

The Brazen Nose

Volume 42
2007-2008

The Brazen Nose

2007-2008





The object of the Society shall be the advancement of the welfare and interests of Brasenose College by:

- (i) encouraging closer relations between past and present members of the College and fostering interests which they have in common;
- (ii) keeping members of the Society informed of events in the College;
- (iii) any other methods which from time to time appear likely to achieve the Society's object.

(Revised 1999)

Fellow Editor - The Rev'd Graeme Richardson
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Assistant - Harry Ford



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BRASENOSE COLLEGE 2007-2008

VISITOR

The Bishop of Lincoln

PRINCIPAL

Cashmore, Roger John, CMG, MA, DPhil, DSc, (MA Cantab.), FRS
Professor of Experimental Physics

FELLOWS

Bogdanor, Vernon Bernard, CBE, MA, FBA
Professor of Government, Tutor in Politics

Courakis, Anthony Stylianos, MA, (BA Manc.)
Tutor in Economics

Haydon, Richard Geoffrey, MA, (MA, PhD Cantab.)
Professor of Mathematics, Tutor in Mathematics

Cooper, Richard Anthony, MA, DPhil
Professor of French, Tutor in Modern Languages, Vice Principal

Boyd, Charles Adam Richard, MA, BSc, DPhil, (BM Lond.)
P.V. Curran Tutor in Physiology

Daniel, Ronald William, MA, (BSc Brun.; PhD Cantab.), CEng, MIEE
Professor of Engineering Science, Tutor in Engineering Science

Burd, Harvey John, MA, DPhil, CEng, MICE
Tutor in Engineering Science

Ingram, Martin John, MA, DPhil
Tutor in Modern History

Houlsby, Guy Tinmouth, MA, DSc, (PhD Cantab.), FEng, FICE
Professor of Civil Engineering

Robertson, Jeremy, MA, DPhil
Tutor in Organic Chemistry

Edwards, Anne, MA, MRCP
Adviser to Women Students

Swadling, William John, MA, (BA CNA; LLM Lond.)
Tutor in Law

Morgan, Llewelyn William Goronwy, MA, (PhD Cantab.)
Tutor in Classics



Eltis, Sos Ann, MA, MPhil, DPhil
Tutor in English

Klenerman, Paul, BM, BCh, DPhil, MRCP
Professor of Immunology, Fellow in Clinical Medicine

Bispham, Edward Henry, MA, DPhil
Tutor in Ancient History, Librarian

Green, Abigail Frances Floretta, MA, (PhD Cantab.)
Tutor in Modern History

McKenna, Christopher Davis, MA, (BA Amherst; MA, PhD Johns Hopkins)
Tutor in Management Studies

James, William Seward, MA, DPhil, (BSc Birm.)
Professor of Virology, Tutor in Physiological Sciences

Davies, Anne Caroline Lloyd, MA, DPhil
Reader in Public Law, Tutor in Law

Knowland, John Sebastian, MA, DPhil
Bursar

Groiser, David Simon, MA, DPhil, (BA Sussex)
Tutor in Modern Languages

Jones, Jonathan Alcwyn, MA, DPhil
Professor of Physics, Tutor in Physics

Bowman, Alan Keir, MA, (MA, PhD Toronto), FBA
Camden Professor of Ancient History

Krebs, Thomas, MA, (LLB Kent), BCL, DPhil
Tutor in Law

Herz, Laura, MA (Dipl. Bonn; PhD Cantab.)
Tutor in Physics

Vogenauer, Stefan, MA, MJur
Professor of Comparative Law, Tutor in Law

Wiggs, Giles Frederick Salisbury, (BSc, PhD Lond.)
Tutor in Geography, Dean

Sharp, Robin Elisabeth, (BA Denison)
Director of Alumni Relations and Development

Thun, Eric, (BA, PhD Harvard)
Peter Moores Tutor in Chinese Business Studies

Palfrey, Simon David, MA, DPhil (BA ANU)
Tutor in English



Olson, (Carl) Jonas Peter, MA, (MA Lund.; PhD Uppsala)
Tutor in Philosophy

Stockley, Andrew, MA, (BA Canterbury, New Zealand; LLB Victoria University of
 Wellington; PhD Cantab.)
Senior Tutor, Tutor for Admissions

Lea, Susan Mary, MA, DPhil
Reader in Structural Biology, Tutor in Biochemistry, Tutor for Graduates

Wills, Abigail Grace, (BA, PhD Cantab.)
Career Development Fellow in History

Gaffney, Eamonn Andrew, (BA, PhD Cantab.)
Tutor in Mathematical Biology

Johansen, Thomas Kjeller, (BA, PhD Cantab.)
Tutor in Ancient Philosophy

Esteves, Rui Pedro Ferreira da Costa, (BA, MA do Porto; PhD Berkeley)
Tutor in Economics

Wilson, Mark, MA, DPhil
Tutor in Theoretical Chemistry

Timpson, Christopher Gordon, BA, BPhil, DPhil
Tutor in Philosophy

Lewis, Owen Thomas, MA, (PhD Leeds)
Tutor in Zoology

SUPERNUMERARY FELLOWS

Chevska, Maria, MA status
Fellow in Fine Art

Popplewell, David Arthur, MA status, (PhD Sussex)
Fellow in Psychology

Crook, Joseph Mordaunt, CBE, MA, DPhil, Hon DLitt, FBA, FSA

Parrott, Melanie Jane, LLB
Domestic Bursar

Dennis, Paul David, BA, BSc, BM, BCh

Richardson, The Rev'd Graeme, BA, MPhil, MTh
Chaplain

Goulder, Philip Jeremy Renshaw, MA, DPhil, (BA, BChir, MB Cantab.) MRCP,
 FMGEMS, MRCPCH, FRCPC
Professor of Paediatrics



WILLIAM GOLDING AND NICHOLAS KURTI FELLOWS

Zisserman, Andrew, MA status (MA, PhD Cantab.)
Senior Kurti Research Fellow, Professor of Engineering Science

Somogyi, Peter, (MSc, PhD, DSc Hungary), FRS
Senior Kurti Research Fellow

Higgs, Douglas Roland, MA status, (MB BS, DSc Lond.), FRCP, FRCPath, FRS
Senior Kurti Research Fellow

Marzano, Annalisa, (BA, MA Florence; MPhil, PhD Columbia)
Junior Golding Research Fellow

Robinson, Damian Jason, (BSc, PhD Bradford)
Junior Golding Research Fellow

Weir, Alexander, BA, DPhil
Junior Kurti Research Fellow

Foster, Russell Grant, (BSc, PhD Bristol)
Senior Kurti Research Fellow

Fries, Steven Michael, MPhil, DPhil, (BSc Pennsylvania)
Senior Golding Research Fellow

Dawe, Helen Rebecca, (BSc Manc.; PhD Lond.)
Junior Kurti Research Fellow

van der Merwe, Philip Anton, (MBChB, BSc, PhD Cape Town)
Senior Kurti Research Fellow

Carbonell, (Warren) Shawn, (BS Washington; PhD, MD Virginia)
Junior Kurti Research Fellow

Farrington, Sinead, (MPhys Edin.; PhD Glas.)
Junior Kurti Research Fellow

Hinarejos Parga, Alicia, MJur, MPhil, (BA Valencia)
Junior Golding Research Fellow

EMERITUS FELLOWS

Bartrop, John Alfred, MA, DPhil, DSc

Ackrill, John Lloyd, MA, FBA

Altmann, Simon Leonardo, MA, (PhD Lond.)

Stockton, David Leonard, MA

Hockaday, Thomas Derek, MA, DPhil, FRCP



Judge, Harry George, MA, (PhD Lond.)

Birch, Bryan John, MA, (MA, PhD Cantab.), FRS

Rudden, Bernard Anthony, DCL, (LLD Cantab.; PhD Wales), FBA

Cook, Peter Richard, MA, DPhil

Davies, John Windsor, BCL, MA, (LLB, Birm.)

Gasser, Robert Paul Holland, MA, DPhil

Millar, Fergus Graham Bautholme, MA, DPhil, DLitt, FBA

Peach, John Vincent, MA, DPhil

Proudfoot, Nicholas Jarvis, MA, (PhD Cantab.), FRS

Rowett, John Spencer, MA, DPhil

Foster, John Andrew, MA

Richards, William Graham, CBE, MA, DPhil, DSc

HONORARY FELLOWS

Freeman, Rt Hon John, PC, MBE, MA

Brademas, Stephen John, DPhil

Fraser, Peter Marshall, MC, MA, FBA

Eveleigh, Rt Hon Sir Edward Walter, PC, ERD, MA

Clower, Robert, MA, DLitt

Moore, Philip Brian Cecil, The Rt Hon Lord Moore of Wolvercote, PC, GCB,
GCVO, CMG

Kornberg, Sir Hans, MA, DSc, (ScD Cantab.; PhD Sheff.), FRS, FIBiol

Totterman, Richard, DPhil

Judd, Brian Raymond, MA, DPhil

Hahn, Erwin, (PhD Illinois), FRS

Hodgkin, Sir Howard, CBE, Hon DLitt

Acheson, Sir (Ernest) Donald, KBE, MA, DM

Blundell, Sir Thomas Leon, BA, DPhil, FRS

O'Neill, Robert John, AO, MA, DPhil, (BE Melbourne), FASSA

Young, Sir John, AC, KCMG, MA

Wates, Sir Christopher Stephen, BA, FCA



Smith, Anthony David, CBE, MA

Vallance, Iain David Thomas, Lord Vallance of Tummel, Kt, MA, (MSc London School of Business Studies)

Saville, Mark Oliver, The Rt Hon Lord Saville of Newdigate, PC, BA, BCL

Janvrin, The Rt Hon Lord Robin Berry, PC, KCVO, CB, MA

Windlesham, The Rt Hon Lord David James George Hennessy, PC, CVO, MA, DLitt, Hon LLD, FBA

Mellor, Julie Therese, BA

Baker, The Rt Hon Sir (Thomas) Scott Gillespie Lord Justice, Kt, PC, BA

Palin, Michael Edward, CBE, BA

Akers-Jones, Sir David, DBE, CMG, GBM, MA

Gill, Robin Denys, CVO, MA

Allen, Katherine, MA

Cameron, The Rt Hon David, MP, BA

Khattak, Mohammad Aslam Khan, MA

Mortimer, Sir John, CBE, QC, BA, FRSL

VISITING FELLOW

Grindley, Nigel D. F., (MA Cantab.; PhD Lond.), FRS

LECTURERS NOT ON THE FOUNDATION

Harker, Anthony Henry, DPhil, (MA Cantab.)
Solid State Physics

Wollenberg, Susan Lesley Freda, MA, DPhil
Music

Bird, Richard Simpson, MA, DPhil
Computation

Nicholson, Michael Andrew, MA, DPhil
Russian

Horder, Jeremy Christian Nicholas, BCL, MA, DPhil, (LLB Hull)
Law

Taylor, Jeremy Simon Hudson, MA, (BSc Brist; PhD Lond.)
Human Anatomy

Rogers, Alisdair Peter, MA, DPhil
Geography



Pazos Alonso, Claudia, BA, DPhil, (MA Lond)
Portuguese

Zancani, Diego, MA, DPhil, (PhD Lond)
Italian

Abrams, Lesley Jane, BA, (MA, PhD Toronto)
Medieval History

Bourne-Taylor, Carole Juliette Angeliqne Marguerite, MA, (PhD Grenoble)
French

Moran, Dominic Paul, MA, (PhD Cantab)
Spanish

Leal, Dave, MA, (BA, PhD Leeds)
Philosophy

Palano, Silvia, MA, (DPhil Florence)
Economics

Archer, Rowena, MA, DPhil
Medieval History

Middleton, Anthony N, MA
Physics (Mathematics)

Nickau, Hanno, (PhD Siegen, Germany)
Computation

Preston, Gail M, (PhD Cornell)
Biological Sciences

Scott, Andrew, MA
Law

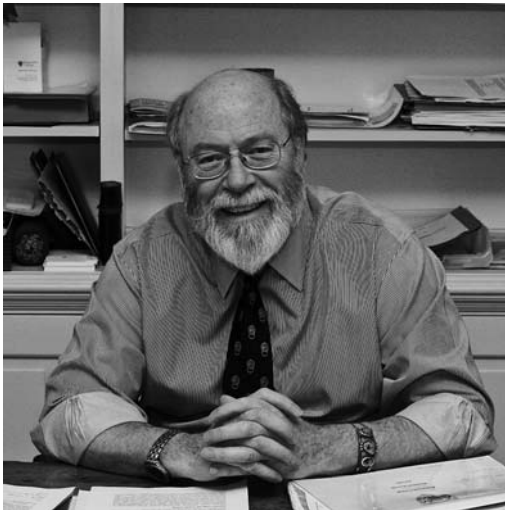
Bowles, Neil, MA, DPhil
Physics

Atkins, Nicholas Robert, MA, DPhil
Engineering

Jankowski, Janusz Atoni Zygmunt, (MA, PhD Lond.)
Clinical Medicine



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES



Writing these notes for the annual *Brazen Nose* gives me the chance to reflect on what has happened in the current year and what we can look forward to next year and in the future. 2007-8 has been a comparatively quiet year within the University. We have gone about consolidating the various changes that have been made in recent years, particularly in the way we distribute monies to the departments and to the colleges. We have, of course, during this year learnt of the wish of the current Vice-Chancellor,

Dr John Hood, to retire at the end of his five years' service, and the subsequent search for a new Vice-Chancellor has happily resulted in the unanimous proposal, accepted by the Congregation, to offer the position to Professor Andrew Hamilton. Professor Hamilton is currently Provost at Yale University, and is a distinguished academic chemist who is a Fellow of the Royal Society, and who was educated in Britain, partly at my old College in Cambridge, St John's. With this important change settled I think we all look forward to this coming year of 2008-9 as one in which the University's academics will be able to get on with their primary jobs of teaching, scholarship and research.

Of course, the other important event of the last academic year has been the launch of *Oxford Thinking* – the Campaign for the University of Oxford. We, like all other great universities in the world, need substantial endowments and support so that we can sustain and enhance our positions as centres for learning and research. *Oxford Thinking* was launched with three Honorary Fellows of Brasenose – Sir David Akers-Jones, Lord Janvrin, and David Cameron – as Patrons of the Campaign, while Michael Palin narrated a very good introduction to the University in a video which is on the Campaign Website, and which I thoroughly recommend to all of you to watch. It brings into view not only Michael but a lot of Brasenose and a lot of our students. It really does carry the conviction that Oxford is a great place to learn, to grow, and to research, something of which I am sure you are all well aware.

As you also know, we at Brasenose have been following an extensive programme of alumni relations and fundraising so that we can ensure that BNC has a secure future. In the last year we launched our first Annual Fund and had a tremendous response from alumni, raising £230,000 in the first year. Our particular aims were to



support the current students at BNC by improving their accommodation, ensuring that we can provide scholarships, bursaries, and hardship grants, and adding to the student experience. Many of you will already have received the information about the 2008 Annual Fund and I do hope you will be able to contribute generously to that. We have also been expanding the Alexander Nowell Circle as people tell us of their intention to remember Brasenose in their wills. It is always wonderful to see support for Brasenose expressed in this way and we are pleased that we can meet with members of the Alexander Nowell Circle and enjoy lunch with them each year.

A cloud on the horizon is the current financial situation in the world at large. It has two impacts on Brasenose. Firstly, despite how well managed our endowment is it inevitably suffers in a similar way; and secondly, of course, the alumni who have been supporting us are themselves feeling the difficulties. This is going to be the greatest challenge for the next two to three years. None of you will have missed the unfortunate fact that this coincides with our 2009 celebrations – but more about those later.

The College has over the last few years been considering its strategy for the future. This focuses around having the best undergraduates, graduates and fellows here so that we can pursue the aims of a College in the University of Oxford. The aim is to produce the best educated students and the best scholarship and research. In this context having the resources to offer scholarships and bursaries, and also to ensure that our facilities are the very best, is important to us. We have been following a policy of refurbishing undergraduate staircases; improving the Hall (particularly with BNC500 in mind); and very importantly, this year, completing a new accommodation building for our graduates. This building, currently known as Hollybush Lodge, is situated near the Said Business School and will house up to 44 graduate students. We will now be able to offer accommodation to all of our first year graduate students, which is particularly important for those that come from UK universities outside Oxford and from overseas (and there are many of them). The new building, as befits modern Oxford, is ecologically very sound having solar panels, grey water systems, thermal heat pumps and many other energy-saving and water-conserving devices.

In the coming academic year we will be admitting our largest number of graduate students ever. As for the new undergraduates arriving in October, I am sure they will be as enthusiastic as the current ones – all of them with their three As or more at A-Level and again coming from all backgrounds and from all over the world.

The sporting achievements of the last year were many, and probably most notable was the fact that two of the Women's Eights gained their blades in the Summer Eights and the third narrowly missed getting blades by just one bump. Women now clearly make a major impact in sports in College. As I also noted in the *Brazen Notes* the University Athletics Teams, both men's and women's, were captained



victoriously by Brasenose students Phil Duggleby and Stephanie Madgett.

On the academic front we stubbornly remained around 21 in the Norrington Table. However, I do detect the desire amongst the fellows and the students to push that position higher in the future. We are, however, committed to ensuring that people not only do well academically, but also gain a full college experience in Brasenose which will set them in good stead for the future.

The entire Brasenose community was touched with sadness during the last year. Matthew Carver, who had read History here as an undergraduate and was in the first year of a research degree here, developed a very virulent form of leukaemia. Our students all responded magnificently to a request to join the bone marrow donors' register and although Matt did not benefit from that I am sure many other leukaemia sufferers will in the future. Matt was married to his fiancée, Nicola, in Brasenose Chapel on 31 July but the following day succumbed to the cancer. He will be well remembered in Brasenose as Treasurer of the Chapel, as a cox and rower in various boats, and as a very ebullient young man. All of us offer our thoughts and condolences to his family and his widow who were extremely brave throughout.

We also lost another member of our community during the year, Emeritus Fellow John Ackrill. Some of you will have been taught by him before he became a professor and some of you will have been supervised by him in doing Philosophy. His memorial was held in St Mary's at which Harry Judge, another of our Emeritus Fellows, gave one of the numerous talks. The turnout was very large, particularly by Brasenose alumni, and we discovered things about John which I am sure many of us never knew before. He was clearly a very well-loved philosopher and colleague.

To turn to brighter things, we elected three new Emeritus Fellows this year – people that you will all be familiar with. Probably the best known of all these is Graham Richards who retired last December and whom many of you will have known as an undergraduate at Brasenose and in his capacity as a Fellow and Professor, as well as Senior Tutor, Dean, and Senior Member of the Phoenix Society. He was one of the moving forces in introducing women undergraduates to Brasenose in 1974. His contributions in the University have been great, culminating as Chairman of the Department of Chemistry, but also as a great promoter of technology transfer, spin-off companies, etc., through ISIS Innovation. We all have a lot to thank him for and I am sure you will want to join me in wishing him a very happy retirement. Fortunately, he won't be far away, still remaining in Oxford. Another newly-elected Emeritus Fellow is Peter Sinclair who left us quite a while ago to become a Professor in Birmingham and has since held many roles with the Bank of England. I rapidly learned his name when I came here from the many students of Economics amongst the alumni body. Peter has always unstintingly helped the College when we have needed to call on his experience, particularly while Tony Courakis was away in Paris as the Greek Ambassador to the OECD. Finally, the other new Emeritus Fellow is Bernard Richards who was in Brasenose for many years teaching English and in



fact grew up only two hundred yards from where I grew up as a child. Our paths did not cross then and we had to wait for almost fifty years for us to discover that fact. It is a pleasure to see Bernard around and supporting everything to do with English in the College.

We also have some new Fellows. Professor Cindy Skach (a Tutorial Fellow) has arrived from Harvard University and she will be carrying on the important task of teaching Politics in Brasenose. We are fortunate to have captured her ahead of Vernon Bogdanor's retirement in a couple of years' time. Cindy was an undergraduate student in North America and then came to Oxford where she completed her DPhil. She works in the area of Comparative Politics which touches closely on Constitutions and the corresponding Law.

We have also elected to a Fellowship Dr Dave Leal, who is currently one of the College Lecturers in Philosophy. Together with other recent appointments in Philosophy, we now have three Philosophy Fellows covering the broad span of the subject and dealing with the many Final Honours Schools which include Philosophy and which attract many students. No longer is Philosophy just confined to PPE and Greats: there are also Modern Languages and Philosophy, History and Philosophy, English and Philosophy, Physics and Philosophy, and Mathematics and Philosophy. We have also asked Dr Dave Popplewell, a College Lecturer and Fellow in Experimental Psychology to become a member of the Governing Body. Both Daves have made tremendous contributions in the past making us particularly happy to have them now fully involved in College affairs.

We also have a new set of Kurti and Golding Fellows. Philip Clark is the new Junior Golding Fellow, studying in the Socio-Legal Institute in the University where his main concern focuses on the consequences of genocide. He has been particularly involved in work in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. We look forward to him adding yet another dimension to Law in Brasenose. Jamie Warner, a new Kurti Fellow and an Australian like Philip, comes via Australia and New Zealand to the Department of Materials where he is an expert in nanostructures and their applications in many areas, one being quantum computing. We have a second Kurti Fellow, Arghir Zarnescu, who grew up in Romania, did his doctorate in Chicago and is now working in the Mathematical Institute. His specialist area is partial differential equations and their applications to complex systems. I think Arghir may be the first Romanian Fellow that we have had in Brasenose.

We also say goodbye to a number of Fellows. Alex Weir, a Junior Kurti Fellow with an expertise in New Caledonian Crows, will be taking up a position in the Science Policy Unit at the Royal Society. Annalisa Marzano, a Junior Golding Fellow in Ancient History, is taking up a Lecturership in the same area at the University of Reading. Finally, Jonas Olson who has been with us for three years as a Tutor in Philosophy has now returned to Stockholm to a permanent position there. We do seem to have been very lucky in all of our short term appointments; they have all



contributed tremendously to the College.

We also lost this year Robin Sharp, our first Director of Development who made a great contribution to the College's future by establishing our Alumni Relations and Development Office. This took a lot of hard work, but with many important results. We now know where the majority of our alumni are. We have also established a newsletter (*Brazen Notes*) and modified the *Brazen Nose*. We have launched our first Annual Fund as I have noted elsewhere, and the Alexander Nowell Circle for legators. We have begun the build up towards a development campaign. We have a lot to be grateful to Robin for. She is now moving on to the RSA to be the Director of Development there, and we wish her well.

I should also add that the Fellowship has been very productive during the last year. Laura Herz gave birth to a son named Leo; Abigail Wills had a daughter named Tabitha; Chris McKenna helped produce his son, Nathaniel; and a former Fellow, Arianna Pretto-Sakmann gave birth to a son, Sebastian, in New York. Arianna left us a couple of years ago but remains in close contact. We wish them all the greatest happiness and success with their new families.

The coming year will bring us BNC500, the celebration of our 500th birthday. By the time you receive the *Brazen Nose* you will have received brochures containing the events that we have organised for the celebrations in 2009, together with a catalogue of memorabilia that you might like to possess to celebrate this great event. For the events it is helpful to our planning process to know how many people are likely to attend so I hope you will all be assiduous in letting us know your intentions. You have also had the opportunity to order a copy of Professor Joe Mordaunt Crook's book *Brasenose: The Biography of an Oxford College*. Many of you will have already been reading chapters from this volume and I am sure you will agree with me that it really is a biography of a college and fills one with an idea of what people and what acts it takes to make a college great. I would like to thank Joe for all of the effort he has put into producing the Biography, and also his wife, Susan Mayor, who has been a tireless supporter in the background.

The highlights of BNC500 will be a weekend in conjunction with the Tanner Trust dealing with some of the key issues of the 21st century; a Champagne Reception at Lord's Cricket Ground; a family day in Oxford; and a Gala Dinner in Oxford at the end of September. We will add to this list a fundraising dinner at Sotheby's in New York in early September. I really do hope that many of you can join us at one or more of the events and help project Brasenose firmly into its sixth Century.

I always like to end these notes by encouraging alumni to come to visit us in Brasenose. We do like to see you take up your alumni dining rights so that you can visit the College once again and join us in our aspirations for the future. As each year passes, more and more of you help to take Brasenose forward, be it through the Annual Fund, through the Alexander Nowell Circle, through major gifts, or very



importantly through your support and influence. A great College rests not only on the greatness of its current students and Fellows but importantly on the alumni that have left us. It is a pleasure to discover what all those alumni are doing and a particular pleasure for myself and Annie to welcome you back to the Lodgings and to the many Gaudies, fora and dinners that we have. Please do come and see us and find out first hand how BNC is preparing itself for the future.



CLASS LISTS

FINAL HONOUR SCHOOL 2008

BIOCHEMISTRY

1	McDowell	Melanie Agnes
1	Penicud	Kathleen
2.1	Whalen	Daniel Michael

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

1	Wilson	James
2.1	Benson	Riou Hugh Patrick
2.1	Connor	Oliver Roger
2.1	Dale	Jonathan Toby

CHEMISTRY

1	Chall	Ricky
1	Smith	Alexander Kingsley
2.1	Goodwin	Amy Laura
2.1	Low	Samantha Dawn
2.1	Martinez	Mark James
2.1	Rule	Sebastian David

CLASSICS

1	Hartley	Matthew McDonald
1	Nicoll	Eleanor
1	Steward	Thomas
2.1	Hamlin	Katrina Elizabeth Patricia
2.1	Hulme	Alexander
2.1	Mugford	Rachel Hilary
2.1	White	Georgina Frances

CLASSICS & MODERN LANGUAGES

2.1	Cooke	Serena Helen Chamier
2.1	McDonald	Anna Victoria
2.1	Thompson	Claire Elizabeth

ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT

2.1	Ciardi	Francesci Giuseppe Domenico
2.1	Naqvi	Mohammed Musa
2.1	Pissarides	Antony Giulio Christoforou
2.1	Smith	Tristram Charles
2.2	Jina	Imran
2.2	Rand	Alison Sarah



ENGINEERING SCIENCE

1	Cole	Matthew Thomas
2.1	Auld	David William
2.1	Jenkins	Richard
2.1	Li	Yufei
3	Noiret	Laura Chloe Minuit

ENGLISH

1	Masters	Benjamin Scott
2.1	Bransfield	Benjamin Lee
2.1	Findlay	Owen
2.1	Gibson	Julia Rose
2.1	Mattock	Sinead Lenehan
2.1	Meech	Sally Eleanor

ENGLISH & MODERN LANGUAGES

1	Spring	Byron
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EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

1	Cant	Christopher James
2.1	Westbury	Alice Jennifer

FINE ART

2.1	Aggs	Rachel Evelyn
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GEOGRAPHY

1	French	Felicity Deborah
1	Price	Roseanna Holly
2.1	Anderson	Rebecca Jane
2.1	Bransden	Peter
2.1	Brown	Thomas William

HISTORY (ANCIENT & MODERN)

1	Price	Robert Daniel Kennedy
---	-------	-----------------------

HISTORY (MODERN)

1	Prytherch	Jack Rhys
2.1	Barnes	Andrew
2.1	Hutton	Victoria Emily Louise
2.1	Kent	Sarah
2.1	Lintern-Mole	Thomas Sabran
2.1	Moss	Victoria Elizabeth
2.1	Sherratt	Harry James
2.1	Winstanley-Brown	Justine Alexandra



HISTORY & MODERN LANGUAGES

2.1 Brisbane Tessa Jennifer

HISTORY & POLITICS

2.1 Wood Nader Iain Oliver

LAW

2.1 Byrne Andrew Peter
 2.1 Duncan Imogen Alexandra
 2.1 Durrani Aneeq Karim
 2.1 Holdsworth Elizabeth Clare
 2.1 Major Rhian Gwen
 2.1 McKinley Jennifer Sian
 2.1 Simone Rudolf Francis John
 2.1 Stokes Harriet Claire
 2.2 Scott Laura Catherine

LAW WITH LAW STUDIES IN EUROPE

1 Reay Aidan Moresby
 2.1 Norman Andrew Philip

MATHEMATICS

1 McLoughlin Michael Ben
 2.1 Dean David James
 2.1 Imai Shuhei
 2.1 Kamill Benedict Paul Jacques
 2.2 Hartley Benjamin Francis
 2.2 Tredget Daniel John

MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

2.1 Khairullah Mohd Khalid

MEDICINE

1 Blacker Edward
 2.1 Dalton Martina Emily
 2.1 Demetriou Charis
 2.1 Dyar Oliver-James
 2.1 Grant David James
 2.1 Lindsay Emma Kirsteen
 2.1 Mowat Andrew James
 2.1 Thakerar Viral



MODERN LANGUAGES

1	Brock	Oliver Roland
2.1	Hillgarth	Sebastian Alan Henry
2.1	Ward	Jennifer Christine
2.2	Black	Alexander Lawrence

MUSIC

2.1	Hyland	Alice Elizabeth
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PHILOSOPHY & MODERN LANGUAGES

1	Leveson	Claire Elaine
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PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS & ECONOMICS

1	Roscoe	Thomas Henry
2.1	Cordry	Elizabeth Sarah
2.1	Newman	Oliver James Christopher
2.1	Nunn	Steven John
2.1	Seshadri	Fabian Siddartha
2.1	Stannard	Barnaby Simon James
2.2	Thalakottur	Raphael Jose

PSYCHOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY

2.1	Moscato	Arden Anthony Mecca
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PHYSICS

2.1	Watkins	Jessica Anne
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HIGHER DEGREES

Doctorates

Alexandra Alexandridou	Classical Archaeology	2003
Jeffrey Barrett	Statistics	2004
Lucy Carlyle	English	1996
Hop Dang	Law	2005
Niranjan Joshi	Engineering	2004
Tamsin Knight	English	2001
Christina Kuhn	Ancient History	2004
Jianghai Lin	Clinical Medicine	2003
Naila Mimouni	Life Sciences	2003
Rosalind Seeds	Pathology	2004
Katharine Sykes	History	1997
Fang Yuan	Clinical Medicine	2003

MPhil

Elias Mitropoulos	Ancient History (Distinction)	2002
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MSc

Alex Cousins	Diagnostic Imaging (Distinction)	2007
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MSt

John Hanson	Classical Archaeology (Distinction)	2007
Frances James	English (Distinction)	2007
Konstantin Klein	Ancient History (Distinction)	2007

2nd BM

Matthew Wordsworth	Clinical Medicine (Distinction)	2005
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BCL / MJuris

David Hughes	BCL (Distinction)	2007
Morris Schonberg	BCL (Distinction)	2007
Anup Surendranath	BCL (Distinction)	2007
Tobias Pfundstein	MJuris (Distinction)	2007



MATRICULATIONS 2008

Matriculations, Incorporations, and Migrations from other Oxford Colleges 2008 will appear in the 2008-9 edition of the *Brazen Nose*.

COLLEGE PRIZES

First in Finals: **Edward Blacker** (Medical Sciences); **Oliver Brock** (Modern Languages); **Christopher Cant** (Experimental Psychology); **Ricky Chall** (Chemistry); **Matthew Cole** (Engineering Science); **Felicity French** (Geography); **Matthew Hartley** (Classics); **Claire Leveson** (Philosophy and Modern Languages); **Ben Masters** (English); **Melanie McDowell** (Biochemistry); **Michael McLoughlin** (Mathematics); **Eleanor Nicoll** (Classics); **Kay Penicud** (Biochemistry); **Robert Price** (Ancient and Modern History); **Roseanna Price** (Geography); **Jack Prytherch** (History); **Aidan Reay** (Law with Law Studies in Europe); **Tom Roscoe** (PPE); **Alexander Smith** (Chemistry); **Byron Spring** (English and Modern Languages); **Thomas Steward** (Classics); **James Wilson** (Biological Sciences).

First in Mods: **Harry Bradwell** (Classics); **Amnon Ferber** (Computation); **Harry Ford** (Classics and English); **Robert Hughes** (Classics); **Robyn Mackay** (Mathematics); **Laurence Ridgway** (Classical Archaeology and Ancient History); **Andrew Sillett** (Classics); **Thomas Westwell** (Classics).

Distinction in Mods: **Richard Hoyle** (Law with Law Studies in Europe).

Distinction in Prelims: **Theodore Barclay** (History); **Tze Siang Chong** (Biochemistry); **Anna Driver** (Biochemistry); **Lauren Harris** (Chemistry); **Alexandra Hedges** (English); **Janice Heng** (PPE); **Rachel James** (Geography); **Glen Jeffries** (English); **Priyanka Nandanwar** (Physics); **Iga Nowicz** (Modern Languages); **Caitlin Page** (History); **Douglas Pivnichny** (PPE); **Peter Reader-Harris** (Physics); **Chima Simpson-Bell** (Economics and Management); **James Thomas** (Chemistry).

Merit in 1st BM Part I: **Alexander Allen**; **Julian Dickmann**; **Edmund Watson**.

For Collections: **Alexander Allen** (Medicine); **Martin Bell** (History); **Riou Benson** (Biological Sciences); **Samuel Bentley-Toon** (Biological Sciences); **Jan Bergmann** (PPE); **Harry Bradwell** (Classics); **Tessa Brisbane** (History); **James Butler** (English); **Oliver Connor** (Biological Sciences); **Serena Cook** (Modern Languages); **Jonathan Dale** (Biological Sciences); **Jacob Davies** (Biological Sciences); **Max De Vere** (Mathematics); **Anna Driver** (Biological Sciences); **Jenny Foreman** (Physics); **Alice Gledhill** (Classics); **Hugo Grimmett** (Engineering); **Lauren Harris** (Chemistry); **Charlotte Harrison** (Classics); **Margaret Heathcote** (Modern Languages); **Alex Hedges** (English); **Janice Heng** (PPE); **Victoria Hutton** (History); **Alice Hyland** (Music); **Rachel James** (Geography); **Glen Jeffries** (English); **Claire Leveson**



(Philosophy); **Paul Marsden** (Physics); **James Miller** (Chemistry); **Eloise Morgan** (Classics); **Priyanka Nandanwar** (Physics and Mathematics); **Oliver Newman** (PPE); **Eleanor Nicoll** (Classics); **Iga Nowicz** (Modern Languages); **Matthew Owen** (Classics); **Caitlin Page** (History); **James Paris** (Biological Sciences); **Joseph Parker** (Mathematics); **Douglas Pivnichny** (PPE); **India Pumphrey** (Medicine); **Peter Reader-Harris** (Physics); **Aidan Reay** (Law); **Bryn Reynolds** (Economics and Management); **Laurence Ridgway** (Ancient History); **Jack Ross** (Medicine); **Andrew Sillett** (Classics); **Byron Spring** (Modern Languages); **Tom Steward** (Classics); **Viral Thakerar** (Medicine); **Cyrille Thinnes** (Chemistry); **Ruby Thompson** (History and Politics); **Edmund Watson** (Medicine); **Ingo Wey** (Modern Languages); **Gina White** (Classics); **Helena Wilding** (Physics); **Daniel Wilner** (PPE); **James Wilson** (Biological Sciences); **Lorna Wilson** (Mathematics); **Benjamin Wong** (Mathematics); **Zoe Zhang** (Medicine).

NATIONAL PRIZES

Rebecca Anderson

British Hydrological Society Annual Student Award

Stephen Bernard

Review of English Studies English Essay Prize

Oliver-James Dyar

Elsevier Pre-Clinical National Medical Student Prize

AWARD HOLDERS

Michael Woods Travel Grant

Rachael Burke

Victoria Hutton

Sam Sims

Lorna Wilson

Holroyd-Collieu-Stelling-Hall Memorial Travel Grant

Jakob Keller

Caitlin Page

Lance Lewis Scholarship

Anna Driver (Biochemistry)

Heberden Exhibition

Boyd Gwyther (Geography)

Erasmus Prize Scholarship

Priyanka Nandanwar (Physics)

Iga Nowicz (Modern Languages)



UNIVERSITY PRIZES

Edward Blacker

Gibbs Prize for performance in the Honour School of Medical Sciences

Oliver Brock

Modern Languages Department Ramon Silva Prize

Christopher Cant

Gibbs Prize in Psychological Studies for the best Research Project submitted in the Honour School of Experimental Psychology and the Honour School of PPP

Matthew Cole

Engineering Department Hardware Prize

Harry Ford

Passmore Edwards Prize for performance in Honours Moderations in Classics and English

Robert Hughes

De Paravicini Prize for performance in Honour Moderations in Classics

Ella Liang

Monckton Chambers Prize in Competition Law (shared)

Rhian Major

Field Fisher Waterhouse Prize in EC Law (shared)

Iga Nowicz

Modern Languages Department Andrew Colin Prize;
Modern Languages Department Mrs Claude Beddington Prize

Toby Pfundstein

Clifford Chance Prize for best performance in the MJur;
Allen and Overy Prize in Corporate Finance Law (shared)

Aidan Reay

Littleton Chambers Prize in Labour Law

Morris Schonberg

Monckton Chambers Prize in Competition Law (shared)

Cyril Thinnes

Turbutt Prize in Practical Organic Chemistry

Matthew Wordsworth

Medical Sciences Division Margaret Harris Memorial Prize



ELECTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS

OPEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Martin Bell, formerly of Hills Road Sixth Form College (History with Economics); **Rachel Burke**, formerly of Sullivan Upper School (Medicine); **James Butler**, formerly of London Oratory School (English); **Xander Chong**, formerly of Mabecs (Biochemistry); **Amnon Ferber**, formerly of University College School (Computation); **Harry Ford**, formerly of John Port School (Classics with English); **Jennifer Foreman**, formerly of The Kings School (Physics); **Abigail Guillermo**, formerly of Bellerbys College (Chemistry); **Lauren Harris**, formerly of Haberdashers' Aske's Girls School (Chemistry); **Andrew Hey**, formerly of Westwood High School (Physics); **Rachel James**, formerly of Redland High School (Geography); **Robert MacAndrew**, formerly of Reading Blue Coat School (Physics); **James Pope**, formerly of The Blue Coat School (Mathematics); **Laurence Ridgway**, formerly of Exeter College of Art and Design (Classical Archaeology with Ancient History); **James Thomas**, formerly of Gordano School (Chemistry).

OPEN EXHIBITIONS

Alexander Allen, formerly of Peter Symonds College (Medicine); **Aarti Arora**, formerly of the British School in the Netherlands (Economics and Management); **Theodore Barclay**, formerly of Eton College (Modern History); **Julian Dickmann**, formerly of Herbart Gymnasium (Medicine); **Alexandra Hedges**, formerly of Haberdasher's Aske's School for Girls (English); **Janice Heng**, formerly of Raffles Junior School (PPE); **Glen Jeffries**, formerly of Royal Grammar School (English); **Christopher Kemp**, formerly of Charterhouse (English); **Robyn Mackay**, formerly of Colchester County High School (Mathematics); **Caitlin Page**, formerly of Alleyns School (Modern History); **Douglas Pivichny**, formerly of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School (PPE); **Peter Reader-Harris**, formerly of Howells School (Physics); **Bryn Reynolds**, formerly of Bishops Stortford High School (Economics and Management); **Michael Ryan**, formerly of St Simon Stock School (Law); **Alexa Saller**, formerly of Berkhamsted Collegiate School (Modern History); **Chima Simpson-Bell**, formerly of Eton College (Economics and Management); **Matthew Smith**, formerly of St David's Sixth Form College (Geography); **Ruby Thompson**, formerly of Penistone Grammar School (History with Politics); **Finn Toner**, formerly of Methodist College (Experimental Psychology); **Edmund Watson**, formerly of Queen Elizabeth School (Medicine); **Daniel Wilner**, formerly of Harvard University (PPE); **Lorna Wilson**, formerly of Churchill Community School (Mathematics).



SCHOLARS

Rhodes Scholars

Andrew Shipley

Daniel Wilner

Commonwealth Scholar

David Hughes

Clarendon Fund/Hector Pilling Scholar

Maidul Islam

Allbritton Scholar

David Fajenbaum

Senior Germaine Scholar

Konstantin Kleim

Senior Hulme Scholars

Matthew Carver

Philip Siddorn

Senior Cheetham Scholar

Andrew Lomas

Junior Cheetham Scholar

Cyrille Thinnes

Michael Woods Scholar

Louise Hanson

Hill Foundation Chevening Scholar

Vladimir Bagaev

British Chevening Scholar

Carla Bissett

Shell Centenary Scholar

Manmeet Bawa

Felix Scholars

Siddharth Srinivasan

Anup Surendranath

Weidenfeld Scholar

Andrea Zubovic

Exxonmobil Scholar

Yan Ling Wong



BLUES AND HALF BLUES

BLUES

MEN	Phil Duggleby	Athletics
WOMEN	Emma Lindsay	Hockey

HALF BLUES

MEN	Jan Bergmann	Volleyball
	Richard Jenkins	Volleyball
	Mukta Prasad	Badminton
	Tom Samuel	Modern Pentathlon
WOMEN	Jenny Foreman	Lifesaving
	Rachel James	Tae Kwon-Do
	Stephanie Madgett	Athletics
	Sophie Steele	Skiing (awarded 2006-7)
	Grace Vesom	Volleyball

TEAM COLOURS

WOMEN	Ellie Buchdahl	Lifesaving
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Reports



JCR

George Lambert (2006), President

JCR Committee 2008

President	George Lambert
Vice-President	Aarti Arora
Treasurer	Jan Bergmann
Ball President	Duncan Turnbull
Academic, Admissions and Careers Rep	David Lewis-Hall
Arts Rep	Joe Zhang
Charities Reps	Ruth Ghebremskel/Oliver Field-Johnson
Domestic Rep	John Drake
Entz Rep	Jessica Enoch
Environment and Ethics Rep	Faeza Afzal
IT Rep	Maxwell De Vere
OUSU Rep	Sanjeev Jeyakumar
Sports Rep	Rick Hoyle
Welfare Rep (Men)	Finn Toner
Welfare Rep (Women)	Andrea Cox

The year 2008 was a busy and buzzing year in the Brasenose College JCR. As ever, students participated in an unimaginably long list of different activities encompassing sports, drama, music and societies at both College and University-wide level. The JCR Committee strived to ensure that students made the most of their experience at Brasenose.

JCR meetings have, as ever, been well attended. Controversial motions included a motion reorganising the structure of the room ballot and a motion to donate money to charities which have some religious sympathies. Students also voted to give money to members of the JCR who are using the money a) for a worthwhile cause, or b) to represent the Brasenose JCR in some way, shape or form. For example, this year the JCR assisted Mardi MacGregor in funding an Oxbridge Summer Camps Abroad placement, teaching English in Hong Kong after her flight company went into liquidation. The JCR also subsidised transport to the Varsity Hockey matches, an event in which eight Brasenose students took part, and gave money to the Pater Society, a BNC society offering opportunities for those interested in arts.

