerly of Windsor Girls School

IN CHEMISTRY

TO THE JUNIOR CHEETHAM SCHOLARSHIP

Amelia Abbott, formerly of Farnborough Sixth Form College

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Oliver Cashmore, formerly of Stoke-On-Trent Sixth Form College

Finlay Johnston, formerly of Dulwich College

IN CLASSICS & MODERN LANGUAGES

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Henry Rose, formerly of Eton College

IN ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Hui Ru Ng, formerly of Hwa Chong Institution

IN ENGINEERING

TO AN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Nishen Menerapitiyage Don, formerly of Whitmore High School

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Alexander Sherwood, formerly of Hills Road Sixth Form College

IN ENGLISH

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Imogen Edmundson, formerly of Darrick Wood Secondary School

IN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Aylin Gurleyen, formerly of The Abbey School, Reading

Matilda Lambert, formerly of Barton Peveril College

Lola Milton-Jenkins, formerly of King's College

IN FINE ART

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Emily Jackson, formerly of Alleyn's School

Lola Wendon, formerly of University of the Arts

IN GEOGRAPHY

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Niamh Gallagher, formerly of St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill

Cyrus Hariri, formerly of Hills Road Sixth Form College

Holly Singleton, formerly of Beverley Grammar School

Barney Wakefield, formerly of Greenhead College

IN HISTORY

TO AN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Erin Bridgewater, formerly of Greenhead College

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Harriet Altaparmakova, formerly of Saffron Walden County High School

David Evans, formerly of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital School

Halcyon Matthews, formerly of Minster School

IN JURISPRUDENCE

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Peter Yuming Chen, formerly of Crean Lutheran

Sanika Pherwani, formerly of Indo Scots Global School

Lilian Trickey, formerly of Backwell School

IN MATHEMATICS

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Joel Thacker, formerly of Brookfield Community School

IN PHILOSOPHY & MODERN LANGUAGES

TO AN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Miles Oleksak, formerly of the Bermuda High School for Girls

IN PHYSICS

TO AN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Felix Mountford, formerly of King's College London Mathematics School

James Nicholas, formerly of Ysgol Dinas Bran

Lukas Seier, formerly of Charters School

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Sophie Goodman, formerly of Monkton Combe School

Emanuel Mavares Da Silva, formerly of Greenhead College

IN PHYSICS & PHILOSOPHY

TO AN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Luke Hayward, formerly of King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon

Antoine Levie, formerly of United World College - Costa Rica

Alexander Roberts, formerly of Pate's Grammar School

IN PSYCHOLOGY & LINGUISTICS

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Iona Blair, formerly of St Mary's Catholic High School

BLUES AND HALF BLUES 2023-2024

Georgie Claxon	Half Blue	Lacrosse
Daniel David Cox	Full Blue	Hockey
Edward Lamb	Half Blue	Triathlon
Joseph Levine	Half Blue	Baseball
Thomas Mewes	Full Blue	Rugby Football
Hui Ru Ng	Full Blue	Volleyball
Luke Parker	Half Blue	Orienteering
Husayn Sacranie	Half Blue	TaeKwon-Do
Dhruv Talati	Half Blue	Cricket
Otis Walker	Full Blue	Rugby Football

Donors to Brasenose



DONOR LIST 2023–2024

Brasenose College wishes to record its gratitude to the following alumni and friends who kindly donated to the College between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024. The gifts are listed in the following format: year of matriculation; name of donor; former names are listed in italics; an asterisk indicates that the donor has sadly since passed away. We have tried to ensure that all gifts are recorded accurately but if we have made any mistakes please accept our apologies and do let us know so that they can be corrected. Please note that 1509 Society and Alexander Nowell Circle members are acknowledged on separate lists, which follow on from this section.

