

Brazen *Notes*



Issue 10 | Spring 2010



Her Majesty The Queen arrives at Brasenose

We have been greatly honoured by the depth of feeling and tremendous support for the College demonstrated by Members near and far during the Quincentenary Year. We feel especially honoured to have concluded our events with two important visits: David Cameron (BNC 1985) on 14 November and Her Majesty The Queen on 2 December. After the reflections and celebrations of 'BNC500', it is now time to look forward to the College's future achievements.

We are, once again, full of fresh-faced students starting their Oxford careers. This academic year, for the first time, the number of postgraduate matriculands was higher than the number of new undergraduates: 104 to 103. This growth has been made possible with the construction of Hollybush Lodge, an award-winning purpose-built development which enables us to accommodate more of our graduates than ever. As a result, the College remains a truly vibrant place with a wonderful diversity of students and academic pursuits: it is this melting-pot of ideas, enthusiasms and

cultures which, for me, marks out what is best about College life.

The BNC500 events throughout the last year have been a chance to engage large numbers of BNC Members in the life of the College today, providing an opportunity to reminisce and reflect as well as to look forward to future years and centuries. For those who were able to attend the Quincentenary events of 5 or 25–27 September, it would have been evident just how large a feature the celebrations have been within the College: there is a brief summary of some of the festivities on the coming pages.

Upheaval of a different sort will be evident in the coming year as we begin the next phase of the Quincentenary Project – 'Project Q' – rebuilding the very heart of the College. We have already completed major refurbishment of the JCR, HCR, Bar and Gerties. In 2010 we begin refurbishment of the Hall and SCR, and the construction of new, expanded kitchens and dining rooms. The resulting improvement

in BNC's facilities will benefit all our students, staff, Fellows, alumni, and our conference visitors. Although there will be a great deal of displacement and disruption, it will be short-lived and the result will be a much better use of our compact site and a development which does justice to our role as guardians of the College in perpetuity.

Beyond College, the coming year will see important debates on university funding and tuition fees which will increase in intensity. The outcome will be vital to the future of Brasenose and Oxford as we know it. We will keep you informed but please do not hesitate to get in touch with views or questions; we rely on your support and value your continuing participation in College.

With Annie's and my best wishes for 2010, and, indeed, for the next 500 years!

Roger Cashmore

A Generous Gift

The College is delighted to announce that Dominic Barton (1984) has generously endowed a Fellowship in Economics at Brasenose.

Dominic joined Brasenose as a Rhodes Scholar reading for an MPhil in Economics and is now worldwide managing director of McKinsey & Company, following stints in China and South Korea. He is an active participant in many international fora

including the World Economic Forum at Davos, the Aspen Strategy Group, the World Bank and IMF. He is also a prolific writer, authoring more than 80 articles on Asia, history and the issues and opportunities facing global and Asian markets.

Endowing Fellowships is a key part of the College's Strategic Plan. Increasing the College's endowment funds to provide income in support of tutorial fellowships

in the College helps protect those subjects at Brasenose and strengthens our ability to continue to provide the tutorial system unique to Oxford.

This is the first of five Fellowships we hope to protect with new endowment and we welcome any and all – individual or collective – contributions to this effort.

BNC500

2009 has been a particularly busy year for Brasenose – not only have the perennial activities of teaching and research been continuing apace but the whole BNC community of current and former students, staff and Fellows has been able to share in a year-long celebration of the College’s Quincentenary. From the launch of the College’s new history to the visit, almost exactly one year later by HM The Queen, there were events to enthrall, educate, entertain, reminisce and, above all, celebrate The King’s Hall and College of Brasenose.

The fact that more than 1500 BNC members took part in one or more of the events is a testament to their success. Of course, great events do not just happen, they require meticulous planning and attention to detail. Kerrin Honey, the anniversary year’s events manager, worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the whole programme and was supported by the extraordinary team within Brasenose. At the end of her busy year at BNC, Kerrin said “it was an absolute pleasure to work at Brasenose. Not only was it an exciting time to be at BNC for the Quincentenary, it is a great place to work with a warm and friendly atmosphere.” Kerrin added that one of the best parts of her job has been meeting alumni: “I had no idea that people would feel so warm about the College. It’s a delight to see the special place that BNC holds in the hearts of its alumni; they’re not cut off from the community, they’re a key part of it.”

We include here only a brief summary of the year’s programme. If you were not able to attend, we hope it will give you a flavour of the special mix of formality and warmth that marked each event. Whether you were able to attend or not, we very much hope to see you in College soon.

Jennifer Lewis, Development Director



A beautiful spring day, 30 May 2009 – Saturday of VIIs week – saw hundreds of alumni and their friends and families descend on Brasenose College for a packed programme of entertainment and sustenance. Greeted by brightly dressed clowns, balloon modellers and face-painters, children were thoroughly engaged and a party atmosphere was established.

