



THE  
**BRAZEN NOSE**



A College Magazine

Volume 59 2024-2025



# The Brazen Nose

2024–2025



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### The Brasenose Alumni Society Forms

## FROM THE EDITOR

*by Dr Ed Bispham, Tutorial Fellow in Ancient History*

As this volume falls onto readers' doormats, Brasenose heads towards one of its recurrent but enormously significant inflection points. After ten-and-a-half years, John Bowers is entering the last six months of his tenure. The election of his successor (the College's thirty-fourth Principal) will have been held, and may even have been announced, by the time *alumni* start to flip through the *Brazen Nose*.

Of course, in the grand scheme of things, Heads of House come and go, but the College, a perpetual institution, pursues its mission with one eye on distant horizons regardless of leadership. Principalian tenures have, historically, varied between thirty-six years (our first Principal, Matthew Smyth) and four months (William Gwyn, 1770). The average tenure is just over fifteen-and-a-half years.<sup>1</sup> 45% of Principals died in office, thus effectively with life tenure; whence the elevated average occupation of the role (almost a quarter of a century) in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup>

Principalian tenures have shrunk in BNC since the retirement of the last Victorian Principal, Heberden. The College continued the practice of electing from within the Fellowship across the 20<sup>th</sup> century – Heberden, Sampson, Stallybrass, Last, Platnauer and Barry Nicholas (all elected from with the Fellowship: six out of nine). In all cases, however, the choice of Principal indicated a preference for senior, more experienced Fellows. This reflects both the increasing professionalisation of the university sector since the Great War (a trend that has perhaps become a fetish), and a changing electoral demographic.

Prior to the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Fellows tended to be elected young, and to leave in middle age, or earlier, to take up a living. Once Fellows were allowed to marry (and with widening religious toleration increasing diversity, and the corresponding retreat

- 1 This can be broken down by century as follows: 14.8 years in the 16<sup>th</sup> century; 24 in the 17<sup>th</sup> century – with two Principals, Radcliffe and Yate between them serving for over half a century (indeed sixty-seven years if one counts Yate's tenure from his election in 1648, not his restoration in 1660); 14.4 in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; 14.2 in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; 11.1 in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; and 6.5 to date in our century; some tenures overlap the turn of a century, and these have been split accordingly.
- 2 Between the start of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century twelve of the fifteen Principals died in office: the three who did not were Cleaver, Gilbert and the controversial Greenwood, the Parliamentary appointment ousted at the Restoration.

of Anglican domination in Senior Common Rooms), the turnover of Fellows slowed radically; Fellowships were often now held for life. A long serving Principal in the seventeenth or eighteenth century, elected relatively young, and enjoying good health, might expect to witness continual change in the composition of the Fellowship, whereas from the twentieth century those who held Fellowships for thirty-five odd years could expect to see five or six Heads of House come and go.

This demographic revolution was bound to affect electoral calculus. The implications cannot be followed here, but they must in part explain why it has ceased in Brasenose, as in most other Colleges, to be axiomatic that a senior member of the Fellowship would be the automatic choice for a new Principal. Alongside increasing professionalisation of the role of Principal, and changing age-profiles of electors and candidates, more frequent elections have changed electoral psychology.

The Headship of a House is, *sub specie aeternitatis*, becoming a more ephemeral institution, at least by the tale of the tape. It is incontestable that John Bowers in 2025/26 faced an unimaginably larger, more complex and more delicate portfolio as Principal than Samuel Radcliffe had to confront in 1625/26 (or for that matter Robert Shippen in 1725/26, Ashurst Gilbert in 1825/26, or Charles Sampson a century ago). On the other hand, one may be reasonably confident that John Bowers would not envy Samuel Radcliffe his experiences of the Civil War, nor being besieged in the Lodgings by Roundhead soldiers (Radcliffe, who served an admirable 34 years as Principal, is the subject of a piece of detective-work in this volume by **Charlotte Harris (Lit. Hum., 1995)**).

Not that there haven't been difficult moments. John's third year began, for example with him having to do what he described as 'the most difficult thing a Principal can do', in announcing to a packed Hall the tragic accidental death of an undergraduate, the much-missed **Max Mian (Lit. Hum., 2016)**. Then there was the Covid pandemic. The evacuation of Oxford on the grounds of a health emergency had not happened since 1665/66, when the Great Plague saw many students go out of residence, to be replaced by the King (Charles II), his court, and then Parliament, quitting London for the safety of Oxford. What Principal Yate made of these worthies on his doorstep three hundred and sixty years ago is unclear; but it is not unreasonable to hypothesise that John would have found the weight of having ultimate responsibility for keeping the College functioning (both remotely for those locked-down

at home, and exercising a duty of care to those unable to travel home) to be many times multiplied by having The Queen, Boris Johnson, Matt Hancock *et al.* descend on the city and University.

The Covid pandemic was a dark time, a period of uncertainty and loss which it seems hard to remember, even at this short distance, as a lived experience rather than some sort of dream. Yet it brought out the best, in many ways, in the College, and in the wider University (as, indeed, in the country). Led by John, and supported by many College staff, the BNC community weathered the storm, touched by losses, but stronger for understanding its capacities and resilience. The death of George Floyd, the protests and the BLM movement (and others) which followed intersected with the pandemic, and heightened anxieties. Debates about identity, ethnicity, sexuality, freedom of speech, combined with a wider cultural challenge to notions of truth, expertise and to the establishment as a whole – challenges which had been brewing before the pandemic – now contributed to a perfect storm. Two opposing forces, the increase in top-down external regulation, and the aspiration for new approaches to learning and to the student experience, added to existing tensions. All that was needed was war, and history obliged, in Ukraine and then in Gaza. That the College has continued to thrive, and continued to justify to its reputation as the ‘happiest College in Oxford’; that it has supported the exercise of free speech and admission of the brightest regardless of background, while continuing to be inclusive and welcoming: none of this happened by accident, or by magic; much of it has been down to leadership. The College has been very fortunate to have John as Head of House in this rather difficult period, and has emerged the stronger for having him in the Lodgings.

In case the above makes the backdrop of the last dozen years sound like a painting by Hieronymus Bosch, it is important to stress that we have not just looked to John for leadership, or as a rallying-point in times of trouble. The College has changed significantly during his tenure: our Fellowship is more diverse than it has ever been; the percentages of independent and state school entrants now align quite closely with the national distribution of ‘A’-Level cohorts between those two school types (and the John Bowers Opportunity fund will, we hope, continue to support the aspirations of those like John, who could barely dream of study at Oxford from dilapidated classrooms in deprived areas). Those students now have available greatly improved study facilities (the

Greenland Library), and better accommodation and environment in Frewin, thanks to two developments there. The endowment remains strong; governance remains good, as the College prepares to submit its processes and institutional structures to an external review. John has not done all this single-handedly. As an interview with them in this volume reminds us, Suzanne Franks has been an essential part of a dynamic duo, and her charm and sharp intellect have made her popular in lunch in the Shackleton Room and at alumni reunions across the globe. In many cases John has been the lynchpin around which the College Officers have worked, the CEO (or rather, Chair of Everything, as he likes to say) steering College Committees and Governing Body deftly but swiftly through their business; enabling, setting the tone, keeping decency and moderation at the heart of what we do. Some developments are entirely his though: the College feels much more purposefully connected with the outside world. Our Frankland Visitors and the speakers at Principals' Conversations bring contemporary insights and talking points into the College community on a regular basis.

Despite the disadvantage of having studied as an undergraduate 'on the wrong side of the wall', John has been acculturated as a Brasenostriil, to the point of the students naming a cocktail after him. He and Suzanne have been accessible to, and built relations with, every part of the College community. John has taken the institution to his heart, in its history as much as in its present and future; he has thought about his predecessors, and organised visits to places important in Brasenose's history. As well as integrity, sensitivity and respect for the College's proper governance, John's time has been marked by good humour: rarely a College meeting or a dinner goes by without leaving the impression that John was wasted as a barrister, and should have been a stand-up comic. He will be a hard act to follow; he and Suzanne will be much missed.

History will judge where John will rank in the pantheon of BNC Principals. There is a good case to be made though for the identity of the best Principal Brasenose *never* had: **Graham Richards (Chemistry, 1958)**, whose memorial service closed out the year. Graham is commemorated in this issue, but he was such a significant figure that he merits a few words here. Graham was one of that rare breed who enjoyed success in College, in the Department and outside the University, as a pioneer of the 'spin-out' company and the commercialisation of academic innovation. Competence and success bring admiration, and admiration

often carries some degree of envy in its train; in this case the more so as Graham was unafraid to court short-term controversy in support of big long-term goals, whether the benefits accrued to Chemistry or to Brasenose. He was fiercely loyal to the College, and its traditions, but without sentiment or romanticism; I was shocked in Governing Body to hear him strongly advocate selling off land which the College had been gifted centuries ago – but he was right, this was prime land in the M4 corridor, which if sold quickly could realise a significant gain for the endowment; to retain it would benefit only those who valued the past over the present.

A devoted servant of the institution, he expected others too to do their bit, and take the College and its community and activities as seriously as he did. Just as in Chemistry he had a keen eye on the future, so too he saw the direction of travel, the line of the march of BNC history. This is most obvious in his advocacy of the admission of women, his ineradicable legacy; but also in his affability, his ability to befriend and inspire, and in little things like pushing for undergraduates to have keys to access College after dark. Yet, perhaps, the law of unintended consequences followed here: by astutely facing the future, Graham (and others like him) set in train a slow loosening of ties, which made the College more permeable to the outside world, and unwittingly set the seal on the decline of BNC as an insular institution characterised by intense homosocial loyalties which overrode other possible ties and networks. This world was, I think, one of the things Graham prized in BNC, and within which he had flourished. Staff, students and Fellows in the next two decades would be increasingly networked with external activities, social currents and behaviours which challenged the absolute and unrivalled centrality of the College to their experience of Oxford. The prosperity beginning with the later Thatcherite years offered students more disposable income and many more places to spend it. Graham thought that some younger Fellows were perhaps not taking their obligations to College seriously, and being Graham, he said so, without fear or favour. What he was seeing, however, was nothing more than the unfolding of social change. With hindsight one can see that this was an understandable confusion of historical process with personal choice; but, combined with atavistic rivalries, it arguably cost him a Principalship which a few years earlier had been regarded as nailed on.

Graham deserves credit for seeing that BNC had to adapt to changing times: he did so in a spirit of warm good sense, not cold ideological fervour, and in doing so secured himself a permanent place in College history. That he did not imagine the second- or third-order consequences is not something to hold against him, although there is an irony in the cost to his own ambitions, and his deserts. A further irony may be that while he failed to be elected Principal (an outcome which he took with a good grace, as befitted a man of outstanding loyalty to the College), he arguably was the Principal in all but name in the Windlesham years (see also Harvey Burd's interview in this issue). Certainly, arriving in College in 1998, one of the first things I was told when taken aside for friendly advice was that if one wanted anything to happen in Brasenose one had to convince Graham Richards to support. This might be to evoke a sinister *eminence grise*; far from it. My own experience was of a warm, and welcoming Graham, companionable and very willing to share his wealth of experience and knowledge about the College, its history, its characters, its values. I sometimes thought that Graham might not be the kind to suffer fools gladly, but his affection for Classics, which his first wife had studied, was such as to obscure to him, or make him overlook, my acts and utterances of folly. That residual loyalty played no small part in the College's decision not to abandon the subject at the end of the last millennium. Not bad for a Chemist! My impressions of Graham's charm and warmth were universally remembered at Gaudies by *alumni*. I always feel nervous about conversing with alumni over dinner: the College has been theirs in a way it would never be mine, and I felt like an interloper. I soon learnt that once the conversation was steered to Graham, hesitation and awkwardness were replaced by friendliness and affectionate retrospect. To be so remembered by generations of students (not all of them his own) ... given that, who needs to be Principal?

This year, like any other, has brought moments for celebration, and moments for reflection. After a long period of devoted service and wise counsel on the College's Investment Advisory Committee, **Charles Scott (Jurisprudence, 1976)** passed away unexpectedly. We will hope to pay a proper tribute to Charles in the next issue. Other departures will also be covered there: Phil Parker, our Bursar, left us, but only for a very long bike ride in the Balkans – his place was ably and amiably filled by Doug Shaw, who had been Bursar at St Peter's. Phil is now back in

harness; but another pillar of the College, Simon Smith, announced his intention to retire at the end of MT 25. Simon's transformative fourteen years as Senior Tutor, marked by humanity and professionalism, will be marked in the next issue. Freyja Madsen joins us from New College as Simon's successor. Academically, the Recognition of Distinction Exercise saw the title of Professor conferred on Jayne Birkby (Physics), Katrina Lythgoe (Biology) and Banu Demir (Economics). After a gap of some years in Biochemistry, we were delighted to welcome Faraz Mardakheh as Tutorial Fellow – an appointment made possible thanks to the generosity of donors. Lionel Smith arrived to succeed the much-missed Birke Häcker, who returned to work in Germany. What would Brasenose be without its lawyers? Some traditions endure.<sup>3</sup>

- 3 So too the tradition by which the tireless support, quick reactions and consummate professionalism of John-Paul Clough and David Bradbury (*Ancient and Modern History*, 1981) have made all the difference to the existence of this issue of the *Nose*.

# Student Clubs, Societies & Activities



## JCR REPORT

*by Rory McGlade*

I'd like to start this report with my favourite memory of the year: the first day of Trinity Term. To mark the end of Collections, about half the JCR headed down to the sports pavilion for a celebratory barbeque. We ordered a big Tesco delivery to the pavilion, mostly of sausages, which members of the JCR committee cooked on a swanky new barbeque. This was followed by a game of rounders between the year groups, which the second years narrowly won, with the help of some dubious counting from Emanuel, the men's rowing captain. Music started playing – people sat around chatting, or played ultimate frisbee, cricket and football, until it got too cold to stay outside.

Before we left, a few of us looked around the photos inside the pavilion, showing the great sporting success and friendships of past BNC years. This reminded me that our fun on an evening in Trinity Term was part of a long succession of close communities that have formed at Brasenose. It has been my honour this year to lead the JCR, playing my part to bring the college community together.

Michaelmas started with a lively Freshers' Week, masterminded by the Freshers' Reps Andrew and Gabby. We had two great balls, to celebrate Matriculation and Oxmas, at Isis Farmhouse, backing onto the river near the start of the Eights course. It was also a term busy with animals – we had alpacas visit in the snow, and visits from Sirius, a local therapy dog, brought in by her kind owner Phillipa.

Hilary brought in a passionate new JCR committee, who have completed some incredible work so far (of which more shortly), but not before important team bonding over a cheeky Nando's. It also saw the annual Halfway Hall, run superbly by Seb, Florence and Erin. It was an evening in which I had the pleasure of explaining the term 'Collegecest' to Simon Smith, the Senior Tutor. Perhaps best not to explain it again....

Trinity saw us welcoming an eager, if slightly hungover, contingent of Gonville and Caius students for the annual Sports Day, playing netball, football, rounders, tug of war and sports day races. We shared a barbeque with them and ended up down the bar with darts and table football. The Town and Gown 10k race was another highlight, which seemed to be even hotter than last year. It was great to run alongside

alumni who came up for the day, and whom we hope to see again next year.

We finished the term with the JCR Garden Party, run expertly by the Entz Reps Seb and Florence. Performances included our amazing Brasenose bands, the Brasenostrials, Your Girlfriend's House Party and The Dandelion, the latter two formed this year. The Pimm's was free-flowing and the great catering staff served food directly onto New Quad. It was also the first year that JCR members attended for free, after an effective financial year for the JCR, ensuring attendance by all.

Arts Week, organised by Lillian Tagg with the theme 'Revival' was a great success, for which see a separate report elsewhere in this edition. These types of initiatives, alongside increased involvement by Brasenose students in university drama, has ensured that Brasenose continues to be a hub of the arts.

You will also read of the sporting success of the College this year. My particular congratulations go to two clubs – our netball team, who won the treble after winning twenty-two consecutive matches (and counting) and the football team, who won the Hassan's Cup, with the final played at Oxford City football ground. Their photos will soon hang in the pavilion, after a number of years without update. Ahmed Diab, our Sports Rep, is set on making the murmurings of a 'sporting renaissance' a reality as soon as possible – even implementing the Brasenose Integrated Croquet Excellence Pathway (BICEP). We have also worked on a new system of sports funding, to start in Michaelmas, that prioritizes the long-term stability and development of clubs.

Access has continued to be a strength of the College, and Amber, our Access Rep, has done a stellar job. We saw the fourth holding of our Offer-Holders' Day in March, which continues to be a great success, and lots of fun for both offer-holders and helpers (*Editor's note: with admissions still being done remotely, some successful candidates may not yet have had the chance to visit the College, notwithstanding the success of our Open Days*). I remember just over two years ago when I arrived for the same event – I walked up and down Brasenose Lane and Turl Street about three times before working up the courage to head inside. The JCR Access TikTok has been a viral success, with 400,000 total views as of date, widening applications to Brasenose. With the help of our brilliant open days, the College received over 1,000 UCAS applications for the first time this year, a testament to the work of the College Office, and

the tours that JCR students provide throughout the year. We remain in the top five applied-to colleges in Oxford.

My thanks also go to the JCR committee, who have worked tirelessly this year, and whose achievements I can only mention briefly. Our Diversity & Equality rep Hannah has championed equality in the JCR, running several inclusive social events such as 'D&Tea'. She has also been a great advocate for improving accessibility, including inviting prominent activist Lucy Webster to speak to BNC students. Ruby our Women's Officer has run self-defence classes in College. Our Welfare Reps Anna, Marianna and Matthew, alongside running ever-popular Welfare Teas and Peer Support sessions, have started work to improve students' experience of studying in the library, including for neurodiverse students. Sanaa, our environment rep, has run DIY planting events and campaigned to reduce food waste. Elizabeth, our IT rep, has begun work with the College on a new College website, using her experience from two years ago developing the new Intranet. Lareb, our Charities rep, has worked tirelessly to promote charitable causes, including organizing litter picks in our local parks. My greatest thanks go to my executive committee, made up of Erin, Esther, Purav and Holly, who have made the JCR a well-oiled machine, organizing room-ballots and signings, elections, reimbursements, JCR meetings, barbeques and more. I have particularly enjoyed discussing JCR policy and life in general over a cup of tea at my flat in Frewin.

It has also been an exciting year for those interested (that is, I have realized, very few JCR members) in the JCR structure, the constitution and the Oxford University Student Union (OUSU). We've restructured the constitution into two documents: a constitution and a working practices sheet, for ease of use. We also introduced new financial restraints to ensure funds are always used on JCR students, a set of aims and values, and updated procedures. We also removed the position of Charities Rep to create a new Food and Drinks Rep, dividing the workload of the Vice-President (Domestic) in two. Following the OUSU's transformation project, we reaffiliated with it, sending representatives to the new 'Conference of Common Rooms' model.

But the JCR work of which I am proudest is improving water safety in Oxford. This work comes in the wake of two recent tragedies in Oxford, including that of Wesley Akum-Ojong, a first-year Brasenose PPE student who died last year at Port Meadow after exams, and is

sorely missed. We launched an initiative called ‘Safe Celebrators’ in collaboration with St Catherine’s JCR, which provided informal student support at Port Meadow in eighth week, with the help of volunteers from across different colleges. For the first time this Trinity, students have been allowed to celebrate the end of exams in College, on New Quad, using water guns and buckets. This has been very popular, providing a safer way to celebrate exams than ‘trashing’ at the river.

When I speak to students at other colleges about their JCRs (I am fun at parties, trust me), I’m often surprised to hear about a lack of engagement in the JCR or attendance at social events. For me, that is one of the strengths of Brasenose College; our strong community spirit manifests in a JCR which has boomed over the last couple of years, and in which organization and participation is better than ever.

Erin, JCR Vice-President (Domestic), Sanaa, JCR Environment Rep, and I also had the chance to tour the Frewin Hall project, which as I am writing is soon to be completed. It was a very exciting visit, and I know many students are looking forward to working and living there in Michaelmas.

## JCR COMMITTEE 2024-2025

|   |   |
|---|---|
| President: Rory McGlade   | Access & Admissions Rep:<br>Amber Masson        |
| Vice President (Academic<br>& Careers): Esther O’Neill            | Charities Rep: Lareb Hussain                    |
| Vice President (Domestic):<br>Erin Fitzgibbon                     | Environment & Ethics Rep:<br>Sanaa Pasha        |
| Arts Rep: Lillian Tagg  | Internal Entz Rep:<br>Florence Kitchen          |
| Diversity & Equality Rep:<br>Hannah Watts                         | Secretary: Holly Davis                          |
| External Entz Rep: Seb Steven                                     | Treasurer: Purav Menon                          |
| IT Rep: Elizabeth Berryman  | Women’s Officer: Ruby Watts                     |
| Sports Rep: Ahmed Diab  | Freshers’ Reps:<br>Ellen Taylor, Freddie Webber |
| Welfare Reps: Matthew Coulter,<br>Anna Gjetnes, Marianna Shullani |   |

## JCR CAREERS

by Esther O'Neill

This year students at Brasenose were once again able to take advantage of a wide variety of careers-related events and services. Mention must be made first of Oxford University's careers service itself, which just under 100 students at Brasenose used to secure summer, micro-, or Crankstart internships in the last year (*Editor's note: The University of Oxford's Crankstart Scholarship programme provides enhanced support to UK residents from lower-income households who are studying for their first undergraduate degree*). Similarly, the University's Department of Lifelong Learning, the Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach department, and several other Oxford-based summer schools have employed dozens of Brasenose students, from which students gained not only a variety of transferable skills but also free accommodation in Oxford over the summer!

Brasenose has also played host to a variety of student-organised careers events. Under the helm of two Brasenose geographers, the Oxford Sustainable Business and Entrepreneurship Society held an interactive workshop on reimagining AI and technology for sustainability, as well as traditional talks, including with the Chief Commercial Officer of sustainability at Deloitte. Oxford Founders' Society led a fireside chat with the mind behind CityMapper in the Amersi Foundation Lecture Room, while the Oxford Women in Law Society hosted Kirsty Brimelow KC in the Stocker Room. I continue to be impressed by the ambition and talent of my peers who organise these events: on top of other academic and extracurricular commitments, this is often as inspiring as the speakers themselves.

JCR members also benefitted from the many careers-focused events put on by College. The celebration of fifty years of women at Brasenose included panels of Brasenose women working in all manner of fields – humanities, media, business and finance to name a few. It may be half a century since the admission of women into Brasenose, but representation (or a lack thereof) continues to be a critical factor in career choices: it was reassuring to hear not just from women, but Brasenose women, who have succeeded in all manner of fields. Rosamund Bartlett, this year's Royal Literary Fund fellow, has not only supported students in improving their writing – for life, as well as for the dreaded exam essays

– but also gave a fascinating talk during this year’s Arts Week about life as a professional writer and translator. In a world which increasingly values careers in science and technology, her support of the value and practicality of a career in the humanities was refreshing.

Despite the unfortunate demise (for which read: lost password) of the Brasenose Careers Facebook group and LinkedIn, Brasenose students have continued informally to share their knowledge, time and skills to help in each other’s future endeavours – whether graduate schemes, further studies, or internships in places as far-flung as South Africa and Costa Rica. Next year, I hope to reacquaint the JCR with the University’s Career Service through an in-person workshop at the start of the year, as well as revive the online channels to formalise the community spirit which this year’s careers events so amply displayed.

## HCR REPORT

*By Thyra Altunin, HCR President*

This past year in the Brasenose Hulme Common Room has shown me again how deeply a community can shape graduate life. Between long library days, late-night formals and all the small moments of camaraderie, the HCR has been the thread running through it all. No single paragraph can do the year justice, but the moments that follow offer a glimpse into the vibrant, unpredictable, and wonderfully kind community that held us together.

Michaelmas Term began on a high with an exceptionally successful Freshers’ Week. Brasenose was once again praised as one of the best colleges for freshers in 2024, thanks to the tireless work of the committee under Shoba Laxmi and Rachel Keanes. Matriculation soon followed, celebrated in true HCR style with our Social Secretary’s now-iconic night of drunk ballet. The term also brought the familiar favourites – formal exchanges, graduate and guest night dinners, Christmas dinner – and a special exchange with our sister college in Cambridge, Gonville and Caius. Amidst it all, Shoba hosted her second series of BLURBS, featuring myself and Rachel Keanes as the two speakers from the HCR. The term ended with a touch of Christmas magic from our indefatigable elf, Kate Reeves, whose festive events brightened the final weeks of 2024.

Hilary was equally lively. Alongside the usual formal exchanges and graduate dinners, the highlight was Ale Verses, where the HCR turned out in force to support our poets and songwriters. We also celebrated a wonderful International Women’s Day formal. The term was bittersweet, as Shoba hosted her final BLURBS as President, welcoming two excellent speakers, Mae Chester-Jones (HCR speaker) and Dr Valentina Arena (SCR speaker). As the term ended, we made way for the newly elected HCR Committee of 2025–26.

Trinity arrived with beautiful spring weather and a calmer, more reflective pace. In addition to the usual formals, we enjoyed relaxed walks, teas, and welfare events. Several themed formals brightened the term as well, including an Eid-ul-Fitr formal and a Pride Month formal.

I then hosted my first BLURBS as HCR President. I was thrilled to have two amazing speakers from the HCR and SCR share their work with us – Shem-Rāz Idrees and Professor Samira Lakhali-Littleton. The annual HCR garden party, organised beautifully by Nina Harbison, closed the term with an Amalfi Coast summer theme.

The new committee has worked incredibly hard, especially over the summer and into this Michaelmas, to foster a warm and welcoming HCR. I’m immensely proud of how quickly we’ve grown into a cohesive, thoughtful, and enthusiastic team. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of the previous committee, whose hard work, care, and creativity set such a strong foundation for us to build on. As we look ahead, many lovely events are already on the horizon — and I’m excited for what this next chapter of our community will bring.

## **HCR COMMITTEE 2024–2025**

President: Shoba Laxmi

IT: Shem-Raz Idrees

Vice-President Secretary:  
Thyra Altunin

Welfare: Josephine Douglas

Social Secretaries: Adelaide

Vice President Treasurer:  
Rachel Keane/Rebecca Davis  
(Becci Davis)

Pitcock, Sanskar Ranglani,  
and Jordan Kramer

Arts: Sophie Cardin

Domestic: Finley Bettsworth

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Equality & Diversity:        | Women's: Lottie Walker      |
| Aditi Upmanyu                | Garden Party: Nina Harbison |
| Environmental: Kexin Xu      | Christmas Elf: Kate Reeves  |
| Wine & Cheese: Sam Bealing   |                             |
| Library: Isabelle St-Hilaire |                             |

## **ALE VERSES**

*by Mark Wilson, Dean*

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

Ale Verses this year began with a three-course formal meal in Hall. Soon after the plates are cleared away, all the students clamber up onto the benches. Jugs of warm ale (and non-alcoholic alternatives) are passed around and merriment breaks out as students begin to sing satirical songs about Brasenose, set to current popular tunes. This year we were again thankful to have Musical Director Polina Sosnina present to help keep us at least partially in tune, helped enormously as ever by the organ scholars.

Staff and students are all actively encouraged to submit tunes in advance, with lyrics ranging from events, characters or even buildings that have made an impression on them during their time at Brasenose. Thirteen songs were presented and then sung to the tune of compositions by artists ranging from The Human League, Leonard Cohen, John Denver to Coldplay. This year's winning song was set to the tune of *Take me home, country roads*, by John Denver. The decision was made by the Dean using his unique method.

## BADMINTON

*by Andrew Achler*

In a year filled with flying shuttles, dodgy footwork and awe-inspiring matches that could rival the Olympics, Brasenose Badminton was back, and we have truly soared (and flopped) our way through another unforgettable season. Following an outstanding season last year, Badminton was keen to recruit and build up a refreshed squad ready to take on the might of Cuppers. Bolstered by a tactical freshers' rep and badminton captain crossover, turnout was excellent, and the walks were made even more enjoyable through the frequent rides on electric scooters accompanying the walks, as well as the pleasant Michaelmas Term weather, furthering turnout.

Determined to bring back Brasenose Badminton on to the global stage (Cuppers and league entries), we were able to field both a men's and women's team for both competitions, something only four other colleges were able to do, a huge pre-season victory in itself. Further profiting from an administrative error meaning that we weren't able to play until the end of Hilary Term, we were ready to take on the league by storm. And we certainly did.

In our league matches, stellar performances from the likes of veterans Josh Harland, Harish Raghuram, Aditya Tekriwal, Milind Khashu and a new and upcoming face in Rabhya Agarwal powered us to a 6-0 takedown of Trinity men's, followed by a 0-6 crushing by New College men's and a heart-breaking loss to LMH men's 2-4, to retain our spot in the league standings. On the other hand, the women's side, led by Holly Singleton, Amber Masson and Evie Franks, were gifted a win in their only match against Trinity women's via a no-show, proving repeatedly that we thrive off the highs and lows of badminton matches.

Knowing of our imminent and immense success, the University Badminton Society could only hold us at bay (through another administrative error) by delaying the start of Cuppers until the middle of Trinity Term, where we were at our most vulnerable (our key players were bogged down with exams). Combined with other colleges being too scared to face us in Cuppers in both men's and women's competitions, no Cuppers games took place in the end, to the heartbreak of all those who came to sessions without avail. However, the journey to get to

where Brasenose Badminton is now has been a long and epic one; being the fastest racquet sport in the world, picking it up and training has been no easy feat. I would like to especially praise Rabhya Agarwal, Aitan Standring and Steven Wood for taking this sport up and having maintained an exceptional turnout throughout the year, and to long-standing veterans who have had their final hit of the shuttle for Brasenose this year, including Josh Harland, Harish Raghu and Holly Singleton. I look forward in hope and admiration for what the next year holds for Brasenose Badminton.

## BOAT CLUB

*by Luke Hayward and Dagmara Nogal*

The year opened in the most Brasenose way imaginable: a burst of energy, a full boathouse, and a community determined to pull together. At the Freshers' Fair, seasoned BNCBC members coaxed, cajoled, and – above all – inspired. The result was extraordinary: 97 of the 107 undergraduate freshers signed up. Later analysis confirmed what the atmosphere already suggested: BNCBC achieved the best undergraduate retention rate of any college club, with the highest proportion of recruited freshers still rowing by Torpids. It was an early marker of a year built on commitment as much as on competition.

Michaelmas Term brought weather worthy of epics. Christ Church Meadow was lost to flooding, the Isis unrowable for stretches; yet the club refused to idle. Land training became the daily rhythm, and senior crews decamped to Dorney Lake in consecutive weeks, putting out an eight and a four each time. The first race of the year, Isis Winter League A, saw entries across women's and men's eights, a women's four, and a men's single. Ariana Soares Dias Portela, on only her second outing coxing the Isis, took charge of the women's boats – an emblem of the courage and quick learning that characterised the term. All crews posted respectable times. Autumn Fours returned after last year's cancellation, and though no senior crew made it beyond the first round, the fixture served its purpose: sharpening edges and clarifying standards. At Avon Head, our Open Eight – newly assembled and untested together – placed fourth of six in Band Two, a platform for the winter's work rather than a destination.

Michaelmas concluded with a new tradition: the BBuono Pizza Bar end-of-term dinner and fresher ‘initiations’. It was the first opportunity for novices and seniors to gather socially, share speeches, and stitch the personal bonds that sustain a club through dark mornings and long ergs.

After a chilly winter vac packed with home-ergs logged diligently in the training sheets, Hilary Term began at pace. A huge turnout for the 2k test signalled a club braced for bumps, and the entry list proved it: six Torpids crews – three men’s and three women’s – plus a development squad of more than fifteen women novices. Before bumps, we raced at the Bedford Fours and Eights Head with four crews. M1 finished thirty-third overall and third in Band 4 Open Eights; M2, sixty-third overall and fifth in Band 4; W1, 132nd overall and third in Band 3 Women’s Eights; and W2, 176th overall and fifth in Band 3. The depth across squads was evident and encouraging.

Rowing On offered its own milestone: for the first time in nine years, Brasenose fielded a W3 in Torpids. The run-up was tense – rainfall relentless, cancellation rumours constant, and the flag red. In the end, poor conditions forced the cancellation of racing for the lower divisions, despite all Brasenose crews having qualified. A final, practical twist: with no S-status coxes of our own available, we borrowed coxes from other colleges.

The races themselves were fought under a PfAL contingency – rules for when the river conditions are bad, to ensure that (limited) racing can take place safely. W1, racing in Division 2, rowed over on Wednesday, then conceded on Thursday and Friday, before rowing over again on Saturday to finish –2 for the week. M1’s campaign surged: +1 on Wednesday, row-over Thursday, a thrilling +3 on Friday, and a composed row-over on Saturday to close +4. In doing so, M1 finished higher on the river than any Brasenose first boat since 2008. The Saturday boathouse BBQ drew a strong alumni crowd and rolled seamlessly into Torpids Dinner – a fitting celebration of persistence rewarded.

Two head races rounded out the term’s competitive ledger. At Women’s Eights Head of the River Race, Flo Brooke and Hattie Altaparmakova raced with St Hilda’s, finishing 227th. At Head of the River Race, M1 placed 304th overall and M2 296th. The first boat’s result stung; the second’s offered a timely lift following their Torpids on the benches.

Between Hilary and Trinity, a landmark moment in BNCBC history was the club's first ever foreign camp. Thanks to generous support from the 1815 Club, and with Clube Naval Infante D. Henrique as gracious hosts, thirty-two athletes travelled to Porto in Portugal. From 8:30 to 5:30 each day, they trained on the long, direct stretch of river, rowing past the heart of the city while logging serious miles. We hope to return for years to come.

Trinity opened with Oxford City Bumps, a lively prelude. W1 endured a harsh penalty that rendered them net  $-1$  despite four bumps on the day; W2 went  $-1$ , then ground out three rows-over after holding Falcon B as long as they could. M1 remained level, seventh in Division 1, bumping St Hugh's, being bumped by Wolfson, and rowing over twice. M2 also finished level across the sequence ( $-1$ ,  $-1$ , row-over,  $+2$ ).

The following week, on the morning of the Boat Club dinner, the two BNCBC first crews challenged our arch-rivals Jesus College Boat Club to a series of races to mark the 210th anniversary since the first recorded competitive rowing race in the western world, which was fought between the two clubs (with Brasenose winning, of course). The women lost in a close race, but the men were victorious. This was followed on the same day by the return of two alumni crews to the Isis, with both showing minimal depreciation.

That evening, a treasure of institutional memory was unveiled: a new minute book for BNCBC, continuing a handwritten record that reaches back to 1837. The volume includes a hand-illustrated frontispiece by Lisa Harse and a poem by **William O'Chee (Jurisprudence, 1984)** – objects of beauty as well as record, and a reminder that the culture of a club is written in words and images as much as in results. **Matt Campbell (Economics & Management, 2021)** presented the book to Dagmara and Luke at dinner, binding the year's narrative to the centuries that preceded it.

Summer Eights brought all the pageantry of Oxford rowing: unisuits presented, breakfast with the Principal in the Old Library for the first eights, and, crucially, sunshine enough to allow the lower boats to row bumps throughout. The results were as follows: W3 failed to row on. M1 went  $-2$ . W1 delivered a resilient sequence—row-over,  $+1$ , row-over,  $+1$ —finishing net  $+2$  for the week. M2 went  $+1$ , row-over,  $-1$ ,  $-1$ ; W2 fought through  $-1$ ,  $-1$ , row-over,  $-1$ . M3 matched the ebb-and-flow:  $-1$ , row-over,  $+1$ , row-over.

It has been a pleasure for us both to serve as your co-presidents, and we wish the new committee every success for the coming year. There are many successes to build on: the inaugural Portugal camp; record recruitment; and a record number of boats in Eights. This coming year also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first women's crews at BNCBC, so watch out for news to come of a special commemorative dinner.

## CRICKET

*by Eeshaan Iyer*

Taking on the captaincy this year from Ambrose Pailing, I knew I had big shoes to fill, both figuratively and literally. With four of our five top order batters from last year moving on, we knew our batting would be tested this year, but the team was strengthened by the return of former skipper Joe Cary as well as a strong cohort of cricketers amongst the freshers.

The season began with a league fixture away to Magdalen, with my unfortunate absence giving Ambrose one final opportunity to relive memories of captaincy. Despite wickets for BNCCC debutants Jacob Roden, Aditya Dongre and Dhairya Patel, Magdalen posted an imposing 172, and we could only manage 111 in response, held together by Ambrose's impressive knock of 73\*. Our next fixture was far more enjoyable, as we faced Caterham CC, a touring club side led by Brasenose alumnus **Mathew Owen (Classics, 2005)**. The standard of cricket was a tad questionable at times, with both sides perhaps feeling the effects of an entertaining social the night before, but Brasenose ultimately clinched a thrilling 1-run victory, courtesy of Rudra Thakkar's mystery spin. LMH were the next visitors to our grounds, and BNC suffered a batting collapse rivalling those of pre-Bazball England sides, as we lost eight wickets for 16 runs, with six of them falling to the same bowler. A characteristically tight bowling performance followed, with Rudra and I among the wickets, but we had ultimately given ourselves too few to defend and suffered our second league defeat.

Our Cuppers campaign was next on the agenda, beginning with a home tie against St Catherine's, the side against whom we had suffered our most heartbreaking defeat last year. Despite our best efforts, a similar outcome resulted this time around too, as our competitive total of 114,

spearheaded by Milind Khashu's 42, was emphatically chased down by the opposition, eviscerating our dream of emulating BNCCC's stunning Cuppers run from 2023. We did not have to wait long for a chance at revenge, as St Catherine's visited us again later that week for a league fixture, with our side strengthened by a rare appearance from OUCC Blue Dhruv Talati. Set a total of 159 to chase, our innings was hampered by some questionable umpiring, but a stunning partnership between wicketkeeper Aditya Tekriwal and Aditya D. brought us to within touching distance of victory. We required 22 runs from the final over, and after the bowler began with a no ball, we began to dream. However, a tight end to the over meant we finished on 142, but the game had given us plenty of positives to build on.

We began our next fixture against Trinity with optimism and restricted them to 150 on a good batting wicket, courtesy of wickets for me, a first ball wicket for Ambrose and some tight death bowling. Ambrose and Aditya T got us off to a flying start, until an astonishing catch from someone who had allegedly never played a game of cricket broke the partnership. From that point, acceleration was tricky, and our innings followed the pattern from previous games, as we fell short with a nonetheless impressive total of 126. Our league campaign ended with a comprehensive defeat against St John's, with Jaylen Cheng's spell a positive. For the second year running our competitive season was tinged with disappointment, despite a multitude of promising moments.

That said, our attention turned to the most important fixture on the calendar, the annual staff-student match. After rain had forced us to reschedule, a well-supported BNC side turned up hoping to retain the BNC Cup against a confident and strengthened staff side. Runs for Aditya T, Ambrose, Milind took us to 159, and after an incredible opening spell from Flo Brooke and Ambrose, aided by an unbelievable catch from Rudra for the second year in a row, the staff had been reduced to 7 for 5. When captain Omer Tariq fell to Jaylen shortly after, the result seemed a foregone conclusion. However, Saumya Maheshwari and Joe Organ had other ideas, and put on a staggering 90-run partnership to bring the staff back into contention. Fortunately, Aditya D held his nerve at the death and the students secured a tight five-run victory. A huge thanks to all the staff, and Omer especially, for all their help in making this thoroughly enjoyable fixture possible.

The season concluded with BNC's inaugural Single Wicket Tournament, a knockout tournament pitting Brasenose's finest against one another over one over. Three intense rounds led to a final between Ambrose and Rudra, and after a valiant effort from both, it was Ambrose who was triumphant, crowning his final involvement with BNCCC with some much-deserved silverware.

A huge thanks to everyone mentioned above, as well as Josh Harland, Purav Menon, Robert Ebner-Statt, Rosie Munir, Toby Gawthorne, Barney Cowles, Rabhya Agarwal, Avi Sengupta and Nathan Guthrie for all their contributions to BNCCC this year and for making my experience of captaincy such an enjoyable one. Finally, I wish Jacob Roden the best of luck as captain of the next iteration of BNCCC, and I look forward to one last enjoyable year of cricket.

## **MEN'S FOOTBALL**

*by Jacob Roden*

With Brasenose barely retaining their place in the second division in the 2023–24 season, at the start of the academic year one could scarcely have been blamed for believing that the College football team was moribund. However, an injection of first-year talent appears to have breathed new life into the club and it feels as though this season has been first chapter of a new volume for the boys in black and gold.

The start of this new chapter was a difficult one, though, with a first-round exit in Cuppers at the hands of a physical Oriel team giving much cause for concern. Despite this initial setback, the team began to gel and ended up winning all but one of their league games in Michaelmas Term; the foundations of a great team were being laid. The team were also able to pick up their first title of the season, as the current First XI, despite feeling a touch fragile after the previous night's festivities, overcame two previous college teams to win the Old Boys competition for the year.

Buoyed with confidence and hungry to prove themselves, the team entered Hilary Term with two objectives: to win promotion to the Premiership and to progress as far as possible in the Plate competition. The fate of the first of these two missions was to be decided by the final game of the season, as Brasenose took on top-of-the-league St. Hilda's,

needing a win to clinch second place from arch-rivals Balliol. With perhaps our finest performance of the season, we came away with a 2–0 victory, a place in the Premiership secured and, most importantly, the bragging rights over our dear friends in Broad Street.

The team then turned its attention to the Plate competition, with a semi-final against this same Balliol team scheduled for the start of Trinity Term. A comfortable victory in this fixture doubled the woes of our rivals and took us through to a final against a joint St. Hugh's and Wadham team. This final, taking place at the ground of Oxford City, started nervily, as the opposition, taking advantage of some loose defending, snatched a 1–0 lead. However, reinvigorated by a masterful free-kick goal from winger Simon Cox, we began to find our rhythm and once we had taken the lead we looked unlikely to lose it. Brasenose came away with a 4–1 victory.

We indeed took away a trophy – one could describe this trophy as a plate but, in truth, a saucer would be more apt – but more importantly we now take the confidence from this victory into next season. With beloved captain Sasha Bhangoo handing over the reins to top scorer Joel North and with more new talent arriving in October, we look forward to the new season with excitement and expectation.

## **WOMEN'S FOOTBALL**

*by Megan Jefferies and Leia Worthington*

The 2024–25 academic year saw the return of the Bees (no longer Ballnose), our joint team with Balliol. We picked up from last year's excellent captains Betty Hughes and Rebecca Jackson, and hopefully continued their legacy. At the beginning of the year our numbers were slightly diminished due to many of our previous players having graduated, but we held our own and had a strong recruitment drive.

We entered both the Division 2 Women's league and the Women's Plate, winning all games we played in both. Unfortunately, despite reaching the semi-final of the Plate, the match couldn't take place due to scheduling issues. All league games were won with at least a six-goal difference, which were incredible results leading to us being placed fourth. Despite great performances all round, we struggled to play many matches due to our low numbers, and we are hoping for even

more recruitment next year. A big ‘well done’ to our returning players Scarlett O’Shaughnessy and Holly Singleton, and our new players Estelle McCool, Elizabeth Dietz and Libby Chrisp. Hopefully next year we can get back to full strength and continue our partnership with Balliol.

## **HOCKEY REPORT**

*by Holly Singleton*

This year brought a tumultuous hockey season for the Brasenose-St Anne’s (‘Brannes’) Hockey Team, which I have been privileged to co-captain alongside Seb Page from St Anne’s College.

At the end of the Michaelmas league, the team had secured fourth place in Division 1 with a win against the St Catherine’s-Somerville team and a win against New College. In Hilary Term we drew three games and lost three. Despite the fewer wins, we held onto our place in Division 1 going into the Trinity Cuppers season. Unfortunately, Cuppers did not end as successfully as it did for the team in 2023 when we played in the finals; however, we still made it to the quarter-finals. Alongside games, the annual Sports formals this year have also been enjoyable for the team, with strong attendance at Brasenose’s Hilary Term Sports Dinner and St Anne’s Trinity Term Sports Dinner.

Overall, so many players have found their confidence and improved over the season, and despite some losses we have greatly developed as a team. The Brannes team is open to all, yet despite the mixed abilities of our players I feel we had one of the strongest teams this season – we were always able to hold our own and put up a fight, and matched other teams comprising more university players than the handful who play for Brannes. It has been a pleasure to captain the team this year, and I wish the best of luck to the team for next year.

## NETBALL

*by Sebastian Steven and Sierra Warnes*

Brasenose Netball had a strong start to the season, securing promotion before even playing a match (thanks to Teddy Hall, for dropping out). But BNCNC refused to stop there. If you'd like this report summarised in one word, here it is: undefeated.

Freshers' Fair brought an incredible wave of new talent. A surge in turnout left us with over two teams' worth of players for both our Christ Church and Oriel matches, and luckily so, with Oriel putting out a streamlined team of only five players, in need of some BNCNC subsidising. The real commitment, however, was shown through our social attendance, with Florence Kitchen and Zara Chowdhury's socials fostering a team spirit and community that just couldn't be achieved in training.

In Michaelmas, we secured the mixed Division 2 trophy, after a competitive final match against Magdalen. While they didn't take the title, they definitely take the prize for the most remote netball pitches. It's always nice to squeeze in a tour of Headington before a match! We then extended our five-match unbeaten streak to twelve to bring home the Division 1 trophy in Hilary. It appeared we were yet to meet our match.

After a quick and easy defeat of Gonville and Caius at Sports Day, it was time for the most important events of the year: Cuppers. Murmurings across the university about our undefeated streak made us a team to watch, rivalling the fierce reputations of colleges such as Pembroke and Keble.

The day began with a competitive group stage, where we knocked out reigning champions Pembroke and secured our place in the semi-finals. Trinity, the fourth-seeded underdogs, gave us a semi-final to remember after calling in unexpected reinforcement: their retired national netballer. The result came down to a hair splitting two-minute tiebreak, which we narrowly won.

After a minute's rest in the unforgiving sun, we had to do it all again. The legend of Keble College Netball Club took to the court, alongside their recruited Mertonian (sadly, this was allowed under the rules). After a neck and neck first quarter, Brasenose comfortably pulled away to secure the title.

Just one weekend later, we dusted ourselves off for Mixed Cuppers and arrived a staggering two hours early (you can never be too prepared!). With our previous victory, and Seb Steven's birthday luck, we were hopeful, and we breezed through the group stages and the quarter-finals. Despite the semi-final being charged with enough testosterone to send the ball through puberty, we regained our composure and defeated St Peter's.

Then as expected, history repeated itself, and we faced Keble once more. Starting the match behind, we clawed back to equalise and pushed ahead while their heads dropped. Yet again, they were no match for us, and we secured the Oxford Netball Treble: the League, Women's Cuppers and Mixed Cuppers.

After such an incredible season, and with our wonderful and talented new co-captains, Katie Ball and Gracie King, we couldn't be more excited to see what next year has in store.

## **PPE SOCIETY REPORT**

*by Robert Ebner-Statt and Benjamin Surguy*

We began our terms as co-presidents of the PPE Society with an event with Brasenose politics Fellow Professor Katerina Tertychnaya, who spoke on the topic of Russia, an area of her expertise. Of particular interest was the revelation that Vladimir Putin maintains genuinely high levels of popularity among the Russian population, even when accounting for corruption and biased elections. This was also an excellent opportunity to get to know Dr Tertychnaya and her research interests.

Our second event of Trinity Term 2024 was with our very own Principal, John Bowers, KC, who gave an address on the subject of his newly published book, *Downward Spiral*, which charts the decline in standards in public life, with particular, although not exclusive, focus on the Johnson ministries. He gave a detailed description of the institutions which are supposed to safeguard public standards, their limits and how they can be reformed, drawing on a wide range of contacts and deep understanding of the workings of the political system. This was followed by a stimulating discussion in the audience questions afterwards, including comparisons with how other countries deal with

public standards. This was a theme to which the Society would return in a later event (see below).

The Society next hosted the then Lord Mandelson, whose talk covered a wide variety of topics, from Corbyn's influence on the Labour Party to Brexit and the Israel-Hamas war. His insights into current events made for an engaging and interesting talk, in particular his connections to the New Labour moment, especially in the week after the General Election had been called!\*

The Society finished the academic year with Brasenose alumnus **James Johnson (History and Politics, 2010)** and his business partner, Landon Wall, who were both visiting from across the pond. They are both expert pollsters and presented a golden opportunity to discuss both the then upcoming UK and US elections. One piece of valuable advice (for any budding politicians present in the room!) was that focus groups are only useful for gauging how political messaging is being perceived, rather than being used to guide policy. They both brought fascinating insights into the uses (and abuses!) of polling, even more valuable with 2024 being an election year.

We began the new academic year with Professor Jane Green (Nuffield), who came to us from the other side of Oxford to talk about the results of both the UK and US elections. She showed us charts demonstrating how the Trump victory was not statistically surprising given how those in power during the Covid-19 pandemic across the world had been voted out. The questions then covered a variety of topics, ranging from Trump to the rise of the Reform Party at home.

For our final event of term, we hosted BNC alumnus **Eylon Levy (PPE, 2010)**, former Israeli government spokesman. This drew some significant protest both inside and outside the venue, but we were proud to support freedom of speech and foster an environment where differing opinions could be heard and discussed. It was our busiest event of the year, and one that provoked a great deal of lively but respectful debate, one of the greatest traditions of a university education. We were very grateful to the College for supporting us.

The first event of Hilary took place in late February when we welcomed Daniel Greenberg CB, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. He spoke about his formal powers to investigate and sanction members of Parliament – including figures such as the Prime Minister. However, it was his discussion of the informal responsibilities

of the role that proved especially compelling, particularly his efforts to shift the culture within Westminster. He spoke of his mission to restore public trust and confidence in Parliament and defended the hard work and decency of the vast majority of MPs, a group that receives little sympathy in today's hostile climate. The many political scandals of recent years, inevitably mentioned during the event, were – he argued – evidence of an open, transparent political system and therefore something to recognise as a strength rather than a weakness. It was a fascinating event and numerous students commented on how engaging Mr Greenberg was.

Finally, the PPE dinner took place at the end of Hilary, students and tutors enjoying a delicious formal dinner in Medieval Kitchen, and shared the evening with our guest (and Brasenose alumnus) **Sheridan Westlake OBE (PPE, 1993)**. A special advisor to five prime ministers, Mr Westlake was the only person to survive the entire length of the Conservatives' period of office from 2010 to 2024. His secret? Never side with a candidate during the leadership contest! During his talk, Mr Westlake spoke candidly about the coalition government, Brexit and Boris Johnson (what he believed to be likely future politics exam topics) and shed light on some of his great successes in the political 'dark arts' and spin-doctoring. He answered many questions on a wide range of topics; discussion continued throughout dinner and down the bar afterwards. Students particularly enjoyed his mid-dinner entertainment, recounting a number of colourful political anecdotes. It was a lovely evening and a wonderful way to close out our tenure as Presidents.

