

# Brazen Notes

**Special Edition: BNC Voices**

## The Fellowship: Interviewed

As part of a series of interviews with our Fellowship, Professor Chris McKenna, Fellow in Management Studies at Brasenose, Reader in Business History and Strategy at Saïd Business School and winner of the prestigious Harold F. Williamson Prize, sat down with **Richard Lofthouse**, editor of *Oxford Today*, to share thoughts from his forthcoming history of white-collar crime.

Anyone astonished by American scammer Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme, recently dramatised in various TV treatments, the collapse of US utility giant Enron back in 2001, or more recently the VW emissions-rigging scandal and LIBOR banking disgrace, will immediately be drawn to the research of Chris McKenna.

The inaugural Fellow of Management at Brasenose since 2000, McKenna is currently researching the history of white-collar crime, which will form the basis of a new book.

He says that he has uncovered several central themes, one of them that there is a tendency of even highly intelligent people to connive in an enterprise that apparently benefits them even though it might not feel 'right' – such as Madoff's Ponzi scheme. "People thought they were 'in on it', when in fact they were the victims of it."

He has also developed the premise that a new industry or sector in business is invariably followed by scandal, because criminals exploit the absence of regulation common to new sectors. Cyber fraud falls squarely into that bracket, and we are living through its natural emergence right now.

McKenna is planning a narrative that will begin with the origins of the South Sea Bubble in the 17th century and cover various types of white-

collar crime right up to the present. Examples will be comparative and international, with a bias towards the dominant capitalist (and scandal-prone) American and British economies. One of the deeper themes of McKenna's book, *Partners in Crime*, is the broad continuity between the crimes committed and the novel forms of crime that follow because of the unintended consequence of regulation. "This is a sequence of behaviour that you encounter, again, and again," he notes, citing as an example the first use of a 'tax haven', in Bermuda, in the 1930s in order to minimize American taxes in the aftermath of the Ivar Kreuger scandal, the infamous Swedish 'Match King' whose global empire collapsed in the Great Depression.

McKenna's interest in white-collar crime stems partly from his multi-prize winning book, *The World's Newest Profession: Management Consulting in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). A central theme of that book was the role of banking regulation in spawning a vast, highly paid, white-collar elite that emerged from accountancy to create the quasi-profession of management consulting – in the 1930s, the 1950s, and again in the 1990s and beyond. If we can conceive, as McKenna does, of management consulting as much as a product of "regulatory politics [than] as a permanent feature of the knowledge economy", then it helps to explain why consultants – many drawn from Ivy League and Oxbridge universities – have remained uneasy about their status.

Undergraduates lured by banking or consulting, yet queasy about 'what it means', could do worse than read McKenna's book. They might emerge with a different goal, namely, to be a manager in a real business.



Professor Chris McKenna met with Richard Lofthouse to discuss his current research interest: the history of white-collar crime.

Originally graduating from Amherst College in Economics, McKenna is that rare breed of scholar who worked on Wall Street as an analyst before realising his true vocation as an historian. Situated in the vortex of our own age of scandal and crash, he is uniquely qualified to do the deep research that the media cannot, and stands by his view that scholars should tenaciously pursue long-term research projects in an era of instant gratification and media half-truth.

Professor Christopher McKenna is Brasenose College's inaugural Tutorial Fellow in Management Studies, and Reader in business history and strategy, Saïd Business School. His wife Dr. Mara Keire is a teaching and research fellow at Oxford's Rothermere American Institute, and they have an eight-year old son, Nat.

**The Harold F. Williamson Prize was awarded to Chris by the Business History Conference. The prize, first given in 1990, is awarded every two or three years to a mid-career scholar who has made significant contributions to the field of business history.**

### In this Special Edition

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Letters to the Editor ..... | Page 2 |
| Your News .....             | Page 3 |
| BNC Back in Time .....      | Page 5 |
| Photo Gallery .....         | Page 6 |

# Letters to the Editor

## Memories of BNC and Barry Nicholas

Dear Editor,

Could I take this opportunity to warn younger BNC people of the dangers of lying? It's a slippery slope.