Welcoming the guests, the Principal extolled BNC’s virtues past and plans for the future before encouraging everyone present to support vociferously the College’s crews on the river. This was followed by Caitlin Page (BNC 2007), undergraduate, cox and President of the Boat Club, who focussed on the rowers’

hopes and highlights of past achievements. Founded in 1815, the Boat Club is reputed to be the oldest in the world and continues to attract large numbers of students to its crews.

A special rowing-themed lunch was served to guests in Hall and a marquee in New Quad. The afternoon provided an opportunity to watch events unfold on the river from the vantage point of the BNC boathouse. Further entertainment included a George and Dragon puppet show, theatrical production of the Gingerbread Man and a roaming magician performing amazing tricks converting the staunchest sceptics to a belief in magic.

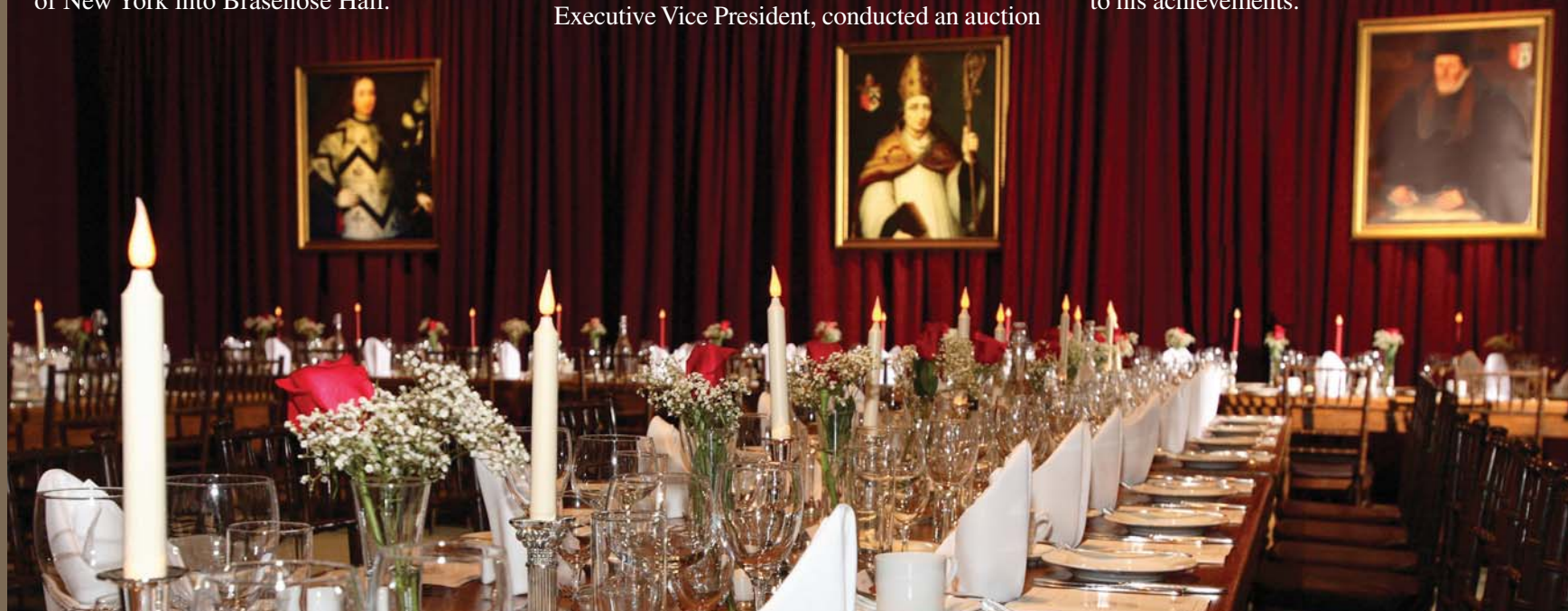
BNC500 Dinner at Sotheby’s

Beyond the shores of the UK, the largest constituency of BNC Members is in North America. Recognising that many alumni might not be able to make the hop across the pond to the College during the anniversary year the College decided to go to New York. With the generous support of Andrew Suckling (BNC 1990) and Hugh Hildesley (BNC 1960), the College was able to transform – for one night only – Sotheby’s of New York into Brasenose Hall.

Greeting guests was a larger-than-life backdrop of the College’s gatehouse with ‘Radcliffe Square’ railings complete with bicycles in front. Passing through the ‘Lodge’, guests entered a recreation of Hall with replica portraits completing the attention to detail.

The Principal gave a warm welcome to the event and Richard Cooper, Vice Principal, read the traditional and familiar College Grace. Following dinner, Hugh Hildesley, Sotheby’s Executive Vice President, conducted an auction

of donated lots ranging from one’s name in a book by author Martin Baker (BNC 1976) to a fishing adventure and a South African holiday. We are grateful to the donors and winning bidders who raised over \$15,000 for the College. John Bradamas (BNC 1950), President Emeritus of New York University, concluded the evening with a profound speech about his career and the way in which Brasenose had shaped his life and contributed to his achievements.



