

Postmaster & The Merton Record

2019



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OXFORD



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FROM THE ACTING WARDEN

In my year as Acting Warden I have enjoyed meeting Mertonians of many generations. The incoming undergraduates were excited, those on course resolute and the graduands cheerful. Rightly so, as they have taken us back to the top of the Norrington table. The graduate students ranged from those newly arrived from all parts of the globe and setting out on intriguing projects across the span of human knowledge to those completing doctorates, heading off to new challenges and often winning prizes on the way. Undergraduates and graduates alike contributed to the year's sporting successes, as the Merton team won Athletics Cuppers, two men's eights won blades in Torpids and the women's first boat won blades in Eights Week for the first time in 20 years.

I have met alumni who joined the College 60 years and 50 years ago, those here more recently who have come to Gaudies and those who brought their families to the Merton Society's sunny garden party. I have travelled to meet Mertonians in Boston, Toronto and Washington and received the warmest of welcomes. A surprising number of alumni were even patient enough to listen to me talking

about my research over dinner in the august surroundings of Lambeth Palace at the Merton Society London Dinner. Spending time with so many of you, students of the present and students of the past, and hearing how much the College means to you has been the most pleasurable part of the job.

Our Fellows have continued to make world-leading contributions to research and scholarship. Many, as you will read, have been rewarded with medals, prizes and other awards. The College's remarkable representation in the membership of learned societies expanded further with the elections of Vincenzo Cerundolo, Véronique Gouverneur, Andrew King, Anant Parekh and Tim Softley as Fellows of the Royal Society and of Béla Novák as a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. One particularly newsworthy achievement was the first use of gene therapy surgery for age-related macular degeneration, the commonest cause of untreatable blindness in the developed world, by Robert McLaren and Peter Charbel Issa.

A stimulating novelty in the life of the College has been the inauguration of our scheme for Research Fellowships in the

Creative Arts. This year two painters in succession, Rebecca Fortnum and Kieran Stiles, have occupied the summerhouse in the garden, now freed from its role as a music room by the construction of the music practice rooms in St Albans Quad. As well as pursuing independent projects, they have created works related to the College, portrait drawings of the younger Fellows and views of the garden. They have also led us in thinking about art and its social contexts and in practical workshops much enjoyed by students and staff. Next year we shall welcome three poets and novelists and we look forward to their company.

We have continued to raise support for graduate scholarships to equip the ablest students to study here whatever their means. For me it has been an honour to work with many Merton historians now spread around the world to establish such a scholarship in memory of our much-loved tutor Roger Highfield. It has also been exciting to see current graduate students in history sharing their research with alumni at events linked to the appeal.

This edition of *Postmaster* introduces a number of Mertonians engaged with issues of sustainability, and concern for the environment has been evident in various areas of the College's life. One of our undergraduates won the University's Sustainability Photographer of the Year award and a Green Team drawn from the staff has been at work around College looking for effective ways to lessen our environmental impact. In Hall we are all getting used to seeing a large map showing where our food supplies come from, so we can monitor the food miles incurred in the provision of our persistently tasty meals.

Changes in the College buildings have been less dramatic this year than some, but one long-awaited development is the provision of a staff room for the College's domestic and administrative staff. It is important for the College's future health that it be a pleasant and rewarding place to work as well as to teach and study and we hope that the staff room will play its part in that.

In the course of the year we have had some grand celebrations. In January our Visitor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, preached in Chapel and dined in Hall. He took the time to

meet many students and had no need to imitate his medieval predecessors in telling the College to pull its socks up. This autumn we are greeting with flying flags and peals of bells the formal enthronement of a Mertonian Emperor of Japan. In July we were sad to hear of the death of Sir Rex Richards, Warden from 1969 to 1984. A fuller tribute appears on page 193, but those of us who remember his wardenship will know how well he served the College, combining outstanding scholarly achievement with humane leadership.

As I write we are preparing to welcome Professor Irene Tracey as our new Warden. This edition of *Postmaster* includes an interview with her, which I hope will make clear why the Fellows are delighted that she is joining us to lead the College through the challenges and opportunities of the years ahead. The installation ceremony, graced by music from our wonderful Choir reinforced by the new Girls' Choir, takes place on 5 October and we are aiming to live-stream it. So we welcome you to join us virtually if you are not able to join us in person and to share with Irene and with us all the task of keeping Merton at the forefront of education and scholarship in eventful times.

Professor Steven Gunn (1979)



JCR NEWS

A ceilidh, the time-space continuum, a healthy dose of drag costumes and the Archbishop of Canterbury – what do they all have in common? Well, perhaps surprisingly, Merton JCR.

Our undergraduates have truly outdone themselves this past year. The ties that bind together our motley crew have only become stronger as the JCR's visibility and productivity have flourished. Early on our incoming freshers blessed us with their enthusiasm: raising palms to question and bringing motions on issues close to their hearts. A motion to purchase LGBTQ+ rainbow laces for all Merton sports teams pioneered fresh inclusivity and efforts to introduce Veggie Wednesdays into Hall may have amusingly sparked headlines of a 'Merton Civil War' in *The Cherwell*, but also furthered the debate on how to encourage planet-conscious choices in our College. Among these currents, additional chairs have been dragged across from the TV room and frantic calls have been made to Domino's for extra pizza as debate has stretched late into the night. Through it all though, Merton's stance has proved to be more than pizza and circus. Considerate yet impassioned debate over the frustratingly small and occasionally ridiculously tall orders have only demonstrated anew the ideas our College overflows with. Thankfully, the new Merton puffer jackets we all wear on our backs are not the only common ground we have found.

For the more studious among us this furore has been (I hear) a stimulating break, whereas for the more politically prone it has provided a welcome distraction from what is, as ever, the heavy workload of an Oxford term. My fantastic committee and I dedicated ourselves behind the scenes to do all we could to ease the load, focusing on collaboration as the key to sustainable excellence. We have been inspired by newly crowned MCR career mentors and wowed by peers discussing their pet research topics in now formally codified and funded subject societies. Their newly accountable subject presidents have seamlessly taken the reins as we prepare the most comprehensive plan of JCR academic support yet ready for October 2019.

A thought I hope to pass on to these freshers is that behind every successful line of argument is a more hazardous path of personal growth for the writer. Our Welfare Team at Merton have truly excelled themselves in helping students to negotiate this journey. With the support of our much-loved Chaplain, the Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones, we have successfully changed the bylaws to allow animals onto the College playing fields. This new opportunity has been integrated into a programme known as Fifth Week Welfare, in which we recognise how easy it is to lose oneself in these eight-week dashes known as terms – to become fixated on



Merton matriculands 2018. This photograph has been reproduced by kind permission of Gilman and Soame photographers and can be ordered online at: www.gsimagebank.co.uk/merton/t/ay5fze2019

the promise of picnicking for days in a sun-drenched Eighth Week Trinity. It is promising that now some of our most popular events are JCR trips to G&D's for ice cream steeped in the rain of Hilary term. Merton students famously work hard and we have found they work best when they dedicate some of their focus to their own wellbeing, as well as to their word counts.

Finally, as I'm sure you know, it is an unsaid motto in Merton that we all do best when we all feel welcome. It is found whispered in conversations outside BOP to younger years feeling overwhelmed and it shines proudly in our access efforts. This year our halal food in Hall has been significantly improved and, with the introduction of new BAME and Disabled Students Representatives, sometimes unheard voices are being brought to the fore. In Trinity term we held an Emergency General Meeting to discuss a proposed access scheme which allowed under-resourced JCR members to afford a Merton Winter Ball ticket. At just 24 hours' notice we topped our quorum of 30 and unanimously agreed to spend up to £4,000 to make our ball as inclusive as possible. I have never been prouder to be a Mertonian.

Indeed, throughout this year our JCR has proven again and again that when the Cinderella Syndrome of feeling one must

absolutely 'fit' into the Oxford mould has come lurking, one's own peers are ready to light a more grounded, sure-footed path. The authenticity of the enthusiasm I now see for formal JCR politics is great credit to the people I have worked alongside who have each individually spread this inclusivity in their own roles. Our Exec – Rob, Conor, Adrian, Charlotte, Emma, Ben, Emily, Sam – and each member of our JCR Committee deserve equal credit for the highlights I have outlined above.

It is no surprise then that the incoming JCR Executive is both kind and capable. At this stage I really ought to have expected it, given the calibre of the community that it has been my privilege to serve.

Emily Capstick (2017)
JCR President 2018-19



MCR NEWS

Imagine. You've scheduled an (already thrice-postponed) Open Air Movie Night for the Merton MCR Freshers' Week. You've obtained licensing permission to show the film, and approval to hold the event from Oxford City Council, as well as notifying the authorities. You've rented the relevant DVD, popcorn machine and audio-visual equipment. You've informed the Porter as to what's about to happen, and enlisted the weather gods (it's 30 September, sunny and 17 degrees). You've assembled yoga mats, bedside tables and deck chairs on the sloping grass of Holywell Quadrangle – a perfect amphitheatre. But the DVD fails!

No, only a temporary glitch: 2018-19 Social Secretary Chris Eijsbouts (2017) has fixed it in a moment (no wonder he is 2019-20 Vice-President). Open Air Movie Night is on. The opening bars of *Call Me By Your Name* ensue, and in the gap between sundown and freezing, new and old MCR members huddle together and pass the popcorn.

I turn back to this formative episode in the 2018-19 year because it embodies all the qualities that carried the MCR through a relatively hectic year: courage, an ability to withstand cold, quick-thinking, well-timed interventions, team spirit, and open engagement with ideas that might have been unthinkable a few decades ago.

That night, culmination of Freshers' Week, saw a good number of our 88 freshers turn out on Holywell Quad, some of them still clutching their tote bags full of welcome items from Covered Market vendors. We ran a full and diverse freshers' timetable, which led into two terms of activities aimed at fortifying each other throughout the winter months.

Just as Freshers' Week ended, an 'Equalitea' led by Kitty Gurnos-Davies (2015) helped to restart planning for representation of marginalised groups. Through meetings, online messages and collaborative drafting, 30+ MCR members working in concert later added four non-executive committee positions: BAME, Disabilities, LGBTQ+, and Access Officers. We are grateful to Bhagya Somashekar (2016), India Morris (2014), David Oliver (2018) and Molly Clark (2014), respectively, for taking on the inaugural roles as these representatives. Thanks are owed also to Inès Carme (Visiting Student), MCR Women's Officer, who collaborated with me to start the MCR 2020 Working Group, supplementing the College's efforts to celebrate the 40th anniversary of women arriving at Merton; and to Stephanie Bruce-Smith (2017), Environment and Ethics representative, who led the MCR's committed Climate Change Working Group over the last year.



MCR members meet the Archbishop of Canterbury

Our two intrepid Welfare Officers, Frida Lazzerini (2017) and Konstantin Beyer (2016), held Arts and Crafts workshops (often ideated by Social Secretary Alexandra Fergen (2017)), which always started out manageably before spiralling out of control. First, a hotly contested photography competition, then even more competitive soap-making, and finally life drawing classes which inspired great art. Social Secretaries Chris Eijsbouts (2017) and Tito Bastianello (2014) led us on a winter exchange to St John's College, Cambridge, and long-time Arts and Culture Representative Diego Berdeja-Suárez (2016) took us on a day trip to Rousham gardens: twin memories that make me shiver with delight, and mild hypothermia.

In Hilary we resisted the temptation to burrow down and forget about each other, as a number of new events lit up the calendar: High Tea, Pasta Night and Bookplates (a portmanteau invented by my mother), and which sees us discuss books over small plates (for example, madeleines and Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*). Yet the event that really drew MCR members out of their warm Holywell rooms in January was an exceptional dinner in Hall to celebrate the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

We went on kitchen tours with Chef Mike; Vice-President Lily McElwee (2016) ran more colloquia and popular Tastings:

Treasurer Christian Willmes (2016) kept us financially secure; and our indoor plants grew steadily despite the frost, overtaking the MCR room (now also known as the 'Hanging Gardens of Babylon', thanks to MCR stalwart, Information and Returning Officer, Samuel Gormley (2010)).

Finally, I was able to welcome India Morris (2014), MCR President for 2019-20, and her incoming committee who have already given us an amazing Trinity term. My thanks to my committee and the many MCR members who filled the past year with unexpected friendships, strange aphorisms and a desire to break down barriers, working to make our MCR somewhere in which everyone can be their true and full selves.

Having begun Michaelmas out on the chilly lawn of Holywell, we ended Hilary in the MCR room itself, with an unforgettable evening of medieval music from MCR member Jacob Mariani's (2017) ensemble RUMORUM. As MCR members huddled on couches to listen, spellbound, I was reminded of the semi-circle we formed in Holywell Quad in Freshers' Week. You can always count on MCR members to brave anything in support of each other's endeavours and enjoying an evening together.

Amy Steinepreis (2015)
MCR President 2018-19

Merton Sport





The hockey team at the 2019 alumni match

Hockey

The Merton-Mansfield Hockey Club started off the season extremely successfully, thanks not only to strong recruitment numbers from both Merton and Mansfield, but also to retaining many of the more long-standing members of the club. After avoiding relegation from Division 1 due to an administrative mix-up, the M&Ms went on to lose only one of their six games in the Michaelmas League (to the winners, Teddy Hall), which put them in second place overall.

With Hilary came the return of Men's Cuppers and a first-round win against Lincoln (who had beaten us at this stage last year). The second round saw the M&Ms up against St Peter's/Hertford and after 60 minutes with no goals from either side, it went to flicks. However, with Joe Morford (2016) in goal, the M&Ms had no trouble putting one more past their keeper than they could put past Joe. Unfortunately, despite a scoresheet win, the ineligibility of one of our players saw us having to concede to our opponents so our Cuppers run came to a sad end.

After the success of last year's alumni match, the event was repeated this year. From 2-1 down going into the last five minutes of the game, the M&Ms managed to clinch victory this year due to two crunch-time goals from Josh Lanham (Mansfield, 2017). Any conflicts created during the match were promptly settled over an enjoyable dinner that evening. We look forward to retaining the title next year.

(Please do get in touch with any of the current players or alumnus Matthew Dodd if you'd like to play next year.)

The final competition of the season – Mixed Cuppers – saw the M&Ms struggle to get out their full-strength team due to finals and suffered a loss to a combined Lincoln/St Hilda's team as a result. However, a number of friendlies took place to occupy our Sunday afternoons for the few keen non-finalists among us.

All in all, it has been a very rewarding season, with weekly training at the University Club being well attended and some very strong showings at weekends from the M&Ms. With a large number of players remaining, the team should continue its successful run next year. We must thank all our players who are leaving us this year, most especially Jenny Dingwall and Oliver Paulin (both 2015) – previous captains who have been part of the M&Ms for four years.

Final thanks must go to Sven Kirkerup (2014) for his donation to the M&Ms this year, which will be funding some brand new stash for the club.

Amalie Coleman (2017) and Oliver Farquharson (Mansfield, 2017)

Merton-Mansfield Hockey Captains 2018-19



Rugby

In a season of highs and lows the M&Ms rugby team struggled to reach their potential.

In a promising start to the season the M&Ms began with a tight 16-15 win against a strong Oriel side, which was quickly followed up with a resounding victory over Queen's. Buoyed by early success and with the fabled Division 3 in our sights, the boys travelled to Pembroke knowing a win would put them on the brink of promotion. A valiant effort but to no avail as Pembroke ran out comfortable winners.

It was back to the drawing board and following countless hours of training in all weather, the M&Ms returned in Hilary determined to build on the successes of Michaelmas term. Sadly, it was not meant to be as – hit by injury and illness – the winless run extended through much of the term. Nevertheless, there were some gritty performances in the face of adversity. Most notably in an inaugural fixture against Oxford Brookes' 3rd XV which saw an undermanned M&Ms side fight to make Brookes work hard in what they might have thought to be a straightforward fixture.

Following the end of the regular season, the boys in maroon and white looked ahead to the Old Boys' game and Cuppers hopeful of returning to Iffley for a third time in as many years. In an unforeseen turn of events, our second-round Cuppers fixture was scheduled for the same day as the Old Boys' game, seemingly dashing all hopes of progression. Days of negotiation ensued, eventually leading to the fixture being rescheduled for the day after the Old Boys' game. Far from ideal, but a glimmer of hope for the M&Ms.

The weekend of reckoning arrived, and we began on the Saturday with a tight and entertaining affair against the Old Boys. It was a high-scoring game with much of the MMRFC's characteristic champagne rugby on show, the current boys eventually running out winners. Tired and sore the M&Ms rose again on the Sunday to face Lincoln. In the end this would turn out to be a bridge too far, bringing to an end the 15-a-side season.

Elsewhere in M&Ms rugby, mixed touch rugby Cuppers saw the team narrowly miss out on a semi-final place, following a contentiously disallowed try in our final pool fixture. Furthermore, we are delighted to announce the unification of MMRFC with Regent's Park College, a bond we hope will lead to future success for the M&Ms.

As we say farewell to many of the M&Ms stalwarts of recent years, we look forward to a season of rebuilding and growth. Recruitment will be key come Michaelmas and I have no doubt that in the capable hands of newly appointed Captain Federico Amodeo (2018), and with the support of Vice-Captain Robert Power (Mansfield, 2018) and club President Joshua Navarajasegaran (2016), the M&Ms can look forward to every success in the future.

Callum Schafer (Mansfield, 2017)
MMRFC Captain 2018-19

Tennis

2019 was not a good year for Merton tennis. We have been blessed recently by a plethora of talented players – Mark van Loon (2011), Allesandro Geraldini (2010) and Carla Groenland (2017), to name but a few – and it has been the efforts of these men and women that have made us competitive in both league and Cuppers tennis.

However, the departure, or inactivity, of these great names has left us bereft of their skills this year, with predictable consequences. Indeed, it was a struggle even to form a team on most match days and so, to steal from our great alumnus, TS Eliot (1947), we have gone crashing out of the top division of the league, not with a bang but a whimper.

James Kempton (2011)
Tennis Captain 2018-19



Mark van Loon (2011)



Men's Rowing

Wednesday of Torpids

The rowing year began for the men's side with the senior squad training towards the Fairbairn Cup on the river Cam and the novices training towards Christ Church Regatta. Our Fairbairn crew would finish in a respectable 14th place and the first novice crew was unlucky to be knocked out in the third round. The success of the novice programme under the leadership of Ty Rallens (Kellogg, 2012) was evident from the fact that by the middle of Michaelmas a handful of novices were regularly joining senior squad outings, and two would join the First Torpid in Hilary term.

In Hilary term, the men's squad ran a system of matched eights, with the rowers in competition for the first and second eights training together and entering all three Isis Winter Leagues. Strong results from both crews were early

evidence that this would be a successful year. Despite the disappointment of qualifying only two men's crews for Torpids, the bumps campaign would turn out to be an unprecedented success, with both crews bumping every day to win blades. This is the first time in MCBC history that the First and Second Torpids have won blades in the same year, leaving the First Torpid on bungline six in Division 2 and the Second Torpid on bungline two in Division 5.

At the end of Hilary term, the first boat entered the Head of the River Race for the second year running, this time placing 114th in a time of 19 minutes and 40 seconds. Notably Merton was the fastest of 24 Oxbridge college crews racing that day, besting Trinity, Balliol and Brasenose as well as a host of Cambridge first division crews.



MI at the Eights Dinner, Trinity term

Over the Easter vac, we returned to the Amstel for our second annual training camp. Generous support from College and from our host club Willem III made for an extremely productive week's training and set up our Trinity term well.

For only the second time in the last 20 years, Merton fielded four men's crews in Summer Eights, a real achievement that highlights the depth of the club. Overall results were mixed during Eights Week. The Second Eight fell two places, having lost two of their most experienced rowers from Torpids to academic commitments, but put on a sterling performance on Saturday to close on Wolfson II before a klaxon cut the race short.

The First Eight had a disappointing Wednesday of racing,

narrowly missing out on catching Mansfield after tactical errors, a crab in the Gut and a klaxon which stopped the division when Mansfield was a mere canvas away. The crew showed real discipline by regrouping to come back and bump Mansfield with composure on Thursday, and caught Worcester in a mere 21 strokes on Friday. The First Eight rounded off the week with a bump on Hertford in the Gut to finish up three places and leave the crew within sight of the first division.

Since the end of Summer Eights the first boat has continued training hard and will attempt to qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta on 28 June.

Dylan Gutt (2017)
Men's Rowing Captain 2018-19



Women's Rowing

It has been yet another great year for women's rowing at Merton. Even before the start of the year we came across the excellent opportunity to be sponsored by Swift Racing. We had the pleasure of rowing in one of its Elite shells for the duration of the year, which undoubtedly contributed significantly to the success of the women this year.

While our returning rowers trained in their superb shell at Godstow, the freshly recruited novices were learning all about rowing through our extremely successful novice programme. At Christ Church Regatta, the women's novice first boat finished fourth overall, marking three consecutive years of Merton women finishing in the top four. The keenest of the novices joined a few of the seniors to compete in Fairbairn Regatta in Cambridge at the end of term, which proved a valuable experience for the whole crew.

In Hilary, W1 put up great performances in the Isis Winter Leagues, catching the eye of many on the river. W2 persevered through some cancelled outings and saw great improvements throughout term. After being tied with St Benet's for the last qualifying spot in Torpids, and because of poor availability for the races, W2 formed an unofficial composite crew with St Benet's competing as the first-ever St Benet's Women's First Torpid. 'Benerton' ended their Torpids campaign winning footship spoons, but having had great fun racing together. W1 had a hopeful start to the campaign with a bump on the first day, but a series of unfortunate races left them on -5 at the end of the week.

During the Easter vacation the squad returned to Amsterdam after last year's training camp's success. Training three times a day for a week, it was a great way to build up momentum



Merton WA at Christ Church Regatta

for the start of term and the Eights campaign, and the squad developed together very rapidly.

W1 came back even more fierce and competitive than before. Training at Godstow five times a week, it was clear they were getting ready for a successful Summer Eights. On the Isis, W2 was also training enthusiastically despite sometimes struggling to fill all the seats. In a testament to the depth of Merton women's rowing, 15 Merton students and alumni rowed with W2 throughout Eights Week. The crew finished the week on -3, after a klaxon on the first day as they were a few strokes away from a bump put an end to what could perhaps have been a very different campaign.

However, the dedication of W1 really did pay off with the historic results they obtained. After six years of not bumping

once, W1 went on to bump a record-setting five times over the course of the week, winning blades for the first time since 1999 for a Merton women's first boat. It was the best way possible to end a fantastic season of women's rowing at Merton.

Thanks must be given to the incredibly hard-working MCBC committee, as well as our coaches Ian Smith, Stan Billington and Daniel Sadler. I am very excited to see what the future holds for Merton women, and I wish Sanne Van Den Berg (2018) the very best for her captaincy.

Matilde Soares da Silva (2017)
Women's Rowing Captain 2018-19



Athletics

The spirit of Roger Bannister (Merton, 1950) lives on at Merton, as athletics has continued to be a much-enjoyed and highly successful sport.

This year we took part in and won Athletics Cuppers. The team of Gloria Rosetto (2018), James Kempton (2011), Oliver Bowling (2018), Oskar Maatta (2017) and Sushanta Mahanta (2018) managed to overcome teams of much greater numbers with their determination and team spirit. Throughout the day the lead changed hands between a variety of colleges but, with only a few races left, the Merton team managed to claim first place. It looked as though the small team would struggle to hold on and, already weakened by the loss of James to a cricket match, few believed we could take home the trophy. However, the team members themselves did not give up hope. Incredible individual performances by every member of the team, cheered on by the support of a Merton crowd that had gathered having heard of the possibility of success, managed to clinch an unlikely Cuppers victory. As we move into the next season we hope for a strong contingent of freshers in order to defend our well-earned title.

It was not only as a college that we had success, but we also saw individual Mertonians competing for the University. Oliver Bowling represented Oxford at Freshers' Varsity, competing in the 800m, and Heidi Hurst (2018) represented Oxford in the main Varsity match, competing in the pole vault. Both competitors saw Oxford claim victories as the University continued its dominance over our rivals.

Not only on the track but also on the road, Merton College again proved to be an incredible athletic force. Although not technically athletics, a strong Merton team took part in the Oxford Town & Gown 10k on Sunday 12 May. A huge number of Merton students and staff alike took to the streets to run, jog and walk their way around the 10km route to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy UK. It is with great honour that the Merton Athletics Club congratulates those who took part in the event.

Oliver Bowling (2018)
Athletics Captain 2018-19



Cricket

The well-known struggle to form teams on match days for summer sports pervaded not only tennis this year, but also cricket. Happily though, this difficulty seemed to be shared among all the teams in Division 2 of the Inter-College Cricket League. This led – in the form of three concessions in our favour, one against, and three rained-off games – to seven of our eight matches being settled off the pitch.

Our one played game, however, against Christ Church, was a triumphant victory, in which – with only nine players – we managed to overcome a complete opposition side. Fielding first, early wickets were taken courtesy of James Kempton (2011), using an unusual two-step run-up due to an injured neck. Jadon Buckeridge (2016) maintained extremely tight lines and lengths at the other end to restrict the run rate. His spell finished however, we were reduced to eight fielded men, revision apparently being a priority for Jadon. James Sully (2018) and James Chalaby (2016) provided effective spin options. Sully bowling a top-order batsman with an absolute ripper. Some control was lost following this, however, as our discipline dropped and it was only thanks to tight death

bowling from Josh Navarajasegaran (2016), who also claimed three wickets, that Christ Church posted no more than 151 in their 20 overs.

A target of 152 was daunting, especially given that three of the team had either not batted before or only batted a few times. However, an 80-run opening partnership between James Kempton and the returning Jadon Buckeridge, made in quick time, calmed the nerves. After Jadon's wicket was lost, possibly suicidally to return to revision, James Sully came to the crease and hit two monstrous sixes to pummel the opposition into submission. In the end we made the target with an over to spare, with Kempton omnipresent and finishing 57 not out.

This single heroic effort made by the team of nine effectively secured our promotion and so we shall next year be returning to the dizzying heights of Division 1.

James Kempton (2011)
MCCC Captain 2018-19



Sports Overview

The year gone by has seen a variety of sporting highlights for Merton; some good, some bad, and others simply bewildering.

To begin with the good, Merton rowers have had a year of unprecedented success. Three blades were won, with two men's crews winning blades in Torpids and a women's crew winning blades in Summer Eights. The women also claimed the record of being the first female crew to bump five times across the four days, an achievement in itself. Another positive was that of the Athletics Club, which managed an unlikely victory in Cuppers, despite their relatively small team. The Merton volleyball team were high achievers, reaching the semi-final of Cuppers before unfortunately having to forfeit with exams stealing away core players. At an individual level Laura Neill (2018) reached international standard. Her incredible squash ability saw her represent not only Oxford but also Ireland as she continued to perform at the highest level of competition available to her.

On a slightly more depressing note, the men's first football team managed an entire season without a point. Gutsy performances and determination were unfortunately not enough to see the team, captained by Hamish Venters (2017), beat relegation or in fact any other team. The men's second team were more successful, Nick Ridpath (2015) leading them to a second place finish and promotion from their division. The highlight of the year possibly the comeback from 0-4 to a 5-4 victory against Worcester, other promotion hopefuls.

Rugby had a year full of variety. Performances on the pitch were unable to match those that saw them reach Cuppers semi-finals last year, but according to incoming Captain Federico Amodeo (2018), their social performance more than made up for it. There was heartbreak for Joshua Navarajasegaran (2016) as he was selected to take part in the Varsity Match but injury, unfortunately, prevented him from doing so. Women's rugby saw Mertonian Olivia Tan (2018) lead a group of women affectionately called 'the leftovers' through an impressive Cuppers performance. The women, made up of a variety of colleges including Merton, achieved two wins and one loss which saw them narrowly miss out on a place in the semi-finals on points difference.

Perhaps more bewildering is the sheer variety of sports Merton managed to compete. Along with the well-known variety in which we have always shown our presence, this year we also managed to have teams in octo-push, punting and croquet to name but a few. Octo-push is a form of underwater hockey with the Merton team competing in Cuppers and achieving second place. Punting is, of course, a well-respected method of travel around Oxford, but also turns into an aggressive full-contact sport when it is done so competitively. Croquet, a usually relaxing game, becomes a strategic battleground when performed at the top level, as Mertonians once again managed to prove. It is a great reflection on Merton that we continue to strive to compete in not just those well-known sports but also those with less of a spotlight on them.



Sports Day proved that members of College were truly capable of sporting greatness. Incredible performances were seen in the sack race, the egg and spoon race and the three-legged race to name but a few, records tumbling to those willing to take part. An enjoyable day all round, the rain threatened but thankfully never came and a BBQ and bouncy castle were well enjoyed by the attendees.

For me – I wanted to highlight the true greatness of sports at Merton, which is the nature of people to step in and step up when their college needs them. Although Merton may not always be regarded as the strongest sporting college, better known for our performance in exams than on the pitches, we always manage to show strong team spirit and support to those willing to brave the harsh conditions. Most Mertonians will try their hand at any sport if it means a team can take part. We do not grumble, do not complain, we simply put on our shorts and take part for those who need us to. This is what I would truly claim to be the success of Merton sports, a comradery most colleges can only dream of. This is why I am proud to be a Mertonian.

Oliver Bowling (2018)

JCR Sports Representative 2018-19

Blues and Half Blues

New full blues and half blues in 2018-19

Konstantinos Afratis (2017)	Basketball
Alexander von Boetticher (2017)	Boxing
Tobias Clarke (2017)	Rugby
Catherine Felce (2016)	Squash
Aglaia von Götz (2018)	Volleyball
Heidi Hurst (2018)	Athletics
Joshua Navarajasegaran (2016)	Rugby
Laura Neill (2018)	Squash
Thomas Nightingale (2017)	Rifle
Julie Osgood (2015)	Dance
Edward Schwarck (2018)	Boxing
Eppie Sharp (2018)	Cheerleading

Haigh Awards

Presented in June 2019

Charlotte Oakes (2016)
Conor Sheehan (2017)
Dylan Gutt (2017)
Hamish Venters (2017)
Josh Navarajasegaran (2016)
Julia Zlotkowska (2016)
Mate Kovacs-Deak (2015)
Matilde Soares da Silva (2017)
Nick Redpath (2015)
Pablo Espinoza (2015)
Thomas Murphy (2016)
Venla Karppinen (2016)
Richard (Wick) Willet (2017)

Clubs & Societies

The Halsbury Society
Garden Party
With Gibson Dunn



Halsbury Society

The past academic year has been another wonderful one for the Halsbury Society, featuring a range of great events and fantastic academic and mooting achievements by Merton Law students.

During Freshers' Week, the society hosted our Welcome Tea Party for the incoming fresher law students to allow them to get to know the other law students at Merton. In Hilary term, we welcomed Sir Terence Etherton, Master of the Rolls, to Merton, who delivered an engaging lecture on his legal career and life as a modern Master of the Rolls. This was followed by a wonderful subject dinner in Trinity term. The Halsbury Society is fortunate to receive sponsorship from many leading law firms each year. Special mention must go to Slaughter and May, who sponsored the lecture dinner with Sir Terence, Gibson Dunn for sponsoring our subject dinner in Trinity term, and Sullivan & Cromwell for sponsoring our annual Christmas Drinks.

The Halsbury Society is always looking for ways to provide Merton law students with new and exciting legal opportunities. In past years, Professor Anselmo Reyes from the University of Hong Kong has provided the unique opportunity for Merton law students to undertake a mini-pupillage in Hong Kong. This year, the Halsbury Society is delighted to have been working with Professor Reyes to develop the Doshisha Merton Advocacy Network Initiative (DOMANI) which will be hosted at Doshisha University, Japan in September 2020. DOMANI will be an excellent chance to experience an alternative career path in an international context while applying academic skills in a novel setting.

Every year Merton law students participate in a number of mooting competitions, often with great success. This year Liam McKenna (2017) competed in the renowned Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and reached the semi-finals. Riya Bhatt (2017) and Stephanie Bruce-Smith (2017) took part in the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition and reached the quarter-finals. All three should be congratulated for their performance in these international competitions.



Ross Moore (2018), Riya Bhatt (2017), Isadora Janssen (2017) and Siddhant Iyer (2018) at the summer garden party

As ever, Merton lawyers have continued to perform highly academically and special mention should be given to Ross Moore (2018) who won the Slaughter and May Prize in Roman Law and the Norton Rose Fulbright Prize for best Merton performance in Mods. Isadora Janssen (2017) and Stephanie Bruce-Smith (2017) jointly received the Allen & Overy Second Year Law Prize at Merton College.

It has been a privilege to serve as the Halsbury Society President for 2018-19 and I wish Petra Stojnic (2018), President 2019-20, and the rest of her committee the best of luck for next year. They have already fought strong winds and hot weather to produce an excellent garden party.

Sam Gibbs (2017)

Halsbury Society President 2018-19



Olivia Tan, Alasdair Linn, Grace Clark, Joe Hyland-Deeson and Jess Hinks (all 2018)

History Society

The Merton College History Society has had a highly successful year with a wide range of events that have seen excellent involvement from all historians within the College. Our first event of the year was the annual Freshers' Tea in the JCR where we sought to welcome the new cohort of historians with plenty of snacks, refreshments and advice from the older years, including the graduate mentors.

Aiming to broaden the historical interests of those in the society, we had three speaker events this year, all of which were very well attended. In Michaelmas term, we firstly welcomed Professor David Carpenter (Christ Church, 1964), whose legendary works are now viewed as essential reading for those studying Medieval British History in first year. It really was a pleasure for us all to have the chance to hear him speak with such passion on his field of study. He delighted in revealing to us that Merton College has a unique version of Magna Carta! We also welcomed Professor Robert Gildea (1971) who interested us greatly with a talk on the miners' strikes of the 1980s and their relevance to our political culture today. Brexit, naturally, was a prevalent part of discussion. Our final talk of the year was given by Merton's very own Professor Steven Gunn (1979), Acting Warden, who entertained us all greatly with his analysis of accidental death in early modern England. Steven Gunn's research in this field has reached such wide acclaim that it was even mentioned on *QI*. It therefore really was a privilege to have the chance to hear him discuss his research in person.

Other highlights included the first ever History Society Pub Quiz with rounds ranging from sport in history to Greek mythology. Lots of fun was had by all and hopefully this event will be repeated in the future. The annual History Society Dinner is always excellent fun; from the prosecco reception, through the dinner itself to the port and chocolates held in the MCR afterwards, much revelry was had with plenty of excellent historical discussion. Our final event of the year was the annual History Garden Party. The need for it to be held in the MCR due to poor weather did not dampen spirits. The abundance of snacks and Pimm's provided the third years with a wonderful way to relax and celebrate after completing their exams and the first and second years with a very welcome break from work for Prelims and coursework.

I am very grateful to our Secretary Jack Phillips (2017) and our Treasurer Jessica Sheridan (2017) for all their help and support this year in ensuring that the History Society maintains its tradition of success. It is consequently very exciting to introduce the incoming committee for 2019-20 where Josh Travers (2016) will be taking on the role of President, with Grace Clark (2018) as Treasurer and Olivia Tan (2018) as Secretary.

Emma Ball (2017)
History Society President 2018-19



Roger Bacon Society

The Roger Bacon Society is made up of all those involved with physics at Merton College. The three key events that are held during the academic year are the Freshers' Tea, the Society Dinner and the Summer Garden Party.

The year began in traditional fashion. The physics freshers were warmly welcomed to the College with Colin the Caterpillar cake and a trip to the famous Turf Tavern. The Freshers' Tea provides an opportunity for both new and old generations of Merton physicists to come together – a chance for the older physicists to pass down warnings of the notorious Hilary term problem set 5, which serves as a rite of passage for any member of the Roger Bacon Society.

Of course, the big event on the Roger Bacon Society calendar is the Society Dinner early in Hilary term. Eventful as ever, this year saw another round of society elections, a pricing scheme so complicated it could have been a question on one of Professor Scheckochihin's problem sets, and a colourful assortment of wines (which certainly did not endear me to the catering staff). The highlight of the night is the culmination of a month's worth of campaigning for the Roger Bacon Society presidency – a coveted position that secures one's place in Merton physics folklore. The election this year was certainly more eventful than the previous year, with double the number of candidates in the running: a spectacular increase in the number of candidates from one to two.

In recent years the campaigning has become ever more elaborate with video montages becoming a staple feature, and this year was no different. Leonie Woodland (2016) kicked off the contest with a detailed manifesto, before Jules Desai (2016) hit back with a slanderous video painting a nightmarish picture of what it would be like to have Leonie in charge. There were also some damning accusations of Russian involvement in the election, as is typical, but also of Leonie being behind the Cambridge Analytica scandal – a testament to just how involved the Roger Bacon Society is on the global stage. In a touching example of overcoming prejudice against physicists and philosophers in our time, Jules' victory in the elections was confirmed in limerick form by the outgoing President Matthew Davies (2015). Riding high on the adrenaline of the election results, Jules struggled to keep his hadron in order, delivering a raucous speech detailing various scandalous remarks that had apparently been made by the Merton physics professors – very fitting in this age of fake news.

The year concluded as it began with Colin the Caterpillar cake on the lawn as the undergraduate physics community at Merton assembled for a little bit of food and sunshine before exams began.

Matthew Davies (2015)
Roger Bacon Society President 2018-19

Neave Society

The 2018-19 academic year has been wonderful for the Neave Society. Michaelmas term saw a large increase in first-year attendance at the society's events, with a packed JCR on alternate Tuesdays discussing contentious issues in a respectful and informal environment.

We are particularly proud of the fact that we were able to keep up this high level of attendance throughout the term, through exams and other events. To us, this is an indication that the society is providing fellow Mertonians with a platform to express their opinions in a safe environment and that they clearly view it as an opportunity to listen to their peers rather than drowning out opposing views and opinions.

One of the primary initiatives the committee took this year was to use the Neave Society events as a platform for members to discuss broad contentious issues that were relevant to the JCR specifically. For example, at a time when informal conversations were raging around College about a possible 'Meat Ban' motion being introduced in a JCR meeting, we took the opportunity to discuss the future of meat eating and the benefits of vegetarianism so that the members could engage with the underlying issues and hear contrasting opinions in ways that they would not have been able to otherwise.

We are looking forward to another wonderful term next year and sincerely hope that the incoming Merton students participate in Neave Society events with the same fervour as we have had the pleasure of experiencing from our current members this past year.

Siddhant Iyer (2018)

Neave Society President 2018-19

This year's motions and outcomes:

'This House has No Confidence in Her Majesty's Government'

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

'This House supports compulsory vaccines for children'

The Neave Society voted against the motion

'This House regrets the number of UN condemnations of Israel'

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

'This House believes that vegetarianism is the way forward'

The Neave Society voted against the motion

'This House believes that humanitarian intervention is now necessary in Venezuela'

The Neave Society voted against the motion

'This House believes that the UK is in dire need of a centrist political party'

The Neave Society voted against the motion

'This House believes that art should not be separate from the artist'

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

'This House believes that colonial states should pay reparations to former colonies'

The Neave Society voted against the motion



Christian Union

The Christian Union has enjoyed a full and exciting year, starting with the arrival of new freshers in Michaelmas. We welcomed students in Freshers' Week with tea and cake, a group trip to the OICCU (Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union) three-course freshers' banquet, and company and snacks in the JCR throughout the late nights of the week. It is always a joy to welcome new faces to churches and OICCU meetings, as well as to our regular meetings as a society and community in College, and we hope to have played a role in helping people settle in to their new life here in Oxford.

The CU has held bi-weekly Bible study meetings in College throughout the year, which also offer a chance to catch up, pray together, and enjoy each other's company over biscuits and tea – always a welcome break in the middle of a busy week, and open to anyone. Alongside these, Michaelmas saw the return of the renowned Text-a-Toastie, allowing students from across the JCR to ask questions of the Christian Union and in return receive a home-made toastie of their choice delivered to them with a conversation, as long or short as they like, on the topic. We also hosted a free mulled wine and mince pies event before a University-wide Christmas Carol service in the Sheldonian, which is always a joyful and well-attended event. It was lovely to see so many Mertonians coming together over mulled wine and carols.

Hilary saw a Merton involvement in the annual OICCU events week held in the Town Hall, a week of talks and Q&As about different aspects of the Christian faith. In advance of the week, we held a well-attended Pizza Night in the JCR on the theme of 'What makes you, you', with a talk given by Hope Middleton (2016) entitled '1st, 2nd or 3rd: do my achievements define who I am?' This provided a space for open and informal discussion about identity, life and faith, and a great opportunity for the CU to engage with the wider College community. At the end of the term, we held a similar event responding to feedback from members of the College on the question of suffering: 'Where is God when life hurts?' We invited Helen Hambling, who works for local church St Ebbe's, to speak on the topic and lead an informal discussion, once again fuelled by snacks and soft drinks.

In Trinity, Hannah Smith (2017) and I have handed over to Joseph Rhee (2018) and Alex Beukers (2018) as the new Christian Union reps, and we are excited to see what the next year has in store, with new faces in October and new chances to encourage one another and engage with the College community.

Eleanor Coomber (2017)
Christian Union Rep 2018-19



The Bodley Club

ESTABLISHED 1894

Bodley Club

The Bodley Club has had another busy and enjoyable year, hosting speakers from a wide variety of disciplines.

In January, as Brexit consumed Westminster, we hosted two speakers who were able to shed some light on this often complex, yet vitally important, national conundrum. First, Professor Geoffrey Evans (Nuffield) took a sociological approach, giving a talk entitled 'Brexit and the political exclusion of the British working class'. Later in the month, Professor Stefan Enchelmaier (Lincoln) gave an equally fascinating legal explanation of the workings of the European Union, in a talk entitled 'Get to know your ex: a primer of the EU's internal market'.

From political matters, the Bodley Club turned to insights into the workings of the human brain. Professor Masud Husain (New College) tackled the phenomenon of apathy from a psychological perspective in his talk entitled 'When the spark goes out: the neuroscience of human apathy and motivation'. We were particularly honoured to host Professor Irene Tracey (Warden-Elect) to speak on her life and career at our Annual Dinner, attended by members of all three common rooms.

We were also delighted to host Dr David Salter (1975) who spoke about his adventures building two-way partnerships between Britain and Christian communities in Egypt.

In the final week of Trinity term, we held a Summer Garden Party for members of the JCR and MCR – a wonderful occasion with which to finish the year.

The end of Trinity term saw changes to the Club's committee. Leaving this year is Francesco Dernie (Junior Cellarer, 2016), to whom I am immensely grateful for his commitment. I am also indebted to Victor Ajuwon (Secretary, 2015), Emma Ball (Treasurer, 2017) and Wick Willett (Cellarer, 2017) for their continued dedication to the smooth running of the Club, as well as to Fra' John Eidinow (Fellow, 1986) – the Senior Member – and to all those who have attended Bodley Club events this year, and made my time as a member of the committee so enjoyable.

We are always looking for new speakers. If you would be interested in giving a talk, please email Emma Ball (emma.ball@merton.ox.ac.uk).

Adam Carter (2016)
Bodley Club President 2018-19



Mathematics Society

This year sees the first time the Mathematics Society has seen a dual presidency as Abbie Manning (2017) and I take over from Zershaaneh Qureshi (2016). We believe this will allow us to organise more frequent events for the mathematicians of Merton College.

We kicked off the academic year, as always, with the mathematicians' Subject Tea. A chance for the new first years to meet and socialise with the higher years. This was a great success with many students attending. I think this is a great way to start things off and makes the first years feel like they have a more informal academic and emotional support network than those provided by College; something which I'm sure makes many of them feel much more comfortable.

The new first years have shown an independence in their learning, preferring to work through their problems alone rather than in a group setting as in previous years. Because of this, the usual maths help sessions run by the second years have been replaced by a system where the first years ask for help as and when they need it. Along with fitting their working style this has the added advantage of giving them help when they need it rather than at a set time every week.

As always, the Mathematics Society also organised a Black Tie Dinner in Hilary. Unfortunately, this year the turnout of

students was not what it has been in previous years. Despite this, the event was a massive success with former Warden Sir Martin Taylor giving a captivating speech on his career and the various effects he has had on the mathematical community and the world at large. This year's Dinner did denote a break in tradition though, as new regulations meant that we could not hold the election during the Dinner. Instead the election was held over email towards the end of Hilary term, which saw Abbie and me win out over RON (Re-Open Nominations).

The last event of the year for the Merton Mathematics Society is the Trinity Garden Party. This year saw a large turnout of undergraduates, despite a small scare about the chance of rain (no doubt due to the promise of Jaffa cakes). In the end the weather turned out okay and the party was a great success.

Now, towards the end of Trinity term we say goodbye to our fourth-year mathematicians and look forward to greeting a new set of first years come Michaelmas. This year has been a successful one for the Mathematics Society and I have no doubts that the coming years will follow suit.

William Whitehouse (2017)
Mathematical Society Co-President 2019-20



Tinbergen Society

Professor John Krebs FRS and members of the Tinbergen Society

The Tinbergen Society has had another action-packed year. Our Welcome Tea kicked things off in Michaelmas, introducing the freshers to current undergraduate and graduate society members in an informal setting with plenty of tea and biscuits. We swiftly followed this up with our annual bird-watching trip to Otmoor – a local RSPB reserve – to observe the startling murmurations alongside many other birds on the way there and back. This was topped off with a pint or two, a nice pub meal and a lot of bird-themed chat.

The Tinbergen Black Tie Dinner started Hilary term in style. Our lecture this year was dedicated to Niko Tinbergen, former Merton Fellow, to mark 30 years since his passing. Professor Richard Fortey FRS FRSL thrilled us all with tales of his adventures in academia with his talk 'From Svalbard trilobites to plate tectonics: a lifetime in palaeontology' before joining current students and tutors to eat and speak in more detail about science communications and the joys and perils of academia.

We were lucky enough to have a second, more informal talk, from Visiting Biodiversity Fellow Megan Crompton later in the term. This time focusing on the development of her app Key Conservation – a tool designed to connect conservationists around the world and link researchers with different skill

sets. This was, as always seems to be the way for biologists, followed by a pint and a good chat in the College bar.

Then, in Trinity term, the Tinbergen Society managed to sell out the TS Eliot Theatre for the second time in a year. This time for an informative and engaging talk from Professor John Krebs FRS on Brexit and its impact on our environment followed by a drinks reception in the foyer. The rest of the term was filled with relaxing get-togethers – picnics, pub trips, formals and nature walks – in an effort to relax the students facing exams. The nature walks were especially exciting as they saw Merton biologists finally going outside not just to watch birds but to see what moths we could trap outside the sports pavilion. We were not disappointed as among a great variety of moths we managed to catch two poplar hawk-moths.

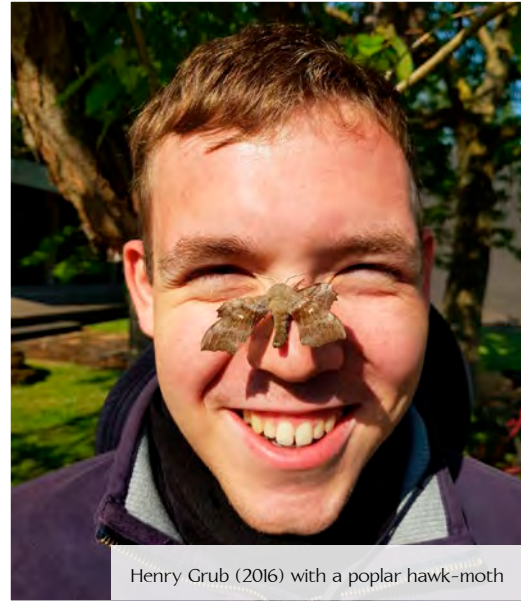
It's been a very busy year for the Tinbergen Society and I wish my successor, Christian Kirk (2018), luck in running the society next year. My best wishes also go to all the students who have graduated this year – I hope you find everything you want in the future.

Natalie King (2017)

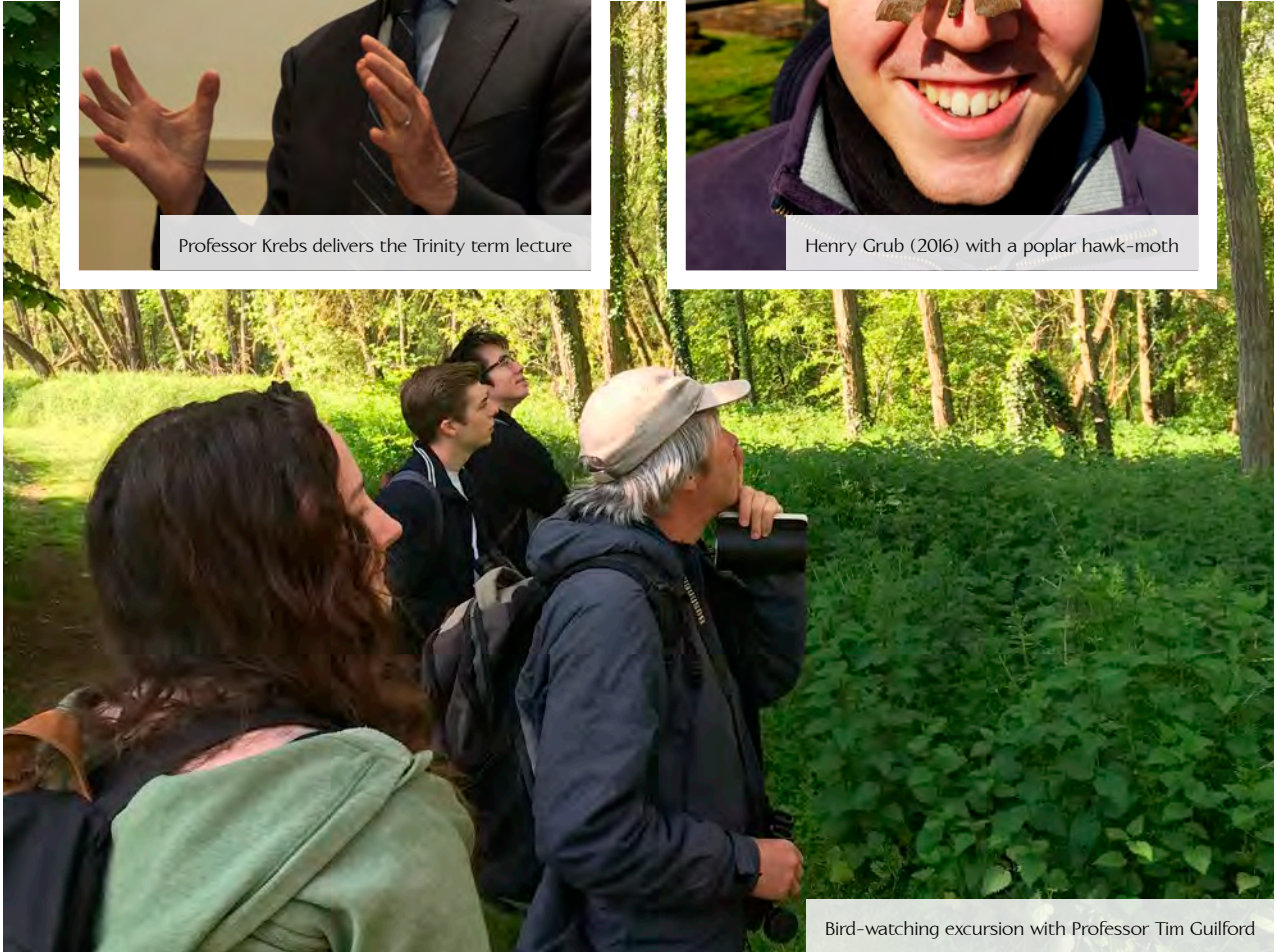
Tinbergen Society President 2018-19



Professor Krebs delivers the Trinity term lecture



Henry Grub (2016) with a poplar hawk-moth



Bird-watching excursion with Professor Tim Gullford

Interdisciplinary Groups





Ockham Lectures

The Ockham Lectures are a series of termly physics-related lectures hosted by Merton College and given by a variety of distinguished external speakers. The lectures are a great way for the physics community at Merton to get together as well as meeting fascinating academics while simultaneously broadening our intellectual horizons. Each event begins with a small drinks reception, followed by the lecture in the TS Eliot Theatre and then dinner and drinks in the Hall and MCR.

In Michaelmas term we were treated to a talk on the manipulation of nano-objects by Professor Madhavi Krishnan. Being able to trap and manipulate tiny objects on the scale of nanometres is a difficult but important area on the frontiers of biology, physics and chemistry.

In Hilary term we welcomed Professor Roger Blandford who offered a talk on the detailed history of cosmology and how

it developed from a weakly constrained metaphysics into a quantitative science. The talk gave us a fascinating insight into the development of cosmology, a subject that is easily taken for granted in physics.

Finally, Trinity saw the return of a familiar face to many of the students at Merton. Professor Steven Balbus FRS, whom the current fourth years had plenty of contact with during the general relativity course last year, served us up a real mix of interdisciplinary ideas. Professor Balbus presented us with some intriguing ideas of how the development of life on Earth may have been dramatically shaped by basic gravitational effects such as the tidal pull of the Moon.

Matthew Davies (2015)
Ockham Lectures



History of the Book Group

The History of the Book Group topics this year ranged from social media to traditional Chinese calligraphy.

In Michaelmas term Dr Alison Ray (Assistant Archivist, Canterbury Cathedral) gave a lively seminar entitled 'From codex to screen to use: the digitisation process and publicising your project'. Dr Ray shared her experiences in her previous position as Web Curatorial Officer for a joint British Library–Bibliothèque nationale project to catalogue and digitise 800 illuminated manuscripts. As with almost all major funded projects, engagement and communications were important.

Dr Ray described in fascinating detail how longer blog posts and short Tweets were carefully coordinated by the project

team. Images and observations that sounded like spur-of-the-moment remarks were planned in detail well in advance, down to the timing of postings aimed at audiences in different time zones around the world.

In Hilary term, Dr Will Bowers (a Junior Research Fellow in English Literature) spoke about 'The printed voice of Victorian dialect poetry', focusing on the work of the schoolmaster, clergyman and poet William Barnes (1801-86). Barnes, a contemporary and friend of Thomas Hardy, would probably have been familiar to Mertonians of the 19th century. One of the distinctive features of his poems was that they were written in Dorset dialect, the sounds of which were conveyed on the page by means of unusual phonetic typography. Dr



Bowers used examples from his own collection to explore how Barnes was concerned with capturing a disappearing rural life and way of speaking – bringing aspects of traditional poetry and song to the printed page. Naturally, these poems are best enjoyed when read aloud.

The last meeting of the year was an introduction to the ancient art of Chinese calligraphy. Led by Shengyu Wang (2014) – a Merton DPhil candidate in archaeology and part-time calligraphy instructor – a group of students, staff and Fellows had an opportunity to learn a bit about the history of calligraphy and calligraphers in China. The real treat came when Shengyu distributed ink, special paper and brushes, giving attendees a chance to try some calligraphy

themselves. A companionable silence descended on the room as everyone concentrated on practising brush strokes and the formation of classic Chinese characters.

Dr Julia Walworth
Fellow Librarian

Departments



The Chapel

The highlight of the past academic year was the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, on 27 January 2019. The Archbishop is, of course, the College's Visitor, and it was 13 years since the Visitor had last been with us. The Archbishop preached to a packed Chapel at a service at which the College Choir sang music by Bruckner, Gibbons and Elgar. He met many students and other members of College after the service, as well as later in the evening. You can listen to his sermon (as well as all the other sermons preached in the Chapel this academic year) on the webcasts page of the College website.

Worship is at the centre of our common life, but the Chapel community is involved in many other activities and initiatives, most of them led by our Associate Chaplain, Dr Jarred Mercer. Jarred writes:

'We have seen exciting growth in the Christian community in the College this year with four adult baptisms and four confirmations in the Chapel; regular catechesis with both students and our girl choristers has continued throughout the year. The Chapel also continues to increase its capacity to be a place of welcome to people of all faiths and none as we work to encourage and support all members of the College and reach out to the wider community. This year we started a new discussion group called the Merton Faith Forum, a space to discuss life's biggest questions in an open environment that welcomes perspectives of religious people, atheists, and those anywhere in between. The group meets a few times per term and always results in lively and respectful discussion that enables us to engage one another in seeking wisdom and understanding.

'In October we hosted a Social Justice Fair in the Chapel, at which representatives from 32 Oxford charities were present to set up stalls and discuss their work with people from the College and the city as a whole. Several hundred people came to the fair, and learned about ways they can practically serve those in need in their city, and many signed up as volunteers. There were charities present who work in areas as diverse as support for children, homelessness, climate change and LGBTQ+



people. This was a critical moment for us to see how we can use our resources to effect change in our local community and something we hope to continue in future years.

'In March I led a pilgrimage of 22 people from the College to Assisi, Italy. Those who went on the trip found it to be a time to connect with friends and make new ones, get away for a time of rest from term, and, for those who wished, a time of spiritual refreshment. Our Books with Cake book group continues to attract a wide variety of students, and we hosted two immensely popular talks this year for our ongoing series Merton Conversations in Faith and Culture. One was by Dr Michael Burdett (University of Nottingham), who spoke on the topic: 'Being human in an age of technology: the ethics of artificial intelligence', which filled the TS Eliot Lecture Theatre, and another was by Pádraig Ó Tuama, who spoke beautifully on the topic 'Poetry as prayer'. Following Pádraig's talk, people from around the University gathered at a room in a local pub for a night of poetry readings, at which Pádraig along with nine other local poets read their poetry to a standing-room-only audience. These events are a particularly special way of gathering people together from both within and outside the College and providing avenues for community and growth to our students.'



Ascension Day 2019 on the Chapel tower

In terms of personnel, Sarah Cotterill joined the Chapel team last Trinity term as Chapel Administrator. She has made a huge contribution to the life of the Chapel, as well as providing much-valued support to me. We wish her well as she leaves us in September to begin training for ordination in the Church of England.

Our term-time schedule of services is a busy one, supported by our Verger, Leah Collins, as well as a dedicated team of student Chapel Officers. This year has seen a record number of 13 undergraduates and graduates supporting the life of the Chapel. I'm grateful to all of them and, in particular, Henry Grub, the only finalist among this year's cohort, for the good-humoured way in which he has welcomed people to services and supported our liturgical life. This year's finalists also include our Organ Scholar, Tom Fetherstonhaugh. His contribution to the musical life of the Chapel has been outstanding. We wish him well as he moves to the Royal Academy of Music.

Once again this year it has been a great pleasure to welcome a variety of preachers on Sunday evenings. In addition to the Archbishop of Canterbury, this year's episcopal visitors have included the Rt Revd David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop in Europe, and the Rt Revd Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester, who also baptised and confirmed. We have also enjoyed visits by the Revd Claire Robson, Director of Ordinands in the Diocese of Newcastle; the Revd Canon Dr Judith Maltby, Chaplain of Corpus Christi College; the Revd Canon Dr Philip Anderson, Vicar of Pemberton and Area Dean of Wigan; the Ven Dr Michael Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester; the Revd Kate Seagrave, Mission Priest in the Community of St Frideswide in Oxford; the Revd Canon Robert Cotton (1976), Rector of Holy Trinity & St Mary, Guildford; the Revd Canon

Leah Vasey-Saunders, Precentor of Wakefield Cathedral; the Revd Philippa White, Succentor of Christ Church; the Revd Sam Carter (2002), Curate of All Souls, Eastbourne; the Revd Canon Dr Angus Ritchie, Director of the Centre for Theology and Community in London; the Revd Dr Will Lamb, Vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin; and the Revd Prof David Fergusson (1980), Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh. Our Senior Tutor, Dr Rachel Buxton, gave the address at the Postmasters' Evensong in Trinity term.

Thanks to the generosity of Professor Cheyney and Dr Sandy Ryan, you can now hear many of our choral services on SoundCloud, as well as sermons and organ recitals through the College website. We are looking to develop our webcasting during the coming year, beginning with live-streaming the installation of the new Warden on 5 October.

Patronage

The Revd Stephen Cousins, Chaplain of Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames has been appointed House-for-Duty Honorary Curate within the Benefice of Benson with Ewelme (Diocese of Oxford) and Chaplain to the Ewelme Trust.

The Revd Michael Roper, Priest-in-Charge (Interim Minister) of St Barnabas, Epsom (Diocese of Guildford) has been appointed Vicar of St John the Baptist, Malden (Diocese of Southwark).

The right of presentation to the parish of St Michael, Baddesley Clinton (Diocese of Birmingham) has been transferred from Mr John Walker to the College so that the College is now sole patron of the Benefice of Lapworth with Baddesley Clinton.

Welfare and Student Support

During the course of the year, in response to the increase in demand for welfare support, particularly in the area of mental health, the College has reviewed its current provision and decided to convert one of the current Junior Dean for Welfare posts into a full-time post of Welfare Adviser. The Welfare Adviser will work alongside me and the College Nurse in seeing undergraduates and graduates one-to-one and, in addition, will work with the student peer supporters and develop the range of initiatives we offer to promote health and wellbeing within the College. I am delighted that Jenny Barrett, one of our current Junior Deans, has accepted this position, and look forward to working with her next year.

Last year I reported that Catherine Haines retired as College Nurse, having been with us for eight years. She was replaced by Lucille Champion, who has settled into the busy life of the welfare team extremely well and is already supporting a significant number of students in different ways.

Some readers will remember Jane Haddock, mother of Johnny Haddock (1979), who was College Nurse from 1974

to 1990. Jane died on 15 April 2019. It was good to be able to represent the College at her funeral. Johnny has written a tribute to his mother, which appears on page 232 of this edition of *Postmaster*.

Finally, the College's Student Support Committee continues to make a large number of grants for various purposes: to assist with financial hardship; to enable graduates to attend academic conferences; for travel (including the Gerry Grimstone Travel Awards), sport, music and drama; to support modern linguists on their year abroad; and as Doctoral Completion Bursaries (including those funded by the Simms family) when no other sources of funding are available. We also use the funds to pay for private counselling and therapy of various sorts, a cost that has increased considerably in the past year, and which makes up a significant part of our total spend of £196,000. Many Mertonians give generously towards our student support funds, for which we are very grateful.

The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones
Chaplain

Baptisms and Confirmations

Frederick Hurrell, son of Harry Hurrell (2006) and Laura Hurrell (2005), was baptised on 17 March 2019

Roxanne Corker (2018), Callum Cotterill and Jamie Judd (2018) were baptised and confirmed by the Bishop of Worcester on 12 May 2019

Rowan Wilson (2017) was confirmed by the Bishop of Worcester on 12 May 2019

William Draper, son of Professor Simon Draper (Supernumerary Fellow) and Dr Angela Minassian, was baptised on 15 June 2019

A further baptism of a recent graduate took place on 8 November 2018

Ordinations

Siôn Rhys Evans (1998) was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Bangor on 29 June 2019 in Bangor Cathedral. He is serving his title in the Llandudno Ministry Area (Diocese of Bangor)

Weddings

Hannah Guggiari (2009) to Courtney Spoerer on 6 April 2019

Dr Ralf Bader (Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy) to Dr Ana Laura Edelhoff on 15 July 2019

Dr Benjamin Green (2008) to Dr Sophie Norman (2008) on 20 July 2019

Nuptial Eucharist to celebrate the dedication and blessing of the marriage of Dr Anthony Brassil (2010) to Dr Julia Steinberg (2010) on 27 July 2019

Gøril Havro (2000) to Aleksander Askeland on 17 August 2019

Burial of Ashes

The ashes of Dorothy Hull (wife of Albert Hull, 1933) were buried in the Grove Meadow on 21 August 2018

The ashes of Professor Michael Gelder (Emeritus Fellow) and Margaret (Mandy) Gelder were buried in the Grove Meadow on 23 June 2019



The Choirs

A busy September for the College Choir enabled us to welcome our new choral scholars well before the beginning of term, and to work on much of the repertoire for the year. Firstly, we prepared two Evensongs for BBC Radio 3: our first service of the year was broadcast live on 12 September (the repertoire included Ēriks Ešenvalds' *Merton Service* – a commission for the *Merton Choirbook*) and the following day we recorded a service to go out on 26 December, the Feast of St Stephen. Both services were well received, and we look forward to a further two BBC broadcasts in the forthcoming year. Later in the month, the College Choir took a major role in Martin Randall's 'The Divine Office' Choral Festival. In addition to giving two concerts in the Chapel, the choir joined the Lay Clerks of Westminster Cathedral to sing the office of Matins (at 1 am!) and, for the festival finale, we partnered the Oxford period instrument ensemble Instruments of Time & Truth in a performance of Mozart's *Requiem*. A visit to sing Evensong at St Peter's, Wolvercote, one of the College livings, completed our pre-term activities.

The centenary of the death of Hubert Parry was well marked in the music world. At Merton, in collaboration with the Oxford Bach Choir, we presented three days of events celebrating not only Parry's compositional output, but also his remarkable influence as a teacher. It was a particular pleasure to welcome Professor Jeremy Dibble to Merton, whose lecture 'Parry's choral odyssey' drew a large crowd.

Following the Advent and Christmas Carol Services, the College Choir flew to Singapore and then on to Hong Kong for a series of concerts promoted by Christine Ng Concerts. Particular highlights were the concerts in the Victoria Hall, Singapore, and the Civic Centre, Hong Kong, where Duncan Barker, the Development Director, hosted receptions for alumni. There was also an opportunity to take the short ferry crossing from Hong Kong to Macau, where the Choir's performance at the foot of the half-scale Eiffel Tower at The Parisian hotel was quite surreal. The tour was made possible through a generous grant from the Reed Foundation; we remain very grateful to Reed Rubin (1957) for his support of the Choir.

Hilary term began with the Epiphany Carol Service, sung by the College Choir and girl choristers, and, at a tea party beforehand, members of the College Choir had an opportunity to thank the Friends of the Choir for all the support they offer each year. The programme of events for the Berkeley Day on 2 March included Choral Evensong and it was good to welcome Michael and Julian Berkeley to hear music by their father, Lennox, and to enjoy Iain Simcock's organ recital, which included Lennox's *Three Pieces for Organ*. Other visiting organ recitalists have included Katherine Dienes-Williams, Edward Higginbottom and Huw Williams, and the Thursday lunchtime concerts are now a fixture in the city's musical life. You can read more about the Berkeley Day on page 80.

The tenth Passiontide at Merton festival was celebrated with an outstanding concert from The Cardinal's Musick and their conductor Andrew Carwood. The programme offered an opportunity for the College Choir to join The Cardinal's Musick for Tallis's *Spem in Alium* – a performance that will not be forgotten by our students. The contribution by our choristers also drew a capacity audience: a performance of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, given jointly with the choristers from St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich. The final performance of the weekend was Bach's *St Matthew Passion* which brought together the College choirs, the Instruments of Time & Truth and a distinguished line-up of soloists including Mark Wilde, Zoe Brookshaw (a last-minute replacement for Elin Manahan Thomas) and Tristan Hambleton. The festival would not have been possible without the financial support of Penningtons Manches, the Old Bank Hotel and a number of individuals.

Trinity term included a programme of Mozart's church music for Music at Oxford and our annual visit to All Souls College Chapel to sing Matins. As usual, the choir undertook a number of exciting engagements during the summer vacation: the first of these was singing music by Purcell and Handel at Encaenia in the Sheldonian Theatre, in which Yo-Yo Ma was honoured with the degree of Doctor of Music. The Choir was pleased to spend a little time chatting with him after the ceremony. A charity concert was given at St Andrew's Church, Toddington, Gloucestershire, and in July we returned to Gloucestershire to give the first concert in this year's Three Choirs Festival. Our concert, in Tewkesbury Abbey, celebrated Sir James MacMillan's 60th birthday with a performance of his masterpiece, *Seven Last Words*. The very special combination of building and music will remain in our minds for a long time.

Through our relationship with Delphian Records, and the regular webcasts from the College Chapel (www.merton.ox.ac.uk/choir/webcasts), the Choir's work is heard by people from all over the world. In April, Delphian released the recording of Gabriel Jackson's *The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ*, which has since been named as a Gramophone 'Editor's Choice', *BBC Music Magazine* 'Choral Choice' and received five stars in *Choir & Organ* magazine and *The Scotsman*. A recording of American choral music was completed in July, and includes a new commission from Nico Muhly, written for the combined forces of the College Choir

and the choristers. All the Choir's recordings and recordings of the Dobson organ are available through our online shop at: www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-choir/recordings

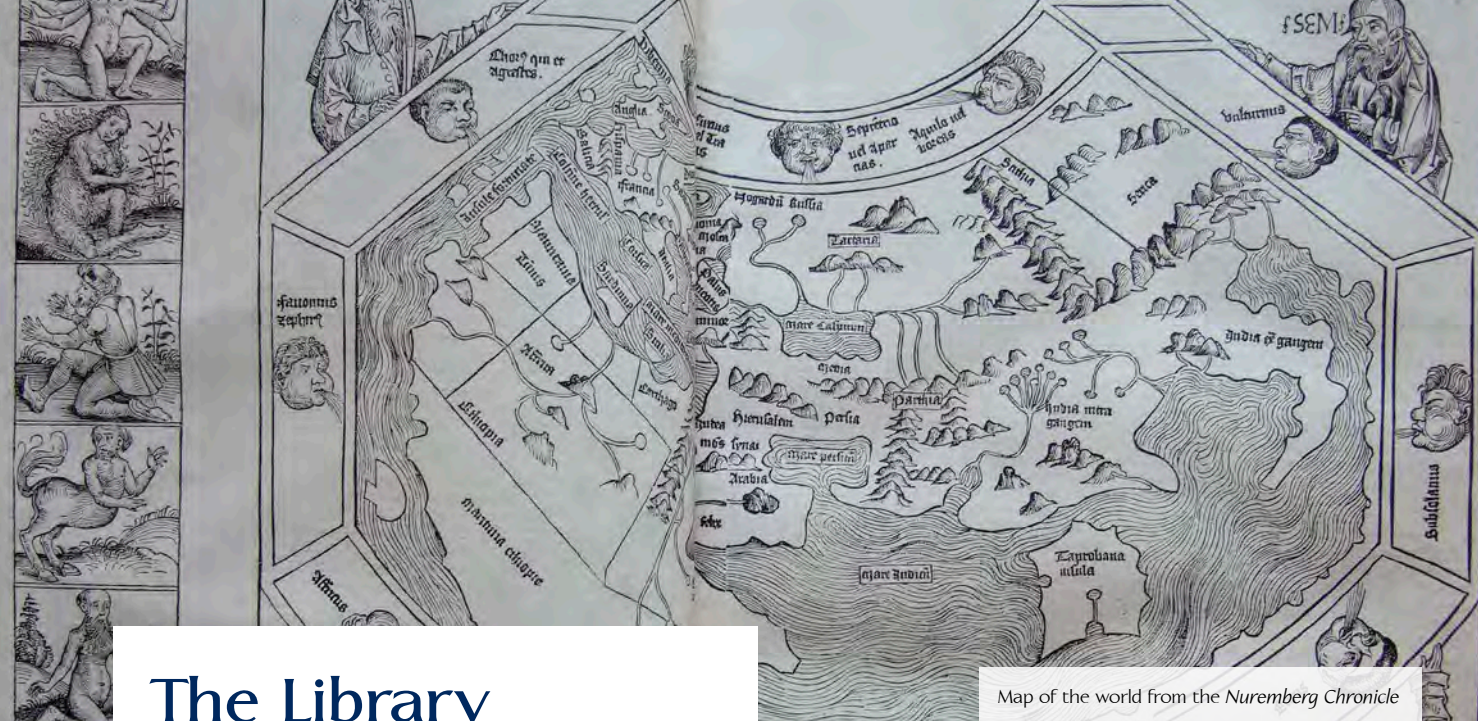
The girl choristers began the academic year with a visit to Durham where we were resident at The Chorister School. The Choir gave concerts at the College livings of Embleton and Ponteland and sang Evensong in Durham Cathedral. Apart from the obvious social benefits of a trip like this, the musical rewards of this intense period of rehearsal and performance have been felt all year. In addition to singing Evensong on Wednesdays during term-time, joint services have taken place with the choristers of Magdalen College and the Girls' Choir of Rochester Cathedral. David Harvey's (1957) continued support of the Choir is greatly appreciated.

The services that take place in the Chapel remain the heart of our work and it has been a pleasure to welcome a number of choirs to sing with us as we continue our outreach work through our Choral Open Day and other events. Choirs from Hereford Sixth Form College, Cheltenham College and St Edward's School sang with the College Choir in joint Evensongs, as did the Harvard University Choir. As ever, I welcome enquiries from potential organ and choral scholars, and potential girl choristers (aged nine at admission) and I am always happy to meet them at any point in the year.

Our two organists, Alex Little and Tom Fetherstonhaugh, have excelled themselves this year. Last August, Alex won third prize and the Bach Prize in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition and has spent this year undertaking the recital opportunities that came with those prizes. Tom has been awarded a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music where he will study orchestral conducting. He has achieved a great deal during his time at Merton, and we look forward to watching his career progress. Leah Collins and Sarah Cotterill work incredibly hard on behalf of both choirs, and I would also like to thank Professor Daniel Grimley, the Revd Dr Jarred Mercer and, above all, the Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones, for their support of the music, and for making the Chapel the thriving community that it is.

Benjamin Nicholas

Reed Rubin Organist and Director of Music



Map of the world from the Nuremberg Chronicle

The Library

Visitors to the College Library sometimes ask, 'What is your rarest book?' Thanks to an international database and a project overseen by Professor Andrew Pettegree (1976; currently University of St Andrews) we are now able to give more informed answers to this question, and they might not be what you expect. The Merton Library is one of 63 libraries in 17 countries participating in a project entitled 'Preserving the World's Rarest Books'. Supported by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation of New York, the project is based at the University of St Andrews and analyses the library catalogues of partner libraries using the *Universal Short Title Catalogue*, a vast database of books published in Europe up to 1650. The process identifies those publications in a given library that, to date, are the only recorded copies.