Brasenose PPE Society is now in the capable hands of Rabhya Agarwal. We wish him the very best of luck in this fulfilling role and – with three successful events already held in Trinity Term – the Society is clearly off to a strong start under his leadership. We would also like to thank those who have made the work of the PPE Society possible this past year.

*\* Editor's note: both the invitation to Peter Mandelson and his visit to the Society pre-dated the revelations about his involvement with Jeffrey Epstein, which have generated so much adverse press commentary.*

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

*by Barney Cowles*

The 2024–25 season of men’s Rugby at Brasenose was what some might describe as a ‘transition season’. Another small crop of freshers meant that we were yet again outnumbered by players from Queen’s, with whom we play. Despite this, early signs looked good – well-attended training sessions and a narrow loss to a strong Magdalen team. Unfortunately, a combination of injuries, scheduling issues and general bad luck meant that numbers were seriously depleted. The most frustrating part is that when we did play, there were signs of a very strong team. For our first-round Cuppers game, we could only muster a lacklustre eight players (between two colleges!), however we arranged for a seven-a-side game against our opponents, Christ Church. Despite thumping them 50-5, this was the end of our Cuppers campaign, as Christ Church claimed we had forfeited the game by not having numbers. The season continued to stall from there, with a few more reduced-numbers games, including a 60-0 demolition of Jesus College.

The highlight of the season for Brasenose was having three players selected for the Varsity Match against Cambridge: Otis Walker and Tom Mewes for the Men’s Blues and Sophie Goodman for the victorious Women’s Blues. While this season never really got going, there is hope for Rugby at Brasenose. A new intake of players, a reshuffling of the college Rugby system, which should see us paired with a bigger college, and the motivation of a 200th anniversary season, will hopefully lead to a much more successful season under incoming captain Johnny Bedford. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to captain Brasenose – it can only get better from here.

## SQUASH

*by Stanley King*

The 2024–25 squash season was a historically successful one for BNCSC. A few fresh faces meant the squad had newfound depth, with Stanley King, Henry Tebbs (adopted from New College), Ahmed Diab, Alex Sherwood, and Finn Johnson taking up positions 1–5, respectively, and Milind Khashu and Callum Romaine shoring up the squad as reserves.

Before we knew it, Cuppers was upon us, and the team got off to a thrilling start with a close-fought 3-2 win over bitter rivals Lincoln – wins coming from King, Tebbs, and Khashu. With Lincoln swept aside, next we faced third seeds Balliol MCR in the quarter-finals. Balliol's finest postgraduates were bowled over by BNCSC's youthful flare, as King, Tebbs and Diab each contributed a win to the 3-1 victory.

This saw BNCSC progress to Cuppers semi-finals for the first time in living memory. The College counted down the days to the big game and BNCSC trained avidly. Our opponents were second seeds Merton, by name – however the actual team had a distinctly controversial lack of Merton students. Tebbs, consistent as ever, picked up a 3-0 victory in the second string, with Diab suffering an unfortunate 3-1 loss to fellow Squirrel – as the University's second team is known – Chris Sneddon. Johnson just came up short in a tantalisingly close 3-2 battle, and Sherwood similarly suffered defeat. The Merton first seed withdrew from his fixture with BNCSC's King. So BNCSC unfortunately missed out on a place in the final following the 3-2 defeat. Nevertheless, Cuppers was thrilling and thoroughly enjoyable, and BNCSC will be back stronger next year to fight for that Cuppers trophy all over again.

In other squash news, Brasenose was fortunate enough to have two players represent the University at the 2025 Varsity Matches. Ahmed Diab represented the Squirrels in an away Varsity fixture at Cambridge, and despite his valiant efforts, lost his string, whilst the Squirrels took an overall 3-2 loss against their opponents. Furthermore, Stanley King represented the Blues in the Centenary Varsity Match at the Royal Automobile Club. King lost a gruelling 3-2 fixture, 10-8 in the fifth game. However all was not lost, as the Dark Blues took a 3-2 win over Cambridge, and ended the long-standing Light Blue reign. Both varsity matches made for thoroughly enjoyable days, and it was great to see Brasenose represented at the university level.

Great thanks must go out to all those who played for, and showed interest in, BNCSC this year. The Cuppers run was a great success, and the squad was a great group of lads, who created a hugely positive and constructive environment, which saw lots of great squash being played. I look forward to seeing how far we can push ourselves next year.

## THE ADDINGTON SOCIETY

*by Rabhya Agarwal*

It has been an honour to have run the Addington Society this academic year. The Society had been an active part of College life for some years. More recently, the BNC Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society and the Addington Society were merged with both societies being jointly managed. Since the academic year 2023–24 the Addington Society has, however, been re-established as an independent entity, with gratitude to the outgoing presidents. The aim was to extend the appeal of the society to students who were interested in debating wider themes in the social sciences and humanities, rather than just within PPE.

The society started off the academic year fairly quietly with a vacancy in the presidency. During this inter-regnum, **Joseph Andrews (Ancient & Modern History, 2022)** and I decided to manage events in the name of the Society. Our activities started in Michaelmas Term with a debate titled “This House would redraw global borders on ethnic lines”. The debate saw widespread participation from the current third years, though participation was less warm from the lower years. The debate discussed important points about the legacy of colonial borders in Africa and Asia, the use of ethnic hatred as a motivation for mass-violence by political elites, and whether a simple redrawing of borders was likely to change any of the current global crises. In Hilary Term, the debate organised was titled “This house would rather live under a benevolent dictatorship rather than a kleptocratic democracy”. The debate touched upon important discussions about whether a polity should be preferred due to its inherent intrinsic characteristics or the outcomes it produces for the people under it. Unfortunately, despite better advertising, participation remained mainly limited to third years, who had had a taste of the society before. Trinity was, once again, a fairly quiet term for the society with most active participants engaged in preparation for Finals.

Though I would have preferred greater participation, I would nonetheless like to express my gratitude to all those who attended our events and contributed to the debates. Moreover, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Katerina Tertychnaya who agreed to advise the society as Senior Member. Likewise, I would like to thank

Dr. Dave Leal for his advice and efforts in ensuring that the handover was as smooth as possible. The Society looks forward to welcoming enthusiastic first years and anticipates a much busier calendar next year!

## THE ARTS SOCIETY

by Lillian Tagg

Another year has passed at Brasenose and we have seen an array of artistry and talent as always. Starting this Hilary, it was my pleasure to organise the events for the Arts Society. I began assembling the wonderful arts committee over the Christmas break and was very lucky to have so many keen representatives from across the arts. Together we celebrated the arts at Brasenose and our new committee with the annual Arts Dinner. Many Brasenose talents were in attendance in their finest artistic attire, and after the drinks reception we occupied ourselves between courses with colouring-in pages of famous artworks. The wonderful dinner was concluded with speeches from Iona Blair, the previous Arts rep, myself, and finally our guest of honour, Dakota Warren, writer and founder of *Nowheregirl Collective*, a literary and arts magazine. The evening was a success and there was a fair amount of dancing and drinks down the bar after.

Hilary term continued with events such as ‘Drunk Shakespeare’ in collaboration with FemSoc, with a mostly accurate rendition of *Twelfth Night*. This was followed by an outstanding open-mic night which not only boasted the musical talent of the JCR but particularly showed that the first years are a force to be reckoned with. ‘Drunk Bob Ross’ was a hit event in Hilary’s welfare week, giving many students a chance to unwind and show off their painterly skills. Hilary also featured weekly sessions of ‘Yarn and Yap’ a fibre arts social event which allowed students to work on existing projects or learn new techniques of making with yarn and textiles.

The end of Hilary also saw the fourth edition of *NoseDive* magazine. This was the first edition created by Emily Yates and I as editors succeeding Imogen Edmundson and Chloe Smith, who revived the magazine the previous Hilary. The theme was ‘Consume’, and consumed the magazine was! Our copies were in high demand and encompassed brilliant poetry, prose and visual art created by the student

body. We launched the magazine at an arts-themed bar quiz run by me and members of the Arts Committee, and both quiz and magazine were well received by students, surrounded by balloons. This rounded off Hilary Term nicely and I began to organise the timetable of events for this year's Arts Week.

This year's theme was 'Revival' and I spent my Easter holiday working away at all the visuals, including a tapestry crocheted banner, a hand carved stamp-illuminated alphabet, and many other paintings for advertisements, and for building the loosely medieval aesthetic I envisioned. Sasha Hardy produced visuals also, specifically for our Arts Week exhibition which we opened for student submissions at the start of term, alongside sign-ups for the open-mic and charity drag performance. But before the week could commence, we had an evening of 'Drunk Hamilton'; who knew a musical sing-along could relieve so much stress? But then the week finally came and the banner and marquee's arrival began to conjure up excitement for the events. The arts committee adorned the marquee with bunting, and before we prepared for the greatly anticipated Arts Week Ball we enjoyed the first day of events. Pottery painting was well attended despite a thunderstorm; many beautiful creations were made as we huddled in the marquee. We were then lucky enough to listen to the Frankland visitor and Pulitzer Prize winner, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins in conversation with tutor Sos Eltis. Their discussion of the theatrical world and the artistry of playwriting was very insightful. Following this, we opened the doors of the antechapel to our arts week exhibition, which featured many of the visual artists and poets in the Brasenose community. Finally, set-up for the Arts Ball began.

With help from the entz reps Seb Steven and Florence Kitchen, the evening was well attended and enjoyed. Brasenose students wore their finest regal robes, or handmade even chainmail armour and fantasy wear in some cases, and enjoyed the sunset over New Quad with a glass of prosecco. As the evening progressed, we enjoyed performances from the Jazznostrils, outstanding as always, and Your Girlfriend's House Party, a now renowned BNC staple band. One highlight of the evening I must mention was the much-enjoyed Arts Week personalised stamp, which adorned the hands of all attending Arts Week events. Thanks to the committee, the entz reps and performers, we had begun Arts Week with a bang; the events which followed did not disappoint. The following day we had a princess-hat-making workshop in the morning, before a

enjoying a talk from the Royal Literary Fund fellow Rosamund Bartlett, titled 'Rebels Not Muses' which centred the woman artists of European modernism. We rounded off our second day of Arts Week with a drag night. Students enjoyed dressing up and performed to raise money for the AKT charity. The 'go-fund-me' accumulated £178 of student donations, and with an added profit of external ticket sales of £494, we raised £672 overall to donate the charity. Many thanks to the charity reps Lareb Hussain and Fredrik Mitchell O'Reilly for their help in organising donations. Wednesday of Arts Week featured a discussion group with the Turner Prize-winning artist Jesse Darling, and had many of us prancing around the marquee in the Morris dancing class. We began Thursday with morning yoga before the much-anticipated chainmail making workshop led by the wonderful Alex Massie. Many students came to learn the craft before we enjoyed the scholars' concert in the marquee and were enlightened about the intricacies of jazz in Sky Giles' workshop. In the evening, we gathered for a life drawing class, where many talented artists revealed their skills. Friday began with 'zine making before a screening by previous Frankland visitor and talented filmmaker, Kenneth Lonergan. Kenneth then joined our current Frankland visitor Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins for a Principal's Conversation with John Bowers, where they discussed the challenges of playwriting and directing performance. After this insightful talk and a lovely drinks reception, we began our open-mic, where once again many of Brasenose musicians showed off their talents. Over the weekend we enjoyed a performance of *Mankind* by the second-year English cohort in the sunshine with some Pimm's, as well as some clay crafting, and a play written by Orla Wyatt titled *Accident and Emergency*. It rounded off the Arts Week well: a great success, hopefully enjoyed by all.

I am very grateful to the arts committee for their help, and all they did to ensure things ran smoothly. To conclude Trintiy Term, we ran another open-mic due to the popularity of the previous two. Emily Yates and I curated the fifth edition of *NoseDive*, with submissions from our talented student body. We are very proud of this edition, 'Wander', and are already looking forward to organising the sixth edition over the summer, which will once again invite alumni to submit their writing and artwork. I have greatly enjoyed the privilege of being Arts Rep thus far, and hope to continue the high standard of events into Michaelmas Term 2025.

## THE ASHMOLE SOCIETY

by James Maloney

In his 1686 *Statutes, Orders & Rules, for the Ashmolean Museum*, Elias Ashmole outlined his motivation for bequeathing a collection of ‘Particulars,’ thus founding Oxford’s world-renowned museum: it was through ‘the inspection’ of those items he regarded ‘extraordinary’ that one could understand nature and humanity. Ashmole’s insatiable desire for truth was mirrored in his diverse career. Not only was he an antiquarian; he was also an alchemist and astronomer, a self-proclaimed *Mercuriophilus Anglicus* (‘English lover of Mercury’) who sought answers in the Bodleian Library as much as he did in dreams and in the stars.

In this spirit the Ashmole Society seeks to provide a rich amalgam of events throughout the year, rooted in the historical discipline while upholding, like our namesake, an ever-salient attitude towards the ascertainment and application of knowledge. For this reason, we seek to draw historians, but also members from across disciplines and beyond college walls to our events.

It was an honour to welcome Professor Adam Smith of the Rothermere American Institute to deliver our first talk of the year on the history of polarisation in US politics. Professor Smith’s insights were deeply pertinent, culminating in a correct prediction of the outcome for the 2024 presidential election. This event was particularly well attended, demonstrating a continuing recognition of the indispensable relevance of historical research to contemporary politics.

Later in the year, Dr Mallica Kumbera Landrus directed our attention to our society’s eponym with an overview of the establishment of the Ashmolean Museum and its connection with the unfurling of British history.

The annual Ashmole Lecture serves as something of a tether point in the calendar for Brasenose’s historians, an opportunity to hear from one of Brasenose’s eminent historical minds and afterwards to enjoy a dinner with students and fellows. This year, Dr Ana Dias presented some of her research on medieval relic labels, a fascinating interdisciplinary endeavour placing scientific ink and parchment analysis within a historical context.

It is always a particular pleasure to encounter historical research produced by members of College. Even more fascinating was the work

being carried out on a piece from the Library's own collection – the fifteenth-century Genealogical Roll of Henry VI. Dillon Lim and Jim Hartley – both non-historians drawn to the task of transcribing and translating the roll – explained this process and presented some of their research. It was a privilege to learn from Dillon and Jim as they unpick this one-of-a-kind manuscript, which was displayed before attendees in all its splendour.

In parallel with our academic talks and exhibitions, the Ashmole Society exercises an invaluable social function at the core of the community of Brasenose historians. As ever, our drinks socials were well attended and provided historians – students and Fellows – with an opportunity to learn from one another in a more informal setting. The annual Christmas drinks continue to be a highlight, as does the Ashmole Tea, held on Elias Ashmole's birthday in May.

During the long, sunny days of Trinity Term, Dr Rowena Archer organised a visit to the dreamy Chilterns village of Ewelme. Dr Archer led a fascinating tour around the town's medieval church, a pristine testament to the political manoeuvring of Geoffrey Chaucer's granddaughter, Alice, with its almshouse and school still in operation since their establishment in 1437. A lunch in the village pub was enjoyed by all, but the highlight was Alice Chaucer's tomb, displaying an eerie – and apparently once highly fashionable – *memento mori*, an alabaster cadaver. The year could ask for no better conclusion.

It is events such as these that bring together a community of historians – whether by discipline or simply interest – in Brasenose, in the name of Elias Ashmole. We are indebted to all those who participate in our events each term. It is you who make them what they are.

I am extremely grateful for my brilliant committee, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that our events run smoothly, so to Tallulah Tilley, Carezza Norman, Thomas Abel, and William Arber: thank you.

The College staff are deserving of particular gratitude for their indispensable work behind the scenes, without which the Ashmole Society would grind to a halt.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Rowena Archer, for the herculean support she continues to provide the Ashmole Society, even after retirement.

I am confident that the committee for the next year will continue in Elias Ashmole's spirit, with exciting new endeavours to come.

## THE ELLESMERE SOCIETY

*by Sanika Pherwani*

At the Ellesmere Society we are about community, and that aim stayed in sight throughout the year. It was my honour to serve as President. Every event, project and late-night meeting asked the same question: will this help Brasenose lawyers feel supported and connected?

The Ellesmere Dinner answered that question most clearly. The Hall filled with students and alumni, and Sir Nicholas Lavender KC spoke with generosity about life at the Bar and his time as pupilmaster to Professor Thomas Krebs, giving us rare stories about our own tutor. First-year members sat beside graduates who later became mentors, turning a formal dinner into the beginning of lasting friendships.

Mooting grew just as quickly. QEB Hollis Whiteman renewed its enthusiasm for the Criminal Law Mooting Competition, now in its second year. Participation rose from seven colleges to ten, and forty volunteers coached, judged or kept time. The rounds were supported by training workshops and a 'life at the Bar' panel, so the competition became an introduction to practical advocacy rather than a single contest.

New initiatives flourished. Yelena Roberts produced the first Ellesmere newsletter for freshers, with cover art by Lili Trickey, showing how Brasenose lawyers step up for one another. The freshers' moot ensured every newcomer argued a case early on, while the Stally family tree, now framed in College, links twenty years of Brasenose lawyers in one place.

Record sponsorship made everything else possible. Slaughter and May, McDermott Will & Emery, Debevoise, Herbert Smith Freehills and Fountain Court Chambers provided the largest funding the Society has ever secured, allowing welfare events before exams and keeping participation costs low.

Final-year students Darren Trisno, Eryk Schumacher, Miles Nicholson, Sasha Wilson, Charlotte Paine and Casper Varoujian completed their exams this summer; we congratulate them and wish them the very best in what comes next.

A special thank-you goes to Zara Chowdhury, Toby Gawthorne, Parul Sinha and Yelena Roberts. Their patience, humour, and willingness to tackle tasks kept everything on track. With such people involved, the Society is in good hands for its next chapter, and community will stay at its core.

## BURSARIES AND TRAVEL GRANTS

### FIDDLING THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS

*by Charlotte Reed*

With the generous help of the Michael Woods Travel Grant, I had the incredible opportunity to spend a week in Glasgow, Inverness and parts of the Scottish Highlands to experience traditional music there. I've been fiddling since 2009, having grown up in a region of Canada with Highland roots, and I've long wanted to hear the music in the Scottish Highlands. I was absolutely blown away by the sessions and live performances I encountered. I began in Glasgow, made my way north to Inverness and ended my trip with the spectacular Inverness Highland Games.

My trip started with taking the Caledonian Sleeper, which was my first experience on a sleeper train. Sleeping wasn't easy, but watching the countryside roll by through the window made the journey very nice. I was excited to arrive in Glasgow; pubs around the city host multiple sessions each night of the week. These informal gatherings are where musicians from all places and ages come together to play tunes, share stories, and learn from each other.

The first session I joined the night after I arrived was at Machair, a cosy pub filled with students from the nearby Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The session was very welcoming; fiddles, guitars, a harp, a banjo and a bodhrán (a type of handheld drum) all came together for an energetic session. I chatted with a student from Strathclyde who'd recently taken up the bodhrán.

The next night, the Ben Nevis Bar session was bustling – hot and packed but loud with reels and jigs. One American fiddler joined in, sharing tunes from her hometown. Later in the evening, I slipped away to a quieter pub down the street where the music leaned more towards singing but included some performances by an accordionist. This session I didn't join in; it was nice to sit in the corner and listen.

Before leaving Glasgow, I took a short trip to Loch Lomond (inspired by the traditional song that bears its name) before taking a train to Inverness. Inverness is a lovely city surrounded by mountains and full of music. Every other pub has live music from midday onwards, with MacGregor's Pub at the heart of it all, owned by Bruce MacGregor, a local legendary fiddler.

On my first night in Inverness, I stumbled upon an impromptu ceilidh at the Highlander Bar – dancing sparked by a lively duo on guitar and accordion. Later that night I headed to MacGregor's and was treated to a bluegrass session that blended southern American twang with Highland spirit.

One of my favourite moments of the trip was visiting Urquhart Castle on the shores of Loch Ness. I brought my fiddle and played two tunes – Urquhart Castle and Leaving Glen Urquhart – among the ruins. Many of the tunes I learned growing up were named after locations in Scotland, so to play them in the actual places was great fun, and I even filmed myself performing by the castle wall.

While I was at Urquhart Castle, it was really interesting to learn about the wars between the Scottish clans that left the castle in that state. History from Urquhart Castle and the various other museums in both cities I visited gave the complex context for the songs and tunes I'd grown up with!

My final day was spent at the Inverness Highland Games, and it was a great day. While I briefly watched some of the games themselves – caber tossing, track races, and more – I mainly stuck to the music tent: from 10.30 a.m. till 5 p.m., world-class musicians played non-stop sets. Bruce MacGregor headlined with incredible bow technique and lightning-fast reels, and there were performances by familiar faces from MacGregor's pub. Highland and Scottish step dancers also came on occasionally. I recorded several of the tunes to learn, and I'm excited to look back at them soon.

Throughout my trip, I collected many new tunes to expand my repertoire, and I also greatly appreciated the sense that I'm part of a global fiddling community. I've always admired the fact that the fiddle can take me places and help me meet people from all over. Sessions are such welcoming and lovely spaces, and I'm very grateful for the help from the Michael Woods Grant for allowing me to experience this amazing music in the Highlands.

## ATHENS

*by Susie Kidd*

In late September 2025, I had the opportunity to travel to Athens, thanks to the generous help of the Holroyd-Collieu-Stelling-Hall Grant. As a classics student, I had many sites and museums to tick off my list. I planned a five-day trip that would take me to all the spots that I have studied over the years.

Arriving in the city was surreal. I stayed in a hostel in Monastiraki, a bustling market district. Upon leaving the metro station, the Acropolis immediately came into view over all the buildings. It was incredible to see this intersection between ancient and modern Athens – tourists, like me, gawking at the sights while the locals walked past as if it were nothing. I felt the same when I visited the Pnyx, a hillside that offers beautiful views of the city. Assemblies in fifth-century Athens were held upon the hill, making it a site of critical importance for the creation of democracy. Yet, in the evening, it's just another popular dog-walking, beer-drinking, and sunset-watching spot. Such sites felt so much more real after seeing them in this light.

The highlight of my trip was visiting the Acropolis. As you climb up, the journey is marked by different attractions; my favourite was the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, a grand Roman theatre which is still in use today. It's definitely next on my list to see a play there! When I finally reached the top, the view was incredible. The monuments are amazing in themselves, but seeing them paired with a panoramic view of Athens elevated the entire experience. It can be difficult fully to comprehend the scale of the buildings when you just see the figures noted in a textbook. Similarly, in the National Archaeological Museum, many of the statues were far larger than I imagined, the reliefs even more detailed.

However, I actually found some of the humbler elements of exhibits more interesting. One marble metope, held in the Acropolis Museum, bears some ancient graffiti, simply reading 'Lysias is handsome'. Being able to observe such remainders of ordinary ancient life breathed new life into my studies. In this way, my trip was deeply valuable for my understanding of the material culture.

# Alumni Activities





# The Brasenose Alumni Society

## REPORT OF THE BRASENOSE ALUMNI SOCIETY

*by Jane Johnson (English, 1987),  
Brasenose Alumni Society President*

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

This report covers the twelve months up to and including the Society's AGM and Dinner in September 2025.

The Brasenose Alumni Society is Brasenose's alumni association. All matriculated Brasenose members automatically become members of the Brasenose Alumni Society when they go down, together with certain former employees and academics of the College. The term 'alumni' in relation to the Society thus includes all these individuals. There is no membership fee.

In February 2021 the Society worked on its purpose, which is "the advancement of the welfare and interests of Brasenose College".

The Society aims to achieve this by fostering closer relationships between BNC alumni and between alumni and the College community – students, fellows, staff, the Alumni Relations and Development Office and the institution itself.

In short, the Society helps keep alumni connected with each other and the College in a fun, social context. Our short-hand for this is 'friend-raising'.

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

A full copy of the Society's rules (its name, object and purpose, membership, committee, general meetings, etc.) is set out on the College's website: [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/your-peers](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/your-peers)

**Paul Dawson-Bowling**

The Society was very sorry to hear of the passing of its long-serving committee member, Paul Dawson-Bowling, in July 2025.

Dr Paul Dawson-Bowling, who was on the committee for thirty-five years, came up to Brasenose in 1961 from Blundell's School in Tiverton, Devon, to read classics and graduated in 1965.

Paul served as Brasenose Society President from 1994-95, having joined the Committee in September 1989. He proposed Alexandra Marks as Society Secretary during his presidency, leading to her very successful twenty-five-year term in this post.

Paul was a stickler for the Society's ancient protocols and if anyone departed from the strict order of service at the Society dinner he – or she – would receive a detailed correction on diverse topics such as the correct moment for Grace, the wording of the toasts, the recondite custom of the Society President being the host of the Principal and which chair the President must sit in and, on a couple of occasions, an exhortation for the President to give the after-dinner speech in person and not bring in 'celebrities'.

Paul's funeral was held at his beloved local church in Faversham, with many people present whom Paul had helped in his long post-BNC life as a medical doctor. The Society was represented in person, with members watching remotely too.

Paul had been due to deliver a lecture about Wagner – he was an expert on the composer – at the College. His daughter Leonora is giving the talk in his stead in the New Year.

**David Clark**

David Clark, one of our long-standing and esteemed committee members who has been on the committee for seventeen years, decided to step down at the end of September in order to focus on several significant new responsibilities, including serving as a committee member of the Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council and Chairman of his parochial council, alongside his continuing role as a school governor at a London comprehensive.

David has been an energetic and committed supporter of the Society, giving generously of his time and insight and helping strengthen the Brasenose alumni community in meaningful ways, in particular tirelessly spotting and recruiting year reps.

As Alexandra Marks said: “On learning that there was no year rep for his year, David accepted with alacrity the suggestion that he fill the vacancy himself. He then took on the newly created role of Year Reps Coordinator, a position he fulfilled with his customary diligence and good humour. These and other contributions have been instrumental in advancing the Society’s aims.”

We are pleased that David will remain involved as a year rep and we very much look forward to welcoming him at future events. On behalf of the Society, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to David for his dedication, leadership and support.

### **Regular events arranged by the Society**

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

- The annual Society Dinner, held in College, usually during the university’s annual alumni weekend in September
- The President’s Summer Party, held in London, usually in July.

In addition, the Society hosts occasional informal drinks and quizzes in London pubs.

These are advertised on the College website as well as by email. All alumni are very welcome to all of these but, as spaces are limited, it’s advised you register quickly when an invite appears in your inbox.

### **The Society’s Summer Party**

We were delighted to host our Summer Party this year in July. As it took place in the fiftieth anniversary year of women undergraduates joining Brasenose for the first time (from the end of September 1974), we decided to find a venue that chimed with this achievement and chose a beautiful townhouse with a terrace in Birkenhead Street, King’s Cross, the head-quarters of the Future Dreams charity. We were very pleased to support a charity which provides practical, emotional and psychological support for those diagnosed with breast cancer, and also funds vital secondary breast cancer research and promotes breast health awareness.

To mark the occasion Jane Johnson – with the help of her video-editor brother James – created a video of alumna experiences from different decades, from the 1970s onwards, including Sarah Jackson OBE (Classics & Modern Languages, 1977), Diane Roberts (English, 1980), Marcia Hutchinson (Jurisprudence, 1982), Drusilla Gabbott (English, 1982),

Shaheen Khattak (English, 1986) and her daughter Alina – to whom she gave birth while she was at the college, Amanda Holland (PPE, 1988), Harini Iyengar (Jurisprudence, 1993) and Margherita de Fraja (Modern Languages, 2013).

It was a lively event attended by over 80 alumni from across the decades who were able to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Delicious canapés were made during the evening in the open kitchen by a wonderful caterer, and – as the drinks flowed freely – attendees were served anniversary cupcakes decorated with a golden ‘50’.

### **Annual Dinner**

The Society’s Annual Dinner was held on 20 September at Brasenose, the same day as Professor Graham Richards’ memorial service – with many alumni attending both events.

In his speech at the dinner, the Principal John Bowers looked back at his last decade as Principal of the College and his decision to leave at the beginning of academic year 2026/27, describing his role as “the greatest privilege” of his life and explaining that it is “not the role of a chief executive officer, at most it is COE – Chair of Everything and last among equals”.

Describing his tenure in numbers, he said he has:

- Attended 50 Gaudies.
- Held hundreds of Principal’s Collections (the Principal more bemused than the students).
- Eaten thousands of dinners: 3,750 in fact, but only six desserts.
- Given many speeches, but often with the same jokes.
- And kept schtum at dozens of Governing Body meetings.

And he explained he was proud of progress at the College in the last decade, including better access results, wider outreach, more subjects and four years in the top four of the Norrington Table.

After dinner, Society President Jane spoke about what the College means to alumni – recalling the time when, in 1987, she edited the College’s alternative prospectus and asked Michael Palin (now Sir Michael) to write a foreword. Which he kindly did, writing “My first and – as it turned out – my only room in Brasenose was on the ground floor of the new block abutting Lincoln. To my northern provincial eye it represented the ultimate in modern architecture and design. But there was a disadvantage. As the buildings were something of an attraction

themselves, my friends and I would sometimes find earnest groups of architectural students staring down at us through the window as we played cards, listened to the Beatles, planned seductions and all the other things that went into studying for a Modern History degree. ‘In the summer we used to put up signs in the window saying things like ‘Fresh Strawberries’ which greatly confused the tourists.’”

Jane also recounted memories from best-selling author Sarah Vaughan, who wrote *Anatomy of a Scandal* and read English at Brasenose in the early 90s; Supreme Court judge Vivien Rose, Lady Rose of Colmworth, who studied for her Bachelor of Civil Law at Brasenose; and author and agony aunt Anne Atkins who studied English at the College from 1975.

### **Regular drinks and pub quiz**

The Society held winter drinks on 26 November 2024 at The Green Man, in Riding House Street, London, where a successful women’s alumni event had been previously held. There was a good and lively turnout.

A successful pub quiz at the Pineapple in Kentish Town in April 2025 was organised by Society committee member Drusilla Gabbott and Graham Dransfield, the 1974 year rep. There were over forty attendees making up eight teams, from years ranging – impressively – from 1974 to 2019.

### **Review of the Society**

Following a review of the Society’s purpose in February 2021, the Committee of the Society have decided to undertake a review of its activities and events.

‘In May 2025, the Committee plus the Director of Development Julia Diamantis and Senior Development and Alumni Engagement Executive Begina Cox held an away day at Linklaters, One Silk Street, London, courtesy of Alexandra Marks (thanks Alexandra). Over the course of the day there was a very useful discussion about how the Society should best achieve its purpose.’

It was proposed that Jane Johnson remain President for a second year while the review is conducted so that there is continuity, and that Will Palin should continue to be the Vice President.

The Committee will report back to the Society, most likely at the AGM in September 2026, once there is an agreed plan for the future.

## **September 2025 AGM**

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

The following officers and Committee members were elected or confirmed at the AGM, to run for the year from September 2025 to September 2026:

As outlined above, for a second year: President: Jane Johnson (1987), Vice President: Will Palin (1990).

Existing Committee members re-elected: David Bradbury (1981), David Clark (1970), Rosie Duthie (2016), Drusilla Gabbott (1982), Penny Gilbert (1978), Amanda Holland (1988), Sarah Jackson OBE (1977), Alexandra Marks CBE (1977), Chengkai Xie (2018).

Committee members not requiring election/re-election: Penny Andrews (1979) Secretary, Amanda Pullinger (1984) Treasurer; ex-Presidents Rod Clayton (1986), Narmada Thiranagama (1996) and Dan Chambers (1988); ex Officio College members John Bowers, Julia Diamantis, and Anne Davies, Vice Principal and the Academic Representative on the Committee.

The meeting noted that the Society is conducting a review process as outlined above.

## **Participation in society activities**

The Brasenose Alumni Society is here to reflect the full diversity of our alumni community – ex-students and ex-staff.

If you would like to be active in shaping the Society's activities or in helping the College and its students, please do consider joining the Society's committee. Election to the committee is at the AGM in September and there is a nomination form at the back of this issue.

If you think you might be interested in joining and would like to attend a committee meeting as an observer, please let us know.

For further information and support, please contact the Society Secretary at [plem.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:plem.andrews@gmail.com).

## YEAR REP REPORT

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

“Putting together the yearbook for my recent Gaudy was a complete joy” – Amanda Pullinger, 1984

“Being a rep is very rewarding personally, for not a great deal of work.” – Rep Survey

2025 is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the BNC Year Rep scheme. It was the brainchild of the late, great Professor Graham Richards. In 2000 he suggested to the Brasenose Society, as it then was, that they create a scheme based on what he saw in US universities.

The rep scheme has always been alumni-run. During 2025 the Year Rep co-ordinator, Drusilla Gabbott (English, 1982) began a process of personally calling each JCR rep to get their views and ensure that 25 years after foundation, repping is fun, effective, and offers an achievable and meaningful remit for its volunteers. The role is intended to be enjoyable, and the College wants to give it every support.

The detailed personal consultation with reps will continue and in 2026 we will extend it to HCR reps, who with today’s expanded graduate intake may have a different student experience and alumni requirements.

### **What do reps do?**

BNC Year Reps are friend-raisers: their role is to keep their year group in touch with each other and BNC in a purely social sense. Reps, with their personal experience and history, fulfil a special additional role for the College which no purely professional alumni staff structure can.

The idea is that reps communicate with their whole year group: an assumed minimum of once or twice a year, using a GDPR-compliant emailing system provided by the College, which keeps the year group’s email addresses private. Messaging is up to the rep, but the co-ordinator can give support on what might be included.

There are two rep meetings a year: April (evening, online) and September (hybrid) on the afternoon of the BNC Alumni Dinner. Minutes are sent to reps who can’t attend.

### **How reps can keep their year group in touch**

A focus of the recent consultation was innovative ideas for what reps can do to keep their year in touch, beyond encouragement to go to

in-person BNC events. Event attendance can be difficult for those with work or family commitments, and we are geographically scattered; of course, not everyone enjoys in-person gatherings!

However, we know from alums that personal news of their year: relationships, what you are up to, location, your new career as a yoga instructor, etc. – is of great interest to the cohort. Reps Samantika Gokhale, Peter Sunderland, Amanda Pullinger, David Clark and Liz Annesley all introduced excellent initiatives in this area.

Samantika, (ex-JCR President, 2003), is an example of a non-UK based Year Rep. Samantika has suggested an idea based on US alumni organisation practice whereby the rep invites short informal updates from the year and in her rep email, includes three of these at six monthly intervals. These are intended to remain entirely private to the year group. This idea has been greeted with enthusiasm, not only by reps in life-stages where physically getting together is quite difficult, but by many others, so maybe you'll be approached by your year's rep for a mini update.

In addition, there are more ambitious ideas recommended only to be undertaken for a major anniversary or where a rep has more time.

A relatively new rep, the wonderful Peter Sunderland (1960), has in the past two years done really unique work in terms of tracking down all members of his year group for their place of residence, email addresses, biographical or obituary details and even details of their publications. He hosted members of his year group in striking distance of the Midlands at his home this year, and has helped two 1960 alums resident in Australia to get together.

Amanda Pullinger (1984), David Clark (1970) and Liz Annesley (1975) have made 'year books' with photos and biographies: for gaudies, or in Liz's case, for the fiftieth anniversary of her matriculation in 1975. This involves considerable editorial and email work for a rep so certainly is something mainly for special occasions. Help and examples are available from the Year Rep Co-ordinator or Amanda Pullinger if anyone wants to attempt one. Again, these books are, according to the current permissions, private to the year group involved.

Some alumni – including some who spent several years in College – would like to reach a slightly wider audience of former friends, staff and college contacts with their news. In such cases, reps have encouraged their year to submit updates for the 'Brazen News' section of the regular

*Brazen Notes* magazine. Suitable material could include marriages, births, distinctions, location changes or career moves. This section is usually really interesting for readers. A submission form is available via this page <https://submit.bnc.ox.ac.uk/Forms/Home/Dashboard> under the 'Alumni Services' section.

The BNC alumni LinkedIn private group is open to all alumni to update each other with career news or make contacts, and the alumni Facebook group is also a fun place to interact.

### **If your year is vacant, do volunteer**

During the current process of personal consultation with reps it is understandable some reps may stand down. None will be asked to leave, but some who have passed the suggested time of service (seven years) may wish to take the opportunity to step down.

For vacant years a new rep will be invited via the Alumni Relations and Development Office from within the year group: either a volunteer or by popular suggestion. If you see below that your year is vacant and would love to be a rep, please don't wait: you can get in touch any time with Drusilla, the Year Rep Co-ordinator, for a chat – [drusillagabbott@gmail.com](mailto:drusillagabbott@gmail.com) – to find out more or see if volunteering would suit you.

### **Rep activities in 2025/6**

- In April we held the first rep-led social event: a pub quiz organised by Graham Dransfield (1974) and subsidised by a grant of £100 from the Brasenose Alumni Society. 44 humans and one dog in eight teams ranging from 1974 to 2019 attended the Pineapple pub in Kentish Town. Popular sentiment demands a repeat fixture.
- A 1966 party was held as usual, thanks to Donald Rushton and Duncan Greenland.
- John East (1965) arranged a lunch at the RAC Club for a few of his year to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of their matriculation.
- In July, Alexandra Marks (1977) again held her very popular garden party.
- George Fisher (1972) has asked to take his year group on a short tour of the new buildings in Frewin in 2026.

### **New appointments and departures**

- We welcome Narmada Thiranagama (1996) and Philippa (Pip) Reeve (2008) as JCR reps, and thank Marcos Veremis, a great supporter of BNC, who steps down for 1995.
- John Buckler (1953) has sadly died: we send condolences to Mrs Buckler and his family.
- Reps Robert Hawes (1959) and John Morris (1962) resigned, and were thanked by the Principal for their service.
- Peter Sunderland (1960) became our new “Father of the House” with these changes, and kindly agreed at the last rep meeting to take over years 1959 upward, as they had all fallen vacant. He will handle these in two tranches – 1945-1957 and 1958/9.
- Peter is the last to refuse the opportunity to anyone to become a year rep as he enjoys it so much himself, so obviously if anyone in any individual year groups 1959 upward was absolutely on the verge of giving repping a whirl and has been pipped at the post, just have a chat with Peter.

Laura Shtaingos (2000), the former JCR President for her year, is engaged in a great deal of incredibly impressive voluntary work, so has indicated she'd be willing to step aside as rep if another person from her year were interested. Let us know.

### **A development in the management of the scheme**

Until this year the scheme reported into the Brasenose Alumni Society Committee.

The Year Rep Co-ordinator reported back to the BAS and to the College the results of her initial rep consultation in August. It became clear that reps were becoming more active and therefore needed a bit more background support and time from College.

This resulted in an offer from BNC that the Rep Co-ordinator should continue to run the scheme as now, but in future report to the College more directly via Dr Julia Diamantis, the Alumni and Development Director, who is a Fellow. It will ensure a boost to practical support, less bureaucratic feedback loops, and more interest taken in the scheme. Nothing else about how the scheme is run will alter. Seven year reps sit on the Brasenose Alumni Society committee, so links remain strong. The Brasenose Alumni Society welcomed the development, and thanks

go to Penny Andrews, its Secretary, for a great deal of interest taken in the scheme and many suggestions in recent years.

The rewards offered to year reps by BNC are currently under review as they were introduced a while ago and there are now many more reps. News will follow of any changes.

## CURRENT YEAR REPS

Your year rep is always very pleased to hear from you. Please email them via the development office ([development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)) and we will pass on your message promptly.

There is a role for a separate JCR and HCR rep in recent matriculation years. Where only one rep is listed for any year, this means there is a vacancy for the other position. Applications are welcomed.

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Name</b>            | <b>Info</b> | <b>Year</b> | <b>Name</b>              | <b>Info</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1942-57     | Peter Sunderland       | JCR         | 1979        | David Barker             | JCR         |
| 1958-59     | Peter Sunderland       | JCR         | 1980        | Angela Boobbyer          | JCR         |
| 1960        | Peter Sunderland       | JCR         | 1981        | Ceri Hutton              | JCR         |
| 1961        | VACANT                 | JCR         | 1981        | Barry Peden              | JCR         |
| 1962        | VACANT                 | JCR         | 1982        | Drusilla Gabbott         | JCR         |
| 1963        | James Edmiston         | JCR         | 1983        | Tony Murphy              | HCR         |
| 1964        | Clive Evans            | JCR         | 1983        | Sarah Shekleton          | JCR         |
| 1965        | John East              | JCR         | 1984        | Amanda Pullinger         | JCR         |
| 1966        | Duncan Greenland       | (Joint JCR) | 1985        | Lyndall Squire           | JCR         |
| 1966        | Donald Rushton         | (Joint JCR) | 1986        | David Foster             | JCR         |
| 1967        | William Verdon-Smith   | JCR         | 1987        | Jane Johnson             | JCR         |
| 1968        | Christopher Moss       | JCR         | 1988        | James Drace-Francis      | JCR         |
| 1969        | Patrick Ovans          | JCR         | 1989        | Deidre Duignan           | JCR         |
| 1970        | David Clark            | (Joint JCR) | 1990        | Linus Gregoriadis        | JCR         |
| 1970        | Stephen Smith          | (Joint JCR) | 1991        | Graham Thomas            | JCR         |
| 1971        | Moray Thomas           | JCR         | 1992        | Aman Merchant            | JCR         |
| 1972        | George Fisher          | JCR         | 1993        | Tom Cartwright           | (Joint JCR) |
| 1973        | John Bagshaw           | JCR         | 1993        | Alastair Dick            | (Joint JCR) |
| 1974        | Graham Dransfield      | JCR         | 1994        | Sander Evers             | HCR         |
| 1975        | Liz Annesley           | JCR         | 1995        | Simon Borwick            | JCR         |
| 1976        | Frances Stobbs         | JCR         | 1996        | Narmada Thiranagama      | JCR         |
| 1977        | Alexandra Marks<br>CBE | JCR         | 1997        | VACANT                   | JCR/HCR     |
| 1978        | Nicholas Denton        | JCR         | 1998        | Daryush Farshchi-Heidari | JCR         |

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Name</b>            | <b>Info</b> | <b>Year</b> | <b>Name</b>            | <b>Info</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 1999        | Jessica Drapkin        | JCR         | 2012        | Zed Kahale             | HCR         |
| 2000        | Laura Shtaingos        | JCR         | 2012        | Rosie Thomas           | JCR         |
| 2001        | VACANT                 | JCR/HCR     | 2013        | Franziska Kohlt        | HCR         |
| 2002        | Ellen Catherall        | JCR         | 2013        | Sarita Shah            | JCR         |
| 2003        | Samantika Gokhale      | JCR         | 2014        | Henrik Jacobsen        | HCR         |
| 2004        | Rhiannon Williams      | JCR         | 2014        | Isobel Moseley         | JCR         |
| 2005        | Chris Tudor            | HCR         | 2015        | Mehroz Ehsan           | HCR         |
| 2006        | Andre De Haes          | JCR         | 2015        | Miles Overton          | JCR         |
| 2006        | Jen Glennon            | HCR         | 2016        | Rosie Duthie           | JCR         |
| 2007        | Charlie Furness-Smith  | HCR         | 2017        | Matteo Clarkson-Maciel | HCR         |
| 2007        | Lara Gouveia Simonetti | JCR         | 2018        | Samuel Chau            | HCR         |
| 2008        | Elena Netsi            | HCR         | 2018        | Chengkai Xie           | JCR         |
| 2008        | Pip Reeve              | JCR         | 2019        | Jennifer Pagliuca      | HCR         |
| 2009        | Christoph Voelk        | HCR         | 2020        | VACANT                 | JCR/HCR     |
| 2010        | James Johnson          | JCR         | 2021        | VACANT                 | JCR/HCR     |
| 2011        | Michael Young          | JCR         | 2022        | VACANT                 | JCR/HCR     |
|             |                        |             | 2023        | Shylett Anthony        | HCR         |

## UPCOMING GAUDIES

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

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

| <b>Matriculation Year</b> | <b>Date of Gaudy</b>       |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2000–2001                 | Friday 26th June 2026      |
| 2014–2015                 | Friday 25th September 2026 |

## THE KING’S HALL TRUST FOR THE ARTS

*by Paul Burgess (English, 1993)*

The King’s Hall Trust for the Arts continues to support student and grassroots arts projects in College, around the university and beyond. Our principal focus is on work that allows new and emerging creatives

to stretch themselves and develop new skills, although we sometimes also help with the development of new audiences.

Last academic year, we supported *113* by Deja Vu Productions at the National Student Drama Festival, *Placeholder* by Rose Lane Productions at the Edinburgh Fringe, *Suddenly Last Summer* by Analogia Productions at the Burton-Taylor Theatre and *Crush* by Writeoff Productions, an ArtsLab Student Programme Residency at the North Wall Arts Centre. These productions really represent what we're about. The NSDF is an excellent and well-established training ground and showcase for student talent and has helped launch many careers, just as has the Edinburgh Fringe. The ArtsLab Student Programme Residency is a newer initiative, but the North Wall has been steadily building an impressive reputation as a space for innovation, where new and emerging companies can develop their skills and ideas. Finally, as any Oxford student knows, the Burton-Taylor sits right at the heart of student theatre in the city, and has witnessed the beginnings of a huge number of careers on stage and screen.

We also continued our long-term support for the Andrew Chamblin Memorial Concert at Christ Church Cathedral.

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

We are always on the lookout for projects where a grant of a few hundred pounds could make a significant difference to someone pursuing a career in the arts, or could help bring the arts to new audiences. Please get in touch if you'd like to apply. We would also like to hear from anyone with suggestions for beneficiaries, or who is interested in supporting our work in other ways. You can find out more at [khata.org.uk](http://khata.org.uk).

# College Reports



## ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

by Dr Julia Diamantis, Fellow, Development Director

The past year has been a particularly rewarding one for the Alumni Relations and Development Office, marked by a major anniversary and a rich programme of events that brought many generations back to Brasenose. At the heart of all this activity has been the continued generosity of our community, whose support enables the College to sustain its historic fabric while nurturing a vibrant, inclusive and forward-looking academic environment, delivering all that is a Brasenose education.

2024 saw the completion and installation of a new organ in the Chapel. The craftsmanship of the team at Orgues De Facto is second to none, and they have created a magnificent instrument, elegantly housed within the restored T.G. Jackson organ case, which dates back to 1892. This exceptional project was made possible entirely through the generosity of Margo and **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)**. The inaugural concert, held on 9 May, was given by Katelyn Emerson, who treated the gathered enthusiasts to a superb performance that showcased the full range and character of the instrument, concluding with the *Allegro* from *Symphonie VI en sol mineur*, Op 42, No 2 (1878) by Charles-Marie Widor.

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the completion of the eagerly anticipated refurbishments to Frewin Hall. This project has transformed a dowdy 1970s conversion of a historic house into a flexible and welcoming space that now serves the needs of today's students. The work has been carried out with great sensitivity to the building's history, while incorporating modern improvements that will ensure its sustainability and usefulness for decades to come. None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of our donors, to whom the College owes an enormous debt of gratitude. Their support has not only enhanced a key College asset but has also reinforced the sense of shared stewardship that defines the Brasenose community.

The academic year saw a myriad of events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the admission of women as undergraduates to the College. These occasions marked an important milestone in the history

of Brasenose and provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women alumnae across five decades. Highlights included a 1970s dinner and disco in September, nine Principal's Conversations exploring the lives and work of just some of the remarkable women of Brasenose, and a day of celebration in June when Brasenose women and men of all generations gathered for talks, workshops, music, discussion and laughter.

September also saw the Alumni Society Annual Dinner, which brings together alumni and partners from across the generations for one of the social highlights of the year, as well as a very lively gaudy for those who matriculated in 1983, 1984 and 1985. Other gaudies were held for those who matriculated in 2008 and 2009, and, in the summer, for the men of 1970, 1971 and 1972, only a few of whom had the opportunity to share College life with the first female undergraduates.

Spring brought two particularly special occasions. On 28 March, the Golden Jubilee Lunch brought together alumni celebrating fifty or more years since matriculation. This was followed, on 11 April, by the Diamond Jubilee Lunch, honouring those marking sixty or more years. Both events were memorable not only for their conviviality, but also for the reflections offered by alumni whose lives and careers bear witness to the enduring value of a Brasenose education. For me, these gatherings remain among the most moving in our calendar, reminding us of the deep and lasting bonds forged within the College.

Several parties took place during the summer, including the Alumni Society President's Party, a particularly joyful event held on 9 July at Future Dreams in King's Cross, and also the annual Garden Party in August, where we welcomed the children and grandchildren of our community. It was a delight to see New Quad filled with children, music and laughter.

The year also saw two hugely successful business networking events. In February, **Jemma Read CBE (English, 1993)** generously hosted an evening at the Bloomberg Mithraeum, which included private tours of the ancient shrine alongside convivial networking opportunities. In June, thanks to the generous hosting of **Philippos Kassimatis (Engineering, Economics & Management, 1992)** and **Dr Aviv Yehezkel (EMBA, 2022)**, Professor Christopher McKenna, BNC Fellow, chaired an engaging discussion entitled 'From Bletchley Park Codebreaking to Cybersecurity and AI', exploring the future of

cybersecurity, finance and strategy. The hosts were joined as speakers by **Alex Hoare (Engineering, Economics & Management, 1992)**, and the discussion reflected the breadth of expertise and experience within the Brasenose alumni community.

We continue to make every effort to reach members of our community across the world, as time and resources allow. Among many international gatherings, it was a particular pleasure to see alumni in Hong Kong welcome two current students undertaking internships in the region and host them for dinner. In March, I travelled to New York and Washington with the Principal and my colleague Begina Cox, where, among other events, **Dr Kurt Beyer (PPE, 1990)** kindly hosted an evening of networking, and Dr Simon Shogry, Fellow in Philosophy, gave a fascinating talk on the topic ‘What does true happiness mean, and how can we find it?’

September 2025 brought a more solemn occasion, when several hundred alumni and friends gathered at the University Church to celebrate the life and work of the late **Professor Graham Richards (Chemistry, 1958)**, Fellow in Chemistry – an illustrious scientist, mentor and entrepreneur whose warmth and friendship touched the lives of many. Graham passed away in February and is greatly missed. We are working on a fitting and lasting memorial to Graham.

Across all these occasions, what has been most striking is the willingness of the Brasenose community, past and present, not only to attend events but also to support the College more broadly. Whether through major gifts, regular donations, or the quiet generosity of hosting and organising events, alumni contributions continue to make a profound difference. Such support underpins student activities, enhances welfare provision and ensures that Brasenose can offer an exceptional educational experience in an increasingly challenging financial environment.

The year also saw some changes within the Alumni and Development Office. Chloë Bossward started maternity leave in November, with her role ably covered by Gauri Verma. Emily Reeve moved on to new adventures, and we were delighted to welcome Caitlyn Lindsay, formerly of the RNID, while graduating student **Joel Bassett (History, 2021)** joined us for the year. Begina Cox, John-Paul Clough and Callie Dodd continued to make a significant impact on our activities. I would like to record my sincere thanks to my colleagues, whose professionalism,

creativity and commitment make all of this possible. Their work behind the scenes ensures that events run smoothly, projects are delivered successfully, and alumni remain at the heart of College life.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and gratitude, sustained by the knowledge that Brasenose's future is being shaped, as its past has been, by the generosity and engagement of its remarkable community.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024-2025

*by Philip Parker, Bursar*

### **Financial Review for the year to 31 July 2025**

This year saw the College's endowment break through the £200m mark, with long-term performance continuing to exceed 7% per annum. We are very grateful to the alumni who have served on the Investment Advisory Committee since it was formed in 2005. There have only been nine: we owe a huge debt of thanks to Nigel Wightman, who has chaired the Committee since its inception; Charles Scott served on the Committee for ten years and had agreed to take over from Nigel as Chair before his sudden death in January 2026, of which more will be written in next year's *Brazen Nose*. The College is also very grateful to the other seven: Mark Boulton, Hermione Davies, Simon Davies, Robert Kyrianiou, Jeremy Sillem, Gerald Smith and David Watts.

The College draws down 3.5% of the endowment each year<sup>1</sup> to fund its academic operations. This currently equates to £6.2m and this funds about 40% of the operating costs of the College. A further 10% is financed by new donations, so (as our Development Director puts it), half of all our activity is financed by benefactions past and present.

Some of the benefactions are almost as old as the College. These came in the form of land. In a quirk of fate, the College has been actively pursuing planning permission for housing on four separate parcels of land which were all donated within 20 years of the College's foundation in 1509. A few years ago, we sold 20 acres in Faringdon (West Oxfordshire). We are currently in the process of selling a few acres in Cropredy (North Oxfordshire) for which we received planning

1 Calculated with reference to the average value of the endowment over the last five years, to smooth out the impact of market fluctuations.

permission for 60 houses and a GP surgery in 2025. We have also applied for permission for a major development on land around Leominster in Herefordshire. Finally, we hope to apply for permission in the next year or two for a major development on the south side of Oxford in 2026.

Despite the support of the endowment and our current donors, the finances remain tight. Over the last ten years, income has grown at 4.3% per annum, but costs have grown at 5.4% per annum. This may seem a small difference, but the power of compounding means that we have moved from a healthy operating surplus of up to £1m per annum to an underlying deficit. The College continues to grow its commercial income in the vacations but is reluctant to push up student rents and charges above inflation, so these remain at a healthy discount to market rates. Tight cost control remains key to keeping the books in balance.

| <b>Income 2024-2025</b>       | <b>£000s</b>  | <b>income</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Academic income (fees etc.)   | 3,290         | 21%           |
| Student rents etc.            | 3,303         | 21%           |
| Conferences                   | 1,484         | 10%           |
| Donations (excluding capital) | 832           | 5%            |
| Endowment transfer            | 6,253         | 41%           |
| Other income                  | 251           | 2%            |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>15,413</b> | <b>100%</b>   |
| Capital donations             |               |               |
| - to the endowment            | 898           |               |
| - for buildings               | -             |               |
| TOTAL donations               | 1,730         |               |
| <b>Expenditure</b>            | <b>£000s</b>  |               |
| Tuition and Research          | 5,290         |               |
| Student support               | 641           |               |
| Domestic costs                | 8,995         |               |
| Conference costs              | 643           |               |
| Development and AR            | 710           |               |
|                               | <b>16,279</b> |               |
| Capital expenditure           | 3,858         |               |

## LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES REPORT

by *Liz Kay, College Librarian; Joanna Mills, Assistant Librarian;  
Helen Sumping, College Archivist;  
and Salomea Chlebowska, Assistant Archivist*

### **Library**

#### *Outreach activities*

We have had a jam-packed year of displays, teaching sessions and special events showcasing our wonderful rare book and manuscript collection. We successfully began the academic year with our rare book teaching sessions for first-year History and English students. In these sessions we take our students through the history of the printed book, showcasing a range of books in our collection from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries. It is the first time many students are able to touch and handle primary source material. Feedback from these sessions has always been extremely positive and we hope to continue them in the upcoming academic year. We also facilitated a small and special manuscript teaching session with Dr Ana Dias during Trinity Term. Students who signed up learnt about manuscript culture from the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries using our manuscripts and fragments as starting points for discussion. Those who came benefited from Dr Dias' wealth of knowledge and we hope to organise another event with her this academic year.

Our termly lunchtime "treasures" displays continue to be a success and a point of interest for the college-wide community. We also enjoy collaborating with the archives team to curate these pop-up exhibitions. This year topics ranged from prominent Brasenose authors to scientific publishing, maps and travel, and music. In June we also contributed a selection of rare books to a display celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of women being admitted to Brasenose.

For another year Dillon Lim and Jim Hartley have impressively led the transcription and translation project of our six-metre-long fifteenth century genealogical roll. They are currently working on a loose two-year time frame to complete the project and publish their findings, with help from the Yorkist Trust. In Trinity Term, in collaboration with the Ashmole Society, Dillon and Jim held a talk and guided tour of the

roll, which was displayed in its full length during the event. We hope to repeat this talk at the beginning of the upcoming academic year for those who could not attend.

### **Conservation/preservation**

Looking after the collection and taking measures to ensure that the books remain in good condition requires careful attention. Along with monitoring conditions (and taking action when necessary) boxing books or carrying out unobtrusive repairs is often necessary. Although funding for the latter is often limited, we try to have at least two to three items conserved each year. This past year the following were sent to our trusted experts at Temple Bookbinders:

#### *Lath A 2.3*

First printed edition in Greek of Ptolemy's *Almagest*, a compendium of astronomy and mathematics, written in the second century CE and printed in Basel in 1538. One of the most influential scientific works in history, it was the basic textbook of astronomy for more than a thousand years.

#### *Lath M 2.11*

Three works bound together in one volume, containing splendid working volvelles, and featuring Peter Apian's *Cosmographia* (1539) *Aristologia Euripidea Graecolatina* by Euripides (1539) and *De solaribus horologiis, & quadrantibus, libri quatuor* by Orance Fine (1560) complete the volume.

We also had boxes made to protect some of the more fragile items in the collection.

### **Rare Books and Special Collections**

Throughout 2025, the plan to relocate the college's collection of pre-1650 books from the Latham Room to more suitable accommodation was progressed. This exciting proposition will see the Stocker Room transformed into a safe, secure and accessible location in which to house the books for years to come, while at the same time providing two beautiful spaces which will also function as accessible ground floor meeting and tutorial rooms, and which can be used by the conference and events team. The ambitious project is a long-held dream which **Tim Lee (Modern History, 1990)**, architect, alumnus and longtime

library collaborator, is now helping us to realise. The devil is in the detail, of course, and the painstaking planning stage will take time as the project hinges on the creation of the lockable, glass fronted cabinets that will house the books in conditions that are essential for books of such age and rarity. When the expanded library re-opened in 2017, many people asked why the project had not included provision for our rare books. At the time the goal was to address the need for more reader spaces, now we are able to address the needs of our special collections and the time is right to reinvigorate the Stocker Room by expanding the library into it, and to do so in an imaginative way.

Ideally the expansion of the library into the Stocker Room would have taken place before moving the books out of the Latham Room. However, the risk of keeping them there when the integrity of the roof could not be guaranteed was too great. Therefore, in July began the challenging process of moving the books out of the room in which they had rested for over a century, and reshelving them in temporary accommodation in College where they will be safe until their new home is ready. Certainly it feels like the end of an era, and the Librarian still recalls the thrill and wonder on entering the tower for the first time when she arrived at Brasenose in 1999. Visitors to the Latham Room often felt the same. Yet, a new chapter begins for the books that she has spent more than a quarter of a century looking after in the Latham Room, and it is an exciting chapter.

### **Donations**

*John Buchan by his Wife and Friends*, given to the college by John Stephens was a particularly timely donation, 2025 being the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of John Buchan's birth in August 1875. Although we already owned a copy of the book, this particular copy had been given to Professor Sam Morison by Buchan's wife, Lady Tweedsmuir. Notably it contained an interesting letter from Buchan to Morison (known for his multi-volume work *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*) concerning American history. The original letter now resides in the Archives and the book, with a copy of the letter inside, is in the Brasenose Authors collection.

Details of all the generous donations to the library can be found in the list of *Presentations to the Library*.

### **Kirsty Gunn Special Event November 2024**

Kirsty Gunn was the Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Brasenose from 2022 to 2024. To mark the end of her tenure, and Kirsty's generous donation of her works to the library, we held an intimate writing event in the library's collaborative study space. Despite their very different interests, the attendees were united by their curiosity and enthusiasm for words and writing. They were asked how reading something awkward or difficult made them feel, and then invited to write and assess their own work in different ways. The discussion at the end looked at how their work evolved over this short writing period and how they felt about it. It was a lovely, stimulating event, enjoyed by all who attended; discussion was in full flow when time was up and could easily have continued for another hour or more.

### **Housekeeping**

Finishing on a domestic note we would like to take the opportunity thank our wonderful scout, Debbie Hall, who has kept the library so spick and span for many years. Without her conscientious, methodical approach the library would certainly not feel as well kept. Thanks also to graduate student Adelaide Pitcock who single handedly cleaned all the books and shelves in the library over the summer. Since the standards of the company we had happily used for many years for the annual book clean dropped dramatically, to a point where we could no longer use them, we had struggled to find a suitable alternative. However, this year Adelaide came forward and agreed to take on the momentous task. She did a fantastic job. The clean, neat, tidy shelves of books give librarians (and users we hope) 'library joy'.

### **Archives**

It has been another busy and rewarding year in the College Archives. We have continued to increase our outreach activities, including several displays to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of women being admitted as members of Brasenose. As part of this, we interviewed several of the first women who matriculated in 1974 and made these recordings available for students and staff to listen to on the college intranet. We would love to hear further memories from this cohort, including any stories from the men who were here around that time and witnessed the changes in College.

Other exhibition themes have included William Golding and Brasenose Authors (2024 was the seventieth anniversary of *Lord of the Flies*), Thomas Traherne, maps, music, and general highlights from the collections. In June we hosted a repeat visit from Dr Radcliffe's School at Steeple Aston, which was founded by Brasenose Principal Samuel Radcliffe in 1640. We put out a display in the Tower Treasury of items relating to the school, Radcliffe, and the English Civil War (see also Charlotte Harris's article later in this edition).

Alongside physical displays, we have also increased our online presence this year with more frequent blog posts so that members of the public can see some of the wonderful things that we hold. We have written about Christmas traditions, a royal charter, maps and a few well-known figures who have been associated with Brasenose. It has been a pleasure to show off the Archives to a wider audience, and makes the more everyday activities of cataloguing, environmental monitoring, and preservation seem even more worthwhile.

We have had several items digitised or conserved this year, including more of Principal Stallybrass' photographic albums, a royal charter granted by Elizabeth I in 1575, and a 'Design for one of the Gargoyles' by the architect Sir Thomas Graham Jackson, who designed New Quad and many other buildings around Oxford. More information about these projects can be found on our blog: <https://brasenosecollegelibrary.wordpress.com/>. We have also had our early eighteenth century globe boxed; thank you to the workshop team for making a bespoke shelf for it to sit on so that it is safely off the floor.

We have answered over 185 enquiries on topics including coffee and ceramics, medieval seal bags, College buildings and estates, stained glass, former members and staff (specifically cooks and porters). As we write this report, we are also starting to research a church in London of which Brasenose historically held the patronage – St George in the East, Shadwell – where, we are told, a large number of escaped slaves were baptised in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

We have had many donations to the Archives this year, including: a Brasenose rudder dating from around the mid-nineteenth century, a Brasenose plaque, personal papers of old members, Fellows' papers, photographs of societies, dinner menus, items relating to John Buchan, a miniature of Bishop William Cleaver and Frewin Hall memorabilia, in addition to many internal transfers without which we could not

preserve the ongoing integrity of the Archives for posterity. Thank you so much to all those who have either donated or purchased items for the collections. Thanks also to those who made generous monetary donations in support of our work.

We would also like to thank our student research assistant, Emma Howes, who has continued to support our activities for another year.

## PRESENTATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

*Presentations to the Library 1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025*

### ***Presentations by members of College – own composition***

#### **Eric Albone**

*Scientific research in schools: a compendium of practical experience, 1995.*

#### **Jonathan Cole**

*Hard Talk: when speech is difficult, 2025.*

#### **Graham Dransfield**

(with Patrick Dransfield)

*Troutfishing on the Tees: Me and Tony Blair, 2025*

#### **Abigail Green**

(author of chapter 5)

*Globalizing Europe: A History*, edited by David Motadel, 2025.

#### **Kirsty Gunn**

*Featherstone, 2002.*

*The Keepsake, 1997.*

*Imagined Spaces, 2020.*

#### **Marcia Hutchinson**

(co-authored with Kate Griffin under pseudonym ‘Lila Cain’)

*The Blackbirds of St. Giles, 2025.*

#### **David Levene**

*Livy: The Fragments & Periochae, volume I and II, 2023.*

#### **Johnny Mok**

*Judicial Review in Hong Kong, 2014.*

**John Prag**

*Making faces: Using Forensic and Archaeological Evidence*, 1997.

*The Story of Alderley: Living with the Edge*, 2016.

*The Archaeology of the Alderley Edge: Survey, Excavation and Experiment in an Ancient Mining Landscape*, 2005.

*Seianti Hanunia Tlesnasa : The Story of an Etruscan Noblewoman*, 2002.

*The Oresteia: Iconographic and Narrative Tradition*, 1985.

**Harvey Teff (presented by his daughter, Helen Teff)**

*The Requirement of 'Sudden Shock' in Liability for Negligently Inflicted Psychiatric Damage*, 1996.

*Clinical Guidelines, Negligence, and Medical Practice*, 2000.

*Products Liability in the Pharmaceutical Industry at Common Law*, 1974.

*Drugs Approval in England and the United States*, 1985.

**John Weeks**

*Folk Tales of Old Europe*, 2024.

**Presentations by members of College****Stephen Bernard**

*Seven Men*, by Max Beerbohm, 2000.

*The Prince of Minor Writers. The Selected Writings of Max Beerbohm*, edited with an introduction by Phillip Lopate, 2015.

**David Bradbury**

*Victims of Piracy: The Admiralty Court 1575-1687*, by Evelyn Berckman, 1979.

*All his spies: the secret world of Robert Cecil*, by Stephen Alford, 2025.

**Martin Günther**

*Hälfte des Lebens*, by Winfried Menninghaus, 2020.

*The Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche v. 2: Unfashionable Observations translated, with an afterword*, by Richard T. Gray, 1995

**David Jackson**

*Oroonoko: a tragedy, as it was acted at the Theatre-Royal, by His Majesty's servants, in the year 1699* by Thomas Southern, [1749]

**Chris Kennard**

A selection of titles.

**John Stephens**

*John Buchan by his Wife and Friends*, by Susan C. Tweedsmur, 1947 (located in the College Archive)

**Alice Walker**

*The Language of Physics: A Foundation for University Study*, by John P Cullerne and Anton Machacek, 2008.

*Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering. Student Solutions manual, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* by K. F. Riley and M.P. Hobson, 2006.

*Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering., 3rd ed.* by K.F.Riley, M.P.Hobson and S.J. Bence, 2006

**John Weeks**

*Visualising War Across the Ancient Mediterranean: Interplay Between Conflict Narratives in Different Media and Genres*, by Alice König and Nicolas Wiater, 2025.

**Presentations by others****Zhen Chen**

*Tourists, Consumer Contracts and Private International Law in China*, by Zara Chen, 2025.

**Donor Unknown**

*Karabakh Diary: Poems from the Diaspora* by Alan Whitehorn, translated into Armenian by Hermine Navasardyan, 2022

**CHAPEL REPORT**

*by the Revd David Sheen, Chaplain.*

I am writing my report just before Freshers' Week and there is a palpable sense of anticipation around College, before the busyness of a new start to another academic year, and the beginning of Michaelmas Term 2025. At the start of the year in Michaelmas 2024 the university commemorated the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Thomas Traherne (1637-1674; BNC 1653), priest and poet. The College hosted several events for this anniversary culminating in a celebration of his life and work in chapel on 25 October 2024. As we began the year, so we ended the year with our Leavers' Service and the words of Thomas Traherne, No. 56 from the *Centuries of Meditations*:

Begin with wisdom. Wisdom is the Light in which Happiness is Enjoyed, by which our safety is Established, and our Life

Adorned... A clear Sight and Bright Knowledge is much, but wisdom more. For to Know all Things and not to Prize them is the Greatest Folly in the whole world, to Do them truly, and enjoy them all is the Highest wisdom. Wisdom includes Knowledge, and the Improvement of it. It is Impossible for one to be wise, that does not Effectually Discharge His Duty. Therefore does wisdom contain the Residue and is by Eminence every virtue.

There is much learning and endeavour that is an essential part of college life, but one hopes that together with growing in knowledge our students are also encouraged to grow in wisdom, discernment, and happiness. Traherne has much to offer us on these topics and this excerpt is a good example. The life and worship of the chapel certainly seek to consider what it means to live a good and virtuous life where wisdom balances understanding.

The start of the year was the start of Polina Sosnina's second year at Brasenose as Director of Music and my third year in post, and we launched our splendid new Chapel organ which was built in time for the start of the academic year, albeit needing some time to settle and a few snags along the way. The organ has been built by *Orgues De Facto*, a Belgian organ maker, thanks to a generous and kind gift from Margo and **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)**. We began term with Bishop Humphrey Southern, Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, coming to bless the new organ and to preach at our first College Prayers of term. In the second week of term, we welcomed another bishop, David Thomson (formerly Bishop of Huntingdon), as a part of our 350<sup>th</sup> Traherne commemoration events: Bishop David is the chair of the Traherne Association and a historian. A little later, we welcomed Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilken, the Bishop of Dover and a former chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who preached at a service led by the Revd Professor Judith Brown, sometime Beit Professor of Commonwealth History and a Fellow of Balliol College. Judith had been an interim chaplain at Brasenose for two terms, and it was good to welcome her back for this special service that combined our celebration of All Saints Day with our celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of women to College. There was also sadness during term as the College held a memorial service for Wesley Akum-Ojong in early November. Wesley was a first-year PPE student who sadly died at the

end of his first year. Oxmas this year fell on a Sunday near the end of term and so we had our *Oxmas Not so Nearly Midnight Mass* in place of College Prayers and we enjoyed hearing the excellent preaching of the Revd Naomi Gardom, curate of the University Church, Oxford. Michaelmas term ended as usual with our Advent Carol Service, always a little disorientating, having only recently celebrated the anticipatory Midnight Mass. Around National Interfaith Week in November we hold an annual interfaith lecture, and this year we hosted Tharik Hussain, an author, travel writer, and journalist specialising in Muslim heritage speaking on his recently published book *Minarets in the Mountains: a Journey into Muslim Europe*, a fascinating account of Muslim communities throughout Europe.

There is always a change of atmosphere as we begin Hilary Term with the shorter days and dark evenings and the cold of winter. Throughout the Chapel remains a warm and well-lit welcoming oasis where students can spend some time. There are our regular special services around this time of the year, such as our Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration where this year we hosted Ms Malka Levine as our speaker. Malka spoke about her story which has recently been published as *Our Mother's Courage* (Pan Macmillan, 2024) a personal story of surviving the Holocaust. For the first time in several years we hosted the University Sermon on the Grace of Humility, and our university-invited preacher for this occasion was the Revd Canon Leanne Roberts, Dean of Clergy Wellbeing in the diocese of Southwark. This was attended by one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Professor Jane Shaw, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, with the Proctors and Bedells of the University. It made for quite the procession into Chapel! Later in term we heard an excellent address for our annual Runcie Sermon from the Revd Marcus Walker, Rector of St Bartholomew the Great in the City of London, printed elsewhere in this edition of the *Brazen Nose*. It was good to have Lord Runcie's son, James Runcie, and his partner attending. The final guest preacher of Hilary was the Right Revd June Osborne, sometime Bishop of Llandaff and Dean of Salisbury, who preached for Quinquagesima, on keeping a good Lent. As has become our tradition, to start Lent we joined with several colleges for an intercollegiate service at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin at which I presided.

Coming back for Trinity Term after the Easter break, which this year ended in Easter week, resulted in Sunday of First Week being Low

Sunday or the Sunday after Easter Day. During this term we welcomed Fr Damian Howard SJ, as our first preacher. In second week, we held the Inaugural Organ Concert for the new Chapel organ with the superb Katelyn Emerson giving a subtle and excellent performance. Later in term the Right Revd Mary Stallard, the bishop of Llandaff, was our preacher, and it was good to welcome her to Brasenose for the first time. This term always brings Ascension Day, and a full and very Oxford day it is, with the beating of the bounds, the going through to Lincoln College for Ivy Ale and staying to hear madrigals sung from the tower in their main quad. In the evening we hosted a splendid choral eucharist with the joint choirs of both colleges, our wonderful new organ, and a string quartet with the following music: Mozart, *Missa Brevis in D K.194* and a choral premier of an anthem composed by Alex Ho, *O Thou who Ascendest up on High*, based on a text from Thomas Traherne's *Centuries of Meditation*. We welcomed as our guest preacher Professor Anthony Reddie, the first Professor of Black Theology at the University and the Director of the Centre for Black Theology at Regent's Park College, Oxford. The following Sunday the Revd Nick Nawrockyi, senior chaplain to the Bishop of Lincoln preached. The Bishop of Lincoln is our College Visitor. The feast of Pentecost this year coincided with Oxford Pride weekend, and we heard the Revd Canon Sarah Jones, vicar of St John the Baptist, Cardiff, and a Canon of Llandaff Cathedral preach on 'Pride and Pentecost' from a Queer theological perspective. We ended term, as always, with our Leavers' Service and our preacher was a visiting professor from Stanford University, Professor Dean Winslow MD, Professor of Medicine and Paediatrics. Dean is also a retired USAF colonel, having served as a flight surgeon and pilot with several tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, and who during the pandemic was responsible for overseeing COVID testing across the USA. He preached on duty and service.

I would like to conclude by expressing my thanks to our Director of Music, Polina Sosnina, for her energy and commitment to the Chapel Choir, our services, and her contributions to the musical and cultural life of the College. Thank you to the Bible Clerk, serving for a second term of office, James Hartley. Thank you also to our Organ Scholar, Jaylen Cheng, who provided music on Sundays and Tuesdays, as well as all the members of our wonderful Chapel Choir. Many thanks to Kirsty Jackson for providing ongoing administrative support. And finally a

personal thank you to all the Fellows, staff, students, and alumni of Brasenose College for your continued support and encouragement.

### **Chapel and Music People**

*Bible Clerk* – James Hartley

*Organ Scholar* – Jaylen Chen

### **Occasional Offices: October 2024 – September 2025**

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

### **Memorial Services**

Wesley Akum-Ojong, First Year PPE, College Memorial Service, 12 November 2024.

Professor Graham Richards CBE FRS, *Emeritus Fellow*, College Memorial Service held in the University Church, 20 September 2025.

### **Marriages**

Katrina Abigail LYTHGOE (*Tutorial Fellow*) and Benjamin MARTIN, 11 January 2025.

Rebecca Louise BORTHWICK and Séverin Arnaud Christophe LIMAL, 29 March 2025.

Megan Rosalind LEAVER and Joseph Thomas KEEL, 2 August 2025.

Alexandra Alison Emily Lilian COTTER and Jack Louis HART, 6 September 2025.

### **Wedding Blessing**

Madeleine MAHOUX and Felix PFLÜCKE, 5 April 2025.

## **MUSIC REPORT**

*by Polina Sosnina, Director of Music*

It was a great delight to see in the new academic year with the completion of our new organ. Built by Orgues de Facto following the English romantic model of William Hill, the restored TG Jackson casework now houses a beautifully voiced fifteen-stop instrument. This magnificent new arrival was celebrated on Friday 1 November 2024, with a recital given by Margo Smith and me, which included music by Felix Mendelssohn, William Lloyd Webber, Johannes Brahms, George

Thalben Ball and Charles Villiers Stanford. This was an opportunity to offer our great thanks to Margo and **Gerald Smith (Philosophy, 1984)** for their generosity in funding the construction of the new organ, and for their ongoing support of music at Brasenose. After allowing time for the organ to settle in its new home, we welcomed internationally renowned concert organist Katelyn Emerson to give the public inaugural recital on Friday 9 May 2025. Katelyn, who has been praised for “versatility and virtuosity” (RITMO) in concerts “thrilling from beginning to end” (*Cleveland Classical*), showcased repertoire spanning the sixteenth to twenty-first centuries in a packed Chapel.

The new instrument has been a huge boon to the choir, who, after two years of unaccompanied repertoire and early music accompanied on the chamber organ, were able to start Michaelmas term with Stanford in B flat and *A hymn for St Cecilia* by Herbert Howells in a service blessing the organ, expertly accompanied by our new organ scholar, Jaylen Cheng. Jaylen was a chorister in the Choir of St John’s College, Cambridge from 2015–19, under Andrew Nethsingha, and went on to receive a music scholarship to Eton College, where he studied the piano and harpsichord with Christopher Hughes, and the organ with Philip Scriven. As well as a new organ scholar, the new academic year saw the appointment of four instrumental scholars and a new cohort of choral scholars. Instrumental scholarships were awarded to Thyra-Lilja Altunin (piano), Maia Broughton (trombone and piano), Jamie Hopkin (clarinet) and Lawrence Thorn (violin). The choral scholarships were held by Ambrose Pailing, Anna Gjetnes, Dillon Lim, Elizabeth Berryman, Ellen Taylor, Helena Thalassi-Hill, Jack Whitehead, John Phillips, Martha Davey, Max Butterworth, Purav Menon, and Rosie Morgan-Males.

Michaelmas term involved two significant anniversaries for the college: the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Thomas Traherne and the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of women into the College. Our choir had the privilege of performing at the opening and closing events of Thomas Traherne 350, a week of events in Oxford run by The Oxford Traherne to commemorate Traherne’s anniversary. We began the week’s events with choral evensong on Sunday 20 October, with repertoire including *Thanksgiving hymn* by Philip Ledger, which sets text from *The third century (Number 4)* by Traherne, and music by contemporaries of Traherne, such as Henry Purcell. Our choral scholars then performed in the Traherne Celebratory Event on Friday 25 October: a one-hour event

of readings, music and mini-talks complemented by a display of artwork by Roger Wagner and Brasenose students. To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of women's admission into the College, choral evensong featured music by Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange and Greta Tomlins, as well as a new set of canticles by Lucy Walker, who was recognised as one of Classic FM's Rising Stars in 2024.

Our Platnauer Recital Series continued this year with three varied concerts. In Hilary, we welcomed the Zarek Trio, who performed a charming programme of English renaissance and baroque music, as well as some contemporary music, taking the listener on a musical story around the Thames and other rivers in England. In Trinity, we had our Inaugural Organ Recital by Katelyn Emerson followed by a stunning recital by internationally acclaimed percussionist Beibei Wang, who performed a programme linking the spiritual setting of Brasenose Chapel with the eastern traditions of Chan Buddhism and Daoism, in collaboration with visual artist Ke Peng, and musicians Mike Skelton, Chen Yuxiao and He Songyuan.

Hilary saw several notable musical events, including the intercollegiate service for Ash Wednesday at St. Mary the Virgin, the University Church, where the choir performed James MacMillan's challenging setting of the *Miserere*. In a particularly moving Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration, Holocaust survivor Malka Levine spoke about her personal experience of the Holocaust as detailed in her recent book *Our Mother's Courage* (Pan Macmillan, 2024). The choir sang Jewish music including *Adonai ro'i* by Judith Shatin, *Sim shalom* by Sarit Aloni, and an arrangement of *Unter dayne vayse shtern*, a song written in the Vilno ghetto by Abraham Sutzkever and set to music by Abraham Brudno. Our music scholars gave three excellent recitals: two joint recitals by our instrumental scholars, and a Valentine's Day programme of solo songs and choral works performed by our choral scholars.

In Trinity, we had a particularly exciting Ascension Day service thanks to a generous donation by **Tom Baker (Modern History, 1997)**, which enabled the commissioning of a new anthem. In his composition, *O Thou who Ascendest up on High*, award-winning composer Alex Ho set an Ascension-themed text written by Thomas Traherne. Alongside this new anthem, the joint choirs of Brasenose and Lincoln performed Mozart's *Missa brevis in D major*, accompanied by a professional string quintet and four vocal soloists.

On 4-7 July, Brasenose Chapel Choir went on tour to Belgium, giving three performances over the course of the weekend. The choir performed a challenging programme titled *Lux Aeterna: Songs of Light* that included *Hail, gladdening light* and *O thou the central orb* by Charles Wood, *Holy is the true light* and *Faire is the heaven* by William H. Harris, and Gustav Holst's iconic setting of the *Nunc dimittis*, as well as two very accomplished organ solos given by organ scholar, Jaylen Cheng. The choir performed at three beautiful venues: Sint-Annakerk, Bruges; the Cathedral of St. Michael and St. Gudula, Brussels, and St. Martin's Cathedral, Ypres. The tour was a wonderful end to a successful year of music-making at Brasenose.

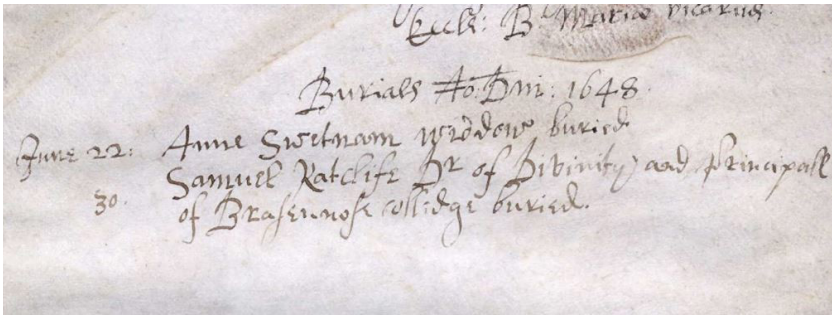
To conclude, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Chaplain, Revd David Sheen, our Choir Librarian, Timothy Jenkins, and Organ Scholar, Jaylen Cheng, who have been a great support over the past year. Thank you to our fantastic instrumental scholars, choral scholars and to the choir, whose unwavering enthusiasm and hard work have made the music-making in Chapel a great joy. I would also like to extend my thanks to Dr Alexander Flood, whom we welcome next year as interim Director of Music while I take maternity leave. Dr Flood has been a great supporter of music at Brasenose through his work with our music scholars, and I am grateful to have such a good colleague to whom I can entrust the choir! Lastly, thank you to all the Fellows, staff, students and alumni of Brasenose College who support our musical activities, and thank you to our wonderful donors, particularly Gerald and Margo Smith, Tom Baker and **Mark Humphreys (Modern History & Economics, 1988)**, whose generosity makes our extensive musical programme possible.



*Principal's Lodgings: a portrait of Dr Samuel Radcliffe.*



*Principal's Lodgings: Dr Samuel Radcliffe's Coat of Arms.*



*Burial record from St. Mary's Church in 1648 denoting  
'Samuel Ratcliffe Dr of Divinity and Principall of Brasenose colledge buried'.  
(Photo: Charlotte Harris)*



*Inscription over Dr Radcliffe's original schoolhouse door,  
conveying the essence of Christian charity.  
(Photo: Charlotte Harris)*

THE SCHOOLE  
CHARITATEM IVCVNDIOREM DEBITOR GRATVS  
CLARIOREM INGRATVS FACIT

*Translated by Professor Llewelyn Morgan as:  
'A recipient's thanks bring pleasure, it's true, /But a thankless gift does glory accrue.'*



*Graham Richards with his Triumph Herald.*



*Graham Richards and Bernard Richards appearing on  
University Challenge in 1962 as part of a Brasenose team.*

(Photo: we have been unable to establish ownership of this image, though all efforts have been made; all rights remain with the original copyright holder.)



*1982 English matriculands on BNC Staircase VII at Bernard Richards' English Reunion, 8th November 2025.  
Left to right, back row: Andrew Smith, Drusilla Gabbott. Mid: Mark Skipper, James Byam-Shaw, Ian Hunter. Front: Stephanie Loshak, Dr Bernard Richards.  
(Photo: courtesy of Drusilla Gabbott)*



*Urquhart Castle, on the shore of Loch Ness.*  
(Photo: Charlotte Reed)



*On Saturday 26th April 2025, a group of Brasenose College staff and Fellows went on a day trip to the historic town of Stamford in Lincolnshire – top left: St Leonard's Priory (Photo: Liz Kay); top right: Brazenose Gate showing a replica of the BNC door knocker which now hangs over High Table; bottom: the explanatory plaque.*

*(Photos: Lionel Smith)*



*The Seven Arches of Praeneste at Rousham.*



*Lion Attacking a Horse on the Bowling Green at Rousham  
by Peter Scheemakers 1741.*



*John Bowers speaking at the Brasenose Society Annual Dinner, September 2025.  
(Photo: Ian Wallman)*

# Articles



## **BRASENOSE'S VERY OWN DR RADCLIFFE AND WHY WE SHOULD REMEMBER HIM**

*by Charlotte Harris (Literae Humaniores, 1995)*

As an undergraduate and indeed until quite recently, if someone had asked me about Dr Radcliffe, I would have assumed that they were talking about John Radcliffe, as in the hospital and the Radcliffe Camera.

It was only when our children began to attend Dr Radcliffe's Church of England Primary School in the village of Steeple Aston, 12 miles north of Oxford, that I became aware that Brasenose has its own Dr Radcliffe, Samuel, who died in 1648, two years before the royal physician was born and no relation to him, as far as I know. Entering the school reception for the first time, I noticed an old portrait which seemed strangely familiar. On enquiry, I was told that the subject was Dr Samuel Radcliffe, founder of the school and Principal of Brasenose College. The school's portrait is an old and slightly crude copy of the original College portrait which still hangs in Hall, where I had seen it almost daily, albeit some years ago. And so began what has become something of a personal odyssey to learn more about a man whom, I went on to discover, left a remarkable legacy for both the College and his school.

Samuel Radcliffe was born in 1580 in Rochdale, Lancashire, and came to Brasenose as a student in 1597, aged 17. He became a Fellow of the College in 1603 and was elected Principal in 1614, a position he occupied for the next 34 years until his death in 1648. He is the second longest-serving Principal in the College's history, all the more impressive because his tenure included the tumultuous period of the Civil War.

During the 1630s he oversaw and personally largely funded various building projects in the College to accommodate the pre-Civil War boom in undergraduate recruitment. In 1635 he "payd for ye Buildinge of ye Cocklofts (and) Battlements" on the south side of the quadrangle "out of his owne purse", thereby creating a top floor to complete the range of dormers added from 1604 on the other sides of the quadrangle. He also made improvements to the Principal's lodgings internally and externally which included the heraldic chimneypiece and "flowering wainscot" in what is now the Principal's drawing room. Indeed, you can

still see his carved and painted arms here alongside those of the founders of the College. His portrait in scarlet robes with cushion and Bible by Gilbert Jackson hangs on the opposite wall, as stipulated in his will. He was also responsible for the ornate ceiling in the first-floor room next door above the gateway, which is now known as the Tower Bursary.

An impressive piece of silver gilt, the Radcliffe Cup, was also bequeathed to the College by him: ‘a guilt Bolle wth a cover given me by Lord Chancellor Egerton when being Proctor of the universitie... wch Bolle I give for a grace to be used at our acompte in the Colledge’. Remarkably this managed to escape being melted down in the Civil War, presumably because it belonged to him personally at that stage rather than to the College. It still resides in the College silver vault.

He also left money and instructions to build a new chapel to create “the south side of a Quadrangle answerable to ye Hall” as well as the library and cloisters “a building upon Pillars... ye greate want of Brasenose Colledge, and this will make ye East of a Quadrangle and the Kitchen on ye West side”. In other words, he was envisaging what we now know as the Deer Park years before it came into being. To this end, he bequeathed his estate of Piddington Grange in Northamptonshire. The foundation stones for the chapel were not laid until 1656 and it was finally consecrated in 1666. The entire project cost nearly £4,000 and almost half of this had been provided by Dr Radcliffe, which explains why his arms can be seen in the chapel on the organ facing the altar, as well as externally looking onto what is now Radcliffe Square.

It is fair to say that the ways in which we see the older parts of the College today are largely thanks to Dr Radcliffe. This is why on occasion he has been referred to a third founder of the College. Indeed, the Brasenose Monographs compute that his gifts in life and by will to the college were in total not less than £5,000.

For much of his time as Principal he was also Rector of Steeple Aston Church, from 1616 until his death. The living was in the gift of the College as our co-founder, Bishop Smyth, had endowed it with the estates of the dissolved Priory of Cold Norton, of which this was part.

Radcliffe came to Brasenose from Middleton Grammar School, which was already linked to the College, having been the *alma mater* of another former principal, Alexander Nowell. Samuel’s grandfather, Charles Radcliffe, was a wealthy landowner in Lancashire and his father, Robert, was the first headmaster of Rochdale Grammar School,

near where he was born in 1580. His experience of grammar school education may well have led him to want to establish a school of his own, to give future generations of children a similar opportunity.

So in 1640 he founded a 'Free Schoole' next to his rectory in Steeple Aston, funded by conveying a property he personally owned in Winchmore Hill, Middlesex, to a board of trustees. The rents and schoolmaster's stipend were to be paid out of money received from this property.

The College was involved in the trust from the beginning, and the money was administered by the Bursar. The Principal and Fellows were to appoint the schoolmasters and future trustees and were responsible for making regulations for the governance of the school. He also left money for annual scholarships for two promising pupils to go up to Brasenose from Steeple Aston.

Dr Radcliffe's School continues to flourish to this day with over 200 pupils in attendance and still benefits from funding from the trust he established almost 400 years ago. The two original scholarships to Brasenose are now means-tested bursaries to help young people from Steeple Aston with further education.

In addition to this, he left money in his will for two almshouses to be built next to the old school building which were to be for poor widows from the parish. They are still run by their own trust and continue to house the elderly in financial need, with a qualifying connection to the village.

During the Civil War he led the College when it was living under siege, contributing money and college silver to fund the Royalist cause. Along with other heads of colleges he refused to recognize the authority of the Parliamentary Visitors appointed to reform the University and purge it of Royalist supporters.

In January 1648 he ignored an order expelling him from his position; when this was repeated, he asked for more time to remove himself as he was ill. Further attempts to persuade him proved unsuccessful with him refusing to relinquish the keys; in the end the Visitors placed him under armed guard in the Principal's Lodgings and declared Daniel Greenwood Principal in the College Hall on 13 April.

His will begins "In the Name of God Amen, I Samuel Radcliffe infirme in bodie but of perfect memorie (God be thanked) do thus make my last will and testament..." It is dated 24 April 1648 "in the year

of our Sovereign Lord his reigne over England, Scotland, France and Ireland” even though by then Charles I was a prisoner. He states it was written “wth myne owne hande and wthout the lawyer his advice for the most part” and hopes that any “illegality in the forme or phrase of words may not defeat my reall & charitable intendments”. One imagines this being carried out by a dying man with soldiers at the door. In dark times he was thinking of others, principally the future of the College and the school, and looking towards a brighter future.

In refusing to submit to the Visitation, he was subsequently considered to be defending both the Crown and the Church of England. This was recorded in *The Sufferings of the Clergy* published by the Revd John Walker in 1714 which detailed the maltreatment of loyal Anglican clergy under Parliament in the Civil War period.

He died on 26 June 1648 when despite the repeated attempts of the Visitors, old age and illness took him. Two days before he died, the custom of funeral proclamation by the University bellman was banned (*Visitors' Register*, 136), meaning that his death went unannounced. The Fellows did not meekly accept Greenwood as the new Principal, instead meeting in the old chapel to elect Radcliffe's successor according to the statutes: however Thomas Yate had to wait until 1660 actually to take up the post.

Given his eventful life and principled defiance in the face of death, I felt compelled to visit the site of his burial.

My search began in Holywell Church, which is no longer a place of worship but home to Balliol College's historic collections. I had initially been told that he was buried here but could not find any memorial amongst the books and manuscripts. There are in fact no burial records for this church prior to 1653, only references from 1583–1649 made by the contemporary diarist Anthony à Wood in his *City of Oxford*, Vol III. He does indeed mention a Samuel Radcliffe but it appears that this was his nephew of the same name, who was also a Brasenose man: “Samuel Radcliff, Mr. of Arts of Brasenose, nephew to Dr Samuel Radcliff, died, Th., 20 Dec 1649, aet. 30; and was buried in Halywell churchyard neare the church dore.”

Wood also recorded that ‘Samuel Radcliffe, D.D., and principall of Brasenose Coll., died, M., 26 June 1648 and was buried in the middle of St Marie's chancell, sine prole: a great benefactor to his college' on 30 June ‘with ye Comon Prayer, *more antiquo*' though the use of that

book was forbidden, and would have been much to the annoyance of the Visitors. One of the fellows is said to have preached a sermon and another delivered an oration in Hall.

The Oxfordshire History Centre were able to corroborate this with the actual burial records for St Mary the Virgin Church. Due to the Civil War, there were, tellingly, only two burials in this church in the whole of that year, but the record clearly states that the Principal of Brasenose College who was buried there on 30 June: ‘Samuel Ratcliffe Dr of Divinity and Principall of Brasenose colledge buried’.

Therefore, my next stop was St Mary’s, the University Church, but I could not find any memorial or reference to him there, only frustratingly that of Dr John Radcliffe! Subsequently, the Rev Canon Will Lamb of St Mary’s kindly agreed to meet me. We found ourselves poring over memorial stones of this period in the bottom end of the chancel, but to no avail. He made the point that as Samuel Radcliffe was buried under conditions of secrecy during the Civil Wars, it is likely that there was never a memorial to him. Given the Visitors’ eagerness to get rid of him in life, there would have been no place for him in Brasenose in death. The College does lie within the parish of St Mary’s, and so in the circumstances it does seem like an obvious place to which his body would have been taken.

Even had there been a memorial, it could have become worn over the years or lost following the fire which occurred on 17 November 1946. Falling debris from the roof collapsing resulted in the top section of the chancel floor being replaced. In 1947 a trench was dug from the altar westwards and along with later marked graves “fragments of mediaeval tiles and quantities of human remains intermixed with the subsoil” were found. One assumes that some of these remains are likely to be his; if so, this is where he was laid to rest, in what is now an unmarked grave.

Having learnt more about the life and death of Samuel Radcliffe, I felt compelled to re-establish the link between the school and College. An encouraging conversation ensued with our current Principal, John Bowers, who suggested a Fellows’ visit to Steeple Aston which took place in April 2024, auspiciously on the Bursar’s birthday.

We began by inspecting the exterior of the original schoolhouse, which is now a private dwelling, as well the two almshouses to the left of it, which were constructed after his death. The initials ‘SR’ are

conspicuously carved over the doorways of the almshouses, with the following inscription conveying the essence of Christian charity over the school door:

*THE SCHOOLE  
CHARITATEM IVCVNDIOREM  
DEBITOR GRATVS  
CLARIOREM INGRATVS FACIT*

*This was translated by my former tutor Professor Llewelyn Morgan as:*

*“A recipient’s thanks bring pleasure, it’s true,  
But a thankless gift does glory accrue.”*

From there we moved onto the church, where in the 19<sup>th</sup> C the east window was modelled on that of the College Chapel, complete with Bishop Smyth holding a model of Brasenose in his arms, and Sir Richard Sutton with the college crest at his feet. Several fellows and at least one Vice-Principal are buried here, having been Rectors of Steeple Aston, as well as, interestingly, Daniel Greenwood whom the Visitors appointed as Principal in place of Dr Radcliffe.

We then peered over the hedge of the new school on the other side of the church where we could see the stone carving of Samuel Radcliffe’s coat of arms, which was taken from the original schoolhouse and built into the modern structure.

The visit was such a success that the Principal invited a group of the school’s current pupils to visit the College. This has now happened for the last two years, fittingly around the time of the anniversary of Dr Radcliffe’s death. The Outreach team have been brilliant, tailoring their tours to primary school children, a good ten years younger than the students they normally show round. The children wander wide-eyed around the College looking at the badge on their uniform, the arms of Dr Radcliffe, and gasping as they spot it around the College. They climb the narrow spiral stairs, in what they see as true Harry Potter style, to get to the top of the tower where the Treasury lies. On both occasions the College Archivist Helen Sumping has put on an incredible display of documents here from the 17<sup>th</sup> C relating to the foundation of their school, Radcliffe’s will, lists of food kept in this very room in the Civil War and even lesson plans from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. I was delighted to see that Latin featured heavily! It is a joy to witness, and at

such an impressionable age you can almost see the sparks of inspiration igniting in these young minds.

We then proceed to the University Church. Each time the Associate Priest has gathered the children in the middle of the chancel and asked them to think about Dr Radcliffe and what he means to them, as well as inviting them to join in a prayer giving thanks for his generous legacy which continues to benefit both the school and the College today.

All this has moved me to seek permission to have a memorial installed where Samuel Radcliffe was buried in order to ‘remember those that came before us and inspire those that follow’.

I would like to thank the Principal, John Bowers, for his support and for allowing the children to visit the College; Helen Sumping the Archivist for kindly letting us all see the documents relating to Dr Radcliffe; Dr Joe Organ and Dr Felicity Shelley from College Office for showing the children round with such enthusiasm; my former tutors Dr Ed Bispham for asking me to write this, and Professor Llewelyn Morgan for so poetically translating the Latin motto above the school door; and finally to **David Bradbury (Ancient & Modern History, 1981)** for pointing me in the right direction and making sense of 17th C manuscripts!

*If anyone would like more information or to be involved with the memorial project, please do get in touch via the Development Office at [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk).*

## ROUSHAMIUS HORTUS

*by Rod Clayton (Literae Humaniores, 1986) and  
David Bradbury (Ancient & Modern History, 1981)*

Rousham lies about ten miles north of Oxford. The estate adjoins Steeple Aston, with which Brasenose has a centuries-old association of which **Charlotte Harris (Lit. Hum., 1995)** writes elsewhere in this edition of the *Brazen Nose*. Rousham’s main claim to fame is as the only intact William Kent landscape still in existence, some of the features of which are celebrated in this poem.

Around the time of its completion, a Latin poem was published celebrating the new landscape garden at Rousham. It is possibly by Joseph Spence (1699–1768), who was Regius Professor of Modern History at

Oxford at the time of its publication and had previously served for ten years as Professor of Poetry. Spence is best known for his ‘notes and observations’ which form an important source for the life of his close friend Alexander Pope. Through Pope, he also knew Rousham’s owner, General James Dormer, and the garden’s designer, William Kent. Given that Spence’s favourite hobby was gardening, the likelihood of his being the poem’s author seems strong.

The following text is as first published in Akenside and Dodsley’s *The Museum: or, The Literary and Historical Register*, Vol. 3, No. 32 (6 June 1747), pp. 204-5 (Dd2<sup>v</sup>-Dd3<sup>r</sup>). The notes that accompanied the poem are marked at the front of the relevant word, as in the original. We have added a translation, the original notes indicated by letters and notes of our own with numbers.

Quâ vallem lambit, ceu Peneûs Thessala Tempe,  
 Et per balatus it sinuosus oviûm  
 Cherwellus; prospectum oculo submittit Honorum,  
 Dædalus & lætas explicat Hortus opes.  
 Mirè luxurians Natura locum per amœnum,  
 Munera diffundit plenius alma sinu.  
 Gramineo hic Phœbi ad radios patet *æquore* campus,  
 Irriguam hic umbris lucus opacat humum.  
 Grata choris avium melicis hic sylva rependet  
 Hospitium tutum, frondiferasque domos.  
 Suspice spirantes Formas, & vivida signa,  
 Phidiæ ab alterius visa tepore manu!  
<sup>a</sup>Vastâ vi Leo frangit Equum, qui colligit iras,  
 Supremumque gemens ardet in arma nova !  
 Parte aliâ en augusta viriliter exerit orâ  
<sup>b</sup>Pallas, quæ Veneris lævia more nitent.  
 Ut <sup>c</sup>Pugilis volitat per vultum lurida imago  
 Mortis, qui stringit languida membra sopor!  
 Mollius erigitur clivosi in culmine Templum  
 Collis, ubi circum floribus halat ager.  
 Pyramis en sensim angustato vertice surgit!  
 Quâ non Busiris splendidior jacet.  
 Per <sup>d</sup>Molis spatia incedas, ubi gratior *æstum*  
 Alâ allapsa levi temperat aura Canis.

Nec te sublimi insignem laqueare silebo  
 °Fabrica, Musarum grande domicilium!  
 Hęc Artis gaudent operosa volumina sede,  
 Quicquid & Ingenium nobile sponte tulit.  
 fSuave ruentem undam per saxa audire sonora,  
 Aut decurrentem flumine præcipiti.  
 Carcere frænata erumpit spiramine Fontis  
 §Lympha, en se miris torquet in astra modis!  
 Hic hScipio solitus vestigia tendere, carmen  
 Arrectâ Popii suaviloquum aure bibens.  
 Illius in longum Agricolas exercuit Hortus,  
 Cujus & emeritos cepit amica Domus.  
 Dum facilis Cherwelli argentea fluctuat unda,  
 Et propter ripas gramina tondet ovis;  
 Dum Moles tumeat Romano splendida luxu,  
 Lasciva in luco dum Philomela canit;  
 Illius & nomen serum ducetur in ævum,  
 Improbâ nec lædet falce premente Dies.

- (a) Statua Equi à Leone domiti.
- (b) Altera Palladis.
- (c) Altera Gladiatoris mortifere vulnerati
- (d) Ædificium spatiosum è saxo constructum.
- (e) Bibliotheca.
- (f) Præcipites aquarum lapsus per saxorum congeriem.
- (g) In sublime è fonte aquæ effusio.
- (h) G-----l D-----r.

### Translation:

Where the Cherwell laps its valley, as the Peneus does Thessalian Tempe,<sup>1</sup>  
 and winds its way through the bleating of sheep,  
 the artful garden presents to the eye a view of honours,  
 and unfolds its flourishing riches.  
 Marvellously does nurturing Nature run riot across this delightful spot,  
 and pours forth gifts from her bosom with unusual abundance.

1 A celebrated beauty spot in Greece, through which runs the river Peneus.

Here the level grassy plain<sup>2</sup> lies open to Phoebus' rays,  
     while here the grove darkens with shade the well-watered ground.  
 Here the pleasant wood will afford safe lodgings and leafy abodes  
     for the tuneful choruses of birds.  
 Admire the forms which seem to breathe, and the lifelike statues,  
     by their warmth seemingly from the hand of a second Phidias.<sup>3</sup>  
 With unbounded might a lion<sup>a</sup> tears apart a horse, who gathers his rage,  
     and whinnying at the last blazes fiercely in renewed combat!  
 Behold in another part Pallas<sup>b</sup> thrusting forth manfully her majestic countenance  
     which shines unblemished as 'twere the face of Venus.  
 How the sickly image of Death flitters across the face of the fighter<sup>c</sup>,  
     what exhaustion wastes his weary limbs!  
 More gently, a temple rises on the peak of the steep hill,  
     where the field is fragrant with flowers all around.  
 Behold a pyramid rises gradually to its tapered tip!  
     In none more splendid does Busiris lie.<sup>4</sup>  
 Walk through the spacious rooms of the building<sup>d</sup>, where a kindlier breeze,  
     descending on light wing, tempers the heat of the dog days.<sup>5</sup>  
 Nor shall I fail to mention you, distinguished with your lofty panelled ceiling,  
     place of work<sup>e</sup>, great house of the Muses!  
 Scholarly volumes rejoice in this seat of culture,  
     as does whatever noble intellect has spontaneously produced.  
 Pleasant it is to hear the waters<sup>f</sup> rushing over the sounding rocks  
     or running down in headlong stream.  
 The water<sup>g</sup>, pent up in its prison, bursts forth through the vent of the fountain;  
     behold how in marvellous ways it twists itself up into the stars!  
 Here Scipio<sup>h</sup> was accustomed to direct his steps,  
     drinking in with attentive ear a sweet-spoken poem of Pope.  
 The garden long exercised his gardeners, and his friendly house  
     took in those who had served their time.  
 As long as the silvery waters of the Cherwell flow free and easy,  
     and a sheep crops the meadows along its banks;

2 A reference to the bowling green.

3 The most famous sculptor of Classical Greece.

4 The Pyramid House, a gazebo, stands immediately to the north of the walled garden. Busiris was the name of a legendary Egyptian king, here imagined as interred in an actual pyramid.

5 Sirius is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major ('Greater Dog'). The heliacal rising of Sirius coincided with the hottest time of the year. Hence 'dog days.' The Latin literally translates as 'tempers the heat of the Dog.'

as long as the splendid pile swells with Roman luxury,  
 as long as frolicsome Philomela sings in the grove;<sup>6</sup>  
 so also shall his name be preserved into a distant age,  
 and implacable Time, with scythe unremitting, shall do it no harm.

- (a) Statue of a horse overcome by a lion.<sup>7</sup>
- (b) Another statue, of Pallas.<sup>8</sup>
- (c) Another statue, of a mortally wounded gladiator.<sup>9</sup>
- (d) A spacious construction built of stone.<sup>10</sup>
- (e) The library.<sup>11</sup>
- (f) A headlong waterfall over a pile of rocks.<sup>12</sup>
- (g) A spouting of water up high from the fountain.<sup>13</sup>
- (h) G[enera]l D[orme]r.<sup>14</sup>

The translation and accompanying notes represent the collective effort of Ed Bispham, **David Bradbury (Ancient & Modern History, 1981)**, **Rod Clayton (Literae Humaniores, 1986)**, **Charlotte Harris (Literae Humaniores, 1995)**, Jonathan Katz, and Llewelyn Morgan.

- 6 In classical myth, Philomela was transformed into a nightingale (and her sister into a swallow, and her sister's husband into a hoopoe). A nightingale is meant here.
- 7 By Peter Schemakers, a somewhat free copy of a Hellenistic marble now in the Capitoline Museum in Rome that was restored in 1594 by Ruggero Bascapè, with help from Michelangelo.
- 8 On the bowling green there are two images of Athene, both on terms.
- 9 Schemakers' version of another well-known statue in Rome, long known as the 'Dying Gladiator' but actually depicting a dying Gaul, possibly a military trumpeter. It is a Roman copy of what was part of a group, probably in bronze, presented as a thank-offering at Pergamum by Attalus I following his victory over a Celtic force in the late third century BC.
- 10 This is almost certainly Praeneste, an arcade set into the hillside.
- 11 The general had a superb library but most of it was sold in 1764 when the library space was turned into what is now the Great Parlour.
- 12 The Cascade, south of the great slope.
- 13 There were three fountains, the highest of which, in the Venus Vale, was as high as 9m.
- 14 James Dormer, 1679–1741, a friend of the Earl of Burlington, William Kent, and Alexander Pope, bibliophile and overall aesthete, was wounded at the Battle of Blenheim, where his brother Philip was killed. Gen. Dormer commissioned the gardens at Rousham from William Kent in 1738. He bequeathed the estate to his cousin, Sir Clement Cottrell-Dormer, whose direct descendant Charles Cottrell-Dormer lives there today with his wife Angela. 'Scipio' associates Dormer with the great Roman general and statesman P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus, who led Rome's victory over Carthage in the Second Punic War, and ultimately retired to a life in the country. This idealised view of Scipio was extolled by Alexander Pope in his poem *Windsor-Forest*, where he extolls as models of enlightened retirement Scipio, Cicero's correspondent Atticus, and Dormer's uncle Sir William Trumbull (ll. 255–6).

Both the grounds and, on occasion, the house at Rousham are open to visitors. See [www.rousham.org](http://www.rousham.org) for details.

Suggested further reading:

Eyres, Patrick (ed.), *Rousham: The Extant Augustan Garden Designed by William Kent Outside Oxford*, Bradford, 1985 (= *New Arcadian Journal* 19)

Hamel, Francis, with Joanna Kavenna, Tom Stuart-Smith and Christopher Woodward, *The Gardens at Rousham*, London, 2021

Moggridge, Hal, 'Notes on Kent's garden at Rousham', *Journal of Garden History*, 6/3 (July-September 1986), 187-226

Müller, Ulrich, *Klassischer Geschmack und Gotische Tugend: Der Englische Landsitz Rousham*, Worms, 1998

Schlee, Ann, *The Statues at Rousham Park*, Brighton, 2021

At the time of writing, Rousham is under threat from a proposed 9,000-home development at Heyford Park that opponents say would swamp the surroundings, ruining the vistas and rural tranquillity. By contrast the developer claims that the development would actually improve the view from Rousham. Much has been written on this.

For the developer's perspective, see (for example):

[www.heyfordpark.com](http://www.heyfordpark.com) and  
[www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/developerviews](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/developerviews)

For the case against development, see (for example):

[www.friendsofrousham.co.uk](http://www.friendsofrousham.co.uk) and  
[www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/communityviews](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/communityviews)

## A SHORT HISTORY OF CO-EDUCATION AT OXBRIDGE

*A talk given as part of the Principal's Conversations series  
by Nancy Weiss Malkiel, Princeton University, author of  
"Keep the Damned Women Out": The Struggle for Coeducation (2016)*

This account seeks to provide the larger British context for the admission of women to Brasenose in 1974.

At the Cambridge, Churchill, Clare, and King's Colleges admitted women in 1972. The last of the men's colleges to admit women were Peterhouse in 1984 and Magdalene in 1988. Even Girton went mixed, admitting its first male undergraduates in 1979. Newnham and New Hall (renamed Murray Edwards College in 2008) remained single-sex, the only women's colleges remaining at Cambridge and Oxford.

At Oxford, in a controlled joint scheme approved by Hebdomadal Council, Congregation, and the Privy Council, five men's colleges admitted women undergraduates in 1974: Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, St. Catherine's, and Wadham. The university then lost control of the process, and sixteen more colleges, including two women's colleges, admitted students of the opposite sex in 1979. By 1985 all of the men's colleges and three of the women's colleges had gone mixed. Somerville admitted men in 1994 and St. Hilda's in 2008, ending single-sex education at the University of Oxford.

As for why coeducation happened, the 1960s brought focused scrutiny of the British university system. The first of two major reports – the report of the Committee on Higher Education, chaired by Lord Robbins – made the case for expansion of British universities, with a proposed tripling of capacity such that anyone who qualified would find a place. Fewer than 5 per cent of British youth enrolled in universities, and of those, fewer than a quarter were women. Lord Robbins argued that a large pool of talent was being denied entry to universities. For the future strength of the United Kingdom, that situation needed to change.

The second report – the report of the Commission of Inquiry chaired by Oliver Franks – addressed the implications of the Robbins Report for Oxford. Among other things, it argued for broader recruitment of students, reaching beyond traditional independent boarding schools to more diverse, less elite, state schools. It argued, too, for growth in the size of the student population. It noted the importance of increasing the

number of women undergraduates, but because the heads of women's colleges who were part of the commission were opposed to coeducation, it did not address the prospect of mixed colleges.

There was a clear desire to expand opportunities for women to study at Cambridge and Oxford. The women's colleges lacked capacity and resources to educate large numbers of students. In 1963-64, women accounted for 16 per cent of Oxford students, compared with 28 per cent in British universities as a whole. At Cambridge the next year, just under 10 per cent of students were women, the lowest percentage of any university in the country. So the question of how to increase the places available to women students was front and centre on the two universities' agenda.

As prestigious and powerful as Cambridge and Oxford were, they were competing for students for the first time in the early 1960s with 'new universities' at East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Lancaster, Sussex, Warwick and York. The new universities offered broader, more flexible, more interdisciplinary, more innovative, curricula, and they emphasized new styles of learning. They also offered coeducation, and they proved to be particularly attractive to women students. By 1966-67, women accounted for 35 to 38 per cent of students at Essex, Lancaster, Sussex and Warwick, and 41 to 43 per cent at East Anglia, Kent and York.

The popularity of the new universities among women students helped to prompt Cambridge and Oxford to consider mixed colleges. They did not want to lose out in the competition for talented women. But additional issues were involved in particular colleges' decisions to go mixed. The men's colleges that were the first movers at Cambridge and Oxford tended not to be the richest or the most prestigious of their respective groups. Admitting women was seen as a way to gain advantage in the Tompkins and Norrington Tables. The women's colleges stood at the top of those tables. Admitting women would move a number of the very strongest students from the women's colleges to newly coeducational colleges; moreover, it would likely attract more accomplished male students who would otherwise have eschewed middling men's colleges for more prestigious choices.

The social movements of the 1960s influenced the move toward coeducation. The women's movement, the anti-war movement and the student movement were felt powerfully in Europe, affecting expectations

at Cambridge and Oxford about the ways men and women were to be educated.

Another contributing factor bearing on coeducation had to do with the diversification in the 1960s of the student bodies of the most elite single-sex institutions. Cambridge and Oxford colleges began to look to grammar schools and state schools to supplement their traditional constituency of students from private boarding schools (that is 'public schools') like Eton and Harrow. It became increasingly anachronistic to draw the line at admitting women. Diversity in terms of gender followed logically from diversity of other kinds.

All of these factors set the climate for a move to coeducation. Who drove it? In the British case, the faculty was clearly in charge; Fellows could force a decision for coeducation, even over the objection of the college head. Of course there were masters, provosts, principals or wardens who were especially influential. But the resistance of the head of a college was not enough to derail the enterprise.

There was a generational shift in many college fellowships in the 1960s; the newly-elected fellows were younger men, themselves influenced by the movements of the decade. Some of them had direct experience with coeducation; virtually all of them were more open-minded and progressive than many of their elders, and they regarded single-sex education as increasingly outmoded. Unfettered by accountability to trustees and alumni (who played such a consequential role in the United States), they were in a strong position to push successfully for coeducation. In addition to Churchill, Brasenose and Wadham offer good examples of the critical role played by younger Fellows in college decisions to take the lead in going mixed.

It's worth noting that the larger imperative at Oxford and Cambridge – to make more places available to women students – raised difficult questions for the women's colleges. The worries about what would happen to the women's colleges at Oxford and Cambridge were highly consequential in the debate over coresidence. The heads of the women's colleges were torn; they supported increasing the number of women students in the universities, but they had neither financial resources nor physical facilities to accomplish that increase themselves. They worried that men's colleges that went mixed would attract some of the best women students who normally enrolled at the women's colleges. And they worried that men's colleges going mixed would appoint women

Fellows at salaries higher than the women's colleges could pay; if the women's colleges themselves went mixed, they would have to appoint men to their fellowship, which would end up cutting into academic positions that would normally go to women.

Despite the popular fears that admitting women to men's colleges would mean the end of civilized higher education as Oxford and Cambridge had known it, the process went very smoothly, much more smoothly than in the United States.

At Cambridge, the senior tutor at Churchill, R. H. Tizard, described the first women students as "a splendid lot" who threw themselves enthusiastically into the life of the college, including taking up rowing, with significant success.<sup>1</sup> They participated in a wide range of other activities, from the JCR disco to the chapel committee, and held their own, as a woman in the first intake reported, at the college bar and in table football and darts. At Clare College, women eagerly joined the boat club and regularly won competitions among the colleges at Cambridge and between Cambridge and Oxford. The male president of the JCR at King's described the women students there as very much at home and well integrated into the life of the college. "Every other university in the country – except Oxford – has been co-ed for some time So there is nothing remarkable about what is happening here. We are just catching up."<sup>2</sup>

At Oxford, the coming of coresidence was in many ways anticlimactic. When asked, "what was it like when Hertford became coeducational?" Gerald Stone, a fellow in Slavonic languages, answered, "well, it was just normal."<sup>3</sup> At Brasenose, the college magazine, the *Brazen Nose*, called the "advent" of the women "as undramatic as it has been welcome." The magazine declared, "the changing social climate, not only of Oxford but of the whole society, has made it a non-revolutionary event."<sup>4</sup>

Male students in the colleges looked out for "their" women. The social life of the colleges became more spontaneous and more relaxed. The male president of the Wadham JCR in 1974 said, "Parties tend to be more civilised and natural without the usual preponderance of males."<sup>5</sup> One of the first women to come to Wadham recalled, "whenever any event took place in College, it was felt to be mandatory that the women should be represented, so that the 29 of us kept being invited to drinks parties and so on."<sup>6</sup>

At Brasenose, the presence of the women students (“Nosewomen”) led to “a greater level of conversation at breakfast” – “for good or for ill,” the male leaders of the JCR remarked, “depending on one’s temperament” – and, more generally, “a civilised atmosphere,” with “no more stale dinner rolls being thrown around at dinner.”<sup>7</sup> Women participated in establishing a college events committee, which sponsored Sunday evening discussions with distinguished guests. And women began to assume leadership roles in college activities.

It had been widely assumed that one of the costs of admitting women would be some diminution in the success of sporting activities. Rowing and rugby were thought to be in particular peril, and indeed the fortunes of the Jesus Rugby team plummeted. To the surprise of the colleges, however, Oxford women proved to be keen on rowing. In the competition in Eights Week in 1976, the Wadham women’s eight claimed head of the river, a source of considerable pride. At Brasenose, where some of the more conservative Fellows had welcomed coeducation as a way of diminishing the college’s “hearty, sporty” image, it turned out that the women were eager to form boats of their own (indeed, the Brasenose women mustered more eights than the men) and were very successful in competing with other colleges.<sup>8</sup> At Jesus, women students distinguished themselves in intercollegiate sports competitions in squash and cricket.

By all counts, women held their own academically, and Fellows were generally welcoming. Fellows who had opposed coresidence either kept their counsel or admitted that they had been mistaken. At Jesus, for example, a classics don who referred to himself as “the college fossil” acknowledged after his first women students arrived, “I was wrong, terribly wrong.”<sup>9</sup> There is no evidence of Fellows and tutors treating women students as any less able and serious than men and no evidence of the ham-handed interactions in which faculty members at American colleges and universities asked their new women students for the woman’s point of view.

And there is also no evidence that Oxford men treated Oxford women, or that Cambridge men treated Cambridge women, in ways that made Princeton, Yale, and especially Dartmouth so awkward for, and at times so deeply inhospitable to, women students.

Why did the inclusion of women in these venerable male colleges go so smoothly? For all the novelty of mixed colleges at Cambridge in 1972

and at Oxford in 1974, Cambridge and Oxford had educated women students for almost a century. Women had sat in lectures with men, very occasionally participated in tutorials with men, and engaged in routine social interactions with men who lived and studied nearby. The schools had sponsored mixed dances; men and women had sung together, debated one another, participated in the same religious groups, and belonged to the same theatre, journalism, and political clubs. Although the colleges had not been mixed, the universities had, and women and men were sufficiently accustomed to encountering one another in a range of settings to make coresidence a less dramatic change than coeducation at single-sex colleges and universities in the United States.

Moreover, the intense animus from alumni that fueled unrest over coeducation in the United States was not part of the picture in the United Kingdom. Alumni were a much less powerful force in the UK, in significant measure because of different funding arrangements; annual giving had not yet become a feature of the expected support for colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. And alumni were quick to recognize that coeducation had advantages for them. As the *Hertford College Magazine* reported shortly before the first women undergraduates matriculated in the fall of 1974, “several old members have already brought their young daughters to look the place over!”<sup>10</sup>

(Endnotes)

- 1 R. H. T[izard] to David Harrison, 28 November, 1972, Churchill College archive, CCAC/134/1, File 2, Churchill College Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge.
- 2 Anatole Kaletsky, quoted in “Co-ed Colleges,” *Oxford Mail*, 8 December, 1972, clipping in UR6/W/12, Admission of Women to Men’s Colleges, File 4, Bodleian Library, Oxford.
- 3 E-mail, Gerald Stone to Nancy Weiss Malkiel, 4 August 2014.
- 4 *The Brazen Nose*, 1975, p. 7, Brasenose College Archives, Brasenose College, Oxford.
- 5 Mark Gore, “President of the J.C.R.,” *Wadham College Gazette*, New Series 1, no.1 (Hilary Term, 1975), p. 9, Wadham College Archives, Wadham College, Oxford.
- 6 Julie Curtis, “The First Generation of Women in Wadham – 1974,” *Wadham College Gazette*, New Series 4, no. 3 (January. 2000), p. 50.
- 7 J. M. Fletcher and R. A. Kyprianou, “Junior Common Room Report for 1975,” *The Brazen Nose*, 1975, p. 62.
- 8 Interview with Graham Richards, Feb. 19, 2014, Oxford, England.
- 9 Interview with John Walsh, 21 February, 2014, Oxford, England.
- 10 “College News” *Hertford College Magazine* 61 (September 1974): 4, Hertford College Archives, Hertford College, Oxford.

## LILIES OF THE VALLEY

*by the Revd. Marcus Walker*

*The Runcie Sermon (Sunday 23 February 2025) is given annually in Hilary Term in memory of Archbishop Robert Runcie (1921-2000), an alumnus of BNC and later Archbishop of Canterbury from 1980-1991. Our preacher was the Revd. Marcus Walker, Rector of St Bartholomew the Great in the city of London.*

*“I think it is a Christian’s duty to believe that what you have been given to do is God’s will for you, and you should enjoy it.”*

May I speak in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

It isn’t quite Leo X Medici’s “God has given us the Papacy, let us enjoy it”, but the words of that great alumnus of this college, **Robert Runcie (1941)**, on discovering that he had been nominated to be Archbishop of Canterbury, are pretty wholesome: “I think it is a Christian’s duty to believe that what you have been given to do is God’s will for you, and you should enjoy it.”

Runcie’s words are, perhaps, closer to those of Christ in today’s second lesson than those of a Renaissance Pope, which is reassuring for the Primate of All England.

“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Having had to endure over fourteen hours of trench warfare last week as the General Synod of the Church of England debated who should and should not sit on the Crown Nominations Commission, I am not sure that anyone of any faction has taken this lesson very much to heart. I also don’t think any of the bishops putting their name forward for the See plan to enjoy it. As the Bishop of Gloucester said, “anyone wanting to be Archbishop of Canterbury needs their head examined”, and she’s probably right. Although, as Runcie said, “the secret of being Archbishop of Canterbury is never to believe your own propaganda.”

It is difficult to read the New Testament lesson today, with its clear and stark demand that we give no thought to tomorrow with the reality that *we* withdraw ourselves from plotting but the other side will not. *We* might step back from our own propaganda, which we may or may not believe ourselves, but others, less benign (*in our own eyes*) will not. And people will believe *their* propaganda, especially in the absence of a counter narrative.

This question of church politics is a microcosm of a larger problem with this reading if we are perfectly honest with ourselves. I didn't quite dare to suggest to the chaplain Mrs C.F. Alexander's *All things bright and beautiful* as a hymn this evening, and even if I had, I probably wouldn't have had the nerve to include the now forbidden verse with the words

“The rich man in his castle  
The poor man at his gate  
God made them high and lowly  
And ordered their estate.”

But there are strong “God made them high and lowly” vibes to our reading.

“Why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

This is not the language of social betterment. This is, frankly, not the language that anyone who has ever been starving is likely to take well. I wonder what the son of an electrical engineer and a ship's hairdresser thought as he looked around the streets of Lancashire in the 1920s and 1930s as Dr Runcie grew up. Nobody living through the Great Depression thought that food or clothing will automatically find their way to the people.

And this is one of the passages used for generations to encourage people to know their place both in the social sphere and theologically – a reminder that we should be thankful for that which we have been given and not seek that which we have not.

And yet this misunderstands the point that Christ is making, which has to be read in the context of the creation of the world, which we heard about in the first lesson, as well as all that Christ ever had to say about using our talents and turning our attention to the poor and the hungry; to the looking after the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

After all, what was the Lord God's first instruction to the man after the creation of the world? Let's hear it again:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Be fruitful; multiply; replenish the earth.

This isn't an injunction to stay static; to be comfortable where you are. This is giving man awesome responsibility and expecting – maybe foolhardily – that man will rise to the occasion.

This, of course, cuts across the political spectrum: from *Faith in the City* to the Parable of the Talents: use what you have and use it well. The servants left with their master's money and it's the one who invests it well who gets reward while the one who hides it away – gives no thought for tomorrow even – who gets the rollicking on his master's return.

Which brings us rather sharply to the second lesson.

“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?”

What is Jesus on about? The clue, I suggest, is almost at the end of the passage, rounding it off: seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

This is the key. The problem Jesus is highlighting isn't having due regard to staying warm or staying fed. It's prioritising anything – even staying warm or keeping fed – over God.

God first; that's Christ's big message. It's having a good relationship with God, being sufficiently aligned to the will of the Divine, that makes wholesome our striving for the clothes we need to wear, the food we need to eat, the earth we need to preserve in order to feed the animals we then eat ourselves (I speak as a strict carnivore). It's doing all this as disciples of the Living God that makes it more likely that the things we do will be Well Done in the eyes of God.

And it's the motives that really do count. Is our desire for new clothes a desire born of envy, to rival Solomon in all his glory – or, more prosaically, the best cassock at the Lambeth Conference? Is our desire for food or drink gluttonous? Do we think of those without the clothes or the food and if we do, what do we do about it? Do we, in short, seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness?

In this we're not actually all going to agree. It's worth noting that the man of whom Frank Field said, "the Archbishop is usually to be found nailing his colours to the fence," was a member of both the OU Conservative Association and the Labour Club here at Oxford – but far from nailing his colours to the fence, he risked his authority to argue strongly for particular solutions to Britain's poverty in the *Faith in the City* controversy, and risked his life fighting in the Second World War, in which he won the Military Cross, and took part in the liberation of Bergen-Belsen.

I doubt if everyone in this chapel will agree on how best to seek the Kingdom of God, although it's certainly worth remembering the Archbishop's line "the New Testament never simply says, 'remember Jesus Christ'. That is a half-finished sentence. It says, 'remember Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.'"

But as we seek first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness, we are called to "believe that what you have been given to do is God's will for you," and not just to do it well, but that "you should enjoy it."

Amen.

## **SIXTY YEARS OF WOMEN AT BRASENOSE**

*by John Prag (Literae Humaniores, 1960)*

The College has – rightly – been celebrating fifty years since women were first admitted to Brasenose, as one of the first colleges to break the unisex barrier, but the story really started a decade earlier. When I was elected president of the Hulme Common Room in 1965, I saw an opportunity to move the college into the later twentieth century, gently and insidiously. I talked with Hilary Turner, the president of the St Hugh's Middle Common Room, a friend of mine and like me a Classical archaeologist, and together we hatched a plan for a 'marriage' between our two graduate common rooms whereby we could use each other's facilities. We took it to our respective committees and then to full meetings of the two common rooms: I guess I should not have been surprised when not all the members of the HCR were as enthusiastic as I had expected, but mostly they were persuadable. Finally I took the proposal to Dr Simon Altman, the HCR's senior member, with whom

I had already had lengthy discussions, and who gave some wise advice before laying it before the governing body on our behalf, where it met with approval – somewhat qualified approval but approval nonetheless. Our aims were deliberately modest – we appreciated that anything too radical stood little chance of success at the time.

In the upshot the project only had very modified success: as people pointed out from the start, St Hugh's stood to gain much more than BNC, for their graduates gained an attractive base in central Oxford whereas few BNC men would find themselves at a loose end in North Oxford: anyone in that part of town had almost certainly gone there with a set purpose. On the flip side those members of St Hugh's who braved the challenge did not always feel comfortable making their way into the depths of a men's college despite our best efforts at making them feel welcome. After a year or two it quietly fizzled out, but I like to think that the ground had been prepared for the College to be in prime position for the full admission of women a few years later.

## THE TRUE COST OF IGNORING WHISTLEBLOWERS

*by John Bowers, Principal*

*First published by Prospect magazine,  
and republished with their kind permission*

### **New research reveals that not heeding warnings about systemic failures comes at a high price**

The life of the whistleblower is a lonely one. (S)he raises a concern and often finds that their organisation, instead of being grateful, shuns and avoids them. They are 'sent to Coventry' in the old-fashioned sense. They then need to mind the yawning accountability gap which is found between raising their concerns and any action being taken. Very telling is a new survey by Protect, the whistleblowers' charity, which shows that since 2017, only eight out of the 931 NHS whistleblowers who contacted the charity's advice line said that they were thanked by their organisation, while 31 per cent told them that their concerns had been ignored.

Too often there is a defensive reaction to whistleblowers, creating the equivalent of a protective huddle around the organisation. The classic response is to deny, delay, defend. Fear of reputational risk is huge, but often ignoring the uncovered issue causes more reputational damage in the end. This societal attitude is *very* costly, but until now it was unclear how much. Protect's research indicates that the financial cost is massive.

The charity's report, *The Cost of Whistleblowing*, considers three examples where brave whistleblowers have been ignored after raising concerns at an early stage. They are the Post Office Horizon scandal, the multiple deaths of babies at the Countess of Chester hospital, some of which former neonatal nurse Lucy Letby has been convicted of, and the collapse of Carillion, the construction giant. The first two are very well known; the effect of the latter was enormous as it involved many public private initiatives, such as hospitals and schools. But in all three instances the figures are sizeable: £177,967,265, £39,279,222 and £209,091,973 respectively. In the case of the Post Office, aside from the financial costs, ignoring early warnings resulted in wrecked lives, false convictions and reported suicides. In the Letby case, the result was the tragic deaths of babies.

The amounts above are conservative estimates of the losses incurred by not listening to whistleblowers. They include the costs of police investigations, delays to essential building projects in the Carillion case and compensation payments. This money could have funded the construction of 14 new schools. Or it could have been spent on employing 1,440 doctors or 2,580 nurses for five years, the charity calculates.

Any number of other matters could have been added to this sorry list. You can think immediately of the infected blood scandal and the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy. I am sure the true overall cost of ignoring whistleblowing is far higher than the figures above.

Whistleblowing reform is clearly needed, but there is no consensus as to the way ahead – and the government shows little sign of wanting to look at the area at all. The model used so far (since the early days of the Blair government in the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998) is of employees bringing complaints in employment tribunals against their employers. I know from sitting part-time as a judge in such tribunals that non-legal lay members and litigants find whistleblowing legislation the most complex part of employment law to navigate. Disability discrimination is a close second, and is another area where many

claimants are unrepresented. It is daunting for whistleblowing litigants, many of whom act in person. Lawyers' fees mean going to the tribunal is costly, and it can take years, with the process often bogged down in the thickets of appeals. The psychological impact on whistleblowers can be immense. If you are in a narrow field of activity the chances of gaining another job are virtually zero.

Some think that we should change the whole pattern and that enforcement should be through a publicly funded Whistleblowing Commission. There is a nascent institution like this in Scotland for the NHS. So far, the reviews for it are mixed. In the NHS more broadly there are 'Speak up Guardians' in all hospital trusts. They are often busy people, however, without autonomous decision-making power, and they have limited resources. The Post Office scandal highlights another problem: sub-postmaster whistleblowers were not employees; they had no external body to approach in order to right the wrongs.

We should keep the basic structure, but we should reform it. At the minimum there needs to be a duty placed on employers to investigate whistleblowing concerns – save where they are vexatious, as some are. This is vital to closing the accountability gap. So many whistleblowers I have interviewed for a forthcoming book say that they wrecked their careers (and in some cases their marriages). Meanwhile the body to whom they blew the whistle did nothing with the information disclosed.

These three scandals were ultimately exposed by MPs and journalists often working together – an important safety valve, of course – but they lack the power and resources of a regulator, and the statutory powers in many cases, to investigate. The government should ensure that all of the relevant regulators are much better equipped to act on whistleblowing concerns and that people know who their regulator is. There needs to be a consistent approach to how regulators interact with whistleblowers, and how they investigate whistleblowing concerns. This will build confidence and ensure that they act as an effective channel for such concerns. At present, this is varied.

Further, the range of people in the workplace who qualify for whistleblowing protection should be extended to include volunteers, non-executive directors and sub-postmasters. Some think that rewards for information are the answer. I would steer clear of that as it introduces perverse incentives and would lead to frivolous claims. The government's policy lead for whistleblowing is currently in the

Department for Business and Trade and focused solely on employment rights. They should migrate to the Cabinet Office and be firmly part of corporate governance.

The UK had the strongest whistleblower protection in the world when first introduced in 1998. Now the EU has caught up. We need to update the approach. At base, it is a change of culture towards one of accountability, responsibility and transparency that is needed. The costs of ignoring whistleblowing are immense – and now, as this research makes clear, they are obvious.

**ROSA BEDDINGTON, FRS**  
**(PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, 1974)**  
**(23.3.1956 – 18.5.2001)**

*by Elspeth F. Garman*

*(Fellow Emerita and Organising Tutor in Biochemistry)*

One of the first ever intake of women undergraduates to Brasenose in 1974 was Rosa Beddington, later FRS, who was accepted to read Medicine. However, after the first three-year Physiology degree (First Class) she decided to be a development biology research scientist rather than a medical doctor. As described below, Rosa, an inspiring and brilliant person, subsequently had a very successful high-profile career by making many pivotal discoveries which had a major impact in the field of mammalian embryo development. Her life was tragically cut short by her death from breast cancer when she was just 45 years old.

Rosa was born in Hurstbourne Tarrant in rural Hampshire in 1956, but her parents divorced when she was three and, estranged from her artist father, she moved with her mother and older sister Pippa to West Challow, a village near Wantage. She attended the Oxford High School for Girls but moved to Dorset to live with a cousin, Venetia Peake and her husband John, following the death by suicide of her mother when she was just 11 years old. She went to the Sherborne School for Girls where she shone academically as well as in sport and art, becoming head of school (but temporarily losing that honour after being caught in one too many pubs!).

In her gap year immediately before coming to Brasenose, she taught English and science in a mission school in Kenya, during which time,

according to her diary, she felt “content and at home”. Africa stole her heart and she always intended to return there (I empathise intensely with this sentiment, having myself taught during my gap year in a mission school in Swaziland before starting my undergraduate studies).

She settled well at Brasenose, despite it being a somewhat challenging environment for the handful of women arriving in 1974. After obtaining her Physiology degree in 1977, the first woman at Brasenose ever to achieve a first class degree ranking, she decided to join Professor Richard Gardner (FRS, 1979) and Dr Ginny Papaioannou in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology as a DPhil student studying potency (a cell’s ability to differentiate into other cell types) in the early post-implantation stage of mammalian embryos. She was apparently a well-known sight in the department, perpetually smoking a cigarette and with her long hair streaming behind her. Her research involved investigating the very first steps in the post-implantation development of the epiblast, a very simple tissue which develops into both the embryo and many of the protective structures which surround it, such as the amniotic sac. This then develops into three ‘germ layers’ that form the primitive embryo which has a ‘head-to-tail’ or ‘anterior-posterior’ axis, a process known as ‘gastrulation’: the outermost ectoderm (which gives rise to the nervous system, skin, hair, and other outer tissues), the middle layer mesoderm (which gives muscles, bones, the circulatory system, and reproductive organs) and the endoderm (which develops into the lining of the digestive tract, liver, and other internal organs).

Study of these cells involved culturing *ex utero* mouse embryos and using tritium autoradiography to label and track cells from different parts of the embryo which she first had to isolate and then graft onto host embryos using a fine hand-held glass needle. Rosa could only culture the resulting embryos for 36 hours, since this was the limit of the time they could be grown *ex utero* and continue to develop somewhat normally. After this, if they survived, she put them in a block of paraffin wax for sectioning into slices that were then placed on photographic emulsion to track the positions of the radioactive tritiated transplanted cells.

Her DPhil thesis was submitted in 1981 and was entitled: ‘Studies on cell fate and cell potency in the post-implantation mammalian embryo’ and contained the results of her investigations of whether transplanted cells originating from different places along the length of the tiny 1mm long mouse embryo (anterior, distal, posterior) would develop

appropriately according to their new position, or if their future was already predetermined by their original source location. Her conclusion was that posterior cells were more likely to form the same type of tissue as those in their new surroundings, whereas cells grafted from the anterior of the embryo were more likely to ‘remember’ their original location and form anterior ectoderm despite now being in the posterior. Her first and second peer-reviewed publications, both of which she was the sole author, came out in 1981 and 1982 respectively in the *Journal of Embryology and Experimental Morphology* [1, 2] and detailed these important conclusions from her DPhil thesis. The cell transplanting procedure required exceptional manipulation and motor skills which Rosa already possessed and further developed, standing her in excellent stead for her future research.

In October 1982, Rosa was elected to a Junior Research Fellowship at Brasenose (recorded as still held in 1983–84 academic year), and then from 1 January 1986 she held a three-year college lectureship in developmental cell biology, a post that was extended until October 1992 (although she relinquished it in 1991). Her main funding during this period came from a prestigious Lister Institute Jenner Fellowship which she was awarded, enabling her to start her own research group and supervise research students in the Department of Zoology under the umbrella of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund’s Developmental Biology Unit. Alongside this, in February 1988 she was elected to a Supernumerary Fellowship without membership of the Governing Body. (Note: Mary Stokes was the first ever woman on Governing Body, elected in May 1981 and taking up her seat in October 1982. Mary was also the first ever female winner of the Vinerian Scholarship, awarded at least since 1777, and given to the Oxford University student who “gives the best performance in the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law” that is, to the student who obtains the top First).

Rosa’s laboratory work during this period was focused on some new projects. The first was to use the new transgenic technology (mixing of genes from different organisms, for example, a mouse with some genes from a rabbit) to engineer a mouse cell line that expressed an enzyme derived from bacteria that enabled her to track the activity of cells by colour change or thermoluminescence, rather than by the tedious tritium labelling as she had used for her DPhil work. She named her mouse strain ‘Levi’ and used it to show cell mixing in the early

epiblasts of embryos. During this period, working in collaboration with Elizabeth Robertson (FRS, 2003), their research led them to recognise the potential of embryonic stem cells, since these cells could be used to alter the genes of developing embryos, allowing investigations of developmental effects caused by different genes.

In 1986 and for many subsequent years, Rosa was an assistant at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) on Long Island, USA, on the third annual 'mouse course' as it came to be known, where she taught the manipulation of mouse embryos, at which she was by then a world expert. Collaborations were forged with a number of other developmental biologists during these intense courses and accompanying evening discussions by the beautiful harbour (again I can imagine this, as I also teach annually on one of the other CSHL courses). Rosa's advanced artistic skills, probably inherited from her painter father, Roy Beddington, were also put to good use, and her design for the T-shirt commemorating the tenth anniversary of the course 'on the molecular embryology of the mouse' was selected. She was famous for her very clear and elucidating diagrams, which she apparently produced at great speed both for inclusion in her published papers and also for less serious purposes such as sketching colleagues in some not-so-riveting lectures during which her attention had wandered. Later, for the British Society for Developmental Biology (BSDB), Rosa designed the Waddington Medal, which was subsequently presented to her in 1999. Rosa served as Secretary of the BSDB from 1990 to 1995. The Society also now awards an annual Beddington Medal, decorated with a design inspired by Rosa's drawings, to the student submitting the best PhD thesis that year in developmental biology.

In 1987 Rosa married Robin Denniston, the first cousin of John Peake, with whom Rosa lived in Dorset from the age of 11. Robin, who was 30 years older than Rosa, was both a publisher and the Vicar of Great Tew, Oxfordshire. They lived in the Great Tew vicarage till 1991, when they both moved to Edinburgh. Having spent 17 years in Oxford, Rosa had decided it was time to move elsewhere, and was appointed a Senior Research Fellow at the Agriculture and Food Research Council's Centre for Genome Research in Edinburgh, where she gathered a group of post-docs and research students drawn from far and wide, including Canada and Australia. Apparently the group meetings were scheduled for Fridays at 4:30p.m. (no early weekend departures!), with

the presenter being expected to provide the alcohol. Rosa was an active member of the Whisky Society in Leith, and group members were encouraged also to join it, so that there were enough members to sign visitors in. The focus of the group was to isolate embryonic genes that expressed membrane proteins (proteins that are not soluble in water). After only two years in Edinburgh, Rosa moved in 1993 to the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill in Barnet, north London, to head up an entirely new Division of Mammalian Development. She lived in London during the week, and then as her husband had been reinstated to his benefice in Great Tew after a five-year absence, she went back there to the vicarage, a place she loved, at the weekends.

At Mill Hill she instigated a set of new projects with a growing team. One of these was to construct a 'germ-layer library' for which many interesting genes were isolated from early embryos and then were made freely available to other researchers after being validated and characterised by members of Rosa's group. Rosa also carried out more grafting experiments, at which she was uniquely skilled. These eventually resulted in perhaps her most important discovery: that by grafting the region of cells on the embryo known as the 'node' (called the 'organiser' in amphibians), a second anterior-posterior axis would form in the mouse embryo (this phenomenon had been observed in amphibian and bird embryos in the 1920s and 1930s respectively, but never thus far in mammals). Through a painstaking set of experiments, Rosa was finally able to establish that a second axis would form. However, unlike in the amphibian experiments, she found that most of the developing brain was missing from the second axis, a surprising result the mechanism for which she took several more years to unravel with the help of a new post-doctoral researcher from Australia, Paul Thomas. He brought with him two different 180 base-pair 'homeobox' genes (genes that code for two distinct 60 amino acid long proteins that bind to DNA and control development in the early embryo). These genes were apparently expressed in early development by a group of cells in an extraembryonic tissue called the visceral endoderm (as opposed to the embryonic endoderm that forms after gastrulation). By labelling these genes they showed that these visceral endoderm cells moved to the anterior pole of the embryonic axis during gastrulation), their original place being filled by cells they thought were from the node, but are now understood to come from the more generalised non-node epiblast cells.

If they removed the labelled cells entirely, they were able to recapitulate the previous finding of the failure to assemble the anterior part of the central nervous system[3]. Rosa, faced with all these results, showed her insight and brilliance, and formed the hypothesis that “a mechanism for bestowing anterior pattern must exist” which was dependent on the “presence of this anterior visceral embryonic endoderm during the early stages of gastrulation” [4]. Rosa’s hypothesis was then shown to be broadly correct by work in Elizabeth Robertson’s laboratory, and their last paper together published in *Nature* just before Rosa’s death in 2001 described for the first time a molecular pathway involved in the establishing of the mammalian early anterior-posterior pattern [5]. As is the way with progress in science, some of their detailed conclusions have now been revised by subsequent research. This notwithstanding, the anterior visceral endoderm (AVE) is still recognised as an important centre for organisation and patterning of the head and forebrain.

As a result of these major scientific contributions, Rosa was elected to the Royal Society in 1999 at the very young age of 43. Her nomination reads:

“Beddington’s work has combined classical embryology with molecular genetics. She has established using her great skills in micromanipulation, many of the key features of gastrulation (A) in the mouse, a fundamental process in mammalian development. She was the first to demonstrate the axis-inducing activity of the mouse node and to show that the epiblast gives rise to all the adult organs. Most recently she has identified two homeobox genes involved in the specification of anterior structures, including the forebrain. This work provides the first evidence that axial pattern in mammalian development originates in extra-embryonic tissue and that anterior identity is established before the formation of the primitive streak. It provides new insights into antero-posterior patterning throughout the vertebrates.”

It is my hope that from the descriptions above, the nomination citation can now be interpreted by the non-developmental biologist!

Rosa was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995 and underwent a double mastectomy. However, the cancer returned with a vengeance in 1998 when a large brain stem tumour and many smaller ones were detected which implied a remaining lifespan of weeks to months. She defied this prediction, but after May 2000 she could no longer work due to severe neurological symptoms. She spent her final days at the vicarage

in Great Tew where she was visited by many friends and scientific colleagues, and died in May 2001.

Her scientific contribution to developmental biology was immense, brilliantly unravelling a number of mysteries surrounding the stages of early mammalian embryo post-implantation processes through her scientific insight and great experimental skill. She helped to define the roles of key genes (including the two homeobox genes) and cell populations (such as the node and the AVE) which pattern the anterior-posterior axis and initiate the development of the central nervous system, uncovering some of the earliest events at the heart of mammalian embryonic development. Her work was complimented by her superb artistic talents and engaging forthright character. Her untimely death was a loss to science and to the world at large.

Information for this account has drawn on reference [6], and the College archives, as well as from an obituary in the *Independent* newspaper (22 May 2001).

*I am very grateful to Dillon Lim (Medicine, 2020), Physiology DPhil. research student and faithful member of BNC Chapel Choir, for his thorough and constructive comments in checking the veracity of the embryology in this account. I also thank Professor Elizabeth Robertson, FRS, who graciously also read it and suggested a correction concerning the length of time it is possible to culture ex-utero mice embryos.*

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## **“THRO’ SURETISHIP, VERY MUCH IMPAIRED”: DID A BRASENOSE FAMILY REALLY BANKRUPT SIR RICHARD BAKER?**

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

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the predecessor to today’s Hertford College, Hart Hall, played host to three young men who would go on to make major names for themselves in the Jacobean literary world. Funnily enough, all three of them would also have connections with the Mainwaring family, four brothers from which studied in turn at Brasenose in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century and about whom I have previously written in the *Brazen Nose*. These three men were Richard Baker, John Donne and Henry Wotton.

Looking at these three men, the poet and divine John Donne remains so well-known as to need little more introduction, but around the turn of the century he was working as secretary to the newly ennobled Lord Ellesmere. Through him he met the More family of Loseley Park near Guildford, from which came Ellesmere’s second wife Elizabeth. There Donne fell in love and eloped with Anne More, Elizabeth’s niece. This led to his dismissal by Ellesmere, a brief spell in prison and, very nearly, his complete social and financial ruin. However, it also made him a cousin by marriage to the Mainwaring brothers, as their mother (another Anne) was Elizabeth’s sister and so also aunt to the younger Anne.

The second of the trio, Henry Wotton, is today mainly remembered for his quip that an ambassador is an honest man sent to lie abroad for the good of his country. Unfortunately when he put this into writing he did so not in English, where there was a *double entendre* for “to lie” (as in “to live”), but in Latin, where *mentiri* can only mean the telling of a falsehood, and King James was not pleased when word got back to him. However, Wotton’s career survived this *faux pas*, and he served twice as ambassador to Venice and ultimately became Provost of Eton. Henry Mainwaring, the second of the Brasenose brothers, visited the Canterbury residence of his elder brother Lord Wotton and met Henry Wotton there. Certainly, when Mainwaring, by now himself knighted, visited Venice in 1618–19, Wotton as ambassador there acted as his host, and was left holding some books and scientific instruments which Mainwaring could not take with him in his haste to get back to England

(I like to think that some of these books might be those that ended up in our college's special collection<sup>1</sup>). Wotton was not actually a member of Hart Hall – he matriculated at New College and later transferred to Queen's – but it seems he shared rooms, reportedly in Hart Hall, with the third of the trio, Richard Baker, who had apparently arrived there the same day as John Donne.<sup>2</sup> The late seventeenth century antiquarian Anthony Wood was to describe Wotton as Baker's "quondam chamber-fellow." In later years Wotton was to write to Baker saying that "our ancient friendship... was first, and is ever best elemented in an Academy", clearly Oxford being meant. Baker, meanwhile, remembered "two of my old acquaintance, the one was Mr John Donne... The other was Sir Henry Wotton... having been fellow pupils, and chamber fellows in Oxford divers years together."<sup>3</sup>

The third, Sir Richard Baker (c.1568–1645), is today little remembered, completely overshadowed by his college contemporary Donne, and even by Wotton, but in his time and for a generation or two thereafter he was well-known not only for several theological works but especially his *Chronicle of the Kings of England*. This work, which its author claimed "that if all other Chronicles should be lost, yet this onely would be sufficient to inform Posterity" was sufficiently successful to attract the gentle mockery of Addison and Fielding in the following century.<sup>4</sup> Wood, a more serious historian than Baker, complained more strongly that "the reader must know, that it being reduced to method, and not according to time, purposely to please gentlemen and novices, many chief things to be observed therein, as name, time, &c. are egregiously false, and consequently breed a great deal of confusion in the peruser"; a more sympathetic view was that it "was written in a pleasant, entertaining style, and it continued for a long time to be published and read, holding its place in the old-fashioned chimney-corners, on the same shelf with the Family Bible and Fox's [*sic*] Book of Martyrs."<sup>5</sup> This, and the religious books, he wrote in the Fleet prison, where he spent the last ten years of his life imprisoned for debt: "your worldly troubles have been but Pressing-Irons to your heavenly cogitations", as his old friend Wotton put it.<sup>6</sup>

The traditional view of the financial ruin that sent him to the Fleet is that "his considerable estate, was, thro' suretiship, very much impaired", as Wood said, probably drawing on Thomas Fuller's *Worthies*.<sup>7</sup> In other words, Sir Richard had unwisely guaranteed other people's debts, a peril

all too familiar to readers of Trollope's *Framley Parsonage*. The blame is traditionally ascribed to the Mainwarings, and especially to Sir George Mainwaring, whose daughter Margaret had married Sir Richard: "he died in destitution due to his becoming surety for debts owed by relatives of his wife", says one late nineteenth century writer, while the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* says that "to the entire ruin of his fortune, Baker gave security for his father-in-law's debts"; likewise the modern editor of the Oxinden Letters, explaining the financial straits the Baker family was in, says sweepingly "Sir Richard had gone surety for the debts of his wife's extravagant family, the Mainwaitings of Ightfield."<sup>8</sup> But is that the whole story? Was the father of our four alumni really to blame for his son-in-law ending his days in debtors' prison?

Baker's background was prosperous, with the family seat being at Sissinghurst in Kent where he is generally thought to have been born, though Fuller (who seems to have met him) in his *Worthies* attributes his birth to Oxfordshire.<sup>9</sup> His grandfather Sir John Baker, a successful lawyer, had been Attorney-General and Speaker of the House of Commons. His father, another John, had also been a lawyer and an MP. There was family land in Kent, where the manor of East Peckham was granted to the Bakers by Queen Mary I who had confiscated it from the Wyatts after Sir Thomas Wyatt's 1554 rebellion, though as John Baker was a second son, this seems to have passed to his older brother (another Sir Richard).<sup>10</sup> Our Sir Richard himself seems at one time to have held land in Devon, Essex, Gloucestershire, Kent, Middlesex and Oxfordshire, where the manor of Middle Aston had come into the family because his grandfather became the second husband of its sole heiress Elizabeth Dyneley.<sup>11</sup> Later in life he seems to have thought of Oxfordshire as his home: he served as its sheriff in 1621; in 1625 one of his daughters got married there; and in 1635 his wife Margaret Baker described him as being "of Middle Aston in the Countye of Oxon."<sup>12</sup> Incidentally, although Middle Aston was a separate village from nearby Steeple Aston, it formed part of the latter parish, which was already well-established as a Brasenose living. From 1616-17 the rector was Samuel Radcliffe, who held the living in plurality with that of Boxford and being Principal of Brasenose.

Sir Richard's problem supposedly arose in 1627, when his father-in-law Sir George Mainwaring borrowed £8,000 from Sir Robert Jason, a debt that Baker apparently agreed to guarantee.<sup>13</sup> When Sir George

died the very next year it would seem that Jason decided to pursue Baker for satisfaction. It is clear that Baker did indeed owe money to Jason. A 1678 indenture still in the archives at nearby Rousham House records:

“S[i]r Richard Baker late of Middle Aston in the county of Oxon Knight decea[se]d and Sir Thomas Baker Knt late decead Sonne and Heyre apparent of the said Richard in their life tyme by the Recognizance of the nature of a Statute Staple bearing date the Eighth day of December in the third yeare of the Rayne of our late Sovereigne Lord King Charles the first [1627]... did Acknowledge themselves to Owe unto the said Sir Robert Jason late decead by the name of Sir Robert Jason Junior of Enfeild in the county of Middx Gent the sum of Eight Thousand Pounds of Lawfull money of England.”<sup>14</sup>

The indenture goes on to record the forfeiture of the Middle Aston estate to Jason and its subsequent sale by his son, the younger Sir Robert. Some time later the land came into the Rousham estate, where it still remains.

In late 1628, the then Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Sir Richard Wenman, made “a return on a writ of extent” regarding Sir Richard Baker’s lands in Oxfordshire. The jury found that Sir Richard on 24 April 1625, “on which day he became a debtor to the Crown, was seised [possessed] of the manor of Middle Aston, which was taken into the hands of the Crown.”<sup>15</sup> In December 1635, about the time Sir Richard went into the Fleet prison, there is a warrant of Lord Cottington to the Remembrancer of the Exchequer to send particulars of Baker’s lands in Oxfordshire “as they stand seized into the King’s hands for the several debts of John Temple, Sir Richard Brooke, and Daniel Temple.”<sup>16</sup> In other words, it seems that Middle Aston had initially been seized because Baker owed money not to Jason but to the crown, and this debt pre-dated his decision to guarantee his father-in-law’s loan. Moreover, the 1635 document does not mention Baker’s debt to Jason but instead lists several other creditors of his.

However, the land in Middle Aston was not the only example of Sir Richard’s financial overstretch. The Gloucestershire county archives preserve the estate records of Dowdeswell, just east of Cheltenham. Among the documents there are later copies of the papers relating to Sir Richard’s forfeiture of these lands. The story is similar – an estate was pledged as collateral for a loan on which Sir Richard defaulted and

suffered foreclosure. It seems he mortgaged his lands in Gloucestershire to Sir Paul Bayning (later Viscount Bayning) in June 1626, and the latter had foreclosed on the estate at some point before his death in July 1629. Including unpaid interest, Sir Richard still owed his estate £10,355 by summer 1630. He sued the Viscount's executors on the grounds his lands were worth more than the outstanding debt, and settled for repayment of the "overplus", some £4,151. It was agreed that this surplus be repaid in instalments, and the receipts preserved with the papers show this was done.<sup>17</sup> These papers seem to survive for the same reason as the Rousham ones, namely that in later years they were felt to be worth copying as proof that the current owner had good title to the land. Baker had also mortgaged other land in Essex in June 1625, and was forced to use some of the money from the Gloucestershire mortgage to repay this one a year later. Of his lands in Devon, it is recorded that "it appears by an extent issued against Sir Richard Baker and his son Sir Thomas, in the year 1607, that the manor of Holcombe Burnell then belonged to that family", but the same source says that the Champernowne family, a prominent one in Devon, held the manor for most of the seventeenth century, implying that Sir Richard did not hold on to it for long after 1607. It also tells us that elsewhere in Devon "the manor of Buckfast belonged to Sir Richard Baker about the year 1629; it afterwards became the property of the Doyleys, and was sold off in parcels."<sup>18</sup>

But let us look more closely at these dates. The original Gloucestershire loan was taken out in 1626, that is, *before* Sir Richard guaranteed his father-in-law's debt. The Essex loan was even earlier. We do not know exactly when Holcombe Burrell was sold, but the implication seems to be that it was quite early in the century. Likewise, if he still held other land in Devon after 1629, he had not quite reached the end of his rope when called upon to make good the Jason guarantee. The conclusion seems inescapable: Sir Richard Baker was decidedly financially overstretched before he ever guaranteed Sir George Mainwaring's loan from Sir Robert Jason. It seems clear to me that, although the Mainwaring "suretiship" did undoubtedly harm Baker's financial position, it is unfair to blame it solely for his indebtedness and imprisonment.

*My thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Charles Cottrell-Dormer for permission to quote from the Rousham manuscripts. My thanks are also due to **Rod Clayton** (*Literae Humaniores*, 1986), who acts as archivist there, for arranging access*

to the documents, and to **Charlotte Harris (*Literae Humaniores*, 1995)** for alerting me to Rod's role there.

Endnotes

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## DR BERNARD RICHARDS' ENGLISH REUNION 8 NOVEMBER 2025

by *Drusilla Gabbott (English, 1982)*

On 8 November 2025, over 20 of **Dr Bernard Richards'** pupils from 1972-1996 gathered enthusiastically at BNC to tackle the topic 'literature and film.'

Bernard set up the discussion. First, he examined wider authorial influence: not all scenes in any film adaptation come from the novel (Russell's 'fig scene' in *Women in Love* is based on a poem by Lawrence), authorial characteristics like Hardy's love of symbolism are borrowed by or inspire the film-maker (Captain Troy's sword glittering in the field in *Far from the Madding Crowd*). He examined the function of voiceover excerpts, and appropriate 'casting' of locations.

**Drusilla Gabbott (1982)** debated the criteria for a 'great adaptation' of Jane Austen: might it be public polling, film awards, or truth to the spirit of Austen?

**Dr Ian Hunter (1982)**, former Professor of Film Studies at De Montfort University, spoke on "Why Fidelity Doesn't Matter." We learned that film studies looks at inherent artistic qualities, antecedents and references within the film world, and social context, not at how faithful a rendition any film is of another medium (the novel). He described the sub-genre of 'adaptation studies.'

**David James (1974)** took the example of a scene from *Anna Karenina* in novel and film to contrast how each medium portrays the inner life and human experience. Lawrence claimed the novel is the highest form of human expression, Leavis that it has the unique ability to capture 'felt life'. David asked whether is it still valid to consider these claims for literature as superior to film, "or can they be consigned to the dustbin of history... which is where Leavis and Lawrence more or less reside?"

**Henry Russell (1973)** took us through the differences in Auden's poetic texts from the film of *Night Mail*, 1936, and Auden's final published text with Faber. This sparked an audience debate on "what is the authoritative text?" **Stephanie Loshak (1982)** asked whether the most viewed text – the *Night Mail* video, or even the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* – perhaps had that claim for fans nowadays.

**Mark Williams (1978)** contributed a reading via video, John Bowers paid tribute to Bernard, and Bernard finished the day – naturally! – with Henry James, focusing on whether film casting always reflects the novelist’s vision.

## INTERVIEW WITH HARVEY BURD

Brazen Nose: Harvey, thanks for agreeing to do this. Let’s start at the beginning. What can you remember about being offered the job at Brasenose. Didn’t you have two jobs at the same time?

Harvey Burd: Well, what happened was that I was due to start a Research Fellowship in Cambridge on 1 October 1986, and I was interviewed for the Fellowship at Brasenose, I think, on either the second or third of October 1986. I was quickly offered the job, at which stage the offer was backdated to 1 October. So – I don’t know if you want to put this in the *Brazen Nose* – I was technically appointed a couple of days before the actual job interview. It harks back to a different era when people had rather more latitude in making academic appointments than is the case these days.

BN: And was that an appointment where the College had more say than the Department, or was it a shared process?

HB: In the early 80s – Engineering at Brasenose had gone through a bit of a dip. A few years before my arrival, the College had recruited Ron Daniel as a young tutorial Fellow and Brasenose was keen to appoint a second tutorial Fellow to work with Ron on improving the organisation and ambition of Engineering in Brasenose. What the College really wanted was someone who was going to be assiduous and conscientious, especially with the teaching, and to be able to work with Ron to get Brasenose back on the map. As it happened I had quite a lot of teaching experience at other colleges; also Peter Wroth – who was the Statutory Professor of Engineering Science and head of the Engineering Department – was keen that I should be appointed. Peter chaired the Selection Committee for the Department, and he was also a Professorial Fellow of Brasenose. So I was fortunate that I had a respected figure on both sides of the appointment process – college and department. I’ve always suspected that Peter was rather influential in my appointment.

BN: OK, so how long after you were appointed did Guy Houlshby come to Brasenose?

HB: That was about five years down the track – Guy was elected in 1991. I was actually on the Electoral Board for the Chair when Guy was appointed.

BN: So you and Ron and Guy were together at the College for quite a long period of time?

HB: Yes. I worked with Ron for about 30 years until he retired in 2017. Guy retired in 2020 and so we also had a significant overlap.

BN: Did you develop a good working rapport?

HB: Well, I think we did. Ron and I were quite different people, but we respected each other, and we got to know each other quite well. We had rather different approaches to conducting admissions interviews. Ron would sometimes become frustrated with interview candidates when they couldn't seem to answer questions that (to Ron) seemed very straightforward. Having children of my own, however, meant that I was aware of the limited academic breadth typically possessed by A-Level candidates; I was therefore able to adopt an approach in admissions interviews that was perhaps a bit more understanding of the way in which teenagers think about topics in mathematics and physics.

BN: I suppose that raises another question: my feeling always is that the kids who apply are as bright as they were when I started but that there's been an enormous attenuation of what they learn in school – in terms of the curriculum, not the teaching. Has that been your experience over the time you've been here?

HB: I don't think I've seen an attenuation... because I think they develop in other ways at school in addition to traditional syllabus topics. My own children, for example, all took A-Level maths and so I have seen the recent A-Level syllabus at first hand. Similarly with the physics A-Level syllabus; the syllabuses that I have seen while helping my own children with their maths and physics homework and revision are similar in many ways to the topics that I studied myself at school, but some topics have been removed or de-emphasised and others have been introduced. So I don't think there's been any attenuation in the actual level of the academic content. Working with my own kids on A-Levels and university applications really helped me with framing questions and discussions in admissions interviews. I feel that there is a weakness in the current Oxford admissions system. Interviewers receive training, but

the training does not provide much insight into the expected academic standard of typical A-Level students or on how they ‘think’. There is also no systematic way of familiarising with the nature of the current school syllabus, the methods of teaching and the expected academic level of admissions candidates. I feel this is a weakness in the interview component of the admissions process.

BN: That’s fair point. Now, looking back to when you started out, how much similarity does an engineering tutorial that one might do in the early 2020s have to the teaching that you would have done when you started out in the 80s?

HB: The basic mechanics of the tutorial are quite similar. But over the decades that I have been a tutorial Fellow there has been an increasing professionalisation of how teaching is conducted and how the academic progress of the undergraduates is supported. Back in the late 1980s and early 1990s procedures used to be quite lax. Work was not always requested for marking before the tutorial, the completion of end-of-term reports was often a rather low priority. In more recent times the teaching operation has become much more focused and organised; tutorial work is assessed before the tutorial and feedback is provided; Collections are marked promptly and feedback is given to the undergraduates; end of term reports are completed in detail and on time at the end of each term. I hesitate to use the word ‘amateurish’ – but that probably describes some of the approaches to teaching in the early days of my appointment. It was as if the Senior Tutor would gesture vaguely in the direction of some undergraduates and say something like “there’s some undergraduates, go teach them.” And that was the limit of the advice.

BN: (laughs) And do you think that students are spending more time in the Department now than they were 35 years ago, or less? Or is it pretty much the same?

HB: In the Department? You mean on their academic work?

BN: Yes.

HB: I think that there’s a much better focus now. In the early days of my appointment – of course this was before tuition fees – I think there were a few freewheelers, particularly around sport. Sport could be a real graveyard; undergraduates could get completely into rowing and just row... to the detriment of everything else. So there were often people falling behind academically because of other commitments – I don’t

think you get that so much these days, I'm guessing partly because of the introduction of tuition fees, but partly because we have a much better academic oversight operation and problems get picked up a bit earlier. But I can recall that routinely, every few years, someone would be sent down for poor academic performance as a consequence of doing too much rowing or some other sporting activity.

BN: Really?

HB: Yes, it was quite normal ... or they would manage to wriggle their way out of being sent down on a technicality. I remember an Engineering student who was sent down part-way through the course. He rowed for the University Lightweights and that seemed to be where his priorities were. I believe that he transferred to another university and managed to complete his degree there. That reminds me that – back in the day – Brasenose used to accept undergraduates for a range of subjects – known as out-college subjects – for which the College did not have a tutorial fellow. At that time Geography was an out-college subject, together with Music, Psychology, Theology and Oriental Studies. For a while I was the Tutor for out-college subjects and was effectively in charge of admissions and having oversight of the teaching in these subjects (in addition to my role as an Engineering tutor). This all harks back to the old days, when rowing was an obsession in the College. But that's all changed now, people are much better focused on their academic work and sport is more often seen as just a spare time pursuit.

When I took up the Fellowship, the glory days of Brasenose's supremacy on the river and the rugby field had passed. I think the position was that the College recognised and was proud of its sporting history; it recognised that people would be attracted to the College because of that history, and it was pleased when good sports people came as undergraduates. But at the same time, the College was working quite hard to keep enthusiasm for sporting activity under wraps. For the people who pursued sport to excess, there was a mechanism for confronting that and sending them down if necessary. And, of course, the charge was led by Graham Richards, the Senior Tutor in those days, who himself was a great sportsman in his day, but he didn't have a lot of patience for people who couldn't combine sport with their academic work.

BN: Right. It seems that we've moved more towards placing an emphasis on people doing their academic work, but also encouraging self-expression in other ways... in the last 15-20 years?

HB: Well, I think ... a couple of things on that. One is, there was certainly a time when the College was dominated by what might be called a 'Rugby Club ethos'. Ron Daniel, when he was Dean, was in the forefront of trying to improve the diversity of activities in College by promoting things like Arts Week... getting events going for other constituencies, because there was nothing much like that in the early days. So there was an attempt to broaden the activities in the College. The other significant thing that happened was that we eventually had a serious debate about student academic support, and what the aims of the College actually were in educating people, and whether the traditional thinking around sending down anybody that didn't achieve a certain standard was appropriate. Out of this debate emerged a consensus that – once undergraduates had been admitted to the College – we had some kind of duty of care to them, to support them in reaching their academic potential. There was a time when this was a live debate. But these days it's been settled. In the old days there were still people who would want to send students down if they were likely to get a II:2. These days we have a much more nuanced, humane, approach in encouraging undergraduates to achieve their potential, and that's been quite a big shift.

BN: Yes. I think also, back in the more distant period that you're describing, the standard admissions offer was two Es at A-Level; and sometimes people actually *got* two Es.

HB: Yes, there were some people who thought like that.

BN: So, looking back again to the beginning, and then thinking about now, my impression is that the College has ... well, when I came in ... whatever it is, ... not very long ago in the scheme of things, only twenty-something years, in the late nineties, I was struck by how formal everything seemed. But nowadays it seems a lot more informal and easy-going, thinking particularly within the Fellowship or the academic staff. Did you feel it was quite a formal environment when you got here?

HB: Do you mean in terms of social interaction?

BN: Social interaction, etiquette, protocol.

HB: Well, certainly, the College staff were a kind of distant group that you didn't engage with, so there was that sort of distance, which I think we don't have now ...

BN: Everybody called you "sir".

HB: I suppose they did, yes. In fact, this once worked in my favour, because many years ago, when I was a Fellow but before I was married, I remember showing my future mother-in-law around the College. At one point we stood on the Old Quad lawn while someone took a photo and the Porter rushed out to tell us off. When he saw who I was, he apologised profusely, calling me "sir". This was really good (laughter); and my mother-in-law was quite impressed. Things have changed over the years but I don't remember College as being unusually formal. I'd spent many years as an undergraduate, graduate and college lecturer at Hertford College and was quite used to Oxford formality. In fact I quite liked it, so I don't think I noticed it as being odd.

BN: When you came, had they abandoned the practice of going into High Table dinner in order of seniority?

HB: No, that was still going. But I didn't think that was particularly odd at the time, because it broke the ice a little bit, somehow, when you're having your pre-dinner sherry and you have to work out who's in front of you. So, it was formal, but it just struck me as being the way that colleges are.

BN: And the whole operation is much bigger now, more Fellows, more Lecturers, there's more academic support. Does that give the whole thing a different feel? I mean, you talked about professionalisation.

HB: Yes, the big, the huge, change, I think, has been in the support available for the College's academic operation. When I arrived, I think we just had a College Secretary – that was Wendy Williams. Nowadays, of course, we have a fully-staffed academic office. We had an Admissions Secretary, who would come and go a little bit; and then we had a Fellows' Secretary, although I was never quite sure what she did (laughter) ... but that was it. There was no Outreach Officer, there was no professional Senior Tutor; Admissions just sort of happened, people applied, and you did the interviews, people came. The oversight was by a Senior Tutor drawn from the Fellowship, someone, you know, doing their best but with minimal time. So it was kind of a bit amateurish in some ways, particularly, in terms of the academic progression and oversight of the undergraduates. Often the fate of a struggling student

would rest on the outcome of a very brief discussion at the Tutors' Meeting, and it could be brutal. In Engineering the examination at the end of the first year used to be Mods format. If you failed Mods, then the College would typically conclude that your interests would be best served by transferring to another university, and you were out. Although permission was sometimes granted to re-sit the exam the following summer, this was a tough route to take. So it could be quite brutal; a student misjudges the first year, they fail Mods, and that's the end of their Oxford career. The process seemed almost designed to ease out people who were not managing to keep up.

BN: And I think the welfare provision has changed as well – I mean you were Dean, I think, is that right?

HB: Well, I was. It was a while ago and – back then – welfare wasn't really a thing. You assumed that people are adults, and that they can look after themselves. If they needed some help then there was a Student Counselling Service in the University, or they could go to the Chaplain. But the available support structures (or rather the lack of them) were rather rudimentary.

BN: Yes, I remember as an undergraduate going to see my college doctor, I was feeling a bit stressed coming up to Finals, and he just said to me "The important thing is: Work hard! Play hard! Off you go!"

HB: Well, I think that pretty well sums it up.

BN: So, lots of change in all those areas. I think for me, the most important thing that's happened in the quarter-century that I've been here was – how can I put it – your rediscovery of the concept of governance. I mean, things seem to me to fall in a period which was BG and another which is AG.

HB: Yes – there has been a massive change in the way in which the College runs its governance procedures. But certainly, in the early days, there was quite a hierarchy in the College; basically the College was run by a few big names – people like Graham Richards and John Peach. College business was in many ways a lot simpler, there was not much going on, there was a bit of bursarial stuff, the odd student to be sent down. The business is much bigger and more complex now. So, I think you're right, I think there was a gradual understanding that once we'd moved away from these – sort of – big cheeses running the place, there was a better understanding of how everybody contributes, and that's been a big change.

BN: But we seem to spend less time talking about things. In the old days Governing Body went on for ages, even though it didn't have any power, because, as you say, the hierarchy had already decided, and we followed them, but paradoxically there was a lot of talking about issues. I think now there's a much stronger sense of what people's responsibilities are, and greater engagement, but we spend less time talking about things.

HB: Well, Governing Body, as we know, can be a talking-shop – although less so in the present day – and people can like the sound of their own voices. But life used to be less busy than it is now – these days everyone's got things in their diaries for half-past-four on Wednesdays; they've got to get away. So, the whole Governing Body thing, like everything else, has become professionalised, to the extent that I think people actually understand what they're trying to do. We do still have light-hearted moments at Governing Body, but it's rarer than it used to be. And we don't have the lengthy speeches that some people used to enjoy delivering. That's because the papers are better prepared, the meetings are effectively chaired and Governing Body members are aware of their responsibilities. The whole thing is better organised.

BN: I think there seems to me to be a much more open culture of discussing things: if you've got an issue, there's a committee that you can take it to; in the old days people had to 'threaten' by giving notice of motion. That was the way that you got people to pay attention.

HB: That's right. The whole thing's become much better organised.

BN: And then towards the end of your time you helped the JCR discover governance as well. Was that because ... their constitution must have been an absolute pig's ear, I mean. What did you do there?

HB: I did, but actually I'm not that interested in governance; I'm not particularly interested in those sorts of structures. But what I am quite interested in is getting things efficient, getting things well-organised, and having a clear-thinking view of how systems are supposed to work. So, over the years, I became quite interested in that aspect of college life. Of course I got involved in the Governance Review, and I quite enjoyed the intellectual challenge of getting a more clear-eyed view on how the College can be run in an efficient way. I've sat through many Governing Body meetings, and I've seen good practice and bad practice. On balance I think that we're pretty good. So, I'm quite interested in getting everything working efficiently, not because I enjoy governance,

but because I prefer meetings to be short and efficient, so that I can go and do the many other things that I need to do.

So that was the background to encouraging the JCR to review – and improve – its own governance arrangements. The thing about the JCR is that they need to have a project of some sort. A few years ago their project was to persuade the Governing Body to allow a range of flags – chosen by the JCR to represent a range of causes or affiliations – to fly from time to time on the College flagpole. I don't think that the JCR really understood the sensitivities around the College's flag policy and I spent quite some time helping them frame a proposal to the Governing Body on flags. So – just before I retired – in my role as Senior Member of the JCR I encouraged them to review their constitution. The JCR constitution was a real mess, because it was an outdated mixture of constitutional things, and working practice things. So the JCR worked on the development of two documents – a crisply-defined constitution and a more informal working practices document. The constitution contained some carefully-worded text: “The JCR shall not sponsor external fundraising activities, that is, activities which raise funds through the donations of principally non-JCR members.” I thought that was brilliant, because that just nails a range of difficulties. And I didn't even prompt them, they thought that through for themselves. So the position now is that the JCR will announce opportunities for external fundraising activity, but it won't actually engage in it itself. So, it doesn't stop anybody – you can do what you like – but the JCR isn't going to attach its badge to a fundraising activity. So I thought that was quite good.

BN: At a certain point, which you will remember, you and I and Richard Boyd had a chat in your room; and you said to me, or you said to both of us, “When I came here I took an oath to uphold the Statutes (as all new Fellows do), and I find myself at present unable to do that because of the state the College is in”. And that for me was an absolute Damascene moment. I suddenly thought, “Oh my gosh, I've done literally nothing, consciously, to uphold this oath since I arrived, and I really want to take it seriously; there's a moral imperative to uphold the rules by which the place lives”. For me that's not about the things that you've mentioned, efficiency gains and so on, but it's about the character of the place, about its transparency, and its honesty and its integrity, and I think for me, that was an enormous lesson that you taught me there:

it sort of opened up an understanding of how one should be in this college, which was really transformative.

HB: (Smiles) I don't remember making that comment!

BN: Harvey, thanks very much for doing this. So many ... thirty-how-many ... years? Thirty-eight years?

HB: Thirty-eight, yeah.

BN: Thirty-eight years. Five thousand tutorials, or whatever it is. Can you put your finger on one or two moments that you'll look back on and which will stand out, and you'll think, that was great, that was fun, or that was absurd?

HB: One thing that I can recall – from about 20 or 30 years ago – was a particular admissions candidate whom Ron Daniel and I interviewed. This particular candidate was unusual because he wasn't taking A-Level physics – even though physics is a requirement for the Engineering Science course. I said to Ron: “We can't interview this candidate, they've not taken A-Level physics”. But Ron convinced me to think otherwise and so we invited the candidate to attend an interview. At the interview the candidate actually did very well. The story – as far as I can recall – was that at his school a new teacher had come in who was very much in favour of vocational courses. So rather than taking A-Level physics, this candidate had been persuaded to take a vocational course in a particular engineering topic. In the end we decided to offer the candidate a place on the condition that he takes A-Level physics. In just six months he managed to master the A-Level physics syllabus, achieving a grade A the following summer. He went on to get a First at Brasenose and a PhD at Cambridge. For a while he was a research fellow at Cambridge and is now a senior lecturer at another leading UK university. But it was down to Ron's persistence that we the candidate was invited to an interview. And this story provides a stunning example of what can be achieved by hard work and the seizing of opportunities.

There are actually many former Brasenose students who have gone on to senior levels in the engineering profession. I can think of one in particular. It is very rewarding to see that the engineering that they learned at Brasenose – as undergraduates – has proved to be an important springboard for their future careers.

BN: What advice would you give to someone who was about to take up a Fellowship here, in the course of the next year?

HB: Well, I would have to take a very deep breath. I've enjoyed every *minute* of the job, but the pressures on academic life are much more intense than they used to be. To start out as an academic, you've really got to know that this is what you want to do with your life. So what advice would I give? The first thing, I think, is to take a balanced approach to planning your time. Make sure that the various tasks and duties that people might ask you to take on do not crowd out your main academic focus in teaching and research. You might need to be a bit hard-nosed at times. Secondly, have some discernment on where you can best focus your efforts on your academic goals; you probably won't be able to achieve everything and so some prioritisation might be needed.

BN: Great advice! Harvey Burd, it's been a pleasure, thank you!

## INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BOWERS AND SUZANNE FRANKS

Brazen Nose: Suzanne, I would imagine that your experience of interaction with the College must be a bit like having to wear two different hats at once, in that you've got a very successful professional and academic career, and at the same time you're the wife of the Principal. Do you feel those aspects are hard to reconcile, particularly in such a tight-knit college community?

Suzanne Franks: Well, I suppose you could say it's two hats, but they seem to mesh pretty well. Most times it feels quite comfortable to glide out of a life in a very different setting from here.

BN: So, Suzanne how have you enjoyed being involved in the College?

SF: In a number of ways: I have tried to find ways of contributing to the community. For example, I gave a talk at one of the graduate dinners, a few years ago I gave the sermon in Chapel on Holocaust Memorial Day, and at other times I have played in SCR concerts. Of course there is also the more regular activity of co-hosting many dinners and other social events both here and elsewhere.

BN: Have you felt that BNC alumni have had any expectations of how you should be or how much they want to see you, or in what sort of contexts?

SF: I think it varies; with some of the alumni we have built up quite strong relations, and as a couple, it has matured into friendship. Again, I think, you can come and go as well; with many other alumni I don't think there are expectations of me particularly.

BN: That certainly gels with what I've heard myself: at the last alumni drinks which I attended in London, I think two things were expressed to me which are relevant here. One is how much alumni appreciate the work that you've done, John, and the effort that you put into meeting them and to travelling and going to events; the other is how much they liked to see both of you together – that is something that seems to have gone down well.

JB: I have enjoyed meeting alumni as far afield as Australia, Hong Kong, Leeds and Manchester.

BN: Can each of you remember what your first reactions were on hearing that John had been offered the job?

(John laughs)

SF: Well, obviously I was very pleased for him – I was a bit wary about how it would work out; you know, it's a bit more than just a job, really, it's a whole kind of life, a vocation; but I think I was by and large pleased for him, because he was very happy when he had the offer of the job.

BN: John, can you remember what you first thought?

John Bowers: I was really delighted to get it. Actually, funnily enough, one of my first thoughts was that I mustn't stick with the lawyers, because obviously my background was legal, and I was particularly concerned to make a connection with the scientists, because I had no scientific background; also I just wanted to meet as many people as possible, I think that was my first reaction. And then, also, I was a bit daunted about Governing Body (laughs), and what to expect.

BN: John, I was very struck by something you'd written about how much you read up on chairing before starting the job. Do you think that was useful?

JB: I thought that, after I got the job, which of course was about a year before I started, that I'd just carry on with my practice, until the last minute, but what I hadn't realised was that four members of my chambers were Brasenose alums, and they told everybody in Chambers, and all my solicitors, "it's really great that John's got this job", so actually, the last few months, my career took something of a nose-dive because

people did not want to instruct me knowing that I would have to leave a case part way through. So, yes, I did do that preparation in the time I had free; and also, I did ask to see what people were researching, so that I could get a window on them. It is different, in a way, for someone who's been in the Oxford system, but coming in from the outside, I felt I did have such a lot to learn.

SF: It was quite funny, actually, because I remember John saying to me "I'll just tell the Chambers at the end of the year that I'm going". I knew straight away that wasn't going to fly; he had no conception of social media, and within a day somebody had already posted about his new job on LinkedIn, and that was the end of that (laughs).

JB: The other thing she put me right on was that I said "well, I'll have meetings with the students over breakfast, you know, 7.30 ..."

SF: No, it wasn't me, it was the kids! (John laughs) He was determined to have these breakfasts with the students, and our children just rolled their eyes. And they never happened!

BN: Coming back to the first question to Suzanne, Brasenose is such a tightly-knit community, and it's often inward-looking, and you spend so much time in these short terms, living in the moment, from day to day, and hour to hour, and you have to be involved, John, with pretty much everything ... were you prepared for how all-encompassing and absorbing it would be?

JB: No, I didn't realise that. One thing that was said in the further particulars was that the College was a small but very complex environment, and I think that's absolutely right. I hadn't realised how many different 'constituencies' of the College community there were: you'd be dealing with alumni, and the graduates have different needs to the undergraduates – I also wasn't clear about the relationship between the colleges and the University, which I think can be nuanced, complex and shifting, depending on the personalities involved.

BN: I don't think anybody understands that ... (laughter)

JB: There's *such* a degree of nuance, and even in the ten years I've been here – I don't know if you'd agree with this – it's changed; I think we came together very much during Covid, and in a sense we had to, but I think it's now slightly pulling apart at the moment, and you never know what the issues will be that could vary it again.

SF: But also it was different for you during that Covid period because you were Vice-Chair then of the Conference of Colleges.

JB: I was, yes.

BN: I think that you're right on some of those forced gains from Covid which probably haven't endured that strongly. One of my favourite comments about Oxford is in the last chapter of Graham Richards' memoir, where he says that if you were going to create a world-class educational institution from scratch now you wouldn't make one like this (laughter).

SF: Yes, somebody quoted that at his memorial service.

BN: So, as someone who's had a wider experience of other university environments, Suzanne, do you sometimes find yourself looking at the 'Oxford bubble' and thinking 'what on earth is Oxford doing? How does it manage to stay up at the top of the league tables?'

SF: I agree with Graham Richards – you wouldn't necessarily start from here; just as an outsider coming in it seems incredibly wasteful, I mean all this endless duplication.

JB: Do you mean between colleges, in terms of duplication?

SF: Yes, I mean every college has its computing department, its HR department, their own purchasing and all of these things. You know, you could run this place way more efficiently, but of course a lot of the charm and the specialness of what makes it Oxford would then be lost. Other universities that have drawn away from a collegiate model for efficiency's sake (for example Durham) have obviously suffered because of that.

BN: I did propose once that we should look into whether a single kitchen could service Brasenose and Lincoln, but it was felt that that would detract from, as you say, the particular sense that College is a community with its own functions, and it lives (or falls) by its own internal culture.

JB: I think it did share the kitchens during the war though, didn't it?

BN: I think it did, yes.

JB: What I'd say is that I think the value of it is that a college is a small institution; people feel much more connected with it – like with the regiment than with the whole army, and a similar thing applies here.

SF: Yes, absolutely, I mean there are obviously benefits to it, and certainly when you meet alumni, and particularly the older generations, the loyalty and the focus on the College are extraordinary, and I just don't think you get that in larger, more anonymous, universities.

JB: Well, in your own institution [*City St George's, University of London*].

SF: But also all across the world, I'm thinking of the States also, but you can't leverage that kind of loyalty ... I mean, for example, last night a group came back to College, and they're now in their eighties but still keep in touch even though they are spread all over the world.

JB: They'd stuck together, they'd played golf together over the decades.

SF: You know, the alumni all over the world get together and they still have this sense of community and it's very much focused around this place as an identity, and I don't think it would be if they had just been part of a small cog in a much, much bigger environment.

BN: Yes, I think that's right – if you look at how centralisation of services works in the University, where you have central provision for HR and finance supporting the departments, I think everybody feels treated badly because there's no intimacy, you don't know who you're actually dealing with, and it becomes quite tetchily transactional.

JB: Could I just throw in a couple of other things? I think the other point about Brasenose is that people mix with each other. In your university, Suzanne, the journalists tend to stick with the journalists, the lawyers with the lawyers ...

SF: Yes.

JB: And there's not much interconnection.

SF: Everybody talks about the joys of interdisciplinarity, but in most institutions you've got to make much more of an effort than you do here; at Brasenose it's just part of the fabric of the institution, isn't it?

BN: I think it is, and it's one of the really special things here: I was listening to Gregor Larson at lunch talking about genomes of bears and things like that – where else can you do that?

SF: I often think, where else would you find the range of conversations that you have at College lunch? And every day is completely different.

BN: So, do you enjoy the kind of stimulus that you find at lunch?

SF: Yes, though I don't go all that much, not anything like as much as John does; but if I'm here, I do enjoy going into lunch, because I'll just enjoy interacting with so many different people, who have so many different and interesting things to say.

JB: There are also people who are only with us for a short time, such as Visiting Fellows and the Royal Literary Fund Fellows, whom you've got to know quite well.

SF: And all the people from Stanford we've got to know quite well. That's another lovely thing that comes into the mix, you know, these people who might only be here for a year or so.

BN: Yes, there's constant renewal as well as long-term presence by the old lags.

SF: I didn't say that. (laughs)

BN: But I did ... I'm self-identifying as an old lag.

If you could pick out one moment that has transcended the others as something you'll take away and be a treasured memory that you won't forget, what do you think it would be?

SF: Well, I think there have been all sorts of different moments; I think sometimes at the Betty Morley feasts there is a really interesting range of people, and that atmosphere there is terrific. We've met some amazing people, and that's probably the best thing of all. We really have – just week-in, week-out you'll be meeting so many interesting people, and across such a range. I remember having Tom Stoppard to stay here in the Lodgings, and having to go over and wake him up, and the students came to meet him for breakfast. Actually, on that occasion the students did come for breakfast (laughter)! Things like that – where else would you have that? And then the next week, what was it, the President of Somewhere-or-Other...

JB: Colombia.

SF: That was really, really interesting.

JB: The Greenland Library opening in 2017 was very special, actually, with Philip Pullman. He spoke about celebrating libraries, which people tend to discount.

SF: People also liked to see him championing that.

JB: I thought it showed the College at its best, as did the opening of the Amersi Foundation Lecture Room as well ... I think those are the things that stand out; but also, the visits we've made. We get a very good reception in the States, both East Coast and West Coast.

SF: Yes, that is lovely. So, the people who came last night, we saw on the West Coast recently, and the way they talk about the College and the fun memories they have, literally going back sixty years, it's extraordinary, listening to them talk, it's fascinating.

BN: And they *want* to come back and they want to re-enact those things, so they have particular memories as sporting teams, coming back, and it's about the 1961 Cuppers or whatever.

SF: Yes, it's amazing, it's extraordinary.

BN: Even more extraordinary, I was talking to someone who was at the Gaudy on Friday who had read Modern History, and he said that he had counted up the amount of time he had spent here: each term is eight weeks, so that's 72 weeks of term in total; he said it's absolutely astonishing, I'm so invested, we're all so invested, in this place, but we were only here for 72 weeks.

SF: It's amazing. 72 weeks?

BN: That's one and a half years in old money, or a bit less ... and yet they are dying to come back.

SF: Well, I think it's the intensity, and it's also obviously at a period of your life when things are much more intense.

BN: Yes, it's a very formational age and period, isn't it?

So, do you have any advice for your successor, John?

JB: I would say to get involved in all aspects of College life. I got a lot of value from speaking to the workshop team and people in the Lodge, and ...

SF: The Buttery staff.

JB: Yes, the Buttery staff are terrific; and the scouts. Learning about their lives is really important and interesting. I go into staff lunch at least twice every term.

SF: Also I think the relationships you had with some of the other heads of house, I mean obviously not all of them, but we have built up friendships there, and that's very nice as well, sometimes it's helpful if you want to bounce things off people.

JB: The way I put it is that there's *nothing* that you come across here that somebody else hasn't done.

BN: Which must be a great comfort, to know that this intractable problem has analogues, similar situations have existed.

JB: I mean you've got to take into account that different colleges have different traditions and backgrounds, but usually you can read across.

SF: But also sometimes you hear other people telling you horror stories, and you think 'Wow! There's nothing like that here', and that's very nice, actually.

JB: The factionalism ...

SF: Yes the factionalism, you know ...

JB: The factionalism in other colleges and also the difficult handovers. I mean Alan Bowman was fantastic, and I still see him for lunch once a term; his candid advice has been very valuable.

BN: So, what do you think would be the best way for your successor to become the second Principal of Brasenose to have a cocktail named after them?

(JB laughs)

SF: You've got a cocktail?

JB: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

BN: Suzanne, did you not know this?

SF: I didn't know that.

JB: JBQC.

SF: What is it?

JB: I don't know what's in it. I just like the name.

BN: It's called JBKC now, although that doesn't trip off the tongue quite so well.

SF: What's in it? What's in it?

BN: I don't know what's in it, I've never had one.

SF: But that's in the bar is it? In the students' bar? Oh wow! That's amazing!

JB: I think one needs to listen to the students.

JB: We do have a good relationship with the JCR. I would like to emphasise that Phil Parker's just got such great emotional intelligence, and I think I've been very lucky in having Simon Smith and Phil, who are very different personalities, but actually complement each other very well. We can talk about anything very frankly, and I gather from some of the other heads of house that they don't necessarily have that.

SF: Yes, we've been at dinners, where they'll have had the Bursar or the Senior Tutor there, and it doesn't seem the same sort of rapport ...

JB: Well there's one college where the Senior Tutor and Bursar couldn't be in the same room.

BN: You forget in some ways how lucky you are being here. I think it's those two, but I think also it's that triad formed by you and those two, and the fact that you're able to get on and to be frank, and that you all have the same agenda, which is the well-being of the College.

SF: Also, I think ... that maybe John's been lucky as well, in comparison to situations in other colleges; it's never been a place where there are 'camps' – there's nothing like that here.

JB: You don't know what's round the corner!

SF: That's never been the case while we've been here. But I love the thing that it's the 'friendliest college in Oxford', I love seeing that on the board when we go in. You know, 'Brasenose is the friendliest college'; and a lot of people comment on that when they visit, actually, as well.

BN: Yes, I think there's a quite a degree of truth in it, too.

So, John, other than a last-ditch attempt to get rid of snuff (laughter) do you have any unfinished 'signature' policies that you'd like to see in place before the end?

JB: Well, I think getting the extra accommodation is so important because we're so much up against it in that respect; every year that would give us a better opportunity to keep up our admissions. So, yes, I think getting that right is important, and hopefully we can start on that in the next year.

BN: I think everyone will miss having you in the Lodgings here, but what do you think you'll miss in the Lodgings?

JB: I mean, I didn't grow up in a house like this (laughs), it's just so extraordinary.

SF: I mean, just look at this (points out of the window), this is the view we have in the shower or the bedroom! That is pretty special to wake up and see this ...

JB: ... see the sun come up ...

SF: ...one of the best views in England and certainly the best car park.

JB: Just to conclude, I think we will miss it, because it was such a fantastic intellectual environment; I always say, you'll hear something on the radio, and there'll always be somebody here who knows a lot about it.

BN: I think that you've both added to that, and I think that it's been good; I think that during your tenure the College has become more of a place where you see and hear from people from the wider world, and I think that Principal's Conversations have been a central part of that; it feels more as if the College is a junction point on paths through that wider world.

JB: That's good to know.

BN: what would you say John were your main achievements over the last 11 years?

JB: I think the three key ones are

a. Many more female Fellows and ethnic minority Fellows than when I came.

b. That this year we are second in the college table of state school intake, so that we resemble more the general population.

c. That we have developed properties, especially Frewin, and bought the Lloyds Bank building on Carfax and three adjoining buildings on Cornmarket which we hope to develop in part for student accommodation in due course.

This is not just me of course but a great team effort: I have been lucky in having Phil Parker throughout as Bursar, Liz Miller then Julia Diamantis as Development Directors, and Simon Smith and now Freyja Madsen as Senior Tutors. The Vice Principals have been terrific too. I will miss Brasenose more than I can say.

*John Bowers and Suzanne Franks, interviewed under caution, September 26th 2025.*

# Obituaries



## DEATHS NOTIFIED

*October 2024 – September 2025*

The editor welcomes correspondence concerning any members of Brasenose who have passed away; personal reminiscences are welcome. Please let us know if you would like to provide an obituary by contacting: [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk), or call +44 (0) 01865 287275.

\* denotes full obituary

| <b>Name</b>                       | <b>Matriculated</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Thomas Athron                     | 1937                |
| Alan Michael Coates               | 1944                |
| Frederic Anthony (Tony) Kilner*   | 1945                |
| John Martin Paul Watling          | 1946                |
| John William Scott Walton         | 1947                |
| Nathaniel Micklem                 | 1949                |
| Alan O’Hea                        | 1949                |
| James William (Bill) Donaldson*   | 1951                |
| Martin Newman Karmel*             | 1951                |
| Brian Reginald Higgins*           | 1952                |
| William (Bill) Penrose Higman     | 1952                |
| John Michael Heslington Buckler   | 1953                |
| David William Jones               | 1953                |
| George Neville Stockdale          | 1953                |
| Duncan Stuart*                    | 1953                |
| William George Tobias             | 1953                |
| David Christopher Grant Bradnack  | 1954                |
| Michael Cheyne Grint              | 1954                |
| Laurence Andrew Kenworthy-Browne* | 1954                |
| Michael Ernest Simpson            | 1954                |
| Peter Joseph Wedge                | 1955                |
| Andrew William Neilson Gemmill*   | 1956                |
| John David Leach                  | 1956                |
| Robert Michael Wickenden          | 1956                |

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|--|------|
| Peter Newton Acheson                   | 1957 |
| Richard John Dorrington                | 1957 |
| Ian Michel Hewitt                      | 1957 |
| Colin Albert Nickless                  | 1957 |
| John William Perry                     | 1957 |
| Robin Kenneth John Frederick Young     | 1957 |
| Richard Douglas Armstrong              | 1958 |
| Michael Anthony Philip Shaw Downham    | 1958 |
| Gerald Philip Harrison*                | 1958 |
| Charles Ian Cholmeley Harrison-Wallace | 1958 |
| William Graham Richards*               | 1958 |
| Barrie Hesp*                           | 1959 |
| John Douglas Hutcheon                  | 1959 |
| Paul Howard Norris                     | 1959 |
| Antony David Warr*                     | 1959 |
| Christopher Stephen Wates              | 1959 |
| David Norman Martindale Andrews        | 1960 |
| John Antony (Tony) Dodds*              | 1960 |
| John Moon                              | 1960 |
| Paul Richard Dawson-Bowling*           | 1961 |
| John Malcolm Gordon                    | 1962 |
| Colin Peter Langford*                  | 1962 |
| Anthony (Tony) John Patrick Ayres      | 1963 |
| Charles Telford Sentence               | 1963 |
| John Gordon Laurence Wright            | 1963 |
| Shaun Anthony Requa Disney             | 1965 |
| Francis Michael McMahon                | 1965 |
| David Alan Turner*                     | 1965 |
| Anthony Peter Joseph Webb              | 1965 |
| Howard Keith Thomas                    | 1966 |
| Michael John Whelan                    | 1966 |
| David Rowland Hill                     | 1967 |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Simon Mitchell Allen Mawer*                  | 1967 |
| Nigel James Bird                             | 1969 |
| Michael Scott Robertson                      | 1969 |
| Alan James Neal                              | 1970 |
| Thomas Bruce Bolton                          | 1971 |
| James Edward Flynn                           | 1974 |
| Agnes Elizabeth Duntze Locke (née Whittaker) | 1975 |
| Ian Leslie Wiseman                           | 1975 |
| Christopher Stephen Hornby                   | 1976 |
| Richard Martin Kerle                         | 1976 |
| Michael Jeremy Rabone*                       | 1976 |
| John Peter Rountree*                         | 1977 |
| Andrew Howard Ellams*                        | 1990 |
| Nancy Jane Bixby*                            | 1991 |
| Jack H Schuster                              | 1992 |
| Katharine Roma Backhouse                     | 1996 |
| James Andrew Gerald Weaver                   | 2021 |
| Janet Greenland                              |      |
| Josephine Gridley                            |      |
| Mary Merdinger                               |      |

### **Nancy Bixby (Fine Art, 1991)**

*by Anthea Lawrence, née Edmondson, (Literae Humaniores, 1991),  
Sarah Hawley, née Phipp, (English, 1991) and Duncan Wethey  
(Literae Humaniores, 1991)*

In January we lost our dear friend Nancy who had fought a very long and valiant battle against cancer but maintained her sense of humour and fun despite everything. Even on her last conscious day, she was captured on camera laughing on a moving platform creatively rigged up by her father, Richard, to act as a wheelchair.

Imagination runs in the family – everyone who knew Nancy admired her immense talent as a fine artist (the subject she studied at Brasenose). Sharply observant, she was always looking up and around her: people,

buildings, trees, landscapes. She was even interested in the life teeming in manhole covers (see her most recent paintings on her website)! It was fascinating to watch her draw. What looked like a series of lines and squiggles would swiftly morph into something recognisable. This talent led her into teaching, first in Kenya, and then eventually as head of art at Brentwood School in Essex. She was also selected to be the official tour artist for the England cricket tour of New Zealand in 2002, and one of her paintings of that tour is held in the Pavilion at Lord's. Many of us have Nancy's paintings, much cherished and hanging in pride of place in our homes.

Nancy loved watching sport, particularly cricket and Rugby, and even snooker. She was a keen supporter of Essex County Cricket Club (and in particular of Nasser Hussain). In our first year she was excited about scoring for our Brasenose men's cricket side, which eventually led to her becoming the scorer for the University second team, the Authentics. Nancy would use her artistic skills to draw caricatures of the Tics' opponents, which came as something of a surprise to the players when they came to check their stats! Nancy also started up a college women's Rugby sevens side and enjoyed telling the story about our first match. We played on half a pitch, which caused some confusion. A few of us (ahem) ran the wrong way to score a couple of times, with Nancy alternatively laughing and shouting "wrong way". Luckily we soon got the hang of it, with much support from an enthusiastic Brasenose crowd.

Nancy was a great talker and raconteur and had many friends, who valued her loyalty, wisdom, kindness and story-telling. Having a tremendous sense of fun, she was also popular with children who looked forward to her visits, particularly the impromptu art lessons. She leaves behind not just several godchildren but many other children whose lives she has touched, both in her teaching career and home life. She enjoyed telling stories about teaching. One memorable one is her pretending to swim around a classroom to keep the pupils' attention!

Nancy spent a few years teaching in Kenya and she retained a great love of the country, returning several times for trips. She was inspired by the sights, sounds and people of Kenya, creating some extraordinary drawings in her sketchbook during her travels. She also used to enjoy working holidays with the National Trust; her creative side also extended to gardening. One of Nancy's legacies is a beautiful garden she designed, planted and tended at her parents' home in Somerset.

Nancy was a highly valued member of our year at Brasenose, and in June we gathered in Somerset at a party organised by her parents, in accordance with Nancy's wishes, to celebrate her life and her friendship. It was a joy and a comfort to visit her studio and see her paintings and drawings, as well as remember the hours spent drinking tea and chatting by the woodburner. Nancy leaves behind her beloved parents and sister. She will be very much missed but always remembered.

Nancy's website is [www.nancybixby.co.uk](http://www.nancybixby.co.uk)

### **Christopher Cheetham (Chemistry, 1960)**

*by Professor Graham Richards and Christopher's friends in Noke, Oxfordshire*

*(Editor's note: No obituary appears to have been published at the time of Christopher's death, but having received the contribution below, we are happy to rectify the deficit.)*

With the sad and untimely death of Chris Cheetham (1943–2004), Noke lost a very individual character who over the 40 years of his connection with the village gave of his time and intellect in so many ways. Everyone will have their own personal memories of Chris and I suspect for many the image of him in tracksuit and a fleece, a battered tennis racquet in one hand and ball in the other, taking the dog for her daily constitutional to the playing field will be long lasting. But that is nothing like the whole picture. As a village we knew of his interest in everything local and are grateful for the pamphlets he wrote for the church, for the protracted battle he fought for the parish meeting to have the audit fees reduced and latterly his generosity in providing more underground piping for the drainage as he didn't think Cherwell had thought it through sufficiently for a satisfactory outcome. These were products of his retirement years and it is important to remember his earlier days too and appreciate what a talented and exceptionally clever man he was.

He went up to Oxford to read Chemistry at Brasenose in 1960 and finished with a First in an era when only 5per cent of graduates achieved this. For his graduate work he was elected to a Senior Hulme Scholarship and for his doctorate he joined the group of Richard Barrow in the Physical Chemistry Laboratory. It was a time when computing

was starting to take off and Chris being in his element quickly became a front-runner.

The university's first computer, Mercury, built by Ferranti, was a world leader but by the time of the second, an English Electric KDF9, British computer hardware was in rapid and terminal decline. Graham Richards, a colleague and great friend of Chris's, had been in Paris and brought back with him a program that he felt sure could not be made to run on KDF9. Chris with his interest and enormous capacity for hard work took only a few weeks to succeed.

This major talent was recognised by his winning a prestigious Prize Fellowship at Magdalen and then moving to become head of software at the University Computing Service, a remarkable achievement for a man trained as a chemist.

English Electric became part of ICL and having experienced Chris' work at the university they quickly realised what a talent he had and managed to lure him into industry where he became a major figure in software development and rose to the very top.

Chris then took early retirement and came to live at the Manor in Noke, but he did not work any less hard and he had so many interests.

His love of opera and music encouraged him to take an Open University degree in music; his love of history and archaeology encouraged him with other enthusiasts to initiate the very successful local archaeology society and, of course, much time was spent gardening of which he was very knowledgeable. Whatever he turned his hand to, he became an expert in that field and I have heard it said that had he had been given a book on farming he could have been a successful farmer in a few years!

Chris was a person who cared and indeed felt passionately about his various interests this led to him being an indefatigable writer of letters and articles to newspapers, magazines and companies. His last such foray led to the company concerned sending him a dozen bottles of vintage wine 'to thank him for his constructive observations'.

### **Paul Dawson-Bowling (*Literae Humaniores*, 1961)**

*by Leonora Dawson-Bowling*

Paul Dawson-Bowling was born to James and Margaret Dawson-Bowling in 1941 in Kerala, South India, where James was a chaplain. Paul was followed by siblings Anne and Roland. It was a wonderful

life for the children but the family moved back to the UK when Paul was due to start primary school, initially to parishes in Burnley then Gillingham before settling more permanently in Tiverton. There Paul attended Blundell's School, where his father was now chaplain and head of divinity. During his time there Paul particularly delighted in singing in the school choir and in school cycling holidays abroad.

After school, early starts working at a local bakery meant that Paul grew a beard – one that was to remain for the rest of his life and was a definitive part of his character! He then spent a year in Vienna where he met young music student Elizabeth Tomlinson at the local English church and a subsequent madrigals evening, and romance blossomed at a particular outing to a Viennese *Heuriger* (wine tavern) over some young Austrian wine.

In 1961, Paul went up to Oxford, where both parents had been, to study Greats. Alongside his studies, he enjoyed rowing for Brasenose and making some important lifelong friendships, and he would maintain his connection with the college throughout his life, regularly attending alumni events and serving on the Brasenose Alumni Society committee for some forty-plus years, not least as President in 1994–1995.

In 1966, Paul and Elizabeth were married. They settled happily into their new home in Blackheath, Paul was now a civil servant at the Ministry of Health and Elizabeth (now known professionally by her middle name – Elizabeth 'de la Porte') was performing regularly as a harpsichordist, and teaching piano and baroque groups at the Royal College of Music and local schools. Paul, however, felt unfulfilled by his work and when Elizabeth suggested a complete change in career – for Paul to become a doctor – it all fell into place. Having taken an arts route, he now sat O-level maths and sciences, and went on to become a mature student at St Thomas's Hospital. This was followed by an elective at Elim Missionary Hospital in South Africa and, in 1979, Paul and the family moved to the market town of Faversham in Kent (with close ties to Canterbury), where he would work as a general practitioner for the rest of his career.

Paul loved working with his colleagues and patients, albeit he felt it was chequered by the changing climate of the NHS – time wasted on ever-more tickbox exercises and not spent on important patient work – and the chronic lack of funding. More particularly, throughout his time

in Faversham he was a driving force fighting various attempts to close the Cottage Hospital.

Helping people continued to fulfil him throughout his working life. His approach to patients was that of an old-school gentleman doctor bringing with him not only his medical capabilities but all of his compassion and pastoral care. He and the family also formed a steadfast part of the community in Faversham and Canterbury, retaining a firm presence with the local parish church, community groups, and fellow school parents and teachers, and Paul could regularly be found pottering around the local market with affable pleasure. He also engaged regularly in communities further afield including the Music Club of London, the British Doctors and Dentists' Association, and the Sick Doctors' Trust.

Paul was a formidable intellect and polymath. In his gentle way, he was voraciously and joyously curious about the world and could reliably be found book in hand. Classics and medicine aside, his level of knowledge in his fifth or sixth pet subject, be it literature, railways and engineering, roses and gardening, Jungian and Freudian psychology, obscure historical figures, current politics, film and cinematography, or even how a particular painter approached painting light in a certain ground-breaking way was one that any university lecturer might be proud of in any one single given area. But greatest of all was his passion for music. And greatest of all his musical passions was Richard Wagner. Originally introduced to Wagner by his father, Wagner's music and the man behind it became a lifelong love affair, with Paul writing regular reviews in Wagner journals and opera magazines, and giving Wagner Society presentations. On his retirement, Paul wrote and published his well-reviewed tome the *The Wagner Experience and Its Meaning to Us* in time for Wagner's bicentenary in 2013, and then revised and expanded it to include Wagner's three early operas and other new research as the three-volume *Wagner: The Complete Experience and Its Meaning To Us* eight years later. This was no mere dry intellectual pursuit. Paul *felt* the music and he believed there was much we could learn from the stories and the motivations of the different, often flawed characters.

But above all else for Paul came family. He was a proud family man and strove to give his three children a secure, supportive upbringing full of warmth and love, balancing a good degree of guidance and steering against how much his children should have their head and develop their own directions. And he'd imbue the family home with much gentle

fun, particularly his rich turn of phrase and his slightly inane humour. (*The Goon Show* and Ealing comedies were great favourites!) And at the centre of this and supporting him all the way was his wife Elizabeth. It was a wonderful, collaborative and romantic relationship, and proved all the more so when work and life stress might have disentangled it; instead they worked at their marriage, and weathering the storms served to strengthen and enrich it. They always enjoyed quiet anniversary celebrations, and Paul was forever bringing Elizabeth roses from the garden and presenting them with no less romance than five decades earlier. When Elizabeth sadly died in 2020, despite the family's support Paul was broken and struggling until meeting Jennifer Radford, with her own insatiable form of curiosity and several common interests, not least medicine. Paul found a second happy romance and a renewed joy in life, and they married in 2021. Paul continued to live life with his usual twinkly good nature (despite some medical setbacks), enjoying trips abroad, theatre outings, concerts and operas, family occasions and more until his illness just a few weeks before his death. Paul was a wonderful man who touched many lives. He will be sorely missed.

Paul Dawson-Bowling died on 26 July 2025. He is survived by his second wife Jennifer and three children, Sebastian, Melissa and Leonora.

### **John Anthony (Tony) Dodds (Modern History, 1960)**

*by Brian Dodds and Peter Sunderland (Engineering Science, 1960)*

Tony was one of the last National Service men to come to Brasenose, having been born just over nine months too early to have avoided it. He was thus one of the older group who came up to Brasenose in 1960. This can perhaps best be illustrated by the story that he invited those also newly arrived from Denstone for drinks in the King's Arms and shocked them by ordering pints of Scotch for them all. This, however, referred to his favorite beer from Newcastle Breweries.

Tony was born in Newcastle to an ordinary middle-class family from County Durham. On his father Sydney's side were flour millers and his mother Nance's side were village blacksmiths. He attended Bow School, a prep school on the banks of the River Wear in Durham where he was in the unbeaten 1951/52 1<sup>st</sup> XV. He followed this to what he described as a middle-class public school in Staffordshire, Denstone College. Here

he captained the team which won the Rosslyn Park National Schools sevens in 1958.

During this period Tony became fascinated by Africa. This was not just because of his reading about Africa, through books such as *King Solomon's Mines*, *Prester John* and *Cry the Beloved Country*, but also because of two relatives. His Uncle Jack had been a Methodist missionary in Africa before the Second World War and his Aunt Emmie had become a special education teacher in what was then Southern Rhodesia. At Denstone College two lectures given by school old boys who were colonial officers in Tanganyika and Ghana respectively stimulated him further. He knew what he wanted to do – Tanganyika and life as a colonial officer really appealed to him.

National Service in the RAF intervened, he learned Russian and was posted to Berlin as the most junior form of spy – listening in via radio airwaves on Russian communications. There are many tales attached to those days but the most important was that he met a young Berliner called Edith.

In 1960 with his National Service ended he took up the place he had been awarded at Brasenose to read Modern History. In his first year he was part of the Rugby XV that won the 1961 Cuppers, the aftermath of this Cuppers Dinner being reported in the *Oxford Mail* with the heading “Ran wild after BNC victory”, with disturbances in the bar and yard resulting in the proctors phoning the Mitre to ask that no more undergraduates in evening dress be served.

Edith followed him to England the following summer, and having been tipped off by an old colleague of Tony's, she got out of Berlin just in time, days before the Russians blockaded the western half of the city and started building the Berlin Wall. Edith later wrote a book, *Tales from another side* in which she described her childhood in wartime Germany and her subsequent life. In her book she talks nostalgically about Oxford and Tony's friends at college particularly mentioning Brian Simms, Tom Fischhoff, Ken Smith and Colin Corder.

With the changing times Tony realised that he was too late for his colonial officer dream. The end of the Empire was in sight and the dissolution of Britain's African colonies had begun. He met African and other foreign students and debated the emerging Commonwealth. Tony contacted Kenneth Kirkwood, Oxford Professor of Race Relations and explained his desire for a career in Africa. He was told about the

extra-mural departments of Africa's new universities, and of the post-graduate course run by the Education Department of the University of Manchester. Tony was accepted onto the course and during this was told of the new Institute of Adult Education of the University College of Dar es Salaam in Tanganyika which was recruiting staff.

Tony applied for this post and whilst still awaiting a reply he and Edith married on 16 May 1964 at St Cuthbert's Church, Seaham, Sunderland where his parents had moved. He had planned, if accepted that they would go there by sea, a long cruise, but when the acceptance came it was with a message "We need you, take the next plane". They arrived at Dar es Salaam airport in August just a few months before the country transformed into Tanzania.

The job involved travelling to inland towns to organise adult education committees and evening course programmes and after a year he was posted to be resident tutor for south-western Tanzania to open a new extra-mural university in a region that covered about a quarter of the country. He was there, in Mbeya, for three years during which he pioneered an experiment in using radio study groups, supported by printed study guides for discussion led by trained group leaders. The idea worked, he took a BBC radio producers' training course and went back to the capital city to launch nationwide. It was during this period that their two sons, Brian and Stefan, were born.

By 1972 he was discussing other pilot projects with Michael Young (Later Baron Young of Dartington) who was launching the International Extension College (IEC). This would be a support, training and information exchange service on distance education for developing countries. Its first project was what became the Mauritius College of the Air, and Tony was appointed its first director, innovating a three-pronged learning model of radio/television broadcasting, correspondence courses and face-to-face interaction. Starting as a small operation run from an office above a former police station, within two years it had gained national recognition and recruited talented tutors.

The next step was different, from a beautiful island in the Indian Ocean to the urban chaos of Lagos in Nigeria from 1974 to 1976. Tony had accepted the challenge of being the founding director of the new Correspondence and Open Studies Unit at the University of Lagos. This came with Assistant Professor status but also problems dealing with university hierarchies and admin, plus the city's notorious traffic

congestion. Tony survived for two years in this job, but the family, Edith and their two sons, returned to England after a year, settling in Hertford.

For the next 20 years Tony worked for the IEC, based in Cambridge, doing various consultancies in Africa, Pakistan and elsewhere, helping to set up open learning agencies and training local staff to take over. There were three key themes – establishing non-formal adult education programmes for those deprived of educational opportunities; education for the growing millions of refugees in Africa, especially in the Horn of Africa, Somalia and Sudan; and for young people who had rebelled against and fled from the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Tony considered his work was important and was making a difference, but not everyone liked it. On the education projects, helping refugees in east Africa, he worked with exiled ANC and SWAPO officials, organisations regarded as terrorists by the apartheid regime in Southern Africa. He never discovered who it was who ransacked his offices in London, with nothing being stolen.

A further spell in Africa became possible once both their boys had left home. Previous projects in Botswana and Zambia with SWAPO and the ANC led them moving to Namibia for seven years where Tony was Director of the new Centre for External Studies at the University of Namibia, and worked with the new Ministry of Education in Nelson Mandela's South Africa.

After retiring in 2001 Tony continued with consultancy trips and also helped rescue and resuscitate the National Extension College after some difficult times. He also continued his support for the Tumani Open School Project in Tanzania which provides young mothers with ongoing educational opportunities, appropriate as his first job was in rural Tanzania pioneering opportunities in education for people who had little access to them.

Throughout his life Tony's great passion was rugby, during school, university and later in Hertford, playing for them into his fifties and was a club stalwart thereafter. Until 2022 he, together with Edith (until she died in January 2021), was a constant member of the BNC group that met in Paris every time France were at home to England. He maintained his connections with Brasenose, being one of the thirteen attending the 2021 lunch celebrating the triple Cuppers wins in 1961, of which there is a photo in the *Brazen Nose* Volume 55. This continued until his health

was such that he had to ask for a refund for the Diamond Jubilee Lunch in 2025, some three months before his death.

John Anthony (Tony) Dodds was born on 28 December 1938, and died 12 July 2025. He is survived by his sons, Brian and Stefan, and granddaughters Charlotte and Lucy.

### **James William Donaldson (Modern History, 1951)**

*by Sarah Donaldson and Julia Creed*

Bill was born in Edinburgh, but the family home was in Tayport, Fife. He was at school in St Andrews before following his father and brother to Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh. He played for the first XV for four years and was captain for two. He was Captain of School. In 1948 at the Dedication Service for the unveiling of the World War 2 Memorial, Bill, as Captain of School, was responsible for reading the names of Merchistonians who had died – an experience that never left him.

After school Bill enlisted in National Service and when commissioned was posted to the King's African Rifles in Kenya. Amongst other things he learnt Swahili.

Then to Oxford in 1951 – life-changing, Bill said, in the release from strict school and army discipline to creative freedom. The first year was “academic disaster”, his words, in the need to pass Latin. All then went academically well with a degree in History with Second Class Honours. Bill played in the Brasenose Rugby team for four years and was captain for two of them. For three of them Brasenose won the cup. He became a member of Vincent's Club.

Bill returned in 1955 to teach at Merchiston Castle School. He was a housemaster and Master in charge of Rugby. In 1970 he married Sarah and they were the first live-in house parents at Merchiston – soon followed by others. A son, James, and a daughter, Julia, were born.

In 1974, after a year in Oxford studying for the Advanced Certificate in Education, Bill was appointed Headmaster of Newcastle High School, a boys' grammar school in Newcastle-under-Lyme. In 1981 he was appointed Principal of the new Newcastle-under-Lyme School. This came about through the joining with the sister voluntary aided school. It was a challenging time – uniting two schools, two staffs and going independent.

1990 brought retirement and a return to Scotland. Bill was involved in a number of organisations in Edinburgh – chair of Jubilee 2000 and chair of the Victoria League amongst others. He was an elder in Colinton Parish Church and on the Christian Aid committee. In addition, he published four books of poetry and reflections combining his strong Christian faith and his long experience in education. These were sold for Christian Aid.

In 2022 he and Sarah moved to Cambridge. Bill enjoyed, and was grateful for, two years near daughter Julia and family.

### **Andrew Ellams (PPE, 1990)**

*by Vicky Ellams*

Andrew Howard Ellams died on 25 August 2025, aged 53. Whilst at King's College School, Andrew was the child star of three series of the hit TV show *Chocky*. He was offered a personal audition by a well-known film director for a role in a major film, but chose to turn it down to concentrate on his academic study, as he had always wanted to go to Oxford. Andrew was delighted to achieve that aim, when he was awarded his place at Brasenose College to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He loved his studies, alongside playing chess and, as a very talented musician, playing the oboe and piano. Andrew was always proud that he funded himself through his university career by working night shifts at a supermarket through the holidays.

After he graduated in 1993, Andrew became a teacher of economics and politics, working at Collingham Sixth Form College, St. Paul's, Merchant Taylor's and St. Paul's Girls' School, where he progressed from head of economics to director of studies and senior Deputy Head. Andrew was an inspirational teacher with a strong sense of fairness and an extraordinary depth of knowledge. He published work on American politics, co-authored economics A-level textbooks and was a governor of several schools.

Andrew was much loved for his great kindness, thoughtfulness, humour and wisdom. He was a truly good, gentle man. Andrew had a genuine love for learning, across a broad range of topics and subjects. He spent many years collecting and curating his dream library of antiquarian books, featuring great works of literature, poetry and history as well, of course, as politics, philosophy and economics.

Andrew was dearly loved and is greatly missed by his wife Vicky, his children Laura and Alice, his wider family and his many friends.

**Andrew William Neilson Gemmill (English, 1956)**

*by his family*

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved father, who left us peacefully on Friday, 9 May 9 2025. He has now joined his cherished wife, Diana, in eternal rest.

Andrew was a kind and devoted scholar with an insatiable passion for literature and art. His love for the creative world was expressed beautifully through his watercolour and acrylic paintings, which resonated with many who had the pleasure to witness his talent. As a prominent member of both the McClelland and Malvern Artist Society galleries, he inspired countless students and fellow artists alike with his enthusiasm and dedication to the arts.

He is survived by his loving children, Tristan, Giles, and Lucy, who will forever carry his legacy in their hearts. His spirit also lives on through his adored grandchildren, Wilfred, Mabel, and Violet, as well as his daughter in law, Emily.

In his final days, he was surrounded by the warmth of family, enjoying cherished moments with his son Tristan and his family in his beloved home in the United Kingdom.

Andrew will be deeply missed but fondly remembered for his passion, his artistic contributions, and the love he bestowed upon all who knew him. May he rest in peace, embraced by the love of his life, Diana.

A posthumous art exhibition reception dedicated to his watercolour paintings was held at the Malvern Artist Society (Melbourne, Australia) from 6-9 September 2025, to celebrate his life and legacy.

**Gerry Harrison (Modern History, 1958)**

*first published by The Times, reproduced with kind permission*

Gerry Harrison was a journalist, broadcaster and sports commentator. He died peacefully at home with his family on 23 August 2025, aged 89.

A tribute on *Voices of Football* noted: “Over the course of more than two decades Harrison became the voice and face of sport in East Anglia”.

Another read: “Gerry Harrison was one of the instantly recognisable voices of televised football in the seventies and eighties”.

Former ITV News Anglia colleague and football commentator, Tony Jones, said “The commentary world has lost another great with the death of Gerry Harrison whose voice was a feature of ITV coverage for so many years” Tony recalled: “If you ever sat down and saw one of his scripts you would think ‘Who on earth is going to make sense of that?’ but the way in which he wrote to pictures and the way which he could deliver those scripts put him on a different level.”

Stuart Jarrold, another Anglia colleague said: “He was so diligent in his preparation that he made commentating sound easy. It isn’t, but he did all his research and he was a thoroughly lovely, lovely chap.”

Gerald Philip Harrison was born on 1 August 1936 at Upminster, Essex. His mother, Bess, taught in the local primary school; his father, Alec was a journalist in Fleet Street with the Press Association and Reuters, later a literary agent and long-time chairman of the Press Club

Educated at Brentwood School, Gerry capped off his time there with a year in the USA on an English-Speaking Union exchange scholarship to Pomfret, Connecticut, crossing the Atlantic aboard the famous liner, *Queen Mary*.

Although National Service was winding down, and could have been avoided by going directly to university, Gerry chose to enlist. He served two years National Service in the Parachute Regiment, proudly earning his wings, and becoming a second lieutenant in the Second Battalion. His service included time in Cyprus and a peacekeeping mission in Jordan.

In 1959, Gerry went to Brasenose College, to read Modern History. After recovering from a serious knee injury, he won a blue for football, playing left back for Oxford in the 2-2 draw against Cambridge at Wembley. He played in the university match again the following year, 1961/62, when Oxford lost 0-2. He was also the OUAFC match secretary. At university he also did some freelance reporting – on hockey – for *The Times* at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

*The Times* also invited him to write a 400-word report on an upcoming match between Oxford University and Tottenham Hotspur. “Bit difficult,” he said. “I’m playing in that game. But they told him to file, “a bit later”, so he did.

After Oxford, his first regular job was as a news reporter on the *Daily Express* in Manchester, while also playing non-league football for Altrincham and contributed programme notes for Manchester City FC where he struck up a long friendship with manager Joe Mercer.

In his debut season with Altrincham in 1963 the programme notes read: “New to Cheshire League football this season, at present on the staff of the *Daily Express* but finding time to be one of the fittest members of the team. Gaining experience with every game”.

On 22 Nov 1967, Gerry helped launch the new BBC Radio Merseyside. Reporting for their opening show, he was among the first voices heard on the new local station – or should have been. Broadcasting from what became known as Radio City Tower he could hardly be heard at all. When they finally got through to him there was such a shrill feedback that he was virtually inaudible!

An opportunity to move up soon presented itself. In January 1969 the *Radio Times* issued a challenge: “So you think you could be a commentator?” The BBC was looking for an additional broadcaster to join the team for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico.

The Beeb received almost 10,000 applications; auditions were arranged across the country. A final thirty were invited to commentate on a recording of a recent international between England and Wales. Sir Alf Ramsey was chairman of judges.

Gerry made the final six and although he narrowly missed out on the BBC job, Anglia Television offered him a commentary position at the World Cup in Mexico. So began a career that would last for 24 years, mainly reporting on East Anglian league teams Norwich City and Ipswich, not least Ipswich’s famous victories in the FA Cup in 1978 and the UEFA Cup in 1981 under Sir Bobby Robson. He also covered smaller clubs like Luton, Peterborough, Grimsby, Hull City, Lincoln, Northampton and Scunthorpe.

While at Anglia, he also fronted the motorsport and cycling show *Wheels* as well as coverage of other sports, including snooker and darts. In 1985, he was appointed Anglia’s head of sport. By this time he was a familiar face on the region’s nightly news show.

In the 1990s, Gerry moved into production, becoming a senior executive at IMG’s TWI, Trans World International, now IMG Media, helping to launch a new internationally syndicated football magazine show, *Futbol Mundial*, telling human stories from every corner of the

sport. He also played a key role in IMG's coverage of Premier League football, overseeing production and international distribution. He retired from IMG in 2007.

In total, Gerry reported on six World Cups for commercial television, attending five more as an executive producer. He went to Mexico in 1970 and again in 1986 covering Italy against Argentina in the tournament which featured the Argentinian Diego Maradona's "goal of the century" against England.

He enjoyed recalling the confusion at his hotel at his first World Cup in Mexico, where he received a string of phone calls to his room. Word had spread that one "G. Harrison" was staying. Callers apparently thought he was George Harrison of the Beatles.

Gerry was married for 57 years to Kate, the vivacious, warm-hearted dancer and soon-to-be air stewardess he met by chance in a Cheshire pub, a moment he always described as one of life's great strokes of fortune. They shared a deep love of travel, and Kate often joined him on trips to major tournaments, including most of the World Cups. At home, they found joy in quieter pleasures, especially cycling together to local pubs in the Norfolk countryside. He often said they complemented each other precisely because they were so different, and he credited her with bringing warmth, energy, and adventure into his life.

Gerry and Kate had three daughters, Joanna, a journalist and branded content creator, Nicola, a photographer and Georgina a dancer and campsite manager. He is survived by his wife and daughters, his older siblings, David and Diana, five grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

### **Barrie Hesp (Chemistry, 1959)**

*by his family*

Barrie Hesp, 85, devoted family man, accomplished scientist and passionate angler, passed away on 30 July 2025, in New London, Connecticut, after a battle with lung illness. Born 18 September 1939, in Buxworth, Derbyshire, Barrie's life was marked with intellectual curiosity, profound kindness, and spirited adventure.

Barrie's academic journey began in the Derbyshire peaks at New Mills Grammar School and then to the halls of Brasenose College, where he earned first-class honours in Chemistry and later completed

both his MA and DPhil. He continued his studies as a Junior Research Fellow at Queen's College, Oxford, and with postdoctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley (his beloved Cal), where he worked with Nobel Laureate Professor, Melvin Calvin, expanding his expertise in organic chemistry.

His professional career spanned several decades and continents. Barrie held senior scientific and leadership roles at Zeneca Pharmaceuticals Group (formerly ICI Pharmaceuticals Group and Imperial Chemical Industries Plc), directing teams that contributed to significant pharmaceutical drug discoveries. Later, at Pfizer Inc., he rose to Vice President, Strategic Alliances, where he helped drive industry-leading research and licensing partnerships and the launch of significant transformative medicines. Barrie's impact extended far beyond the laboratory – he was involved in multiple influential regional, national and international industry conferences and publications and the mentoring of countless scientists.

While Barrie's professional achievements were remarkable, it was his devotion to family and love for life's simplest pleasures that truly defined him. For 61 years, he shared an extraordinary marriage and partnership with his wife, Judith Ann Hesp – always described by him as “his rock”. He was a beloved and inspiring father to his daughter, Clare Cukier (and her spouse, Herman Cukier), and his son, Richard Hesp (and his spouse, Satoko Kishi Hesp). Barrie's legacy further flourishes in his grandchildren – Alexander Cukier, Andrew Hesp, Ashley Cukier Risko (and her spouse, Peter Hall-Risko), and William Hesp – each of whom brought him immense pride; and in his great-grandchild, Quinn Whiton Risko, whose arrival filled him with boundless delight. Barrie is also survived by his brother-in-law and lifetime friend, Michael Birkett, with whom Barrie daily sought to solve *New York Times* crossword puzzles and to discuss world affairs. Barrie greatly enjoyed his many conversations with Mike regarding historical and current matters.

Retirement brought Barrie and Judith new adventures, including many happy winters spent in Nelson, New Zealand, where they immersed themselves in the region's natural beauty and community.

Those closest to Barrie fondly recall his deep love of fly fishing – a passion that led him to Scotland's River Thurso, the Oreti River in New Zealand, salmon fishing in Murmansk and numerous fishing adventures with close friends in the waters surrounding Noank,

Connecticut. On these trips, Barrie relished the hope of the next cast and the companionship of friends, ghillie and guide. In particular, Barrie shared many stories with family and friends about escapades in New Zealand hiking over broken ground to a favourite fishing spot with friend and guide, Paul van de Loo; Scottish highland memories with friend and ghillie, Jimmy MacDonald; and numerous Connecticut adventures with friend and guide, Chris Lefebvre.

Family, friends and colleagues will remember Barrie for his intelligence, quick wit and insightful conversations. He welcomed all with an open mind, sharing stories rich with humour and wisdom, and always ready with a generous word or helping hand. His home was filled with laughter, warmth, and storytelling.

In tribute to Barrie, all who knew him are invited to extend a hand of kindness in his memory, to attempt a Sunday *New York Times* crossword, or perhaps to cast a line from a riverbank or on open water.

### **Brian Reginald Higgins (Modern Languages, 1952)**

*by Christopher Higgins*

My father Brian Higgins died peacefully on 15 May 2025, at the age of 93. He was born in Norwood, South London, gained a scholarship to Alleyn's School, and was evacuated with his fellow pupils to Rossall in Lancashire during the war.

After National Service in the Royal Artillery, he came up to Brasenose in 1952 to study Modern Languages under Robert Shackleton, whom he appreciated as an inspiring and genial tutor. He enjoyed his time at the College and made good friends, and though in retrospect he reflected that perhaps he studied too much and could have made more of the university, he was a keen athlete. While he didn't hit the Olympic heights of his brother Terence (now Lord) Higgins, he ran for the Army, and for Oxford University. He witnessed Roger Bannister break the four-minute mile at the Iffley Road track.

On leaving Brasenose he joined the Hispanic Council as an education and cultural attaché, and though he moved away from this field of work, the arts, especially opera, classical music and painting, remained lifelong passions. Instead, his language skills drew him into the 'white heat of technology' in the 1960s, training in Paris with De La Rue Bull, who made early computers and electronic machines. This was the foundation

of his long career in the computer industry, notably with Calcomp (a Californian company) which specialised in machines for technical and other kinds of drawing and design. He established and managed all their European operation, building businesses in many countries and of course enjoying visits to La Scala, Teatro Madrid and the Paris Opera along the way. He was skilful at appreciating the variety of working cultures in these different locations and gathering people who could co-operate across the continent.

He was kind, generous and loved spending time with his sister Rosemary and his family, raising myself and my sister Alexandra with my mother Anne. In later years his partner Gillian and her family were also a source of joy. No stranger to the racecourse, he owned a couple of horses – one of which to his delight won on Oaks Day at Epsom.

He stayed connected to the College, attending gaudies and in recent years finding himself one of a few very senior alumni enjoying the annual Diamond Jubilee Lunch. He will be deeply missed.

### **Martin Karmel (Jurisprudence, 1951)**

*by Cilla Karmel*

Martin was born on 9 March 1933, the younger of two children, in Bournemouth, to a doctor, Arthur Lee, and his wife, Mary. Martin's father died when he was only two, but his mother remarried Alexander Karmel, whose name Martin took. Martin was educated at Boxgrove prep school in Guildford, before going on to Malvern College where he was well regarded by his teachers and was a prefect. In 1951, he went to Brasenose College on an Open Scholarship, to study classics, and after that did a year of law. In his four years there, he achieved not only academic but sporting distinction, playing Rugby and football. Intent as he was on going into law, he also became secretary of the Ellesmere Law Society, the Brasenose society for its lawyers, past and present.

Martin first trained as a barrister, joining the Middle Temple, but he did not stay long and took the Law Society exams to qualify as a solicitor. From there he joined a family firm in the West End. After several years there he then joined the British Bankers' Association, where he spent the rest of his career, becoming head of the legal operations, and number two in the organisation, giving advice to governments on the technical

aspects of banking legislation. This led to his being awarded an OBE for services to banking.

On joining the British Bankers' Association, he debarred himself lest there was a conflict of interest and, when he retired from banking, he requalified for the Bar, although he never used his advocacy skills again.

Martin loved Greece and practising his Greek, and used the ancient form of the language when he discovered the island of Alonissos, which became his second home. There he, and later his wife Cilla, made many friends, and they loved their regular visits, always returning brown as a berry. He was a gifted linguist and spoke very good modern French as well.

Martin was a keen Mason, belonging to three lodges, including the Grand Lodge in London, and regularly held different senior positions.

Martin continued with his love of sport until the very end of his life, playing cricket, becoming a mean tennis player and taking up beagling. He enjoyed intellectual challenges, reading avidly, sometimes two or three books at a time, doing the crossword and taking part in quizzes.

Martin married twice, and had two children with his first wife, Nicolette and Alexander, to whom he was very close. He adored his three grandchildren, Joseph, Poppy and Charlotte.

Martin also loved cats, particularly Burmese, always having two at a time. One of these pets, Minnimore, became famous worldwide for its catburgling skills: it featured in several magazines and television programmes.

Martin died on 28 December 2024, after a long battle with Alzheimer's, and is much missed by his wife Cilla, his family and his many friends.

### **Laurence Andrew Kenworthy-Browne**

**(Literae Humaniores, 1954)**

*by Charles Hadcock*

*10 August 1933 – 2 January 2025*

Laurence studied Greats at Brasenose, matriculating in 1954. He thoroughly enjoyed this scholarly pursuit, always happy to refer to this time and especially that he had attended the last lecture given by Monsignor Ronald Knox.

His career as a teacher of English to mature foreign students was enjoyable and rewarding but really an interruption to his own studies. So as soon as he could return his beloved classics he did so.

He joined the Oxford and Cambridge Club Greek reading group for their weekly get-together in Pall Mall and in 2018 completed his MPhil at King's College, London, with his thesis on 'The Similes of Virgil's Aeneid: Their integration and interconnections'. He insisted on using only the best editions of the classical authors and availing himself of the most recent scholarship. His living room resembled that of an Oxford don with piles of books on every surface including the floor. He recently started studying for a further degree in Latin and right up to his death was trying to get his thesis into publishable form.

His funeral on 13 February at Holy Trinity Church, Brook Green, was well attended and everyone remarked that he was the soul of affability, a perfect conversationalist, courteous and gentle but with a twinkle of humour and a characteristic chuckle.

### **Frederic Anthony Kilner (Engineering Science, 1945)**

*by Richard Kilner*

Frederic Anthony Kilner – more commonly known as Tony or 'Prof' – touched the lives of so many; in love, in friendship, and as a lecturer.

Tony was born on 5 February 1928 in Manchester in sight of the 'old' Old Trafford, home ground of the then great Manchester United whose fortunes he followed for many years. When he was aged four, the family moved to Disley in Cheshire where he lived with his parents and sister Pat.

His father was a municipal engineer with a particular expertise in water-related schemes – clearly of the same DNA as Tony.

He won a scholarship to Manchester Grammar School in 1932 and then in 1945 he won a scholarship for Oxford and went up to Brasenose College. When he graduated in 1948 he moved to London to study for his Master's degree at Imperial College. When he won the scholarship to Oxford, it came with a caveat. He couldn't accept it unless he had Latin as a year 12 subject. So, he took the summer holiday to learn five years' worth of Latin, take and pass an exam, and fulfil his ambition to attend Oxford. That was the sort of person he was: clever but also dedicated and extremely hard-working.

Whilst in London he met and married Joan on 26 March 1951 and in 1953 they returned to her home country of South Africa.

Tony joined the department of civil engineering at the University of Cape Town (UCT) as a lecturer in February 1953, and he lectured there until his retirement as emeritus professor in December 1993. His passion was hydraulics and in particular coastal engineering. One project of his was in regard to the seawater inlets for the Koeberg nuclear power station, the first (and only) nuclear power station in South Africa. Together with some extremely talented technical folks at UCT they designed and built automated submersible sediment samplers. It was an amazing project, but nobody enjoyed the swell off the Melkbos coast in a small boat.

Tony fathered two sons, Richard and Simon, who enjoyed an idyllic childhood, a particular highlight of which was their annual sojourn to Onrust where for twelve consecutive years they spent the month of December there and Tony braaied [barbecued] every night – with wood – he was truly a braai-master, if old fashioned.

When Tony emigrated to South Africa, he had brought with him, on a Union Castle liner, a traditional split-screen Morris Minor. After years of faithful service, it needed an engine rebuild, and so with his dear friend Mike de Kock, he removed the engine using overhead pulleys in his little garage and sent the block off to some engine rebuilders. Then a couple of weeks later they collected a rebuilt engine, and put it back in as good as new. His commitment to getting the job done was fabulous. This is what he gave his sons: the example he set, how mechanical parts worked and the confidence and tenacity to take on these types of challenges.

In 1974 Tony became warden of College House – it was a role he delighted in despite the antics of the students in his charge. His famous goatee beard led to regular overnight kidnappings of goats by students who raided Cape Town zoo. The kidnapped goat was left in his garden to graze happily overnight until discovered by Tony in the morning.

He was fairly abstemious, never smoked, and drank very little. At formal College House dinners, the students would delight in encouraging him to drink as much alcohol as possible. He did however have a number of food weaknesses; he was uncontrollable in the presence of ice-cream, butter and chocolate. And he was very fond of duck and would always pick it on a menu if available.

Tony had an incredible passion for classical music and an encyclopaedic recollection of everything he heard. He also loved cats and dogs – he had many cats but only one dog – dearly beloved Marco, his black Labrador.

Joan became unwell in 2002; and as her illness progressed Tony nursed and cared for her with amazing compassion. She sadly ended up spending her last year in a nearby care home until she passed away in June 2009.

In May 2010 he met Dorothy at his church, and they were a devoted couple until his passing. They enjoyed a loving caring relationship in the twilight of their years. And as he became more unwell, Dorothy was his constant companion and carer, and it gave his absent sons much comfort knowing he was well cared for.

In messages of condolence people have said some wonderful things; to quote a few:

“Prof Kilner opened my eyes to sciences related to the ocean.”

“I appreciate his friendship and input into my life.”

“I always found him to be, with respect to lecturing and teaching ‘on another planet’ compared with all the other lecturers we had. He made everything he taught simple and obvious – even the most complex of subjects.”

“I consider myself to have been extraordinarily lucky to have served as one of Tony’s acolytes.”

“Prof was my favourite lecturer at UCT and his enthusiasm for hydraulics was one of the reasons that I selected hydraulics for my postgraduate studies at the University of California, Berkley.”

“We loved and respected Prof and shall treasure many fond memories.”

### **Colin Langford (Modern Languages, 1962)**

*by Bob Johnson (Zoology, 1962)*

A most telling truth about a funeral assembly for an elder is the presence of many mourners who knew the deceased since their juvenile years. Even more notable when the assembly is rich in former pupils who were taught and guided by their former teacher at the start of their journeys in both academic and sporting matters. Their teacher was Colin Peter Langford.

Colin grew up in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, a suburb of south Manchester, and at the age of eleven entered William Hulme’s Grammar

School. There he soon entered the fast stream and showed a facility for most subjects including modern and ancient languages. Colin was also interested in sports, and despite his spectacles, was soon showing promise in both cricket and lacrosse, interests and expertise which he developed through school teams, at university, and for the rest of his life. He was also good at making friends, and the serious boy revealed a sure dry Lancashire humour which he maintained and developed throughout his life.

Music was a very important part of Colin's existence, beginning with skiffle and rock, but very soon graduating to classical. Visits to the Free Trade Hall, usually with school friends, particularly with Jeff Lee, another linguist, were transforming, leading to serious discussions and disagreements with teachers, one of whom suggested he was "certainly not yet ready for Bruckner." Colin's collection of vinyl music, later of discs and tapes, was extraordinary, but, as yet, was not accompanied by a musical instrument. This would have to wait until, some years later at Brasenose, he shocked his friends, apart from Jim Andrew, with whom he played ukulele duets.

His great sense of the outdoor world was nurtured by his parents who knew and loved the Lake District, and took him and Jeff Lee there to Tilberthwaite at weekends and longer holidays in the summer. The beauty and the rawness of the Lakes and the camaraderie of walking and exploring in the hills never left him, and explains why he retired there after a life on the Lancashire plain.

Colin's introduction in a grammar school in Manchester to the American Indian game of lacrosse was probably totally unexpected. It was the case, however, that this elegant and apparently brutal game, was played competitively at that time with great vigour and enjoyment in many of the grammar schools in and around Manchester. Young people pick up difficult physical tasks far better than their elders and many boys took immediately to the task of catching and throwing the hard rubber ball in a net affixed to a stick. Like the pelota racket, the lacrosse stick provides wonderful purchase on a heavy ball. Throwing very hard and accurately and catching fast flying objects become second nature. Boys tend to appreciate these powers. and Colin certainly did. Played in the Easter term, while the turf tries to dry, lacrosse encourages the upright game with endless running. Colin joined the house and school teams as

he rose through the years, and took these and other skills to Oxford in 1962 when he won a Hulme Schools Exhibition to Brasenose.

Reading French, playing lacrosse and listening to music filled Colin's time at Oxford. The relaxed group of coffee providers, mostly in and around the new Arup Building met regularly there, and at the King's Arms. Competitive and amusing, this erratic group provided an ancillary and necessary education for callow youths released into a new world. As expected Colin played serious lacrosse, and energetically captained the 1964 team, an amalgam of mostly northern undergraduates and magnificent Rhodes Scholars and All-Americans from the USA. On camera these half blues looked unbeatable.

Colin graduated and went on to take a teaching course in Manchester which led him immediately into taking up his first post at his former school where his language skills and sporting prowess were accepted with delight. In 1980 he was appointed Head of the Junior School, the first and second forms, numbering 240 boys. He made it his responsibility to know all the names, the abilities and the characters of each pupil, encouraging them to achieve the best they could. His impact in class and on the sports field were memorable for the hundreds of young people he taught. Inevitably he was involved in "field trips" to the Lake District and elsewhere where his experience was invaluable, and where he met his future wife who was also helping with the school party. Two stepchildren, both boys, entered his life and were very much loved and appreciated, not least for their musicianship. Colin's experience on the Pennine Way and in the Lake District encouraged him to explore the Cumbrian Fells with the boys who look back on these trips as a revelation. He was much involved for 43 years with the Whalley Range Cricket Club, in many ways an 'Old Hulmeian's' sporting club, close by the school, where he played cricket in summer and lacrosse in winter (in goal, of all places!).

When Colin retired from teaching he soon left Manchester for the Lake District hoping to spend more of his time rambling in the hills he loved, and returning regularly to his Whalley Range club. Sadly this lasted only a short while because he found himself unable to engage in 'rough' walking because of severe joint pain, a condition that was not diagnosed for some years. Eventually a correct appraisal was reached and large doses of Vitamin D restored much of his walking ability. This marvellous improvement permitted the acquisition of a dog, Nell, who

provided the daily walking duty and companionship. Nell was succeeded by Bob, another collie, another distinct character. In Keswick he was not without company during this time, receiving regular visitors who would stay with him to enjoy the delights of the area. Many of these visitors were former pupils and colleagues from Manchester. One great ex-Manchester friend, Ian Roberts, regularly joined Colin at cricket matches at Sedbergh and elsewhere, but had no success in persuading him to enter the digital age.

Colin's life in Keswick was busy in many ways. His days were disciplined and regular. Helping with the books in Oxfam for many years, trading in stamps in a grand manner – the last time this writer met up with him in 2024 he had recently sent off kilograms of stamps to other dealers. He read widely and critically, and watched sport avidly on the television. His day always began with the *Times* crossword which he usually completed in under ten minutes. Colin was a good, kind and decent man, very widely known, loved and appreciated by many.

I am indebted to Simon Ogier for information contained in his eulogy, and to Jeff Lee for memories of time spent with Colin.

### **Simon Mawer (Zoology, 1967)**

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“I don't want to tell the truth. I want to manipulate things as I choose. I want to lie”

Simon Mawer, who has died aged seventy-six, was an elegant, uncluttered writer of novels with plots inspired by real people and events, ranging from the history of genetics (*Mendel's Dwarf*, 1997) to religious conflicts in the 16th-century Mediterranean (*The Bitter Cross*, 1992), and from Anne-Marie Walters, aka the SOE agent Colette (*The Girl who Fell from the Sky*, 2012, and *Tightrope*, 2015) to his own hobby of climbing, which ended in 1975 when an accident on Ben Nevis left him clinging to an ice ledge for twenty-two hours (*The Fall*, 2012).

One of Mawer's guiding ideas was that fiction frees the writer to explore. As he put it in a Guardian interview in 2009, “I don't want to tell the truth. I want to manipulate things as I choose. I want to lie.” Nowhere was his eclectic talent for literary invention better

deployed than in *The Glass Room* (2009), which was shortlisted for the Booker prize.

The novel reimaged the history of the modernist Villa Tugendhat, situated on a hilltop in the city of Brno (now in the Czech Republic), built by Mies van der Rohe for a Jewish textiles entrepreneur and expropriated in the German invasion of 1938. In Mawer's hands it became the Landauer House, designed by Rainer von Abt, and the novel traced its passage from its owners through Nazi, Soviet and Communist hands, holding up a mirror to the grand vicissitudes of the twentieth century.

The book won enthusiastic reviews, Rachel Aspden in the *Sunday Telegraph Magazine* observing that it “achieves the rare feat of being truly enjoyable to read” and expressing the hope that its publication might help to save the Landauer House's real twin, then crumbling in the hands of Brno city council (the villa was subsequently restored and opened to the public in 2012).

When *The Glass Room* made the Booker shortlist, some reviewers depicted Mawer as the obscure outsider in the literary steeplechase. But in fact he had been writing fiction for twenty years, had seven previous novels under his belt (and two works of non-fiction) and had already won a couple of prizes. He was, however, unlucky to be up against the likes of Sarah Waters, JM Coetzee and Hilary Mantel, who took the Booker for *Wolf Hall*.

Simon Mawer was born in England on 18 September 1948, the son of an RAF officer whose postings took the family to Cyprus (where Mawer later set *Swimming to Ithaca*, 2006) and to Malta, where his father became Air Officer in Command.

Simon was sent to boarding school in England aged eight and hated it, though he developed a theory that boarding school “is good training for writers because it's so desperately lacking in privacy: you make space for yourself by having an interior life”. He spent much time in the school library, and at Millfield School in Somerset he was swept away by Laurence Durrell's *Alexandria Quartet*.

He had wanted to be a writer, but when he went up to Brasenose College, due to what he described as a “mess-up” it was to read Zoology. He had originally thought he might be a doctor but lacked the grades to read medicine.

Casting around after Oxford, he found himself drifting into teaching biology, first at a school in Guernsey then at Rannoch School, Perthshire, and later at St George's School in Rome, where he lived for much of his life.

He began climbing in Guernsey, tackling its cliffs with a friend at weekends, progressing to more challenging ascents in Scotland. The event he revisited in *The Fall*, which netted him the Boardman Tasker Prize for mountain literature, occurred when he was leading on an ice route up the north face of Ben Nevis. A cornice collapsed above him, knocking him off the mountain.

"I fell a full rope-length on a 150ft rope and ended up out of sight of my partner, hanging upside down. When I managed to right myself and looked up at the cliff above me, my first thought was 'I'm not even going to try it.' And that was the moment I knew I wasn't going to be a serious climber." In the novel Ben Nevis is upgraded to the Eiger.

Mawer finally began writing in earnest in Malta, spurred by a fascination with the Knights of St John, the Malta-based military-religious order founded in 1113. Due to a dispute over work permits, however, he decamped to Rome, where he embarked on a different project, inspired in part by his father's wartime experiences dropping SOE agents into occupied Europe. That became *Chimera* (1989), his first book, about a man who is dropped in Italy during the war and returns later to explore Etruscan archaeology.

*Chimera* won the McKitterick Prize for first novels in 1989 and, encouraged, Mawer went on to rewrite his Malta material as *The Bitter Cross*.

It was *Mendel's Dwarf*, based on the life of the molecular biologist Benedict Lambert, fictional descendant of Gregor Mendel, the 'father' of modern genetics, that saw him come into his own as a writer. The book reached the finals of the *Los Angeles Times* awards, though Mawer had his first real commercial success with *The Gospel of Judas* (2000) due to its appearing half a year before Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, its story of a Roman Catholic priest's crisis of faith attracting readers looking for a similar tale.

Of his later work, *Tightrope*, the sequel to *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*, about the wartime SOE agent-turned postwar spy Marian Sutro, won the Walter Scott Prize for historical fiction, though reviews were

mixed: the *Telegraph*'s James Walton found *Tightrope* "formulaic, despite a compelling heroine".

Mawer's final novel, *Ancestry*, based on the lives of some of his nineteenth-century ancestors, was undercut, in the opinion of the *Guardian* reviewer, "by the author butting in to remind us of his exhaustive research".

Simon Mawer is survived by his wife Connie, and by their son and daughter.

### **Michael Rabone (*Literae Humaniores*, 1976)**

*by David Birkett (Chemistry, 1973)*

Had I only known Mike from our college days I would still have been very sad to hear of his death, for he was a decent guy, with a sardonic sense of humour, and a friend, if not a particularly close one. But beyond that, it would add to the depressing list of younger BNC friends who didn't make it to seventy: my brother **Paul Birkett (Chemistry, 1976)**, **Chris Hornby (Mathematics, 1976)**, **Paul Evans (Agriculture, 1974)**, **Tony Marchington (Chemistry, 1973)**, **Phil Hanley (Literae Humaniores, 1976)** and **Pete Lewis (Chemistry, 1974)**.

However, I did get to know him better and like him more. My first job was in Coventry, where Mike grew up, and he became a regular visitor to our house. He then joined our hill walking group (our first and only classicist), put together of former BNC chemists plus their families and friends (several more of whom also died too young, notably **Steve Moore (Chemistry, 1971)**). On these holidays he was a very cheerful, friendly, helpful guy (at college he had a bit of a reputation for grumpiness).

He then had the first of three strokes, but this one probably did him more good than harm, as he forced himself to get leaner and fitter – he even managed to complete some Munros. However, at the turn of the century, when Mike was working in banking in Edinburgh and was due to do most of the shopping for one of the holidays, he didn't turn up. **Nigel Bird (Chemistry, 1973)** (a founder member of the group) reported this to the police in Edinburgh, who eventually found that he had suffered another stroke. This one left him deaf and with a speech

impediment. He carried on coming for a while, but when he learned that he wasn't going to get better he gave up the hill-walking.

When he died recently, his sister contacted Nigel, telling him that he had suffered a third stroke a couple of years earlier and had never really recovered. This was very saddening, not so much through the death itself, but that the last third of his life had been so difficult.

I could stop here, but I thought I should add a couple of anecdotes from his college days.

I knew him then mostly through cricket, both playing and watching. He was a 1st XI player and I was mostly '2nd XI' (a team that only played friendlies, set up as a term-time Hornets), but we were occasionally teammates. He was a useful, accurate, medium-paced trundler with a bit of swing.

We both went down to the Oval as part of a crowd to see England v India. It came on to rain quite early. I was too busy with my DPhil to sit around hoping the match would restart, so went back to Oxford, fortunately for me as it turned out. For after quite a few more beers the rest of the crowd also set off back. Two guys started a mock fight in the Tube, and an old lady pulled the communication cord. When the police arrived, they simply nabbed the two biggest guys, of which one was Mike, and insisted that "they did it", even though the two culprits admitted that it was them. If I had hung around, I would have been nabbed, being bigger than Mike.

Mike shared a house with three BNC cricket friends: **Andy Jenner (Engineering Science, 1976)**, **Rick Kerle (Mathematics, 1976)**, and the above-mentioned Phil Hanley. One time the four of them were having dinner in an Indian restaurant. When they had nearly finished one got up, ostensibly to go to the loo, but never returned, then another did the same, and then a third, leaving Mike to field the bill. As soon as he tried to stand up the waiters grabbed him and insisted that he pay up, or make his unjustified police record worse.

Perhaps grumpiness was a perfectly appropriate attitude at times! Anyway, RIP Mike. You were a good man, and it's a pity we lost you.

**(William) Graham Richards (Chemistry, 1959)**

by Bernard Richards (*English, 1959*) (*Emeritus Fellow*)

I first met Graham in Michaelmas Term 1959. He and Martin Fox came round to my room to buy a bottle-green bulbous portable radio. Their only stipulation was that it should get Radio Luxembourg.

The most vivid memory of Graham is when he and I were on the team for *University Challenge*. The other two were Brian Dowse and Christopher Butler. We were just chosen at random. Nowadays there is an elaborate selection process, with challenging dummy runs. We drove up to Manchester for the recording. This was before the M6 was built. I have a memory of A-roads over moorland, the scent of Oxford wallflowers left behind, and late winter or early spring asserting itself, ash trees thrashing in the wind like the “terrible whips” of D.H. Lawrence’s ‘Discord in Childhood’. So this was the North. We were beaten by King’s College, London. Bamber Gascoigne was incredibly charming and welcoming. Afterwards Graham accused me of getting his fan-mail. We were told to wear dark shirts, so as not to dazzle the cameras. Christopher wore a black shirt. This was when students looked like people, rather than like students. I can’t remember what the score was. I wonder if the programme has been wiped? Graham answered the scientific questions. When one watches the programme at home one is yelling answers at the screen. In the studio, though, one’s brain is frazzled and all mental faculties are atrophied. In the rehearsal I managed to forget the title of *As You Like It*. One question in the rehearsal was “What is the meaning of the initials RSG (Regional Seat of Government)?” I pushed the buzzer and said, “We are not supposed to know that.” It was established to offer administration in the event of a nuclear war. Officials were given four pennies, so that they could phone from a call-box if a bomb landed.

Graham and his wife, Jessamy came to a little cabaret that a friend and I put on when we were lecturers at Christ Church. Graham was by then at Balliol. One of the cabaret songs alluded to him: “youth’s inspiration where the port is mellow”, to the tune of ‘These foolish things’. Then we sloped off to the Brasenose Ball.

I saw a lot of Graham when I became a Fellow of Brasenose. He was already ensconced. After a year or two he looked more and more like Steve Austin, the “Six Million Dollar Man.”

He was a great sportsman, which I never was. He was very interested in sport, and suggested that football could be made more interesting if the goalposts were further apart. Michael Berendt remembers him as an effective hockey player, and I remember him as an accomplished bowler when the SCR played against the staff. He was the picture of health, sunburnt through political campaigning in Blackbird Leys with an open-top Triumph Herald. The prospective voters complained to him that the garages in their council houses were too small for their Jensens and Jaguars. A few years later the children of those citizens were stealing cars, joyriding round the estate and burning them at the end of the evening.

One day Graham was outraged that someone was blocking the entrance to Radcliffe Square with a car. So he nudged it gently out of the way, but was spotted and almost prosecuted, I think, by the law. Barry Nicholas was much perturbed, and told Graham that this threatened his chances of becoming the Chancellor of a provincial university. Graham told him he had no intention of becoming the Chancellor of a provincial university.

He gave a science lecture in Brasenose College Hall, and shone a laser beam round about. Must have been the first time in almost 500 years of history that this had happened. I did not discuss Graham's scientific work very much with him, but I do recall him telling me that he could have made a large sum of money if he had got more involved with animal welfare organisations, and sold them the idea that a good deal of experiments with animals could be avoided if one conducted computer tests.

Graham was the Senior Member of the Phoenix Common Room, tracing its origins to Sir Francis Dashwood's Hellfire Club at Medmenham Abbey near High Wycombe. He took members on a tour there. I wonder if they wore their eighteenth-century uniforms with the silver PCR buttons? If they had we could have had a recrudescence of the occasion when Charlotte Anne Moberly (the first Principal of St. Hugh's College) and Eleanor Jourdain thought they saw ghosts at the Petit Trianon, Versailles, including Marie Antoinette. Either they were deluded or they stumbled on a *tableau vivant* organised by the decadent French poet Robert de Montesquiou. One member of the Phoenix was Ron Laura, who had done so much body-building exercise that a special uniform had to be made. He would arm-wrestle opponents with one

arm, when they were allowed to use two. Graham loved to tell the story of how Ron's wife met him. She was on a raft off-shore, when this figure with an enormous torso appeared. However he had mainly developed his upper body, so that his legs looked thin by comparison. She told her parents, 'I've just met this guy with withered legs.'

When Queen Mary predicted her death she said that when her body was cut open "Calais" would be found graven on her heart. I predicted that when Graham died "Julianstow" would be found graven on his heart. Julianstow was a nice house on the slope of Headington Hill. It was said to be sliding down the slope, so the Governing Body was anxious to sell it. Graham was very anxious to keep it, and often stood up for its retention during Governing Body Meetings. When I die "The Eckersley Room" will be found graven on my heart. It was in the south-west corner of Old Quad, but is now part of the kitchen.

Graham's best intervention in Governing Body was when there was a scheme to put blue plaques on the doors of rooms which had once housed interesting people. He was opposed to it. As was I. Indeed, I am opposed to blue plaques anyway – they spoil the facades of nice old houses. He said "Non plaquet" (a pun on the proctorial *Non placet*).

Little incidents come back. There was the Fellows' Christmas Dinner hosted by Nicholas Kurti, who was a gastrophysicist: inverted baked Alaskas, that kind of thing. For dessert the mince pies came with hypodermic syringes filled with some cocktail. Graham: "Should I just go for a main vein?" He was at some chemistry conference, and a northern chemist introduced Professor Alain Fuchs to the audience as "Professor Fuchs" – to rhyme with Fucks. Graham took him to task, and said it should be Fooks. Northern chemist: "But I couldn't say that, could I!"

He was so often witty and to the point. He said finely cut cold meat for lunch made him think of Raymond Lucas (the German don and *Curator Hortorum*). Raymond was very elusive. When Simon Schama was appointed he wrote asking if he could have a corner of the College in which to grow herbs. Graham said, "Let him find Raymond Lucas; that can be his first initiative test." He once played a splendid practical joke on Richard Griffiths. At lunch he heard Robert Shackleton saying that he was going up to London in the University Car. Richard overheard it, and asked if he could cadge a lift. He went back to his room, and Graham rang up, pretending to be someone from the University Offices:

‘I understand you are going up to London in the University Car with Dr. Shackleton. Unfortunately the employee who normally sits in the front seat to open the passenger door is unable to attend, so we are wondering if you could stand in for him?’ I think Graham probably stopped short of suggesting that Richard should wear a peaked cap.

Graham had an enormous repertoire of anecdotes about former members of the College and former Fellows, which he would relay with glee. There was, for instance, the professor who was also a male stripper. I wish I could remember his name, and now that Graham has gone it might not be recoverable. He had a number of Ronald Syme anecdotes, of which the best was rushing away to read *David Copperfield* in German: “Dickens is so much better in German.” He also told us how Syme had informed him that “gluttony isn’t possible with fruit.” His constant delight in life is summed up in a picture I took at a Gaudy (in a marquee, because major work was going on in the College). Our old friend the poet Michael Horovitz is playing the kazoo – probably the first kazoo to be played at a gaudy anywhere.

Graham was very proud of his Welsh ancestry. I have this image of him recounting the memories of rambunctious, riotous, rollicking revelries at Welsh wakes. Thinking of him brings up the distant past. In ancient time undergraduates who owned vehicles were required by the Proctors to have green lights on them. He was going through the Mersey Tunnel on his moped and was stopped by a policeman who queried the light. “I have to have it in Oxford”. “You’re not in Oxford now, mate”, and he ripped it off. The system was suspended in March 1967 by the Minister of Transport Barbara Castle. It had been suspended during the war, because military vehicles displayed green lights.

When one lives long enough the coincidences in Anthony Powell’s *Dance to the Music of Time* start to seem less preposterous. Sometime in the ’eighties I went to a literary conference in Gregynog Hall on the Welsh border, a few miles south-west of Welshpool. It’s associated with the famous Gregynog Press. In a cottage in the grounds was an aunt of Graham’s and I had tea with her. She reminisced about the bright and charming little boy who had no ‘side’. Indeed, he never had ‘side’ later on in life either. Northern chemists were always supposed to be boring nerds. Graham was the very opposite of that. And he didn’t cost six million dollars.

Graham often used to say, “what has posterity done for me?” I think we can see that posterity did do something for him in the splendid Memorial Service on 20 September 2025.

**(William) Graham Richards (Chemistry, 1959)**

*by Duncan Hill, reproduced by kind permission of The Times*

By commercialising his work on computational methods for molecular design, Graham Richards pretty much turned his chemistry lab into a casino, making millions of pounds for the University of Oxford as well as for himself. He even wrote the handbook, *Spin-Outs: Creating Businesses from University Intellectual Property* (2009). “I try to show that you can do this without prostituting yourself, without giving up on academic values, and that it can be a lot of fun,” he explained.

Richards used computers to calculate the properties of compounds. In his early days as a chemistry lecturer and fellow of Brasenose College, nobody thought that this had commercial potential, least of all him. The computer he used was an enormous rumbling behemoth, though less powerful than a modern watch. For one project, he invited the public to donate their home-computing power, screening billions of molecules for cancer-fighting potential using idle screensaver time.

Gradually he realised the value of his work. “I produced, immodestly, the world’s first colour graphic pictures of molecular structures,” he told *The Guardian*, describing them as an alternative to the sticks-and-balls method chemists traditionally used for modelling compounds. However, the technology had other applications, including enabling scientists to compute properties of compounds without first manufacturing them, saving the pharmaceutical industry a fortune.

For many years he had been giving companies copies of his computer programs for a nominal sum. “Moreover, I was in no position to support anything we actually sold,” he wrote. Nevertheless, “there was no doubt that we possessed some technology which could form the basis of a company”. He was also inspired by visits to Stanford University, in California, where he saw how hi-tech businesses were thriving.

Having the idea for a spin-out was the easy part; getting it off the ground was another thing altogether. Richards almost did so in the early 1980s with Tony Marchington), his research student, but then got cold feet. He was spurred into action after the death of his first wife,

Jessamy, from cancer in 1988. “The day following her funeral, I rang Tony and suggested that we do something about the company... The tipping point was my need to keep busy as a form of therapy,” he wrote.

Another influence was Margaret Thatcher, an Oxford-trained chemist who as prime minister provided tax incentives for venture capitalists to back high-technology ventures and to whom he dedicated *Spin-Outs*. Thatcher also enabled the ownership of intellectual property from research conducted in government-funded universities to be transferred to those universities, providing they established the mechanisms to exploit it. In November 1988 Richards formed Oxford Molecular, having first entertained potential investors in the Brasenose senior common room, “with candelabra and especially snuff being an excellent public relations boost”, he wrote. After 18 months Oxford Molecular was marginally profitable; after six years, highly profitable.

In 2006 *The Times Higher Education Supplement* described Richards as one of the top dozen British academic “super earners”, and at least five members of his department became millionaires. “I guess I’ve made a couple of million one way or the other,” he admitted. Nevertheless, he feared that business success might damage his career, adding: “Many academics are somewhat snooty about people who commercialise their work.”

William Graham Richards was born in Greasby, on the Wirral Peninsula, on 1 October 1939. He was the son of Percy Richards, a printer, and his wife Gwendoline (née Evans), who had entered domestic service at the age of eleven. Both parents were of Welsh descent and when his mother suffered postnatal depression and suicidal tendencies the family retreated to a clan of supportive relatives in mid-Wales.

They returned to Greasby after VJ Day where Richards overcame polio to pass the eleven-plus. At Birkenhead School he was a member of the Combined Cadet Force and once went on a Royal Marine Volunteer Reserve course on the Mersey, but missed compulsory National Service by a day.

His application to Jesus College, Cambridge, to read natural sciences was rejected. Instead, he applied to Brasenose to study physics but was inexplicably offered a place to read chemistry. “I don’t know whether this was prescience on behalf of the Brasenose dons or an administrative error,” he recalled. He was a contemporary of Jeffrey Archer, the

MP-turned-novelist, and by his own account spent “most afternoons involved in some sport or another and much of my evenings at parties”.

He appeared on *University Challenge* in 1964, the same year that he was awarded his DPhil. Academic jobs were easy to come by. “New universities were being created and existing ones were doubling in size,” he said. At 24 he was offered a lectureship at Oxford. “I didn’t even apply for the job; there wasn’t even an interview,” he said. He accepted on condition that he could first spend a year working in Paris with Carl Moser, an American quantum chemist who kept a paraplegic corgi called Gunter that lacked bladder control. This proved useful when Moser sought extra computer time from French ministers. “Fearful of damaging his carpet, the minister would agree,” Richards recalled.

Back at Oxford he became junior dean of Brasenose. One of his achievements was providing students with keys to the college gates, which were locked at 10 p.m. Another was the admission of female students in 1974. As pro-proctor he walked the evening streets in full academic regalia accompanied by two bulldogs, or university policemen. If they spotted misbehaviour he was to inquire if the miscreant was a member of the university, to which “the usual response was ‘f\*\*\* off.’” The custom soon died out.

On one occasion he was invited to a party at Trinity College and “went along with the not admirable intention of picking up one of their girls”. There he met Jessamy Kershaw, president of Somerville College junior common room. They were married in 1970. Eight years after her death he married Mary Phillips, then director of research programmes at University College, London. She survives him with two sons from his first marriage, Nicholas and Jonathan, and three stepchildren.

He was appointed professor of chemistry in 1996 and the following year became chairman of the department, bringing together what had hitherto been three chemistry tribes: physical, organic and inorganic. Over the next 11 years he upgraded the department’s IT facilities and raised more than £64 million for the new, world-class Chemistry Research Laboratory, which was opened by Elizabeth II in 2004. However, he was largely unsuccessful in his desire to upgrade the “awfully old-fashioned” undergraduate course because “too many colleagues were not prepared to change their teaching”.

Richards, a tall, debonair and sociable figure, remained a great sportsman. He once stood for election, campaigning in Blackbird Leys

in an open-top Triumph Herald. He retired in 2007 with a weekend-long celebration that included a hog roast and a cricket match. Yet not everything was straightforward in the world of spin-outs. Having started with £350,000 of venture capital, Oxford Molecular was at one stage worth £450 million. Then the bottom fell out of the biotechnology market. “We screwed it up and we sold for £70 million,” he said. “So we didn’t do everything right... You are not guaranteed to succeed.”

Graham died in his sleep on 11 February 2025, aged eighty-five.

**John Rountree**  
**(Engineering, Economics, Management, 1977)**

*by Ed Corbett (Biological Sciences, 1997)*

It is with sadness that I announce the untimely passing of John Rountree in July 2025.

John began his career at Deloitte and moved between a number of consultancies before establishing Novasecta in 2003. Set up to serve the mid-sized European pharma sector, the company made a name for itself in optimising R&D processes and leadership, supporting companies including Chiesi, Ipsen and Pierre Fabre. Its annual ‘Global 100’ report brought an experienced and authoritative overview of the industry and was widely read and respected.

I was lucky enough to be hired by him in 2015 and joined without any consulting experience. John took a risk in hiring me, but he was very patient and equipped me with the skills and knowledge that I use today. He was always very passionate about having intellectual rigour behind our work and fanatical about the correct use of language and grammar!

He generously held a ‘Twenty years of Novasecta’ celebration in 2023, and it was with great pride that he got to see many of those whose lives he influenced and profoundly affected, mine included.

He was a generous man who will be missed.

**Duncan Stuart (Literae Humaniores, 1953)**

*by his daughter and son*

Duncan Stuart CMG died aged 90 on April 17. The only child of Ian Cameron Stuart, founder and headmaster of Akeley Wood prep school in Buckinghamshire, and Patricia (née Hardy), Duncan was born on

1 July 1934, in Clacton, close to Frinton-on-Sea, the original location of the prep school (then called Hill Crest) founded by his grandfather Kenneth Stuart. Hill Crest was evacuated during wartime to Castell Deudraeth in the grounds of Portmeirion in North Wales. He attended his father's prep school both in Portmeirion and in its post-war location at Akeley Wood.

From Akeley Wood Duncan entered Rugby School in 1947, joining the school during what he would later describe as a golden era.

Duncan immersed himself in school life at Rugby across the board: a front-row forward in the first XV 1951-53, he latterly captained the XV, edited poetry for one of the school magazines alongside fellow XV member and later poet Jon Stallworthy, became head of Michell House, and head boy in 1953.

Inspired by the legendary Rugby figures Norman Saunders (Classics) and Timothy Tosswill (English Literature, the romantic poets), Duncan went up to Oxford as a classical scholar at Brasenose College.

He enjoyed his time at Oxford immensely, becoming a member of Vincent's and secretary of the Phoenix Common Room. He recalled hiring a young Magdalen music undergraduate to play piano at a dance he was organising at the Dragon School for the princely sum of £5 for the night. The pianist was one Dudley Moore.

On completing Mods and Greats, Duncan embarked on his National Service after his second year at Oxford. Passing out in January 1956 as Senior Under Officer at Eaton Hall, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1st Battalion, the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry (later the Royal Green Jackets, now The Rifles). He served with the British Army of the Rhine in Germany and in Cyprus during the emergency. He enjoyed his time in the army so much that he nearly decided to accept an offer of a commission as a regular officer. However, he opted to follow Minerva over Mars, returning to Oxford to complete his degree, and joined the Foreign Office, as it was then styled, in 1959.

Duncan's first posting was to Berlin at the height of the Cold War tension that gripped the divided city in 1960-61. Here he met his wife Leonore (née Liederwald), who survives him with their children Arabella and James, his son and daughter in law, six grandchildren, three stepsisters and a stepbrother.

A spell in Helsinki 1964-66 was followed by three years as head of chancellery in Dar-es-Salaam, in the early years of Tanzanian

independence. With their two young children they enjoyed the delights of the British Embassy beach house at Kunduchi at weekends, while holidays afforded the chance of safaris in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro, and Leonore reached the summit of Kilimanjaro. Duncan and Leonore learned to speak Finnish and Swahili fluently during each posting.

A second posting to Helsinki as First Secretary 1970-74, building on their earlier time there, cemented the foundation of many lifelong friendships for Duncan and Leonore, kindling a lasting passion for Finland, its culture and its people. Among others, Duncan rallied the British and commonwealth diplomatic community to form the Helsinki cricket Club which arranged fixtures with cricket clubs throughout Scandinavia and the Soviet Union in the summer months. The noted England cricketer Ian Peebles visited on behalf of the MCC to inspect and approve the foundation of the Helsinki cricket club, subsequently supporting Duncan's application for MCC membership.

As counsellor in Bonn (1980-83) and then in Washington (1986-88), Duncan witnessed at first hand the closing moves of the Cold War, leading ultimately to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The dramatic events of 1989 and 1990 provided cathartic closure to the central mission of Duncan's career, while uniting Leonore with family members in the German Democratic Republic from whom she had been separated for the nearly thirty years since 1961.

Retiring from what was by then the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1992, Duncan became a Governor of St Clare's School in Oxford in 1992. He was appointed Special Operations Executive (SOE) adviser to the FCO in 1996. Later he was asked to chair the historical subcommittee of the Special Forces Club, a good complement to the SOE adviser role.

The SOE adviser role, overseeing the historical archive of Churchill's SOE, charged during WWII with "setting Europe ablaze" by fostering resistance to the Nazi occupation of Europe, became a passion for Duncan. In the twenty years that followed he worked closely with eminent historians (among others, the military and intelligence historian M.R.D. Foot), researchers, and resistance veterans' organisations across Europe and globally to document the extraordinary history and successes of SOE.

Duncan led efforts to dedicate memorials throughout Europe and beyond to SOE agents and resistance fighters who sacrificed their all,

whether in the field or in captivity, often tortured and executed under the brutal regimes of Nazi concentration camps such as Buchenwald.

Among others, Duncan struck up a close relationship that became a fast friendship with the late Keith Jeffery, Professor of British History at Queen's University, Belfast, assisting him with research for what became the first authorised and well-received history of MI6, published in 2010.

In retirement, there were times spent in Clos Camardon, the house in the foothills of the Pyrenees bequeathed to Duncan by his mother, who grew up in the British community that evolved around Pau from the mid-nineteenth century, to which he was greatly attached. He and Leonore loved the house and the Aquitaine region: visits there by friends, family, children and grandchildren, often combined with hikes in the Pyrenees, leave many happy memories.

Duncan is remembered by his friends and family for his boundless (and occasionally prep-school) humour, his warmth and kindness, strong integrity, and a humane and tolerant view of the world in general and his family in particular. A *bon vivant*, he rarely passed up an opportunity of lunch and a drop of fine claret with friends and family, whether in clubland or at carefully researched and sought-out restaurants in France and around the world.

Duncan's was a happy life well-lived. He was witness to some of the key historical events of his time, and, a much-loved son, husband, father and grandfather, he was blessed with a rewarding family life and a close circle of friends to which he was deeply committed.

### **David Alan Turner (Physics, 1965)**

*by Sarah Nicholas*

Professor David Alan Turner, a highly respected and renowned computer scientist died at the age of seventy-seven on 19 October 2023.

David's name will always be associated with functional programming, and the lead that the UK still takes in developing and fostering the discipline. David was as an early advocate for functional programming, which promises a higher-level, more abstract approach to writing software. He will be particularly remembered for designing and implementing three programming languages: SASL (1976), a functional programming featuring lazy evaluation and combinator graph reduction, a novel approach later used by the Burroughs

Corporation to write compiler and operating systems, as well as being the basis of implementations to this day; Kent Recursive Calculator (KRC,1981), at the time the main language used for teaching functional programming at the University of Kent at Canterbury; and Miranda (1985), the first ‘lazy’, strongly-typed purely functional language to be commercially supported.

The elegance and simplicity of the languages showed David’s taste and skill in choosing and combining language features, and their impact can be seen in many languages in use today, particularly the later Haskell language. As well as designing the languages, David’s implementation work was equally innovative. He took the combinators of the lambda calculus, first invented by Schönfinkel a century ago, and turned them into the machine code of a functional virtual machine; in turn this work was taken up by others to set the foundations of implementation of lazy functional languages.

David was an engaging and persuasive communicator and teacher, and these interests in led to his later work on elementary strong functional programming, taking ideas from constructive type theory, paring them back to a form that could be taught to undergraduate computer science students.

He had a DPhil from Oxford, supervised by Christopher Strachey, Oxford’s first chair of Computer Science. He held professorships at Queen Mary College, London; the University of Texas at Austin; and the University of Kent at Canterbury, where he spent most of his career and retained the title of Emeritus Professor of Computation. He was also an Emeritus Professor at Middlesex University.

As well as computing, maths and science, David had an expansive knowledge and love of literature, the arts and history.

David was born on 26 January 1946 to Yetta and Peter Turner at Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, Hammersmith. David was the eldest of three sons and had two brothers, Simon and Paul, who both survive him.

David’s parents were second-generation Jewish immigrants and David was brought up in the reform Jewish faith. David decided he was an atheist in his teenage years but had continued to feel connected to his Jewish roots, even re-learning Hebrew in his later years.

David grew up in south London, where he attended Selhurst Grammar School, before studying as an undergraduate and postgraduate

at Brasenose. It was in Oxford that he met his wife, Una, to whom he was married for 52 years.

David was passionate about social justice and civil rights. He was involved in left-wing politics from his teenage years. He was a brilliant orator and was skilled at engaging and persuasive discourse. He was deeply distressed by the Israel-Palestine conflict. In recent years he was involved in the Jews for Justice for Palestinians movement, and this was a cause that was close to his heart.

Aside from academia and politics, David was a family man who was the most wonderful father and grandfather. He leaves behind his wife Una and his children, Sarah, Daniel and Benjamin and grandchildren, Luke, Caleb, Elijah, Chloe, and Alice. He is greatly missed by all who knew him.

### **David Warr (Geography 1959)**

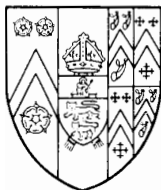
*by Kip Warr (Geography, 1962)*

David went up to Oxford after completing his National Service. He had served as an officer in the First Royal Tank Regiment in Hong Kong and was among the last batch of men to be conscripted. Those of us who followed them at BNC could see immediately that they were men and we were boys (there was not then even the concept of a gap year). He enjoyed reading geography, and went on from his degree to an Advanced Certificate in Education and later DPhil which stood him in good stead for his later career. His main leisure interest at Oxford was the university Scottish Country Dance Society of which he became president. After university he went as a Graduate Service Overseas volunteer to the West Indies in the United Nations Development Programme planning office and was later employed in rural planning in Zambia. He was always interested in agriculture and education and became a specialist in rural education (especially distance learning) in Africa and Asia, working in twenty countries with long spells in Pakistan and southern Africa. Back in Britain, the Lake District (especially Eskdale) was his second home.

He and his wife, Colleen, retired to Taunton where he became involved with the Quaker community. Colleen died in 2017. David was afflicted by a cancer which was the cause of his death in 2025, leaving his two sons and two grandchildren who all live abroad.

# Records





## THE KING'S HALL AND COLLEGE OF BRASENOSE

*Tierced in pale: (1) Argent, a chevron sable between three roses gules seeded or, barbed vert (for Smyth); (2) or, an escutcheon of the arms of the See of Lincoln (gules, two lions of England in pale or, on a chief azure Our Lady crowned seated on a tombstone issuant from the chief, in her dexter arm the Infant Jesus, in her sinister arm a sceptre, all or) ensigned with a mitre proper; (3) quarterly, first and fourth argent, a chevron between three bugle-horns stringed sable; second and third argent, a chevron between three crosses crosslet sable (for Sutton)*

The present foundation, dating from the 16th century, has a direct and unbroken connection with Brasenose Hall, which existed at least as early as 1262. The college was founded in 1509 by William Smyth, Bishop of Lincoln, and Sir Richard Sutton of Prestbury in Cheshire.

It was one of the first colleges to admit women as well as men and is open to graduates as well as undergraduates. Generous gifts and bequests over the centuries enable the college to offer scholarships and other awards for undergraduate and graduate study.

The corporate designation of the college is 'The Principal and Scholars of the King's Hall and College of Brasenose in Oxford'.

### *Note on symbols*

ρ Former Rhodes Scholar.

‡ Holder of a statutory professorship or readership.

★ Deceased (within the academic year)

A date in the left-hand column indicates the year of election to the current fellowship (or other position) held.

*Visitor*

The Bishop of Lincoln

*Principal*

2015 Bowers, John Simon, KC, BCL MA Oxf

*Fellows*

- 2013 Ardakov, Konstantin, MMath Oxf, PhD Camb *Tutor in Pure Mathematics*
- 2024 Arena, Valentina, Laurea Florence, PhD UCL *Camden Professor of Ancient History*
- 2016 Bano, Masooda, BA MBA Pakistan, MPhil Camb, DPhil Oxf *William Golding Senior Research Fellow*
- 2017 Betts, Alexander Milton Stedman, BA Durh, MSc Brist, MPhil DPhil Oxf *William Golding Senior Research Fellow*
- 2020 Birkby, Jayne Louise, MSci Durh, PhD Camb *Tutor in Physics*
- 1999 Bispham, Edward Henry, MADPhil Oxf *Tutor in Ancient History*
- 2015 Bortoletto, Daniela, OBE, BSc Pavia, MSc PhD Syracuse *Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow*
- 2010 Bourne-Taylor, Carole Juliette Angelique, MA Oxf, PhD Grenoble *Supernumerary Fellow in French*
- 1986 Burd, Harvey John, MA DPhil Oxf, CEng, MICE *Tutor in Engineering Science*
- 2023 Creswell, Catharine Sarah, BA Oxf, PhD DCLinPsy UCL *Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow*
- 2001 Davies, Anne Caroline Lloyd, MA DPhil Oxf ‡ *Professor of Law and Public Policy and Vice-Principal*
- 2020 de Ferra, Sergio, Laurea Sapienza, MSc MRes PhD LSE *Tutor in Economics*
- 2022 Demir, Banu, BSc MET, MA Bilkent, MPhil DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Economics*
- 2024 De Oliveira Dias, Ana, BA Masters by Research Lisbon, PhD Durh *William Golding Junior Research Fellow*
- 2005 Dennis, Paul David, BA BM BCh BSc Oxf *Supernumerary Fellow in Medicine*
- 2022 Diamantis, Julia, BSc PhD Sussex *Supernumerary Fellow and Director of Development*
- 2023 Draschkow, Dejan, BSc MSc Munich, PhD Frankfurt *Tutor in Experimental Psychology*

- 2022 Dustin, Michael, BA Boston, PhD Harvard ‡ *Kennedy Trust Professor of Molecular Immunology*
- 2022 Earp, Brian David, BA MA MPhil PhD Yale, MPhil Camb, MSc Oxf *William Golding Junior Research Fellow*
- 1995 Edwards, Anne, MA Oxf, MRCP *Supernumerary Fellow and Diversity and Equality Officer*
- 2023 Eijking, Jan, BA Utrecht, MPhil DPhil Oxf *William Golding Junior Research Fellow*
- 1997 Eltis, Sos Ann, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf *Tutor in English*
- 2024 Famprakis, Theodosios, BSc Rose-Hulman Indiana, MSc Grenoble INP, MSc Darmstadt, PhD Picardie Amiens *Nicholas Kurti Junior Research Fellow*
- 2022 Fisher, Chloe, BA MSCi Camb, PhD Bern *Nicholas Kurti Junior Research Fellow*
- 2006 Foster, Russell Grant, BSc PhD Brist, FRS *Professor and Supernumerary Fellow in Circadian Neuroscience*
- 2022 Friedrich, Matthias, BA MSci PhD Munich *Nicholas Kurti Junior Research Fellow*
- 2006 Gaffney, Eamonn Andrew, BA PhD Camb *Tutor in Mathematical Biology and Tutor for Graduates*
- 2023 Gogola, Ewa, BSc MSc Cracow, PhD Amsterdam *Nicholas Kurti Junior Research Fellow*
- 2014 Goldberg, Paul Wilfred, BA Oxf, MSc PhD Edin *Supernumerary Fellow and Jeffrey Cheah Fellow in Computer Science*
- 2007 Goulder, Philip Jeremy Renshaw, BA MB BChir Camb, MA DPhil Oxf, FMGEMS, FRCPCH, MRCP, MRCPC *Professor of Paediatrics and Supernumerary Fellow in Clinical Medicine*
- 2000 Green, Abigail Frances Floretta, MA Oxf, PhD Camb *Tutor in Modern History*
- 2001 Groiser, David Simon, BA Sus, MA DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Modern Languages*
- 2017 Hamnett, Gillian, BA Newc, MA MSt Oxf *Supernumerary Fellow*
- 2002 Jones, Jonathan Alwyn, MA DPhil Oxf *Professor of Physics and Tutor in Physics*
- 2023 Katz, Jonathan Bernard, MA DPhil Oxf *Supernumerary Fellow and Lecturer in Classics*
- 2009 Kennard, Christopher, MB BS PhD Lond, FMedSci, FRCP, MRCP, MRCS *Supernumerary Fellow*

- 2016 Kiaer, Ian Leslie Sonne, BA UCL, MA PhD RCA *Tutor in Fine Art*
- 2023 Kistnareddy, Ashwiny, BA Warw, MPhil Nott, PhD Camb *William Golding Junior Research Fellow*
- 2003 Krebs, Thomas, LLB Kent, BCL MA DPhil Oxf *Ellesmere Tutor in Law*
- 2018 Krishnan, Sneha, BA Madras, MSc DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Human Geography*
- 2021 Lakhali-Littleton, Samira, BSc UCL, DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Pre-Clinical Medicine*
- 2022 Langrognet, Fabrice, MA Paris, PhD Camb *William Golding Junior Research Fellow*
- 2019 Larson, Greger John, BA CMC California, DPhil Oxf *Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow*
- 2024 Leigh, Eleanor, BSc Bristol, DCLinPsy KCL, DPhil Oxf *Nicholas Kurti Junior Research Fellow*
- 2007 Lewis, Owen Thomas, MA Oxf, PhD Leeds *Tutor in Zoology*
- 2022 Lythgoe, Katrina, BA Oxf, MSc Imp, PhD Edin *Tutor in Biology (Infectious Diseases)*
- 2000 McKenna, Christopher Davis, BA Amherst, MA PhD Johns Hopkins, MA Oxf *Tutor in Management Studies*
- 2018 Maiolino, Perla, BSc MSc PhD Genoa *Tutor in Engineering Science*
- 2024 Mardakheh, Faraz, BSc PhD Birm *Tutor in Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry*
- 2024 Miller, Elizabeth, MA DPhil Oxf *Supernumerary Fellow*
- 1997 Morgan, Llewelyn William Goronwy, MA Oxf, PhD Camb *Reynolds Fellow and Tutor in Classics*
- 2017 Nag, Sonali, BA MA Hyderabad, MPhil Bangalore, PhD Port *Supernumerary Fellow in Education and the Developing Child*
- 2005 Palfrey, Simon David, BA ANU, MA DPhil Oxf *Professor of English Literature, Tutor in English*
- 2010 Parker, Philip Christopher Liam, MA Camb, ACMA *Bursar*
- 2015 Perry, Adam Drew, BCL MPhil DPhil Oxf *Garrick Fellow and Tutor in Law*
- 2017 Posada-Carbó, Eduardo, BA Bogotá, MPhil DPhil Oxf *William Golding Senior Research Fellow*
- 2021 Rastinejad, Fraydoon, BA Northwestern, PhD Pennsylvania *Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow*

- 2020 Rechter, David, BA MA Melbourne, PhD Hebrew *William Golding Senior Research Fellow*
- 2021 Rigopoulou, Dimitra, MPhys Ioannina, MSc PhD QMUL *Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow*
- 1992 Robertson, Jeremy, MA DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Organic Chemistry*
- 2022 Sheen, Rev'd David, BSc Cov, BA MA MSc Card *Chaplain*
- 2017 Shogry, Simon, BA Claremont, MA PhD Princeton *Tutor in Ancient Philosophy*
- 2024 Smith, Lionel, BSc Toronto, LLB Montréal, LLB Western Ontario, LLM Camb, DPhil Oxf, LLD Camb, DCL Oxf *Professor of Comparative Law*
- 2011 Smith, Simon David, MA PhD Camb *Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions*
- 2011 Strathern, Alan Leiper, MA DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Early Modern History*
- 1997 Swadling, William John, BA CNA, LLM Lond, MA Oxf *Tutor in Law*
- 2023 Tertychnaya, Katerina, BA Cyprus, MPhil DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Politics*
- 2005 Thun, Eric, AB PhD Harvard *Peter Moores Fellow and Tutor in Chinese Business Studies*
- 2007 Timpson, Christopher Gordon, BA BPhil DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Philosophy*
- 2016 Todd, John, BSc Edin, PhD Camb *Jeffrey Cheah Fellow in Medicine*
- 2013 Walsh, Edmond Joseph, BEng PhD Limerick *Supernumerary Fellow in Engineering*
- 2024 West, Emily, BA Liv, MA Manc, PhD Liv *Supernumerary Fellow in History*
- 2004 Wiggs, Giles Frederick Salisbury, BSc PhD Lond *Tutor in Geography*
- 2016 Willan, John, BA Camb, BM BCh DPhil Oxf, FRCP (Lond), MRCP *Supernumerary Fellow and Tutor in Clinical Medicine*
- 2007 Wilson, Mark, MA DPhil Oxf *Tutor in Theoretical Chemistry*
- 2019 Winkel, Matthias, MA Oxf, PhD Paris VI *Supernumerary Fellow in Mathematics*
- 2023 Winter, Curtis W, BA California, DPhil Oxf *William Golding Junior Research Fellow*

*Emeritus Fellows*

- 2024 Archer, Rowena, BA Brist, MA Oxf FRHistS  
 1998 Birch, Bryan John, MA PhD Camb, MA Oxf, FRS  
 2010 Bogdanor, Sir Vernon Bernard, CBE, MA Oxf, FBA, FRSA  
 2015 Bowman, Alan Keir, MA DLitt Oxf, MA PhD Toronto, FBA  
 2012 Boyd, Charles Adam Richard, BM Lond, BSc MA DPhil Oxf  
 2001 Cook, Peter Richard, MA DPhil Oxf  
 2016 Cooper, Richard Anthony, MA DLitt DPhil Oxf, Hon  
 Dr Tours  
 2011 Courakis, Anthony Stylianos, BA Manc, MA Oxf  
 2017 Daniel, Ronald William, BSc Brun, MA Oxf, PhD Camb,  
 CEng, MIEE  
 2010 Evans, Robert John Weston, MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf  
 2021 Garman, Elspeth Frances, BSc Durh, DPhil Oxf  
 2001 Gasser, Robert Paul Holland, MA DPhil Oxf  
 2014 Haydon, Richard Geoffrey, MA PhD Camb, MA Oxf  
 1992 Hockaday, Thomas Derek, MA DPhil Oxf, FRCP  
 2020 Houlby, Guy Tinmouth, MA DSc Oxf, PhD Camb,  
 FICE, FEng  
 2011 Ingram, Martin John, MA DPhil Oxf  
 2009 Knowland, John Sebastian, MA DPhil Oxf  
 2003 Peach, John Vincent, MA DPhil Oxf  
 2017 Popplewell, David Arthur, MA Oxf, PhD Sus  
 2003 Proudfoot, Nicholas Jarvis, MA Oxf, PhD Camb, FRS  
 2024 Purcell, Nicholas, MA Oxf, FBA  
 2008 Richards, Bernard Arthur, BLitt MA DPhil Oxf  
 2008 Richards, William Graham, CBE, MA DPhil DSc Oxf,  
 FRS ★  
 2004 Rowett, John Spencer, MA DPhil Oxf  
 2010 Solymar, Laszlo, MA Oxf, PhD Budapest, FRS

*Honorary Fellows*

- 2006 Allen, Katherine Susan, BA Oxf  
 2017 Amersi, Mohamed, BA Sheff, MA Oxf  
 2003 Baker, the Rt Hon Sir (Thomas) Scott (Gillespie), PC  
 2010 Barton, Dominic Steven, BA MPhil Oxf p  
 2010 Beatson, the Rt Hon Sir Jack, LL D Camb, DCL Oxf, FBA  
 1989 Blundell, Sir Tom Leon, BA DPhil Oxf, FRS

- 
- 2013 Brand, Andrea Hilary, MBiochem Oxf, PhD Camb, FMedSci, FRS
- 2011 Bratza, Sir Nicolas, MA Oxf
- 2015 Burrows, the Rt Hon Andrew Stephen, Lord Burrows, Hon KC, LLM Harvard, MA DCL Oxf, FBA
- 2006 Cameron, The Rt Hon Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton  
David William Donald, BA Oxf
- 2011 Cashmore, Roger John, CMG, MA DPhil Oxf, FRS
- 2023 Cavendish, The Rt Hon Baroness Cavendish of Little Venice  
Camilla, BA Oxf, MPA Harvard
- 2016 Cheah, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Sir Jeffrey, AO
- 2018 Coyle, Dame Diane, CBE, BA Oxf, MA PhD Harvard, FRSA, DBE
- 2010 Crook, Joseph Mordaunt, CBE, MA DPhil Oxf, Hon DLitt Lond, FBA, FSA
- 2019 Del Favero, James, MBA, MA Oxf, MS
- 2020 Forde, Martin, KC, BA Oxf
- 2004 Gill, Sir Robin Denys, KCVO, MA Oxf
- 2018 Greenland, Duncan Taylor, CBE, BA Oxf
- 2022 Harford, Tim, OBE, BA Oxf
- 2022 Helm, Sir Dieter, CBE, BA Oxf
- 2013 Hill, Catharine Bond, MA Oxf
- 2018 Jackson, the Rt Hon Sir Peter Arthur Brian, Rt Hon Lord Justice Peter Jackson, BA Oxf
- 1999 Janvrin, Robin Berry, Rt Hon Lord Janvrin, CB, KCVO, MA Oxf
- 2013 Johnson, Michelle Denise, MA Oxf
- 2017 Kosterlitz, John Michael, MA Camb, DPhil Oxf
- 2022 Lewis, Simon, OBE, BA Oxf
- 2018 Marks, Alexandra Louise, CBE, BA Oxf
- 2024 Marlas, James, BA Harvard, MA Oxf, JD Chicago
- 2003 Mellor, Dame Julie Therese, DBE, BA Oxf
- 2023 Monbiot, George, BSc Oxf
- 2024 Padmore, Elizabeth, BA MA Oxf, FRSA
- 2003 Palin, Sir Michael Edward, KCMG, CBE, FRGS, BA Oxf
- 2019 Rose, the Rt Hon Dame Vivien Judith, Rt Hon Lady Justice Rose, DBE, BCL Oxf

- 1998 Saville, Mark Oliver, Rt Hon Lord Saville of Newdigate, BA BCL Oxf
- 2015 Smith, Gerald Thomas Edward, BPhil Oxf, MA St And
- 2021 Stratton, Sir Michael Rudolf, BA Oxf, MB BS Guys, PhD Hon DSc Lond, FRCPath
- 2013 Tucker, William Guise, BA Oxf, RA
- 2018 Turnbull, the Hon Malcolm Bligh, BCL Oxf, BA LLB Sydney
- 1997 Vallance, Iain David Thomas, Lord Vallance of Tummel, Kt, MSc Lond School of Business Studies, MA Oxf, FRSA
- 2010 van Heerden, the Hon Mrs Justice Belinda, LLB Stellenbosch, MA Oxf
- 2010 Wiggins, David Robert Priestly, MA Oxf, FBA
- 2013 Wightman, Nigel David, BA MPhil Oxf

*Lecturers not on the Foundation*

- Albini, Alessandro, Laurea PhD Genoa *Engineering*
- Altshuler, Daniel, BA UCLA, PhD Rutgers *Linguistics*
- Ann, Angus, BA BCL Oxf *Law*
- Bath, Eleanor, BSc New South Wales, DPhil Oxf *Biology*
- Beyt-Movsess, Ani, BA Islamic Azad, MA Tehran *Middle Eastern Languages*
- Bocksberger, Sophie, BA MA Lausanne, DPhil Oxf *Classics*
- Burkert-Burrows, Stefanie, Staatsexamen Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, PGCE Manc Met *German*
- Carroll, Ian, MPhil Oxf *Politics*
- Chan, Darren Zeming, BSc Waterloo *Physics*
- Chan, Kenneth King Nip, MPharm St George's, MBBS Barts *Medicine*
- Christoforou, Panayiotis, MPhil DPhil Oxf, MA St And *Ancient History*
- Colyer, Greg, MA Camb, DPhil Oxf *Physics*
- Dorigatti, Marco, Dott Lett Florence, DPhil Oxf *Italian*
- Drennan, Philip, MBChB Otago, MSc LSHTM *Medicine*
- Dumbalska, Tsvetomira, BA Brown, DPhil Oxf *Psychology*
- Durcan, Julie, BSc Sheff, MSc RHUL, PhD Aberystwyth *Geography*
- Edwards, James, MA Camb, BCL DPhil Oxf *Law*
- Ferbrache, Fiona, BA PhD Plym, MRes Exe *Geography*
- Formentini, Andrea, BSc MSc PhD Genoa *Engineering*
- Gavin, Thomas, BA MPhil Oxf *Ancient History*
- Gittos, Helen Beverley, BA Newc, MSt DPhil Oxf *History*

- Gowland, Ben, BSc MRes PhD Glas *Geography*  
Grabowska-Zhang, Ada, BA DPhil Oxf *Biology*  
Gussoni, Alice, Laurea Verona, DPhil Oxf *Italian*  
Harker, Anthony Henry, MA Camb, DPhil Oxf *Solid State Physics*  
Harrison, Pegram, BA Yale, MBA Lond Business School, PhD Camb *Management*  
Heafield, Angus, MChem Oxf *Chemistry*  
Howell, Edward, BA MPhil DPhil Oxf *Politics*  
Jackson, Justin, MA MPhil Oxf, MA Birkbeck, MSt Dip Camb *Politics*  
Jewell, Thomas Jun, MPhys Manc *Mathematics*  
Jones, Polly Alexandra, BA MPhil DPhil Oxf *Russian*  
Juhász, Péter, MSci Camb, DPhil Oxf *Physics*  
Kuznetsov, Vladimir, MSc PhD Moscow *Inorganic Chemistry*  
Lau, Clinton, MBiochem DPhil Oxf *Biochemistry*  
Lau, Henry, MA DPhil Oxf *Engineering*  
Leal, Dave, BA PhD Leeds *Philosophy*  
Manganis, Charis, BM BCh Oxf, MRCP *Medicine*  
Marton, Agota, BA MA Babeş-Bolyai, DPhil Oxf *English*  
McAuliffe, Thomas, BA MSt Oxf *History*  
Middleton, Anthony N, MA Oxf *Physics (Mathematics)*  
Morton, John, MA Camb, DPhil Oxf *Engineering*  
Oswald, Lucy, MSci Camb *Physics*  
Ozarowska, Lidia, BA Warsaw, MSt DPhil Oxf *Ancient History*  
Pakpoor, Julia, BM BCh Oxf *Medicine*  
Palano, Silvia, MA Oxf *Economics*  
Parker, Eleanor, BA MPhil DPhil Oxf *English*  
Petit, Arnaud, BA MA Ottawa, DPhil Oxf *Philosophy*  
Pinon, Carmen, BSc PhD Rio de Janeiro *Psychology*  
Popea, Marina, BA MA Lausanne, MA Chile, DPhil Oxf *Spanish*  
Popescu, Anca, BSc Bucharest, PhD Camb *Engineering*  
Pontin, Marco, Laurea Torino, PhD Sheffield *Engineering*  
Reddy, Priyanka, MB ChB Birm *Medicine*  
Rekad, Zeinab, BSc MSc PhD Nice *Biochemistry*  
Roberts, Mark Andrew James, MBiochem DPhil Oxf, PGCAP Lond, SFHEA *Biochemistry*  
Robinson, Damian Jason, BSc PhD Brad, MA Oxf *Classical Archaeology*  
Robinson, Lucian, BA Oxf, MPhil PhD KCL *History*  
Romer, Stephen, MA PhD Camb, FRSL *French*

Sekita, Karolina, Magister Warsaw, DPhil Oxf *Classics*  
 Sillett, Andrew James, BA MSt DPhil Oxf *Ancient History*  
 Turner, Adam, BA BCL Oxf *Law*  
 Vogel, Christopher, BE Auckland, DPhil Oxf *Engineering*  
 Wallum, Natasha, BSc MSc S'ton, DPhil Oxf *Geography*  
 Wilkinson-Turbull, Ben, BA MSt Oxf *English*  
 Wilson, Georgina, BA DPhil Oxf, MA York *English*  
 Xie, Cheng, MB ChB Birm *Medicine*

## COLLEGE STAFF

### Accommodation

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Anthea Robinson            | Interim Accommodation Manager<br><i>(until September 2025)</i> |
| Yuan-Yuan Foo              | Accommodation Officer<br><i>(from September 2025)</i>          |
| Gill Walker                | Head Housekeeper   |
| Gabi Nacheva               | Deputy Housekeeper –<br>College and St Cross                   |
| Emma Gomez Gil             | Deputy Housekeeper –<br>Frewin and Hollybush                   |
| Toyin Atalabi              | Scout <i>(until October 2024)</i>                              |
| Bobby Cox                  | Scout  |
| Suchada Dekowski           | Scout  |
| Rabie Deliallisi           | Scout  |
| Ezequiel Dos Santos Gusmao | Scout  |
| Anchan Drewett             | Scout  |
| Debra Hall                 | Scout  |
| Mindaugas Jocas            | Scout  |
| Kristina Jocience          | Scout  |
| Monika Kaczowska           | Scout  |
| Phillip Kershaw            | Scout  |
| Julie Lee                  | Scout  |
| Sofiane Lehama             | Scout  |
| Sheila Mobbs               | Scout  |
| Clair Moss                 | Scout  |
| Emil Nachev                | Scout  |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Desislava Paneva           | Scout   |
| Leandro Pereira            | Scout   |
| Laura Ratkiene             | Scout   |
| Laurinda Saldanha          | Scout   |
| Joanne Simms               | Scout   |
| Eugenia Soares             | Scout ( <i>until May 2025</i> )                     |
| Liam Swatton               | Scout ( <i>until May 2025</i> )                     |
| Fernando Tjing             | Scout   |
| Darren Watts               | Scout   |
| Steven Yousaf              | Scout   |
| Anita Ockwell              | Scout ( <i>from May 2025</i> )                      |
| Patricia Grosu             | Scout ( <i>from July 2025</i> )                     |
| Kelly Cunningham           | Scout ( <i>from November 2024</i> )                 |
| Eileen Macgowan            | Scout ( <i>from January 2025</i> )                  |
| Bethany Robinson           | Scout ( <i>from November 2024 until July 2025</i> ) |
| Engracia Saldahan          | Scout ( <i>from May 2025 to September 2025</i> )    |
| Leonardo Guterres Da Costa | Scout ( <i>from July 2025 to September 2025</i> )   |

### **Alumni Relations and Development Office**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Julia Diamantis  | Development Director  |
| Begina Cox       | Senior Donor Engagement and Major Gifts Executive                       |
| Caitlyn Lindsay  | Regular Giving Campaigns Manager<br>( <i>from July 2025</i> )           |
| John-Paul Clough | Development Officer (Alumni Communications and Database)                |
| Emily Reeve      | Annual Fund Officer<br>( <i>from October 2024 to May 2025</i> )         |
| Chloë Bossward   | Events and Volunteer Co-Ordinator                                       |
| Gauri Verma      | Events and Volunteer Co-Ordinator<br>(Maternity Cover)                  |
| Joel Bassett     | Development Assistant - Donor Relations<br>( <i>from October 2024</i> ) |
| Callie Dodd      | Development Assistant<br>( <i>from November 2024</i> )                  |

### **Bursary**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Philip Parker | Bursar                                   |
| Douglas Shaw  | Interim Bursar ( <i>from July 2025</i> ) |

Kristian Sadler Domestic Bursar  
Kirsty Jackson PA to Bursar, Domestic Bursar  
and Chaplain

**Buttery**

Nathan Pyle Butler  
Becky Dandridge Assistant Steward  
Mara Lavarone Assistant Steward  
Yeva Basarab SCR Assistant  
Kim Smith SCR Assistant  
Shauna Curtin Hall Assistant  
Olivia Newbold Hall Assistant  
Penny Smith Hall Assistant  
Nikita Subba Hall Assistant  
Stephen Adams Plate Room Assistant  
*(until February 2025)*  
Martin Bainbridge Plate Room Assistant  
Joseph Brown Plate Room Assistant

**Chapel & Music**

Revd David Sheen Chaplain  
Polina Sosnina Director of Music  
Alexander Flood Interim Director of Music  
*(from September 2025)*

**College Office**

Simon Smith Senior Tutor  
Henry Jestico Academic Administrator  
Bronwen Tomkinson Graduate Administrator  
Felicity Shelley Admissions Officer  
Joe Organ Head of Undergraduate Access  
and Retention  
Holly Plater Outreach and School Liaison  
Coordinator  
Antonia Mansel-Long Academic Assistant

**Conferences & Events Office**

Alex Moore Conference and Events Manager  
Amanda Gooding Events Coordinator

Denise Rees Conference and Events Administrator  
*(until September 2025)*

Lorraine Redwood Accommodation and Conference  
Co-ordinator

Sandra Ferencova Events & Accommodation  
Administrator *(from September 2025)*

### **Domestic Bursary**

James Hellyer Head of Accommodation and  
Conferences *(until October 2024)*

Leon Marks Head of Operations *(from May 2025)*

Nicholas White Estates Manager

Martin Wiseman Steward *(until May 2025)*, Head of Food  
& Beverages *(from June 2025)*

### **Finance Bursary**

Gillian Chandler Finance Director

Goshia Czarna Adams Financial Controller

Neil Gould Payroll Manager

Naomi Massie Project Accountant

Kerry O'Callaghan Assistant Accountant

Alexander Wilson Junior Accountant

Laurence Guntert Finance Assistant - Student Billing  
*(until March 2025)*

Umar Randawa Finance Assistant - Accounts Payable  
*(until May 2025)*, Finance Assistant -  
Student Billing *(from April 2025)*

Osama Idnan Finance Assistant - Accounts Payable  
*(from May 2025)*

Phoebe O'Callaghan Finance Administrator  
*(from July 2025 until September 2025)*

### **Human Resources**

Julia Dewar Director of Human Resources

Kirsten Morgan Human Resources Director  
*(from May 2025)*

Holly Richards-Morris Human Resources Manager

Eden Kewley Human Resources Adviser

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Sasha Merrell Brown | Human Resources Administrator<br><i>(until September 2025)</i> |
| Callum Liddell      | Human Resources Administrator<br><i>(from September 2025)</i>  |

**ICT**

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| John Kinsey       | IT Director                |
| Garrith Blackhall | ICT Infrastructure Manager |
| Bekki Tordoff     | ICT Officer                |
| Sol Young         | ICT Officer                |

**Kitchen**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Lorraine Watkins | Head Chef <i>(until May 2025)</i>                             |
| Erik Poslusny    | Sous Chef <i>(until July 2025)</i>                            |
| Henry Crowther   | Deputy Sous Chef  |
| Chris Alexa      | Third Chef  |
| Matthew Ware     | Senior Pastry Chef  |
| Siraj Bayaa      | Chef de Partie  |
| Kamil Prokop     | Chef de Partie  |
| Carl Tano        | Junior Chef de Partie   |
| Toufik Ferkoun   | Commis Chef   |
| Fakrul Islam     | Servery and Kitchen Assistant                                 |
| Timmy Luk        | Servery and Kitchen Assistant<br><i>(from July 2024)</i>      |
| Olivio Assuncao  | Kitchen Porter  |
| Pedro Ribeiro    | Kitchen Porter  |
| Mario Dos Santos | Kitchen Porter <i>(from April 2025)</i>                       |
| Omar Nougdalla   | Kitchen Porter<br><i>(from October 2024 until March 2025)</i> |

**Library and Archives**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Simon Palfrey      | Fellow Librarian                            |
| Alan Strathern     | Fellow Librarian <i>(from October 2024)</i> |
| Liz Kay            | College Librarian                           |
| Sophie Floate      | Antiquarian Cataloguer                      |
| Joanna Mills       | Assistant Librarian                         |
| Helen Sumping      | Archivist                                   |
| Salomea Chlebowska | Assistant Archivist                         |

**Porters' Lodge**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Andy Talbot   | Security and Safety Manager                |
| Omer Tariq    | Lodge Manager                              |
| Roy Creighton | Lodge Porter                               |
| Maria Jabal   | Lodge Porter ( <i>until October 2024</i> ) |
| Ray May       | Lodge Porter                               |
| Adam Tarnet   | Lodge Porter                               |
| Faye Fallon   | Lodge Porter ( <i>from November 2024</i> ) |
| Iain Covell   | Night Lodge Porter                         |
| Mel Fontaine  | Night Lodge Porter                         |
| Derek Musto   | Night Lodge Porter                         |
| Damien Thomas | Night Lodge Porter                         |

**Principal's Office**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| John Bowers KC | Principal   |
| Susan Mousley  | Principal's Personal Assistant ( <i>from June 2025</i> )  |
| Kate Roberts   | Principal's Deputy Personal Assistant   |
| Liz Bingham    | Principal's Personal Assistant ( <i>until June 2025</i> ), Events Co-ordinator ( <i>from September 2025</i> ) |
| Anu Dawson     | Part-time Event Co-ordinator ( <i>until July 2025</i> )   |

**Welfare**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Mark Wilson       | Dean  |
| Arnaud Petit      | Sub Dean  |
| Sebastian Petzolt | College Councillor                              |
| Kinneret Milgrom  | College Nurse                                   |
| Faojia Sultana    | Junior Dean                                     |
| James Smith       | Junior Dean                                     |
| Dana Vuckovic     | Junior Dean                                     |
| Georgia Lin       | Study Skills Adviser ( <i>until June 2025</i> ) |
| Matthew Stokes    | Study Skills Advisor ( <i>until June 2025</i> ) |

**Workshop**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Clifford Jones | Clerk of Works   |
| Mike Rochford  | Assistant Clerk of Works ( <i>until September 2025</i> ) |

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|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Danny English  | Groundsman  |
| Phillip Axtell | Assistant Groundsman<br>(until October 2024)                                  |
| Patrick Dixon  | Assistant Groundsman<br>(from January 2025)                                   |
| David Ronchka  | General Maintenance<br>(until October 2024)                                   |
| Rob Walker     | Facilities and Maintenance Assistant  |
| John McNamee   | Carpenter and General Maintenance   |
| Julian Drake   | Plumber and General Maintenance   |
| Jack Shirley   | Plumber and General Maintenance<br>(from July 2024)                           |
| Anna Haydn     | Facilities & Maintenance Assistant<br>(from November 2024 until October 2025) |

## CLASS LIST

*Final Honour School 2025*

### ANCIENT & MODERN HISTORY

- I Joseph Andrews
- II.1 Ambrose Pailing

### BIOCHEMISTRY

- I Joshua Dow
- II.1 Nicholas Marshall

### BIOLOGY

- I Emily Jones
- II.1 Miles Johnson
- II.1 Jonas Nohturfft

### CHEMISTRY (BA)

Callum Pears

### CHEMISTRY (MCHEM)

- I Jude Tyrrell-Broad
- I Zitong Wu
- II.2 Jasmine Allan

**CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY & ANCIENT HISTORY**

II.1 Joshua Harland

**CLASSICS & MODERN LANGUAGES**

I Siena Crossley

**ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT**

II.1 Santhakumar Arjunan

II.1 Samuel Gaines

II.1 Hui Ru Ng

II.1 Eugenie Sumkoska

II.2 Isaac Cusworth

**ENGINEERING SCIENCE**

I Oscar Jones

I Kartikeya Kaushal

II.1 Anupa Adikary

II.1 Yuzhe Jin

II.1 Peter Leyden

II.1 Natalia Weston

**ENGLISH & MODERN LANGUAGES**

I Ursula Gerhard

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE**

I Imogen Edmundson

I Jacob Potter

II.1 Lily McDermott

II.1 Chloe Smith

II.1 Poppy Thornton

II.1 Susannah Weidmann

**EUROPEAN & MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES**

II.1 Sophie Liversage

**EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

II.1 Lola Milton-Jenkins

**FINE ART**

- I Thomas Hodges-Gilbert
- I Emily Jackson
- I Lola Wendon
- II.1 Phoenix Brown
- II.2 Tia Percy

**GEOGRAPHY**

- I Matthew Grigg
- I Cyrus Hariri
- I Barney Wakefield
- II.1 Sonali Chaggar
- II.1 Freddie Finlay
- II.1 Rebecca Kalu
- II.1 Francesca Nightingale
- II.1 Holly Singleton

**HISTORY**

- II.1 Caitlin Darby
- II.1 Halcyon Matthews
- II.1 Chiara Simpson-Gregory

**HISTORY & ECONOMICS**

- II.1 Sophie Booth

**HISTORY & POLITICS**

- II.1 Kara Goldsmith

**JURISPRUDENCE**

- I Eryk Schumacher
- II.1 Miles Nicholson
- II.1 Darren Trisno
- II.1 Sacha Wilson

**JURISPRUDENCE (WITH LAW IN EUROPE)**

- I Charlotte Paine
- II.1 Casper Varoujian

**LITERAE HUMANIORES**

- I Natasha Meechan
- II.1 Elena Dahan-Reljich
- II.1 Anna Jedynak

**MATHEMATICAL & THEORETICAL PHYSICS**

- Distinction Luke Hayward

**MATHEMATICS**

- Distinction Zilin Liu

**MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS (BA)**

- I Harish Raghu

**MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS (MMATH)**

- Merit Gaurav Dabas

**MEDICAL SCIENCES**

- I Milind Khashu
- I Nikita Parmar
- II.1 Daniel Cox
- II.1 Ella Emery-Peters
- II.1 Emily Jenkinson
- II.1 Avinandan Sengupta

**MODERN LANGUAGES**

- II.1 Pratyush Ghosh
- II.1 Isabelle Lever

**MODERN LANGUAGES & LINGUISTICS**

- II.1 Isobel Tooher

**PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS & ECONOMICS**

- I Nathan Buchan
- II.1 Alexander Elliott
- II.1 Samuel James
- II.1 Nikita Lavender
- II.1 Anne-Sophie Lee
- II.1 Amanda Li
- II.1 Benjamin Surguy

- II.1 Freya Williams
- II.2 Purav Menon
- III Arbion Halili

### PHYSICS

- I Felix Mountford
- I James Nicholas

## GRADUATE DEGREES

### DPhil

|                       |   |                 |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Oana Bazavan          | DPhil Atomic & Laser Physics                                | Michaelmas 2019 |
| Matthew Buckland      | Mathematics of Random Systems: A, M and A (CDT)             | Michaelmas 2016 |
| Bastian Bohrmann      | DPhil Population Health                                     | Michaelmas 2020 |
| Natalie Cobo          | DPhil History (PT)  | Michaelmas 2016 |
| Samuel Day            | DPhil Experimental Psychology (1+3)                         | Michaelmas 2017 |
| Isobel Dunstan        | DPhil Pharmacology  | Michaelmas 2020 |
| Joseph Fishlock       | DPhil Environmental Research (NERC DTP)                     | Michaelmas 2020 |
| Isabel Gonzalez Perez | DPhil Theory and Modelling in Chemical Sciences (EPSRC CDT) | Michaelmas 2017 |
| Yiting Hao            | DPhil Education   | Michaelmas 2020 |
| Anett Kiss            | DPhil Environmental Research (NERC DTP)                     | Michaelmas 2020 |
| Simon Koch            | DPhil Particle Physics                                      | Michaelmas 2021 |
| Aftab Mallick         | DPhil Oriental Studies                                      | Michaelmas 2018 |
| Xiao Mao              | DPhil Law   | Michaelmas 2018 |

|                      |   |                   |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Christopher McKernan | DPhil Law   | Michaelmas 2019   |
| Alexa Muse           | DPhil Education   | Michaelmas 2017   |
| Christian Norton     | DPhil Environmental<br>Research (NERC DTP)                        | Michaelmas 2018   |
| Edoardo Ostinelli    | DPhil Psychiatry  | Trinity Term 2021 |
| Aldair Petronilia    | Mathematics of Random<br>Systems: A, M and A<br>(CDT)             | Michaelmas 2020   |
| Shailen Popat        | DPhil Education (PT)  | Michaelmas 2016   |
| Dalton Price         | DPhil Anthropology  | Michaelmas 2020   |
| Luke Priestley       | DPhil<br>Experimental Psychology                                  | Michaelmas 2018   |
| Sizhe Qiu            | DPhil Engineering<br>Science                                      | Michaelmas 2021   |
| Michael Tansley      | DPhil Zoology   | Michaelmas 2016   |
| Eugenia Vitello      | DPhil Ancient History   | Michaelmas 2021   |
| Yunhe Wang           | DPhil Population Health   | Michaelmas 2021   |
| Oliver Whitaker      | DPhil Theory and<br>Modelling in Chemical<br>Sciences (EPSRC CDT) | Michaelmas 2015   |
| Jonathan Wild        | DPhil History   | Michaelmas 2018   |
| Yushan Xie           | DPhil Education   | Michaelmas 2021   |
| Qiaochu Zhang        | DPhil Pharmacology  | Michaelmas 2021   |

### EMBA

|                        |             |                 |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Andrzej Antoszkiewicz  | Distinction | Hilary 2021     |
| Jonathan Bouwer-Davies | Pass        | Michaelmas 2022 |
| David Kozak            | Pass        | Michaelmas 2022 |
| Keith Larney           | Pass        | Hilary 2023     |
| Claire Matthews        | Pass        | Hilary 2023     |

**MBA**

|                |             |                 |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Emily Black    | Pass        | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Ann Hui Ching  | Pass        | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Nikhil Gupta   | Pass        | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Sameena Kaisar | Pass        | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Apollo Kim     | Pass        | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Ivan Vuckovic  | Pass        | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Xicen Wan      | Distinction | Michaelmas 2024 |

**MFA**

|                |       |                 |
|----------------|-------|-----------------|
| Kai Yan Cheung | Merit | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Laura Limbourg | Merit | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Ale Nodarse    | Merit | Michaelmas 2024 |

**BCL**

|                     |             |                 |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Joseph Foye         | Distinction | Michaelmas 2021 |
| Sulaymaan Khalili   | Distinction | Michaelmas 2019 |
| Melina Otifeh       | Distinction | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Candice Renard      | Merit       | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Isabelle Yun Yi Sim | Distinction | Michaelmas 2024 |

**MJur**

|                    |             |                 |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Vanessa Grifo      | Pass        | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Luca Kochendoerfer | Distinction | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Elias Pock         | Merit       | Michaelmas 2024 |

**MPhil**

|               |                            |                 |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Fengquan Wang | MPhil Law                  | Michaelmas 2022 |
| Jingyi Yang   | MPhil Buddhist Studies (P) | Michaelmas 2022 |

**MPP**

|                |             |                 |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Juan Gomez     | Merit       | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Gonzalez Porto |             |                 |
| Raees Khan     | Distinction | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Kavya Shah     | Merit       | Michaelmas 2024 |

**MSc**

|                      |  |             |
|----------------------|--|-------------|
| Affaf Anwer          | MSc Global Health Science and Epidemiology         | Pass        |
| Annika Andersson     | MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies           | Merit       |
| Madison Bakewell     | MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies           | Distinction |
| Zoe Barber           | MSc Math Mod & Scientific Computing                | Distinction |
| Max Butterworth      | MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry        | Distinction |
| Cameron Eldridge     | MSc Energy Systems                                 | Distinction |
| Bianca Farthing      | MSc Learning and Teaching                          | Distinction |
| Charlotte Henke      | MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment | Distinction |
| Malintha Hewa Batage | MSc Genomic Medicine                               | Distinction |
| Laura Kraft          | MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies           | Distinction |
| Kieran Lavis         | MSc Learning and Teaching                          | Distinction |
| Jenelle Lee          | MSc Environmental Change and Management            | Distinction |
| Emanuella Lorente    | MSc Nature, Society and Environmental Governance   | Merit       |
| Nefeli Mavri         | MSc Statistical Science                            | Pass        |
| Katya Narendranaya   | MSc Environmental Change & Management              | Distinction |
| Ethan Newnham        | MSc Neuroscience                                   | Distinction |

|                   |  |             |
|-------------------|--|-------------|
| Helen O’Neile     | MSc Educational Assessment                         | Pass        |
| Sara Pastina      | MSc Biodiversity, Conservation and Mgt             | Distinction |
| Jack Peart        | MSc Archaeology                                    | Distinction |
| Kathleen Reeves   | MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies           | Merit       |
| Nathan Sala       | MSc Global Health Science and Epidemiology         | Pass        |
| Samuel Shin       | MSc Statistical Science                            |             |
| Sara Spratt       | MSc English Local History                          | Distinction |
| Carl Sørensen     | MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment | Distinction |
| Cosmo Van Steenis | MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment | Merit       |
| Abigail Ward      | MSc Social Data Science                            | Merit       |

### MSt

|                         |  |             |
|-------------------------|--|-------------|
| Erin Bridgewater        | MSt Global and Imperial History                      | Merit       |
| Nathaniel Downham       | MSt Global and Imperial History                      | Distinction |
| Flora Galloway          | MSt Modern Languages (FR)                            | Pass        |
| James Hartley           | MSt Slavonic Studies                                 | Merit       |
| Adelaide Pitcock        | MSt English (1700 – 1830)                            | Distinction |
| Iulia-Maria Sucutardean | MSt Modern Languages (GER)                           | Distinction |
| Panagiota Yiallouri     | MSt History – Modern European History 1850 – present | Pass        |

**PGCE**

|                       |      |                 |
|-----------------------|------|-----------------|
| Erin Camlin           | Pass | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Marie Therese Gumpert | Pass | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Ross Handley          | Pass | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Charlotte Walker      | Pass | Michaelmas 2024 |
| Nicole Watkins        | Pass | Michaelmas 2024 |

**Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery**

|                    |      |                 |
|--------------------|------|-----------------|
| Finley Bettsworth  | Pass | Michaelmas 2019 |
| Jago Bruce         | Pass | Michaelmas 2018 |
| Harrison France    | Pass | Michaelmas 2019 |
| Thomas Mewes       | Pass | Michaelmas 2019 |
| Franceska Tchapdeu | Pass | Michaelmas 2019 |
| Robert Truell      | Pass | Michaelmas 2019 |

**BPhil**

|             |                  |             |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Edward Lamb | BPhil Philosophy | Distinction |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|

**Diploma**

|                 |                          |             |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Gabriel Alvarez | Diploma in Legal Studies | Pass        |
| Jan Günther     | Diploma in Legal Studies | Distinction |

**MATRICULATIONS 2024-25**

**Toby Alexander**, Worcester Sixth Form College; **Nita Alpin**, University of Amsterdam; **Gabriel Alvarez**, Université Pantheon-Assas, Paris II; **Annika Andersson**, British Columbia University; **Affaf Anwer**, University of Surrey; **Yassin Azeb**, George Spencer Academy; **Madison Bakewell**, Royal Holloway, University of London; **Katherine Ball**, St Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form; **Zoe Barber**, University of Nottingham; **Catherine Barker**, Furze Platt School; **Maisy Barnett**, University of Nottingham; **Jonathan Bedford**, Caldew School; **Yonatan Ben-Menachem**, City of London School; **Levi Berger**, University of Warwick; **Ezana Betru**, Eltham College; **Alexander Bird**, North Kent College; **Emily Black**, University of Notre Dame; **Timothy Blackburn**, Bishop Wordsworth's

School; **Jack Bolwell**, Friends' School Lisburn; **Benjamin Brabon**, University of Stirling; **Anna Bradley**, Ripon Grammar School; **Caitlin Bradley**, Kenilworth School; **Priya Brana**, Langley Grammar School; **Ella Buky**, Knights Templar School; **Amaya Butler**, University of Durham; **Olivia-Mae Butterfield**, New College Pontefract; **Max Butterworth**, University of Nottingham; **Erin Camlin**, University of Liverpool; **Emily Cast**, Runshaw College; **Siyu Chen**, City of London Freeman's School; **Jaylen Cheng**, Eton College; **Hoi Ngan Cheung**, University of the Arts; **Langelihle Chinyoka**, Scripps College; **Megan Coleman**, Greenhead College; **Francesca Collins**, Winchester College; **Jessica Connolly**, Holy Cross College; **Kate Correia**, Woodhouse Sixth Form College; **Matthew Coulter**, Friends' School Lisburn; **Martha Davey**, Cheltenham Ladies' College; **Vilde Dietz**, Strathclyde University; **Ice Dob**, Emanuel School; **Ava Doherty**, Harris Westminster Sixth Form; **Aditya Dongre**, Global Indian International School; **Josephine Douglas**, Trinity College, Dublin; **Aarav Duggal**, King Edward VI Camp Hill Boys School; **Alice Edmonds**, Imperial College, London; **Cameron Eldridge**, United States Naval Academy; **Sherif Elghamrawy**, The Kingston Academy; **Filora Elterish**, University of Manchester; **Lewis Firth**, Immanuel College; **Kirsty Fuge**, St Albans High School for Girls; **Parth Gaikwad**, St Dominic's Sixth Form College; **Maria Geynish**, Westminster School; **Milo Ghiandai**, Harris Westminster Sixth Form; **Anna Gjetnes**, Alleyn's School; **Juan Gomez Gonzalez Porto**, Universidad Javeriana Colombia; **Sara Laurence Goodwin**, King's College London; **Raghav Goyal**, Global Indian International School; **Magnus Gravell**, Chesham Grammar School; **Vanessa Grifo**, Ruprecht-Karls Universitat Heidelberg, Germany; **Marie Gumpert**, The University of Law; **Jan Gunther**, Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich; **Runchuan Guo**, Pennon Education Group; **Nikhil Gupta**, McMaster University; **Robert Hack**, University of Manchester; **Yaman Hafdh**, Langley Grammar School; **Isabella Hamilton Dale**, Denefield School; **Judith Hamilton**, St Mary's Catholic High School; **Joel Hamlett**, University of Durham; **Ross Handley**, Oxford Brookes University; **Nina Harbison**, University of St Andrews; **Aijia He**, Champion School; **Ellen Charlotte Dyvik Henke**, Harvard University; **Malintha Hewa Batage**, University of Bristol; **Serafina Hills**, Charters School; **Jamie Hopkin**, Sir Christopher Hatton

Academy; **Sara Hu**, Hailiang Foreign Language School; **Crystal Huang**, Alberta University; **Lareb Hussain**, Brighton College Abu Dhabi; **Minesh Jethwa**, Thomas Tallis School; **Sameena Kaisar**, Vellore Institute of Technology; **Ayisha Khalid**, University of Toronto; **Raees Khan**, University of Durham; **Julian Khong**, Anglo-Chinese School, Singapore; **Apollo Kim**, Macquarie University; **Gracie King**, Charters School; **Stanley King**, St Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form; **Luca Kochendoerfer**, Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich; **Laura Kraft**, Free University of Berlin; **Maya Lal**, North Leamington School; **Jenelle Lee**, Yale-NUS College; **Lukas Lim**, Raffles Junior College; **Laura Limbourg**, Academy of Fine Arts in Prague; **Taiwu Liu**, Columbia University; **Tamar Lomidze**, Tbilisi Ivane Javakhishvili State University; **Emanuella Lorente**, University of Nottingham; **Daniel Maddocks**, Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School; **Massimo Martani**, The Elmgreen School; **Hazel Martin**, Stokesley School & Sixth Form College; **Nefeli Mavri**, University of Cyprus; **Estelle McCool**, University of Edinburgh; **Ellen Milner**, City of Portsmouth College; **Fredrik Mitchell O'Reilly**, The Thomas Hardy School; **Megan Mitchell**, Richard Hale School; **Kamran Mosahebi**, Dame Alice Owen's School; **Carla Mukasa**, Collyer's; **Rosie Munir**, Holy Cross College; **Labina Naeem**, Kenilworth School; **Amrutha Nandakumar**, Greenwich High School; **Katya Narendratanaya**, National University of Singapore; **Frederick Nelson**, Shenfield High School; **Ethan Newnham**, Melbourne University; **Alejandro Nodarse**, Harvard University; **Joel North**, Bradley Stoke Community School; **Rachel Nuthall**, Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College; **Oliver Osgood**, Portsmouth Grammar School; **Melina Otifeh**, Queen Mary, University of London; **Anna Palmer**, Bohunt School and Sixth Form; **Sanaa Pasha**, King Edward VI Camp Hill Girls; **Sara Pastina**, University of Maastricht; **Dhairya Patel**, The Cedars Academy; **Kayleigh Pearce**, Oxford Brookes University; **Hannah Perman**, Peter Symonds College; **Gavin Phillips**, Manchester Metropolitan University; **John Phillips**, Durham Johnston School; **Adelaide Pitcock**, University of Utah; **Caitlin Pley**, University of Cambridge; **Elias Pock**, University of Vienna; **Siraj Pothiraj**, Dartford Grammar School for Boys; **Lukas Quiney**, Durham Johnston School; **Sanskar Ranglani**, University of Glasgow; **Charlotte Zola Davis Mary-Jane Reed**, Queen's University, Ontario; **Kathleen Kohl Reeves**,

Georgetown University; **Candice Renard**, Pantheon-Sorbonne Paris I University and Queen Mary, University of London; **Ciaran Ricketts**, Ivybridge Community College; **Sam Ricketts**, Ivybridge Community College; **Jacob Roden**, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys; **Nathan Grant Lactaoen Sala**, Stanford University; **Ruby Sampson**, King Edward VI College; **Ettore Santini**, European School, Luxembourg II; **Naia Searight**, Dauntsey's School; **Kavya Shah**, University of Cambridge; **Sophie Shepherd**, King William's College; **Samuel Shin**, United States Naval Academy; **Marianna Shullani**, St Paul's Catholic College; **Isabelle Yun Yi Sim**, University of Cambridge; **William Smith**, University of Edinburgh; **Ariana Soares Dias Portela**, Anglia Ruskin University; **Carl Sørensen**, University College London; **Aitan Standing**, Hills Road Sixth Form College; **Ella Stephens**, Launceston College; **Hepzibah Stockbridge**, Kingsdale Foundation School; **Samuel Stoddard**, Westbourne College; **Iulia-Maria Sucutardean**, Humboldt University, Berlin; **Sara Svobodova**, University of Sussex; **Seth Swain**, Bishop Luffa School; **Rook Tang**, St Olave's and St Saviour's Grammar School; **Alicia Taylor**, University of Durham; **Ellen Taylor**, Down High School; **Eve Thomas**, Bishop Wordsworth's School; **Lawrence Thorn**, Pate's Grammar School; **Benjamin Tilley**, Pate's Grammar School; **Frederick Turpin**, Trinity School and Performing Arts College; **Jacob Vachre**, Urmston Grammar School; **Cosmo Van Steenis**, University of Durham; **Ella Vaughan**, Hills Road Sixth Form College; **Andreas Vetsch**, Universitat St. Gallen; **Atitiya Vichayanrat**, Emanuel School; **Rosie Vince**, Cowes Enterprise College; **Elektra Voulgari Cleare**, South Hampstead High School; **Ivan Vuckovic**, Universitat St. Gallen; **Charlotte Walker**, University of Cambridge; **Xicen Wan**, University of Texas at Austin; **Yiheng Wang**, Shenzhen College of International Education; **Abigail Ward**, United States Naval Academy; **Daniel Ward**, Pate's Grammar School; **Lia Warren**, Dubai College; **Nicole Watkins**, University of Durham; **Hannah Watts**, Portsmouth Grammar School; **Freddie Webber**, Eton College; **Callum Wilson**, St Leonard's College; **Eunice Wong**, University of Western Australia; **Orla Wyatt**, Westminster School; **Matvii Yarosh**, The Stephen Perse Foundation (Sixth Form); **Cuicheng Zhang**, University of Cambridge; **Zixuan Zhong**, World Leading Schools Association, Shanghai.

## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PRIZES 2024-25

### Undergraduate College Prizes

#### *First in Finals:*

**Joseph Andrews** (Ancient & Modern History); **Joshua Dow** (Biochemistry); **Emily Jones** (Biology); **Jude Tyrrell-Broad** (Chemistry); **Zitong Wu** (Chemistry); **Siena Crossley** (Classics & Modern Languages); **Oscar Jones** (Engineering Science); **Kartikeya Kaushal** (Engineering Science); **Ursula Gerhard** (English & Modern Languages); **Imogen Edmundson** (English Language & Literature); **Jacob Potter** (English Language & Literature); **Thomas Hodges-Gilbert** (Fine Art); **Emily Jackson** (Fine Art); **Lola Wendon** (Fine Art); **Matthew Grigg** (Geography); **Cyrus Hariri** (Geography); **Barney Wakefield** (Geography); **Eryk Schumacher** (Jurisprudence); **Charlotte Paine** (Jurisprudence (with Law in Europe)); **Natasha Meechan** (Literae Humaniores); **Luke Hayward** (Mathematical & Theoretical Physics); **Zilin Liu** (Mathematics); **Harish Raghu** (Mathematics & Statistics); **Milind Khashu** (Medical Sciences); **Nikita Parmar** (Medical Sciences); **Nathan Buchan** (Philosophy, Politics, & Economics); **Felix Mountford** (Physics); **James Nicholas** (Physics)

#### *First Class or equivalent in interim examinations:*

**Megan Jefferies** (Biochemistry, Part I); **Scarlett O'Shaughnessy** (Biochemistry, Part I); **Barnaby Cowles** (Biology, Part IA); **Diana Gusta** (Biology, Part IA); **Hamish Robertson** (Biology, Part IA); **Holly Bartlett** (Biology, Part IB); **Elizabeth Chrisp** (Biology, Part IB); **Jiya Soomal** (Biology, Part IB); **Andrew Achler** (Chemistry, Part IA); **Oliver Cashmore** (Chemistry, Part IB); **Finlay Johnston** (Chemistry, Part IB); **Sean Ridley** (Engineering, Part A); **Husayn Sacranie** (Engineering, Part B); **Alexander Sherwood** (Engineering, Part B); **Sijie Ma** (Mathematics & Statistics, Part B); **Joel Thacker** (Mathematics, Part B); **Jessica Fordham-Trice** (Medicine, First BM Part II); **Charlotte Stevenson** (Physics & Philosophy, Part A); **Felix McMullan** (Physics, Part A); **Aditya Tekriwal** (Physics, Part A); **Sierra Warnes** (Physics, Part A); **Wanxiang Zhang** (Physics, Part A); **Finn Barber** (Physics, Part B); **Elizabeth Berryman** (Physics, Part B); **Sophie Goodman** (Physics, Part B); **Emanuel Mavares Da Silva** (Physics, Part B); **Iona Blair** (Psychology and Linguistics, Part B)

*Distinction in Mods/Prelims:*

**Anna Bradley** (Biochemistry); **Lia Warren** (Biochemistry); **Ella Buky** (Biology); **Jaylen Cheng** (Chemistry); **Joel North** (Chemistry); **Ella Vaughan** (MChem Chemistry); **Raghav Goyal** (Economics & Management); **Stanley King** (Economics & Management); **Jacob Vachre** (Engineering Science); **Timothy Blackburn** (English Language & Literature); **Ellen Milner** (Experimental Psychology); **Yiheng Wang** (Experimental Psychology); **Siyu Chen** (Fine Art); **Aarav Duggal** (Geography); **Daniel Maddocks** (Geography); **Benjamin Tilley** (Geography); **Fredrik Mitchell O'Reilly** (History); **Aditya Dongre** (Jurisprudence); **Olivia Tang** (Jurisprudence); **Esther O'Neill** (Literae Humaniores); **Beth Parker** (Literae Humaniores); **Lewis Firth** (Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics); **Zixuan Zhong** (Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics); **Ciaran Ricketts** (Modern Languages); **Jamie Hopkin** (Physics); **Anna Palmer** (Physics)

**Undergraduate University Prizes**

**Elizabeth Chrisp (Biology):** Gibbs Proxime Prize for Meritorious Work in Biology FHS Part I

**Ursula Gerhard (Modern Languages):** Thomas Blomefield Prize for best FHS performance in French; proxime accessit for Gibbs Prize for best performance in Joint Schools with Modern Languages; proxime accessit for Gobbs Prize for best performance in Modern Languages for best submitted work in Special Subject Paper XII

**Raghav Goyal (Economics & Management):** Said Foundation Prize for best overall performance in Prelims, Examiners' Prize for highest mark in Financial Management paper, and Prelims Proxime Accessit Prize for the second-best performance in Introductory Economics

**James Nicholas (Physics):** Physics Prize for MPhys Project in Condensed Matter Physics

**Charlotte Stevenson (Physics & Philosophy):** Gibbs Prize for practical work in Part A of the Honour School of Physics and Philosophy

**Sierra Warnes (Physics):** Head of Department's Prize for presentation in the Physics Department Speaking Competition

**Lia Warren (Biochemistry):** Porter Prize for joint second best performance in Biochemistry Prelims

**Graduate College Prizes***Distinction in Graduate Exams:*

- Andrzej Antoszkiewicz – EMBA  
Madison Bakewell – MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies  
Zoe Barber – MSc Math Mod and Scientific Computing  
Amaya Butler – MSc Latin American Studies  
Max Butterworth – MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry  
Nathaniel Downham – MSt Global and Imperial History  
Cameron Eldridge – MSc Energy Systems  
Bianca Farthing – MSc Learning and Teaching  
Joseph Foye – BCL  
Jan Günther – Diploma in Legal Studies  
Charlotte Henke – MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment  
Malintha Hewa Batage – MSc Genomic Medicine  
Sulaymaan Khalili – BCL  
Raees Khan – MPP  
Luca Kochendoerfer – Mjur  
Laura Kraft – MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies  
Edward Lamb – BPhil Philosophy  
Kieran Lavis – MSc Learning and Teaching  
Jenelle Lee – MSc Environmental Change & Management  
Katya Narendranataya – MSc Environmental Change & Management  
Melina Otifeh – BCL  
Sara Pastina – MSc Biodiversity, Conservation and Mgt  
Alexander Jack Peart – MSc Archaeology  
Adelaide Pitcock – MSt English (1700 – 1830)  
Elias Pock – Mjur  
Kexin Qiu – MSc Nature, Society and Environmental Governance  
Samuel Shin – MSc Statistical Science  
Isabelle Yun Yi Sim – BCL  
Carl Sørensen – MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment  
Sara Spratt – MSc English Local History  
Iulia-Maria Sucutardean – MSt Modern Languages (GER)  
Xicen Wan – MBA

**Graduate University Prizes**

Sulaymaan Khalili – The Conflicts of Law supported by Blackstone Chambers and John Gardner Prize for Philosophical Foundations of the Common Law

Luca Kochendoerfer – Law Faculty Prize for the Best Performance in the MJur (shared) and Law Faculty Prize in Civilian Foundations of Contract Law

Ethan Newnham – Sherrington Prize in Neuroscience

Paul Norris – The Chancellor’s English Essay Prize (*proxime accessit*)

Melina Otifeh – Law Faculty Prize in Regulating Relationships: Violence and Intimacy (*shared*)

Isabelle Yun Yi Sim – Law Faculty Prize in Competition Law

**ELECTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND EXHIBITIONS, 2024-25****IN ANCIENT & MODERN HISTORY**

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Sky Giles, formerly of Colchester Royal Grammar School

**IN BIOCHEMISTRY**

TO AN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Megan Jefferies, formerly of Gordano School

Scarlett O’Shaughnessy, formerly of Windsor Girls’ School

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Delphine Greco, formerly of James Allen’s Girls’ School

Vedat Habib Papo, formerly of Üsküdar American Academy

**IN BIOLOGY**

TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

Diana Gusta, formerly of The Hazeley Academy

Oscar Potts, formerly of Bourne Grammar School

Hamish Robertson, formerly of Sir William Borlases School

**IN CHEMISTRY**

## TO THE JUNIOR CHEETHAM SCHOLARSHIP

Andrew Achler, formerly of Chancellor's School

## TO AN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Oliver Cashmore, formerly of Stoke-On-Trent Sixth Form College

Finlay Johnston, formerly of Dulwich College

Siyu Li, formerly of Guangzhou Foreign Language School

Jude Tyrrell-Broad, formerly of Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College

Zitong Wu, formerly of Shanghai World Foreign Language Academy

**IN CLASSICS & ENGLISH**

## TO AN OPEN EXHIBITION

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 Mr M D Y Gibson  
 Dr E Matthews  
 Mr S Mckenzie Haveron  
*né Haveron*  
 2011 Mr D Patterson  
 Dr M Stegmann  
 Mr T Stewardson  
 Miss C Wayne  
 2012 Mr S J Bailey  
 Mr D K Bsharat  
 Mr J H Carey  
 Mr A M Cloake  
 Dr S Cooke  
 Dr M Gilbert  
 Mrs A Heath *née Boyce*  
 Mr O Heyde  
 Mr T Hilton-Stevens  
 Mr H C Maynard  
 Mr B McDonnell  
 Miss A Trossha  
 Mr O Verran  
 Mr J Vinall  
 Miss C L Ward  
 Mr S S S Wu  
 2013 Miss T E Bennis  
 Miss A Diabate  
 Miss P H Gibbons  
 Miss B L McGuire  
 Mr W E Pyle  
 Dr A R Thomas *née Bradshaw*  
 2014 Mr B Byfield  
 Miss K Collins  
 Mr P R Fradley  
 Mr D M Sargent  
 2015 Miss G Crimi  
 Miss S Hughes  
 Mr S W Neo  
 Mr A Thomas
- Miss H Winsor  
 2016 Mr N J Bowater  
 Mr J H Green  
 Miss E Haywood  
 Dr T M Kent  
 Ms M Mullan  
 2017 Miss G Bottomley  
 Miss D Chatterjee  
 Mr J M Cheng  
 Mr L J Davis  
 Mr J M Dennis  
 Mr D C C Goyal  
 Mr Z H B A Ip  
 Mr T D A Kluwen  
 Miss S Marcus  
 Mr E R A Peckston  
 2018 Mr N J Gabriel  
 Mr A McKinney  
 Dr C F Moreira Duarte  
 Mr M Uzor  
 Miss A E Wright  
 2021 Miss Z Zhang  
 2022 Ms K D Ewart ♦  
 2023 Dr N A Araya
- Friends of Brasenose (including staff)*  
 Mrs L Andrews ♦  
 Mr B Bradnack  
 Professor P B Carter  
 Mr P Castle  
 Mrs S Cheetham  
 Lady M Du Plessis  
 Mr A Fane  
 P Finlay  
 Mr J K Fletcher  
 Professor J L Hart  
 Mr C Hill  
 K Jackson  
 Mrs M Lester  
 Mrs M L Read  
 Mrs J Walker ♦  
 Mrs A Wilkinson  
 L L Xiu ♦

*Fellows & Lecturers of Brasenose  
(including former)*

Professor R Cashmore  
 Professor R A Cooper  
 Professor J A Jones  
 Dr E J Miller  
 Professor L Smith  
 Professor S M Treggiari *née Franklin*  
 Professor S Vogenauer

*Corporations, Foundations & Trusts*

Charles Skey Charitable Trust ♦  
 The Golden Bottle Trust ♦  
 Harold Parr Charitable Trust ♦  
 Hulme Grant ♦

The Jack Goldhill Charitable Trust ♦  
 The Jeremy Singer Charitable Trust ♦  
 Oxford District Organists'  
 Association (ODOA)  
 Richard Marriott Trust  
 The Parish of St Peter's  
 Pfizer Foundation  
 Peter Moores Grant ♦  
 The Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Trust  
 The William Delafield Charitable Trust ♦  
 The Wolfson Foundation ♦  
*and a number of anonymous donors  
(including 'Tap & Donate' gifts)*

**1509 SOCIETY 2024-2025**

Named for the year of our foundation, the 1509 Society celebrates our most loyal and generous benefactors. Gifts from members have a real and long-lasting impact on the College and we thank them for their exceptional commitment. The Society is open to all donors who commit to giving £1,509 or more each year, or who have cumulatively given over £25,000. We have also created a young alumni tier for everyone who has committed to giving £15.09 a month or more within five years of their graduation. An asterisk indicates that the donor has sadly since passed away. If you would like more information regarding the society, or wish to make a gift, please contact the Alumni Relations and Development Office. We have tried to ensure that all current members are listed accurately but if we have made any mistakes please accept our apologies and do let us know so that they can be corrected. This list covers those who met the criteria as at 30th September 2025.

★ Donor deceased

|      |                       |      |                 |
|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1945 | Sir Robin Gill        | 1954 | Mr G M Thomas   |
| 1950 | Professor D O Edwards | 1955 | Mr J N Coombs   |
| 1951 | Mr B J Moughton       | 1956 | Mr A C L Sturge |
| 1951 | Mr J A C Spokes       | 1957 | Mr D M Veit     |
| 1953 | Mr R J A Sharp        | 1958 | Mr G M Leeke    |
| 1954 | Mr C P Lloyd          | 1959 | Dr B Hesp★      |

|      |  |      |   |
|------|--|------|---|
| 1959 | Mr J C Marlas                            | 1976 | Mr B J D Ashford-Russell                |
| 1961 | Mr P J Turvey                            | 1976 | Dr C B Hill                             |
| 1961 | Revd J N Wates                           | 1976 | Ms M E Stokes                           |
| 1962 | Sir Michael Palin                        | 1977 | Mr G M Cadwallader                      |
| 1962 | The Right Hon Lord<br>Vallance of Tummel | 1977 | Ms S P Hanks                            |
| 1963 | Mr C A Foster                            | 1977 | Mr J L Lever                            |
| 1964 | Sir Nicolas Bratza                       | 1977 | Ms A L Marks                            |
| 1964 | Mr P J Folkman                           | 1977 | Mr D C Zeffman                          |
| 1965 | Mr R A Chick                             | 1978 | Mr J Del Favero                         |
| 1965 | Mr J E Cox                               | 1978 | Mr M A L Everard                        |
| 1965 | Mr A R Flower                            | 1978 | Dr P X Gilbert                          |
| 1965 | Mr F W J Meier                           | 1978 | Mr G Jackson                            |
| 1966 | Mr D T Greenland                         | 1978 | Dr M Rolfé                              |
| 1966 | Mr D J F Rushton                         | 1979 | Mr D G Barker                           |
| 1968 | Dr A C Hill                              | 1979 | Mr A C Malcolm                          |
| 1968 | Mr C J W Moss                            | 1980 | Mr N H Jones                            |
| 1968 | Mr J W Sillem                            | 1980 | Ms L J Riches                           |
| 1968 | Mr D W Watts                             | 1981 | Mr R M Hughes                           |
| 1969 | Mr S P Duffy                             | 1981 | Mr G R H Orr                            |
| 1970 | Mr D O Clark                             | 1981 | Mr N G Robinson                         |
| 1970 | Sir Paul Silk                            | 1981 | Mr P A Sands                            |
| 1971 | Mr N J Bennett                           | 1982 | Dr I M Jauncey                          |
| 1971 | Mr P G D Kaufmann                        | 1982 | The Right Hon Lady<br>Rose of Colmworth |
| 1972 | Mr C Press                               | 1982 | Mr D J Schofield                        |
| 1972 | Mr J P Rutherford                        | 1982 | Mr G Turner                             |
| 1972 | Mr T M Wormington                        | 1982 | Dr K K Wong                             |
| 1973 | Dr P J Kalis                             | 1983 | Mr J S Chao                             |
| 1973 | Mr R A Kyprianou                         | 1984 | Mr D S Barton                           |
| 1974 | Mr H A S Crawford                        | 1984 | Mr G T E Smith                          |
| 1974 | Mr J E Flynn*                            | 1984 | Mr D Somen                              |
| 1974 | Mr K K W Liu                             | 1984 | Mr G S Spier                            |
| 1974 | Mr P D Massey                            | 1986 | Mr J M Brown                            |
| 1974 | Mr S Moriarty                            | 1986 | Dr R E Clayton                          |
| 1974 | Mr R H Rosa                              | 1986 | Ms K M Hughes                           |
| 1974 | Mr P E Yea                               | 1986 | Dr T H W Lillie                         |
| 1975 | Mr M E Eveleigh                          | 1987 | Mr A C Cleaver                          |
| 1975 | Mr R M North                             | 1988 | Mr H W Brodie                           |
| 1975 | Mr M A Prinsley                          | 1988 | Mr D J Chambers                         |
| 1975 | Mr G D Vinter                            | 1988 | Mr M E P Humphreys                      |
| 1975 | Mr N R Withington                        | 1988 | Mr T E Kilroy                           |

|      |                          |   |
|------|--------------------------|---|
| 1989 | Mr J P Hayes             | <i>Corporations, Foundations &amp; Trusts</i> |
| 1989 | Hon Mr Justice Humphreys | The 1815 CIO (The Bowman Fund)                |
| 1989 | Mr R J B Naylor          | Charles Skey Charitable Trust                 |
| 1989 | Professor M G Pollitt    | Davies Family Charitable Trust                |
| 1990 | Dr K W Beyer             | The Golden Bottle Trust                       |
| 1990 | Mr A P Suckling          | Harold Parr Charitable Trust                  |
| 1992 | Mr A Bikos               | Hulme Grant                                   |
| 1992 | Mr K Seeger              | The Jack Goldhill Charitable Trust            |
| 1992 | Mr B T Zeigler           | The Jeffery Cheah Foundation                  |
| 1993 | Mr S C Birt              | The Jeremy Singer Charitable Trust            |
| 1994 | Mr L A Kiely             | Peter Moores Grant                            |
| 1994 | Mr C L Warren            | Robin and Mary Gill                           |
| 1995 | Mr S C Jefferies         | Charitable Trust                              |
| 1996 | Mrs A M Parry Knolle KC  | Standard Chartered Bank                       |
| 1997 | Mr T H Baker             | Thomas Swan & Co Limited                      |
| 1998 | Mr C P Andrews           | Tufton Charitable Trust                       |
| 1999 | Mrs S Al-Sabah           | The William Delafield                         |
| 1999 | Mr N T Elliot            | Charitable Trust                              |
| 2000 | Mr S Ramagopalan         | The Wolfson Foundation                        |
| 2002 | Mrs E S J Catherall      | University of Oxford                          |
| 2003 | Ms S M Chew              | <i>And three anonymous donors</i>             |
| 2007 | Dr A Grigas              |   |
| 2014 | Mr M Amersi              |   |
| 2022 | Ms K D Ewart             |   |

*And 17 anonymous donors*

*Friends of Brasenose (including staff)*

Mrs L Andrews  
 Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Sir Jeffrey  
 Cheah, AO  
 Professor R E Krainer  
 Mr B Savén  
 Charlotte Scott  
 Mrs J Walker  
 Mr C Wilson  
 Li Ling Xiu  
 Mr S Yamshon  
*And one anonymous donor*

## ALEXANDER NOWELL CIRCLE 2024-2025

Like all Oxford Colleges, Brasenose owes its existence to the generosity of its benefactors who have ensured that it has continued as a centre of scholarship and preparation for life for over 500 years. The Circle is named after Alexander Nowell, a Fellow, then Principal, of Brasenose College. Membership to the Circle is open to all those who have notified us of their intention to join generations of Brasenose Members by including a gift to the College in their Will. We are very grateful for their generosity and are delighted to take the opportunity to honour them below. An asterisk indicates that the donor has sadly since passed away. If you would like information about leaving a legacy to Brasenose, please contact the Alumni Relations & Development Office.

★ Deceased

- 1946 Mr D C H Simpson
- 1949 Mr W H Clennell
- 1949 Mr A O'Hea★
- 1950 Mr J B Cook
- 1951 Mr J W Donaldson★
- 1951 Mr B J Moughton
- 1953 Mr R J A Sharp
- 1954 Mr J O Bullock
- 1954 Mr C P Lloyd
- 1954 Mr J B Milburn
- 1954 Mr P Moritz
- 1954 Dr J V Pepper
- 1955 Mr W K McInerney
- 1956 Mr J H Buxton
- 1956 Mr D G Franks
- 1956 Mr J A Spalding
- 1956 Professor A F Winder
- 1957 Mr C W Corlett
- 1957 Mr M J Landry
- 1957 Mr D M Veit
- 1957 Mr G R Whittle
- 1957 Mr R K J F Young★
- 1958 Mr A S Everest

- 1958 Mr B Melbourne Webb  
1958 Mr P F Skinner  
1958 Dr M A Stern  
1958 Mr G Williams  
1959 Dr E S Albone  
1959 Mr J Driver  
1959 Dr M D Hughes  
1959 Mr J C Marlas  
1960 Mr T M Cooke  
1960 Mr G V Mawer  
1960 The Revd Canon J D Thompstone  
1961 Mr R Q East  
1961 Mr R A S Graham  
1961 Mr J A Lewis  
1961 Mr C A Linfield  
1961 Mr N J P Mermagen  
1961 Mr P J Turvey  
1961 Revd J N Wates  
1962 Dr S A Craven  
1962 Mr S E A Green  
1962 Mr D R Witcher  
1962 Mr E R Woods  
1963 The Right Hon the Lord Archer  
of Weston-Super-Mare  
1963 Mr A J P Ayres  
1963 Mr J W Bows  
1963 Mr D M Cox  
1963 Mr F K Lyness  
1963 Mr W F Martin  
1963 Sheriff Alexander Pollock  
1963 Mr H C Williams  
1963 Mr J G L Wright★  
1964 Dr A J Garratt-Reed  
1964 Mr H J Malins  
1964 Mr P S Tilley  
1965 Mr R A Chick  
1965 Mr J H M East  
1965 Mr A R Flower

- 1965 His Honour Austen Issard-Davies  
1965 Mr F W J Meier  
1966 His Honour Gerald Clifton  
1966 Mr D R F Cox  
1966 Mr R C D Hirsch  
1966 Mr T W Pearce  
1966 Mr G W Robertson  
1966 Mr D Rowe  
1966 Mr A J Sillem  
1966 Mr W M Wolstenholme  
1967 Mr D W P Casey  
1967 Mr R C Lowson  
1968 Mr R W Billis  
1968 Mr J C Lowe  
1968 Mr C J W Moss  
1968 Mr N C Pitt  
1969 Mr F R Abbott  
1969 Mr D A Gibson  
1969 Mr B May  
1970 Mr D O Clark  
1970 Professor J Fender  
1970 Sir Paul Silk  
1972 Mr J S Dalby  
1973 The Revd P A Irwin  
1973 Mr P N Linscott  
1973 Mr H G L Russell  
1974 Professor K W Hulek  
1974 Mrs N M Hulek *née Thorpe*  
1974 Professor J R Turner  
1975 Mr P W W Disney  
1975 Dr C I Nicholls  
1975 Mr N R Withington  
1976 Miss R E Hargreaves-Gillibrand  
*née Hargreaves*  
1978 Mr J Del Favero  
1978 Mr G Jackson  
1981 Mr P S A Bladen  
1981 Mr D S Bradbury

- 1981 Dr J C A Holstein  
 1981 Mr R M Hughes  
 1982 Dr I M Jauncey  
 1983 Mr A S Murphy  
 1984 Mr M I Knight  
 1984 Ms A J Pullinger  
 1986 Dr J Fletcher  
 1988 Dr J H C Jones  
 1990 Mr M J J Charlton  
 1990 Mr S S Dean  
 1990 Mr A P Suckling  
 1993 Mr D T W Ridgway  
 1996 Mr N A A Donovan  
 1997 Mr B Benoit  
 1998 Mr J A Goldsmith  
 1998 Mr B P Murphy-Ryan *né Murphy*  
 Mrs B Garrick  
 Professor R G L McCrone  
 Dr B Planskoy  
 Professor S M Treggiari *née Franklin*

*And a number who wish to remain anonymous*

### **LEGACIES RECEIVED IN PERIOD**

- 1953 Mr M H Millyard  
 1957 Mr P D Thickbroom  
 Ms J Gridley  
 Mrs J R Higman

*(N.B. Some of the legators above were not previously recognised as members of the Alexander Nowell Society, i.e. were not known legators to Brasenose.)*



# The Brasenose Alumni Society

## Forms



# The Brasenose Alumni Society

A Society that helps its members maintain a strong connection with the College Community and each other

## Committee Nomination Form 2026

The Brasenose Alumni Society is Brasenose’s alumni association.

All matriculated Brasenose members automatically become members of the Brasenose Alumni Society when they go down, together with certain former employees/academics of the College. The term “alumni” in relation to the Society thus includes all these individuals.

There is no membership fee.

The Society has a management committee. New candidates who would like to offer active help are welcomed for election. Every year the committee elects a new President and Vice President from among the Alumni or Fellows. The commitment to meetings is not onerous: usually three a year, two in London and one in Oxford.

I \_\_\_\_\_ Matriculation Year \_\_\_\_\_

being a member of Brasenose,

and I \_\_\_\_\_ Matriculation Year \_\_\_\_\_

being a member of Brasenose,

nominate \_\_\_\_\_ Matriculation Year \_\_\_\_\_

for election to the Brasenose Alumni Society Committee at the Society AGM in September.

\*I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of nominee), \_\_\_\_\_

being a BNC alumnus and member of the Brasenose Society, consent to the above nomination.

I should like to stand for election because *(please state your reasons in no more than about 60 words)*.

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Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_ (Proposer) Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2026

\_\_\_\_\_ (Seconder) Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2026

\_\_\_\_\_ (Nominee) Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2026

\* Complete only if nominee is neither Proposer nor Seconder. Once completed, please return this form to The Alumni Relations and Development Office, Brasenose College, Oxford, OX1 4AJ no later than 31st July 2026.

If you are considering putting yourself forward for the committee, please contact the Alumni Relations & Development Office (+44(0)1865 287275, [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)) who can put you in touch with a current member to discuss the various roles available and the nature of the Committee.



## Keep in touch

Help us to stay in touch with you and keep our records up to date by updating your information. You are invited to sign up for our online community where you can update your contact details, stay in touch with your peers, and book for College events at [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/alumni). Alternatively, return this form to The Alumni Relations & Development Office, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ, or send an email to [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Matriculation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Forenames \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Any further information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Updates for 2025 – 2026

Please tell us of any news you would like us to consider for publication (in the Brazen Nose / Brazen Notes) in the period October 2025 to September 2026, including marriages, births, honours, achievements, distinctions, etc. (please note that we cannot include anything we consider promotional).

Your news

Please return this form to The Alumni Relations & Development Office, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ, or if possible email us at [development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

Data is used by Brasenose College in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For full details of privacy notices and other related documents please visit: <http://bit.ly/BNCPrivacy>

The College encourages the networking of alumni through the use of Year Reps. Year Reps are alumni volunteers who will contact their year group with a view to inform them of events and encourage participation. Reps now use a secure emailing system, and we do not pass on your contact details without permission. If you would NOT like to receive messages from your Year Rep, please let us know by returning this form and ticking this box.

If at any time you have any queries about the use of your personal data or wish to change the fact of, or extent of, use of your personal data, please contact the Alumni Relations & Development Office.