BNC500 Weekends

The weekend of 25 to 27 September was chosen to be the largest of the year's events. Traditionally, that weekend has been the date of the Brasenose Society's annual dinner and coincides with the University's alumni weekend, when thousands of Oxonians descend on the city to reconnect with their alma mater, and each other. It soon became clear that demand for places at the proposed weekend greatly exceeded capacity and so a further event was added at the beginning of September to include as many alumni as possible in the College's year of celebrations.

At the first BNC500 Weekend, the intimate setting of Hall was filled with reunited friends swapping stories and memories of BNC past. Diners were treated to the finest fare produced by Head Chef Lorraine Watkins and her outstanding team. The highlight of the feast for many was a dessert specially created for the celebration following a recipe from Professor Nicholas Kurti. The pinnacle of the evening was a speech by Charles Scott (BNC 1976) who regaled the assembled diners with reminiscences of the humorous activities which took place during his years at Brasenose.

At the second BNC500 Weekend, marquees were erected on both Old and New Quads and the College was at full capacity. Many alumni stayed the weekend in their old rooms. The Old Quad marquee was set up as an old-style jazz club with a large bar, leather sofas and a grand piano which provided ample space for the champagne receptions before dinner and a marginally quieter bar area afterwards. The New Quad marquee recreated the splendour and atmosphere of Hall, complete with portraits.

Dinners on Friday and Saturday nights and lunch on Sunday as well as a Champagne Reception at the Divinity School following the Sheldonian Presentation ensured that all who wished to were able to join in the celebrations.

Alumni, Fellows, staff and students participated in a varied programme: an exhibition illustrating the College's history was on display at the County Record Office; fifteen current students wrote and performed a historical pageant presenting the College's history with a comical twist; and a presentation in the Sheldonian featuring Michael Palin (BNC 1962), the JCR and HCR Presidents, Arvind Singhal and Sarah-Jane Cooper-Knock, Alexandra Marks (BNC 1977), Joe Mordaunt Crook (BNC 1955) and Bernard Richards (Emeritus Fellow, English).

The entire weekend was filled with laughter as guests regaled one another with stories of past glories aided by the speakers at each meal, Rod Clayton (BNC 1986), Declan Kelleher (BNC 1972), and Philip Yea (BNC 1974), who prompted much merriment.

It was a particular delight to see so many alumni connecting and reconnecting with old friends.



Visits Complete BNC500 Celebratory Year

The College was particularly pleased to host two distinguished guests, rounding off a very busy year.

The penultimate event of the Quincentenary celebrations took place on Saturday, 14 November, when David Cameron (BNC 1985), MP for Witney and Leader of the Conservative Party, returned to College to speak with his former tutors, Vernon Bogdanor and Antony Courakis, and meet current students, Fellows and staff. More than 450 members of College gathered in the Sheldonian Theatre to hear an impassioned speech on the need for change and his vision for the future, after which he answered questions put to him by undergraduates and graduates in the audience – under the watchful gaze of his tutors. Mr Cameron returned to

College where he was presented with a copy of the College History and spent more time chatting informally with students in Hall.

Less than three weeks later, on Wednesday 2 December, the College was honoured to host Her Majesty The Queen to lunch following her visit to officially open the new Ashmolean Museum.

The Principal greeted Her Majesty at the Lodge gates before escorting her past students, Fellows and staff who had gathered on Old Quad lawn to welcome her to Brasenose.

Members of the JCR and HCR Committees gathered excitedly in the Senior Common Room for a Reception before lunch and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet and be photographed with The Queen.

The Principal then introduced Dr Derek Hockaday (BNC 1947, Emeritus Fellow), who was a student at Brasenose on the occasion of Her Majesty's first visit to the College in 1948, and showed some particularly important items from the College's Archives: the Foundation Charter, Founder's Bible and Missal. After the Reception, Her Majesty joined more students, Fellows and long-serving members of College staff for lunch in Hall.

Following a visit to the College Chapel, where students performed a festival of nine scenes and songs in celebration of the College's Quincentenary, The Queen signed the Guest Book before unveiling a plaque commemorating her visit.



The Royal Standard flies above Brasenose



Choir tour



This summer the choirs of Brasenose and Pembroke joined forces for a short tour of Lombardia, Italy. Based in the historic city of Lodi with excursions to nearby cities, the itinerary included two concerts and one High Mass. We were most fortunate to have the delightful company (and voices) of several senior members of Brasenose: Susan Lea and daughter Ruth, Nicholas Proudfoot with Anna Proudfoot, and our Senior Tutor, Andrew Stockley.