Once long ago I, riding on my Royal Enfield 350 back from a pub, was arrested on the Woodstock Road at about 10pm. I remember a lot of blue lights and sirens and a long evening and early morning at Oxford police station.

The reason was that, taking pity on her, I had fitted a nice young female student, stranded (so she said), snugly between me and my male passenger. Three on a motorbike: extreme criminality. The real problem came the next day. I was supposed to produce an essay the next morning for that very kind man and excellent Law tutor, **Barry Nicholas**, and I hadn't even started on it when arrested. So when my turn to produce an essay came, I spun a fine tale of elaborate extra detail, adding for good measure defective lights on my bike.

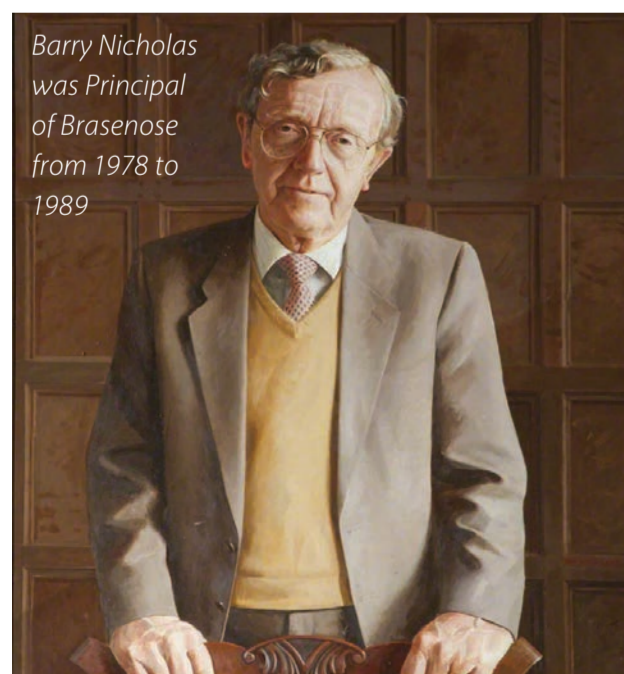
How could I have written an essay when I had spent most of the afternoon and evening with the Police? I had unwisely retimed my clash with the law to about 3pm.

Barry listened to my tale with an expression of sympathy and concern but then out he came with his googly: "Defective lights at 3pm?" - If I could have crawled out of the room I would have done.

In short, let a younger generation be aware of the risks of lying oneself out of trouble.

### From Bruce Kent (Jurisprudence, 1949)

Former Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).



Barry Nicholas was Principal of Brasenose from 1978 to 1989



## Post-Brexit Brasenose

Dear Editor,

I was very sad to hear about the referendum result on the morning of June 24. Without European freedom of movement and non-discrimination rules I would not have been able to come up to Brasenose, or to be a pupil at Eltham College for six months in 1989-1990, or to spend a year in Rob Fender's group at the University of Southampton in 2005-2006 (hi Rob!). I would not be who I am today without these stays in the UK, and in particular, without my time at Brasenose. I would be a different person without the friends I made at BNC, without what I learned in College or at the Department, without the myriad of influences that only a place like Oxford can provide. It is a place that is at the same time steeped in tradition, and looking to the future; simultaneously the most English of places, and also open to the world. This is the occasion to say "thank you" again for those years.

My hope is that Brexit will not affect this openness, but sadly I expect that future generations will not enjoy the same access to British Universities that was offered to me, and that cooperation in research will be weakened too. The good news is that both Oxford and Brasenose have survived crises more substantial than Brexit, and have existed for far longer than the EU and its predecessors. So it is a safe bet that both will survive the EU. I sincerely hope that the UK indeed becomes stronger through Brexit (though I cannot imagine at present how that would come about), and that those who voted to leave will have their needs met and their fears and worries allayed - at least those needs, fears and worries that result not purely from nostalgia but from a real disenfranchisement in the globalized free-trade economy. I recommend reading *Betrayal of the Local Brexit Voter* by former Brasenose don, Vernon Bogdanor at [www.politico.eu](http://www.politico.eu).