The results from the analysis of the Merton Library identified 21 items that have so far been found only at Merton. A quick survey of the list reveals 16th-century editions of legal, medical, political, religious and classics texts. One of them – a 1578 edition of Cicero's letters printed in Paris – was featured in a blog by Jamie Cumby in September 2018. This 35-page selection was aimed at teaching rhetoric and composition

to schoolchildren through a study of Cicero's prose. It was one of many such works produced cheaply and sold widely. But like many works for schoolchildren, most copies were used until they fell apart. The copy at Merton came to the College bound with other pamphlets and books bequeathed by former Fellow Griffin Higgs in 1659. An accomplished classical scholar, Higgs might have had the pamphlet from his schooldays, or he might have acquired it later. His distinctive trefoil marks in the margins indicate that he read it. Thanks to its inclusion in the College Library, this rather unimpressive little work has survived; as far as we know, it is the only extant example of this edition. (Read more about it at: wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/2018/09/05/saving-your-textbooks-ciceros-importance-to-scholars-of-all-ages)

The edition of the Cicero letters demonstrates that many once-common publications no longer exist. However, some books were always treasured and survive in surprising numbers of copies. This is certainly true of the world chronicle commonly called the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, after its place of publication. A large and heavy volume, this world history, beginning with Creation and continuing to the writer's present day, was

published in Latin and in German in 1493. It is illustrated with more than 1,800 woodcuts and is one of the most impressive 15th-century books. With about 1,240 copies of the Latin edition and about 1,580 copies of the German edition known today, it is a good candidate for the most common 'rare book'. Merton's copy was given to the College by Linacre Lecturer Robert Barnes in 1594, when it was already 100 years old.

There is still much to be learned from the copies of 15th-century books (sometimes called incunabula) like the *Nuremberg Chronicle*. Merton is participating in an international collaborative project called 'Material Evidence in Incunabula' (MEI), which aims to record features such as bookplates, inscriptions, coats of arms and bindings to enable researchers to track the movement of individual books in time and space.

At the beginning of Michaelmas term 2018, seven Oxford college libraries held a one-day short symposium and multi-site exhibition of 15th-century books to draw attention to the project. Some 100 students and others visited the Merton Library on this bibliographical 'pub crawl', viewing books chosen by project workers. At Merton the work begun by former Senior Library Assistant Emma Sillett and Mertonian Sian Witherden (2011) is being continued by current postgraduate Constanta Burlacu (Wolfson, 2016; Merton, 2018). Eventually, all of Merton's 15th-century books will be recorded in the MEI database.

Alongside projects that help open up our historic collections to students and scholars worldwide, there are also initiatives to help our own students get the most from the College Library. This year Deputy Librarian Harriet Campbell Longley worked with student representatives and disability advisers to acquire assistive equipment for readers. Much of it is simple and inexpensive yet it can make a big difference to students – such as coloured overlays or magnifiers to help those with visual impairments, lumbar support cushions, task lights, book supports, laptop stands and, most popular of all, earplugs. It seems that one thing still valued in reading rooms is silence!

Dr Julia Walworth
Fellow Librarian



Constanta Burlacu (2018) working on the MEI project

Grateful thanks for gifts and support are extended to:

William Barry (1992), Patrick Bishop, the Bodleian Library, Tak Huen Chau (2016), Christ Church College Library, Conference and Events Team (Merton College), the Dulwich Picture Gallery, Gail Fine (Fellow), John Gibbons, Sam Gormley (2010), Steven Gunn (Acting Warden), Patrick Hawes, Andrew Hopper, the trustees of the Howard Foundation, Anuja Jaiswal (2016) Dieter Jakob, AJH Latham (1959), Zheyu Li (2015), Ian Maclachlan (Fellow), Magdalen College Library, Richard McCabe (Fellow), Modern Humanities Research Association, Thomas Morris (2001), Dario Nappo, the Oxford Research in English editorial committee, Oxford University Press, Uros Ristivojevic (2015), Dr Paul Saenger, Alexander Schekochihin (Fellow), Olivia Sudjic, the University of Chicago Press; Elia Weinbach (1967).

Donations to the Library and Archives 2018-19

It is a pleasure to record the following particularly noteworthy donations to library and archive collections:

- A collection of first and early editions of the works of HG Wells, donated by Michael Diamond (1959)
- Two antiquarian publications from the library of Dr John Race (1934-2018; Merton 1952): *New Testament in Greek* (Cambridge, 1632) and *Secret Journal of a Self-Observer; or, Confessions and Familiar Letters of the Rev. J.C. Lavater* (London, 1795) presented by his family
- A copy of Anthony Wood's *History and Antiquities of the Colleges and Halls in the University of Oxford*. First English edition, 1786, from the library of Scrope Berdmore (Warden 1790-1810) with extensive manuscript notes. Purchased with support from Dr Paul Saenger
- Correspondence, publications, photos and obituaries of Rodney Needham (1948). Presented by Joella Werlin
- Merton College Rugby Team photograph, 1885-86. Presented by Blair Gibbs (2001)
- Transcripts of Cuxham manor court records and associated material. Presented by Paul Harvey
- Chapel orders of service and Merton Music Society programmes, 2007-10. Presented by Harriet Hansell (2007)
- Decorated trophy rowing blade, Torpids 1904, awarded to James Paterson (1902). Presented by Margot Paterson
- Oxford vs Cambridge Rugby Football match programme, Twickenham 1967. Presented by Freddie Money (2013)
- Collection of postcards of Merton College, c.1988-89. Presented by David Clark (1984)
- Two framed pictures of Merton College and students. Received from the estate of Gerald Winzer (1947)
- Publicity flyers and photos of Merton Floats productions c.1978. Presented by Peter Truesdale (1976)
- Records of undergraduate life, including Merton Floats productions, balls, JCR papers and photos of sporting activities, 1976-79. Presented by Neil Craggs (1976)
- Photographs of Merton College Boat Club crews, 1975-78, Summer Eights card 1977, and associated material. Presented by Chris Madell (1974)
- Merton College Boat Club cap, formerly belonging to Albert Hull (1933). Presented by Mr Stuart Hull
- Invitation for performance of *The Wizard of Oz*, May 1982. Presented by Katie Howells (1980)
- *St Mary's, Ponteland, & Merton College, Oxford, 1268-2018: An Illustrated History*. Presented by David and Carole Butler

We also thank Mertonians who have given copies of their publications to the College:

Allen, RH (1967). *The Corridors of Secrecy* (AKA *Chinese Whispers*) (PublishNation, 2018)

____ *Old Ghosts* (PublishNation, 2018)

____ *Eight Miles High* (PublishNation, 2018)

____ *Ghosts in the Machine* (PublishNation, 2019)

____ *Market Forces* (PublishNation, 2019)

____ *End of the Road* (PublishNation, 2019)

Bott, A (1953). *A History of the Parish Church of St James, Elstead* (self-published, 2018)

Beckert, J, and R Bronk (1979) (eds). *Uncertain Futures: Imaginaries, Narratives, and Calculation in the Economy* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Brooke, A (Fellow). *The Autos Sacramentales of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: Natural Philosophy and Sacramental Theology* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Dickey, E (JRF 1992, VRF 2006). *Learn Latin from the Romans: A Complete Introductory Course Using Textbooks from the Roman Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

Fisher, N (VRF 2008). *Symon Patrick (1626-1707) and his Contribution to the Post-1660 Restored Church of England* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing: Newcastle upon Tyne, 2019)

Fortnum, R (VRF in the Arts, 2019). *Contemporary British Women Artists: In Their Own Words* (I.B. Tauris: London, 2007)

Fisher, E, and R Fortnum (VRF in the Arts, 2019) (eds). *On Not Knowing: How Artists Think* (Black Dog Publishing: London, 2013)

Halewood, L (2015). A Luptak and H Smyth (eds). *War Time: First World War Perspectives on Temporality* (Routledge: London, 2018)

Houghton, LBT (1996) and M Sgarbi (eds). *Virgil and Renaissance Culture* (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies: Tempe, 2018)

Huitink, L (Leventis Research Fellow in Ancient Greek, 2009) and T Rood (eds). *Xenophon. Anabasis: Book III* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

[See also van Emde Boas, E]

Jenkinson, M (2003). *Charles I's Killers in America: The Lives and Afterlives of Edward Whalley and William Goffe* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

Gullifer, R. and **M Jenkinson (2003).** *How Poems Work: Meanings, Techniques and Effects in 100 Poems from Beowulf to the Iraq War* (John Catt Educational Ltd: Melton, Woodbridge, 2018)

Jones, S (1971). *Transit of Mercury* (Matador: Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire, 2019)

Karlin, D (JRF 1978–80). *Street Songs: Writers and Urban Songs and Cries, 1800–1925* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Kershaw, I (1966, Honorary Fellow). *Roller-Coaster: Europe 1950–2017* (Allen Lane: London, 2018)

Coates, J, **M Kim (Fellow)** et al. (eds). *Non-abelian Fundamental Groups and Iwasawa Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Diamond, F, PL Kassaei and **M Kim (Fellow)** (eds). *Automorphic Forms and Galois Representations*, Vol. 1 (Cambridge University Press, 2014)

Diamond, F, PL Kassaei and **M Kim (Fellow)** (eds). *Automorphic Forms and Galois Representations*, Vol. 2 (Cambridge University Press, 2014)

Kim, M (Fellow). *Father's Mathematical Journey* (Eunhaeng-namu Publishing: Seoul, 2014) [In the original Korean]

____ *The Moment You Need Mathematics* (Influential Publishing: Seoul, 2018) [In the original Korean]

____ *Prime Fantasy* (Banni Publishing: Seoul, 2013) [In the original Korean]

____ and T Kim. *The Practice of Mathematics* (Eunhaeng-namu Publishing: Seoul, 2016) [In the original Korean]

____ et al. (eds). *Autour des Motifs: École d'été franco-asiatique de géométrie algébrique et de théorie des nombres*, Vol. 1 (Société Mathématique de France: Paris, 2009)

McCabe, R (Fellow) (contributor). In P Kewes and A McRae (eds) *Stuart Succession Literature: Moments and Transformations* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

McElligott, J (Lyell Fellow 2005–08) and L Doyle. *Sole Survivors: The Rarest Books in the World* (Marsh's Library: Dublin, 2018)

____ *Bram Stoker & the Haunting of Marsh's Library: an Exhibition in Marsh's Library Dublin* (Marsh's Library: Dublin, 2019)

Geddes, J, J Price and **R McKnight (2001)** (eds). *Psychiatry* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

Mutambara, AGO (1991). *In Search of the Elusive Zimbabwean Dream: An Autobiography of Thought Leadership*, Vol. 1 (SAPES Books: Harare, 2017)

____ *In Search of the Elusive Zimbabwean Dream: An Autobiography of Thought Leadership*, Vol. 2 (SAPES Books: Harare, 2018)

Nayyar, D (1999). *Modi and Markets: Arguments for Transformation* (Westland Publications: Chennai, 2018)

Sahasrabudde, V. and **D Nayyar (1999).** *The Innovation Republic: Governance Innovations in India under Narendra Modi* (Wisdom Tree: New Delhi, 2018)

Seipp, D (1977) (contributor). In M Klingensmith (tr) *Statham's Abridgment of the Law*, Vols. 1 and 2 (The Lawbook Exchange: Clark, New Jersey, 2019)

Kanbur, R. and **H Shue (Emeritus Fellow)** (eds). *Climate Justice: Integrating Economics and Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

van Emde Boas, E (Fellow), A Rijksbaron, **L Huitink (Leventis Research Fellow in Ancient Greek, 2009–13)** and M de Bakker. *The Cambridge Grammar of Classical Greek* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

Allan, RJ, **E van Emde Boas (Fellow)** and **L Huitink (Leventis Research Fellow in Ancient Greek, 2009–13)** (eds) in A Rijksbaron, *Form and Function in Greek Grammar: Linguistic Contributions to the Study of Greek Literature* (Brill: Leiden, 2018)

Waters, MD (1973). *Departure Points: Essays from Youth on Oxford, Stock Cars and Other Mysteries* (self-published, 2018)

We would also like to thank those who anonymously returned missing books to the library – we always welcome such returns!

Anonymously returned:

Perrin, B (tr). *Plutarch's Lives*, vol. 9 (Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1959)



'Man and the Moon' exhibition

The Archives

At the time of writing, my mind is occupied with thoughts of exhibitions. The Library and Archives normally put on two main exhibitions each year, divided between the Upper Library and the Beerbohm Room. Sometimes a single theme will be spread across both locations, sometimes we mount displays on different themes.

In 2014 we observed the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War with an exhibition marking the part played by many Mertonians in that conflict. In the autumn of 2018 we mounted an exhibition in the Beerbohm Room marking the end of the war, reflecting how the College commemorated its war dead, and the transition to peace time. The *College Register* – the annals of momentous events in the life of the

College as well as the minutes of more prosaic decisions – listed the names of all those killed, staff and students alike. A memorial service was held in June 1919, just as an appeal for subscriptions for a more permanent memorial was being launched. The final design was executed on the east wall of the Fitzjames Arch, a place accessible to all without religious or sectarian associations. It was dedicated by Henry White, Dean of Christ Church and former Fellow of Merton, on 23 June 1922, at a service attended by the whole College and relatives of the fallen. Each event was illustrated by the appropriate order of service or appeal leaflet. On a more intimate level, the exhibition included one of the simple oak plaques that were installed in rooms associated with those who had been killed. In this case, the plaque dedicated to Norman Busby of

the Royal Garrison Artillery. Previously a Scout on Mob Quad Staircase 6, he was killed near Ypres in October 1918, aged 23.

The themes of our exhibitions are often driven by events and anniversaries, local, national or global. Our summer exhibition in the Upper Library was, perhaps inevitably, on the first moon landing. The title of the exhibition, 'Man and the Moon', permitted a good deal of latitude as to how the subject was interpreted. For the first time, instead of just one or two members of Library staff curating the exhibition, every member of staff came up with two or three items for a shortlist, drawing on their individual interests and knowledge of our collections. The scientific study of the moon was represented by the exquisitely illustrated *Selenographia, sive Lunae descriptio* (Gdansk, 1647). The work of Polish astronomer Johann Hevelius, it became a standard text for over a century. Fictional 'takes' on lunar exploration were represented by John Dryden's translation of Lucian of Samosata's Ἀληθῆν Διηγημάτων (*A True Story*), and HG Wells' 1901 novel, *The First Men in the Moon*. In the former, Lucian and his fellow travellers are swept up by a whirlwind and eventually reach the moon, inhabited by 'Selenians' who eat smoke and drink air. It is anything but 'a true story'. The 1969 moon landing itself was celebrated by an engraved gold goblet issued in a limited edition to celebrate the occasion, and given to the College by old member Carapiet Balthazar (1912).

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for the summer exhibition in the Beerbohm Room. As Sir Henry Savile founded the academic chairs in astronomy and geometry that bear his name in 1619, it seems fitting to celebrate the quatercentenary with an exhibition of books by or associated with both Savile and some of the early Savilian Professors who were also Fellows of Merton. Savile's own copy of Euclid's *Elements*, together with the printed edition of the 13 lectures he himself gave on Euclid, will feature alongside a Greek and Latin parallel edition of Euclid edited by Henry Briggs (Professor of Geometry 1619-31), and *A Description of the Pyramids in Aegypt* by John Greaves (Professor of Astronomy 1643-48). As always, we are indebted to the staff of the Oxford Conservation Consortium for undertaking all the practical aspects of mounting an exhibition: the measuring of exhibits and the construction of bespoke book cradles, the mounting of captions and the final installation. During July the Consortium has been hosting a

conservation student from the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology in New Delhi, and we were pleased to be able to offer an opportunity for him to work on the exhibition.

Some of our exhibitions, however, are of much briefer duration, sometimes lasting a matter of hours. Throughout the year the College and its Fellows welcome visitors from across the country and, indeed, from around the world. The Library tries to respond, if possible, to a request for a small display of items that might be of interest to the visitors. A number of visitors this summer from Japan have been shown items from the Archives associated with the new Emperor; such as his signature in the admissions register, and photos of members of the Imperial family visiting the College in 1984, when the-then Prince was studying at Merton. A small selection of items relating to the parish of Farleigh, Surrey, was put out for a group of parishioners in May, and visitors from the more geographically remote parish of Ponteland, Northumberland, were interested to see documents associating the College with their church dating from the 13th century.

Not all such ephemeral exhibitions stretch so far back. We are pleased to be able to put out displays of contemporary material from the Archives for College Gaudies and anniversary lunches and dinners. What we can display is governed by what has been preserved, but JCR minutes always provide good mileage, and Freshers' and sports team photos are inevitably a popular draw, eliciting exclamations of 'Is that really me?'; 'Look at that hair!'; 'How young/serious we looked ...' These are marvellous opportunities to meet Mertonians from different generations. We have also used these occasions to solicit the gift of records to the Archives, or the opportunity to copy them, especially to fill gaps in our sources for student activities. Our appeals this year have been met with a very generous response and we are grateful to everyone who has augmented our records relating to the JCR, sporting activities and the Merton Floats. An acknowledgment of all such gifts can be found in the list of donations to the Library and Archives at the end of the Fellow Librarian's Report.

Julian Reid
Archivist



Development and Alumni Relations

Sydney reunion in November 2018

Another busy year passes in the life of the Development Office and I would like to begin by thanking alumni, friends and colleagues for giving their time, expertise and philanthropy in support of Merton and its activities. We could not run such a varied programme without your input and it is greatly appreciated by us all.

Our activities continue to evolve and, in the past year, have encompassed four continents. Alongside events in the UK, North America and Asia, we connected for the first time with the growing community of Mertonians in Australia. It was a huge privilege to visit three cities – Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra – over the course of a week in late November and I met with enthusiastic groups of alumni in each location. There are already plans for the incoming Warden to visit Australia in September 2020 and we hope the College will continue to bring together Australian Mertonians more regularly in the future.

Other overseas visits included brief trips to Singapore and Hong Kong to accompany the College Choir and we are indebted to Tom Willett (1986) and Julian Marland (1980) respectively for helping to convene gatherings in each location. The Sub-Warden, Professor Jennifer Payne, and I represented Merton at the University's Asia Reunion in Tokyo

during March 2019 where we held a Merton event for Japanese alumni with the help of Simon Tross-Youle (1974). In early April, the Deputy Development Director and I accompanied the Acting Warden and Mrs Gunn in a series of gatherings in North America – Boston, Toronto and Washington DC – that culminated in both MC3's and the University's Reunion Weekend. None of this would have been possible without the support of various members of MC3 including Grace Tiao (2010) in Boston; David Hamer (1974), John Gardner (1959) and Herman Wilton-Siegel (1971) in Toronto; and Marla and Nick Allard (1974) in Washington DC. We also extend our thanks to Nate Olson (2005) and James Moxness (2008) for organising informal Mertonian gatherings in the Washington DC area.

Closer to home, our year opened with the September Gaudy for the years 1972 to 1976 which also marked the last official alumni engagement for the outgoing Warden, Sir Martin Taylor. A few weeks later, Honorary Fellow Professor Richard Levin (1968) spoke at MC3 Merton in Manhattan and this was closely followed by the 50th anniversary lunch for 1968 alumni. The Merton Lawyers' Association meeting with Sir Christopher Greenwood, was kindly hosted at Sullivan & Cromwell by Ben Perry (1992) and term ended with a Mathematics Reunion Day, curated by Tutorial Fellow Professor Radek Erban, and Oxmas Drinks in London.

A wonderfully well-attended Merton in the City meeting at the Royal Opera House heralded the start of the new year, hosted by Wyliot Fellow Ian Taylor (1975) and replete with stunning performers from the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme. A few weeks later, we held a suitably historic Merton Society London Dinner in Lambeth Palace, at which Professor Gunn spoke about the perils of education in Tudor England, relating this to his own experiences during his year as Acting Warden. Our March Gaudy for the years 1977 to 1981 – the Acting Warden’s contemporaries – completed the term.

The annual Town & Gown race, in which Warden-Elect Tracey and her family enthusiastically participated, marked the beginning of Trinity term. A keen audience gathered at the offices of Springer Nature, courtesy of Steven Inchcombe (1984) and Greg Lim (2006), to hear the Merton Society London Lecture given by Emeritus Fellow Professor James Binney. A larger than usual Boat Club Dinner took place in Hall at the end of Eights Week and the year concluded with a well-attended and relaxed Merton Society Summer Garden Party, preceded by a 60th anniversary dinner for the matriculation class of 1959.

We are now in the final stages of our fundraising appeal to endow a graduate scholarship in memory of the late Roger Highfield. The combination of the generosity of Merton historians with matched funding from the University means that we shall shortly secure the £1 million needed to endow the scholarship in perpetuity. This would not have been possible without the active support of David Ure (1965), who generously hosted a couple of dinners for the appeal at the Oxford & Cambridge Club, and the guiding hand of Professor Gunn. We anticipate completing the appeal by the early autumn and, fittingly for a history scholarship, within Professor Gunn’s tenure as Acting Warden.

Other funds raised during the year enable Merton to continue offering a wide range of student support, provide financial encouragement for student societies and activities, underpin the Tutorial System and create opportunities for graduate study. Our first-ever December telethon reached out to overseas Mertonians and saw our dedicated student callers working into the small hours in the UK to speak to alumni in the Americas, Australia and New Zealand.

The main March telethon was a huge success and the student calling team was one of the best we have ever had. Through our callers’ hard work and enthusiasm and the generosity of Mertonians they contacted we raised more than £250,000 for the College over the next five years.

Our annual Donor Report focused on presenting the stories of current student members of College who have benefited from the generosity of Mertonians. Not forgetting our donors, we also celebrated the outstanding contributions of four major Benefactors – Sir Howard Stringer (1961), Francis Finlay (1962), John Booth (1976) and Charles Manby (1976) – by unveiling shields carrying their personal coats of arms in the College Hall. You can see a picture of the new shields being installed on page 99. Three of our Benefactors and their guests joined the Acting Warden for dinner in November to see their shields in place and we hope that the other Benefactor will make it to Merton in the coming year. It is wonderful to see their generosity recognised by the College in this way and, fittingly, alongside the names of Benefactors down the ages.

Lastly, the Development Office has seen a few changes. Chelsea Chisholm went on maternity leave in March and we are delighted that her son arrived safely and shortly thereafter. Following a highly successful year for the Merton Fund, James Bennett departed in June 2019 to join the Oxford Museum of Natural History as Senior Development Executive. Claire Spence-Parsons, Alumni Communications Officer and careful editor of Postmaster for the past couple of years, left a few weeks later to head up communications and fundraising for an Oxfordshire-based mental health charity. Alongside these departures, we have welcomed Elizabeth Lynn as Development Coordinator, Vanessa Hack as Alumni Relations Officer (maternity cover) and Megan Buchanan as Development Officer. We will also shortly be joined by Caroline Holloway as our new Alumni Communications Officer. Against all this change, Milos Martinov, James Vickers and I remain constants at the heart of the team.

Dr Duncan Barker

Fellow and Development Director



Schools Liaison and Access

This has been a great year of engagement from all levels of the College. Invaluable to this has been the deliberate bringing together of a dedicated group of staff, Fellows and students to support the access work that I spearhead for College. The group helps College to direct its efforts strategically, support the University's major initiatives and empower our fantastic student ambassadors working on the new media projects showcasing Merton to prospective students.

Our annual Open Days continue to be a hugely popular opportunity to reach large numbers of prospective students, giving them a taste of Merton life. This year saw us, once again, break our summer attendance record: over 3,100 visitors came through our doors on just two days in the first week of July. Our programme included the ever-popular Early Bird Talk extolling Merton's virtues, valuable subject meetings with tutors, and tours led by current students. This

year we enhanced the days with mock interviews – with brave student helpers playing the part of candidates!

We continued the Pre-Law Residential programme, launched last year. This is an essay competition open to all UK state schools, and we were delighted to receive a hatful of entries, with a number of outstanding contributions. The authors of the top 15 essays were invited to an Open Day with overnight accommodation provided so that they could attend a Law Study Day the following morning. The aim is to give students an insight into applications, teaching and learning here.

Alongside these major activities, I have maintained a busy calendar of school visits to and from schools in our link regions and beyond. At the time of writing, we have held and supported 71 different outreach events in College. These have taken the form of day-long visits to Merton from school

groups, College tours or information sessions for other school groups visiting Oxford, and providing support to subject departments' events. We are also slowly diversifying the age profile of groups we introduce to Merton, with a greater number of visits this year from groups in Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9), and the first primary school visit for many years. Visiting and meeting our people provides inspiration like nothing else, encouraging students to aim high and empowering educators to support them.

We have also continued our support for the student-led outreach. This includes the Target Schools programme, for which we provide lunch in Hall, a tour of College and a Q&A session with our student ambassadors for Year 12 state-school students who shadow an undergraduate for the day. We partnered, through current Merton student Beth McCullagh (2017), with Oxford Global MUN (Model United Nations) to support an outreach initiative, and have fostered relationships with Oxford Student Union, notably by hosting a BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) Leadership seminar. And, of course, we continue to work with the growing number of Merton alumni who are now teachers!

The College is a long-time supporter of the inter-collegiate Pathways programme, which delivers tremendous value and impact. As well as being a member of the Executive Steering Group I have continued in my role as co-coordinator (alongside my Corpus Christi colleague) for Pathways YII - we organised and delivered the summer Year II programme and will deliver a schools programme in Michaelmas. Alongside this, we hosted a large portion of the Year 10 events.

Away from College, I participated in 22 outbound events in a wide range of schools in our link regions and beyond, delivering talks and workshops to students, their teachers and families. In Dorset, we continued our productive collaboration with Downing College, Cambridge. We also managed to partner increasingly with Robinson College, Cambridge to run events in Wiltshire, in addition to continuing our own hub events in Poole. These events are much larger, typically bring together three or more schools, and allow a much more efficient use of the Fellows' time speaking to these audiences. Participation by tutors, as well as current students, is something that attendees appreciate tremendously.

Additionally we work with a small number of external partners. Merton provides financial and in-kind support to Target Oxbridge, a programme targeted at British students of black heritage, and we are pleased to host them in College this summer. We continue to work with the government-funded Study Higher and the education charity Villiers Park on several schemes to support students in the Swindon area.

Finally, Merton is once again a proud participant in the University's popular UNIQ programme. We hosted a part of UNIQ's spring expansion over the Easter vacation. We are also hosting three undergraduate students, currently studying elsewhere, for six weeks, as part of the newly inaugurated UNIQ+ for graduate students. The aim of this is to allow a broader mix of students to benefit from Oxford, while helping Oxford attract fantastic young academics.

Such an extraordinary outreach programme is not possible without the help and dedication of the tutors, staff and students, all of whom donate their time so generously to support the events. To demonstrate how seriously the Merton students take their responsibilities, the MCR voted to create a committee Access Representative for the first time, and the JCR to elevate the JCR Access and Equality Representative to its Executive Committee. Charlotte Fields (2017), the first to hold this enhanced role, has been invaluable in coordinating the 34 ambassadors who lead tours of College and take part in visits to schools across our link-regions, as well as getting involved across a range of University initiatives. It was hugely encouraging that the election to succeed Charlotte was a five-way contest. I am also proud to report that last year's JCR Access Rep Olivia Webster (2016) secured the role of Outreach and Access Officer at Magdalen College.

I would like to thank everyone involved in outreach at Merton for their help with this critical work, and I would also like to thank the schools and teachers with whom we work for their engagement and input.

Andrew Miller
Schools Liaison and Access Officer



Domestic Bursary

The theme of my report for this year's *Postmaster* is very much a continuation of that of my previous reports: reflecting the operational changes that we have made during the year, and recognising the huge contribution that the College's staff members make to the successes that we achieve. I will also touch on the extensive programme of maintenance work taking place across the Long Vacation, which will ensure that we can continue to offer a high-quality environment in which College members can study, work and relax.

One of the most visible areas of change this year has been the Lodge. At the main precinct and at the Holywell annexe, the Lodge is the first point of contact for anyone coming into College; the impression that the team of Porters and the Lodge buildings make is crucial as it will often be a lasting one. The appointment of a new Head Porter, the creation of the role of Deputy Head Porter, new shift patterns and significant recruitment activity to restore the team to its full complement have brought a real cohesion to the way the

team works. This has been coupled with the refurbishment of the Merton Street Lodge area, and will be further enhanced with the introduction of new uniforms, currently being planned in consultation with the Porters themselves.

If the Lodge is our physical 'window on the world', our website is our virtual one, and in September 2018 we gave it a major makeover. In the space of just over six weeks, we developed and implemented a new set of page designs, as well as carrying out some restructuring of the site and some more technical changes behind the scenes. The response to the new-look website has been very positive, and plans to add new video and photographic content will ensure that we can continue to communicate effectively with prospective students, alumni and the wider academic community. The changes to the website have been mirrored on our intranet, used by current members to facilitate the day-to-day functioning of the College and as a vital tool for internal communications. A project to create a set of individual photographs of our staff has seen the addition of more than 80 pictures to the intranet, allowing new members in particular to identify and get to know their colleagues. This summer we have also conducted a major survey of staff opinion on working at Merton, the first in five years, the results of which will feed into future plans.

Staff wellbeing continues to be a focus of activity within the College. During this last academic year we have sought to heed the words of the Latin phrase *mens sana in corpore sano*: we provided a series of mindfulness training sessions open to all members of staff in Hilary term, and organised weekly circuit training courses in the Pavilion that were open to both staff and students. With the agreement of the Governing Body, a long-sought-after facility - a Staff Common Room - is to be created in Front Quad. This will, possibly for the first time in 755 years, offer a space in which staff can relax and unwind during their breaks, as well as a venue for staff social events. Ideas for furnishings, fittings and facilities are being sought from staff members, and this promises to be a real enhancement to working life at Merton.

The creation of the new Staff Common Room is just one of a series of building and maintenance projects taking place over the summer. Student accommodation in Rose Lane 3

and at 75 Iffley Road are receiving a major refurbishment, including the fitting of new bathrooms, heating, windows and fire protection systems. The Fitzjames washrooms, used year-round by members and by visitors to the College, are receiving a much-needed refit; and work is being carried out in some of our Manor Road and Holywell Street properties. The work of maintaining the fabric of College buildings, many of them very ancient, and upgrading their fixtures and fittings, is all directed towards ensuring that we continue to offer an attractive and appealing environment to undergraduate and graduate students, Fellows and their families.

The buildings in which we live, work, study and relax are integral to the functioning of the College, and there are two individuals to whom I should like to pay tribute in this respect. The eagle-eyed among you may have spotted the absence of two names at the very top of this year's list of College Staff (see page 110) as this year we bid farewell to our much-loved Housekeeper Jo Durkin after 33 years' service, and to a man with an unrivalled knowledge of the College's infrastructure, our Surveyor Mike Jeffs, who retired in August having spent 40 years with us. An interview with Mike about his 40 years at Merton was featured in last year's edition of *Postmaster*. We wish them both a long and happy retirement, and I would like to place on record my thanks on behalf of the College to Jo and Mike for all that they have done for us, and to the staff as a whole for everything they continue to do to make the College what it is.

Tim Lightfoot
Domestic Bursar



Academic Office

A pit viper, snapped by biology student Henry Grub (2016) on a field trip to Borneo

The past year has been a terrifically successful one on the academic front in terms of undergraduate and graduate achievement, and awards and prizes accruing to our Fellows. All credit for these on-course academic accomplishments must, of course, go to our students and Tutors for their seemingly tireless commitment and hard work. Alongside this we should recognise the critical role played by the College's superb Welfare Team, as well as the high levels of support provided by the domestic and the administrative teams.

We can also, perhaps, take a longer view. One of the rewards of the academic year is that its rhythms afford us pause-points, or moments to take stock. Each summer I seek to make time to step back and consider whether there are decisions that as a College we have taken, or opportunities that have been made available to us, that have enabled us to provide more effective support to our students. With this

in mind, it might be instructive to take a closer look at some of our undergraduate subjects.

Some context first: Merton's academic strategy for undergraduates is to admit to a broad, but not complete, range of subjects from across the four academic Divisions of the University, and to ensure that those subjects to which we do admit are appropriately resourced. One might say that our ethos is to ensure that what we do, we do as well possible – and here that entails taking the decision to admit to a slightly more restricted number of subjects than most other colleges.

This enables us to provide both a high quality of education for our students, and a sustainable workload for our Tutors. The majority of subjects at Merton are, therefore, led by at least two Tutorial Fellows holding joint appointments with the University, unless that subject forms part of a broader

group of subjects. Until recently, the three exceptions to this were Medicine, Music and Biological Sciences, each of which was led by a single Tutor. One of the decisions that we took as a College in the Strategic Review in 2012-13 was to move away from having single-Tutor subjects, the rationale being that this would result in more robust teaching teams, the sharing of administrative burdens, and the provision of continuity of cover when Tutors are on leave.

We have since successfully implemented that strategy: in 2016 we welcomed Professor Julian Knight to the Medicine teaching team, and in 2017 we established the post of Fitzjames Research Fellow in Music, to which we appointed Dr Matthew Thomson. Both Fellows have already had a tremendously positive impact on their respective subjects here at Merton – not only and most obviously in terms of their teaching, but also through their pastoral support for students and their outreach work. In 2016 we bid for an association with a departmental Fellowship in Zoology, and I am delighted to report that in the coming academic year Professor Thomas Richards will be joining us as our second Tutor on the Biological Sciences degree course.

Professor Richards will be joining a Biology teaching team which, under the astute guidance of Professor Tim Guilford, has seen some excellent results, including most recently a spectacular clean sweep of Firsts in Finals. One of the attractions of the undergraduate Biological Sciences degree course at Oxford is that it provides many opportunities to undertake field trips, and some of our students elect to take the third-year options paper 'Tropical Rainforest Ecology'. This involves a ten-day field trip in the Malaysian Bornean rainforest in place of a lecture-based course in Oxford. The photograph accompanying this report is of a pit viper, and was taken by one of our Biology finalists, Henry Grub (2016), on the Borneo field trip. Henry was able to go on this field trip, as were the other biologists who took this option, because of the generosity of Sir Gerry Grimstone whose Travel Awards scheme provides financial support to enable many of our graduates and undergraduates to undertake transformative and educative travel. Another finalist, Paris Jagers, was supported by the Travel Awards as a volunteer in Madagascar working with a conservation NGO; this in turn fed into her Marine Ecology paper.

There is no doubt that exposure to experiences such as these enriches our students' understanding of and engagement with their subject. We see this across the board, be it a Law student given the opportunity to shadow a barrister in Hong Kong, or an Ancient History student participating in an archaeological dig in Sicily. The direct impact of support from our alumni is readily apparent in other academic contexts as well – in our splendid new acoustically designed music practice rooms, for example, or the support provided to graduate students via scholarships, which in turn strengthens the sense of a community in a given subject.

A good example – and one that highlights how particular decisions or interventions can result in enhanced support to our students – is Physics. Ten years ago, Physics was one of the first two subjects at Merton, along with History, to pilot the Graduate Mentor scheme. This sees graduate students in a given subject provide academic support to our undergraduates, and it is now embedded in all of our undergraduate subjects. The Physics Tutors also host the termly Ockham Lecture, bringing together physicists from across all three common rooms. Many of our undergraduates in Physics undertake summer research placements, with support from the College, which sets them up well for possible future graduate study. And, just this summer, one of our Tutors, Professor Alan Barr, won a Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Award for his 'Higgs Hunters' project, part of which involved working with UK school students.

In short, one can see in the approach taken by the Physics teaching team a creativity and a commitment that are characteristic of all of our Tutors. Although it is manifest in different subjects in different ways, at its root is a shared desire both to challenge and to support our students, and in so doing to cultivate a vibrant and rigorous intellectual culture. It should therefore be no surprise when our students, in turn, demonstrate their willingness to take on, wrestle with and exult in the challenges of their subjects.

Dr Rachel Buxton
Senior Tutor



The Gardens

Romneya coulteri towards Sundial Lawn

New plant acquisitions this year include *Agave montana* (mountain agave) and *Hesperoyucca whipplei*. Both are hardy if we protect them from winter wetness using cloches made from bicycle-wheel semicircles with acrylic stretched over.

Opuntia vulgaris, which you may know as the prickly pear, and another drought-tolerant newbie, *Cupressus sempervirens* ('Totem pole'), have been introduced to give structure and winter interest to the Mediterranean planting by the Finlay building.

Platyterium bifurcatum (stagshorn), a bracket epiphyte, needs watering each week but has been worth it for the wonder on people's faces.

Interpretation is proving a winner with students and visitors alike. There are boards expanding on arid plant adaptations,

green manures, wild flowers, and a nationwide experiment looking at the effects of climate change on our native temperate rainforest lichen.

We are told that students are being attracted back to plants to escape a sense of dystopia. The MCR have greened up their common room and a wealth of succulents adorn student windows, which never used to be the case. We have increasingly witnessed the students use the garden for contemplation before exams and hope it helps them with mindfulness.

Often our aim is to encourage you to slow down your footfall and take in your surroundings with a new intensity. To provide a stimulating experience connecting the College and its gardens by inspiring people's senses and allowing them to flourish.



Salpiglossis sinuata 'Kew Blue'

We are determined to find ideas that spark optimism about climate change. Soil, it turns out, is a natural carbon sink able to store atmospheric carbon. Managing diversity for soil health enhancement should mean that all nutrients are supplied by soil, life and the atmosphere without the need for petrochemicals. We presently use organic lawn fertiliser and are experimenting with compost tea in a control area to see if it is effective.

Fear of plant health issues from abroad is encouraging us to buy local. A few perils that are closing in are ash dieback, confirmed at Wytham Woods; red band needle blight which killed two pines in the Botanical Gardens last year; and box moth, which Headington gardens are suffering from badly. Having a mixed planting scheme seems to have stood us in good stead, as a problem cannot move easily from plant to plant.

Under the acer glade in Grove we have begun to develop a more oriental feel. Oriental gardens provoke a profound connection to the elements within them and their control of plants is actually an expression of humility and respect for the natural environment. It can take 25 years to qualify as a Japanese gardener so we hope we can do it justice. We look forward to you enjoying this area in future.

Lucille Savin
Head Gardener



Dr Lukas Brantner
Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics

After completing my undergraduate degree at St John's College, Cambridge, I pursued my doctoral studies at Harvard and then a year of postdoctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn, before joining Merton in October 2018.

My research is in derived algebraic geometry, an emerging branch of mathematics mixing techniques from topology (the study of shapes) and algebraic geometry (the study of polynomial equations).

Recently, I have been guided by the following questions. How can we describe deformations of objects in algebraic geometry? And how can we study configurations of non-colliding particles inside a given ambient space? Both questions are reasonably well understood when working over the real or complex numbers but become drastically more interesting and difficult over other number systems.

I have approached these seemingly unrelated questions by developing the theory of generalised Lie algebras. This led to a new classification of infinitesimal deformations of algebraic-geometric objects over any number system in terms of linear-algebraic data, and made it possible to compute previously inaccessible invariants of configuration spaces. I am now exploring further applications of this theory.

The academic freedom of a Junior Research Fellowship, the outstanding mathematical community and the supportive atmosphere at Merton make it a fantastic place for my research. I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to think in such a beautiful and inspiring environment.



Dr Alice Brooke
Associate Professor in Spanish Golden Age Literature, Tutor in Spanish

I am delighted to be returning to Merton as Fellow and Tutor in Spanish. My association with the College began in 2009, when I started a DPhil under the supervision of my predecessor, Jonathan Thacker (now King Alfonso XIII Professor of Spanish Studies), after a BA in Modern and Medieval Languages at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and an MSt at Jesus College, Oxford. After my DPhil, I spent two years as Assistant Professor of Latin American Literature at the University of Warwick, and three years as Queen Sofía Fellow in Spanish at Exeter College, Oxford.

My research focuses on the 16th- and 17th-century Hispanic world, and especially on the literature of colonial Mexico. My first monograph, *The Autos Sacramentales of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: Natural Philosophy and Sacramental Theology* (OUP, 2018), explores the influence of 17th-century scientific advances, in particular optics, on the religious plays of the Mexican nun and poet Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. I am preparing a translation and critical edition of Sor Juana's theological treatises, as well as a major new project on the literary representation of the Immaculate Conception in Hispanic Golden Age and colonial literature, exploring the use of the image in the formation of religious, racial, gender and political identities in colonial society, and their legacy. In addition, I teach papers in Spanish language and translation and Spanish Golden Age literature.

I look forward to even more happy memories at Merton in the years ahead.



Dr Lisandra Costiner

Junior Research Fellow in the History of Art

I joined Merton as a Junior Research Fellow in the History of Art in October 2018. Previously, I earned an AB from Harvard University in Fine Arts, and an MSt and DPhil in the History of Art from St Hilda's, Oxford.

The focus of my research is late-medieval manuscript illumination. My doctoral dissertation traced the production, circulation and illustration of a once popular, yet hitherto unstudied, Italian devotional text. The manuscripts in which it survives were copied and illustrated in the home, opening a window into the daily devotions of medieval men and women, and their intimate engagement with word and image. Taking this material as a point of departure, my current project investigates the relationship between devotional texts, their illumination and the greater visual sphere. In particular, it explores the development of novel iconographies and modes of representation in monumental fresco cycles in 14th- and 15th-century Italy.

Concurrently, I maintain an interest in digital humanities, having spent the 2017-18 academic year as a postdoctoral fellow in digital humanities at the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland. I am involved in a number of collaborative projects that use computational techniques to analyse medieval manuscripts and explore immersive ways of studying and engaging with cultural heritage.

Stepping down from the Upper Library and into the medieval quads of Merton, I can think of no better place in which to continue this journey of research and discovery.



Dr Elias Nosrati

Peter J Braam Junior Research Fellow in Global Wellbeing

I joined Merton College in January 2019, following the submission of my PhD at the University of Cambridge. I am a social scientist, principally concerned with social inequalities in life and death, and seeking to offer a unified understanding of social stratification and its health consequences.

In my work to date, I have investigated the upstream determinants of deepening health inequality in the United States, with a focus on the social and health consequences of economic shocks, high rates of incarceration and attendant shifts in the politics of the welfare state. As a Fellow of Merton, I am continuing this line of enquiry, known as the political economy of public health, while expanding my research agenda to include the integration of social and biological models of human life chances.

I am privileged to enjoy not only the freedoms offered by the Fellowship in Global Wellbeing but also the warm, welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment that is Merton College.



Dr Daniel Sawyer

Fitzjames Research Fellow in Medieval English Literature; Stipendiary Lecturer in English, Corpus Christi College

I joined Merton in January 2019. I teach papers in Old and Middle English, and also the first-year Introduction to English Language half-paper.

Previously, I was the postdoc attached to Oxford's 'Towards a New Edition of the Wycliffite Bible' research project. I studied at St Hilda's College for a DPhil in English and an MSt in English 650-1550 and began my academic career with a BA in English at Queen Mary, University of London. I have also been the Erika and Kenneth Riley Fellow at the Huntington Library, California, and a Long Vacation Scholar at King's College, Cambridge. Between and around my research I have worked in medical e-learning and as a verger in the Church of England.

I'm interested in literary-critical questions about how and why texts work, and how they fitted into the societies that produced them. I work using traditional close readings, but also other bodies of expertise: the history of reading as an activity itself, codicology (the systematic study of physical manuscripts), and textual criticism (the study of the transmission of texts and the practice of editing them).

I'm pursuing these interests through several projects. My forthcoming book (OUP, 2020) is the first book-length history of reading for later Middle English poetry. I am also investigating the medieval manuscripts that have *not* survived. I'm editing two of *The Canterbury Tales* and parts of the Wycliffite Bible, the first complete English translation of the Bible. And my most recent publication is a book chapter exploring the history of page-numbering, which is more interesting than it sounds!



Professor Helen Small

Merton Professor of English Language and Literature

I am a New Zealander by origin. I studied for a BA (Hons) at Victoria University of Wellington, staying on to teach there before taking up a Cambridge Commonwealth Scholarship. At Cambridge, I had the good luck to be supervised by Gillian Beer and developed interests in the interdisciplinary relationship between literature and medicine.

I am taking up the Merton Professorship (redesignated from language to 19th-century literature) after 22 years as a tutor at Pembroke College, Oxford. I previously held a Junior Research Fellowship at St Catharine's, Cambridge and a lectureship at Bristol University. For faculty teaching purposes I am primarily a Victorianist. I have edited several texts in the Oxford World's Classics series, including *Wuthering Heights*, *The Eustace Diamonds* and *Vanity Fair*, and have written on the literary cultures of liberalism, forms of realism, and the stylistics of prose and poetry.

My books have addressed wider topics. *The Long Life* (2007) looks at the pressing questions raised by an ageing society. If we want to understand old age better we must think fundamentally about what it means to be a person. *The Value of the Humanities* (2013) responded to the perceived 'crisis' in funding and student uptake for the humanities.

I am completing a monograph entitled *The Function of Cynicism at the Present Time*. This explores the thought and style of writers from 1830 to the present who have been attracted to cynicism as a way of moderating the articulation of moral and political ideals.



Dr Elizabeth Stubbins Bates

Junior Research Fellow in Law, Early Career Fellow at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, and Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC)

I arrived at Merton in October 2018. I am also an Early Career Fellow at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, and a Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC).

My work is at the intersection of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law; researching the prevention, investigation and prosecution of violations of international law in armed conflict. I am working on a book proposal that synthesises the obligation to include IHL in military instruction and training with preventive obligations in command responsibility and subordinates' duty to disobey unlawful orders. My work also focuses on the absence or neglect of monitoring mechanisms in IHL. I hope to establish a series of workshops at which states might share their practice of IHL's norms of implementation and enforcement while hearing research findings from scholars.

My research on the investigations by the UK Ministry of Defence into alleged torture and inhuman treatment in Iraq and my doctoral work on the British Army's training in international humanitarian law were both cited in the Joint Alternative Civil Society Report to the UN Committee against Torture.

Before Merton, I taught at SOAS University of London and LSE, where I was also a David Davies of Llandinam Research Fellow. I hold a PhD from SOAS University of London, an LL.M from Harvard Law School, and a BA in Jurisprudence from Oxford (Exeter College).



Dr Sebastian Vásquez-López

Junior Research Fellow in Neuroscience

I am interested in the general principles underlying the function of the cerebral cortex and its interactions with other brain structures, such as the thalamus and the hippocampus. The cortex is the brain structure considered to be the seat of most of our higher cognitive functions, including conscious perception, motor action, planning, abstract thinking, spatial navigation, language, numeracy, introspection and imagination. Despite the seemingly disparate range of functions attributed to different regions of the cortex, there is a striking similarity in their basic circuit architecture, suggesting the existence of common cortical computations of relevance to all forms of cognition.

Having previously studied principles of cortical organisation in the sensory (auditory) domain, I am now focused on some of the brain regions that have been implicated in decision making and behavioural flexibility – a hallmark of human intelligence. This form of cognition is thought to require the formation of mental models of the world that can support efficient learning and guide future action. I am working on developing computational models of such circuits, as well as investigating how some of these cognitive processes might be instantiated in the activity of neurons during behaviour.

I joined Merton College as a Junior Research Fellow in October 2018. I am also a member of the Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging and collaborate with groups at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences and the Department of Experimental Psychology.

Features



Helen Barron (Supernumerary Fellow) interviews Professor Irene Tracey (1985)

Welcome to the Warden-Elect

In October 2019, Professor Irene Tracey will be installed as the 51st Warden of Merton. Helen Barron (Supernumerary Fellow), previously a JRF at Merton in neuroscience and now a postdoctoral researcher in the Brain Network Dynamics Unit, interviewed the Warden-Elect in July about her time as a student at Merton and her life and career since.

You started at Merton as an undergraduate, and you were also a graduate student at the College. Why did you choose to apply to Merton?

A couple of reasons beyond knowing that the food was best in Oxford! Joking aside, even though I grew up in Oxford there was much more of a divide 30 years ago between the town and gown and so Oxford colleges were somewhat of a mystery. Having decided biochemistry might be interesting to study after a chemistry teacher suggested it, I got the opportunity to meet the wonderful Dr Eric Newsholme, a tutor at Merton, at the Biochemistry department. We had a chat about what biochemistry was as a subject and how my A-levels in maths, further maths, physics and chemistry would be a great fit. Biochemistry was a relatively new subject and so there was a 'frontier' excitement about it I felt. It struck me also that Dr Newsholme was an incredible tutor who really cared about education.

I then visited Merton and that sealed the deal. I simply fell in love with how beautiful the College was, its position and the quietness of the location. You couldn't not be awe-inspired by that, and so these various factors made me decide that Merton was the place I would apply to, and I was very fortunate to be taken.

What were your first impressions when you arrived?

The memory cells are fading, but from day one I do remember being struck by the caring nature of the College: the attention to the new freshers arriving, and their nervousness. Right from the Porters at the Lodge, the whole community was there to support the students and were genuinely interested in you and your development. It was

clearly a very scholarly place, and despite some excellent fresher events in the College Bar it was definitely not a raucous college! Dignified captures it, I think.

And with time, how have you come to view the College?

Merton is a very self-assured college: it's not flashy but it's incredibly confident and has great integrity. It makes carefully considered decisions and it knows it does things well. These are all things that you don't immediately see on day one, but they emerge as you stay here.

Was your experience at Merton formative for you beyond your academic studies?

Your university years – undergraduate or graduate – are really formative and surprisingly different. As an undergraduate you are moving from being dependent to becoming an independent adult. Everyone's in it together, and you experience all the trials and tribulations of growing up. This includes all the fun aspects and all the challenging aspects too. You form amazing friendships and I'm still in touch with many of my undergraduate and graduate friends, which is just great.

Lots of fun memories – winning blades, fighting battles on the hockey pitches, chatting until late in the morning over coffee and of course the inevitable sweaty bops – these go without saying. But perhaps the most formative was coming as a fresh-faced 18-year-old from a local comprehensive school with a fairly limited world view. What really shaped me during those four years as an undergraduate was that joy of getting to know people for who they are and what they want to achieve – recognising that we all shared a respect for learning and, as such, each other. As a graduate, where the community is very much international, the same applied. In short, I think it was about broadening one's world view while realising that at the core self, we share a lot of common ground.

After Merton, you decided to pursue a career in science and went on to do postdoctoral research at Harvard. Was there something in particular that led you to pursue a scientific career?

I did my DPhil with Merton's Professor George Radda, who was inspirational. However, there wasn't any great epiphany or lightning bolt about me becoming an academic. At times,



Merton matriculands of 1985, with Professor Tracey in the centre of the back row

I did question whether a lifelong career in science was for me. So, I went to the States to do a postdoc in the hope this would settle matters. It was an opportunity to see what doing science was like as a job and in a major country that contributes to medical science. It was also in one of the labs that was pioneering a new technique: functional imaging of the brain. It was amazing to see science done in the States, at a very rapid pace with lots of energy and a desire to make an impact. That was something I really took away when I came back: just how fast they wanted to translate what they were discovering.

So, the desire to be a scientist was an evolving one. It was mostly because I loved it and kept loving it, especially as I reoriented more closely to what I really wanted to focus on – namely, neuroscience.

Then you came back to Oxford, and you helped set up the Oxford Centre for Functional MRI of the Brain (FMRIB). How did you feel about returning to Oxford?

Coming back to Oxford as a university was fantastic. But I have to say that living in Boston as a city had been great. I didn't expect to enjoy a big city as much as I did. Returning to Oxford, the city did feel a little bit small. By this point I had married my husband, Myles Allen, a climate physicist, and having arrived back to the gloomiest January on record we did wonder whether we'd made a mistake!

However, it didn't take long to realise it was the right decision, both on the work front and with family too – my parents were ageing and my mother was unwell, so there were personal reasons also to return. Timing is key I've learnt in science, and it was decided by the Medical Research Council that Oxford was the logical place to build a centre dedicated to functional imaging of the brain – Merton's George Radda was one of three heads of department at the time who had the vision to create this centre. It was a great opportunity to get involved early with this initiative. But it was also risky. Paul Matthews, like me, returned from North America as its founding director, but funding was not entirely secure. Fortunately, the University stepped in to help get it over the line. It was clear to everyone it was going to work – it was something of a no brainer, forgive the pun ... Oxford already had resources in the relevant techniques and fantastic neuroscience research. If we could bring it all together, it would be a success. It was pushing at an open door.

Going back to the idea that America has this ability to push 'translation', you then got involved with the neuroscience of pain. Was that inspired by your work at Harvard?

Yes, absolutely. The move into pain came from an opportunistic conversation I had in Boston with doctors at the pain clinic about the problem they face diagnosing and treating someone's pain. The verbal report doesn't tell you much about what's causing pain at a mechanistic level, and



Professor Tracey rowing at number seven in the Merton women's boat

you don't have any tools to measure it. It was immediately obvious to me that the techniques that I'd spent my career helping to develop, which allow you to look inside the brain of living people, would lend themselves fantastically well to investigating the neuroscience of pain. And the topic had a bit of everything that I was excited about in science: basic discovery, neuroscience, a translational opportunity to the clinic and industry, and even some interesting philosophical questions about whether you can ever really *know* a subjective state. So, I embraced the challenge and have spent 25 years investigating the neuroscience of pain.

Your lab here in Oxford is now world-renowned. How would you summarise some of the major findings of your research?

I think we've changed people's thinking about pain from an overly simplistic model first proposed by Descartes in the 16th and 17th centuries and still held by society today, to the true one. Descartes proposed that the amount of damage the body might have – from, say, your arthritic knee – is linearly related to how much pain the brain will construct. A

1:1 mapping, if you like. What we've been able to prove with our experiments is that the relationship between damage to the body and the experience of pain is in fact highly *non-linear*. There's a mismatch between how much damage you can measure and how much a person subjectively experiences. On the journey from, say, your injured knee to your brain, there are 'volume' amplifiers and attenuators, and then the brain adds another layer of modulation.

Before we did these experiments, the linear model of pain led people to think that some patients must be exaggerating their experience of pain, making it up or even mad. They didn't understand that being sad, depressed, anxious or having certain injuries can set off systems in the brain or spinal cord that can actually 'turn up the volume' so that you feel more pain. The field needed to be more nuanced in the understanding of pain. Our discoveries of various mechanisms that underpin someone's pain help us explain this complex and subjective experience at a mechanistic level. This has repercussions in courts of law, for diagnosis, and for better targeting of treatment.

Alongside this busy research career, you've also taken on positions of responsibility. You directed the brain imaging centre for ten years, and more recently you've been head of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neuroscience. You are also a Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the University. What do you enjoy about these positions of leadership?

Many of us take on leadership roles out of a sense of duty. A major part of being an academic is being a 'good citizen'. At the end of the day, the academic community is self-governing, and alongside research and teaching you have to do your bit, whether that's examining, national and international committee or editorial roles and, of course, academic administration.

You learn over the course of your career exactly what your appetite is for that good citizenship. A lot of us start off worried that it will take too much time away from research. You start with a gulp and go for it, but it's only by trying do you discover whether it's something you're capable of and if you find it rewarding. Personally, I get a lot of joy and satisfaction from creating environments and cultures where you can see people flourish, realise their full potential and succeed. I find that just as rewarding as my own research.

You have three children, a husband in academia, a fantastic research career and these positions of leadership within the University. Do you have any tricks for being able to take on so much?

I drink a lot of coffee, that's one! As for my wonderful children, Colette, John and Jim – there's no doubt my capacity to take on leadership roles does require longer days at work and they've always been amazingly tolerant and supportive. My husband has been incredible too and always taken the lion's share of the family responsibility and care. Without him I could not have taken on these roles so readily and so I owe him a lot. The children are growing up now (aged 22, 18 and 13), and for sure I missed precious time with them in the early phases, but what I have noticed is that you still get quality time later; you don't lose it forever. That's one trick, then, having a great partner and working out together what works best for you all as a family unit and creating your own template to follow.



Irene and her husband, Myles, in Fellows' Garden on their wedding day

Otherwise, being organised and compartmentalised, and quite realistic about your bandwidth. As an academic, the job is fantastically varied – teaching, research, writing grants and raising money, putting up buildings, sitting on committees and research councils, running the institutions. But it's easy to let the primary things you're interested in get swamped, so you've got to take control and stay focused on what is important.

On a more personal note, I hear you've run at least one marathon – Two! – what was the motivation there?

When I turned 50, I was owed a sabbatical from all my teaching. As it turned out, it never quite worked out, but I did get about half a year. It coincided with the tenth anniversary of my mother passing away from Alzheimer's and so I thought I would apply to the London Marathon to see if I could run for Alzheimer's Research UK. I was picked as one of their sponsored runners, and I had to raise a certain amount. All my friends and colleagues from around the world and the department were incredibly supportive and I doubled my fundraising goal. I then realised: I'm going to have to run this thing.

I've always been sporty – at Merton, I did hockey, tennis, rowing, etc. – so I was fit, but not a long-distance runner.

I'd done the odd 10k and a half-marathon, but it surprised me just how far a marathon is ... luckily I made it and in a respectable time. Then after a few months, my daughter, Colette, said 'I'd love to run one with you, Mum.' So we ran the New York Marathon together, which was amazing. That was definitely harder, more painful – for me, not Colette, who looked like she was out for a walk in the park! So, it started off for a very specific reason, but of course you do get a bit hooked and we're not ruling out doing more together.

Coming full circle, you are returning to Merton as Warden. How does that feel?

I feel very humbled, and obviously excited and hugely honoured. I was so touched to be considered and to be appointed. I could never have predicted this, and it is lovely to come full circle.

The motivation for putting my hat in the ring was definitely a sense of wanting to give back to somewhere that had been so instrumental in my success and in launching my academic career. For me, the timing just seemed perfect. At 53, I asked myself 'What do I want to achieve in this next decade?' I was drawn to the opportunity of contributing to the undergraduate and graduate experience, and having the opportunity to be part of Merton's broader fellowship. I've been very fortunate with my college positions during these 25 years in medical sciences – a tutorial fellowship at Christ Church for six years and a statutory chair at Pembroke for the past 12 – and I've learnt a lot from this and from the terrific heads of houses and colleagues at both those colleges, so I will draw on that experience as best I can. With the start coming up very soon, I just want to get going. I'm ready.

You'll be the 51st Warden of Merton, and the second female Warden – the first of course being Dame Jessica Rawson. How does it feel to take on the role as the second woman to lead the College?

I am awe-inspired by the trailblazer that Jessica was, and it's been great to have the opportunity to speak to both Jessica and Martin – those are four very big shoes to fill. They've been terrific in what they've achieved here and they've clearly left Merton in a fantastic position. I'm very grateful that they've both been so open in talking with me and I'm sure I will be calling on them during my tenure for advice and wise counsel.

When Jessica was Warden, female heads of houses were few and far between, and it must have been challenging in many aspects. I'm in the fortunate position that this has thankfully changed – and dramatically. For me, it's a privilege and honour to be a small part of Merton's history.

What do you look forward to, short-term and long-term?

Part of the advantage of deferring for a year is that it's given me an opportunity to come into Merton, almost on a weekly basis, and get to know certain sides of the College so that I'm up to speed. In the short term, my job now is to get to know the undergraduates and graduates, to listen and to learn more about where the pinch points are for them and the things we need to do. Then, together with the fellowship, staff and alumni, I look forward to crystallising our collective goals. In the short to medium term, it could be anything from a new building project, to better study space, or dealing with the pressures of living in Oxford, such as accommodation and crèche facilities for our staff and fellowship.

I'm acutely aware also that Merton is an influential college with means. Therefore, while we must rightly focus on maintaining our excellence in teaching and research, as an independent but integral part of Oxford we also have an opportunity and responsibility to help shape and progress the University more generally. I look forward to helping Merton chart that course.

Finally, we must equip our students not only to face and cope with the many pressing local and global challenges the world faces, but also where possible to be at the leading edge in finding solutions. To empower future Mertonians to be responsible global citizens will be an important part of my role, and one I'm relishing.

The installation of Professor Irene Tracey (1985) as the 51st Warden of Merton will take place on Saturday 5 October 2019. The ceremony will be live-streamed on the College website from 12 noon onwards: www.merton.ox.ac.uk.



Mertonians in... Sustainability

Radishes grown by Sarah Tobin (1992)



Sarah Tobin (née Bolt) (1992)

Sarah Tobin joined forces with a friend earlier this year to launch Young Climate Warriors, a web-based environmental initiative for children and schools. Sarah took a BA in Modern History at Merton, and an MA in Ethics and Public Policy at Heythrop College, University of London.

Growing up in Somerset, I couldn't not love the natural world and, in my final year at Merton, I applied to work in the Department of the Environment. But it's taken me too long to see the urgency of the environmental crises we are facing.

My first Civil Service job took me to a UN conference on sustainable cities, in Istanbul, a follow-up to the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. It was a surreal introduction to international top-down environmental action, which left me disillusioned. Following that, I kept my feet closer to the ground. Statutory instruments to reduce emissions at petrol stations. Working with London Transport on upgrading the Tube. Then an opportunity arose to work in the Cabinet Secretariat and I found myself covering criminal justice and other social issues, under Blair and then Brown.

Things moved on at home too. Matthew (1991) and I have four children (not perhaps the most sustainable decision, but certainly not one we regret!) and I spent several years as a mum at home, before taking a Master's degree in Ethics and Public Policy at Heythrop College, London. This immersion in thinking about problems I had worked on in the Civil Service led me to my current role (and incidentally to realise how fantastic it can be to go back to studying, at a time when the library seems more interesting than the bar).

Two things in particular had a huge impact on me. First was reading *On Care for our Common Home*, Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, published ahead of the 2015

Paris climate talks. This brings home the human dimension to climate change, a crisis that cannot be solved simply through technological innovation, but requires fundamental political and cultural change and a personal response from each of us. Second was the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report, published October 2018, which warned that the risks of extreme weather, harvest failures and flooding will worsen significantly for hundreds of millions of people if we don't keep global warming to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and that, as things currently stand, we have only 10-30 years left before we hit this point.

I started a local environmental action group and, in February, when a friend mentioned her idea for Young Climate Warriors, I jumped at the opportunity to get involved. We provide weekly term-time challenges that empower children to take an environmental lead at home – anything climate-change related, from planting seeds, to hiding the clingfilm, to getting creative with pulses and beans.

As a two-woman band, our day-to-day work is very varied. Researching the challenges, presenting them in a way that is fun and inspires action, talking to teachers, children and the media. It's completely different to working in the Civil Service. No IT experts, statisticians or press officers to turn to, but it's great fun to be able to take decisions quickly, to be creative in trying out new ideas, to work with enthusiastic children and teachers, and to do something I am passionate about.

What next? There are 25 schools and nearly 600 individual subscribers involved in Young Climate Warriors and we hope this will grow. Beyond that, I feel more hopeful now than I did in Istanbul 23 years ago that we can work together to take better care of our shared home and more determined to work towards that goal.



Rebecca Jeffree BEM FLS (2001)

Rebecca Jeffree took a BA in Biological Science at Merton and an MSC in Advanced Methods in Taxonomy and Biodiversity at Imperial College London. She is Head of Future Fishing Opportunities, EU Exit Negotiations Team at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

When I was younger I spent hours studying and drawing plants and insects. I desperately wanted to travel like child zoologists Hal and Roger in Willard Price's 1960s novels – their encounters with animals in exotic locations inspired me and many other people I know to pursue environmental careers. I also felt a strong calling to protect wildlife and remember vividly being a four-year-old and getting upset about lobsters being boiled alive, and, as a schoolchild, rescuing spiders from playground predicaments. Three decades on, I still secretly want to inspire others to observe and appreciate the natural world more.

Interest in the subject, rather than a career plan, influenced my choice of degree. I'm eternally grateful to my tutor Professor Tim Guilford for taking me on as a student, because reading biological sciences at Oxford was a magical experience. I benefited from its cross-disciplinary approach and the opportunities to meet many passionate students and academics across the University. College life helped me develop different skills and ways of thinking; historian friends taught me how to structure arguments and write well, for example, and these skills help me now when I advise ministers.

I didn't have a permanent job until five years after graduating. I travelled around China in the first year. Then, encouraged by the inspirational Darren Mann at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, I did a Master's in Taxonomy and Biodiversity at Imperial. This led to a research job on parasitic wasp phylogenetics. I then learnt Spanish in Barcelona, and worked as an entomologist

for Operation Wallacea in Honduran cloud forest, where I collected scarab beetles to support research on the impact of human disturbance on biodiversity.

I wanted to develop skills that I could apply to a range of subjects. I'd enjoyed the statistics part of my degree, so at the suggestion of a statistician friend, I joined the Government Statistical Service and found myself in the corridors of Whitehall. My first job was forecasting the UK's income tax revenue. The Civil Service is a gateway to different policy areas, so from there I went down a generalist route but with an analytical angle. I was Private Secretary to the climate change department's chief scientist, Sir David MacKay, for two years; this was at an exciting time where lots of open policy-making on green energy was happening. I learnt from David that it was a strength to say if you don't know, as well as the importance of numbers and speaking truth to power. I've tried to bring these principles into all my policy work since then.

Next, I advised on green growth and community renewable energy. I set up a network to look at women's representation in energy policy and this helped me develop my voice and my leadership skills. Following this, I worked on flood defence funding and transgender equality policy.

I'm currently in my favourite role yet, working in Defra's EU Exit Negotiations Team and responsible for our approach to securing the UK's fairer shares of fishing quotas. It involves lots of problem-solving and ensuring that ministers get impartial and evidence-based advice when making decisions. There is no typical day so I have to be very adaptable. As well as working with my talented team and fisheries scientists, one of the aspects I enjoy most is meeting fishermen at the coast to learn about their lives, their expectations and their role in building a sustainable future.



One of the best things about the Civil Service is that it encourages us to tackle global challenges using innovative, interdisciplinary approaches. So I'm exploring with my team the role of observational skills and problem-structuring in addressing complex sustainability problems. I've also recently returned to some of my childhood

interests, and have set up an informal after-work project for people to draw the UK's 80 commercial fish species and build awareness of marine biodiversity. This has been surprisingly rewarding, so I feel that public engagement with nature through the visual arts will feature somewhere in my future.



Dr Anthony Hansen (1969)

Tony Hansen has a BA and an MPhys in Physics from Merton. He is President of Magee Scientific, established in 1986 to develop further and commercialise the Aethalometer – an instrument for the real-time measurement of light-absorbing black carbon aerosol particles.

From early childhood, I'd always been fascinated by anything with wheels or wires: I must have been born with a screwdriver in my hand. Buying, repairing and selling *electromechanismae* provided my teenage income and experiential education. Physics is the underpinning: I came up in 1969 to read Physics under Professor Michael Baker and worked as his assistant in the Clarendon. I ran an invisible wire up the Merton flagpole as an antenna; fixed all the scouts' vacuum cleaners and radios for an open tab at the College Bar; and incurred the unending wrath of the maintenance man by hot-wiring the fusebox at the base of St Alban's 5 when my friends were faced with a power cut.

In 1972, I went to Berkeley. In 1977, I talked my way into a postdoc job at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, in a newly formed group in environmental science, studying the physics and chemistry of sub-micron black (or 'elemental') carbon particles in the air. I got the job because I could combine the principles of science with hands-on abilities. If you suck polluted air through a white tissue and it turns black, that's pretty easy to see. Two years later I used a lightbulb, a photodiode and a Commodore computer to perform the measurement and calculation of black carbon in real time. The Aethalometer was born and its use for measuring this pollutant has defined my career.

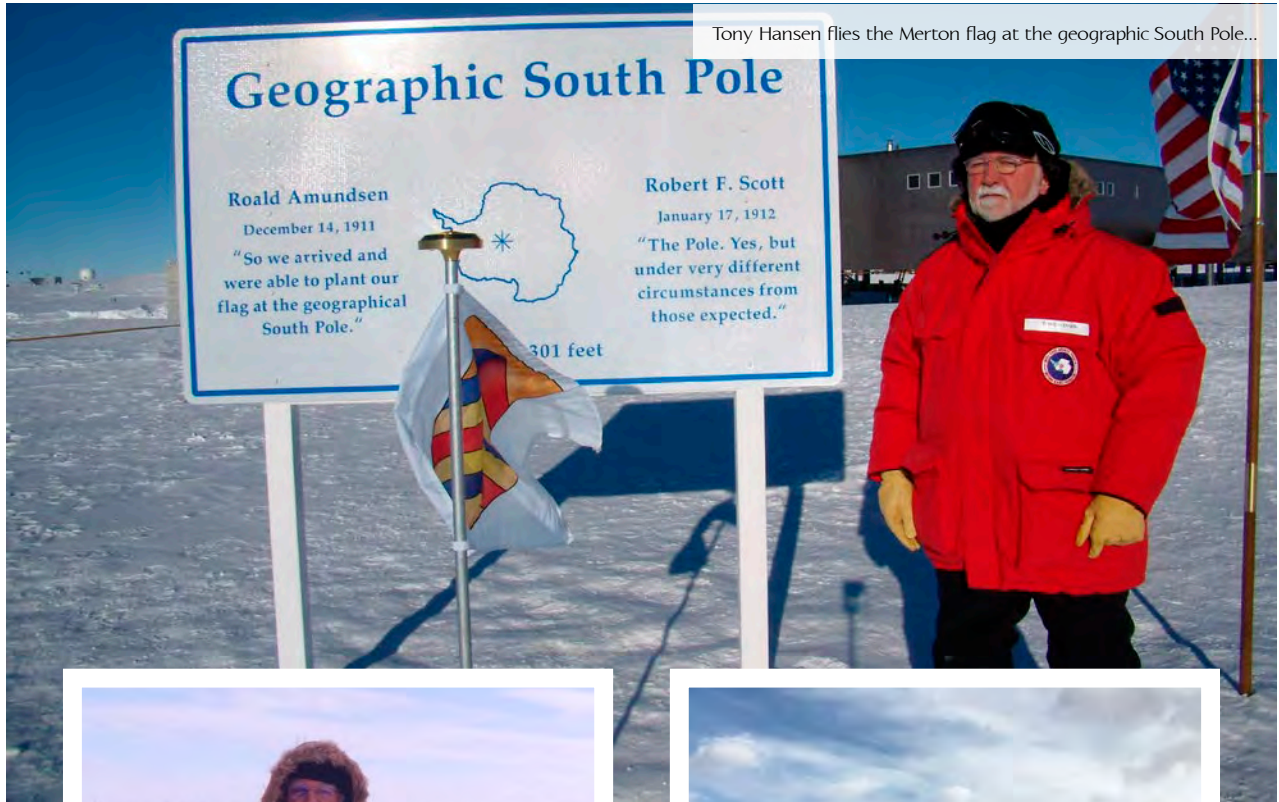
At that time, nothing was known about the likely amounts or distribution of black carbon. A new instrument for measurement was in demand for field projects in locations mundane and exotic. I chose the exotic projects, and

found that even at the most remote locations, tiny (but measurable) amounts could be detected. Measurement technology was my specialty: the implications of 'how it got there' and 'what are the effects' were still being developed.

In polluted cities, it was rapidly being realised that exhaust emissions are a health hazard; and that the black particle component of those emissions was easily measured. Globally, it was being realised that black particles in the atmosphere would absorb solar energy; and when deposited onto formerly white snow or ice, would cause it to melt prematurely. Fast-forward 30 years: black carbon is now known to be the second biggest contributor to climate change, second only to carbon dioxide; and the number one indicator of the adverse health effects of combustion emissions.

Having worked on this in my garden shed for 20 years, I started a 'real' business, in Slovenia. Needing to meet payroll twice a month is very sobering. Sweating the logistical details is completely NOT what one wants to do as an inventor or scientist. But if you keep moving forwards and stay solvent, you will see the fruition of the original flash of inspiration. After 40 years, the Aethalometer is now the worldwide standard instrument. Environmental predictions, policies, decisions must all be based on accurate, reproducible data. My career has been to 'make the box that makes the measurement'. In the course of this, I've taken the box to all three Poles – and recited '*Oculi Omnium ab Extremis*' into YouTube whenever I could.

My main message would be: use all of your abilities. You're at Merton, in Oxford, because you're one of the very best at something. But you're good at other things, too: maybe even screwdrivers. Combine all your abilities. Persist until it almost kills you. Travel light.





**Sara Wehlin
(2010)**

Sara Wehlin read for an MChem at Merton and is now a doctoral candidate in Inorganic Chemistry at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill.

While I was at Merton I had a budding interest in the chemistry of alternative fuel sources, but was also fascinated by the versatility of protein chemistry. For my Part II project, I was fortunate enough to work in Professor Fraser Armstrong's lab where I could combine these two interests. I worked on the mechanism of hydrogen activation in [NiFe]-hydrogenases (proteins) to investigate the formation of hydrogen that can serve as fuel. Professor Armstrong was an incredibly enthusiastic mentor, who saw a scientist in me before I did, and encouraged me to pursue a doctoral degree.