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1509 SOCIETY 2023-2024

Named for the year of our foundation, the 1509 Society celebrates our most loyal and generous benefactors. Gifts from members have a real and long-lasting impact on the College and we thank them for their exceptional commitment. The Society is open to all donors who commit to giving £1,509 or more each year, or who have cumulatively given over £25,000. If you would like more information regarding the society, or wish to make a gift, please contact the Alumni Relations and Development Office. We have tried to ensure that all current members are listed accurately but if we have made any mistakes please accept our apologies and do let us know so that they can be corrected. This list covers those who met the criteria as at 30th September 2024.

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Like all Oxford Colleges, Brasenose owes its existence to the generosity of its benefactors who have ensured that it has continued as a centre of scholarship and preparation for life for over 500 years. The Circle is named after Alexander Nowell, a Fellow, then Principal, of Brasenose College. Membership to the Circle is open to all those who have notified us of their intention to join generations of Brasenose Members by including a gift to the College in their Will. We are very grateful for their generosity and are delighted to take the opportunity to honour them below. If you would like information about leaving a legacy to Brasenose, please contact the Alumni Relations & Development Office.

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LEGACIES RECEIVED IN PERIOD

- 1953 Mr M H Millyard
 1954 Dr D N Baldock
 1973 Mr A J Evans

NB: none of the three legators above were recognised as members of the Alexander Nowell Society, i.e. were not known legators to Brasenose.



The Brasenose Alumni Society

Forms Overleaf



The Brasenose Alumni Society

A Society that helps its members maintain a strong connection with the College Community and each other

Committee Nomination Form 2025

The Brasenose Alumni Society is Brasenose’s alumni association.

All matriculated Brasenose members automatically become members of the Brasenose Alumni Society when they go down, together with certain former employees/academics of the College. The term “alumni” in relation to the Society thus includes all these individuals.

There is no membership fee.

The Society has a management committee. New candidates who would like to offer active help are welcomed for election. Every year the committee elects a new President and Vice President from among the Alumni or Fellows. The commitment to meetings is not onerous: usually three a year, two in London and one in Oxford.

I _____ Matriculation Year _____

being a member of Brasenose,

and I _____ Matriculation Year _____

being a member of Brasenose,

nominate _____ Matriculation Year _____

for election to the Brasenose Alumni Society Committee at the Society AGM in September.

*I, _____ (name of nominee), _____

being a BNC alumnus and member of the Brasenose Society, consent to the above nomination.

I should like to stand for election because *(please state your reasons in no more than about 60 words)*.

Signatures

_____ (Proposer) Date _____ 2025

_____ (Seconder) Date _____ 2025

_____ (Nominee) Date _____ 2025

* Complete only if nominee is neither Proposer nor Seconder. Once completed, please return this form to The Alumni Relations and Development Office, Brasenose College, Oxford, OX1 4AJ no later than 31st July 2025.

If you are considering putting yourself forward for the committee, please contact the Alumni Relations & Development Office (+44(0)1865 287275, development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk) who can put you in touch with a current member to discuss the various roles available and the nature of the Committee.



Keep in touch

Help us to stay in touch with you and keep our records up to date by updating your information. You are invited to sign up for our online community where you can update your contact details, stay in touch with your peers, and book for College events at www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni. Alternatively, return this form to The Alumni Relations & Development Office, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ, or send an email to development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk

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Forenames _____

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Telephone _____ Email _____

Any further information _____

Updates for 2024–2025

Please tell us of any news you would like us to consider for publication (in the Brazen Nose / Brazen Notes) in the period October 2024 to September 2025, including marriages, births, honours, achievements, distinctions, etc. (please note that we cannot include anything we consider promotional).

Your news

Please return this form to The Alumni Relations & Development Office, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ, or if possible email us at development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk

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The College encourages the networking of alumni through the use of Year Reps. Year Reps are alumni volunteers who will contact their year group with a view to inform them of events and encourage participation. Reps now use a secure emailing system, and we do not pass on your contact details without permission. If you would NOT like to receive messages from your Year Rep, please let us know by returning this form and ticking this box.

If at any time you have any queries about the use of your personal data or wish to change the fact of, or extent of, use of your personal data, please contact the Alumni Relations & Development Office.