Finally, I hope the College does not suffer from any remorse of having educated the PM that took the UK out of the EU - Cam'remorse?

### From Sebastian Jester (Physics, 1994)

Officer for the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany.

## Thank you BNC

My wife Siobhan and I would like to say a big "thank you" to staff at BNC who made a special birthday weekend with fifty friends such a marvellous experience in August. My special thanks go to Neil as coordinator, Martin in Hall, Carol in the Lodge and Julie in the Bar. And to the Boat Club for letting us roll away the years in a delicately wobbling eight! It was great to see the wonder on family and friends' faces as they enjoyed both the special surroundings and wonderful hospitality practised at BNC. They will always remember their own version of Ale Verses. I can thoroughly recommend BNC as a great venue for family gatherings!

### From Peter Massey (Physics, 1974)

Founder and Director of Budd, a management consultancy firm.



△ Peter (left) and his Brasenose contemporaries enjoying the birthday celebrations.



△ Peter with his daughters Rachel, Rebecca and Beth singing 'Beth Enjoy' to the tune of 'Danny Boy' in their own version of Ale Verses.

# Your News

This issue of *The Brazen Notes* is focused on celebrating and sharing your news, and we have been inundated with fantastic contributions! If you would like to be included in the next issue, email us at [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk).

**John Prag (Classics, 1960)** has completed the editing of *The Story of Alderley: Living with the Edge*, published in January 2016. It marked the culmination of twenty years' work by the Alderley Edge Landscape Project. Among the book's 34 contributors was another Brasenose man, **John Pollard (Geology, 1955)**, who wrote the section on Alderley's two archosaurs.

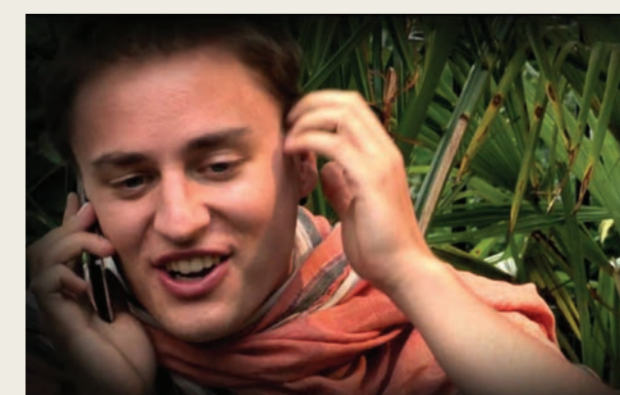
**Stephen Day (Jurisprudence, 1966)** has for some time been the longest serving District Judge at the Magistrates Courts and, in October 2016, will have completed 25 years in that post.

**Simon Mawer (Zoology, 1967)** had recently had his tenth novel, *Tightrope*, published. It was Waterstones' Novel of the Month for March 2016 and went on to win the 2016 Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction.

**James Flynn, QC (Jurisprudence, 1974)** had a pamphlet of his poetry published in June 2016 entitled, *Arriving at the Capital*. Mr Flynn has donated a copy of his work to the College library.

**Tony Tyler (Jurisprudence, 1974)** retired in September 2016 from IATA after five years as its Director General. He and his wife, Charlotte will be returning to live in Hong Kong, and plan to spend their summers in Provence. Tony has joined the board of BOC Aviation, and will take up other non-executive directorships in due course.

**Alexander Wolf (Jurisprudence, 1997)** was in February 2015, elected Member of the State Parliament of Hamburg (Hamburgische Buergerschaft).



**Andy Rattue (English, 1979)** has been appointed as Principal of St Clare's; an international sixth form college in north Oxford, which is the longest-established provider of the International Baccalaureate Diploma in England. Andy started his new job in January 2016. He was previously Head of King's College, the British School of Madrid, and the Royal Grammar School, Worcester.

◀ Andy Rattue

**David Green (Physics, 1982)** "Hello, this is my first contribution to the magazine since I graduated in Physics in 1985, so this is a bit of a summary! Immediately after BNC I lived in London working for consumer products company Unilever. Realising that selling soap was not my calling, I spent six months backpacking around the world including an unnerving meeting with the Chinese army as it invaded Tiananmen Square. From rural China and India to Harvard Business School in Boston, where I met this girl who is now my wife and mother of my three children: Sally (18), Jack (14) and Laura (10). After HBS I stayed in the USA and worked in strategy consulting for Monitor Co. in both Cambridge MA and Johannesburg, where I helped the new government of Nelson Mandela formulate industrial policy. They signed up for free trade and did not nationalise the mines! In 1995 I returned to my scientific roots and founded a scientific instruments company, Harvard Bioscience, which I took public in 2000. Within that company I founded another company, this time in stem cell biotechnology, focusing on treating oesophageal cancer. This work was so ground breaking that three TV documentaries (one by the BBC, one by NBC in the USA and one in Germany) were made

about the work. This company was spun-off from Harvard Bioscience in 2013 and is now a separate public company called BioStage. I resigned as CEO of Harvard Bioscience to become CEO of BioStage. I resigned from being CEO of BioStage in 2015 to focus on recovering from a near fatal road accident in Namibia in the summer of 2014. I am now almost fully recovered but it has been a very difficult two years, both for me and my family who were all injured in the accident. I am currently helping several medical start-ups and working on several boards. As I did at BNC, I still play rock guitar and have taken on new pleasures like growing organic fruit and playing tennis. We live about 15 miles west of Boston."



△ David Green on matriculation day in 1982

**Rambaut Fairley (Jurisprudence, 1999)** and **Mairi Fairley née McGuiness (Chemistry, 2003)** are pleased to announce the birth of their daughters Rachel Hilde and Emma Mary on 22nd July 2016.

**Julian Henderson né Dickmann (Clinical Medicine, 2007)** married Samantha O'Hagan Henderson (an alumna of Lady Margaret Hall) on 23rd July 2016, taking his wife's name. They met during their Clinical Medicine studies at Oxford in 2010. They married in Julian's hometown of Oldenburg in Germany, where they now live.

**Charlie Henniker (English, 2004)** is in the process of producing a feature film, which is currently in the development stage. Since graduating from BNC he has worked in various capacities for BBC Worldwide, as well as publishing essays on cinema and producing a viral hit called 'Gap Yah'.

◀ Charlie Henniker's You Tube hit video, 'Gap Yah' which pokes fun at young globe-trotters

Your News is continued on page 4

# BNC Back in Time...On the River

**We all have our favourite memories of BNC, it's a timeless place that stays with you forever.**

Here are two snapshots of Brasenose in the late 1950s and early 1960s with a punting theme. If you have memories to share from other eras, we'd love to hear from you!

## Three Men in a Punt: Trinity Term 1959 By Clive Stott (Chemistry, 1957)

Whose idea it was, I don't remember. I only know that I was the one who had to pay for it all.

Roderick, Mike and I had been punting on the Cherwell many times before – past Addison's Walk and Parson's Pleasure, and on May Mornings to Music Meadow for a picnic breakfast and Scottish dancing. The Scottish Society was said then to be the most popular society in Oxford, and the sound of Roderick's bagpipes on those occasions still lingers in the memory. But the musical accompaniment to this venture was to be of a different quality. We were going to hire a punt at Magdalen Bridge in the evening, and make our way upstream, far beyond the town,

to hear the dawn chorus. I had never heard a dawn chorus, unless it were the one on Magdalen Tower, and wasn't sure what to expect, but I was promised that flocks of birds would assemble in the early hours and sing for our delight.

And so after dinner we made our way to the boathouse, chose our punt and set out. Don't ask me who of the three of us was punting, because I don't remember and I'm sure that we each took our turn; I do recall that the trees, bending over the river, seemed to create Rupert Brooke's "tunnel of green gloom" (although that was over a different stream and in another place). I know that Roderick was punting when we left Mesopotamia and

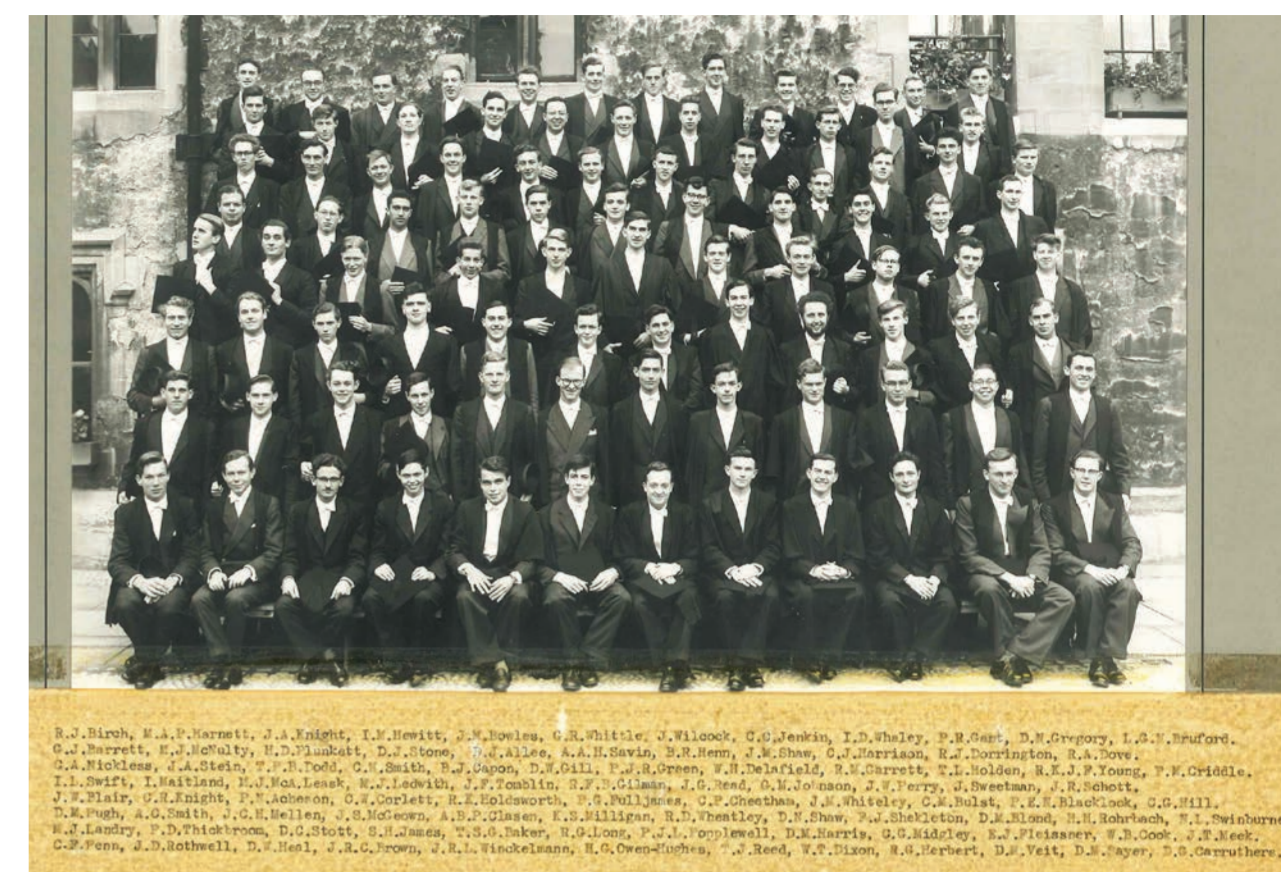
entered the straight stretch by the Parks, because he suddenly lost the pole, and we had to paddle back to reclaim it. His only response to our ironic comments was, "I saw a kingfisher!" In the half-light, that was hard to believe.

Then we were passing Lady Margaret Hall (I was at that time quite unaware of what fate had in store for me there) and Cherwell Boathouse, before the river turned across the fields, under Marston Ferry Road and past the Victoria Arms. It was not quite closing time, but we felt no need to pause there because we had brought refreshments with us, and several bottles lay safely in the punt. I say safely, because on a previous occasion, a hot afternoon,

Mike had had the idea of tying bottles together and trailing them in the water behind us to keep them cool; when he came to retrieve them, he had the rope, but the bottles had gone.

So we continued our lazy way upstream. A full moon had just risen, and cast a low light on the twin arches of the Northern Bypass Bridge as we approached. This is as far as we had ever been, but the birds would not be performing for some hours yet, and we continued under the bridge and set course for Islip. We had been told that that was as far as it was possible to take a punt, and indeed the stream became noticeably narrower and shallower as we went on, until at last we heard the sound of the weir and decided to have our late supper and turn back to Water Eaton Manor, where we waited for the chorus to begin.

"All the air a solemn stillness holds" – it seemed that the air was holding a solemn stillness (or vice versa) for a long time, with not even a droning beetle or moping owl to relieve the silence, until at last a solitary blackbird raised its voice – and then another, and another. We listened for half an hour or so as the chorus grew. Was it worth the venture? Yes, although now my memory is of remembering, not of the experience itself. We were six miles from Magdalen Bridge and needed to return the punt quickly. We made maximum speed downstream and, so I imagined, avoided reproof for keeping



△ Clive Stott and his BNC contemporaries after their matriculation ceremony in 1957

it out all night. Vain hope! I don't remember whether I caught up with sleep when I got back to College, but I know that later that morning there was a knock at my door and someone from the boathouse demanding a ten shilling fine for my misdemeanour. I paid with a good grace.

Roderick was the late Professor Roderick David Cannon (Chemistry, 1956) who had been at school with me. Mike is Michael Ball (Natural Science, 1956), a Baptist Minister until retirement and the other half of the Cannon-Ball partnership in the Chemistry lab.

## Recollections of the River By Michael Ball (Natural Sciences, 1956)

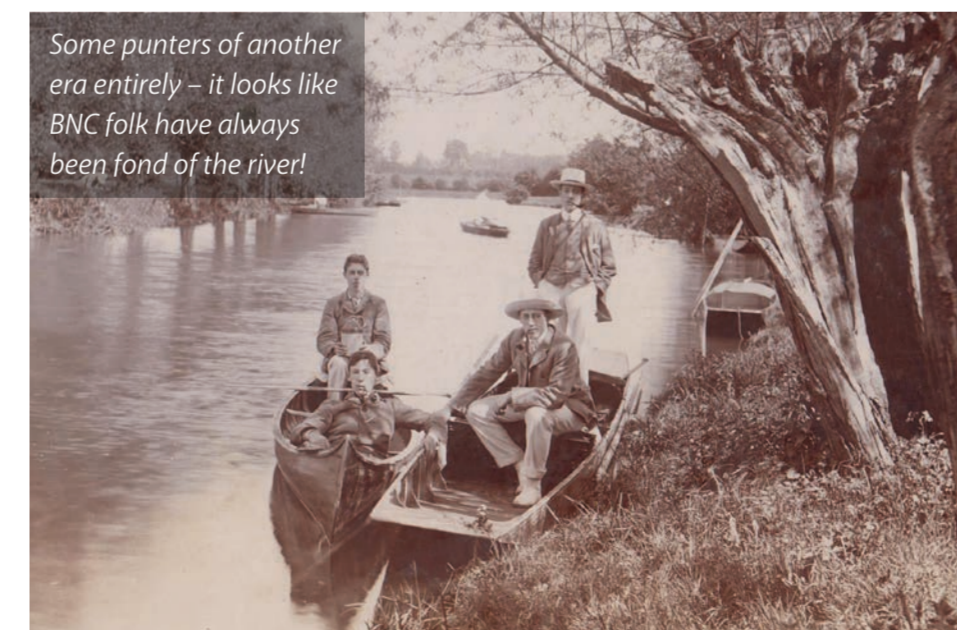
One vivid memory I have of punting in BNC happened in the later 50s or early 60s. I was President of the John Bunyan Society (JBS), a University society for Baptists. In those days, most universities had thriving Baptist student societies. One popular activity was an "At Home" when one would invite the others and entertain them for a day. When the Oxford or Cambridge societies were hosts, the visitors expected to be taken punting, so all the JBS members were mobilised to book a college punt club for the purpose. On this particular occasion, we were short of punts, and so I approached a post-graduate law student from another university who was working for his B.Litt. in

BNC. At first, he refused, because the date clashed with the University Law Society dinner, which he was booked to attend, and there would be no time to change into his formal dress after punting. Either I was over-persuasive, or his conscience troubled him, and he decided to help, taking the risk of punting in his DJ. On the afternoon concerned, he and I were controlling the punt. We had dropped off our guests in the Parks, and were returning the punt to Magdalen Bridge, which involved negotiating the rollers. For reasons I did not understand at the time, and have failed to comprehend subsequently, the punt swivelled about its centre, and swept him in all his glory into the river. My feelings were

Cherwell, but on this occasion, walking on the ice. It was one afternoon during the appallingly cold winter of 1963. I was a research student in the Clarendon. I'm not sure whose idea it was, but I and two other researchers, Mike Welford and Greville Shepherd, both of Jesus, rang each other on the inter-lab phone system, and decided to leave the science and go for a walk. We headed into the Parks and accessed the Cherwell at Parson's Pleasure, and set out walking north. We had no idea of how far we intended to travel, and had started without much thought or any map, food or preparations of any kind, not even telling anyone where we were. In the event, we just kept walking. It was a magical experience. As dusk fell, the leaves and twigs of overhanging bushes and trees, and the dead wild flower stalks and seedheads became coated before our eyes with a thicker and thicker layer of hoar frost, an experience of great beauty. We continued walking until we could hear running water, and an occasional cracking sound from the ice, so we scrambled on to the bank – it was dark now, and we really had no idea of exactly where we were, and of course, there was no-one to ask. I remember we started to follow a railway line, then diverged on to a road, and more by luck than judgement ended in Kidlington where we consumed enormous "fry-up" meals at a transport cafe, before catching a bus back to Oxford. An impulsive expedition, which caught a unique opportunity, and has remained an abiding cherished memory of my time in Oxford.

a complex mixture of guilt and concern, with some mirth which I ruthlessly suppressed. I have withheld his name, because I don't think I have spoken to him since, do not wish to embarrass him and have no idea what his consequent feelings about me were and are!

As well as the punting trip described by Clive Stott, I once travelled almost to Islip on the



## Your News Continued

**Helen Slaney (Classical Languages & Literature, 2009)** has had her DPhil monograph *The Senecan Aesthetic: a performance history* published in December 2015 with Oxford University Press.



*'The Senecan Aesthetic'* by Helen Slaney▷

**Asha Hartland (Classics, 2010)** married Perry Asbury (an alumnus of Mansfield College) in the Bodleian Library on 9th July 2016.

## Fellowship News

BNC's very own Tutorial Fellow in Ancient History, **Dr Ed Bispham**, is to be the new Head Proctor, due to take up his duties in March 2017. Dr Bispham replaces Dr Mark Whittow, Fellow in Byzantine Studies at Corpus Christi College.



*BNC Fellow in Ancient History, and new Head Proctor, Dr Ed Bispham▷*

On 17th August 2016, the Office for National Statistics announced that BNC Emeritus Fellow, **Professor Peter Sinclair**, along with other leading economists in the UK, will form a new Economic Experts Working Group. The group is part of a range of initiatives ONS is undertaking to increase its economics capability, including trebling its number of economists.

**Birke Häcker (Jurisprudence, 1997)** has returned to BNC, to take up the post of Linklaters Professor of Comparative Law in September 2016. She was previously an Examination Fellow of All Souls College (2001–2008), a Stipendiary Lecturer at Lady Margaret Hall (2007–2008), a Research Associate and Lecturer in Law at Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich (2009–2015), a Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance in Munich (2011–2016), and a Fifty-Pound Fellow of All Souls College (2011–2016). Professor Häcker will teach Comparative Law and European Private Law to both graduates and undergraduates.



△ Birke Häcker, Linklaters Professor of Comparative Law at BNC

This is just a small selection of the news we received. If you cannot see your news printed here, do look out for it in the forthcoming edition of the *Brazen Nose*, published early in the New Year. Please note that Brasenose College reserves full editorial control over all its publications.

# Photo Gallery

Trinity Term and the long vacation were packed full of alumni events. Here is a small selection of the pictures we took.

Go to our Flickr site to see the full photo albums:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/bnc\\_members](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bnc_members)



◀▽ This year's 1509 Society party was held at Middle Temple in London and was a celebration of the College's most generous donors.



△ The cast of Beatles tribute act, *Let it Be* visited BNC in June 2016 to re-create the famous shot in Principal, Sir Noel Hall's lodgings in 1964. The 2016 photo features current Principal, John Bowers QC.



▽ June saw 2001-2002 matriculands return to College for their Gaudy, what a wonderful reunion!



▽ Alumni brought friends and family to College in July for a wonderful afternoon of children's entertainment, music, afternoon tea and close up magic. We can't wait for next year!



Part of the Oxford Alumni Weekend in September, the Brasenose Society hosted their Annual Dinner.



△ We are sad to announce that Peter Batterley (Engineering Science, 1938), pictured here meeting the Principal, passed away soon after the dinner. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.



△ Brasenose Society President 2015-16, Penny Andrews, hosted the Society's annual summer party at the City of London Club. It was a great success!



◀△ In September we welcomed back 2008-2009 matriculands for their very first Gaudy. Stay in touch and we hope to see you back in College soon for another alumni event!

# Save the Date!

## Forthcoming Alumni Events in College

**Gaudy** for those who matriculated between 1963 and 1966  
Friday 17 March 2017

**Golden Jubilee Lunch** for those who matriculated between 1958 and 1967, guests welcome  
Friday 31 March 2017

**Diamond Jubilee Lunch** for those who matriculated in 1957 and before, guests welcome  
Friday 5 May 2017

**Gaudy** for those who matriculated between 1977 and 1979  
Friday 23 June 2017

**Brasenose Garden Party**, All alumni and their family and friends are welcome  
Sunday 30 July 2017

**BNC Society Annual Dinner**, All alumni and their guests welcome  
Saturday 16 September 2017

**Gaudy** for those who matriculated between 1988 and 1989  
Friday 22 September 2017

Invitations to the events listed will be sent to the relevant year groups by post or email around three months in advance.

To update your contact details using our online alumni community, visit our alumni pages at: [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni)

## Contact Us

The Alumni Relations & Development Office is always keen to welcome Brasenose Members back to College. We are also pleased to be able to arrange Alumni Dining in Hall during term time for you and a guest and to assist you with booking College accommodation should you require it.

If you would like to visit us in the Development Office, we're located on staircase VII, just before the Library. Our usual office hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

**The Alumni Relations & Development Office**  
**Brasenose College**  
**Oxford OX1 4AJ**

Tel: +44(0)1865 287275

Email: [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

Web: [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk)

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## Once a member of BNC, always a member of BNC