The Summer Arts Festival was both popular and extremely well attended. The combination of glorious weather, an outdoor bar and a variety of different performances, displays and exhibitions made for an entertaining week. India Pumphrey, Aarti Arora and Harry Creelman directed *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, and Harry Ford and Ellie Buchdahl dazzled Arts Dinner attendees



with splendid poetry recitals.

The Annual JCR Garden Party proved as successful as ever. An enjoyable time was had by all, with large quantities of Pimms and strawberries consumed throughout the afternoon.

Other notable events in the Brasenose social calendar were equally successful. Freshers' week involved a comprehensive programme of activities, with fancy dress evenings and casino nights 'down the bar' complemented by daytime Oxford bus tours and ice skating trips. The week also offered new students an opportunity to take part in the College Parenting Scheme, a system whereby first-year students are assigned a male and female second- or third-year student to mentor them through their first year at Brasenose.

The JCR hosted a 'Guest Dinner' in Michaelmas term, and Hilary term saw the inaugural Annual College Sports Dinner and College Arts and Societies Dinner. These dinners, organised by College Staff in conjunction with the JCR and HCR, are designed to recognise student contribution to sports, arts and societies. Entz Rep, Jessica Enoch, also helped to organise the traditional Burns' Night supper and dancing, and a Valentine's Day 'Bop'.

Co-operation between Jess and the Charities Rep, Ruth Ghebremskel, was essential, as the JCR continued to support various charities. A quiz down the bar raised funds for Helen and Douglas House, a local charity, and in Trinity term we had our first 'Cancer Awareness Week'. Various events were held during the week, which culminated in a charity auction of JCR Committee Members. Just less than one thousand pounds was split between six different cancer charities.

As we approach 2009 there will be lots of things to look forward to in Brasenose. 2009, is, of course, the College's Quincentenary year, and will be marked by special events for both alumni and current students of Brasenose. 2009 will also (hopefully!) see the opening of the new College Bar and Gertie's snack-bar. All in all, it should be a very good year for Brasenose!

I hope that I have managed to give you an insight into the 2008 undergraduate community at Brasenose College. The JCR Committee has worked continually with both the HCR and the SCR to ensure that students receive the best possible education at Brasenose. If you would like to see any more information about the JCR Committee and how it operates, please visit the JCR website at jcr.bnc.ox.ac.uk or contact me by emailing george.lambert@bnc.ox.ac.uk. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the current JCR Committee for their endeavours throughout their terms of office.



HCR

Charles Furness-Smith (2007), President

HCR Committee 2008-2009

President	Charles Furness-Smith
Vice-President	Samir Bhatt
Secretary	Jennifer Sigafoos Melanie Marshall
Domestic Rep	Helen Dale
Social Secretaries	Michael Davies, Jenny Glennon, Dani Granville
Steward	Nicholas Prozzillo
Welfare/Women's Reps	Sarah Flemig, Emily Sloan, Sarah-Jane Knock

As usual 2007-8 has been a lively year for the HCR. In fact, with the new graduate accommodation being built at Hollybush Row, it's been a particularly eventful year. The common room's move to Old Quad has been a great success and we have received endless support from the Domestic Bursary, the Bursar, John Knowland, the Accommodation Manager, Sabina White, and the Clerk of Works, Joe Johnston and his team in getting the rooms properly set up. Special thanks should go to the Domestic Bursar, Mel Parrott, for the stoic manner in which she has listened to, and always carried out, our more pedantic requests. Trinity term saw one half of the common room named 'The Brademas Room', in honour of the generosity of John Brademas, retired US congressman and President of New York University, who was a Rhodes scholar at Brasenose in 1950. The occasion was celebrated with a drinks reception in Old Quad, attended by lots of past and present HCR committee members, followed by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and speeches by the Principal and Dr Brademas.

This year has seen the continuation of a series of events which exemplify the diverse character of the HCR, and which are becoming popular Brasenose traditions. Academia has been represented by the ongoing tradition of 'blurbs', an event which for the last few terms has become so popular that many people have been unable to book tickets. I like to think that a keen interest in academic excellence is the main reason for this, but the 'blurbs' dinner that follows the lectures is excuse enough to sign up for the event. Topics have included 'The Listening Brains of Fursty Ferrets', 'Tarts and Vicars in Medieval England', and a joint blurb with the Biomedical Society on brain tumours.

We have also enjoyed three exceptional Graduate Dinners this year. In Michaelmas Raymond Blanc caused quite a stir with his revelation about his reasons for moving to England: motives slightly more related to the British ladies than to our food. Then in Hilary we were entertained by Baroness Susan Greenfield who expounded on how technology is changing the manner in which we use our brains. The HCR



was fortunate enough in Trinity to have the opportunity to hear Lord Justice Scott Baker talking us through the day to day intricacies of his job. Fresh from acting as coroner in the inquest into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, he was tackled with a question about...the Brasenose unicorn. Both the Vice Principal, Richard Cooper, and the Tutor for Graduates, Susan Lea, must be thanked for the ongoing success of these events.

The previous HCR Committee got the year off to a fantastic start with a Freshers' Week that was the envy of other colleges for the manner in which it integrated and universally involved the first year graduates. The sense of community created during the first fortnight of Michaelmas has been sustained, resulting in great turnouts at many social events throughout the year. Zoe Enstone helped the committee to transform the HCR into a den of spiders' webs for Halloween. Later highlights of Michaelmas Term were an expedition to Wolfson for bonfire night, Christmas second desserts with a festive twist, and a series of film nights run by Russell Towers. The HCR struggled manfully through the dark days of Hilary Term with a Chinese New Year party, a Valentine's Day masque to celebrate the profuseness of singledom, and an Easter Sunday 'Eggstravaganza' featuring a treasure hunt and Trivial Pursuit grudge match.

Trinity Term began with the handover to the current committee, which has made sure that the academic year has finished with a flourish. Nicholas Prozzillo has upheld the popularity of Steward's Teas while taking them to a whole new level: last time I counted there were over fifteen blends of tea in the cupboards of the HCR kitchen. Outgoing Welfare Rep, Sarah Flemig, organised yoga sessions kindly run by the College's Admissions Officer, Pamela Gerth; Sarah's successor Emily Sloan hosted a well-attended Welfare Lunch; and the new incumbent, Sarah-Jane Knock, launched the initiative of bring-and-buy sales to raise funds for the HCR. The Social Secretaries have kept the good graduates of BNC off the streets, with a May Day Champagne Breakfast, a 'Super-Exchange-Dinner' with Hertford and Mansfield Colleges, and regular trips down the bar. The year ended on a Pimms-fuelled high with the HCR Garden Party, held in Old Quad. Rumours that some more distinguished committee members were sighted staggering home at sunrise after a 3 pm start are testament to the energy and efficiency with which Jen Sigafoos masterminded the Bacchanalia.

HCR members have been prominently involved in a variety of college events. In Arts Week, Daniel Wilner directed and starred in Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*, while associate member Doug Vernimmen put on a photographic exhibition in the Chapel. Eli Mitropoulos captained our first HCR football team, and special note should also be made of those girls in the Women's 1st VIII and 2nd VIII teams who achieved blades during Summer VIIIs. There have also been notable academic successes. Stephen Bernard won the prestigious *Review of English Studies* Essay Prize, David Hughes took the Shearman and Sterling Oxford Mooting competition,



and Tobias Pfundstein was rewarded with the Clifford Chance prize for the best performance in the MJur.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Senior Tutor, Andrew Stockley, and the Principal, Roger Cashmore, for the hours that they have put in to listening to our various ideas and requests concerning the HCR and for being continually supportive. The College Secretary, Wendy Williams has, as ever, also been a great help to the HCR throughout the year. Finally, I must thank the HCR Committee, and those members of previous committees who continue to help out so often. They all give so much time and enthusiasm to the common room, which simply would not function without them. I should also mention Eric Sommerlade for his fantastic work on the HCR website.

I am sure that I have missed a number of other achievements and forgotten to thank numerous people, for which I apologise. So much has happened during this last year, but I hope that what I have managed to include in this brief summary goes some way towards displaying what a wonderful community we have in the HCR.



THE LIBRARY

Dr Ed Bispham, Fellow Librarian
Liz Kay, College Librarian

The centrality of a library to any educational institution, and the frequency with which students spend time (and considerable amounts of time) in libraries in the course of their studies, can have the paradoxical effect of encouraging a very instrumental attitude to libraries and library provision. For some, libraries, like the books and journals they house, are often seen as a means to an end, a way to acquire enough knowledge to keep one's tutor happy, and settle final accounts with examiners in the Schools. Even for those, and they are not few, whose aim is not to obtain a certain degree classification, but to get knowledge, and for whom reading is a voyage of discovery, the view of the library can still be a functional one: a library is a port in which a variety of berths on the journey to enlightenment can be taken. We may idolise the men and women whose words challenge and inspire us to emulation or debate. But the library is often a vessel, a room to which we go to think, a space in which stimulation is packed onto shelves. In other words, its easy to take the library for granted, much as we might feel happy to be home at the end of the day, but give little thought to the front door which lets us in. So it is in Oxford, and in BNC. Students have, as they have had for many years, the run of a large library (two in fact, if we count the 'Stally'), with the books they need, which they can access twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The titles they need can be quickly obtained. Personal budgets which might not stretch to large and expensive science textbooks are spared by library provision. A small but dedicated team of staff monitors the complex interactions between hundreds of students and thousands of books, from re-shelving to rebinding to answering queries. What the library needs the library buys, and in an age where institutional budgets have been almost fetishised the library is alone in having the money to meets its needs, often the day it is ordered. But perhaps the sheer convenience and facility of library use tends to nurture the paradox: like the channel tunnel it's smooth and fast to use, and we couldn't think of life without it, but we don't often think of how our lives are bound up with it.

Nevertheless, good service, unlimited access to books, no budgetary cap: what's the problem? If it ain't broke... Well, the truth is that both the library and the archives are, effectively, breaking, or close to breaking. The library is running out of space, and the space that the archives are in is destroying the archives. Of course, it was not always thus. But with an acquisition rate which, at 15+ metres of shelf space a year, somewhat outstrips our ability to rationally dispose of superannuated stock, and with wetter winters and summers increasing the liability of cellar storage equipped a generation or more ago to promote the growth of mould, we find that where a decade ago we had space on shelves and a clean(ish) archive, we now have books piled on the floor of the library and decaying archive material.



Time is now short (desperately short in the case of the archives) in which we might deal with this situation. And you're probably asking: what is being done about it? As we have noted in the past, the College has in fact designated the space underneath the current library, formerly the Hulme Common Room, as new library space, and has now moved the HCR to plush new accommodation in the Old Quad. But so far lack of funding and the enormous pressures on space which BNC's small city-centre footprint entails have entailed numerous delays. We are now moving to draw up proper plans which will underpin the expansion of the library into this space, and hope at the latest in 2011 to start the building work. Our fundraising efforts allow us to think more creatively about how to widen financial support for what is, all things considered, not going to be a hugely expensive project, and about how to mitigate the other problem posed by the conversion of the old HCR to library space. While it is now used in the summer vacation as an all-purpose conference space, adding significantly to the College's revenue stream, the library expansion will deprive the College of this resource. So the financial implications go beyond the cost of simple building.

As for the archives, a solution is much nearer at hand, and the removal of material from its no longer suitable location in the Old Quad cellars is now close, perhaps months away; we know what we need to do to treat the material, stabilise, and conserve it. What we need to do now in order to proceed is finalise another difficult question, and again it's one of space. The problem is the familiar one: BNC is a small site and it's now full. There are a number of options available to us, but each makes the puzzle more complicated; until this particular Rubik's cube has been finished, we can't know which rescue package will work best for the archives. But by the time you get the next Brazen Nose they will be out of their current location and being treated. The process then starts of making sure that the new location, wherever it is, is equipped to prevent recurrence of the current problems, to improve the meta-data, to see that the Archivist's job can be done properly and with proper support.

So, as you can see, we are not short of problems difficult to solve, because the library exists within the complex web of activities and interests in a physically small college, and cannot be treated in isolation from other needs. And that's without addressing the question of money. And were anyone predisposed to support us, would the money be well spent?

The answer, I think, is yes. A few years ago the College completed the restoration and re-housing of the majority of its seventeenth and eighteenth century books, the core of which was formed by the collections donated by a succession of principals. These had been in a far worse situation, in terms of the deterioration of the environment in which they were kept, than the archives. Now they are cleaned and individually boxed, and stored in state-of-the-art accommodation on Staircase XII, and we are in the process of cataloguing them. This cataloguing process has been started with



the generous help of Paul Lloyd (BNC 1954); there is still much to do to produce for the first time a proper catalogue of this material for scholars and students. So we have shown that as and when we are able to address these pressing problems, we have a good track-record in finding solutions.

As for the archives, thanks to the generosity of Sir David Akers-Jones (BNC 1949), we have had a substantial donation which will allow us to implement the relevant plans for removing and restoring this unique collection once the previously explained questions have been answered. But it is doubtful this will cover the full cost of any solution proposed. There are few colleges which can match BNC's archival records, and almost none which have as detailed records of the internal workings of a college for certain periods of history. This is an astonishing resource which we need to keep safe and build on in the next 500 years.

Finally, we can frame the library problem in three more positive ways. Firstly, the problem is not simply about space and, while we do need more shelf space, the switch to online journals in some subscriptions and more efficient management of some collections will allow us to get close to a steady rate of acquisitions against disposals in the next ten years. That brings us on to the second point: the issue of space is not just about books – more importantly it is about people. Currently the library is in high demand, but too cramped for effective study, with books piled on the floor and working spaces restricted. What expansion to the former HCR will allow us to do is provide open and airy space for more students to work, both individually and in groups, in optimum conditions with access to staff, books and online resources, and printing facilities. Thus the library will become ideally configured for both solitary and group study, allowing it to do as a resource the kind of thing that cramped quarters have really prevented it from doing for some years: being a first class student resource. Thirdly, a ground floor location with a post for library staff will allow full disabled access to the main library for the first time. This is important in complying with legislation, but also demonstrates that we are serious about our claims to improve access to BNC and its facilities for all.

Hang on! Wasn't the instrumentalist approach creeping back into the last paragraph? Improving library resource and so on, isn't that what I began by decrying? Indeed; but it allows me to bring to the fore again what I began with – the human element. Libraries aren't over-full vessels for storing books, or not just that. They are places where people meet, where they share experiences, interact. Whether the library was the scene where the all-night essay crisis was played out, or where inspiration was found (or both), it was repeatedly the scene of this and so much more, the stage for one of the most important things we did as students, where friendships were made as the frontiers of knowledge were rolled back, or the looming spectre of ignorance kept at arm's length. We may not think or talk about library-time much, but as college experiences go there can be few, if any, that are so important, so defining for undergraduates. As departmental libraries struggle to keep buying



books and to stay open, and as the College sees growth in taught graduate degrees, the need to protect that defining experience, the one which all alumni actually have in common, and have had in common for several hundred years, has never been greater.

These are difficult times, and we do well not disguise the dangers. But they are not insoluble, and once we stop taking the library for granted, and think about what it means, our ability to move on and, in institutional argot, meet the challenges, is increased. Future generations will not then take us for granted.

So, with our minds busily engaged with the big issues, what else has been happening in the library? There is great news on the lighting front: the much-needed and long-awaited desk lights for the main library were installed at the start of Michaelmas term. Following the flop that was the Lebanese sample (so bad that the Clerk of Works would not even allow us to see it!), a company with a good pedigree, who understood our needs, was eventually found during the spring. The new lights came in the nick of time. The old lights had been in place since the 1950s, and were perilously close to being a health and safety risk. The new lights with LED bulbs are a safe and eco-friendly solution providing a gentle, glare-free light closer to the colour of natural daylight. New studies suggest this is good for staying alert! We are very happy and grateful that this project was funded by the Annual Fund; thank you to all who contributed.

The popularity of the library continues despite the cramped conditions and, as ever, we try to provide the books our students need, within reason. We have begun to update the Biology section; it is already looking healthier, but more attention will be paid to this over the next few months. Some of our book stock is very heavily used and recently it has been necessary to replace books that have collapsed through wear and tear. One section of the library requiring particular attention is the Loeb collection, where we have already replaced a significant number of well-used texts. Casting an eye over the shelves reveals many more in need of replacement and this will be a gradual process, as funds permit, over the coming year; our aim being to ensure that the library always contains essential reading matter in readable condition.

Unlike last year, rare and valuable books did not form part of an academic seminar. However, during the summer two of our special books graced public exhibitions at The Bodleian and Compton Verney. Both exhibitions were a huge success and the books have now been returned to once again reside at Brasenose after their brief sojourn.

In August our Antiquarian cataloguer, Sophie Floate, gave birth to her second daughter and happily for us plans to return in 2009. Meanwhile, we have engaged two experienced cataloguers, already working elsewhere in the University, who have been glad to add a few extra hours on to their working week to catalogue at BNC in



order to keep the cataloguing project going during Sophie's absence. Both women have seen and are excited by our pre-1640 collection and would like to be kept on to tackle the cataloguing of our oldest and most precious collection when Sophie returns. Obviously, it is a marvellous opportunity to get this valuable work done; that two experienced cataloguers are keen to catalogue our collection is fantastic and if funding is found we will certainly follow up on this before the cataloguers are snapped up by another college.

Essential library activities carry on behind the scenes and although a summer project to finish cataloguing the Brasenose Authors' collection, started earlier in the year, was thwarted by the installation of a much needed new gas main, this important project will be resumed as soon as the work has been completed. It will be a real plus to have the works of our esteemed members properly catalogued and searchable on OLIS. And with our students in mind as ever, we have negotiated a deal with two other colleges to ensure that should a disaster strike at Brasenose, our students will be offered library facilities at the other colleges. Naturally we hope that it will never be necessary to implement this contingency plan but it is very reassuring to know that it is in place.

Finally, we are happy to report that much improved library web pages appeared on the library website a few months ago. The more exciting interactive and alerting service side is still a work in progress but the basic information is now available in a much more attractive and informative format than in the past.

All in all another productive library year!



CHAPEL

The Rev'd Graeme Richardson, Chaplain

The Chapel continues to be a space well-used for worship, music, prayer, and reflection. Morning Prayer at 8:10 and Evening Prayer at 6:15 are the daily acts of worship in term-time. On occasions of the Chaplain's absence, these were led by our Bible Clerk, Helena Wilding. Helena took over as 'Supreme Tyrant' from Rachel Mugford in Michaelmas 2007, and was a great help with everything described here. Our Tuesday night ecumenical Eucharist, featuring student preachers, continues to be a rich source of spiritual nourishment; not least because the Chaplain loudly, and with an air of desperation, uses this service to try to remedy the ignorance of English Hymns sadly prevalent among today's students. In Trinity, a sung service of Compline by candlelight was revived at 9:30 on Wednesday evening, and, with a small but devoted following, will remain on the calendar for the foreseeable future.

College Prayers continues to be well-attended, with a very diverse congregation. Preachers this year have included the Rt Rev'd Gordon Mursell (Bishop of Stafford, BNC 1967); the Rev'd Paul Nicholson (Chairman of the Zaccheus 2000 Trust); the Bishop of London (who gave the Runcie Sermon, on which a report can be found in this issue of the *Brazen Nose*); the Very Rev'd Jeffrey John (BNC Chaplain 1982-84 and now Dean of St Albans); and Professor Nigel Biggar (the new Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology at Christ Church). Three 'old' members also spoke at College Prayers in Trinity 08: Pippa Soundy (née Simpson, BNC 1978 now an ordinand in the Anglican Church); Andrew Law (BNC 1980, Chaplain at Malvern College) and Christopher Danes (BNC 1979 – see his article in this issue of the *Brazen Nose*). The charities supported were the Zacchaeus 2000 trust, Habitat for Humanity, and the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Brasenose Choir continued to flourish. In response to anxiety about numbers for the coming year, the Freshers' Fair of 2007 saw a ferocious recruiting drive. The resulting musical behemoth – at times some forty singers – was monstrous in size and yet always angelic in quality, under the leadership of Nick Prozzillo, Graduate Director of Music, and Mark Martinez, Organ Scholar. Holders of Choral Awards were Sebastian Rule, Tom Steward, Matthew Harman, Charlotte Hutchinson, Bernadette Kell and Ellie Nicoll. To three of these (Tom, Ellie and Bernadette) we said goodbye at the end of the year, with gratitude for their exemplary service. We were also sad to say goodbye to Mark Martinez at the end of the year; he has given wonderful service to the Chapel. But we said hello to a superb new organ scholar, Tom Lowe, and freshers were present in such numbers that the future of the choir can only be healthy.

Chaplain's Breakfast continued on Sunday mornings in term-time. Officially a



place to get a free coffee and pastry on a Sunday morning, it became unofficially a good place to talk utter nonsense and recover from your hangover. Chapel Hikes continued – Boars Hill at the end of Michaelmas, Wheatley and Cuddesdon in Hilary, and the Baldons in Trinity.

The Ante Chapel continued to host concerts of all sorts. We had three wonderful Platnauer concerts, including an outstanding piano recital by Emmanuel Despax, and many performances by undergraduate musicians, including the Platnauer String Quartet, led by our own Mark Blake. The most exhilarating performance in Chapel however, was surely Guy Bover's concert, in Michaelmas term, which included his '12 Ecclesiastical Tangos'.

Many thanks to all who helped make Chapel such a happy place throughout this year.

Marriages in BNC Chapel 2007-8:

James Rowland and Katherine Sykes, 15 December 2007

Thomas Nightingale and Natalie Sayer, 3 May 2008

Matthew Carver and Nicola Godfrey, 31 July 2008

Matthew Finlay and Victoria Loy, 24 August 2008

Paul Barrett and Hannah Pethen, 31 August 2008



STAFF REPORT

Mel Parrott, Domestic Bursar

All the staff will maintain that 2007-2008 was the busiest year of the 499 so far! But it has also been notable for continuity and stability within the College offices. Under Mike Taylor's management, our porters continue to provide round-the-clock security and care for the College and students. Geoff Wyatt, Dave Shayler, Kenny Beechers, Paul Manning and Anthony Dawe are proving to be a very successful team. Our Clerk of Works, Joe Johnston also manages a settled team in the College Workshop. With Alan Bennett as Steward, excellent service continues to be provided for Fellows, students and their guests in term-time, and for other guests of the College in the vacations. He is ably assisted by Carmen Perez and Matthew Edney. And, by the way, congratulations to Matthew on his engagement this year!

In the College Office, we were sad to see Amy Brownhill go; but her replacement by Pam Gerth as Admissions Officer means that the Senior Tutor has another able ally in his work with schools and applications. Wendy Williams continues to run the College Office (some would say the College full stop!) with the assistance of Edith Spencer. In the IT Office, Peter Bushnell and John Kinsey have helped members of College at all levels with the bewildering world of computers. Peter has also proved invaluable in assisting with the new website, which went 'live' in January. Hilary Jones, the Bursar's Secretary, continues to do a lot of work not just for the Bursar, but also for the College as a whole. Sabina White, our Accommodation Manager, continues to organize housekeeping and the scouts. And Julia Palejowska continues to head up a very able team in the Finance Bursary. Last year, we hoped to report no changes in the staff there: and we have reached our target! Thanks to Jan Jordan, Joanne White, Fiona Gair and Kerry Forbes for all their hard work.

At the end of June, Dilani de Jonge, our Domestic Administrator, left us after a year and a half for pastures new. Joanne Sage, a temporary employee, joined us in the interim whilst we redefined the role and she has enjoyed working in our department immensely. We have recently appointed Denise Rees as our new Domestic Bursary Administrator. Denise brings with her a host of experience and we trust that she will enjoy a long relationship with Brasenose College. Amanda Gooding, our Events Co-ordinator, continues to enjoy functions and events and works tirelessly at getting things perfect. Diana Perry, our Conference and Events Manager, continues to build relationships with current Conference Directors and is working hard at securing new business for the College. She was especially busy in the summer of 2008:

'Operationally the summer of 2008 was the best ever despite the added potential problems that the renovations in New Quad posed. We received excellent reports from all Conference Directors and all have given their undertaking to return in 2009. The Conference Assistants,



Tom Olney and A K Smith, put on two themed nights for the various groups over the busiest periods: one was a repeat of the James Bond theme from 2007 whilst the other was a Shakespearean night. Both nights were an amazing success as the Head Chef tailored menus and Buttery staff dressed the Hall accordingly with props made by the Conference Assistants and workers. Tom Steward, a BNC student, sang Bond theme songs before and after dinner and delegates had immense fun dressing according to the themes. All delegates returned home having enjoyed their Oxford experience and we trust that groups to follow will be afforded similar experiences.'

A college studies on its stomach – the Kitchens have always been an essential part of Brasenose life. 2007-8 saw a continued improvement in food selection and quality in Brasenose. This has produced an increase in turnover and, we believe, customer satisfaction. There has also been increased activity for the kitchens, with more College and 'outside' functions, and a very busy but successful Conference season over the Long Vacation. There has also been a turnover in staff: we said goodbye to Robert Timms, Eammon Bennet, Karen Galloway, and Lewis Buy, who left to start his own business. But we welcomed some fresh new faces: Peter Greaney (Chef de Partie), Matthew Ware (Chef de Partie), Alex Piccotin (Fourth Chef) and Matthew Crossley (Commis Chef). James Goodwin should be congratulated on his promotion to Senior Sous Chef. Last but not least we are pleased to congratulate Richard Simmons on the birth of his daughter Chloe on 19 June, a sister for Jessica. At the end of another successful year, Steve Peedell, our executive chef writes: 'I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lorraine and her team for their outstanding efforts over the past year and would like to wish them more success in the coming year.'

A final mention should perhaps go to Julie Burgess, who next year will continue to manage the bar, not in a temporary home in the Deer Quad under the library, but back in its old position under Staircase 10, newly enlarged and refurbished.

Thanks to all our staff who work so hard to make this College a second home for so many.



ARTS WEEK 2008

Joe Zhang (2006), Arts Week Director

We said at the start of the year that we were going to be ambitious. We'd have bigger events, and better events, in every field of the arts. Well...it really happened this year, and the unbroken sun and soaring temperatures that graced Oxford for that one week didn't hurt at all!

Arts Week 2008 was, by all accounts, a fantastic success. The weeks before the Festival had involved an ingenious publicity campaign that saw widespread exposure of the Festival throughout Oxford, and, aided by the weather, Brasenose was packed out day after day with revellers enjoying Pimms, plays and poetry out in New Quad. The start of the Festival was a six-hour slog to get Brasenose Hall kitted out with thousands of pounds worth of lighting and sound equipment in what was probably the most elaborate set-up the Hall has ever seen. This was for the opening night jazz concert, a big-band style gig featuring some of the top jazz performers in Oxford. The band was simply sublime and could do no wrong, fronted by singers from the Gargoyles including our very own Alice Gimblett. It was truly the jazz event of the year, and it was a huge treat for BNC students and staff alike. The classical concert was, similarly, a huge success. Brasenose's top talent gave resounding performances that packed out the antechapel and forced crowds to gather outside in Deer Park to listen.

The Importance of Being Earnest and *Zoo Story* were fantastic shows that garnered great reviews and sold out day after day. Likewise, the fine arts exhibition that was opened for the whole week played host to a superb opening night and was well attended throughout the festival by students, academics, and wandering tourists alike. The addition of Michael Horovitz, a Brasenose alumnus and world famous performing poet, proved popular, and his double act with John Hegley was hilarious to the extreme. They put on a unique blend of poetry, music and comedy out in New Quad, with improvised ditties accompanied by Michael's inspirational instrument, the 'anglosaxophone'. Harry Ford has written a separate account of these hilarious poetry readings.

No account of the Festival could miss out the Arts Festival Dinner and Cabaret which involved excellent food and wine, followed by an absolute extravaganza of Brasenose talent (and another six hour lighting and sound equipment slog!). A huge number of student bands entertained a Hall that gave off the atmosphere of a screaming rock gig at Wembley, and nearly blew the rafters off with some electrifying performances. We didn't get any noise complaints. Presumably anyone who came to tell us off became so enraptured with the performances that they stayed to listen.

There were many events throughout the week, but each was just as important as the



next in making the Arts Festival what it was. And that's what we strove to produce: a Festival where every artform had its moment on our stage, and a week where every event was key to the life of the festival.

I don't know of any other college with an Arts Festival that comes close to rivalling what's evolved at Brasenose throughout the years, and it can only get better. Thanks are due to the dedicated and talented committee, in particular to Juliet Hogarth (producer) and Pippa Farrington (assistant producer), and to many others who deserve a mention (meet them at www.bncartsfest.com). Thanks are also due to all the College staff for their helpfulness and encouragement.

Well, until next year, when it's going to be even better!



POETRY FOR ARTS WEEK

Harry Ford (2007)

Recipe: Take two troubadours of diverse talents, a sunny quad, a smattering of eager listeners and add to that a peck of curious gatecrashers drifting out of the dining hall with their trays. Brasenose was fortunate to partake in this sumptuous poetic repast, doubly so because we witnessed what happens when two tremendous word-wizards reunite. Michael Horovitz grazed at Brasenose from 1954 to 1959 and went on to become editor of *New Departures* and coordinator of the Poetry Olympics, returning to the College this summer to perform alongside his old (though slightly younger) poet-partner John Hegley, one of Britain's best-loved poets who for sheer ability to make people laugh alone rules supreme. Undergrads from their different colleges waited in hushed excitement on chairs or reclined with their lunches on the grass, city-dwellers who had seen posters in the public libraries sat on benches, tutors popped out of their rooms between bouts of essay marking. Everyone was waiting for the poetry to unfold.

John Hegley began with an amusing yet poignant poem about his granddad's glasses, and with deft touches drew to our attention what many people miss about ordinary things – dogs, potatoes, string. In much of his work he explores how these everyday items touch upon language and feelings in unexpected ways and even the College Dean who was sitting austere at the back was delighted. John Hegley then launched into a wise and witty poem. It was about Eurydice (he paused briefly to mess about with different pronunciations of her name for the amusement of any classicists in the audience) and companion piece from Orpheus's perspective, both trying to explain that unexplained mythical moment when Orpheus looks round, although he knows this means he will lose Eurydice forever. To finish with, he reeled off his 'Jesus is not just for Christmas' poem from his book *The Sound of Paint Drying*. It has a real momentum and poise about it as well as filling in gaps in the life of Jesus. It asks those tricky questions which nobody has ever answered for us (what was Jesus like as a young man? Did he have any pets?) and the linguistic playfulness is perhaps also a comment on how the Bible has shaped our language ('some of it's truth some of it's Gospel:/a man with a mission, a mission impospel...').

Michael Horovitz moved us away from the biblical to the pastoral, reading a poem that he said was shaped like a sycamore leaf on the page. Some bits were elaborately obscene with hard asparagus tips and flaring lips of poppies, other bits were full of morris-dancing spryness. He rhymed 'harebell' with 'pellmell.' He incorporated the distant siren on the High Street into his hallucinogenic 'Blank O'Clock Blues' poem which traced a dizzying mental journey from checking a watch to checking you're in a car if you're driving. Not all his musical input was borrowed though; he brought his own Anglo-Saxophone, a curious skaldic instrument with a fruity resonance. The poetry he read from his recent book *A New Waste Land: Timeship*



Earth at Nillenum built up into a vitriolic attack on the Blair years. The quad was enthralled by the lyrical force of poetry which confronts global debasement head-on, from Iraq to Hiroshima, atomic weapons to torture, in a cave of deafening literary echoes. It was only on flicking through the book after Michael Horovitz's performance that we realized the pages were raging with artwork, cartoons and photographs and the political references were explained in detailed notes at the back. But some of the satire he performed for us was more playful, and a piece about grappling with a politician in a swimming pool provoked smiles all round.

The conviviality and thoughtfulness that John Hegley and Michael Horovitz brought to their Brasenose audience lingered on through the rest of the Arts Week and beyond, and New Quad is still calling out to host a poetic performance of comparable splendour, but perhaps we'll have to wait for the next summer Arts Festival for that!



The King's Hall Trust for the Arts



Registered charity: 1057101

Rikesh Shah, Treasurer

The King's Hall Trust for the Arts was founded in 1996, by a group of Brasenose undergraduates, graduates and staff, who sought to provide support for the ongoing development of the arts across Oxford and at Brasenose in particular. It has been a productive year for the Trust and we maintain our standing as an important supporter of the arts within Oxford.

The current board of trustees is made up of professional arts practitioners and business leaders who are all Oxford graduates. A majority of the Trustees are Brasenose alumni, and we supplement our skills with others with strong experience of the arts in Oxford. The trustees include two professional freelance theatre designers, the Senior Acting Teacher at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and the Finance Director of the Royal Ballet School.

The principal element of the Trust's activity is the underwriting of student theatre productions. We maintain our role as a committed funder of student theatre, seeing this as a valuable way for students to develop themselves both artistically and personally. The productions that we funded during the year ranged from the classic, such as *Edward II* by Christopher Marlowe, to original physical theatre such as the one-woman play, *Hidden Light*.

We routinely give priority to new writing or unusual projects since we believe that these help those involved to learn by pushing boundaries and creating opportunities that may otherwise not be available to them. The value of this approach is perhaps best summed up in the following note that we recently received from a producer who is approaching the end of his student life in Oxford:



‘As this is likely to be our last play at Oxford, we wanted to take the opportunity to thank the KHTA for all the support you have given to us over the last two years. This is particularly true as you are the only funding body who consistently supported our more technically and/or artistically ambitious projects, and I am sure those would not have been possible without your funding.’

Support from a number of regular donors has also enabled us to increase the scale of our grant-making activity. Each year we invite applications for funding for innovative arts projects which are not income-generating. We are always pleased by the range of ideas put forward and most recently we have supported an art exhibition based on the theme of farming, a choral group, an arts magazine and a new charity based in Oxford which seeks to take music into local schools.

The third strand of the Trust’s activities is the provision of advice based on the knowledge and experiences of the trustees. Feedback from those we have helped has been positive, noting in particular the benefits of obtaining impartial guidance from those that may have been in a similar position in the past. We are now seeking to collate some of the advice we have given and to post it on our website (www.khta.org.uk) so that it can be shared more widely in the future.

As mentioned above, we rely on the generous donations of alumni, most of whom support the Trust because they themselves benefited from participation in, or enjoyment of, the arts whilst at Oxford. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all those who have donated to the Trust over the years and look forward to their continued involvement in the future. We welcome comments and enquiries by e-mail to info@khta.org.uk.

After 12 years of involvement in the Oxford arts scene, we feel proud that the Trust is recognised as an established and important part of the infrastructure providing underwriting, grants and advice. We look forward to continuing our work in the coming year.



THE ELLESMERE SOCIETY

David Lewis-Hall (2006), President of the Ellesmere Society

This has been an exciting year for the Ellesmere Society, with many plans for the development of the Society being put into action.

As always the Ellesmere calendar got off to a flying start with the Freshers' Drinks Reception on the first Saturday of Michaelmas term. This event was well attended by both our new arrivals and the veteran Brasenose Law students. This year the decision was taken to open up this event to our graduate students. This proved highly successful – it seems being a graduate student does not diminish the attractiveness of a free drink or two!

This year the Society found especially strong support in a number of sponsors, as well as a few members who kindly gave donations to the Society. Without this support the Annual Dinner would not have been so well attended by current students. The Society and its student members are very grateful for this continuing generosity.

The Annual Dinner was the best attended in the Society's recent history, with over one hundred attendees comprising a healthy mix of students, members, guests, sponsors and tutors. The Dinner proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all concerned. The Society is particularly grateful to Lord Mance, our guest speaker, who gave an excellent speech containing some interesting and entertaining insights into the legal profession as well as the history of Law at Brasenose and Oxford.

Of the other events that the Society was involved in this year the highlight was a presentation and meal with city law firm Baker and McKenzie. This proved to be a very useful evening for our student members and was very well attended by both graduates and undergraduates. The presentation on all-important vacation schemes was well received. It is hoped that in the future more events like this one can be organised. This will help the Society achieve its main aim of aiding current students to find out what the legal professions entail, and thus to allow them to make informed career choices.

Sadly the Society was not directly involved in any mooting this year. Mooting is an important part of studying law at Oxford – especially for those wishing to go on to the bar after their time here. I am sure that this year's absence of mooting will be remedied by the new Master of Moots in the coming year. The Society would be very interested in hearing from any members who have experience in this area and would be willing to share their insights with us.

I am pleased to report that progress has been made in bringing the Society into at least the 20th century. Along with the reply slips this year members were asked to



supply an email address by which they could be contacted. Good progress has been made in compiling all of the information returned. This should mean that next year the vast majority of invites and other correspondence can be sent via email – helping to reduce costs and also to make the Society more environmentally friendly. If any members have recently changed their email address, have only recently gone ‘online’ or did not reply last year I would be grateful if you could take the time to forward me your contact details.

A new booklet concerning all aspects of the Society is currently being worked on. This will be handed down to each new Secretary. The result of all this will hopefully be that the Society will become more active in organising presentations, events, visits etc, to better enable current students to gain an insight into the legal professions. As a part of this in the coming year I am intending to try and compile a history of the Ellesmere Society. Currently the foundations of the Society, exactly how long it has been going and what is has/should be doing are all mainly unknown. I would be very interested in hearing from members who can shed any light on the history of the Society. This could be anything from who the guest speaker was in 1972 through to an anecdote about H. L. A. Hart at his first Ellesmere Dinner.

I would like congratulate all of our Finalists and all of our First Years who survived their exams admirably. Finally I would like to formally welcome the new officers of the Ellesmere Society. In the coming year Nimneh Hyde is our Secretary, Catherine Hill is our Treasurer and Richard Hoyle is our Master of Moots.



THE PATER SOCIETY

Katrina Hamlin (2004)

This year has been a varied one for BNC's arts group, the Pater Society. Events have ranged from gathering wild mushrooms (perhaps not strictly an art form, we admit) to our favourite dinner and talk combination, with guests including BNC students and tutors, past and present. The journalist and broadcaster Paul Barker gave us a thorough guide to the College and its arts as he knew them in the 1950s. Some things weren't so very different. Now we have our raucous pantos and liberal Arts Week performances. Back then there were provocative productions too, though unlike us the thespians succeeded in creating a little real-life drama when shocked proctors rushed in to outlaw their Sartre. Paul (Barker, not Sartre) had kept the play's poster with its stencilled condemnation, 'CANCELLED'. I think he and the other students probably enjoyed riling the proctors as much as the proctors delighted in their own self-righteousness. That hasn't changed so very much either, as any finalist trashed with non-soluble confetti knows.

Another well received pair of papers was delivered by the lovely Carole Bourne-Taylor and our very own Ollie Brock. They introduced us to Proust and his *À la recherche du temps perdu*. Although the work is notoriously lengthy, they managed to offer us an insight that was both accessible and detailed. It was a warm account that helped the audience appreciate Proust even if we had read neither his writing nor (in some cases) any French at all, and included a decent amount of close reading. The latter was carefully delivered so that linguists and non-linguists alike could take something valuable from the text.

Among our other events was a foraging expedition captained by Alex Black, which allowed Pater members to escape College and spend time with the creative community outside the University. We also hosted a very pleasant Freshers' evening in Michaelmas which combined many introductions with wine and a bit of collaborative art; and we were well represented at the Arts Dinner in Hilary.

In addition to organising these gatherings, the Society once again produced a magazine, edited by Ollie Brock. It contained prose, poetry, sketches and photography. As ever, the magazine proved that students can be creative as well as analytical, and that their talents are by no means limited to their subjects. I hope the magazine and the Society as a whole continues to give BNC members the chance to show that.

The Society was also very proud and happy to witness the different successes of its collaborators past and present in other (arty!) spheres. Our Associate Fellow Professor, Joe Mordaunt Crook, has now published his book, the long anticipated *Brasenose: The Biography of an Oxford College*. Meanwhile, Georgina Barney, President 2005-6, is continuing her work as an artist exploring British land and farming



(www.greatbritishfarming.co.uk, if you're interested). Since introducing us to the project in her 2007 lecture during the Centenary celebrations, she has held her first exhibition, started to commit her investigations to writing and won the continued approval and support of the Arts Council.

The year was varied in other ways too. Our 2007 Centenary saw a huge number of members leaving the College, leading one former president to declare PS 'dead'. However, the group made it through a tricky few months and has now happily resurrected itself (possibly, it was only playing dead). Better still, while the old PS was a close-knit but select posse of enthusiasts, the shiny new Society has a broader appeal. Professor Mordaunt Crook and the Rev'd Smail continue to be incredibly supportive, and so with our student collaborators we now represent the SCR, HCR and JCR. We've also found a fantastic set of leaders for 2008-9: Lucy Fyffe and Juliet Hogarth of the JCR, and Louise Hanson and Anna Johnson of the HCR. The outgoing committee looks forward to hearing what happens next.



THE REINCARNATION OF BRASENOSE DEBATING: THE ADDINGTON SOCIETY

Sanjay Budhdeo (2006)

Brasenose is a pretty fun college. Brasenose people go out a lot. Brasenose people play sports. In general, Brasenose people do lots of interesting things. Serious debating about technical political issues? That can get boring. But it shouldn't be.

College records show evidence of the existence of several debating societies, including the Sutton, the Sphinx and the Buchan societies. The earliest, simply called the Brasenose Debating Society, was founded in 1863. Yet none of them are around today. Their debates were often on political questions of the day, the very first expressing support for Palmerston. Other motions: 'that Trades Unions and Strikes have had a beneficial effect upon the country at large' (in 1869) and 'that a greater curtailment of the liberties of the Press in this country is desirable' (in 1870) sounded equally boring.

It is important to note that debating can, indeed, be fun. Anyone who likes arguing, discussing or talking about issues of the day (and yesterday, and tomorrow) is a potential debater, as is anyone who engages in relentless pedantry, or likes listening to people trying to be vaguely humorous. Yet competitive debating at the Union is a rather serious affair. What was needed at Brasenose, then, was a society that could unleash the wit, banter and argumentative might of the College's students. Of course, serious issues should be discussed, but it would also be important to entertain those willing (and coerced) spectators present. The debater's image would be placed on equal standing with the content of their speeches – something of which Mr Cameron would no doubt approve!