Our adventures began with a Ryanair flight which, due to adverse weather conditions, took us to Parma instead of Bergamo (some 170Km away). After a long wait at Parma airport, which involved singing to the guards to thank them for keeping the airport lounge open for us, we eventually arrived in Lodi, ready to commence a weekend of glorious singing.

The first concert took place in the Chiesa di San Francesco, a magnificent church which dates from the thirteenth century. Particularly fine were the frescoes, dating from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries, which adorned walls and pillars of the church. In the concert the choir presented a history of English sacred music, ranging from the sublime music of William Byrd to the ever-popular Ding Dong (a French melody adopted by the English). It was wonderful to see such a large crowd in the church. The evening concluded with dessert – a fitting way to celebrate our first concert!

The second day saw us in the historic city of Crema for a concert in the Chiesa di San Bernardino (now an auditorium). It was a privilege to sing to a huge audience in this great venue – a favourite recording venue for Deutsche Grammophon. The local newspaper reported: The public,[...], responded with a huge attendance, filling the great nave of the Church of San Bernardino, right up to the entrance: a sign that these events represent a great opportunity for everyone to be involved.

The concert, like the previous one, was recorded and broadcast on local radio stations.

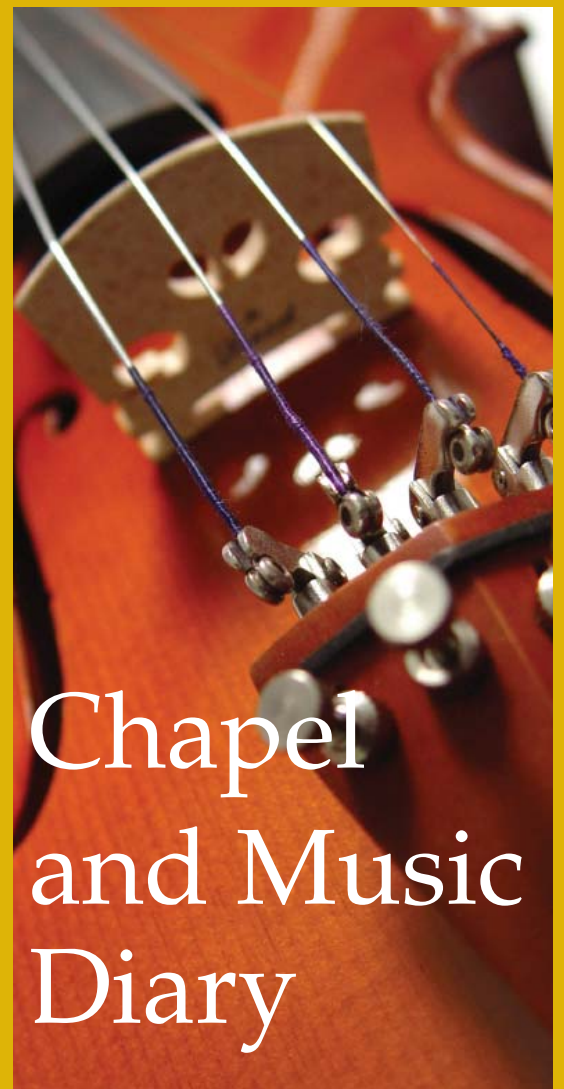
The tour concluded with High Mass in the Basilica di San Marco, Milan. It was a privilege to adorn the liturgy of a Basilica which has such a rich history: Mozart resided in the adjoining monastery in 1770, and on 22 May 1874, Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem received its first performance in the church. For our visit William Byrd's intimate three-part Mass (composed for Byrd's Catholic community in the 1590s) was a fitting setting to sing. The Mass concluded with Byrd's intricate Laetentur Caeli. The music was greatly enjoyed by the congregation and earned us an applause!

The music was all sung unaccompanied but no choir trip would be complete, for me at least, without sampling the local organ tradition. I was most pleased to play two instruments in Crema, one of them in the church where the composer Francesco Cavalli (1602–76) was baptised. It was a pleasure to demonstrate to several enthusiastic organists in the group (and those choir members listening from downstairs) the full tonal pallet of this colourful 'Serassi' instrument. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Italian organ music was very much influenced by opera; and the organs of the time were built to cater for this new style. It was a new and pleasing experience for the listeners in the church – judging from their happy faces!

The tour was organised by Giampiero Innocente, director of the Collegium Vocale di Crema. Maestro Innocente is a great admirer of all things connected with Oxford (and Cambridge). We are most grateful to him and look forward to seeing him in Brasenose in the near future. The two choirs must also thank Laurence Lyndon-Jones (senior organ scholar, Pembroke College) for everything he did to make the trip a memorable event. Our grateful thanks also go to the Principal, Senior Tutor, Bursar, and Chaplain for their constant support. We must, of course thank the alumni that sponsored the tour through the Annual Fund. May there be many more tours to come!