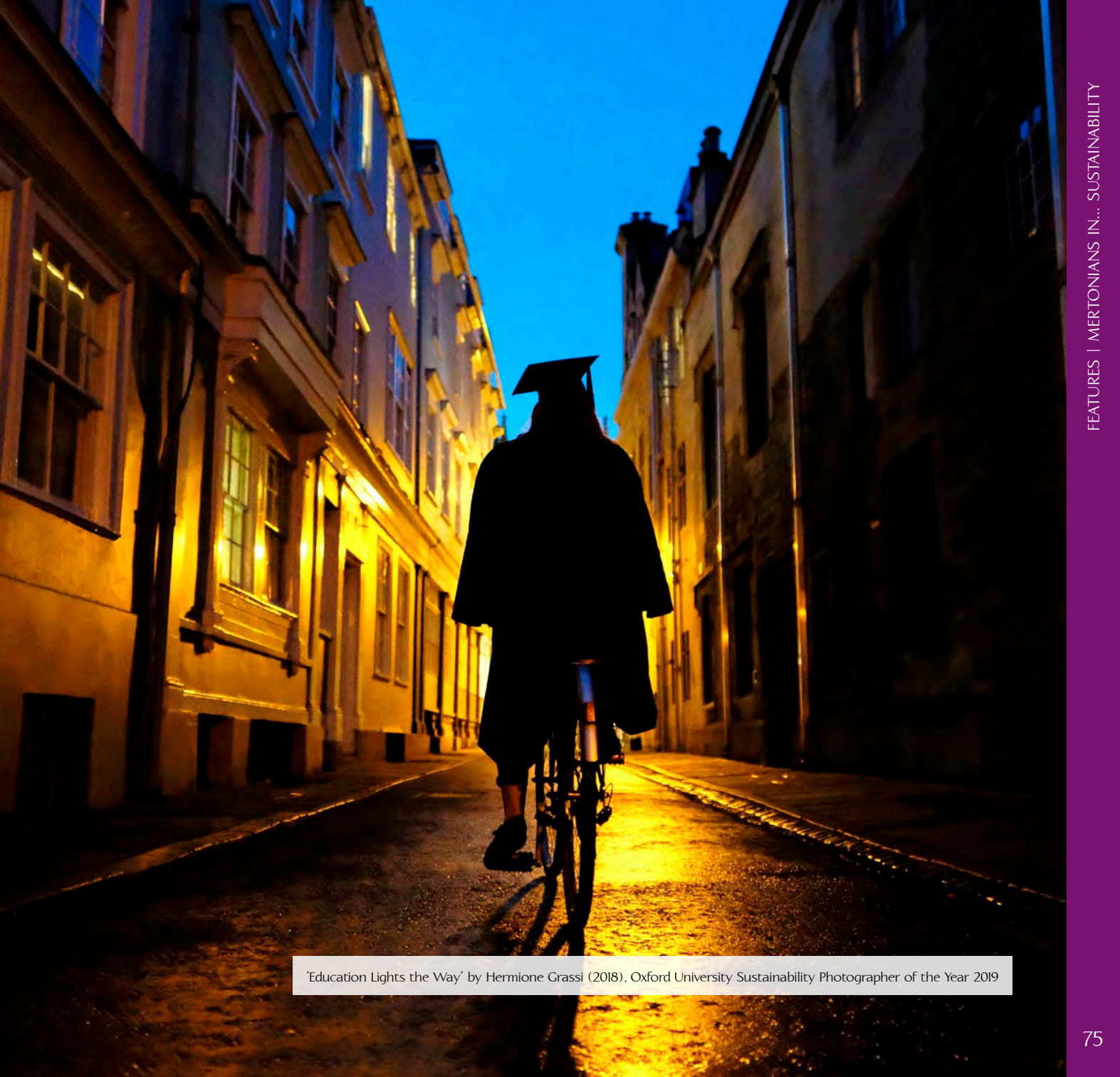
After graduating in 2014, I was unsure that a PhD in chemistry was really for me. However, in my last year at Oxford, I had met the charismatic Professor Harry Gray, who graciously allowed me to work in his lab as a visiting scholar for six months while I figured out my next direction. As it happens, this experience turned out to be a revelation, as I found my inspiration for solar energy research in sunny California. Professor Gray has an infectious curiosity and he is passionate about finding a solution to the world's energy problem. In his lab I was involved in building a new laser set-up, for two-photon nanosecond spectroscopy, which allowed me to gain considerable knowledge about lasers. I started to appreciate the spectroscopic aspects of research that allow us, using specific lasers, to gain detailed mechanistic understanding at the molecular level. After this experience, I was convinced that I should continue with my scientific career and pursue a PhD.

Therefore, in 2015 I moved to North Carolina and started graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill where I joined the lab

of Professor Gerald Meyer, whose detailed knowledge and keen scientific interest is a great aid and inspiration. In Professor Meyer's group, I have also been able to follow my intuition and interests to develop my own projects, which has been both daunting and highly rewarding. My work at UNC is focused on the fundamental understanding of excited-state electron transfer for applications relevant to solar fuel generation. To do so, I use molecules that absorb visible light which promotes them to an 'excited state', and in this state these excited molecules can do useful chemistry. I endeavour to find new ways to tune reactivity and to transform sunlight into chemical bonds as a way to store the energy, just like in fuels. I am lucky enough still to be able to work with nanosecond lasers, which allow me to unravel new mechanisms for excited-state electron transfer and bond formation between specific molecules.

Scientific research is full of challenges and rewards. I sometimes view myself as a Hercule Poirot of chemistry (a female, Swedish version) where, facing an unexpected and puzzling result, I have to use my 'little grey cells' (and those of the talented team of researchers at UNC) to investigate every aspect and hypothesis thoroughly until enough clues are gathered and I can find an answer to my experimental queries. It is very rewarding when all the pieces of a study come together into one big picture of excited-state reactivity, where everything can be explained logically.

Currently, I am facing another challenging aspect of a PhD, which is the thesis writing part, but I am looking forward, albeit with some trepidation, to my defence in early fall this year. Once I have defended my thesis, I would like to move back to Europe for a postdoctoral position or an industry position that involves research within renewable energy.



'Education Lights the Way' by Hermione Grassi (2018), Oxford University Sustainability Photographer of the Year 2019



Emperor Naruhito of Japan at Merton

As Oxford resounded to the annual May Day festivities this year, the Reiwa era began in Japan, marking the accession of Emperor Naruhito (1983) as the 126th Emperor of Japan. For two years, 'Hiro' (as he was known at Merton) studied for an MLitt in History at the College, during the wardenship of Sir Rex Richards, Vice-Chancellor of the University at the time. The focus of the prince's time was writing a thesis later published as *The Thames as Highway: A Study of Navigation and Traffic on the Upper Thames in the Eighteenth Century* (OUP, 1989). During his time at Merton, Hiro embraced all aspects of life as a student at Oxford, which he later recounted in a memoir, *The Thames and I: A Memoir of Two Years at Oxford* (Global Oriental, 1992).

His constant presence at meals in Hall was much remarked upon, but the young prince was only following his mother's advice for life in Oxford: to eat as often as he could in Hall, and to buy a good umbrella. Current students will be glad

that 'Brown Rice Week' has disappeared. For one week each year, all formal meals were replaced simply with brown rice. The difference in cost between this and a normal dinner was then donated to Save the Children. The present model of Charity Formal, often featuring a themed menu and fancy dress, and with a donation added as a surplus to the meal price, is rather less penitential!

Hiro was a friendly sort, although he initially struggled with English, a situation that was not helped by the constant use of Oxford idioms. Attempting rowing in an eight, the prince found out what 'catching a crab' meant. In Japanese, this is known informally as *hara-kiri* ('slicing the stomach'). Linguistic jollity was a regular feature of conversations with the prince, as he learned English phrases and his collocutors tried out some basic Japanese. One Merton couple at the time were highly amused at the similarity between *denka* ('your highness') and *denki* ('electric light').



Prince Naruhito exploring Oxfordshire with Dr Highfield

New experiences peppered the prince's time at Merton. The same Merton couple taught him the meaning of the term 'pub crawl': 'I gathered that it involved going to at least ten pubs and drinking a pint of beer at each.' An ambitious aim! After one abortive attempt at getting into a disco (from which he was refused entry because he was wearing jeans), Hiro tried a second time with more success, dancing until 2 a.m. As he put it, understatedly, 'I was not in the least bored.'

Most of all, Hiro enjoyed time spent with other students, often over coffee in the MCR after lunch. Topics of debate and discussion included the new technology introduced at Wimbledon to help the umpire and the University's refusal of an honorary degree to Margaret Thatcher. Discussion continued until someone declared, 'Right, I must get back to work!' Such a scene is still a regular feature of MCR life. However, what particularly surprised Hiro about these encounters was the rather cursory way in which the coffee mugs were cleaned. On this point, no comment is made about current MCR habits.

A keen musician, Hiro enjoyed listening to the many orchestras and choirs of Oxford, as well as making trips to London. Those who saw this year's production of *Boris Godunov* at Covent Garden are following directly in the prince's footsteps. In 1983, however, Hiro watched Mussorgsky's opera at the invitation of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

The individual who influenced Hiro above all others was Dr Roger Highfield, his college supervisor. Together, Dr Highfield and the prince went on long historical walks, exploring Oxford and – once Hiro had settled on a research project – vast stretches of the Thames and its locks. 'His influence on me has been incalculable. Dr Highfield was in every meaning of the word my "moral tutor" in guiding me through the difficulties, hardships and joys of the pursuit of learning.'

Emperor Naruhito will be enthroned on the Chrysanthemum Throne on 22 October.

Timothy Foot (2011)
MCR President 2016–17



Immigration and Politics

Politics in the 21st century can be considered as a paradoxical tension between global openness and national retrenchment. On the one hand, the world has never been more interconnected. More people, goods and capital are flowing across national borders than ever. The United Nations estimates that the number of immigrants worldwide reached 258 million in 2017, up from 173 million in 2000. In 2016, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers was estimated at 25.9 million. On the other hand, anti-immigrant parties and narratives have experienced an unprecedented upsurge, especially after the 2008 Great Recession and the so-called refugee crisis in the mid-2010s. While societies have become more ethnically diverse, globalisation has increased popular pressure to control borders and manage the anxieties over economic displacement and rapid cultural change.

Fear of immigration has reshaped politics. Long-established party systems in consolidated Western democracies have started to crumble. Support for historical party families has plummeted, and new populist entrepreneurs have made their way to the most influential governmental offices in the world. One of the main reasons, if not the main one, is the internal division within historical electoral constituencies caused by beliefs on immigration. The case of social democratic parties is perhaps the most paradigmatic. The alliance between older working classes fearful of globalisation and younger, more cosmopolitan middle classes, has become untenable in many countries.

Brexit is also a story of division and fragmentation, and not of radicalisation. It is not true that British society has become more anti-immigrant all of a sudden: if anything,

generational replacement points to the opposite conclusion. But the distribution of anti-immigration and anti-EU beliefs is more cross-cutting than ever, splitting constituencies (centre-left versus centre-right) that were traditionally more homogenous. Modern party systems, especially those ruled by first-past-the-post electoral rules like the British one, are not always well suited to handle this level of ideological fragmentation.

This brings us to two key questions that we have been working on at Merton: where is anti-immigrant sentiment coming from, and why has it become so divisive and cross-cutting? There are two main paradigms to answer these questions: the cultural and the economic. Although academic work in specialised political science journals tends to pitch these two paradigms against each other, there is quite a bit of truth in both.

The cultural paradigm has generated more consensus among political scientists. According to this perspective, anti-immigrant sentiment essentially comes from distaste for cultural change and distance. National retrenchment is caused by perceived, psychological, inner fears of rapid transformation in social and cultural norms and reference points. Sociologists and psychologists have proved an association between anti-immigrant sentiment and authoritarian personality traits. Levels of education are the strongest correlate of attitudes towards immigration in large comparative statistical analyses across countries. The association between higher levels of education and liberal values is well established these days, even if the reasons behind the link are more ambiguous.

Although intuitive, the cultural paradigm cannot give a complete picture of the role of anti-immigrant sentiment and politics for two reasons. First, even if higher levels of education are strongly correlated with pro-immigration attitudes, it is unclear why, and how, tolerant values are generated, transmitted and crystallised in universities. Second, cultural norms and values are typically transmitted slowly, via socialisation. This cannot fully explain the recent upsurge of anti-immigrant attitudes and the sudden success of populist radical right parties in the last years.

The economic paradigm is better suited to fill the gaps of cultural explanations, and we have been devoting a lot of attention to it at Merton. Economic threat due to immigration is typically channelled through different labour market structures and different designs of the welfare state. Recent analyses of the labour market show that anti-immigrant sentiment does *not* depend on the number of migrants competing for the same jobs. This means that, contrary to long-standing but wrong expectations in labour economics, British strawberry pickers do not become more anti-immigrant the more Lithuanian strawberry pickers they see in their occupational environment. This finding is already important in questioning the validity of the factor-proportions model in economics, which expects us to react negatively only to an increase in immigrants with our exact level of skill.

Although supply-side shocks do not seem to be behind anti-immigrant sentiment (e.g. increases in Lithuanian strawberry pickers), recent research shows that demand-side fluctuations may be (e.g. the number of decent strawberry picker jobs available). This refers to the concepts of skill transferability and occupational demand. A perceived increase in immigrant competitors will cause ethnic threat depending on how many alternatives native workers have in the labour market, and how easy it is to transfer their skills to a comparable job. Interestingly, skill transferability is not perfectly correlated with income or educational levels. This means that prospective economic risk can, paradoxically, cross-cut the economic continuum. Economically driven anxieties over immigration are not a story between the poor and the rich, and are not dependent on education levels. Perceived economic risk and wariness against potential foreign newcomers into the labour market can affect people

of different occupational statuses and classes. Brexit and other forms of anti-globalisation backlash are a coalition of diverse interests, much more diverse in their background than we initially thought.

The economic paradigm in understanding anti-immigrant attitudes is thus important, but it is complicated. According to some ongoing work on the subject, the role of skill transferability and economic risk is particularly acute in protected labour markets (i.e. in those occupations where workers enjoy significant benefits and job security). This means that we fear immigration when we have more to lose out of competition, and not necessarily when our situation is more precarious. This is an important finding to understand the strange resilience of insecure labour markets and poor performing economies to anti-immigrant politics and radical right parties (southern Europe and Ireland being typical examples). Paradoxically, a waiter in a temporary summer job in the Catalan Costa Brava is less concerned about immigration than a semi-skilled or skilled worker in the automobile industry in a plant in Stuttgart. The marginal cost of competition or unemployment (due to immigration or any other perceived shock) is actually higher for the car worker than for the short-term waiter. Precarious but available job contracts in segmented labour markets like the Spanish one are not particularly desirable, so competition with migrants for them is not particularly acute.

In sum, immigration has reshaped politics in recent years, and our political systems are still learning how to cope with increased levels of ideological fragmentation and ethnic diversity. Cultural anxieties are indisputably important to understand anti-immigrant backlash, but political economists are only starting to understand the forms of economic and ethnic threat inherent to new and global economies. Political science has a long way ahead to grasp why we sometimes feel scared of others, and how to deal with the risks associated with a quickly changing and interconnected world.

Professor Sergi Pardos-Prado
Tutorial Fellow in Politics



Berkeley Day at Merton

The composer Sir Lennox Berkeley (1922) was one of Merton's most distinguished undergraduates of the *Brideshead* generation. Quiet, modest and gentle, he made few ripples on College life in those riotous years, apart from a brief period of glory as cox of the victorious Merton rowing crews of 1923 and '24. His studies were in Old French and Philology, but his overriding passion was for music, and he went on to become one of the foremost British composers of the 20th century.

Both his parents were raised in France, and the whole family was bilingual. On the recommendation of Maurice Ravel, Berkeley moved to Paris after Oxford, to study with the great composition teacher Nadia Boulanger. He emerged six years later as one of the stars of British music, along with Benjamin Britten, with whom he shared a mill in Suffolk in 1938. At the end of the war he married his secretary at the BBC, Freda Bernstein, and they had three sons, the eldest of whom is Michael Berkeley, composer, broadcaster and crossbench peer.

Lennox Berkeley's music is often described as Gallic and elegant, and it rings with the truth of his own personal voice. He wrote some 226 works, for the theatre, the concert hall, church and home. There are four symphonies; concertos for cello, flute, guitar, piano and violin; string quartets; piano pieces; four operas, a ballet, film and incidental music; Mass settings and other sacred music; and songs. In recognition of his contribution to music, Oxford awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1970 and four years later he was knighted. He died in 1989, aged 86.

At the kind invitation of the Director of Music, Benjamin Nicholas, the Lennox Berkeley Society held a study day in the College on 2 March. The tone was set by Petroc Trelawny, President of the Society, who chaired the AGM with energy and charm, and Selina Hastings, biographer of Evelyn Waugh, who gave a brilliantly engaging lecture about Berkeley and his Oxford contemporaries.

Oxford, she told a large audience in the TS Eliot Theatre, was already familiar territory when Berkeley arrived at Merton for the Michaelmas term of 1922. He had been born at Sunningwell in 1903, and brought up in an Arts & Crafts cottage on Boars Hill. When he progressed to the Dragon School his parents bought a fine Regency house on the Woodstock Road.

'Oxford in the early 1920s', Selina Hastings said, 'was still a city of grey and gold. Cattle were driven through the streets to market, and at certain times of day nothing was heard except the sound of church bells. But it was also a city of sports cars and motorbikes, jazz and gramophones, of the *Black Bottom* and *Chili Bom Bom*.'

Frivolity was a way of life. 'Undergraduates played practical jokes, got themselves up in fancy dress, devised nicknames for each other and even had a sort of private language that converted the Bodleian into 'the Bodder' and the Martyrs' Memorial into 'the Maggers' Memogger'.'

Lennox Berkeley had long known that composing was his vocation, and all his time at Oxford was devoted to music. During his first term at Merton, when the organ in the Chapel was undergoing repairs, he used to bicycle over to New College for lessons with William Harris who introduced him to Bach.

With two Merton friends – the handsome Rudolph Messel (1921) and the puckish Billy Clonmore (1921) – Berkeley joined the College dining club, the Myrmidons. From there he was introduced to a wider circle, including a sophisticated set of Christ Church men. Among these was the poet Wystan Auden (1925), who had a piano in his rooms and thumped his way through the Bach preludes for hours at a time, with a cigarette hanging out of the side of his mouth. In his final term, Berkeley set a couple of Auden's poems to music, and performed them at the Oxford University Musical Club in

1926 with a young tenor from Wadham College, Cecil Day Lewis (1923), later Poet Laureate.

In an effort to tempt Berkeley back to his French studies, the Professor of Poetry, HW Garrod (Fellow, 1901-55), introduced him to some 16th-century texts. Berkeley's setting of one of them, *D'un vanneur de blé aux vents*, became his first published work when OUP brought it out as *The Thresher* in 1927.

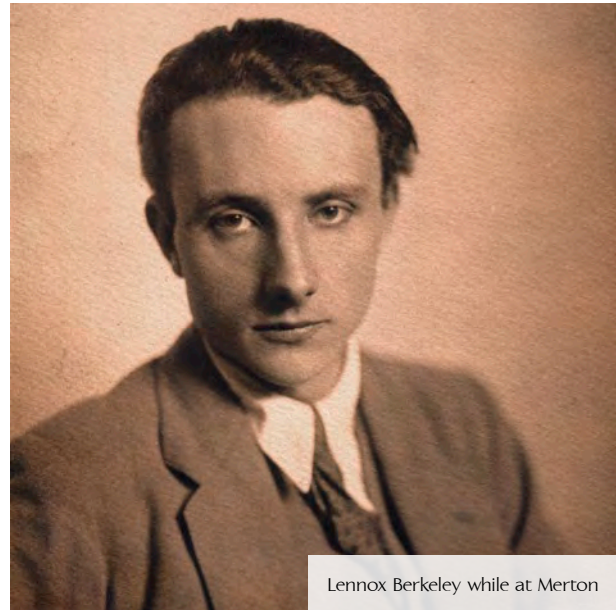
In his second year Berkeley was involved in making a film with a new friend from Hertford College, Evelyn Waugh (1922). *The Scarlet Woman* was an exuberant rag about an attempt by the Dean of Balliol to restore Catholicism by exploiting the bisexuality of the Prince of Wales. Berkeley played his score live on the piano for the film's première by the Oxford University Dramatic Society in 1925.

Selina Hastings noted that Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene (Balliol, 1922), Billy Clonmore and Harold Acton (Christ Church, 1923) were among the many Oxford undergraduates who converted to Catholicism in Berkeley's generation. He himself went over in 1929, remaining staunch to the faith, and to its Latin liturgy, for the rest of his life.

Lennox Berkeley loved his four years at Merton, though he left with a Fourth – an undistinction he shared with Harold Acton. Waugh and Auden got Thirds, John Betjeman (Magdalen, 1925) and Brian Howard (Christ Church, 1923) went down with no degrees at all. But as Stephen Potter (1918), another Mertonian of that period, remarked, 'Degrees were less important than ... Oxford was, after all, a mainly social institution.'

After Selina Hastings' lecture, members of the Society and friends walked through the Fellows' Garden in the spring sunshine, feeling something of the peace and quiet of Lennox's own time there a hundred years earlier.

In the Chapel, Petroc introduced Iain Simcock, formerly organist of Westminster Cathedral, who gave a virtuoso recital on the Dobson organ. He played Bach's double-pedal chorale prelude *Aus tiefer Not* (BWV 686), and Berkeley's dazzling *Three Pieces for Organ*. Ben Nicholas, the College's own organist, then played *Improvisation* by Berkeley's teacher, Nadia Boulanger.



Lennox Berkeley while at Merton

This led straight into Choral Evensong, conducted by the Chaplain, the Revd Dr Canon Simon Jones, who intoned Responses by Matthew Martin. Ben directed the College Choir in Berkeley's Chichester Canticles, his anthem *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, and Stravinsky's settings of the *Ave Maria* and *Pater Noster*. It was a special privilege to hear Berkeley's sacred music in its proper liturgical setting – and sung so wonderfully well. I then gave a short address about Berkeley and the Christian faith he shared with his Paris friends, the Orthodox Stravinsky and the Catholic Poulenc. The service ended with the Senior Organ Scholar, Alex Little (2015), playing the finale of Stravinsky's ballet suite *L'oiseau de feu*.

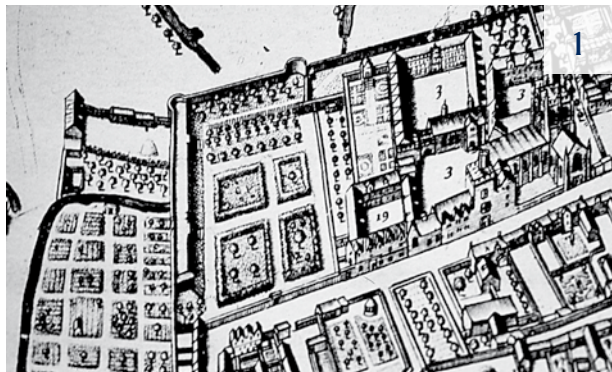
This moving and beautiful service was a fitting climax to an unforgettable day, provided so generously by the Warden, the Chaplain, the Director of Music and the Events Team.

Tony Scotland

The writer and broadcaster Tony Scotland is the author of Lennox & Freda (Michael Russell, 2010) and Flèche: Brief Encounter with Stravinsky (Shelf Lives, 2018; shelflives.org).

Lost, Little Known and Unbuilt Merton (16)

The Garden (3) Autumn



The election of Sir Thomas Clayton as Warden, 1661-93, was to herald many changes in the Garden. For the next two centuries, its architecture was dictated as much by the improvement of the views looking outwards as those looking inwards. In due course, this led to the part-breaching of the City Wall and the substitution of decorative iron balustrades and the elevation of the 'terraces'. In Loggan's print of 1675, the Fellows' Garden consists of several rows of discretely planted trees on the south side and on the north, and four unequal, but well planted, rectangular enclosures (Plate 1). It shows to the west of the garden of St Alban Hall, the Warden's Garden with a carefully designed space, consisting apparently of topiary and parterres surrounded by a palisade and dominated on the south side by a summerhouse, approached by 16 steps.

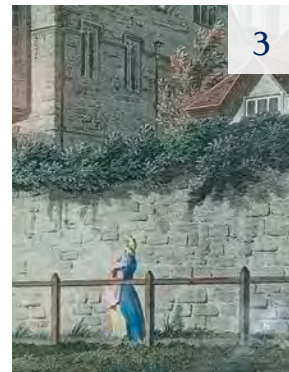
According to Anthony Wood, this was built, at the College's expense, for nearly £100 for the benefit of Lady Clayton, the Warden's wife, 'wherein her ladyship and her gossips may take their pleasure and any eves-dropper of the family may hearken what any of the fellows should accidentally talk of in passage to their owne garden'. Wood's account continues, in disgust – 'new trees (were) planted, arbours made, rootes of chosen flowers bought, etc. All which tho' unnecessary, yet the poore college must pay for them and



all to please a woman.' Further, the old furniture in the Lodgings did not please her and in 1674 the College must buy new, including 'a very large looking-glass, for her to see her ugly face, and body to the middle and perhaps lower...'. This cost £10. Further, the Lodgings were considered too small and the Warden quietly appropriated rooms in the north-east corner of Fellows' Quadrangle.

Lady Clayton's summerhouse survived for almost two centuries. Evident in Loggan (1675) from the north (Plate 2), its appearance, a simple gabled building, is visible from the south, in the *Almanack* of 1798 (Plate 3). In the same year, it was being repaired and 'plastered'. Its steps received attention in 1806. The summerhouse still appears to be present, remotely, in WA Delamotte's engraving of 1843 (Plate 4).

Following the departure of the Claytons, substantial landscaping and planting works were to be carried out in the early years of the 18th century. These have left the Garden, in its main features, as it is today. Between 1706 and 1707 the terrace was raised within the City Wall. At its west end, it is reached by a gracious flight of stone steps. (The Register records, *Item consensus de scala conficienda quae duceret ad solarium seu terram nuper aggestam in Horto*, 'Likewise it was agreed to build a flight of steps to lead to the





4

summerhouse or the new terrace.) The Fellows' summerhouse (*solarium*), constructed on the city wall at the western end of the garden, had evidently been built a little earlier. It was perhaps planned as an antidote to the Warden's summerhouse, which had been erected by Warden Clayton 40 years earlier.

In more recent times, it has been used as a music room (conveniently isolated from other buildings), as the focus of summer parties on the terrace, and as a studio for Visiting Research Fellows in the Creative Arts (Plate 5). Below it, a pump dated 1785, probably a relic of Wyatt's restoration of the Hall, has been rescued from the kitchen cellars, along with the mortar (the pestle is lost), which now serves as a birdbath. Grass was planted below the terrace in 1736 and 1743 and in the centre of the Garden in 1785.

Warden Edmund Martin, 1704-9, the fourth DM to be Warden (after Harvey, Clayton and Lydall), was to be castigated by Thomas Hearne (*ob.*1735), who followed Anthony Wood as a waspish commentator on Oxford affairs. He summarised Martin's tenure as having, 'by a lazy Epicurean life and an utter neglect of all discipline ... very much prejudiced that noble and ancient seminary'. Nonetheless, Martin bequeathed a legacy for 'building a new wall on ye north side of ye College garden reaching from Alban Hall to ye College Summerhouse'. By 1712, only £90 out of £200 of the bequest had been paid to the College. This wall, whose haphazard construction possibly reflects the shortfall in the benefaction, contains some blocked-up features, including a doorway of late medieval date, which doubtless relate to the properties previously on the site.

Seventy College monuments survive in the Chapel. Nonetheless, in the words of Dr Richard Rawlinson, in about 1713, 'It will not be amiss to take notice that Dr Martin, the late Warden of this College was interred here July 7, 1709 and ordered by his last will, no monument, or memorial to be erected for him – a rare exemplar of modesty.'



5a



5b

Alan Bott (1953)
Bodley Fellow

- Plate 1. *Oxonia Illustrata*, David Loggan, 1675, detail.
- Plate 2. Lady Clayton's summerhouse, c.1661, David Loggan, 1675.
- Plate 3. Summerhouse, c.1798, *Almanack*, E Dayes, detail.
- Plate 4. College from the south-west, 1843, WA Delamotte.
- Plate 5. Fellows' summerhouse, built c.1706-7: (a) in summer, (b) in winter.



Afghan Women's Orchestra Oxford Residency

I remember the feelings of awe and privilege when I arrived at Merton in October 2011 to begin a Master's in Music. For the first two weeks at least – maybe even longer – I remember waking up each morning in my room in the Holywell Quad buzzing with excitement to begin each day. I threw myself into College life, serving as a Welfare Officer in the MCR, rowing in W2 (I was in the novice crew that managed to capsize an eight at the Christ Church Regatta), attending Chapel and Evensong on a regular basis and serving as the President of the Music Society. Merton and the University unfolded as a place of possibility, and through the Master Grant Scheme and the Brettschneider Fund associated with Merton College, I was able to build multiple interdisciplinary projects with my colleagues. This embedded in me a practice of collaborative project-making that has persisted through my doctorate (St Catherine's College, Oxford, 2017) to my current dual roles as the Associate Conductor of the Orchestra of St John's (OSJ) and as a postdoctoral Fellow on the AHRC-funded Transforming 19th-century Historically Informed Practice research project (Faculty of Music, University of Oxford).

I first became aware of Ensemble Zohra, Afghanistan's first and only all-girls' orchestra, in autumn 2017, through a news article about the orchestra's young conductor, Negin Khpalwak. I felt immediate sympathies with Negin and her relative isolation, as my own youth was spent working to become an orchestra conductor while living in the middle of Alaska. In order to obtain a musical education Negin had

to move from her traditional Pashtun community in rural Afghanistan to an orphanage in Kabul when her uncle threatened to kill her if she pursued her musical ambitions.

Let's not pretend for an instant that growing up in central Alaska and living in an orphanage in Afghanistan are the same thing. What they do have in common, however, is a remoteness from the rich orchestral landscape that is taken for granted in the UK and throughout much of Europe. Throughout the rocky and unpredictable journey that is any conducting career, there is no replacement for the multitude of experiences and knowledge gained by having access to such a wide range of orchestral practices and musicians. I was instantly inspired by Negin's story and began to lobby my orchestra to bring her to the UK for a two-week professional development programme. Very quickly the conversation turned towards bringing the entire group here and thus began a life-changing journey which took me to Afghanistan and brought 23 young Afghan musicians to Oxford for an extraordinary week of music, learning and laughter.

Ensemble Zohra is a youth orchestra at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) in Kabul. ANIM is no ordinary music school, as I found when I went to visit last summer. It is a radical place where young Afghan women and young Afghan men study and make music *together* – where girls are on equal footing with their male peers in all things. Students from as young as eight through their early twenties study the national curriculum in addition to courses

in music theory, music history and musical performance. But this means that the school is not universally celebrated in Afghanistan, where there continue to be stark and violent cultural divisions within the country. The girls fight these battles on an individual level in communities and families, and in 2014 one of the school's concerts was attacked by a suicide bomber claimed by the Taliban, killing a member of the audience and severely injuring the school's founder and director, Dr Ahmad Sarmast. Nevertheless, the students, many of whom come from the streets and orphanages, continue to go to school and find joy and hope in making music.

In Afghanistan, young women making music is a bold political act. To be seen, to be heard – particularly through musical expression – is radical for women living in Afghanistan today. Through their courage, the members of Ensemble Zohra are pushing back 40 years of repression and inspiring a whole new generation of young men and women. Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the rise of the Taliban, a rich musical culture was silenced for decades with women's access to musical participation completely forbidden. Despite the political and security changes after 2001, there are still large portions of the Afghan population that do not approve of music-making, especially for women and even more particularly in mixed groups of men and women.

Becoming a musician in Afghanistan is not straightforward – especially if you are female. There are no orchestras to audition for or regular chamber music series in concert halls, nor are there acres of budding pianists whose parents will bring them to your studio for weekly lessons. Public performances are risky. A life in music for these young people will require an incredible amount of innovation, creativity, risk-taking and perseverance. They will become cultural leaders in the process. Their experiences in the UK and especially their time at Oxford was an important milestone in this development.

With the help of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Somerville College and Janet Royall, Baroness Royall of Blaisdon (Principal of Somerville College), Councillor Peymana Assad and Harrow Council, the Faculty of Music and the Afghan Embassy, along with multiple trusts, foundations and individual donors, OSJ was able to bring the entire orchestra to Oxford for a full-week residency.

The orchestra is made up of both traditional Afghan and western classical instruments, combining to make a uniquely Afghan orchestra. During their visit, the girls, aged 12-18, lived at Somerville College, and played side-by-side with OSJ's professional musicians, Oxford music students and students from the County Music Service throughout. On the first day of their residency, after a walking tour of the city (including the all-essential tour of Merton College), the traditional Afghan portion of the ensemble performed in the Holywell Music Room to multiple standing ovations. Despite its 270-year history, this all-female Afghan ensemble must have been a first, even for one of the oldest concert houses in Europe.

The following day, the full orchestra played for hundreds of children who came from different parts of Oxfordshire for a series of schools' concerts. Later in the week the Afghan Embassy hosted a concert at the British Museum, and Harrow Council hosted a concert at the Harrow Arts Centre. On Saturday morning, Ensemble Zohra made a visit to the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra where they joined forces to rehearse together and share their musical heritage. On the final day, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office hosted the orchestra at Lancaster House for a special invitation-only concert in the Long Gallery, but the real apex of the visit was a gala concert in the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford on Sunday evening. With a full house and an 80-member all-ages chorus assembled from Oxford community members and University alumni singing a choral orchestral work especially written for Zohra for International Women's Day, the energy in the historic building was truly celebratory.

Although their time here was brief, I maintain my close connection with the school by teaching the conducting students weekly distance lessons over Skype. I now train three young female conductors alongside their male peers. I hold hope that the contact provides them with a lifeline to a world that celebrates their achievements, and supports and encourages them so that they can continue to assert their musical rights and grow to be leaders in their communities and beyond.

Dr Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey (2011)

Book Reviews





Familiar Stranger: A Life Between Two Islands

Stuart Hall (1951), with Bill Schwarz
(Penguin Books, 2017)

Familiar Stranger: A Life Between Two Islands is 'not a memoir in any formal sense,' but rather 'an experiment in drawing out' the 'connections between the "life" and "ideas"' of Stuart Hall, the enormously influential intellectual whose incisive commentary is sorely missed by many of us living in Britain's uncertain present. I hope he would have forgiven me for describing him as such: for Hall, the term 'intellectual' suggests 'too much posturing,' and he explains that although it 'doesn't seem exalted enough for most people,' he prefers to think of himself 'as a teacher'.

Across nine essays, this characteristically untraditional memoir gives an account of Hall's existence between entangled colonial and post-colonial worlds, centring on his 1951 journey from colony to metropole: from Kingston, Jamaica to a post-war Britain rife with racism. It gives insight into his life prior to his Directorship of the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (and later Professorship of Sociology at the Open University). Narrating these first 32 years, before he became known as the godfather of multiculturalism, *Familiar Stranger* maps the early development of Hall's groundbreaking ideas on cultural theory, through various challenges including stints of generally rather inadequate formal education, and through key partnerships, alliances and periods of feverish political engagement.

Born in 1932 to a socially ambitious family with a 'fantasy relationship to colonial dependency,' Hall was educated alongside future political and literary giants at elite boys'

school Jamaica College. In the midst of challenges to colonial rule, Hall details his alienation, from an early age, from the stifling respectability of the Jamaican middle class, the product of 'a social system ... inflected by the full force of white bias'. He arrived in England in 1951, three years after the *Empire Windrush*, as a 19-year-old Rhodes scholar – a recipient of funding from the Jamaican government to read English Literature at Merton, 'a seductively beautiful place' of 'medieval seriousness, solidity and gloom'. Of his first meal in College, he remembers thinking that his 'survival chances did not look good!'

Upon completing his undergraduate degree, Hall embarked on and then abandoned a graduate thesis on Henry James, and left in a College basement the trunk in which he had brought all his belongings. 'I sometimes wonder what became of it,' he writes. 'For all I know it's still there.' He did some work for BBC's *Caribbean Voices*, crossed paths with VS Naipaul, and forged friendships with American students, also outsiders at Merton, and others from the Caribbean including George Lamming and working migrants with whom he played jazz piano.

Describing his 'rebirth' as 'a diasporic subject' caught between 'colonial formation' and 'anti-colonial sentiments', Hall names the University of Oxford as a key location in which those arriving from places where 'colonization had done its divide-and-rule work ... came to understand that they were seen by the British as all having the same racial/ethnic identity'.

Ultimately, the 'diasporic perspective' provided an 'opportunity to change not the answers but the questions'. Becoming 'seriously committed to critical ideas' and more actively involved in British politics was, for Hall, 'the start of a lifelong intellectual disengagement from Oxford and all it stood for'.

In a transforming social landscape, between 1956 and 1964, 'normal life' was suspended by 'political activity'. Hall gives brief and exciting sketches of early meetings and collaborations with key figures such as Raymond Williams and EP Thompson, his involvement in the founding of the New Left political movement, the *Universities and Left Review* and the *New Left Review*, and his work with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. It was at a CND march in 1962 that he met Catherine Hall, then Catherine Barrett, before she embarked on her own ground-breaking academic career. He pays tribute to her influence on his own thinking, and explains that 'even when we are not actually speaking, I am in perpetual conversation with her and have been for years'.

Familiar Stranger ends in 1964, with Stuart and Catherine Hall on the eve of their move to Birmingham, where each would take up university posts. Describing some of the racist abuse they would be targeted with there, as a newly married couple, Hall draws a parallel with the experiences of his daughter some 20 years later. Reading his memoir, 55 years after he moved to Birmingham, Hall's desire to 'change British society, not adopt it' continues to be felt. And, happily, his

enormous body of writing is still being collected and published, partly in the form of a series from Duke University Press that includes *Selected Political Writings*, which covers a five-decade period beginning in the year *Familiar Stranger* ends.

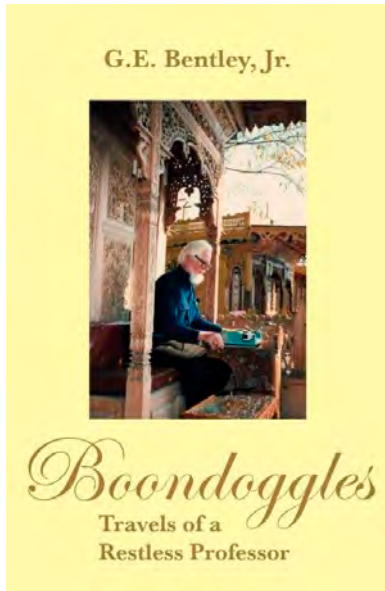
It seems apt that *Familiar Stranger*, published three years after Hall's passing, is the product of collaboration with long-term interlocutor and friend Bill Schwarz. Hall's lifelong commitment to working and writing in partnership is just one aspect of the inspiring model he offers for doing important thinking generously. In that spirit, the text makes frequent direct and indirect reference to some of the scholars and writers who have informed Hall's thinking, and a list of works cited (including some of Hall's own) is helpfully included in the appendices. It seems characteristically generous, also, that Hall and Schwarz worked intermittently over a period of two decades to create the material Schwarz has carefully edited into this final volume, which is incredibly rich. Exemplifying Hall's concern with the relationship between the individual and the collective, it discusses the formation of his 'life' and 'ideas' as part of broad patterns of historical change: 'the social processes of history'. It is at once academic and personal; it is often funny and deeply moving.

At a time when his insistence that Britain had never come to terms with colonialism and its legacies is further evidenced daily, we might consider this self-described teacher's memoir as a lesson of sorts. Our struggles to live in

an increasingly divided Britain should be guided by *Familiar Stranger*, a product of Hall's long-standing dedication to carefully grappling with the nature of belonging – 'the chaos of identifications which we assemble in order to navigate the social world' – and with his own personal relation to the still-painful entanglement of race, ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic class.

Ruth Ramsden-Karelse (2017)

Stuart Hall Doctoral Scholar



Boondoggles: Travels of a Restless Professor

Professor Gerald 'Jerry' Eades Bentley (1952)
(Victoria, Friesen Press, 2018)

Professor Gerald Eades Bentley Jr was born on 23 August 1930 and died on 31 August 2017 in Toronto where he had taught at the university from 1960 to 1996. His father, known as 'Ged', an eminent Shakespearian scholar and Professor of English at Kingston University, bought the house at Dutch Boys Landing on Lake Michigan that has been the family home ever since. Jerry studied at Princeton but, following his father's love of England, did most of his postgraduate work at Merton College, staying in a number of picturesque cottages in the neighbourhood.

'In our family, "Boondoggle" means being paid to do something you want to do anyway ... But there was a superlative of boondoggle, which meant going to interesting places *en famille* under the guise of serious academic work at someone else's expense.' This book is the story of such travels, lasting up to two years each, starting in North America, continuing in Europe, and finally extending to the more exotic realms of Algeria, India and China; there were shorter boondoggles to other countries in Europe, the Far East and Australia. To conclude there is a fascinating account of Jerry's encounters with the world of Blake scholarship and his particular approach to the subject.

Bentley's specialisation and expertise lay in documentation. He edited a complete listing of any mention of Blake during his lifetime and, in the crucial years following, a full-length biography and a scholarly edition of Blake's writings. Lesser works included

a study of the economics of Blake's production of his illuminated books and other works and innumerable articles of which at least ten remained to be published at his death. This volume has been edited by his daughters Julia and Sarah from letters to his family and friends.

Although I had always envied Jerry's ability to secure sabbaticals, the stereotyped picture of a scholarly academic abroad was very far from that shown in *Boondoggles*. Whereas my secretary and I always enjoyed the romance of replying to letters from La Cité des Asphodèles, his address was, in fact, an apartment in a high-rise building in a walled complex in the suburbs of Algiers. Jerry arrived, with wife and two young daughters, in August 1967 during the repercussions of the Six Day War to a town full of military checkpoints. Teaching was interrupted by strikes by pupils and staff and there were three minor revolutions or attempted coups while they were there.

This seems to have set a pattern for many adventurous journeys made by public transport at the cheapest possible rate, the fare for a professor being the equivalent of the cheapest rate for the whole family. On one of such trips, for instance, they encountered riots against black immigrants in the provincial Chinese city of Nanjing. They made long-lasting friendships in all the main countries they visited, from Algeria through India to China. At the same time their children spent much of their growing up and education at local schools,

giving them a secure foundation in French and, in one case, Mandarin.

Boondoggling was not only an amazing series of adventures but also the story of a great marriage. Jerry married Beth when they were both 22 years old, and it was an ideal relationship. An academic herself, Beth supported the cost of these trips by teaching a range of subjects around the world. She became a master of the intricacies of local shopping and they were equally at home in the 'wrong' end of Poona (they could never quite understand why the English heirs of the Raj always fell about laughing when they said they were living there) as in the more touristy centres of Kashmir. Jerry managed to do much of his work on these boondoggles, a photograph on the cover showing him at his typewriter; on one occasion having to rescue his index cards that had blown into a lake.

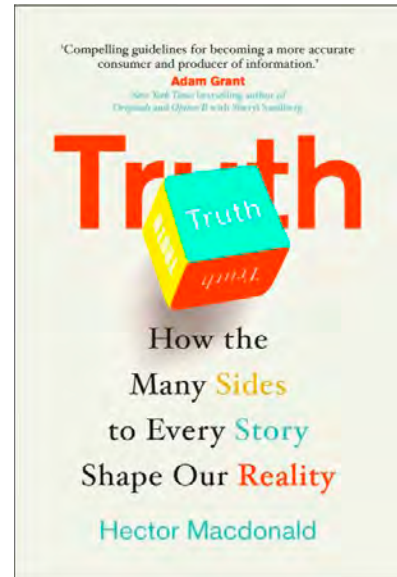
Somehow they managed to survive with, save for France, all but the most basic knowledge of the local language, though Beth and the daughters occasionally had to ease Jerry out of situations where his natural resistance to bureaucracy led to untactful if not dangerous reactions. In Japan however, where, rare outside Anglo-Saxon nations, there has always been a great interest in William Blake, he learned enough to discover to his delight that the Japanese characters for the name Blake also mean 'floating soul poems'.

This book can be picked up at almost any point to discover new adventures or fascinating observations of local

life. The style is easy, with a sprinkling of atrocious puns and plays on words.

An essential adjunct of this book is the obituary by Jerry's assistant at the University of Toronto, Karen Mulhallen, which opens the fall 2017 number (vol.51, no.2) of *Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly*. A tribute to the affection felt for him by other Blake scholars and scholars in that field, also edited by Karen Mulhallen, is *Blake in Our Time: Essays in Honour of G.E. Bentley Jr.*, published by the University of Toronto in 2010, at the time of the exhibition of the collection of works by Blake and Blake material given by Jerry to the university. Mulhallen's introduction gives an idea of the importance of Jerry's work to the study of William Blake.

Dr Martin Butlin FBA
Art Historian, The British Academy



Truth: How the Many Sides to Every Story Shape Our Reality

Hector Macdonald (1992)
(Bantam Press, 2018)

Hector Macdonald is a *business storyteller*. He helps businesses, charities and others craft stories about their organisation, their goals and purposes. These stories are meant to inspire customers, focus employees and impress investors. At its core, this book is about these stories, and how we should tell them. As the title suggests, Macdonald is not interested in lies but truth, and its capacity to mislead. The problem, he tells us, is that when constructing stories, we must build them with ‘competing truths’. These competing truths give us a great deal of communicative latitude; depending on the truths we select, it’s possible to tell quite different stories.

Here’s an example of what Macdonald has in mind. Suppose your secret crush asks whether your friend would make for a good date. Jealous, you tell your crush that your friend is very punctual and has good table manners (both true) and neglect to mention that they are a great conversationalist and by all accounts excellent company. Your crush concludes that your friend would make a bad date, and pursues things no further.

Everything in your story was true but it was ultimately misleading. Macdonald does not really spend any time explaining how ‘competing truths’ can be used to accomplish tricks like the above. But as linguists will be well aware, there are stories he could have told. Suppose, for example, that there are conversational rules, grasped more or less implicitly by all competent speakers. Here’s one,

known (following HP Grice) as the *maxim of quality*: only say what you think is true. Here’s another, known as the *maxim of relevance*: provide relevant information.

This latter maxim explains why your crush concludes that your friend will be a bad date. Assuming you’re a competent speaker, your crush judges that you abide by the maxim of relevance, and therefore that there are no other relevant things you could have mentioned. In particular, since you didn’t tell your crush that your friend was good company, and since you’d know whether or not your friend was good company, your friend must be bad company (and a bad pick for a date). Of course, you didn’t say that your friend was bad company. But by not saying it, and by your assumed compliance with the conversational maxims described above, your crush ends up with a completely misleading impression.

Story-telling, then, can be used for good (fixing the new direction of your business) or for ill (obscuring facts for nefarious political gain; thwarting would-be love rivals). Macdonald spends most of the book discussing ways in which we can construct powerful, useful and accurate stories, whether it’s drawing on emotive historical precedent or making careful use of statistics.

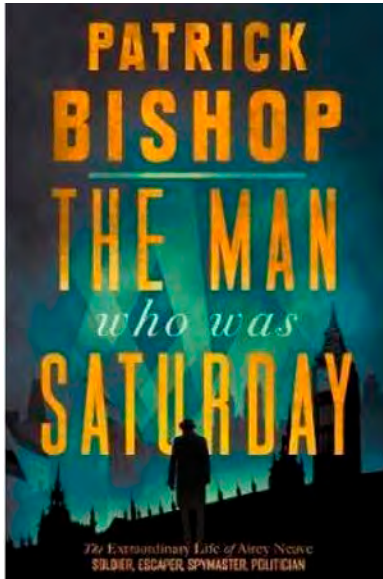
This book is undoubtedly for those in business, and the attendant business-speak can often feel jarring. Nonetheless, the case studies Macdonald describes – the stories he’s actually helped to construct

– are extremely interesting and, if anything, it would have been good to see more. For instance, Macdonald relays his work with Kew Gardens, and how he helped rebrand it in the eyes of civil servants and MPs. By persuading them it was not just a heritage garden for family days out, but a world-leading research centre with unrivalled expertise in the study and conservation of plants, they were able to secure much-needed public money during the (continuing) dark days of austerity.

Macdonald mostly resists the temptation to attach much significance to slogans like ‘fake news’ or ‘alternative facts’. This sets *Truth* apart from virtually every other book in the post-Brexit, post-Trump cottage industry, where lies and deceit are treated like some new and wholly unfamiliar evil. Macdonald’s book makes it quite clear that political misdirection is nothing new; 20th- and early-21st-century examples of misleading stories are used throughout.

Macdonald is explicit that the book is ‘not a work of philosophy’ and the volume is at its most interesting when it discusses politicians, businesses and the like telling and twisting stories to suit one end or another. However, in my view, its discussion of the mechanics of these stories – what competing truths are, and how they work – is less good. For those interested in the former, I might recommend it. For those interested in the latter, probably not.

Matt Hewson (2018)



The Man who was Saturday: The Extraordinary Life of Airey Neave

Patrick Bishop (Corpus Christi, 1971)
(William Collins, 2019)

During the Second World War many Mertonians distinguished themselves; among their number three were awarded the Victoria Cross. Airey Neave (1934) was celebrated for escaping from the high-security prison fortress of Colditz. Neave, a cousin of Geoffrey Mure (1911; later Fellow and Warden), arrived at Merton from Eton in 1934. A hard-working schoolboy, he led a wild life in College with much drinking and dining. He was gated for four weeks for throwing empty bottles from the Chapel tower.

Leaving Oxford with a third in Jurisprudence, Neave began pupillage in Farrar's Building in the Temple. Having spent part of 1933 in Germany he believed war inevitable and joined the Territorial Army. Sent to France in 1940 he was wounded at the siege of Calais and taken prisoner. This was a critical point in his life. He considered his behaviour at Calais shameful and determined to make amends by escaping. His first attempt was from a camp near the Polish border but he was captured and tortured by the Gestapo, then sent to Colditz where he at once planned a further escape. Unconvinced by tunnelling, Neave favoured deception; he and a Dutchman, Abraham Luteyn, left the castle disguised as German officers but on emerging from the castle discarded their uniforms and changed into itinerant workers. Neave was awarded the Military Cross.

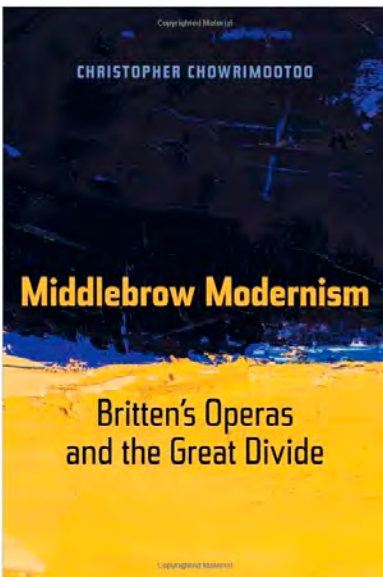
In England, loneliness was rectified by a supremely happy marriage to Diana. He was assigned to the secret intelligence agency MI9 and given the code name Saturday. He organised the

escape of Allied airmen shot down over France and Germany. Among some tragic disappointments, he was largely successful in his endeavours, eventually being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and awarded the DSO. He then played a major role in preparing the trial of the Nazi war criminals at Nuremburg.

Neave was determined to enter Parliament and was elected as Conservative MP for Abingdon. He took a hard line on the IRA and was in favour of capital punishment. Disillusioned with Heath's leadership of the Conservative Party he organised a successful leadership campaign for Margaret Thatcher. She offered him the Cabinet post of his choosing should the Conservatives win the election; he asked for the Northern Ireland Office. Alas, on 30 March 1979 he was assassinated when leaving the House of Commons in his car. The perpetrators of this crime have never been discovered.

Patrick Bishop has written a vivid description of his life aided by Neave's own publications and diaries. Neave himself was inscrutable, 'a mask for someone racked by insecurities, doubt and depression. He was detached and unknowable.' His views were not always popular. It seems that his relationship with his father was difficult. However, he did enjoy a happy marriage and his wife was a great support to him. This is an enthralling account of a life lived during those difficult times of war and fragile peace.

Dr Michael Dunnill
Emeritus Fellow



Middlebrow Modernism: Britten's Operas and the Great Divide

Christopher Chowrimootoo (2003)
(University of California Press, 2018)

Christopher Chowrimootoo's first book is a broad and insightful study on the concept of the middlebrow as it applies to critical reception of Benjamin Britten's operatic works. After conceptualising the middlebrow as a 20th-century response to the void between popular and elite cultural markets, Chowrimootoo posits that the middlebrow unifies other cultural poles: between tonal and atonal, sensational and ascetic, and so on.

This conception of musical modernism is borne out in his analysis of the critical discourse around six of Britten's stage works, spanning the course of his career: *Paul Bunyan*, *Peter Grimes*, *Albert Herring*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Death in Venice* and *The Burning Fiery Furnace*. Each case study analyses not only the critical reception to each work's premiere, but also the musicological reception in the following decades. Chowrimootoo identifies Britten's sensibility to audience demands as the prime mover in his reception as a middlebrow composer, but also notes how Britten selectively applied modernist compositional techniques to seemingly old-fashioned music.

After examining the uneasy reception of *Paul Bunyan*, Chowrimootoo structures his discussion of the other five works as a meeting point between two opposite poles bridged by the middlebrow: realism versus sentimentalism in *Peter Grimes*, innovation versus tradition in *Albert Herring*, psychology versus superstition in *The Turn of the Screw*, intellectualism versus emotionalism

in *Death in Venice*, asceticism versus aestheticism in *The Burning Fiery Furnace*. In this way he shows how critics selected elements from either end to shape a particular vision of the composer – particularly, to de-emphasise popular or middlebrow elements in order to shore up Britten's reputation as a serious composer.

Crucially, Chowrimootoo draws attention to tendency of scholars and critics in Britten's period and ours to canonise their chosen subjects. In fact, this monograph could be read as a study not of Britten but of his critics and musicologists, as its greatest strength lies in questioning their continued support of narratives that seek to 'exceptionalise' art and artists. As such, it provides a valuable contribution for further studies examining other composers who balanced modernist ideals with public interest, such as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Sergei Prokofiev.

Chowrimootoo's work in this monograph is both an excellent addition to Britten studies and a provocative model for further research into musical modernism and particularly 20th-century opera.

Margaret Frainier (2017)



Sextus Propertius: Poems

Edited and translated by Patrick
Worsnip (1966)
(Carcanet Classics, 2018)

When you first sit down with a fresh translation of poems you know well, the temptation is to turn to old friends, those lines that have enthused you in the past or were perhaps just easier to translate in the run-up to finals. That's certainly how I started with Patrick Worsnip's courageous new translation of this great Roman poet of the first century BC.

In poem I.3, the poet returns from a night's carousing (and from the arms of a girl who is not his girlfriend, Cynthia). He sees his lover asleep and compares her to mythological girls: Ariadne, abandoned by Theseus; Andromeda, sleeping after being rescued from sacrifice; a Thracian maenad, 'danced out' and lying alone, 'tumbled on the grass', vulnerable. A simple enough sentiment, you might think. Yet Worsnip's close attention to the Latin has enriched his translation immensely. Andromeda does not passively 'recline', as one might translate Propertius's *accubuit* (used for reclining at a feast); she 'gorges' on sleep. Ariadne is 'comatose' (*languida*). We are left to imagine the state of the maenad, a follower of the hedonistic Dionysus. Excess is the order of the day. So too for Cynthia? No. Although the poet has overtly compared his girlfriend to these mythical counterparts, she is merely resting her head 'on outstretched fingers and breathing quietly'. It is the poet who is in a state of excess, 'the worse for drink'. As he writes about his girl, she begins to take on some of his own drunken characteristics.

Perhaps the most apparent aspect of this volume, then, is that Worsnip

has *fun* in translation. In poem II.1, he freely 'translates' *laus in amore mori* as '*dulce et decorum est in amore mori*', a Latin tag (famously lifted from Horace by Wilfrid Owen) that would have had quite a different resonance for Propertius's Roman audience than it does for Worsnip's modern readers.

Yet translation is a funny beast. The poet is shackled somewhat to his source. That restraint, and residual memories of more quaint translations, can on occasion lead to some inconsistency in register. This volume is no exception. For example, in poem II.29b, Cynthia catches the poet spying on her in the early morning, checking that she is not sleeping with another man. '*Quid tu matutinus*,' she says, or (as Worsnip translates), 'You're up betimes.' That decidedly archaic word, 'betimes', jars considerably with Cynthia's otherwise colloquial and sharp tongue ('I'm no pushover', 'Inspect me – yes, all over').

That said, those moments are very few and far between in this excellent volume. It is the first full translation of Propertius to be based on Heyworth's edition (Oxford Classical Texts, 2007), and Worsnip has discussed aspects of the text with Heyworth and other academics. This is a translation firmly rooted in a willingness to engage with the Latin, but it is by no means a word-for-word transposition from one to the other. In fact, although it was highly enjoyable to read alongside the Latin, these poems stand on their own merits. Furthermore, for newcomers to the Classical world, there are ample notes in the

back of the volume that illuminate mythological references and other points clearly and without fuss.

Near the start of the third book of poems, Propertius (in Worsnip's hands) proclaims, 'What the envious crowd takes away from me in life / fame will repay twice over after I die.' Worsnip's volume contributes to that magnification of renown in a most enjoyable way. He captures the multiple voices of the poet in poem III.1, as it shifts from boastful ('fame will raise me from the ground') to something more ambiguous ('Give your poet soft wreaths, daughters of Pegasus: / a crown will sit too hard upon my brow'). Is this further arrogance, self-irony, plain humour, or some conglomeration of all three?

Propertius is hard to 'pin down', to characterise in any simplistic fashion. He plays with his audience, pointing to his own shifting tone in the famous description of a statue of Vertumnus (poem IV.2): 'I have the gift of assuming any figure,' says the god, 'whatever you turn me into, / I'll look good.' Worsnip's rendering of Propertius certainly does look, and sound, good. Yet it is far from just being any old translation. The easy changes of Vertumnus belong to the divine sphere. Here in the mortal world, it has clearly taken Worsnip a great deal of effort and careful work to write a volume of poetry so joyfully composed and so intellectually stimulating. Don't sit down with this book if you want to be bored.

Timothy Foot (2011)



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Anthony Ashmore, MA, MPhys, PhD *Junior Research Fellow in Physics*

Duncan James Barker, MA, (PhD Durh) *Development Director*

Evert van Emde Boas, MSt, DPhil, (BA, MA Amsterdam), *Leventis Research Fellow in Ancient Greek*

Hatice Yildiz, DPhil (BA Yildiz, MA Koc) *Junior Research Fellow in History*

Carlas Sierd Smith, (BSc, MSc Delft; PhD Massachusetts) *Junior Research Fellow in Biology/ Engineering*

Joshua Allan Firth, DPhil, (BSc Sheff) *Junior Research Fellow in Zoology*

Matthew Thomson, BA, MSt, DPhil *Fitzjames Research Fellow in Music*

Madhavi Krishnan, (BTech Madras; MS, PhD Michigan) *Associate Professor in Physical & Theoretical Chemistry, Tutor in Chemistry*

Helen Small, MA, (BA Hons Wellington; PhD Camb) *Merton Professor of English Language & Literature*

Alice Brooke, MSt, DPhil, (BA Camb) *Associate Professor in Spanish Golden Age Literature & Tutor in Spanish*

Elizabeth Stubbins Bates, BA, (LLM Harvard) *Junior Research Fellow in Law*

Lisandra Costiner, MSt, (BA Harvard) *Junior Research Fellow in the History of Art*

David Lukas Benjamin Brantner, (BA (Hons) Camb; PhD Harvard) *Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics*

Sebastian Alonso Vásquez-López, MSc, (BSc (Hons) Newcastle) *Junior Research Fellow in Neuroscience*

Daniel Sawyer, MSt, DPhil, (BA Lond) *Fitzjames Research Fellow in Medieval English Literature*

Elias Nosrati, (BSc Bath; MPhil Camb) *Peter J Braam Junior Research Fellow in Global Wellbeing*

The following Fellow retired

Gail Fine, MA, (BA Michigan; MA, PhD Harvard) *Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy*

The following Fellow resigned

Mark Williams, MA, MPhil, DPhil *Fitzjames Research Fellow in Medieval English Literature*

Emeritus Fellows

Courtenay Stanley Goss Phillips, MA, DSc

Robert Basil Champneys Hodgson, MA

Michael Simpson Dunnill, MA, (MD Bris), FRCP, FRCPATH

John Randolph Lucas, MA, FBA

David Charles Witt, MA

Christopher John Hamilton Watson, MA, DPhil

John Carey, MA, DPhil, FBA, FRSL

Sir Robert McCredie May, Lord May of Oxford, OM, AC, MA, (BSc, PhD Sydney), FRS

The Revd Mark Everitt, MA

Sir Gyorgy Karoly Radda, CBE, MA, DPhil, FRS

Dame Olwen Hufton, DBE, MA, (BA, MA Harvard; PhD Lond), DLitt, FRHistS, FBA

David Bostock, BPhil, MA

Nicholas James Richardson, BPhil, MA, DPhil, FSA

John James Coulton, MA, (MA, PhD Camb)

James Anthony Dominic Welsh, MA, DPhil

Michael George Bowler, MA, (BSc, PhD Bris)

Henry Shue, (AB Davidson College; MA, PhD Princeton)

Vijay Ramchandra Joshi, MA

Philip John Waller, MA

Paul Francis John Chamberlain, MA, (BA, MD Dublin), FRCS(C), FACOG

Guy Manning Goodwin, BM, BCh, MA, DPhil, FRCPsych, FMedSci

David Gordon Ellis Norbrook, MA, DPhil, (MA Aberd)

Simon Wren-Lewis, (MA Camb; MSc Lond)

Robert Nigel Gildea, MA, DPhil, FRHistS, FBA

Boris Zilber, MA, (MSc, CandSc Novosibirsk; DSc Leningrad)

Douglas John Bamber, MA, MIH

Jane Christine Holmes Taylor, MA, (BA Hons Bris)

James Jeffrey Binney, MA, DPhil, (MA Camb), FRS

Timothy Softley, MA, (PhD S'ton), FRS

Honorary Fellows

Sir John Boardman, MA, (MA Camb), FBA, Hon RA, FSA

Sir Christopher John Ball, MA, Hon DLitt, (CNA)

Lord Wright of Richmond, Patrick Richard Henry Wright, GCMG, MA

HM the Emperor Naruhito of Japan, Hon DCL

Sir Alec John Jeffreys, MA, DPhil, (DUniv Open), FRC Path, FLS, FRS

Vassos Karageorghis, DLitt (PhD Lond) FSA, FBA

The Rt Hon Sir Jack Beatson, DCL, (LLD Camb), FBA

Richard Charles Levin, LittB, Hon DCL (BA Stanford; PhD Yale)

William Peter Cooke, CBE, MA

Laszlo Istvan Heltay, MLitt, (MA Budapest)

David Robert Holmes, BA Hons, MA, Hon DCL

Robert Owen Paxton, MA, (PhD Harvard)

Sir Howard Stringer, MA

David Francis Kerr Finlay, OBE, CFA, CMG

Jonathan Alan Hodgkin, MA, (MA, PhD Camb), FRS

The Rt Hon Sir Brian Henry Leveson, MA, (LLD Liv)

Sir Howard John Davies, MA, (MS Stanford)

Sir Charles Antony Richard Hoare, MA, FRS

Sir Anthony James Leggett, MA, DPhil, FRS

Sir Richard Hughes Trainor, MA, DPhil, FRHistS

The Rt Revd Nicholas Thomas Wright, MA, DPhil, DD

Sir Robert Andrew, MA, FRSA

Sir Jeremy Isaacs, MA, FRSA

Sir Ian Kershaw, DPhil, Hon DLitt, FRHistS, FBA

Martin Peter Read, CBE, DPhil

Mark John Thompson, BA, FRTS, FRSA

Adam John Hart-Davis, BA, (DPhil York), FRSA

James Wyndham John Hughes-Hallett, BA, FCA

Sir Callum McCarthy, BA, (PhD Stir; MS Stanford)

Guy Howard Weston, BA

Peter Warry, MA, (LLB Lond; PhD Rdg), FEng, FSA

Martha Piper, (BSc Michigan; MA Connecticut; PhD McGill), DSc (Hons), LLD (Hons)

Timothy Dewe Phillips, CBE, MA, (AMP Harvard)

Christopher Martin Dobson, MA, DPhil, ScD, Hon DSc, FRS, FRSC, FMedSci

Julian Blackwell

Anastasios Leventis, CBE, OFR

Dame Jessica Mary Rawson, DBE, MA, DLitt, (MA, LittD, Camb), FBA

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, QPM

Lyndal Roper, (PhD Lond), FBA

Dana Scott, (PhD Princeton), FBA

Lord Williams of Oystermouth, PC, FBA, FRSL, FLSW

Erich Gruen, (BA Columbia; PhD Harvard)

The Rt Hon Dame Philippa Whipple, MA, DBE

Sir Gerry Grimstone, MA, MSc

Martin Ney, MA

Lady Hollick, OBE

Sir Martin Taylor, MA, (PhD Lond), FRS

Bodley Fellows

Richard Bellerby Allan, MA, FCA

Alan John Bott, OBE, MA, FSA

Prosser Gifford, MA (BA, PhD Yale; LLB Harvard)

Robert Gould McKelvey, MA, (BA Wesleyan)

David Harvey, MA, DPhil

Reed Rubin, BA

Robert MacLaren, MB, ChB, DPhil, DipLATHE, FRCOphth, FRCS, FMedSci

Adrian Vickers, MA

Peter Phillips

Christopher Ramsey, MA, DPhil

David Ure, MA

Benjamin Nicholas, MA

Supernumerary Fellows

Vincenzo Cerundolo, MA, MD, PhD, FRCPATH, FMedSci, FRS

Andrew John King, MA Status, (BSc, PhD Lond), FMedSci, FPhysiol, FRS

Francis Platt, MA Status, (BSc Lond; PhD Bath), FMedSci

Simon Draper, MBioch, DPhil

Kieran Clarke MA, (BSc Flinders, PhD Queensland)

Michael Keith, BA, DPhil

Sunetra Gupta, MA, (AB Princeton; PhD Lond)

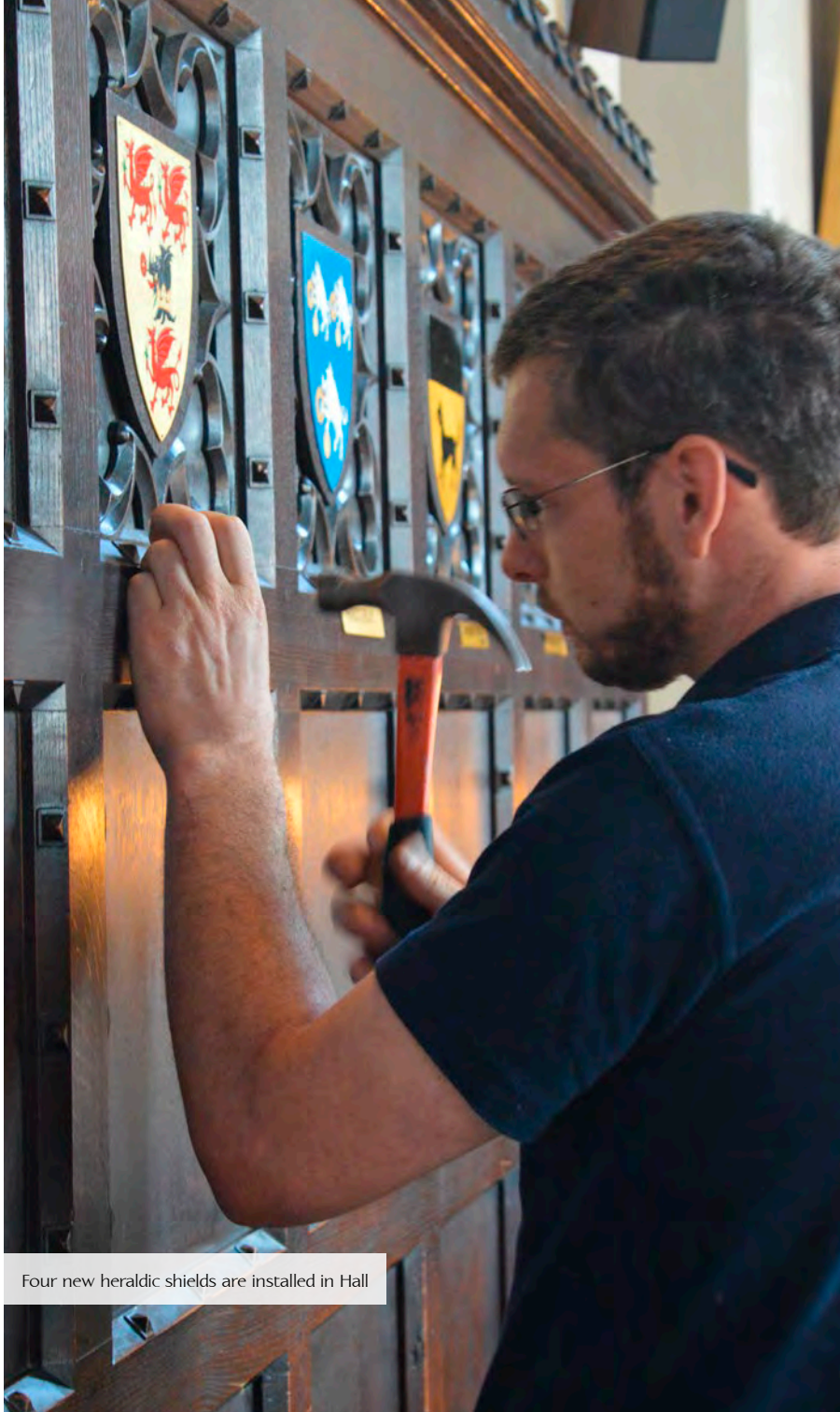
Anant Parekh, MA, DPhil, FMedSci, FRS
Hilary Greaves, MA, (PhD Rutgers)
Andrea Cavalleri, (Laurea, PhD Pavia)
Nicole Zitzmann, MA, (MSc, PhD Dundee),
FSB
Susannah Katherine Orkin, MA, MPhil,
DPhil, (BSocSc Cape Town)
Helen Barron, (MA Camb) *Junior Research
Fellow in Psychology*
Michael Booth, (MChem S'ton; PhD
Camb)

Wyliot Fellows

Charles Manby, MA, (MBA Insead)
John Booth, MA
Peter Braam, MA, DPhil, (BSc, MSc
Utrecht)
John Moussouris, MSc, D Phil, (AB
Harvard)
Ian Taylor, MA

Visiting Research Fellows

Yoram Rudy, Washington University,
Michaelmas term 2018
David Hutchinson, The Dodds Walls
Centre, Michaelmas term 2018
Dominic Janes, Keele University, Hilary
term 2019
Elizabeth Wilmer, Oberlin University,
Hilary & Trinity terms 2019
Eric Saylor, Drake University, Trinity term
2019
Rebecca Fortnum, Royal College of Art,
Hilary term 2019
Kieran Stiles, Trinity term 2019



Four new heraldic shields are installed in Hall

Elections

To an Official Fellowship as Tutor in History with effect from 1 September 2019

Dr Jennifer Altehenger, (BA, MA Camb; PhD Heidleberg)

To Junior Research Fellowships with effect from 1 October 2019

Ms Frances Dunn, (BSc Warwick; PhD Bristol)

Mr Marc Roth, (BSc, PhD Saarland)

Ms Catherine Quine, MSt

Mr Collis Tahzib, BA, BPhil

Fellows' Honours and Appointments

Professor Judith Armitage was elected President of the Microbiology Society from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021. She presented the West Riding lecture at the University of Sheffield, the 'Inspiration' lecture at the University of Bath, and the Lowry lecture at the University of Reading. She also gave invited presentations in Vancouver, Vermont, Ventura and Atlanta.

Professor Rhiannon Ash was appointed as co-editor of *Histos*, the online journal of Greek and Roman historiography.

Professor Alan Barr received the Vice-Chancellor's award for Public Engagement with Research (2019) for the Higgs Hunters Citizen Science project.

Fra' John Eidinow was reappointed as a Visiting Scholar in the Department of History, Art History and Classical Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen, in the Netherlands.

Professor Gail Fine was a visiting scholar at Stanford University in the Hilary term.

Professor Robert Gildea was a Visiting Professor at Sciences Po, Paris in spring 2019.

Professor Véronique Gouverneur was named the recipient of the 2019 Prelog Medal, to be received at a ceremony at ETH Zürich, Switzerland. Professor Gouverneur was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2019, and is the winner of the Royal Society of Chemistry's 2019 Organic Stereochemistry Award. She presented on 'Late stage fluorination for applications in medicine and imaging' at the Frontiers in Chemical Research lecture series at Texas A&M University in spring 2019. She was President of the Bürgenstock Conference (the SCS Conference on Stereochemistry) in Brunnen, Switzerland. Professor Gouverneur is a member of the international advisory board for the 23rd International Symposium on Fluorine Chemistry & the 9th International Symposium on Fluorous Technologies to be held in 2021 in Québec City.

Professor Daniel Grimley won a British Library Labs Award, along with Dr Joanna Bullivant (Magdalen), for their online resource the *Delius Catalogue of Works*.

Professor Steven Gunn was elected as the Acting Warden of Merton College, from October 2018 through September 2019.

Professor Sunetra Gupta secured investment to develop a 'universal' influenza vaccine. The technology developed by the University's Department of Zoology has the potential to provide lifelong immunity against influenza. In March 2019, she gave the inaugural annual lecture for the Centre for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases (CMMID) at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Professor Peter Holland was awarded the Royal Society's Darwin Medal 2019. He was appointed to the board of trustees at Earlham Institute, Norwich, and appointed to a Visiting Professorship at the University of Barcelona, Spain.

Professor Simon Hooker was elected as the next Head of Atomic and Laser Physics at the University of Oxford, and will be in post from 1 September 2019.

Professor Ian Kershaw was awarded the Karlsmedaille/Médaille Charlemagne pour les Médias Européens 2018.