When I brought up the possibility of setting up such a Society with friends, I was surprised that they were not only positive about the possibility, but many of them actively wanted to get involved. Dr Stockley, the Senior Tutor, was also very encouraging, agreeing to be Senior Member, and suggesting naming the Society after Henry Addington, Lord Sidmouth, an alumnus of the College who went on to be Prime Minister. We settled on having one or two debates a term, and the date for the first of Trinity term 2008 was set. To encourage participation, we decided that membership of the Society would be contingent upon participating in a debate in some way, for example, by making a paper speech or a floor speech. The motion was 'This House Would Legalise All Drugs' with the debate being ably chaired by Tim Robbins, who nobly stepped in at the last minute to replace Mardi MacGregor.

The first speaker in proposition, Charis Demetriou, gave a clear definition of the motion and skilfully related much of what she had to say to a cadaver she had been



dissecting that day in anatomy classes. She gave several thoughtful and convincing arguments in favour of the motion, comparing the relative effects of illegal drugs and of alcohol. The first speaker in opposition of the motion, Eliot Fry, had a relaxed and entertaining style of delivery, making several humorous points. The so-called nanny state was ruled by a cool nanny which, he contested, would turn a blind eye to your excesses. Besides, legalising drugs, he claimed, would take the fun out of using them.

The second speaker for the proposition was James Butler. His encyclopaedic knowledge of legal, political and historical matters surrounding the debate was astounding, and to try and summarise his speech into a couple of sentences would do no justice to the arguments contained therein. Finally, I spoke for the opposition. My efforts to tie social darwinism to Barack Obama, drug dealers and asthma inhalers, were, I fear, in vain, but I hope it showed that whatever your level of skill (or lack thereof), debating is worth a try.

There were an encouragingly high number of speakers from the floor, with Jan Bergmann winning the prize for the best floor speech. We look forward to more debates, and even some dinners, next term, and I would welcome your participation. Do come along and watch, and if you want to contribute, feel free to make a floor speech. If you have any motions in mind or wish to make a paper speech, please do not hesitate to contact me. All that remains to do is to thank everyone involved with starting the Society and all those who participated in or watched our inaugural debate. We hope to see you next year!



THE ‘RUNCIE SERMON’ 2008

The Rev'd Graeme Richardson, Chaplain

The ‘Runcie Sermon’ has been instituted by the College as a lasting but living memorial to one of our most distinguished and best-loved members. The inaugural sermon was preached on 20 January 2008, by Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London. Present in Chapel, and at dinner afterwards, were Lady Runcie and Lord Runcie’s children James and Rebecca.

The Bishop began with reminiscence: ‘1968, the year of *les evenements* in Paris – and my first hand of cards with Lindy Runcie in the Vicarage at Cuddesdon.’ But he went on to remind the congregation of the ‘confident prophecies’ in 1968 that religion would soon be a thing of the past. He quoted the example of Peter Berger, the sociologist who wrote in 1968 that ‘by the 21st century, religious believers are likely to be found only in small sects, huddled together to resist a world wide secular culture’. But by 1999, Berger had written a book entitled *The Desecularisation of the World*, in which he wrote: ‘The assumption that we live in a secularized world is false. The world today, with some exceptions, is as furiously religious as it ever was, and in some places more so than ever.’

Robert Runcie’s ministry, the Bishop went on to reflect, ‘was spent in the shadow of the first prophecy’. But this never daunted him. ‘He could have been forgiven for saying with the prophet – “I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought and vanity” (Isaiah 49:4). But he was no captive to the pressures of the passing moment. There was a bedrock confidence in a divine faithfulness and fruitfulness.’

And the Bishop suggested that this confidence was not misplaced – in cosmopolitan London, it is clear that religion will not tamely retreat to the margins of life. Now the task is not enforcing secularisation, because that has ironically led to a ‘new credulity’, and ‘peddlers of the cults of unreason’. What we must strive for today is in fact good ‘spiritual education’. This, the Bishop said, fits well with Robert Runcie’s legacy, and with the Oxford tradition he loved.

That tradition must now respond to ‘the challenge of climate change and environmental degradation.’ It must develop an ‘holistic wisdom’. The Bishop quoted T. S. Eliot, poet and churchwarden: ‘Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?’

The Bishop’s own personal tribute to Runcie concentrated on the Archbishop’s humility. ‘Sometimes people of faith themselves forget that the wisdom of God is given to those who are aware of their own poverty of spirit. God, as the poet says, “has such a quiet manner of existence that those who name him with a loud insistence show they’ve forgotten his proximity.” Jesus who came “in the form of



a servant” taught that the first step in becoming a human being after his likeness is to refuse to be a little god and to be open to the God whom he called Father. Our minds are too small to define or encompass Him; our arms are too short to reach him but we can enter into his Wisdom through love. Robert Runcie had this kind of humility. I never knew him use his power to crush those with whom he disagreed and, just as he was faithful in a period when much of the church had lost confidence, he has a lesson for us at a time when religious people could be tempted to arrogance and overconfidence. Robert Runcie knew the destructive violence of the 20th century at first hand. He admitted the formidable character of the intellectual arguments deployed against the reality of God but he was also in touch with the wisdom of the crucified Christ which grows with deep listening, with respectful conversation and walking the way of Christ through life, through death and beyond. As he so often used to say – “now on to the next thing”.’

The service ended with Lord Runcie’s favourite hymn: ‘The Day thou Gavest’.

Next year’s sermon will take place at 6 pm on Sunday 1 March 2009, and will be given by the Rev’d John Witheridge, Headmaster of Charterhouse School, and former chaplain to Lord Runcie. All members of Brasenose are welcome to attend.



ALE VERSES 2008

Harry Ford (2007), Author of winning Ale Verse 2008

About three times a day I make it my custom to arrange all the chairs in my room in a semicircle, lock the door and draw the curtains across my well-mullioned windows. Then I bow, cough twice, and reel off some inspired ditty for the enraptured audience of my imagination. So as soon as that testy old lady, Shrovetide, came along, and as soon as the Dean allowed the possibility of propitiation with satirical verse-offerings, 'Ho! Ho!' I said to myself, 'that's for me'.

What a wonderful evening it is, and every year it gets better. After crêpes sugar-bestrewn and citric, a hush fell over the Hall. Our floppy-haired Chaplain, Graeme Richardson, declaring the Dean to be a geographer and therefore socially inept, stepped up to be master of ceremonies. And under the approving gaze of Sir Richard and Good Bishop Smyth in their respective portraits, under the well-endowed Unicorn and the burnished proboscis of our eponymous sanctuary knocker, we proceeded to re-enact the time-honoured rituals. Standing on the benches we sang out about ale and college life (the two being inextricably linked) while steaming flagons of Brasenose Ale were passed from hand to hand. These things have been part of Shrove Tuesday at Brasenose at least since the palmiest pancaking days of 1705 when the genial voice of the pancake-bell was still heard each year in the nave of St Mary's. But it is our ale not our pancakes that is most celebrated, that same dingy, nut-brown ale (crowned with froth, bristling with spice, bobbing with well-roasted apples for pomological potency) of which, the Chaplain said, Noah had been overly fond and in which Nelson was finally pickled after Hardy's kiss-of-life had proved fatal.

This year the programme was superb. Many submissions were lamentably anonymous, but I recognised in the reworking of the militaristic hymn *Stand up, Stand up for Jesus* the hand of my Greek teacher, the Reverend Richard Smail. It began with a nod to old Lord Windlesham (sitting in the portrait behind my head) and his weakness for whisky, but it built up into a rousing celebration of our present Principal's twin mistresses, wine and walking: 'He walks and walks for Brasenose/ He circles more and more:/He's flexing calves and muscles—/It's what his legs are for.' Ed Blacker had composed a profoundly moving history of an undergraduate's crush on our Assistant Dean, Jana Lee, to the tune of *Valerie* by the Zutons: 'I was out on the lash, went and did the Rad Cam Dash,/ Did you see me?/ Well it was all worthwhile, just to see your perfect smile,/As you deaned me...' One of Andrew Sillett's entries, 'Happy Brasenose to you', didn't make it into the booklet because the Dean held that it was not only inane but also one year too early. Nevertheless, despite the exigencies of Mods, the stalwart chap managed to submit a second verse based on Simon and Garfunkle's *Mrs Robinson*: 'God bless you please, Graeme Richardson/Brasenose holds a place for those who pray. Hey hey hey...' There was



a scandalous rumour, I know not if it is true, that a certain Brasenose man, though I won't be the one to mention Jonathan Edwards's name, collaborated with an enemy Lincolnite to produce one particularly lambasting pasquinade. But largely it is impossible to apportion praise or blame and the jazzy Louis Armstrong satire ('I see pates agleam,/ Red noses too,/ I see them chew,/ and drink till they spew—and I think to myself:/ what a High Table World!') or the Cat Steven's *Father and Son* verse which became *Finals and Dons* (Tutor: 'Find a desk, settle down,/ If you want in the library,/ Look at me, I've gone mad, but I'm happy.') were both ungraced by so much as a nom de plume.

Now, from the earliest days the verses were presented by the Butler, often with a 'spice-bowle' of ale or a 'plumb cake,' and it is fitting that the glory of the evening went to our head butler, William. The rude Spanish quatrains he teaches me at breakfast ('Culo caliente! Culo caliente! Toca la flauta y llama la gente!') inspired me in the composition of my verse and I dedicated a whole stanza to him. We all know that this Shrove Tuesday tradition ennobles all those who take part in equal measure and that the occasion is unsullied by a relentless pursuit of winners and number ones we find in the media today. However, all my friends said the prize-champagne was delicious and I raised a toast to Señor Guillermo, the brilliant butler of Brasenose College and a number one if ever there was one. Cheers.

2008's winning verse:

'They tried to make me go to Lincoln'
(To the tune of 'They tried to make me go to rehab', as sung by the rare flower of politeness, Miss Amy Winehouse.)

They tried to make me go to Lincoln
 But I said Nose! Nose! Nose!
 Yes, it's not bad, but you'd have to be mad —
 I chose Nose! Nose! Nose!
 They're all really weird: they have no Principal and no beard
 Their rector tried to make me go to Lincoln
 But I said Nose! Nose! Nose!

They tried to make me go to Jesus
 But I said Nose! Nose! Nose!
 Geoff, Dave, Anthony — our porters always keen
 On their toes! toes! toes!
 At the lodge in BNC, we sell no posh choir CD
 They tried to sing to me at Lincoln
 But I said Nose! Nose! Nose!

They tried to make me go to Wadham
 But I said Nose! Nose! Nose!



Formal Hall here is full of good cheer
 The wine flows! flows! flows!
 And William is a star! He's the best butler by far,
 He could well be a professor
 For all he knows! knows! knows!

They tried to make me go to Univ
 But I said Nose! Nose! Nose!
 With two parties a night, I know Brasenose is right
 I chose Nose! Nose! Nose!
 Lecture Room Eleven is a Netball Drinking Heaven
 They'd banned the Sirens from the Shackleton
 (They wore no clothes! clothes! clothes!)

They tried to make me go to All Souls
 But I said Nose! Nose! Nose!
 In the eerie light, it's frying tonight
 The story goes! goes! goes!
 Undergrads in the crypt, with their body parts all ripped
 But it's alright they're all from Lincoln
 Not from Nose! Nose! Nose!

They tried to make me go to Christ Church
 But I said Nose! Nose! Nose!
 Our interviewees said Let us come please
 We said Nose! Nose! Nose!
 We took to see the Golden Compass but we kicked up quite a rumpus
 Booing Christ Church and cheering Brasenose
 When the film shows Nose! Nose!

They tried to make me go to Corpus
 But I said Nose! Nose! Nose!
 Football's not their strength, their goalie's full length
 On his nose! nose! nose!
 Corpus and All Souls are equally bad at goals
 But you are the weakest Lincoln
 Goodbye from Nose! Nose! Nose!

They tried to make me go to Cambridge...
 But I'd rather go to Rehab!



Sports



BOAT CLUB

Harry Bradwell (2006)

It is an unfortunate refrain of Boat Club reports in recent years to have to speak of the cancellation of competitions, and of training time on the water significantly reduced due to fast stream conditions on the Isis after importune high levels of rainfall. And it is once again on that note that both Captains' reports begin, with the disappointing cancellation in Michaelmas Term of the Christ Church regatta, the first milestone – or perhaps, given that it's the first chance to test themselves against their non-BNC foes, the first touchstone – in novice rowers' burgeoning 'boatie' lives.

Thankfully however, as you'll read in the Captains' accounts, those dastardly rainclouds did not manage to spend the whole year hanging over BNCBC rowing – far from it! Indeed, (*pace* the girls of '88-'92, to whose dizzy heights all subsequent Brazen crews aspire) 2007-8 proved to be the most successful year in the history of women's rowing at Brasenose.

Clearly the girls were inspired by the delivery of a new 'Brazen' 8+, bought to enable us to pass 'Caroline' over to the nurturing of novices and, we hope, to another decade of bumps and wins for lower crews. With the new boat beneath them, the women's 1st and 2nd VIII's took blades at Summer Eights, to add to the 2nd Torpids blades won in Hilary Term; while mention must go too to the women's 3rd VIII who narrowly missed out on the same prize, the envy of any Oxford college rower.

Throw in an utter domination of the Autumn Fours competition by Brasenose men (getting the chance to showcase the Club's stealthy black-and-gold 4+ in retaining that crown), and their holding position in both Torpids and Eights, and it becomes clear that this was a memorable year for the Club. If the men *are* disappointed by the performance of the 1st VIII in the bumps competitions, and the mixed bag of results for the 2nd VIII, this is only a sign of the high expectations we have of ourselves to begin the march back up the leagues to a position warranted by the Club's illustrious history, after a decade of slippage. And quite right too.

Right, I shall gag myself from more talk of the actual rowing and leave that to the Captains' reports which follow, and instead take this chance to thank a few outgoing members for the work and devotion that they have given to the continued prosperity of the Club.

First, my thanks must go to last year's President, Dan Whalen. Dan oversaw a hugely successful year for the Club, off the water, keeping a watchful eye on the very welcome renovation of the boathouse, and on it, making sure the support and facilities were in place for the Captains to do their bit. It is a pleasure to know that



Dan will still be around in Oxford for the next few years, as he embarks on a DPhil course (albeit at Magdalen!), and I'm sure his presence in town will make my job easier in the year to come. I'd put money on it that it will be more than just his spectre present at BNCBC social events for the foreseeable future!

Working alongside Dan were two enthusiastic and efficient Captains, Matthew Neve and Lauretta Desmedt Rudman, who both did a marvellous job in their tenure of what is really an unenviable task, having to organise coaches, coxes, and eight-member crews for every one of the twenty-plus BNCBC river outings each week. The Club is rightly grateful to them for their efforts and sad to lose Lauretta to Finals and Matt to Russia – though we look forward to him rejoining our ranks after a year of edifying training on the icy waters of the river on which he seems to have been born to row, the Neva!

Working tirelessly behind the scenes was our Treasurer, Alice Gledhill, and our thanks go to her for the countless trips to the bank and the myriad times that Dan and I have had to ask her for 'yet another cheque, Alice'.

The final member of the outgoing committee is a man who is sorely missed by all members of the BNCBC community and far beyond. Matthew Carver learned to row and to cox while he was an undergraduate at Brasenose. His love for the Club shone through at all times, whether rowing in 2nd and 3rd VIII crews, coxing and coaching boats of all standards (including coxing my very first outing in a boat), or in his two years as Treasurer and then as Club Secretary. Matt still held that position on the committee as a Brasenose postgraduate historian when he was diagnosed with leukaemia early in 2008. It is a testament to how much Matt gave to the Club that so many BNCBC members turned out for a bone marrow donation clinic held in Trinity term and brought many others with them too; although, sadly, a match was not found for Matt that day, if ever one of us is called upon from the register, you can be sure we'll be thinking of him as we try to help someone else. Among the congregation at Matt's wedding in the Brasenose chapel in July were close friends he'd made through the Boat Club; and I'm sure he'd have been proud to see that it was six current and former rowers, friends of his, whom his widow Nicola asked to be his pallbearers in August. A BNCBC man through and through, as well as so much more, the Club thinks of Matthew Carver with a deep sense of loss, but also of real gratitude for what he gave to it.

I sincerely hope that in fitting tribute to Matt's memory, as well as what is appropriate for the oldest Boat Club in Oxford in a year when the College is celebrating its quincentenary no less, 2008-9 can be a year even more enjoyable and successful than the last!



MEN'S ROWING

James Benson (2007), Men's Captain



The Brasenose rowing season started off in Michaelmas term in good weather, with the squad managing many demanding early morning outings. Hopes were set high for success in the Christ Church Novice Regatta, but sadly this was not to be, as poor weather conditions once again resulted in cancellation leaving the novice rowers and coaches with no results to show for all their hard work and commitment.

However, very wet, cold conditions are to be expected in this term and whatever time can be spent on the river only adds to the determination of crews to do well when they do get the opportunity. Success came with the Autumn Fours and Brasenose were winners for yet another year, with a crew comprised of John Dale, Dan Whalen, Riou Benson, and myself.

With good weather conditions, high enthusiasm and a need to be challenged, Brasenose took the opportunity to enter crews in the Head of the River race, Fours in Michaelmas term and Eights in Hilary term. This is an event that we might in future years look to improve our performance as it can provide the crews with a measure of their national standard.

Thinking we had put in the necessary preparation, sights were set high for Torpids, but once again our hopes were not to be realised (although this time the weather was not to blame). The 1st VIII suffered mixed fortunes. The first day dashed our spirits,



with the BNC boat suffering several clashes in the same race, yet luckily managing to maintain position. Day two did not improve our standing as we were bumped by one of the finest crews Hertford has produced for many years. Undeterred we achieved a comfortable row over on day three, bolstered by an impressive bump on Jesus on day four. The 2nd VIII rowed over on the first two days, then bumped Oriel, only to be bumped by Trinity on the Saturday. The result overall was that BNC crews maintained our positions in the league.

I took over as Captain in Hilary term and the Easter holidays were spent sorting out crews, coaches and training. The weekend before noughth week I ran a training camp (for which thanks are due to Matthew Neve for his organising) aimed at developing some of our most talented and committed novice rowers. The intensive training proved to be a great success with several of the rowers showing true 1st VIII potential. With the start of term, training got back into full swing with time spent on the ergs traded for extra gruelling water sessions.

At the start of term the 1st VIII lost three of its most experienced oarsmen who wished to concentrate on their Finals. This left all involved with the belief that the best we could hope for at Summer Eights was to maintain our position. However the huge improvement developed in two particular novices, Guy Kemball-Williams and Russell Towers, aided by the return of David Meryon and Michal Plotkowiak (Oxford University Heavyweight squad) provided a much needed boost to the crew. Not to forget Michael McLoughlin, for all his hard work in his 1st VIII training only to lose his place for the competition itself. So despite our initial sceptical outlook on Summer Eights we began dreaming of great success. The ever motivating presence of our coach, Matthew Elliott, encouraged a competitive atmosphere within the squad, resulting in a crew that could prove to be one of the fittest and strongest BNC crews for many a year.

However, drama once again beset Summer Eights, when on the eve of the first race, disaster loomed. The stroke (my seat in the boat) rigger completely snapped off during the 1st VIII training session, and the 2nd VIII lost their stroke due to injury. Despite these difficulties BNC crews participated in the Eights.

However, the 1st VIII's participation was not without continued drama as we crashed into the trees going for what was thought to be a certain bump on St. John's, only to be bumped by the highly effective Wolfson boat, a crew that deserved the blades they won. Not to be defeated, on the second day BNC 1st VIII rowed over in style, and on day three we were able to bump St. Anne's before Donnington Bridge to get a good result. With renewed determination we set out on the fourth day to catch John's, a crew that has managed to elude us for too long. But much to our disappointment we didn't quite catch them. The result overall was for BNC 1st VIII crew to maintain their position in the league.

On the first day BNC 2nd VIII achieved an impressive bump before Donnington



Bridge, but were bumped back the next day. On day three they were bumped by St. Peters (another crew who achieved blades). They finished with a row over on the final day, and a disappointing drop of one place. Brasenose squad finished the Eights less than happy with this situation and set the crews the challenge to improve their performances. This should provide the determination for both crews to give 100% commitment towards improving in the coming year.

It will be through the development of new talent and the competition for places in the boat that will provide BNC men's rowing with the crews to meet the challenges of the coming year, and with this, coupled with the existing crew's commitment and enthusiasm, I am sure we will be successful.



WOMEN'S ROWING

Jenny Foreman (2006), Women's Captain

What a year for the girls' boat club!

Unfortunately we were unable to dominate the river in Michaelmas as Christ Church regatta was cancelled, but we made good use of the water time available, with David Palliot returning to coach all the novice crews, and a new coach training the returning senior crew.

We suffered again from river closure in Hilary term, but were out in force as soon as it reopened. The captain, Lauretta Desmedt Rudman, worked hard and managed to field four crews in Torpids, with only two novice members in our 1st VIII! Torpids was not the success it should have been for the 1st VIII, as we were bumped in the gut by a stronger crew on the first day, and managed a row over on both the second and final day, but alas disaster struck on the third day where we lost both the stroke's blade and the seat of number three. Somehow these were both fixed whilst the boat was moving so we only conceded two bumps. The 3rd and 4th boat also had some bad luck and finished in the bottom two places, but the 2nd boat pulled off a stunning performance and moved up a division, bumping five times and winning blades!

So it was with much excitement that I took over as captain at the end of Torpids. We held trials on the ergs for positions in the 1st and 2nd boats, in preparation for some serious fitness training over the Easter vacation. Unfortunately we were one rower short of a fourth boat but boats one, two and three returned to Oxford before the start of Trinity term for a training camp. The coaches did a marvellous job over the weekend and we were looking very promising by the time we started training in Trinity. All three boats trained really hard, the 1st VIII training five or six times a week coached by Robin Ejsmond-Frey (Oriol), the 2nd VIII out on the water four times weekly coached by Rob MacAndrew, and the 3rd VIII out three times a week with Dan Butler (an ex-president).

The end of first week saw us entering two fours in city bumps. Boat Two did quite well in the lower division and managed to bump, but the first boat was placed much too high and conceded seven bumps in four races, oops! The next few weeks followed in a blur of crazy socials, much rowing (in glorious sunshine) and the arrival of the new boat and blades in fourth week (not a moment too soon!) and soon VIIIs was upon us. Both of the lower boats easily qualified in rowing on (but the 3rd boat beat the 2nd boat!) and all three boats got excellent times in the Isis Winter League the weekend before VIIIs (the 2nd boat pulled it together and beat the 3rd boat, much to Rob's relief!).

I look back on VIIIs week as if it were a dream. The new boat did itself proud for



the 1st and 2nd VIII. The 1st boat bumped every day by Longbridges winning blades, and we moved up a division, securing our place back in division two (where we belong!). The 2nd boat took the bottom division by storm and won blades by bumping every day before Donnington Bridge. The 3rd VIII narrowly missed out on blades as the crew in front bumped early on the second day, but they fought very hard on the other days and managed three bumps.

I had the most brilliant year rowing and have too many people to thank by name, but special thanks has to go to the three coaches and my vice-captain, Robin, Rob, Dan and Jenny, who all gave huge amounts of time. Thanks also to the current and ex-presidents, Harry Bradwell and Dan Whalen, and to our senior member, Guy Housby for the new kit, and to James Benson, the men's captain, for being so easy to work with. Finally thanks to all the rowers and subs: without their enthusiasm these fantastic results would not have been possible, and the socials not nearly so much fun! I am very much looking forward to my next two terms as rowing captain, and keeping fingers crossed for the river to stay open so we can dominate in Christ Church regatta!



CRICKET

Mathew Owen (2005), Captain of Cricket

The cricket season began with high hopes of success. A cold Michaelmas in the bar had been spent acquiring that inimitable cricketer's physique, a bright Hilary in the Iffley nets honed the batsmen's timing and the bowlers' accuracy, and lo! Trinity dawned with the hopes and dreams of the College resting on the shoulders of the cricket club. The question whispered fearfully in tutorials, pondered in the Senior Common Room or debated fervently in the quadrangles: could BNCCC achieve promotion, leaving the dismal swamps of the third division and ascending into the sunlit uplands of the second division?

No.

Nevertheless, it is worth the author's effort and reader's time to recount the season, which, despite the ultimate failure of league ambitions, was extremely promising and enjoyable. The season's only league victory was almost worth the struggle of the rest of the summer: against a swaggering Trinity horde, relying too heavily on their Blue, Brasenose produced some scintillating cricket. Returning to the scene of their triumph last year, Brasenose knew they had a stiffer fight on this occasion. Inspection of the track immediately revealed the Trinity groundsman's trickery: a strip of sticky mud, decorated with the occasional grassy knoll, looked to be just the sort of surface designed to enervate Brasenose's powerful batting line-up. Put into bat, Trinity's wickets began to tumble as the rampant pace partners Siddiqui and Singhal claimed seven wickets between them. Hill (19), who enjoyed miraculous luck to escape two LBW appeals off Siddiqui, briefly threatened, before the seamer eventually had his man. The fieldsmen were, it seemed, inspired by the bowlers' exertions, exemplified in Bell's outstanding and vital catch running forward to dismiss Davison in the middle order. Meanwhile, the recently returned seamer, Elliott Kelly, looked to have had Lough stumped down the leg-side, then caught behind by Owen, but neither found the umpires' approval, so he decided to leave them in no doubt by ripping out the Trinity captain Schneider's off-stump. There followed a complete collapse as Trinity lost their nerve and their way in the face of some excellent BNC bowling. Siddiqui just missed his hat-trick, but finished with 7-1-21-4, whilst his fellow opener Singhal returned 6.3-2-11-3 and Elliott Kelly 4-1-16-2, all of which resulted in Trinity crumbling to 64 all out in 19.3 overs. Smibert immediately vindicated the captain's decision to open with his destructive batting, taking the score past the half-way mark in the fourth over! He brutalised the opening bowlers and ruthlessly crushed any vestiges of self-confidence left in the home team. Supported in a 47-run opening stand by Singhal, Smibert (32) took the game away from Trinity before they could bring on Hill's classy left-arm spin. He eventually did for Singhal and then had Smibert stumped with the score on 51, but Islam and Barclay were more than capable of seeing BNC to the total.



Whilst other league success eluded the 'Nose (an especially galling example being the inversion of Brasenose's hammering of University last season), the game for which all had been waiting deserves a full report. Instituted last season, the Steve Stuart Memorial Match is an annual fixture between BNC and Jesus College, Cambridge, the two almae maters of our erstwhile friend and teammate. In fine weather and a less fine city, Brasenose were sent into the field and opened with a miserly spell from both ends as the strike duo which has terrorised the Oxford colleges set to work on their lesser counterparts. Siddiqui and Singhal (4-49) bowled with savage pace and accuracy on the batsman's track and kept the Cantabrian run rate to a minimum in the early stages. Hawkins proved an invaluable asset as a support seamer, as did Smibert and Barclay, but despite these exertions from the 'Nose, Jesus's experienced Waters moved to a measured and delightful century, with shots to all corners of the College's idyllic ground. The steady if unspectacular innings of the home team, helped by a 40 from wicketkeeper Mills, closed on 278-7 in their 40 overs.

The comestibles the 'Tabs graciously provided for tea was followed by the complete batting performance. Singhal and Smith opened with a measured opening stand of 45, before Islam played a masterful innings at no. 3, a delight to the cricket purist, including an exquisite lofted drive over mid-off for four. When he fell for 31, first-year Hoyle was joined by vice-captain Smibert, who was clearly in no mood to countenance defeat. His blistering 46 was an exhibition in aggressive batting (by the end, bullying), as several monstrous sixes vanished into the adjacent quadrangle. Though a magnificent performance from Smibert, his unfortunate demise meant Brasenose's middle-order pairing of Hoyle and wicketkeeper-captain Owen had much to do. Starting slowly, both moved quickly into devastating form: Hoyle with some elegant drives, Owen with a huge sweep for six over square-leg. Gradually it struck the defending champions that the Oxonians were somehow keeping abreast of their gargantuan run-rate. Hoyle (61*) brought up an excellent half-century in the 37th over, whilst Owen (55*) reached the same milestone in the 39th. Having needed 46 runs from the last four overs, Hoyle's superb timing and Owen's driving straight down the ground (which resulted in the nasty damage of at least one car) secured the game with 4 balls remaining: and so the trophy, which had eluded the Brasenose men in 2007, was restored to its rightful home. By the time (around 1.30 am) the victors returned to Jesus College for their journey home, spirits (metaphysical and chemical) were flowing freely, so much so that the whole team achieved the coveted feat of riding the College's precious horse: *vae victis* indeed.

The friendly matches were, as usual, a delight to play, though not particularly successful. The old and beloved rivals, Captain Scott XI, gave BNC a thorough if good-natured hiding, despite the appearance of one-time Sussex captain and off-spinner John Barclay (who disappointingly only managed a triple-wicket maiden in his first over). In addition, a new friendly fixture was played against the Swashbucklers XI, a team in memory of the late, great Wasim Raja (57 Tests for Pakistan, 1973-85) who passed away in 2006 on a cricket field. This game, an honour to play, was won



fittingly for the touring team by Wasim's youngest son, Ahmed Raja's blistering 113*, which evoked memories of his father's own swashbuckling batting.

The 2nd XI, a fixture of the social as much as the cricketing term, was again in action this summer. Their hours of training and fitness work, augmented this season for the first time by a daily multi-camera video-analysis session, proved insufficient to ward off demotion to the second division. Despite Bill 'Lucky' Fortune's inspiring leadership and canny captaincy, and the arrival of new 2nd XI stalwarts in Holland, Blessley and Waszak, the team was let down regularly by 1st XI players such as Owen, Barclay and Smith, who underestimated (a considerable feat) the opposition bowling attacks on several occasions. Thus, with the only hope of a win snatched by precipitation, the 2nd XI finished the season winless and demoted, though, as ever, loving their cricket whatever the result.

So it was not the most successful season on paper. The club, however, can count it as a great success for the future. A renewed interest in cricket from the HCR furnished the club with some superb talent, most notably Ryan's elegant batting and Siddiqui's seamers. The contribution of the first-years secured the future of the 1st and 2nd XIs, especially the new committee of Barclay (vice-captain and 2nd XI captain), Hoyle (Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Fixtures' Secretary) and Singhal (Captain of Cricket), whose dedication on and off the field means we leave our beloved club in the best possible hands for the College's quinqucentenary year. Fine individual performances adorned the season: at the annual Cricket Dinner, Vice Smibert received the batting award for his brutal displays and his devotion to Brasenose cricket, Siddiqui the bowling award for consistent class, and 'Boundary' Barclay the fielding award for the sake of irony.

The club was saddened more than words can express by the loss of one of our most passionate and beloved members in August of this year. Matt Carver's love of the game and infectious enthusiasm will be sorely missed, but the memory of him propping up the 2nd XI batting card, his atrocious, nay hazardous out-fielding and above all his irresistible cheerfulness will never fade as he fields now in that celestial slip-cordon. Three members of the club were honoured to carry Matt's coffin at his funeral, as we shall all be honoured to carry his memory with us forever. The club intends to honour his memory in a manner yet to be decided, befitting his love for and devotion to Brasenose cricket; further details will be available on the club's website at <http://cricket.bnc.ox.ac.uk>.

The inculcations of the Oxford tutor compel the author to seek a conclusion from this report of the 2008 season. Tentatively, the author suggests that even cricket is put into perspective by the passing of a friend, and that what really endures about our game and our club is the spirit in which we play and the friendships we forge. A Brasenose cricketer, accustomed to defeat and good cheer in equal abundance, always remembers: when the last great player comes to write beside your name, He will not ask who lost or won, but how you played the game.



HOCKEY

George Lambert (2006)

The Brasenose hockey side entered the 2007-8 College hockey season bubbling with enthusiasm and brimming with confidence. With the implementation of a new league structure, trialed successfully in 2006-7, we were to play in one league in Michaelmas term and another in Hilary, with promotion and relegation between leagues decided at Christmas and Easter.

The new season brought numerous fresh faces to the team. The departure of Ralph Windham, Rich Rosser, Guy Hemus and Anthony Walker, all Brasenose stalwarts, left several places up for grabs, and these were duly taken by first years Ingo Wey, David Oppenheimer and Robin Malloy.

Michaelmas term came and went in a flash, and the BNC hockey team never really managed to get out of first gear. Joseph Parker, Alexander Smith and Tom Maisey marshaled the defence admirably throughout the term, but it wasn't to be. The opening game saw us lose 1-0 to Jesus, who scored a late goal against the run of play. This stopped us in our tracks, and we never really managed to gain any momentum. Our only victory of the term came against Queen's, where I scored twice in a 2-0 victory that actually counted as both a league game and the first round of the annual Cuppers Competition. A 2-1 defeat to St. Anne's/Somerville was followed by a 6-0 defeat to a strong Magdalen side. A 10-0 defeat to Worcester eventually proved to be our downfall: we were relegated at Christmas because our goal difference was one less than that of Queen's!

Hilary term saw us pitted against St. Catz, Osler Green, Balliol, Oriel and SPC/Hertford in the second tier of Oxford College hockey. We found that the league was ideally suited to our ability, and we played in a number of competitive and enthralling games of hockey. Neil Gallacher bagged both goals as we lost 3-2 to Balliol, and James Levisieur scored in consecutive matches as we drew 1-1 with St. Catz and lost 5-1 to Osler Green. Success came against Oriel, whom we beat 1-0, and SPC/Hertford, whom we beat 2-1 in another league and cup 'double header'. We finished in a respectable third place out of six, and will be looking to build on this position in the league next year.

The annual Cuppers Competition, as ever, provided finalists with their last chance of glory in the famous black and gold. With a strong reputation on the College circuit, we were given a bye through the first round. The second and third rounds saw us beat Queen's and SPC/Hertford in league and cup 'double headers', leaving us with a tough semi-final to play against New College. With the Varsity hockey matches to be played the day after the semi-final, it was agreed that no University player would participate in the Cuppers match. We still managed to field a strong side, but were beaten 4-0 in a match that was far closer than the scoreline suggests.



With six female university hockey players among our ranks, Trinity term saw us enter the Mixed Cuppers Competition with a strong chance of success. The tournament was a straight knockout tournament played over one weekend. With myself unavailable due to ineligibility and exams, I handed the captaincy to first year Beth Krusynski. Gaby Bishop, Aarti Arora, Rebecca Anderson, Rebecca Craig and Emma Lindsay made up the rest of the female contingent. Our first round match, for the second year running, was against Jesus College, and for the second year running we lost on penalty flicks! It was a cruel way to lose, particularly after outplaying Jesus throughout the entire match.

The loss of both Alexander Smith and Tom Brown, who leave Brasenose to continue their hockey careers elsewhere, will be a major blow to the BNC hockey side. However, with a strong core of players remaining, and the potential for an influx of freshers into the team, we still stand in good stead for next season.



FOOTBALL

Colum Elliott Kelly (2006)

If the success of an Oxford sporting season can be most accurately determined by judging a team's final position relative to where it began in October, BNCFC must admit to failure. By the end of Hilary 2007, we held the coveted Cuppers trophy and had secured third place in a very competitive 'Premiership'; one year on, we were relegated from the top tier of intra-mural football and knocked out of the Cup competition by our arch-enemies, Lincoln.

As with all failures, though, there is dignity to be found in how we respond, and we aim now to recover what we lost last season and to restore the College's position among the best in the University. At times during Michaelmas 2007 and Hilary 2008, we played the kind of football which had brought us so much success the previous year. Unfortunately, those moments were too few to rescue us, but we must build, to use a hackneyed phrase, on what positives we can take out of our very negative season. We know that we had the misfortune to lose the core of our Cuppers-winning squad, players who were replaced by talented but inexperienced freshers. And we know too that we certainly did not lack collegiate pride and commitment. Taking those things into the coming two terms, I am confident that BNCFC can go a long way in Cuppers and secure immediate re-promotion into the Premiership.

At the beginning of the 2007-8 season, Brasenose looked like a strong and talented team. We had lost key individuals: Freddie Young and Chris Stephens to what many older than me call 'the real world'; Philip Langer, who returned to Germany; Oli Garthwaite to his inter-collated year in Russia; and George Lambert to the Blues hockey team. Into their shoes came a group of skilful and determined freshers who were instantly thrust into the First XI: Amreet Kang, whose left foot rivals that of the great Herr Langer; Christian Nordby, a powerful presence at the back; Jack Barrett, he of the many, occasionally clean, tackles; and Boyd Gwyther, a calm and neat full-back. Rick Hoyle, a Liverpoolian of questionable conversation but unquestionable goalkeeping ability, did what many had thought impossible in challenging the stalwart Eli Mitropoulos between the posts; Oliver Field-Johnson, meanwhile, trained and listened well and ended up as a key member of the forward line-up. Confidence was high, and on the first Sunday of term we took this new-look, inexperienced squad to the playing fields of Cambridge, where we played St Catherine's, winners of Cuppers (Cantab). The pattern for what became a frustrating habit was set on that sunny day in Newnham: a tendency to lead by two goals before invariably throwing the advantage away. We lost the 'Super-Cup' in the final moments of extra-time; a similar thing happened against Jesus, Lincoln and New College, our first three league matches. Professional coaches regularly attribute an inability to 'kill the game off' to a lack of inexperience and cohesion in



the team, and the disadvantages of having so many new squad members, however talented, can be seen in those results.

Results and season have a habit of ebbing and flowing. The good passages of play, the victories and the more memorable goals are things we are all proud of; they were, though, too sporadic and too inconsistent. The good has been overshadowed, inevitably, by the bad, and I have no difficulty identifying our lowest point. A dreadful loss to St. Anne's, beaten by the same margin of four goals by which they had lost the Cuppers final to BNC the previous March, was followed by the pain of losing in the second round to Lincoln. I have never experienced the kind of raw passion, determination and pride which were found in our changing-room before kick-off; equally, I have never experienced a team so pained and deflated in the wake of what was a deeply unjust 1-0 defeat. Many, including your author, were on the verge of tears; no-one spoke for many long minutes, objects were hurled at walls and jaws clenched in anger. However, since we have decided upon a theme of finding the positive in the negative, there was enough of the former in that episode to give us confidence: such passion and pride is a characteristic of Brasenose sport which we should never allow to disappear; moreover, the two dozen supporters, who had made the long journey down Cowley Road to lend us their voices and who waited outside to lend us their proverbial shoulders too, suggests that collegiate pride is not restricted to the playing sportsmen. On the pitch, we should not forget that we hit woodwork three times, saw numerous attempts at goal fended off by a desperate Lincoln defence, and in general dominated a match for two full halves. Unfortunately, 'killing off' a game again eluded us.

I have dwelt on this particular Cuppers game with good reason: it was symptomatic of our entire season in that, despite having the ability and determination to succeed, we fell short because of inexperience. Nevertheless, this coming season, I am confident, there will be fewer 'negatives' and more 'positives'. We have lost none of our most important players, and we have preserved our strongest weapon: commitment to and pride in the College's sporting progress. We look forward to putting Brasenose back where it belongs.



RUGBY

Colum Elliott Kelly (2006)

I imagine that the mind of young William Webb Ellis, arriving in 1816 at Rugby School at the tender age of ten, was dominated by the long, homesick nights, the beatings and the chores, the dusty textbooks and the bitter canes, those aspects of archaic boarding school life to which he was condemned for a decade. Living near the school as he did, I imagine that he knew about its peculiar game, which, from what we know of it, involved kicking, hacking, blocking, and running backwards. I can imagine him lying awake at night, ruminating over his widowed mother, his late father, that cold, over-crowded dormitory in which he was interned; and I would like to imagine that he lay there wondering why on earth those in charge of Rugby School Football did not make the ball an oval, lengthen the pitch, export it to the colonies, establish national teams and build a gold cup with his name on it for the competition in which they would compete, but, whether he did or not, that was the story he set in motion when, against all the laws of the game he was playing, he gathered the ball in his arms and ran for his life.

Thomas Hughes, he of *Tom Brown's School Days* fame and a fellow alumnus of Rugby School, wrote that 'running with the ball to get a score by touching down within goal was not absolutely forbidden, but a jury of Rugby boys of that day would almost certainly have found a verdict of "justifiable homicide" if a boy had been killed while running in.' That certainly explains why young William might have been running for his life that day, but whatever his reasons, his is the fabled first act in the history of what we now know as Rugby Football, and his future Oxford college, the King's Hall of the Brazen Nose, would go on to be one of its finest exponents, at least within an intramural context. BNC's rugby history need not and could not adequately be expounded in full here, but suffice to give one very indicative example: in the old Cuppers format, where the top two league divisions played amongst themselves while the bottom two tiers competed for a separate cup, Brasenose 1st XV, among the leading lights of College rugby, and Brasenose 2nd XV, equally dominant that year in the lower echelons, were the two victorious teams.

We began this Michaelmas languishing in the bottom of five divisions. Only one game last season came close to honouring Webb Ellis and all those who followed him: oddly, it was a game we lost, in the first round of Cuppers, to a much-hyped and highly-rated Magdalen. Our strongest team took the field, complete with Blues prop, Olly Tomascyk, and, on a blustery day on the Marston Road, we were one point and a few minutes away from a most unlikely victory. The game was most important not only because we showed the tenacity, verve and passion which for most of the rest of the season deserted us, but because it revealed our potential: when we got motoring, as we did against Magdalen, we were a hard side to score past



and a hard side to keep out. Our participation in the Cuppers plate, a competition for those knocked out of the main Cuppers draw, was hindered by the loss of many key players to the Oxford University Rugby League side, but we can take solace in the fact that the eventual winners, Oriel, were our conquerors in the quarter-final. The less said about the league seasons, of which there are two in any one academic year, the better: poor turnout and poor performances meant that we did not escape the lowest reaches of College Rugby.

William turned furiously enough in his grave, however, and I have been blessed this season to captain a side with a wealth of fresher talent. We have gone from a College which struggles to make up numbers to one which takes five substitutes to every fixture. Brasenose 1st XV now boasts a powerful and mobile forward unit, a well-organised backline, and some real pace throughout. Some freshers of note deserve mention, and they include James Wain, whose line-out ability has earned him the nickname 'The Salmon', Greg Coates, a tireless and powerful back-rower, Richard 'Tricky' Wilson, our creative outside-half, Hee-Won Cho, a totally committed and very skilful centre who has become the first name on his captain's every team-sheet, Ben Calverley, a creator with a great step and a fine pass, and James Allen, whose pace, anticipation and handling ability make him an excellent full-back. The likes of Jamie Randall, Rory O'Neill, Thomas Wales and Marco Francescon make a strong squad an excellent one, and as I write we have secured promotion from the bottom division without having conceded a single point, with high hopes to do the same next term from the fourth and to spring some surprises in Cuppers. The commitment of the BNCRFC veterans has rubbed off on the new faces, and we are now a determined, close-knit squad looking to return the College to where it belongs on the rugby front. Young William would have been proud!