Nick Prozzillo (BNC 2001)

Chapel and Music Diary



30 January 2010 – from 12:15pm

Wingfield Organ Day

A series of talks focusing on the Wingfield Organ, the reconstructed Tudor organ currently in Brasenose Chapel, and a demonstration. With organ builder Dominic Gwyn and Professor John Harper. Please do come along if you are free. Free admission. In the Chapel.

13 February 2010 – 5:45pm

The Choir sings at Southwell Cathedral.

14 February 2010 – 6.00pm

Runcie Sermon

The Bishop of Norwich will be giving the Runcie Sermon in the Chapel.

The Platnauer Concerts

Named in honour of Maurice Platnauer, Principal of Brasenose (1956–60), the concerts are held in the College Chapel at 9pm on the Sunday of 3rd week each term. Following the concert, guests are invited to join the Principal and Fellows for refreshments in the SCR.

31 January 2010 **The Marian Consort**

Featuring the Oxford vocal group together with the sounds of the Wingfield Organ.

9 May 2010 **Young Artists' Platform**

Jianfeng Chen | violin

Born in Shanghai in 1987, Jianfeng Chen started to play the violin at the age of three. He made his Wigmore Hall debut in December 2005, and appeared in the BBC proms cycle of 2006 as a soloist. He currently studies at the Royal College of Music.

Anna Peletsis | Piano

A student of the RCM, Anna Peletsis recently won the FLAME International Piano Competition in Paris. Future engagements include concerts in the Wigmore Hall and the Bridgewater Hall.

BNC charity cycle ride

Brasenose students Sarah-Jane Cooper-Knock, HCR President, and Jenny Foreman, a 4th-year undergraduate Physicist, cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats this summer in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust. The pair set off on 13 September 2009. Sporting their Brasenose lycra, they finished the trip in 11 1/2 days.

Sarah-Jane suggested LE-JOG as the next big challenge for the pair, who hung up their oars at the end of last year: a fact that Jenny would highlight at the bottom of every hill en-route. Not content with the 854 miles that the journey takes at its most direct, Jenny and Sarah-Jane decided to take the 'scenic route', which totalled close to 1000 miles in all.

Tackling the steep climbs of Cornwall and the slow slopes of Scotland, they were sustained by an unhealthy number of Fruit Pastels, improvised "Odes to Vaseline" that would make Ale Verse aficionados proud, and the knowledge that their trip was raising money for the Anthony Nolan Trust.

The Anthony Nolan Trust works to encourage people in the UK to volunteer as bone marrow donors and helps those in need of a donor to find their match. Sadly, Jenny and Sarah-Jane were only too aware of the importance of its work. In 2006, Jenny's cousin Jo received a stem cell transplant and Matt Carver, a member of Brasenose College Boat Club, spent much of 2008 battling leukaemia. Tragically, neither Matt nor Jo survived. It is in memory of Jo and Matt that SJ and Jenny are encouraging both donations to the charity and registration on the bone marrow donor register.

Originally, they had aimed to raise £1 per mile for the charity but with the generosity of family and friends, they managed to raise over £1,300 in total. They would like to give a special thanks to members of the College: the staff, SCR, HCR and JCR who were so encouraging in words and sponsorship throughout.

You can support SJ and Jenny by donating online at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/SPARTACUSii/>

Sarah-Jane Cooper-Knock (BNC 2007)



BNC's Corkscrew inventor remembered

Monday 24 August 2009, 214 years to the day after the Revd Samuel Henshall (BNC 1782) was the first man to be granted a patent on a corkscrew, a plaque was unveiled in his honour. The carved stone tablet will be installed in the church of which Henshall was Rector and where he was buried: St Mary's Church in Bow. 'Bow Church' was a scene of celebration and remembrance as fifty corkscrew enthusiasts from around the world gathered to honour a forefather of the corkscrew fraternity.

The International Correspondence of Corkscrew Addicts, an exclusive organisation of just fifty members, chose to honour Henshall with a new plaque commending to history his place in the development of the corkscrew. Bow Church, celebrating its septcentenary in 2012, lies near the East End site of the London Olympic Games which will take place in the same year. The current Rector, the Revd Michael Peet, welcomed the visitors to his church and said how pleased he was to have a famous and enterprising forebear. The service concluded with a toast of wine from bottles opened with an original Henshall corkscrew.



Henshall, the son of a Cheshire grocer, was born in 1765. Educated first at Manchester Grammar School, he went up to Brasenose as a Somerset Scholar in 1782 and gained his MA in 1789 shortly before his ordination. Henshall was made a Fellow of the College but his academic career was not as illustrious as he had hoped: his dense scholarly works received a mixed reception and his bid, in 1800, to become Oxford's Professor of Anglo-Saxon was unsuccessful. He became a Curate of Christ Church, Spitalfields, and from 1802 until his death in 1807, he held the post of Rector of St Mary's which, at that time, was one of the College's livings.