Professor Andrew King was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was appointed to the Wellcome Trust-Royal Society Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Review Panel, and also to the NC3Rs working group on refining behavioural training of rodents.

The Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson was awarded an honorary doctorate of the arts by Kingston School of Art – part of Kingston University, London.

Tasso Leventis Professor of Biodiversity Professor EJ Milner-Gulland received the Society for Conservation Biology's Distinguished Service Award 2019. She was made chair of the UK government's Darwin Expert Committee.

Professor Béla Novák was elected member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Professor David Paterson was elected a Fellow of the American Physiological Society (FAPS) in 2019.

Mr Peter Phillips presented a six-part series for BBC Radio 3, *The Glories of Polyphony*, in June and December 2018.

Professor Jonathan Prag was appointed titular Professor of Ancient History by the University of Oxford in October 2018.

Professor Alexander Schekochihin was awarded the Institute of Physics' 2019 Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin Medal and Prize for distinguished contributions to plasma, solar or space physics.



New Students 2018

Undergraduates

Biochemistry

Mr F D Felfoldi, Ms I K Goodridge, Ms W A V Rolls

Biological Sciences

Ms J R Blagrove, Ms I C Hawkins, Mr C Kirk, Mr P J Lewin

Chemistry

Mr B B Botlik, Mr L Embley, Ms T T C Ng, Mr J J-S Rhee, Ms B H Watkins

Classics

Ms C S Chui, Mr G Smith, Ms E E K Sharp

Classics and Modern Languages

Ms L R Buxton

Computer Science and Philosophy

Mr C B Aberle

Economics and Management

Mr O P G Bowling, Ms L J Neill, Mr E J Spiers, Herr M R Stephanik

English

Ms A Beukers, Ms C Bronzoni, Ms A Hearn, Ms C Kilpatrick, Ms A S Mullock, Ms E Ressel, Ms M M Whitlock

English and Modern Languages

Ms E Vargas Richards

History

Ms M R Archer-Zeff, Ms G M Clark, Ms I Farooqui, Ms J L Hinks, Mr J Hyland Deeson, Mr J Morrison, Mr O Shaw, Ms O Tan

History and English

Ms L C Fletcher, Mr A Linn, Mr F W J Munro

History and Modern Languages

Ms R Herring

History and Politics

Mr J Judd, Mr D Ostrowski, Mr D J Storey

Law (Jurisprudence)

Mr F M Amodeo, Ms L E Berger, Mr J B Horrobin, Mr S A Iyer, Mr C Lippert, Mr R Moore, Ms P Stojnic

Mathematics

Mr L Brown, Mr J Durston, Ms R Williamson

Mathematics and Computer Science

Mr M-G Doica, Mr R Marlasca Aparicio, Mr G P G Wolfe, Mr J Yang

Mathematics and Philosophy

Ms A M Hilder Jarvis

Medicine

Ms J Jindal, Ms K K Malhi, Ms C T Portwood, Ms L Renals, Mr K Song

Modern Languages

Ms I Sanders, Ms A Smith, Ms E S Webber, Ms J Willemyns

Modern Languages and Linguistics

Ms R Smithson, Ms O M Suau

Music

Mr L Morford, Ms A Smith

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Mr M Baccaglini, Mr N Bailey, Mr J W Handley, Mr A Jest, Mr A P McGinley, Ms J L Searle, Mr S R van Teutem, Ms T C S Wibault

Physics

Mr R Grabarczyk, Mr G Matthews, Mr N Mitchell, Mr A J O Pett, Mr J C Siuta, Mr M Szakaly, Mr D M Testa, Mr R J J Vickers

Physics and Philosophy

Mr L H Wolff

Graduates

2nd BM

Ms H E Bacon, Merton, Oxford, Ms A F Gooda, Merton, Oxford, Ms G Loncarevic Whitaker, Merton, Oxford, Mr C T Short, Merton, Oxford, Ms K-A Wilson, Merton, Oxford

BCL

Ms C Chen, Magdalen, Oxford, Ms Z N Harrison, Merton, Oxford, Ms E B Martin, Sidney Sussex, Cambridge, Mr G F Perry, Queensland/AU College of Law, Mr D C Y Teo, Griffith

BPhil

Ms A A M von Götz, Zurich

DPhil

Mr T G Adkins, Merton, Oxford, Mr V Ajuwon, Merton, Oxford, Dr T M Bharucha, Bristol/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Ms Z Bo, Wadham, Oxford, Mr A Bojko, Vienna, Ms C Burlacu, Venice/Wolfson, Oxford, Mr K H T Cheng, Merton, Oxford/Yale/Harvard, Ms A Cinquatti, Turin/UCL/Merton, Oxford, Ms M A Clark, Merton, Oxford, Mr T O Cummings, Merton, Oxford, Ms D H Del Vicario Durham/St Catherine's, Oxford, Mr M J Drake, Edinburgh/KCL, Mr M Fava, Università degli studi di Pisa, Mr Z B Garber, Texas at Austin/Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mr M G Geurts, Imperial, London, Mr M Hewson, Birmingham/Pembroke, Oxford, Mr D N Hosking, Merton, Oxford, Mr E H K Howell, Brasenose, Oxford, Ms G M Jokobsdottir, KCL, Mr S Mahanta, EHT, Zurich, Mr E McElroy, Washington State/Musik und Kunst Privatuniversität der Stadt Wien/Birmingham Conservatoire, Mr R Miao, Chongqing, Ms I R O Morris, Merton, Oxford, Mr E W O'Keefe, Merton, Oxford/Darwin, Cambridge, Ms L E Picot, Durham/LSE, Mr U Purnama, Bandung Institute of Technology, Ms G

Rosetto, Imperial, London, Mr C Russello, Ca' Foscari di Venezia/SOAS/Kellogg, Oxford, Mr E M Schwarck, SOAS/KCL, Ms Y J Siegert, Columbia/Geneva, Ms E M J S Smith, Merton, Oxford, Mr T N Smith, Victoria, Mr G A Sousa Augusto, Federal University of Sao Paulo/St Cross, Oxford, Mr J Swar, Corpus Christi, Oxford, Mr J W Utterson, Peterhouse, Cambridge, Ms T J van Benthem, Sofia St Kliment Ohridski/Merton, Oxford, Mr A J Van-Brunt, Wellington/Kyoto, Ms M Wilson, St Hilda's, Oxford, Mr P J Windischhofer, Vienna University of Technology/ETH Zurich/École Polytechnique, Ms W X Yee, Trinity, Cambridge

EMBA

Mr N S M K Abbas, Merton, Oxford, Mr A Gupta, Guru Nanak Dev/Maharashi Dayanand, Mr M Y Kalani, UCLA/CalTech/Stanford, Mr R Sutton, South Bank

MBA

Mr R Luttner, Maastricht/Nova de Lisboa, Mr B Pillai, Otago, Ms K Y Tuang, Hertfordshire/Oxford Brookes

MPhil

Mr D P Barry, Witwatersrand/Johannesburg, Mr J Chater, St Anne's, Oxford/Harvard, Mr A R J Little, Merton, Oxford, Mr N A C Ridpath, Merton, Oxford, Mr C A Roberston, Mount Allison, Ms R Yang, LSE

MSc

Ms V Gladkova, Merton, Oxford, Mr H R Horton, Liverpool/London Business School, Mr D W Hughes, Auckland, Ms H Hurst, Harvard/UCL, Mr I C Y Keh, National Taiwan, Mr K A S Kollnig, RWTH Aachen, Ms C Leopard, Michigan State, Ms A K Morgan, Virginia/Wake Forest, Mr N G Norwitz, Dartmouth College, Mr D W K Oliver, Toronto, Mr A Schellinx, Leiden/

Utrecht/Homerton, Cambridge, Ms L C Sewell, Calgary, Ms T Shen, Wisconsin-Madison, Ms M Stevanovic, Harvard, Mr R A Sullivan, Boston/Georgetown, Ms M Tong, Trinity, Cambridge, Mr C J Worthington, Merton, Oxford

MSt

Ms R Corker, Reading, Mr B Z Gilinsky, Merton, Oxford, Mr T M Thorne, Merton, Oxford, Ms G H van den Berg, Vrije, Ms R J Young, Exeter

Visiting Students

Ms I F M Carme, Ms L Eck



Undergraduate Leavers 2019

Biological Sciences

Mr H Grub, Ms P Jagers, Mr T Miller, Mr J Morford

Chemistry

Mr J-K Backhaus, Mr C Collins Rice, Mr Z Lim, Mr J Pruchyathamorn, Mr O Stratton
Classics (Literae Humaniores) I

Mr F Andrews, Mr H Clements, Ms K Davies, Ms M Mackay, Ms T Morton

Computer Science (4)

Ms A Ganciulescu

Economics and Management

Ms V Karppinen, Mr A Prabaker, Ms J Zlotkowska

English

Ms E Bicknell, Ms C Green, Ms A Jaiswal, Ms H Middleton, Mr S Moriarty, Mr P Naylor, Ms S Townsend

English and Modern Languages (4)

Ms M Husain (French)

History

Mr J Allsopp, Ms M Gleaves, Ms E Grant, Mr A Lalouschek, Mr T Murphy, Ms J Routledge, Mr J Travers, Ms M Watson, Ms O Webster

History and English

Ms C Oakes

History and Modern Languages (4)

Ms C Conde Tkatchenko (Spanish)

History and Politics

Mr S Shah

Law (Jurisprudence)

Ms E Chafer, Ms V Chee, Ms A Clelland, Mr A Dixon, Ms N Herrett, Mr M Ismail

Law with French Law (4)

Ms N Kelly

Mathematics (4)

Ms J Dingwall, Mr E He, Mr L Holmes, Ms F Lovell-Read

Mathematics and Computer Science (3)

Mr A Ovsianas

Mathematics and Computer Science (4)

Mr A Kenyon-Roberts, Mr M Kovacs-Deak, M K Nizinski, Mr G Wang

Mathematics and Statistics (4)

Mr A Fu

Mathematical and Theoretical Physics (4)

Mr M Davies, Mr P Espinoza, Mr Z Li, Mr O Paulin, Mr M Plummer, Mr U Ristivojevic

Medical Sciences

Mr D Adeyoju, Mr A Carter, Mr F Dernie, Mr I El-Gaby, Mr J Navarajasegaran, Ms L Pullen

Modern Languages (4)

Mr M Bannatyne (French and Beginner's German), Ms G Fooks (French and Spanish), Ms G Jackson-Callen (French and Spanish), Ms K Jaroszewicz (Spanish and Beginner's Portuguese), Ms R McCallion (French and German)

Modern Languages and Linguistics (4)

Ms J Western (Spanish)

Music

Mr T Fetherstonhaugh, Ms A Hawksley-Walker, Mr D Price

PPE

Mr J Chalaby, Mr T H Chau, Mr M Cuiibus, Mr P de Jong, Mr D Foster Davies, Ms P Jha, Mr X Qiu, Mr J Shailer

Physics (3)

Mr A Doyle

Undergraduate Results, Awards and Prizes 2018-19

All academic results, awards and prizes are correct as of 22 August 2019.

	Entry	1st	2.1	2.2	3rd	Pass
Final Honours School	85	41	42	2	0	0

	Entry	Distinction/1st	Pass/2nd
First Public Exam	89	43	46

Awards and Promotions

The following award-holders had their awards renewed at the beginning of the academic year:

Exhibitioner for a third year:

Ms E Chafer (Law)
Mr C Collins Rice (Chemistry)
Ms M Mackay (Classics)
Ms T Morton (Classics)

Exhibitioner for a second year:

Mr R Avadanutei (Chemistry)
Ms R Bhatt (Law)
Ms L Buckingham (Mathematics)
Mr A Burbie (Law)
Mr L Holmes (Mathematics)
Ms M Husain (English and Modern Languages)
Ms I Janssen (Law)
Mr A Lalouschek (History)
Ms E Le Maistre (Modern Languages and Linguistics)
Mr A Prabaker (Economics and Management)
Mr X Qiu (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
Mr J Shailer (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
Ms O Shiels (Chemistry)
Ms S Townsend (English)

Postmaster for a second year:

Mr M Bannatyne (Modern Languages)
Ms J Dingwall (Mathematics)
Ms A Ganciulescu (Computer Science)
Ms N Herrett (Law)
Mr M Ismail (mid year) (Law)
Ms K Jaroszewicz (Modern Languages)
Mr A Kenyon-Roberts (Mathematics & Computer Science)
Mr M Kovacs-Deak (Mathematics & Computer Science)
Mr Z Li (Physics)
Mr Z Lim (Chemistry)
Ms F Lovell-Read (Mathematics)
Mr M Plummer (Physics)
Mr J Pruchyathamkorn (Chemistry)
Mr U Ristivojevic (Physics)
Mr G Wang (Mathematics & Computer Science)

The following promotions were approved during the year:

To Postmaster:

Ms G Acton (Physics)
Mr J Allsopp (History)
Mr J Chalaby (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
Mr T H Chau (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
Ms V Chee (Law)
Mr M Cuius (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
Mr F Dernie (Medicine)
Mr A Dixon (Law)
Mr S Dows-Miller (Modern Languages and Linguistics)
Mr I El-Gaby (Medicine)
Ms C Felce (Physics)
Mr T Featherstonhaugh (Music)
Ms G Fooks (Modern Languages)
Ms K Gadsby (Medicine)
Mr B Gowers (Modern Languages)
Mr W Gruchot (Chemistry)
Ms A Hawksley-Walker (Music)
Ms P Jagers (Biology)
Ms V Karpinnen (Economics and Management)
Ms M Khalil (English)
Ms B McCullagh (Modern Languages)
Mr C McGarry (Mathematics)
Mr T Miller (Biology)
Mr J Morford (Biology)
Mr S Moriarty (English)
Mr P Naylor (English)
Mr A Ovsianas (Mathematics and Computer Science)
Mr O Paulin (Physics)
Mr D Price (Music)
Ms L Pullen (Medicine)
Mr J Robertson (Physics)
Ms J Stadlmann (Mathematics)
Ms Y Wei (Chemistry)
Mr E White (Law)
Ms L Woodland (Physics)

To Exhibitioner:

Mr D Adeyoju (Medicine)
Mr E Alisauskas (Chemistry)
Ms E Ball (History)
Mr R Chatterjee (Physics)
Mr F Cheatle (Modern Languages)
Ms A Coleman (Classics and Modern Languages)
Ms Z Dai (Physics)
Mr M Davies (Mathematical and Theoretical Physics)
Mr J Desai (Physics and Philosophy)
Mr A Doyle (Physics)
Mr A Fanner Brzezina (Biological Sciences)
Ms H Grassi (Biological Sciences)
Mr H Grub (Biological Sciences)
Mr V Himic (Medicine)
Ms A Jaiswal (English)
Mr Z H Lieu (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
Mr O Maata (Physics)
Mr R McDonald (Physics)
Ms R Miller (Classics)
Ms H Middleton (English)
Mr P Namnouad (Chemistry)
Mr F Nightingale (Chemistry)
Mr T Nightingale (History)
Mr M Ortiz Ramirez (Mathematics)
Ms J Routledge (History)
Mr C Sheehan (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
Ms J Sheridan (History)
Ms H Smith (History)
Ms V Stuart (English)
Mr E Turner-Fussell (History and Modern Languages)
Ms M Watson (History)
Mr W Whitehouse (Mathematics)
Ms R Wilson (English)
Mr C Wong (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
Mr R Yao (Mathematics)
Mr T Yeh (Maths and Philosophy)
Ms J Zlotkowska (Economics and Management)

There were in all 50 Postmasters and 59 Exhibitioners at the end of the year.

College Prizes

Members of the College who had achieved First Class in Schools or Mods, or Distinctions in Prelims, Law Moderations or the First BM, were given College book prizes in accordance with College Bylaw 87. Members of the College who had been awarded University prizes were given College book prizes in accordance with the same Bylaw. The number of prizes awarded is given in brackets.

Fowler Prizes for good work in Collections were awarded to:

Connor Aberle (1)	Georgie Fooks (2)	Louis Morford (2)
Georgia Acton (1)	Katrina Gadsby (2)	Joe Morford (1)
Rory Adair (1)	Miranda Gleaves (1)	James Morrison (2)
Edvinas Alisauskas (2)	Isobel Goodridge (2)	Tamsin Morton (2)
Jack Allsopp (1)	Radoslaw Grabarczyk (2)	Anna Mullock (1)
Felix Andrews (1)	Elena Grant (2)	Patrick Naylor (1)
Richard Avadanutei (1)	Hermione Grassi (1)	Laura Neill (1)
Matteo Baccaglioni (1)	Wojciech Gruchot (2)	Tang Ng (1)
Nathan Bailey (1)	Dylan Gutt (2)	Thomas Nightingale (1)
Emma Ball (1)	John Handley (1)	Frank Nightingale (2)
Matthew Bannatyne (2)	Isobel Hawkins (2)	Martin Ortiz Ramirez (2)
Sarah Bennett (3)	Athena Hawksley-Walker (1)	Daniel Ostrowski (3)
Alex Beukers (3)	Amy Hearn (1)	Victoria Ouyang (1)
Alexandra Bibby (1)	Niamh Herrett (3)	Alexander Pett (1)
Josephine Blagrove (1)	Rachel Herring (1)	Jack Phillips (1)
Bence Botlik (2)	Vratko Himic (2)	Clara Portwood (1)
Cecilia Bronzoni (2)	Catherine Horsfall (1)	Ashvin Prabaker (1)
Lucy Buxton (1)	Ameer Ismail (4)	Xi Qiu (1)
Eleanor Chafer (1)	Katie Jaroszewicz (3)	Lowenna Renals (2)
James Chalaby (1)	Venla Karppinen (2)	Eva Ressel (1)
Tak Huen Chau (3)	Niamh Kelly (2)	Milo Reynolds (1)
Valerie Chee (1)	Malek Khalil (1)	Jacob Robertson (2)
Cristina Chui (1)	Christian Kirk (2)	Willow Rolls (2)
Ailsa Clelland (2)	Apollinaire Lalouschek (2)	Isobel Sanders (2)
Amalie Coleman (1)	Robert Lentz (1)	Jessica Searle (2)
Cristina Conde Tkatchenko (1)	Patrick Lewin (2)	Oliver Shaw (1)
Paul de Jong (1)	Zheng Hong Lieu (3)	Conor Sheehan (2)
Francesco Dernie (1)	Chris Lippert (1)	Siddhant Iyer (1)
Jules Desai (2)	Miranda Mackay (2)	Jan Siuta (2)
Andrew Dixon (3)	Kaveeta Malhi (1)	Hannah Smith (2)
Roshan Dodhia (2)	Rodrigo Marlasca Aparicio (5)	Aine Smith (1)
Mihnea-Gabriel Doica (1)	Graham Matthews (1)	Rebecca Smithson (1)
Jonathan Durston (1)	Beth McCullagh (1)	Kaiyang Song (1)
Luke Embley (2)	Ross McDonald (2)	Mario Stepanik (1)
Andrzej Fanner Brzezina (1)	Jack Mcntyre (2)	Daniel Storey (2)
Catherine Felce (1)	Anna McQueen (2)	Verity Stuart (1)
Daniel Felfoldi (2)	Hope Middleton (1)	Marcell Szakaly (2)
Thomas Fetherstonhaugh (1)	Rosanna Miller (3)	Morwenna Tamblyn (1)
Kirsty Fielding (2)	Thomas Miller (1)	Olivia Tan (2)
	Nicholas Mitchell (2)	Miles Testa (1)
	Ross Moore (1)	Filip Tokarski (4)

Josh Travers (1)
 Edward Turner-Fussell (1)
 Simon van Teutem (2)
 Elena Vargas Richards (2)
 Robert Vickers (2)
 Beth Watkins (2)
 Emily Webber (2)
 Lisa Wei (2)
 Josephine Western (1)
 Ewan White (3)
 William Whitehouse (2)
 Megan Whitlock (1)
 Tiphaine Wibault (1)
 Lasse Wolff (3)
 Leo Wong (2)
 Leonie Woodland (2)
 Isaac Yao (2)
 Xiyu Zhang (1)

NB: In terms where two small prizes were awarded separately due to a delay in receiving marks these have been counted as one large prize.

Other College prizes were awarded as follows:

Mr D Adeyoju, William Harvey Prize for Clinical Anatomy
 Mr J Allsopp, Undergraduate Essay Competition (winner)
 Mr F Amodeo, F.E. Smith Memorial Mooting Prize (joint runner-up)
 Ms R Bhatt, Slaughter and May Second Year Moot Competition (runner up)
 Ms S Bruce-Smith, Allen & Overy Prize for most promising second-year Law student (joint winner)
 Ms S Bruce-Smith, Slaughter and May Second Year Moot Competition (runner up)
 Mr A Burbie, Slaughter and May Second Year Moot Competition (runner up)
 Mr I El-Gaby, Wilder Penfield Prize in Medicine and Biology (Joint)
 Mr S Gibbs, Slaughter and May Second Year Moot Competition (runner up)
 Mr W Gruchot, Phillips Prize for best performance in Chemistry Parts IA and IB

Ms R Herring, Undergraduate Essay Competition (winner)
 Ms P Jaggars, Wilder Penfield Prize in Medicine and Biology (Joint)
 Ms I Janssen, Allen & Overy Prize for most promising second-year Law student (joint winner)
 Ms I Janssen, Slaughter and May Second Year Moot Competition (winner)
 Mr A Lalouschek, Conrad Russell Prize in History
 Mr C Lippert, F.E. Smith Memorial Mooting Prize (winner)
 Mr L McKenna, Slaughter and May Second Year Moot Competition (runner up)
 Ms R Miller, Professor W.M. Edwards Prize in Classics (joint winner)
 Mr R Moore, Norton Rose Prize for best Moderations marks of a Merton Law student
 Mr R Moore, F.E. Smith Memorial Mooting Prize (joint runner-up)
 Ms T Morton, Professor W.M. Edwards Prize in Classics (joint winner)
 Ms J Stadlmann, Dominic Welsh Essay Prize
 Mr J Travers, Undergraduate Essay Competition (winner)
 Ms B Watkins, Phillips Prize for best performance in Chemistry Prelims

University Prizes were awarded as follows:

Mr C Aberle, Gibbs Prize
 Mr E Alisaukas, Best performance in Chemistry Part IA (Runner-up)
 Mr O Bowling, Gibbs Prize
 Mr T H Chau, Proxime Accessit Gibbs Prize
 Mr J Desai, Gibbs Prize
 Mr A Doyle, Gibbs Prize
 Mr A Doyle, Scott Prize for BA Mathematics performance
 Ms C Felce, Physics Prize for Practical Work in Part B
 Mr W Gruchot, Proxime Accessit Gibbs Prize
 Ms R Herring, LIDL Prize for best performance in German
 Ms K Jaroszewicz, Philippa of Lancaster

Portuguese Prize
 Ms K Jaroszewicz, Kolkhorst Exhibition
 Mr D Kim, Group Presentation Prize
 Mr M Kovacs-Deak, G Research Prize for best Computer Science Project in Mathematics and Computer Science
 Mr Z Li, Highly Commended Physics Dissertation
 Ms F Lovell-Read, Gibbs Prize
 Mr R Moore, Law Faculty Prize in Roman Law
 Mr J Morford, Gibbs Prize
 Mr J Pruchyakamthorn, Thesis Prize
 Mr J Pruchyathamkorn, Organic Chemistry Part II Prize
 Mr M Szakaly, Physics Prize for Prelims Practical Work
 Mr R Vickers, Commended for Physics Practical Work



Graduate Leavers 2018-19

2nd BM

Ms O K Bell, Mr O Blanshard, Mr A O Fadipe, Mr H A Fagan (Distinction), Mr L E Freeman-Mills, Mr J M Sheridan

BCL

Ms C Chen (Distinction), Ms Z N Harrison (Merit), Ms E B Martin (Merit), Mr G F Perry (Distinction), Mr D C Y Teo (Merit)

BPhil

Mr X S Liu (Distinction)

DPhil

Mr C Arthur (Archaeology), Ms C Auckland (Law), Ms E N Bardsley (Ion Channels and Diseases MSD DTC), Ms A Boeles Rowland (History), Mr A F A Bott (Atomic & Laser Physics), Mr J Burr (Particle Physics), Mr B Castle (Particle Physics), Mr M Cattaneo (English), Ms B N Chao (Biomedical Sciences – NIH-Oxford), Ms Y Cheng (Archaeology), Ms I Cho (Politics), Mr K Cohn-Gordon (Cyber Security), Ms J Cole (English), Mr O Coleman (Organic Chemistry), Ms T Davenne (Infection, Immunology & Translational Medicine MSDTC), Mr L Davies (Philosophy), Mr P Dittmann (Mathematics), Ms H Downey (Environmental Research MPLS DTC), Mr H Drummond (Music), Ms E O Gallimore (Organic Chemistry), Ms K Gedgaudaite (Medieval and Modern Languages), Mr A Geraldini (Theoretical Physics), Mr A Hadjinicolaou (Biomedical & Clinical Sciences MSD DTC), Ms C L Hale (Astrophysics), Mr M Hopkins (Systems Biology MPLS DTC), Mr S

Kruk (Astrophysics), Mr J Laverick (Environmental Research MPLS DTC), Ms W Li (Economics), Ms S Y Lim (Archaeology), Mr K Liu (Physiology, Anatomy & Genetics), Mr A Menssen (Atomic & Laser Physics), Mr H O Orlans (Clinical Neuroscience), Mr A Pengsawang (Inorganic Chemistry), Ms A C Pike (Psychiatry), Mr A Roberts (Mathematics), Ms A Sanniti (Clinical Medicine), Ms S Scott (Neuroscience), Mr M A B Sousa (Computer Science), Ms J A Stacey (Neuroscience), Mr A Stiles (Ancient History), Ms E X X Tan (Music), Ms J Toscano (Physical/Theoretical Chemistry), Ms A H Turberfield (Chromosome & Developmental Biology MSD DTC), Mr J A Walker (Interdisciplinary Bioscience MSD DTC), Mr F Q Weitkaemper (Mathematics), Ms W Wen (Archaeology), Mr A Wiberg (Molecular & Cellular Medicine), Ms A L Williams (English), Mr W Yang (Mathematics)

EMBA

2017-18

Mr T D Rallens

MBA

2017-18

Mr E F Buntoro, Ms E A Petrizzi, Mr Y H Tai, Ms C Wang, Ms Y Wang

MPhil

2017-18

Ms T J Van Benthem (Law), Mr B Zhao (Law)

2018-19

Ms S I Bergquist Knutsson (European Politics & Society – Distinction), Mr D Dyonisius (Development Studies), Mr H J Gosling (Economics), Ms R M McCrick (Economics), Mr T Prins (Economics – Distinction), Mr G W Scott (Economics – Distinction)

MSc

2017-18

Mr E Fristed (Neuroscience), Mr K P Larsson (Major Programme Management), Mr G M Nevins-Archer (Social Science of the Internet), Mr D P M Ranasinghe (Major Programme Management), Ms X Wu (Law & Finance)

2018-19

Mr C J Worthington (Migration Studies – Distinction)

MSt

2017-18

Ms Z M Ibbetson (Musicology – Distinction)

2018-19

Mr B Z Gilinsky (US History – Distinction), Mr T Shen (Philosophy of Physics), Ms R A Sykes (Greek &/or Latin Languages & Literature – Distinction), Mr T M Thorne (Modern British History – 1850-present – Distinction), Ms G J van den Berg (Greek &/or Latin Languages & Literature)

Visiting Students

Ms I F M Carme, Ms L Eck



Graduate Results, Awards and Prizes 2018-19

All academic results, awards and prizes are correct as of 22 August 2019

	Entry	Distinction	Pass
Taught Course Results	25	15	10

College Prizes were awarded as follows:

Ms D Del Vicario, Rajiv Kapur Prize for graduate research in History

Ms D Del Vicario, Dacre Trust Award for graduate research in History

Mr B Schneider, Dacre Trust Award for graduate research in History

University Prizes were awarded as follows:

Ms C Chen, Vinerian Scholarship for Best Performance in the BCL

Ms C Chen, Law Faculty Prize in Comparative Corporate Law

Ms C Chen, Law Faculty Prize in Comparative and Global Environmental Law

Ms C Chen, Law Faculty Prize in Constitutional Principles of the EU

Mr H Fagan, Ledingham Prize in Medicine

College Staff

Name	Appointment	First Appointed	Name	Appointment	First Appointed
Mr R J Wiggins	Decorator	16/3/1987	Mrs K Adamczyk	Housekeeping Supervisor	1/11/2007
Mrs L S Walsh	Sub-Warden's Secretary	16/11/1987	Ms S T Hague	Head of Conference & Accommodation	2/2/2009
Mr J S Lisle	Groundsman	17/10/1988	Mr I Knight	Accommodation & Conference Porter	13/7/2009
Mr J P McVeigh	Quadman/Storeman	15/10/1990	Mrs I Ochylska	Cleaner	1/12/2009
Mrs J Gerhardt	Graduate Officer	2/1/1991	Mr I R Walker	Lodge Porter	19/7/2010
Mrs N K Lisle	Pavilion Catering Assistant	1/10/1996	Miss H Bednarczyk	Deputy Head Porter	4/1/2011
Mr J E Tomkins	Assistant Groundsman	11/8/1997	Mrs R da Silva	Cleaner	11/1/2011
Mrs S A Allen	Hall Assistant	7/7/1998	Miss G Hanson	Gardener	28/3/2011
Mrs L J Pullen	Scout	19/10/1998	Mr S Bowdery	Senior IT Operations Officer	1/4/2011
Mr M Wender	Head Chef	20/9/1999	Mr M Weavers	Lodge Porter	9/8/2011
Mrs C L Turner	Cleaner	27/3/2000	Mr T Cortes	Cleaner	31/10/2011
Mrs N S Mahmood	Cleaner	23/4/2001	Rodrigues		
Mrs M N Harris	Bursary Clerk	16/5/2001	Mrs S Rai	Cleaner	31/10/2011
Miss S L Bird	Chef de Partie	8/10/2001	Mrs J Rusaitiene	Cleaner	16/1/2012
Mr D N Haines	Kitchen Porter	20/8/2001	Miss M Kowalska	Cleaner	30/1/2012
Miss L Reveley	Fees & Bursary Clerk	11/2/2002	Mr S Cope	Web & Media Officer	3/12/2012
Mrs C Lewis	Resource Description Project Librarian	7/5/2002	Mrs L E Collins	Verger	23/9/2013
Mr C D Joyce	Kitchen Porter	29/7/2002	Miss J I Dziadosz	Hall Steward	27/1/2014
Miss L Savin	Head Gardener	7/10/2002	Mrs S Lawino	Cleaner	10/3/2014
Mr J A Reid	Archivist	2/12/2002	Miss M Zakuszevska	Cleaner	10/3/2014
Mr C E Shackell	Accountant	20/1/2003	Miss M Lasota	SCR & Hall Supervisor	1/10/2014
Miss L Lawrence	Warden's Secretary	1/9/2003	Mrs G Pal	Cleaner	3/11/2014
Mr C Bridgman	Third Chef	29/9/2003	Mrs F Lawrence	HR Manager	2/12/2014
Miss J Baker	Cleaner	2/1/2004	Mrs S Hoverd	Chef de Partie	23/5/2015
Mrs M Skalik	Steward	10/8/2005	Mrs S North	Admissions Manager	11/8/2015
Mr J Pawlowski	Lodge Porter	24/10/2005	Miss N Lane	Lodge Porter	19/8/2015
Mr D Brown	Second Chef	2/1/2007	Mr N Hall	Bar Manager	21/9/2015
Mr M Furse	Senior Gardener	2/1/2007	Miss I Siwczak	SCR & Hall Supervisor	27/10/2015
Mrs G Norridge	Payroll/Personnel Administrator	25/6/2007	Mrs M Serhej	Cleaner	6/6/2016
Miss N Harrison	Estates Administrator	23/7/2007			
Mr P Macallister	Chef de Partie	22/10/2007			

Name	Appointment	First Appointed
Mrs S Camino Carrera	Cleaner	1/12/2016
Mrs A Antofie	Cleaner	1/12/2016
Miss T Cooper	Lodge Porter	19/12/2016
Miss C Chisholm	Alumni Relations Officer	9/1/2017
Dr K Fifield	Academic Registrar	1/3/2017
Ms M Clarke	Accommodation Co-ordinator	20/3/2017
Miss R Raftery	Conference & Events Coordinator	27/3/2017
Mrs S Moore	Conference & Events Manager	19/4/2017
Mr K Watts	Maintenance Manager	3/7/2017
Mr A Miller	Schools Liaison & Access Officer	17/7/2017
Miss J Wingrove	Demi Chef de Partie	31/07/2017
Ms C De Souza Lima	SCR & Hall Assistant	14/08/2017
Ms S Cotterill	Chapel Administrator	12/09/2017
Mrs F Raimo	Student Support Administrator	25/09/2017
Miss P Martin Montalvo	SCR & Hall Assistant	28/09/2017
Ms C Long	Executive PA	02/10/2017
Mrs J Cullen	Estates Secretary	30/10/2017
Mr E Tesfalem	Servery Assistant	16/11/2017
Mr P O'Keefe	Servery Assistant	27/11/2017
Ms V Parkinson	Resource Services & Support Librarian	03/1/2018
Miss R Johnston	Library Assistant	08/1/2018
Mr M Martinov	Deputy Development Director	19/2/2018
Ms H Campbell Longley	Deputy Librarian	26/2/2018
Mr J Vickers	Development Operations & Data Manager	05/3/2018
Miss M Dziadosz	SCR & Hall Assistant	03/4/2018

Name	Appointment	First Appointed
Miss A Nowakowska	SCR & Hall Assistant	06/4/2018
Mrs A Ostoja-Starzewska	Butler	16/4/2018
Miss A Keate	HR Officer	01/5/2018
Miss J Twardowska	Housekeeping Supervisor	01/5/2018
Mr M Carroll	Chef de Partie	08/5/2018
Mr I Kozadinos	IT Operations Officer	08/5/2018
Mr A Jeffs	Maintenance Technician (Electrical & Building Services)	25/6/2018
Miss E Lynn	Development Coordinator	10/9/2018
Miss C Pawley	Academic Officer	10/9/2018
Miss S Walwin	Gardener	12/9/2018
Ms L Champion	College Nurse	20/9/2018
Ms J Gilchrist	Conference & Events Coordinator	01/10/2018
Mr D Spencer	Maintenance Technician (Plumbing & Building Services)	01/10/2018
Mr K Lau	Lodge Porter	08/10/2018
Mr A Lopez Munoz	Bar & Catering Assistant	15/10/2018
Miss I Blasco Checa	SCR & Hall Assistant	18/11/2018
Mrs V Hack	Alumni Relations Officer	12/12/2018
Mr H James	Head Porter	07/1/2019
Mrs R Wilkins	Academic Officer	25/2/2019
Mr M Nethercot	Lodge Porter	25/2/2019
Mr S Saprykin	Night Lodge Porter	08/4/2019
Mr L Fekete	Lodge Porter	09/4/2019
Miss F Tamburini	SCR & Hall Assistant	24/4/2019
Mrs T Ainson	Medieval Manuscripts Electronic Catalogue Project Officer	29/4/2019
Ms M Buchanan	Development Officer (Annual Fund)	02/7/2019
Mr A Brandao Dias	Lodge Porter	01/8/2019

Publications

Fellows' Publications 2018–19

Dubarry, N, *et al.* and **JP Armitage** (2019). *In vivo* imaging of the segregation of the 2 chromosomes and the cell division proteins of *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* reveals an unexpected role for MipZ', *MBio* 10(1), doi: 10.1128/mBio.02515-18

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Barr, A, et al. and the ATLAS Collaboration (2018). 'Search for electroweak production of supersymmetric states in scenarios with compressed mass spectra at $\sqrt{s}=13$ TeV with the ATLAS detector', *Phys Rev D* 97(5) 052010

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Alanine, DGW, *et al.* and **SJ Draper** (2019). 'Human antibodies that slow erythrocyte invasion potentiate malaria-neutralizing antibodies', *Cell* 178(1): 216-28

Douglas, AD, *et al.* and **SJ Draper** (2019). 'A defined mechanistic correlate of protection against *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in non-human primates', *Nat Commun* 10: 1953

Mohring, F, *et al.*, **SJ Draper** and RW Moon (2019). 'Rapid and iterative genome editing in the malaria parasite *Plasmodium knowlesi* provides new tools for *P. vivax* research', *eLife* 8: e45829

Rawlinson, TA, *et al.*, and **SJ Draper** (2019). 'Structural basis for inhibition of *Plasmodium vivax* invasion by a broadly neutralizing vaccine-induced human antibody', *Nat Microbiol*, doi: 10.1038/s41564-019-0462-1

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Gunaratne, RS, *et al.* and **R Erban** (2019). 'Multi-resolution dimer models in heat baths with short-range and long-range interactions', *Interface Focus* 9(3), rsfs.2018.0070

Plesa, T, **R Erban** and HG Othmer (2018). 'Noise-induced mixing and multimodality in reaction networks', *Eur J Appl Math* 1-25, doi: 10.1017/S0956792518000517

Kang, HW, and **R Erban** (2019). 'Multiscale stochastic reaction-diffusion algorithms combining markov chain models with stochastic partial differential equations', *Bull Math Biol*, 1-29, doi: 10.1007/s11538-019-00613-0

Gildea, R (2019). *Empires of the Mind. The Colonial Past and the Politics of the Present* (CUP)

Gouverneur, V (2019). 'In my element: fluorine', *Chem Eur J* 25(34), doi: org/10.1002/chem.201902265

Meyer, CF, *et al.* and **V Gouverneur** (2019). 'Hydrodifluoromethylation of alkenes with difluoroacetic acid', *Angew Chem Int Ed* 58(26), doi: 10.1002/anie.201903801

Szpera, R, *et al.* and **V Gouverneur** (2019). 'The fluorination of C-H bonds: developments and perspectives', *Angew Chem Int Ed*, doi: 10.1002/anie.201814457

Sap, JBI, *et al.* and **V Gouverneur** (2019). 'Synthesis of ^{18}F -difluoromethylarenes using aryl boronic acids, ethyl bromofluoroacetate and ^{18}F fluoride', *Chem Sci* 10: 3237-41, doi: 10.1039/C8SC05096A

Pupo, G, *et al.* and **V Gouverneur** (2018). 'Asymmetric nucleophilic fluorination under hydrogen bonding phase-transfer catalysis', *Science* 360(6389): 638-42

Grimley, DM (2018). *Delius and the Sound of Place* (CUP)

Gruen, ES (2018). 'Polybius and ethnicity', in N Mitsios and M.Tamiolaki (eds), *Polybius and his Legacy* (De Gruyter, Berlin) pp.13-34

Gruen, ES (2018). 'Diaspora and the assimilated Jew', in FE Greenspahn (ed.) *Early Judaism: New Insights and Scholarship* (New York) pp.52-70

Gruen, ES (2018). 'Philo and Jewish ethnicity', in M Satlow, *Strength to Strength: Essays in Honor of Shaye J.D. Cohen* (Brown University: Providence) pp.179-95.

- Thompson, CP, *et al.* and **S Gupta** (2018). 'A naturally protective epitope of limited variability as influenza vaccine target', *Nat Commun* 9: 3859, doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-06228-8
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- Obolski U, *et al.* and **S Gupta** (2019). 'Identifying genes associated with invasive disease in *S. pneumoniae* by applying a machine learning approach to whole genome sequence typing data', *Sci Rep* 9: 4049
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- MacGregor, P, *et al.*, **MK Higgins** *et al.* (2019). 'A single dose of antibody-drug conjugate cures a stage I model of African trypanosomiasis', *PLoS Negl Trop D*, doi: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0007373
- Marlétaz, F, *et al.* and **PWH Holland** (2018). 'Amphioxus functional genomics and the origins of vertebrate gene regulation', *Nature* 564(7734): 64-70
- Wang, H, **PWH Holland** and T Takahashi (2019). 'Gene profiling of head mesoderm in early zebrafish development: insights into the evolution of cranial mesoderm', *EvoDevo* 10: 14, doi: 10.1186/s13227-019-0128-3
- Royall, AH, *et al.* and **PWH Holland** (2018). 'Mouse *Obox* and *Crxos* modulate preimplantation transcriptional profiles revealing similarity between paralogous mouse and human homeobox genes', *EvoDevo* 9: 2, doi: 10.1186/s13227-018-0091-4
- Dai, Y, and **PWH Holland** (2019). 'The interaction of natural selection and GC skew may drive the fast evolution of a sand rat homeobox gene', *Molec Biol Evol* 36(7): 1473-80, doi: 10.1093/molbev/msz08
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- Maclachlan, I** (2018). 'Derrida, time, and infinite finitude: weakening Häggglund's negative', *Philos Today* 62(3): 921-37
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- Herring N, M Kalla and **DJ Paterson** (2019). 'The autonomic nervous system and cardiac arrhythmias: current concepts and emerging therapies', *Nat Rev Cardiol*, doi: 10.1038/s41569-019-0221-2
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- Li D, **DJ Paterson** (2019). 'Pre-synaptic sympathetic calcium channels, cyclic nucleotide-coupled phosphodiesterases and cardiac excitability', *Semin Cell Dev Biol*, doi: 10.1016/j.semcdb.2019.01.010
- Gullifer, L, and **J Payne** (eds) (2019). *Intermediation and Beyond* (Hart Publishing: Oxford)

- Payne, J** (2019). 'Disclosure of inside information' in V Tountopoulos and R Veil (eds) *Transparency of Stock Corporations in Europe: Rationales, Limitations and Perspectives* (Hart Publishing: Oxford)
- Payne, J** (2018). 'Debt restructuring in the UK'. *Eur Co Fin Law Rev* 15(3): 449-71
- Phillips, PS** (2018). 'Performer's perspectives: Josquin's masses'. *Musical Times*, Autumn: 3-87
- Prag, JRW, and J Chartrand** (2018). 'Sicily: building a digital corpus of the inscriptions of Ancient Sicily' in A De Santis and I Rossi (eds) *Crossing Experiences in Digital Epigraphy: From Practice to Discipline* (De Gruyter Open: Warsaw), pp.240-52
- Prag, JRW** (2018). 'The birth of epigraphic culture in the western Mediterranean: Sicilian epigraphic culture in the later Hellenistic period' in F Beltrán Lloris and B Díaz Ariño (eds) *El nacimiento de las culturas epigráficas en el occidente Mediterráneo. Modelos romanos y desarrollos locales (ss. III-I a.E.)* (Anejos de AEspA LXXXV: Madrid) pp.131-44
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Awards

Ms Jasleen Jolly

The College of Optometrists Philip Cole Prize for practice-based research

Mertonians



The Merton Society

Another year has flown by and it is time for another report from your Chairman.

It has been a period of transition for the College, ably navigated by Steven Gunn as Acting Warden, and it is also a period of transition for the Merton Society as we say goodbye to our President, Sir Howard Stringer (1961) and welcome Dame Philippa Whipple (1984), elected as our new President at the AGM in June. Dame Philippa is our first female President, doubly apt as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of women undergraduates at the College in 2020, and she is also the first President whose spouse is a Mertonian too.

I would like to thank Sir Howard for his help and support in the role over the last three years, and I am delighted to be working with Dame Philippa for the coming three years. I would also like to thank Professor Sergi Pardos-Prado for being one of the College representatives on the Merton Society Council for many years, a role which will now be undertaken by Professor Matthew Higgins.

The Merton Society provides alumni with many opportunities to connect or reconnect with their College, and to meet fellow Mertonians by organising a broad range of events such as lectures, formal dinners, and weekends in College

as well as informal drinks. It has been another active year on this front, including with the London Dinner the opportunity to visit Lambeth Palace, an oasis hidden away in central London. I think the highlight for me this year was the London Lecture in May given by Professor James Binney FRS, Emeritus Fellow and Professor of Physics. Professor Binney spoke on 'Understanding our galaxy' and gave us fascinating insights into his work in modelling how the galaxy was formed and how it works. We were pleased that Springer Nature kindly lent us its amazing lecture theatre in King's Cross for this event. Many thanks for this go to Steven Inchcoombe (1984) and Greg Lim (2006).

At the Merton Society we are always looking to engage with as many alumni as we can, of different ages and interests, by arranging a variety of activities. As part of this exercise we asked alumni in a survey for their views and we are implementing these, for example introducing a London 'Oxmas' drinks for younger alumni.

Also at the forefront of my mind is ensuring that as many alumni as possible are able to afford to attend events and we will continue to subsidise ticket costs so far as we are able.

I would like to thank Duncan Barker and his team in the Development Office for their help and support with all these activities.

I am looking forward to working with Professor Irene Tracey and to seeing many of you at our events in the year to come.

Mark Davison (1978)

Merton Society Council 2018-19

President: Sir Howard Stringer (1961)

Vice Presidents: RB Allan (1959), AM Vickers (1958), Professor Dame Jessica Rawson, J Roberts, Sir Martin and Lady Taylor

Chairman: MPH Davison (1978)

Secretary: GG Backler (1973)

Past Presidents: The Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson (1967), Sir Michael Jenkins OBE (1953), Sir Jeremy Isaacs (1951), Sir Robert Scott (1963), Lord Wright of Richmond GCMC (1951), WP Cooke CBE (1952)

Elected Council Members: NW Allard (1974), JDS Booth (1976), AJ Bott OBE (1953), DE Clark (1984), M Cowan (née Raine) (1983), TJ Foot (2011), AJ Haggerty (2007), LA Hurrell (née Davis) (2005), the Revd Canon Dr S Jones (Chaplain), GBS Lim (2006), R Miller (2008), S Pardos-Prado (Fellow), RB Peberdy (1975), M Pretzler (1996), A Salvage (2008), DJO Schaffer (1986), AL Smith (1991), NJD Weller (1982)

The Merton College Compassionate Fund exists to assist members of the College and their dependents who find themselves in financial difficulty. Grants are normally made to assist Mertonians at times of unforeseen financial hardship (which may be the result of unemployment, illness, bereavement, or other changes in personal circumstances). For further information, please contact the Chaplain, the Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones (simon.jones@merton.ox.ac.uk).



Professor Irene Tracey (1985) speaking at the Oxford University North American Reunion in April 2019

MC3: Merton College Charitable Corporation

The past year has seen gatherings of MC3 members in a number of different locations across North America. There were small and informal events in Boston, led by Grace Tiao (2010), in the fall and the spring, and two events in Washington DC, led by Nate Olson (2005). The second DC drinks and snacks event attracted a dozen Mertonians with a matriculation spectrum spanning more than 60 years. In addition to these gatherings in the US, Canadian Mertonians came together in Toronto for dinner to mark the visit of the Acting Warden and Development Director, kindly hosted at the University Club of Toronto by David Hamer (1974).

New York alumni gathered for their annual event, MC3 Merton in Manhattan, in October. Approximately 35 Mertonians and guests attended a drinks and canapés reception at the Oxford University North American Office on Fifth Avenue to hear Professor Richard Levin (Honorary Fellow, 1968), former President of Yale, speak about his tenure as CEO of Coursera, the leading provider of online education.

The major MC3 event of the year, the Annual Meeting and Reunion, took place in Washington DC in April 2019 in conjunction with the Oxford University North American Reunion. It began with a welcome reception in the exclusive Patrons Lounge at the Shakespeare Theatre, providing an opportunity to hear from the Theatre's resident dramaturg, Drew Lichtenberg, and his colleagues as well as to reconnect with and meet other Mertonians and their guests. It was followed by a wonderful dinner in a private room at Carmine's, one of Washington's best Italian restaurants.

The Annual Meeting took place the next day in the forum of the Shakespeare Theatre and was followed by the Oxford University luncheon at the Willard Intercontinental hotel, during which the Vice-Chancellor spoke to alumni from across the collegiate University. For many Mertonians and



Margarete Harvey, Susan Cullman, David Harvey (1957) and Marina McCloskey (2003) in Washington DC

their guests, the highlight of the weekend was the post-lunch academic session featuring Warden-Elect Professor Irene Tracey (1985) describing her neurological research. She held the entire room enthralled as she gave a whirlwind tour of her work assessing the physical, neurological and psychological effects of pain. A busy day ended with a gala dinner for over 50 Mertonians at the exclusive Metropolitan Club, courtesy of Jonathan Clarke (1966), attended by both the Acting Warden, Professor Steven Gunn (1979), and the Warden-Elect. The weekend concluded with a delightful brunch outdoors in the gardens of the beautiful Georgetown home of Marla and Nick Allard (1974).

During 2018, MC3 raised \$533,776 from Mertonians based in North America and sent \$413,766 to the College after approval at the Annual Meeting in April 2019. Once again, a large number of projects were supported, including Fellowships in English and Physics and the Roger Highfield Graduate Scholarship in History. The balance of the funds was added to the endowment held by MC3 for the benefit of the College which is now supporting three scholarships that MC3 has committed to provide to Merton on an annual basis: the two Americas Scholarships and the Roberts-MC3 Scholarship. MC3 also provides hardship funds for students at Merton through the Simms Bursaries endowment.

We are delighted to have had such an eventful and active year on behalf of Merton in the Americas. We look forward to meeting further alumni at our events over the coming year as we welcome the new Warden during her first year with the College.

Robert McKelvey (1959)



Merton Golf Society

The autumn meeting in September 2018 moved to Studley Wood Golf Club, north-east of Oxford, where 12 members battled some parched and cracked fairways. The greens, however, were excellent, fast and true, and some difficult pin placements challenged low scoring. Michael Edwards (1956), Tim Phillips (1960) and Patrick Francis (1972), who all scored 30 Stableford points, were separated only after a countback on their scores on the back six holes, with Michael then taking the runners-up mug. The winning tankard was taken by Andrew Trotter (1972) with a runaway lead and an excellent score of 39 points. The day was followed by a dinner in College.

The spring meeting once again returned to Newbury & Crookham at the end of March, with 14 players teeing off. The scoring was reasonable given the conditions, with Bill Ford (1975) coming third with 32 points, Patrick Wolrige Gordon (1985) the runner-up with 33 points, and Nigel Haigh (1971) taking the winner's tankard with 36 points. This was a promising warm-up for the Inter-Collegiate event a fortnight later.

The Inter-Collegiate event continues to go from strength to strength with a record 19 colleges and about 155 players taking part on both the Red and Blue courses at Frilford Heath in mid-April. It was, as always, fiercely contested, with University College falling just short of defending their title.

finishing with 186 points in third place. Oriel were second on 189 points and Christ Church who were second in 2018 won the Hennessey Cup with 190 points. Merton were joint sixth with 180 points with Paul Chamberlain (Emeritus Fellow), Nigel Haigh and Martin Knight (1968) our leading scorers, all with 31 points. Playing conditions were generally benign but the pin positions particularly on the Red course were very difficult and the scoring consequently worse than in recent years. The greens were also fast, with the head greenkeeper commenting that it was, after all, the week of the Masters at Augusta. The prize-giving was held in University College Hall where Lord Butler joined us for dinner with some entertaining anecdotes on dinners past that he had hosted when Master.

We look forward to next season, with the autumn meeting returning to Studley Wood on 25 September. The Inter-Collegiate 2020 will be on 17 April, and as the prize-giving and dinner will be hosted by Merton I hope that as many players as possible will be able to join us. Thanks are due to Simon Constantine (1977) for his help in organising the meetings.

We are always delighted when Mertonians join us. Anyone interested in golf is therefore encouraged to look at the College website or contact me directly on bill.ford@outlook.com.

Bill Ford (1975)



Town & Gown

It was wonderful to see so many Merton-affiliated runners competing in the Oxford Town & Gown race this year. The 10k race raises money for Muscular Dystrophy UK, and started in 1982 as a 'fun run'. With over 5,000 other runners now competing every year, and a route that takes them past some of the city's best-known landmarks, it's always an exciting and scenic experience.

This year, we had 35 runners in Team Merton, a truly excellent turnout. It was wonderful to be joined by students, staff, Fellows and alumni as running partners. The team gathered as usual for the pre-race photograph in the University Parks (above), many of us fitted out in our distinctive and stylish Merton running vests, with a smattering of orange tops (the colour of Muscular Dystrophy UK) amongst them.

Formalities completed, we dispersed to find our starting positions on South Parks Road. The Town & Gown is nearly

all on-road, flat and well marshalled, but still surprisingly tiring. The trickiest part psychologically is the finishing strait, back in the University Parks. You know the end is still over 2 kilometres away, but you keep hearing the race commentator and spectators urging you on and congratulating those that have already finished.

Congratulations to our first finisher, zoology postgraduate Ryan Burke (2013) who came in with a time of 37m 31s, and of course to everyone who took part representing Merton. After taking on board plenty of water, and some stretching, we wended our way back to College where a delicious brunch awaited all competitors.

Simon Cope
Web and Media Officer



Dame Philippa Whipple (1984),
Sir Christopher Greenwood,
Greg Campbell (1993) and
Professor Jenny Payne

Merton Lawyers' Association

We were very fortunate to welcome Sir Christopher Greenwood QC as our guest speaker at our annual meeting of the Merton Lawyers' Association, which took place on 1 November 2018.

Sir Christopher is a leading expert on public international law and served as a judge of the International Court of Justice from 2008 to 2018, when political manoeuvring in the UN General Assembly, involving Lebanon and India, over the re-election of four judges resulted in the UK, for the first time, ceasing to be represented on the bench.

Prior to his career as a judge, Sir Christopher was Professor of International Law at the London School of Economics, combining his academic career with a busy legal practice including appearances in *Libya v. United Kingdom* [ICJ Reps 1992] (the Lockerbie case), *R v. Bow Street Magistrates, ex parte Pinochet (No. 1)* [2000] 1 AC 147 and, some weeks before the adoption of UN Resolution 1441, advising the Attorney General on the legality of the use of force in Iraq.

The event was very well attended by Merton lawyers, with representation across the spectrum of the solicitors' profession and the bar, academia and the bench. Our Sub-

Warden and Law Fellow, Professor Jenny Payne, led a delegation of undergraduate and graduate students from the College.

One of the main themes explored by Sir Christopher in his lively and thought-provoking talk was the purpose and utility of international law. Sir Christopher began by contextualising the position of international law and dispute resolution between states, and explained how shipbuilding in Liverpool during the American Civil War gave rise to a pragmatic and peaceful mechanism for dealing with disputes between states.

CSS *Alabama* was built in Liverpool at the behest of the Confederate States which (along with other warships) was deployed in harrying Union merchant ships. The subsequent claims by the United States against the UK for damages resulting from these attacks became known as the Alabama Claims, on the basis that CSS *Alabama* was unusually successful in her calling, taking in excess of 60 prizes before being sunk off the coast of France in 1864. After international arbitration endorsed the American position in 1872, Britain settled the matter by paying the United States \$15.5 million, ending the dispute and leading to a treaty that restored friendly relations between Britain and the United States. That



international arbitration established a precedent, and the case aroused interest in codifying public international law.

This prompted a very lively and interesting discussion. Questions from the floor related to the scope and limits of international law and the special challenges of jurisdiction and enforcement of judgements, including some astute contributions from the student body.

Generous with his time, Sir Christopher continued to answer questions over canapés and drinks provided – along with our venue – by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and we are very grateful to Ben Perry (1992) for hosting this event for us.

This year's event – Dinah Rose QC and BBC journalist and author Mishal Husain in conversation – will take place on Monday 11 November 2019 at the offices of Slaughter and May, One Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YY (thanks to committee member Dan Schaffer). I look forward to welcoming you then.

Greg Campbell (1993)

Chairman, Merton Lawyers' Association

A student's perspective

As Merton law students, a highlight of Michaelmas term is the Merton Lawyers' Association meeting, held at a prominent law firm. This year we visited the offices of Sullivan & Cromwell. The evening started with a talk from Mertonians now working for Sullivan & Cromwell which provided insight into life at the firm and it was fascinating to hear everyone's different route into life as a commercial solicitor.

Following this, Sir Christopher Greenwood QC, a former International Court of Justice judge, gave a very interesting talk entitled 'The highways and byways of international law'. As an undergraduate of an English Law degree, there is little scope for exposure to international law and it was therefore exciting to learn about a different legal system coupled with its complexities. For example, Sir Christopher highlighted the humorous difficulty of translating sporting analogies that, while being second nature to us, are not as comprehensible to those from other cultures.

To finish off the evening we were treated to a drinks reception which gave us an invaluable opportunity to speak to Mertonians working for law firms all across London and get an insight into their work and their journey to success. It was a pleasure to be invited once again to the meeting and we all look forward to the next event.

Sam Gibbs (2017)



Merton in the City

After a pause of a couple of years, Merton in the City reconvened at the Royal Opera House for an evening with Ian Taylor (1975). Ian is now Chairman of Vitol Group, having spent a substantial period since 1995 as Vitol's Global CEO.

Ian is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Opera House. That connection made for a unique Merton in the City event, as a large part of the evening was dedicated to the Royal Opera and the rest to Ian's reflections on his career.

Alex Beard, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, co-hosted the first part of the evening with Ian. We were treated to recitals from some of the Royal Opera House's exceptional young talent, the stars of the future – Australian lyric soprano Kiandra Howarth and Ukrainian baritone Yuriy Yurchuk.

In the second part of the evening, we heard about Ian and his business activities. He joined Shell shortly after graduating from Merton in 1978, and then joined Vitol in 1985 after a propitious meeting in a London pub with some Vitol

executives. Outside the industry, Vitol is one of the least known of the world's largest companies, yet it is the largest independent energy trading group in the world. It is a private company, owned substantially by its employees. To provide a sense of scale, in 2018 Vitol had revenues of \$231 billion. Vitol ships more than 350 million tonnes of crude oil and products each year, trades more than 7 billion barrels of crude oil and products every day, and controls 250 supertankers to move this cargo around the world. It has over 18 million cubic metres of storage capacity across the globe.

Vitol undertakes predominantly physical oil trading but also some derivative trades. We were told that margins are typically small, but that volume is very high, hence the high total group profitability. Profitability therefore comes from very careful management of the business and through innovation in, *inter alia*, making new transportation routes work and through pioneering techniques in new territories – especially in Africa, where the market is heavily inhibited by government practice. Vitol has recently, in cooperation with the World

Bank, engineered an intra-Africa sale of oil into Ghana for the first time. This has taken six years of hard work, in tandem with government and leading international agencies.

Transparency is a recurring theme. Ian indicated that the group can plot a steadier course as a private company, but still remain open and transparent about its activities around the globe. What also matters in driving a company forward is a high degree of alignment between shareholders, management and employees. That can happen in a private company environment.

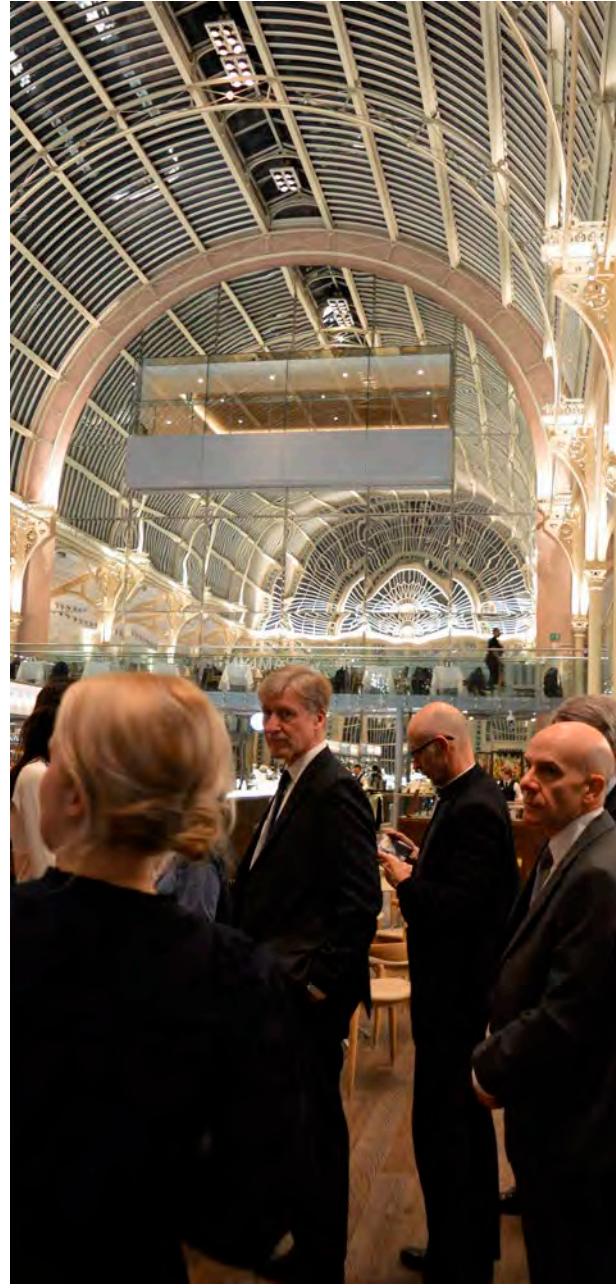
Another challenge for Vitol is of course renewables. Ian estimates that peak oil demand will be at the end of the next decade, and anticipates a decline thereafter as there is a larger-scale switch to renewables. This is a challenge to Vitol as its expertise is primarily in moving product, and renewables are substantially immobile.

In politics, Ian has been a long-time donor to the Conservative Party and was vocal in his support for a 'No' vote in the Scottish referendum in 2014 and a 'Remain' vote in the June 2016 referendum on EU membership. He thinks the UK will now have to make itself more attractive (for example, by lowering taxes) to try to maintain its position in the world political and economic infrastructure.

One of the consequences of Vitol being a world leader in energy is that Ian has spent time with senior politicians in some tricky situations. Ian regaled us with tales of his discussions with Cuba's Fidel Castro. Latterly, he has had exposure in the Middle East, especially with the leaders in Kurdistan, and with African leaders in order to complete the project in Ghana.

Outside the world of international oil and gas, Ian famously rescued Harris Tweed in 2005 and has helped turn it into Scottish Exporter of the Year. The Taylor Family Foundation, which Ian established with his wife Tina in 2007, has given more than \$20 million in donations to advance education and promote the arts, sport and recreational activities for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and difficult circumstances.

Richard Baxter (1983)





Merton Mathematics Reunion Day

On Saturday 24 November 2018, we held the first Merton Mathematics Reunion Day, a unique opportunity for our maths alumni to meet our current undergraduate and graduate students and learn how mathematics teaching at Merton has changed over time. Attendees included Merton mathematicians who matriculated in seven different decades (1954–2018). They enjoyed meeting their friends and contemporaries, and also those who studied at Merton decades before or after them.

There were a number of reasons to organise the reunion. Merton historians had already hosted a successful reunion, as reported by Professor Steven Gunn (1979) in *Postmaster* last year. Mathematics and the joint schools at Merton have hundreds of alumni, so it was an obvious front-runner for a subject-based reunion. Merton has always been a great place for mathematics and it is not that difficult to find many other reasons to hold our reunion this academic year. For example, we are celebrating 400 years since Sir Henry Savile (Fellow and Warden) established his mathematical

professorships, while some others noticed that both 2018 and 1264 (the year when College was founded) could be expressed as a power of 2 multiplied by a prime. Yes, perhaps you do need to be a mathematician to appreciate that.

The day started with a talk given by Professor Jon Chapman (1986) on eigenvalues and eigenmodes, which was a great blend of mathematics and its applications, including performances on a musical saw. The next talk was given by Alexandra Hewitt (1988) describing her work with the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme, which stimulated a lively discussion on mathematics teaching and disadvantaged groups in education. Our third morning speaker was Richard Kenyon (1956) who gave us an overview of Merton mathematics in 1950s and his career in computing.

All three morning speakers highlighted different strengths and contributions of Mertonians to the world of mathematical teaching, research and applications. We also

learned that Merton and its mathematics have changed quite a lot during the last seven decades. To conclude the morning, I gave an overview of the current state of Merton mathematics teaching and research, and summarised some recent achievements of our students. After my talk one of our alumni pointed out that our recent prizewinners have included more women than men, a fitting achievement to celebrate during the upcoming 40th anniversary of the College becoming coeducational.

After lunch in Hall, we had another highlight: posters prepared by our current undergraduate and graduate students, describing their research projects. Merton supports undergraduate students who want to do summer research projects and a number of mathematicians have used this opportunity. Our poster presenters included six undergraduates, who were joined by DPhil students presenting their dissertation projects. Posters included topics on dynamical systems, graph theory, stochastic processes, optimisation and applications to biology, physics and chemistry. In parallel, students who did not have a poster to present had an opportunity to talk with our alumni in a slightly organised way: a regular changeover of alumni-student pairs was assured by bell, a method successfully tested by our Development team during the reunion of Merton historians. Feedback from our current students was great and you can read some of it on the College website.

The day concluded with a talk given by Geoffrey Grimmett (1968) on the 'Self-avoiding walk, after Hammersley and Welsh (1962)'. Dominic Welsh (1957) who was a tutor of mathematics for 40 years (1966-2005) was in the audience, as well as recent holders of the Dominic Welsh Essay Prize, who presented their posters.

At the end, a discussion arose about when we should hold the second Merton Mathematics Reunion. Should it be during the next year that can be expressed as a power of 2 multiplied by a prime? Well, we could temporarily propose to hold it then, until the College establishes a more regular pattern for subject-based reunions.

Professor Radek Erban
Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics



Merton Society London Lecture

Almost 100 Mertonians and guests gathered together for this year's Merton Society London Lecture, which was kindly hosted at the offices of Springer Nature courtesy of Steven Inchcoombe (1984) and Greg Lim (2006). We were privileged to have as our speaker Emeritus Fellow Professor James Binney, well known to Mertonians as Tutorial Fellow in Physics from the early 1980s until his recent retirement. In his introduction, the Acting Warden acknowledged the many achievements of the physics community at Merton. He also noted the College's current appeal to endow one of the Tutorial Fellowships in Physics in memory of the late Professor Michael Baker to ensure that the subject will continue to flourish for many years to come.

In Professor Binney's talk, entitled 'Understanding our galaxy', he explained the key questions that astrophysicists seek to answer in relation to our galaxy and the methods they use. He outlined a brief history of our galaxy and explained how it is a giant machine, typical of tens of billions of others in the observable universe. Our understanding of our galaxy is constantly evolving; the ambition is to synthesise the vast amount of data already collected into a 'working' computer model of our galaxy that will encapsulate all we understand about it.

Dr Duncan Barker
Fellow and Director of Development

1959 Reunion



Back row: Mrs Mary Ann Hargreave, Mr Michael Diamond, Mr Michael Whitfeld, Mr Malcolm Kitch, Mr Peter Hayward, Mrs Ann Hayward, Dr John Latham, Mr Nick Fiennes, Mrs Angela Fiennes, Mr Richard Nelson, Mr Joe McDonald, Dr Graham Vincent-Smith.

Front row: Mr Hume Hargreave, Mrs Catherine Gould, Mr Roger Gould, Mrs Margaret Oliver, Mr John Oliver, Mr Antony Ellman, Mrs Phillida Shipp, Mr David Shipp, Dr Alan Drinkwater, Mrs Joan Drinkwater, Mr John Watson, Mrs Averil Watson, Mrs Diana Allan, Mr Richard Allan.



1959 Reunion

On Friday 28 June 2019, 17 Mertonians, nine wives and five College representatives gathered for a very special dinner to celebrate 60 years since they came up to Merton in 1959.

We were treated to a tour of the Old Library, and reacquainted ourselves with the deep aura of scholarship and history which makes it such special place for all Mertonians. In an exhibition celebrating the first moon landing 50 years ago was a first edition of *The First Men in the Moon* by HG Wells, part of a donation of first editions to the Library by Michael Diamond. We then proceeded to the Reception in the New Common Room, where we had a display of memorabilia from our time at Merton put together by the College Librarian Dr Julia Walworth and her staff. This included photographs, play programmes and music sung by the Kodály Choir. Roger Gould welcomed everyone and group photos were taken amid great hilarity.

We then went down to the Savile Room for dinner, where the traditional grace was said by Nick Fiennes. After an excellent meal, in keeping with Merton's high standards, for which he thanked the College staff, the Acting Warden, Professor Steven Gunn (1979), told us about the many changes that had taken place in the College since 1959, and about the coming induction in October of the new Warden Professor Irene Tracey (1985). He proposed a toast to Mertonians.

David Shipp then thanked the Development Office for their efforts in putting this event together. The grumpy old men who wanted to celebrate their longevity had had their way, and he feared that a precedent had now been set. However, he was sure that the Development Office would rise to the challenge with fortitude and good humour. He also thanked Dr Walworth and her staff for their contribution to the event, the Acting Warden for his attendance and warm words, and the wives for leavening what would otherwise have been a male-dominated event. He then referred to the fact that since our Golden Jubilee Lunch ten years ago we had lost a further six colleagues to the Grim Reaper: John Conacher, John Howe, David Miller, Peter Moyes, David Ontjes and Frank Usher.



We had received messages from 16 colleagues who were unable to be with us: Graham Boulton, Aubrey Bowden, David Forsyth, Martin Hawkins, Ray Higgins, Bob Krueger, Tony Leggett, Ian McReath, David Marler, Bob Moore, Michael Raeburn, Peter (PF) Smith, Sam Walters, Jim White, John Williams and Bill Woods.

David then proposed a toast to Absent Friends.

David Shipp (1959)
1959 Year Representative

1968 Reunion

Arriving at Merton on Saturday 20 October 2018 for the 1968 Golden Jubilee Lunch, I felt that slight frisson of apprehension that always assails me when I return somewhere after a significant period of time, even a place as well loved as the College. In the Lodge, I had the good fortune to meet Jenny and Nicholas Richardson, and we walked across to the New Common Room together, time and apprehension both falling away as we caught up on news.

The room was full of people wearing name badges, all trying to read other people's badges without being caught. Some were instantly recognisable, most rang faint bells. Those who fell in neither category were mainly the wives and partners who had bravely accepted the extended invitation. It was a conspicuously happy group, and in the way of things became even happier with the aid of Merton's famous cellar as the occasion progressed.

Had we survived the years as well as those around us? One friend reported afterwards: 'I thought many present looked older and stouter than myself. This was very cheering.' Or as another put it: 'I don't feel old, despite meeting so many elderly people.' More generously, a third commented: 'As a group, we seem to have weathered the intervening years amazingly well.' Indeed, we do.

As we moved on to the Savile Room for lunch, the gratifying number that had turned out for the event was emphasised as we filled the two tables which ran the length of the room. The tally was 31 members of the year group with 15 wives and partners, hosted by the Acting Warden and five other Fellows, one Fellow's wife and members of the Development Office team. A meal of classic Mertonian excellence reminded us of one of the things we had enjoyed so much during our studies, and missed so much since.

As a comfortable somnolence settled over the proceedings, it was my privilege to offer the thanks of the year group to the College for its hospitality. This naturally served to make the company even keener than they already were to hear the speech from the Acting Warden which followed.

Acting Warden Professor Steven Gunn (1979) reminded us that 1968 had been a good time to arrive at Merton. We were able to enjoy a new sports pavilion of stark luxuriousness; a large, modern JCR bar; an MCR created in the Warden's Hall of around 1300; and a television room that boasted a colour TV. What's more, for ten guineas we were able to attend the 1969 summer ball and experience the sound which was Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick & Tich. Notwithstanding these distractions, Merton topped the Norrington Table from 1970 to 1972.

Internationally, we were reminded, 1968 remains famous as the year of student revolution. Merton played its part, with Dr John Roberts giving a talk on student radicalism to the College Church Society and the Chief Squirrel commanding the Fellows to preserve peace and quiet for his kin in the Fellows' Garden by refraining from giving tutorials therein. The cultural revolution of the time was further emphasised by a new system enabling members of the College, on payment of a deposit, to possess a key to the late gate for a whole term at a time.

Bringing his review up to date, Professor Gunn mentioned recent physical changes such as the Finlay Building, the TS Eliot Theatre and the access lift. He also made the very lightest of allusions to the continued need for fundraising to maintain the tutorial system, finance graduate study and continue with outstanding research.

After tea and coffee in the New Common Room, many of us finished the afternoon with a visit to the Old Library and the Beerbohm Room. These surroundings naturally prompted further happy reminiscences, not all of a rigorously academic kind.

As we gradually drifted away, we agreed that we had had an excellent reunion. Our very grateful thanks to the College. We have noticed the recent tradition of a Diamond Jubilee Dinner. If only we can hang on for another ten years ...

Ian McBrayne (1968)
1968 Year Representative

1968 Reunion



Back row: Professor Steven Gunn (Acting Warden), Professor Alastair Northedge, Dr Nicholas Richardson (Emeritus Fellow), Mr Ian McBrayne, Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys (Honorary Fellow), Mr Barry Blackburn, Mr Stephen Powell, Mr Richard Hofton, Mr David Allen, Professor Tim Cole, Mr Paul Engeham, Professor Geoffrey Grimmett, Professor Stuart Ferguson, Mr Stewart Morgan, the Revd Canon Chris Simmons, Dr David Pelteret, Dr Peter Palmer, Mr Nicholas Bicat, Professor Dominic Welsh (Emeritus Fellow).

Middle row: Dr Peter Warry (Honorary Fellow), Mr James Miller, Mr Peter Bibby, Mr Neil Loden, Mr Danny Lawrence, Mr George Daly, Mr Chris Hewitt, Dr David Martin, Mr Michael Lowe, Dr Courtenay Phillips (Emeritus Fellow).

Front row: Mr Martin Wainwright, Professor David Gadian, Mr Lawrence Briggs, Dr Martin Knight, Professor Julian Leslie, Professor Michael Goldstein.



News of Old Members

Up to 1948

Year Representative: Michael Millard

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Martin Reynolds (1948) writes with interesting comments on the place where he lives in Portugal: changing climate, water supply and air pollution. Children and grandchildren are ready centres of attention; two granddaughters are engaged to be married. Martin is also in touch with **Lionel Stephens** (1948) and has recently visited him in the retirement home in Streatley.

Manek Kirpalani (1947) says he has done very little and so is correspondingly brief: he has spoken at one conference, which was not outstanding. However, his granddaughter who is 22 is graduating at Wellesley College, Massachusetts.

David Hopkinson (1944) describes himself as a 'broken reed'; occasional visits to hospital render him completely out of touch but Coventry Cathedral is very good at 'keeping him in the picture'.

Ian Bucklow (1942) refers to my comment in my annual letter about the diminishing number of new experiences which we all experience with increasing age. Unfortunately, in December, Ian had to visit a hospital and suffered some new experiences which, understandably, he does not like. He is now, temporarily I am sure we all hope, in a wheelchair. Last year we doubtless remember, he was happily piloting a helicopter.

John Rhodes (1946) is satisfied with what, considering his age, he can still do. Despite failing eyesight he can still enjoy reading and going for short walks, but confesses an addiction for crime dramas on television.

Ron Charlwood (1944) reports a growing family; a second great-grandchild on the way. He recalls his arrival to take a scholarship exam in 1944; the enormous intimidating door with what seemed a very small opening.

Lionel Lewis (1946) has little good news to pass on. He reports the death of **Geoff Kidson** (1946) and **Patrick Yu** (1946) but thankfully still exchanges Christmas cards with John Rhodes.

Christopher Rose-Innes (1943) is still working as a sculptor and artist; he is currently president of the Stockport Art Guild and has had works in two shows in the last year. A third great-grandchild is due to arrive this year. Christopher had wondered who the oldest Mertonian is presently. I do know that: **Nick Jaco** (1938) is, until September, in his 99th year. Nick, in a short note, tells me that he has injured his neck in a fall and that he and his wife now live in a retirement home.

Claver Toalster (1948) sends me last year's letter as well as this. His most recent news is that he has been granted citizenship of the Federal Republic of Germany, having lived there since 1972. He continues to travel and reports a happy meeting with **Duncan Cloud** (1948) and has had a Christmas card from him which encouraged him to keep on going until the two of them are able to celebrate their 90th birthdays.

Tony Williams (1946) draws my attention to the fact that three who took the Merton Scholarship Examination in January 1946 and were awarded Postmasterships became nonagenarians during 2018: namely **David Lane** (1946), **Michael Franks** (1946) and Tony himself. My first reaction was that in the previous month I had been elected to an Exhibition. In his letter to me, Michael Franks revealed that those three met for lunch to celebrate their age, and that three classical Postmasters rehearsed the text of the Merton Grace. Michael had written to me some months ago explaining some of the background to the writing and publication of *The Clerk of Basingstoke*. To write a book

seems simple compared with the almost unbelievable complication of passing on the copyright to the College. Michael emphasises that, as originally established, Merton was a new kind of educational establishment: the so-called *Regula Mertonensis* lasted for some 700 years until recent de facto nationalisation. He mentions the help he was given by **Geoffrey Martin** (1947), **Roger Highfield** (1948), **Tom Braun** (1959) and **Robert Peberdy** (1975).

During the year Elizabeth and I have had lunch with **Brian Chapple** (1944) and Brenda, and also with **Guy Harris** (1948) and Mary; as well as sundry phone calls from time to time. My son **John** (1972) recently gave me a book about another Mertonian, namely *The Man Who Was Saturday* (see review on page 92). In this book about Airey Neave (1934) there is a page of photographs including **Digby Neave** (1948) when a very small boy and a group of Myrmidons in 1937 including Airey; and as I looked I was greatly surprised to find myself subject to the piercing gaze of Geoffrey Mure.

1949, 1950, 1951

There is currently no Year Representative for the years 1949-51. Please contact development@merton.ox.ac.uk if you are interested in the position.

Alistair Porter (1949) reports that he has achieved the 90-year mark and will not now be applying for any new jobs! He does find, however, that 'a niche as an after-dinner speaker has opened up as having "been there at the time" in relation to such subjects as the Second World War, National Service, the Berlin Airlift etc., as well as 11 years in the Colonial Legal Service at the time when the winds of change were blowing'. In April he found himself speaking on the subject of being a Judge's Marshal on the Western Circuit in 1954 when some current members of the High Court bench were not even born! Good to hear that you are keeping active, Alistair.

Edward Lucie-Smith (1951) states that he has no startling news, but his report begs to differ. He confirms that he is still heavily involved in the world of the contemporary visual arts, something that began when he was at Merton. He writes, 'What this has meant in more recent years is that I

am involved in the world of computers – looking towards the future, rather than at the past. I write regular reviews for the website *Artlyst*, which is the only thing of its kind based in Britain. Other big English-language websites with news about contemporary art tend to be based in the USA. I have travelled a great deal in recent years and know a number of major foreign art worlds at first hand: China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, much of Latin America, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Finland, Estonia, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, and the republics of the former Yugoslavia. Also New Zealand and Australia, and the English-speaking West Indies, including return visits to Jamaica, where I was born. I have also made many visits to the USA, and have strong connections in New Mexico and New Orleans. Much current innovation in American art is based in New Mexico and also in California, rather than being linked – as was formerly the case – to New York.'

He continues, 'Where computers are concerned, I am professionally much interested in the increasingly sophisticated world of virtual reality. This is linked to the universe of video games, which now has around 2.1 billion participants worldwide. Virtual reality art, sometimes visible at the Saatchi Gallery in London, is much more complex and involving than the little videos for iPhones recently on view at Tate Britain as the primary medium of the contenders for last year's Turner Prize.' Fantastic news, Edward, and great to see that some of our golden-agers are embracing the digital advancements of the time that elude even Gen Y-ers like the Editor!

Hugh Podger (1949) reports that he has led a largely uneventful life. He has nonetheless 'written a third book, a slim volume of autobiography for family reading. It includes, relating to the £10 book prize I received from Merton for obtaining a First, the statement: "Approval will not be given to a number of small books. The prize-winner is expected to purchase books of a permanent value, preferably one or two expensive ones"! In August our family of 21 (children and grandchildren) will be celebrating our special birthdays and in November we shall be on an ACE cultural tour of the chapels and organs of Oxford, starting with Merton. Some continuing work for the diocese on financial matters but otherwise (limited) travel and leisure.' A content life is one worth living, Hugh! We'll look forward to receiving you and your family during your ACE tour later in the year.

1952, 1953 & 1954

Year Representative: Dick Lloyd

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First of all, may I use this means to publish the fact that, by the time this goes to press, Audrey and I will have moved from our old cottage in Devon to a village near Oxford: 21 Manor Drive, Horspath, OX33 IRW. Our new phone number is unknown, but our email address remains unchanged, and my mobile no. 07704 259625. This was never published before, because the mobile did not work in our Devon village, so lived in the glove compartment of my car for use only when travelling. There are some comments on this move at the end of the report.

Now to your news:

Adrian Esdaile (1954) has come through five months of chemotherapy with clear results, but it has left him with osteoporosis of the spine, which has left him with sporadic pain. He is now back taking services and preaching as before. At my request, he sent me one of his sermons made to the pupils of Epsom College. It referred to his long illness, during which he wrote a poem every day, not because he considers himself a talented poet, but because it helped him to express his personal feelings far better than writing a diary in prose. I quote from the relevant part of his sermon: 'To write a poem – or read one – is to experience words crafted in such a way that gives us a surprise or makes us re-imagine something in a fresh way. It is sometimes like throwing a stone into a still pond. The words disturb the surface, but then the ripples of meaning spread out towards the sides.' He goes on to say that one has to look for the hidden meaning in poetry, and that there is no quick clarity. I love poetry, and was made to learn poems by heart at my prep school, which still give me great pleasure.

Alan Bott (1953) has provided an interesting description of his home of 33 years following my comments about moving. He lives in the kitchen wing of a Tudor manor house called Rake Manor in Milford in Surrey, and shares the facilities of a huge

moat on which he keeps an old Oxford punt, but has decided this year not to launch it due to increasing lack of balance. The last time I went punting was at least 12 years ago on the Cherwell and rapidly made up my mind that it would be my last time! Alan continues to lecture on old architecture, his passion, and recently found some medieval tiles which originally came from Merton College Chapel in the Museum of Norwich Castle. They include two tiles referring to one Richard of Cornwall, who died in 1272, and whose attorney was none other than Walter de Merton. This gentleman, it seems, bequeathed the village of Horspath (to where we have moved) to Merton College 'as thanks' and Alan avers that this was some shady deal, because Merton never got possession of it. He is going to write it up for *Postmaster*, but thought that as a potential new resident I should be aware of it. He and his wife Caroline have been cruising round the coasts of Scotland and Ireland, and will be visiting Sardinia in the autumn, with plenty of ancient architecture to see.

John Garrard (1954) and his wife, Carol, have moved into sheltered accommodation with a heated pool, away from the hassle of modern life. He comments that neither of them have smart phones, recalling the essay question when he sat the Entrance Exam: 'Discuss the difference between wisdom and cleverness' and that he was wise enough to know that he was not clever enough to operate one!

Gerard Green (1954) has had to increase his care for his wife, Ann, because she keeps on having falls. He had a surprise visit from **David Hurst** (1954), now being pushed around in a wheelchair by his Russian wife, and he recalled that their last visit was on bicycles...

Reg Hall (1954) spent 2018 globe-trotting. I do not know how he does it. It started with a whistle-stop visit to New Zealand and Australia, centred round a family wedding in Auckland on which day the city was hit by a cyclone! This was followed by a very wet Oxford Reunion in San Francisco in April. June, July and August were spent in Europe, based mainly in Cambridge but taking in excursions to the South of France, Spain and Portugal, where he really enjoyed port wine, adopted by the English as their favourite dessert wine centuries ago. Reg is now considering buying a house in the UK and downsizing in the US.

Henry Mayr-Harting (1954) still pursues his medieval academic activities, having, over the past year, achieved the following: four lectures at the V&A Museum on the Ottonian Empire. In my ignorance I had to ask him what this was: there were three Holy Roman Emperors in the 10th and 11th centuries named Otto I, II and III, and this answered my question. Then he also lectured in Cologne Cathedral on manuscripts from the same period. But what he seemed to be most proud about was to play an organ piece by Bruckner in the Church of St Florian while on holiday in Salzburg last August, and then a very unknown piano piece by Mozart at St Cecilia's evening at the Athenaeum last November, attended by several musical experts whom he surprised with this gigue, for me a completely unknown musical term. Henry has also had his domestic problems with the arrival of unruly and very noisy neighbours in his normally very peaceful part of North Oxford, his home for many years, but he says that they have now somewhat quietened down.

Ted Mullins (1954), using his proper name, Edwin, by which he has always been known in the art world, has now published his fascinating autobiographical account of his most interesting and varied career, entitled *In Search of Art*. One does not have to be an art fanatic to enjoy this highly entertaining book. One of the earliest experiences of the young Edwin came only four years after he had gone down from Merton in 1957 when he was working for *The Illustrated London News* as a sub-editor whose duties consisted mainly in proofreading the weekly film and theatre reviews and collecting information about art exhibitions. By a series of coincidences, he was chosen to represent, not just the *ILN*, but the entire British press to accept a personal invitation from the Shah of Persia to view the latest achievements of his Imperial Highness in that country. At age 28, it was indeed a daunting task, to which he evidently rose superbly, covering his lack of gravitas and experience in a variety of ways. (My only visit to that country was some 20 years later when the Shah and his entourage had long been replaced by the Revolutionary Brothers, and my experience was something of a contrast.) Another fascinating chapter dealing with the Middle East is about Syria, where Edwin worked extensively in the 1970s studying classical and medieval architecture, and, among the very many interesting people whom he met was

the curator of the museum in Palmyra, a very distinguished man named Dr Khaled al-Asaad. This poor man, by then retired and in his eighties, was brutally tortured and then publicly executed because he courageously refused to reveal where he had hidden many valuable exhibits before the arrival of Islamic extremists in 2015, who did untold damage to many priceless ancient buildings. (I realise that I mentioned this barbaric act in my report last year, but make no apology at all for repeating it.) I found the book so fascinating that I could not put it down, and I can thoroughly recommend it, not only for its content, but the delightful witty pencilled illustrations by Paul Cox. It is published by the Unicorn Press.

Mike Rines (1954) reports that he is drawing in his horns on several activities. He founded Maritime Woodbridge, the local festival of the sea, and is now occupying the largely honorary position of President. He was also indirectly responsible for the founding of the Arthur Ransome Society, having found and had restored the wreck of his boat in the 1990s.

Tony Taylor (1955) responded to my appeal last year for any other surviving members of the 1956/57 winning Rugby XV by writing to say that he is still very much alive, even if no longer kicking very strongly, and that he was our full back. He also said that he thought that **John Paine** (1955), who played on the wing, and who emigrated to the USA after graduation, had visited the UK a couple of times in the last ten years and is still 'above ground' to the best of his knowledge. He himself is in good health and still running his family business. He has two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Peter Westwood (1954), whose sight is deteriorating rapidly due to macular deterioration, describes his current life with the old adage: 'Sometimes I sits and thinks, and sometimes I just sits', but he has sent me an interesting account of his Oxonian background. His great-grandfather hailed from Aberdeen, and was a bright scholar who could recite Latin at the age of 12, but decided instead to study Chinese (I assume Mandarin) and settled in Hong Kong where he translated the works of Confucius and other classics into English. He returned to the UK in 1880 and was appointed the first Professor of Chinese in Oxford, based at Corpus Christi. His youngest daughter was Nancy, and she married a senior doctor at the Radcliffe Infirmary, whose youngest

daughter was Peter's mother, Joyce. Her marriage was in trouble when Peter was born in 1934, and so he came into this world at the Radcliffe and his early years were spent at 98 Woodstock Road, just opposite the Infirmary, the home of his grandparents. When her marriage did break up, his mother took him with her to London, but returned to Oxford at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, and Peter returned to the home of his grandmother, who had moved, following the death of her husband, to Charlbury Road. He went to the Dragon School very nearby, but decided to become a boarder, considering it 'wet' to be a dayboy. He went on to Wellington College, but Oxford remained his home during that time, National Service and then Merton, where he remained for a fourth year after all of us had gone down, to prepare for a life in the Colonial Service.

David Watson (1954) reports that he and his wife, Pam, still wrestle with the (in)Justice System. A friend of his was eventually released from prison after serving his term, only to be recalled on a technicality due to an inexperienced Probation Officer, which caused a great deal of unnecessary personal trauma for the poor guy. He says that it is a positive move to bring the Probation Service back under government control. My cousin, John Kendall, has recently published a book entitled *Regulating Police Detention: Voices from behind Closed Doors*, which reflects the same sort of problems.

This leaves me, **Dick Lloyd** (1954), to add my penn'orth, but it makes for dull reading, since our life has been completely dominated by our decision, taken last October, to sell both our Oxford studio flat and our ancient cottage in Devon, and move into one location to make the most of our declining years. My increasing osteoarthritis and difficulty in negotiating steps and stairs has been a major reason, and the village here in Devon has much changed with the deaths of the old guard and many newcomers, and we no longer feel a part of the community. In March we put both properties on the market. The contrast in doing so was incredible. The studio flat sold in days, with two young girls competing for it, so that we got in excess of the asking price. The cottage is still without a buyer even although we have dropped the price to below that of the flat. The flat is one big studio only, the cottage, dating from the 15th century and the home at that time of the bailiff of the Manor, is historically listed

Grade II, thatched, and has five rooms, two accessible lofts and a small garden. The Brexit chaos has undoubtedly had an effect. So we have obtained a bridging loan and have just moved into a three-bedroom bungalow in a quiet cul-de-sac in the historic village of Horspath. The stress and the strain have been unbelievable, but we have survived, and are also about to celebrate our diamond wedding. We have many old friends in and around Oxford and Middlesex, apart from family as well. But we leave two of our daughters in Devon and look forward to returning as visitors.

1955

Year Representative: John Mitchell OBE

Email: johnmitchell36@gmail.com

Dear 1955-ers,

I am indebted to a faithful few who wrote to me so that I can pen something for their peers, as follows.

John Cooke, who you will remember was ravaged by Lyme disease, has published two books this year: *Safe Keeping: Voices from a Vanished World*, mainly a compendium of wartime letters between his mother in Oxford and his foster mother in the USA; and *Lament for Democracy and Other Essays* (both are available through Amazon). He travels between his homes in France, California, England and the non-profit Bali Children's Project. He deems life 'full and good'.

Dermot Killingly also does so much that even reading of his activity makes one feel lazy. He is learning Portuguese, advanced by a stay with a Portuguese friend in Lisbon before travelling in France, to which he will be returning later this year. He gave a lecture in Dublin on Indian history, attended a conference in Lancaster on Indian religions, finished a chapter on Indian religions for a book on Asian responses to Darwin, and is currently writing on modern Indian cultural history. He is well – as one would need to be to cope with that lot!

Lionel Jebb has not been so lucky for, following a relaxing cruise, he fell on tarmac while picking up litter from his lane.

Undiagnosed severe damage to a leg led to three weeks in hospital and a dozen visits to hospital in the nine months since, his leg is still 'playing silly b.....'. Corinna and he will have visited London for the public arrival there in May of a statue of Eglantyne Jebb, the joint founder with her sister of Save the Children, celebrating the Fund's 100th birthday.

John Adams has also had a rough time, what with cardiac problems, five stents, etc. According to Jo, his wife, he tries not to mention cricket, but if anyone else does he just sighs! Well, he did choose to become Australian!

Having written a note that he had lost touch with most of his contemporaries, **Mike Thornton** was delighted to get a hand-written reply from **Tony Taylor**, giving news of **David Curtis** and **Mike Hartley** together with comments on his own activities with golf and the family business. Mike is of course known in this '55-ers round-up for his sometimes abstruse researching and he does not disappoint this time. While delving into the medieval economy of Higham Ferrers in Northants, he read that a tenant farmer called Baldryk had paid 20d (say a week's wages for a skilled carpenter) per annum for a farmyard without a farmhouse. After a few years he still appeared on the bailiff's accounts but had been crossed out by the auditor. So the Northants Baldryk vanishes from history and the annual income of King Henry VI was 20d less. Well then...

Various joint replacements have limited my golf, but all will be well soon. I continue on my self-imposed task of raising £0.5 million to build the village a new sports pavilion, having in principle got about halfway. Chichester Festival Theatre is a real joy, as is England cricket, our family (which includes a Mertonian daughter), and overseas travel.

With my very best wishes,
John

1956

Year Representative: Richard Kenyon

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The main pleasure of compiling the *Postmaster* report is being in touch with our known extant contemporaries. Not all have news for general publication but there is still plenty of material. It is always a happy task even when I must begin with traditional press apologies for, and corrections of, errors in last year's edition!

Firstly, I apologise to our contemporary **Christopher Ball** and his wife Wendy whose diamond wedding anniversary had been recorded as only golden. However, it gives me the opportunity to say now that I have thoroughly enjoyed the book of marriage sonnets he wrote for the occasion. Secondly, my apologies go to **Robert Arnold** (1988), whom I named Robin as co-author of the obituary to the late **Peter Wyles** (1955).

As so often **Jay Kayser** was first to respond, explaining his haste with the explanation that he hated 'to-do' lists. This past March, MIT Press celebrated the 50th anniversary of *Linguistic Inquiry*, a journal in theoretical linguistics that he started 50 years ago and has ever since been editor-in-chief. In the fall he has a new book coming out with the title *The Brain's the Limit: A Theory of What Happened to Poetry, Painting and Music at the Turn of the 20th Century*. Jay still plays the trombone in the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, recently with special guest star Ricky Ford, formerly with the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has caused some confusion this year. To their surprise, both **David Bethell** and **Michael Ellman** found themselves excluded from receipt of College communication. Like so many of us, they find that the passing years leave their mark but Michael still manages some foreign travel, including a trial observation mission in Morocco a couple of years ago and, more recently, the World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Brussels.

Tim Brennand also comments on the passing years and international experiences. Last year he and his wife rewarded themselves by making a customised trip involving high altitudes and canoes on an upper tributary of the Amazon in Ecuador. He recalls that Ecuador reinforces the truism that geologists can't retire because one is always on the job. The volcanic terrain was as breathtaking as Alexander von Humboldt had found it in the early 19th century, and whose 2015 biography by Andrea Wulf, *The Invention of Nature*, had inspired them into making the trip. I am not sure if living in Wales near Lampeter counts as internationalism but the small university town, human-scale in size, is strongly Welsh-speaking. The language has proved to be harder to acquire than Chinese, among whom they once lived for seven years. To complete this report's South American roving, in January my wife and I cruised from Buenos Aires to Santiago via Antarctica where we were surprised to see on the map the Hollick-Kenyon Plateau.

On the home front **John Isherwood** and I discovered that we have charity almshouse connections. Mine are as Chairman of Bond's Hospital Estate Charity in Coventry; The Ewelme Almshouse Charity owns property in John's village. In Ewelme churchyard there stands the tombstone of Jerome K Jerome to which I was introduced by my tutor **Philip Watson** (1949); the stone is still beautifully maintained today. 'Welcome to the world of Philip Watson' were the opening words of my presentation 'The 1950s: learning and legacies' at the College's first Mathematics Reunion Day last November.

The passing of years was also recorded by **Richard Thomas**, **Peter Dickens** and **Ian Hodson**, but they did not hamper the last in his usual pattern of short holidays in search of steam trains, electric trams and itinerant descendants, interspersed with occasional medical repairs, though he notes that encouraging diagnoses are almost always qualified with 'for a man of 83'.

This year no deaths were reported but I attended the funeral of **Tony Wynn-Evans's** wife Margaret.

1957

Year Representative: Graham Byrne Hill

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Ian McMillan is once more able to contribute after my email error. His latest excursion was a seven-day hike in the Verdon, including climbing the Verdon Gorge. Seven days were required for recovery, aided by biking 'to get the legs going again'.

My own find of the year is the huge enhancement of the vigour and quality of life that can result from hyper-frequent, varied exercise: e.g. weights, Pilates, interval training and walking. Now for the Verdon Gorge.

Graham Rolfe attended the Mathematics Reunion Day in November. Some of the lectures 'needed a trawl into the memory'. Meeting current students led him to engage happily with their current work. He leads a settled life in Winchester.

Michael Leach continues his close involvement with Grant Shapps' political work. He has two season tickets for Tottenham Hotspur's home games in their fine new stadium. Michael and Margo are chicken-keepers. For perspective, in October, they went on a breath-taking safari in a private game park near the Kruger in South Africa, where they were able to approach very close to seeing the so-called Big Five (leopard, lion, elephant, white rhino and buffalo).

Tony Wood recently left Liskeard and now lives in Okehampton. Jane had a bad fall in 2016 and permanently damaged two vertebrae in her spine. That, together with the sense of passing years and the need to be near our family, caused us to leave after 40 years in Liskeard. It was a big wrench and a very big downsizing operation as we left a large five-bedroomed house with large, high rooms and moved into a small bungalow. However, having three young grandchildren less than a mile away is a great compensation.'

Tony has embarked on a project to install a fully equipped toilet in the parish. He is also publicity officer for the local history society and for the Okehampton Men in Sheds. He

has a short story, set in Cornwall, for young teenagers due to be published in the autumn. He belongs to – and attends many events at – the Cornwall branch of the Oxford Society, where he meets up with Philip Waller.

My own activities call to mind a London gadfly, with a large private library and access to numerous think tanks. One of my sustained interests is the EU. We have nine grandchildren of school age living within six miles, and four more grandchildren at university. We much appreciate our close engagement with their personal and intellectual development.

Our year continues to support the choir generously, **Reed Rubin** on a major and **David Harvey** on a minor note'. David, 'a mere chemist', also encourages donations to the Physics Tutorial Fellowship Appeal.

1958

Year Representatives: Bryan Lewis

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and **Peter Parsons**

Email: pjparsons@gmail.com

The Diamond Jubilee Lunch in June 2018 was thoroughly enjoyable for all 1958-ers who were able to attend. The occasion was enhanced by the presence and company of wives and partners this time which wasn't the case for the Golden Jubilee Lunch in 2008. Several who didn't or couldn't attend said how sorry they were not to be able to come because of pre-booked holidays. Your Year Representatives will make sure we give more notice of the 65th gathering! Most pleasing was that most of us recognised one another, notwithstanding in some cases bald pates and distinct embonpoint. It was fortunate that we were able to link the lunch with the Merton Weekend which marked the retirement of the Warden, Sir Martin Taylor. Furthermore, the weather was golden, not unlike it was in the Trinity Term 1959 when having to prepare for Prelims interrupted rowing, punting, tennis, cricket *u.s.w.*

Andrew Adam has written a fascinating biography of his step-grandfather who was a medical missionary in China (Inner Mongolia to begin with) at the turn of the 19th century. I bought a copy out of loyalty to a good friend and read it over Christmas. I'm glad I did: it was a very moving and humbling read indeed. I wrote to tell him so and asked him whether he had drawn it to the attention of other College friends. He replied to say he hadn't but hoped for a mention in *Postmaster*. He added, 'There are still 150 author's copies under my bed to dispose of. In case my coronary arteries pack up entirely I have told Jacqui to replace any remnants in the coffin with me rather than burden my executors with bonfires.' It's only 65,000 words and when it was proofread he was reminded of John Roberts savaging an essay 60 years ago. Andrew's email address is andy@aeadam.plus.com.

Neil Davidson says he has been suffering from severe depression for some years but this is at last responding to professional help, so much so that he has rejuvenated his collecting of antique maps and research into them, planning to expand his publications. He adds, 'I wonder if any of the *lectores* among you share such obscure interests? If so, neildd99@hotmail.co.uk finds me easily.'

John Gooding wrote, 'I've now been giving talks and lectures on Russia, its quirks, charms and horrors, for more than 50 years, and in March I gave what I meant to be my last, explaining why democracy has never prevailed there and is unlikely to in the future. But if I ever speak about Russia again, I hope it will be to eat my words about democracy.'

Adrian Vickers emailed from Normandy in May where, with Emma, he was 'doing' cathedral rose windows, gardens and world war memorials and battle sites. 'It's hard for us to imagine how terrifying and dehumanising living in occupied territory must have been.' In the grounds of a chateau they were staying in, were the remains of a VI launch site. They also reflected on the fact that 'Amiens Cathedral, mildly damaged by German bombs in 1940, was virtually destroyed by Lancaster bombers in 1944 mishits and not reopened until 1956. We also stumbled across a German First World War cemetery in which there were a (small) number of Jewish graves.'

Richard Salkeld, undeterred by the failure of a boatyard near Cinque Terre to carry out boat repairs ordered six months previously, finally cast off two months late last summer and circumnavigated Elba, Corsica and Sardinia. This coming summer (2019) ‘we hope at last to reach Naples and Sicily, and, perhaps, Malta.’ Meanwhile, last year ‘I enjoyed a nostalgic visit to Merton, Blackwell’s and the Randolph and discovered that new constructions have blocked my secret climb-in route from the High Street over the bicycle shed roof into the Rose Lane complex. Then on to Bampton, the site of some outdoor scenes in Downton Abbey. I had been evacuated there during the early years of the Second World War, and in about 1961 with **Gerald Jones** on the back of my Lambretta I had managed to identify the house where my family had lived. Finally, a visit to Oswyn Murray, former fellow of Balliol; we are both related to Professor Sir James Murray, founding father and primary editor of the OED.’

John Bradshaw says ‘In my declining years, it has been a time for taking stock and writing books: *Developmental Disorders of the Brain: Reflections of a Neuropsychologist*; *Brushes with Brains*; and *Degenerative Disorders of the Brain*.’ He has also taken time out to reacquaint himself with New Zealand where he spent a year in 1967, Tasmania with its rugged mountains and coastline, regions in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. In that state, Albany was founded in 1824 by a distant relative, Major Edmund Lockyer, who arrived on the brig *Amity*; hence John’s middle name, Lockyer.

In last year’s *Postmaster* I recorded that **Ceri Peach** was in a nursing home. We learned that he died in December. I am sad to report, too, that **Paul Cheeseright** died in January. Paul’s funeral was attended in a natural burial ground in Surrey by Merton friends Adrian Vickers, David Waterhouse, Peter Norman and John Baxter. Obituaries to both appear in this edition of *Postmaster*.

1959

Year Representatives: David Shipp

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and **Roger Gould**

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This year we celebrated our Diamond Jubilee and a report on our celebration appears elsewhere in *Postmaster* on page 130. As was noted briefly in *Postmaster* 2018, **John Conacher** died in April 2018. An obituary for John appears on page 222. We were also sorry to learn of the death of **Peter Moyes** in April 2019 and an obituary for Peter appears on page 224.

Those of us at the Diamond Jubilee Dinner had the opportunity to catch up with colleagues then. At this stage in our lives less is happening to most of us that is newsworthy, but it is nevertheless good to know how colleagues are faring, and their opinions on the state of the world and on life in general are as valid as ever!

So here are the contributions we have received this year.

Antony Ellman writes: ‘The book I co-authored last year, *Increasing Production from the Land: A Sourcebook on Agriculture for Teachers and Students in East Africa*, was published in Dar es Salaam in September 2018. It aims to tackle the problems facing sustainable land use in an era of climate uncertainty and population explosion. My two co-authors and I toured Tanzania in September/October launching the book at various locations. It has been placed on the required reading list of all the agricultural colleges and universities in the country, and we hope it will have some impact.

‘In spring my partner Constance and I paid an enjoyable visit to Bruges (did you see the film *In Bruges* about two Irish contract killers? Highly recommended) and to Le Touquet to stock up on wine before Brexit bites. But our biggest news is that, after nearly 20 years of living in sin following my first wife Ruth’s death in 1997, Constance and I decided to

regularise our position before it's too late. We were married on 4 July (Constance's 75th birthday as well as American Independence Day) at a beautiful ceremony in Twickenham with my two sons and their families and Constance's cousin and partner as witnesses.



Antony Ellman and his wife Constance celebrate their wedding

'The following day we had a memorable party for 130 family and friends at Battersea Arts Centre. My band, St Margarets' Elastic Band, played a few numbers as a warm-up act, but the main attraction was a brilliant soul band, Atlantic Soul Orchestra, set up by my drummerboy nephew John. Two years ago John's band played at Benedict Cumberbatch's wedding, last year they played at Harry and Meghan's, but their performance this year to celebrate Constance's and my marriage was the pinnacle of their fame! You won't be able to sit still, I promise. See www.atlanticsoulorchestra.com.'



Antony and Constance Ellman party at Battersea Arts Centre

David Forsyth is now a published author, his books including *Gas Masks, Galaxies and Time* (the first part about growing up in wartime Warwickshire), *A Seat on the Sand*, *A Double Romance*, and *Dilemma. Danger and Drones*. See www.david-forsyth.co.uk.

Martin Hawkins writes: 'Another year and the garage still not cleared out but it's been an eventful year all the same. Playing host rather than making visits to family abroad, and restrained also by a couple of mandatory no-fly periods following operations, we travelled little in the year. Nevertheless I took my reinforced aorta and my wife her new knee to the high Alpujarras in the Sierra Nevada to test out these repairs, with some excellent walking with my local mountaineering club. Once again this Easter we attended Passiontide at Merton. Sublime.'

John Latham writes: 'Not much news at my end, but I did take the family to Rome last summer to relive the "delights" of my A-level Latin!' (John also wrote about **Peter Moyes**; his comments are included in Peter's obituary.)

Tony Leggett is now Director of the Shanghai Centre for Complex Physics.

David Marler wrote about his visits to see **Peter Moyes** with whom he shared a love of sailing (see Peter's obituary).

Joe McDonald writes: 'I'm glad to say that, after nearly 60 years of intending to do so, I finally got out in April to see **Bob Krueger** and his wife Kathleen in their exotic enclave on the Guadalupe River in southern Texas. I had gone in some apprehension having heard of his declining health but found that, though rather frail, he was mentally alert and keen to talk. His knowledge of American politics and his contempt for The Donald are both formidable and we had five delightful and stimulating days talking and talking. We had time to do some local visiting too and, as well as going to the family ranch ("only 700 acres", said almost apologetically) in Texas ranch country, saw the Alamo which, to my surprise, was in the middle of San Antonio (population 2.5 million) and sang "Davy Crockett" in situ, much to the surprise of the on-duty deputy sheriff. I was buoyed by Bob's company, his humour and his intelligence (much as in 1959) and have said I will go

again to Texas to see him and Kathleen this autumn, round about the time this *Postmaster* comes out. He asked me to convey his warmest best wishes and fondest memories to all who come to the 60th anniversary in June and through *Postmaster's* pages as well.

'In my normal life I still teach Latin in Haslemere U3A and the class have now completed ten years; my German is coming on and I am about to go on the Haslemere twinning visit to Horb am Neckar and test my understanding of German strong verbs. Haslemere Musical Society insist that my corncrake voice is still adequate for the weekly task of leading the tenor line. Our U3A ukulele group continues to thrive and indeed grow and we give what are euphemistically called 'gigs' (generally to people older than we are). With our ramblers I enjoy the weekly delight of the Surrey Hills and environs. And six grandchildren, all reasonably local as well as vigorous, think that grandparents are made for their sole use and enjoyment. The Haslemere gym is my antidote to, and my preparation for, all of their demands.'

Ian McReath writes: 'It was sad to hear the news about **John Conacher's** death. He was one of the four '59 chemists along with **Martin Hawkins**, **Ray Higgins** and myself. News about the past year in Brazil has been a strange mixture, with the final demise of the unpopular Temer government, the near-assassination of the extremist presidential candidate Bolsonaro, and his subsequent election, in which about 25% of the electors didn't vote or cast null votes. Bolsonaro represents the Social Liberal Party, whose face is closer to Nazism. The first hundred days of his government, which includes a large presence of high-ranking military figures, have been marked by the incredible influence of Olavo de Carvalho, the Sorcerer of Virginia, USA. He adopts positions which have been termed visionary, astrological, witchcraft or *charlatanismo*, depending on whether one thinks he is a genius or not. Analysing his texts and the photos which accompany them one may conclude that a twisted mind goes well with a twisted face. Bolsonaro's sons are very active in the social networks, and don't contribute to calming the tensions which exist between olavists/bolsonarists and the military members of the government, who seem to be better balanced and less ignorant than the run of the rut Social Liberals. Many analysts are coming to the conclusion that, while Brazil was

quite respected during the Lula government, the country is now quite irrelevant, and is unlikely to experience significant economic growth for, perhaps, another 40 years! With unemployment and sub-employment reaching something like 30 million people (not including their dependants) this doesn't bode well for the future.'

Bill Woods writes: 'We are doing reasonably well health-wise. My rude constitution means I have not had to change my lifestyle, so I go fishing as usual. I continue to get great pleasure from reading. Thanks to the wonders of Kindle, for the price of £1.99 per set, I can go from the works of Rider Haggard to *The Leatherstocking Tales* and on to lots of other classic authors – currently Thackeray. Jane, Amy and David are off to the Welsh coast soon and will be doing a stint along the coastal path. I shall use the week going to fresh places to fish which are some way off, and looking after all the plants that we started in the greenhouse and have now planted out. I am also waging war on the local mouse population which were scoffing the herbs which Jane has grown. My total kill is already over 20.'

'The children are all doing well. Sarah now has a job with a girls' grammar school with a fancy title (the job, not the school) and involves, inter alia, getting and running the kit for scientific experiments, guiding the pupils, and reporting on their progress. This is part-time and fits in nicely with the rest of her life. Her boys are thriving and enjoying life. David is still in Lampeter carrying out humdrum tasks while pursuing his interest in philosophy and politics – and heavyweight boxing. Amy beavers away in the education field. I find it hard to believe the incredibly complicated way in which academies operate. How did we ever learn anything without all this palaver?

'As Merton events come round I am reminded of LP Hartley's dictum that the past is a foreign country, and indeed sometimes feel a stranger in my own country. Having said which, I am very happy with my lot and conscious that I have had more than my fair share of what life has to offer.'

And as to your Year Representatives:

Roger Gould and his wife Catherine finally reached their golden wedding last autumn, a year after the cruise to

celebrate it when the family were all available. For further celebrations, in addition to a gathering at Southwell Minster where their daughter works as Education Officer, they took the opportunity to invite friends to a series of small lunch parties, which enabled them to engage in conversation with everyone instead of merely saying hello and goodbye at a larger event. At the moment of writing, further family celebrations are taking place, following the news that their eldest granddaughter has just obtained first class honours for her degree in musical theatre – a considerably better classification than her grandfather, but in a subject that hadn't been invented as a university degree 60 years ago!

David Shipp with Phillida and friends completed the South Downs Way in May, walking from Arundel to Winchester, over rolling downs and through charming English villages. They also investigated the Mendips in April and will lead a walking holiday there in October. David enjoyed singing Verdi's *Requiem* with Oldham Choral Society at the Royal Northern College of Music in May. Their older grandchildren in London are into rowing (on the River Lea) and swimming (sometimes in the Olympic pool). The younger ones and their parents enjoy the cosmopolitan life of East Oxford.

1960

Year Representative: Keith Pickering

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John Hartnett, Philip Hawkes, Stephen Hazell, Jasper Holmes, Paul Jennings, Roger Laughton, Richard Mulgan, Tim Phillips, Mike Williams and Nick Woodward are in good order but with nothing especial to note for *Postmaster*.

Keith Aspinall still wanders round a squash court whenever he and his regular opponent are free, but both find racquet ball easier, given the extra time it affords old folks to get to the ball before its second bounce. He puts in three days a week for Citizens Advice, concentrating on the Pension Wise service, explaining to the over 50s what to do with money they have accumulated in a defined contribution pot, this enabling him to meet a wide cross-section of people.

Stuart Blume feels fortunate when saying that he is doing exactly the same things as he was a year ago. He continues to teach, researching his book about his 'Habsburg family', travelling as before to Latin America, but primarily to Central Europe in connection with the book. His 2017 book on vaccination history and politics has been published in a Korean translation.

Gerald Cadogan is carrying on with things archaeological. Nothing especial to report other than that he retired last year from being chairman of the Anglo-Hellenic League, to be succeeded by John Kittmer, recently Ambassador in Athens, and 25 years younger.

Geoffrey Copland is keeping busy with the various charities of which he is a trustee, currently chairing two of them but, as with one from which he stepped down recently, hoping to find replacements soon as these occupy much of his time which means that the garden and allotment do not receive the attention they deserve.

John Crossley, apart from having succeeded in pulling a hamstring by falling over a neighbour's dog, is in good form and reports having had a very pleasant dinner in the Common Room with the retiring Warden of Merton in June last year in the company of a surprising number of enthusiastic mathematicians. His research continues with three major projects, two at Monash and one with Clive Griffin of Trinity, Oxford. He was privileged to be awarded an Asian Studies Grant at the National Library of Australia for his early colonial Philippines research, which he split over two visits in 2018, both being great fun, especially as he was afforded staff privileges and could be in the library at any hour. His most topical project at the moment is a new development with an old Chinese colleague with whom he previously worked on the history of ancient Chinese mathematics. They are looking at Chinese-Spanish Philippines political relations around 1600 and are discovering that there are many lessons to be learnt which could apply equally well to today's situation. He was back in the Philippines for the annual Philippine National Historical Society meeting, speaking on 'Spies, informers and castaways' and which took him to new parts of the Philippines, Leyte and Samar. Then it was back to the UK for the première of Judith Wechsler's

film *Isaiah Berlin: Philosopher of Freedom*; Judith had used a number of John's photos in the hour-long documentary (he had known Isaiah at All Souls after his retirement as President of Wolfson).

George Darroch decided to give himself pneumonia this year, then compounded the situation by adding pleurisy for good measure. He is now on the long road to recovery, during which he was delighted to be referred to as 'young man' by a fellow patient. Prior to falling unwell he and Angela had a couple of trips away – to Cardiff for the RHS Flower Show, and to Edinburgh to watch the Scotland-South Africa game at Murrayfield, a game he found frustrating because the Scottish team seemed to be doing everything possible to hand the game to the Springboks.

John Davies has continued to be academically active, with two major papers published and a systematic programme now laid for the next few years' work on Athens in the 6th and early 5th centuries BCE. He has given presentations at conferences/workshops in Oxford, Bonn, Vienna and Liverpool, and has attended several others, one on Early Mainline Railways at York being especially pleasant. His high spots of the past year were a ten-day traverse of the Silk Road from Mashhad to Tehran in company with two museum curator friends, and a hectic coach-party trip along the eastern stretch of the same road from Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan to Beijing via Xinjiang and Dunhuang. With Iran currently going from bad to worse, and the repressive regime in Xinjiang all too clear even to them as foreign visitors, he was glad to have been on those trips while both were still possible, for the transformation which they wrought in the world view of him and his colleagues was fundamental. Elsewhere, the chamber choir in which he sings tenor goes from strength to strength under its new director, and he is becoming more and more involved in the activities of the London livery company in which his wife currently holds office.

Ian Donaldson reports how delighted he and Grazia were to have enjoyed lunch in the company of Duncan Barker in November during his brief visit to Melbourne, and to catch up with him again later in the day for drinks while meeting with other locally based Mertonians.

Leslie Epstein continues enjoying teaching at Boston University. He has completed a series of seven stories, called Mr. Barbershop, about an aged music teacher in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Five of the seven have been published and he is hoping that someone will bring them out in a book. He has set off on another project, a series of stories based on long-forgotten Russian tales, starting with Pushkin and moving toward the present. He has written five so far and, who knows, maybe there is a book in them as well. His long novel about the Second World War and Hollywood seems to have found a publisher. Perhaps it will be out by this time next year. His family flourishes: Theo hopes the Cubs will make the series this year and Anya is doing a series based on a Barbara Kingsolver novel for HBO, whilst Paul continues with the most important work: saving lives.

Peter Fattorini reports that his old ticker is still going post heart attack, though he needed a new stent last year. He is encouraged to think that it must be in reasonable shape because he managed the W trek in Patagonia last December; spectacular but hard work. Fortunately, the huts give you a free drink on arrival and a Pisco Sour works wonders to buck you up. He has just downsized to the lovely little village of Conistone.

David Fletcher is still working on the abatement of CO2 emissions and though the old chemistry helps a new world is opening. For those so minded (Bruce below?) he asks if anyone has taken a look at quantum computing and how it will be the next big wave in modelling molecular reactions and structure.

Bruce Gilbert says life continues in much the same way, a blessed combination of retirement, good health to date and grandchildren to keep him and his wife entertained, as well as the wonderful Yorkshire attractions of the dales, moors and wolds. He greatly enjoyed a recent lunch with **Peter Steele** (1961) and his wife Jackie, a few ears left joyously burning among their Merton colleagues.

Francis Glassborow rather splendidly said that 'Nothing particularly momentous or even noteworthy has happened over the last year. We got married last July and the house alterations were completed in mid-September, though there

are still a couple of snagging issues requiring attention.’ KWP hopes that had Gwyneth been reporting she might have taken a moderately more effusive line about the events of 2018.

Arthur Hepher, having recorded a broken wrist in 2018, this year managed recently, upon leaving his local hostelry, somewhat unaccountably, to fall rather heavily – though various helpful colleagues have been keen to ascribe libellous reasons for the incident. Do we see a pattern here?

Alan Heppenstall confirms that he is still around and in relatively good shape, though the onset of arthritis at several points is not going to reverse itself.

Mike Hind continues to be active with various local play and book reading groups, some of them affiliated to U3A. He also enjoys being a member of Sidmouth Poetry Readers, for whom he is preparing a talk to be given in June, on Sir Walter Raleigh and his contemporaries. To different climes and a different era: while in Saudi Arabia in the 1980s he photographed interesting specimens of rock art and the Nabatean archaeology of Madein Saleh in the Hejaz, where additionally there are traces of the old Ottoman railway. He has been cataloguing and digitalising these, and has shown them to the Middle East Centre at St Antony’s College, where he hopes eventually to deposit the collection. With any luck the summer of 2019 will be the first for many years when he will not have responsibility for teaching international students, so he looks forward to enjoying other seasonal activities instead.

Alan Keat is with us and in good shape. Despite having barely survived lunch with **Keith Pickering** and **Richard Thompson** in 2018 he is bravely looking forward to taking the same plunge again in 2019.

Chuck Lister has had a very difficult year, having been wheelchair bound for a while, but he hopes to be recovered by 2020.

Keith Pickering would like to thank all his correspondents who so patiently responded to his annual approach for news of their wellbeing and to the 24 who expressed their intention, Deo volente, to attend the Diamond celebration in 2020. Thanks also on behalf of Sandy and himself to **Bruce**

Walter for his company at dinner in Athens and to **Mike Hind** for making the long trek up into town to join them for a splendidly congenial lunch.

David Price, with the Diamond celebration in mind, notes that though rather poor at attending reunions he recently went to only his second BP one last November in Milan, where his old friends from the Rome and Milan offices still meet for a convivial meal. Finding himself with some 40 folk, only two of whom he had met since 1984, proved to be quite a strain on the memory but was an even greater test of his command of the Italian language. He can record the formal success of having passed his DVLA test in late 2018, not a foregone conclusion given the annoying optical complications he has had to contend with of late.

Glynne Stackhouse, in the company of his wife, attends a good number of concerts, operas and theatre productions during the year. He is still a member of the Board of Making Music, which looks after the interests of voluntary music societies, (such as choirs, orchestras and promoters of concerts), and as such recently chaired its panel which selects up and coming artists and ensembles for its annual *Selected Artists Guide*. He has stood down from the chairmanship of his own local promoting society (Music at St Peter’s, Wallingford) but remains a committee member at the request of the new chairman. Short of a fairy godmother to pay for business class (though he’s not picky, he would accept first class) they are unlikely to do any more long-haul flights, but are planning trips to Madeira, Germany, Rome, Northumberland and North Wales this year, and hope to struggle abroad in the future.

Nick Silk and his wife have downsized into Petersfield after 47 years in their six-bedroom house with outbuildings. The whole process of modifying their smaller house will not be complete for another 9-12 months, so there is still a lot to be done. He continues to play golf regularly though has now completed his three years on the committee at Liphook Golf Club. Holidays in May and June will take him and his wife on both walking and cycling trips to Italy, along with a spell in Majorca over the May half term together with two of their sons and their families (two grandchildren each). They do this

via a Holiday Property Bond which they joined about five years ago and has been a great success, enabling them to provide their four children and eight grandchildren with regular holidays at a time when they are pushed to afford them.

Richard Thompson and Jane maintain their love affair with Sicily while he continues to gain proficiency in Italian. They still manage to get to their house in France several times a year, and though it is gradually crumbling away it has been around since 1870, so he is hopeful it will see them out. A highlight of last year was a visit to his home town Chesterfield to attend the Chesterfield Festival of Cricket, where he saw Derbyshire play Northamptonshire. The Chesterfield ground is one of the most picturesque in the country and the game itself had a personal importance for Richard in that he watched Derbyshire a lot in his youth and his grandfather played for Northamptonshire a hundred years ago. He watched the game with Jane, son Toby and daughter-in-law Alison, all of whom are as passionate about cricket as he is. There will be a repeat performance this year. Meanwhile, he is girding his loins for the annual Mensa meeting with **Alan Keat** and **Keith Pickering**.

Michael Thorn is in good form will be spending his annual sojourn in British Columbia, this time in the company of his brother.

Jim Trefil says the whole exoplanet issue has got him really excited and he has a book in the planning about possible life on them. Meanwhile, his college textbook on scientific literacy is going into its ninth edition which helps keep the wolf from the door. He has no plans to retire.

Bruce Walter has had **Mike Hind** visiting him on holiday this year and in September 2018 **Keith Pickering** and Sandy spent a wonderful roof top late night dinner with him looking out together over the floodlit Acropolis. Bruce continues translating, recently covering a book describing ear-rings worn by the women of Mykonos which by their design indicated the age or married status of the wearer, living archaeology of a kind, given that some of the ear-rings were copied from ancient ones dug up from tombs on the island of Delos. Last August he drove across Bulgaria's two mountain chains, the Stara Planina and the Rhodope, seeing many lovingly preserved

old towns. Similar sights prevailed when he later visited many of Romania's Old Saxon cities. They are medieval Germany in the heart of Romania, with still a few German speakers left, and although comparisons might be invidious he thinks they are the most fascinating places he has visited in the whole of Europe. He is planning a visit to the UK in October and hopes to meet with **Keith Pickering** and **Mike Hind**.

Philip Webb has managed to survive the worst winter he can remember in the city (Toronto) and is currently engaged in time travel, as he indexes and scans interesting items from *The Railway Magazine*. He has just finished 1956, a dramatic autumn for everyone back then, when the Suez affair unfolded and Hungary rebelled against Russian rule and the railway system started to come under financial pressure with the UK government showing little sympathy. However, preservation was underway and the first effort was reported to rescue the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway, of which he is now a life member. Otherwise, he is reading Veronica Wedgwood's *Thirty Years War*, a chaotic tale not unlike today's Middle East.

Brian Winston says his ambitions have reduced themselves to merely maintaining his frequent flyer status, ergo he has happily accepted invitations to conferences and visits in the last year to Toronto, New York, Ithaca, Tel Aviv, Cork, Chanchung, Bloomington, Bristol and London. A few articles appeared and he is now working with his son on a book about fake news. Otherwise he is still immersed in his university, thinks that being around the young is healthy, although wishes more of them had had teachers in school to tell them, for example, that full stops are followed by capitals. His grandson continues as a source of wellbeing, now aged three and in the lad's own words, 'an expert'. All this would appear to occur because he is blessed with a cardiologist who seems to be in some sort of secret competition with his peers to see who can keep the old going the longest.

John Wood muses how, after his opening step, university education has cascaded down three generations. Merton was a great opportunity for him, and despite the distractions of rowing, modern languages came through to enable him to end up as Academic Registrar at one of the country's then new universities, UEA. Daughter Rachel went to Clare College, Cambridge and read Modern Languages,

granddaughter Annie read Psychology at Durham and grandson Joe went to UEA to read Modern Languages, with Annie then going on to study for a doctorate in Clinical Psychology at – guess where – UEA. It has been a delight to have two members of the family studying within ten miles of his and Kate’s Norfolk home for a year or two. He is still driving an alto and tenor saxophone in a couple of light orchestra-type ensembles, but sadly no jazz at the moment. This year he watched the Boat Race on TV with the Norfolk branch of the Oxford Society in a joint meeting with their Cambridge counterparts in the Norfolk Club in Norwich. Meeting up with them now is a salutary reminder of how he regarded the members as impossibly ancient when he first joined them in Norfolk half a century ago.

Jonathan Wright continues to read and write about the Germanies in the Cold War and publication will, he hopes, follow eventually.

1961

Year Representative: Bob Machin

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Despite my directions (the pedestrian fingerposts have been removed since I was last in the city), 12 of us managed to arrive at the same canal-side pub in Birmingham for a very enjoyable reunion lunch on 12 September last year. **Peter** and **Melia Cope**; **Mike** and **Mary Dearden**; **Derek Fry**; **Ian Harrold**; **Alan Johnson**; **Frank Kelsall**; **Tony** and **Judy Ridge**; **Bob Machin** and **Alan Slomson**.

Peter and **Melia Cope** have had a memorable year. **Melia** retired in September; a month later there was daughter **Thea**’s wedding and a house move to Ludlow. Even the estate agent had to admit that the property was ‘tired’. They now spend their time refurbishing the house; hacking their way through the garden; making new friends; and dodging the endless festivals and tourists that keep the Ludlow economy alive.

Ian Harrold continues to enjoy the undemanding pace of retirement so work on his opera *The Two Gentlemen of*

Verona is behindhand. But he has just finished his seventh set of British folk song arrangements for wind quintet; he’s cornering the market in this form of convivial music making. Currently he is rehearsing his contribution to this year’s Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester.

Neither **Alan** nor **Catherine Johnston** are enjoying very good health at the moment. **Alan** reports that he was miffed that a rather good joke was cut from his review of a book for the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* on the grounds that it was ‘too cute’. We were both puzzled by this comment. But the editor is American and it turns out that in informal usage over there ‘cute’ can mean ‘clever in a superficial way’.

Alan Slomson continues working with the UK Mathematics Trust. He enjoys presenting mathematics to school pupils and it keeps his mind off politics. This year he co-edited, with **Steven O’Hagan**, a selection of UKMT problems entitled *The Ultimate Mathematical Challenge*. An excellent gift for any mathematically inclined grandchild (all profits to the UKMT).

Rob Spray is retrenching. Much to the relief of his family, he gave up his work on industrial restructuring in Eastern Europe after pro-Russian rebels destroyed his office in Donetsk. He has also sold his holiday home in Brittany, unable to stomach any further the escalating rapaciousness of the French tax authorities. He now whiles away his time in Olney, Bucks, raising money for his wife’s former church (All Saints Turvey), indulging in amateur dramatics, grandparental duties and playing the Stock Exchange.

Wallace Kaufmann has spent ten years assisting in a translation of Thoreau’s *Walden* into Farsi. He is now working with the translator on a book of parallel texts in Farsi and English of writings by medieval Persian and American transcendentalists. He continues to enjoy life in the backwoods.

An old man of small means and tired, I sleep.
Eight hours through troubled seas of dream I sail.
Then on a Midas morning when the world is gold
I wake, a man who envies no one but himself.

That’s the caption to a photo of a magnificent sunrise in **Wallace**’s forthcoming book *Necessary Illusions*.

Peter Lee reports that he is suffering from OLD (Obsessive Limerick Disorder). It began innocently enough to entertain his grandchildren. But he now finds that limericks are composing themselves while he sleeps. The subjects are all related to personalities and events in the Brexit saga. The examples he sent are amusing but not really proper for publication here.

Neither **Frank Kelsall** nor **Peter Richmond** can recall anything that might be of interest except that they are still functioning (courtesy of the NHS.)

David Rattenbury emailed in November that he had terminal cancer; he died on 24 February. He worked for Procter & Gamble on its computer systems for 37 years – initially based in Newcastle, from where he flew all round Europe, and then in Ohio, from where he was sent all round the world. On one memorable occasion he flew round the world in nine days. Francis Glassborow (1960) shares some memories of David in the *In Memoriam* section (page 225).

This has been a year to remember in the **Machin** household. Just before Christmas Marcia was rushed to A&E with severe chest pains. It proved to be an aortic dissection (a tear of the lining) that was too close to the heart to operate. For two weeks we became almost resident at A&E until a surgeon was found who was prepared to try to fit a stent. He succeeded. She is now swimming and cycling again but in a more sedate manner.

1962

Year Representative: **Tim Archer**

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Martin Hall has been appointed an Honorary Fellow, History Department, Queen Mary University of London. He is currently working at Queen Mary's with Dr Peter Denley on texts relating to the life of medieval students at the early universities and preparing for publication by Brepols this year a new edition and translation (the first in any language) of John of Garland's *De triumphis ecclesiae*.

Clive Sweeting continues his studies in palaeography, epigraphy, Late Antiquity and Armenian at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, which is housed in the Sorbonne building. He has received an invitation from the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv to teach classes in theology, basic Greek and Syriac for two months. This venture extends his awareness of the Eastern Christian tradition after earlier stays in Kerala and two years in Armenia.

1963

There is currently no Year Representative for 1963. Please contact development@merton.ox.ac.uk if you are interested in the position.

Peter Rhodes continues to enjoy an active retirement and in 2018 academic travels took him to China, Japan and places in Europe, the most exotic of which was Minsk. He has recently published *The Athenian Constitution Written in the School of Aristotle* (Liverpool University Press, 2017), *Greek Historical Inscriptions 478–404 BC* (edited by R Osborne and PJR; OUP, 2017), and *Periclean Athens* (Bloomsbury, 2018).

Dr Ralph Abraham is a consultant in diabetes, lipid disorders and endocrinology at London Medical. He continues to see patients and contribute to this clinic which he founded 28 years ago and which is now the leading private diabetes clinic in the UK, attracting enthusiastic support from many eminent diabetologists and endocrinologists. Given the alarming statistics on Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes in the UK population, here's to that!

Roger Garfitt's latest poetry collection *The Action* will be published by Carcanet in August. Roger lives just under a Stone Age Ridgeway which has provided inspiration for the collection, as have loss, England's military past, and his love for his wife of 25 years Margaret, for whom a collection of Valentine's poems feature. Anne Stevenson, poet, writes in her review: 'Whether he writes of flowers or of friendship, of music or of poignant memories, Garfitt has mastered the art of connecting every sound and image in a poem with the action that propelled it into being.' High praise indeed.

Stephen Ralls writes: 'Having taught since 1978 at the University of Toronto, I retired in 2008 as Associate Professor and Musical Director of the Opera School.

'My partner, Bruce Ubukata, and I had already founded the Aldeburgh Connection, presenting concerts of song recital repertoire in Toronto, across Canada and (since 2007) at the Bayfield Festival of Song – a June event on the shores of Lake Huron. In 2013 we climaxed the Aldeburgh Connection's regular performances, after 32 seasons and more than 300 concerts, with *A Britten Festival of Song*, celebrating the composer's centenary. Since then, we have been organizing our substantial archive. The papers are now deposited in the University of Toronto's Music Library and an online archive will be available through Library and Archives Canada; presently, it can be viewed at www.aldeburghconnection.org.



Stephen Ralls and Bruce Ubukata

'In 2013 we were both named Members of the Order of Canada (CM) in recognition of our work on behalf of Canadian music and with young Canadian singers.

'We were very happy in April 2019 to attend the annual weekend reunion of North American alumni, this time in Washington, DC. Despite any potential upsets in the arena of federal politics, all went smoothly, including dinner at the handsome Metropolitan Club and a final, lavish brunch at the beautiful Georgetown home of **Nick** (1974) and **Marla Allard**.'

1964

Year Representative: Richard Burns

Tel: 07703 439226 Email: rburns1946@gmail.com

This year's report is short, though not all sweet.

Richard Peel has been living in Norway with his Danish wife, Lone, for many years, where he spent his career in teaching and writing textbooks. Now retired, with three children and four grandchildren, he does freelance work teaching adults and translating and doing voiceovers for TV and films. More excitingly for me, he is bringing a group of Norwegian friends to Edinburgh in late June and I am to spend an afternoon with them acting as tour guide and raconteur.

Tony Webster continues to progress with learning to play jazz, now on the baritone sax, which he finds a lovely instrument but heavy and awkward to carry around. His wife, Averi, declined to accompany him and **Eric Colvin** on a gastronomic trip to Normandy in January – allegedly because the Norman cuisine did not appeal to a vegan. He thinks there may have been other reasons!

Peter Scott has overcome health problems to continue his work for the Scottish Government on widening access for underprivileged students to university.

Lastly, in April there came the sad news that **John Whitworth**, author of a dozen books of poetry, had died. His work, which appeared in the *Times Literary Supplement* and *The Spectator* as well as in his books, was carefully crafted, clever, wry, but above all witty and fun. John's wife Doreen has written an obituary of him for *Postmaster*, which is found on page 228.

1965

Year Representative: Peter Robinson

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David Barker replied that he was writing to me on a plane from San Francisco to Frankfurt on the way to Greece. David and his wife spent about five weeks in Greece during their round-the-world travels in 2017 and very much enjoyed it, so were on their way back there – this time planning to visit Crete, Santorini, Rhodes and the Thessaloniki area. After that a brief visit to some friends in Malta and a couple of weeks in the UK dealing with family business. Life in the San Francisco Bay Area continues much as usual, although a rainy winter has left them feeling rather depressed. David has joined a tennis club and is attempting to keep the ravages of ageing away by playing some competitive tennis for the first time in years, while Maggie is trying to regain her agility at the gym. They continue to support the San Francisco Ballet and a couple of theatres, and David spends a couple of days a month volunteering at their local public TV and radio station. Fortunately, the Bay Area continues to provide an antidote to political trends in Washington which hopefully will pass in a couple of years. However, given the propensity of politicians and electorates around the world to shoot themselves in the foot, David supposes he should not be too sanguine.

Paul Everson said that he saw – by thumbing through last year's copy of *Postmaster* – that he majored then on the exciting prospect he had of an extended residency at St John's College, Cambridge last summer. He said that he had enjoyed the three-month academic residency at St John's through summer 2018, as anticipated. It was a great privilege and slightly surreal to be back, fully embedded, in a college environment. With his co-worker, David Stocker, Paul visited nearly 300 churches in Cambridgeshire as fieldwork for their forthcoming *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture* volume on Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire for the British Academy. By courtesy of the Master and Fellows, a second, shorter residency has been arranged for summer 2019 to underpin library and archive work on the volume. Behind

this effort lies a current major Arts and Humanities Research Council project to digitise the whole national CASSS data set and make it freely available to scholars and the public online via the Archaeological Data Service. Paul concludes by saying that they continue to flourish (or at least to carry on as if they do!). Grandparenting continues to figure large and as a regular weekly commitment/pleasure.

Tim Londergan wrote to say that he is now Professor Emeritus of Physics at Indiana University, having retired in May 2014. However, he has continued to teach a course for the past five years. This fall he was inducted into the University of Rochester Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in squash and tennis. Tim says that he has no immediate plans to return to Oxford, but if he does, he will get in touch with me to see if he can make contact with some further classmates at Merton. Tim was at Merton from 1965 to 1969 and received his DPhil in Theoretical Physics in 1969.

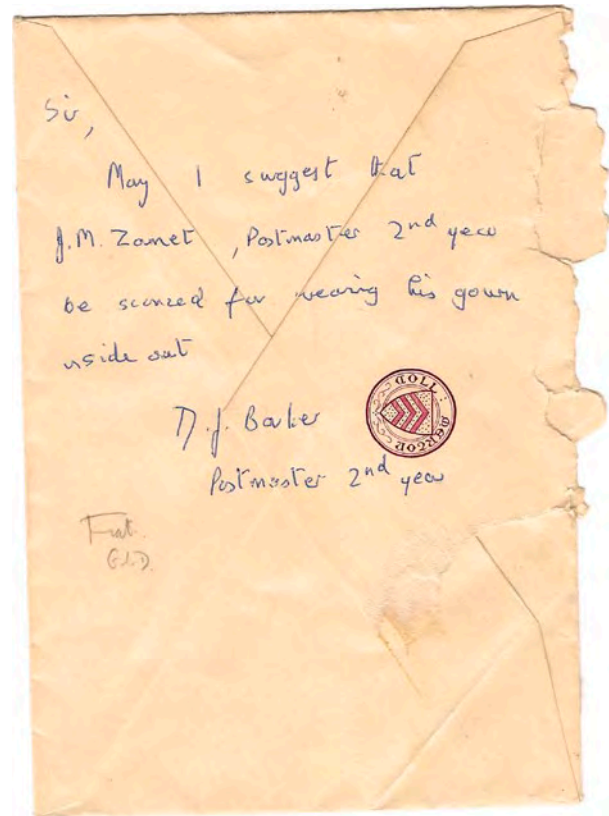
Peter Robinson enjoyed travelling by rail to the Dordogne last August, and enjoyed a similar rail travel experience when he and Roxana travelled overland to the French and Spanish Pyrenees this summer. At Easter, they managed a four-week stay in Arequipa, Peru, this time returning to some of the outlying villages that they had not seen for some 40 years, where time really does seem to have stood still, unlike Arequipa itself, which has now become a busy modern city, complete with shopping malls and high-rise buildings. The old centre, though, is still very well preserved and pedestrianised, much to the benefit of the many tourists who now see it as a less crowded alternative to Cuzco. The family in the UK has been thriving too, 'especially as we have welcomed Alexis and Beth's newly adopted children, Kairen and Grace into our family, and look forward to them getting to know their new cousins, aunts and uncles too'.

Bob Wilson wrote to say that his reply to me comes on a stormy grey Florida Good Friday morning, but that sunshine was forecast for Easter Sunday. This was good, because the Boss had organised an egg hunt for Sunday afternoon for their ten (hopefully soon to be 11) grandchildren. It was also being written a day after Robert Mueller issued a lengthy report about our strange President, three days after fire gutted Notre Dame and six, no wait, 18, no wait, 24 months

from a possible Brexit. Peculiar times. So sad about Notre Dame but thankful that there were no casualties, thankful that the disaster does not seem to have been driven by evil, and heartened by the robust French determination to rebuild. Resurrection indeed. Bob continued that their life here is not exciting. This year they failed to climb Everest, published no best-sellers, won no horse races and (this is rare among Democrats) are not standing for President in 2020. They did apply for US citizenship in 2017, but despite the welcoming arms of the immigration authorities, their case will not come up until at least this August. Bob supposes they are all at the Southern border welcoming the immigrants there. They applied not because they want to renounce their British and Spanish nationalities, but because they want to participate more in things in the US. They will each be a one in 300 million part of the solution – about the same odds as winning the Powerball lottery, but there you go, what can one do? Bob concludes that they would love to hear from any Mertonians visiting South Florida who find themselves in desperate need of a glass of wine.

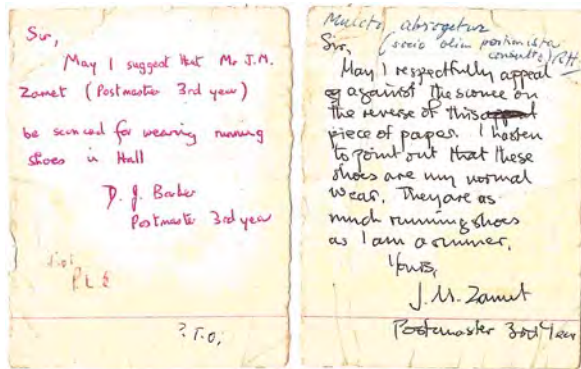
Jonathan Zamet recently came across some long-forgotten memorabilia, which he described as follows. 'Perhaps because I read history at Merton, I kept almost every scrap of paper that arrived in my possession. Two of these scraps refer to David Barker's attempts to sconce me. The tradition of sconcing was quite common in Oxford colleges. It was a method of enforcing standards of behaviour at dinner in Hall. One was required to be appropriately dressed – jacket, tie and gown. Talking about one's own subject, mentioning the name of a living lady and discussing the portraits hanging in the Hall were among other proscribed actions. Anyone who failed these requirements could be sconced. In which case, at Merton, a special sconce pot with two small handles just big enough for a finger, containing two and a half pints of beer, would be delivered to the felon. The recipient had the option of holding the pot by one handle and downing the contents at one gulp – in which case the cost would accrue to the sconcer – or taking a smaller quantity, leaving the remaining beer to be consumed by the table – in which case the sconcee would bear the cost. The final option was to appeal to High Table for relief. There was a certain pecking order and process involved. You could only sconce someone who was your academic equal or inferior.

Thus, a freshman could not sconce a second-year man and a commoner could not sconce a Postmaster. The request to sconce had to be sent in writing via a scout to the steward of Hall who was whoever had read grace that evening – usually a senior classics Postmaster. My recollection is that David was quite determined to sconce me. However, I no longer have any recollection as to why. Perhaps it was a case of seeking revenge for an earlier attempt on my part. His first try accused me of wearing my gown inside out. Unfortunately, on this occasion, the truth was undeniable and the miscreant accepted his fate in good spirit.



'David's second effort accused me of wearing running shoes to Hall. It was my good fortune that the presiding Fellow at High Table that evening was my tutor, Roger Highfield.

So, I decided to try an appeal. My argument was that the shoes in question “were as much running shoes as I was a runner”. Roger bought it. “*Socio olim ista positio memini, mulcta abrogetur.*” I suppose Roger could not have known that I wore those shoes, not infrequently, to jog around Christ Church Meadow. Many thanks to Jonathan for sharing those happy memories with us after all these years!



1966

Year Representative: David Holmes

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Rick Gekoski in 2018 published his second novel, *A Long Island Story* (Canongate Publishers).

David Holmes was appointed Chairman of the Board of BPP University Ltd from 1 October 2018.

Ian Kershaw's latest book, *Roller-Coaster: Europe, 1950-2017* (Penguin, 2018) has appeared in various foreign language translations.

Patrick Worsnip, my Classical Mods contemporary, reports that, in his dotage, he has forgotten about 24-hour news (having had a long career working for Reuters), entered a second childhood and started translating Latin poetry. His

first publication, *Poems of Sextus Propertius* (a notoriously difficult but brilliant love elegist of about 60-16 BC), was published in September 2018 by Carcanet Press. It was reviewed in March 2019 in the *London Review of Books* at some length and received high praise. A review is also included on page 94 of this edition of *Postmaster*.

1967

Year Representative: Rory Khilkoff-Boulding

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David Giachardi is serving as Master of the Worshipful Company of Horners this year.

1968

Year Representative: Ian McBrayne

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October 2018 was the 50th anniversary of our arrival at Merton, and many of us had the pleasure of a Golden Jubilee lunch provided by the College to mark the fact. Enthusiastic recollections of the event were a leitmotif of the responses I received from contemporaries this year. A fuller account of this very welcome opportunity for collective nostalgia can be found on page 131 in this edition of *Postmaster*.

Among those present was **Martin Wainwright**, who had recently rowed his faithful sculling boat *Clementine* more than 100 miles down the Thames, from Godstow to Eel Pie Island on the western outskirts of London. This impressive achievement raised £10,000 in sponsorship for Holy Cross Hospital in Haslemere, where a young relative was receiving specialist treatment. Well done, Martin!

Happily, others of our year also remain physically active. Notable among these is **Steve Drinkwater**, who has led half a dozen walking holidays in the past year, including one on the Shropshire Way and another on the Great Glen Way

between Fort William and Inverness. Steve continues to chair the Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, and is still assessing young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, as he has since 1977. He moved house last autumn, but remains in sunny Pembrokeshire.

Some have travelled further afield. **Alastair Northedge's** initial response this year came from Iran. When eventually back in France he wrote again to explain that this had been his first visit to Iran for nearly 50 years, and in some places the first since before matriculation. Also this spring, he had been to see royal castles in Hungary, taking in Budapest, Visegrad and Esztergom, and had a trip to Tunisia. Retirement had not made him entirely free, as he was still trying to get rid of the last of his doctoral students 20 months later.

Peter Warry reports that he finally retired from the Royal Mint, the last of his paid non-executive positions, at Christmas. Although he continues to chair Cobalt Health, a small medical imaging charity, until the end of this year, he is relishing the extra time available for archaeology and travelling, visiting Jordan last year, which he rates as well worth a visit, and Tunisia this.

Congratulations to **Stephen Powell**, who reports his marriage to Jill in July 2018. His son-in-law **Paul Boswell** (2001) was an usher and his daughter **Louise** (also 2001) read a lesson. **David Gadian**, **Peter Warry** and their wives were among the guests. Stephen and Jill were lucky in choosing the one day of fine weather in an unsettled period, but the luck ran out at the start of their honeymoon: the outward leg of their journey on the Orient Express was cancelled due to a landslip in Austria, forcing them to take a much less romantic charter flight from Stansted the following day. Happily, the return trip was without incident.

Another traveller is **Scirard Lancelyn Green**. In 2018, the chill of two weeks of ice dance and a week of skiing were in contrast to a choir tour of Lisbon in June, even if the latter was not as blisteringly hot as the UK heatwave at the time. August saw the formation of Cambridge Ice Skating Club, of which Scirard is temporary chairman until it gets going; that may not be very soon, as the Cambridge ice rink has been delayed from November 2018 until about this September.

What did happen in November was the unveiling of a blue plaque to Scirard's father, **Roger Lancelyn Green** (1937), on what would have been his 100th birthday. When he wrote, Scirard was just back from a week of exploring and snorkelling in the Seychelles, unusually hot even for the equator.



Scirard Lancelyn Green at the unveiling of the blue plaque to his father, Roger

Tim Cole and his wife Angie benefited from the Golden Jubilee Lunch for a trip down memory lane. They first met at a party in Merton MCR on 5 March 1969 and were keen to search out the room where it happened. They were shown a room which was allegedly the old MCR but didn't recognise it; clearly it wasn't old enough. Tim was grateful to Chelsea Chisholm of the Development Office, whose detective work eventually led them to the Queen's Room, above the arch off Front Quad. After leaving Merton in 1970, Tim worked for the Medical Research Council as a medical statistician, and was still working for the MRC this year. At the expiry of his latest, part-time contract in August, he had clocked up 49 years' funding from the MRC.

Others too are still at work. Having checked that it wouldn't interfere with his motor racing, **Simon Orebi Gann** joined the board of Market Operator Services Ltd, the market operator for the non-household water market in England, and became chairman of its audit committee. Domestically, by installing photovoltaic cells and batteries he has taken his household off-grid for seven to eight months a year, which appeals to his physics background.

James Hughes-Hallett reports that since the beginning of 2016 he has been struggling with pancreatic cancer. The good news is that he is still here to tell the tale, despite the gloomy odds and the excision of surprisingly numerous bits of innard. Best wishes, James, for your continuing recovery. He has taken consolation from the periods of convalescence, which have enabled him to see much more of his Canadian partner Katrina, whom he married in 2016, and his two daughters. Enforced bed time has meant the start (but rarely completion) of a few ambitious reading projects plus too much box-set time-wasting. In between convalescences, James has continued with non-executive roles at the Courtauld Institute, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Clarksons and the Swire Group.

Another with health issues on his mind is **Nigel Webster**. He writes from New South Wales about his wife's battle with cancer, which he says she may be winning; we wish her well, Nigel. He declares himself bemused by the shenanigans over here about the European Union. 'When confronted by difficulties over full English Brexit in Kashmir,' he says, 'the situation was resolved by a boiled egg at lunchtime.'

Alan Harland reports that after living in the United States for more than four decades he finally became a US citizen at the end of last year. After getting along fine as a 'resident alien' for all these years, he found himself motivated by a burning need to be able to vote in the next presidential election. Sadly I feel obliged to bowdlerise his account of the reasons; suffice to say that he would like to see change. Like Nigel, he is looking at what is happening here; he reflects that his second passport may come in handy. Otherwise, the news is that retired life continues to suit him to a tee, given the added time it affords him to spend on the golf course.

Chris Simmons lists a number of life-enhancing experiences in the past year: circumnavigating the island of Hoy, singing Ola Gjeilo's *Sunlight Mass*, joining a local U3A Welsh-speaking group and becoming a volunteer in the local hospice bookshop. On the debit side, a plague of greenfly destroyed the lupins and delphiniums last summer, but will not be given a second chance this year. More generally, 'life potters on in the direction of septuagenarian status, and the final volume of the trilogy'. Thank you, Chris, for that happy thought!

One who has recently passed his 'significant birthday' is **Richard Hofton**. So far, he says, the water is fine. He was pleased to be reminded by the Acting Warden's Golden Jubilee speech of Merton's success in the Norrington Table in 1971 and to realise the contribution he made by not getting a Third. Richard continues to flit between his properties in Abingdon and Solihull and to make himself useful in a minor way at Abingdon School. Far too late to quiz his senior relatives, he has been delving into his family history and discovering that the grandfather he never knew was an authentic Old Contemptible, based in India at the outbreak of the First World War and arriving on the Western Front at Christmas 1914, just in time for the football. Based on his grandfather's birth in County Offaly, Richard is another who is thinking a second passport could be an advantage.

Nicholas Richardson reports the birth of Jude Robert Nicholas to son Andrew and his wife Jemma on 15 February. With Audrey at 21 months as well, the parents have their hands full. Nicholas and Jenny recently had an enjoyable visit to the United States, where he had been invited to give a lecture and seminar in Washington DC on the hymns of Prudentius. Nicholas has also edited a book, *Autogiro Pioneer*, about his father's life and based on his memoirs; Fonthill Media promise that it will be published shortly.

George Daly continues his heavy involvement with drama in Brittany, including *Les Illusions de l'Amour* (*Twelfth Night* in French and English), a pantomime *Panto of the Opera* and a French play *L'Orage*. He finds the audiences in Brittany always very gentle and kind. Meanwhile, the African Prisons Project continues to be both challenging and exciting; the work is great, he reports, but it is hard to raise money for it. George recently showed 42 French primary school children round Oxford in general and Merton in particular. They specially enjoyed the Civil War story of a secret passage between Merton and Christ Church.

A dramatic cantata telling of the Siege of Constantinople in 626 AD, *Akathistos*, occupied much of **Nick Bicât**'s time before its performance at the beautiful Wren church of St Stephen, Walbrook in January. With a text partly in Greek and partly in English, and involving dancers as well as solo singers and choir, it was an interesting challenge. Nick will now be working

on another festival piece for Leeds Castle, part of the Carnival of History celebrating the castle's 900th anniversary.

Finally, thanks to all the above contributors and also to **David Allen**, **Tom Head** and **Alan Sked** for kindly getting in touch, though they had no publishable news to impart. Many of us find, as we approach or exceed our biblical quota of years, that we value increasingly the contacts that link us to our more youthful past, so all responses are very welcome. I look forward to hearing from as many as possible again next year.

1969

Year Representative: John Symes

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With some trepidation I volunteered to be the 1969 representative in this our 50th anniversary year, after the position had been vacant for three years. So I am very pleased to report that more of you have volunteered information than in any previous year – thank you! Consequently I have shortened some of your entries in the interests of space and to reflect the attention span of our modern media. If in so doing I have misrepresented your contribution, my apologies, and I hope you will be able to attend the Golden Jubilee Lunch on 26 October and represent yourself in person.

Jonty Boyce is now retired and divides his time between London, Cornwall and travelling overseas. He is learning Mandarin in an effort to keep the neurones ticking over.

Duncan Campbell Smith has completed his history of Standard Chartered Bank and is planning to complete writing his biography of Frank Whittle by the end of this year.

Michael Collins has published his book *St George and the Dragons: The Making of English Identity*, and a summary of the concluding chapter published in *The Church Times*. Copies are being sold internationally, particularly in Malta in aid of St Paul's (Anglican) Cathedral in Valletta where he is a regular speaker.

Jeremy Cook and his wife Rosemary have just moved on a generation with the birth of a first grandchild. As an update to his last (2015) entry in these pages, his orchestral tally is now 181 concerts on the new violin, plus 26 on a viola bought in 2016.

Peter Forster will be retiring as Bishop of Chester in the autumn. He will live in the Scottish Borders near Melrose, in a house that he has built with his son over the past 15 years.

Gareth Glyn's (Gareth Glynne Davies) first opera *Wythnos yng Nghymru Fydd* (A Week in the Wales of the Future) was voted Best Touring Production in Welsh in the 2018 Wales Theatre Awards. He is now busy on his second opera, and has published his autobiography this summer.

Tony Hansen invented a scientific instrument to measure a component of air pollution in 1979 while at the University of California in Berkeley; started a business in his garage in 1986 to make it; and now has a manufacturing company in Slovenia dedicated to the science and measurement of carbon particles (smoke, exhaust) which are finally recognised to be the number two contributor to human-induced climate change. When not travelling he lives in Berkeley and welcomes visitors. An account of his career can be found on page 72, about Mertonians in Sustainability.

George Mansur has been teaching at international schools in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East since 1991 and has just completed a ten-year stint in Mumbai. He is now living in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, and would be glad to meet any fellow Mertonians passing by.

Martin McNeill is still living in Exmoor, but after an absence of several years finds himself back in London three or four days a week as company secretary at Morley College, where he hopes to continue at least until his children are out of university.

Tony Millns has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in respect to services to governance in higher education by London Metropolitan University, where he was a governor and chair of the governance committee for nine years.

Will Pedder retired from work in 2011, and with his wife Rosie set out to sail the coasts of every European country in their yacht *Zorra* over the course of ten years. Only one country remains – Cyprus. The winters are spent skiing, and home is a combination of Bankside, London and a converted barn near Godalming.

Hedley Stone still has teaching and consultancy contracts with the Open University but has retired from a full-time post in the Economics Department. He now spends time playing electric and acoustic violin at various venues. Hedley and his wife Pauline have three grandchildren.

Roger van Schaick is now retired from careers in teaching and writing and lives in Nottingham with wife Sue, a retired GP. Retirement activities include grandparenting, hill-walking, jazz saxophone, watching cricket, and local charity work.

Chris Stanford left the Royal Navy as a Rear Admiral in 2002 after a varied and exciting mainly sea-going career, ending up in an appointment helping to point the Defence Medical Services to a new future, then a second career as a City headhunter running Odgers Berndtson's international healthcare practice. In retirement with his wife Annie, he runs a self-catering holiday let in his large Somerset garden based in an 1882 GWR railway carriage.

John Symes retired from Cisco in 2011 after a career in telecommunications. He lives in Droxford (Hants) with his wife Ann who has retired from teaching, and during the past six years he has led fundraising to restore the Norman church and build a new annex with kitchen and toilets which has just been completed.

Richard Underwood remains Professor of Cardiac Imaging at Imperial College London and honorary consultant at Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals. A busy clinical job has recently expanded to include cardiac PET (positron emission tomography), and with his approaching partial-retirement he is reacquainting himself with his birth county of Yorkshire.

Bob Walker (the Revd Dr Robert T Walker) has retired from two posts at Edinburgh University, and is now Honorary

Fellow in Systematic Theology at New College, the University of Edinburgh School of Divinity, specialising in the theology of Thomas F Torrance, whose lectures he recently edited.

1970

Year Representative: Nick Skinner

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Many thanks as always to you all for supporting this news bulletin.

Adrian Segar has provided a brief summary of his life since Merton. 'After gaining a PhD in high energy elementary particle physics, I fell in love with Vermont, and have been living here with my wife Celia since the 1970s.

'My career path has been eclectic and I don't regret anything I've done: working at CERN on one of the most important physics experiments in the second half of the last century; owning and managing a solar energy company during the first "oil crisis"; teaching computer science at Marlboro College, a tiny liberal arts college in my town; and a long spell of independent information technology consulting.

'During all this, almost three decades ago, I developed out of need and happenstance a way of creating conferences that become what attendees actually want and need. People loved the resulting meetings, so I wrote a book about the process I'd created: *Conferences That Work: Creating Events That People Love*. When it was published in 2009 I suddenly found myself in the meetings industry. Another book followed – *The Power of Participation: Creating Conferences That Deliver Learning, Connection, Engagement, and Action* – and my third, on event crowdsourcing, is due out this year. To my surprise, I now design and facilitate meetings all over the world. I love facilitating connection between people, so this work is a perfect fit.

'It's a far cry from research in particle physics to working each year with thousands of people to help them improve their professional learning, connection and lives. I would

never have predicted the path I've travelled, and continue to look forward to the journey yet to come.'

Peter Moizer writes that his only news is that he is still the Dean of Leeds University Business School, but is standing down from that position at 31 December 2019. He is not sure what he will be doing after that.

Tony Sharp reports that 'I'm still in the land of the living, guiding tours to the Western Front, Normandy and Berlin. The only significant change is that I'm about to get a new hip: osteoarthritis has ended my active hockey umpiring career, and so I've become an England Hockey match official, which means for league matches I have 53 specific tasks to complete (mostly paperwork and recording, but also keeping the coaches and benches in order).' We wish Tony every success with his surgery.

Hugh Davies is living (clinically retired) in Oxford but maintaining some interest in clinical research ethics, chairing an Oxford Research Ethics Committee and running sporadic training sessions across the UK.

Les Hewitt continues to enjoy retirement, keeping active by running, walking and cycling. He also continues to watch most games of Warrington Town FC, which narrowly missed promotion to National League North this season.

Your correspondent **Nick Skinner** continues to enjoy retirement in Lancing in (sometimes sunny) West Sussex. Tennis and chess continue to be the main activities. My wife Lesley and I have welcomed two new grandchildren this year, making four in total.

Very best wishes to you all.

1971

Year Representative: Allin Cottrell

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1972

Year Representative: Mark Signy

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1973

Year Representative: Gary Backler

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'No news' was a theme from this year's contributors, with tacit or explicit appreciation that at this stage, that is also 'good news'. Thanks to **Bob Burton, Paul Cooper, Peter Ghosh, Ned Holt, Phil Hudson** and **Denis Thorn**, all of whom were in touch on this theme. More expansive definitions of 'no news' will be welcome for future editions, guys.

Graham Andrews reports that the members of the 1973 Maths & Medics group continue in good form and to meet up regularly. Three of the mathematicians, Graham, **Rob Lewis** and **Bill Souster** attended the Merton Mathematics Reunion and in the evening, with their wives, had a wonderful dinner with their tutor Dominic Welsh and his wife Bridget.

The group 're-discovered' **Richard Veryard** at the Gaudy, having not seen him since 1976, and he joined them later for one of their regular beer and curry evenings in the City. Richard is still working as a business IT consultant, writing books, raising two children – no longer teenagers but still on the payroll (yes, we all know about that!) – helping his wife with the PhD she should have done years ago, and currently job-hunting after taking his previous role (as data protection officer) rather more seriously than his employer wanted him to. So the 'gardening leave' is perfectly timed for everything (digging, weeding, sowing and even watering if the weather gets better) to be done at the allotment.

For the rest of the group, the only major change since last year's report is that **David Melville** has now retired from his position as a consultant surgeon, but he continues to see

patients and teach medical students at St George's Hospital in Tooting. He is enjoying the more relaxed life, which gives him more time to play the flute and organ. He has also enjoyed listening to Iain Burnside's (1974) piano playing at both the Wigmore Hall and at the English Song Weekend in Ludlow. The other medic, **John Myatt**, is still working as a consultant in anaesthetics at Royal Bournemouth General, though increasingly part-time.

Rob Lewis has become a trustee of Trauma Treatment International, a charity that helps survivors of torture, human trafficking, slavery and war by improving access to treatment for psychological trauma. He ran the London Marathon this year (his 26th marathon), raising money for this charity. Rob is entering the final year of his PhD with some exciting advances (well, exciting to him anyway and about three other people in the world): the discovery of the largest-known circulant graphs of degrees 12 to 17 for any diameter.

The rest of the group plod on with their daily toil. **Bill Souster** continues to work in the City as a consultant with weekends spent at his home in South Wales. **Roger Urwin** is still working hard for pension fund and sovereign wealth fund clients in Europe, Australia and New Zealand for Willis Towers Watson as well as trying to keep up with his eight grandchildren, and **Graham Andrews** is working on various projects, mainly in the oil and gas and mining industries from his home in Devon with weekly trips to London.

Simon Pallet reports that he retired fully from his work at Newcastle University on 31 July 2019, eased in by having worked three days a week for the past two years. He is already treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, a board member of The Artists Information Company, and chair of a family trust. He is about to become Hon. Finance Director of the Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre, which is a charitable incorporated organisation that provides adult education in the north-east of England and is the successor to Sunderland University's extramural department, now run by and for its members. He already attends some of the classes, and hopes to have time to attend more, mainly in history, politics and art history, as well as having more freedom to travel and do things spontaneously now that he is retired.

Gary Backler is pleased to report that the environmental charity of which he has been a trustee for eight years, and which he has helped to restructure and re-focus during that time, this year received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. He continues to spend much of his time working with developers and local authorities to address planning pressures and promote public access to open spaces in west London. He hopes the legroom allowance in Brentford FC's new stadium will be sufficient to enable him to access his seat without needing to draw on his yoga expertise.

Thanks to everybody who took the trouble to contact me over the past year. I look forward to receiving news of 1973 Mertonians at any time, so please do keep in touch or 'get in touch', in the case of the perennially coy.

1974

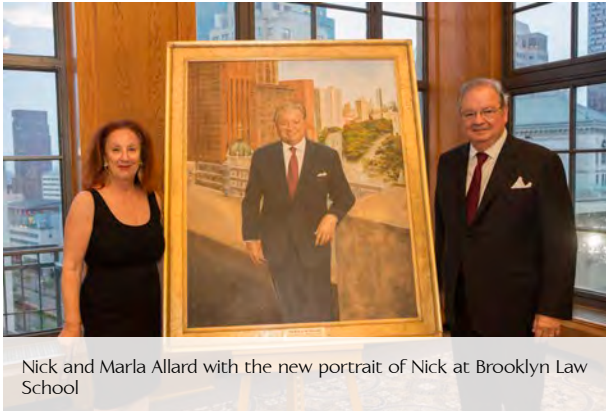
Year Representative: Mike Hawkins

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It was a great pleasure for me to catch up with so many of you at the Gaudy in September 2018, having waited an additional year while the schedule accommodated the 750th Anniversary celebrations. I thought it a bonus that we should be in the middle of the year range invited, 1972-76, as friendships were often made across the Merton student body as well as with our own year. If you were expecting news imparted at that event to appear in this report, I apologise for the omissions. A notebook would have been inappropriate and, without one, an ageing memory aided and abetted by good wine, port and beer mean that your secrets are safe! For me personally, 2019 has seen a somewhat unplanned but welcome end to full-time employment and a gradual transition into the unfamiliar world of the retired. I am not alone in this, judging by the news from many of you.

Nick Allard was called upon to provide the after-dinner address at the Gaudy and pay tribute to the retiring Warden, Sir Martin Taylor, which he managed with humour and much sincerity. He also reminded us that our Wardens tend to leave whenever College Gaudies involve the 1974 group! Nick continues to be a key figure in the organisation of the MC3

weekend for Mertonians in the USA, this year returning to Washington DC and coinciding with the Oxford, Rhodes Scholar and annual Cherry Blossom Festival weekends. A highlight is always the Sunday garden party hosted by Nick and his wife Marla at their Georgetown home. On a personal note, Nick has 'stepped down as President and Dean but remains on the faculty of Brooklyn Law to consider and be considered for other opportunities'. He is 'honored beyond words that Brooklyn Law has named the "Nicholas W. Allard Endowed Faculty Chair in Global Legal Studies" as the announcement states "To honor the immediate past president who expanded the Law School's international presence and engagement".'



Nick and Marla Allard with the new portrait of Nick at Brooklyn Law School

As Secretary of the *American Oxonian*, Nick brings news of **David Hamer**, **Rob Mitchell** and **Sandy McIver**. David retired from law practice in 2016; he and his wife Jane have been enjoying life, busy with the University Club of Toronto and the University Women's Club of Toronto respectively. They also work with the small charity they founded, Starfish Greathearts Foundation (Canada), which supports children in South Africa who have been orphaned or made vulnerable by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Travel has taken the Hamers to both sides of the Atlantic and on one occasion happened upon Rob and Grayce Mitchell with daughter Emily in Cape Breton. The Hamers have also enjoyed visits back and forth with Sandy MacIver and his wife Gail, who have been living in Sackville, New Brunswick. Meanwhile Rob and Grayce Mitchell's family have been converging on and settling down

in Seattle, having been previously dispersed across the US and Kenya. Professionally, Rob 'continues in much the same role at K&L Gates, chairing the law firm's *pro bono* committee and focusing my practice largely on appellate matters. More people ask me about retirement these days, but that does not seem likely to be as much fun as what I am doing.'

Paul Brunet does not 'have much to report at the moment but hopefully can give some insight into preparing for retirement in the next year or so. Other than that, the best I can report is skiing among the penguins in Antarctica.'

Paul Hulme maintains contact with me and I enjoyed his company at the Gaudy table.

Guy Johnson tells me that he is 'happy to say that PPE somehow continues to stay relevant 40 years on with a concept that certainly wasn't on the syllabus in the seventies. I've become active in the divestment movement in recent years and it strikes me that divestment provides a fruitful intersection of economics, politics and moral philosophy. Fossil fuels and nuclear weapons are almost certainly the two main existential threats to humanity and civilisation, yet pension funds and banks in Scotland continue to invest vast sums of money in these activities. There's plenty of campaigning to be done up here in Scotland! Music continues to help keep me sane and I'm looking forward, with some trepidation I might add, to my operatic debut on the Edinburgh Fringe in August, with two concert performances as Aeneas in Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*. I'm sure **Iain Burnside** suffers from no such anxieties, and I'm keenly anticipating his long-overdue return to the International Festival this summer, in a lieder recital with the renowned American tenor Lawrence Brownlee. I was very pleased to have a chance meeting with **Jeremy Pemberton** in Old Saint Paul's Church in Edinburgh in March. Duns Scotus would rejoice, I trust, in these Scottish Merton connections.'

Graham Kemp contacted me again this year after our conversations at the Gaudy and has no particular news to share.

Peter Lutzeier reports that 'the year saw me pretty much project managing the repair and painting of all the windows

of our Grade II* listed Queen Anne house. The paper-thin, handcrafted glass had to be sourced from the Czech Republic. Otherwise, 13 acres of land around us keep us also busy but produce wonderful flowers and, for instance, 201 bottles of our own apple juice. We were also fortunate enough to welcome into this world our sixth granddaughter, Clara Katharine, in November 2018.'

Giles Maskell continues as 'a consultant radiologist in Truro in Cornwall, where I have been since 1991. I had a brief time-out from 2013 to 2016, when I was President of the Royal College of Radiologists, but have now returned to doing the job I love.'

Roderick O'Brien tells me that he has 'no news to report, being happily retired. I did attend the Gaudy, as did **Richard Thomas** who, as it happens, lives close to us near Bogor, Indonesia. So he is now back in touch with the College. A good Gaudy and all those present still recognisable despite the passing of the years!'

Finally, **Clive Ruggles** made contact by email but had nothing specific to share this year.

If you read and enjoy this update but haven't thought to contribute, I normally send out a request for news by email in April or May. If you didn't receive the reminder this year it may be because the College does not have an address, either electronic or street, or my message to you was returned undeliverable. No matter; please send me your news at any time: it doesn't need to wait until next spring.

1975

Year Representative: Robert Peberdy

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As Ronnie Barker would have said: here is an item of late news. On Friday 29 July 2016 one of Merton's distinguished historians, namely **Chris Lewis**, delivered the prestigious R Allen Brown Memorial Lecture at the opening of the 39th Battle Conference on Anglo-Norman Studies, held

at Battle Abbey School, Battle (Sussex). His subject was: 'The magnitude of the conquest: audacity and ambition in early Norman England'. It surveyed 'gigantism' in Norman England's material culture (cathedrals, castles, bridges, Domesday Book etc.) as an expression of ambition and power. It has now been published as 'Audacity and ambition in early Norman England and the big stuff of the Conquest' in *Anglo-Norman Studies*, vol. 40 (2018). Chris Lewis revealed in September 2018, during a confessional moment in Merton Hall, that his interest in Anglo-Norman history was inspired at Merton by his early tutorials for English History I with **Chris Wickham** (Lecturer in Medieval History, 1975-76). Later in 2018 Chris Wickham himself was honoured with a second *Festschrift: Italy and Early Medieval Europe* (OUP), a tome of 592 pages. Its 36 contributors include the Mertonian **Graham Loud** (1971).

Medieval philosophy is currently a preoccupation of **Simon Babbs** as he pursues PhD studies at Loyola University, Chicago. When younger fellow students were puzzled by a dinosaur logo on his presentation slides, he explained that it honours the creatures who roamed the earth when he was young. In summer 2018 he and wife Sue (née Stanley; St Hilda's) undertook further voluntary work in Madagascar. Down in the southwest USA, in Arizona, the death in 2018 of Senator John McCain stirred memories for his friend **Glenn Bacal**. When McCain first ran for office, Glenn chaired a 'big summer fundraiser' for him, with entertainment provided by leading American songwriters (e.g. Richard Sherman, one of the famous Sherman Brothers). Glenn recalls that it was 'one of the most memorable evenings in my whole life'. Glenn is also an old friend of the Arizona politician John Kyl, who briefly returned to the Senate as McCain's successor. Many years ago, when Kyl was unable to attend an election debate, Glenn replaced him and played 'politician for a night'. Though it was 'fun', he was relieved to return to legal work the following day.

John Cloughton has written a commentary on part of Thucydides' *Peloponnesian War* for an A-level textbook and is preparing a book on fundraising for bursaries at independent schools. He is also studying language teaching, stimulated by the special challenge of such work in multi-lingual Birmingham. He remains a governor of three very

different schools: a state special school, a small prep school in Birmingham, and the Sir James Henderson British School in Milan. On 22 February 2019 he published a fascinating 'Essay' in the *Times Educational Supplement* about helping autistic children to adapt to adult life. In 2018 **Alan Dolton** achieved third place in the 1500-metre race for over-60s in the South of England championship. Having grown up in the primary Merton county of Surrey (at Elstead, between Farnham and Godalming), he has now lived for almost 40 years in Croydon, where he has long raced and coached at the Croydon Sports Arena. During this period he has witnessed a fair amount of social change, in that the area's black and minority ethnic population has increased considerably. In the 1980s most local athletes were white, whereas now the majority are black.

Ian Doolittle has transferred to a consultancy role for law firm Trowers & Hamblins LLP, which has increased time for historical studies. In 2019 he published 'The City of London in the eighteenth century: corporate pressures and their consequences', a contribution to the memorial volume for his former tutor at Lincoln College Professor Paul Langford (*Revisiting the Polite and Commercial People*, edited by E Chalus and P Gauci; OUP). Musician **Stephen Gardiner** has been working on the largest braille assignment he has yet tackled: transcribing *The Study of Orchestration* by the American Samuel Adler. Its 839 printed pages will require 4,000 braille pages in over 60 volumes. In recent years Stephen has noticed deterioration in the presentation of new printed music; for example, notes or clefs are often missing or wrong. In Merton in former days such a situation would surely have provoked an Ollesonian exclamation.

John Harrison has lately undertaken an exciting new job at Eton College, that of Master-in-Charge of Fencing. He also continues to make historical expeditions. In October 2018 he visited monasteries on Crete with the Friends of Mount Athos, and at Easter 2019 he explored Seville, including the General Archive of the Indies building. Its displays about Spain's former empire reminded him of works he read for Modern History Prelims back in Michaelmas 1975. As an undergraduate he knew both Philip May (Lincoln) and Theresa Brasier (later May; St Hugh's) through the Edmund Burke Society. He recalls that they were good company and

excellent speechmakers. Professor **Nick Hitchon**, who has appeared in the famous *Up* series of television programmes since he was a young boy, duly featured in the ninth instalment in June 2019, 63 *Up*. It disclosed, sadly, that at the time of filming (in Madison, Wisconsin) he was being treated for throat cancer. Fellow physicist and accountant **Ed Martley** is still working part-time in Banbury for a software company, and remains Chairman of the Thames Valley branch of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. For golf, he now heads as often as possible to Scotland.

Professor **Nicholas Mays** of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine continues to lead a multidisciplinary research team studying innovations in health and social care. He is particularly involved in work designed to inform future government policy on the hitherto intractable issue of how long-term (social) care should be paid for in a fair and sustainable way. **David Mitchell** is Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Philosophy at the New College of the Humanities in London. He directs courses in all three years of the undergraduate curriculum, and has also designed two MA courses, in the history of ethics and in ancient philosophy. He is preparing a study of ideas of corruption and the corrupt. In autumn 2018, after participating in the Merton Gaudy, Professor **Ed Myers** explored possibilities for future experiments at CERN and gave a seminar at the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics at Heidelberg. Back in the USA he has been studying the First World War through a course at Florida State University. On 27 April 2019 **Robert Peberdy** for the first time played in a concert in the Sheldonian Theatre, in the second violins of Oxford's St Giles Orchestra (SGO). With two choirs, the SGO performed *The Dream of Gerontius* by Edward Elgar (recipient of an Oxford honorary doctorate in 1905, awarded probably in the nearby Convocation House). The closeness of the lower audience made it a surprisingly intimate experience.

David Salter returned to Egypt in autumn 2018 to continue his work for Coptic Christians (see *Postmaster*, 2017, pp. 76-79). He revisited the small primary school at Tod (about 12 miles south of Luxor), which he has arranged to be 'twinned' with a primary school in Plymouth, and also spent time at

the annual festival of St George, a five-day gathering in the desert attended by two million Copts. Back in England, he met Merton's Visitor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to report on this voluntary work. He has been greatly encouraged by support from Merton: collections in Chapel in Hilary term 2019 were donated to the Tod school, and on 9 May he gave a talk in College to the Bodley Club. On 8 June 2019 the colour magazine of *The Times* published an article about the recent life of **Ian Taylor**, who has survived four occurrences of throat cancer. His experience of overcoming the last bout through proton beam therapy in Switzerland has moved him to donate funds for the provision of such treatment by the NHS. He is finding his new work as Chairman of the Trustees of the Royal Opera House to be 'pretty demanding'.

On Saturday 15 September 2018, 20 Mertonians from 1975 attended the college Gaudy, reviving the strong camaraderie and easy-going friendships that we originally experienced at Merton long ago.

1976

Year Representative: John Gardner

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I had gambled that a ridiculously cheap standby ticket from London to Auckland wouldn't mean actually having to 'stand by'. In this case, for 24 hours in LA. But the wait did remind me

to contact **Jonathan Flint**, Professor of Psychiatry at UCLA.

A sufferer from 'Merton modesty', he admitted being elected this year a Fellow of the Royal Society, for his contribution to understanding the causes of mental illness. A pioneer in proving a genetic link, he was first to discover genes that increase the risk of major depression, and is now developing treatments to save lives. Not bad for a (previously) non-scientist. On collecting his history degree, rather than applying for jobs like the rest of us, he decided to be a psychiatrist. That meant going back years to get O-levels and A-levels in science, then becoming a student again to study medicine, then qualifying and becoming a specialist. But that's exactly what he did. Congratulations.

After 35 years with Roche then Medivir, most recently as Director of Computational Chemistry, drug discovery scientist **Kevin Parkes** is based in Cambridge as a consultant to several pharma companies. The daughter of contemporary **John Bland** continues the family tradition of Oxford chemistry (at St John's) and **David Douglas** writes from Otranto, taking a quick holiday from teaching chemistry at a school in Hackney.



John Gardner, Neil Craggs, Rod Roberts-Dear, Nicholas Cranfield (1974) and the Matterhorn

Dan Raff also enjoys teaching, at the University of Pennsylvania's business school, Wharton (notable alumnus: Donald Trump). He writes about economic and business history, recent publications including chapters in *The History of Oxford University Press*, and is currently working on the reconversion of the American economy from Second World War production back to free enterprise.

Shepherd Nyaruwata, lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe, decided a few years ago to supplement his 40-year-old UK degrees with a DPhil in his passion, tourism. He graduated this year, to the amusement of his students, and has a book out soon: *Tourism Development in Zimbabwe, Challenges and Future Perspectives*.

Mike Taylor is writing too, on the scientific and cultural significance of 19th-century fossil reptiles and museums. This year's busman's holiday was to Dorset, to be interviewed about paleontologist Mary Anning, the subject of Kate Winslet's next film, *Ammonite*, shot on location in Lyme Regis. More a railway enthusiast than a busman, a trip down memory lane to Oxford with some contemporaries included a pilgrimage to pubs along the railway and canal, only to find them 'ruthlessly sanitised'. But he was relieved to find the London & North Western Railway swing bridge surviving.

Other rail buffs are active. **Ralph Ashton** volunteers for the Aln Valley Railway, restoring the line from Alnmouth to Alnwick. Birthday presents included boiler suit, steel-capped boots and high-vis jacket. But not, alas, a camera.



Ralph Ashton, Nigel Metcalfe and Alnwick Castle

Nigel Metcalfe, a sponsor of the Wensleydale Railway and astrophysicist at Durham University, made a stellar return to cricket after a season's injury, with his first appearance at an international cricket pitch in the Beamish Museum Colliery Cricket final at Durham CC's Emirates Riverside ground.

David Owen QC (day job: arbitrator and mediator of international disputes), who has been a member of the Magic Circle since his teens (not to be confused with the law firm 'magic circle'), has been elected a member of the Inner Magic Circle (look it up). A regular performer, he also helps to run Breathe Arts Health Research, which teaches magic skills to young people to improve physical and mental health for a range of conditions.

Heard recently: 'Let me get this right. It's an advanced country, they speak English and everyone seems friendly. It's uncrowded, the scenery is spectacular and the weather fantastic. But apart from that, why would you want to live there?' **John Gardner** and wife Tracey have applied to emigrate to New Zealand. If successful, he'll seek tips from a native, **Robert Hannah**, now retired from the University of Waikato but still publishing research on Greek and Roman astronomy, and expat **Jeremy Richardson** at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, currently looking at the future role of notes and coins as their use dwindles. Given the exchange rate, I can offer a good home for them.



Ian Coote, Laurence Ormerod, Chris Coombe, Peter Bernie, Tony Brown, Tim Phillips and Ralph Ashton at the Gaudy in September 2018

Thanks again to those with settled but busy lives who still found time to send a quick note. **Bob Cotton** seeing his daughter married, running a fast half-marathon (Bob, not his daughter) and drinking champagne with **Charles Wookey**; **Laurence Ormerod** limbering up for two ultra-marathons

this autumn; **Peter Bernie** shuttling between Dublin (Brexit planning for his company) and his newly renovated house in Chester; **Simon Congdon** leading additional study groups at St Helen's, Bishopsgate; **Jonathan Stephenson** reading up what to do with two expected grandsons; **Craig Adam** winding down this year as forensic science lecturer at Keele University, but with other work up his sleeve; patent lawyer **David Pitman** in LA getting to grips with more trade with China; **Tim Matthews** in Nova Scotia juggling too much golf with too much tax law; and **Charles Manby** completing in May the sailing circumnavigation begun 28 months before. **John Booth** – now a trustee of the Tate – is one of five Mertonians involved with The Bridge Theatre (next to Tower Bridge in London; see *Postmaster* 2018 for an interview with Nick Starr (1977)), which will be hosting a reception on 6 November for Mertonians to meet the new Warden.

Several bouncebacks this year, as people retire and swap the work email they used to do everything through. So if you've changed your email address, please send the new one. Ditto if you're one of the 12% to whom the College sends *Postmaster*, but for whom there is no email address on the database. Don't be a stranger.

1977

Year Representative: Edmund Wright

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1978

There is currently no Year Representative for 1978.

1979

Year Representative: Noel Privett

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This is the tenth year that I have been collating the contributions for the 1979 matriculands and I am glad to report that we have managed to retain the feverish levels of excitement that have been manifest in all previous reports. This time, we swoon at Socrates in love, go diving in Thailand, meet the oldest living person in advertising, learn about the all-singing, all-gardening physicist, hear about plans for a giant cassette and LP record man-cave, contemplate a wildlife trip with a cuckoo expert to Peru (where there are five species of cuckoo), are introduced to some ancient Greek sailing routes, and marvel at the grandchild-doubling grandfather. We also find out about one of our number who is retired and lives in sight of the ocean in Manhattan Beach, California, but we're not jealous.

Back in 2015 I brought you the exciting news that **Dave King** had passed his driving test but went on to say that he hadn't graduated to motorways, promising to update you on any progress. For those of you who can wait no longer, please skip to paragraph eight for that very appraisal. For the more patient among you, here are all the updates in alphabetical order by surname.

Dr Armand D'Angour, Associate Professor in Classics, Dean, Fellow and Tutor, Jesus College, Oxford, had his book *Socrates in Love: The Making of a Philosopher* published by Bloomsbury in March. It was reviewed in *The Times*, *The Telegraph* and other newspapers. An online summary in the digital magazine *The Conversation* ('Socrates in love: how the ideas of Aspasia of Miletus are at the root of Western philosophy') gained 80,000 hits in the first fortnight after publication.

Jamie Barr reports that he's had 'a tremendously enjoyable year settling back in London and re-establishing friendships after my years in Hong Kong'. He goes on to say that his 'retirement activity of training and coaching lawyers keeps me comfortably occupied and intellectually stretched and takes me back to Hong Kong fairly regularly as well as to

exotic destinations such as Grand Cayman and Phuket (two days' teaching followed by three days' diving seemed to be a reasonable balance in the circumstances). He was sorry to have missed this year's Gaudy, having been in Hong Kong at the time, but very much hopes to see more of his contemporaries during the year.

Richard Bronk, a Visiting Senior Fellow at the European Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science, has co-edited a new book with Jens Beckert, *Uncertain Futures: Imaginaries, Narratives, and Calculation in the Economy*, published by Oxford University Press. He lives with Vyvian in Lyme Regis.

Mark Fiddes is resident in Dubai, working as Executive Creative Director for Havas EMEA. He notes that this might make him 'the oldest living person in advertising. (Insert Ozymandias joke here.)' With sons Alec and Sergi almost fending for themselves now – 'despite both having studied philosophy' – Mark has more time for poetry. 'Polite Safety Notice' recently came third (out of 14,000) in the National Poetry Competition. A poem about Goya won the Ruskin Prize and he had two pieces shortlisted for the Keats-Shelley Prize. *The Rainbow Factory* (Templar Poetry) has gone into its third reprint. 'Still can't get anything into *Oxford Poetry*, however,' he moans.

Professor John Girkin tells me that he is still in the physics department at Durham University where he is now leading the Centre for Advanced Instrumentation, building instruments both for telescopes and microscopes. He continues to undertake funding reviews for research organisations around the world and when not too busy his time is spent keeping his large garden in order and singing for a number of university and local choirs.

David King informs me that he has not retired, and continues to manage health and social care research funding for the National Institute of Health Research. And – wait for it – nor has he driven on a motorway yet. He has, however, discovered the wonderful world of limited-edition vinyl (his words, not mine) and even-more-limited-edition cassettes 'by artists that hardly anyone has ever heard of (bandcamp.com/koblenz)' and is 'soon going to need a bigger man-cave to accommodate it all'.

Edward Paine is still playing his trumpet (including *The Trumpet Shall Sound* recently in Bicester). His involvement with alumni travel to Latin America continues, including two Oxbridge tours to see the respective total solar eclipses in 2019 (Chile) and 2020 (Argentina) that are already full. Edward is also planning 'a wonderful wildlife trip' to Peru in 2020 with cuckoo expert Professor Nick Davies, which has just been launched. See www.lastfrontiers.com/alumni for details.

Simon Petherick is pretty busy on the freelance life, taking some time off in June to crew on a boat in Greece for a few weeks. Fortuitously, Simon got some helpful tips on appraisal from 'Classics buffs' at the Gaudy.



Noel Privett up a mountain in Pembrokeshire with his first two grandchildren, Hugh and Romola, in August 2018

Noel Privett is currently unemployed but, much more interestingly, by the time you read this will have doubled his number of grandchildren to four. Benji was born in February and another young gentleman will have been born in August.

Jonathan Weaver continues to be happily retired with a couple of volunteering projects and a very small business making decorative wooden objects. He now lives in sight of the ocean in Manhattan Beach, California.

1980

There is currently no Year Representative for 1980.

Richard Bradford writes that he is still Research Professor at Ulster University, and Visiting Professor at University of Avignon. His recent book, *The Man Who Wasn't There: A Life of Ernest Hemingway*, received good reviews (a 'rollicking read', *The Sunday Times*) as did *The Importance of Elsewhere: Philip Larkin's Photographs*, prompting the BBC to do a half-hour TV programme on it (*Through the Lens of Larkin*) in September 2017.

'Bloomsbury Trade press contracted me to do *A Writer for Our Times: A Life of George Orwell*, which will look at his relevance today (notably Brexit, populism, Trump, extremist politics). It will be out in January 2020 on the 70th anniversary of Orwell's death.'

Alison Blake completed two moves in just six weeks earlier this year. As she explains, 'I moved back to the UK from Dhaka on 7 March at the conclusion of a very busy and happy three years as British High Commissioner to Bangladesh. I am now focusing on moving to Afghanistan where I shall be taking up my new appointment as HM Ambassador in Kabul in mid-May. This will be my third South Asian posting; as well as Bangladesh, I spent three years in Islamabad in Pakistan. As ever, I would be happy to hear from any Mertonians, past or present, with links to or interests in South Asia or Afghanistan.'

1981

Year Representative: Graham Dwyer

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This year a notable television show in the UK was *63 Up*, the latest installment of the *Seven Up* series. Back in 1964 it charted the hopes and dreams of a bunch of 14 children at the age of seven and has been updating us every seven years since on how their lives panned out. For me, the

Merton equivalent is the Gaudy, which although not as regular or quite as long-lived as the show, gives periodic chances for a catch-up as we navigate the twists and turns of our lives. And so the Gaudy this March included the 1981 intake for the first time in what felt like many years for a '38 Up' catch-up. Unfortunately, yours truly once more was a no-show. But like the TV documentary, the Gaudy attracted glowing reviews from those who did attend.

Paul Duggan in a detailed account to me was highly taken with the 'magic' of the evening and was somehow transported back to his first glimpses of the College.

'My main impression during the March Gaudy was of ancient stone and candlelight, in the Chapel and Hall, and a magical sense I've seldom felt... like the magic of my visit 40 years ago, looking out from Warden's Lodgings the night before the interview, snow settling, cobbles dark under Victorian lamps,' he writes.

Ivan Viehoff gave some detail of what I was missing and the people he caught up with, remarking it was 'great to hear the very loud new organ and the very accomplished Chapel Choir'. He sent me a photo of the official name list for the Freshers' Photo, which was on display in the Library. I had crowd-sourced as many names as I could last year but still had a few blanks. So thanks to his quick thinking I now have the complete record to share with fellow Mertonians.

For **Debbie Jennings** the Gaudy was a chance to catch up with fellow medics and 'others who I had not seen for decades and have subsequently been in touch with. Thought we had all aged quite well!' As if to prove the point, **Catherine Rendon** was among those sharing some photos.

David Clapp enjoyed meeting up with several of the 1981 physics cohort as well as tutor Professor James Binney. He said it was great to hear Professor Steve Gunn (1979) relating the College's recent successes and to catch up with some of the legendary 1982 Torpid crew.

Making me feel even worse about missing out, my old tutorial partner **Nicki Paxman** also reported on the Gaudy fun. She was impressed by the 'rare treat' of a beautiful

Evensong. 'I was so pleased to see and hear immaculate singing by a choir of schoolgirls from local state schools,' she writes. 'Fine wines, tradition and dressing up was much enjoyed by all at Gaudy. Brilliant to see old friends and feel the years melt away.'

Away from Oxford, Nicki continued her globetrotting with BBC World Service Radio, producing shows in Montreal, Brussels, Tunis, Warsaw and Bogota. She adds: 'I am now the shortest member of the family, topped by my 16-year-old son.'

It was great to hear again this year from **Jesse Norman**, who has been living through the Brexit process in Parliament, with all its trials and tribulations.



Jesse Norman MP requests help with a new tech and engineering university, NMITE, in his constituency

As MP for Hereford and South Herefordshire, Jesse was promoted to Minister of State at the Department for Transport in November 2018, and then to Paymaster General and Financial Secretary to the Treasury in May 2019. That has taken him from greener transport, autonomous vehicles and micro-mobility, to being in charge of HM Revenue & Customs.

But Jesse says his most exciting project is work on a new technology and engineering university, NMITE, in his constituency, with the tagline 'Disruptive innovation in higher education'. He says that all help is very much needed. Any interested Mertonians are warmly invited to contact him via www.jesse4hereford.com.

There was an update from **Mike Guyote** who, though retired, was convinced by one of his old students (now a USAF colonel directing some drone research) to join his team as a sponsored research fellow for the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. 'The work is fun and it keeps me out of trouble,' he writes.

Readers of *Postmaster 2018* may remember that I was visited in Manila by **Graham Tebb**, who was on his way to a birdwatching mission in some remote rural areas of the Philippines. He also visited Guatemala, Indonesia (again) and northern Peru (also again) and continued his quest to see as many birds as possible with a trip to Vietnam in March this year. His first daughter has left the nest to study at Durham but his birdwatching plans are now on hold until the second one fledges. On the home front in Vienna he is still attending concerts and opera and playing hockey – 'every year wondering whether the present season will be my final one. The game is becoming extremely fast and I am not,' he writes.



Valya Dufau-Joel finally gets her French nationality after two years of preparing documents

I also heard again from **Valya Dufau-Joel** (née Hopewell) who finally got her French nationality last autumn after two years of preparing documents and chasing up her application.

The ceremony in Grenoble prefecture was attended by about 100 people, of many different nationalities. 'There has of course been a rush of British applicants in the past couple of years, which has now clogged up the procedures somewhat,' she writes. Amid all this she took part in her first dressage competition at her riding club and was happy to come third out of 11, riding Indiana, a grey mare.

As ever, I am grateful to all contributors and messages of appreciation in collecting my information for *Postmaster*. Work of late has thrown up new challenges and taken me to countries new to me, including Fiji, New Zealand and Bangladesh. I remain based in Manila and welcome all visitors, should anyone be passing.

1982

Year Representative: Nick Weller

Tel: 01403 269883 Email: nickweller7@aol.com

1983

Year Representative: Meriel Cowan

Tel: 01865 762458 Email: meriel.raine@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone who wrote to me this year; it's lovely to hear from you.

After a long recovery from injury last year, **Andrew Baker** is enjoying being back at work full time as a High Court Judge, with Commercial Court cases in London and getting out on circuit to do criminal work. **Philippa Baker** continues to teach, finishing a full-time maternity cover in September 2018, and more recently has been doing the reading for her Diploma in Theology while teaching part-time. They met with **Susan** and **Michael Roller**, 'combining a brisk winter walk with a pub lunch'. Simon and I also enjoyed catching up with Susan and Michael on their occasional visits passing through Oxford.

Paul Chavasse and his family have moved from Cheshire to a wonderful Arts & Crafts mansion on the edge of Exmoor. The garden is in need of some attention but they are bringing the Chavasse family enthusiasm to this challenge. We stayed a night with them recently and had an exhilarating walk along with their handsome Nova Scotia duck tolling retriever.



Meriel Cowan, Digby the dog, Paul Chavasse and Simon Cowan

After living in San Diego for several years, **Mike** and **Bridget Jager** have returned to the UK. Mike is working part time and remotely for the same company, Qualcomm. They are currently in Surrey but plan to move to Plymouth in August to enjoy life by the sea – the advantage of working remotely!

Since his days at Merton, **John Oetjen** writes that he has been producing in Los Angeles, Seattle and now Portland. 'For many years I produced at Sony's Pavlov Productions and was fortunate to be there while fellow Mertonian Sir Howard Stringer (1961) was at the helm. While I've produced many commercials, I've also been involved with the New York City nomadic museum and film *Ashes and Snow*. I've also been developing the feature film *Sky Burial* based upon Chinese author Xinran's brilliant novel. My producing partner from Sony and I enlisted the help from writer Rupert Walters (Oriol, 1978) to adapt the script. We've been able to travel to Nepal where we hope to film once we have financing. Currently I'm Executive Producer for Bent Image Lab in Portland working on animated commercials, developing a children's educational television show and working on visual effects for several upcoming television shows.' John is happy to be contacted on johnoetjen@gmail.com.

2019 has turned out to be an interesting year for **Rupert Vessey's** family. Celgene is set to be acquired by Bristol-Myers Squibb in a \$71 billion transaction later this year. This will create a new company focused on haematology, oncology, inflammation and fibrosis. In the meantime Rupert continues as President of Research and Early Development at Celgene until the deal closes. Laura has completed a year working in clinical research with Johnson & Johnson. Katelyn continues with Sykes HR services working from Kalamazoo. Sarah was awarded her Master's in HR from Rutgers and is working for Novo Nordisk. Jonathan is now a Lance Corporal in the US Marines and Daniel continues at Hun School of Princeton where he completed his first year of high school basketball. This team plays in a tough league and he is three years younger than any other player. His highlights are on YouTube (youtu.be/T90fryCck8E).

Lucky **Richard Weaver** has decided to retire from PwC in July. He plans to spend some of his consequent free time dealing in rare and first-edition books. He is also looking at some not-for-profit roles. 'Spending more time with my family was discussed as an option but quickly rejected (by my family). I still see **David Carwadine** and **Fraser Dillingham**, the latter when he can spend the time off from holiday and/or golf.'

The Cowan household is rather quieter now that our three boys have flown the nest. Simon will be the head of the Economics Department here next year. I continue in general practice, where seeing patients continues to be rewarding but life becomes increasingly difficult on the management side. We have taken up Venetian rowing as a distraction; there is a very lively club in Oxford which enjoys very pleasurable weekly outings and picnics. A club trip to row in Venice in March was a delight.

1984

Year Representative: David Clark
Email: david.clark@merton.oxon.org

Many thanks, as always, to those who responded to my annual plea for news from the class of 1984.

Mark Rhys-Jones reports that his eldest two sons are now in university so the house is a lot quieter for most of the time now with only one son still at home.

Meanwhile, **Adam Levitt** writes that he is continuing to live and work in London, with escapes to the boat world between times. Adam sees **Tom Pemberton** regularly (e.g. for theatre trips) and he also stayed with **Rachel Fawthrop** (née **Ker**) in Edinburgh during the Festival last summer.

Andrew Pinsent continues to work at the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion in Oxford. He has recently passed the milestone of offering his 5,000th Mass as a Roman Catholic priest and in February 2018 he baptised the son of Merton Professor Yang-Hui He (College lecturer) in the College Chapel, with Sir Martin and Lady Taylor as the godparents.

John Newton is having a busy time: Scotch College, of which he is Principal, is celebrating its centenary. His youngest child, William, leaves school this year and is looking for a university place in the UK. His eldest daughter, Eleanor, has completed her studies in history at Belfast and is working for a political speaker organisation for women in London as well as starting up her own business. His other daughter, Madeline, is studying criminology at Sussex; Samuel, his eldest son, works for a consultancy and is due to get married next year.

In his day job, **Andrew Williams** became a professor, but more importantly has continued with his film making. A new film, a revisionist history of 275 years of hospital child healthcare, is in pre-production. A previous film, *The Boudicca*, was shown in the Houses of Parliament in October 2018 as part of a campaign led by Together for Short Lives. This has led to two written commitments being placed in the NHS Long Term Plan (2019). Firstly, a substantial, sustained increase in NHS England Children Hospice funding. Secondly, the upper age for care for adolescents with complex medical needs transitioning to adult services being raised from 18 to 25 years. Andrew's most recent film, *Now Walks Like Others*, can be seen on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvU8sulPTiU.

For my part, my wife and I greatly enjoyed the Merton Society Weekend last summer and hope to attend the event in 2020, which will be the first with the new Warden, **Professor**

Irene Tracey (1985). I've also been glad to meet up with **Alex Lyndley** (formerly **Santocki**) and **Mike Chapman** in recent months. Indeed, the latter and I are planning the second Old Mertonian Prog Rock Soc outing to see Steve Hackett in concert in November!

Finally, as I write, our son has just completed his university education, so that feels like quite a milestone. He will graduate 30 years after I did! Which reminds me that this October will mark 35 years since our matriculation in 1984. I hope to meet up with some of my fellow chemists to mark this event – perhaps you might like to do the same with some of your contemporaries?

Please do get in touch with your news at any time of the year – I'm always delighted to hear from you.

1985

Year Representative: Ben Prynn

Email: ben_prynn@yahoo.co.uk

Patrick Wolrige Gordon reports that he has spent several years working for a British multinational, mainly setting up joint ventures with local partners in Europe and Turkey and serving on subsidiary boards in the Czech Republic, Romania and Bahrain. Since then he has been working as a self-employed contractor for a niche American insurance company, specialising in occupational disability. He has been married to Sarah Edwards, a barrister specialising in clinical negligence and matrimonial finance, for 22 years, and they have four sons aged between 20 and 14.

Mark Medish is president of The Messina Group, an international strategic consultancy. He lives with his wife Sue in Washington, DC. Their son Nikolai graduated this year from the University of Chicago in East Asian Studies. Their daughter Kira begins her third year at Harvard College. Their youngest son Max will enter Third Form at St Albans School. Their eldest son Vadim, formerly of Harvard College, was severely disabled by paraneoplastic syndrome, a rare neurological disorder, and has been cared for at home for the past five years.

Peter Kettlewell is a senior partner of Chipping Norton Veterinary Hospital. He has just bought the practice into the 21st century with a new purpose-built building which includes a CT suite and a radioactive iodine treatment unit for hyperthyroid cats, both of which take referrals from other vets in the local area. His two children have graduated from Exeter University and have started work.

Marcus Green is enjoying life as a rural rector in North Oxfordshire with occasional trips into Oxford itself to enjoy a mid-week evensong sung by Merton Choir which he described as 'terrific'. He has had a second book published, *The Possibility of Difference*, which was described as 'measured, compassionate ... humane' by Archbishop Rowan Williams. It's a contribution to the growing body of work that confronts the Church's problems with sexuality, which Marcus says has won him a little notoriety as well as an invitation to join the House of Bishops' project on human identity, sexuality and marriage, 'Living in love and faith'.

Karen Wilson has just completed her 32nd year (with no end in sight) of teaching philosophy to undergraduates in Baltimore, Maryland. A hack pianist in her Merton days, she began studying organ in middle age and serves as organist/choir director of St Matthew Lutheran Church in Bel Air, Maryland. In her copious free time, she is an active Sherlockian and the proud parent of Stephen, Paul and Harry Welbourn who are, respectively, a Nashville-based musician, a Baltimore-area web developer and a high-school student. In May, Karen was delighted to welcome her first grandchild, Milo Reid Welbourn.

Simon Steel has just started a new job in California and hopes to provide a full update for the next *Postmaster* when life is less hectic.

Finally, on a personal note, my eldest daughter Caterina graduated from Royal Holloway College this summer with a degree in biomedical science and is now dipping her toe into the world of work. Her younger sister Isobel starts school in September. They are both wonderful sisters to the newest addition to the family, Chloe, who was born in April this year on my birthday.

1986

Year Representatives: Simon Male (undergraduates)

Tel: 001 845 548 7825 Email: simon_male@yahoo.com

and **Julee Kaye (graduates)**

Email: juleejak@shaw.ca

From 2019 onwards **Daniel Schaffer** will be the MCR Year Rep. Please send your news to him at daniel.schaffer@btinternet.com.

Undergraduates

Dominic Minghella wrote and directed *We Wants It*, which has become one of the most watched political videos in UK history, with more than 30 million views across platforms and news agencies around the world.

After three years in NYC as British Ambassador to the UN, **Matthew Rycroft** is now (since January 2018) Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Development.

John Shaw is now Chief Product Officer at Squared Up, a fast-growing UK software company making data visualisation products for complex IT systems. He is staying in Oxford with his family. **Brian Sher** is also visiting Oxford frequently now that his eldest daughter Robbi is reading chemistry at New College and playing in Oxford University Orchestra concerts in the Sheldonian.



Espen Ronneberg speaking in Fiji

Espen Ronneberg is a climate change adviser with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and was recently interviewed by the UK's Climate & Development Knowledge Network about how regional entities can help smaller island states seek access to international climate funds. For the second year running **Jon Chapman** captained the 'Crackers' team in Midnight Madness, an overnight puzzle scavenger hunt across iconic London locations in aid of the charity Raise Your Hands (www.raiseyourhands.org.uk).

Jeremy Cooper's eldest daughter has finished her first year at Durham University where she has spent most of her time playing the clarinet.

Seb Munden is still general manager at Unilever UK & Ireland, guiding the digital transformation of the business and closing in on the goal of all Unilever's packaging being reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.

Dominic, Joanne and Olivia **Meiklejohn** remain in Kent. Olivia will start at Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School in September. After a few months working on Brexit planning, Dominic has started a new role in the diplomatic service focusing on arms control.

Juliet Davenport is still working hard as CEO of Good Energy. She was also elected as a fellow of Birkbeck, University of London in 2018; appointed Honorary Professor of Practice, University of Wales in 2016; granted an honorary doctorate from Bristol University in 2018; and has joined the Council of Innovate UK.

Mark Hubbard is now the proud holder of a Port of London Authority Mudlarking Licence (second class) and when time and tide allow can be found digging in the dirt, to the prescribed depth of 75mm only of course, on the Thames foreshore, giving free rein to his inner archaeologist.

Graduates

'Life is grand overall', **Eric Olson** reports, 'both despite and because of the crazy time we are living through culturally and politically.' In his 20 years working with the private sector on climate change and other sustainability issues,

Eric has never seen so much energy and commitment from so many as he does now. A highlight this past year was his group's launch of the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance, which promises to play a key role in accelerating transition to a low/zero carbon power system in the US. At home, his children are now going off to college, and his wife Susan Freiwald has just been named Dean of the School of Law at the University of San Francisco.

Antoine Lebel is 'slowly but surely approaching retirement (officially at least)' and is glad to shut his antiques company (no more accounting, VAT returns and balance sheets). He nonetheless plans to keep dealing for special clients and to carry on buying and selling antiques for his own collection. He and his wife are planning to divide their time between their main residence (Belgium) and Brittany (La Trinité sur Mer – home of the sailors' Mecca), where they are in the throes of the daunting task of refurbishing an old house. Antoine has been approached by a small but well known architectural and design school in Brittany to teach the rudiments of History of Art to would-be architects and designers, a role in which he would enjoy reconnecting with the academic world. Antoine's newest hobby is the restoration of a 20-foot 1907 American wooden motor tender built in teak and oak. This 'crazy project' is rewarding him with endless lessons about boat building and carpentry in general.

Lionel Hogg reports that he remains 'indentured to the practice of law in the great state of Queensland' while enjoying good health with no thoughts of retirement. Lionel still vividly recalls his first days at Merton. Before himself meeting Merton's Law Fellow, he encountered in the library an undergraduate law student fresh from her first tutorial with Professor John Barton. Professor Barton was a highly accomplished expert on Roman Law and 'an aficionado of giant poodles, macaws and copious quantities of snuff' who had left the poor girl aghast by informing her – in no uncertain terms – that he would teach her 'nothing of any vulgar practical use'. Of course, John would go on to teach matters of more enduring value to her and innumerable other students, whether they realised it or not. Lionel's three children are all faring well, with Lauren having now graduated from university with a degree in film and TV; James about to head for college in the US to play basketball and

study business ('almost certainly in that order', according to his dad); and young Alex still at primary school. Lionel enjoys continued contact with some Merton grads and with the sizeable Oxford alumni community in Brisbane.

Ricardo Bianconi is about to complete the final revisions on another book on maths, and has plans over the next five years to finish writing four books more. He can imagine enjoying working until the compulsory retirement age of 75!

Benjamin Alpers and his wife Karin both continue to teach at the University of Oklahoma. Their son Noah finished his first year at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York with plans to complete a double major in English and film and an eye toward film production. Their daughter Mira graduated this year from Chatham Hall, the all-girls' boarding school in Virginia where she went to high school. Next year she'll be spending a gap year on a Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study scholarship in Rabat, Morocco before beginning her freshman year at Harvard in the fall of 2020. She's hoping to concentrate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Christine Biggs and her husband Ian will be leaving Iran this summer after just over three years at their diplomatic post. Christine reports that 'It has been a fascinating assignment, despite the mounting challenges during the past 12 months since the USA's withdrawal from the JCPOA (nuclear deal) and the re-imposition of heavy sanctions. The positive mood we encountered on arrival has been replaced with one of resignation, but these are a resilient people who will survive, and emerge stronger afterwards.' While in Iran, Christine has been using the library and resources of the 'virtually abandoned' British Institute of Persian Studies to write a guidebook to the medieval tower tombs of Iran, from the 11th to 15th centuries. She is also working with the United Nations Information Centre on the final production stages of a bilingual English-Farsi book on *A Pictorial History of Iran's Relations with the United Nations*.

Once back home, Christine will return to her position as a librarian and archivist at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra. She hopes to enjoy a couple of quiet years there before heading out on posting again. Christine's son Joshua continues to do

his part to help the planet by working as a marine biologist for the University of Queensland's Coral Reef Ecosystems Laboratory. This position also allows him to live his 'dream life', spending four weeks out of every six at the lab's research station on Heron Island at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef. Christine's daughter Alexandra is in the final stages of completing her MSc in Migration Studies at St Antony's College in Oxford. She has had a most marvellous year, and has been particularly active with the St Antony's boat club, both coxing and rowing. Christine looks forward to returning to Oxford for her daughter's graduation this summer.



Daniel Schaffer on a visit to Merton

Daniel Schaffer continues to stay in touch with Merton in as many ways as he can. In fact, Dan has kindly volunteered to take over as the 1986 MCR Year Rep starting next year. He really enjoys giving a Trusts class (fuelled by Krispy Kremes!) and tutorials for Professor Jenny Payne and judging (with a trainee and another partner) the Slaughter and May Moot for second-years with an imagined appeal from a real reported case. This year they chose a Trusts Law case (*Re Cook's ST*) from the students' reading list. The students' advocacy was, as always, so impressive. Dan has promised to make it even more fiendish next year.

In Hilary term, Dan attended the annual lecture of the Halsbury Society with speaker Master of the Rolls Sir Terence Etherton, which was followed by a wonderful dinner.

This year, he is organising the Merton Lawyers' Association evening and has persuaded Dinah Rose QC and Mishal Husain to hold a conversation at Slaughter and May on Monday 11 November 2019.



Daniel Schaffer at the Merton Moot Dinner

Dan also enjoys sitting on Merton Society Council, and is still immensely enjoying his work, alongside many Mertonian colleagues. He and his wife Marianne are approaching the 'empty nest' phase of their lives. They met up with Nick Allard (1974) and Marla in February in NYC and then entertained them at home in St John's Wood, London in May. Their eldest Antoine (22) is graduating this summer from Birmingham University (Business and French) and is off to start working life at fashion house Mytheresa in Munich in August. In August Vincent (20) enters his sophomore year at Yale, where he is having a great time and will become a paid Computer Science Faculty Teaching Assistant on CS50 next year. He had to make the tough decision declining a place for Philosophy and French at Exeter College and was guided in his decision-making by Ben Alpers (MCR, 1986) and David Wright (MCR, 1986), both undergrad Harvardians. Louis (18) is doing his Pre-U exams and will take a gap year to decide the next stage of his education. He leaves City of London School as the most successful First XI soccer captain ever and having made a full contribution to school life beyond academic success. In addition to his family life, Dan devotes many hours a week to bike race training; the highlight competitive event of his year is the Maratona in the Dolomites in July. He likes keeping in contact with **Lionel Hogg** down in Brisbane, whom he thanks for sending him an excellent associate.

1987

Year Representative: Simon Male

Tel: 001 845 548 7825 Email: simon_male@yahoo.com

Jo Withers is currently sailing in French Polynesia with her husband Rob. They set off from Devon in August 2018 and have covered more than 11,000 nautical miles so far in their sailing yacht *Tintin*, headed for New Zealand. You can follow their adventure at blog.redholme.com.

Last year Jo held a TEDx talk at Newnham College, Cambridge entitled 'We need to talk about dying' (on YouTube). This followed on from her interest in end-of-life care in general practice and a fellowship in end-of-life care. This led to the establishment of a community group Finitude, which aims to support people in discussions about issues to do with dying, death and loss.

David Roche has returned to Bermuda after a career on the island as an accountant, but this time around is enjoying an early retirement.

1988

Year Representative: Tim Gardener

c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD
Email: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

David McDowell is still living in Edinburgh, where he is Head of Politics and Modern British History at Fettes College. Over the past five years he has been leading the school's commemoration of its role in the First World War, and in 2018 completed a project to update its war memorial with plaques for former pupils and employees who had died in war but been missed off. His chapel talks, *The One and Sole Thing Worth Living For: The Fettes College First World War Centenary Talks and Roll of Honour*, are available in paperback and on Kindle, with the proceeds going to PoppyScotland.

1989

Year Representatives: Matthew Grimley

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1990

Year Representative: Christine Barrie

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Lisa Curran is at King's College Hospital, loving her role as an occupational health physician and postgraduate medical trainer. She will become President of the Occupational Medicine Council at the Royal Society of Medicine in September. Lisa also has an interest in occupational travel and sits on the educational board of the Faculty of Travel Medicine. Outside work she is a Ski Club leader for Ski Club Great Britain, runs most days, and manages to stay alive cycling around London.

Zaid Al-Qassab left BT in the summer, and from the autumn will be Chief Marketing Officer at Channel 4, moving from one great British institution to another.

Claudia Drake (1991) raised more than £4.6 million for Guildford County School as its Development Officer, then worked hard in the garden in preparation for Peaslake Open Gardens, which 300 people attended.

Tom Elliott, host of the award-winning *3AW Drive* programme in Australia, recently celebrated another radio ratings victory. His audience share grew to 13.3%, which is a fantastic result considering the strength of his competitors.

Jayne Joyce and **Dominic** (1986) continue to live in North Oxford, from where Dominic can walk to the Mathematical Institute. Jayne is project lead for the charity Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support – is she still the only Mertonian International Board Certified lactation consultant? If anyone knows any millionaires who would like to invest in breastfeeding support, do get in touch; otherwise the

remainder of her working year will be taken up with applying to the National Lottery. Jayne had the interesting experience this year of speaking in the School of Geography and the Environment about the impact of austerity on new parents in Oxford, as part of a project funded by the Wellcome Trust. She also occasionally teaches student midwives at Brookes – not quite sure how a historian ended up here, but she loves it! Their eldest, Tilly, is reading NatSci at St John's, Cambridge; Kitty will have done her GCSEs by the time you read this; and Daisy will have transferred to secondary school. They are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary with a trip to Amsterdam this summer and feeling grateful. They enjoy catching up with passing Mertonians.

1991

Year Representative: Anna Smith (Chairman of the Year Representatives)

c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD
Email: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

1992

Year Representatives: Steve Maxwell

Tel: 001 510 4425 Email: stevemaxwell99@gmail.com

and Andrew Davison

Tel: 07971 597998 Email: apd31@cam.ac.uk

Marnie Hughes-Warrington stepped down after seven years of service as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the Australian National University and is delighted to be Professor of History there. She published book seven and signed a three-book contract.

Calum Semple was appointed to a Personal Chair in Child Health and Outbreak Medicine at the University of Liverpool commencing 2018. He is a Consultant in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, conducting research mostly into severe respiratory viral infections.

Paul Whitney is ticking along nicely, having recently added a T6 camper van to his family. This is increasing the opportunities for adventures, mostly mountain-related, as his son Torsten has become hooked on climbing, in addition to cricket, hockey and skiing.

Anna Watts is still at the University of Amsterdam, working hard on data from the NICER (neutron star interior composition explorer) telescope on the International Space Station. In late 2018, thoroughly fed up with Brexit stress, she and her kids became Dutch citizens. She feels taller, is much more direct and no longer stands in queues.

Tom Reusch is still in Potters Bar and his girls are growing up rapidly. The eldest has started secondary school. He has left Deutsche Bank after more than eight years, and after a short-term contract on an industrial estate in Hemel Hempstead, moved into the private equity world. Sara has also been juggling multiple jobs, but is settling down to being a primary school classroom-based teaching assistant after a couple of years being a Special Educational Needs specialist. She finds the folks she deals with every day are more grown up than those she dealt with while in the travel industry.

Owain Tucker published his first book this year, with the Institute of Physics, called *Carbon Capture and Storage*. This often-overlooked technology is vital if we are to achieve the goals set in the Paris Climate Agreement and if the UK is to reach net zero CO₂ emissions. The IOP has made the book free to download.

Sarah Tobin (née Bolt) last year completed a Master's in Ethics and Public Policy at Heythrop College, London and is now working for a not-for-profit organisation called Young Climate Warriors, which she helped set up in February 2019 to empower children to get involved in tackling climate change. Its website, youngclimatewarriors.org, sets a weekly challenge, related to climate change, for children to try at home as well as providing links to educational materials appropriate for children, parents and teachers. The challenges enable children to take concrete action to tackle climate change as well as sparking some great family conversations. You can read more about this on page 69. If your family or school would like to get involved in this

initiative, please get in touch with Sarah via the website as she would love to hear from you. Sarah and Matthew (1991) have two daughters and two sons.

Rachael Maunder (née **Ball**) is working for a US telecoms company and has recently moved to Miami after living in Barbados with her two children, William (7) and Harriet (4), for the last year.



James Handscombe reports that a curious side-effect (benefit or responsibility?) of his role at Harris Westminster is that he was in the party to greet Donald Trump to Westminister Abbey on his state visit. James therefore has inside information on Trump's demeanour and hand size, which he is willing to exchange for pints at a future rendezvous. Apart from that, his job continues to keep him off the streets and out of trouble, his family remains an oasis of sanity in a mad world, and his sideline as a novelist has still not taken off.

Steve Maxwell is still working in leadership development for Google in California. His most recent focus has been on organisation design. After an ongoing battle with (alive and dead) squirrels in the living room, he has finally decided to replace the cap on the chimney.

1993

Year Representative: Joanna Cooke

Email: jvicooke@hotmail.com



1994

There is currently no Year Representative for 1994.

David Wallace moves to Pittsburgh in October to take up the Mellon Chair with joint appointments in the Departments of History & Philosophy of Science and Philosophy.

Jamie McManus reports that daughter number two, Laura, was born in July 2018. Firstborn Zoe (now 4) visited Merton for the first time in March and was able to hear our wonderful College Choir.

Sam Martin reports that she has successfully completed her PhD in Digital Health and Social Media Analytics (with a focus on coeliac disease), and is now working as a Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, for the Vaccine Confidence Project™. 'My role includes using social media monitoring, digital analytics, machine learning and data visualisation – I research and map vaccine confidence via social

media discourse, attitude and sentiment towards vaccines globally.' Sam's research critically analyses and visualises text and image data output within the context of chronic conditions from digital health apps and social media. She has designed digital health research apps and games for visualising the embodiment of chronic illness and has investigated the use of 3D printing techniques to create badges that reflect the digital selfhood of users discussing chronic conditions.

1995

Year Representative: Tom Brown

Tel: 0207 827 4008

Gill Cowen is still in Perth, Australia with two boys who, she reports, are growing like weeds. Gill continues to work in sports medicine and for the West Australian Football Commission. She has recently been appointed Senior Lecturer at Curtin Medical School.

Kate Ledlie (née **O'Meara**) and her husband Nick welcomed their third child, a second son, Oliver, last September.

Nicola Morley is now Professor of Materials Physics at the University of Sheffield.

Chris Webb has started a new job as a pension systems implementer in Bristol.

1996

Year Representative: Maria Pretzler

Thanks to all the 1996 Mertonians who have got in touch this year. It is always good to hear from everybody. This year's entry focuses on two of our contemporaries who are in the process of starting exciting new projects.

Caroline Batchelor will be starting an MSc in Music and Neuroscience at Goldsmiths in September. This is the only

master's programme in the world to combine her three biggest passions: music, neuropsychology and research. She also joined a new band this year called Shkembe Soup, playing music with a vibrant Balkan/Hungarian folk-style feel fused with Flamenco elements, rock and roll, and swirling dancers.

Malte Herwig has left a job at *Stern* magazine in Hamburg to focus on writing: a book about Hitler's favourite magician is due out with Random House in autumn 2020. Malte has also created and hosted a podcast (in German) about the forged Hitler diaries and is currently getting into screenwriting.

1997

Year Representatives: Catherine Sangster

Email: catherine.sangster@oup.com

and **Jill Davies**

jilldavies1997@yahoo.co.uk

Tim Taylor will be married in August to his fiancée Merryn (University of Exeter), whom he met when she was working at the London Olympics in 2012.

1998

Year Representative: Alex Edmans

Email: aedmans@london.edu

Holly Cummins got married at the end of May.

Alex Edmans gave a mainstage TED talk, 'What to trust in a post-truth world', on the dangers of confirmation bias (uncritically accepting evidence that you would like to be true), which currently has 1.5 million views. Alongside his London Business School post, he is now serving as Mercers' School Memorial Professor of Business at Gresham College, and gave a public lecture series on 'How business can better serve society' in 2018-19. His first book, *Grow the Pie: Creating Profit for Investors and Value for Society*, will be published next

year. He unexpectedly bumped into **Claire Wicks** (née **Broad**) at the finish of the Oxford Half Marathon in October 2018.

Mark Eminson left Pagham this summer to be Team Rector of the Merton Priory Team Ministry in South London, which involves overseeing three churches. He wryly notes the name of the appointment, and also that he seems to be going the wrong way when others are leaving London for country air.

Ben Garner is still living in Baltimore, Maryland and recently started working as a Director of Program Management for 2U – a company that partners with world-class universities, including the Sâid Business School, to facilitate offering their degrees online. He has two kids, Grace (9) and Tony (6), and they all love playing lots of sports.

Andrea Lord (née **Graves**) returned briefly to Oxford last year, taking her children to visit on a three-night stopover as part of a northern hemisphere trip. It is a long way from New Zealand, and she wished they'd had longer! She realised that when she lived there for three years doing her DPhil, she had built a prison in her own mind. She thought people were grumpy, she constantly complained about the food and she was homesick most of the time. Twenty years later, everyone was delightful, the food was wonderful and she wanted to stay. The buildings and gardens were as exquisite as ever, although her children (11 and 15) thought all the colleges looked the same. They both claim to despise science – a side effect of having parents with several science degrees between them – but could barely be dragged out of the Museum of Natural History. Andrea is a freelance science writer and editor, and felt that even her short time back in Oxford kicked her brain back into a higher gear.

Stuart Norman and his wife Karen (née Nelson, LMH 2001) were delighted to welcome their second child, Harriet Eleanor, in August 2018. Stuart was looking forward to taking three months' shared parental leave from May to July to spend time with Harriet as she approached her first birthday.

1999

Year Representative: Andrew Tustian

Email: andrewtustian@hotmail.com

This year marks the 20th anniversary of matriculation for the class of 1999, which interestingly is a longer period of time than the median age of the 2019 class. Yet for **Caroline Ovidia** her days of studying have lived on. She is finally finishing student life having graduated from her PhD this year. Now she combines clinical obstetrics with academic research as a clinical lecturer at King's College London.

Keeping with the obstetric theme, **Emily Whitehead** and her partner Marty welcomed a daughter, Clara, in October 2018, a little sister for Heath (3).

A lot has happened for **Karen McAtamney** since May 2018. She left employment with SEN Legal after 12 years in December 2018 in order to relocate from Bury St Edmunds to Droitwich, closer to her sister, brother-in-law and nephew. She is in the process of starting her own practice – KJM Legal Ltd (kjmlegal.co.uk) – and will continue to work in the field of special educational needs, disability and mental capacity.

Finally, a piece of sad news for this year. On 25 August 2018 **Rosalind Taylor-Hook** (née **Hook**) and her husband Adam welcomed their twin sons Oscar and Alexander (little brothers to older children Miranda and Isaac) into the world, although sadly they lived for only a few hours. Despite their short lives they are very much part of the Taylor-Hook family, and are loved and missed every day.

2000

Year Representative: Alex Perry

Email: alexpperry@gmail.com

We start with the sad news of the passing of **Neil Chakravarty** late in 2017 – an obituary contributed by **Marc Stoneham** and **Kike Agunbiade** is in the *In Memoriam* section. Marc and Kike have been raising money for charity

in memory of Neil and should anyone wish to donate, please get in touch.

Moving on to cheerful fare, after missing last year's edition we have double helpings of baby news to cover for the class of 2000, as well as the usual mix of other personal and professional tidbits.



Andrew Evans and his son, Alex

Andrew Evans and **Natasha Crofts** are delighted to announce the birth of their son Alex, born in August 2017.

Elizabeth He (née **Hunter**) reports the birth of son James Kai-Hong Alexander William in October 2017. He was baptised in February 2018 at Merton Chapel, and quite the Mertonian occasion it was too, complete with Mertonian celebrant (the Revd Dr Andrew Pinsent (1984)) and godparents (the former Warden and his wife, Sir Martin and Lady Taylor).

Rosemary Golding and husband Stephen welcomed Miriam, a little sister for Abigail, in April 2018. Rosemary works at the Open University.

Brad John-Davis and wife Kerry had their second son, Harrison (Harry), in April 2018 while living in San José, Costa Rica. Brad, Kerry, Harry and elder brother Noah are relocating to the UK in July 2019 after a six-year stint in Africa and Latin America. Brad plans to leave the travel and tourism industry after 15 years to embark on a dramatic career change, the ultimate aim being a call to the Bar.

Jenni Hall (née **Close**) and husband Dan welcomed their first child, Matthew Oliver, in September 2018.

Laura Crawfordth (née **Thomas**) and James welcomed baby Thomas in October 2018, with big brother William taking warmly to the new arrival.

Carol Pearson writes that she and Gérald were very happy to receive their baby girl Victoire Marianne Alice in October 2018. This year will mark 13 years living in Paris for Carol, where she lives a few minutes' walk from **Joanna Kenner**.

Marc Stoneham is 'exceptionally chuffed' at the arrival of a daughter, Nina, last year. He is still spending most of his time in countries with 'worse water but better elections' than the UK.

Liam Kelly and **Kat Sharrocks** confirmed delivery of Harry, a little brother to Alastair (6) and Ada (3), in June 2019.

Duncan Butler-Wheelhouse is living in Harrow with wife Helen and two sons Calvin (4) and Mackenzie (3), with a third child expected later this year. Duncan completed his MSc in Comparative and International Education at Oxford in 2018, and is now self-employed as an education consultant. Duncan continues to enjoy refereeing rugby union, where the repartee from players and crowds compares favourably to the recriminations of two young boys at home.

Alex Street lives with his wife EJ and three children Jack, Finn and Eleanor in Montana, USA.

Ben Brayford is a partner in the commercial real estate practice at law firm Forsters. Ben and **Lucy Brayford** (née **Auger**) live in south-east London with their two children Jonny (9) and Chloe (6).

Peter Cousins' second stint in Colombia came to an end in 2018. He informs that he has returned to Europe and embraced 'mature-student poverty' by enrolling in a PhD course in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Granada. So far he is enjoying the challenge, as well as the delights of Iberia.

To add a small announcement of our own, Rachael and I celebrated the birth of Arthur in February 2018 – a bouncing 9lb prop-forward in the making and already a handful for big brother Theo.

Feel free to get in touch at alexpperry@gmail.com with any news – and be sure that your old classmates will always be delighted to hear from you.

2001

Year Representative: Katherine Millard

Email: katherine.l.millard@gmail.com

Hinesh Rajani is back in London after three wonderful years in the Middle East. He says that 'working on Brexit keeps me on my toes professionally!'

2002

Year Representative: Ben Zurawel

c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD

Email: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

2003

Year Representative: Simon Beard

c/o Development Office: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

It's always nice bumping into old friends, so it was a delight to randomly meet not just one but two 2003 Merton PPE-ists (**Johannes Ströbel** and **Steve Longden**) at the Red Lion on Whitehall last month. Delight quickly turned to

astonishment when it turned out that they had in fact just been drinking with **Paul Stuart** in the same pub. I suppose that the Red Lion is just the kind of place one expects to find former PPE-ists busy running the world; however, to have half of our cohort co-located in the same room at the same time seemed to be taking things a bit far!



Simon Beard, Johannes Ströbel and Steve Longden in June 2019

Johannes has been living in New York since 2013, together with his partner Theresa and his kids, Konrad (3) and Anton (6 months). He is teaching and researching at NYU's Stern School of Business. I would give you an update on Steve, but we started talking politics instead so all I can tell you is that he still thinks Tony Blair was great and has now left the Labour Party.

In other news, **Helen Nicholas** has just welcomed Wilfred, a little brother for Edith, so is busy reacquainting herself with nappies and nursery rhymes. **Tom Newton Lewis** and his wife Aparna also had a new baby daughter, Nitara, in October. They have relocated from Delhi to Oxfordshire (which Tom says some would see as a backwards step!). Many congratulations to them all.

Francine Service (née **Oddy**) returned to the UK in November to get married to her New Zealander husband in Shropshire. Francine had been living and working in New Zealand for the last few years. They are now living back in the UK and expecting their first baby in October this year.

Charlotte and Tom (2004) **Ravenscroft** are enjoying living in Epping with their two little boys Josh and Alex. Charlotte has spent the last year working mainly with the Scouts, while also advising several other charities.

After three years of epic commuting, I finally moved to Histon in Cambridgeshire last summer to live closer to my job at the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, where I was recently made a Senior Research Associate (that seems to be a fancy term for post-postdoc). It was lovely to have both **Rami Chowdhury** (and wife Kathleen) and **Andy Godfrey** (and long-term partner Jerry) come to visit us here. My kids are now 8 and 5 and have both finally started school, which I have to say to all year mates with younger children really does make a huge difference to one's life – mostly for the better.

After three years of writing these updates I have decided to take a break for the time being and am delighted to announce that Andy Godfrey and Helen Nicholas have agreed to take over from next year. Please do keep sending them your news – and in the meantime, send any updates to the Development Office: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk.

2004

Year Representatives: Nicola Davis, Gavin Freeguard and Natasha Zitcer

Email: merton2004@gmail.com

Vicki Cooper and her husband welcomed their daughter, Ada Charlotte, on 3 May 2019. Ada is a little sister for Betty.

Lizzie D'Angelo has a different kind of baby update. She's recently been appointed as Interim Marketing Director for Tommy's, after joining the charity last year as Deputy Marketing Director. Tommy's is the UK's leading pregnancy research and health information charity, which works to halve the number of babies who die during pregnancy or birth and to support families throughout their pregnancy journeys. She's absolutely delighted to take up this exciting post as the pinnacle of her career within health charity communications, having made the move into the charity sector ten years ago from the corporate world. She says it's

fantastic to work for such an ambitious organisation that is saving babies' lives.

Steph Grant (née **Taylor**) and her husband Alex welcomed baby Jessica in November 2018, a little sister for Edward.

After sojourns in the US (back in the better times of Hope and Change) and Perth, **Tom Hanna** has set up shop in Sydney and runs his own consulting business doing simulations and data science for the resources, energy, agriculture and infrastructure sectors. He is married to Zsafia (Keble, 2005) and they have two children, Nathan (2) and Sam (5), plus a third on the way. Keeping busy!

Nathan and **Gaby Hulme** (née **Norrish**) would like to announce the arrival of Arthur Dylan Hulme on 1 February 2019.

After two years at the High Commission in London, **Matthew Paradis** is being crossposted to the Consulate General of Canada in Bengaluru, India, where he will be the Consul (Migration). In addition to managing the Canadian visa office for all of south India, he'll be busy with outreach on work permits and permanent migration pathways to Canada in 'India's Silicon Valley'. And he'll be having lots and lots of *dosas*.

Emily de Wolfe Pettit's big news is that she and her team of Peking Art Associates took a selection of Marc Quinn's work to China's Central Academy of Fine Arts Museum this spring. This was their first project management of an exhibition of a British artist at national level in China. Three years in the making, more than 38,000 visitors and the participation of more than 6,000 patrons making their own versions of Quinn's 1990's bread hand in a bakery they set up in the museum, it was wonderful to see all ages, from children to grandparents, become engaged in the artistic process. Emily particularly enjoyed working with the British Council on the education outreach programme that followed and is looking forward to managing more cross-cultural activities between China, the UK and beyond.

And as for your Year Representatives...

Tash Beth (née **Zitcer**) is still working for the Department for Education, and living in London with her husband Ian.

They're expecting their first child in the autumn, and Tash is looking forward to maternity leave – mostly in the hope that the government will have sorted itself out by the time she goes back to work.

Nicola Davis is still covering science and health news for *The Guardian*, and enjoying the wide range of topics that cross her desk. Having travelled to Botswana (for work) and Japan (for fun) in 2018, she has just returned from a sabbatical in Denmark brushing up her language skills. Nicola is now training hard on the archery range to prepare for matches with her club.

Gavin Freeguard is still trying to make government more effective as the programme director for data and transparency at the Institute for Government. He's not confident that Tash will get her wish (above). But he has at least had a chart featured on *Have I Got News for You* and two 'geek of the week' badges from Robert Peston. He's still a trustee of the Orwell Youth Prize (any teachers who'd like to work with us, please get in touch) and member of the UK Open Government Network steering group, and has just become responsible for millions of pounds of public money as part of the research commissioning board for the ESRC's Administrative Data Research UK project. Most excitingly, he's joined a choir: the New Tottenham Singers, as a bass.

As ever, you can get in touch with us via merton2004@gmail.com.

2005

Year Representative: Emma Bullimore
Email: emmabullimore@gmail.com

Laura (née **Davies**) and **Harry Hurrell** (2006) were over the moon to welcome son Freddie in September 2018. Freddie was lucky enough to be baptised by the Revd Dr Simon Jones in Merton Chapel and has Emma Bullimore, Nicola Davis (2004) and Phil Aherne (2006) as godparents. Laura and Harry are living in southeast London and, in life outside of nappy changing, Harry works at the Cabinet Office and Laura is a Director at BDO LLP, specialising in employment taxes.

Michael Quirke and **Attie Rees** celebrated the birth of their child, **Aster Quirke**, in August 2018.

Meanwhile, **Paul Lulham** is now married to Lisa and preparing to be best man for **Chris Stainton** at his upcoming wedding.

2006

Year Representatives: James Dobias (undergraduates)
c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD
Email: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

and **Gregory Lim (graduates)**
Email: gbslim@gmail.com



Gregory Lim, Anna McConnell and Hendrik Coldenstrodt-Ronge at Lambeth Palace

After five years living close to Washington, DC, **Hendrik Coldenstrodt-Ronge** moved back to Germany in October 2018. He now lives in Oldenburg and hopes to attend more Merton events again. If anybody is visiting northern Germany, please feel free to get in touch with him for an impromptu reunion. Hendrik, **Gregory Lim** and **Anna McConnell** were pleased to have a mini-reunion along with other Mertonians at the Merton Society London Dinner held on 1 March 2019 at Lambeth Palace.

After working as a lawyer in a law firm, a global investment bank and an asset management firm, **Stephanie Loizou** set up her own company based in London and has provided

legal services to a Magic Circle law firm, an asset manager, a technology company and a fitness company. She has been published in a professional legal journal five times and is finalising her sixth piece.

Inês Sousa has left a human genetics start-up called Coimbra Genomics and is beginning a new challenge in a human genetics clinical laboratory at Germano de Sousa in Lisbon, Portugal. On 20 February 2019, her second daughter, Diana, was born. They are now a family of four, with two adorable little girls. They have also moved to a bigger house in Lisbon, so this has already been a very busy year for them.



Claire Wilkinson's son, Theo

Claire Wilkinson's son, Theo James, was born on 27 November 2018 and Claire is engaged to be married to her partner, Nathan, this December.

2007

Year Representative: Alistair Haggerty

Thank you to all who responded to my request for updates; it was wonderful to hear from you and to find out a bit about what you have been doing recently. However, it would be really good to have even more responses next year as we reach the first decade since the majority of us left Merton. I recently moved to a new house and, when sorting through some old boxes, I came across my copy of our finalists' yearbook. One of the questions that many of us answered in our profiles was 'Where do you see yourself in ten years' time?' It would be interesting to find out how accurate our predictions were!

So, where are we after nine years?

Kambez Benam is living in Denver, Colorado with his wife Cigdem and their son Arman (5). He is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Bioengineering, managing a relatively large team (who are profiled on the website benamlab.net). He encourages current Merton students to email him if they have any questions regarding his areas of work and he is always happy to help. His team has recently been awarded \$3.4 million by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create the most advanced living mimicry of a human lung. This will be used to identify the toxicity and cancer-causing potential of emerging tobacco products.

Christian Jorgensen is also living in America and enjoying his life there. He is at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore where he is doing a postdoc. He has also been engaging with fellow East Coast Mertonians and attended the Merton in DC event, which he tells me was a lot of fun.

Three of our number have celebrated exciting milestones over the last year. **Imogen Choi** (née **Sutton**) had her second child, Francis Hanul, in November. Then, in April, **Felicity** (née **White**) and **Gordon Wai** got married. They had worried that they had missed the deadline for submitting their exciting news, as they were on their honeymoon, but I made sure that it was included!



As for me, I got married to Rachael last September in St Albans Cathedral. There was a significant Merton presence at the wedding, including my best man **Simon Kerry**, and **Lizzie Bauer** who first introduced me and Rachael. We have settled in Bath and are in the process of renovating our first house together. It is very much a work in progress! I continue to work as a barrister, specialising in crime, health and safety and environmental law, and was recently part of the team that prosecuted the oil company Valero following the fatal explosion at the Pembrokeshire Dock Refinery.

2008

Year Representative: Alice Salvage

Email: alice.salvage@gmail.com

Richard Miller and **Sarah Miller** (née **McAvoy**) welcomed their daughter Imogen Alexandra Miller into the world on 6 February 2019, weighing 6lb 5oz. Immy is healthy and happy; Richard and Sarah are really enjoying being new parents.

Sophie Norman and **Ben Green** got married at Merton on 20 July 2019, which seems a particularly fitting update for *Postmaster*.

Rosie Birchall, **Niall Allsopp**, **Prakash Parameshwar** and I are still living in Peckham, where we are rather proud of our increasingly successful lawn-care efforts.

Six years after graduating from Merton, **Masahiro Kotosaka** is enjoying the research and practice of entrepreneurial management as an associate professor teaching management studies, and as an external director of five start-up companies. He has published two books and nearly 100 articles in Japanese, and has helped with the initial public offering of two start-up companies. He could not have imagined this journey when he graduated! He still remembers the days he spent at Merton, and the memory is the foundation of his professional career. He is currently writing an academic paper with a researcher at Oxford, and will soon start another project with several professors at Oxford. He looks forward to the next time he visits Oxford, hopefully for longer than a few days. He hopes all the current students are enjoying their time at Merton as much as he did.

2009

Year Representative: Stephanie Cadoux-Hudson

Tel: 07814 951309

Ten years! Can you believe it? Hopefully we will all get a chance to exchange stories at this year's Gaudy but until then here are a few updates from our year.

First off, **Roger Knight**, who many of you may remember as the genius behind our MCR website (which is still going strong), moved to Spain a year after finishing his master's and now lives in a small village up in the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada in Andalucia. He bought a flat there a couple of years ago from an English woman called Carolyn and, ever so romantically, last December they got married! They were in Oxford briefly in May and the Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones was kind enough to bless their marriage with a short service in the Chapel.

Another romantic story from our year comes from **Vanessa Johnen** who amid the vineyards of the Elbe valley and in the golden autumn sun, was married to Franz-Xaver Neubert in October 2018. They celebrated with family and friends from Oxford and other stages of their life, joyfully looking forward to the next steps of their journey together.

In academic news, **Fabienne Cheung** was awarded her PhD in French Literature at the end of last year. **Finola Austin's** historical novel, *Brontë's Mistress*, based on the true, heretofore-untold story of Lydia Robinson and her affair with Branwell Brontë, will be published next year. According to the publisher, 'the novel gives voice to the courageous, flawed, complex woman slandered in Elizabeth Gaskell's *The Life of Charlotte Brontë* as the "wicked" elder seductress who corrupted the young Brontë brother, driving him to an early grave and bringing on the downfall of the entire Brontë family.'

Finally, your Year Rep continues to live in Oxford (do drop me a line if any of you are ever about) and has recently taken up the position of Principal Scientist in Analytical Development at the gene and cell therapy company Oxford Biomedica, thus reducing my daily commute from a 90-mile round trip to a leisurely jolly through Oxford on my bike.

2010

Year Representative: Martin Schmidbaur
(undergraduates)

Email: martin.schmidbaur@gmail.com

There is no graduate Year Representative for 2010. Please email the Development Office if you are interested in volunteering: development@merton.ox.ac.uk.

This year, to mix things up a bit, I asked your opinions on Brexit. Unfortunately, however, the class of 2010 had – surprisingly, maybe – little to say. Whether that's for a lack of political insights, a lack of civic commitment, or British reservedness, we don't know. The handful of comments I received ranged from 'bearish and probably not acceptable for print' to 'nothing insightful' and 'no comment', all the way to 'hope it happens'. We'll just leave that there.

Tom Codrington declined to comment on Brexit given his official role at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, where he works as a Strategy Officer after a posting in Libya.

Sara Wehlin is hoping to move back to Europe towards the end of the year after finishing her doctorate in solar fuel

generation. She has her eyes on Brussels, where she can live happily because she's got a Swedish passport.

We'll read nothing into the fact that **Emma Slattery**, in search of a 'more outdoor way of life', opted for the James Dyson Brexit strategy and moved to Singapore, where she now works on a farm. She's living with her partner Joe, taking a horticulture course and throwing herself into scuba diving and wildlife spotting.

One of the few in-depth takes on Brexit has come from **Pip Schuijt**; she thinks it is to blame for the exploding cost of housing in Amsterdam, where Brits are already seeking refuge (*cough* **Laurie McClymont** *cough*). Returning to Amsterdam after Oxford, Pip completed a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering, making her a 'weird hybrid between a biologist and an engineer', as she put it. She works for a research institute called TNO, at the Department of Weapon Systems and Explosions, Ballistics and Protection, similar to the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. Pip refused to give too much away – all classified – but we'll believe it when she says the work is 'diverse and interesting'.

Pip has managed to avoid **Laurie McClymont** so far, who is loving the British expat life in Amsterdam, and is still working for booking.com. He ran his second-ever marathon in Prague earlier this year, with full-throated support and cheering from **Matt Constable**.

Laurie wasn't the only one to complete a marathon: **Ruth Mitchell** finished a marathon in just over four hours. Much more importantly, Ruth also reported that she got engaged. Congratulations, and we look forward to the wedding pictures for next year's edition.

Will Bennett says he is 'smashing' his philosophy degree at UCL. He is living in Bloomsbury, and despite having both his laptop and bicycle stolen within the space of a week, still thinks the area is 'wonderful'. Ever the optimist, he's looking for upsides in Brexit: 'I have a Danish girlfriend, and now she might need a UK husband in order to stay in the UK, she is totally falling in love with me.' Other than that, he's appeared in a Czech opera in London and cycled 300 miles from Manchester to north Scotland in three days.

That's it with Brexit material, so I shall turn to more joyful news: **Emma** and **Dan Crowe** welcomed their daughter Molly into this world last November – a true child of the Merton class of 2010. They moved back to Northumberland to be closer to family. Congratulations to your little family!



Emma, Dan and Molly Crowe

Laura Burnett is still working for a tech start-up, helping to build software that makes it easy for businesses to tell us where and how products are made, so we can make better decisions about what we buy. She's bought a house in Mitcham, and was grateful to report that she's keeping Merton traditions alive by using tools courtesy of **Sam Jauncey** to decorate the new house. She's also 'counting the days' until **Sara Wehlin** returns from the United States.

Laura isn't the only one thinking about sustainability. **Lydia Paris** teamed up with a friend to launch her own podcast, covering everything from shopping and eating more sustainably, to answering the question of whether sustainability is better than sex. To find out the answer, you can follow Lydia's podcast antics on Spotify, the Apple Store or Instagram: @podcastswitch. The idea behind it is simple: 'Progressive guests. Real chat. Good for people and the planet.'

Molly Willcock works as a midwife at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, and also joined the club of homeowners after buying a house in North London. She's also fulfilled another dream and got herself a puppy, though she reports he's growing up quickly.

Only about ten years late to the party, **Sam Love** says she's finally taken up rowing, after moving to Reading where she works as an employment lawyer.

Andrew O'Flaherty is still with Credit Suisse working in equity research, trying to prevent the next financial crisis. He still considers London home, but already has half an eye on exploring other parts of the world if the chance comes up. Together with **Dan Mackinnon**, he had the pleasure of attending **Lukas Gelezauskas'** wedding in Lithuania, which we're told was a 'pretty fantastic' day, along with the reunion for **Dan, Lukas** and **Andrew**.



Mr and Mrs Gelezauskas at their wedding, with Andrew O'Flaherty and Dan Mackinnon

Lukas Gelezauskas himself didn't even mention his wedding, but instead reported the following. 'I recently received a considerable inheritance from a previously unknown uncle who had amassed a fortune in Nigeria. This very helpful lawyer reached out to me via email and arranged for the funds to be

transferred. I recently started working for a single family office in Lithuania, but I paused my employment and am now sailing the seven seas on my yacht *Tax Seavasion*. Having witnessed the size of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch I am considering becoming a full-time professional climate activist.'

Jess Furness is travelling the world, championing diversity efforts at tech companies like Palantir, and looking to ensure that the people who write code and algorithms that shape so much of our lives now reflect society as a whole. Jess reports spending a lot of time at airport departure lounges – but we're sure she still enjoys the travelling.

There are more nuptials to report. **Jonny Carver** married his fiancée Nicola, where, as one of his best men, I had the pleasure of holding the rings and embarrassing Jonny with a retelling of some Myrmidon antics.



George Lockett, Mike Geeson and Martin Schmidbaur at Jonny Carver's wedding

Mike Geeson (still working on his PhD at MIT in Boston, Massachusetts) and **George Lockett** (working as a doctor at St Thomas' Hospital in London) were last seen at the Carver wedding. **Chas Lake** was not seen there.

Freya Edwards, forever the restless traveller, spent some time in Liverpool to complete a diploma in tropical medicine. At the time of writing, she had her sights set on spending some time in New Zealand or South East Asia.

Alex Bajjon, who used to delight with inebriated piano playing in the JCR, says his musical talents have finally found more recognition since he started playing in a steel band. He still lives just outside Brighton, and enjoys the seaside.

Wesley Wilson got in touch with news that he'd been visiting fellow Mertonian Tom Snell (2009) in Montana. By next year, we hope to establish what Tom Snell is doing in Montana.

Returning to London after a two-year stint of working in Cornwall, **Jess Odone** stayed just about long enough to say 'Hello' to a few friends, before setting off again – this time to Italy where she's learning to speak Italian and gesticulate even more emphatically.

Sarah Harrison has moved from her role at the Wellcome Trust to the Department of Health and Social Care, where she works closely with the government's Chief Scientific Adviser.

Jaron Murphy appeared in the NCTJ list of the most respected journalists following research by Cardiff University.

That's it for another year. Your updates and news make this an enjoyable and intriguing task every time, and I look forward to another round of news from the class of 2010 next year.

2011

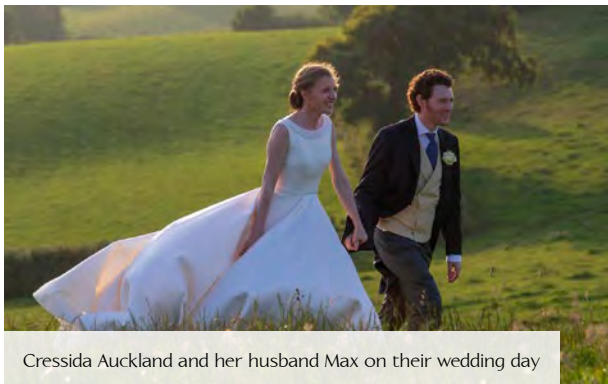
Year Representative: Timothy Foot

Email: tim.foot@gmail.com

Katariina and **Jonas Mueller-Gastell** continue with their PhD work in the US. This year, they received an extra Christmas present in the form of baby Wilhelmiina Maria Artemis, who was born on 25 December.

Mary Boyle and her husband Antony have been based in Ireland, and were joined this year by new baby Liam. All

three of them are set to move to Oxford next spring, as Mary begins a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship.



Cressida Auckland and her husband Max on their wedding day

Cressida Auckland was married to her fiancé Max in July. Very many congratulations to them both. In further exciting news, earlier this year Cressida was appointed an Assistant Professor at the LSE, specialising in medical law.

Following closely on Merton's runner-up performance in last year's *University Challenge*, our very own **Matt Booth** went one better. Now finishing his PhD at the University of Edinburgh, Matt and his team (and Matt's new moustache) romped home to victory in this year's series, even causing a small Twitter sensation for the speed at which Matt could identify a rogan josh.

Some of our number are moving further afield. **Tanvi Mehta** is moving back to India, and **Ben Hopkins**, now finished with his DPhil, is taking up a postdoctoral position at UC Davis.

In the opposite direction, **Georges Rouillon** spent time abroad after graduating, working in Cambodia and Myanmar with the EU and human rights NGOs, but has now returned to the UK and entered the Civil Service. He is currently working on Middle East policy in the Foreign Office.

Nana Liu reports that in November 2018 she started a new job as an Assistant Professor at the John Hopcroft Center for Computer Science at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, which is a major university in China and known as the 'MIT of the East'.

She is continuing her research there in quantum information and quantum computing, and was included in *MIT Technology Review's* list of Innovators Under 35 in the Asia-Pacific region (innovatorsunder35.com/the-list/nana-liu) for her work on quantum technologies, some of which was done while at Merton. Nana says, 'I frequently think of my wonderful time at Merton and learnt so much from my time there. I left more than two years ago and have really fond memories.'

2012

Year Representative: Stephanie Cadoux-Hudson

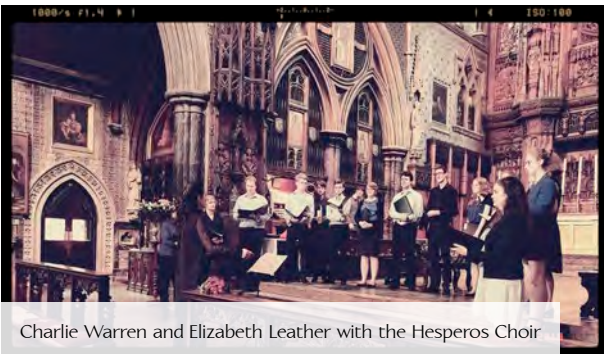
Tel: 07814 951309

Just two updates from the 2012 year group – but two excellent updates at that!



Barry Hawley tobogganing at the Cresta Run in Switzerland

Barry Hawley completed his MSc in Major Programme Management at the Saïd Business School, from 2012 to 2015. This year, he was accepted into the St Moritz Tobogganing Club, which operates the Cresta Run in Switzerland. That's the only natural-ice skeleton track in the world, and is where the sport of skeleton started. It's primarily an English club, with a lot of great traditions and a deep cast of characters. Barry admits to not being a great rider, but he did break 58 mph this year!



Charlie Warren and Elizabeth Leather with the Hesperos Choir

Just over a year ago **Charlie Warren** and **Elizabeth Leather** set up a chamber choir in London called Hesperos, with a core of previous members of the Merton College Choir. They have put on five concerts so far, and Charlie has expressed how really enjoyable it has been to get back together with a few old Mertonians and other singing friends to make music together. More information regarding the choir can be found at www.hesperoschoir.com

2013

There is currently no Year Representative for 2013. Please contact development@merton.ox.ac.uk if you are interested in the position.

Tom Herring and **Alex Ho** had their Barbican debuts at the Sound Unbound festival in May. Alex was commissioned by the BBC Radio 3 presenter Nick Luscombe to write a site-specific work for the Barbican. And Tom appeared with his group SANSARA.

2014

There is currently no Year Representative for 2014.

Andreea Iorga is doing a PhD in Mathematics at the University of Chicago, working in number theory.

Bridget McNulty reports that she has 'made the move to London, along with many others in my year. I'm currently in placement with the Education Office at Imperial College as part of its Graduate Management Training Scheme, having previously worked in the International Relations Office and Societal Engagement. It didn't take long for me to miss singing with the lovely people of Merton College Choir and I have recently joined the BBC Chorus to make up for it!'

Eamonn O'Keeffe is in his first year of a DPhil in History at Merton researching British military musicians during the Napoleonic Wars.

Tamara Devenne successfully passed her viva in October 2018 and recently moved to Belgium to start a new job as a postdoctoral researcher at the KU Leuven. 'I met my husband during my PhD in Oxford (he is British), and we got married in Oxford. We decided to move to Belgium and it has been relatively easy to find jobs here.'

James Walker finished his PhD in December 2018 and is now cycling around the world, including trips through Eastern Africa, New Zealand, Australia and South East Asia. At the beginning of 2019 he worked for a month on a project trying to understand how elephants communicate. He will 'enter the real world' in October with a management consultancy job in London.

2015

There is currently no Year Representative for 2015. Please contact development@merton.ox.ac.uk if you are interested in the position.

Louis Halewood, who has been spending the last year at Yale as a predoctoral fellow, is now engaged. He and his fiancée Anita are set to move back to the UK in the forthcoming year.

In Memoriam



Bryan Organ's portrait of Sir Rex Richards

Former Warden



Sir Rex Richards FRS died on 15 July 2019 at the age of 96. He served as Warden of Merton from 1969 to 1984 and as Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1977 to 1981.

Rex Edward Richards was born in Colyton, Devon, in 1922. His father was a local builder and his mother had been secretary to the Bishop of Exeter. Both his parents worked in the family business and were instrumental in forming their son's approach to work by their insistence on getting things done and on high standards.

Rex was educated at Colyton Grammar School and went up to St John's College, Oxford, in 1942 to read Chemistry, having learnt sufficient Latin to pass the entrance exam and to win an exhibition. He graduated with a First in 1945 and immediately embarked on his DPhil research under HW Thompson utilising infrared spectroscopy techniques to analyse different materials and organic structures and to research the thermodynamic properties of molecules used in the chemical industry. In 1947 he became Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry at Lincoln College and a year later formally obtained his DPhil. 1948 was also the year he married Eva Vago, a refugee from Hungary in 1938 and a colleague who became Chemistry Fellow of Somerville. They had two daughters; a granddaughter is Fellow and Tutor in Physical Chemistry at Trinity College, Oxford.

Following his doctoral research, Rex's interest was soon piqued by the new technique of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and he was inspired to build his own device in Oxford. In 1955, he spent six months at Harvard where he had extensive conversations with Robert Pound and Ed Purcell, two co-discoverers of the technique. He was elected a Fellow of the

Royal Society in 1959, having been the first person to apply NMR to the determination of unknown molecular structures.

Rex was appointed Dr Lee's Professor of Chemistry and a fellow of Exeter College in 1964. He combined this with a departmental role as Head of the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry. His work on the application of NMR in chemistry, physics and biology as well as in the design of novel magnets made vital advances. It was therefore with some consternation that his strong research group learned of Rex's election in 1969 as Warden of Merton. Rex, however, was anxious to continue his research in NMR as he believed that the technique would be a significant tool for biochemists. Professor Rodney Porter, Head of Biochemistry, offered him space in his department and Rex, David Hoult and David Gadian – a Merton graduate undertaking his DPhil research at the time – moved into a crowded room in the old Biochemistry building, together with Rex's own home-built spectrometer.

Rex realised that the study of biological macromolecules needed different and more powerful magnets. Cooperation with Oxford Instruments, led by Sir Martin Wood, resulted in the construction of the first commercial high-field spectrometer that had the right properties to study large protein molecules. Iain Campbell, Rex's research assistant, was given additional space on the ground floor of the Biochemistry Tower to set up a new project on macromolecule NMR.

Coincidentally, Professor Sir Ewart Jones of the Dyson Perrins Laboratory had been discussing with senior members of several departments the setting up of a large programme based around NMR and the X-ray crystallography of enzymes. The Oxford Enzyme Group (OEG) was founded with funding from the Science Research Council and Rex was asked to be its chairman. It was a collaboration between seven individual departments and about 18 senior members of staff. The OEG met every fortnight on Monday evenings and it is a great tribute to Rex's ability as chair that he was able to bring together a group of 'prima donnas' through open discussions.

His research on the chemical applications of NMR won him honorary degrees from 13 universities, the Davy Medal and



Sir Rex Richards, welcomed by Dr John Roberts (then Sub-Warden), at his installation as Warden of Merton

Royal Medal of the Royal Society, the Corday-Morgan Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the President's Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry and the Medal of Honour of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität, Bonn. He was knighted in 1977 for services to NMR spectroscopy.

Elected Warden of Merton in 1969, Rex was the first scientist to head the College since the 18th century. His appointment, as the history of the College by Highfield and Martin puts it, 'epitomised the strengthening of science in the College in the twentieth century'. He led the College with wisdom, kindness and distinction. His wardenship saw both initiatives to recruit undergraduates from a wider range of schools and the admission of women as Fellows and students. He inherited a college on the rise in academic ambition and success – with the best finals results of any college in 1970 – and worked to consolidate those strengths, supported by a dedicated team of tutorial fellows and a number of distinguished professors.

Rex also oversaw the arrival of Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan at Merton in the final year of his wardenship. Asked by *Postmaster* whether he was pleased with how Prince Hiro was fitting in with College life, Rex commented: 'To tell you the truth, I'm astounded at how well he has settled in. So far as I can judge he is extremely happy. Bearing in mind that this is the first time he has been out of his own country, that he is in a foreign land with a foreign language, and that he comes from a royal household, it is a considerable tribute to him and his friends that he has settled down so well.'

Rex's aim as Warden was, as he put it in the same interview, 'to work towards an atmosphere of high standards of research and scholarship among Fellows and graduates and high academic standards among undergraduates, and to help create an air of informality which is important for good academic work'.

In 1977, Rex was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Oxford in 1977 and for four years he presided over a university of autonomous colleges with a slender central administration at a time of financial retrenchment. Not only did his time in office see many colleges admit women undergraduates for the first time, including Merton in 1980, it also included

the founding of Green College and the Institute of Japanese Studies. In addition, the completed John Radcliffe Hospital partly funded by the University was opened and a building at the South Parks Road site housing the high-resolution NMR equipment and Ian Campbell's OEG research group was named after him.

Following his wardenship of Merton, Sir Rex combined his academic and artistic interests in a wide range of activities. He was Director of the Leverhulme Trust, President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Chancellor of Exeter University, and Chairman of both the Henry Moore Foundation and the National Gallery Trust. He also served as a trustee of many other scientific and artistic institutions, including the CIBA Foundation and the Tate Gallery. He had an abiding interest in contemporary art, having hosted the artist and sculptor Henry Moore while a young academic at Lincoln College. Rex and his wife Eva built up a distinguished small private collection of modern art and sculpture. As a Fellow of the Royal Society, Rex was influential in commissioning Bryan Organ to produce a portrait of the Nobel prize-winning chemist Dorothy Hodgkin in 1982. It was the Royal Society's first portrait of a female Fellow. Five years earlier, Organ had painted the portrait of Rex himself which hangs in the College Hall.

'Rex had exceptional clarity and sharpness of mind,' remembers Emeritus Fellow, Philip Waller. 'He combined it with personal modesty and naturalness. He had no affectation, no artificiality, no side. In conversation, he was direct, inquisitive, open-minded, always fascinated by infinite varieties of creative imagination in the arts as well as the sciences. As Warden, he was a model of efficiency, at the same time pursuing his research and multiple interests. He personified the adage, if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. He was especially committed to discovering fresh talent through increasing Junior Research Fellowships, unrestricted by subject, believing their endowment among the best things the College did.'

Rex walked over to Magdalen to tell Philip that Merton was minded to elect him to a Fellowship. Philip had never heard of a Head of House doing such a thing; nowadays, this would be inconceivable. It left an imperishable memory; above all, it

spoke volumes about Rex's republican virtue, his unconcern for rank and title, his conviction that a college will bloom where the youngest Fellow is equal to the most senior.

In his valedictory interview as Warden in *Postmaster* in 1984, Rex noted, 'These 15 years have been the happiest of my life. Merton is a lovely place to work in, and the Fellows haven't burdened me with too much ... so I've also managed to get a lot of scientific research done. I'll leave with a lot of very happy memories.' Sir Rex Richards will rank high among the many outstanding Wardens of Merton.

The College will hold a Memorial Meeting in honour of Sir Rex Richards on the afternoon of Saturday 8 February 2020 at 3pm. Further details will be published on the College's website and will be sent to alumni via the Merton Messenger email. To indicate you would like to attend the event, please contact the Development Office on development@merton.ox.ac.uk

Honorary Fellow

1950



The Rt Hon Sir Peter Tapsell, Honorary Fellow, died on 18 August 2018 at the age of 88.

He spent 54 years in Parliament, 49 of those years as a Conservative MP, and was Father of the House from 2010, before stepping down at the 2015 general election.

Peter Hannay Bailey Tapsell was born in Hove on 1 February 1930, the son of Jessie and Eustace Tapsell, a former rubber planter in Malaya who then moved to coffee and Kenya. Back in the UK in the 1930s, Eustace Tapsell was unemployed, so Peter was brought up by his grandfather and was sent to Tonbridge School. He did his National Service as a second lieutenant in the Royal Sussex Regiment and was posted to the Middle East – an experience that he loved.

Departing from his schoolboy ambition to become a heavyweight boxing champion, Tapsell won a place to study Modern History at Merton, in 1950. As well as gaining a first in 1954 and being an Honorary Postmaster, he took full part in the Oxford Union debating society, where he was librarian. Here he became friends with Michael Heseltine, who was also on the library committee of the Union.

In fact, it was Tapsell's skill as a debater at the Union that determined his later career. He was a member of the Oxford University Labour Club and took part in a debate in which one of the guest speakers was the Tory MP Angus Maude. Tapsell himself reported that his performance impressed Maude so much that after the debate Maude told him: 'You're far too intelligent to be a socialist. Come and see me when you're

next in London.' Tapsell did just that and, after graduating, joined the Conservative Research Department. Shortly afterwards, in 1955, he was appointed as personal assistant and speech writer to the prime minister, Anthony Eden.

He first entered Parliament in 1959, narrowly winning Nottingham West in the Tory landslide election that year, and, as he said, 'was thrilled to walk into the Commons as an MP' – a thrill that never left him. He lost the seat in 1964, but two years later was selected for and won the Lincolnshire constituency of Horncastle; a seat that became East Lindsey in 1983 and then Louth and Horncastle in 1997.

Tapsell was a supporter of Keynesian economics, uncomfortable amid the Tory monetarists, and was the first Conservative to vote against a Tory chancellor's finance bill since the 1930s when he opposed Geoffrey Howe's deflationary budget in 1981. He was opposed to capital punishment, against the Maastricht Treaty, and opposed the outlawing of foxhunting. He was fiercely opposed to racism, and made friends with many rulers in post-independence Africa and the Caribbean. When Nelson Mandela visited London after his release from prison in 1990, it was Tapsell he sat next to.

In 1985, Margaret Thatcher offered Tapsell a knighthood, which he accepted. But he seconded his friend Michael Heseltine when Heseltine challenged Thatcher for the leadership of the Conservative Party in 1990. Had Heseltine won, Tapsell would have been offered a senior job, but events took a different turn.

In 1993 *The Spectator* named Tapsell Backbencher of the Year. In 2004, he was named Parliamentarian of the Year. Boris Johnson, then editor of *The Spectator*, explained the judges' choice, saying of Tapsell: 'He has the immense distinction of being the only MP with the foresight to ask Mr Blair, before the war, whether he would resign if it were found that there were no weapons of mass destruction.'

He was regarded as an assiduous and efficient constituency MP. John Cowpe, a former vice-chairman of the Horncastle Constituency Conservative Association, spoke for many when he said: 'Sir Peter was a heavyweight political figure with a formidable intellect. He was a very independent

thinker, which was probably the only reason he did not fill one of the highest government offices.'

Tapsell not only had independent views, which he never failed to express; he also had independent means. He combined his parliamentary service with a stockbroking career as an international investment adviser, and was, among other things, an honorary member of the Brunei Government Investment Board. His considerable wealth enabled him to own several homes around the world, including one in Barbados.

However, he never forgot his alma mater. Early in his career, in conjunction with Duncan Sandys, Minister of Housing in the 1950s, he managed to stop plans for a bypass through Merton Meadows. Much later, he facilitated substantial donations to the Oxford Union and Merton.

Tapsell married twice: his first marriage, in 1963 to Cecilia Hawke, ended in divorce; their son, James, died in 1985. In 1974 he married Gabrielle Mahieu, who survives him.

Former Fellows and Lecturers



John Black passed away on 7 October 2017.

He was academically minded from an early age; his classmates correctly predicting he would end up as a professor. He won an open scholarship to Trinity and went up in 1949. The examiners told him that his was the best first in PPE since Harold Wilson.

After Trinity he did two years' National Service in the RAF. He would have passed out third in his OCTU training course but the first three were to be given the honour of taking part in the Coronation and drill was not his strong point so he was

demoted to fourth. He was in air traffic control in Germany and he confessed to me that he had managed to lose track of a plane and let it wander into the eastern sector but fortunately the Russians did not notice (or pretended not to).

He returned to Oxford and became a student of Nuffield College. From there he went to Magdalen as a Junior Prize Fellow and in 1957 was elected a Fellow of Merton. Then in 1967 he moved to Exeter University to become Professor of Economic Theory. He published many articles on economic theory with a particular interest in international trade. He jointly authored books on housing policy (*Housing Policy and Finance*) and on mathematics for economists (*Essential Mathematics for Economists*). He was the sole author of the first edition of the OUP *Oxford Dictionary of Economics* which, with revisions by other contributors, is still in print and has recently been translated into Kazakh.

We started our married life on the top floor of the Old Warden's Lodgings which was technically part of the College (our telephone was connected to the College switchboard). The College historian claimed that our daughter was the only baby to have been born in Merton. Living opposite the College had its downside, as when a peacock escaped one Sunday afternoon John was the obvious target for an appeal for help from the College porters and we were recruited to go on a peacock hunt. After climbing various garden walls we tracked it down in the coal shed of a fellow of Pembroke. Living in the heart of Oxford was, however, a delight to us.

Oxford in the early sixties was a different place from today – only Nuffield and St Antony's were mixed-sex colleges. John managed to persuade his colleagues that there should be some nights when Fellows were allowed to invite women to dine at High Table – a small step on the way to an eventual female Warden.

John was in many ways unworldly. When he told his colleagues of his engagement they said 'Good, that will be one less tramp in College' but I fear they were disappointed. He was an extremely generous man, both in terms of charitable donations, giving away a large fraction of his disposable income, and with the time he gave to help colleagues with their work. He was still commenting on

other people's economic papers in the last few years of his life. He also engaged in community work, acting as treasurer for the local community hall in Topsham, where we lived, and serving as a school governor. A colleague at Exeter once said that John was one of the few really good people he knew.

He was a great folk song enthusiast and his last performance at the local folk club was only a few months before his death. Some of the songs he made up verged on the rude but were much applauded.

John is survived by his wife, two children and three grandchildren and is greatly missed by them and also by members of the folk club.

Jane Black

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Dr David Pattison** on 3 September 2018. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Professor George Rigg** on 7 January 2019. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

Former Registrar of the University

Dr Geoffrey Caston died peacefully at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital on 19 January 2018.

When a heavily armed column of Fijian troops in trucks with guns prominently displayed rolled into the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, the vice-chancellor, Geoffrey Caston, appeared in his dressing gown and raised his hand like a London policeman to halt the procession.

He had been woken on the night of 14 May 1987, to be told that there had been a coup and that the military were going to close the university. Using the diplomatic skills that he had accrued in his career with the colonial civil service,

and a good deal of bluff, Caston told the soldiers that he had assurances from Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, the leader of the coup, that the university would not be subjected to interference. He added for good measure that the soldiers were trespassing on 'international ground'.

He saw the vehicles rumble off the campus and, having bought vital time, the unflappable Caston set about persuading Rabuka to respect the university's independence for the sake of the prestige of the Pacific archipelago. It was no easy task. The University of the South Pacific (USP) was viewed as the source of much of the trouble that had sparked the coup. The Fijian military overthrew the government because it refused to accept the result of a general election the previous month that had brought an Indo-Fijian coalition to power. The university was viewed with suspicion because of the large number of ethnic Indian academics on campus. The generals, it was believed, wanted control of appointments and admissions.

Rabuka was charmed and disarmed by Caston's mixture of diplomacy and flattery and his dry sense of humour. He left the university alone, but Caston took action himself. In an effort to calm tensions between the pro- and anti-coup elements on campus he addressed the university staff, telling them: 'We have an obligation to try to keep going, as an example to all the societies of the South Pacific of how our values could survive, whatever happened to governments.'

Caston had been appointed in 1983 with a brief to defuse tensions between Fijians of Indian ethnic origins, who made up nearly half the population, and indigenous Fijians, who complained of Indian dominance. Despite the difficult political climate, he succeeded as a reformer where he had been frustrated during a difficult period as registrar at the University of Oxford in the 1970s. In the warmer climes of the South Pacific he oversaw an expansion of the university and fostered greater cooperation with other islands in the region, with 60 per cent of staff representing the 12 Pacific nations that were members of the university.

He also strengthened links with Australia, New Zealand and Japan to attract funding to pay for a library, computers across the campus, a media centre, a gym and even a herbarium.

He was passionate about increasing education standards and nearly doubled the number of enrolments among Pacific islanders. He wanted to increase the number of indigenous women studying at the university and was delighted when for the first time a group from the island of Tuvalu graduated in 1986. When he left in 1992 it was a moment of triumph. His departure was marked by songs, feasting, dances and poems written in his honour.

Geoffrey Kemp Caston was born in south London in 1926, the only child of Reg and Lillian Caston. His chain-smoking father ran a bookmakers that went bust. He won a scholarship to St Dunstan's College in south London.

After serving with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve during the war, he went up to Peterhouse, Cambridge, on an open scholarship and took a first in History and Law. After a year at Harvard Law School he applied to the Civil Service Selection Board and entered the Colonial Office as an assistant principal. For the next 12 years he learnt the craft of Commonwealth diplomacy and served as an adviser to the UK delegation at the UN General Assembly.

In 1964 he transferred to the Department of Education and Science as an assistant secretary in the new Universities and Science Branch and went on to become the joint secretary of the Schools Council. He was promoted to under-secretary and moved to the University Grants Committee in 1970.

Two years later he was appointed registrar of the University of Oxford. Many of his friends wondered how a creative administrator with a liberal sensibility would take to the deeply ingrained limitations of the registrar's role at Oxford that many dons wished to preserve. Many of his reforming ideas were blocked or rendered undeliverable by the financial difficulties of the mid-1970s. He did not endear himself to the dons by turning up for work in a corduroy jacket and a bright tie, and others described some of his decisions at this time as 'courageous'. He was equally unpopular with some students after calling in the Bulldogs (the University police) to break up a student sit-in.

Geoffrey spent four intervening years as Secretary-General to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in

London. Bruised by his earlier experience at Oxford, Caston was looking for some kind of leadership role when the job in Fiji emerged. He found the island very much to his liking — his only complaint was that the golf courses were covered in large toads. Geoffrey was made a CBE at the embassy in Fiji in 1989.

He had married Sonya Chassell, an American he had met at Harvard, in 1956, but they divorced in 1980. He is survived by their three children: Cathy, a dressage instructor and a horse trainer; Ross, the manager of a technology company in Australia; and Kelty, who sells Christmas trees. His second wife was also American. He married Judith Ruizen, whom he met at a university football game at Berkeley, California, in the early 1980s. She died in 2016. He is survived by his three stepchildren: Seb, who is a writer and editor; Zoe, who is an author of children's literature; and Ezra, who is an adviser to start-up businesses. His children recall him reading *The Lord of the Rings* to them while sitting round an open fire. He also staged family debates.

Caston was later involved in promoting exchange schemes for academics and students throughout the Commonwealth. In 2002 he received the Symons Medal for outstanding services to the universities of the Commonwealth.

In retirement he would spend two hours a day reading *The Times*. He enjoyed watching racing on television, wagering 50p each-way bets. Just as in ensuring the survival of the University of the South Pacific, he was prudent to the end.

Damian Arnold

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1941

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **John Alfred Griffiths** on 18 April 2019. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

1944

Michael Briggs, who has died aged 91, was for 20 years an extremely successful chairman of the Bath Preservation Trust and owned and restored Midford Castle, a charming Strawberry Hill Gothic creation outside the city.

It is hard to exaggerate the threats which hung over the historic buildings of Bath (well described in Adam Fergusson's book, *The Sack of Bath*) when Briggs became a trustee of the preservation trust in 1970. Large swathes of small Georgian artisan houses had already been bulldozed and property developers were looking forward to making further huge profits. The local planning authority of the day often seemed ignorant, indifferent or worse.

Things had begun to improve under Briggs's predecessors, Sir Lees Mayall and Sir Christopher Chancellor. But danger still loomed. By sheer hard work, chairing most of the committees through which the trust operated, and using tact and charm to remove obstacles, Briggs greatly improved relations with the city authorities, and gradually got them to see that the prosperity of the city was not incompatible with conservation.

As well as ensuring that the trust's voice was effective at planning inquiries, Briggs initiated a time-consuming process of monitoring all the relevant planning applications, the brunt of the work involved being borne by his colleague Peter Greening. He also formed an Environs of Bath committee under Tom Charrington, which kept a similar watch on areas away from the centre.

He greatly extended the trust's properties, turning the redundant Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel into the Building of Bath Museum, which included up-to-date research facilities; taking on the Herschel Museum, which commemorated the astronomer, another local hero; and restoring and furnishing the Beckford Tower, with an adjoining flat operated by the Landmark Trust.

He also acquired, either by purchase or on loan, many items for the trust's headquarters at 1 Royal Crescent, and

organised the recording of many important 18th-century interiors. He found time to be a trustee of the Holburne of Menstrie Museum, and was a DLitt of Bath University.

Michael Fenwick Briggs was born on 7 July 1926 and educated at Gresham's School, Holt, where his father had taught, and at Merton College, where his degree course was interrupted by wartime training as an RAF pilot.

Back at Oxford after the war, his circle included the author and later MP Alan Clark, the future publisher Anthony Blond, and Teddy Goldsmith, later the founder-editor of *The Ecologist* magazine, all of whom became lifelong friends.

After working briefly in the City he joined Jeremy Fry in developing Rotork Controls, a small engineering concern which grew into a public company with worldwide offshoots. Briggs became managing director at a crucial stage in its growth, and later a director of Kode International and chairman of Powdrex Alloy Steels.

In 1953 he had married Isabel Colegate, who became a well-known novelist, and together they bought and restored Midford Castle, where their hospitality was on a generous scale.

On the surface Briggs could appear laid-back, easy-going, even casual, and he enjoyed a very active social life. But as well as being good company he had a strong sense of purpose and was able to exercise his authority when necessary.

He also had reserves of resilience which allowed him to weather the occasional setbacks that came his way, including his long final illness. His wife Isabel was an indispensable support to him and, together with another Rotork director and close friend, Andy Garnett, they acquired for a time a house in Tuscany.

He is survived by his wife and by their two sons and a daughter.

This obituary was first published in The Telegraph on 29 July 2017. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors. © Telegraph Media Group Limited 2017

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of the **Revd Canon Bernard H V Brown** on 10 September 2018. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Ivor Clark** on 16 January 2019. We have not been able to trace any of Ivor's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: development@merton.ox.ac.uk

The Reverend Dr John M R Owens passed away on 4 November 2014.

An interesting lifetime, one that saw many changes, early childhood in a historic county market town, the Great Depression, London during a world war, education across the world, social, business, lifestyle, times of challenge, values and differences. From Oxford to Kaitaia (in the North Island of New Zealand), life was an adventure to be enjoyed and challenges were opportunities. John, enthusiastic and adaptable, was the quintessential English gentleman.

Born in Dorchester, county Dorset in 1926, a historic market town, the younger of two sons, early childhood was during the Depression and the war. Rationing and coupons, families were there for each other: if you had it you shared, if you didn't you went without. Home, with father a solicitor and mother a music teacher, education and learning were both valued and absorbed. A bright lad, with an enquiring mind, grammar school was a mixture of passion for the classics, geography and history, and pain, for the maths. He loved academia, was awarded a highly prized scholarship to Merton College, where he studied modern history, a wonderful contrast from his upbringing in a 4000 BC Roman town, and in 1944 John, just 18 years old, graduated with a BA in Modern History from Oxford University.

Sir Leonard Allinson (1944) recalls: 'John and I went from Freu Barnet Grammar School to Merton in autumn 1944 and graduated in 1947. Our main History Tutor was Deane James,

later Norman Gibbs. We took up rowing when I restarted in 1945/46 and saw the College in war and peace like all survivors of 44/45 – we never forgot the infamous baked stuffed fish served all too often in Hall.

'His study of Richard Taylor, one of the outstanding early missionaries in New Zealand and translator of the Treaty of Waitangi (I contributed my former library!) was well received. In younger, more light-hearted days John and I were the licensed buffoons/comedians of the Oxford University rowing crew – contrary to the later impression he gave. A worthy son of Merton!'

John briefly worked for the Scout Movement as its Media Liaison Officer. National Service for two years put his own education on hold. Civilian life resumed in 1951 with an Oxford master's degree and, thanks to a fellowship and Fulbright grant, John embraced the new challenges of studying American History in Wisconsin, 1953-54. His many successes and qualifications were a proud litany of learning, but the compliment of 'a fine fellow as well as an exceptional researcher' from an American tutor captured John's philosophy and achievements.

From county Dorset, after six weeks aboard the SS *Rangitane* John ended up in Kaitaia with its population of 2,358. A totally different experience for the newly appointed Tutor Organiser for the Northland Region, Department of University Extension for Auckland University. John enjoyed the area, the freedom of such a creative and vibrant artistic community; he was taken with the originality of Freda Simmons' artwork, but he was more taken with her beautiful daughter Diana. After some dedicated courting in his little Ford Popular doing stalwart service going to the beach for picnics and searching out Maori historical sites, organising local art exhibitions, later in 1957 Mr and Mrs Owens were wed, soulmates with shared interests and different strengths.

Early married life was in Whangarei, then in Palmerston North, and with the births of children Simon, Viv, Geoff and Jonathon, the Owens' family was complete. There was an order to life, routines established. John loved his marmalade in the morning, always a cat to spoil, his self-sufficient vegetable garden with its endless supply of silver beet, beans,

rhubarb and Chinese gooseberries, the six o'clock news a must, newspapers devoured, national radio the benchmark, where John's book reviews were well regarded.

John was active in the community, PTA, Historic Places Trust, the local Museum Council, and weekends were full of supporting the kids in their sports pursuits, traditional Sunday outings, and camaraderie with close friends. John's love of the arts was eclectic, jazz, classical, blues, our symphony orchestra, ballet, live theatre, Te Papa museum, and he loved travelling. Trips across to Australia, the UK and Papua; always an enquiring mind and an appreciation of the creative and historic.

Sadly in 1977 Diana passed away. John, devastated, was now a sole-charge 51-year-old father with no family close by. A busy year doing further research at London University 1978-79 was made even busier with Viv, Jonathon and Geoffrey included in the UK happenings.

Back to Massey, Auckland, where he met Stella, an adult student taking one of his papers. They married in 1986 and bought a house at Aokautere. In 2011, with John's declining health and increasing care and dependence he moved closer to his children and grandchildren and the worry-free peacefulness of Bethlehem Views. From fiercely independent to dependent was sadly out of character for such a much-loved patriarch. But at Althorp he was happy, and he loved the friendly family atmosphere. Safe, content and cared for, with his twinkly eyes and quirky sense of humour, still a 'charmer'. Our John was still there, an honourable and a gentle gentleman, undemanding, a kind person with an innate sense of decency, and a generous spirit, and visits from family were special times much enjoyed.

John knew that one journey was about to end and another about to begin, and he left us his way, his time and with his dignity.

He would not want us to be too saddened, but to remember him for the person he really was, thoughtful, generous, caring and kind, non-judgemental. Always respectful, he took folk as he found them, and had the happy knack of getting on with all ages and from all walks of life; his

friendships were sincere and treasured, long-lasting and loyally continued for 70 years from primary school days. Not overly demonstrative, you just knew he was always there with unconditional love, and he followed the successes and achievements of his family, all generations, with support, great interest and enormous pride.

This tribute was reproduced from the Memorial Service by celebrant Fernley-Ann Nielsen for John at Mount Harbour Chapel in Mount Maunganui on Monday 10 November 2014. With thanks to Sir Leonard Allinson for his help.

1945

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Alasdair Fraser-Darling** in 2018. We have not been able to trace any of Alasdair's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: development@merton.ox.ac.uk

1946

Paul Colwyn Foulkes passed away on 4 October 2018.

Paul and I first met at Merton in 1946 when I came up from Repton as an 18-year-old 'schoolboy' and he returned from war service in the Navy. He had earlier done part of his degree course before joining up, and came back to Merton to complete it. So although he was only some three years older, he had the ex-serviceman's prestige and, indeed, glamour. As I recall, he said little about his Navy experiences, which were mainly in small minesweepers in the Aegean, and included three months tied up in Venice.

Smallish, neat, alert, blue-eyed, his voice mostly with a characteristic drawl – that was part of the impression he gave me, both then and throughout a lifetime's friendship, of which our respective wives, Shirley and Rosemary, later became integral parts. We were not such close friends at Merton: he read PPE and I Greats; our interests did not overlap much, and I see from the Register that he was (for a time) Secretary of the Floats, whereas I was only ever

peripherally interested in theatre. Yet during the three following years till he went down in 1949 I remember regular contacts of a social kind, teasing each other, talk about girls, occasions for laughter.

Of his background and early life in North Wales, Rydal School, his family – his father and brother were architects (as was later his daughter Jane) and his sister-in-law became prominent in local public life – I learned little. But his own strong interest in Wales, in architecture, landscape and its preservation were already – and remained – very clear.

After Oxford he did a short course at the Sorbonne in French art and civilisation, and briefly taught English in a French school. From 1953 to 1955 he worked in Toronto in the advertising department of a large company, and was certainly ‘in’ advertising when I later caught up with him in London. He and Shirley married in 1956.

At that time Rosemary and I lived in Canonbury, an Islington district then being gentrified, and home to many young couples like ourselves. Paul and Shirley moved to Islington in the early sixties, by when I had left it for Greenwich; and I certainly recall introducing the Foulkeses at about that time to John and Judy Russell. (Judy was the daughter of the sculptor and wood engraver Gertrude Hermes, who had taught my wife Rosemary at the Central School of Arts and Crafts.) The Foulkeses and the Russells became close friends.

During that time Paul worked for a couple of advertising agencies, and in the advertising department of Kimberly-Clark, but settled into the Graham & Gillies agency, where he eventually became managing director.

When he was about 50, Paul became disillusioned with some aspects of advertising, particularly the activities by some agencies to tempt away other firms’ clients, and decided to start his own business. This was the result of meeting an elderly artist who had unusual skills in mould-making and reproducing *objets d’art*, many of them finished with excellent imitations of antique gilding and silvering. With him, Paul developed a company (Tempus Stet) which made small items of furniture, such as tables, lights, mirrors, curtain accessories, brackets and so on, often gilded. These were

sold to private individuals, but increasingly to designers and decorators for use in private houses, hotels and public spaces. As time went by, designers asked him to make more and more ‘specials’, and he became closely associated with many artists and craft persons who designed the pieces required and then worked out with him how to make them. He very much enjoyed this aspect of his work, and many of the results appeared in hotel refurbishments such as those of the Lanesborough in Knightsbridge, the Hotel Adlon in Berlin and others. The ‘hands on’ aspect of making things always attracted Paul, and much of the time he worked alongside his people, especially on urgent jobs, and enjoyed it. He was clearly liked and admired by his colleagues and employees.

Paul was always looking for attractive antiques to copy, and his sharp eyes once fell on a small object in my own possession, a carved wooden rococo putto or cherub bought in a Prague antique shop. He borrowed it for reproduction. The next time it came to my view it had been reproduced many times in a white material for a Christmas display in Fortnum & Mason’s shop front.

By this period we had both acquired country cottages – mine in the Brecon Beacons, Paul’s in rural Suffolk, and we exchanged weekend visits. However, a later Foulkes ‘country cottage’ which lasted in to the 1990s, was quite different, indeed eccentric: this was a former lighthouse near Beachy Head, reached by an exiguous track from the Eastbourne road, and situated only about 50 yards from the cliff edge. My memories of staying there, which we did more than once, are tinged with anxiety at the consciousness that we were living – and sleeping – though very comfortably, so close to a sheer drop of 300 feet from the unfenced cliff edge down to the beach far below. Lots of light and marvellous views of the Channel and South Downs failed to outweigh that anxiety! But Paul and Shirley gave us good times there, including the reception for their daughter Jane’s wedding. Anxiety was not unjustified: after a serious cliff fall the people who bought the lighthouse from the Foulkeses had it moved (on rails) about 30 yards inland.

I do not remember discussing politics with Paul, but we probably did. Though he was always interested in business and economics, my impression was that he was on the left.

He was certainly involved in the management of a housing association when living in Islington.

In his later life, as one would expect, Paul reduced his activities, spending some years working to dispose of the Tempus Stet business without harm to his people and without losing its valuable moulds and skills. It never entirely recovered from the effects of the financial crash in the late 1980s, but (as it still does) employed a number of people and produced some elegant things.

There was a final house move, to a smaller house in De Beauvoir Town in Hackney, and a change of country cottage to a quiet village near the Norfolk coast (when the lighthouse became too vulnerable to vandalism). I recall Paul driving me and Shirley there one summer weekend, where he and I went for a dip in the freezing sea. I wasn't at all keen, but honour required it!

His last years were affected by Parkinson's disease and dementia. I remember a lunch with him where he took little part in conversation, but still obviously enjoyed company and the things he had always liked – architecture, paintings and the countryside. He was cared for by Shirley, helped by a live-in carer, and supported by his children, Matthew and Jane, their partners and his two granddaughters. He was someone whose enthusiasm and charm enhanced the lives of his family, friends and colleagues.

Tony (AJT) Williams (1946)



Geoffrey Howard Kidson passed away peacefully at Green Gates Nursing Home, Oxford, on 2 February 2019, aged 91. He leaves three children, Michael, Anne and Caroline.

Dad used to say that when he came up to Merton a few months after having left Wolverhampton Grammar School, he found himself in a JCR populated largely by older men whose places had been deferred while they served during the war. I gathered that he found mixing with fellow scholars whose experience of life far exceeded his a little daunting. Nevertheless, he had the company of contemporaries from school, including John Rhodes and Geoffrey Till, and threw himself with vigour into College recreations. He signed up for the soccer eleven which, he said, never played a single match during the 1946–47 season, owing to the severe weather conditions that prevailed throughout, and captained the team in 1949–50. Outside College he developed a taste for art cinema, becoming a habitual customer at the Scala on Walton Street.

One thing he never explained, though, was how he managed the feat, perhaps extraordinary even then, of never going into digs during his time at Merton. Beginning in the New Building, overlooking the Sandy Irvine Memorial, he subsequently saw out his university days in the Rose Lane Buildings. He generally gave the impression that he enjoyed his time at Merton, although perhaps more in a social sense than an academic one – having fared poorly with Mods he switched to History, achieving a second in 1950.

Directly after going down Dad embarked on two years' National Service as an education officer based at RAF Cosford in Staffordshire, where he was wont to entertain his pupils with humorous lectures on recent films. He subsequently entered the Civil Service, training as an inspector in the Inland Revenue. While on his first posting in Bolton, Lancashire, he met Margaret Brooks: the two became engaged and were married in 1954.

He remained with the Revenue throughout his working life, moving through various tax districts in the North West and the Midlands, for the latter of which he moved the family to his old home town of Wolverhampton for a few years. In 1965 he reached the rank of Senior Inspector and was eventually appointed as Head of Oxford 3 tax district, working in the old hospital buildings located on Marston Road. Subsequent career transfers took him to Banbury and the City of London before he took early retirement in 1983, spending the rest of his life in Summertown. For some years

he ran a tax consultancy there, with several Merton dons among his clients.

Following the death of my mother in 1995, Dad undertook a number of projects, most notably running a history discussion group and a play reading group for Oxford U3A but also including efforts to re-establish contact with various old schoolfellows and College contemporaries. As a result he attended a number of Gaudies and other College events, and was a regular audience member at concerts and Christmas services in Chapel. He had a great affection for Merton but preferred to keep a low profile with regard to College activities, often visiting incognito apart from announcing at the Porter's Lodge that he was 'a member of this College'.

As a character Dad could be an irascible man but one who threw himself with great energy into anything that captured his interest and was unfailingly charming. Those who knew him will not soon forget that smile which could light up a room, and will miss him.

Michael Kidson



Patrick Shuk Siu Yu, Hong Kong's first Chinese prosecutor, died on 12 January 2019 at the age of 96. A celebrated criminal barrister, he was the second of three generations of Mertonians.

Patrick Yu Wan was born in Hong Kong on 22 August 1922, the seventh child of a seventh child – a fortunate start in life. His father Wan Yu had studied at Merton (1913). (Wracked with seasickness, Wan had mistakenly disembarked in Liverpool from a boat journey that was intended to take him to study in the USA. Instead, serendipity took him from

Liverpool to Oxford, and Merton.) Patrick attended Wah Yan College and then went to Hong Kong University on a government scholarship. After graduating, he served in the British Naval Intelligence from 1942 to 1943, and then was in the Intelligence Corps of the Army of the Republic of China.

Then came an opportunity to study at Oxford. In 1946, the Hong Kong government advertised five Victory Scholarships to local students to further their studies at universities in the UK. In the event, seven scholars were chosen to share the five awards, including Patrick and his younger brother Brian. Patrick was admitted to study PPE at Oxford; Brian was admitted to study Economics at Cambridge. Wan Yu wrote on Patrick's behalf to his former tutor at Merton, Sir John Miles – who by then was Warden of the College and remembered Wan well – and Patrick's place at the College was secured. His father's old rooms in St Alban's were specially reserved for him.

At the time, Patrick was one of only two Chinese in College – the other being Francis Hsu Chen-Ping, who later became the first Chinese bishop of Hong Kong. He found himself an undoubted attraction, with no shortage of callers at his rooms. To deter visitors while writing his first essay, he shut the oak door to his rooms, only to be told in no uncertain terms by his tutor Dr Norman Gibbs that the College did not permit the oak door to be shut 'save and except on the night of the College May Ball'. This is how he learned the phrase 'sporting one's oak'.

By the summer of his first year, Patrick was at home with the ways of the College and the tutorial system. He enjoyed table tennis, represented the College at bridge, and often found himself in the Isis after misjudging a stroke with the punt pole. He had to turn down an invitation to play soccer for the University because team members had to pay their own fare to and from away matches, and he could not afford the expense.

Patrick completed his PPE degree in two years, as was possible at the time, and then switched to reading law and qualifying for the Bar in the third year of his Victory Scholarship. He passed the England and Wales bar exam in 1949, and the next year became a barrister in Hong Kong. In 1951, he became the first local Chinese to be appointed

crown counsel in colonial Hong Kong, but left after a year because he was not paid on the same terms as expatriates; foreign prosecutors were being paid four times as much.

By the mid-1960s, Patrick had established himself as the top criminal lawyer in the territory. He was often praised by fellow lawyers for his cross-examination skills; he had an outstanding memory and never took notes in courtrooms. He was a founding father of the city's first law school, which was established in 1969, at the University of Hong Kong. Another of his claims to fame was that, in the 1970s, he turned down three offers to join the Supreme Court bench, citing his previous reason of discrimination against local lawyers. He retired in 1983, after 30 years of practice.

Patrick wrote two volumes of memoirs: *A Seventh Child and The Law* and *Tales from No. 9 Ice House Street*. Each volume contains a section featuring a selection of court cases that Patrick had defended, and which he wrote up, not because they show his skills and his success in securing justice for defendants, but because he believed they were good stories.

Patrick's wife Lucia predeceased him by two years. The couple are survived by four of their five children: Denis, Estella, Dominica and Dominic. Their daughter Priscilla died at the age of ten.

Patrick was proud of the fact that he was the second of three generations to study at Merton, as his son Denis (1972) was also at the College. In his own words, 'I wonder how many Chinese families have been represented for three consecutive generations at any college in Oxford. I feel singularly proud and fortunate that my father, I and my son Denis were all educated at Merton College, and cannot help hoping that our family tradition will, in the course of time, continue for yet more generations to come.'

1947

Jeffery 'Harlan' Walker died on 16 December 2017.

Harlan was for many years the organiser of the Oxford Symposium on Food & Cookery. He was a marvellous chap,

always a pleasure to meet at those summer weekends in St Antony's, and later, at St Catherine's, and a very safe pair of hands who kept the symposium going from year to year, as well as ensuring the timely production of its proceedings in book form. After he retired from doing all of that, he was a constant attendee and adviser, despite a variety of health alarms and crises. His enthusiasm marked him out and, in those early days, the fact that he was a 'businessman' – not the usual descriptor of a typical symposiast – meant he got things done.

He was also tremendously keen on food and food history. He had been a member of the Buckland Club in his home city of Birmingham, which specialised in the staging of outlandish banquets in honour of the omnivorous Victorian zoologist Frank Buckland. He had a fine collection of old cookery books; and he moved the gastronomic ambitions of the symposium several notches along the tally of success. One particular triumph was a dinner celebrating pre-Columbian food in Mexico. Oxford will not be the same without him.

Tom Jaine

Petits propos culinaires
Prospect Books

1948



Dr Derek William Bannister passed away as a result of respiratory failure in his home in Toms River, NJ, USA, on 14 November 2016.

Derek left behind his wife of 59 years, Joyce, and four children. He worked his whole career for Ciba-Geigy (and related entities) as a research chemist focused on the dyestuffs industry. He worked first in Switzerland, then

England, and then emigrated with his young family to the US in 1961.

Derek very much enjoyed sailing and supported his children in racing sailboats on Barnegat Bay in New Jersey. He served as the Commodore of Beachwood Yacht Club and was involved there for many years as an active member.

Derek was coxswain of the Merton eight that won Head of the River in 1951. He was a mild-mannered and kind man who was very fond of Merton College.

Jeremy Bannister

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Dr Francis Joseph Charles Rossotti** on 15 July 2019. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

1949

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Geoffrey Frowde** in 2019. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **John 'Anthony' Price** on 30 May 2019. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Gordon Rock** on 28 May 2018. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

1950



Richard Maclagan Dodwell was born in Battersea on 11 November 1930, the third child of GP Howard Dodwell and his wife Dorothea. In 1938 he went away to prep school. In 1943 he gained a scholarship to Bradfield College and in 1949 he went on to gain a Major Scholarship in Classics to Oxford.

His education was interrupted by the war and in 1949 he was commissioned into a Cambridgeshire infantry regiment. He took up his place at Merton College in 1950 reading Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

When he left Merton College in 1953, he spent two years in Calcutta working for a British firm of shipping agents where he liaised between ships' masters and port authorities. He enjoyed his time there very much and was fascinated by the culture and the way of doing things. He had many amusing tales to tell. While in Calcutta he took up rowing.

Back in London he worked for the British Coal Board as an economist. To enable him to fully understand what it was like to work in a deep mine he spent time at Wylam Colliery in Northumberland. He left in 1964 when he was appointed economic adviser to the Ghanaian government.

His work as an economist continued and he joined the government ministry of labour, followed by transport and then housing. By the time this work came to an end in 1970 he had bought his first property to rent out as bedsits and the next phase of his life began.

From 1970 to 1980 he worked as a London minicab driver while building up his property portfolio and his skills to do his own maintenance and repairs. He then became a full-time landlord.

He never married but had some long-term tenants who looked on him as family as well as keeping up with his own siblings and their families. His main passion in London was Scottish dancing, and until 2016 he was a much-respected member of three groups.

He died on 12 July 2017, at the age of 86, having had a contented life.

Celia Brown



For **Tad (Tadeusz, Tadzik, Taddy) Effendowicz**, his time at Merton College was a reference point for his whole life: a prize to be won through determination and ambition; a compensation for a chaotic and horrific childhood; and most of all, a gateway to a 'normal' and stable life in a country and culture he grew to love.

He was born on 17 August 1930 in Warsaw into an upper middle-class family (Jewish by blood and tradition rather than by religion) which, along with the whole of Poland, was about 50 years behind Britain. He had a (German) governess – of whom he was very fond and visited decades after the War – wore a sailor suit and cap and played with a hoop and stick. Yes, this was an age before Minecraft and Fortnite.

I am not sure Tad was very happy during this old-fashioned childhood. He adored his older sister Anna, but his father, while a man of principle and probity, was a Victorian Paterfamilias and his mother very much Queen in her castle. Tad used to dread Fridays when he would be fed cow brains for lunch and throw up in revulsion. His mother would declare that 'dziecko jest chore' ('the child is ill') and dose him with cod liver oil which made him vomit again.

But of course, it was a world of order and security. When the Nazis invaded Poland, Tad's world descended into chaos and fear. Even if a sequential account was desirable it is just not possible. Each member of his close family has heard different fragments when a particular event prompted him to speak. He could not control his subconscious running horror films while he was asleep but when awake, his survival mechanism was to concentrate on the here and now and never to look back if he could help it.

When he was a mere whippersnapper of 84, I found my father picking apples from the top of a tree in the garden. He had extended a ladder to its fullest extent but finding it too short had climbed the branches higher up. Alarmed, I suggested that I might do the job in his stead. He airily dismissed this notion with a declaration that climbing trees once saved his life. Near the beginning of the German occupation of Poland, his parents were dragooned into working in a munitions factory. Around the factory there was a large untended orchard so every morning they would drop Tad off to play in the orchard while they did their shift. The Nazis decided that his parents were skilful workers and 'promoted' them to work at a factory half a kilometre down the road which manufactured more delicate detonators. On the way to work every day they still dropped Tad off at the orchard and collected him in the early evening. One day the original factory was surrounded by the Gestapo and everyone was herded into lorries destined for a railway junction and a concentration camp. News reached the other factory and his parents came rushing back at the end of their shift, fearing the worst, but Tad quietly climbed down from the top of the apple tree where he had hidden without stirring a leaf during the raid.

My grandfather and aunt worked for the Resistance and were subsequently caught by the Nazis and murdered, respectively, in Majdanek and Auschwitz. Tad almost joined them but was rescued by his mother from the queue of people waiting to be loaded onto a cattle truck. The Nazis always maintained the fiction that their victims were just going off to invigorating work camps. Tad had hurt his leg somehow and his mother, who had become a nurse, ran across the platform with her uniform billowing declaring that 'this boy is injured and is not fit to make the journey'. True to their own propagandea the Nazi officials let him go.

Sadly, that was not the end of the story. Tad got separated from his mother for about a year, finding shelter in a Catholic orphanage. During that time, he again narrowly escaped capture by the Nazis. He was chased down the street by two Gestapo but had just enough of a lead to run around a corner. There he took off his cap and jacket and threw them into a dark doorway. When the two Nazis rushed round the corner in pursuit of the running boy with cap and flapping jacket they saw instead a hatless boy in shirtsleeves nonchalantly strolling towards them. What quick wits! What courage and indomitable will to survive!

Tad's mother knew that her half-sister, Helena Danischewsky (née Heinsdorf), had managed to escape from occupied France to Britain but had no idea where she was living. She wrote a letter addressed simply to 'Helena Heinsdorf, England'. The Post Office rose to the challenge and tracked my great-aunt down to a village called Euxton near Chorley, Lancashire. As a result of this contact, Helena arranged for a formal invitation to be extended to her nephew to come to the UK on an educational scholarship. He was to live with herself and her husband Pawel and attend one of Britain's most famous schools: Bolton.

So, at 16, this boy who spoke virtually no English and whose education was so scanty that the German government paid him a small monthly pension for a 'disrupted education' throughout his life, disembarked from a cargo ship which had just sailed from Gdansk to London. Within three years he had taken O-levels, A-levels and obtained an Exhibition to study History at Merton College, Oxford University. So remarkable was this achievement that in 1948 a national newspaper featured the 19-year old Tad Effendowicz under a headline along the lines of 'From Refugee to Scholar'.

Unfortunately, he had worked so hard, first to survive and then to get to Oxford that he found himself burnt-out and unable to force himself to put his nose to the academic grindstone to achieve the first class degree which was expected of him. But his university years were far from wasted.

At that time, undergraduates at Merton divided themselves into the Hearties (rowing and rugby), the Smarties (fashion and parties) and the Arties (the intellectual culture vultures).

Having tried rowing for one day, and despite attending numerous parties, Tad found his natural home among the Arties and made some very good and later distinguished friends like the historian Donald Matthew (later Emeritus Professor of Reading University), Ian Marshall the psychiatrist, Alan Brownjohn the poet and Michael Kauffman the art expert and later Director of the Courtauld Institute.

Not only were they good friends for a lifetime but, at Merton, companions for all-night discussion and debate and stimulants for the inexhaustible intellectual curiosity which did not dim till the illness of his last months. This was also a time when, through an academic study of history, Tad honed his faculty of dispassionate analysis which served him well during his career as a management consultant.

At Oxford Tad also met and subsequently married Joan Margaret Murray (St Hilda's 1950) - my mother. I (Marek Effendowicz) was born in June 1956 and my brother Chris Effendowicz in November 1959. We matriculated at Merton in 1975 and 1978 respectively.

One cannot call 29 years of marriage and two reasonably stable and successful offspring a failure but when Tad married his second wife Ethne in 1987, he entered the happiest period of his life. He had a new wife, a new home and three new stepchildren, embracing all these changes successfully with enthusiasm and sensitivity. He gave free rein to his passion for gardening and that insatiable curiosity for foreign travel.

But to end, let's go back to near the beginning. Tad told his second wife, Ethne, that when he disembarked from the Gdansk ship, aged 16, he resolved then and there that he would try to put his past behind him and avoid bitterness. He believed profoundly that to give way to regrets and recriminations was to waste the life he had fought so hard to preserve. It was an extraordinarily mature and positive view and one which he steadfastly maintained all his days. He travelled on business to Germany, he visited my children's play centre in Leipzig, took an interest in his grandson's time at Konstanz University and his subsequent business trips and was charmed by his German girlfriend. Only occasionally would he hear a phrase in German or a song which would send a shudder down his spine. But such was the intellectual

honesty and rigour of his approach to history, current affairs and politics - which blossomed at Merton - that he never would blame today's Germany for the sins of its fathers. In the end it was the tremendous courage involved in retaining an unprejudiced and dispassionate gaze on the world about him which was the secret to a full and fulfilled life.

Marek Effendowicz (1975)



Dennis Thornton Price died on 6 December 2018.

Born in Leeds in May 1930, Dad was educated at Leeds Grammar School. During the war he spent three of his formative childhood years away from home, evacuated to a school at Fairbourne near Aberystwyth. After two years' National Service in the Royal Engineers, he went on to study Chemistry at Merton, specialising in the chemistry of osmosis. During this period, he brought a decommissioned army Land Rover and made an ambitious overland trip through post-war Europe and on to Greece, with his brother and two fellow Mertonians.

After graduating in 1953, he went to work for Albright and Wilson. He was initially based in Portishead, then moved to Birmingham where he met Heather Ball, a social worker. They were married in 1956 and had three children: Alison, Penny and Gill. That same year he decided to change career and pursue his true passion to become a doctor. He secured a place at Manchester University and graduated in 1961. Dad started in general practice in Hyde, moving to join a local practice in Handforth, Cheshire in 1964, where he became senior partner from 1972.

Committed to the importance and value of care in the community, he published research into the use of hospital outpatient and inpatient services by his local practice. This helped him to secure agreement and funding for the first purpose-built health centre in the area offering a range of primary health and pharmacy services at community level.

Throughout his career, Dad promoted and remained true to the principles and values of the National Health Service. When mandatory vocational training was introduced into general practice in the late 1970s, he became one of the first GPs to become a trainer. A long succession of trainees benefited from his philosophical approach to the art of delivering thoughtful general practice. During this time, he also became a member of the Balint Society, striving to understand and better support the emotional content of the doctor-patient relationship.

Dad's interests and influence extended well beyond his role as a GP. He was an active figure in the local community and a greatly loved and respected family man. After retiring in 1996 he dedicated much of his time to caring for Heather until her death in 2005. He was an active member of the local Footpaths Association and a regular contributor to *Probus*. Alongside these interests, Dad continued to support Handforth Health Centre, including the establishment of the first patient participation group.

He is survived by his three children, five grandsons and two granddaughters.

Gill Price

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Hugh 'Harry' Quick** in November 2017. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

1951



Professor Aubrey Manning OBE, who has passed away at the age of 88, was distinguished for his work in animal behaviour, particularly behaviour genetics, but will perhaps be most remembered for his infectious enthusiasm for the natural world that made him an outstanding broadcaster, writer and speaker. As a schoolboy he was a fanatical ornithologist and he published his first paper – on the breeding cycle of wood warblers *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* – at the age of 17. He studied Zoology at University College London and then joined the Animal Behaviour Research Group in the Department of Zoology in Oxford to work on the foraging behaviour of bumble bees in Wytham Woods. As a graduate student (1951–54; DPhil 1958) Aubrey was a member of Merton College and was supervised by Nobel Laureate Niko Tinbergen, who was also a Fellow of Merton.

After obtaining his doctorate, Aubrey was soon appointed lecturer at the University of Edinburgh in 1956 and became Professor of Natural History there in 1973. In Edinburgh, he did pioneering research on the genetics of mating behaviour in *Drosophila* but it was his packed lectures to undergraduates on animal behaviour that first revealed his extraordinary talent for communication. In 1967, he used these lectures as the basis for *An Introduction to Animal Behaviour*, the first comprehensive textbook on the subject which was a great success internationally and is still selling in its sixth edition (Cambridge University Press, 2013). The book was an immediate success with students as it made the subject both infinitely fascinating and at the same time manageable and comprehensible.

In 1968 Aubrey became Secretary-General of the International Council of Ethologists, a post he held until 1975.

Through this position and two new editions of his book, he had a major effect on the way the whole research area of animal behaviour grew and developed at this time. This was partly due to his vision of animal behaviour as a broad subject that included evolution, adaptation development and genetics of behaviour and partly due to his personal charisma and ability to enthuse everyone around him. He took great delight in each new discovery and made people believe that animal behaviour was the most exciting part of science it was possible to engage in. His former graduate students speak of their time being supervised by him as one of the great experiences of their careers.

At the same time, Aubrey was becoming increasingly concerned with environmental issues and the effect that human beings were having on the natural world. He saw the growth in human numbers as the greatest long-term threat to human dignity and freedom and was a patron of the Optimum Population Trust (now Population Matters). He also became Chairman of the Scottish Wildlife Trust and was President of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts from 2005 to 2010.

It was, however, through his memorable television and radio broadcasts that Aubrey became known to a wider public. These included *Earth Story* which was a TV series about the evolution and history of the planet, *Landscape Mysteries* and *Talking Landscapes*. His radio broadcasts included *The Sound of Life* and *The Rules of Life*. In all of these, his personal charm and modesty combined with his knowledge and enthusiasm made him an ideal presenter; someone, as one viewer said, people wanted to invite into their homes.

Aubrey had a lifelong love of the natural world and a deep anger at the ways in which humans destroy it. The Earth has lost a champion and many people have lost an irreplaceable friend and colleague.

Aubrey was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1973 and received an OBE in 1998. He held honorary doctorates from the University of St Andrews, the University of Worcester, the Open University and the Université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse. In 1997 he was awarded the Dobzhansky Medal from the Behaviour Genetics Association and a year later the medal of the Association for the Study

of Animal Behaviour. In 2003 he received the Silver Medal of the Zoological Society in recognition for his work in improving public understanding of science. He was awarded the inaugural Senior Beltane Prize for Public Engagement with Science by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011. He was especially proud of being made an honorary fellow of the Geological Society.

Marian Stamp Dawkins

Department of Zoology, University of Oxford



John Purkis died on 8 December 2018 at his home in Cambridge. From his early life in Essex and as a Christ's Hospital scholarship pupil, John went on to a career as an academic writer and tutor for the Open University. His multiple interests and passion for literature and learning were nurtured at Merton in the 1950s.

John was born in Woodford Bridge, Essex in 1933, the only child of Lilian Comber, secretary to an MP, and Samuel Purkis employed at Sandersons in Liverpool Street. John was a bright boy, 'the top of the top' according to his schoolfriends, and was expected to attend the local grammar school. But he was lucky enough to win a place as a boarder at Christ's Hospital – a charitable institution founded in the 16th century to provide a 'virtuous education' for 'poore men's children'. The school uniform consisted of a floor-length blue coat and yellow stockings; noses were blown by numbers before boys marched to breakfast, chapel and PT.

John continued to do well, especially at Classics and languages, and succeeded in gaining a last-minute place at Merton College, Oxford just after his 18th birthday. He

recalled. 'On my first ever day at Merton, in imitation of Burne-Jones and Morris, I borrowed the key to the chapel tower and went up. I wasn't a sportsman and Merton Floats was more my thing; at Christ's Hospital, there had been plenty of dramatics. I became treasurer and in Hilary term of 1953, we managed to cobble together a cast, and so was born the first production of *All's Well That Ends Well* in Oxford since it was written.' He also memorably played the part of Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

While at Oxford, John made many friends who he would stay in touch with all his life, including Alastair Forsyth (Keble) with whom he founded 'the Barchester Club', which still meets annually in Oxford on the alumni weekend. John shared a seminar with Stuart Hall and was taught by Tolkien and CS Lewis.

Following university, John had to do his National Service. He was sent to Ismailia in Egypt where among other things, he learnt to touch type and drive a Land Rover. He departed before the Suez Crisis and took his first job working for the National Coal Board teaching English to refugee Hungarian miners, who in return taught John to swear in Hungarian. When John subsequently interviewed with the British Council they advised that as he spoke Hungarian he would have no trouble with Finnish and that if he would consider 'dressing less smartly' he could have a job in Helsinki teaching English. He took the job and while there, he met a Nottingham University graduate, Sallie Rice. They married in 1958 and settled in Cambridge where they had four daughters: Lucy, Charlotte, Kate and Harriet.

John worked at the Cambridge Technical College (now Anglia Ruskin University), where he published his first books: editions of poetry and guides about teaching English to overseas students. He continued postgraduate studies at the University of Leicester Victorian Studies Centre and also joined the William Morris Society where he was instrumental in launching the society's journal in 1962, acted as President for many years and led several overseas visits for members. In the 1970s he joined the staff of the newly formed Open University, supporting adult students to gain a degree, running excursions, leading summer schools and contributing to course units.

John is remembered as a patient, encouraging and humorous colleague and mentor. He published several books for students on Romantic and Victorian literature, notably *A Preface to Wordsworth*. He was the first winner of the Peter Floud Memorial Prize with his essay on 'The Icelandic jaunt'. He also edited many volumes of poetry by members of the University of the Third Age for informal circulation among members.

John was a lifelong active member of the Labour Party and a regular contributor to *The New Statesman* weekly competitions. One of his more memorable wins was a way to remember decimalisation: 'Two and a quarter pounds of jam, weigh about a kilogram.' John regularly deployed his comic personality writing topical scripts for Open University Christmas pantos. His final three years were spent in the Classics department, where he specialised in drama and which stimulated him finally to learn modern Greek.

John and Sallie were enthusiastic world travellers visiting China, Mongolia, Mexico and America as well as favourite places in Finland and across the UK and Ireland. John often returned to Oxford, occasionally attending events at Merton, and always to vote for the Professor of Poetry. Twice John nominated candidates and ran campaigns. After Sallie's death he became a more frequent visitor and continued to meet up with colleagues from the OU. He always enjoyed the 'Alice Day', the 'Bird and Baby' pub and the Missing Bean cafe as well as Waterperry Gardens. Six grandchildren were born in the decade after 1997.

John retained his lively enquiring mind until the end. He loved to talk about literature, culture and ideas. He continued to write for the William Morris Society journal and most recently wrote a number of articles for the *English Review* A-level magazine, passing on his perspectives on the First World War poets to the next generation.

Charlotte Purkis and Kate Drewitt



John Rodney Stanford (known as Rodney) died on Good Friday 2019 aged 88. Born on 10 October 1930, he was the eldest son of Leonard Stanford, a clergyman who became Archdeacon of Coventry after the Second World War. Rodney went to Rugby School before studying Theology at Merton. After National Service with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment he had a varied career including experience as a land agent and a period at Unilever. He then moved to *The Field* magazine where he was assistant editor. He remained closely associated with the magazine throughout his life, contributing articles from time to time including, for some years in the 1980s, a series on English villages.

Following a spell at the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Cooperation he became a farmer in the mid-1970s. During this time he was an early member of the Longhorn Cattle Society, helping save the breed from virtual extinction. He also helped restart the Cotswold Sheep Society, motivated initially to allow Cotswolds to be exported to Iran, at the request of the Shah.

Although the farming venture was ultimately unsuccessful, it did lead to him establishing the Country Trust, an educational charity, in 1978 with backing from the Lance Coates Charitable Trust. This is his lasting legacy.

Rodney's lifelong passion for and detailed knowledge of agriculture combined with his immense charm allowed him single-handedly to build up an extensive network of landowners who were prepared to host school visits for inner-city children, many of whom had never seen a field before, let alone understood where milk came from. He had the vision ahead of its time which made the Country Trust such a success, and 40 years on the Trust continues to

transform the lives of thousands of children each year. It is a fitting milestone that the charity took its 500,000th child on a farm visit in December last year. Rodney ran the charity for 30 years, supported by his wife Jane (née Oliver-Bellasis) whom he married in 1961.

He will be remembered by most people for his unflinching politeness, generous good nature and his penchant for elaborate storytelling. He was in all senses of the word a gentle man. He is survived by Jane and his two sons Edward and Richard.

Edward Stanford

1952

Cyril Fox, who has died aged 86, was an international news agency journalist dedicated to championing the writer and painter Wyndham Lewis. A man of vast talents, Lewis was a founder of the Vorticist school of modern painting and a long underrated portraitist; he was also a forceful novelist, critic, polemicist and quirky philosopher. But he had a quarrelsome nature which led him to identify himself in print and pictures as 'The Enemy', and he was damned in the eyes of liberals for writing a book praising Hitler in 1931, though he reversed his judgement in two neglected subsequent works.

Cy Fox was lent Lewis's *The Revenge for Love*, a novel about Spain before the Civil War, when he was reading Law on a Rhodes scholarship at Merton, and he devoted himself to praising its author. Building up a small collection of paintings, he edited the Lewis magazine *Enemy News* and unearthed much material in danger of being permanently lost.

So persistent was he in trawling Greenwich Village for one rare volume, *Anglosaxony; A League That Works*, that a bookseller used to call out 'Here comes the Anglosaxony man' as he approached. But Fox never met Lewis, suspecting they would never get on.

Cyril James Fox was born in St John's, Newfoundland, on 20 July 1931, the son of the judge who chaired the constitutional convention that was held before the island joined Canada in

1949. For Fox this was 'the great tragedy of my life'. He went to St Bonaventure's College and St Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia before arriving as a Rhodes scholar at Merton, where his tutor was more interested in Wordsworth than abstruse legal principles.

Fox preferred exploring Europe's post-war recovery. While hitchhiking into Germany, he was picked up and seduced by Renate Gerhardt, wife of Rainer Gerhardt, the poet and translator of Henry Miller's erotically charged novel *Tropic of Cancer*.

Abandoning Oxford, he began a course in Modern History at Columbia University, New York, then became an Associated Press reporter in Newark, New Jersey, reporting on FBI raids and discussing the writer John Cowper Powys while processing basketball results in the office. He was well placed to report the coming decade of revolt, and when he missed a meeting with Marshall McLuhan in order to cover a threatened race riot, the guru of electronic communications assured him that he was the frontline eyes and ears of 'the global village'.

Moving to Montreal with the Canadian Press wire service, Fox watched Quebecois separatism rearing its head and the barracking of the Queen on a state visit. In London he experienced the Swinging Sixties at its height as Pierre Trudeau cavorted with 'dollybirds' in nightclubs, then reported on the student riots in Paris before a brief spell in Belfast, where one of his stories prompted an anonymous phone call ordering him to leave.

In Brussels he reported on the EEC but was disappointed in Belgian modern art, and met a man at an Allied commemoration ceremony who whispered: 'Ah, m'sieur, I was on the other side.'

In 1974 Fox was at the Ledra Palace Hotel in Cyprus, where he woke to see what appeared to be snow falling outside his window until he realised it was a landing by Turkish paratroops. After being trapped for days, he escaped in a 'hacks' convoy which was peppered with gunfire as they sang 'A Double Diamond Works Wonders'.

Fox next joined Reuters in London, where his booming high spirits and enthusiasm for Guinness made him a popular,

if eccentric, chief sub-editor. He asked for a bicycle when offered an office car, and was so full of his hero that colleagues talked of 'Windbag Lewis'. Relishing Fleet Street's pubs, he struck up friendships with the poet CH Sisson and the crime writer Julian Symons.

He visited Lewis's widow, Froanna, employing the assiduity of Boswell to extract tales of her husband's extravagance, his dislike of English beer and his habit of suddenly shouting 'Stay like that!' to capture her smoking in a particular position.

While turning down Lord Beaverbrook's suggestion that he write the first proper Lewis biography, Fox edited or co-edited *Wyndham Lewis on Art* (1969), *Unlucky for Pringle: Unpublished and Other Stories* (1973), and *Enemy Salvoes: Selected Literary Criticism by Wyndham Lewis* (1975). In addition he included new material in *Journey into Barbary* (1983), Lewis's hitherto unpublished account of a visit to Morocco.

Fox organised exhibitions on the writer Richard Aldington at Dover College, and another on Lewis, Ford Madox Ford and Ezra Pound in Kensington Library. His reviews appeared in publications ranging from American university journals to *Modern Painters*, *PN Review* and *The Independent*.

Although a popular visitor to a number of families, he never put down permanent roots, buying and renting a series of homes before going back to Newfoundland. It was a disastrous decision, as he was unable to settle back there. A series of television talks was ended after he used one of them to attack baseball caps.

Soon Fox was back in a small house in south London, but he was further isolated by having to abandon alcohol. After writing a wry portrait of his seedy surroundings in *The London Magazine*, he returned to Toronto, where he began a vivid, if confusingly sequenced, memoir, *New World. Old World* (2009). It ended with the statement that his 'mainline' life had ended.

In protest against the commercialisation of Christmas, Fox went to Buffalo one Christmas, where the local paper ran a photograph of him beaming on the front page as the only visitor on its snowy streets.

He enjoyed lending international exhibitions Lewis's glaring 1911 cubist self-portrait, purchased for £20 but eventually sold to the Courtauld for £40,000 when it started to disintegrate. When he donated his Lewis papers and first editions to the University of Victoria in British Columbia he settled in the city to help organise an exhibition of the collection in 2009. But he protested at the first drafts of several dismissive articles by academics who had clearly never studied Lewis.

He started to build up another Lewis collection, but trudged back to Toronto before finally returning to Newfoundland.

He found much to criticise there: the unswept pavements, the lack of metropolitan newspapers – and being surrounded by relations after 62 years away from them. But at a family dinner party the night before his death he spoke of his mixture of rollicking exasperation and love for 'the Rock'.

Cy Fox, born 26 July 1931, died 10 July 2018.

This obituary was first published in The Telegraph on 9 August 2018. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors. © Telegraph Media Group Limited 2018



John Race, who died at the age of 84 in October 2018, studied Greats at Merton from 1952 to 1956. While at Oxford he met Eva Carabine (St Hugh's, 1952), whom he married and with whom he had three children, Tom, Julia and Sophie. For the last 30 years they lived not far down the River Thames, in Abingdon, and John died having just completed his daily run around the Abbey Meadows. He and Eva, who died in December 2018, are mourned by family and many other friends and associates.

After Merton, John Race had a career in the private sector, in the era when many clever graduates from various disciplines moved into the new field of computer science. This was followed by a period in academia, at Brunel University where he completed a PhD on artificial intelligence, and with the Open University. He also did a stint as an expert witness in criminal cases. In retirement his intellectual curiosity did not desert him and his study was rightly called the 'Boffinarium'.

Despite his intellectual leanings, John kept alive the fun and diversion of friendship even as the demands of being primary carer to Eva came to shape his days. He loved Abingdon and the local life, but also remained passionate about global and European issues. His grounding in the ancient was tempered by an insatiable interest in present and future civilisations, and he co-founded with Eva the Abingdon European Society, which flourished for many years. Although a self-taught and somewhat idiosyncratic cook, his appropriately themed refreshments at AES events – from blinis to borscht – were relished by all.

Having been an RAF cadet at Oxford and serving his National Service in the RAF, John maintained his passion for aviation by flying his radio-controlled models. He was often seen on the Abingdon riverbank, or on the cricket pitch, launching his planes and buzzing passers-by. He was always willing to share his hobby with anyone who asked him about it, especially younger Abingdon residents in whom he might nurture an interest in flying. On at least one occasion a passing motor-cruiser stopped to retrieve an errant – and soggy – aircraft from the river.

At his commemoration in the ancient abbey buildings next to the Races' home, model aeroplanes decorated the walls. John was a published poet and his poetry also featured, with its pithy take on mortality.

He was also something of a brewer and made a powerful home ale. His casket was strewn with hops that he was drying at home, ready for the next consignment. In this respect, if not in his free thinking, which was underpinned by an Aristotelian ethic, he enjoyed imagining his continuity with the monks of Abingdon Abbey.

In his will he stipulated that his books should be offered to Merton and this wish has been fulfilled, with the College accepting, among others, *Secret Journal of a Self-Observer: or, Confessions and Familiar Letters of the Rev J. C. Lavater* (1795). Research at Merton suggests that the former owner was the jurist John Weyland Junior who lived near Oxford on the Cherwell and wrote on population and other themes. This succession would have greatly pleased John Race, who loved Oxford, the Thames and rigorous thought.

Here follow some lines from John's poetry:

Notes for my Green Burial: casketology, eschatology
Recited at John Race's commemoration

To a corpse in a wooden casket
The eulogy is hard to hear:
But to one in a wicker basket
Every syllable is clear.

So please do not be impolite:
Nobody wants a nasty fright,
Nobody wants a green cadaver
To rear up, making a palaver,
No mourner should be so demented,
As to annoy the late lamented.

Lines from Alma Mater

... *Oxonia mater amata*
nos aluit iuvenes, nos alit atque per annos.

Oxford our beloved mother
nurtured us when young, and nurtures us through the
years.

Sophie Churchill

 1953


Dr David Yates died on 20 April 2019, aged 84.

David was born in St Albans in Hertfordshire in 1934 and his childhood was characterised by frequent moves around the country following his father's job as a tax inspector. After the family settled in Dorking, David was sent to Charterhouse School in Godalming as a boarder. He didn't like being away from his family but his father believed he would gain a good education and future success. David was academically able and managed to gain a place at Merton to study mathematics. It was at Oxford that he met his future wife Patricia (St Hilda's, 1953), who was studying botany; they remained a devoted and loyal couple.

After graduation David took up a commission with the Royal Navy as a meteorologist, training at Kete in Pembrokeshire and then stationed at Lee-on-Solent in Hampshire. Having gained a more permanent home, David and Patricia were married on 7 September 1957, and a year later welcomed their first child, Imogen. At the end of his commission David chose to return to his mathematical roots and took a job with Leo Computers. From then on his career was based solely around computing.

In 1962, his son Alan arrived, and he moved to the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) where he started working towards his PhD on machine translation, which focused on software to translate Russian into English. David rose steadily through the ranks at the NPL, during which time his second daughter, Meriel, was born in 1970. By the time of his retirement after 30 years of service he had reached head of branch and was even made temporary superintendent for a while. He was a humble man, but

proud of the contribution made to modern computing by his teams, with many of their projects underpinning the connected world we live in today.

Retirement offered him the luxury of time to combine his love of tackling complex intellectual challenges with the simple joys of life. David wrote several visionary technology articles for publications including *New Scientist*, then researched and authored a book titled *Turing's Legacy: A History of Computing at the National Physical Laboratory 1945-1995*. The book was published by the Science Museum and gained him a fellowship. He maintained his computing expertise, applying it to a range of applications including researching his family history, digital photography, desktop publishing and algorithmic art. His other main hobby was birdwatching but his interests ranged widely from astronomy to puzzles and from music to books. He loved visiting historical sites and houses, climbing mountains, immersing himself in scenery and nature.

Although successful in his career the family will remember David as a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. As a father he nurtured his children in a supportive and engaging manner, generating a legacy of inspiration that has influenced their life choices, careers and abilities. David was not a religious man, but he held strong ethical views and lived by his own creed based on the values of love, altruism, truth and constructive action.

He was a modest, conscientious and devoted man who has quietly left a legacy that will continue to affect the future of technology and the lives of everyone he knew.

Meriel Lenfestey

 1955

Dr Barry Randolph Martin passed away on 25 August 2018.

Barry was born on 17 September 1936 in Morden, Surrey. In 1947, when he was 11, Barry won a scholarship to King's College School in Wimbledon. This was where he started to develop his love of cricket, rugby, chess and mathematics.

Barry was given his first astronomy book by his father when he was 11. It was called *The Nature of the Universe* by Fred Hoyle. This led to a lifelong interest in astronomy and science, which grew into his career, and one day he even had the chance to give Fred Hoyle a lift from Cambridge to Oxford.

In 1955, Barry won a place and a state scholarship to read mathematics at Merton. He enjoyed his university days enormously. Early on he was selected to play rugby for the First XV. He always liked to tell the story of his first tutorial, which lasted only a few minutes because his tutor decided to take the students to a local pub instead. Despite this, Barry valued education very highly. He went on to do a DPhil, under the supervision of John Reid at Sussex, which he dedicated to Mr Eastcott, the surgeon who saved his life in his 20s.

He was never happier than in the days in the Appleton laboratory near Datchet in his early 30s where he worked on exciting, space-exploration satellite projects including Ariel 5 and IRAS. He later progressed to senior management roles in the Science and Engineering Research Council, including Head of Engineering.

Barry met Philippa when they were both teenagers; they were married when he was 24 and so they remained, very happily, until his recent death. They had two children and five grandchildren.

Barry undertook a lot of voluntary work, always taking an active role in parent-teacher associations and later becoming a governor of various schools. Latterly he was also chairman of his local Labour Party branch in Didcot. He was a keen sportsman and an accomplished handyman who loved playing bridge and had a strong sense of humour. Despite suffering from illness in his later years he always enjoyed life to the full.

Jeremy Martin



Alexander 'Brian' Scott died on 16 November 2018, aged 84.

Brian was born in Bangor, Northern Ireland, in 1933. He spent his early years in Derry – in the gasworks where his father was the engineer. He attended Foyle College and then studied Latin and Greek at Queen's University Belfast. Having secured his BA with first class honours and a postgraduate scholarship, he went to Merton to study for a DPhil in Medieval Latin. The subject he chose was a critical edition of the poetry of Hildebert (1056–1133), Bishop of Le Mans and Archbishop of Tours, under the supervision of Dr Richard Hunt. This was very fortunate for him as Richard Hunt was the Keeper of Western Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library. He has been described as one of the greatest scholar librarians of all time. He was most punctilious in getting work from Brian every fortnight, giving it back to him the next day, and then having a session with him in his study. Brian was awarded his DPhil in 1960 with flying colours, and the thesis was published in 1969 under the title *Hildebertus Cenomannensis Episcopus: Carmina Minora* (Leipzig). A second edition appeared in 2001 (Munich and Leipzig).

From 1958 to 1962 Brian worked in the Manuscripts Department of the Bodleian Library. He really enjoyed his time there and got to know Oxford as a city and was fond of the place ever since. He was sorry to leave, but work on manuscripts was just too hard on his eyes, and also he liked the idea of teaching, so he took up a position teaching Classics in Aberdeen for two years (1962–63), and returned to his old university, Queen's Belfast, in 1964. He was there for 30 years, taking early retirement in 1994. He became Reader in Latin in 1972 and Professor of Late Latin in 1993. The seventies and eighties were of course very troubled times in Northern Ireland. But Queen's was reasonably exempt from the violence, and was in fact a very happy place to work.

As the universities were the only places where students of Catholic and Protestant backgrounds mixed and became friends, he felt it was a very worthwhile and fulfilling job.

During this period he contributed an essay 'Some poems attributed to Richard of Cluny' to *Medieval Learning and Literature: Essays Presented to Richard William Hunt*, edited by JG Alexander and MT Gibson (Oxford, 1976). His work also included *Expugnatio Hibernica: The Conquest of Ireland by Giraldus Cambrensis*, which he edited with translation and historical notes with FX Martin, OSA (Dublin, 1978); *Medieval Literary Theory and Criticism c. 1100-c. 1375*, with AJ Minnis (Oxford, 1988 and a revised edition in 1991); *Liudprand of Cremona: Relatio de Legatione Constantinopolitano (The Mission to Constantinople)*, edited and translated with introduction and commentary (Bristol, 1993); and *Malachy* (Dublin, 1976), centred around extracts from *The Life of Malachy* by St Bernard of Clairvaux. He also contributed a chapter on 'Latin learning and literature in Ireland 1169-1500' for *A New History of Ireland: Prehistoric and Early Ireland, vol 1*, edited by Dáibhí Ó Cróinín (Oxford, 2005).

He was a member of the Royal Irish Academy and a member of its committee on the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources. He was also a member of the Board of the Toronto Medieval Latin Texts series for many years.

In 1993, a year before he retired, Brian met his future wife, Margaret, on a trip with a mutual friend to the Outer Hebrides. They got married in Dublin in 1997, and he moved to Dublin, a city he knew well, and was happy to start a new chapter in his life. He was a very kindly man, interested in everyone, and he could have a conversation with everyone on all subjects with the possible exception of sport! He is described by friends as having a quiet sense of humour and a complete absence of pomposity of any kind despite his scholarly attainments. In the summer of 1956 he spent six weeks in Paris, Munich and Vienna examining manuscripts of Hildebert and this may have sparked his lifelong interest in foreign travel, particularly to France, Switzerland and Italy. A month before he died, he and Margaret were on a holiday in Fontainebleau, Burgundy and Tours which he hadn't stayed in for 50 years. He also had a photographic memory which was very useful to him in his study of train timetables and journeys, about which he was an expert.

Brian was an only child so the friends he made during his life were very important to him. I will just mention a few: John Rea (QUB) and his wife Mary; Heather Lowry (QUB); George Young (QUB); Archie Shearer (Merton, 1954) and his wife Eileen; Richard Hunt (Bodley) and his wife Kit; John Wall (Bodley); Genevieve Hawkins (Oxford); Patricia Brown (Bodley) who married Francis Maddison, Curator of the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford (they had a second house in Martel, in the Lot département (France) where Brian would frequently finish up his trips around Europe); Mary Smallwood (QUB); George Huxley (QUB); and John Curran (QUB) who was best man at his wedding.

Brian is survived by his wife Margaret, her sister Elizabeth Casey and her husband John, and their children, Susan and Michael.

Margaret Byrne

1956



David Preest, teacher and translator, died on 22 May 2019, aged 81.

David was born in 1938 in Whitecroft, a village on the edge of the Forest of Dean. He attended the village primary school and from there gained a scholarship to Monmouth School. He was encouraged by the Head of Classics, AL Sockett (1932), to apply to Merton and was awarded a state scholarship. David spent five years at Merton, following his degree with a Cert.Ed. He loved all ball sports and played rugby and cricket for the College. He particularly remembered playing rugby with Kris Kristofferson (1958) and enjoyed going to a concert he gave at Kenwood on Hampstead Heath last summer.

Following teaching practice at Llandovery College, David took up posts at Loughborough Grammar School, Newcastle Royal Grammar School and subsequently Highgate School, which he joined in 1972, on the day his third child was born. In teaching David had found his natural calling, as many letters from former pupils testify. One wrote, 'David was an inspirational teacher who shared his love of literature and culture, not just classics, and did much to shape the way I've thought, critiqued and analysed in very different fields of work for 50 years.' And another, 'Latin took on a glorious clarity under David's tutelage. When I retired, I was still capable enough in both Latin and Greek to be able to read them again with pleasure.' A former colleague wrote that 'David's classroom was quite unlike any other in the school, an oasis of stillness amid the hurly-burly of school life, reflecting the calm and order of his mind.'

After a period of ill health in the early 1990s, David retired early and became deputy director of St Albans Cathedral Education Centre. This was a post he held for ten years, engaging children of all ages as he unfolded the life of the building past and present using role-play, practical workshops and his own uniquely skilful style of questioning.

Retiring from full-time work at 60, David 'looked for something to do in the mornings', (afternoons were for outdoor activities – gardening, walking, cycling) and after consulting a former pupil, then a don at Oxford, David set about translating the *Gesta Pontificum Anglorum*, or *The Deeds of the Bishops of England*, by William of Malmesbury, which had never been published in English. This was published by Boydell & Brewer in 2002 and was the start of 20 years of translating medieval Latin histories and chronicles. David researched and wrote the introduction and notes to his first translation, but subsequently worked in collaboration with historians, including James Clark, professor of history at the University of Exeter. David's translations were praised for their elegance and readability; *The Chronica Maiora of Thomas Walsingham* won a 'Choice' academic award. *Deeds of the Abbots of St Albans* was published in June 2019 and he had sent a final translation to his publisher the day before he was taken ill, to be published next year.

Some years ago, David took a break from translating and wrote a commentary on every one of Emily Dickinson's 1,789 poems. He made this available at emilydickinsonpoems.org and was delighted when people came across it and contacted him.

David's capacity for friendship was unlimited. An extremely modest man, he looked for, and found, the best in people he met, resulting in a large group of people whom he loved, and who loved him. But he was above all a family man and was in his element inventing games and quizzes for family occasions and playing cricket and football in the garden. He had three children, William (who died in 2005), Tom and Harriet, with his first wife, Jane. David married Verity in 2000 and was beloved Pop-Pops to five grandchildren.

Verity Sherwood

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Robert 'Bob' Williamson**. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

1958

Paul Morley Cheeseright died on 27 January 2019.

Paul came up to Merton to read Modern History after National Service in Malaya with the Intelligence Corps. After marrying Nicole with whom he had two children, Robin and Clare, they emigrated to New Zealand in the early 1960s. There he worked on radio and television for NZBC which included reporting from Vietnam during the war there. They returned to London in 1971 where Paul worked briefly for the BBC as a producer before joining the *Financial Times*. He wrote on world trade, property and mining before working in Brussels. On his return he was based in Birmingham as the *FT* Midlands correspondent. On retirement in 1995 he moved to Cheltenham and then Epsom to be nearer his family when his second wife, Hazel, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2010. Paul was her carer and devoted the last years of his life to looking after her at home. She is now in a nursing home and, sadly, knows nothing of his passing.

Recollections of Paul at Merton were included in the eulogy by John Baxter, his 'loyal and unsparing friend', at the funeral at a natural burial ground in Surrey attended by several of Paul's contemporaries. Although he took his career very seriously Paul never lost his sense of fun and his chortling laugh; Andrew Adam recalled a hilarious dinner at the residence of former diplomat Tony Reeve in Washington, DC. Paul was a keen hockey player at Merton; Alistair Simpson remembers the shin bruises inflicted on him, a member of his own team. Roderick Abbott recalled the hockey team's participation in an international tournament in Brussels where Paul, as captain, explained in schoolboy French that a suitable pennant they had neglected to bring was 'in the post'.

Oliver Ford Davies spoke of a most unlikely balletomane. David Waterhouse developed this, remembering Paul as a 'somewhat unlikely' Chair of the Oxford University Ballet Club, being dared on seeing the President of the Oxford University Boat Club in the distance to introduce himself as one OUBC President to another. Alas, Paul declined.

Adrian Vickers and Peter Norman wrote about 'The Queries Group', a sort of secret society whose seven members decided to alleviate boredom by carrying out a prank each term. Paul remembered two pranks he related to John: the disruption of a live debate in the Oxford Union by somehow relaying the sound of Chris Barber's jazz band's Whistling Rufus into the building's loudspeaker system, an event that was given front page coverage in next day's *Daily Telegraph*; and the impersonation of university proctors in Cambridge, arresting and fining undergraduates wandering streets without gowns. A fine from the Oxford proctors followed! As Vice-President of The Queries, with his ballet involvement they enjoyed an evening in the company of Khariabian and dancers from *West Side Story*; and a press-ups competition that Peter and Tony Reeve enjoyed in the Grand Place on the evening of Paul's wedding to Nicole.

Despite his onerous caring duties towards the end, Paul maintained his intellectual curiosity, evidenced by an article in *Slightly Foxed* reviewing Andre Maurois's *Les Silences de Colonel Bramble*. A footnote explained that he had responded to Brexit by reading more in French, a typically original, imaginative and caring reaction to events in the wider world.

Emma, Adrian Vickers' wife, surely spoke for all Paul's friends: 'With his self-effacing good humour, his entirely natural politeness and courtesy, his facility to ask his friends about important or relevant things – and then listen to their answers (a rare gift) – with all these qualities, to have had Paul as a friend was a truly good thing.'

Bryan Lewis



Guthlac Ceri Klaus Peach, known as Ceri, died on 2 October 2018 aged 78.

Born in Bridgend, South Wales, on 26 October 1939, to his dentist father, Wystan, and German mother, Charlotte, Ceri came up from Howardian High School Cardiff to Merton in 1958 to read Geography. After completing his DPhil at Brasenose in 1964, he was appointed as a University demonstrator at the School of Geography, moving next to a lectureship, and later a Fellowship at St Catherine's College. Ceri was Tutorial Fellow in Geography at Catz from 1969 to 2007 and took on many other responsibilities in the college including Dean, Domestic Bursar, Senior Tutor, Finance Bursar, and Acting Master in 1993-94. He also held visiting positions at the Australian National University, Yale, Berkeley, Harvard and Princeton. He was nominated Ethnic Geography Distinguished Scholar of 2008 by the American Association of Geographers. The award of Doctor of Letters by the University of Oxford in 2016 was a richly deserved recognition by his alma mater, and it meant a great deal to him.

Ceri's main field of research was migration and the segregation of minority ethnic and religious groups in Britain, America and Western Europe. He forged a very distinctive style of social geography. He was fascinated

by the question that defined his career: the relationship between social and physical space. Ceri spoke without notes on topics as wide ranging as the green revolution in India, the Shankill-Falls divide in Belfast, British business cycles as a driver of Caribbean migration, and the triple melting pots in North American cities. Through his interest in residential segregation, Ceri was distinctive for turning attention squarely at the housing situation, recognising the key role it played in the sifting and sorting of urban populations, and in the creation of social geographies. He was also fascinated by the relationship between segregation and intermarriage.

He was greatly loved by his students, who found him a gentleman and a gentle man. He inspired, encouraged and provoked serious thought and debate, but did this in a way that was encouraging and supportive. He exemplified the best tradition of an Oxford don, not just a teacher of his subject and one who produced extensive research, but someone who took a personal interest in all his students, individually and as a group. He was an outspoken supporter of sport as an extracurricular activity and he believed that busy students were better at managing their commitments and achieving their academic goals than students with less pressure. He was particularly interested in rowing and rarely missed a chance to support college crews on the Isis and the Boat Race crews on the Thames.

Ceri leaves behind his wife of 54 years, Sue, his sons Huw and Guy, his daughter Katie, and their families: Millie, Sam and Zac in Shrewsbury, Alexandra and Isabelle in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, and William and Charlie in Godington, near Bicester, who were all a source of joy and great pride to him.

Sue Peach

1959



John Cameron Conacher passed away on 25 April 2018 aged 77.

Sixty years ago and within a few days of coming up from Manchester Grammar School, John had become a legend at Merton. Long into the evening of the Freshers' Blind John climbed on to a chair in the JCR bar and gave an effortless rendition of 'The Ballad of Eskimo Nell' in his rich warm Mancunian accent. It brought the house down. Unfortunately it also brought John down, for stepping outside into the night air he tripped over something, possibly another freshman. Stalwart man that he was, and with a rock climber's grip on his pint, he went down with his glass. This shattered on the unyielding Merton cobbles and severely lacerated his wrist and forearm. Following an emergency dash to the Radcliffe Infirmary for some extensive needlework he returned in the small hours of the morning with plaster up to his elbow. His writing arm moreover, and we fellow chemists enviously regarded his sparing from the trauma of the weekly essay for some time.

It has been a surprise to learn that at the age of 12 John was awarded a Certificate of Merit for Temperance. In deciding to get his sobriety in early it perhaps revealed a shrewdness that evidently would serve him well in his successful business life. I can recall his warmth, affability and the broadest of grins, and a shake of the head that seemed to say 'No nonsense tolerated here'. It was only natural that he was soon elected President of the Mob Club. John steered his way through his four years as a Merton chemist without fuss or bother. He met Margaret, Maggie to us all, in our first year and it's wonderful to say that we witnessed a lifelong partnership

forged. They were married in the year that John completed his Part II and left Merton.

A first job with Geigy in Basel from 1963 to 1967 also saw his family established with first Fiona and then Christopher. John returned to the UK in 1967 and after further jobs in the chemical and technical instrument industries he joined Halma plc in 1982 as managing director of Hanovia Ltd. The smaller company environment suited his entrepreneurial instincts and soon he was heading to Cincinnati to head and develop Halma's US division. Smaller company though for not much longer, John was largely responsible for the Group's US growth and contributed to the establishment of Halma as arguably one of the UK's most successful FTSE 100 companies. A colleague described John as a tremendous businessman, strong willed, independent and with a wicked sense of humour. He was appointed to the board of Halma plc in 1990 and continued to build the business as President of Halma, USA.

He retired in April 2001 and earned the following tribute in the annual chairman's statement. 'John joined Halma in 1982 as Managing Director of Hanovia and then transferred to the USA in 1986 to run what was then a small and fledgling US Division. The subsequent dynamic growth of the Group's North American activities to their present size and strength bears eloquent testimony to John's leadership. He has established a strong and self-reliant management team which has produced exceptional results this year and which offers great potential for future growth.' This foretold how successfully Halma plc would continue to grow, today being an £7.5 billion company with approaching 40 per cent of its business derived from North America.

On his retirement John concentrated on his photography and backcountry hiking and eventually moved to Lake Oswego, Oregon. He was a member of the Sierra Club and hiked the Grand Canyon, but sadly his ambition to top the great summits of North America was thwarted by a long battle with illness. He died peacefully on 25 April 2018 leaving his beloved Maggie, of whom I have fond memories taking me back to that first year at Merton, Fiona and Christopher, and grandchildren Eleanor, Alexandra and Cameron.

The last words must come from his family. 'To us his legacy is one of warmth and compassion. His intelligent, dry wit and beaming smile made life fun. His presence didn't just light up a room, it lit up our lives.'

Martin Hawkins (1959)

I was very sorry to hear that John has left us. Though he was a year ahead of me at Merton he was very much a presence in the College and as the de facto leader of the Mob Club was often to be seen like a gleeful imp flitting around in his constant pursuit of what appeared to be relatively well-intentioned mayhem. It will certainly have been John's early tutelage that helped establish his loyal band of acolytes who later contrived not only to extract a bull from its rural residence but to transport it unscathed thence to be released around midnight, civilly after port had been taken, into Merton Front Quad on the night of the College's only Bump Supper of the year in June 1964.

My abiding memory of John, however, dates from the Freshers' Blind of October 1960, an aptly named annual occasion of traditional revelry. After a long and liquid evening in pursuit of the event's title John leapt upon a table and proceeded, cavorting from table to table, and ably embellished with appropriate accompanying gestures, to recite all 57 stanzas of 'Eskimo Nell'. To do this on an empty stage and with a captive audience would have been heroic, but in the particular circumstances of the evening it remains the most exceptional declamatory performance I have ever had the pleasure of witnessing, and will remain so until he and I meet up again in the Yukon. Thank you, John.

Keith Pickering (1960)



Peter Moyes passed away after a short illness on 5 April 2019.

Peter studied PPE at Merton and would often recall many happy memories of Oxford to me in my childhood days. Born in 1930 in Mirfield, Yorkshire, Peter worked as a radio repair engineer and was a member of the Labour League of Youth. It was the Labour Party that gave him the opportunity to study at Oxford. Peter accepted, applied and spent his first year at Ruskin before transferring to Merton where he graduated with a BA and an MA. He felt blessed and privileged to be among some of the brightest minds, learning lifelong lessons and making lifelong friends, some of whom he was still very much in contact with, right up until his passing aged 88.

Peter had three main loves in life: business/management, his family and sailing. After working within senior management for Digital, Multitone, Phillips and a few other technical giants, he retired and moved to Brightlingsea in Essex in 1998 (I was born in 1994). My mother became ill and passed away shortly after their move, and I ended up living with him and Grandmother Valerie for 20 years.

Peter gave everything he could to everyone. He was my biggest supporter, keen to teach me everything he knew about business and management; as I grew up he became my best friend as well as my grandfather. He was one of the few truly honest people I know, always fighting for what was right, rather than the easy option. He had a wonderful sense of dealing with injustice, and rightly so.

He spent many happy years on the water in Brightlingsea on various yachts and motor yachts, and enjoyed making trips further afield, including several occasions taking his

motor yacht, *Caroline*, the entire way up the Thames to visit Merton College, Oxford. He felt as at home on the water as he did in management, which made it a fitting place for his final rest. We scattered his ashes on what would have been his 89th birthday, in the River Colne, at the mouth of Pyfleet Creek.

He leaves behind his wife Valerie, to whom he was married 55 years, his son Stephen and his grandson Hector. Peter was a family man through and through, and will be missed very dearly by them, and his friends. He was so proud of his achievements and his career, and was humbled and blessed by the opportunities he was fortunate enough to undertake. I close this obituary with his one regret, in his own words.

'I regret not becoming Prime Minister. I could hardly do any worse than the others.'

Hector Moyes

Peter's contemporaries from 1959 shared some of their memories with Postmaster:

I knew Peter as a fellow PPE student. He was doing his degree in two years, having already achieved a distinction at Ruskin in Economics and Social Science. I recall that in his earlier career he had been a trade union official and Labour Party agent for Stamford and Rutland, which impressed those of us without any work or political credentials. Peter suffered from a stammer but was determined to speak in Oxford Union debates, which he did frequently, to great effect. I succeeded Peter as Junior Treasurer of the JCR in 1961 – probably because John Black, our Economics tutor, was the Senior Treasurer. Our main task was to deal with the finances of the College Bar including the annual stocktaking with Ron Buckingham, the bar manager! Peter was a regular contributor to *Postmaster* and attendee at Merton Society events.

David Shipp

I saw Peter as recently as last September and was surprised to learn that he was no more, though he had said he was no longer in the best of health. He had retired to Brightlingsea – in order to sail, sensible fellow – and I had the habit of

looking him up when I sailed up there from my berth on the Medway, though I didn't go as often as I should have. A good bloke. I'm sorry he has gone.

David Marler

Peter had a room opposite mine in "Stubbins", on the staircase just beside the JCR. As a mature student he was several years older than me, but he was always cheerful and friendly. The last time I saw Peter was at the launch of David McAvoy's book, *Zbigniew Pelczynski – A life remembered* (2012). Pelczynski was our politics tutor at Merton. Peter will be very much missed.

John Latham

1960 and 1961

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Charles 'Chuck' Lister (1960)** in June 2019. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Joyanta Mitra (1960)** on 8 February 2018, and of **David Rattenbury (1961)** on 25 February 2019.

Francis Glassborow (1960) was friends with Joyanta and David, and shares some of his fondest memories of them.

Encounters at the College Gate

One Saturday early in October 1960 I was standing outside Merton Lodge wondering what I should be doing. I had arrived at Merton a couple of hours earlier for my first year. There were several others in a similar state. One had a clear idea as to what we should be doing. That was my first encounter with Joyanta Kumar Mitra. He suggested that we should go to the Freshers' Fair. So half a dozen of us followed his lead.

That certainly changed my life in several ways. The first was that as a result of that visit I joined the University Judo

Club (I joined quite a few other things that largely fell by the wayside). That decision led to many things including my becoming president of the University Judo Club.

The second thing was that this ad hoc group were to become friends and stick together throughout our time at Merton. It was an unusual group because there was no clear thing that bound us together other than our diversity of interests and respect for each other even when we strongly disagreed.

Joy had a car, an old Morris Oxford Traveller if I recall correctly, that struggled at anything much over 45 mph. Of course, in those days he should not have kept a car in Oxford but he largely managed to keep knowledge of it away from the authorities. I recall that he was summoned by the Proctors on one occasion. We researched the University Statutes on the subject in order to put together a defence. Surprisingly the relevant statute was written in Latin even though many earlier ones were in English. I do not think we were very successful as Joy finished up with a £25 fine. He was more careful about the car for the rest of the year (ably assisted by his scout, Bill Jackson). Bill was one of the old school of college scouts who looked after his gentlemen, even to the extent of bringing breakfast in bed when the young lady I had taken to the Christmas dance had stayed till morning. (You can wipe that lascivious grin of your face; we really were only talking.)

A second member of the group was a postgraduate and so legitimately had a car. We often explored far and wide, mainly on Sundays. Des Rae, the South African member of the group, was a fabulous map reader with the result that we frequently found places that were well off the beaten track. On one occasion we found ourselves travelling down a gated road trusting Des's pronouncement that this was a shortcut. He was right, though having to open and close half a dozen gates rather lengthened the time if not the distance.

One time in early spring of 1961 we woke up to a beautiful sunny Sunday and, to the amazement of others who had dragged themselves to breakfast, discussed which seaside to go to. We ended up going to Pembrokeshire for the day and returned to College in the early hours of the morning via a window in my ground-floor rooms in Rose Lane.

That was a memorable year, only saddened by Joy failing his first-year Law exams twice, resulting in his leaving Oxford and Merton. He went on to a degree in electronic engineering which was where his real interests lay. Let me hand over to his daughter Nalina who writes:

'My Dad went on to get a degree in electronics engineering which was what he had always wanted to do and it remained his passion throughout his life. He became a hi fi specialist and designed custom-built speakers for enthusiasts and corporates.

'He was also a philanthropist par excellence. An active Rotarian who worked tirelessly on eradicating polio and on enabling deprived communities to access potable water and sanitation in Kolkata, India.

'I can truly say that in addition to being a leader in the community and an intellectual with an ever-enquiring mind, my Dad was a great father. He taught my brother and me the value of hard work and always being good, productive human beings; always remembering to be thankful for all the blessings that we have been born with and actively giving back to our community.'

I kept very intermittent contact with Joy for a number of years but when he returned to India we lost contact.

I learnt recently that he had died last year. We have a very active and efficient year rep (Keith Pickering) who annually emails all those from 1960 for whom he has an email address. Last year Joy's daughter responded to tell Keith of her father's death. I am now in contact with her. She works in London and she would love to learn more of her father's time at Merton. If you can help, I can be contacted via the Merton Development Office, or through Keith Pickering.

A Second Encounter

Almost exactly a year later (the Saturday before my second year began) I was again standing outside the Lodge reading the various items that had landed in my post box when I caught sight of a familiar back walking across Front Quad. It was an adversary from my schooldays. I hasten to add that it was an entirely friendly rivalry.

David Rattenbury and I had gone to neighbouring West Country public schools (I to Downside and David to Kingswood). As we were both chess players, cross country runners and middle-distance runners, we had competed against each other four or five times a year from 1957 to 1960. As we were both 'mathematicians' we had naturally gravitated towards each other for team teas.

David's arrival at Merton to read Mathematics a year after me cemented a friendship that was to last a lifetime.

This was another life-changing meeting. I could write a great deal about David but two rowing episodes summarise the trust we placed in each other. We both enjoyed rowing though never more than at good second eight level and out of season we would enjoy taking one of the college pairs out.

David was a blood donor so when he had made a donation one morning I assumed that he would want to rest for the afternoon. David would have nothing of it and insisted that we should still spend a couple of hours on the river. He told me afterwards that he was certain that if he had had any bad reaction I would be able to look after him.

The second incident was when we were finishing a training session one summer Saturday when the river had been cluttered with pleasure boats. We were one last set piece, rowing from the Gut to the Pink Post (does that still exist?). As I came up to the end mark I looked ahead and saw a virtually empty river all the way to Folly Bridge. I quietly asked for the rating to go up. David told me afterwards that he assumed I was just going to take us in to the college raft with a flourish. Fifteen strokes later I asked for the rating to go up again. David said that at that moment he knew we were going to row to the top (Folly Bridge) and he knew why and that had he been bow he would have made the same decision.

David's first job on completing his degree was with Procter & Gamble. He worked for P&G throughout his working life, initially in Newcastle upon Tyne, then briefly at its European operation establishing computer systems and operations in the Benelux countries. In 1986 he moved to Cincinnati where he was responsible for all changes in information technology.

On his retirement from P&G in 2001 he could focus full time on his other interests. He was a certified flight instructor, held a licence as a commercial pilot and owned his own aircraft. He served on the Lunken Airport Oversight and Advisory Board for many years. Between 2001 and 2018 he and his wife spent many happy weeks exploring the wide world in visits to many countries on all the continents bar Antarctica.

We would meet up from time to time and our wives, who had been best friends before they married us, would catch up on what they had been doing. The most unusual meeting was in Sydney, Australia. I happened to be at an International Standards meeting for C++ (a programming language) when an email arrived to say that David and Sheila were touring Australia. Completely by chance they were planning to pass through Sydney on their way to the Blue Mountains. After a quick catch-up over dinner my wife arranged to join them for their visit to the Blue Mountains while I had to keep my nose to the grindstone of standardisation.

I last saw David when he came over for the Gaudy in 2017 when he met the lady who was to become my second wife.

Late last year I received an email from his wife, Sheila, who was undergoing treatment for cancer. The contents were shattering. Sheila was in remission but David had just been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer with only an optimistic 50% chance of successful treatment. Sadly, David died on 25 February.

David and Joy were typical Merton alumni. They both lived full and rewarding lives, personally successful but spending time helping to make the lives of others better.

Francis Glassborow (1960)

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Nigel Stenhouse** on 16 October 2017. We have not been able to trace any of Nigel's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: development@merton.ox.ac.uk

1962



David Phelps passed away on 24 March 2019.

This may be a rather unusual obituary, recording, as it does, a life that cannot be judged successful by normal standards. My brother David lived the life of the mind. His physical surroundings didn't matter to him much at all, as anyone who visited his home in Cardigan Street, Jericho in recent years will already know. What mattered to him, it seems to me, was simply getting wiser.

He was enormously successful at school, before coming up to Merton in 1962 as a Postmaster. But thereafter his intellectual interests began to spin wildly off from his Greats course. After graduating he began a DPhil which soon grew to 300,000 words and which he never bothered to submit, having begun to follow new interests in areas of linguistics and anthropology. And, as was typical of David, he travelled so deeply into those fields that he spent many years, possibly the better part of two decades, on a major work which quite simply defies description. It's called *The Firebird, the Beauty Contest and the Spartan Army: A Study in Indo-European Religion, Mythology and Socio-Political Organization*. It was typical of the man that his major life's work should have been so deeply interdisciplinary. To describe his interests and his knowledge as eclectic would be an understatement.

David described himself at various times as a bookseller, an author and a copy editor. As a copy editor of complex and technical works he was extraordinarily gifted. He once sent Cambridge University Press a letter that included extracts from letters of appreciation sent to him by satisfied customers. An administrative error meant that they returned to him a copy of his own letter which had been annotated

by someone within CUP. A handwritten note indicated they thought the testimonials were just too good to be true. They thought he'd made them up.

David was a unique sort of man. *The Firebird* is something like 2,000 pages of meticulously researched academic scholarship. But he was also a big fan of Dr Who and Maria Sharapova. His musical taste ranged from Early Music to New Orleans jazz to Girls Aloud. An autodidact, he taught himself Mandarin and Hungarian, for no apparent purpose. He left a mark on everyone who knew him.

A friend who knew David as a teenager wrote this to me when I told him the sad news of David's death: 'I have some vivid memories of David, especially his efforts to invent his own language when he was 11 or 12. Also, the funny little dance he did when he understood or achieved something.' That's true – he used to jump up and down on the spot a lot and he had a habit of twiddling a lock of his (then rather luxuriant) hair while he was thinking. Why it was necessary I was never sure, but it certainly worked. Another early friend remembered him for 'an ability to make puns in Latin'. Others who knew him, even just a little, all used the same terms to describe him – a sweet and gentle man.

Indeed he was that – sweet and gentle – but fiercely intelligent and with strong opinions about just about everything under the sun. This was a trait he developed quite early. By the age of nine and a half he already showed scant regard for authority. 'Miss McMahan', he wrote of his teacher, 'is an autocrat.' Miss McMahan may have been an autocrat, but I like to think she'd have been proud of the way he turned out. I certainly was, and I like to say that every time I saw my brother I learned something. That's quite a gift, and I'm sorry he's gone.

Stephen Phelps

1964



John Whitworth, who has died aged 73, was a popular poet with an ever-growing international following. He was much anthologised not just in Britain but in Italy, Australia and the US, where the annual poetry conference at West Chester University (Pennsylvania) featured a special 'Whitworth at Seventy' tribute in 2016. A *festschrift* organised through the Eratosphere poetry forum is forthcoming. John's work combined a formal mastery and patter-song dexterity with an idiom encompassing the wittily urbane and allusive, and the demotically slangy. The late Les Murray called him 'a wise and rueful virtuoso' of 'poems as smart and full of fun as a pair of glazed tap shoes'.

As John put it in 'Me and My Shadows':

We're as sharp as piranhas, we're rhymers and scanners
The last of the great bullshitters ...

His 11 verse collections earned praise from Philip Larkin, William Scammell, Peter Porter and John Lucas (among others), with comparisons to Byron, Kipling, Chesterton and Ogden Nash. Gavin Ewart noted that the poems could be 'both touching and tender', and Peter Reading was struck by 'the range of emotions from contempt to compassion which [he] is able to stimulate'. There is, for instance, the ghostly menace of 'The Examiners':

Where the house is cold and empty and the garden's
overgrown,
They are there.
Where the letters lie unopened by a disconnected
phone,
They are there.

Where your footsteps echo strangely on each moonlit
cobblestone,

Where a shadow streams behind you but the shadow's
not your own,

You may think the world's your oyster but it's bone,
bone, bone:

They are there, they are there, they are there.

And there is the gentler regret of the early 'How DO They Do It?' (closer to Hardy and Larkin), in which, as 'a miser of [his] past', he hoards his remembered images 'distinct and brash/ Like sheets of stamps unlicked, like unspent cash'.

John was born in 1945 in India, where his father Hugh was a district collector in the Indian Civil Service. His mother, Elizabeth Boyes, graduated from Edinburgh University in the days when women were restricted to ordinary (not honours) degrees. When Hugh secured a post in the Scottish Office, John attended Edinburgh's Royal High School, acquiring a self-protective alternative accent. His sardonic take on Scottish nationalism ('English greed had laid ma country waste'), intoned in rap mode on the BBC's *New Premises* programme, was a fruit of this experience, as was a defiant preference for cricket (an abiding love) over golf. In the sixties he read English at Merton College (BA, then BPhil).

John's employments included teaching English to foreign students, creative writing courses for adult education, and for the University of Kent (where his wife was a lecturer), and contributions to numerous poetry workshops, festivals and competitions. He gave frequent guest-classes for schoolchildren, developing some ingenious techniques for persuading them to attempt rhyme and metre. All this expertise fed into his popular handbook, *Writing Poetry*. His own volume for children, *The Complete Poetical Works of Phoebe Flood*, with its whimsical word games, was a big success.

Besides winning awards for his collections (including the Alice Hunt Bartlett Prize and the Cholmondeley Award), he won many prizes for individual poems, which appeared in numerous magazines including *The TLS*, *The Spectator*, *The Oldie*, *The Literary Review*, *The Poetry Review*, *The Honest Ulsterman*, *The Hudson Review*, *Criterion* and *Quadrant*. His work was also broadcast on various Radio 3 programmes

such as *Poetry Please* and *Poetry Now*.

John is survived by his wife, Doreen Roberts, and his daughters, Eleanor and Catherine, who inspired some droll and affectionate poems.

John Whitworth was born on 11 December 1945, and died on 20 April 2019.

Doreen Roberts

1965

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **John Iles** on 8 June 2019. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Tom Morris-Jones** on 5 April 2018. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

1967

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Colin McGill** in 2017. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

1970



Peter Quick was awarded a Postmastership at Merton in 1970, where he read PPE for two years before changing to read English in his last two years. He made firm friends with his philosophy tutor, David Bostock, and his wife, Jenny; philosophy remained an abiding interest throughout his life. He was a keen sportsman, gaining a Blue in tennis and playing rugby, squash, cricket and table tennis for Merton. In the summer after his finals he was in a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Jenny Bostock and performed in the Fellows' Garden at Merton, which is where he met Alison whom he married in 1982.

After Peter left Oxford he embarked on a variety of jobs, some in education, some in industry. After successfully revivifying a transport company, expanding the business into Europe, he decided he wanted to return to studying and enrolled on the MBA course at Cranfield. After taking a job teaching at the Oxford Brookes Business School, Peter realised that teaching and lecturing were what he loved the most and what he excelled at. He took a job at the ESCP Europe Business School, which had a base in the UK. During his time there he relished teaching the extraordinarily culturally diverse groups of postgraduates who walked through its doors. He honed his language skills, refreshing his French and teaching himself Spanish and German – useful skills when he ended up teaching in Paris, Madrid and Berlin. He rose to become Professor of Business Strategy, feted by his students who consistently gave him the highest feedback marks in the school.

In his home life, Peter and Alison who had been together for 44 years when he died, had three children, Rosalind, Thomas and Vivien. He took enormous delight in watching them

grow up, teaching them from a young age to play tennis and bridge and discussing everything from philosophy to climate change, politics and archaeology with them. Climate change and the environment and archaeology were interests that he became passionate about later in his life, reading everything he could find on the subjects and testing out theories in lively family debate!

At the end of 2015 Peter was diagnosed with motor neuron disease; he had become progressively weaker over several years and when the diagnosis was confirmed, no one was surprised that the doctors agreed he was not well, but there was profound shock that it was motor neuron disease. He had retired from his job teaching at ESCP in August 2015 and during 2016 the illness took a greater hold of him. At this time, he also had to contend with the unimaginable distress of learning of his son Thomas's cancer diagnosis. Thomas was flown back from South Africa, where he was a government adviser for the Department of International Development, at the end of October and died in January 2017, just ten weeks after his diagnosis. This trauma was difficult for Peter in his physically weakened state and shortly afterwards, he became confined to a wheelchair. Those last 18 months of his life were challenging in many ways, but not without joy: in May 2018 Peter and Alison became grandparents for the first time.

Peter died on 12 October 2018, aged 66 years. He leaves his widow, Alison, daughters Rosalind and Vivien, their partners and his grandson, Oswin. His gift to family, friends and students has been to engage them in uncompromising and stimulating intellectual debate; his gift to his family has been his unwavering love and support. He is hugely missed.

Alison Quick

Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Wayland Smalley** in October 2016. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: development@merton.ox.ac.uk

1980



Dr David Harvey died unexpectedly in August 2018 at the age of 55. He died of a cancer so rapid it wasn't even diagnosed until after he died.

Dave studied Medicine on a Postmastership at Merton from 1980 to 1983, took a year out to complete an intercolated master's at Imperial College and then returned to Oxford to complete his medical qualifications at Green College.

Eventually choosing a career in radiology, he settled in South Wales where he met and married Sue. They went on to have four children, now young adults.

Dave became increasingly frustrated with the problems that hospitals were facing as digital radiology took over from film-based radiology. Though mandated by international standards to communicate freely with each other, many companies were insisting that hospitals stick with one company's equipment, and were charging very highly for the privilege.

In response to this, Dave created a computer-based toolkit to aid interoperability without bankrupting departments. He would work on writing the program late into the night, with a small baby who refused to sleep draped over his shoulder. He began selling the program as a small sideline, which grew much more rapidly than he expected. Equipment manufacturers began incorporating it in their equipment.

His small company grew internationally and Dave eventually left the NHS to take it on full time. Medical Connections Ltd is now known across the globe and continues to thrive under those Dave mentored. He also consulted on

several UK and international committees on medical IT and communication matters and regularly spoke at meetings. He took part in (and enjoyed enormously) international 'connectathons' where medical imaging companies worked together to ensure their systems were compatible with each other... Geek heaven!

Dave was very active in our local community. He played bassoon in local orchestras (alongside three of our children), 'teched' for local drama societies and was a school governor for many years. He was the 'go to' IT guy for so many friends and neighbours and almost single-handedly responsible for our rural village getting broadband. His collection of bits and pieces he could use in repairs was vast and unparalleled... filling up way too much of the house for my liking!

He chose not to have a funeral; instead we opted for a celebration of his life some weeks later. This was attended by nearly 300 people, and the messages they left were beautiful.

Dave is desperately missed by family and friends but leaves a huge legacy which reaches across the world.

He is survived by his parents, John and Shirley; his wife Sue; children Ruth, Peter, Emma and James; sister Ann and her family; and many friends.

Sue Harvey

2000

Neil Chakravarty tragically passed away in October 2017, aged 35.

Neil's intellect, his wry and gentle humour, and his ironic appreciation of the universe inspired and amused his friends in equal part. Neil was a good man, and a good friend, and it is unbearable that he should be taken from us so soon. Neil came up to Oxford to read History and Politics having read every great work already, alongside teaching himself Russian for fun. Those qualities of brilliance, dogged determination and a desire to mark himself out as different cut to the heart of our best memories of Neil.

Whether introducing us to the glories of multiple all-nighters, existential theorising and the lesser-known works of Terry Gilliam in the splendid squalor of Manor Place, re-watching *Donnie Darko* 23 times or re-enacting *The Dice Man*, spending time with Neil was never dull. Neil never looked at the world straight on, nor took the easy road. For most of us it was enough to Interrail around Europe; for Neil, it had to involve 31 straight nights sleeping on a train. We all had essay crises; Neil stayed up for two days to write his four missing essays in one go. On graduating from Oxford, Neil settled on making his mark on the world through a career in finance and achieved a master's degree from the London Business School. He was also heavily involved in the efforts to save the Royal Vauxhall Tavern.

The tragic news of his death has thrown in to light his many qualities, made us remember some very good times – and what a good friend he was in the tougher ones. We have both bitterly regretted the many times in the last few years that we didn't make time often enough to catch up for the quick beer we kept promising each other as life filled up, and that none of us guessed his adventures and successes had been replaced by darker clouds. He will be fiercely missed and fondly remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with him, his parents and family, and may he rest in peace.

They told me, Heraclitus, they told me you were dead,
They brought me bitter news to hear and bitter tears
to shed.
I wept as I remember'd how often you and I
Had tired the sun with talking and sent him down the sky.

In Neil's memory, Marc, Kike and friends ran the Brighton Half Marathon in February 2019 to raise money for two brilliant mental health charities – CALM and the Samaritans.

Anyone who would like to support these two charities in Neil's memory can do so here: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Brightonformentalhealth>

Kike Agunbiade (2001) and Marc Stoneham (2000)

Former Staff



Jane Haddock, much loved nurse of Merton College from 1974 to 1990, and of Mac's and Tilly's boarding houses at St Edward's School from 1973 to 1997, died in the John Radcliffe Hospital on 15 April 2019.

The words 'much loved' are not just a formula easily used on this occasion, but reflect the great affection in which Jane was held by family, friends and former students and staff of St Edward's School and Merton College.

Jane was born in Nyasaland (now Malawi) and attended Kingsmead School for Girls in Johannesburg. She related stories of the hugely long train journeys with her elder sister, to and from school at the start and end of term. On leaving school, she trained at St Thomas' Hospital in London and made lifelong friends during her time there and was always proud to be an Old Nightingale (the nursing school was established by Florence Nightingale in 1860).

In the mid-1960s, her marriage ended, and by 1973 she was at St Edward's, which her two older sons were already attending. She and her four boys moved into Oakthorpe Road next to the school in North Oxford.

Jane's ability to see the funny side, and her radiant smile, were elements that made her a natural as a House and College Nurse. Each of you will have your own precious memories of her; so many messages: 'She was like a mother to me', 'so kind', 'a mischievous sense of humour', 'so wise', 'she was always there'.

As a nurse, a mother to so many, she so enjoyed her Merton family, the Porters in the Podge under the governance of the

formidable Head Porter, Bill Dawkins, the dining room staff, the army of scouts, and of course all the dons and students. Every student's welfare mattered to her, so even when the Crown Prince, now Emperor Naruhito of Japan, came up in 1983, they would laugh together at his magic powers, but Jane was the one he would confide in, and he was pleased to be treated as just another student. Her advice to an academic was 'take up gardening' and to her surprise he established his first effort in his bath. Dinner at High Table once required cutting up a guest's food, such are the habits of a mother of four boys. She was a disciple of the religion of kindness.

Following retirement, Jane continued to spread joy and loyal support among her friends, with perceptiveness and *joie de vivre* undimmed. A major stroke that she suffered in 2006 left her without the use of one leg and one arm. Since then, she contended with the discomfort and limitations imposed by the after-effects of the stroke bravely and uncomplainingly. Until three years ago, when her mobility became more restricted, she went on holiday annually to visit her youngest son in Miami; being in a wheelchair was not going to prevent her visiting family, and my younger brother said it was worth it to see her face, when he wheeled her onto Miami beach and she was able to take off her shoes and put her feet in the sand.

Since three years ago, a series of falls required daily carer visits to allow her to stay at home. I became accustomed to coming up every weekend from London to help Mum with all the practicalities of her life, and she continued to enjoy regular visits from family and friends. One of her oldest friends, a St Edward's master, said of her: 'I was amazed at how, when I visited for tea, Jane would often be the one who would cheer me up, rather than vice versa; and when I last visited about five weeks before she died, we still found things to laugh at, and the radiant old smile was still there.'

I hope that many who read this will smile, as I do, when I think of Mum. She is probably smiling back.

Johnny Haddock (1979)



Forthcoming Events

Further details of all events are available from the Alumni Relations Officer in the Development Office. We add events to the schedule throughout the year and regularly update the Merton website with information as it becomes available: www.merton.ox.ac.uk/events

2019

October

- 5 Installation of the new Warden
- 26 1969 Golden Jubilee Anniversary Lunch
- 26 Oxford Lieder Festival concert: Duruflé Requiem
Location: Merton College Chapel

November

- 3 All Souls' Requiem Eucharist
Location: Merton College Chapel
- 6 Welcome Drinks for the new Warden
Location: London
- 11 Merton Lawyers Association
Speakers: Dinah Rose QC and Mishal Hussain
Venue: Slaughter and May, London
- 30 Advent Carol Service
Location: Merton College Chapel
- 30 Merton Winter Ball
Location: Merton College

December

- 1 Advent Carol Service
Location: Merton College Chapel
- 13 Merton Society Carol Service
Venue: St Vedast-alias-Foster, Foster Lane, London EC2V
- 14 Carols by Candlelight
Location: Merton College Chapel
- 18 A Service of Lessons and Carols (Girl Choristers)
Location: Merton College Chapel

2020

January

- 18-25 Warden and Development Director's visit to South East Asia and Japan
- 19 Epiphany Carol Service
Location: Merton College Chapel



February

- 8 **Memorial Meeting for Sir Rex Richards**
Location: Merton College
- tbc **Merton in the City**
Location: London

March

- 20-21 **Oxford Alumni: Meeting Minds in Berlin**
- 21 **Gaudy for the years 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 & 1991**

April

- 1 **Live Broadcast of Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3**
Location: Merton College Chapel
- 3-5 **Passiontide at Merton**
- 17 **Oxford University Inter-Collegiate Golf incl. Dinner at Merton College**
- 17-19 **University North America Reunion**
Location: Cipriani 42nd Street, New York

May

- tbc **Merton Society London Lecture**
Location: TBC
- 10 **Town & Gown 10k**
Location: Oxford & Merton College
- 30 **Merton College Boat Club Dinner**

June

- 27 **1960 Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Lunch**
- 27-28 **Merton Society Weekend**
Location: Merton College, Oxford

September

- 12-20 **Warden and Development Director's visit to Australia**
- 18-20 **Oxford Alumni Weekend: Meeting Minds**
Location: Oxford
- 26 **Gaudy for the years up to and including 1966**



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