NETBALL

Matilda Ruffle (2006)

Brasenose Netball Team has had a *fantastic* year. From being a team proud of their social events, we have grown into an unbeatable netball dream team!

This started with the return of old netball legends from their linguistic years abroad, as well as with the initiation of many a bright-eyed and eager fresher enticed by the pink vodka jellies being given away at the netball store in the BNC Freshers' Fair. This well thought-out 'vodka jelly' strategy by the new captain and co meant that the team acquired a whole new team set-up with goal-shooting and defending talent much superior than before; we had our star shooters, Emma 'goal-girl' Attwood and Serena 'never misses' Cooke, backed by Gina 'leaping gazelle in the' Hood. In defence we had the re-appearance of Tessa 'the nimble one' Brisbane, Becca 'the provider of chocolate' Dyar, Lily 'the ever cheery' Shepherd and Becca 'the vicious' Craig. We were also aided by the star appearances of India Pumphrey, Jenny Foreman, Lizzie Szanto, Gaby Bishop, Hayley McDaid and Olivia Christie, who all did much to contribute to the fiery team spirit.

With every great team comes a motto which uplifts the team spirits and focuses them on the game strategy at hand. Ours was 'Man up!', and unsurprisingly derives from one of the netball socials at which, when one member of the team was struggling to eat a huge and very alcoholic (I should know, I made it) vodka jelly for her initiation, without hands of course, the poshest team member piped up, 'Man up, f*****!' to the rest of the team's great surprise. This motto has carried us from strength to strength reminding us that winning is everything and that netball is most certainly a contact sport. Indeed the amount of times I have overheard mumblings from the other team at half-time about 'that violent GA' and 'that scary GD', are countless. I would hasten to add however that we are not all violent: Becca Dyar always seems more chirpy when the post-match goodies come out, and the theme for our over-crowded netball cocktails *was* polka dots and stripes.

However our competitive nature has definitely had a positive effect on our scoreboard. Competition within the team is also encouraged with the ongoing Player of the Match competition, the top prize being a netball cake and runners-up a bag of chocolate coins (as well as pride). The effort put in by the players was 110%. This unbending ambition and talent in turn led to an undefeated Michaelmas term after which we were quickly promoted to the second division for Hilary.

Most success stories would end there, however the new BNC dream team's ambitions were not yet quenched. Second was just not good enough. Hence we played harder, better, faster, stronger netball than we had ever played before, and after an exciting Hilary term we managed again to be promoted, and this time to the first division!



With the excitement of playing at a more challenging level, the anticipation at getting some more netball stash (hopefully not lycra as some members have voted), and with the dawn of a new captaincy (Becca Craig) and no doubt a more militant regime, the team is expecting to go from strength to strength to fulfil its desire to win and again to be the most successful Brasenose team.



ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Hugo Grimmett (2007)

They say that football is a sport for gentlemen played by ruffians, and that rugby is a sport for ruffians played by gentlemen. I know little of this, but I can tell you that 'ultimate frisbee' is a sport for gentlemen played by gentlemen.

Allow me to set up the pitch: one-hundred-and-ten by thirty-seven metres, approximately the same length as a football pitch, with a twenty-three metre deep end-zone at each end spanning the entire width. Seven players from each team start at their respective end-zones, each with the aim of catching the 'disc' ('Frisbee' is a brand name) in the opposition's end-zone, thus scoring a point. One team (the winner of the previous point) starts with the 'pull'. This involves a powerful throw of the disc ideally causing it to hover above the other end of the pitch, allowing the rest of the team to sprint after it and begin energetic, quick and aggressive play.

The spirit of the game is a crucial aspect of the mentality and conduct of the ultimate player. Ultimate is different from every other sport in that there is no referee; it is up to each and every player to govern their own actions and personally to maintain decency throughout play. When fouls are called, play is interrupted and will only resume when an agreement has been reached. The players immediately involved will discuss the issue, and if there is still no resolution, nearby observers may offer opinions. A player knowingly at fault will always concede and give the opposition the advantage. Thus, civility reigns on the ultimate pitch.

Although the bare-essential rules of the game can be explained in but a few minutes, it takes a very long time to fully grasp the tactics employed. This all starts with attempting to decode the plethora of lingo applied; words such as, 'Stack!', 'Dump!', and 'Huck!' appear commonplace, invariably accompanied by exclamation marks.

Every term at Oxford, Oxford University Ultimate (OW) hosts several tournaments: a beginners' tournament in Michaelmas, Spring League in Hilary, and Cuppers in Trinity. Last year Brasenose entered a strong team in Cuppers, coming third of approximately twenty teams. Only a few of these experienced players participated this year, resulting in a largely novice squad of fourteen players.

The Brasenose team can be found every Sunday afternoon at the University Parks, practising forehand, backhand and hammer throws, tactics and pre-planned game situations. Many underestimate the extreme level of fitness required on the ultimate pitch, picturing instead the pleasant afternoon activity of standing in a circle and passing the disc to one another. However, this is not so! A seasoned player is capable of prolonged bursts of intense sprinting, quickly losing his or her defender in a cloud of dust. That said, anyone and everyone is welcome to join the team, regardless of fitness level.



Having started this team from scratch during Hilary term, Brasenose was predicted to be at a severe disadvantage when playing colleges with established teams. However, we trained hard and put up a great fight against teams accustomed to winning the aforementioned tournaments, turning many experienced heads and attracting strong praise. In addition to this, we have gained the reputation of being brilliantly spirited and convivial. It is common for teams worldwide to compete in tournaments in comedic attire, and so this year Brasenose played in Cuppers dressed in evening-wear. It was a little wet for waistcoats: Cuppers this year was very nearly rained off, as the grounds we were playing on could have been mistaken for somewhere deep under the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, while we were giving another team a thrashing, one of our players temporarily lost control of his kneecap, resulting in a healthy combination of paramedics, laughing gas and x-rays. One might think that this would put someone off ultimate for life, but legend has it that he was seen practising his throws no fewer than three weeks afterwards.



MBA TOURNAMENT

Mariah Hartman (2007)

The MBATs (MBA Tournament) is an annual three day sporting competition for international MBA schools held in Paris. For this year's MBATs Oxford's own Said Business School brought the largest team ever as over 160 Oxonions descended on HEC in Paris to face the 18 other MBA programs in a weekend of sport and fun. This team included three BNC students, Mariah Hartman, Whitney Shaffer, and Vicky Dhir. Our team earned both respect and new friends as we were well regarded as competitive but very fair and friendly. The weekend included some surprising wins: on the first day our novice Petanque team took on the French, Spanish, and Italians and emerged triumphant, and the final day ended in a glorious match between our tough-as-nails rugby team, whose speed and strength were too much for London Business School. We finished fourth overall but were a mere two points behind third place and more importantly everyone had a great time!

1 st place	Men's Rugby
1 st place	Petanque (before MBATs no one knew how to play, but we clearly excel at sports you can play while drinking cocktails)
1 st place	Sailing
1 st place	Squash
1 st place	Poker
2 nd place	Rowing (by just 1 second!)
2 nd place	Badminton
2 nd place	Duathlon relay
2 nd place	Ultimate Frisbee
3 rd place	Basketball
3 rd place	Swimming (lots of individual wins)
3 rd place	Track & Field (with many from among the team placed 1 st and 2 nd in individual events)
3 rd place	Cricket
3 rd place	Tai Kwan Do



Travel



LASALLIAN DEVELOPING WORLD PROJECTS: GHANA 2008

Matthew Smith (2007)



I have recently returned from a NGO humanitarian project in the north of Ghana, helped by the sizable donation I received from BNC prior to the five week trip this summer. I would like to thank BNC for the donation, without which we would not have been able to help people help themselves.

The Ghana project centred around the construction of three school classrooms, and a small office block with adjoining storeroom in an isolated village in the north of Ghana. The charity I am a member of, Lasallian Developing World Projects, has been going to numerous countries throughout Africa and Asia for the last 24 years, helping with the educational needs of some of the poorest nations and peoples.

This year's project was a complete success. The construction will take three years' worth of projects, one every summer, and this summer has seen the completion of phase two of three. By the end of the five weeks, the local skilled builders and the 12 British volunteers had built from the foundations, which were laid last year, up to the trusses. Some days were a real struggle; working in 40 degrees meant heat and sun stroke for some of us! But it was great to see the community get together as well as the forming of new – and hopefully long-lasting – relationships between the Ghanaians and ourselves.



The projects are of extreme importance. Not only do they provide an immediate form of help in the physical construction, but they encourage teachers to move into rural areas, where the projects take place, which is a big hurdle facing rural communities in developing countries today. Moreover, the provision of education in rural regions helps to erode away the 'pull' factor of the bright-light syndrome of cities, a cause of slums in urban agglomerations.



The weekends were free time, so we took the opportunity to visit a sacred hill nearby, and a national park in the North of Ghana. It was interesting to discover that there exists a north-south divide in Ghana in terms of production, resource availability and wealth; this means that the drop-out rate in the north of Ghana between free primary school to fee-paying secondary school is 80% – an astonishing and awful figure.

With the continued work of charities, governments, and businesses this can change. Ghana appears to be a symbol of African stability and hope, and its movement from having a national poverty rate of 60% a decade ago to around 35% today is extremely encouraging. Let's hope for an even better next ten years.



THE HISTORIC ORGANS OF SAXONY AND THURINGIA, GERMANY

Mark Martinez (2004) and Nicholas Prozzillo (2001)



Between the 27 and 31 March 2008, we joined students of the Royal College of Music in hearing and playing many historic organs in Saxony and Thuringia, Germany. Co-ordinated by Nicholas with an itinerary put together by Martin Stroh acker (Professor of Organ at the Dresden *Hochschule*), the visit allowed us to play some fascinating instruments: the Trost organ in

Altenburg's *Schlosskirche* (an organ which J. S. Bach inspected and, indeed, praised), and the Silbermann instruments in the Freiberg *Dom* and Dresden's *Kathedrale* provided wonderful opportunities to explore the tonal palettes of a very diverse central German organ tradition. The Baroque organs encountered during our five-day visit allowed everyone to think critically about Bach performance practice and even challenge some aspects of scholarship.

Hearing early music performed on original instruments was a feature of the 'Authenticity' movement, yet, until recently, J. S. Bach's organ music was explicitly linked with an organ school that was at variance with the 'authentic' organ sounds of his native Thuringia and Saxony. The North German organ tradition has been a dominant force, providing inspiration (both



in Britain and abroad) for the performances of Bach's works. The Iron Curtain ensured that Bach's music fell under the shadow of the northern German tradition and the sounds of the restored North German organs became readily associated with the 'Baroque' organ and the music of J. S. Bach. Within the debris of the Berlin Wall now lie many facets of old Bach scholarship, providing greater opportunities to reassess the significance of the organs of Thuringia and Saxony, Bach's homeland. There is no ideal Bach organ, but the visit provided an introduction to a sound world that provided inspiration for one of the greatest composers to write for the organ. The places that we visited were all in the former Soviet territory and thus we



were able to benefit in a way which was very difficult for the previous generation of organ students.

Not only did the trip involve Baroque organs: we were able to play several nineteenth-century instruments, including the Ladegast organ in Merseburg. Liszt wrote his *Fantasia and Fugue on BACH* for the Merseburg instrument, and during our visit the connection was emphasised by two energetic performances of this work! A visit to a small organ by the same builder in Polditz was marked by an enthusiastic reception from the local parishioners (which included lunch) and a short TV interview!



We were also able to visit the places where Bach worked in Leipzig, the *Thomaskirche*, and the *Nicolaikirche*, and admire the breathtaking restoration of the *Frauenkirche* in Dresden. But, of course, it was an organ study trip, and there were many organs to be played and heard. The trip managed to fit twelve organs, of varying styles, into five days. If the towns and cities provided a feast for the eyes, the organs certainly provided not just a feast for the ears, but also for the hands and feet!

All in all this was a wonderful opportunity to experience organs that we would not otherwise have heard (in the flesh), let alone played.

The study trip was both very informative and enjoyable and we wish again to thank wholeheartedly Professor Roger Cashmore, Dr Andrew Stockley, and Dr John Knowland for the grant that helped pay for the trip.



NIGER: TRAVELAID 2008

Ingo Wey (2007)



In August 2008 I undertook a project as part of the Oxford based charity TravelAid. The idea is that a group of Oxford students fundraise for a certain cause and travel to the country to carry out volunteering work. The trip in August was thus the culmination of months of fundraising and planning to go to Niger, where we as a group of five taught English at a local secondary school and a centre for street children. I took part in the third year of the project, building upon the relationships established in the previous years.

Niger is one of the larger countries in West Africa. It was a French colony until 1960 and under military rule until 1991. Over 80% of the country is covered by the Sahara desert and the country depends on agriculture and uranium, the world demand for which has recently slumped. At the time I was travelling to Niger there was a travel warning due to Tuareg tribe rebels fighting for greater representation and influence in the government. The country is, according to the UN's HDI index, the third poorest country in the world. The average life expectancy is 44 years and literacy rates stand at 29%.

We set off to Niger at the end of July, taking a long journey through Madrid and Casablanca, and then onto Niamey, Niger. Unfortunately, the flight was delayed in Casablanca by 48 hours because of an airport strike in Niamey, thus giving us an opportunity to explore Morocco. During this short stay we visited the Hassan



It mosque, said to be the second largest mosque in the world. There was no shying away from its vastness which impressed us greatly.

Our concerns about when we would actually get into Niger were extinguished after the second day and we got into Niamey in the early hours of 31 July. The first few days were spent simply acclimatizing to the extremely hot weather, new environment and culture. It could not have been a more different urban environment than my own home. My first impressions of the capital were that the buildings were all very low and sandy apart from the expensive hotels and government houses, whilst only the main roads were tarmac. It was surprising and upsetting to see so many homeless and street children, many of them asking for 'cadeau'. Despite this, the sights were both exciting and interesting; for example, the markets were bustling and colourful. It was intriguing to see the amount of business that happened on the streets, as well as how friendly and welcoming the people were. It took a bit of time to get used to the place as we had to work out everything from how to bargain at the markets to finding internet that took less than 15 minutes to load a page. During this period we also met with many charity representatives to organise our programme of work.

Our work commenced on the first Tuesday of our stay. It was split into two parts as follows: five mornings a week we taught English at a secondary school called CEG12 for three hours and three afternoons a week we taught English at the Foyer Tonton Gilles, a centre for street children. CEG12 was considered to be a slightly better run state school in the area. We divided classes by levels of English and covered and revised many practical topics, as well as teaching grammar. Due to the lack of resources, such as textbooks, we had to plan in advance and use our own materials. Despite the poor state of classrooms which included blackboards which were very hard to write on, as well as the huge range of ability, it was still an extremely rewarding experience. The students were on the whole keen and appreciative and I believe benefited from teaching by native speakers, something which they had never had. On top of this many games and songs were taught, to the delight of (most!) of the students.

The second half of our voluntary work took place at the Foyer Tonton Gilles. How the place came about is in fact very noteworthy and explains the importance and significance of the work there. Gilles Akakpo, the founder of the Foyer, was 13 when he left home after a domestic dispute. In Togo he met a priest and asked for work so that he could earn money and go back to school, a remarkable resolve for a teenager of his age. He refused simple comforts and did not want to go home. He worked in the cemetery for a while, and this was when he got to know many street children.

When this priest wanted to send him back home Gilles refused and left again. This time he found another bishop who sent Gilles to school. With the mentality of someone educated he told his friends on the streets about the wrongs of theft

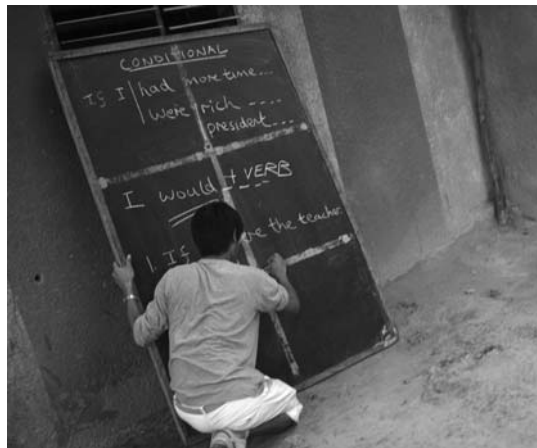


and violence. With this he developed a motivation to help street children, despite only being 15. The bishop and Gilles worked together to educate and feed street children for four years.

One day his name was seen in a local newspaper by his younger brother, because he had won a poetry competition. This led to the emotional reunion of Gilles and his mother. The rest of the family, however, did not see him as part of the family anymore and he returned to the bishop. This painful phase in his life was followed by another when the bishop, unknown to Gilles, returned to his homeland in France to spend his final days alive. Upon finding out the truth, he vowed to keep his promise made to the bishop before his death, which was to help street children. With this in mind he renounced a normal life of money, family and children and committed himself to this cause.

The background to his life links directly to the existence of a Foyer Tonton Gilles, a centre for street children. This is a place where he houses street children, but the mission goes much further. On top of feeding and clothing these children, they are also taught discipline and respect and their self dignity is thus promoted. In practical terms, there are strict rules which they must abide by, such as no drugs, swearing, or fighting, and they must wear clean and neat clothing. When Gilles feels the children are ready, he sends them onto apprenticeships. Those that go into education he makes sure are privately educated as he believes state education is inadequate and a private one gives the student greater pride. What is most incredible is that Gilles works three jobs purely to support his Foyer and its work.

The TravelAid group taught English there three afternoons a week. It carried a more informal atmosphere and focused more on spoken English. Again, the challenge was the fact that there were many different levels of English, but I feel progress was made. It was important also to simply make the



students enthusiastic about learning and about foreign languages. The money we raised will go towards Gilles's plan to build a library and classroom for the centre, and he would then be able to teach the children himself. His ultimate dream, as he explained, was to own a large house to give each of the children their own room. They would be able to live in it as they want to and move out if they wish, but always have the house as a base or 'family' home. Some money will also go towards the



school in order to improve facilities and teaching resources.

Outside our work we used the weekends to explore the capital as well as the surrounding area. Due to travel warnings we were unable to visit other towns and cities. Within Niamey there was the Musée Nationale, the Zoo and the Grande mosque. However, the highlight of the touristic side of the trip was seeing the last remaining wild herd of giraffes in Kouré. The tour guide found us a small pack of giraffes and we observed them for a while. They were very peaceful and timid creatures so we were not able to get very close. However, it was a beautiful sight and very satisfying to see them away from the bars of a zoo. After many photos we headed back into the capital, only to be encumbered by a flat tyre. It was not a simple case of replacing it with the spare tyre as that was flat as well, so what ensued was a six hour road side disablement, whilst Gilles tried to find a new tyre. It was an adventure to round off the day.

The other highlight was taking a trip down River Niger on a rickety and weather beaten pirogue. The greener landscape around the river contrasted to the sandy colours of the city and the river was very tranquil. It was fascinating to see people fishing, washing in the river and cleaning clothes on rocks as we went down the river. Moreover, just as swans can be found in ponds in English parks, we caught sight of hippos swimming in the river.

The trip could not have been possible without the support and training from TravelAid, as well as the host charities in Niger. Furthermore, I am grateful for the support from Brasenose College, as well as the JCR charity committee's donation. The best aspect of my stay in Niger was being able to work with the local students and communities through the charities and schools. This meant that we were not simply tourists but had an inside view of the country, one which is vibrant and colourful.



PICOS DE EUROPA MOUNTAINS, SPAIN

Lorna Wilson (2006)

This summer I spent just over two weeks in the Picos de Europa mountain range in northern Spain as part of the Oxford University Cave Club (OUCC) expedition. The College generously supported my participation with money from the Michael Woods Fund for which I am most grateful. The aim of the expedition was to explore Fisura Chica ('Chicago'), a cave discovered in 2003 by OUCC. The end of the 2007 expedition left Chicago explored to a depth of over 650m with no signs of stopping and the 2008 expedition was to continue the exploration.

I have done a lot of caving in known caves in the UK but this was my first experience of cave exploration and I was not sure what to expect. Cave exploration is something quite different to sport caving. It is not about repeating others' work, but something much more exhilarating, being the first team to discover something as of yet entirely unknown to humanity. I was excited and couldn't wait to get underground. But unfortunately I had to.

Having travelled into the mountains as far as roads would take us we spent the first night sleeping in the car park bus shelter. The next thing to do was set up camp. This was to be a three-hour walk up the mountain in the beautiful Ario basin and Chicago was a further hour's walk from camp. So we spent the next few days carrying tents, cookers, food and caving equipment up the hill. Caving is hard work and the amount of food we got through reflected this. Over the next few weeks I was to spend as much time carrying food up to camp as I would caving!

Chicago is a very vertical cave so we had to rig it with ropes. We then abseiled into the cave and prusiked (a sit-stand method of climbing up the rope while attached to two ascenders that grip the rope) out again. For our first trip underground I was to rig the first three pitches *Déjà Vu* (10m), *Adrenaline* (26m) and *Don't Stop!* (45m). Rigging is a lot more complicated than it sounds. You have to ensure your rope is sufficiently backed up in case one point of attachment fails and that it does not rub on any rocks likely to cause fraying over the course of an expedition. This requires putting in re-belays (where the rope is re-attached to the rock part way down a pitch) and deviations (passing the rope through a karabiner pulling it away from its natural vertical hang). Having successfully rigged the first two pitches I was struck by the magnitude of the cave. I sat on the ledge at the top of *Don't Stop!* feeling incredibly small. Looking up and down I could not see the top or bottom of the shaft. Clearing loose rocks from the ledge I listened as they fell with a wooshing noise and a distant 'thud'. It was a long way down. The way on was described as a window in the side of the shaft 45m down *Don't Stop!* I began to descend but soon realised I would struggle to find it as I had no idea which side the window was even on. So I decided to stop and began what felt like a long ascent. Little did I know



that soon those three pitches would feel like I was effectively out the cave at the end of the 12-15 hour trips deep into the ground.

About a week into the expedition the cave was rigged to the limit of exploration. Two fellow cavers, Gavin and Paul, went to the bottom and pushed the final pitch from last year; no way on was found. This was a bit of a blow to us as we had hoped it would go a lot further requiring us to camp underground in order to explore. As it was we had to begin to de-rig carrying out the camping gear that we had carried in and pulling out all the rope.

On one occasion I was carrying out two bulky tackle sacks full of camping equipment attached to my harness by a short rope. Climbing up through a very tight section I had one ascender attached to the rope to stop me being pulled down but the extra weight on my harness was really making things difficult. In a moment of brilliance I hooked the sacks around a rock above my head and continued my ascent. I passed the sacks and in a moment of stupidity continued upwards. The rope on the tackle sacks pulled tight and I could not go up. My ascender was on the rope, wedged between me and the rock and I could not go down. I was in the narrowest part of this climb and I could not move sideways or turn my head. I was stuck. I still have no idea how I got unstuck. I do know it took a long time, involved a lot of shouting at the tackle sacks and I was totally exhausted when I finally got free.

The silver lining to reaching the bottom of Chicago is that we could begin looking for a new cave for next year's expedition. This involved walking off path over the mountains where I saw beautiful flowers and lots of wild animals (including snakes!). Then we would look for new entrances and someone would descend them to see if they continued much further. In almost all cases the caves were not more than 50m. It is still an amazing feeling being the first person ever to enter a cave and knowing that nobody else is likely to bother again. In one cave I reached the end of the rope, continued cautiously along a flat passage, and rounded a corner to see what I can only describe as an ice grotto, a stunning chamber full of stalactites, stalagmites and columns stretching over 3m all made of ice. It was unreal. It is strange to think that it will probably not be seen again as the cave has been recorded as a dead end.

On the way home I spent a night in a hostel in Oviedo with friends, Rachel and Fumie. After over two weeks of washing in a cattle trough and sleeping in a tent the hot running water and proper bed made it feel like a five-star hotel. It was an excellent way to end an exhausting but fantastic trip.



CENTRAL AMERICA

Caitlin Page (2007)

Thanks to the Holroyd, Colliou, Stelling, Hall Memorial Travel Grant, I was able to travel round Central America for five weeks this summer, making the exhausting but highly enjoyable and memorable journey from Mexico City to San Jose, Costa Rica. Central America is often associated either with ancient ruins or with the hordes of misbehaving American tourists that allegedly populate Cancun, Mexico, yet there is so much more to this spectacular area. In Mexico, the European architecture of the colonial cities is juxtaposed with the indigenous Mayan population, which still retains its traditional dress and way of life, albeit now staunchly devoted to the Catholic religion. A prime example of such a city is that of San Cristobal, nestled in the Mexican hills, complete with colonial churches and town square, and with the ubiquitous market, so large and labyrinthine that it is guaranteed to entrap any unsuspecting tourist. Further instances of the former presence of colonialism are still prevalent around Mexico, such as the *haciendas* in the Yucatan peninsula, no longer dominated by the local *encomenderos*, but now either abandoned and dilapidated or converted into luxury hotels. The fabled ruins of Mexico are indeed every bit as spectacular as rumour suggests, in particular the temple complex in the jungles of Palenque, and any tourist willing to undertake the sweaty challenge is at liberty to climb to the top of the highest temple, see the ancient Mayan stone carvings and survey the stunning complex as a whole.

Nevertheless, it is Mexico's natural landscape that is the country's most impressive feature, as is manifest in the Sumidero Canyon, one kilometre in depth and whose banks are lined with basking crocodiles, or the *cenotes* in the Yucatan peninsula, deep and naturally occurring jungle swimming holes, fifteen metres underground, the walls draped with vines and filled with crystal clear water. The Pacific Coast of Mexico, furthermore, is a haven for surfing, at which we tried our hand, with rather little to show for it other than severe sunburn. No visit to Mexico, however, is complete without a trip to the infamous Cancun, renowned for providing underage tourists with a ready avenue for premature liver failure, which led to a visit to a local karaoke bar that would perhaps be better off forgotten.

It was the second leg of the trip, that from Antigua, Guatemala to San Jose, Costa Rica that felt more authentically Central America. No longer could we luxuriate in air-conditioned coaches, for we travelled instead in the notorious 'chicken buses', which are essentially retired US school buses crammed with so many passengers that they can be seen hurtling down the mountain paths with locals clinging on to the roof and hanging out of the door. From the beautiful colonial city of Antigua in the hills of Guatemala we travelled to the Bay Island of Utila, off the Caribbean coast of Honduras, where the Caribbean essence was tangible and the pace of life almost at a standstill. The island is famed for some of the best snorkelling and diving in



the world, and the many surrounding deserted islands, temptingly available to rent for a mere \$80 per night. On the island we indulged in the traditional traveller's moped ride in order to see the island, yet the element of danger usually associated with such pursuits was all but eliminated given that the electric scooter was unable to exceed speeds of 30 km/h.



Our next major stop was the colonial city of Granada in Nicaragua, a country where transport by horse and cart is still prevalent and there roams a very sizeable population of stray dogs. Nicaragua is a far cry from the relative advancement of Mexico or Costa Rica, and perhaps the most interesting of the countries we visited. From

Granada we visited the nearby Masaya Volcano, formerly the site of Mayan human sacrifice, where evangelising Catholics placed a cross at the so-called 'Mouth of Hell'. Since the crater emits a lung-scalding amount of sulphur, one is compelled to sport a rather fetching gas mask in order to look into the inferno of the crater. The volcanic theme of our time in Nicaragua was perpetuated by our next stop in Ometepe, an island formed of two volcanoes, situated in the middle of Lake Nicaragua. Here we completed the gruelling and intense four-hour hike and climb that brought us to the top of Volcano Madeiras, lured on by the prospect of a 'lagoon' at the top, which, alas, proved to be essentially a mud pool, somewhat less alluring than anticipated, and thus we commenced the heel-shredding descent, greeted at the bottom by the reward of local Nicaraguan gold rum.

From the simplicity of Ometepe, we progressed to the relative comfort of Costa Rica, where perhaps the highlight was zip-lining 400 metres over the rainforest canopy, complete with a whiplash-inducing 'Tarzan Swing'. The scenery is fantastically verdant in Costa Rica, and a hike saw us at the bottom of a cascading waterfall, where there was an opportunity to swim in its refreshing yet tumultuous pool. A trip white water rafting ought to have offered the opportunity to marvel further at the natural landscape, yet one is rather too preoccupied trying to prevent the overturning of the boat into the furious rapids. Fortunately the crew of our disconcertingly flimsy rubber boat, complete with a 65-year-old who had allegedly drowned two years earlier engaged in the same pursuit in the Zambezi River and now wanted 'closure' on that experience, escaped unscathed. It was from here that we travelled on to San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, and reluctantly home.



NEPAL

Rachael Burke (2006)

After a damp and drizzly August at home in Ireland, I was definitely ready to spend September in sunny India and Nepal. Two year ago I had spent three months in India, teaching English to slum kids and observing affordable healthcare clinics for Delhi's poorest citizens. On that visit I had a taster of the Himalayan foothills, but had regretted being too early in the season to visit the real Himalayas. This time I was looking forward to working again in Delhi and to seeing old friends and colleagues. I was especially excited about the opportunity to visit Nepal, and see this stunning mountain kingdom that I had heard so much about from my grandparents and friends.

After three weeks working in Delhi, I boarded a plane to Kathmandu. As good luck would have it, we had a perfectly clear day for our flight, and walking off the plane I was greeted by the amazing sight of mountains rising all around the Kathmandu valley. Although I was later to find out that these were merely baby hills in comparison to the 'proper' mountains, I was immediately glad to be visiting.

Nepal is a place of many contrasts. We stayed for a few days in the ultra-touristy Thamel area of Kathmandu, where steak-and-chips were abundant and Cadbury's chocolate for sale in all the mini-markets. Yet, an hour of mountain biking up the valley brought me to little villages where friendly Nepalis would nod 'namaste' whilst washing clothes in the river. Sixteen kilometers from the Tibet border I went white water rafting: a high-octane adventure, shooting fast through tumultuous waters with the Himalayas rising on either side. But a few days later I was staying in a laid-back village off the tourist trail, where nothing at all happened quickly ('ah well, maybe the bus will come tomorrow' was one memorable line).

One thing that never changed was the scenery, although perhaps one could count the clouds obscuring the horizon every morning as a contrast. The views were incredible. Whilst paragliding over Pokhara I saw the lake sprawled underneath me, whilst in front the Annapurna range of snowcapped mountains framed the horizon. And over the small town of Tansen, home of a mission hospital I was visiting, and plagued by nightly powercuts, were the most incredible stars I have ever seen.

My ten days in Nepal were incredibly memorable. I experienced a fantastic mix of culture, adventure, scenery and friendly people. Thank you to Brasenose College and the Michael Woods travel grant for making my trip possible.



EASTERN EUROPE

Sam Sims (2007)

My journey began in Tallinn in Estonia where there was no short supply of fellow hostellers up for enjoying the nightlife. I moved on fairly quickly after exploring the old parts of the town. Slightly over-anxious about moving on fast enough I sped through Latvia and Lithuania down on to Slovakia.

Bratislava was the first place where I really experienced Soviet architecture. The concrete square I trekked through in the evening to get to the hostel was stereotypically grim and the university halls I stayed in were soul-destroyingly functionalist. The highlight of the city was the club set deep underground, directly below the Slovak parliament building, that played proper continental techno until six in the morning.

Next, it was on to Slovenia, a nation which exceeded all my expectations. Slovenia is small, and proud to be so; successive taxi drivers made a point of ensuring I never forgot there were only two million people in their country. The most northerly of the ex-Yugoslav states, Slovenia shares a border with Italy and the countryside has a lush alpine look more similar to Switzerland than its dusty southern siblings. The capital, Ljubljana, which occupies the banks of the river Ljubljanica, is truly stunning. Street cafes abound although a drinking competition with some Hungarians meant I didn't get too far. From here I continued to Lake Bled where I swam to avoid the heat and then spent the night shivering in my tent (£6 from Tesco Bratislava) as the temperatures plummeted.

From Slovenia I continued to Serbia. The train journey into Belgrade was easily the most shocking experience of the trip. For about twenty minutes the only thing visible from the train window was what can only be described as a shanty town. Everything was dry and dusty and I saw more stray dogs than people. The air in Belgrade was equally hot and dry. I found a pleasant hostel room which seemed, from the NSync posters on the walls, to be an out of term boarding school. Belgrade castle is an oasis of green amongst the grimy city streets and looks out over the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. After spending some time watching some 'ethnic' music being performed in the grounds I ventured out with some fellow hostellers to a floating nightclub. On my second evening wandering out of the hostel I was called into the courtyard by some locals having a barbeque. They seemed to be on-duty security guards who insisted on sharing their absolutely divine grilled chicken and onion before taking pictures of me holding their handguns! They spent the evening singing what were clearly nationalistic songs. Later on I would discover that the t-shirt they dressed me in associated them with some fairly unsavoury political views, but nevertheless they were some of the nicest people I had ever met. I was stunned by the hospitality of the ex-Yugoslav people in general even though there



were such clear signs of tension between the people themselves.

From Serbia I travelled to Croatia. I spent two nights camping in Zadar and then got the bus up to Petracane where I met some friends from England for Outlook festival. The festival was amazing. Better music, cheaper beer, and a lot less mud than any English equivalent! After a couple of days' recovery I continued down the coast to Split. The views of the Croatian islands on the way down the coast were breathtaking but images of abandoned cities riddled with bullet holes only a decade old were equally sobering. Initially set up as a holiday home/city state by the Roman emperor Diocletian, the palace where I stayed had slowly become inhabited by the locals. Having spent the rest of the holiday holed up in tents and hostels, getting a proper apartment in the walls of a palace seemed quite a step up! From here I sailed on the Croatian national Jadrolinija ferries to the island of Brac and spent a couple of days snorkelling on the picturesque beaches of Bol.

From here it was down through Dubrovnic and onto my final destination in Greece.

I would like to thank Brasenose and the Michael Woods grant for helping me cover the costs of such an incredible trip.



Articles



WHY HAVE A CHAPLAIN?

The Rev'd Graeme Richardson, Chaplain

Asked to write on this subject for our illustrious Nose, my chief concerns are those great Oxford causes of argument and reader-interest; for the sake of both, therefore, let me begin by giving you some unfair caricatures.

The post of college chaplain in Oxford or Cambridge today will, if advertised, bring applications from a wide variety of priests in the Church of England. They fall into three discernible categories.

First we have the would-be academics. The church always over-educates its servants then sends them out to illiterate parishes. The ideal escape is back to the old university: there I can treasure my classical languages, show off my nuclear physics, publish my avant-garde poetry, and hang out with others of similar intellectual attainment. No more Sunday School songs with actions; no more poems by eight-year-olds about 'Granddad's Hairy Feet' to read out in the crematorium; no more old dears telling you about their hip-replacements over a cup of tea and a slice of Battenberg. Being a college chaplain is seen (though never acknowledged) as a rat-run away from the C of E's sinking ship and onto the desert island of good old Oxbridge.

The second category involves the ambitious – the schemers in church politics. Not put off by the example of the late Gareth Bennett of New College, those who wish to get political about the Church still see Oxbridge as the place to go: after all, the movers and shakers of today were the chaplains of yesterday. Who are the best-known Anglican controversialists? chaplains and former chaplains. Jeffrey John and Giles Fraser pop up with increasing frequency on the airwaves; occasionally we hear from Rowan Williams, former Dean of Clare in Cambridge; today's chaplains hope to follow them. And follow them with a cause. Whether it's women bishops or homosexual priests, for or against, you will find that clever and articulate advocates of the cause have sought to be Oxbridge chaplains.

The third category contains the would-be historical stereotypes. The Anglican Church of today is often unbearably decrepit to those who deeply love what it has been. And whatever form its death in the provinces takes, Oxford, the home of lost causes, is where the Church of our Fathers will take its last stand. And there, at the last barricade, the last little tweeded battalion, brandishing Prayer Book and bands, or monstrance and biretta, or (most naturally of all) a large gin-and- tonic, will go down fighting. In the parish, there are not enough foot-soldiers these days to make up a Sealed Knot for historical re-enactments – a service of Commination for example. But in Oxford – there we can dream!

So, given the collection of poseurs, pushers and pasticheurs who'll apply for the post of chaplain, why do we still have one?



Whether the atheist majority of Oxford fellows like it or not, Oxford is special not just for its research record and its academic achievements. It is special partly because it looks and sounds special; and it looks and sounds special because it was born at the high point of Western Christendom, and it has subsequently stayed true to its origins. Whatever one says about the Christian inheritance, it has left us with beautiful buildings, beautiful language, beautiful music and a beautiful conception of the common life. These are not negligible factors in the University's supposed world-class status: they are part of the attraction for students and staff. Working in a beautiful place should not be undervalued. My previous post was in a sprawling post-war housing estate next to the A1; it is difficult to walk across Radcliffe Square without being reminded of that. The difference, of course, between the last job and this is that in Hatfield Hyde the church was playing catch-up on the modern world. Here, it's the other way round. In Oxford, Christians were here first, and they still have something to contribute. Here's what:

Whether we like it or not, in this place of hyper-criticism and judgement, students will occasionally need someone to talk to who is neither critic nor judge. They need something like a 'pastor'. Now, obviously this person need not be Christian, or at all religious. The values they espouse – of generosity, openness, humility, patience and loving-kindness – these are values to be shared by any secular counsellor or therapist. But the idea that such a person will be 'free' of ideology of any sort is, it seems to me, a dream. The secular is not free of ideologies; those who work in any sort of counselling or social work are as defensive of their orthodoxies as any priest, sometimes more so. What you get with the Anglican priest of this generation is someone whose ideology is in tune with this place. His or her Christianity has been tried, tested, (hopefully) humbled and chastened by the rigours of history; and he or she has worked in a precisely analogous role in the parish, encountering fundamentalism and atheism in the same way, and offering pastoral care from a position of experienced tolerance. In preparation for this role, the Anglican minister will have been through a strenuous training process (almost designed to dissuade him or her from the calling!); the impossible task of being 'all things to all men' will have been made clear; and moreover he or she will have a sense of history and traditions which marries with the demands made by an historic and traditional University.

So this is my defence – known colloquially, I suppose, as 'Better the devil you know'. Some time in the future bookcases will line the chapel walls, and it will be a library extension, just as All Saints is now a library for Lincoln (with an organ at one end, as at Blenheim Palace). Someone will be employed under the title 'Chaplain' without having to run a chapel – just as the Bursar doesn't have to have an actual 'burse' – and they will offer pastoral support and counselling. There may be more successes and fewer failures under this new regime. But I for one will feel that something has been lost which is integral to the College. Hundreds of years of hard-won experienced tolerance will have been thrown out; and its place in the nest may well have been taken by a new and ideologically sharp-edged cuckoo.



THE QUATERCENTENARY OF BRASENOSE

Elizabeth Boardman, Archivist

Why is 2009 the Quincentenary of Brasenose? Chiefly because it was decided in 1909 (and probably in 1809) that the College was founded in 1509. There was a choice, however. The first mentions of the intended College are in wills and deeds of 1508, the College property was conveyed at various dates into the 1520s, the Charter creating the Governing Body was granted in 1512, and three sets of Statutes were made between 1512 and 1522. But over the door to Staircase I is a stone, a nineteenth century replacement of the earlier foundation stone originally laid by the Bishop of Lincoln (William Smyth, co-founder of the College) on 1 June 1509.

The celebration of corporate anniversaries is a comparatively modern phenomenon. There does not seem to have been a celebration of the Brasenose Centenary in 1609, and when the Bicentenary came along in 1709 the College had other matters on its corporate mind. The Principal was *non compos mentis* and, the Fellowship having been severely berated by the Visitor for trying to act alone, College business had ground to a halt.¹ One hundred years later, in 1809, the Governing Body was again preoccupied by matters Principalian. On 8 June they received news of the Principal's resignation, although as he had been Bishop successively of Chester, Bangor and St. Asaph, William Cleaver would not have been resident in College very much. His successor, Frodsham Hodson, was elected on 21 June. In 1909 *The Times* claimed that in 1809 Brasenose marked its Tercentenary by monopolizing the first classes in the Easter Term *Literae Humaniores* list.² However, it does seem that the event was formally celebrated, although probably by only one event. It was the practice to pay for a Gaudy (at that time a general term for a celebratory event) by levying a general charge on battels, and on 31 October 1809 the Governing Body resolved 'that the sum charged for the Jubilee be 7^s 6^d each'.³ The following week the Junior Bursar's accounts show this amount 'imposed' on each name. The total imposed on names that quarter was £30 7s 6d, but there is no indication as to whether this was the total spent on the celebration.⁴

In 1898 Herbert Hurst, an Oxford antiquary, was employed to calendar the College archives. Although his thirty-six volume catalogue was substantially completed by 1904, he was still working on the task in 1911. The rearrangement of the documents according to this catalogue was done by W. T. Coxhill, the Junior Clerk in the Bursary who was later to be Keeper of the archives; the work 'occupied 9 years of his spare time in vacations'.⁵ The commissioning of this catalogue was part of the marked interest in College history that developed in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The enthusiastic celebrations of the Quatercentenary have been described as the climax of this period of 'patriotic antiquarianism'.⁶ The *College Register* was revised, fourteen *Monographs* on the history of Brasenose were published and, of



course, several large meals were eaten.

On 13 June 1906 a committee was appointed 'to consider steps to be taken in reference to the Quatercentenary of the College in 1909'.⁷ The three members of the committee were C. B. Heberden (Principal), A. J. Butler (Bursar) and F. Madan. Falconer Madan was a Fellow of the College, Sub-Librarian of the Bodleian and University lecturer in palaeography. He had originally proposed himself to catalogue the College archives in 1883 and, presumably finding the task too great, it was he who recommended the appointment of Hurst. Described as 'one of the last scholar-librarians',⁸ it is not surprising that he and the rest of the committee decided that a 'Literary Work' should be undertaken, and preliminary expenditure of £25 was granted in December 1906.⁹ During the following year £15 14s 9d was spent on making transcripts and notes of published and manuscript sources outside the College, including the Public Record Office, the British Museum and the Bodleian.¹⁰ These notes are still extant in the Archives.

It is not clear exactly when the form of the *Brasenose Quatercentenary Monographs* was decided. In February 1908 the committee recommended that a series of illustrated monographs 'varying in length according to the subject, the available material and the time which can be given to them by the writers' should be prepared during 1908 and published in 1909.¹¹ This implies that the suggestion was new, but in fact work was already under way. Richard Lodge's work on *The College under the later Stuarts* (Monograph XII) must have been started the previous August, because the Bursar had provided him with a key to the Library. Lodge was a former Fellow who was now Professor of History at Edinburgh, so the key came with the terse injunction: 'Kindly let me have it back before you leave Oxford.'¹²

The committee also hoped to publish 'an annotated Calendar of all members of the College from its foundation, which has been in preparation for some years under the editorship of the Principal'.¹³ Madan had carried out extensive research in this area already, culminating in his publication, with W. E. Buckley, of *The Brasenose Calendar* in 1888. The Principal was building upon this work.