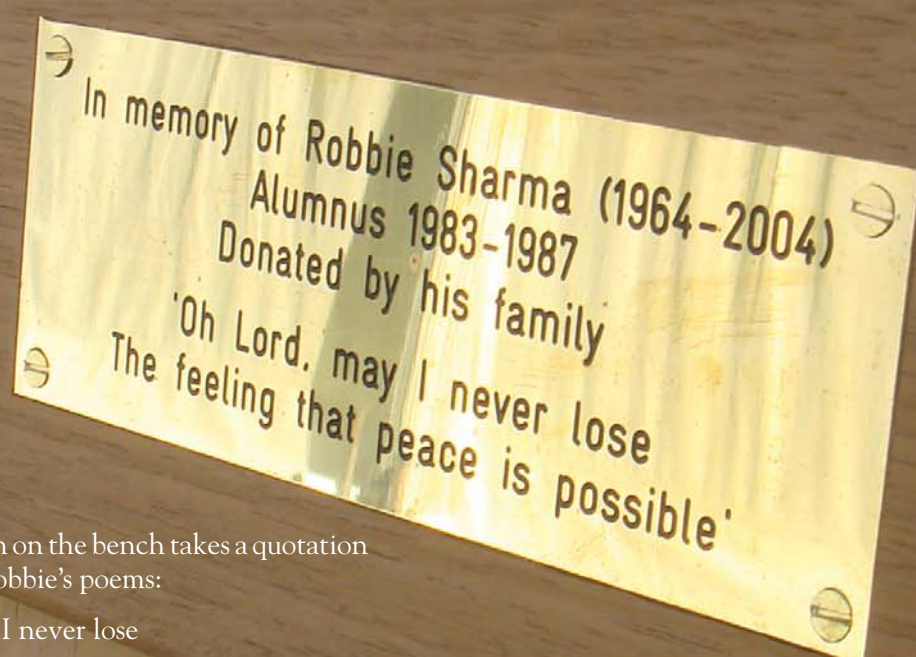
New bench commemorates life of BNC Member

A new bench has been placed in New Quad commemorating the life of BNC alumnus Robbie Sharma (1983). As an undergraduate, Robbie read Philosophy and Theology then Middle English. Following Oxford, he went on to work for the Church Commissioners, Civil Service, Marconi and the NHS in addition to writing poetry, essays and children's stories and tackling numerous long-distance walks.

The dedication on the bench takes a quotation from one of Robbie's poems:

Oh Lord, may I never lose

The feeling that peace is possible



Keeping in touch

The alumni section of the College’s website is a source of news and information for BNC Members on upcoming events, dining rights, and holds an archive of issues of the Brazen Nose and Notes. If you aren’t already familiar, visit www.bnc.ox.ac.uk to see what’s there.

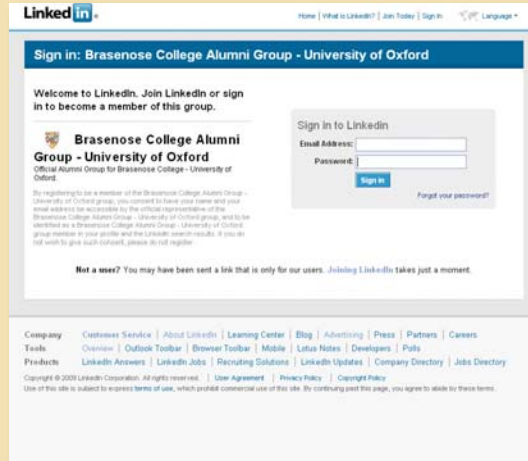


BNC has a ‘fan page’ on Facebook www.facebook.com, the social networking site. If you’re already a member of Facebook, you can ‘become a fan’ by searching for Brasenose College. The page is used to share news stories and event notifications, and will become a platform for new media content.



There is also a BNC Group on LinkedIn www.linkedin.com the professional networking site.

If you have comments or suggestions for improvement, email us on development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk.



Forthcoming Events

All events in College unless noted otherwise.

If you would like to register interest in attending or would like further information on these or any other events, please email development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk or telephone (01865) 287275

Vice-Chancellor’s Reception

London - 6.30 - 9.00pm
Wednesday 17 February 2010

at the Royal Society (6-9 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y 5AG)

John Ackrill Memorial Lecture

in Ancient Philosophy
Thursday 8 March, 5pm

Professor David Wiggins (BNC 1951), Wykeham Professor of Logic, Emeritus, will give the second annual John Ackrill Memorial Lecture in Lecture Room XI. A reception will follow.

