Issue 23 | Trinity Term 2017



Extended Teaching Space at the Heart of Brasenose

Ambitious plans are underway to treble the capacity of the College's largest dedicated teaching space, Lecture Room XI.

The planned project will increase the capacity of Lecture Room XI by incorporating a back room into the original space and remodelling the interior. This would enable the College to better support its academic mission by providing the versatile space needed to teach and hold public events.

Tutor in Management, Professor Chris McKenna explains, "for many years I have tried to bring my Saïd Business School students into Brasenose for a class. The problem is, however, that we don't have a room large enough. We currently use the Chapel; a less than ideal solution."

In honour of the generous benefactor who made the renovation possible, the new lecture room will be named "The Amersi Foundation Lecture Room".

Principal, John Bowers QC commented, "The planned improvements to Lecture Room XI represent the most significant expansion of the College's teaching space in living memory. We are very proud to be able to provide our students with such wonderful facilities right at the heart of the College."



△ Built between 1880-1886, Lecture Room XI can currently seat around 40 people; our largest dedicated teaching space





 Δ Bird's eye view of BNC's New Quad. Lecture Room XI is seen on the left of this picture

 Δ Architect's impression of one of the suggested layouts for the new larger space which, when arranged theatre-style, will be able to seat up to 120 people

In this Edition

The Principal's Blog	Page 3
The Fellowship: Interviewed	Page 4
The Legend of the Childe of Hale	Page 6
Funded Student Travel	Page 9
Photo Gallery	Page 10

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Your News

Whether your news is of an award, a personal achievement, a new baby, job, or just an update on how you are getting on – we want to hear about it! If you would like to be included in the next issue, email us at **development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk**.

The Revd Canon Claud Michael Broun (Classics, 1951) has donated a copy of *The Booke of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and other parts of divine Service for the use of the Church of Scotland*, 1637 to the College library.

Gregory Clark (Geography, 1953) "I was stroke of the 1954 second Brasenose eight. Our cox was a very small and rather slim Thai fellow named Pat. We could never remember his full name so, for us, he was Pat. Many years later at an academic conference in Japan I was sitting next to a very robust Thai gentleman also called Pat. I enquired and yes, it was the same man!

After graduation I joined the Australian diplomatic service, was sent to learn Chinese with British diplomats in Hong Kong, was posted to Moscow



(1963-1965), and resigned to do a PhD on the Japanese economy at the Australian National University. After four eventful years in Tokyo as a correspondent for Australia's national newspaper which included organising Australian participation in the Ping-Pong diplomacy (over Canberra's opposition), spent a year (1975) in Canberra as government policy adviser before returning to Japan to begin a forty year academic career which included publishing several books on Japanese society (in Japanese), becoming president of Tama University in Tokyo, vice-president of Akita International University, and a member of over thirty Japanese committees, some policy making. Now in semi-retirement by the very attractive coast outside Tokyo while dabbling in Latin American affairs. I married Yasuko Tanno (now deceased) and we had two sons. The languages I speak are: Chinese, Russian, Japanese and Spanish."

Aditya Haksar (History, 1954) "Since retirement from diplomatic life, my time has increasingly been spent in translating classical Sanskrit literature into English to bring it into the mainstream of modern reading. This has led to several books, all in circulation in the UK."



Brasenose is delighted to announce that on 11 March 2017, **Professor Michael Kosterlitz (Physics, 1966)** and **Mohamed Amersi (EMBA, 2014)** were elected by the most senior members of the College to the prestigious rank of Honorary Fellow.

△ Nobel Laureate, **Professor Michael Kosterlitz** making an address in the Chapel at BNC on receiving his Honorary Fellowship

Late last year, a group of friends who matriculated between 1961 and 1964 met for a reunion lunch in London.



△ Left to Right: Tony Burke (Animal Physiology, 1963), Bill Martin (Maths, 1963), Dick Jeffries (Law, 1961), Graham Woolley (Maths, 1964), John Bows (Law, 1963), John Rolfe (Chemistry, 1962) and their partners

Dave Edwards (PPP, 1962) "I was recently elected President of the International Society of Schema Therapy. Also a book is just appearing of which I am one of the (junior) editors: *Case studies within psychotherapy trials: Integrating qualitative and quantitative methods*. Although retired from a full time academic position, I still work pretty much full time in private practice, offering training and doing some academic writing."

To Fraser Kerr (Physics, 1998) and Hannah Kerr (née Jones, Biochemistry, 1998), a daughter, Imogen Zenna Sophie, was born on 5 December, 2016.

Nicholas Apostoloff (Engineering Science, 2002)

on 11 February, 2017 won the Academy Award for Scientific and Technical Achievement (the techie version of the Oscars) for a project he worked on in the film industry directly after graduating from Oxford.



✓ Nicholas and his wife, Isla Hamlett (Clinical Medicine, 2002) at the award ceremony. They met at St. Cross while both graduate students at BNC

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

The Principal's Blog

Since his inauguration in October 2015, Principal John Bowers, QC has kept a blog of his thoughts and impressions. We have gathered some snippets from the last few months to give you an insight into the daily running of an Oxford College. Read the full blog here:



www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/about-brasenose/princblog

December 2016

On 19 December, I met with Australian Prime Minister and BNC alumnus, Malcolm Turnbull (Law, 1978) at his Sydney office. He was very charming and delighted to talk about Brasenose. He remembered his teachers on the BCL, in particular: John Davies, Mary Stokes and one he described as the "young" Hugh Collins (now the Vinerian Professor).

January 2017

At the start of Hilary Term, the Revd. Professor Judith Brown started as our interim Chaplain and will be with us for three terms. We also extended a warm Brasenose welcome to Professor Geoff Bird, our new tutor in Experimental Psychology and Dr Sonali Nag, our new tutor in Education. They are joined by Professor Charles Hulme, our new Golding Senior Fellow whose subject is also Education.

Our Library project has reached a further phase, with students excitedly queuing at the door to get back into the refurbished reading rooms as soon as they opened (on schedule) at 9.00am on the Monday of the first week of Hilary Term.

February 2017

The kneelers currently used in some of the pews in Chapel have been identified by an expert from the V&A Museum as dating from 1666-67. The cushions are believed to be important examples of 17th Century Turkish work and may be of national importance, especially as their provenance is evident.

March 2017

This year, Brasenose provided the Senior Proctor for the University. The Proctorial Office is an ancient one with power over discipline within the University. Our new Senior Proctor is Dr Ed Bispham, one of our Fellows in Classics, who I know will do an excellent job.

On 17 March I presided over the Gaudy for 1963-66 matriculands. A Gaudy is always a great occasion and this cohort are an extremely distinguished group, with a Lord, an ex-MP, many distinguished public servants and captains of industry. The atmosphere was electric as we sang an Ale Verse from 1966 together.



 Δ The Fellows processing from Brasenose to the Sheldonian Theatre for the Proctors' inauguration ceremony on 15 March

The Fellowship: Interviewed

Continuing our series of interviews with the Fellowship of Brasenose College, **Olivia Gordon** of *Oxford Today* met with Professors Simon Palfrey and Daniela Bortoletto for an insight into the workings of the minds that fuel the academic life of the College.

Making literature Come to Life

BNC's **Simon Palfrey**, Professor of English Literature, on his imaginative reinvention of literary criticism

Shakespeare has been at the centre of Simon Palfrey's career. Having grown up in Hobart, Tasmania, 'wanderlust' led him, through a Rhodes scholarship, to a doctorate at Oxford on Shakespeare's late phase. After teaching at Liverpool University, he returned to Oxford in 2006 as a Professor of English Literature. Having written books on ways of thinking about Shakespeare and researched the original Shakespearean performance texts, Palfrey's attention has turned in recent years to more 'philosophical' approaches to Shakespeare.

'I've been thinking about how literary criticism might become more imaginative and adventurous, if it's to speak to the imagination and adventure of these plays,' he tells me over tea in his airy booklined study. 'One of the problems with literary criticism,' he feels, 'is the idea that as a critic you've got to assert authority and "truths" – while the nature of literary experience is often experiential, fugitive, imaginative.'

Professor Palfrey is keen to find a way to write about literature which 'honours' that 'existential experimentalism' of literature, to break down boundaries - indeed, 'to explode the category of reading' as he puts it. What might this involve? To take one of his books, Poor Tom: Living King *Lear*, as an example, Palfrey interwove thinking about King Lear with philosophical and theological essays, looking at the play 'as a constellation of possibilities'. Meanwhile in his 2016 novel Macbeth, Macbeth, co-authored with Ewan Ferney, Chair of the Shakespeare Institute, he explored what it might be like to be Macbeth – something every actor who plays this murderous character naturally does, as does anyone watching in the audience. But for critics, trying to understand the character of Macbeth has somehow been 'illicit' empathy with Macbeth is 'something conventional scholarship doesn't try to do'. In this case, a fictional novel set when Shakespeare's drama ends was Palfrey's approach to understanding the play,



rather than straight literary criticism. The novel was described by Slavoj Zizek as 'as close as one can come to a quantum physics literary criticism'.

In Palfrey's view, there is no distinction between his creative and academic work. He thrives on interdisciplinary creative projects and a TORCH fellowship in 2015 helped him see these through. Most recently, he has been working on another collaboration, *Demons Land*, a response to Edmund Spenser's allegorical Elizabethan epic *The Faerie* Queene. 'I tried to imagine what it would be like if you tried to build a world in the image of a poem, to live in an artificial world of endlessly repeating stanzas or to be an allegorical character embodying virtue – it could be a dreamy thing or a terrifying tyrannical thing,' he says. 'We imagined a man on an island called Demons Land, experimenting to make the play come true. The project started as a play devised with school children and has since turned into a film (with parts played by some of Professor Palfrey's undergraduates). The film forms the centerpiece of a travelling, constantly evolving, exhibition telling the 'history' of Demons Land with paintings and music by Oxford artists and composers. 'It's absolutely a work of scholarship,' Palfrey says – 'just transformed and applied.'

What he loves about Renaissance literature is that it was an exploratory period of 'enormous change and restlessness'. One way to grasp this is by studying the English language and literature of the time – it was an era of tremendous growth of vocabulary, and grammatical and syntactical fluidity. 'These things weren't yet crystallised and that led to a lot of invention', Professor Palfrey says. 'The surface of the writing of Milton or Shakespeare was trembling with all these possibilities.' For example, when Macbeth says 'It hath cowed my better part of man,' this was the first coinage of the word 'cowed' and the meaning of being afraid arises from the context of the play. Shakespeare takes a very ordinary noun and turns it into a verb - but also, 'cowed' connotes the milk of human kindness, which the un-maternal Lady Macbeth says Macbeth has too much of. Finally, 'cowed' leads into Macduff's response: 'Then yield thee, coward'. Such 'multiplicities' of meaning intrigue Professor Palfrey, as does the fact that a play invites by its very nature a different performance on every occasion

Professor Palfrey lives in Oxford with his family and when not at home, his university life keeps him incredibly busy. On top of his teaching, he is the College's Fellow with responsibility for the library and archive. 'It's nice to be involved in the heart of what Oxford's all about – reading, thinking, education and study,' he says. 'The English faculty at Oxford is the biggest in Britain, while the College is familial – it's a good mixture. People aren't looking over your shoulder at Oxford telling you what to do and I think I've made the most of that – Oxford gives you space to be what you want to be.'

Detecting the Tiniest Things in the Universe



BNC's Senior Kurti Fellow and Professor of Particle Physics, **Daniela Bortoletto**, on her big experiments to find ultra-small particles

Anyone who thinks physics might be a dry subject would do well to meet Professor Daniela Bortoletto. Having warmly ushered me into her office in the Denys Wilkinson Building, her eyes sparkle as she scribbles on the whiteboard, sweeping me off my feet with a personal lecture in particle physics delivered in a lilting Italian accent and with much humour.

Her lively discussion of her subject is undaunted by my total ignorance. 'You have studied how F is equal to ma,' she casually mentions at one point – and I have to confess, to my shame, I'm not clear on exactly what she means, even when she explains that this, Newton's Law, means force is equal to mass times acceleration. Bortoletto, a professor of particle physics, is understandably shocked ('Wow!'), but jokingly reassures me: 'It's fantastic for me to talk to someone like you, who knows nothing!'

Her husband, Ian Shipsey is also an Oxford physicist: 'who else would I meet; who else would

want to marry me!' she laughs. 'You go to a party and everyone says: "Goodness, I hate physics"'. But she insists that all that separates someone who's 'good' at this most difficult of subjects from someone who's 'bad' at it is a dogged willingness to keep trying to understand things.

Growing up in the Italian Alps, Bortoletto dates her fascination with the workings of the Universe to opening a popular book on relativity and quantum mechanics at the age of 12. She came to Oxford in 2013 after many years at Purdue University, and spent much of her career searching for the elusive Higgs Boson 'God Particle'. Since contributing to its discovery in 2012, she has moved on to discovering other mysterious ultra-tiny particles, 'the smallest constituents of matter,' as she explains. 'The particles I'm looking for are smaller than the protons and neutrons inside the nucleus inside an atom – these particles have a radius smaller than 43 billion-billionths of a centimetre [0.43 x 10⁻¹⁶ cm], and go very fast.'

Bortoletto talks me through the different families of these tiny particles, which have fanciful names like Charm and Strange, Quark and Gluon, and how they move with different 'spin' and interact with one another in various ways. According to the laws of quantum theory and relativity, particles are also waves and fields. In short, these are very mysterious things. Bortoletto tells me, 'Even though the particles are very small, we have to build very huge experiments to detect them.' One such experiment she works on, Atlas, is a digital camera 46 metres long and 25 metres high – a quarter of the size of Notre Dame Cathedral.

The Oxford Physics Microstructure Detector Facility lab, next to the Natural History Museum, is where Bortoletto and her students use strange machines dedicated to creating high-precision detectors for extremely small things. For example, one of the tools they are developing is a camera which, implanted by the thousand inside the tunnel of the large hadron collider at CERN, in Geneva, can, she hopes, photograph the incredibly fast-accelerating collisions of protons she studies there for at least one week in every month.

In her lab, a massive industrial sewing machine sews minuscule 20-micron aluminum wires into the cameras' circuit boards. Looking at the circuit board under a powerful microscope, I see the intricate wiring which is invisible to the naked eye. The wires connect to a tiny but powerfully precise 32,000 pixel camera mounted on top of the circuit board. Each pixel measures about 100-150 microns, the width of a strand of human hair, and they are joined with innovative 'bump bond' technology – together the whole camera is about the size of a credit card. We have to don protective lab coats, overshoes and hair masks to enter the lab, and walk across a sticky mat, to avoid introducing the slightest dust.

As a woman at the top of a particularly maledominated area of science, the first woman in her family to go to university ('My mum still doesn't know what I'm doing!' she smiles), and the mother of a grown-up daughter, Bortoletto is keen to encourage more young women into her field, and hosts annual women's conferences at Oxford for female physicists. The 2017 conference saw 100 undergraduate women come to Brasenose from 23 to 26 March.

In one corner of her lab, a little blue box is detecting the cosmic rays hitting Oxford right now – they appear as small dots on a screen. 'We think the laws that govern phenomena here on earth could be the same as the laws that describe phenomena all over the universe – it's mind-blowing, spectacular, that the very small, the quarks, are connected to the cosmos and can tell you about the evolution of the universe,' says Professor Bortoletto with wonder in her voice.

'Are you starting to see?' Professor Bortoletto asks me, laughing. 'Please say yes! I really wish everybody knew this kind of thing.'



The Legend of the Childe of Hale

2017 marks the 400th anniversary of the legendary visit of John Middleton, known as the Childe of Hale, to Brasenose College in 1617. This tall tale is a fascinating part of the College's history and provides a unique identity to our Boat Club.



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From the Archives...

College Archivist Georgina Edwards, takes us through the origins of the legend of John Middleton: The Childe of Hale.

The Legend

John Middleton, nicknamed 'The Childe of Hale', is reputed to have reached 9' 3" in height. He was born in Hale in Lancashire in the 1570s, and legend suggests that he was originally of normal size but grew in a single night. Four hundred years ago, in 1617, his patron Sir Gilbert Ireland took him to the Court of King James I in London, where he put out the thumb of the King's wrestler in a bout, a feat reported to have earned him the disdain of the courtiers and a gift of £20 from the King (around £4,500 in today's money).

Sir Gilbert Ireland was a Brasenose man, who had matriculated at the College in 1578. On the way home from London in 1617 he and John Middleton visited Brasenose. A legend that he left an impression of his hand on a wall in the College is supported by an entry in Samuel Pepys' diary for 9th June 1668: 'to Brazen-nose College to the butteries, and in the cellar find the hand of the Child of Hales'. A Fellow of the College, questioned in the 1930s, recalled that until the 1880s there was an outline of a hand on a gilt background on one of the door posts of the cellar door under the south side of Hall, but unfortunately this no longer survives.

One tradition records that the Childe was robbed on his return journey to Lancashire and as a result of this, and the fact that the King's gift was less than he had anticipated, he was 'obliged to follow the plow to his dying day'. He died in Hale in 1623 and his grave can be seen in the parish churchyard.

The Colours

An 1882 edition of Ormerod's History of Cheshire describes the 'somewhat fantastic costume' in which the Childe was dressed on his visit to London:

'large lace ruffles about his neck and hands, a striped doublet round his waist, a blue girdle embroidered with gold, large white plush breeches adorned with blue flowers, green stockings, shoes, with red heels, tied with red ribbon, and wearing at this side a sword suspended by a broad blue belt over his shoulder, embroidered like the girdle'. It is wearing this costume that the surviving portraits of the Childe depict him. Brasenose possesses one life-sized portrait, two smaller paintings and two representations of his hands which both claim to be life-sized. The portrait which hangs in the Chapel was formerly at Hale Hall. It was presented to the College by Colonel Ireland Blackburne when Hale Hall was dismantled in 1924. Another life sized portrait can be seen at Speke Hall in Liverpool, a National Trust property, and the Childe is also depicted in a modern carving opposite the churchyard in Hale.

 \triangleleft These depictions of the Childe's hand hang side by side in the Ante-Chapel at Brasenose. Painted at different times, both claim to be life sized...

The Childe of Hale and BNCBC

As part of the research for his forthcoming history of BNCBC, William O'Chee (Law, 1984) investigates the role of the legend of the Childe of Hale in influencing the name and garb of BNC's 1st VIII.

It is a sad irony that the earliest records of the world's oldest competitive rowing club do not commence until 22 years after its success in the first Head of the River. Worse still, when the Brasenose College Boat Club Minute Book begins in 1837, the Club's stocks were at such low ebb, it did not even manage the first Henley Regatta. to boat a crew in Eights that year.

The paucity of early records makes it difficult to know, therefore, how and when the College Eight came to be named the Childe of Hale. We do know that Brasenose were Head of the River in 1815 and 1816, forfeiting the position in 1817 to Christ Church. In the early years the crew included a paid waterman, Stephen Davis, who stroked and coached the boat, and undergraduate Thomas Morres, whom we now believe to be the father of Brasenose rowing. Despite having only one arm, he was an oarsman of some note and was quite successful.

Brasenose returned to the Head of the River in 1821, but from 1827 there was a long run where the College was winless. By 1839, the Boat Club's fortunes had been restored with the Eight once again Head of the River.

By then, use of the name Childe of Hale was so firmly established that it needed neither introduction nor explanation. It first appears in a motion dated the 22 May, 1839 which unanimously resolved to enter the Childe of Hale at

That year's Henley Regatta also provides the first record of the use of the Childe's colours. Brasenose were drawn in the first round of the Grand Challenge Cup against the Oxford Etonian Club. The records of the regatta state:

The Etonian Club were dressed in white guernseys with pale blue facings, rosette sky blue. Brasenose had blue striped guernseys, blue cap with gold tassel, rosette yellow, purple and crimson.

Unfortunately, Brasenose lost to the Oxford Etonians, a disappointing result for a crew who had swept away all before them on the Isis. However, the Minute

continued on page 8









continued from page 7

Book provides a somewhat insouciant explanation for the loss, "which may be accounted for by the BNC having pulled down from Oxford to the scene of action only the day before."

Although the regatta may have been a disappointment, the description of the crews in the first Grand appears each year in the Henley Royal Regatta programme, a source of ongoing pride to Brasenose men and women to this day.



 An example of a distinctive Nose to be fixed to the bow of the Childe of Hale
− a very imposing sight on the river!

Another tradition began at roughly this time - having a nose attached to the bow of the boat. At a Boat Club meeting in February, 1841 "...the length and dimensions of the boat were agreed upon, also that a nose should be carved upon the same, that the 'Childe of Hale' be the name of the new boat".

Having a nose on the bow continued into the 20th Century. A handkerchief was adopted by the Boat Club in 1841, and this possibly used the yellow, purple and red colours. However, the College mostly rowed in yellow and black "bumblebee" zephyrs.



The black Childe of Hale blazer with gold piping was also so well established by 1862 that Clare College, Cambridge had to ask the Boat Club's permission to wear something similar.

The original gold in the Brasenose blazers seems to have been very dark, as a wonderful photo of the 1862 winners of the Steward's Challenge Cup and Visitor's Challenge Cup at Henley shows. Today's Childe of Hale tie is relatively recent, dating from 1954. In that year, Boat Club Captain, Richard Marriott, had his mother make a yellow, purple and red favour with scrap material. The Secretary, Andrew Davis, then took it to Castells, and asked them to make ties in the exact colours (see pictures above).

While the garb has changed a little over the years, the Childe of Hale has been the name of the 1st VIII boat since at least 1839. BNC have honoured the Childe by winning Summer Eights 21 times, and recording as many Henley wins.

Today the 1st VIII continues to wear the colours of his fantastic outfit, and long may they do so.





 \triangle **Richard Marriott** (top far right) in 1954, sporting his recently invented Childe of Hale tie. (Above and left) Marriott earlier this year wearing it proudly at a BNC event.



 Δ Triumphant! The 2016 women's 1st VIII in the famous red, purple and yellow of the Childe of Hale

Funded Student Travel: The Rainforest at Danum Valley

Biological Sciences finalist, Edward Lavender received a grant from the College's Annual Fund towards his field trip to Borneo. The fund, which comes from alumni donations, supports students financially in all sorts of different ways, allowing them to access all that a BNC education has to offer. We wanted to share Ed's report of the fantastic opportunity that you made possible for him.



By Edward Lavender (Biological Sciences, 2014)

It was 6.30am. I groaned and rolled out of my miniature bunk-bed. Grabbing my towel, I shuffled out of our bunkhouse on my way to the outdoor, bug-ridden shack which contained those machines that release the cold dribbles of water that we called showers. Making my way down the steps, trying to avoid the poisonous centipede silently lurking behind that door which wouldn't shut, and the army of ants marching across the steps, I turned to gaze at the early morning forest for the first time. What a view.

I was in Danum Valley, Borneo, one of the last remaining pockets of primary lowland rainforest in Malaysia. I was here on my 3rd year Biological Sciences field trip to study tropical forest ecology. And what a place.

The light early morning mist hung like a glistening cloak over the shoulders of the tallest trees which, in some cases, towered over 70 metres high. Somewhere out there, I could hear the gibbons calling, and I let my imagination trail as I pictured them swinging through the tree tops gracefully,



 Δ The orangutan: 'person of the forest'.

at a pace which defies belief. Somewhere out there were pygmy elephants, the world's smallest species; there were clouded leopards, those incredibly illusive jungle cats, which would have been out hunting during our sleep; long-tailed macaques; red-leaf monkeys; orangutans and myriad plant and insect species too. How many of these wonders of nature would we see?

Our mission over the next ten days was to attempt to tackle some of the greatest remaining questions in contemporary ecological science: Why do the tropics contain so many species? And why, in particular, is Borneo so diverse? Where do all of these species come from? How is their diversity maintained through time? What happens when you log a tropical rainforest, or convert it to oil palm, and what can we do to stop this happening?



 Δ The Segama River, Danum Valley, Malaysian Borneo.

The first four days were spent developing an appreciation of the diversity of life in Danum Valley in terms of the sheer numbers of species that can be found, their characteristics and interactions. We spent a day looking at ant/plant interaction, discovering ants less than a millimetre long, and some monsters longer than my finger; a day catching tropical moths and butterflies, some of which were truly enormous and all of which were beautiful; a day catching exquisite and ludicrously colourful tropical birds, including the rufous backed kingfisher, an endemic species only found on Borneo; and a day taking measurements for a long term experiment investigating how gaps in the forest canopy affect the dynamics of tree coexistence on the forest floor.

We spent a day trekking through the forest to a series of hidden waterfalls; we were up at sunrise to catch the view from an observation tower mounted on one of the forest's ridges, watching as the early morning sun slowly burnt off the cloud inversion, allowing the trees on similar ridges to poke through the cloud, like a sea of islands hidden in the mist.

At the end of such a trip, it is impossible to remember every moment, every moth, every butterfly, but a few certainly stick with you. For me, it was the view of the forest first thing in the morning; the sound of gibbons echoing for miles across the forest canopy – always close and yet so far; the bird that beggars believe; and the butterfly which takes your breath away.



 Δ Early morning sunrise from the observation tower at Danum Valley.

The final day brought us back to sobering reality, with a trip to a series of progressively more degraded forests which have been logged and turned into oil palm plantations. The contrast is extremely stark. While tropical forests are loud humid, densely entangled environments which it is a struggle to see through – let alone walk through – plantations consist of a series of palm oil trees planted at extremely regular intervals. The contrast, the openness, it hits you like a bullet. But that wound is nothing compared to what has been lost. Fortunately, there is a new group of at least 20 biologists preparing to take up the mantle. The way forward is muddy, but surely the more we know and the more we are inspired, the brighter the future. I am extremely grateful to the Brasenose College Annual Fund for generously supporting me on such an amazing and eye-opening field trip.

Photo Gallery

The last few months have seen BNC Members from all over the world gathering together. Here are some pictures from the many reunions and College events we have enjoyed.



See our Flickr site for the full events photo gallery: www.flickr.com/photos/bnc_members/albums



 1∇ In November 2016, we continued our series of London Business Breakfasts with a fascinating presentation from Emeritus Fellow, Professor Vernon Bogdanor on the implications of the Brexit vote.





△ ✓ February saw **BNC Biologists**

(post 2007) reunite with their tutor, Professor Owen Lewis over dinner in the Medieval Kitchen.



 Δ (From left to right): Roberta Iley, Mrs Wilson, Patrick Kennedy, Steven Haveron, Kate Treadwell, Owen Lewis, Siddarth Shrikanth, Phoebe Griffith, Sam Royston, Liam Langley, Laura Perry, Siobhan Stewart.





- visit this spring, alumni in New York got together for a drinks reception at **McKinsey & Co.** in Manhattan.
- Δ To coincide with the **Alumni Weekend in Asia**, alumni volunteers in both Hong Kong and Singapore got their fellow BNC members together for dinner. In Singapore, here are: (top row, left to right) KK Wong, Rebecca Yeo, James Miller, Daniel Hand, Tania Oh (Bottom row, left to right) Margaret Chew, Carolyn Pottinger and Emily Ng Jia Yan.





 $\triangleleft \Delta$ Our series of **Principal's Conversations** continues. In March, we welcomed Jeremy Paxman, and in April we heard from John Simpson on the 'Fake News' phenomenon.











In mid-March we welcomed back to College Old Members who matriculated between 1963 and 1966 for their **Gaudy**. Thank you all for coming and making it such a special occasion!



"It would be remiss of me not to thank the College and Fellows for our Gaudy on Friday. I can think of no other occasion where I could enjoy informed, intelligent and interesting conversations, first with a theology graduate/Vicar, re human sexuality and then, from a maths graduate, an explanation of the principles of quantum physics, all whilst enjoying splendid food and drink in the classical surroundings of BNC Hall. This was a most enjoyable occasion for which I am "much obliged" as lawyers say." Mark Crompton (Law, 1963)





At the end of March, we welcomed our oldest members of College back for lunch to celebrate six decades since Brasenose. We were overjoyed to have you all here!







Save the Date

Forthcoming Events in College

Brasenose Garden Party, All alumni and their families are welcome Sunday 30 July 2017

BNC Society Annual Dinner & AGM, All alumni are welcome with a guest Saturday 16 September 2017

Gaudy for 1988-1989 Friday 22 September 2017

Ellesmere Society Dinner for alumni of Law Saturday 11 November 2017

2018 Gaudies

- 1967-1969: Friday 16 March 2018
- 1986-1987: Friday 22 June 2018
- 2010-2011: Friday 21 September 2018

You can book tickets to these events and more online here: www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events

To update your contact details using our online alumni community, visit our alumni pages at: **www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni**

Contact Us

The Alumni Relations & Development team are always pleased to welcome Brasenose Members back to College. If you would like to visit us, we're located on staircase VII just before the Library. Our usual office hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

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Brasenose Knows...

We leave you with a tricky little brain-teaser from **Professor Konstantin Ardakov**, Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics at Brasenose. Email your answer and postal address to



development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk The first five successful entries will receive a (very) small prize!

Question:

Find a function f(x) such that for every real x not equal to 0 or 1, we have f(1/x) + f(1-x) = x



In May we welcomed alumni celebrating five decades since Brasenose back to College for lunch. We hope to see you all again in College soon!



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