By the end of October 1908 seven of the *Monographs* were almost complete and the rest, with one exception, were in progress.¹⁴ The exception was that covering the eighteenth century, and by the time the authorship of that was settled the first volume was already published.¹⁵ On 11 November 1908 the Governing Body considered another report from the committee, and resolved on a fourfold celebration. The decision to complete New Quad by building Broadgates, Amsterdam and Staircase XII gave them the opportunity to lay a foundation stone on the exact anniversary of the original stone laying, 1 June, with a dinner for resident members on the same day. A Ball was to be held in Commemoration Week, and a celebratory dinner to take place in London. By January it had been decided to hold a luncheon for those attending the laying of the stone on 1 June, and to postpone the residents' dinner until 10 June.¹⁶





E.H. New's birds-eye view of the College

An announcement of the events was circulated to old members in February. The publications were announced, the *Monographs*, in two volumes at 10s 6d per volume, and the *Register*, in two volumes at £1 1s for the whole. Notice was included of 'a new pictorial plan, or bird's-eye view, of the College from the south, drawn by Mr. Edmund New.' This was priced at 12s 6d, to increase to 15s after 30 June.¹⁷ February also brought the final approval of the plans for the new building, and the Bursar was empowered to arrange for laying the foundations.¹⁸ During the excavations the remains of what appeared to be a wild boar were found 'at a considerable depth', and the bones and tusks were offered to the Professor of Comparative Anatomy for his department.¹⁹

The celebratory year was not beginning well for the Boat Club. The First Torpid slipped from fourth on the river to eighth after a series of misfortunes. Members of the crew were afflicted by boils, strained muscles, 'flu, bad colds and, in one case, the Doctor's being 'not quite sure of his heart'. The Secretary simply recorded



that ‘this was a most disastrous season’.²⁰ However, Shrove Tuesday brought an opportunity for celebration. The last brewhouse had been demolished to make way for Staircase IX in the 1880s, at which point the College ceased to brew its own beer and the Ale Verses ceased. It was decided to revive the custom, and the verses were ‘printed with the usual secrecy and distributed about the tables in Hall’.²¹

Meanwhile work on the *Monographs* was continuing. Authors received payments for their work, and decisions were made as to paper, binding and photographic processes. The Oxford Historical Society was granted ‘three hundred and twenty five copies at the price of 4s per volume’, and eventually these were produced as part of their series of publications. On 1 March the Bursar urged the Controller of the University Press to ‘push on the proofs as vacation is coming, & all these monographs are wanted in readiness for the ceremony on 1 June’. The deadline was met, with the Bursar acknowledging receipt of the volumes and thanking the Press a bare four days before the ceremony. The Bursar, himself one of the authors, acknowledged that the interest of the publication was limited: ‘I have no doubt that the work will be regarded as most successful and – at any rate by old Brasenose men – as most interesting’. The first volume was displayed in Lecture Room VII on the day, together with the first volume of the *Brasenose College Register*. The second volume of each was published within twelve months.²²

Those who wished to attend the luncheon on 1 June had been requested to notify the Bursar of their intent between the 1 and 15 May. But this request was made in February, and it seems that response was muted. One member noted that it was ‘difficult to make day engagements so long ahead’. Another notice was circulated saying that ‘old members of the College who desire to attend the Laying of the new Foundation Stone are urgently requested to inform the Bursar not later than May 22nd’. This brought a flood of replies and soon the event looked likely to be over subscribed. A considerable number of those accepting asked if they could bring their wives. At first there was no intention to admit ladies, ‘as it is feared that the pressure of members on our small space will make it difficult to provide room for any but members of the College’. But there was a change of mind, and of the six hundred admission tickets printed, one hundred were for ladies. A considerable number of letters requesting tickets were received at the last moment. Most apologized for the lateness, but some took it for granted that space would be available. Peremptory notes like ‘I should be much obliged if I could have a ticket for myself and party for 1 June’, received less than ten days before the event, must have caused the Bursar considerable aggravation. In turn he must have provoked some irritation himself at the University Church. He applied to the Vice Chancellor for permission to have the bells rung, and the reply, ‘by all means ... get hold of the Verger & say you have my instructions’, is dated 31 May.²³

The minutiae of planning the event fell to the Bursar, whose (handwritten) letter book includes arrangements for a photographer and for two Constables to stand at



the two College gates for three hours (later charged by the City Police at 3s 6d each). He agreed the inscription for the foundation stone, but gave instructions that it should not be cut before the ceremony. A notice was put up in College notifying residents that 'no luncheon can be served in rooms on Tuesday next.' The Clerk of Works for the new buildings was instructed to prepare staging on the site of the new buildings. It was expected to have to support up to three hundred people, and he wrote to T. G. Jackson, the architect: 'we are naturally very anxious that it should be absolutely safe and not likely to be endangered by the weight it will have to carry. We should therefore be grateful if you would do what is necessary to insure that result.'²⁴

The festivities began on Sunday 30 May, which was Whit Sunday. Holy Communion was celebrated at 8.15 am by John Wordsworth, Bishop of Salisbury and a former Fellow of Brasenose, who also preached at the evening service. On Tuesday he assisted the Visitor, the Bishop of Lincoln, at another early Communion to mark the anniversary day itself. All College lectures were suspended for the day.²⁵ Two hours before the ceremony a telegram was received from General Douglas Haig, one of the guests of honour: 'Regret very much am unable to attend ceremony today'. This must have caused considerable last minute rearrangement. He is still listed in the order of the procession from the Chapel, but his absence from the printed table plan suggests either admirable last minute work or, more likely, that he never intended to stay for the luncheon.²⁶

A special Convocation was held at 11.30 am, at which the Chancellor conferred the degree of D.C.L. on the Principal 'amidst loud applause'. A newspaper report suggested that this was not only a personal recognition, but was connected to the Brasenose Quatercentenary, the College having 'laid the University under great obligation by its generous contributions in aid of the Ashmolean, the School of Engineering, the Bodleian Library, and the Professorship of Anatomy'.²⁷

The Chapel service followed at 12.30 pm, with guests and old members in the Chapel and undergraduates in the Ante Chapel. Full academic dress was the order of the day, with Doctors in scarlet robes. The Bishop of Lincoln preached on a text from John 13: 'What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter'. He addressed the place of authority in teaching, that 'one great initial aim of those who teach in our Universities should be to help men *to know themselves*' and to encourage continued effort for self mastery and self sacrifice. He spoke of the need for men to consider that they were preparing to live 'for forty or fifty years after they leave the University', but to a modern reader his words have a chilling significance for the fate awaiting some fifteen of those listening that day, who would not return from World War I: 'we need men who have learnt to plan their lives bravely, as if they were going to live, though they should live them as being ready to die.'²⁸

Outside the Chapel those with tickets for the stone laying ceremony, including ladies, would have been gathering in the rain, which began during the service; the



day's weather was later described as 'appalling'. The undergraduates left the Chapel immediately, to 'proceed to the place allotted to them', and then a long procession formed, headed by the Fellows and Principal, the two Bishops, University officials and other honoured guests. The Clerk of Works' staging had red felt covering the steps and scaffolding poles decorated with bunting. It did not collapse as the company gathered around the new Foundation Stone, which was suspended in readiness for the ceremony. In a cavity beneath it the Bursar placed some current coins and a glass bottle containing a roll of parchment with the College seal, on which a Latin record of the event had been inscribed at a cost of 10s. The stone was lowered and the Visitor declared it 'well & truly' laid.²⁹ The bells of St. Mary's rang out, a tribute to the Verger's ability to put a team of ringers together in under twenty-four hours.

After the ceremony one hundred and twelve men (and no ladies) gathered in Hall for luncheon, speeches and toasts. The Visitor took the opportunity to draw attention to the new portrait of the Principal by William Orpen, to which three hundred Brasenose men had subscribed earlier in the year, and the company toasted King, College and University. A bill from the College Stores shows that twenty-four quarts of champagne cup, fourteen quarts of Hoek cup and eight quarts of lemonade were provided for the occasion at a cost of £8 9s 6d.³⁰

The foundation stone is still in place to the left of Amsterdam, and Brasenose can boast that it was laid by one who was 'widely acknowledged as a saint in his lifetime'. Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln 1885-1910, is commemorated by the Church of England on 8 March each year. It is sad to report that after the celebrations on 1 June he suffered 'a tedious and uncomfortable journey back to Lincoln'.³¹

Later that day Convocation voted in favour of a disputed proposal to dig what is now the famous 'underground chamber' between the Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera. It was expected to provide sufficient storage space for fifty years, after which it was expected that 'a similar underground chamber can be dug between the Radcliffe and St. Mary's'.³² The issue of extending the Bodleian's space is still alive one hundred years later, and still controversial.

Nine days later the resident members of College had their turn, with a dinner rather perversely held during Finals, which had started the previous week. However, only one of the handful declining the invitation gave that as his reason. One hundred and twenty three men were crammed into Hall, Fellows and junior members mixed on all tables. They included Denys Finch-Hatton, on the top table next to the Bursar, whose later relationship with Karen Blixen was depicted in her memoir *Out of Africa* and the film based upon it.³³ When the speeches were over successive cries were heard of 'we want —, *we want* —, WE WANT — ... until the person called upon was fain to stand up and deliver a few impromptu remarks ... It must be reluctantly recorded that the Principal lay back in his chair and laughed'.³⁴



These Quatercentenary events entailed much extra work for the staff, and on 16 June the Governing Body voted £25 'towards a College Servants Entertainment, in recognition of extra services rendered'. A receipt suggests that this took the form of an outing, but no further details are to be found.³⁵

The Commemoration Ball was held on 21 June. There were four hundred and thirty present, and the majority of the men were resident or old members of the College. Earlier in the year the Committee had circulated a notice stating that they were 'anxious, in this Quatercentenary year, to keep the Ball, as far as possible, for past and present Members of Brasenose and therefore would like to receive all Brasenose applications before issuing Tickets to strangers'. A marquee was erected in the (unfinished) New Quad, which probably gave the Clerk of Works more problems. Light refreshments were in the Deer Park, and the centre of Old Quad was decorated with 'an elaborate arrangement of Chinese lanterns and fairy-lights'. Unfortunately it rained again, the rain penetrating the marquee after a few hours. Dancing was to Herr Stanislaus Wurm's White Viennese Band, who often played for Oxford dances at this period. As a student Gustav Holst played the trombone under Stanislaus Wurm, and remembered that the conductor required his mostly English players to use foreign accents loudly when in earshot of the patrons.³⁶

On Monday 5 July two hundred and thirty seven members of the College dined in the Whitehall Rooms at the Metropole Hotel, near Charing Cross station in London. A ten course meal, dessert, coffee, five toasts and five speeches occupied them until 11.30 pm, the toasts and speeches taking nearly two hours. There was none of the shouting employed at the resident members' dinner, but it was noted that the Vice Principal, the unconventional Dr Bussell, did deliver his speech standing on a chair.³⁷ The Principal invited all those attending to send photographs of themselves. He was still asking for these at the end of the following year, but a complete collection was assembled eventually and they are bound in eight volumes, plus an index volume with autographs of the diners. They include Douglas Haig, John Buchan, Thomas Humphry Ward (but not his more famous wife), legendary oarsman W. B. Woodgate (founder of Vincent's Club), and songwriter F. E. Weatherly, whose *Roses of Picardy* was to become one of the great popular songs of World War I.³⁸

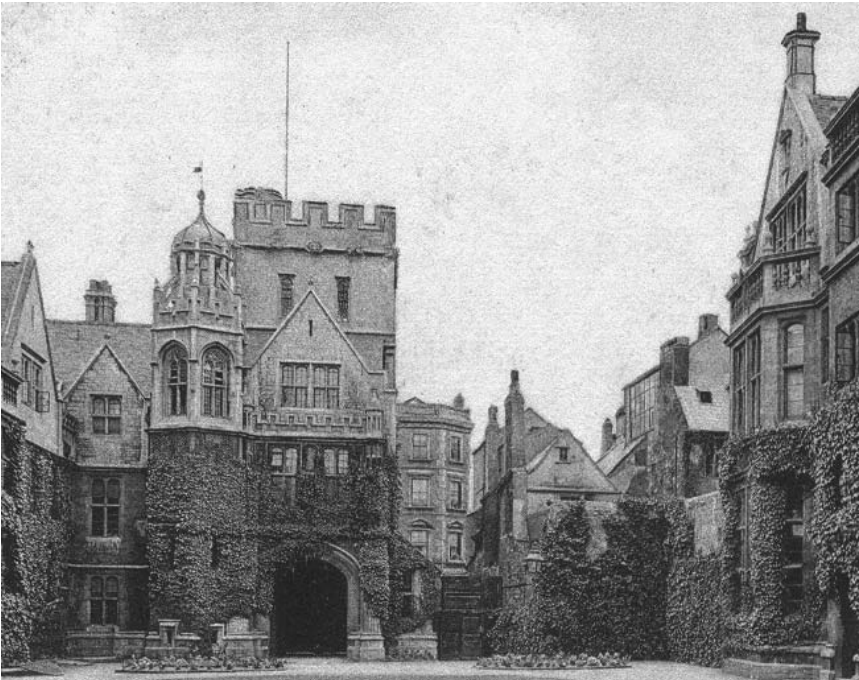
During the evening a telegram was received from Henley, where the College Eight had just won a heat. Eights Week having improved upon the performance in the Torpids (the boat went up from ninth position to sixth), the College Boat Club had appealed to old members for contributions towards the £200 cost of sending a boat to Henley. The expenses of the Quatercentenary, especially the Ball, were cited as a reason for the resident members being unable to raise the money. The boat was sent and reached two semi-finals, but the crew was 'disappointed'. Several reasons were offered for the failure, including the Quatercentenary: 'this year being the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Brasenose, the festivities of Commemoration



made greater demands upon the energies of the crew than is usually the case'.³⁹

The official celebrations were now over (and the Bursar promptly started six months' leave of absence), but in November came the publication of the first ever *Brazen Nose*. The College had been publishing an annual leaflet with information about the College and news of its members since 1899, but this new venture was a much larger undertaking, some five times the length of the leaflet. The beginning of the first editorial stated: 'We are not inclined to apologize for producing the first number of the BRAZEN NOSE. It ought to have appeared long ago, but the initial impulse has till now been wanting. The Quatercentenary celebrations in general, and the publication of the Principal's *Brasenose College Register* in particular, have awakened us to a sense of what is due to the College.' The leaflets continued to be produced side by side with the magazine until 1920, but were then discontinued.⁴⁰

One final, unofficial, celebration of the Quatercentenary took place at the end of the year. On 30 December 1909 a Quatercentenary dinner for twelve old members, eight of them officials of the Indian Civil Service, was held in the United Service Club in Calcutta. Another twelve men had wished to attend but were prevented by distance. The dinner was presided over by Douglas Haig, the only one present that had also been present at the London Quatercentenary dinner. This double opportunity was purely fortuitous, Haig having just been appointed chief of the Indian General Staff. The menu was not greatly different from those served in



The corner of New Quad before the completion of Jackson Buildings in 1909-11.



England, except for the fish course: Beckti Hollandaise made use of a predominantly Indian fish. Music was played during the celebrations, including two pieces which had featured in the programme for the Quatercentenary Ball: Bucalossi's *Ciribiribin* and Leo Fall's *The Dollar Princess*, the English version of which operetta had opened in London in September of that year.⁴¹

In Oxford the College settled back into the normal routine in the belief, it is to be hoped, that the celebrations had achieved their aim: 'to bring before the members of the College the antiquity of its foundation, the interest of its history, the names of its great men, and its hopeful outlook for the future: while avoiding all appearance of self-advertisement and self-laudation'.⁴²

- 1 *The Brazen Nose* 2002, p.27
- 2 College Archives: SL 3 A8/2
- 3 Ibid. GOV 3 A1/7
- 4 Ibid. Clennell A17.43
- 5 Ibid. B501
- 6 Victoria County History *Oxfordshire* vol. III, p.213
- 7 College Archives: GOV 3 A1/14
- 8 R. Julian Roberts, 'Madan, Falconer (1851–1935)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/41047>]
- 9 College Archives: GOV 3 A1/14
- 10 Ibid. SL 3 A2/1
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Ibid. SL 3 A2/1
- 13 Ibid. SL 3 A7/1
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Ibid. GOV 3 A1/14 [19 June 1909]
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Ibid. SL 3 A7/1
- 18 Ibid. GOV 3 A1/14
- 19 Ibid. Bursar's Home Letter Books [BHL] 26 Apr 1909
- 20 Ibid. Clennell B 3b 25
- 21 *The Brazen Nose* volume I number 1 Nov 1909 [BN 1]
- 22 College Archives: GOV 3 A1/14; BHL
- 23 Ibid. SL 3 A7/1; SL 3 A4/2/3; SL 3 A2/1; BHL
- 24 Ibid. BHL; SL 3 A2/1
- 25 Ibid. GOV 3 A1/14
- 26 Ibid. SL 3 A4/2/16
- 27 Ibid. GOV 3 A1/14; Clennell B 4a 3. *The Oxford Magazine* Vol. XXVII, No. 22
- 28 Ibid. SL 3 A7/1; SL 3 A4/2/11
- 29 BN 1; College Archives: SL 3 A7/1; SL 3 A2/1; GOV 3 A1/14
- 30 BN 1; College Archives: Clennell B 4b 5
- 31 John A. Newton, 'King, Edward (1829–1910)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/34319>]; *Common Worship*, Church of England; College Archives: BHL
- 32 *The Oxford Magazine* Vol. XXVII, No. 22
- 33 College Archives: SL 3 A4/4/3
- 34 BN 1; *The Oxford Magazine* Vol. XXVII, No. 22; College Archives: SL 3 A4/4/5
- 35 College Archives: GOV 3 A1/14; SL 3 A2/1
- 36 BN 1; College Archives: SL 3 A7/1; <http://www.musicweb-international.com/holst/Page2.html>
- 37 BN 1; College Archives: SL 3 A5/3-4
- 38 *The Brazen Nose* volume I number 3 Nov 1910; College Archives: SL 3 A5/6-14
- 39 College Archives: Clennell B 3b 25; SL 3 A7/1
- 40 BN 1; College Archives: GOV 3 A1/14; BN 1 A
- 41 College Archives: SL 3 A6/1
- 42 BN 1



BRASENOSE AND BRAIN DISEASE

Chris Danes (1979)

'Dear the schoolboy spot,' wrote Byron, 'we ne'er forget, /though we are there forgot.' Well, possibly. I was back at BNC in Trinity Term following the Chaplain's invitation to speak at College Prayers. So much of it was ridiculously familiar, summoning the feelings of over a quarter of a century ago. Croquet being played in New Quad. The way the chapel door squeaks and pushes back against you with its surprising weight. The view of the Camera from the top floor of Staircase III. There were some minor changes. The paths were no longer littered with trodden cigarette butts and the fairy rings on the lawn of Old Quad seemed to have been eliminated at last. There were bright splashes of colour from wooden plant containers.

My brain does all of that. It sorts my life out and files the useful bits as memories, discarding the rest perhaps as dreams. In response to the exterior sensation of, for instance, hearing College Grace said again, memories are evoked and presented to the parts of my body responsible for emotion and cognition. But what I had for dinner on the Thursday of third week of Michaelmas Term 1980 has been discarded. The more joyful, traumatic or frequently repeated events of our lives are retained and we arrive at a reasonably balanced idea of who we are and where we want to go.

Or so at least it should work in theory. Some people (and I am unfortunately one of them) have been born with a permanent disruption of the 'Clock' gene responsible for the Circadian Rhythms in human beings¹. As with many other genetic disorders, the condition is untreatable, although it can be managed through medication. Its effect is to disturb the normal emotional and, in an acute attack, cognitive functioning of the brain. Apart from brief periods of normality, the subjective outcome and presenting symptom of the disease is the experience of distressingly suicidal periods of depression followed by outbursts of energy, enthusiasm, and grandiose ideas which can become delusional. The shorthand for all of this is to say that I have Bipolar I Disorder, one of the more serious of what our language still persists in calling the mental illnesses. It makes arriving at an acceptable narrative of one's life very difficult.

I had an acute phase when I came back to College after Schools as a Senior Hulme Scholar. I had no idea what was wrong with me, because in those days there was very little awareness of brain disorders and our scientific understanding about them was limited. This quite often led to unpleasant social consequences, as when a friend who was very unwell was ridiculed in College until the day he was sectioned. I followed him out of BNC in 1983 for much the same reasons, and the consequent grief, self-hatred and overpowering guilt a dysfunctional brain produced were sufficient to keep me from College until this year. Then an elderly



friend mentioned to me that he wanted to see Oxford again, and because I was feeling better than I had for a long time after some new medication, I decided to risk a visit with him. It was then that I met with the Chaplain, and he kindly, and rather to my astonishment, invited me to preach.

I have already spoken of some small changes I noticed in College when I visited. There have been two other changes much more remarked. The first of these is the new availability of a BNC welfare team, now rightly seen as essential for the life of the College as a supportive community. It surprised and delighted me to see its notices at the bottom of every staircase and to talk with the Chaplain about the importance of mental health care and pastoral provision in the University and BNC. Now students can access the help and support they need, and the University can be enriched by the minds of the scholars who otherwise would not have made it.

The second change is how my brain responds to the stimulus of images to do with BNC since my visit. Through the generosity and kindness of the Principal and Senior Common Room when I was up to preach I can think about College once more and look forward to visiting Oxford with pleasure. In this way healing is found in the mysterious world of human relationships.

1 <http://www.pnas.org/content/104/15/6097.full>



(UN)BRAZEN RHODES

Daniel Wilner (2007)

If there is one constant in the life of a foreigner in England, it is that one should take nothing for granted. So it is with being a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. Back in one's home country, the conferral of the Scholarship is met with great acclaim; here, one is just another student. So it should be, for this has been an essential part of my education here. It has kept me humble, reminding me that my award is meant first and foremost for scholarship, as its name suggests. I study amongst so many brilliant young people, whatever their background and however their time here is funded. It has also highlighted for me the degree to which culture shapes meaning: something that means so much somewhere else is nearly without significance here. It takes time and thoughtfulness to understand that, and that experience is formative too: to get to know another culture, like getting to know another person, requires an openness to difference, a mindfulness of the ways in which others might see the same thing in an utterly different way. Learning about that difference is at once exasperating and exciting. One is confronted with the otherness of the world, yet with time and understanding, one makes that otherness one's own. One learns to be at home in a foreign place. One can take things for granted again.

From the moment I arrived here a year ago, Brasenose has helped me feel at home in a foreign place. When I first heard about it, I wondered what the 'Hulme Common Room' might be. A room sloppily named after the Scottish philosopher and economist? Yet when I entered it for the first time, I could not help but feel comfortable amidst the plush, chestnut brown sofas and the soft warmth of its lighting. At the first gathering of graduate freshers, the room positively brimmed with energy and friendliness and intelligence. I was astonished by the variety of my peers' backgrounds and interests. What a group to be a part of! That I was a Rhodes Scholar was incidental. We were all scholars at Oxford, all of us happily brought together at Brasenose, and that was what mattered.

As the months passed, I found myself pulled in many directions and growing in many places at Oxford, yet Brasenose always represented a kind of home base, a touchstone in my hectic life. A few moments stand out for me in their vividness and variety. At a graduate dinner in autumn, I learned about the changing dynamics of HIV infection from an epidemiologist I sat next to. Early in Hilary, I fulfilled a dream I had had for many years to participate in a Burns' Supper, at which I recited, in the best brogue I could muster, dear Robbie's 'No Churchman Am I' (with an empty bottle of wine in my hand, of course). At the Brasenose Summer Arts Festival, I used the New Quad as a stand-in for New York's Central Park, to put on a production of Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*. As my peers and tutors complimented me on the production after the show, I felt that Brasenose, like the Rhodes community, recognized the diversity of my interests and passions, and



appreciated me better for it. Here was a place I could be myself.

Newly returned for a second year, I am astonished by how quickly the time is going, and I wish I could slow it all down. It is strange to return to the HCR and find myself one of the 'older generation', welcoming new freshers and trying to provide them what scraps of counsel I can offer. I don't feel any different from them, and I don't think I am. I may be a member of another community here, but then who isn't? Rhodes House for me may be the boat house for another. We are all distinctive, and all the same in being distinctive. Brasenose has helped me understand that more deeply.

It is a place where I feel at home, but one I shall never take for granted.



PRAGUE SPRING

BNC Classics Fellow Llewelyn Morgan takes a personal look at some anniversaries of 2008.

Just once in my life, forty years ago, I experienced at first hand events of truly historical significance, and I regret to say that I can't remember a single thing. My excuse for not remembering (a decent one, I think) is that I was less than two months old at the time, enjoying the first of many caravan holidays with my family. But a caravan holiday as conceived by my somewhat eccentric father was not of the weekend-in-Skegness variety. Every year at the end of July we would load up the caravan with clothes, food and books (very important for the long car journeys: most days we would cover about 300 miles) and head off across Europe – and I emphasize the element of crossing. We crossed a lot of national borders in the course of our holidays, but Europe in the 60s had one big boundary in particular. My father was fascinated by the Eastern Bloc (although entirely unsympathetic to its politics). In the war, he had served with the Royal Marines, and at its end was based at Kiel in Schleswig-Holstein, close to the border of the Soviet Sector. There was, at the time, some fraternization between Western and Soviet forces; and I suspect his fascination with things Soviet began here, in the drinking sessions he often used to recall. But whatever the reason, my father had no qualms about travelling with his family beyond the Iron Curtain. As a consequence, though we might end up in Greece or Turkey, en route we visited Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Bulgaria. One of my earliest memories (and this is one I wish I didn't have) is of a plague of beetles coating our car at the border between Hungary and Bulgaria. I carry a mild phobia of unpredictably fluttery things with me to this day.

The logistics of these month-long jaunts in a 16-foot caravan, two adults and four kids, were just as daunting as you might imagine, though my utterly unreconstructed father left everything of a practical nature to my mother. In the Eastern Bloc, especially, provisions could be hard to find. I believe there was some trouble in my early years finding baby food for me; and I do sometimes worry for my younger self, a baby in places where baby food was unknown. But those holidays (which as a child I thought were perfectly normal) were a wonderful thing for a youngster to experience, and I always found it very hard to come home at the end. It helped that I was as selfishly unaware of the efforts to which my mother was going as my father, albeit with the excuse of being half a century younger. Until the age of 14 I had never spent a single day of August in the UK, but I had visited more archaeological sites than I ever have since: I have no doubt at all that those trips ensured that I ended up as a professional Classicist. But my warm memories are not just nostalgia for childhood: the 60s and 70s, to some extent because of the divisions of the Cold War (the world was a more predictable place), were a golden age for travel. We shared the road with truckers heading for pre-revolutionary Iran, and hippies



heading for India, and though my father was a Tory MP, albeit of a very alternative stripe (we wouldn't otherwise have spent much of our summers in the Soviet Bloc, I guess), there was a very strong camaraderie among these diverse travellers. Again I think that was something to do with my father's war experience, which bred in him an impatience with unnecessary obstacles. In the Eastern Bloc itself, though there were some quite unpleasant encounters with the authorities, a caravan of British tourists was generally outlandish enough to be unthreatening, and we had a lot of contact with ordinary people.

On one particular occasion we were all sleeping in our caravan in a lay-by somewhere in Bulgaria, on our way back from Turkey. One of my father's peculiarities was an absolute refusal to pay for anything he didn't think worth it: that included road tolls (hence many terrifying mountain roads, avoiding the official routes), entrance fees (I always had to claim to be two years younger than I was, though that wasn't an option in 1968) and the cost of camping sites. We hardly ever took the caravan to an official caravan park, stopping instead in lay-bys and open ground beside the road; and again, people were, looking back, astonishingly accommodating. But on this night our sleep was disturbed by a terrific noise from the road, the sound of a huge line of very heavy traffic. It was quickly identified as a line of military vehicles, and it took most of the night to pass our camping place. I think we must have assumed that we had stumbled into a military exercise, and the next day we continued on our way westwards, into Yugoslavia and up towards Maribor, now in Slovenia, the border town for the crossing into Austria. It was only here that we discovered what had been rolling past us that night in Bulgaria. The night in question was August 20-21, 1968. The military convoy had been heading for Prague, one component of the massive Warsaw Pact forces converging on Czechoslovakia in a surprise invasion. There in our caravan we were the most unlikely witnesses to the suppression of the Prague Spring.

'Prague Spring' was the name given to the period of liberalization introduced by the new Czechoslovak leader, Alexander Dubcek, which he himself famously described as 'socialism with a human face'. In April 1968 Dubcek relaxed restrictions on free speech and movement, and on the press; a greater role for market economics was envisaged, and in the longer term democratic elections. Other governments within the Warsaw Pact were concerned about the reforms themselves, and also about the stinging criticisms of the communist system which started to appear in the free Czechoslovak media. Nevertheless a meeting between the Warsaw Pact countries in early August had seemed to lower the temperature a little: Soviet troops, who had been in Czechoslovakia since exercises in June, left the country. But the Soviets, at this point under Leonid Brezhnev, were not satisfied, and a fortnight later sent in forces to occupy the country. What we had seen was just a small part of the 200,000 troops and 2,000 tanks which entered the country that night. There was popular resistance – most tragically, a student named Jan Palach burned himself to death in Wenceslaus Square in Prague in January 1969 – but Dubcek's reforms were



reversed, liberals were purged from government, and Czechoslovakia would not experience the same freedom until the Velvet Revolution of 1989. In the meantime some 300,000 Czechs and Slovaks fled to the West.

The border between Yugoslavia and Austria presented a dramatic contrast at the best of times, shabby and impoverished towns on the eastern side, prosperous and colourful in Austria, a country that had missed joining the Eastern Bloc by a whisker, and was very aware of it. But when we reached Maribor in 1968 we encountered something altogether more distressing, a huge gathering of Czechs trying to decide whether to cross into Austria or return to their now occupied country. One effect of the liberalization of Czechoslovakia had been to allow its citizens free movement, and Yugoslavia had been a popular destination. Now these tourists were in a state of shock, and faced a terrible quandary. My older sister remembers a woman trying to decide whether to flee to the West or return to her children in Czechoslovakia. My mother felt a compulsion to apologise to the Czechs she met for what she saw as the failure of her country to come to their help twice in one generation.

In 1989 I visited Czechoslovakia properly, but again I managed to miss my appointment with History. I had an argument with one of my fellow travellers about the rights and wrongs of shopping in foreign currency shops, or something equally fatuous. He was studying Economics; I was just very hungry. I left Prague in a huff, and feel extremely silly now. The very day after I left, on December 10 1989, a government was formed in Czechoslovakia which for the first time contained a majority of non-communist members. A huge, joyful crowd filled Wenceslaus Square.

Why do I turn my mind to these events now? The Cold War and its ideologies seems fairly irrelevant to us now, and the fortieth anniversary of the Soviet invasion in August 2008 received predictably little media coverage. No, I'm afraid you are reading yet another take on anniversaries in a volume full to bursting with them for a much, much less commendable reason. In the summer of 2008 I marked my fortieth birthday, something I have tried hard, but failed comprehensively, to forget.



THE HEAD BUTLER SPEAKS

William Hernandez talks to Harry Ford

William Hernandez has been Head Butler at Brasenose for 18 years now – he smiles: ‘but it seems a lifetime!’ It’s a job that requires special talents. William is always so busy that it was tricky to find a half-hour to talk to him, but in the end we sat down in the Stocker room for a chat.

William used to work in an Italian restaurant, but when that closed down (after 45 years!) he saw an advertisement for the job of Brasenose butler in a local paper. He doesn’t like routine and thrives on spontaneity; Brasenose seemed a little different to the restaurant trade, so William applied.

In the years he’s been working here he’s seen great changes in the food. So what does he think of our Head Chef, Lorraine Watkins? ‘It’s very enjoyable working with Lorraine, she’s got good ideas. That’s one of the things that makes the job interesting.’ William himself has a passion for cooking – and often gives me tips for cooking the best lasagne! His speciality in Brasenose is his creamy gazpacho, but he is an expert on pasta dishes, veal kidney in sherry, and chooses recipes from Greek cuisine (*taramasalata*) and of course Spanish (*piperada*).

Unfortunately, there’s not much chance for him to cook at Brasenose. But all his life he has been absorbing recipe ideas. He tells me that he learnt a lot about cooking when he worked at the (now sadly defunct) Queen Elizabeth restaurant on St. Aldate’s. ‘It was like a family restaurant,’ he recalls, ‘we all used to help each other out.’ William has good reason to be proud of his work for the Queen Elizabeth. According to the Times it was for a while the best restaurant in Oxford, and in the top twenty in the country. William also worked for a while with Raymond Blanc, but that was very different: Blanc was more interested in nouvelle cuisine. William also learnt from a restaurant called ‘La Sorbonne’: ‘I ate there many times. It was very good cooking and there was room for everybody. Today there are no really good restaurants in town. I don’t know about Jamie Oliver’s – I haven’t managed to get in yet. I went there the other day and there was an enormous queue!’

William does all the cooking at home – ‘and the washing up’ he chuckles. But he’s not getting out of shape. He rides his bike to work every morning for the exercise. Before he arrived at Brasenose he used to play squash and tennis. Nowadays he enjoys going to the cinema to see good films and to the theatre with his wife.

William says that the environment in BNC makes working here worthwhile: the people he works with ‘are a really nice bunch of people; I can talk to them.’ And there is a very good wine-cellar full of fantastic wines, overseen by Professor Cooper, the Cellararius. As one would expect of a man who has worked in so many top restaurants, William has a wealth of oenophilic knowledge. He used to enjoy wine tastings. However, for the last 13 years he hasn’t touched a drop (on medical advice) even though he serves it every day. ‘I don’t miss it,’ he says. ‘But it’s a frustration



because if a wine is off I feel rather guilty; even with a bouquet (when you smell it), to be a hundred percent sure you have to taste. I don't want to taste it because I don't want to drink ever again. I enjoy not drinking: I enjoy life more, and feel more inspired.'

He enjoys his job most during term time. 'I miss it, in a way, when they put me upstairs [to work with the SCR]. I miss working with the students... When old students pass by Oxford, they often call in to say hello.'

William has served many famous people in his time at Brasenose. He served a private lunch for Princess Margaret and Lord Windlesham in the Principal's Lodgings. He particularly remembers Colin Cowdrey (BNC 1952) of Kent and England, and Michael Heseltine, the former Deputy Prime Minister. With such powerful people around, hasn't he overheard some interesting things?

'To be a butler you have to be very discrete. Everything is confidential, all the conversation you hear. You try not to listen, try to switch off when serving at table.' He has heard interesting gossip, but – 'I'd never repeat it to anyone.'

William loves going to Spain and Italy on holiday. He especially enjoys spending time in La Coruna in August when he can. Although he left La Coruna when he was 18 to come to England, he still has lots of friends there. 'I still miss La Coruna – can you believe it? – after all these years!' He returns when he can to see his many friends and relatives. If he were to win a million pounds he would buy a very nice villa in La Coruna by the sea, and spend his mornings fishing and hunting rabbits on the hillsides, before cooking his catch in the evenings. He used to do these things as a young man. His grandfather was a professional fisherman and he had a small boat. William used to go out with him regularly, fishing with pots for the *calamares*. 'There were all kinds of fish, that's when the fishing waters were so clean.'

And his children? Emile is a head butler at Keble College. 'He came to work here as a schoolboy and enjoyed it so much that he saw an advert for a butler in Keble and got the job there at 17 without telling me. Now he is the head butler.' Marcel has a doctorate in mathematics. His wife Ann Hernandez is retired and does charity work now, having worked in Lloyds bank for forty years.

Football is a passion of William's. 'I like reading books about the lives of football players and football managers, particularly Brazilians and Argentineans. I like football very much and when I was very young I watched the best football players in the world. Great teams would come and play in La Coruna. My team, *Deportivo de la Coruna* won in the premier league.'

William hasn't stopped using his native tongue: 'When the students come to Brasenose to do a degree in French or Classics they get a degree in Spanish too because I teach them over breakfast. I like to use an old saying in Spanish: The devil knows more from being old than from being the devil – EL DEMONIO SABE MAS POR SER VIEJO QUE POR SER DEMONIO!'

Well, the students are certainly proud of their devilishly good butler.



THE COLLEGE SECRETARY SPEAKS

Wendy Williams interviewed by Harry Ford

She has survived three principals, two bursars, seven senior tutors and five tutors for graduates. Wendy Williams has been at Brasenose for a twentieth of the College's existence: in August 2009, she will have been here for 25 years. 'It's nice that it coincides with the Quincentenary.' I was excited about chatting to the College Secretary Wendy Williams. Although very modest about what she would be able to tell me, I had a feeling she harboured some interesting stories. And her words of wisdom? 'We're all human and the best thing you can bring to Brasenose is a sense of humour!'

I asked Wendy how she came to be College Secretary? 'I came to be secretary at Brasenose by default shall we say. When my children started school I took a secretarial course at an educational establishment rather than a commercial one. I came for the interview to be a Fellow's Secretary – the most terrifying thing I had to go through.' But she got the job: 'The first few years were awful because I'd only learnt basic shorthand. I was taking dictation from an economics tutor and he was talking about *micro* and *macro* economics and I had to adjust my shorthand to accommodate this. I used to put a big 'a' or an 'i' above the word!'

After being the Fellows' Secretary, she was the Senior Tutor's Secretary when Pauline Shepherd was secretary to the Principal. 'In the January after I came the College Secretary was taken ill and left. So the Bursar said to me, "Could you sit in the College Secretary's chair, it's not difficult"(!); I couldn't say no. I did everything: admissions (graduate and undergraduate), fellowships, JRFs (junior research fellowships), lectureships. Thankfully I did have an assistant but it was still overwhelming. It was becoming too much with all the admin and they created the separate post of Admissions Secretary. We now have Pam (Pamela Gerth) and she's brilliant, though we've changed the post again to Admissions Officer.'

The changes have been great. 'Nobody does shorthand any more. I do occasionally use it for minutes at academic committees. But it's become a thing of the past because it is hard to learn and because nowadays if you're taking dictations you type them up. When I first came here all the work was done on golf ball type-writers, new whizzy things. Then Graham Richards, the Senior Tutor at that time, said: "Right, you've all got to have computers." I literally had to order them, unpack them, and put them together myself. And the first day I used my computer it crashed and I went home in tears; I thought I'd broken it!'

So what's a typical day in Brasenose like? 'A typical day is mad in term time. It is a real world but not *the* real world. Who wants to be in *the* real world? You've got to keep a cool head ... it's no good ranting and raving... mind you, I've done that in the past but I've learnt not to rant and rave now. The most challenging thing is



dealing with all that paper. It's horrendous, there's so much.'

And have the students changed over the years? 'A lot of students seem to be far more stretched than the students when I first came here. Back then you only needed to get an Oxford degree and you were made for life. Now people feel they've got to get a first or a 2:1. And of course the finances are dreadful; students go away with twenty thousand odd debt. Brasenose is working to help with that... It's also probably more pressured than it used to be for the staff, but all the time we're having more and more staff.

'You learn to think on your feet. When I first started some of the Fellows seemed a bit intimidating. Of course, they're all lovely really though with quite diverse characters. I've worked for a number of senior tutors now. In the past it has always been a tutorial fellow who did this post, but the college decided to go for a full-time Senior Tutor in 2006... Dr Andrew Stockley is brilliant and he makes it all seem effortless.

'My favourite thing is the constant flow of new people. You really get close to some people and I get especially close to the graduates. It's sad when they go but I always know there's another lot coming. And the Fellows themselves are so lovely, sometimes infuriating, sometimes intimidating, but very fun and that's why I've stayed here. I'm not saying anything here, but watch out, when I retire I could tell some stories!

'The college is very enclosed like a family, and with all families there are fights, tears and temper tantrums. I love that time of year when the exams are over and a calm wafts down on the place, the open days are over, the students are gone...then, after a few weeks it gets a bit boring. But soon they return, and the boredom's over very quickly.'

She is fond of gardening and is a keen watercolour painter, having attended evening classes for six years now. The work she is most pleased with is her still-life paintings of flowers. Her favourite flower is a peony, though she is very proud of her fragrant wisteria. We wander over to the window of the Shackleton Room and look down on New Quad. 'We only have a droopy white one here', Wendy says. 'I love the yellow rose there that comes out quite early on. And we have the former Vice-Principal Leighton Reynolds to thank for our Mediterranean border. He was a lovely man but one of my most embarrassing memories is having to do a jive with him at the staff dinner dance!'

So is there anything she hasn't done or seen? 'I haven't been up the towers. I haven't seen the cellars, either — I've been too busy working.' Lucky for us that she has: Brasenose will be fortunate indeed to have a College Secretary for a twentieth of the next five hundred years as efficient and well-loved as Wendy.



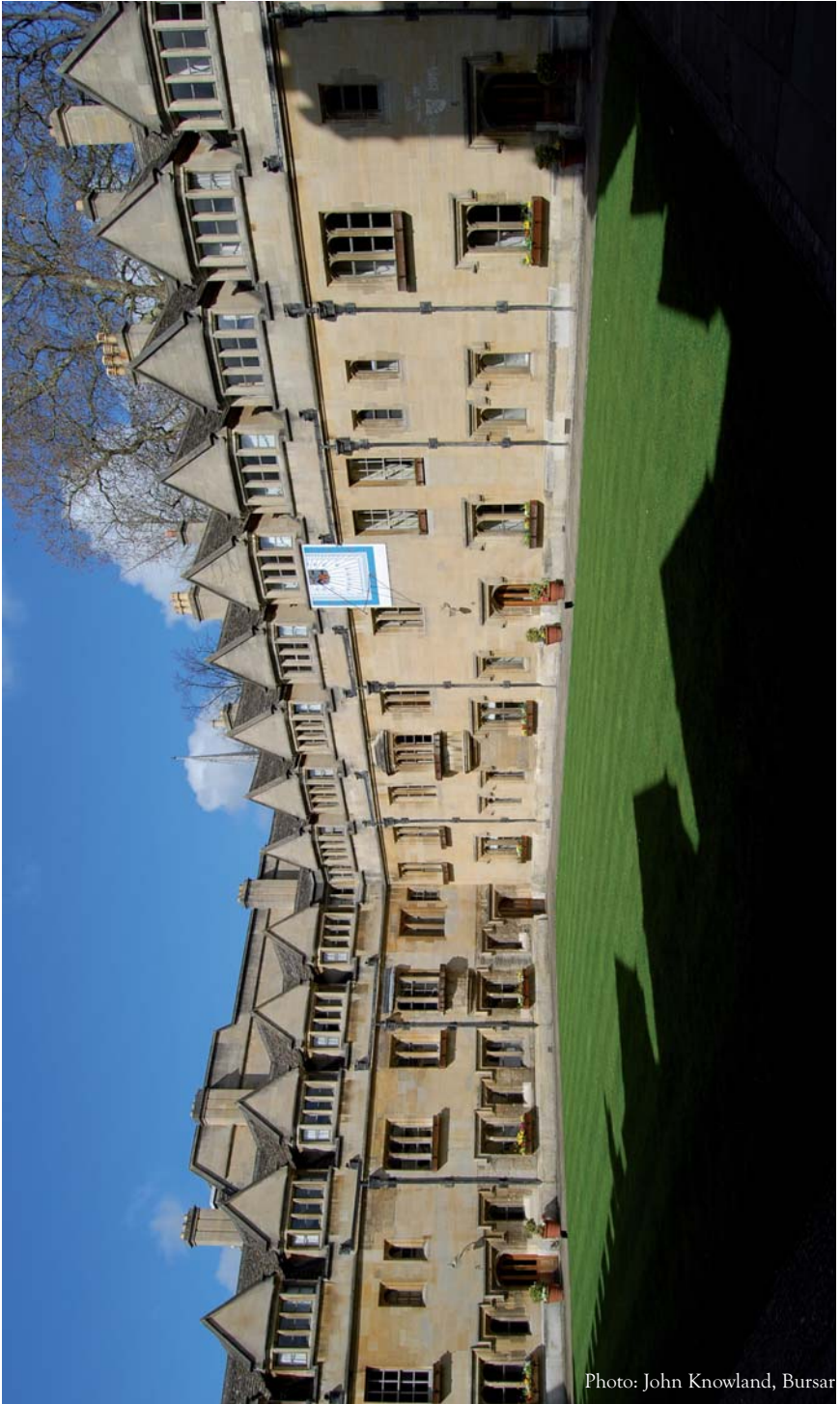


Photo: John Knowland, Bursar

Old Quad.





Photo: Doug Verminnen

Alumni and their families at the Brasenose Society VIII's Week Luncheon, 24 May 2008.



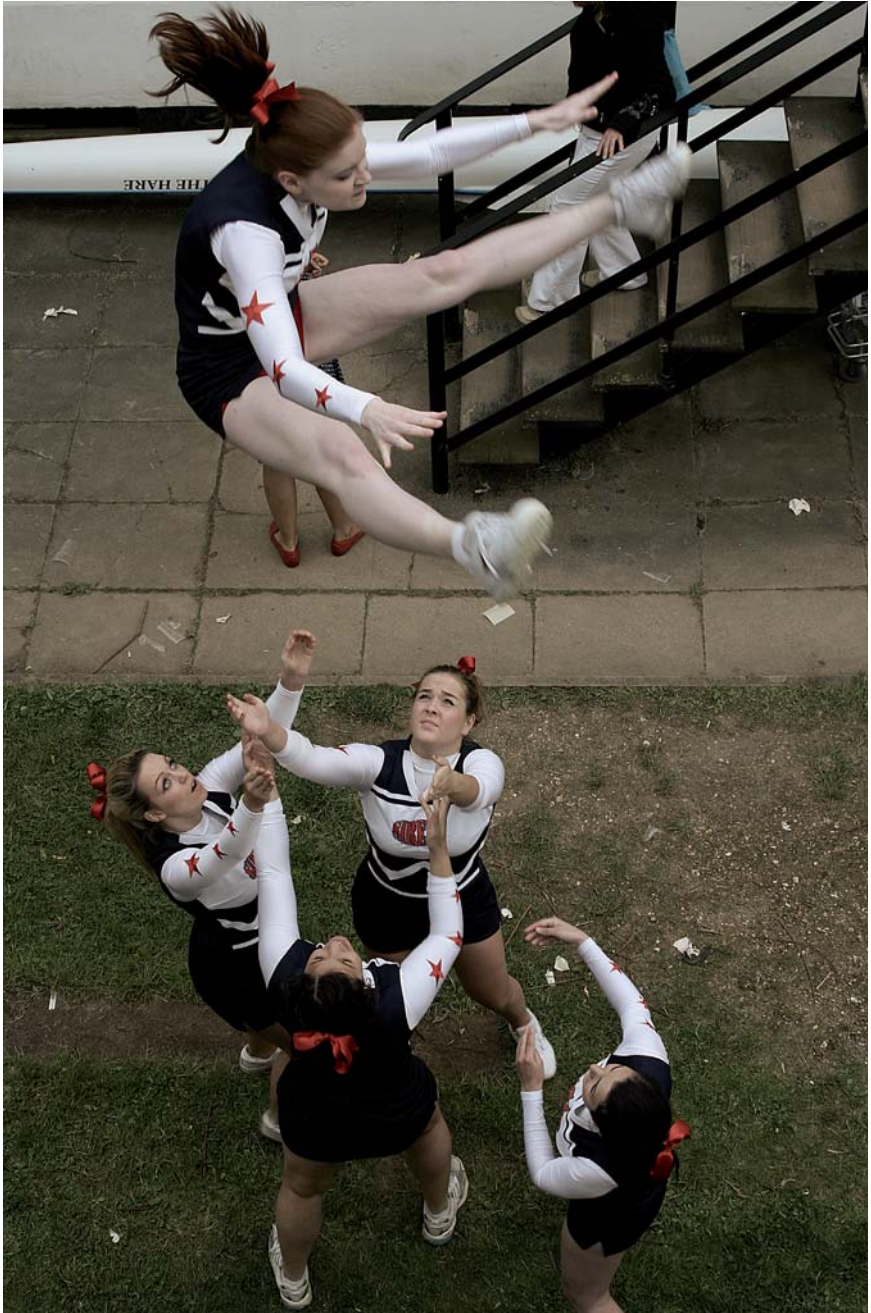


Photo: Doug Vernimmen

Cheerleaders practise at the Boat House, Vllls Week 2008.





Photo: Doug Vernimmen

A BNC ladies' crew, Vllls Week 2008.





Photo: Doug Vernimmen

JCR Garden Party, 11 June 2008.



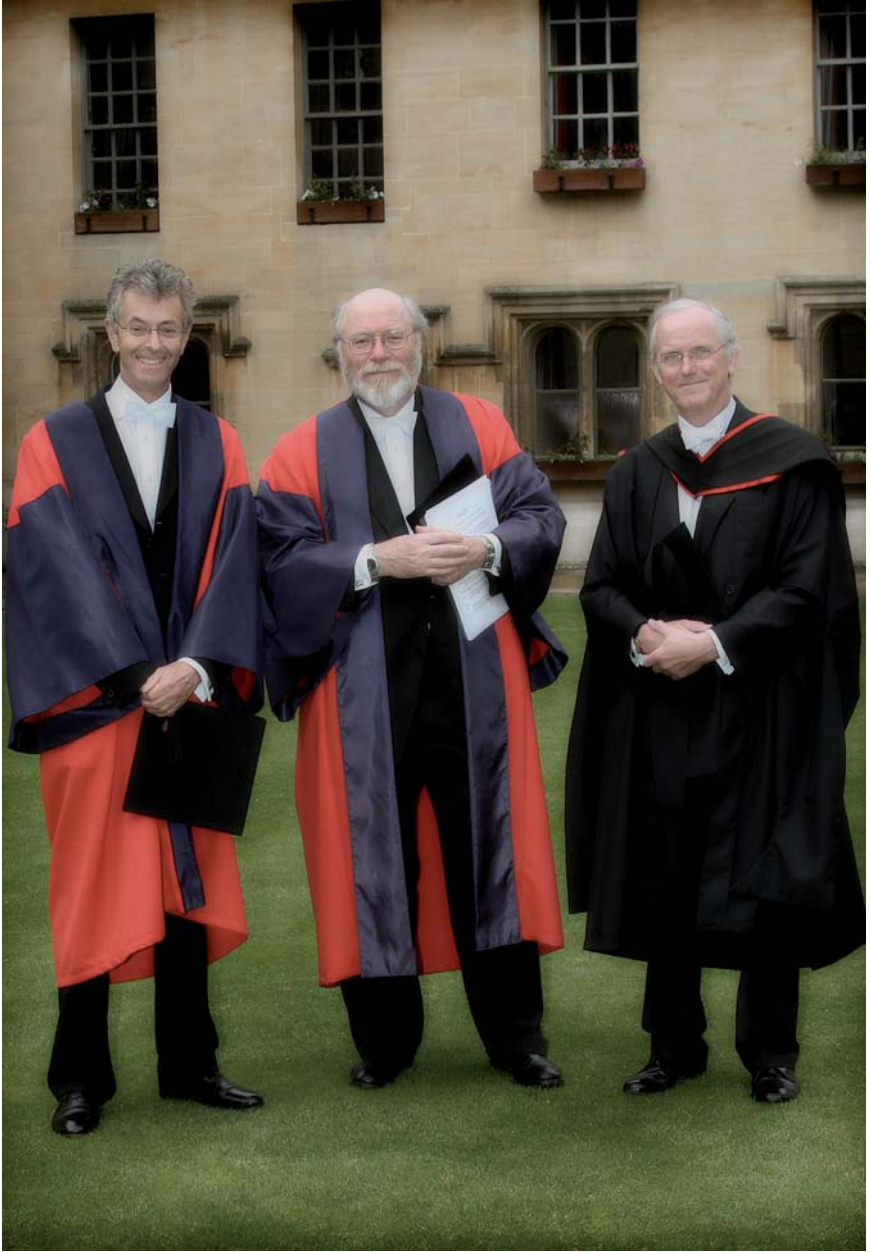
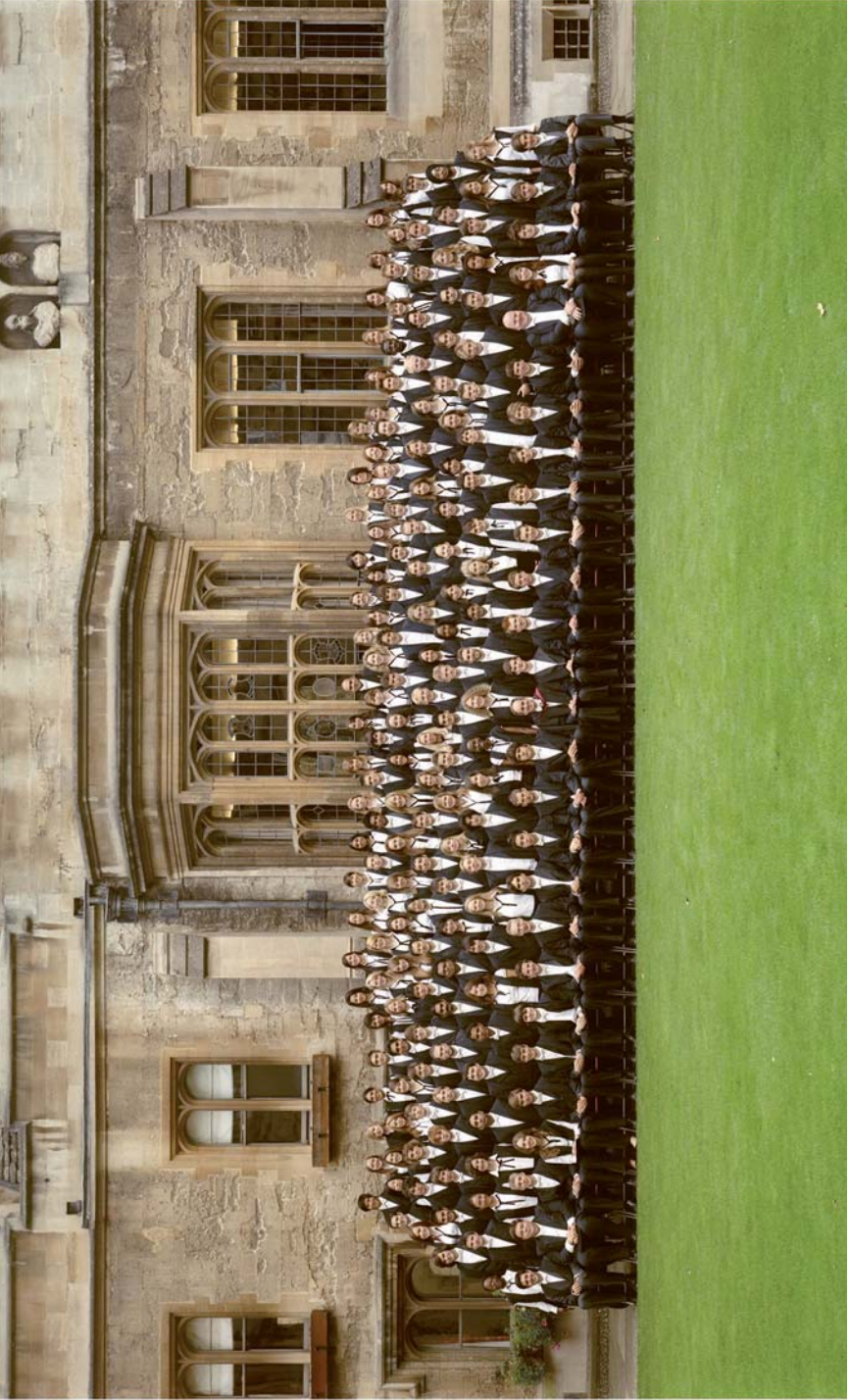


Photo: Doug Vernimmen

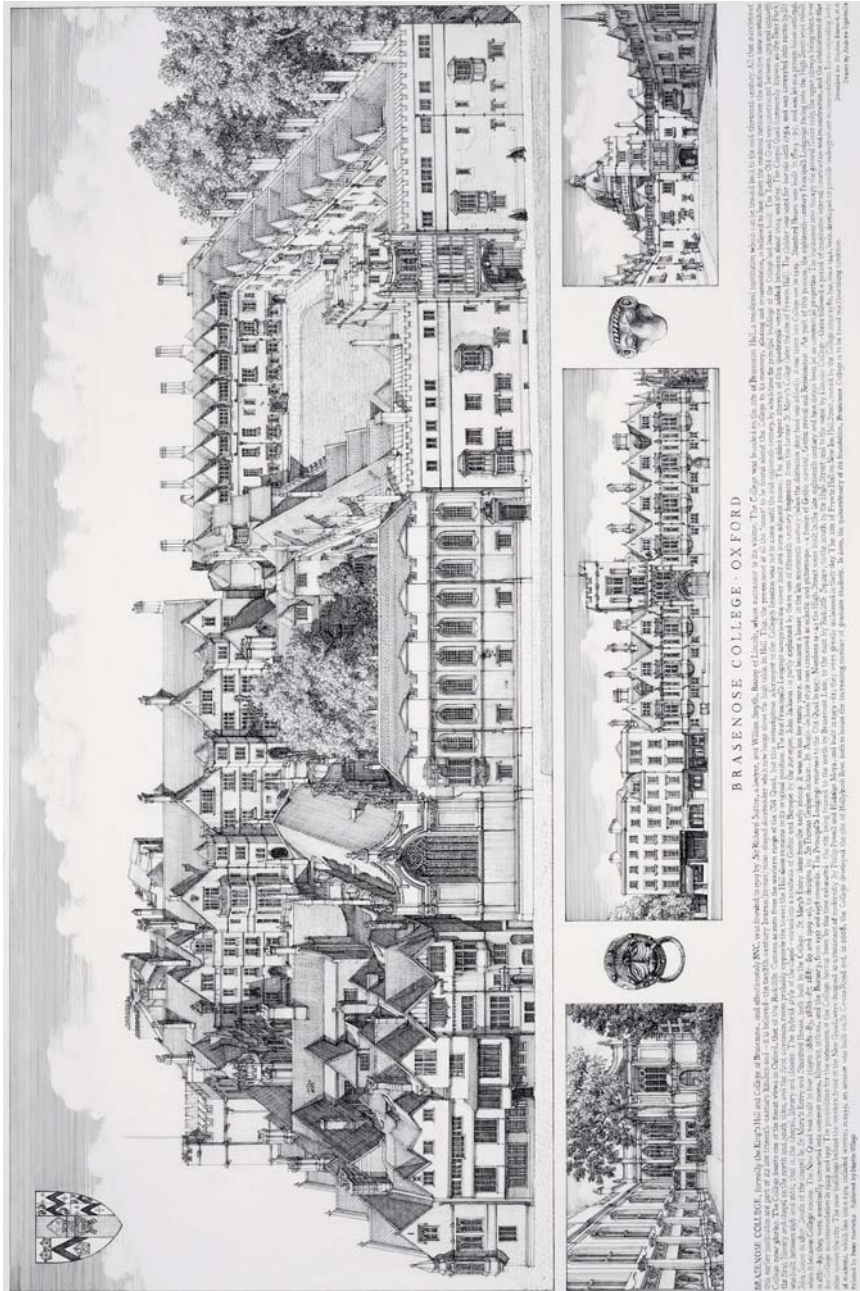
Lord Krebs, Professor Roger Cashmore, and Sir Neil Chalmers at Encaenia, 18 June 2008.





Matriculation 2007 © Ede and Ravenscroft.





A new Brasenose etching © Andrew Ingamells, 2008.



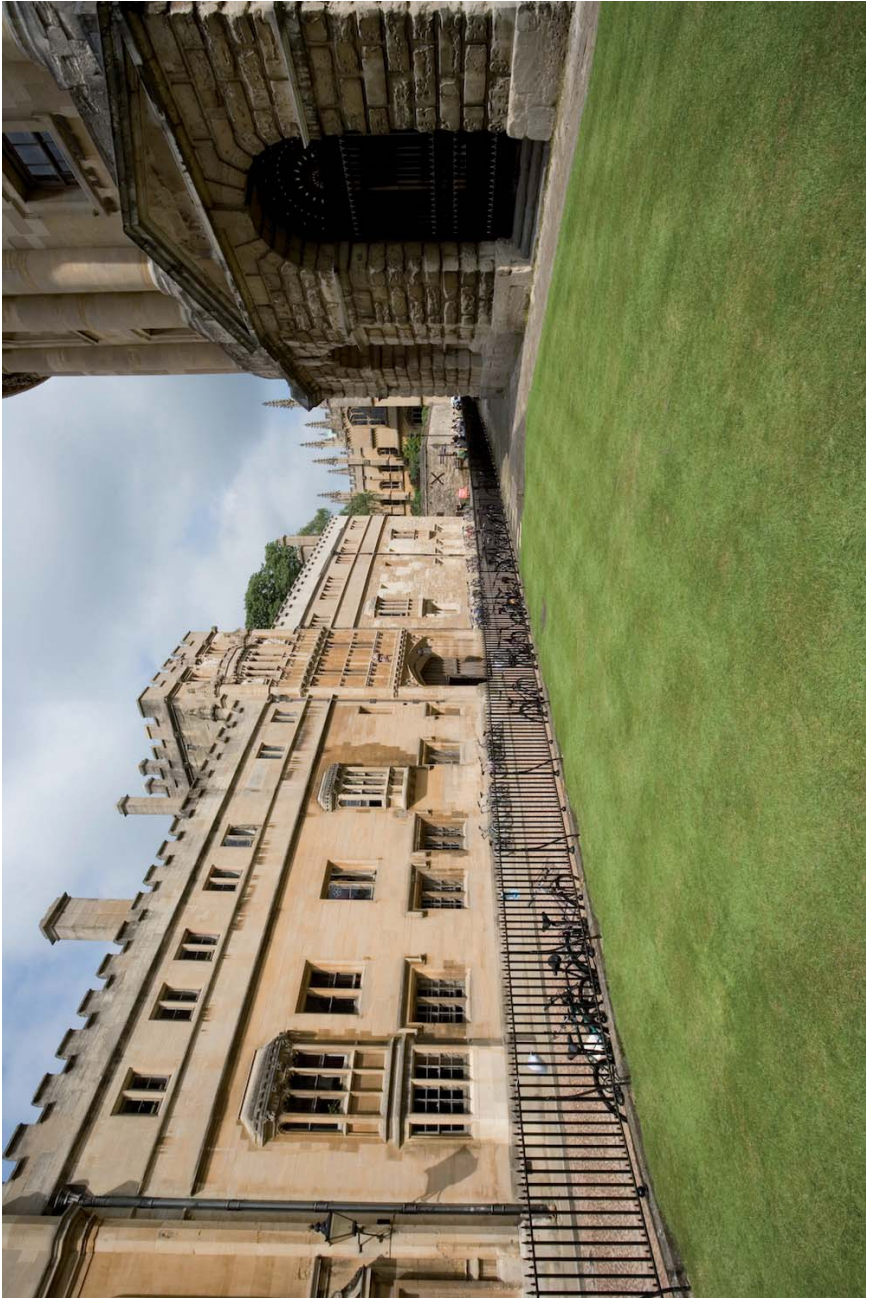


Photo: Andrew Molyneux

Brasenose seen from Radcliffe Square.





Dr Giles Wiggs, Fellow, Tutor in Geography, and Dean writes:

There is a chronic query with geography – what is it? Students fret with the philosophy of it for at least the duration of their undergraduate degree. The Royal Geographical Society offers ‘...the study of the earth’s landscapes, peoples, places and environment’, but such a statement cedes little to the pioneering exploits of the RGS-heroes of Shackleton, Scott and





Livingstone. Some question whether geography even exists today with globalisation shrinking the world to the extent that it is essentially 'flat'. But others contend that geography isn't about distance or space, but about simultaneous variety, the starkness of difference.¹ Such a view couldn't be much better illustrated than by my geography, that of deserts. Sitting in my office in New Quad on a dark November evening presents a peculiar starkness of difference





to the emptiness of the Namib sand sea, the patience of the Kalahari lion, and the tracks of a lone desert jackal.

1 Doreen Massey, Radio 3 Thursday 9 November 2006 21:30-22:30



News and Notes



NEWS AND NOTES

Douglas Vernimmen (Associate Member of the HCR): Highly Commended for his photograph of a BNC student 'The Harpist' (Charlotte Hutchinson) submitted at The Royal Photographic Society's 2008 International Projected Image Exhibition.

1937

Victor Percy Whittaker: Past Awards: Thudichem Medal, UK Biochem Society; K. S. Lashley Award of American Philosophical Society. Scientific Member, Max-Planck-Society for the Advancement of the Sciences.

1941

David Gordon Somers Carter: In Abadan and Baghdad with Aloc (BP), London and Holland (1947-72), and Octel (London) 1972-84. (On return from the war, Sonners suggested that as I had the opportunity to join BP, I should take it and be 3 years ahead of any one else!)

1944

Antony Conrad Johnstone: Retired Schoolmaster. Lay Reader Emeritus. Acorn Member of the Church's Healing Ministry.

1945

Colin Ware Mitchell: Publications: *Terrain Evaluation*, Longmans 1973, 1991; *Creationism Revisited*, Stanborough Press 1999; *Phytogeomorphology*, Wiley Interscience 1985 (with J. A. Howard); *Religion and the Environment*, Palgrave 2002 (with R. Tanner); *Landscape Walks in Sussex*, SB Pubs, 2004.

1948

Michael Allan Wilson: Publication: *From Trench to Sky: Letters Home 1915-1918*, a compilation of letters from his father Arthur George 'Jolly Pierre' Wilson, written from the trenches of Belgium.

1951

Alan Maurice Bold: Consultant at the National Guard Hospital, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and the King Faisal Specialist Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Publications: *Clinical Chemistry: conversion scales for SI units with adult normal (reference) values*, Blackwell 1975; *Clinical Chemistry Companion*, Blackwell 1978. Hobbies include singing in choirs, gardening, seeing children and grandchildren, and creative writing.

John Wakefield Hills: Consultant at KPMG.

Patrick Graham Lowe: Reports that his family company continues to grow and made a new acquisition, Hills Building Services of London and Birmingham, in March 2008.



1953

Ian James Bartlett: Publication: 'Thomas Philips, Lord Chesterfield and the enigma of a popular 18th-century ballad by William Boyce: a new conspiracy theory', *The Musical Times*, vol. 149, Spring 2008.

1954

Martin Arthur Brunt: Co-author and co-editor of *Developing Countries: Evaluation of Land Potential, The work of LRD, 1956-2001*, LRD Publishers 2006. Founder and director of the Land Resources Development Centre, UK Government Agency for rural development overseas. Interests include music (classical and jazz), reading, gardening and visiting France and Italy.

1955

Peter Joseph Wedge: Emeritus Professor in the Faculty of Health at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. Formerly Dean of the School of Economic and Social Studies, and founding Dean of the School of Health and Social Work at the University.

1959

Eric Stephen Albone: Elected Chair of RSA Wales & Western Region in 2007. Programmes undertaken in 2008 included public forums on the potential use of tidal energy from the Severn Estuary.

Ian Godfrey Falconer: MA in Applied Theology, Newcastle University 1993. Parish Priest in London Diocese until 1984, and in Newcastle Diocese until retirement in 2006. Mainly working in urban priority parishes.

1961

Malcolm Todd: Appointed President, Devon History Society. Emeritus Professor, still writing and researching. Publication: *Die Zeit Der Völkerwanderung*, 2007.

1962

Robert Travis Johnson: Director, Mary Lyon Centre, Medical Research Council, Harwell, 2008. Reports that he returned to Oxfordshire in 2002 from a spell on the east coast of the USA which was a great pleasure and challenge. The UK now has a functional genetics facility at Harwell to create and analyse mouse models of human disease. This year he retired from the MRC with the hope of dividing his time between, Oxford, Cambridge and New Jersey.

(Edward) Richard Woods: New Zealand Chair, New Zealand Frame Friendship Fund since 2008. Chair, Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA NZ) since 2008.

1963

Peter John Cotton: Installed as Honorary Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, 19 April 2008.



1966

David Edward Erdal: Reports that he has spent the last 25 years helping medium-sized companies become wholly owned by all their employees, rather than by outside shareholders; very satisfying to all concerned, and a stimulus to productivity and the spread of wealth. Publication: *Local heroes: how Loch Fyne Oysters embraced employee ownership and business success*, Penguin 2008.

1967

Eric Arthur Vallis: Reports that he is about to retire after some forty years involvement with Canterbury Cathedral, to which he was Estates Surveyor and a Steward, concurrently with his Oriel Fellowship.

John Weeks: Appointed Strategic Director (People) with Cheshire East Council, a new Unitary Local Authority, which will formally come into being on 1 April 2009. Responsible for Health and Wellbeing Services, Adults' Social Care and all Children's Services, including schools.

1971

Leslie Robert Victor Burwood: Taught Philosophy from 1975 to 2003, and is now retired.

Peter Henry Hall: Reports that he became an Emeritus Professor of the University of New South Wales when he retired from the School of Business, UNSW@ the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra, on his 60th birthday. He will remain active as a researcher attached to the School, focusing on projects in innovation and defence industry.

1976

Geraldine Susan Brodie née Jones: MA in Comparative Literature, University College London, 2007.

1978

Paula Helen Carter: Appointed Channel 4's first Viewers' Editor in December 2007.

Michael Alexander Curtis: Appointed Queen's Counsel in 2008.

Michael Joseph O'Sullivan: Appointed Director of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and Cambridge Overseas Trust from 2008. Received the CMG in the New Year's Honours, 2008.

1979

Stephanie Jane Donald née Hemelryk: Took up the newly-created position of Professor of Chinese Media at the University of Sydney in September 2008.

1981

Steven John Anthony Maltravers Webber: Reports that although now retired from



the Royal Navy, he is still active in the Royal Naval Reserve and is enjoying the challenge of commanding HMS Flying Fox whilst trying to hold down his day job at Wells Cathedral School and helping his wife Cathy look after their first child, Eleanora Joy.

1984

Rosemary Elizabeth Rowe née Jones: Publication: *Trust Matters in Healthcare*, Open University Press, 2008.

1987

Brian William Jenner: Addressed the Lawrence Ragan Communications 2008 Speechwriters' Conference in Washington, DC, on the subject of English Humour.

1991

Thomas Julian Attenborough: Tom and Alexandra (née Perry) are pleased to announce the arrival of Harry Alexander on 12 May 2008, a brother for Sam (aged 5) and Lucy (aged 3).

Valerie Ann Cornish née Smelt: Delighted at the arrival of Emily Alice Joy on 8 February 2008, a sister for Charlotte and William.

Anne-Marie Greene: Promoted to Reader in Industrial Relations, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick (2008). Publications: *The Dynamics of Managing Diversity: A Critical Approach*, 2nd edition, Butterworth-Heinemann 2005; *Voices from the Shopfloor: Dramas of the Employment Relationship*, Ashgate 2001. A son, Vincent, born 8 February 2007.

1993

Angus Charles Johnston: University Lecturer in Law (tenure as of 1 January 2007), University of Cambridge. Publication: *Markesinis and Deakin's Tort Law*, 6th edition, 2007 (with Professor Sir Basil Markesinis and Professor Simon Deakin).

Lyndsey Jaqueline Palser née Hairsine: Pleased to announce the birth of Olivia Katherine Palser on 8 November 2007, a sister for Megan Lucy Palser (born on 3 June 2005).

1996

Hagit Amirav: Awarded a European Research Council Grant of 650,000 Euros in January 2008 for a project entitled 'The Christian Appropriation of the Jewish Scriptures: Allegory, Pauline Exegesis, and the Negotiation of Religious Identities'.

Dario Giuseppe Dagostino: Married Jennifer Masterson in County Wicklow, Ireland, on 26 May 2008.



1997

Ian Robert Henderson: Reports that after four years of postdoctoral research in Los Angeles, he is returning to the UK to start a research group at the University of Cambridge. Married Kathy in summer 2008.

1998

Arianna Pretto-Sakmann: Arianna and Bernhard are proud to announce the birth of Sebastian Artemio Bert Sakmann on 25 September 2008.

1999

Christopher Michael Stothers: Married Emily Cox (Girton 1997) in June 2007. Publication: a practitioners' law book entitled *Parallel Trade in Europe: Intellectual Property, Competition and Regulatory Law*, Oxford 2007.



Obituaries



DEATHS NOTIFIED

* denotes full obituary

Patrick Nigel Acheson (1969) *	28 March 2008
Professor John Lloyd Ackrill (1940) *	30 November 2007
Charles Geoffry Allen (1930)	2 November 2007
Sir Jonathan Roger Backhouse (1958) *	15 November 2007
Nicholas MacDonald Beyts (1935)	18 July 2008
Minoo Peshotan Bhandara (1956)	June 2008
Bruce Alexander B Bikales (1966)	22 September 1990
David Michael Bows (1960)	10 July 2008
Peter Julius Brewin (1938)	23 October 2004
Wilson Thomas Brown (1951)	2007
Arnold Fraser Caddy (1935)	21 July 2006
Matthew James Carver (2004) *	1 August 2008
Professor John Chalmers (1938)	14 March 2008
Denis Grenville Church (1937)	2008
His Honour Philip D'Auvergne Collings (1950)	12 January 2008
David Morris Crabtree (1958)	19 June 2008
Rev'd Anthony Thomas Creery-Hill (1946)	19 January 2008
Dr Peter Vincent Curran (1965)	23 May 1996
Trevor Eugene Bently DaCosta (1958)	2 June 2008
Dr Deryk Wynn Davies (1949)	20 February 2008
Philip Maurice De Paris (1933)	17 December 2007
Julian James Foster-Barham (1930)	1980
Edward Frederick Fowler (1951)	11 August 2008
The Right Rev'd Roger Alban Marson Genders (1938) *	19 June 2008
William Stewart Gibson (1951)	3 January 2008
John Balfour Marshall Hain (1950)	2000
Martin Luther Hall (1947)	7 April 2008
John Hamilton Henderson (1951)	21 November 2006
Crispin Hill (1942) *	15 January 2008
Rodney Bruce Hodgson (1945)	1982
John Newton Hool (1950)	1998
Angus Orpe Hulton (1939)	31 May 2008
Professor Susan Lynn Hurley (1977) *	16 August 2007
Professor Ian Robert James Jack (1947) *	3 September 2008



Michael William Frewin Jenkin (1952)	6 June 2008
Robert Arthur Jenkinson (1938) *	3 August 2007
John Anthony Johnson (1976) *	29 June 2008
Nicholas Paul Johnson (1974) *	14 May 2008
Hilary Francis Rothery Jones (1936)	27 July 2008
John Owen Jones (1948)	29 May 2008
Charles Dundas Lawrie (1941)	31 August 1976
John Mann Lyle (1941)	2007
Stephen James Martin (1966)	21 June 1990
Francist John Mattison (1932)	1994
Gordon Hayden McKinna (1949)	July 2007
Douglas James Birkenyle Miller (1944)	31 July 2008
Kenneth Sutherland Milligan (1957)	1973
Jeremy Inglis Mosley (1956)	1985
Geoffrey Norman (1953)	10 February 2008
Kevin Louis Michael O'Hanlon (1944)	24 November 2007
Professor Michael Joseph Oakeshott (1950)	1990
His Honour Rodney Algernon Percy (1943)	17 May 2008
Nigel Trelawney Perfect (1965)	3 March 2008
Ian Cruden Rodger (1953)	27 July 2008
Boris Rotenberg (1999)	23 December 2007
Vivian Arthur Rouse (1947)	29 December 2007
Henry Lawrence Seccombe (1947) *	30 June 2008
Peter John Shepherd (1945)	August 2008
Paul Frederick Morten Shewell (1947)	2006
George Dickon Sinker (1946)	July 2007
David Stafford Stafford (1964)	4 July 2008
Peter William Staton (1942)	2008
John Denys Parkin Tanner (1945)	1988
Anthony Stedman Till (1956)	2006
Boris Ottokar Unbegaun (1952)	4 March 1973
William Ernest Willson (1945)	2007
Derek John Wilson (1952) *	17 March 2008
John Robert Louis Winckelmann (1957)	January 2008
Sydney Derek Woods (1944)	1998
Professor John George Woolhouse (1951)	1 February 2008



NIGEL ACHESON

BBC Radio producer who made sensitive and engaging programmes on topics from Suez to the history of the duffel coat

Nigel Acheson was a talented practitioner of an often underappreciated trade - that of the radio producer. It is presenters, the “public voice” of a programme, who usually enjoy most of the credit and fame. But it is producers who often have the original idea for the programme, choose and research its elements, and then turn what may be many hours of raw audio into a finely crafted documentary or report.

Acheson, who worked for the BBC and as an independent producer, was much admired by colleagues as well as outsiders both for his craft skills and the range of subject matter which he brought to radio life. His programmes ranged from journalistically incisive accounts of historical events to rich reflections on spiritual life, from intimate insights into sensitive areas such as mental illness and sexuality to celebrations of the fascination to be found in such apparently banal subjects as the duffel coat.

He was born in Herefordshire, studied languages at Oxford and initially trained as a teacher before travelling widely and working for the British Council in Brazil, where he met his long-term partner, Fernando Soares. Returning to Britain, he cut his radio teeth with the BBC World Service and its English-language teaching programmes, where his work included a radio detective story, before joining BBC domestic radio’s main talks and documentaries unit.

Here his wide interests were given full play in a range of programmes and formats, including regular programmes such as *Pick of the Week* and *Bookshelf*, and also special series and features which he himself devised. In the history programme *Document* there was a striking investigation into Anglo-Irish history which tested the claim that Sir Roger Casement’s famous diaries had really been forged.

The way the BBC itself had responded to historical events was revealingly explored in programmes about the Holocaust and the Suez crisis.

He was also “a great radio producer because he was a good listener”, said one colleague who worked with him both in the BBC and in the independent sector. “No matter how anonymous someone might appear to be, Nigel would find the story within them.”

His ability to win the trust of his subjects and cover new ground for mainstream radio was powerfully displayed in *Mum, I’ve Got Something to Tell You*, about homosexuality and family life, and, later, *She’s Alright, My Mum Is*, made with a regular collaborator, the reporter Kim Normanton, in which three young British



carers talked about looking after parents with debilitating illnesses.

Serious though such subject matter might be, Acheson was famed for what another BBC colleague and fellow documentary-maker called his “wonderfully dry, ironic humour that ran through many of his productions”. Programmes on subjects as varied as ventriloquists in the US, an orchestra in Shanghai or the history of the duffel coat as an evocation of the early postwar era in Britain allowed this quality to shine. They also demonstrated his mastery of the composition of programmes, subtly using music, imaginative editing and juxtaposition to create atmosphere and engagement with the listener.

In 1996 he had left the BBC to found an independent company, Loftus Productions. It was something of a gamble in the earlier years of the independent radio sector, but such was his reputation that commissions kept coming in for the sort of documentaries he loved making most, including *It’s All Down to Ben*, about a young heroin addict.

The Radio 4 commissioning editor Andrew Caspari described Acheson as “simply one of the greatest radio producers of our time”, who was “a sculptor of audio”. In addition to documentaries he worked regularly with the distinguished BBC presenter Mark Tully on *Something Understood*, a meditative Radio 4 programme on spiritual life which also made good use of Acheson’s wide knowledge of music.

Tully admired his skill in finding the key question of an interview, and judging just the right tone in which a script should be delivered, as one who “had one of the sharpest ears for what makes great radio I have come across in many years of broadcasting”.

Acheson had been looking forward to expanding his business as well as future radio projects when, after a prolonged illness, he finally fell victim to a gastrointestinal stromal tumour.

He is survived by Fernando Soares, with whom he entered into a civil partnership in 2007.

Nigel Acheson, radio producer, was born on June 21, 1950. He died on March 28, 2008, aged 57

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PROFESSOR J. L. ACKRILL

Oxford philosopher who helped to introduce a new rigour to the study of classical texts



J.L. Ackrill, Professor of the History of Philosophy at Oxford, 1966-89, was one of the leading figures of the 20th century in the study of Ancient Greek philosophy.

Claims about new beginnings and fresh starts in an academic discipline are sometimes too easily made. But in the late 1950s and the 1960s there was indeed a sea change in the study of ancient philosophy, thanks to Ackrill and a small handful of others, most notably Gregory Vlastos and Gwil Owen. It involved the conviction that one must bring to bear on ancient texts not only meticulous classical scholarship – that was not new – but also the utmost philosophical rigour and acuity.

This revolution was prompted in part by the rise of so-called “ordinary language philosophy” and the interest sometimes displayed by Aristotle (though rarely by other Ancient philosophers) in appealing to “what we say”, which suggested a close community of interest between him and contemporary philosophers such as Austin and Ryle. The approach of Ackrill and others was not, however, restricted to the ordinary language perspective: the central idea was, as it remains, that of combining textual sensitivity with vigorous philosophical engagement.

John Lloyd Ackrill was born in 1921. He was educated at Reading School, and went up to St John’s College, Oxford, as a Thomas White scholar in Trinity Term 1940. There he formed a wide circle of acquaintances, including Kingsley Amis, John Wain, John Wilton and Leader Hawkins.

After he had taken a first in Classical Mods his undergraduate career was interrupted by war service, which included a period with the General Staff in the somewhat unlikely role of a motorcycle dispatch rider in France – once memorably bearing a message for Field Marshal Montgomery in one pocket and a vial of cyanide to be taken in case of capture in the other.

In Berlin in 1945 he was given early release to return to Oxford, where he took a



first in Greats in 1948. His first academic post was as assistant lecturer in logic at the University of Glasgow, and after a year he was appointed to a new university lecturership in Ancient Philosophy in Oxford. This came with an initial two-year study leave, which he spent first in Switzerland and then at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, where he worked with Harold Cherniss. He was to make several more visits to Princeton over the next decade, and developed a close friendship with Gregory Vlastos.

In 1953 he was elected to a tutorial fellowship and university lecturership at Brasenose College, Oxford, and in August of the same year married Margaret Walker Kerr. His undergraduate pupils at Brasenose included David Wiggins and Michael Woods. Woods was later elected to a fellowship at Brasenose: and if Oxford was the place to be for Ancient Philosophy in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, the team of Ackrill and Woods made Brasenose the place to be in Oxford. In 1966 Ackrill became the first holder of Oxford's Professorship of the History of Philosophy.

Although Oxford professorships are each associated with a particular college (in this case Keble), Ackrill's great attachment to Brasenose led him to take advantage of a curious Oxford rule which allowed the first holder of a chair, if already associated with an Oxford college, to remain there – somewhat disconcerting Austin Farrer, the Warden of Keble, in the process. Ackrill served as vice-principal of Brasenose, 1978-80, was made a Fellow of the British Academy in 1981, and continued as Professor of the History of Philosophy until his retirement in 1989. He was made an honorary Fellow of St John's in 1996.

He oversaw a generation of graduate students, in his regular graduate classes on Plato and Aristotle (and occasional ones on Plotinus), as a doctoral supervisor, and as adviser to a stream of visiting students from all over the world. A review of his first book, on Aristotle's *Categories* and *De Interpretatione*, captured Ackrill's particular style as an Ancient philosopher: "Mr Ackrill never raises his voice."

Ackrill disliked any form of showiness, and had a passion not only for precision in thought and speech but also for clarity and simplicity of expression. He had a deep distrust of any attempt to be definitive: it was highly characteristic of him to describe his own work as merely pointing out or clarifying problems; and some of his work is indeed principally of this character, such as his enormously influential 1973 paper *Aristotle's Definitions of Psyche*, and his excellent introduction to *Aristotle, Aristotle the Philosopher* (1981).

Other papers, such as his ground-breaking articles on Plato's *Sophist* and his renowned British Academy lecture on Aristotelian *eudaimonia*, display a less Socratic style; but even here Ackrill always steered clear of grand systems and the sweeping statement, preferring to work on texts and problems in all their particularity, and possessing an extraordinary ability to go to the heart of things with great concision and the minimum of fuss.



He was the ideal person to take over the Clarendon Aristotle Series from its founder, J.L. Austin, on the latter's death in 1960. The aim of the series, which Ackrill was to edit for more than 40 years, was to present accurate translations of Aristotelian texts, and philosophical commentaries designed to help readers to think about these texts for themselves. The second volume to appear, in 1963, was Ackrill's own on the *Categories* and *De Interpretatione*, two early works concerned with foundational issues in Aristotle's philosophy of language and metaphysics. Ackrill's translation set a standard for faithfulness and elegance which few others have equalled; his illuminating and incisive commentary has been among the main stimuli for work in these areas over the last 40 years. The book is one of the most cited works on Ancient Philosophy in the English-speaking world.

He retired as editor in 2001, having overseen the writing of 19 other volumes, and having thus been the prime mover in the creation of an unrivalled resource for professionals as well as graduates.

In his personal life Ackrill displayed the same qualities found in his academic work. What colleagues found most striking about him was his modesty, his courtesy, kindness and unfailing good humour, a Socratic seriousness coupled with a quiet wit, and his love for his family: however much philosophy was discussed, the conversation always turned at some stage to Margaret and their children.

It was entirely characteristic of Ackrill's approach to ancient philosophy that he began the last paragraph of the final essay in the second edition of *Essays on Plato and Aristotle* (2001) with "I end on an interrogative note." What Ackrill did for a whole generation of ancient philosophers, as his writings continue to do for his readers today, was to teach them – and inspire them – to be interrogative; to ask searching questions of difficult texts.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their four children.

Professor J.L. Ackrill, philosopher, was born on December 30, 1921. He died on November 30, 2007, aged 85

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The following tribute to John Ackrill was given by Professor Richard Cooper, Vice Principal of Brasenose, at his funeral in Brasenose Chapel on Tuesday 11 December 2007:

We are here to remember and honour the long and distinguished career of John Ackrill. Not only did he have a richly fulfilled life, celebrating just last week his 86th birthday (born 3 Dec 1921), but he was associated with this College for over half a century, having written his letter accepting election to a Fellowship exactly 55 years ago this week (12 December 1952).



After shining academically at Reading School (whose school song Sue Reynolds remembers him singing lustily in the car), he went up to St John's in 1940, a College founded by a benefactor of his old school, where he overlapped with John Wain, Kingsley Amis and Philip Larkin.

His brilliant undergraduate career, with firsts in Mods and Greats, sat astride five years of distinguished war service with the Royal Berks regiment (1941-45), illustrating, *avant la lettre*, that axiom of Aristotle that 'Strength belongs to the young, wisdom to the old'. It is wholly appropriate that, ten years ago in 1997, coming full circle, his undergraduate College should have marked both his youthful strength and his adult wisdom, by electing him to an Honorary Fellowship, and that he should have been congratulated in a letter by his close colleague and friend, the Acting Principal of Brasenose, Leighton Reynolds, on behalf of all members of this College which he had served with such distinction for half a century.

But Oxford had not yet claimed him for its own. He escaped to Switzerland, to Princeton, and to Glasgow University, where he was a colleague of Philip Jones; but, as Aristotle wrote, 'St John's is dear to me, but the truth (and Brasenose) are more so'; and he was elected to replace Geoffrey Warnock in December 1952, writing to the then Principal, Hugh Last, that I shall do my utmost to deserve the confidence that has been shown in me.

And his utmost he did. He embarked on a glittering career as an Aristotelean scholar, of which Lindsay Judson will speak, and as a superb undergraduate tutor and research supervisor. One of his best pupils, and a future close friend and colleague, Michael Woods, wrote that

'His tutorials seem to me, in retrospect, to have been a paradigm of the best sort of Oxford, one-to-one tutorial.'

As ever he went beyond the bare minimum, taking his pupils on reading parties in the vacation (1962), and – fulfilling Aristotle's precept that 'man is by nature a political animal' – accepting College offices, including the dizzying heights of Junior Dean (1954) to Robert Shackleton's Senior Dean. The Senior Dean, in a more whimsical approach, used to calibrate the severity of the crime against the quality of drink offered to the offender: if you were given a dry sherry you knew hanging was on the cards. John Ackrill was less effusive in manner, but razor-sharp: on one occasion (1956) an elegant freshman went duck-shooting, and returned in triumph with a bleeding brace. These he proceeded to hang outside his upstairs window in New Quad. Summoned before the Junior Dean, the culprit found himself deflated by Ackrill's crisp invocation of Kant's categorical imperative, 'What if everybody did that?'

After thirteen years as a BNC tutorial fellow, teaching pupils of the calibre of David Wiggins and Michael Woods, the academic world decided it was time for a change



for him, and elected him to the Chair of the History of Philosophy. No one was surprised:

‘His elevation to the professorate was to be expected.’

This implied a move to Keble, where the chair was attached. But John was a man of institutional continuity, true to Aristotle’s tag : “*Natura non facit saltum*”, and he cited statute and verse in defence of remaining at Brasenose. In this *cause célèbre*, Keble behaved impeccably. The Warden, Austin Farrer, hoped he would migrate, but added that ‘We cannot, however, conceivably blame a preference for old ties over new associations.’ When John won his case and was allowed to stay here, Farrer wrote very graciously to Sir Noel Hall:

‘If the College (Keble) were not sorry to lose the prospect of Mr Ackrill’s membership, it would not have the occasion, which it has, to congratulate you on retaining him where he is.’

In his new incarnation as a Professorial Fellow (1966), he pursued his devoted service to the College, taking on not only the role of Vice-Principal (1978-80), but for a number of years that of Senior Treasurer of the JCR, keeping his close contacts with Junior Members. This was to be the occasion of yet another *cause célèbre* (1986): he enjoyed teaching undergraduates, but as a Professor was not traditionally allowed to be paid for doing so. The rules had to be changed, and John was in the vanguard, writing to the then Senior Tutor, Graham Richards, with a quotation from Tennyson:

‘The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils himself in many ways.’

In this new world order, John, although ejected from his elegant room which was needed for the expanded Senior Common Room, flourished as scholar, as supervisor, as stern defender of the College’s traditions, and yet as liberal reformer. It was he who, six years into his fellowship (1959) had first proposed that lady guests should be allowed at High Table. This met with opposition, and was only agreed on the condition that the privilege was limited to one stated night in each vacation! Reformer and wit: the College awarded him a prize for a one-liner that was actually a one-worder, for his response on being told that the philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe had been seen wearing lipstick: ‘Where?’ he enquired.

Various friends have described John Ackrill as a ‘slim tall figure with a noble forehead projecting academic distinction’; as ‘a profoundly nice human, kindly, with, conspicuously, a superbly clear and logical brain’. One in particular delved beneath the surface restraint, which made him seem austere and even a little distant, to find the underlying ‘deep seam of kindness spiced with sharp and ironic humour’. ‘His contributions to College governance were powerful – all the more so for being understated. He did not speak at length at Governing Body, because



he did not need to: a few plain words were sufficient to move the argument. He detested humbug or pretentiousness: if he did show any sign of personal satisfaction in the writings of an Ackrill, then it was manifested as a quiet pride in the work (very different from his own) of Margaret', who with their four children gave him a blissfully happy and fulfilling home life in Charlbury Road.

John retired in 1989, the same year as those other pillars of the College – Philip Jones, Nicholas Kurti, John Barltrop, and Leslie Styler. Indifferent health meant that we saw less of him in retirement than we would have wished. Indeed, he had very nearly refused the chair which he had just been offered, through concern for his eyesight: it would be 'unwise of me (he wrote) to take a job that will require, above all, constant and close study of texts.' Happily he changed his mind within a week, writing with characteristic modesty about the forthcoming vote on whether he needed to migrate to Keble:

'I should very much like to stay at the College, and if I did, I should hope to serve it in any ways that were open to me.'

'I should particularly NOT like to be the cause of any acrimony within the GB.'

The passage of Tennyson he cited was surely prophetic, taken as it is from the *Passing of Arthur*; and we can read on a few lines for the poet's vision of a future eudaimonía:

But now farewell. I am going a long way [...],
 To the island valley of Avilion;
 Where falls not hail, or rain, or any snow,
 Nor ever wind blows loudly; but it lies
 Deep meadow'd, happy, fair with orchard lawns
 And bowery hollows crowned with summer sea.



SIR JONATHAN BACKHOUSE, Bt

Publisher of integrity and acerbic wit

Sir Jonathan Backhouse, 4th Bt, who has died aged 67, enjoyed a solid career in publishing before falling foul of the American owners of his firm.

Jonathan Roger Backhouse was born on December 30 1939 and succeeded in the baronetcy as a small boy in November 1944, on the death of his father, Major Sir John Backhouse, MC. Jonathan's grandfather, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Backhouse, had been First Sea Lord.

Although Jonathan was brought up as a Roman Catholic – his mother was a Catholic and he was sent to Ampleforth – the Backhouses had been Quakers at Darlington, Co Durham, where Sir Jonathan Backhouse, 1st Bt (1849-1918), had been director of a family bank which merged with Barclays.

The title was passed down through the Admiral's elder brother, Sir Edmund Backhouse (1873-1944), the oriental scholar made notorious by Hugh Trevor-Roper's book *Hermit of Peking* (1976), which accused him of forging most of his sources.

From Ampleforth Jonathan went up to Brasenose College, Oxford, where he read Persian and Arabic. Before arriving in Oxford he had taken a short course in Italian at the *Universita Italiana per Stranieri*, Perugia. He also spoke fluent French and good German.

At 6ft 5in tall, Backhouse was an immediately distinctive presence among the freshmen of 1958. Those who came to know him soon recognised that he also had an incisive intellect, and that his somewhat reserved personality masked a refreshing sense of humour.

On leaving Oxford he was attached to the British Institute of Persian Studies in Teheran. He had earlier, before taking his degree, spent the year 1960-61 absent from Oxford, surveying in the Iranian desert.

On his return to England Backhouse spent short periods as an editorial assistant with the publishers Anthony Blond and the Longman Group, and worked as a freelance researcher for various other publishers and authors.

He also found part-time employment as a teacher of Modern Persian Language and Literature at Oxford. In November 1965 he went as an assistant editor to David Burnett, then of Elek Books, remaining there for a year.

Backhouse then joined WH Freeman, the European subsidiary of a well-known American scientific books publisher. His progress was rapid, and in 1968 he was appointed managing director. Under his stewardship the company's sales increased



by nearly 2,000 per cent over the next 16 years. In the course of this period he moved the firm's offices to Beaumont Street, Oxford, buying himself a small house at Wallingford where he lived until his death on November 15.

Backhouse was a man of exceptional integrity. He could also be outspoken, as well as blunt and short-tempered in his dealings. There was no malice in him, however, and he enjoyed firm friendships with those who had known him for much of his life.

In 1984 his wit proved too acerbic for the transatlantic corporate executive who had recently been brought in to supervise WH Freeman's non-American operations. Backhouse was invited to leave the firm.

He worked briefly for another publisher and then as a dealer in antique furniture before concentrating on stock market analysis, from which he derived his income for the rest of his life.

Apart from his gift for languages, Jonathan Backhouse displayed none of his infamous great-uncle Sir Edmund's characteristics. He did, however, possess physical courage: in 1996, noting one late evening a couple of drunken yobs defiling his garden, he sailed into single-handed attack, which, since his opponents were armed with cudgels, resulted in his hospitalisation with concussion.

He married, in 1997, Sarah Stott, daughter of James Stott, of Cromer in Norfolk, and was fortunate in his marriage. Family and friends noted how his temper and outlook on life mellowed. In 1998 he and Sarah had a daughter, and in 2002 a son, Alfred James Stott Backhouse, who succeeds in the baronetcy.

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MATTHEW CARVER

Elsewhere in this publication there are tributes to Matthew Carver, who has died aged 22, of leukemia. This is right and proper, as Matt was involved in so many areas of college life, and made an impact on so many Brasenose men and women.

Matthew grew up in Newport in South Wales, attending Duffryn High School. He came up to Brasenose in 2004, to read Modern History. He secured his place here by the excellence of his academic record; but at interview he had already marked himself out to the history tutors with ‘signs of real determination and drive’. That determination led him to study history in real depth, changing from a ‘self-proclaimed modernist’ at the start of his course, to a passionate mediaevalist at its end. In his second-year he took the ‘British Medieval History to 1330’ paper, followed by the Crusades, both under the direction of Dr. Rowena Archer. She remembers tutorials as ‘combative and competitive, but in the nicest possible way’. These mediaevalist tendencies grew into an interest in castles – not perhaps unusual for a Welshman. Matthew chose to write an undergraduate dissertation on the lost castles – the so called adulterine castles – of Stephen’s reign. It was perhaps this that encouraged him to think of taking his studies beyond graduation; and, in advance of Schools, Matt was elected a Senior Hulme Scholar.

But Matt was not just busy with the study of history. He was also involved in sport, rather more as a keen competitor than a skilled practitioner, but always as a good team man. With rowing, with cricket, with the quiz machine in the Bar, Matt was at the heart of some of BNC’s more epic contests. He delighted in mock-serious depiction of these activities, and remembering this brings to mind his dry but ever-present sense of humour. He attended Chapel and became the Chapel Treasurer. He also took part in the Oxford University Wind Orchestra, for whom he was the manager. It was through this latter interest, whilst on tour in France, that he came to know Nicola Godfrey, a Maths undergraduate at New College. He and Nicola were soon inseparable.

In Michaelmas 2007, Matt began his M.St. in History. He planned to do more on castles; but under the guidance of Professor Richard Sharpe of Wadham, he turned to the career of one of King Stephen’s more colourful and controversial bishops, Stephen’s brother, Henry of Blois, Bishop of Winchester. Professor Sharpe has spoken of how, in the short time that he worked with Matt, he appreciated Matt’s enthusiasm for in-depth knowledge. It would undoubtedly have been a very successful graduate career.

At the beginning of 2008, Matt and Nicola became engaged, to the delight of their families. But following a visit to his GP, Matt was diagnosed with leukaemia, and immediately rushed to the John Radcliffe Hospital. So began the fight against the disease. Matt undertook this battle with the determination and good humour which were the hallmarks of his character. He was supported by many from the College,



and from home. He enjoyed the love and encouragement of an extremely close family: his mother and father, and sisters Abi and Em. It was frequently remarked how much he cared for them, and not for himself. It was also notable that Matt suffered this disease without ever asking the question ‘Why me?’

When a terminal diagnosis was made in July, Matt and Nicola decided that they would follow through with their plan to marry. After banns, read in the University Church – the quickest way of arranging the service – a ceremony took place in BNC Chapel on 31 July. Matt was, by this time, extremely ill; but his vows were made loud and clear, Nicola was as radiant and beautiful as any bride could be, and the service was a true celebration of their love. Matt made a humorous speech that evening at his reception, his wit as sharp as ever.

The following morning Matthew collapsed, and was taken, once more, to the John Radcliffe hospital. He died, surrounded by his wife and family, almost exactly twenty-four hours after he had said his marriage vows.

A funeral took place at Newport Cathedral, conducted by the Chaplain, and attended by hundreds of friends from the area where Matt grew up. Brasenose men acted as pallbearers up the long path from the lych-gate in black-and-gold Boat Club blazers. On 25 October, a memorial service was held in Brasenose Chapel, at which Dr Archer, Alan Bills (BNC 2004), Mr Byron Godfrey (Matt’s father-in-law) and the Chaplain spoke. Prayers were conducted by Dr Peter Groves, who had been Chaplain during Matt’s first two years at BNC. Music was provided by the College choir, and by Iron Maiden.

Matt will be sorely missed by all his friends and colleagues in Brasenose. He was one of our bright stars.

Matthew James Carver, 1985-2008, RIP.



THE RT REV ANSELM GENDERS

*Anglican monk of traditionalist views whose ministry took him to Africa
and the West Indies*

The Rt Rev Anselm Genders, who died on June 19 aged 88, was for almost 57 years a member of the Community of the Resurrection, an Anglican religious order whose mother house is at Mirfield in the West Riding of Yorkshire, but he spent a substantial part of his monastic life overseas.

From 1955 to 1965 he was involved in education at Codrington College, Barbados; this was followed by nine years in Rhodesia, and in 1977 he became Bishop of Bermuda, where a breakdown in health led to his resignation after five years.

War service as a naval officer instilled in Genders the importance of strict discipline, which he took into his religious vocation; but when some of his students, encouraged by this trait and by his close-cropped head and fierce spectacles, referred to him as “Gestapo Genders” this was said with affection. He was something of a character with strong views, who might well have been cast in Dad’s Army.

An uncompromising Tory in politics and an unbending traditional high churchman, Genders was constant in his opposition to change in the Church – except for modern translations of the Bible, asserting that if the Scriptures were not read in Greek or Latin it did not much matter what language was employed. His sermons, well spiced with humour, were always looked forward to, and the mixture of the serious and the comic, which coloured his whole personality, was always engaging.

Roger Marson Genders (he added the name Alban when he joined the Navy, and Anselm became his name as a monk) was born in Birmingham on August 15 1919. He was educated at King Edward VI School, where he was given a firm grounding in the Classics, and attended St Alban’s church – Anglo-Catholic and famous for its defiance of Bishop Barnes, the modernist Bishop of Birmingham.

He went as senior scholar up to Brasenose College, Oxford, to read Greats, but soon after the outbreak of war in 1939 joined the RNVR, serving as a purser on five different ships in most parts of the world. This gave him a love of the tropics (he said that the British climate was suitable only for wildfowl) and it also made him an able administrator, which later proved to be useful in the monastic world.

On demobilisation in the rank of lieutenant-commander in 1946, he returned to Oxford to complete his degree, taking a Second, then taught for a short time at Dame Alleyne School in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

In 1948 he went to Mirfield as a novice and to prepare for Holy Orders; four years later he was professed as a monk and ordained to the priesthood. Shortly before his profession he sought to take the name Rodney, but was informed by the novice



master that he must choose the name of a saint, not of an admiral.

From 1952 to 1955 Genders was a tutor at his community's theological college at Mirfield, but then was sent with two fellow monks, also ex-Navy, to "rescue" Codrington College in Barbados. This, the oldest theological college in the Western world, which was affiliated to Durham University, served the Church throughout the West Indies and had an honoured history; but it was in a crisis caused by neglect. One of its students complained: "Even the mice have forsaken the place."

Genders became vice-principal and before long principal, proving to be ideally suited to the task of raising the training of future priests to an exceptionally high standard.

He returned to Mirfield in 1965 and spent a year on administration and finance before being sent to Penhalonga, in Rhodesia, where the community had a priory and a large-scale educational programme in the schools of the area. His main role was that of treasurer, but he became involved in many other activities – training young clerks for commercial posts, supervising apprentices who were learning trades and engaging a horticulturist to grow vegetables on a scale large enough to feed a boarding school.

These were the years when the conflict between the British government and the Smith regime was at its height, and all the monks, except for Genders, united in their support of African rebellion against white domination. Genders, in common with a newly-appointed Bishop of Mashonaland, Paul Burrough, advocated a more moderate approach.

In 1970 Burrough persuaded the prior of the community to release Genders to become archdeacon of Manicaland in the eastern districts of the country. Over the next five years he travelled many thousands of miles, sometimes over mountainous territory, in a VW Beetle to minister to Africans pastorally and in other practical ways, such as shoe repairs, financial matters and urgent journeys to distant hospitals. His financial expertise also proved to be useful to the Anglican Church in Malawi, where he became diocesan auditor.

Genders returned once again to Mirfield in 1977 in the expectation of becoming bursar, but in the same year he responded to a request from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Donald Coggan, that he should become Bishop of Bermuda. Against the advice of his community, he accepted, and this turned out to be a serious mistake.

The diocese of Bermuda has been a longstanding problem for the Archbishop of Canterbury, under whose jurisdiction it remains. With only 10 parishes and about a dozen clergy, all living in one another's pockets, it is hardly a full-time job for an active bishop. Its isolation – 800 miles from America's east coast – made it a lonely post for an expatriate English monk who had spent most of his life



in a religious community. Moreover, by the time Genders was appointed there was among the island's clergy hostility to the idea of yet another imported bishop, though they could not agree among themselves which of their own number might be preferable.

Genders later described his five years in Bermuda as the unhappiest in his life. He got on well with the Governor and the lay people, and did much valuable pastoral work; but he was never accepted by the constantly plotting clergy, and in the end became ill. He resigned in 1982 and went back to Mirfield, where he remained based for the rest of his life. Besides sharing in the community's ministry of preaching and retreat-conducting, he was an assistant bishop in Wakefield diocese until 1989.

The changes Genders found taking place in the Church of England displeased him, and he strongly disapproved of the ordination of women to the priesthood. This led him to provide episcopal ministry to many parishes associated with Forward in Faith, which unites those who reject women priests. Every year he also toured North America to minister to traditionalists and breakaway groups. But he none the less established strong links with the experimental Ecumenical Community of Jesus at Cape Cod, which includes families and some women priests.

The infirmity of advancing years was a burden to Genders, and he awaited death impatiently.

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CRISPIN HILL

Such was the interest in carpentry of Crispin Hill, who has died aged 84, that, when he was a small boy, his school carpenter made him a special stool to enable him to watch and assist. This passionate interest in manual skills – in all forms of craft, design and technology – became the hallmark of his teaching career of more than 60 years. Although scholarship was important to him – and his pupils gained scholarships to the best independent schools – he championed the importance of vocational skills.

His classes in maths and science were exciting and unpredictable. When illustrating the coldness of Antarctica, he would freeze a soft rubber pipe in liquid nitrogen and then knock it with a hammer so that it broke into pieces. When demonstrating atmospheric pressure he would heat a Lyle's Golden Syrup tin with a gas burner and, when it was sufficiently hot, replace the lid and pour ice water over it so that the tin crumpled into a small twisted lump. In the early 1980s, he wrote an instruction book, ZX 81, and gave demonstrations in computer use.

Nor did he believe that teaching was limited to the classroom. Leading parties of boys armed with saws, bill hooks, axes and ropes, he delighted in building tree houses, bridges to the island on the school lake, and other structures. Then on clear, frosty winter evenings, he would suddenly emerge with his telescope and help us to identify the wonders of the cosmos.

Hill was born in Eastbourne and educated at Aldro school, Winchester college and Brasenose College, Oxford. In 1952, aged 28, he succeeded his father as headmaster of Aldro school, where he remained until 1984. A couple of years later he returned to teaching at St Aubyn's school, Rottingdean, until, at 73, he became director of Skillway, a part of the Warehouse Christian Trust. Here he spent 11 years teaching wood, metal and glass work, motor mechanics, stone engraving and ceramics to troubled 14 and 15-year-olds.

He is survived by his wife, Christine, whom he married in 1972. There were no children.

© David Hacking, *The Guardian*, 9 April 2008



PROFESSOR SUSAN HURLEY

Influential philosopher who pioneered the union of the cognitive and the social sciences

Professor Susan Hurley was a philosopher of international distinction. After holding a chair in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick (1994-2006) she was appointed Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bristol.

She achieved international prominence in two fields – legal philosophy and the philosophy of psychology – and did pioneering work to bring these separate fields into constructive contact.

Susan Lynn Hurley was born in Santa Barbara, California, in 1954. She graduated from Princeton University in 1976. After taking a BPhil in Philosophy at Oxford she became the first female Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, in January 1981. She also took a doctorate in law from Harvard Law School in 1988. She was a tutorial fellow of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, from 1985 to 1994 before taking up chairs at Warwick and, last year, Bristol.

Many philosophers would agree in principle that philosophy can and should find sources of nutrition in other fields of inquiry. But few put this theoretical approval for inter-disciplinary work into practice to the extent that Hurley did.

Her writing, which covers an extraordinary range of topics, brought an encyclopaedic command of relevant material, from outside philosophy as well as inside it, to the service of a penetrating philosophical intellect and a lawyer's skill in organising an argument. Aspirations to comprehensive understanding came naturally to her. In a less intellectually scrupulous person, this might have led to pretentiousness and hand-waving, but her breadth of ambition was allied to definiteness and scholarly discipline.

In *Natural Reasons* (1989) she argued that practical rationality functions in the context of a multiplicity of values that are, in a metaphysically unthreatening sense, objective. Her extensive defence of this idea exploits reflections not only in the philosophy of mind and language and the philosophy of law, but also in formal decision theory, a subject in which she made herself expert.

A running theme of the book is a comparison, reminiscent of the main idea of Plato's *Republic*, between individual choice by subjects who are susceptible to the pull of conflicting values, and social choice when the polity must take account of the conflicting preferences of different individuals.

Her most influential book, *Consciousness in Action* (1998), was originally planned under the title (appropriated, in the published version, for the theme-setting introductory chapter) "The Reappearing Self". The book's target was a tendency for



thought about mentality to have difficulty in finding a place in the natural world for the self, the conscious mind.

Hurley traced the difficulty to the attractions of a picture of consciousness as a point at which perceptual input makes contact with behavioural output. She replaced that picture – “the Input-Output Picture” – with one in which, as she put it, “the self does not lurk hidden somewhere between perceptual input and behavioural output, but reappears out in the open, embodied and embedded in the world”.

Her resources for this project included not only pure philosophical reflection, starting with Kantian questions about the unity of consciousness and the later Wittgenstein’s appeal to the concept of practice, but also empirical findings and empirically responsible theoretical speculation in the physiology and psychology of human, and more generally animal, behaviour.

The rich exploitation of empirical material was not a merely decorative appendage to a purely philosophical argument, but an integral element in a sustained train of thought.

This book, together with work that extends its themes, attracted much attention in the active interdisciplinary field of consciousness studies, in which Hurley was a notable figure.

Justice, Luck, and Knowledge (2003) aimed to bring together two trends in recent philosophy that, though they should have been connected, have operated in near isolation from one another. One is the coming to prominence of the idea that distributive justice requires us to correct inequalities grounded in luck while respecting inequalities for which people are responsible. The other is a rethinking of the idea of responsibility.

Philosophical thought about responsibility has moved away, in various directions, from the traditional idea that responsibility for one’s actions resides in its having been possible for one to act otherwise than one did.

Hurley magisterially surveyed and intervened in an enormous literature in both these fields. She argued that “opening the black box” that the topic of responsibility has largely been in reflection about justice, reveals unsuspected problems for the luck-neutralising understanding of the basis for egalitarianism. And she recommended that we should replace neutralising luck with neutralising bias – neutralising influences that distort beliefs about what should be done – as the central element in a conception of distributive justice.

Hurley co-edited a two-volume collection of papers on imitation (2005), and a collection of papers on rationality in non-human animals (2006). And between her books, and while she was shaping up to them, she was prolific in conference presentations, anthology contributions and journal articles. She held visiting posts



at Berkeley, Princeton, Harvard and Canberra.

She was active nearly to the end. At her death, as at all times in her working life, she had a great range of work planned and work in progress.

It would be hard to overstate how great a loss her death is to philosophy and the neighbouring intellectual enterprises in which she was also at home.

She was a memorably lively person with a wide range of interests outside philosophy, including scuba diving, skiing, photography and tango dancing, as well as a love of travel to places as diverse as Italy, China and Hawaii. She reluctantly cancelled a projected trip to Australia and Fiji only a few days before her death.

Hurley is survived by her husband, Professor Nicholas Rawlins, and by their two sons.

Professor Susan Hurley, philosopher, was born on September 16, 1954. She died of cancer on August 16, 2007, aged 52

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PROFESSOR IAN JACK

Scholar who provided insights into 19th-century English poets, especially Browning and Keats.

Professor Ian Jack, who died on September 3 aged 84, held a chair in English Literature at Cambridge from 1976 to 1989; he made notable contributions in his field both as the editor of meticulously-researched editions of original works of poetry and literature and as a scholar who illuminated the way in which writers planned and shaped their work, how they responded to the intellectual currents and events of their time, and their relationship with the audiences for which they wrote.

He began his career as a young academic with *Augustan Satire: Intention and Idiom in English Poetry 1660-1750* (1952), in which he examined the various “kinds” of satiric poetry – by such figures as Dryden, Pope and Johnson – in order to reveal their meaning and function within the social and political setting of their time and thus rescue them from modern accusations of irrelevance and sterility.

Jack’s main field of expertise, however, was 19th-century poetry. He was among the first to devote careful attention to the order in which poets collect their verse and the volumes they make out of individual poems. He devoted attention to this in the splendid Oxford edition of *The Poetical Works of Robert Browning*, of which he edited or co-edited five volumes, and in his study of *Browning’s Major Poetry* (1973), in which he showed how the poet planned and shaped his collection of shorter poems.

Much of Jack’s work as an editor of literary works and poetry was undertaken in collaboration, a fact which in no way detracted from his achievement, since he inspired all who worked with him with his characteristically rigorous, scholarly approach to the texts.

Many considered Jack’s best work to be *Keats and the Mirror of Art* (1967), largely written on sabbatical leave in Australia, in which he charted the poet’s involvement with and responses to the visual arts (and Grecian urns) and contemporary debates on artistic theory, assembling impressive evidence of the connections between his poetry and his awareness of the visual arts as related genres.

In his later career Jack tended to focus on the relationship between poets and their public, and in *The Poet and his Audience* (1984) he examined the extent to which six major poets (Dryden, Pope, Byron, Shelley, Tennyson and Yeats) were influenced by the kind of people for whom they wrote – a question which he regarded as crucial to our understanding of how and why great poems came to be written.

An only child, Ian Robert James Jack was born on December 5 1923 in Edinburgh



into a family of solicitors, and educated at George Watson's College, where he was John Welsh Classical Scholar. His early life was overshadowed by the death of his mother when he was eight and of his father 10 years later. Exempted from military service, to his great regret, on account of chronic asthma, during the war he went up to Edinburgh University, graduating with a First in English Literature. He was appointed James Boswell Fellow in 1946.

In 1950 he moved to Merton College, Oxford, where he took a doctorate and published his study of Augustan Satire. He was then appointed to a lectureship in English Literature and a senior resident fellowship at Brasenose. In 1961 he took up a university lectureship at Cambridge, and spent the remainder of his career as a fellow of Pembroke.

Apart from his acclaimed work on Browning, Jack served as general editor of the Oxford Brontë novels series; his edition of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* (edited with Hilda Marsden, 1976) is regarded as the most reliable and scholarly version of the novel yet published.

He also contributed a notable volume on English Literature between 1815 and 1832 to the Oxford History of English Literature. In his later life Jack scaled down his undergraduate teaching, but his former pupils at Oxford and Cambridge – including Richard McCabe, now Professor of English Literature at Merton College, Oxford, and co-editor with Jack's colleague at Cambridge, Professor Howard Erskine-Hill, of a festschrift in his honour – remained notably loyal to him.

It was, perhaps, helpful that Jack, a shrewd but kindly judge of character, tended towards a pessimistic view of the literary and academic abilities of the average undergraduate, so that he often found himself pleasantly surprised.

In the 1980s Jack was in the vanguard of the resistance to fashionable deconstructionist tendencies in the Cambridge English faculty, which threatened to remove studies of the classic literary texts from the English tripos. The conflict hit the international press twice, in the 1980s, when the structuralist Colin McCabe (no relation to Richard) was not promoted to a permanent post in English, and in 1992, when an honorary doctorate was offered to the controversial French philosopher Jacques Derrida. Opposition to Derrida's appointment triggered the first full university faculty vote at the Senate House on an honorary degree in 30 years, but Derrida's supporters prevailed, 336 to 204.

A learned bibliophile who served for 10 years as college librarian, Jack enjoyed conversation at high table in Pembroke, where he dined once or twice a week. He was also a keen traveller, participating in lecture tours with the British Council and holding visiting professorships at several foreign universities.

Away from academic life Jack was a fervent cricket enthusiast and member of MCC. He was also a strong supporter of the National Health Service and an advocate of



the carrying of donor cards. On one occasion, after reading an account of the tragic death in a cycling accident of a boy whose donor card had enabled his organs to be used for transplant, he obtained a copy of the boy's photograph from a newspaper and had posters printed at his own expense to promote the carrying of the cards.

He served at various times as president of the Charles Lamb Society, the Browning Society and the Johnson Society (Lichfield), and as vice-president of the Brontë Society. He was elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1986.

Ian Jack married, first, in 1948, Jane McDonald, with whom he had two sons and a daughter. The marriage was dissolved, and he married secondly, in 1972, Elizabeth Crone, with whom he had a son.

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ROBERT ARTHUR JENKINSON

Robert Arthur Jenkinson, 'Bob' to all who knew him, was born in Stamford House, within the walls of Brasenose College, where his father Alfred James was Fellow and tutor in Philosophy, on 3 February 1920. His relationship with Brasenose lasted throughout the 87 years of his life: he last visited the College the weekend before he died. For the first 28 years of his life, Bob lived at Stamford house, as the College allowed his mother to remain there after the tragic death of his father in a climbing accident in April 1928, until post-war expansion required the conversion of Stamford House into undergraduate accommodation, which it still is today.

Bob went to the Dragon School, where his lifelong interest in engineering was first noticed and encouraged, as were his sporting interests and his talent for testing institutions to breaking point. Apparently there was an unofficial sport, which involved hitting a cricket ball over a prominent green house near the war memorial, resulting in great excitement if successful and a lot of broken glass if the stroke didn't come off. Bob continued his education at Fettes College, where his sporting career continued to develop: he was U16 100 yards and long jump champion and capped for the Second XV as a wing threequarter. He left Fettes a year early to start a two-year college engineering apprenticeship with Metro-Vickers in Manchester, as he had already decided that he would make his career in engineering, despite Fettes' best attempts to turn him into a classicist. It was by this route that Bob reached Brasenose, coming up to read Engineering Science in 1938.

His undergraduate career was interrupted by war service in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, from December 1939 to May 1946. After a few weeks' training in HMS King Alfred, Bob was pitched straight into the Norwegian campaign in 1940 as a 20-year old midshipman on board the cruiser HMS Effingham. It was a harsh initiation: his ship was lost and two of his close school friends were killed.

After service in HMS Maori, which ended when the Luftwaffe sank the ship in Valetta harbour on the night of the 12th February 1942, Bob did a radar course at the Signal School in Portsmouth. He then found his real metier in the Navy as a Radar officer, serving in that capacity on the cruiser HMS Emerald from 14 December 1942 to 8 August 1944, including service in the D-Day landings. On 1 January 1945, he was mentioned in despatches.

After this commission, Bob served at the Admiralty Signal Establishment at Witley and then on the staff of the Vice Admiral, Malta, when he led expert teams, firstly to support the working up of air-warning radar on capital ships preparing for departure to the Far East and secondly to report to the Admiralty on future air-warning radar techniques, work which the Admiralty valued highly. Bob revelled in the challenges of this work, which suited his growing interest in mathematical techniques for dealing with advanced engineering problems, while also appealing to his longstanding fascination with overcoming practical challenges. It was on his



way to Malta on board HMS Glasgow, that he made the first measurements at sea of so-called galactic noise – radio emissions from the stars – using the air-warning radar as a radio telescope and evaluating their impact on the performance of air warning radar.

After the war, Bob returned to Brasenose to complete his degree in 1948, when he also got married, to Norma Edith, a very attractive librarian he had met at the Times Library. After working for a short time for Metro-Vickers, he joined Joseph Lucas, then a leading global automotive components supplier, where he worked for the rest of his career.

He began in August 1950 as a research engineer, designing ignition equipment for gas turbines and temperature-sensing servo equipment for jet engines, before moving to the automotive field, then at the height of its success. In 1951, he took over leadership of a section designing acoustic warning devices, where he was responsible for a new design of horn for vehicles, which enjoyed a long and successful production run.

In 1954 he became Assistant Chief Development Engineer, responsible for the technical guidance and budgetary control of six sections designing and developing automotive components. In 1957, he became Manager for Advanced Planning and Design and established a new department to plan future products needed in five to fifteen years' time, where he initiated computer-aided design of electrical rotating machines within Joseph Lucas.

In 1960, to take up the new post of Resident Engineer, Europe, he moved to France with his young family, where he lived at La Celle St Cloud, just outside Paris, still recognisably similar to the semi-rural landscape the impressionists had celebrated almost a century earlier, something he was keenly aware of, as he used to take us, his children, to see the impressionist paintings then at the Jeu de Paume.

As a professional observer, Bob picked up very early on the adverse commercial and technical consequences of the UK's failure to enter the Common Market, then just appearing, and which contributed to the troubles which the UK industry was to go through in the late 60s and 70s. However as UK automotive production ran at record levels throughout the early and middle 60s, with almost a third of production for the export, it was difficult to drive these perceptions into action or even to foresee the dramatic changes ahead. This is especially ironic in view of the later sale of much of the Lucas automotive business to European manufacturers in the 1980s, the merger of the Lucas Group into LucasVarity and its subsequent acquisition by TRW. This parallels the absorption of almost all of the UK automotive industry by overseas-based global players. Nevertheless, Bob captured and communicated very clearly the first European perceptions that the UK 'was no longer serious', which later grew into the 'sick man of Europe' realities of the 70s.



It was a relief to Bob to return to active engineering in the UK in 1965, when he designed a new range of automotive alternators with integral regulators, the Lucas 15 ACR, which remained in large volume production until 1981. His design successfully met the challenges of producing significant output at engine tickover speed and higher output through the extended operating range, incorporating many innovative points in its concept and detail design and production techniques. It also achieved a 30% cost reduction on existing alternator types.

Some of the problems with vibration damage, encountered in developing the 15 ACR, resulted in the 70s in Bob leading the development of an innovative programme of vibration and stress analysis, using computer-based techniques, which were then unique in the motor vehicle industry anywhere in the world. The analysis provided a rapid but accurate evaluation of the vibration levels experienced by engine-mounted equipment, mainly starters or alternators, in a specific setting, an assessment of likely damage to the equipment during its working life and an objective basis for recommending improvements to mounting designs. This innovative set of techniques not only reduced commercial exposure to the risks of equipment failure, but also supported the Lucas strategy of leading motor manufacturers to apply best practice in the development of engine-mounted equipment.

Bob was a deeply committed engineer: he was a member of both the Institutes of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and later a Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, to which he contributed a number of papers. As a result of his war service and his thirty-year career in automotive design, he had exceptional levels of expertise in electronics, computing and the design and production of automotive electrical equipment, which enabled him to maintain an enviable and lifelong reputation for engineering excellence.

Bob retired in 1981 to the small market town of Kington in Herefordshire, where he enjoyed a fresh lease of life: he landscaped a new garden at his home and set up a complete woodworker's shop in an outbuilding, designing his own ventilation system to control the dust produced by the various machine tools, restoring furniture and turning bowls and candlesticks. Bob cultivated many other interests: building up a considerable collection of CDs and recordings – and in recent years he renewed his involvement with computers, completing the weekly Tesco order and keeping in regular e-mail contact with the family.

Bob did not just use his energy and talents to follow his own interests or keep in touch with his growing family – he also wanted to contribute to Kington life. This he did in a number of ways: welcoming other new arrivals, lending his support to the Kington Branch of the British Legion, through raising funds, taking part in the Remembrance Day ceremony and becoming President of the branch for two years. He helped to refurbish the war memorial and was characteristically dedicated to restoring damaged and missing names. He was also a governor of Lady Hawkins School in Kington, as well as a district councillor.



For the last few years, Bob struggled against serious heart disease and oncoming deafness, and found it increasingly difficult to maintain his engagement with the world in the way he always wanted.

So when he went into hospital in Hereford on 31st July, he realised the end had come. Yet – or perhaps because of this – he seemed to recover all his old authority and good humour. We had two wonderful days in which to visit him and say goodbye and then he slipped away in the early hours of the morning of Friday 3rd August.

So we have many lovely memories of Bob. We will remember him as a caring, upright and serious man, but also a charming host (he always had a fine collection of French wine), gifted with a mildly malicious sense of humour, a keen gardener, a skilled woodworker, a loyal friend, a loving husband and father and a man who always sought to contribute to the wider community.

Bill Jenkinson (BNC 1968)



JOHN ANTHONY JOHNSON

Probably the best policeman in the country

On a bright summer Saturday afternoon in July 2008, John Johnson wheeled his bike up to the parapet of Battersea Bridge, clambered onto the low iron balustrade and – pausing only for a moment - threw himself into the noisome troubled waters forty feet below.

John was born John Anthony Jellinek on 18 September 1955 to a father of Austro-Hungarian extraction and an English mother. The couple had met in Berlin at the end of the war, and subsequently settled in Vienna. Austria was then a buffer state between East and West, and John's parents both worked for MI6 under the guise of the British Embassy. It was at the secret service's instigation that the couple anglicised their family name to Johnson. They sent the young John first to the English School in Vienna and subsequently to Ardingly College in Sussex. It was an upbringing that made him equally at ease in the languages of Shakespeare and Goethe, and inclined him to see England as a provincial exile both from the fine pastries of the sometime Habsburg capital and from the high culture of the Danubian home of Bruckner, Schiele and Freud. Disdaining the denim fashions of his school-friends, John began to adopt the trilby, tweeds, brogues and pipe of Brief Encounter. It was a style that suited his heavy frame, kindly face, bright blue eyes and increasingly avuncular manner. Despite wearing his industry lightly, as a sixth-former he developed a great bent for history. In December 1975 John accepted a place as a Commoner at Brasenose, matriculating in October 1976.

Under the guidance of H. L. A. Hart the College was then trying to rid itself of the lingering reputation of an institution where academic excellence was regarded with mistrust. These aspirations were lost on John. He devoted himself to forging new friendships and smoking his pipe. He succumbed to the temptations of fine wines, malt and blended whiskies and the Nags Head. He neglected his texts. Ploughing his history Prelims at the end of Michaelmas, he failed again in Hilary and was sent down. I think it was a reverse that cut more deeply than he cared to reveal.

His subsequent career was all the more remarkable. He removed himself to Sussex to work as a postman. In 1979, when many of his BNC contemporaries were setting about lives of public mischief in London, John joined the Metropolitan Police. He was stationed first at Cannon Row, later Battersea. This was the beat where he made his home. Over the next fifteen years he laboured with quite exceptional skill, tact and intelligence at the coal-face of community relations in a borough with a superfluity of social problems, many of them stemming from its largely industrial heritage. He had to a marked degree the common touch: an ability to understand and win the affection of people from very different walks of life and very different backgrounds. In 1994 his work was crowned when he was voted Metropolitan Police Community Policeman of the Year.

Declining promotion, he retained the role and rank of PC so as to remain the 'Bobby



on the beat'. He involved himself with the Rotarians, the Church, local schools and an annual Christmas Day lunch for hundreds of pensioners in Battersea Park. He was the inspiration of the Battersea Police Ball, an institution that annually raised £50,000 for local causes. In 2002 he became the first officer ever to be twice recipient of the Community Policeman of the Year Award. He had come to be regarded as another Dixon of Dock Green, by his local MP, Martin Linton, as one of the best policemen in London – if not the country – and by the community of Battersea as a saint.

Off duty, John gradually gathered around him in Battersea an immensely rich and varied circle of friends to whom he was devoted, and whose devotion they reciprocated. He caught most of the major exhibitions, never left a book or newspaper unread, was a regular at Glyndebourne, and used to assure me that he had never heard of Sting. In 2003 he joined the Reform Club and at this institution – perhaps no longer quite a hot-bed of radicalism – John was very much at home. Explaining to a fellow member what he did for a living, he was told that it was unusual for PCs to be members. His interlocutor recovered himself by conceding that the Club also admitted admirals.

Yet despite his great social gifts, John never married; despite his remarkable empathy with children, he eschewed parenthood. It sometimes seemed that his unwavering appetite for company masked an inner loneliness. Despite his professional success and unique charisma, he was less at ease with the world as his demeanour usually suggested. He tended to keep his troubles to himself.

The last two years of his life were overshadowed by the ill health of his mother. His father had died in 1990 and his mother – who had worked at Bletchley Park in the war – then settled in Cardiff. A relentless smoker, in 2005 she was diagnosed with lung cancer. John's monthly visits to her became fortnightly, the fortnightly became weekly as she failed – even though the diagnosis seems to have been at fault. The physical and emotional burden on her son began to tell. She died of pneumonia in January 2008. Her funeral saw an immaculate John at his most characteristic as impresario and choreographer, but her death hit him harder than he had anticipated. Beyond, retirement from the Police beckoned in barely a year. He was perhaps more equivocal about this than he used to suggest.

His death on 19 July 2008 left Battersea dumbstruck. The local papers covering his demise sold out within hours. At his funeral in St Mary's in Battersea there was standing room only, the tributes were led by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair, and I myself have never seen quite so many people quite so upset. A life of exemplary public service and private devotion had been so strangely and abruptly snuffed out, and the congregation that day raged against the dying of John's light. The reasons why he might have been tempted to take his own life were so easy to imagine, so difficult to find convincing, and quite impossible to reconcile with the man his friends knew and greatly loved.

Jim Ring, Burnham Overy Staithe, October 2008



NICHOLAS PAUL JOHNSON

1955-2008. *Educator and musician*

*And thogh youre grene youthe floure as yit,
In crepeth age alwey, as stille as stoon,
And deeth manaceth every age, and smyt
In ech estaat, for ther escapeth noon;
And al so certein as we knowe echoon
That we shul deye, as uncerteyn we alle
Been of that day whan deeth shal on us falle.*

These words resound, not only for their relevance with respect to Nick Johnson's sudden departure from us, but also because they come from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Canterbury, after all, was the place where Nick spent his happy childhood years (and with his class he was even hired as an extra in Pasolini's filmic version of *The Canterbury Tales*). The words are also resonant as they are part of the tale of the Clerk of Oxford: the University City in which Nick passed his exuberant student years studying History and Economics. And beyond this – as part of a story which the Clerk (and, indeed, Chaucer) learned in the course of their travels to Italy – they have further relevance with respect to Nick, who visited (and loved) Rome in his childhood and gladly returned there to live and teach in the last years of his life.

Nick had, of course, been much else besides: a chorister (with a surprisingly sweet voice) at Jesus College, Cambridge, an accomplished classical violinist (who nearly took it up as a profession), and later a folk fiddler, guitarist and singer, who played his way around the world (from Europe, to America, to Australia). Indeed, while still at Oxford, his tutorials would sometimes need rearranging to fit in with his frequent trips abroad to earn his living by his busking. Playing music professionally took up much of Nick's time for several years after he left Oxford, and he met his Irish wife Noreen while busking in Germany. It was a carefree time, marked (almost on a daily basis) by events and experiences which would have warranted inclusion in a published memoir. On one occasion in Rochdale, for instance, a policeman strode over to Nick, patiently waited for the current tune to finish, and asked whether Nick could play 'A policeman's lot is not a happy one'. Nick obliged, and the policeman went around the crowd collecting in his helmet.

Nick's aesthetic sense went beyond music, too. He always loved the peace of the countryside. He spent his third year at a Brasenose colony in a remote cottage beyond Elsfield on the edge of Stow Wood, an ancient College possession. After gaining what he described as a very flattering degree at Oxford, he opted for a year of postgraduate study in the real world of Manchester Business School, to round out his interest in economics. But he balanced this by searching for, and finding, another beautiful rural cottage to live in, not that far from the city. And on holiday



in Spain, friends recall how keen he was to escape the built-up coast and relax amid the ancient villages and tavernas and forests in the hills.

Nick's life was a life of joys, then, though it was not also without its trials and sorrows. Nick and Noreen's first child, Niamh, was born in 1984 with cerebral palsy. Niamh's life was difficult and she needed constant care, but she was blessed with a father whose love for her was boundless and whose attention was tireless. Her death, aged 7, in 1991, was devastating for Nick, Noreen, and their budding family (which included their first son Bardán and, later, their second son, Fergus). It is in part a testimony to Nick's warmth, support, positivity and single-mindedness that his family were able to bounce back from this incalculable loss as the vibrant and resilient people that they have become.

Nick's love of people and of life was something he was able to extend beyond the family. Like Chaucer's narrator, he was a shrewd yet also really very kindly observer of others. He pursued a brilliant career in education. His beginnings were in teaching economics to bricklayers in Canterbury, and he progressed quickly in the private sector, both in the UK and abroad. He was Head of Economics at Cranleigh School and Housemaster at Aiglon College in Switzerland. He became Headmaster at the Bolitho School in Penzance in 1997, introducing bilingual teaching and the International Baccalaureate there. In his six years at Bolitho the number of pupils trebled, and a school in difficulties was raised to a secure state.

In 2004 Nick became Principal at St George's International School in Rome, where he astonished the pupils at his first full assembly by singing *Let It Be* to his own guitar accompaniment. He became renowned for his accessibility, to both teachers and students, and for his ability to be simultaneously firm and supportive. All students experienced Nick's warmth; those receiving a severe reprimand would immediately thereafter receive a dose of Nick's special cheer. For the staff and board of governors, Nick was a visionary leader. In his four years as principal Nick transformed the school, tirelessly developing and implementing strategies that have become the foundation for the school's future.

Nick was passionate about education, and believed firmly that a school should create a community of fairness and justice, where all are valued, where all can realize their potential and, above all, where all are happy. His abilities went beyond his teaching skills. He also had formidable powers of planning (and persuasion), and was able to create a success out of a failing school and to raise a good school to new heights of excellence.

Nick died of a heart attack on 14 May 2008 on his way to school in Rome. His humanity, warmth and humour will be deeply missed by all those who knew him.

Anthony Johnson and Peter Dion
With thanks to Peter Sinclair



HENRY LAWRENCE (LAWRIE) SECCOMBE

1925 - 2008

'After school at Kingswood, where he was an outstanding cricket and hockey player, Laurie was in the Navy at the end of the war. He matriculated at BNC in 1947, and read Law.

'In those days, Laurie had long blonde hair, and was willowy and handsome... and from the beginning he had a car. This was unusual as cars were not permitted to first year students, a fact that I mentioned to him, but not before he promised to take me back to Warwickshire, his home and my home, for the Christmas vacation, with all the team's washing: a boon indeed. When I mentioned the fact that students in their first year were not allowed to have cars at Oxford, he said it would upset the University authorities too much if he told them of his innocent mistake and, he said, "I am not going to tell them. I might as well take it that I have an implied permission" – in such manner the Common Law of the Land grew for years. When I discovered that Laurie's car was an MG, a green and very sporty MG, and that he was prepared to transport me back to Oxford after the New Year my delight at his reasoning grew enormously.

'At Oxford we law students were introduced to the judgement of Lord Atkin in *Donoghue & Stevenson*, to the infamous snail in the bottle case, and to the judgements of Mr. Justice Denning, later Lord Justice Denning and finally Lord Denning. Our tutors, both at BNC, were Barry Nicholas, then in his 30s and later to become Professor of Roman Law at the University and Principal of BNC, and Ronnie Maudsley, also in his 30s, sometime and in fact then captain of Warwickshire Cricket Club and later Professor of Common Law at London University.

'I asked Laurie why he didn't go into one of the family businesses, and he told me that he wanted to be a solicitor. His concern was that in an increasingly complex world the law must, of necessity, be equally complex and the ordinary citizen would need help – and help he would give.'

During that particular Christmas vacation, Laurie met John Owen's sister, Joan. They were married in 1950. He went on to practise as a solicitor first in Bournemouth, and then in Birmingham, finishing as Senior Partner of Amery-Parkes and Co., until his retirement in 1987. He kept his sporting enthusiasms of hockey, cricket, squash and finally golf.

From the address by Sir John Owen (1947) at Laurie Seccombe's funeral in Tysoe, Warwickshire on 7 July 2008, with additional material by Murray Seccombe (1973).



DEREK WILSON

Hard-living reporter who covered the world's bloodiest wars before retiring to report on life in Rome

For 20 years Derek Wilson was a frontline reporter who covered the disintegration of Aden, the Vietnam War and the Argentine junta, initially for Agence France Press (AFP) before switching to the BBC World Service.

After that long stint covering troublespots, he resigned from broadcasting in his mid-fifties, retired to a rooftop apartment near the Colosseum in Rome and chronicled the ebb and flow of life in the city for the English-language weekly *Wanted* in Rome.

Derek John Wilson was born in 1932 and brought up in the North of England. He won a scholarship to study languages at Oxford. Called up for National Service in the late 1940s, he was recruited by military intelligence and spent 18 months debriefing suspected communist spies and former Nazi officials in occupied Germany. "I felt like a character in *The Third Man*," he recalled.

Already fluent in German, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, he found a post with Reuters. He did well, learnt what he could and moved to Paris, joining AFP.

He soon got his wish to be a war correspondent when AFP made him its chief English-speaking troubleshooter. He was posted to Aden in the mid-1960s to report on the British being harried out of the colony. He thrived on the camaraderie of the foreign press corps and fellow newsmen such as Don Wise, Stanley Bonnett and John Osman.

By then the slim, self-effacing Wilson had matured into a rumbustious character at ease with being gay. He was a devotee of late-night parties and low-life bars, consuming two or more packs of cigarettes a day washed down with red wine, followed by whisky chasers.

From Aden, AFP posted him to Saigon. He was living in a small flat on Tu Do Street when the 1968 Tet offensive pushed the US military almost to the limit. By then he was also reporting occasionally for *The Times*, as well as having many bylined AFP stories in the main international dailies with his eyewitness accounts of battles all over South Vietnam.

The Wilson of the late 1960s in Indo-China was addicted to danger, acknowledging that he wanted to test himself no matter what the risk. Two decades on, he believed that period was the high point of his life. But he was always the professional reporter, coolly appraising the carnage, and enjoying what he called "the exhilaration of war".



When the Vietnam war spread to Cambodia in 1970, the BBC's appetite for coverage grew, and Wilson took his first steps in broadcasting. He never found it easy – those cigarettes could be an impediment some days. But he persevered, and the quality of his reporting shone through, however husky the tones reaching Bush House from his studio in Radio Saigon.

He came into his own in 1975 when South Vietnam collapsed to an armoured column from Hanoi. By then he was the South East Asia correspondent of the BBC World Service and, like the handful of BBC journalists still in Saigon, he ignored instructions from the BBC Governors in London that everyone had to evacuate.

His coverage was near-legendary, filing a mix of the straightforwardly dramatic and political analysis of America's lost crusade. He saw the lead North Vietnamese tanks sweep into Saigon and smash through the gates of the presidential palace.

So, at 43, Wilson had made it, and the world opened up to him. A grateful BBC made him Latin America correspondent, 1975-81, and he was based in Buenos Aires during the nastiest years of the military junta.

From there he went to Madrid, staying until 1984 as the post Franco nation found its feet. Wilson remained something of an enigma to many in the BBC: a foreign correspondent who hated spending time in head office and had no interest in the musical chairs of careers and foreign postings.

Finally, he felt he had done enough and took himself off to Rome. In a quiet way he was famous there; by reputation he was "il giornalista inglese" – a courtly English gent with a weakness for dyeing his silver locks a reddish-brown – a great bon vivant and an authority on the best eateries and late-night dives in the centro storico. Frascati was his daily tippie, and water rarely passed his lips.

Typically, he engineered his own sardonic swansong – a valedictory article for *Wanted in Rome* entitled "Ashes to ashes", a guide to cremation in the Eternal City. It appeared two days after his death.

Derek Wilson, foreign correspondent, was born on March 15, 1932. He died of heart failure on March 17, 2007, aged 75

© *The Times*, 20 April 2007



The Brasenose Society





Committee minutes, 24 January 2008

1 Apologies

Alistair Dick, James Edmiston, Drusilla Gabbott, David Hills, Kate Love, Barney Smith.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3 Development Office update

The Brasenose website is expected to be launched in 1-2 weeks. The address is www.bnc.ox.ac.uk. The launch is taking place in two phases:

In phase 1 the Brazen Nose is published on line, also the BNC 500 events (the Governing Body and the Quincentenary Committee are heading these efforts) as well as other conference details (Ms Diana Perry is the person responsible). A personal letter/email will be going out to all alumni to inform them about the website.

Phase 2 proceeds to connect alumni, by offering a platform to keep in touch, by sharing personal data and information, and by providing mentoring activities. This is voluntary and subject to personal consent by participants. It is operated within a secure environment, guaranteed by the College and the Development Office.

Maintenance of the website infrastructure is currently being taken care of by Tina Hill.

4 BNC 500

It will be celebrated with parties organised all over the world. A party is launched in New York on 12 September 2009. The main celebration is in Oxford on 25-27 September 2009. On the 26th there will be a performance at the Sheldonian, a reception in College and a dinner possibly in the Exam Schools. Other events will also be organised for the Friday and Sunday of that weekend. A few hotel rooms have already been blocked out by the College to host alumni.

BNC 500 collateral will be available for purchase via post or on-line. It ranges from scarves to fine china. This endeavour will help to finance the weekend events.

In addition to this weekend in September, there will be some sporting events, family events, a possible Royal visit and a lecture series scheduled for the spring 2009.



5 Fund-Raising

The BNC Annual Fund currently holds £190,000 in cash. The target is £300,000 for this year, and it is revised up by 3% for next year and by 5% every year after that. Each year starts at the end of July. A second solicitation is going out shortly. There will be as many as 3 appeals a year. The aim is to use these funds to improve student life, (JCR, HCR, Boat Club etc), College infrastructure (eg staircases), scholarships, bursaries and hardship grants. The College intends to persuade the University to match the amounts raised by the College where possible.

In addition to that, the College is actively targeting bigger donations and pledges from alumni.

The College is also joining the University Fundraising Campaign. It currently ranks number 10 in Endowments.

6 The Brazen Notes are coming out soon, and so is the Brazen Nose.

7 The Annual Dinner, VIII's Week lunch and the Summer Party invites have already been sent out. Interest to attend has been very high already.

8 The finances of the Brasenose Society have been presented and approved.

9 Mentoring Scheme:

Mike Gill is taking over the updated list of volunteering mentors. JCR and HCR are being contacted to collaborate and help out with the process. A dinner is scheduled for 9 February for the committees of the BNC Society, the JCR and the HCR, in order to talk at more length about general ways to coordinate efforts for the College.

There is also an interest to launch a mini-careers fair. The Law Society has already successfully organised such an event.





Committee minutes, 26 April 2008

1 Apologies Have been received with thanks from Donald Blakeley, Kate Burt, Paula Carter, John W. Davies, Alastair Dick, Sos Eltris, Matt Forbes, Drusilla Gabbott, David Hills, Robin Janvrin, John Knowland, Christopher McKenna, Donald Rushton, Robin Sharp and Barney Smith.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3 President and Vice-President candidates were discussed.

4 Development Office update

The Principal and Director of Development have been travelling extensively to Asia and the US, in order to engage with alumni.

The Development Office is being reorganised, subject to the approval of the College. Robin Sharp (as Director of Development) heads the Office and Tina Hill is the manager. There are three additional posts: organiser of the annual fund and publications, major gifts officer, and secretary. Laura Wu has also been praised for her very important contribution so far. Regrettably, Kate Love has left the team, having made a considerable contribution, especially in respect of publications.

The redesigned website is currently in its first phase of development. College members are undergoing extensive training, so as to ensure a dynamic website. The next phase is expected to be launched in the new academic year.

5 BNC 500

RS Live has been appointed to help with the programme of events. Events are being organised throughout the weekend of 25-26th September 2009. The Exam Schools are being considered for dinner on Saturday 26th September, hosting one table per year.

6 College upcoming events

The Development Office is looking to set the calendar of BNC 500 events well in advance in order to keep alumni abreast.

Both the Hall and Lecture Room VII have been booked for VIII's Week lunch (Saturday 24 May 2008): 17 children are expected to join.

So far, 52 places have been taken up for the Annual Dinner.



The President's Summer drinks at the Old Bailey is receiving good interest: 109 places have been reserved so far.

A celebratory dinner for alumni will be held in Greece for May 2008.

A memorabilia auction is being organised at Sotheby's in New York for 12th September 2009.

The College is very glad to welcome alumni for dinner in Hall. 50 alumni have dined so far this year.

7 The Brazen Notes and The Brazen Nose have received very good feedback.

8 The Treasury of the Brasenose Society currently holds £12,500. No events have taken place since the last committee meeting.

9 Fund-raising

The annual fund had been launched in June 2007. Overall, the College reported 4.5% participation so far (including a significant number of Fellows). Other colleges have reported as high as 25% participation overall. Further solicitations will be going out soon.

10 Mentoring Scheme

An email will be sent out to inform College members about the scheme and to motivate them to participate.

11 Year Reps

More communication between Year Reps is recommended, in order to bring the College community closer. The College aims to keep them informed of events well in advance and to encourage wider participation.

12 College infrastructure update

New accommodation for graduate students is expected to be ready in September 2008.

The Hall is being renovated. Works include repainting, panelling and new lighting. New heating will be installed in 2010. The boat-house is being re-roofed.





Committee Meeting: 20 September 2008

A meeting of the Committee was held at 5.00 pm in the Shackleton Room.

Present: Alexandra Marks (President), Roger Cashmore (Principal), Elizabeth Carter, Paula Carter, Paul Dawson-Bowling, Mike Gill, David Hills, Jeremy McMullen (Immediate Past President), Mike Rountree and Donald Rushton.

In attendance: Robin Sharp (Director of Development), David Clark and Mark Saville.

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from: Nigel Bird (Treasurer), Donald Blakeley, Kate Burt, John W Davies, Alastair Dick, Sos Eltis, John Knowland (Bursar), Matt Forbes, Drusilla Gabbott, Robin Janvrin (Past President), Tina Mavraki (Secretary), Christopher McKenna and Barney Smith (Past President).

2 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2008 were approved.

3 Matters arising

The President had received a thank you letter from the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund which she read out at the meeting. The Fund is a charity based at the Old Bailey which assists ex-offenders and their families by giving them small financial grants for training, clothing and tools of the trade. The Society had donated £1,000 to the Fund's Bicentenary Appeal from proceeds of the Society's summer party at the Old Bailey. This was the first time, to the President's knowledge, that the Society had made a charitable donation but she expressed the hope that the Society might do so again in future.

4 Report from the Development Office

Robin Sharp reported on staff changes in the Development Office. Laura Wu had left to study for a Masters in Music but would continue to work on the next editions of *The Brazen Notes* and *The Brazen Nose*. The office had been joined by Chris Hurn (ex-Pembroke College, Cambridge) and Saira Uppal (ex-Magdalen College). With great regret, Robin would be leaving at the end of November to take up a post at the RSA in London. She said that she had worked at the College at a wonderful time: it had been very exciting to be involved in plans for the Quincentenary and she felt privileged to have been part of the College during that period. Following her departure, Tina Hill would hold the fort in the office.



The Committee expressed its sadness at Robin's departure, and thanked her warmly for all her hard work during her three years as the College's Director of Development. She had achieved a great deal in a short time.

Preparations for the College's Quincentenary celebrations were well advanced, starting with a lunch for legators at Goldsmith's Hall in London on 2 December 2008, and a launch party for Professor Mordaunt Crook's biography of the College at the same venue that evening.

Brief details of the year's other main events were outlined to the Committee. Details would be sent to all alumni shortly, including a card for alumni to return to the Development Office to indicate which events they would like to attend. This would assist the office in finalising the arrangements for events, and would confer priority booking for alumni who indicated an intention to attend. All alumni would also be sent a catalogue of BNC500 mementoes.

The response to the newly launched Annual Fund was encouraging, especially compared with other Colleges and bearing in mind the current economic climate. It was particularly notable that the Governing Body had responded so positively to the Annual Fund: they and we should be proud of this achievement. It was hoped that, over time, the Annual Fund would continue to grow – and that the College succeeds in communicating to alumni that even a modest annual contribution (say £1 per week) really does count.

5 Report from the Principal

The Principal reported that he too was most regretful about Robin Sharp's departure. From almost a standing start three years ago, the Development Office had created a well functioning programme. The College wants the Development Office to continue, and will use the opportunity of Robin's departure, and recruitment of her successor, to review the past three years. Realistically, a new Director of Development is unlikely to take up the post until at least Hilary Term so temporary cover will be needed for the leadership role.

The Principal told the Committee about the College's various building works. The College recognised that good facilities and accommodation were important both to attract and retain good students. New graduate accommodation is being built at Hollybush Road, near the railway station. Within College, the student bar and kitchens are being refurbished.

During the Quincentenary Year, the College hopes to push forward its development campaign and involve alumni in its aspiration to improve both the physical and educational environment for current and future generations.

Finally, the Principal reminded the Committee that alumni are entitled to dine in College. He urged them to do so, and spread the message to others too.



6 Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no financial report.

7 Recommendations for the AGM:

7.1 Election of Officers and other Committee Members

For the forthcoming year, the Committee proposed to recommend to the AGM Mark Saville for election as President.

Ex officio officers of the Committee were: the Principal (Roger Cashmore), the joint Editors of *The Brazen Nose* (Sos Eltis and Chris McKenna) and the three most recent former Presidents (Barney Smith, Jeremy McMullen and Alexandra Marks).

The following members of the Committee wished to stand for re-election: Elizabeth Carter, Paul Dawson-Bowling, Alastair Dick, Matt Forbes, Drusilla Gabbott, David Hills, Michael Rountree and Donald Rushton.

New members standing for election were David Clark and Michael Gill (former co-optee).

7.2 Nomination of future Vice President

For the forthcoming year, the Committee would recommend for election as Vice President Joe Mordaunt Crook.

7.3 Membership fee

In accordance with the Rules of the Society, the membership fee fell to be fixed by the Committee. With the generous agreement of the College to continue to publish and distribute *The Brazen Nose* without charge to all members of the Society, the Committee would again be able to fix the membership fee at nil for the next year.

8 Year Reps

In the absence of James Edmiston, the Year Reps. co-ordinator, the President reported that although there had been no meeting of Year Reps. that afternoon, it was hoped that a meeting and lunch for Year Reps. might take place later in the year.

9 The Annual Dinner and other Society Events

In recognition of the College's Quincentenary, next year's annual dinner would take a different form from usual. It would be a major event, including some kind of entertainment at the Sheldonian, followed by pre-prandial drinks in College and then a large dinner (with perhaps one table for each matriculation year of alumni) probably at The Examination Schools. Guests would be most welcome to attend. It would take place on Saturday 26 September 2008 to coincide with the University-wide 'Reunion weekend'. The College would be unable to provide overnight accommodation for all alumni so the office had block-booked rooms at



discounted rates at local hotels. Alumni should contact the Development Office for further details.

There was some discussion – and concern expressed – about the likely cost of this event, especially since the price would not be publicised at the time alumni were invited to express an interest in attending. In the current economic climate, alumni may be deterred by the expense. The Principal promised to bear this in mind.

It was suggested that the entitlement for guests to attend should be particularly highlighted. Many members had failed to realise that guests had been welcome to attend this year's dinner so we clearly need to emphasise the change of policy as regards guest attendance.

It was also suggested that matriculation years celebrating special anniversaries in 2009 – whether 10, 20, 25, 30, 40 or 50 years since matriculation – might be particularly responsive to requests to support the College during its 500th anniversary year.

Jeremy McMullen asked whether any sporting events were planned, such as a cricket match between past and current members. Such a match had been arranged to mark the centenary of the cricket club some years ago and had been very successful. The Principal said that a reception would be taking place at the Long Room at Lord's but perhaps alumni would like to make arrangements for something more active too.

10 Mentoring Scheme

Mike Gill reported that, since taking over administration of the scheme, he had updated the list of volunteer mentors and circulated it to current HCR and JCR officers. He had discussed with them data protection issues and the need to treat the 80+ volunteer mentors with appropriate respect and responsibility.

Mike Gill said that stories of successful mentor/mentee pairings would be welcome in order to publicise the scheme. He also invited Committee members to make themselves known to the HCR and JCR officers who would be attending the dinner as the Society's guests.

11 Date of future meetings

Dates of future meetings of the Committee would be circulated separately in due course.

12 Any other business

It was noted that Robin Janvrin would be leaving the Committee, due to expiry of his *ex officio* term as Past President. Donald Blakeley, Kate Burt and Paula Carter were also stepping down from the Committee after many years' service. They were all thanked warmly for their respective contributions to the Society and for their enthusiastic commitment to the College.





Annual General Meeting: 20 September 2008

A meeting of the Committee was held at 6.00 pm in the Lecture Room XI.

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from: Nigel Bird (Treasurer), Donald Blakeley, Kate Burt, John W Davies, Alastair Dick, Sos Eltis, John Knowland (Bursar), Matt Forbes, Drusilla Gabbott, Robin Janvrin (Past President), Tina Mavraki (Secretary), Christopher McKenna and Barney Smith (Past President).

2 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2007 were approved.

3 Matters arising

The President read a letter of thanks from the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund to whose Bicentenary Appeal the Society had made a charitable donation of £1,000 on the occasion of the Society's summer party. The Fund supports London's ex-offenders and their families, making grants worth over £110,000 to more than 600 individuals and families last year.

4 Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer there was no report on the Society's finances.

5 Election of President, Vice-President, and other Committee members

For the forthcoming year, Mark Saville was proposed for election as President and, Joe Mordaunt Crook as Vice-President.

The proposals for election of the President and Vice-President were seconded and carried *nem. con.*

Ex officio officers of the Committee are: the Principal (Roger Cashmore), the joint Editors of *The Brazen Nose* (Chris McKenna and Sos Eltis). The three most recent former Presidents (Barney Smith, Jeremy McMullen and Alexandra Marks) were also ex officio members of the Committee.

5.1 There were proposed as members of the Committee: Elizabeth Carter, David Clark, Paul Dawson-Bowling, Alastair Dick, Matt Forbes, Drusilla Gabbott, Michael Gill, David Hills, Michael Rountree and Donald Rushton.



The proposal for election of Committee Members was seconded and carried nem. con.

6 Membership fee

In accordance with the Rules of the Society, the membership fee is to be fixed by the Committee from time to time. The President reported that, at its meeting earlier the same day, the Committee had again fixed the membership fee at nil for the time being. This would enable former members of the College to stay in touch, through the Society, at no cost to them for as long as the College can afford it.

The Society is able to manage its finances without levying a subscription from its members, thanks to the generosity of the College in publishing and distributing *The Brazen Nose* without charge to the Society and due to the small surpluses generated by Society events.

7 Year Reps

James Edmiston, the Year Reps. co-ordinator, reported that there had been no meeting of Year Reps. immediately preceding the AGM (as had recently become the custom). Michael Rountree suggested that a get-together of Year Reps once a year, perhaps at a restaurant, as had occurred last year, would be most welcome. It was also suggested that perhaps, for example, former members of the Boat Club might arrange an event at Leander as had taken place a few years ago.

8 Future Society Events

Because of the College's full programme of events to mark its Quincentenary in 2009, the Society would not be holding any of its own events next year. However, all those present were urged to encourage their peers and other alumni contacts to attend at least some of the planned Quincentenary events, and to identify as many as possible of their contemporaries with whom the College had lost touch.

9 Grant making

The Society would continue its policy of making small grants to worthwhile projects within College. Members were invited to draw to the Committee's attention any other potentially suitable recipients of similar grants.

10 Mentoring Scheme

Michael Gill reported that he had taken over the administration of the mentoring scheme, and had updated the mentoring list which now contained details of around 85 volunteer mentors. The list had been provided to the officers of the HCR and JCR who had been invited to encourage their respective common room members to make full use of it.

Any other alumni wishing to participate in the scheme as volunteer mentors were invited to contact Mike Gill.



11 Date of 2009 Dinner

As part of the College's Quincentenary celebrations, the Society's annual dinner in 2009 would be subsumed into a rather larger and more elaborate affair than usual on Saturday 26 September. It would therefore again coincide with the University-wide "Reunion weekend". To enable plenty of alumni to attend, the dinner would take place at a venue larger than the College Hall at a central Oxford location (probably the Examination Schools). Members' guests would be most welcome. Dinner would be preceded by some kind of entertainment at the Sheldonian and pre-prandial drinks at the College. Limited overnight accommodation for alumni on both Friday and Saturday (26/27 September 2009) would be available, but members were encouraged to take advantage of discounted accommodation which the College had arranged at various Oxford hotels.

In addition to the dinner, there would be lunch for alumni and guests in the College Hall on the Saturday of VIII's week (Saturday 30 May 2009).

Further details of this, and the other events planned for the Quincentenary Year would soon be sent by post to all alumni. Alumni would also receive a catalogue of College branded mementoes – available in time for Christmas! – as well as an "intention card" by which alumni could indicate which Quincentenary events they intend to attend, and thereby obtain priority booking when tickets go on sale in January 2009.

12 Votes of thanks

Votes of thanks were extended to the Principal and Fellows for their hospitality; to the Bursar, Domestic Bursar and staff for the Annual Dinner arrangements; to Robin Sharp and her colleagues for all their hard work in the College's Development Office and to members of the Committee for their support of the President during her year of office.

The President paid tribute to Robin Janvrin, recent past president, who was retiring as a member of the Committee and whose contribution to the Society was greatly appreciated. Enormous thanks were also due to Donald Blakeley, Kate Burt and Paula Carter all of whom were stepping down from the Committee after many years of tremendous service. Their respective contributions were gratefully acknowledged.

A further vote of thanks was paid to the outgoing President, Alexandra Marks, for her presidential year – and for hosting a most successful and well-attended summer drinks party at the Old Bailey.

13 Any other business

There was no other business.





PAST PRESIDENTS

Unknown	Sir Robert Pearson
Unknown	Sir Arthur Salter
1948-50	Sir Alan Ellis
1950-51	R H Peck
1951-52	H M Last
1952-54	Sir Guy Nott-Bower
1954-55	D Drysdale
1955-57	M Platnauer
1957-59	C H M Waldock
1959-60	A D Grant
1960-61	M Platnauer
1961-62	
1962-63	
1963-64	P R Frere
1964-66	Sir George Baker
1966-68	Sir Ronald Bodley Scott
1968-70	A J F Doulton
1970-72	Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith
1972-74	Sir Leslie Scarman
1974-76	Sir Val Duncan
1976-77	Sir Colin Thornley
1977-78	J. S. O Haslewood
1978-79	Sir Edward Eveleigh
1979-80	R A K Runcie



1980-81	G Rippon
1981-82	Sir Lindsay Alexander
1982-83	R F Brown
1983-84	Professor J K B M Nicholas
1984-85	A T Whitehead
1985-86	R K Ingram
1986-87	D A Emms
1987-88	J R Moss
1988-89	Sir Robert Reid
1989-90	Sir Ralph Gibson
1990-91	D L Stockton
1991-92	N A Ward-Jones
1992-93	Sir Colin Cole
1993-94	G A Wilson
1994-95	P R Dawson-Bowling
1995-96	R D Gill
1996-97	Professor Graham Richards
1997-98	Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge
1998-99	Sir Rodger Bell
1999-2000	Alan Smith
2000-01	Francis Neate
2001-02	Christopher Penn
2002-03	Sir Scott Baker
2003-04	Sir Iain Vallance
2004-05	Sir Robin Janvrin
2005-06	Barney Smith
2006-07	Judge Jeremy McMullen
2007-08	Alexandra Marks
2008-09	The Right Hon Lord Mark Saville



Donors to Brasenose



Donors to Brasenose

Brasenose College wishes to record its gratitude to the following who kindly donated to the College between 1 January 2007 and 30 September 2008.

In future years we will record gifts given in the academic year (1 October to 30 September). The gifts are recorded in the following format: year of matriculation; name of donor; former names listed in brackets. An asterisk indicates that the donor is deceased. We have tried to ensure that all gifts are recorded accurately. Please accept our apologies for any mistakes, and do inform us so that they can be corrected.

THE ANNUAL FUND

Annual Fund Unrestricted			
		1946	Dr P G Philpott
1933	Mr V H Yates	1946	Mr F H Prichard
1934	The Right Revd E S Q Wall	1946	Judge G K Rice
1936	Sir Edward Eveleigh	1947	Mr L L Allen
1937	Mr F T R Giles	1947	Right Hon Sir Roy Beldam
1937	Brigadier A J Hardy	1947	Mr R F Coleman
1938	Mr P Batterley	1947	Mr R P Gordon
1938	Revd R Drown	1947	Mr K C Hendrick
1938	Mr M A Girling	1947	Dr T D R Hockaday
1938	Mr A D Stutchbury	1947	Mr C J Merdinger
1939	Mr E J Pelz	1947	Dr J M H Pearson
1939	Dr G A Weeks	1947	Mr J W S Walton
1940	Mr J B Browning	1948	Mr J O Jones *
1940	Mr G Hood	1948	Mr M D Jory
1942	Mr C Hill *	1948	Mr K Paver
1943	Air Cdre R F Brown	1948	Mr F G Till
1943	Mr D S Goodes	1948	Ambassador Richard Totterman
1943	Mr J H Gracey	1949	Dr D W Davies*
1943	Mr G M A Harrison	1949	Professor B R Judd
1943	Dr J W McAnuff	1949	Mr D E Marquardt
1943	Mr J B E Say	1949	Mr A O'Hea
1945	Mr H W Mann	1949	Mr R A W Stevens
1945	Dr C W Mitchell	1950	Mr J B Cook
1945	Mr G Wilkinson	1950	Professor A P R L Crepin
1945	Mr P W Wright	1950	Professor D O Edwards
1946	Mr D D Alexander	1950	Mr A D Gidlow-Jackson
1946	Mr F A Bearcroft	1950	Mr J G Grenfell
1946	Mr J F Goble	1950	Mr E B Palmer
1946	Mr S Hearst	1950	Mr K I Thomson
1946	Mr C B Hubbard	1950	Mr G A Waldman
1946	Canon Timothy Marshall *		



1951	Mr R D Allan	1957	Brigadier R G Long
1951	Mr O R S Bull	1957	Mr C F Penn
1951	Mr G N Dale	1957	Mr A C Smith
1951	Mr T J D Dunphy	1957	Mr J M Whiteley
1951	Mr E F Fowler *	1957	Mr G R Whittle
1951	Mr M N Karmel	1958	Mr A S Everest
1951	Mr J G Robson	1958	Mr P F Heaton-Ward
1951	Mr D M Russell	1958	Mr J V Hutchinson
1951	Mr J A C Spokes	1958	Mr E G Jarvis
1951	Dr C J C Thacker	1958	Mr J F Kent
1951	Mr B K Workman	1958	Professor W G Richards
1952	Mr D G Blakeley	1958	Mr P F Skinner
1952	Mr R N Bowes	1958	Mr G Souter *
1952	Mr J P Fellows-Smith	1958	Professor J D Stasheff
1952	Professor A D S Fowler	1958	Mr D R F Walker
1952	Mr D L Garrick	1958	Mr J Wise
1952	Mr W P Higman	1959	Dr E S Albone
1952	Sir Michael Pike	1959	Sir Rodger Bell
1953	Dr J M H Buckler	1959	Mr R R Bourne
1953	Mr D B Horsley	1959	Mr S R Brown
1953	Mr J S Mason	1959	Professor D L Coombes
1953	Mr T N Mitchell	1959	Mr J B Fox Jnr.
1953	Mr P B Walker	1959	Mr D R Moyer
1954	Mr C Q M Almao	1959	Mr M R F Noel-Clarke
1954	Mr M A Brunt	1959	Mr A J M Walker
1954	Mr Paul R Moritz	1959	Mr D J Youngman
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1954	Dr J B Wood	1960	Mr C M R Campbell
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1955	Mr J A B Liversedge	1960	Mr J N Marshall
1955	Mr C N Rose	1960	Mr J J Penn
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1957	Mr D W Gill	1963	Mr G F Moore
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1964	Dr J V Peach	1975	Mr M E Eveleigh
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1965	Mr R A Chick	1975	Mrs C R King (Pack)
1965	Mr A R Flower	1975	Mr M A Prinsley
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1966	Mr J M Kosterlitz	1977	Mr S J Sedcole
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1966	Mr H Spolan	1978	Mr N A Willson
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1967	Dr K T W Nielsen	1979	Professor B A Rudden
1967	Mr A F Rich	1980	Mr A D Gardner
1967	Judge Wakefield	1980	Mr I G Hilditch
1968	Dr A C Hill	1980	Mr W F Lofthouse
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1969	Mr P A Thomas	1982	Ms C L Perry (Richens)
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1970	Mr M R Wyatt	1982	Miss N D Woodford
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1971	Mr J W Browne	1983	Mr A S Murphy
1971	Mr S M Gee (Avery-Gee)	1984	Mr M Boulton
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1972	Mr G K Griffiths	1984	Mr C M Y Harris
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1973	Mr J P Gardner	1985	Professor D H Fairbrother
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 1986 Mr W H Nash
 1988 Dr M Hensmann
 1988 Mr A M Ward
 1989 Mr R J B Naylor
 1989 Mr D L Stevick
 1990 Mr A P Miller
 1990 Mr J D Morgan
 1991 Ms J J Harbison
 1991 Mr E Triphyllis
 1993 Miss A K Bennett
 1993 Ms M R Forrest
 1993 Mr A C Johnston
 1993 Mr J H Yang
 1994 Mr C L Warren
 1996 Mrs J J Fletcher (Childs)
 1997 Mr T H Ellis
 1998 Mr E M van Orsouw
 1999 Mr C P Allen
 2000 Miss E C Campbell
 2001 Mr H R Gill
 2002 Mr F Groene
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 Dr G Bitsakakis
 Professor P B Carter
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A number of anonymous donations were received.

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 1953 Mr R I Bullough
 1954 Mr T J Tawney
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 1967 Dr G R Beach
 1972 Mr N Hodgson
 1978 Dr P X Gilbert
 1981 Dr C E S Franks Davis
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 1983 Dr E J Chaloner
 1984 Mr J B Hawkins
 1986 Dr T J Whitaker
 1987 Mrs E Marin-Curtoud
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 1999 Mr Y El-Gingihy
 2000 Miss L M Hannay
 Professor A Elliott Kelly

A number of anonymous donations were received.

Annual Fund Student Support

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 1943 Mr D W Hills
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 1948 Mr W P Cass
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1950	Mr G A Waldman	1972	Mr R F H Dawes
1951	Mr B J Moughton	1972	Mr P J Sumner
1952	Mr I H Boyd	1973	Mr J P Gardner
1952	Mr B Rudd	1975	Dr T P Enevoldson
1952	Mr T J Rutter	1975	Mr P W W Disney
1952	Professor W L Twining	1975	Mr G D Vinter
1953	Professor M R Lee	1976	Mrs G S Brodie (Jones)
1953	Professor R Loudon	1976	Mr S J N Hargreaves
1953	Mr R J A Sharp	1977	Miss S P Hanks
1954	Mr G H Jones	1977	Mr D C Zeffman
1954	Professor K A Lamb	1978	Miss P J Cheal
1954	Mr P F Owen	1978	Mr N P Trigg
1955	Professor J Mordaunt Crook	1980	Ms S I Gardener
1956	Revd Dr M Ball	1980	Mrs R H Scott (Wells)
1956	Mr R C Beetham	1981	Major J B Gale *
1956	Mr J J Rowe	1981	Mr R M Hughes
1957	Mr J W Perry	1981	Miss T C O'Neil
1957	Mr J M Whiteley	1982	Mrs D C Gabbott Pickthall
1958	Mr J Wise	1982	Ms S J Lynch
1958	Mr P I Pring *	1982	Dr K K Wong
1958	Mr I M Stewart	1983	Dr E J Chaloner
1959	Dr S L Altmann	1984	Mrs R E Rowe (Jones)
1959	Mr R R Bourne	1985	Mr D L Neil
1960	Mr Alan Taylor	1985	Mrs K S Schumann O'
1960	Canon J D Thompstone		Marah
1961	Dr G D Harley	1986	Dr K E Harman
1962	Mr G L Cook	1987	Mrs E Marin-Curtoud
1962	Mr S E A Green		(Saxton)
1962	Dr A R Harford	1987	Professor G P McMeel
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1963	Mr W F Martin	1988	Dr P N Raven
1963	Mr G S Million	1989	Mr M R Humphreys
1965	Mr J F Linn	1989	Mr N J Maher
1966	Mr R C D Hirsch	1991	Dr C J F Bichard
1966	Judge Gerald Clifton	1991	Mr J M Davies
1966	Mr I J McDonald	1991	Dr A S Lewis
1966	Mr D J F Rushton	1992	Mr P G Kassimatis
1968	Mr J C Lowe	1993	Mr J T Bailey
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1995	Mrs S A Sheldon (Campbell)	2002	Ms S Bounds
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2000	Miss D Wade		Professor C Wells
2001	Dr S Auflitsch		
2001	Dr D J Bottomley		A number of anonymous donations were received.
2001	Mr C T Hamerton		
2001	Ms M C Julies		Library and Archives
2001	Mr T W King	1937	Mr F T R Giles
2001	Mr J Liu	1951	Mr R Marriott
2001	Mr K F K Low	1954	Mr C P Lloyd
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1963 Mr J C Bowis
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 1972 Mr R F H Dawes
 1973 Mr J P Gardner
 2000 Mr R J Smith
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A number of anonymous donations were received

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1977 Mr S H Davies
1981 Mr R M Hughes
1990 Mr A P Suckling
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LEGACIES

We take this opportunity to remember the following alumni and friends who kindly made provision for Brasenose in their wills.

1929 Mr R J Mitchell
1932 Mr J W Seamer
1937 Mr P Fraser
1942 Mr K P Rippon
1949 Dr A H Turner
1952 Mr M Woods
1958 Mr G Souter
Mrs Jane Mitchell
John & Valerie Fleming Family Trust
Kenneth Lambert Hall Will Trust



The Alexander Nowell Circle

Brasenose College wishes to record its gratitude to the following who have informed us that they are leaving a legacy to the College.

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John Raymond Bartlett	1955
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John Frederick Goble	1946
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Klaus Wolfgang Hulek	1974
Nancy Margaret Hulek	1974
Matthew Ian Knight	1984
Elliott Frederick Kulick	1955
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Charles Paul Lloyd	1954
Robert Campbell Lowson	1967
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William Frank Martin	1963
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