Brasenose Society Spring Drinks Party

London - 7:00 - 10:00pm
Friday 19 March 2010

at the Stanza and Teatro Restaurant and Bar, 93-107 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 5DY. Tickets are £25 (£20 if you graduated 2005 or later) - and 1 ticket free for every 10 bought together. Please send your cheque, payable to ‘Brasenose Society’, to the Alumni Office, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ.

Gaudy

Saturday, 20 March

for those who matriculated 1977–79

Oxford Intercollegiate Golf Tournament

Frilford Heath
Friday, 26 March 2010

with dinner that evening at Merton College. Last year was the first year BNC fielded a team and we came a respectable 6=. James Flecker (BNC 1958) will be putting a BNC team of 10 together for this year’s tournament. Please email development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk to register your interest.

Oxford North American Reunion

New York
16–18 April 2010

Golden Jubilee Lunch (1959)

Saturday 15 May

VIIIIs Week Lunch

Saturday 29 May

Diamond Jubilee Lunch (1949)

Saturday 5 June

Gaudy

Friday 25 June

for those who matriculated in 1989

Gaudy

Friday 24 September

for those who matriculated 1954–58

Brasenose Society Annual Dinner & AGM

Saturday 25 September

Oxford Alumni Weekend

24–26 September 2010

Diamond Jubilee Lunch (1950)

Saturday 9 October

Golden Jubilee Lunch (1960)

Saturday 16 October

Ellesmere Society Dinner

Saturday 13 November

Alexander Nowell Society Lunch

Friday 26 November

Alumni Dining

Alumni are warmly invited to dine at High Table in Hall, with a guest, on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays in full term up to three times a year at their own expense. The College also invites them to Dessert after dinner as its guests.

If you wish to dine, please contact the Alumni Relations & Development Office (telephone **01865 287275** or email development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk) to enquire about prices and availability at least a week in advance so that we can arrange to welcome you properly. Please note that the number of places available on each occasion is limited.

Sadly Departed

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of two Honorary Fellows of the College, **Lord Moore of Wolvercote** and **Sir Donald Acheson**.

Born in 1921, Philip Brian Cecil Moore read Classics (1940 and 1945–46) at Brasenose and was made an Honorary Fellow in 1981. He served as Private Secretary to The Queen and Keeper of The Queen’s Archives 1977–86.

Born in 1926, Ernest Donald Acheson read Medicine (1944–47) at Brasenose and was made an Honorary Fellow in 1989. A physician and epidemiologist, he served as the government’s Chief Medical Officer in England 1983–91.

Services

Paul Dawson-Bowling will be speaking about **Pip Ward-Jones** (BNC 1946) on Sunday, 7 March at College Prayers (6pm). All who knew Pip are most welcome to come along.

A service for **Roger Beetham** (BNC 1956) will be held on 24 March at 3pm at Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, Knightsbridge, London. All who knew Roger are most welcome to attend.

A Memorial Service for **Kate Burt** (BNC 1988), featuring music from the College Choir and tributes from friends, will take place on 1 May at 1pm in the College Chapel. All who knew Kate are most welcome to attend.

BNC500:

A year of celebrations in pictures



1

BNC's Old Members toast the College around the world: Sydney, Australia, 19 June; Brussels, Belgium, 4 September; Athens, Greece, 15 October.

2

Brasenose employees had a night on the town seeing the West End musical Grease followed by dinner at Planet Hollywood on 31 August.

3

The Tanner Lecture series took place in 5th Week of Hilary Term under the title 'Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century'.

4

Cricketing celebrations in the form of Champagne in the Long Room of Lord's Cricket Ground on 19 March and a match between the MCC and BNC on 14 June.

5

Family Day, Saturday of VIII's Week, saw College transformed with fun for all the family.

6

Anniversary weekends on 5 and 25-27 September rounded off the celebrations.

The Strollers Cricket Tour



The Strollers are the only enduring sporting activity involving alumni of the College; as such, it might be appropriate at such a significant time to remind readers of the *Brazen Notes* of the existence and history of the club, and perhaps to recruit some new blood.

In May 1923, William Stallybrass (Sonners to all who knew him) led a Brasenose Wanderers cricket team to play against his local side, Limpsfield in Surrey. As often happens in May in England, it rained all afternoon and the discussion turned to the joys of cricket in the West Country in the sunny days of August. Thus was the Strollers Tour born, and for many years it was a joint venture between College and club, as evidenced by the green stripe in the team colours alongside the black and gold.

At its height in the 1930s, the tour lasted a full three weeks, when most of the players were schoolmasters and had the time, and in many cases the lack of domestic encumbrance, to allow for such a lengthy absence. By the 1960s the tour was down to 8 matches over nine days. This increased to 10 for a while before reducing, in 1988, to the more manageable 5, starting on the second Monday of August. Apart from the war years, and a brief hiatus in 1987 caused by a dearth of players, the tour has continued to operate for 86 years. Plans are already afoot to celebrate our centenary in 2023 with our longest standing opponents, the North Devon CC where the Strollers first played in 1926.

While BNC is the original source of most of the players, the party has regularly consisted of an eclectic mix of alumni and others. Indeed, it has been said that the two requirements for a Stroller are to have been at BNC, or not. Over the years, teams have included everything from Test match cricketers (including two South Africans who went on to play in the ‘timeless’ test at Durban, subsequently abandoned as a draw after ten days so that the touring MCC party could catch their ship home) to club 4th eleven hackers like the author of this piece. Successive captains have gone out of their way to ensure that all are able to participate fully.

Families are welcome to join the tour. At one point in North Devon this year there were at least as many Stroller children, and grandchildren, as there were players, the proximity of the beach, the sand dunes and rock pools being a great attraction. Anyone interested in joining the tour in playing, or non-playing (especially umpiring or scoring) capacity can be assured of a warm welcome. Please contact the Tour Captain, Chris Townsend or the author of this piece through the College’s Development Office.

Richard Tettenborn (1960)

1815 Club



We are delighted to announce the launch of the new BNCBC alumni association, the 1815 Club, named in recognition of the foundation date of the Club – the oldest in the world.

The official launch will take place on the Saturday of Torpids – 6 March 2010 and all BNCBC alumni are welcome to attend. Further details will be circulated in advance of the launch or can be obtained from the Alumni Relations & Development Office.

Mentioned in Dispatches

Professor Vernon Bogdanor (Fellow, Politics) was awarded the decoration ‘Chevalier dans l’Ordre Nationale de la Legion d’Honneur’ by a decree of the French President, Nicholas Sarkozy, in recognition of his work in the field of the law and history of our two countries and in the building of Europe. His latest book *The New British Constitution* was published in June 2009.

2008-09 Oxford Teaching Awards were presented to **Dr Harvey Burd** (Fellow, Engineering), **Professor Anton van der Merwe** (Senior Kurti Fellow, Pathology) and **Dr Elizabeth Potter** (Lecturer, Classics).

Professor Erwin Hahn (Honorary Fellow 1984) was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa* by the University of Oxford at Encaenia 2009.

Professor Philip Maini (former Fellow, Mathematics) was awarded the London Mathematical Society Naylor Prize and Lectureship for 2009.

Sir Robin Gill, (BNC 1945, Honorary Fellow 2004), Founder and Chairman of The Royal Anniversary Trust, was awarded KCVO in the 2010 New Year’s Honours List.

Michael Palin (BNC 1962, Honorary Fellow) was named President of the Royal Geographical Society on 1 June 2009.

Simon Mawer’s (BNC 1966) book, *The Glass Room*, was shortlisted for the 2009 Man Booker Prize.

The Editorial Board of The Art Book and the Association of Art Historians have announced **Chris Spring’s** (BNC 1969) *Angaza Afrika: African Art Now* as the winner of The Art Book Award 2009.

Charles Barrie (BNC 1972), lately Director, The Art Fund, was awarded CBE for services to the Visual Arts in the 2010 New Year’s Honours List.

The world premiere of the latest ‘Sherlock Holmes’ film was in London in December. The film was conceived and produced by **Lionel Wigram** (BNC 1981).

Hollybush Lodge, the College’s new purpose-built graduate accommodation, has received a Commendation from the Oxford Preservation Trust’s 2009 Environmental Awards. This annual awards scheme recognises projects that make a significant contribution to the conservation and improvement of the built or natural environment of Oxford and its green setting.

Media Watch

Professor Vernon Bogdanor (Fellow, Politics), was interviewed about his latest book *The New British Constitution* (June 2009) on Radio 4’s ‘Thinking Allowed’ programme in June.

Russell Foster (Nicholas Kurti Senior Fellow, Circadian Neuroscience), discussed his new book *Seasons of Life*, which shows how the seasons affect human as well as animal life, on Radio 4’s ‘Leading Edge’ programme in June.

Following the success of his programme ‘Written in Stone’, presented in August 2009, **Dr Llewelyn Morgan** (Fellow, Classics) presented ‘Striving for Imperfection’ for BBC Radio 4’s ‘Something Understood’ programme in December. His 30 minute programme considered the problem of aspiring towards perfection, and how an acceptance, and even celebration, of our failings may be the better path to follow.

Matt Grove (Junior Golding Fellow) appeared in the Channel 4 documentary series shown in December ‘Man on Earth’ which examined how changes in climate have affected humans throughout history.

The ‘Brasenose Postgrads’, a team consisting of **Amy Koenig**, **Christopher Lustri** and **Chris Tudor**, are appearing in the third series of BBC4’s ‘Only Connect’ a quiz show where teams must make connections between apparently unconnected things. They acquitted themselves well on their first appearance, broadcast on Monday 18 January, making it through to the next round.

Contacts

Alumni Relations and Development Office, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ. Tel: 01865 287275 Email: development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk