



# THE MARTLET

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

ISSUE 5  
SUMMER 2016

## CLINICAL RESEARCH IN THE RED ZONE

DR AMANDA ROJEK (2013, MEDICINE)

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

A UNIV CONVERSATION: SANDY NAIRNE CBE (1971, HISTORY)  
AND CHRISTOPHER NAIRNE (2002, MATHS)

LEONARD DIGGES: UNIV'S FIRST SHAKESPEAREAN

JACOB MORGAN (2012, GEOLOGY) AND THE ICE AGE IN BRAZIL



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A large print version of this  
magazine is available on request.

# FROM THE EDITOR

**W**elcome to the Summer 2016 issue of *The Martlet*, the magazine for  
members of University College Oxford. I would like to express my  
sincere thanks to those Old Members, students, Fellows, staff and  
Friends of the College who contributed to this issue.

Enormous thanks also to **Dr David Bell**, Emeritus Fellow, **Justin Bowyer**, Web and  
Social Media Officer, **Harry Pasek** and **Catriona Bourne**, who provided copy-editing  
support for this issue. I would also like to thank the indomitable **Dr Robin Darwall-  
Smith** for his invaluable assistance in preparing the *In Memoriam* section.

In the following pages you will find the first in a new series of 'Univ Conversations',  
featuring father and son **Sandy Nairne CBE** (1971), former Director of the National  
Portrait Gallery, and **Christopher Nairne** (2002).

DPhil graduate **Dr Mandy Rojek** (2013) shares her experience in the contaminated  
zones during the Ebola and Zika outbreaks and **Dr Philip Mosley** (2001) discusses  
his groundbreaking research into Deep Brain Stimulation for people with Parkinson's  
Disease. We catch up with medical student **Jess Macready** (2012) four years on  
from her cover story in *The Times* and meet Univ's Radcliffe Medical Tutorial Fellow  
in Neuroscience, **Professor Trevor Sharp**. We also meet Univ's new Senior Tutor,  
Old Member **Dr Andrew Bell** (1993), Domestic Bursar, **Angela Unsworth MBE**, and  
Head Chef **Rob Mercer**.

Univ Archivist **Dr Robin Darwall-Smith** (1982) investigates Univ's links to William  
Shakespeare and Emeritus Fellow in Earth Sciences (and former Dean) **Dr David Bell**  
examines the origins of The Sollas society.

You can also catch up on the recent exploits of Univ's clubs and societies and read  
announcements from our community worldwide.

I do hope you will enjoy reading all that the magazine has to offer. If you have news  
or views you would like to share for the next issue, the website or e-newsletter,  
please e-mail me at: [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk)

Kind regards,

Sara Dewsbery  
Communications Officer





## FROM THE MASTER

### 5 Master's Notes



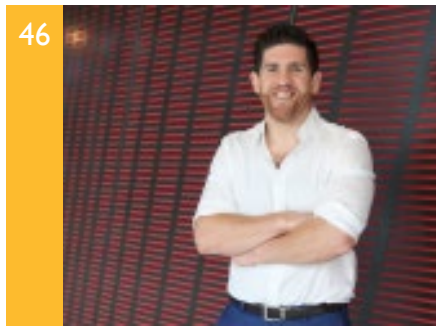
## UNIV NEWS

- 8 Univ Study Days  
Eleanor Chamings
- 44 Development Office News
- 49 Music at Univ  
Oscar Hansen (2015)



## OLD MEMBERS

- 22 A Univ Conversation  
Sandy Nairne CBE (1971) and Christopher Nairne (2002), with Rose Lynch (2014)



- 26 Univ in the Arts
- 34 In Memoriam
- 46 Deep Brain Stimulation for Parkinson's Disease  
Dr Philip Mosley (2001)
- 48 Life According to Saki  
Jessica Lazar (2009)
- 50 Old Member Events
- 52 Announcements
- 57 Upcoming Alumni Events
- 30 Interview with Dr Michael Marett-Crosby (1987)



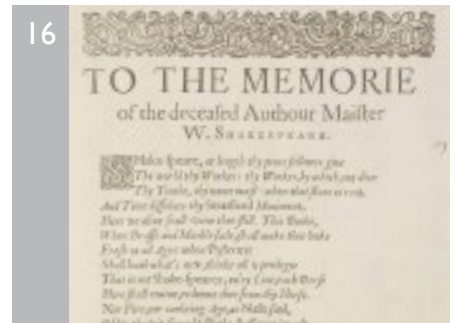
## STUDENTS

- 6 Palaeoclimatic Research in Brazil  
Jacob Morgan (2012)
- 10 Q&A with Jess Macready (2012)
- 12 Clinical Research in the Red Zone  
Dr Amanda Rojek (2013)
- 40 Sports & Societies
- 43 Common Room Notes



## FELLOWS & STAFF

- 15 Fellows' News & Notes
- 18 Meet Univ's New Senior Officers  
Dr Andrew Bell (1993) and Angela Unsworth MBE
- 28 Fellow in Focus  
Professor Trevor Sharp
- 63 A Walk Around Main Quad  
Rob Mercer, Head Chef



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

- 16 Leonard Digges: Univ's First Shakespearean  
Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982)
- 20 Univ and The Sollas  
Dr David Bell
- 58 My Brief Univ History  
Stephen Cockburn (1959)
- 60 Stephen Hawking and the Rugger Eight  
David Filkin (1961)





# MY VIEW OF UNIV

For a post-graduate student doing most of their work in a distant department, Univ is a necessary counterweight that helps maintain a healthy work-life balance. The photos I chose to display here show the relaxed side of Univ: dinners, finishing exams and, of course, nights out.

Alex Dyzenhaus (2013, Politics)



# FROM THE MASTER



I am writing on the first day of the long vacation, when our student ambassadors are about to set off for Staffordshire for a week's tour of schools to encourage applications to Oxford, the Academic Office is preparing for the first of three College open days for hundreds of prospective applicants and their parents, and the Domestic Bursary is anticipating the arrival of 160 participants in the University's 'taster' UNIQ residential summer school for Year 12 students from state non-selective schools. These are just a sample of the University and College initiatives to diversify the demographic profile of applications for undergraduate places in the expectation that a parallel diversity of undergraduate admissions will follow.

These expectations have been disappointed. The University's various access and outreach schemes have made some headway on applications, but less on admissions. Univ has experienced the same. A good part of the explanation is the ever-increasing competition for places, indifference in many schools serving poor communities and inappropriate A-level subjects and inadequate grades for Oxford's degree programmes. Nonetheless, every year the University turns down applicants from markedly disadvantaged backgrounds who go on to achieve an outstanding set of A-level grades, well above Oxford's standard conditional offer of 3 A grades in the humanities and social sciences and one A\* and two As in the sciences. It seems likely that at least some of the disadvantaged applicants rejected at the margin could have flourished in Oxford if offered a place.

The University has grappled with the challenge of widening its intake without lowering academic standards of admission for many years. Univ has recently decided to take a more direct approach. From next year it will earmark up to ten additional undergraduate places each year for applicants of exceptional academic potential but from markedly disadvantaged backgrounds who would have been near misses in the admissions process had the additional places not been available.

Overall a maximum of 35 additional places will be created for all years of Oxford's 3- and 4-year degree schemes followed at Univ. The scheme will operate entirely within the University's admissions process and competitive standards. Candidates taking up these places will have applied to Oxford in the normal way and performed in the aptitude test at the level required for an interview; and they will be offered a place on condition that they meet Oxford's standard conditions for entry. But they will also be asked to attend a four-week intensive bridging course designed to fast-track them in their preparation for an Oxford degree and to equip them with the independent learning and research skills needed to achieve success as an Oxford undergraduate, skills from which many other students already benefit because of their school and family background.

Univ is the first college to offer a scheme of this kind and its progress will be monitored with keen interest by the University, which has given the College positive support. We cannot be sure that we shall fill the 10 additional places each year; but we think we shall. It is certainly worth trying out.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ivor Crewe', written in a cursive style.

Sir Ivor Crewe

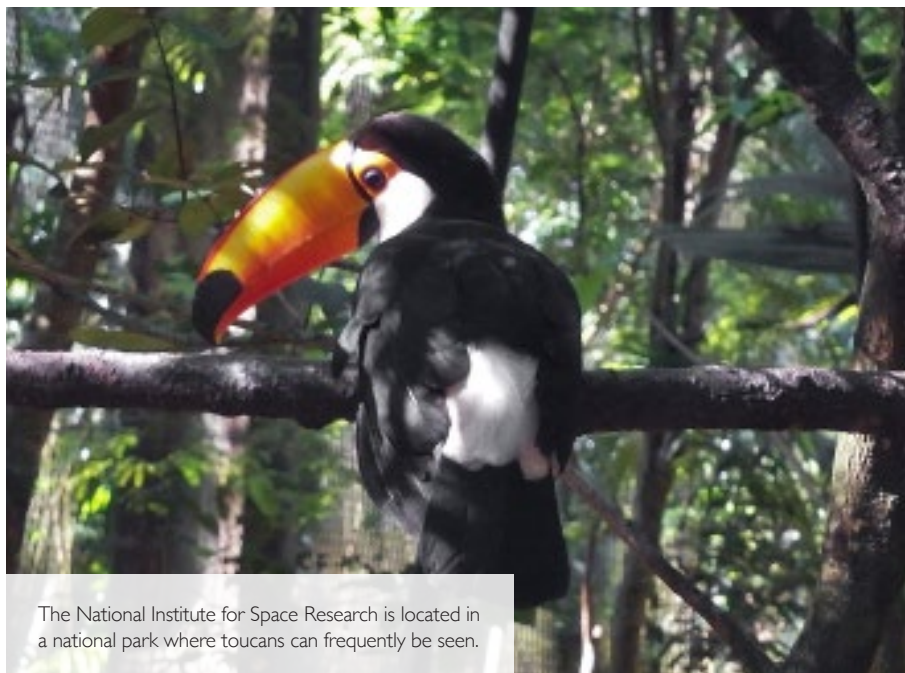




# PALAEOCLIMATIC RESEARCH IN BRAZIL

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue is a large, white, Art Deco-style sculpture of Jesus Christ with outstretched arms, set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The statue's right arm is raised higher than the left. The base of the statue is visible at the bottom of the frame.

**Jacob Morgan** (2012, Geology), recipient of the new Univ Academic Opportunity Fund award for undergraduates, recalls his research experience in Brazil for *The Martlet*. The Academic Opportunity Fund contributes towards the exceptional costs of opportunities that contribute to the quality of a student's research and/or academic performance, including specialist training courses, research work opportunities in laboratories elsewhere, fieldwork, and academically-relevant internships.



The National Institute for Space Research is located in a national park where toucans can frequently be seen.

Last summer, thanks to the financial support of the Univ Academic Opportunity Fund, I was able to pursue an internship with the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) in Brazil. I was based in a small town called Cachoeira Paulista, which is between Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, where I worked alongside top national climate scientists and meteorologists for two months. My work was focussed on analysing temperature and precipitation data over South America for the past 2,000 years in order to understand climate evolution in the region throughout this time. I specifically focussed on two major events – the Medieval Warm Period (c. 950 to 1250) and the Little Ice Age (c. 1300 to 1850).

My investigations involved trying to look for the expression of these events in the temperature and precipitation data of South America from different climate models, and evaluating the usefulness and reliability of the proxies that we have

available for this region. In order to achieve this, I was given access to various resources at the Institute which included learning a new software programme called GrADS, seeing how the supercomputers receive, process, and store the data, and knowledge of how different boundary conditions dictate the model simulations.

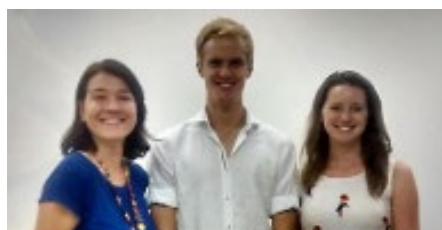
The results of my research showed that the Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age may be expressed in the temperature and precipitation anomalies that are simulated in the climate models, but they appear to occur slightly later in time. The time lag could be explained through teleconnective processes between the hemispheres or could be due

to model inaccuracies. I presented my results and conclusions in a lecture at the end of the internship to all who worked in the Climate Modelling department (CPTEC) at the Institute.

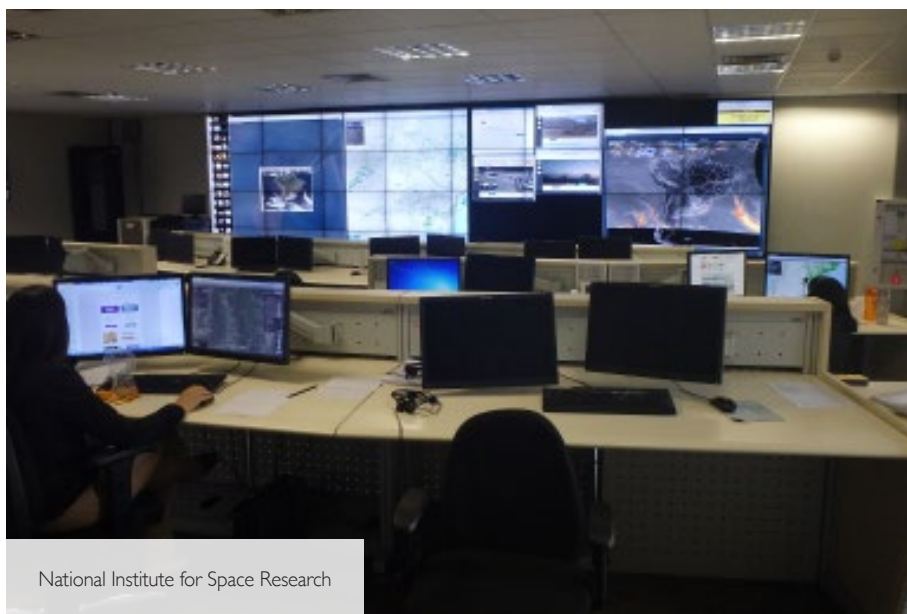
From the internship, I gained useful skills in programming and understanding more about the climate models that I use on a regular basis as part of my degree. The Earth Sciences degree at Oxford focusses on other aspects of palaeoclimatology and the teaching is biased towards the Northern Hemisphere, so to be able to apply and enhance my existing knowledge on palaeoclimatology in another part of the world was highly enjoyable. It is very likely that the work I completed over the summer will be useful for me this year as I undertake my Masters, and in my future studies as I pursue a PhD.

Outside INPE, I really enjoyed my time in Brazil and will take back many happy memories and cultural experiences. I was overwhelmed by how welcoming and friendly the people were, and how enthusiastic they were to show me the things that they enjoy most in their country. I particularly enjoyed visiting the bustling market in Cachoeira Paulista on Friday mornings before work. I look forward to going back again if possible, and have endeavoured to practice my Portuguese as much as possible back in England!

This experience would not have been possible without the support of the Academic Opportunity Fund. Thank you.



(Left to Right) Project supervisor; Jelena; myself; and a fellow intern from St. Edmund Hall, Charlotte Dormon, following the presentation of the results of my research project.



National Institute for Space Research





# UNIV STUDY DAYS



In 2016 Univ launched an exciting new programme of Study Days as part of its recruitment and widening access programme aimed at Year 12 students from all backgrounds and all types of schools. The College welcomed 300 students over five full days across Hilary and Trinity Terms for a taste of subjects they might be considering. *The Martlet* caught up with Eleanor Chamings, Access and Schools Liaison Officer, to find out more.

Each day had a full programme of taster lectures in three or four related subjects, alongside smaller group sessions, which were run by Univ's tutors and postgraduate students. The days were varied, catering for the wide range of subjects available at Univ, from a Cryptography taster on our Mathematical Sciences Day, to a chance for our visitors to discuss their own ideas about historical sources and poems on our Humanities Day. The students had an opportunity to ask questions of tutors and left the College with ideas of how they could further pursue their interests independently once they had returned home. They were

also able to get a sense of the physical environment of an Oxford college as they went on College tours and chatted to undergraduates over lunch.

The events were advertised to teachers and students across the UK and students applied individually to the day they were interested in attending. We then selected talented students to take part, on the basis of their potential to make a competitive application to a top university, considering past academic achievement and supporting teacher's reference. We also carefully took into consideration which students would benefit

most from the enrichment experience. The students attending the days were all incredibly engaged and excited about exploring what Univ had to offer.

The study days presented the perfect opportunity to showcase Univ's teaching staff and aspirational College environment. It was exciting to see so many talented prospective applicants engaging with their subjects and looking forward to university. On the back of what was a very successful programme of events plans are already underway to run a similar programme across a variety of subjects in Spring and Summer 2017.

## HUMANITIES



The first of our new Study Days saw over sixty students come for a taster of Classics, English and History. Dr Catherine Holmes posed ideas about how historians can make a connection between global and local history. Professor Tiffany Stern brought to life the different spaces and performance practices of renaissance theatre in which Shakespeare's plays were enacted, and lastly Classics tutor, Dr Lisa Kallet, explained Athenian democracy. In the afternoon

students were able to break off into smaller groups according to their subject interest for in-depth, group discussions facilitated by tutors and postgraduate students.

'We had a lesson with a postgraduate English student and he was absolutely brilliant! Studying something I'd never seen before and not finding it too daunting was such a relief' (student)



## PHYSICAL SCIENCES



Our Physical Sciences day was packed full of academic content as over seventy students had four taster lectures in the physical sciences. To begin the day Dr Lars Hansen, one of Univ's Earth Science tutors, lectured on whether or not rocks flow using some exciting props! Dr Martin Galpin, a chemistry tutor, then spoke on 'Understanding chemistry in a quantum world', and one of Univ's Junior Research Fellows in Physics, Dr Will Potter, talked about his own research on black holes. Professor Tom Povey finished up the day giving a challenging Engineering lecture on fluid dynamics. For those students who were still undecided on a subject the day provided a particularly useful chance for them to consider their options.

'The subject specific lectures were extremely useful in helping me make my decision about the degree I want to take at university.' (student)

## MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES



The third subject study day gave eighty students interested in Mathematical Sciences a taste of Maths, Engineering and Computer Science. Dr Peter Howell presented a series of discrete maths problems in areas from compound interest to the Fibonacci series. Computer Scientist, Dr Tom Gibson-Robinson, gave a run-down of different types of ciphers and lastly Professor Povey again gave his Engineering lecture on Fluid Dynamics. The highlight of this day was certainly the break-out subject sessions where students were given tricky problems to solve. It was exciting to see the groups enjoying working in teams to get to the bottom of the questions.

'I very much enjoyed listening to the lecturers, they definitely gave me a better understanding of both maths and engineering as a subject when studying at university.' (student)

## PSYCHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY AND LINGUISTICS



A slightly smaller study day at the start of Trinity term offered students a taste of one of Oxford's interesting joint courses: Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. For a day themed around 'Rules in Language', the three tutors, Professor Nick Yeung (Psychology), Professor Bill Child (Philosophy) and Dr Richard Ashdowne (Linguistics) each approached the topic from the perspective of their subject. Follow-up workshops gave students the opportunity to examine one of the PPL subjects in more detail.

'The Year 12 students were a wonderful group to work with; imaginative and enthusiastic; and with a real interest in discussing ideas.'  
**Professor Bill Child**

## MEDICAL SCIENCES



Our final 2016 study day was in the Medical Sciences. Students were given a whistle-stop tour of Univ's medical research as Dr Keith Dorrington spoke on 350 years of Hypoxia research. Univ's Biochemistry tutor, Professor Catherine Pears, gave a stimulating lecture on how cells repair DNA and Dr Catherine Manning, Univ's Scott Junior Research Fellow in Autism, addressed the question of understanding the sensory world of children with Autism. Students then had a choice of break-out

sessions where they could explore the genetics and autism topics in more depth, or engage in a discussion about recreational drugs with Univ's Radcliffe Medical Fellow, Professor Trevor Sharp. This study day was incredibly oversubscribed – something which convinces us that these study days are a valuable addition to the College's recruitment and outreach work.

'The autism breakout session stimulated me to research more into the arguments opposing finding a "cure" for autism.' (student)





# Q&A WITH JESS MACREADY

We first met Univ undergraduate **Jess Macready** (2012, Medicine) when she was interviewed in her first week at Univ by Old Member **Helen Rumbelow** (1991, English) for a lead article in *The Times* 'From State School to Hallowed Hall' (9th October 2012). *The Martlet* caught up with Jess half-way through the first year of her clinical course.

## **What aspect of your medical training have you enjoyed most over the past few years?**

I've really enjoyed the transition to clinical school this year. Actually getting to meet patients and seeing the reality behind the science we've been studying for the past three years has helped remind me why I wanted to do medicine in the first place.

## **How does the style of learning change between pre-clinical and clinical medicine?**

It's so different. Obviously clinical medicine is a lot more hands-on, and I don't miss all the essay writing from pre-clinical. You also have to be a lot more independent with

your learning in clinical school and seek out opportunities to go and see patients and practice clinical skills.

## **What are the advantages of the tutorial system?**

Tutorials have been such an invaluable part of my learning at Oxford that I don't know how students at other universities manage without them. Having an in-depth discussion about a particular topic with your tutor and one or two other students really tests your understanding in a way that sitting in a lecture theatre with a hundred others just can't compare.

## **How daunting is the clinical environment?**

I found it quite daunting at first. I think it's easy to feel like a bit of a spare part as a medical student, particularly on days when all the doctors are fairly stressed and busy. However, this is something you get used to and there are generally a lot of bored, friendly patients who are more than happy to have a chat with you if there are no jobs you can help with or no one is free to teach.

## **What support is available for building your confidence in the areas of examination skills, patient assessment and diagnosis?**

Something that has been really useful this year is the teaching we've had from the students in older years. We started 4th year with weeks of MedEd which involved the 6th year students teaching us examination skills in small groups and introducing us to the hospital environment. This was a really great, non-intimidating way to ease us in to clinical medicine. We've also had help from the 6th years in the second half of this year preparing us for the end of year exam.

## **What pastoral and academic support is available and who provides it?**

Medical students are really lucky in that we get the support provided by College as well as that provided by the medical school and the clinical medical students' society, Osler House. So we have College MCR and Osler House welfare officers, peer supporters, and academic support from both our college tutors and the medical school.

## **What is your specialism or, if that is still to be confirmed, do you have an idea about which field of medicine you will specialise in?**

We haven't yet specialised – this year we've done general medicine and general surgery rotations – and I'm not sure what field of medicine I'd like to go into yet, though I am thinking of medicine rather than surgery. Next year we do rotations trying out a lot of the different specialties so I'm hoping this might help give me a better idea of what I'd like to go into in the future.

## **What has impressed or surprised you the most about your medical classmates?**

Until this year, I'd only seen most of my classmates in an academic setting and couldn't really imagine how we were all going to make the transition to dealing with patients rather than textbooks. I've been pleasantly surprised to find that, as you'd hope from future doctors, we do all seem



to be in possession of people skills as well as academic ability.

**What has been the most challenging moment of your degree so far?**

The first term at Oxford was probably the most challenging. Getting used to the increase in workload while also living away from home and having to make a whole new group of friends meant that my first weeks passed in a sleep-deprived frenzy of excitement. It was probably one of the best times of my life, but it certainly wasn't easy.

**What advice would you give to someone thinking of applying for Medicine at Univ?**

Given the changes being made to junior doctors' contracts at the moment, it's important to be realistic about the amount of hard work that a career in medicine entails. Being sure that medicine is what you want to spend a good proportion of your life doing is definitely the first step. More specifically to applying to Univ, a basic knowledge of physics/mechanics is likely to come in useful for the interview (I didn't do A-level physics but had studied mechanics in maths), as one of our main tutors studied engineering in a past life.

**What would you say to someone thinking of studying medicine at Univ but who is concerned about the costs?**

Although University is expensive wherever you go, none of this is paid up-front, and the advantage of studying medicine is that you do have the promise of a reasonably well paid job once you graduate. As well as this, 5th and 6th year course fees are paid by an NHS bursary which does not have to be paid back. The Univ library is so well-stocked that I've never needed to buy an expensive textbook, and if the library does not have a book you need you can put in a request for it which will often be met by the next day.

**How has your view of Univ (and Oxford) changed since you matriculated in 2012?**

I think starting at Oxford most people have this feeling that they somehow got in by fluke and don't actually deserve to be here. I know that's how I felt, so in that way Oxford was a much scarier place when I first started here. I definitely feel a lot more at home now.

**If you received any scholarships, bursaries or prizes during your time at Univ, what difference did they make to your studies?**

In my first three years I received the Old Members' Trust Bursary from Univ which was amazing in terms of financial support, as it covered a lot of my accommodation costs. All clinical students at Univ who get a 2:1 or a 1st in their Medical Sciences BA in 3rd year also get a scholarship which more than covers the cost of stethoscopes and tendon hammers, for example, for clinical school.

**How did the women's cricket cuppers go?**

I'm not on the women's cricket team but I did play in women's cricket cuppers this year which was great fun. In terms of things I do

outside medicine, I teach English as a second language to an 11-year-old boy from Pakistan as part of the Oxford student charity Jacari. I've been doing this for two years now, and I find it's a really good way to get out of the 'Oxford bubble' for an hour a week. I also find baking and Zumba are great ways to destress.

**Do you make a good patient?**

I've thankfully managed to avoid being a patient very much, but when I am I do find myself wanting to show-off what I know about whatever's wrong, which is probably fairly annoying. 🐼



**Dr Keith Dorrington**, Mary Dunhill Tutorial Fellow in Medicine and Associate Professor of Physiology

Univ continues its long tradition of admitting for the undergraduate course in Medicine, usually four to five freshers each year. Students spend three pre-clinical years occupied with a total of twenty examinations for their 'First BM' and their 'BA in Medical Sciences' before moving on to three years of Clinical School leading to the 'Second BM' exams and the subsequent launch into being 'Foundation-Year' doctors. In recent years Univ has set up a new team of clinical tutors working with our Clinical Fellow **Dr Najib Rahman** (1994, Medicine), Consultant Respiratory Physician; we have encouraged many students, like Jessica, to stay with us for the full six years of medical training, rather than being tempted away by a well-known graduate college sporting a tower-of-the-winds and medicinal garden.

During those pre-clinical years Univ encourages its medics through their many challenges with a team of tutors with diverse interests. Our Radcliffe Fellow, **Prof. Trevor Sharp**, is a neuropharmacologist. Anatomy, now amusingly renamed 'organisation of the body' is instilled by **Mr Roger Gundle** our Fellow orthopaedic surgeon. A quite heavy load on molecules and genes is carried by **Dr Catherine Pears**, **Dr Rhys Evans** and **Dr Peter McHugh**. **Dr Keith Dorrington** tries to tie some of the physiology and pharmacology together and has a reputation for correcting grammar with a red pen. Three Univ Old Member medics from 2003-4 recently obtained their Fellowships of the Royal College of Anaesthetists at the same graduation ceremony; Drs Evans and Dorrington (both also 'FRCA') naturally assume that Jessica will see the way clear!





# CLINICAL RESEARCH IN THE RED ZONE

**Dr Amanda Rojek** (2013, Medicine) is currently reading for a DPhil at Univ. She was the field project manager for the ERGO (Epidemic diseases Research Group Oxford) TKM trial conducted in Sierra Leone during the West Africa Ebola outbreak and has worked in other humanitarian settings. She is a Rhodes Scholar from Queensland, Australia, and has been awarded an Oxford Blue. **Harry Pasek** (2014, History) caught up with her in June 2016.

## What do you work on?

I am a medical doctor and I have an academic interest in the medical response to humanitarian crises. I first came to Oxford, from Australia, to complete a Masters in Global Health in 2013, on a Rhodes scholarship. I subsequently enrolled in a DPhil in Clinical Medicine with the Epidemic

Diseases Research Group. My thesis looks at ways to improve the conduct of patient-centred research during disease outbreaks.

## Why is this an important field?

For a number of reasons – first, in almost all other medical practice, it would be unthinkable to not base treatment decisions

on evidence from the scientific literature. But, because we've been unable to complete trials during outbreaks, in this setting we often have very little to base our decision making on at the bedside. We might make informed guesses from treating similar illnesses, or based on the results of animal studies if they've been done, but there's a risk we're accidentally harming our





patients, or at the very least, not doing much to help them. Given that these illnesses are usually severe, and that affected patients are often already so vulnerable to poor health outcomes, there's a strong ethical argument for doing more to improve patient survival.

Secondly, we know that by collecting information about how and why patients get sick and what their illness trajectory is, we can help control the epidemic better: For example, understanding that the Zika virus can be sexually transmitted, helps public health authorities give sound advice about safe sexual practices to reduce onward transmission.

And finally, I would argue that it makes for good global health security policy. The risk of 'the big one' – a worldwide pandemic akin to the Spanish influenza pandemic – is certainly not negligible, especially in the setting of unprecedented international travel and climate change. Consequently, governments are making significant investments in epidemic preparation and we should be able to help them focus their efforts toward the most feasible and cost effective response strategies.

#### **Why did you decide to go to the Ebola epidemic?**

I think there were a variety of reasons. With my background it was probably inevitable, and certainly not unexpected by those around me that I would like to contribute in some way. Then I was fortunate enough to start a DPhil with a group of brilliant clinicians as they began to mount a clinical trial response to the outbreak. A suitable field-based role surfaced with them that meant I could make a responsible contribution with my skillset and experience.

**"It meant a great deal to all of us that beyond caring for the individual patients, we could be involved in something that might help reduce the extraordinarily high fatality rate"**

#### **What was your role during the Ebola epidemic?**

I had the great privilege of deploying as a doctor and researcher for a clinical trial of an experimental drug that we hoped might improve patient survival. We conducted the trial in an Ebola Treatment Unit in a rural part of Sierra Leone. Given the urgency of the work we had to do, and the environment we were working in, my role as project manager varied greatly from day to day – ranging from arranging drug delivery with the British military contacts on the ground, through to meeting with local chiefs to discuss community perceptions of the trial, navigating family consent for unwell patients, or welcoming and settling in new teams.

One of the most difficult things about the epidemic was how little we could do for patients, and so it meant a great deal to all of us that beyond caring for the individual patients, we could be involved in something that might help reduce the extraordinarily high fatality rate. By no means was my contribution remarkable – there were a great number of people who worked incredibly hard to control the outbreak, especially our colleagues from the most affected countries.

#### **Why was this Ebola outbreak so much larger than ones before?**

It has very little to do with the virus, which we know has not evolved a great deal from previous outbreaks, and a lot more to do with the setting of this outbreak. For the first time, the virus unexpectedly surfaced in West Africa and it affected high density capital cities rather than remote villages. The healthcare systems in this region were already some of the least developed in the world, and as case numbers began to rise and healthcare workers started to become infected and die, the healthcare system came near collapse. It's also a region with a difficult recent past, and so communities were fearful or sceptical of governments or international workers. We also know that some of the traditional ceremonies

practiced in West Africa (including burial ceremonies that emphasise contact with a dead body) contribute to the spread of disease. It's also fair to say that there were political failures in recognising the severity of the outbreak and mounting a sufficient international response.

#### **Were you ever scared about the risks?**

I think all of us would admit to being nervous before going, and I would argue that's probably a healthy response. But once I started work I suspect we were too busy concentrating on the immediate day to day realities of our work, rather than worrying about an unknown possibility. It also helped that I was very comfortable with the systems of safety we had in place to protect each other. This ranged from simple things to a strict policy of not touching anyone (including handshaking) while we were in the country, through to very close supervision when taking on and off personal protective equipment (yellow suits), and a clear plan of action if there was a suspected exposure to the virus.

#### **What are your personal reflections now on the epidemic?**

Foremost, one of admiration for the remarkable doctors, nurses, burial teams, and other healthcare workers of Sierra Leone who worked incredibly hard in onerous working conditions, with great risk to themselves, and with very little compensation – because they believed it was the right thing to do.

And also one of frustration, that we failed patients both as an international community that ignored the suffering of West Africans and allowed the epidemic to spiral out of control, and to some extent as a research community that could not adequately translate the vast number of patients into better treatments and understanding of the disease. We know from patients that have been treated in the US and Europe that it is possible to have more patients survive, and so it feels like patients were dying of indifference more than anything.





DPhil supervision outside the red zone with Oxford Prof. Peter Horby

outbreaks well. This means that we need to focus on creating a research response that is agile enough to adapt quickly when we are faced with an unexpected threat, rather than focussing on a syndrome specific, or location specific approach. If we don't start doing this, we will always be too late.

#### What would you say to prospective students thinking of studying Medicine at Univ?

I am so grateful for the opportunities given to me here to have work that challenges and inspires me and makes me feel that I am contributing in some small way to one of the world's great challenges. Medicine still relies heavily on a culture of apprenticeship learning and Univ is the perfect place to learn from extraordinary physicians that have led interesting and meaningful lives.

#### What did you learn the most about?

We were able to, for perhaps the first time during an epidemic of an emerging disease, reach a statistical conclusion in clinical trials – which has been a significant step forward. Beyond knowing whether the drugs work or not, this means we've also learnt a great deal about how to operationalise research in an outbreak. The regulatory infrastructure around clinical trials is built for testing vaccines and drugs over many years in well-established hospitals in high income settings. The ways in which we've been able to adapt this to conduct rapid research in difficult environments should hopefully translate to faster research in the next outbreak.

#### What do you think the big challenges are in your field?

I think the key challenge is creating a whole systems approach that recognises the value of cross-disciplinary work amongst researchers and increases our collaboration with groups like non-governmental organisations. Many outbreak diseases spill over from animal species, yet we fail to collaborate often enough, for example, with veterinarians or others who can help us understand why and when the disease happens. Likewise, research organisations and humanitarian providers are used to working in their own silos, despite our identical motivations and intent to relieve patient suffering. I think we're also at risk of failing to continue momentum through inter-epidemic periods. While reflection

**“Univ is the perfect place to learn from extraordinary physicians that have led interesting and meaningful lives”**

on the Ebola epidemic is important, it's critical that the lessons learned are enacted into improved infrastructure for the next epidemic.

#### What is the next big epidemic?

The only certainty is that if I guessed, I would be wrong. The present Zika outbreak has demonstrated how difficult it is to predict

#### What are you enjoying most about life at Univ?

The collegiate environment. I've met some lifelong friends here that teach me about worlds very different to my own, challenge my beliefs, and improve my knowledge of British pub culture. I also love the diversity of things to be involved in, from rowing to Sunday evening hang outs in the WCR. 🍷



Team entry into the red zone



# FELLOWS' NEWS & NOTES



College Lecturer in Modern Languages, **Dr Michaël Abecassis's** publication *French Cinema in Close-up: La Vie D'Un Acteur Pour Moi* was selected by the prestigious *Library Journal* in New York as one of their best reference titles of 2015.

Emeritus Fellow in Earth Sciences, **Dr David Bell** narrated recently converted 8mm film footage from the 1966 British East Greenland Geological Expedition, of which he was a member, at the 2016 Earth Sciences Alumni Dinner:



Univ Archivist and Old Member **Dr Robin Darwall-Smith** (1982, Classics) has a new book in print, *Early Records of University College, Oxford*. Published by the Oxford Historical Society the book brings together the great majority of pre-1550 documents, other than its account rolls, from the College's archives, providing a sourcebook for its early history.

Supernumerary Fellow **Prof. Daniel Freeman's** innovative study into the use of virtual reality in helping to treat severe paranoia was published in *the British Journal of Psychiatry* recently.



Supernumerary Fellow **Dr Stephen Golding** has been elected Chairman of the Chalet Trust after Harvey McGregor QC died last year. This is the first time the chair has been held by Univ since Tony Firth in 1988 and Sir Jeremy Lever in 1991.

Supernumerary Fellow and Associate Professor in Public Policy (Global Economic Governance) in the Blavatnik School of Government **Dr Emily Jones**, was one of the speakers at the OXII Global Infrastructure Conference 2016.

Supernumerary Fellow in Earth Sciences **Prof. Tamsin Mather** contributed an article, 'Volcanoes on Earth, in our Solar System and Beyond', to *George & the Blue Moon* – the new book by **Lucy Hawking** (1989, Modern Languages) and her father **Prof. Stephen Hawking** (1959, Physics), Univ Honorary Fellow.



Univ Honorary Fellow **The Right Hon the Lord Mance, PC** (1961, Law) was awarded a Doctor of Civil Law *honoris causa* at Encaenia, the University's annual honorary degree ceremony, on 22nd June 2016.

Univ Tutorial Fellow in Law **Jacob Rowbottom** contributed an article on US and UK corruption in politics to *The Washington Post* recently.

Highlights of this year's Oxfordshire Science Festival included a 'neurococktail bar' – a mixology masterclass-cum-science lesson at St Aldate's Tavern with Neuroscientist **Dr Elizabeth Tunbridge**, Univ Special Supernumerary Fellow, exploring the effects of alcohol on the brain.



Univ's Director of Music **Giles Underwood** has been appointed Professor of Singing at The Royal Academy of Music, starting in September 2016. He will join a faculty of only 22 singing professors, and have responsibility for training the next generation of operatic and concert singers, predominantly baritones and basses. He will continue to teach at Univ.

Univ Domestic Bursar and Fellow **Angela Unsworth MBE** was interviewed recently for an arts project organised by Oxford University Museums in partnership with Crisis, the Homeless Charity. The project is inspired by J.M.W. Turner's iconic painting *The High Street* (1810).



Univ Stipendiary Lecturer in Old and Middle English Literature, **Dr Laura Varnam**, was one of the speakers at Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature.

## FORMER FELLOWS

**Prof. Paul Cartledge** (Harold Salvesen Junior Fellow, 1970-72) published *Democracy: A Life* (Oxford University Press, March 24, 2016), an account of the origins and development of democracy in the ancient world.



# LEONARD DIGGES: UNIV'S FIRST SHAKESPEAREAN

As the world marks the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, I have to make an apology: not one of the people who are supposed to have written Shakespeare came to Univ. However, we do not need such dubious sources to find a Univ link to Britain's greatest writer, because one of

the first people to recognise Shakespeare's genius belonged to this College.

His name was Leonard Digges (1588–1635). He is not a well known figure, but he has earned an honourable place in the history of the study and appreciation of

Shakespeare and he is worth getting to know in his own right.

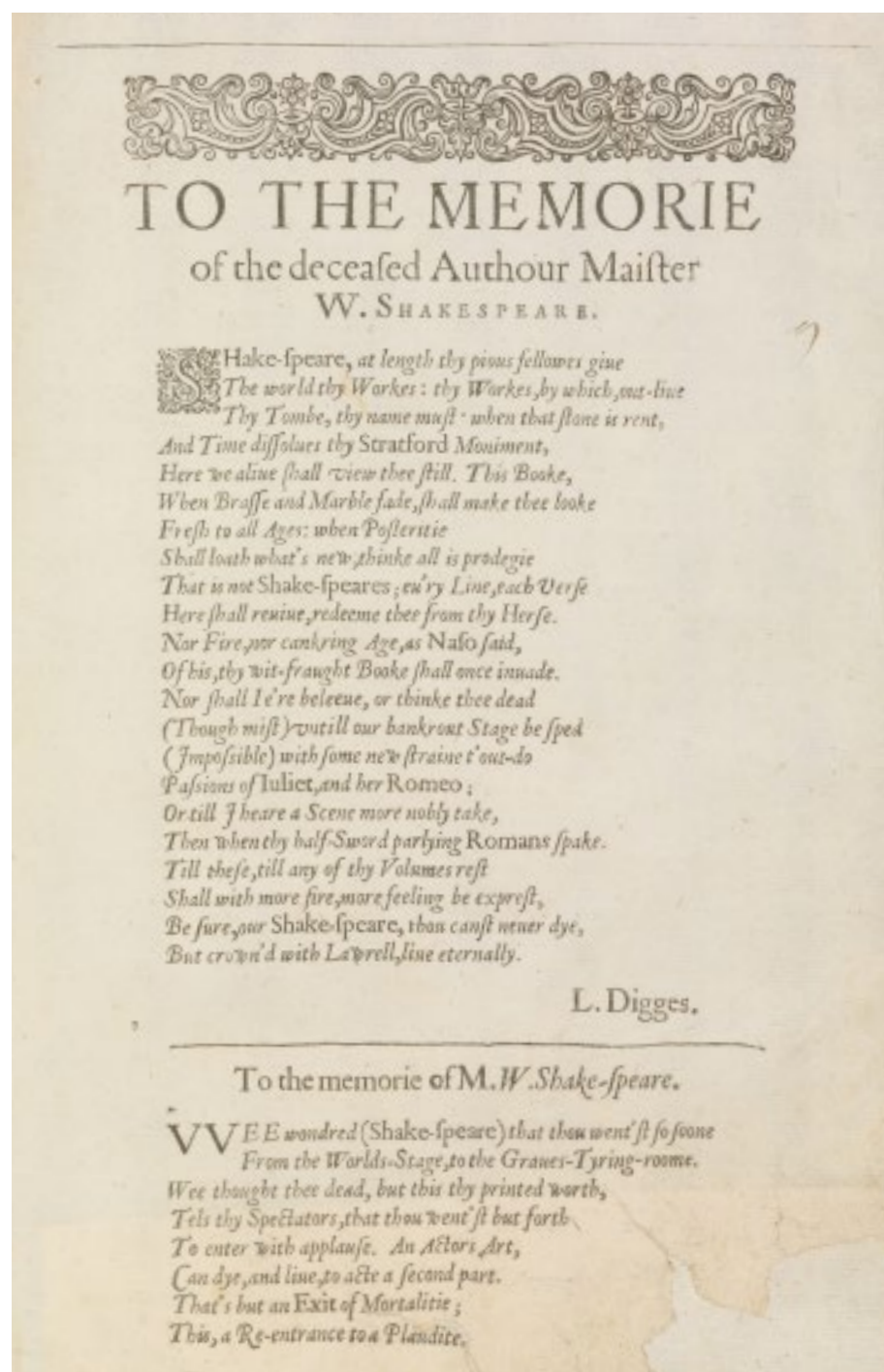
Leonard Digges belonged to a remarkable family from Kent. His grandfather, another Leonard (c. 1515–c. 1559), was a skilled mathematician who pioneered the use of the theodolite in England, and his father Thomas (c. 1546–1595) likewise took an interest in mathematics, and became the first English author to express support for the theory of Nicholas Copernicus that the earth went around the sun. Thomas also entered politics, serving as an MP and joining an English expeditionary force in the Netherlands in the 1580s.

Neither Leonard the elder nor Thomas are known to have come up to Oxford, but Thomas's sons Dudley and Leonard came up to Univ in 1600 and 1603 respectively, and then Dudley sent his own sons Thomas and Dudley to Univ in 1626 and 1630.

Univ was a small College in 1600: an average of ten freshmen a year came up at this time, and the whole College fitted into a single medieval quadrangle, only two-thirds the size of the Main Quad. Our Master was George Abbot. Soon after Leonard Digges came up, a project was initiated to create a new official translation of the Bible – what we know as the Authorised Version. The text of the Bible was divided up amongst several committees, and Abbot joined the committee which tackled the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Book of Revelation.

Abbot has a reputation for austerity: when Vice-Chancellor in 1605, he committed 140 undergraduates to prison for keeping their hats on in the presence of James I. Yet he could unwind among the undergraduates of his College. In particular, Abbot was very fond of Dudley Digges. In 1627 he wrote touchingly of him: 'he calleth me Father and I term his Wife my Daughter; his eldest Son is my God-Son and their Children are, in love, accounted my Grandchildren.'

Dudley had a lively career as a politician, diplomat, and lawyer. A supporter of both





the Virginia Company and the East India Company, he served as an MP, and was sent by James I on missions to the Netherlands and Russia. He occasionally fell out with authority, and once was briefly imprisoned for abusing the Duke of Buckingham in Parliament. He became Master of the Rolls in 1636.

Leonard chose the life of a man of letters. In his memoir of Digges in his biographical dictionary *Athenae Oxonienses*, the antiquarian Antony Wood wrote that, on taking his BA in 1606, he 'retired to the great city [i.e. London] ... [and] afterwards travelled into several countries, and became an accomplish'd person.' We do not know his movements exactly, but he certainly visited Spain.

His publications show his linguistic skills: in 1617 he published a translation of *The Rape of Proserpine*, a poem by the fifth-century writer Claudian, and in 1622 he published *Gerardo the Unfortunate Spaniard*, a translation of a novel by the Spaniard Gonzalo de Cespedes y Meneses. However, most of his appearances in print were as an occasional poet, producing short laudatory poems which prefaced other people's books.

Eventually Digges decided on a change of scene. On 20 November 1626 he took his MA degree, but in a rather unusual way. In the seventeenth century, one had to perform various academic exercises in order to be awarded one, but Antony Wood suggests that Digges almost received an honorary degree: 'Some years after his return [Digges] retired to his coll. again, and upon his supplication made to the venerable convocation, he was, in consideration that he had spent many years in good letters in transmarine universities, actually created M. of A. in 1626.'

Digges then rented rooms in Univ. It is easy to imagine this cosmopolitan figure making an impression in College. Wood writes: 'He was esteemed by those that knew him in Univ. coll. a great master of the English language, a perfect understander of the French and Spanish, a good poet and no mean orator'. One of Wood's friends was Obadiah Walker, our notorious Roman Catholic Master, who first came to Univ in 1631. Walker will have had every opportunity to see Digges, so that Wood's account probably owes something to Walker's memories.

Digges was generous to his old College. He gave us some silver plate (lost, like all our

plate, during the Civil War), but also books to the Library – all of which, fortunately, we still possess. They include a copy of the two-volume Atlas of Gerard Marcator; a two-volume edition of Froissart's *Chronicles*, a Latin translation of the works of Plato, and Sir Thomas North's translations of *The Lives of Plutarch*. All are luxurious tomes, too expensive for the average Fellow, and so welcome additions to our Library.

On 7 April 1635 Leonard Digges died at Univ, just as work was starting on the western range of a new quadrangle (now Staircases I–III). He was buried in what Wood quaintly called 'that little old chappel of Univ. coll.' If he did leave a will, it has not survived.

Such, then, is the life of Leonard Digges. He was evidently an interesting man, but why should we pay attention to him now?

We need to return to the early 1610s. Digges was then travelling in Spain with James Mabbe, another literary man with an interest in Spanish literature. While there, they sent a friend called William Baker a book of poems by the playwright Lope de Vega. This book now resides in the Library of Balliol College. On its flyleaf Leonard Digges scribbled a message saying that he thought it a book 'which with Spaniards here is accounted of their Lope de Vega as in England wee sholde of our Will. Shakespeare'.

Even in the early 1610s, therefore, Leonard Digges declared himself an admirer of William Shakespeare, if only in private. A few years later he could express his admiration in public. As said above, Digges regularly wrote commendatory poems for books. With that in mind, one turns to the First Folio of Shakespeare's works from 1623, for once concentrating on the introductory section. After the famous engraving of Shakespeare, with a little poem by Ben Jonson on the opposite page, there follow a couple of dedicatory letters by John Heminge and Henry Cordell, a second poem by Ben Jonson, a poem by Hugh Holland, and finally two other poems written in Shakespeare's memory. The first of them is by L. Digges. This is our Leonard Digges.

We have reproduced the page with Digges's poem to be read as its first readers saw it. Right at the start of Shakespeare's posthumous journey into fame, Univ's Leonard Digges was there at the forefront

of his admirers. Digges wrote another, longer, poem in praise of Shakespeare which appeared posthumously in 1640, in an edition of Shakespeare's poems. In this extract Digges recalls how Shakespeare's plays enthralled early audiences, whilst mocking Ben Jonson's duller plays *Catiline* and *Sejanus*:

So have I seene, when Cesar  
would appeare,  
And on the Stage at halfe-sword  
parley were,  
*Brutus* and *Cassius*: oh how the  
Audience,  
Were ravish'd, with what wonder  
they went thence,  
When some new day they would  
not brooke a line,  
Of tedious (though well laboured)  
*Catiline*;  
*Sejanus* too was irkesome, they  
priz'de more  
Honest *Iago*, or the jealous Moore.

But did Digges actually know Shakespeare personally? Sadly, there is no evidence to show he did. However, his stepfather Thomas Russell was one of the overseers of Shakespeare's will, and Digges lived in London during Shakespeare's lifetime, so that he had every opportunity to attend performances of Shakespeare's plays and to meet their author. We shall never know, but I would be surprised if a keen admirer of Shakespeare's works did not try to get to know the man himself.

I end with a tantalising fantasy. When Leonard Digges moved to Univ, he must have brought his library with him. It is reasonable to assume that his library included a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio. In which case, one can but dream that, for a few years, there was a First Folio at Univ, living in Leonard Digges's rooms. But we should not be surprised that Digges chose not to give it to the College. Our Library was a place for books on classics, theology, and history, and Digges's presents to it reflect that. We can be certain that the works of modern playwrights would not have been deemed, either by Digges or the Fellows, appropriate for such a place. And so, even if Digges had his own copy of the First Folio, it would have been dispersed with all the rest of his books on his death. One can only regret that our Library's acquisitions policy in 1635 was not a little more generous. 🐦

**Dr Robin Darwall-Smith** (1982, Classics),  
College Archivist



# DR ANDREW BELL, SENIOR TUTOR

Univ Old Member Dr Andrew Bell (1993, History) joined Univ as Senior Tutor in October 2015. He was previously Admissions Tutor at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.



I'm delighted to come back to my old college as Senior Tutor, but I'm keen to make the point that I'm not here on a nostalgia trip. I'm here because I care very much about the world of education, both in terms of teaching and research, and I want to make sure that it's done at as high a standard as it possibly can be.

In the short time since I've returned to Univ I've been hugely impressed, and I mean that very sincerely, by the professionalism and the ambition of those in leadership roles here, but also at the wider community of academic fellows in the College. We've seen big building projects, we've seen projects to do with the acquisition of land for the future benefit of students and fellows to come, and we've seen huge input into graduate scholarships, but there's still a lot of work to do. I think it's time that we thought quite carefully again about tutorial teaching, about undergraduate support in the academic sense as well as financially, and about what it is that we can do to make sure that the students whom we admit are the most promising in the university, and that their performance after they've been admitted is as excellent as it should be.

Univ has a longstanding tradition of working with schools to encourage competitive applications from a very wide range of backgrounds. The thrust hitherto has

perhaps been to ensure that we have as many well-prepared applicants as possible. If there's a shift that we're looking to bring about at the moment, it's that we really want to focus our advice, not so much on the practicalities of application, but actually on how you go about being a good academic student. What does it mean to be a really ambitious, thoughtful, effective mathematician, or a really wide-ranging and intellectually curious historian? We've got so much expertise here, both in terms of our tutors and of course in terms of our students, that we have got an awful lot that we can offer to teachers, to school students and perhaps also to parents.

I'd also be delighted if we were in a position to expand and support appropriately the teaching foundation of the College. Tutorial teaching is the absolute heart of the Oxford undergraduate education, and there's no doubt that the pressures on tutorial teaching are greater than they ever have been before. The demands of modern academic life on tutorial fellows are much more diverse, and frankly much heavier, than they were even when I was an undergraduate student, twenty-something years ago. If we're going to continue to offer what we want to offer in the way that we want to offer it, we need to find a way of increasing our capacity, and I think that the responsibility for this will fall increasingly on colleges rather than on the university.

The great thing about Univ is that it really is a community across subject groups, across year groups and across undergraduates, graduates and academic fellows. People have, whatever their background, a shared sense of ambition and purpose. Within that, there's a wide range of diversity of interests, of academic enthusiasms, of extra-curricular commitments. I'd be delighted if, in my time as Senior Tutor, Univ could come to be known as the fairest, most open, most inclusive and most supportive college in the University of Oxford. One might think of support for family life, among particularly younger academic fellows, but also graduate students. One might think in terms of appropriate career development opportunities for early career researchers. One might think in terms of mentoring for graduate students. One might think in terms of the academic success and the career potential of undergraduate students. It requires thought and it requires care, but I know, from speaking to colleagues and students here, that this is something of a shared ambition. 🐦



# ANGELA UNSWORTH MBE, DOMESTIC BURSAR

Angela Unsworth MBE, joined Univ as Domestic Bursar in August 2015. Previously Squadron Leader in the Royal Air Force, she was awarded an MBE in 2014 for her commitment to improving the services and support to all personnel and their families at RAF Linton-on-Ouse.



What attracted me to University College was exactly what attracted me to the Royal Air Force 20 years ago. University College is a large, world-class, elite organisation, as is the RAF. The last role I held within the RAF was very similar to the Domestic Bursar's role here involving the development of stylish, high quality facilities and services worthy of the people they serve.

My role is the Head of the Domestic Bursary. The DB looks after the College's domestic and private accommodation, teaching rooms, Fellows' accommodation, Hall and student bar, IT, the gardens and grounds. We strive every day to create a home away from home for all of our students by creating an environment that is conducive to study and supportive of the efforts our students and Fellows put in every day. Our reason for being is to support the College in achieving its academic ambitions.

Coming to Univ is a big thing for young people, leaving family and friends to set out on a new adventure. It is a time for new friends and ambitions. Academically they will want to excel. We must support them in both of those things by providing the social spaces and environment in which they can thrive. In happiness and sadness our students can and do turn to our wonderful scouts, Hall and Buttery staff and Lodge porters; they are pivotal to students feeling safe and secure and I'm immensely proud of them.

I manage most of the staff of the College within the Domestic Bursary, some of whose families have been part of the Univ family for generations. Simon Cotterill in the SCR was a boy entrant to Univ; he's been here for 40 years and is the stalwart of the SCR, long may he remain so. Some of the scouts have been here equally 30 or 40 years and their parents before them. My predecessor Elizabeth Crawford was here for almost 30 years. Change comes slowly here!

So, enter Unsworth, a new face, and a rather different view of things. I am very keen on a collaborative approach. The drive that is coming from my team – from the Head Chef, the Head Porter, the Head of Hospitality and all the others is fantastic; they are committed to providing an ever improving service to our students and fellows. At Univ we speak often about how to encourage the best people to apply to Univ, and how to encourage the best academics. The Domestic Bursary's part in that is providing premier services and facilities and encouraging our staff to be equally outstanding. My staff are energetic, enthusiastic, warm and welcoming and they are up for a challenge – I can't think of a nicer place to be. It's a true privilege to be here with these people.

We have recently taken back 10 Merton Street from the Blavatnik School of Government. We have moved our administrative functions out of the quads

to Number 12 to provide a truly Oxford living experience for our undergraduates. We are refurbishing a new library space in Number 10, with more group working areas, a lecture theatre that also offers us another space for music and functions and are keen to establish a display archive space for some of Univ's hidden treasures. There's lots more to do and we are determined to meet the College's needs. Watch this space.

We recently expanded our residential annexe at Staverton Road with the acquisition of a two-acre site called Fairfield directly adjacent to it. We have already acquired planning permission on that site to create new accommodation for 30 graduate students. We have further aspirations for the site that will bring more educational possibilities as well as communal services. We are in the early stages, but this will offer an historic opportunity for the College.

Access is something that we are incredibly keen on – be that for students or for the wider community. We are looking to open our doors and welcome more people through them, and show them something about the way that we live and work. This year we opened our doors to Oxford Rooms, where the public can stay in an Oxford College and take in the experience. I envisaged much when I joined the team at Univ, but I don't think I envisaged being a B&B landlord! 🐦



Geology has, appropriately, a long history at Univ. Robert Plot, the University's first Professor of Chemistry and first Keeper of the Ashmolean, described his and others' collections of rocks, minerals and fossils in *The Natural History of Oxford-shire* in 1677 (the year after he moved to the College), including the first known illustration of a dinosaur femur. Having first speculated that it might be from a Roman war elephant, he eventually concluded that it was a bone of a human giant.

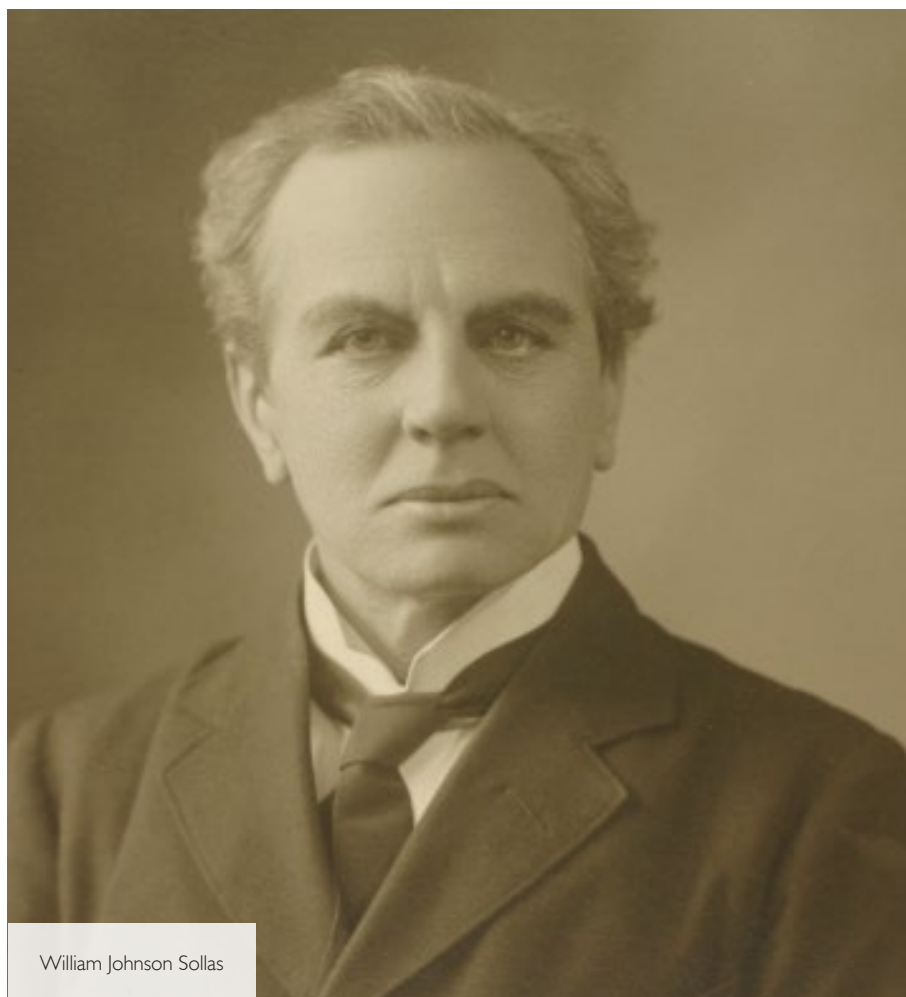
Geology as an official subject for teaching and research became established as a result of the appointment to a Readership in 1819 of the learned and eccentric William Buckland, another Keeper of the Ashmolean and also Dean of Westminster. It was Buckland who gave the first full description of a giant fossil reptile found at Stonesfield of the kind that could have provided Plot's specimen. He named it *Megalosaurus*. A further link between Plot, Buckland and Univ is described below.

The Old Ashmolean (now the Museum of the History of Science), and the Clarendon Building were used by Buckland and his successor John Phillips for teaching and the housing of geological collections. The subject was included in the Honour School of Natural Science established in 1850. However, the tangible evidence for the emergence of a Department of Geology is the opening of the University Museum in Parks Road in 1860 with Phillips as its first Keeper (concurrently and, inevitably, Keeper of the Ashmolean) and where bones of *Megalosaurus* now rest.

Two more Professors of Geology, Joseph Prestwich and Alexander Green, followed Phillips and in 1897 William Johnson Sollas was elected to the Chair. Although already a Fellow of the Royal Society with over 100 publications to his name across virtually the whole field of Geology from fossil sponges to the age of the Earth and the evolution of Man, Sollas did not become a Fellow of Univ until 1901. By statute the Chair of Geology now entails a Professorial Fellowship of the College.

We may now pick up the link between Buckland and Sollas referred to above. In 1823 Buckland discovered an almost complete human skeleton stained with red ochre and accompanied with seashell necklaces and jewellery carved from mammoth tusk, in Goat's Hole Cave at Paviland on the Gower Peninsula in Wales.

# UNIV AND THE SOLLAS



William Johnson Sollas

From the jewellery and presumed cosmetic reddening, Buckland assumed the skeleton to be that of a young woman, probably a camp follower of some Roman military unit. There is some logic in this. For Buckland, a Creationist, human remains could not predate the Flood and Romans were the oldest inhabitants of Britain for whom there was documentary evidence. The Red Lady of Paviland became part of legend.

Sollas visited the site in 1912 and re-examined the associated fossil evidence in the light of discoveries elsewhere in Europe. He decided the skeleton was that of a Palaeolithic (Cro-Magnon) male buried with funerary rites and grave goods. The latest radiocarbon dating suggests the quondam Lady is now 29000 years old so Sollas was not far out.



Sollas's research interest in hominid evolution led tortuously to the insinuation by some that he was associated with the notorious Piltdown Man forgery. He was not the only one: Teilhard de Chardin and Arthur Conan Doyle also figured among the suspects. It was argued that Sollas had enough knowledge of hominid remains and that some of the skull had been artificially aged which he could have done with potassium dichromate.



QED? More likely, given the serious scientific character of the man, false; or at least non proven since Sollas was a photographer and could have had the reagent in his darkroom.

Linking eccentricity with scientific erudition is a well-worn construct and Sollas anecdotes are numerous. In the Great War he served as a Private in the First Battalion Oxford Volunteer Regiment and practised his marksmanship with a small bore rifle in the University Museum, firing at a target on a bookcase. One stray round is said to have penetrated the spine of a copy of Chamberlin and Salisbury's Textbook of Geology. He could forget where he lived in North Oxford and attribute a cut on his face to having been bitten by a salmon while swimming across the Bristol Channel. He did, in fact, love swimming, especially in the long since abandoned Parsons' Pleasure nude bathing section on the Cherwell, and on occasion in the nearby Dames' Delight. He did have a mischievous sense of humour. The story goes that it was once the custom of the College Governing Body to sit in conclave in the Chapel when making its final decision on who should be elected the next Master from among the Fellows. The chosen one would then be the first to leave the Chapel and appear in the Main Quad. On one occasion Sollas, though not selected, contrived to slip out first, to the consternation of all, both inside and outside.

Are these and all the others eccentricities? How many are apocryphal, how many simply forgetfulness?

He did not forget the College. On his death, still in post, on 20th October 1936, he left his estate to Univ, the residue to be made over after the decease of his two maiden daughters, Hertha Beatrice Coryn and Igerna Brunhild Johnson with the condition that a Tutorial Fellowship in Geology would be created. The College had to wait a further 30 years before coming into its inheritance which by then comprised the rather dilapidated 104 Banbury Road house and a small amount of cash. But Univ was true to its word and the Sollas Fellowship was created in 1971.

Ten years later it seemed a good idea for the geological community in the College to follow Oxford custom and form its own confrérie for which what better name could there be than The Sollas? A Constitution was devised by two undergraduates, Jon Blundy\*

and Chris Elders\*\* (1980) in consultation with the Sollas Fellow\*\*\*. Patron of The Sollas would be the Professor of Geology ex officio and a President would be elected each year from among Second Year undergraduates. There would be three formal gatherings each year: a welcome party for new geologists of the College at the beginning of Michaelmas Term, a Sollas Dinner in the College in Week 5 of Hilary Term and an excursion to a site of no geological interest whatsoever in Trinity Term. The formal purpose of The Sollas was to commemorate the name and achievements of the eponymous Professor. At the annual dinner, the President would give his/her Presidential Address and name his/her successor who would also speak. Anyone else there present could then address the company and describe what he/she had done in the preceding year to commemorate the name of Professor Sollas. Finally, The Sollas is distinguished by its ban on the wearing of dinner jackets and its extension of membership to geology undergraduates of Keble, Queen's, Oriel and Corpus.

If the number of guests at the Sollas Dinner in Hilary this year is anything to go by, The Sollas is very much alive and active. Normally the Dinner is held in the Alington Room but with over 70 signed up the Hall had to be used. The Dinner has had its incidents over the years. On one occasion, the Junior Dean, geology DPhil student Jack Russell (1985) had to deploy all his 100kg weight to break down the door of the lavatory to extract an unconscious over-inebriated guest (from another College). On another occasion a silver salt cellar was purloined but later recovered. The Dean, who was also Sollas Fellow and present, decided he had been delinquent in his duties and duly fined himself. In the following year, the Dinner was held in Queen's. Cakes in the form of erupting volcanoes and perisphinctid ammonites have been served after dessert. A proposal that the President should deliver the presidential address clothed only in a sponge (commemorating one of Professor Sollas's research interests) was, after some thought, rejected.

In writing this account I have been greatly helped by the College Librarian, Elizabeth Adams and reference to *Geology and Mineralogy at Oxford 1860-1986* – the history of the Department by EA Vincent, formerly Professor of Geology. 🐦

**Dr David Bell, Emeritus Fellow**



## DR LARS HANSEN, SOLLAS FELLOW

It is a pleasure to see Dr Bell's account of the history of Geology at Univ and the founding of The Sollas. I should note that history is still being made for Earth Science at Univ by the five fellows in the subject. **Prof. Gideon Henderson** was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, **Prof. Tamsin Mather** is this year's Mineralogical Society Distinguished Lecturer, and **Prof. Philip England** received the Gold Medal for Geophysics from the Royal Astronomical Society. We've also welcomed **Dr Paula Koelemeijer**, who is the first JRF in Earth Science in over a decade.

I am deeply honoured to be the current Sollas Fellow and humbled by the many respectable geologists who have coloured Univ's history. There have been two Sollas Fellows before me, **Dr Bell** and Prof. Henderson. At my first Sollas Dinner, Dr Bell was pleased to announce that it was the first time three Sollas Fellows had been in one room, and he also stressed that Prof. Henderson was now outnumbered, being the only one lacking a beard (notably still the case).

The Sollas is marked by its mix of excellent science with formidable camaraderie. As Dr Bell mentioned, the size of recent Sollas Dinners underscores the degree to which Univ geologists are bound by common interests and experiences (shenanigans after the dinners being especially binding). To further enhance that bond, and partly inspired by Dr Bell's account, I aim to reinstate an annual field trip for Univ Earth Science students in the coming years, although I can't help but break from tradition and visit a place with some pretty rocks.

\*Professor JD Blundy FRS, Professor of Petrology, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol  
 \*\*Professor CR Elders, Professor of Petroleum Geology, Department of Applied Geology, Curtin University, Australia  
 \*\*\*Emeritus Fellow Dr David Bell, Univ's former Sollas Fellow in Geology (1970-2000) and Dean of Degrees (2011 -2015)



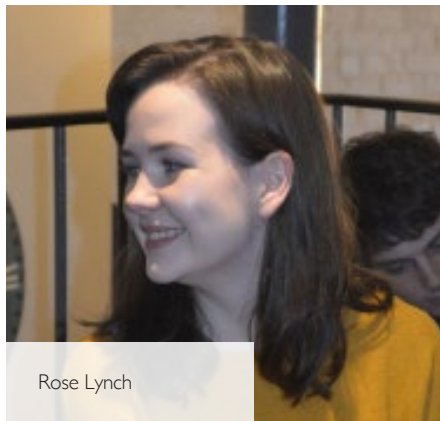




# A UNIV CONVERSATION

**Rose Lynch** (2014, Law) interviewed father and son **Sandy Nairne CBE** (1971, History), former Director of the National Portrait Gallery and **Christopher 'Kit' Nairne** (2002, Maths), theatrical lighting designer, for *The Martlet*.





Rose Lynch

### Why did you both choose to come to Univ?

**Kit:** I remember looking through the prospectus for all of the colleges. I had long before decided that I wanted to come to Oxford, partly because of the prestige of the university and partly because we have been visiting the city all my life because we have family connections in the area. However, I wasn't sure which college to apply to. Obviously I knew that Sandy had been to Univ, so I knew more about it than the others but I was keen for that not to be the reason I chose a college. I visited several of them at Open Day and Univ was the friendliest, most interesting and welcoming of them.

**Sandy:** For me, it was similar things to Kit. It was also thinking about the fact that I wanted to read History and Economics, which was a new course and I'm not sure all colleges were offering it – but Univ was.

### What was your first day like?

**Sandy:** I met up with friends from school who had also come to Oxford, including my close friend Andrew Motion, who came up to Univ at the same time. I think we missed an induction and only found out afterwards that we did the wrong thing.

**Kit:** By the time I came up, Univ had quite a slick Welcome Week schedule. I do remember going into my little room on Rad Quad for the first time and Sandy giving me a picture he had drawn on his 20th birthday – an ink sketch of the arch entrance into Radcliffe Quad from his second year room. I had never known it existed before and he gave it to me as a 'welcome to Univ' present on my first day.

### Of your whole time at Univ, what would be your fondest memory?

**Sandy:** It's impossible to think of one thing! I spent a lot of time doing things outside Univ, but the College was a very good base. In my

third year, I was more involved in College right at the end and rowed with the Univ Eight. It was a way of being disciplined during my Finals. It was a very Univ thing – they were a very nice bunch in Univ Eight that year.

**Kit:** I'm the same; most of my Oxford memories are of theatre around Oxford, including Univ Garden Plays. Most of my College memories are arbitrary – a random montage of the evenings I spent there with friends. I still see a lot of them today and always think of them as my Univ friends. One thing which springs to mind is taking our JCR photo. We had a punt on the river at the Univ boathouse and one afternoon, we punted it up the High Street to be in the JCR photo in Radcliffe Quad. We put it on wheels and wheeled it through traffic. By sheer coincidence, years ago one of our punting poles had snapped and I still had the top half, so I could pose in the boat with that in the grass with the whole year group around it.

**"BY THE THIRD YEAR, WE WERE HAVING ECONOMICS TUTORIALS BY CANDLELIGHT BECAUSE OF THE THREE DAY WEEK. IT FELT INCREDIBLY POIGNANT AND IRONIC TO HAVE POLITICS AND ECONOMICS BREAKING DOWN"**

### Do you think your time at Univ still influences you in your work today?

**Sandy:** for me, Oxford gave me the incredible opportunity – which I never thought it would, it was never planned – of getting involved in the Arts. At the end of my first year, I went to the Edinburgh Festival to do student work. In my second year I ran a students' arts centre. In my third year I got involved with what was then the Museum of Modern Art in Pembroke Street, now Modern Art Oxford, which led to my first job. I can't think of anything other than the fact that at Oxford I got involved in the area in which I've worked all my life.

**Kit:** It's exactly the same for me. I'd never had any serious involvement in theatre until I got to Oxford. I helped taking tickets at school plays and that was it. I picked it up at university as a hobby and ended up doing 67 shows in four years at Oxford. I also had a brief dalliance with being a Maths teacher for three years, which I very much enjoyed. It was a job I only became aware of through Univ and Prof. Michael Collins. The school that I ended up teaching at were enquiring after prospective graduates. So both parts of my career have been linked to Oxford.

### Did you have a favourite tutor at Univ? What makes a good tutor?

**Sandy:** In history, Leslie Mitchell was a favourite in terms of someone who introduced me to a completely new level of thinking about 18th century politics. Leslie was someone who made that incredibly alive and witty and interesting. He was known as a great character for good reason – he transmits ideas in really interesting ways.

The other person was David Soskice. He was very interesting and rigorous, which for me was terrific. He was on the edge of a lot of good ideas in economics, so one was getting very fresh ideas and thinking. By the third year, we were having Economics tutorials by candlelight because of the three day week. It felt incredibly poignant and ironic to have politics and economics breaking down. You couldn't get a more pointed idea of why understanding History and Economics might matter.

**Kit:** I mentioned Professor Collins because he was the most memorable of our tutors. The difficulty is that Maths is a very different course and very centrally taught, though I admired and respected all of my tutors at Univ. The thing I really liked at Univ was that you didn't necessarily just know your academic tutors. It didn't feel insular by subject and knowing that people like the Chaplain, Senior Tutor; the Dean and all of the Porters would go out of their way to know everyone and talk to you in the quad, it never felt like my tutors were my only connection to authority in the College.

### The College Ball is coming up. Did either of you ever attend a Univ Ball in your time?

**Sandy:** I never went to a Univ Ball, but I went to others through organising and putting on plays. It was a way of getting a free ticket as well. The best of them was 'Oedipus in Boots', in which I played a memorable Jocasta in my second year.

**Kit:** I went to Univ Ball in my final year. My main memory was that I was there as an electrician. I was enjoying myself and seeing my friends in my final term of four years, but I also had a tool belt on over my black tie and





was largely jumping out of windows between New Buildings and Fellows' Garden trying to get a marquee to trip back on every half hour. I was there, but very much working. I didn't pay for a ticket – I was helping to make it run!

**Is there any particular arts event you went to when you were younger which you think sparked your interest?**

**Sandy:** My father\* was a civil servant but he was also a very good amateur painter; so there was always a sense of art around. I took up drawing as a teenager and always liked doing that. I used to go with my Dad to exhibitions in London occasionally on his lunch break. I was very lucky to have an upbringing in which art, theatre and music were part of things. On the other hand, I had a very strong sense through my Dad's work that work was proper; serious policy. Running the country was what he was all about.

**Kit:** Needless to say, I grew up in a family where art was important. We've been going to the theatre as long as I can remember. Every Christmas, we used to have a tradition of going to pantomime at Chipping Norton Theatre near Oxford, a beautiful little theatre. My grandmother would book up to 27 tickets

every Summer when booking opened for our whole family to go along each year. I'm the second oldest of twelve cousins, so there was a long line of younger children and I benefited from them being an excuse to go every year. I had the privilege last Christmas of lighting the pantomime. It was the first time I worked in the Chipping Norton Theatre but it felt very much like coming home. It was probably my youngest theatrical experience.

**Was it difficult to balance non-arts subjects with your extra-curricular activities?**

**Sandy:** Yes! At times it was very difficult. I balanced my time a lot more in my third year and did less.

**Kit:** I don't really remember when I did my work. I know that I did, because I got a degree but I don't really remember when it happened. I did six shows a term and my tutors were alarmed by the two or three they knew about. They would have been livid had they known how many I was actually doing. But if you are hard-working and organised with your time then one way or another, it gets done. I have memories of doing work on the fly-floor of the Oxford Playhouse between cues while doing a show.

**Kit, what was the Garden Play like in your time?**

**Kit:** It was George Bernard Shaw, Noel Coward, restoration comedies and light farce, because it's the summer term and everyone just wants to hear witticisms and eat strawberries! It was always outdoors in the Master's Garden. We had some wet shows – well, the audience did anyway. The entire point of it was that it was for Finalists who were already finished. They would go to very few rehearsals earlier in the term and then they could pick up their lines in the last week, be told where to stand and have a whale of a time doing a very silly comedy.

**Sandy, what do you think of the portraits in Hall, including our newest portrait of Prof. Helen Cooper?**

**Sandy:** I'm involved in advising the College on the portraits, so I've been very aware of the changes. It is difficult because you can't change the terms of portraiture. If you're making it, as Univ has, of Masters and Premiers of countries, you have a limited pool of candidates. For example, the Clinton portrait is extraordinary, but does not fit in the Hall. It is now in the Butler Room, where it works much better because you are much closer to it.



I think it is good that Oxford colleges do go on adding painted portraits. It's great to have other things as well, including photographic portraits and to widen who you want to remember. But I think carrying on with the traditions of portrait painting is a very good thing. It's great that there are people still commissioning, including Oxbridge colleges.

Before the portrait of Helen Cooper, Univ was the first college to commission a portrait of the Master's wife as well as the Master together, in the painting of Lord and Lady Butler.

**Kit:** It's such a lovely thing, because Lord Butler was the Master when I was there and I remember very fondly how incredibly involved Jill Butler was with the College.

**Sandy:** You could also have done it with John Redcliffe-Maud in my period. Lady Redcliffe-Maud was a huge figure in College life. Trying to shift who people think about and remember is important, but so is how you renew traditions.

TRYING TO SHIFT WHO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT AND REMEMBER IS IMPORTANT, BUT SO IS HOW YOU RENEW TRADITIONS\*

**What are you both working on at the minute?**

**Sandy:** I've switched, after leaving the National Portrait Gallery, out of executive work and into governance and advisory work. I help run things, but I am not in charge of them. Of the various things I am doing, the two I would pick out as interesting are being a National Trust Trustee and my involvement with St Paul's Cathedral. The Trust is particularly fascinating because it is such a large and complex organisation. This afternoon I am going to Newcastle for a Council meeting of the charity and to see various properties. I've been involved with the cathedral for a long time. I chair the Fabric Advisory Committee, making sure the building is appropriately cared for. St Paul's is an incredible challenge and an amazing building. I also chair the board of the Clore Leadership Programme, so I have a very nice mix of trustee and advisory work.

**Kit:** Being freelance means in theory that work comes and goes. In my busier periods, it's exactly the same as it was at Oxford, which means one show a week. The difference is that in Oxford the show lasted



Sandy Nairne performing with Tadeusz Kantor's Cricot2 Theatre Company in their production of *Lovelies and Dowdies* at the Edinburgh Festival in the summer of 1973

a week and I did the get-out. Now the show opens and I move on to the next project.

This week is a compilation of five ballet pieces for the London Studio Centre. Next week is a piece of new writing about Civil Service bureaucracy at the OFS in Oxford called *10,000 Smarties*. The following week

is a new play about illegal immigration at the Arcola called *Cargo*, based on testimony of people who have been through it. The following week is a new adaption of *A Fairy Queen* at Bradford-upon-Avon.

**Sandy:** The other nice thing I've been doing is going through my father's papers. One of the things I have found is material from his time at Univ during the Second World War. He was trying to find a way to get posted and fight and then come back to Oxford to do a shortened degree. It's his exchanges with his tutors and the Master about when he could go, a little piece of micro-history.

**What is your favourite arts space in the world?**

**Sandy:** I can't not think of Tate Modern since I was very involved in its creation. It has now transformed itself with the Switch House. It's something I had the privilege of developing. I think of it as the thing which is most under my skin. The thing that will also always be in my mind is the National Portrait Gallery. I ran it for twelve years and it's a very special space, the idea of having a museum of people. It's very particular and always intriguing.

**Kit:** The thing I like most about my job is the variety of being able to switch between very different styles of show week by week. That expands to working in very different spaces. I would hate to get to a point in my career where I didn't get to light 'chamber spaces'. You want that variety. Like the Tate Modern for Sandy, the National Theatre springs to my mind. The Olivier space is extraordinarily flexible and interesting as a design which draws on historic configurations of how you might present theatre, but is unique in how they went about doing it. My job involves riffing off the challenges presented by set designers and spaces.

**Sandy, in your time at the National Portrait Gallery, visitor numbers increased by 40%.**

**Do you take improving access to the arts as a specific aim in your work?**

**Sandy:** Completely. It was an aim shared by my predecessor and the trustees to make the Portrait Gallery open to a greater number and wider range of people. I was very aware that there were lots of people who said to me 'It's my favourite place, my best-kept secret'. It was kind of outrageous to me, because it shouldn't be anybody's secret. I was very aware I needed to do some careful work to keep people who were quite fond of it and that it had a traditional white, middle-class, South-East England audience who loved the Gallery. I was aware of keeping them while opening it up to other people who wouldn't have thought it – who would have seen it as dusty kings and queens.

**Why do you give to Univ and would you encourage others to do so?**

**Sandy:** Whatever modest contribution one can make, I feel very strongly that if one can do a little bit to help Univ be available to the widest range of talented people who can take advantage of it, then that is a great thing. Univ has been great at organising how those who have the privilege of a Univ education can help others in the future. It's as simple as that.

**Kit:** In general, I can be quite sceptical about the idea of feeling pressured to give money. But I am very happy to give what I can afford to Univ every year, because where you do give, it ought to be something you feel a personal connection to. I absolutely loved my four years at Univ and if I can give to allow others to enjoy their time as much as I did, then I will. 🐦

Rose Lynch (2014, Law)



## UNIV IN THE ARTS

# A SNAPSHOT

Here are just a few of our other Old Members working in the arts and heritage sector.



**ALEXANDER 'XA' STURGIS**  
(1987, Modern History)

Dr Alexander 'Xa' Sturgis took up the position of Director of the Ashmolean Museum on 1st October 2014. Prior to that he was Director of the Holburne Museum, Bath, where he oversaw the Museum's award-winning renovation and transformation. He had previously worked at the National Gallery, London, for 15 years, in various posts including Exhibitions and Programmes Curator. At

both the National Gallery and the Holburne he was responsible for a number of major exhibitions and publications including *Telling Time* (2000), *Rebels and Martyrs: The Image of the Artist in the nineteenth century* (2006) and *Presence: the Art of Portrait Sculpture* (2012). After Oxford, he attended the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. He is a Supernumerary Fellow of Worcester College.

Fabienne Morris has been Director of Communications and Marketing at Intermusica since 2016. She was formerly a Marketing Trainee with the Philharmonia Orchestra London, Marketing Assistant at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Marketing

Manager New Audiences at the London Symphony Orchestra. Fabienne played a key role in the foundation of Univ's Young Univ programme and has been a member of the Young Univ committee since 2014, before stepping down this Spring.



**FABIENNE MORRIS**  
(2004, History)



**JACKIE WULSCHLAGER**  
(1988, English)

Jackie Wulschlager is Chief Art Critic of the *Financial Times*, where she has worked since 1986. Her most recent publication *Chagall, Love and Exile*, shortlisted for the Costa Biography Award, the Duff Cooper Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, was named Biography of the Year at the Spear's Book Awards 2009 and has been widely translated. Her other books include *Joash*

*Woodrow, Landscapes* (2007, co-written with Philip Vann), the ground-breaking *Hans Christian Andersen* (2000) which has won several awards, and a much acclaimed group biography of Victorian and Edwardian children's writers *Inventing Wonderland* (1995). She is working on a biography of Monet for Allen Lane and Alfred A. Knopf.

Robin Meyer is a Lector at the Faculty of Classics, Oxford and Curator in the Department of Special Collections at the Bodleian Libraries. He curated the exhibition *Armenia: Masterpieces from an Enduring Culture*, October 2015 – February 2016 in the ST Lee Gallery of the Bodleian's Weston Library. He is the author, with Theo Maarten van Lint, of the book *Armenia: Masterpieces*

*from an Enduring Culture* which accompanied the exhibition. Robin is currently working on completing his AHRC-funded doctoral thesis on language contact in 5th-century Armenia and Persia, while teaching Latin and Greek language papers as well as various linguistics and philology options. He is an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.



**ROBIN MEYER**  
(2007, Classics & Critical Studies)





Dr Scot McKendrick is Head of Western Manuscripts at the British Library. He read Classics at Univ and completed a PhD at the Courtauld Institute. He was Head of Mediaeval and Earlier Manuscripts at the British Library from 2004 to 2007. He is a Trustee of the Sir Winston Churchill Archives Trust and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London. He has curated four major exhibitions at the British Library: *The Mythical Quest* (1996), *Illuminating the Renaissance* (2003-4), *Sacred* (2007) and *Royal*

*Manuscripts* (2011-12). For the catalogue of *Illuminating the Renaissance* he was awarded the Eric Mitchell Prize for the best exhibition catalogue of 2002-3 and the Eugène Baie Prize for the best publication on the history of Flemish civilization, culture or art in 1998-2002. Other recent publications include *The Art of the Bible: Illuminated Manuscripts from the Medieval World*, forthcoming in 2016) and *Codex Sinaiticus: New Perspectives on the Ancient Biblical Manuscript* (2015).

Desmond Shawe-Taylor has been Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures (The Royal Collection, St James's Palace) since 2007. He was a lecturer in Fine Art at Nottingham from 1979 to 1996, and Surveyor Designate and Director of the Dulwich Picture Gallery from 1996 until 2007. Mr Shawe-Taylor has written on a wide range of subjects, including Georgian portraiture, the paintings collection at Dulwich and numerous

exhibition catalogues. The Royal Collection, one of the largest and most important art collections in the world, is held in trust by The Queen as Sovereign for her successors and the Nation. The paintings comprise one of the best known and most significant elements of the Collection. The Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures has overall curatorial responsibility for some 7,000 oil paintings and 3,000 miniatures.



Matt Perry is Principal Timpani of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. With strong musical interests already established, playing guitar, piano and cello, and singing in the Birmingham Cathedral Choir, Matt's percussion studies began at the age of 12, with Annie Oakley of the CBSO. In 1993 he went to Univ to study music and in his first year reached the percussion finals of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. He was a member of Univ Orchestra, UCMS and Univ Chapel Choir. Three years later he embarked upon a postgraduate course in Orchestral Timpani and Percussion at the Royal College of

Music and in 1999 was offered the position of Principal Timpani of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. During this time he also gave several solo recitals, and became heavily involved in the community and education programme run by the orchestra. In 2006 Matt took up his current appointment as Principal Timpani of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, although he continues to perform with other ensembles where time and opportunities allow. Outside his musical life he is a keen triathlete and in 2007 completed Ironman UK.

Dr Robin Darwall-Smith read Classics at Univ as both an undergraduate and a postgraduate, and then trained as an Archivist at the University of Liverpool. He returned to Oxford, first of all to catalogue the papers of Benjamin Jowett at Balliol and then to work at the Oxfordshire Record Office. Robin has been Archivist of Univ since 1993, which position he continues to

hold part-time, and Jesus College from 2016. He was Archivist of Magdalen College from 1996 to 2016. Significant publications include *A History of University College, Oxford*, (2008) and *The Early Records of University College, Oxford* (2016). Robin is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.



# FELLOW IN FOCUS

## PROFESSOR TREVOR SHARP

Radcliffe Medical Tutorial Fellow in Neuroscience and Professor of Neuropharmacology



The discovery of a new drug or class of drugs can produce revolutionary changes in the practice of medicine. The identification in the middle of the 19th century of general

anaesthetics that allowed for the first time pain-free surgery, illustrates this point well. Around a hundred years later the discovery of drugs to alleviate the symptoms of mental disorders such as depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and anxiety was no less transformational as it came in an age when common psychiatric treatments included lobotomy, insulin-induced coma and incarceration in mental asylums.

Remarkably, these first drugs to treat psychiatric illness were discovered serendipitously. For instance, in 1949 the Australian physician John Cade injected guinea pigs with urine extracts from psychiatric patients and found a calming effect. However, it became apparent that this effect was not due to the extracts themselves but the lithium solution that they were dissolved in. Around the same time the drug iproniazid was in use as an antibacterial agent to treat tuberculosis, and physicians picked up anecdotally that the drug had mood elevating effects in their patients. Within a few years of these chance findings, lithium and iproniazid were part of a new generation of drugs prescribed world-wide for the treatment of psychiatric illness.

Following these early advances, medicinal chemists and pharmacologists worked together to develop further generations of psychotropic drugs for therapeutic use, including agents like Prozac that were safer and better tolerated than those first developed. However, today, even the most modern of drugs used in psychiatry don't work for every patient, some drugs cause unwanted side effects, and the onset



of therapeutic effect can often be slow. Currently, inadequately managed psychiatric disorder is one of the biggest global health burdens, and in Europe costs more than heart disease and cancer combined. One of the main reasons for all this is that we still don't fully understand how the drugs work in the brain or what causes the mental illnesses that they are aimed to treat.

Sixty years ago it was recognised that brain cells (neurons) generated electrical charges and secreted chemicals (neurotransmitters), but it was completely unknown how these processes linked to brain function. The mechanisms of neurotransmission are now understood in great detail. There is an unexpectedly huge diversity of neurotransmitters that operate through multiple signalling pathways in complex microcircuits comprising thousands of neurons. It is also known that almost all classes of psychotropic drugs identified thus far (including those consumed in large amounts but not prescribed by a doctor!) target precise components of these signalling pathways, and much research is now focussed on how this impacts at micro- as well as macrocircuit levels. Finally, there are emerging conceptual frameworks that explain how the neurotransmitter effects of psychotropic drugs interact with neuropsychological mechanisms to alter the way that humans think and feel. From this knowledge will come a much deeper understanding of the nature of mentally disturbed states, and hopefully a more rational way to treat them.

My own research focusses on the pharmacological and physiological properties of neurons that utilise the neurotransmitter serotonin. These neurons are targeted by many drugs used in psychiatry including lithium and iproniazid, and thought to be key players in the cause of illnesses such as depression, schizophrenia and anxiety. We are using a range of neurophysiological, molecular and genetic approaches to investigate the functional properties of serotonin neurons in experimental models. We use this information to learn more about genetic and environmental factors that put individuals at risk of mental health problems, and we work in close collaboration with clinical scientists to develop novel drug treatment strategies. One of our ongoing projects is a multi-centre translational study developing a novel lithium-mimetic agent (discovered by chance!) to help control impulsivity, which is linked to a range of mental health problems including suicide, self-harm and compulsive gambling. So far the agent looks promising in experimental models and a trial in human volunteers is currently underway.

At Univ we are fortunate to have a very strong, collaborative community of medical researchers from across the basic and clinical science departments in Oxford. Through this we are able to offer excellent teaching and research opportunities to our large cohort of undergraduate and graduate medical and biomedical science students, many of whom go on to successful careers in the world of medicine. 🐦



# LEGACY GIFTS

'In many ways Univ made me the person I am today. It meant so much to me, and the very least I feel I can do now is to give a little bit back. Through the William of Durham Club connection I would like to continue that legacy.'

**Jonathan Earl (1977, English)**

## WHY LEAVE A LEGACY TO UNIV?

Legacies are an enormously important source of funds for the College, and one that is increasingly popular among Old Members.

## THE WILLIAM OF DURHAM CLUB

The William of Durham Club recognises the generosity of those Old Members and friends who have made a future provision for Univ in their Estate Plans. The Club is named after William of Durham who in 1249 bequeathed a portion of his estate to support scholars in Oxford, resulting in the foundation of University College.

## MEMBERS OF THE WILLIAM OF DURHAM CLUB RECEIVE:

- Special recognition in the annual Roll of Donors and the College Record
- An invitation to an annual special recognition day
- A commemorative William of Durham Club pin
- Inheritance Tax Benefits

For further information on remembering Univ in your Will, please contact: Josie Turner in the Development Office on +44 (0) 1865 286 208, email: [josie.turner@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:josie.turner@univ.ox.ac.uk) or visit [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/legacies](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/legacies).

Watch a film about the William of Durham Club at: [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/william-durham-club-event-films](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/william-durham-club-event-films)

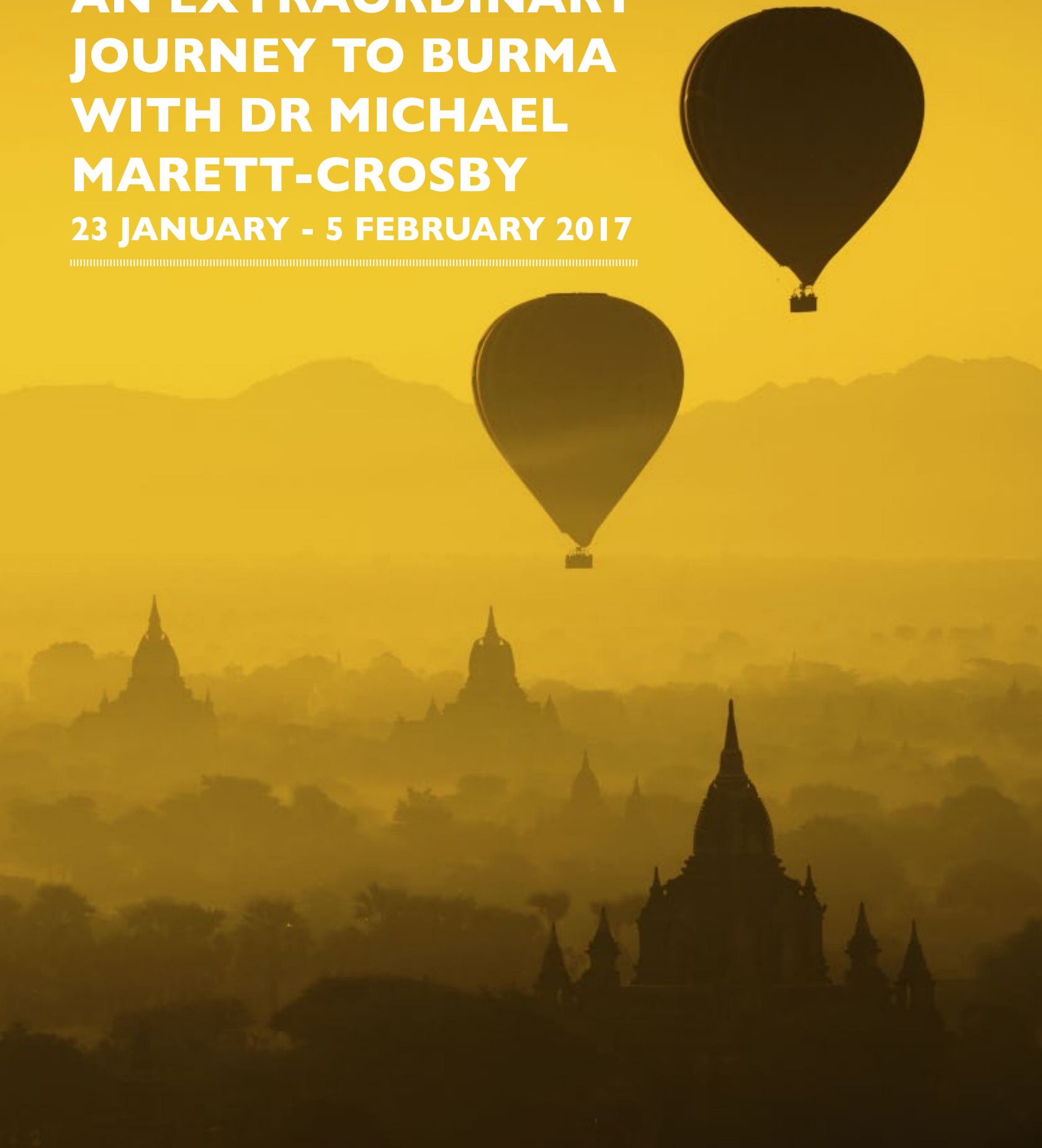


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**AN EXTRAORDINARY  
JOURNEY TO BURMA  
WITH DR MICHAEL  
MARETT-CROSBY**

**23 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2017**

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In January 2017 luxury travel specialists cazenove+loyd have privately chartered the Belmond Orcaella river boat for a ten night charter on Burma's Irrawaddy River. Guests will be joined on board by Univ Old Member **Dr Michael Marett-Crosby** (1987, History), Prospect Burma Trustee. The tour is the latest in the College's series of exclusive events organised in partnership with cazenove+loyd. Donations from the tour will raise funds for The Univ Burma Scholarship to enable academically eligible Burmese students to study for the Master of Public Policy degree at Univ.

Dr Marett-Crosby works closely with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and is thus able to offer our guests a rare insight into Burma's complex politics, history and future. A profound speaker and fascinating storyteller, his remarkable knowledge, together with his passion for this magical country, makes for a journey second to none. *The Martlet* spoke to Dr Marett-Crosby about his experiences of Burma.

**What year did you first visit Burma and why did you undertake that first trip?**

I first visited Burma in 2011 at the invitation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who had just been released from house arrest. It was not only my first trip to Burma, but my first to Asia. I had not travelled much before then, and was completely unprepared for the change of life that followed on that trip.

**What aspect of the country has changed most in the intervening years (apart from the advent of democracy)?**

I think it is the growth of hope. When I first came to Burma, few of the people I met were willing to risk articulating their belief in the future of the country. There were too many listening ears. It was as if a blanket of resignation smothered the people. Now, every activist, every taxi driver, every young person in a university, has a dream for themselves or others that they want to

share. Myanmar is freighted with hope, and that is both the opportunity and the burden that the new government has to bear.

**What is the one characteristic of the people of Burma which most draws them to you?**

I hope the answer I give is the same as that which the guests on the charter will give during and after their time in Burma – it is the hospitality and friendliness that all the people of Myanmar show towards visitors. This is all the more remarkable when one remembers that over many decades they had been taught to believe that foreigners were dangerous. That deceit never undermined the people's openness to others.

**Do you have a favourite place in the country?**

There is a corner of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda where I was shown how to make the proper offering to the day of the week when I was born. I don't pretend to understand the deep

teachings of Buddhism, but I return to that place whenever I can to seek inspiration and blessing in the work I do for Burma.

**When did you first meet Aung San Suu Kyi?**

I have known Daw Suu all my life. Her husband Dr Michael Aris was a close friend of my mother, and our families were always very close.

**What is it about her journey since which has most and least surprised you?**

Her journey is far from over – the greatest challenges, the greatest opportunities, perhaps they lie ahead. My own belief is that she has a unique position now from which to make peace in Burma, which after more than half a century of civil war requires not just treaties but changing the hearts and minds of peoples who have known nothing but struggle. Achieving this would be a great thing, and a huge surprise against the weight of



always extraordinary

cazenove+loyd

# A PRIVATE CHARTER ON BURMA'S IRRAWADDY RIVER

AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY ON THE BELMOND ORCAELLA  
ACCOMPANIED BY DR MICHAEL MARETT-CROSBY,  
POLITICAL INSIDER AND CONFIDANT OF DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD**

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history. And yet it will, in another way not be a surprise at all – she seems to me to bring a dedication and clarity of purpose to her work for Burma, such that anything is possible.

**What influence do you think her stay in Oxford had on her?**

I think it has to be the potential for education to make a difference. I think she learnt this from the example of her mother, Daw Khin Kyi, but Oxford embodies the value of an education, and Oxford graduates have always taken what they have learnt out into the world.

**How is that most clearly seen now?**

Daw Suu always espouses the transformative potential of education. In a country where the higher education system was deliberately weakened by government, and where reform of curricula, schools and teacher training is only now having any impact on parents and children, this is a message of hope. As Daw Suu has said, Burma was 'left behind because our education system was weak, because our political system was undemocratic and because our people were never given the chance to realise their potential'. Now she wants 'young people to have the right equipment, the right intellectual, mental and spiritual equipment to shape the country that they want to live in.' It seems to me that this is a very 'Oxford' vision.

**What aspect of Yangon do you think every visitor should see?**

It has to be the Shwedagon Pagoda, the heart of Burmese Buddhism. Its grace and prayerfulness feel especially powerful to me in the early mornings and at night.

**Burma is not particularly celebrated for its cuisine, however is there any particular dish which you would suggest that a visitor should eat?**

Burma is a country of many different parts, and the foods of the different regions are well worth exploring. I always enjoy Shan cuisine when I can. The Burmese breakfast of moyingha is a surprise to begin with for those brought up on a blander English palate, but I have come to love it.

**What are the most important challenges for University College?**

Univ is probably the oldest college in an old university, and its challenge is to make that original inspiration relevant today. My own way of thinking was challenged, my



presumptions undermined and my view on the world changed by the tutorial system I experienced as an undergraduate, and by the discussions that underpinned my doctorate. I was given the chance to listen and debate ideas with Univ Fellows of extraordinary insight and learning. I still carry their lessons with me. A college like Univ must, in my view, maintain that opportunity for young minds to be formed by brilliant scholars, against the pressure to commodify mass-market education on grounds of cost, not quality. Oxford has been the alembic wherein so many advances in human knowledge have been discovered. But each of these was first tested – in laboratories, in books, above all in debate. The challenge for Univ is to keep that debate alive, to allow the next new insight to flourish.

**What has changed most since you were an undergraduate?**

Two things strike me when I return to College. The first is that Univ has become more caring of those who belong to it. Oxford will always be competitive and challenging, and rightly so. But the College has created mechanisms of support undreamt of when I was an undergraduate. I know I and others around me would have benefited from this sense of community. The other

change I think I see is that the College is more international in its outlook now than before – with more graduate students from all over the world contributing their insights to the university. At a time when it seems so tempting to some to build walls, to turn in on themselves and shun the unknown, Univ seems to be becoming a place where the free exchange of ideas from different traditions and histories will still be treasured. 🐦

## UNIV BURMA SCHOLARSHIP

**Dr Michael Marett-Crosby** (1987, History) is a Trustee for the Daw Aung San Su Kyi Trust for Health and Education. He has been working with the College for the past several years to establish a Univ scholarship for a postgraduate student from Myanmar to study for the Master of Public Policy degree at the Blavatnik School of Government. We are pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity of three major donors, the DASSK Trust, **James Anderson** (1977, History) and **Jamie Pike** (1973, Engineering) the scholarship has been endowed.



# IN MEMORIAM

Below are notices of deaths that we have been informed of since the publication of the summer 2015 edition of *The Martlet* up to 30th September 2015. Full obituaries are included in the Record.

## FELLOWS



### PROFESSOR PETER CHARLES BAYLEY

(matr: 1940; English Fellow 1949-72) died on 3rd November 2015 aged 94, having suffered from Alzheimer's Disease for several years. Peter came up to Univ as an undergraduate in October 1940 to read English. He was elected to a Sidgwick Exhibition by the then Master, Sir William Beveridge, due to his modest background.

In 1940 Univ had no English Fellow, and English undergraduates were sent to Magdalen to be taught by C. S. Lewis, whom Peter found combative but warm. If Peter had read Lewis an essay of which he approved, Lewis would bring out a couple of bottles of beer and put them to warm by the fire.

After a year, Peter was called up, and served in India, returning to Univ in 1946 to gain a First in 1947. He was immediately elected a Junior Research Fellow and, two years later, to a full Tutorial Fellowship – Univ's first Praelector in English.

Despite holding many positions at Univ, Peter's greatest love was theatre. During his first stint as an undergraduate he started the society that became the Univ Players. As a Fellow, Peter enthusiastically supported the Players, producing several plays and occasionally acting. A production of 1953 even gave a career break to a young Maggie Smith.

Peter studied Elizabethan and Jacobean literature, especially the work of Edmund Spenser. He produced editions of Books I and II of *The Faerie Queene* in 1965 and 1966, and in 1971 published a major study, *Edmund Spenser: Prince of Poets*. He also published books on Milton and Shakespeare and contributed a memoir of C. S. Lewis to the 1979 anthology *C. S. Lewis at the Breakfast Table*.

In 1972 Peter moved to Durham, becoming the first Master of Collingwood College, founded for both men and women; fitting, given his longstanding support of coeducation. In 1978 he was appointed Berry Professor and Head of the Department of English at St Andrews, retiring in 1985 to Woodstock where he remained a regular visitor to College.

Look out for Michael George's (1962) tribute to Peter Bayley in the 2016 College Record.

## 1930s



### DAVID DAICHES RAPHAEL

(1934) (Liverpool Collegiate School) died on 22nd December 2015, a month before his 100th birthday. Born David Rafilovich, Raphael obtained a First in Classics at Univ in 1938 and his DPhil in 1940 after moving to Oriel as a Robinson Senior Scholar. As a philosopher, he held posts at Otago, Glasgow, Reading, and finally Imperial, where he was Professor of Philosophy 1973-83. He published extensively on Adam Smith and Thomas Hobbes and served on the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board from 1962-84. He acted as an independent member of the Police Advisory Board for Scotland, 1965-70, and served as a Governor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem from 1969. He was Chairman of Westminster Synagogue in 1987-89.



# 1940s



## FRANK JOSEPH MULLINGER

(1943) (Luton Modern School) died on 10th January 2015 aged 89. Frank came up to Univ as a naval cadet and, having served as a Sub-Lieutenant for the RNVR during the Second World War, returned to read Modern Languages. He also played rugby for the College. After Univ, Frank became a teacher, first at Hutton Grammar School, and then at Llandovery College. He was successively Second Master at Abbotsholme, Headmaster of Ludlow Grammar School and Headmaster of Chase High School, Malvern, overseeing its transformation from a secondary modern into a comprehensive school. He retired in 1985, and later moved to Pickering, North Yorkshire.



## WARREN MITCHELL (FORMERLY MISELL)

(1944) (Southgate County School) died on 14th November 2015 aged 89. He came up to Univ during the Second World as an RAF cadet and studied Chemistry. Here Mitchell became involved in drama, befriending Richard Burton, and in 1947 he left Oxford for RADA. He worked extensively across film, radio and television, but will always be best remembered as Alf Garnett in Johnny Speight's *Till Death Us Do Part*. The show was a huge success, remarkable for Mitchell's portrayal of a character whose politics were utterly at odds with his left-wing leanings.

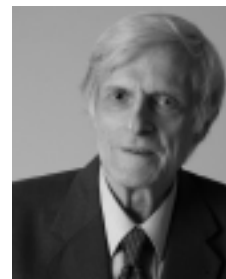
Most viewers, according to Mitchell, realised that they should laugh at Alf, rather than with him, once saying 'Alf did more to combat racism than all the well-meaning clergymen who ever preached against it.' The show ran on ITV from 1966-75, was revived briefly there in 1981, and succeeded by a sequel, *In Sickness and in Health*, from 1985-92 on the BBC. He memorably portrayed Shylock for the BBC's *The Merchant of Venice* in 1980, and enjoyed theatrical success, including two Olivier Awards for his appearances as Willy Loman in the National Theatre production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* in 1979, and Solomon in Miller's *The Price* in 2004.

In later years he and the College renewed their links, and he was pleased to reconnect with Univ. He leaves a widow and three children.

## JOSEPH HUBERT MARE CLAUDE BERTRAND

(1946) (University of Montreal) died on 7th August 2014 aged 97. Claude Bertrand came up to Univ as a Rhodes Scholar to study Anatomy, and returned to work as a neurosurgeon at Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal, taking an especial interest in the treatment of head injuries and stereotactic surgery. He served as president of the Canadian Neurological Association, the Neurosurgical Society of America, the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and the Société de Neurochirurgie de Langue Française. In 1971 he was made a Companion of the Order of Canada.

## GRAHAM WILLIAM LINES



(1947) (Whitgift School) died on 13th September 2015 aged 86. Graham read PPE at Univ, and was also a member of the Univ Players, enjoying a long career as an actor after College. His highlights included playing Haines in Joseph Strick's *Ulysses* (1967), appearing in the first British performance of *Mephisto* at the Round House (1981) and playing D. H. Lawrence in Eastwood during the fiftieth anniversary of Lawrence's death. His wife Marian was also an actor.

## ALAN ROBERT HURLEY



(1949) (Nottingham High School) died on 23rd September 2015 aged 85. At Univ he took a First in Jurisprudence and was a keen member of the College's 2nd XV. Contemporaries remember him for being one of the few Scholars who was scorned for reading Grace too fast. After Univ, he returned to Nottingham to practice as a solicitor, becoming a Senior Partner of Wells and Hind. He married twice, first to Elizabeth, with whom he had four daughters. After her death in 1973, he married Janet, and found a new life, sharing her interest in Dog Rescue and Relief.



## JOHN ANTHONY HILLIARD SIMPSON

(1949) (Charterhouse) died on 17th November 2015 aged 84. Tony Simpson read Engineering at Univ as a Fletcher Scholar, and worked in the aircraft industry, first as a designer with de Havillands, and then as a pilot.

## HUGH LANDON WILLIAMS

(1949) (Dynevor Secondary School) died on 31st December 2015 aged 89. He read Medicine at Univ, and then worked as a doctor at University College Hospital Medical School.

# 1950s

## JOHN CHARLES MALLINSON



(1950) (Urmston Grammar) died on 24th December 2015 aged 83. Having read Physics at Univ, John spent three years in the RAF, remaining a keen pilot throughout his life. He emigrated to the USA, where he joined Ampex Corporation in California, heading their Research Division. In 1984, John became the founding director of the Center

for Magnetic Recording Research (CMRR) at the University of California, San Diego. Among John's many publications, perhaps the most substantial is *The Foundations of Magnetic Recording*, published in 1987. John is survived by his wife, Phebe, two daughters, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## PHILIP ANTONY TAVERNER

(1951) (Bryanston) died on 6th February 2016 aged 86. He read PPE at Univ, and was a member of OUDS who remembered acting with Maggie Smith. After Oxford, he worked for Fisons and then for Pirelli, before becoming Marketing Director at Times Newspapers, when in 1972 he was asked to organise the legendary *Tutankhamun* exhibition at the British Museum. After the success of this event, Philip set up a company, Carlton Cleeve, to organise 'blockbuster' exhibitions, including *Pompeii A.D. 79 and 1776*. In later years Philip became Director of the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, opened in 2002 inside Temple Meads station at Bristol.

## DAVID ALBAN DAVIES

(1953) (Rugby) died in the autumn of 2015 aged 82. He read Law at Univ, and practised as a solicitor.

## ALEXANDER JOHN CAMERON COCHRANE



(1954) (Edinburgh Academy) died on 18th December 2015 aged 82. Cameron Cochrane read English at Univ, played rugby both for the College and the Greyhounds, and captained Univ's cricket team. He taught at St Edward's School Oxford, became headmaster of Arnold School, Blackpool in 1974, and five years later moved to Fettes College, where he remained until 1988, overseeing the introduction of full co-education. He then taught abroad, at Prince Willem-Alexander College in the Netherlands, and the British International School in Cairo. Cameron was also a member of the Territorial Army, the Royal Artillery Council for Scotland and the Admiralty Interview Board. He was ordained an elder of the Church of Scotland in 1971. In 1986 he was awarded the MBE for his work as Commandant of the Athletes' Village during the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games.

## DEREK MORTIMER HILL

(1953) (Eastbourne College) died on 2nd November 2015 aged 81. He read Medicine at Univ, and went on to train at University College Hospital. He then worked as a consultant physician at Worcester Royal Infirmary. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1977.

## JOHN TREVOR SHARPE

(1953) (King's School, Rochester) died on 4th June 2015 aged 82. Having read History at Univ, Trevor first became a technical writer with the Cement and Concrete Association, followed by positions at the British Council Fellowships Department in London, the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionary Alliance and IBM, before retiring to Sussex.

## JOHN MICHAEL KUMLEBEN

(1955) (Michaelhouse and Cape Town University) died in June 2014. John read Law at Univ, but was also a keen sportsman, winning a Hockey Blue and playing cricket for the University. Returning to South Africa, he took up a career as a solicitor, but also played cricket for the Orange Free State until 1961. His nephew Paul came up to Univ in 1979.



## JOHN RAINES-SMITH

(1956) (Bishop Vesey's Grammar School) died on 4th December 2015 aged 80. John read Modern Languages at Univ, before taking up a career in business. He first worked as a Technical Sales representative with Fibreglass, Ltd., and later became Managing Director of UKAE Ltd, based in Birmingham.

## MICHAEL MORRIS



(1955) (Shrewsbury) died on 2nd February 2016 aged 81. His brothers David and John also came up to Univ, in 1956 and 1958 respectively. David writes, 'Michael read Classics at Univ, after national service with the field artillery in Korea and Japan. After Univ, he joined the Civil Service and was assigned to the Post Office Department, becoming private secretary to three Postmasters General, and providing considerable support to the Pilkington Committee on broadcasting.

His last spell as secretary was particularly busy with the Parliamentary bill making British Telecommunications a separate corporation. He joined BT, and later became Director, International Services, and then Chief Operating Officer of BT International.

In the late 1980s he was Director of Strategic Relations for BTI, and chairman of the Telecommunications Committee of the European Conference. He married Lucy Wright (d. 2001) in 1967 and is survived by his daughter Susannah, and two grandchildren, Lucy and Hannah.'

## DONALD WALSH

(1956) (Kimbolton School and King's College London) died on 16th December 2015 aged 89. Don first studied at King's College London, and worked at Mullard Research Laboratories before joining the Scientific Civil Service at the Services Electronics Research Labs. He moved to Univ to assist Hans Motz in setting up an electronics research group, completing his DPhil in 1961. He was appointed a lecturer at the Engineering Faculty, and in 1965 elected a Fellow of Oriel. During this time he wrote, with Laszlo Solymar, *The Electrical Properties of Materials*, now in its ninth edition. Sadly, in 1977 Don was knocked off his bicycle on the Banbury Road, and suffered severe brain damage. Although he recovered well, he took early retirement in 1981. During his retirement he was busy with gardening, silver-smithing, and collecting coins and medals. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, their two sons, and five grandchildren. [We are very grateful to Don's widow Dorothy for supplying information for this tribute.]

## JOHN GRAHAM DUNCAN

(1958) (Newcastle Royal Grammar School) died in February 2016 aged 78. He read English at Univ, becoming a keen member of the Univ Players. Among his greatest successes were productions of *Tamburlaine the Great*, and *The Miracles*, co-produced with Gordon Honeycombe (1957). On leaving Univ, he ran a theatre company, Tomorrow's Audience, alongside Richard Ingrams (1958). He then joined the BBC as an assistant producer for the pioneering satirical show *That Was The Week That Was*, which ran in 1962 and 1963. He later worked as a documentary producer for BBC before becoming head of light entertainment for Yorkshire TV. He left television to run an antiquarian and second-hand bookshop in York, also writing for the *Literary Review* and the *Yorkshire Evening News*.

## JOHN STEADMAN HUGH WILLIAMS



(1956) (Rotherham Grammar) died on 31st December 2015 aged 80. Hugh Williams read History at Univ, and then joined the Moral Re-Armament movement, spending most of his life working for the Westminster Theatre, which was run by the MRA, and eventually becoming Chair of Westminster Productions Ltd. Hugh became best known as a playwright,

writing contemporary Christian dramas under the pen name Hugh Steadman Williams, including *Poor Man, Rich Man, Fire, Gavin and the Monster*, a play for children, and *Skeletons*. He retired to Yalding, Kent. His brother Paul, who died in February 2015, came up to Univ in 1957. [We are grateful to Hugh's son Olly for supplying information for this tribute.]





## RONALD GORDON HONEYCOMBE

(1957) (Edinburgh Academy) died on 9th October 2015 aged 79. Gordon Honeycombe read English at Univ, his studies being interrupted in December 1958 when TB forced him into hospital for six months. He used that time to read medieval mystery plays, and produce his own, *The Miracles* which was performed in Oxford and the Edinburgh Fringe by the Univ Players in 1960, jointly produced by Honeycombe and John Duncan (1958) (whose tribute is included on page 37).).

After Univ, Honeycombe joined ITN in 1965 as a newsreader. He also wrote novels and non-fiction, and for theatre, television and radio. One novel, *Red Watch*, about a fire at Maida Vale, left him with a deep sympathy for the fire service which led to his resignation from ITN in 1977, when, against their wishes, he wrote an article expressing support for striking firemen.

Upon leaving ITN Gordon devoted himself to acting, directing and writing. His most successful book, *The Murders of the Black Museum*, was published in 1982. He returned to newsreading in 1984 on TV-am. In 1989, he settled happily in Perth and became an Australian resident in 1993. He continued to write, record voiceovers, act in film roles, and took great interest in researching his family history.

## ST. JOHN DURIVAL KEMP, 2ND VISCOUNT ROCHDALE

(1958) (Eton) died on 27th February 2015 aged 77. He read Geography, and went down after a year. He succeeded his father to the viscounty in 1993.



## ANTHONY MICHAEL KENT RICKWOOD

(1958) (King Edward VII School, Sheffield) died on 17th December 2015 aged 75. Tony read Medicine at Univ, before working as a consultant surgeon in Sheffield and Liverpool. His daughter Sarah came up to Univ in 1987. Terry Harris (1958-64) writes, 'Tony was one of the most intelligent men in our year. He was deeply interested in trams, trains and Meccano. He never learned to drive a car but he was very proud of his licence to drive a tram, which he had obtained in Sheffield before coming up. His interest in trains took him frequently around the Continent and on a regular pilgrimage to Ffestiniog. 40 years after Univ I visited Tony and his wife Valerie in Liverpool. The first thing I noticed on entering their house, just inside the front door, was a full-size Meccano grandfather clock. The living room floor was covered in another Meccano project. Apparently, Valerie was content to leave the clock in the hall but would only allow Tony to build one other item at a time, which had then to be dismantled before he could build his next item.'

## 1960s

### MICHAEL ROBERT DANIEL BUNTING

(1966) (City of Westminster College) died on 3rd November 2015 aged 68, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. He read PPE at Univ, before becoming a barrister. In 1974 he was admitted to the Hong Kong Bar, and practised at Temple Chambers, taking silk in April 2000. Michael also served on the Court of Final Appeal Rules Committee, the High Court Rules Committee, the Barristers Disciplinary Tribunal and the Inland Revenue Board of Review.

### STEPHEN IRELAND CHORLEY

(1966) (High Wycombe RGS) died on 12th January 2016 aged 67. He read PPE at Univ, and, having been articled to Arthur Andersen & Co., then trained as a town planner at the University of Strathclyde. In 1994 he joined Strathclyde Regional Council, where he was a Senior Executive (Economic Strategy) and then Director of Development Services.



# 1970s



## JONATHAN WROE

(1973) (Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield) died on 4th December 2015 aged 61. He came up to Univ as a Freeston Scholar and read Geography. After Univ he worked in the shipping industry, and then in the materials sector with Cookson Group and CERAM Research. In 2001 Jonathan joined the European Powder Metallurgy Association (EPMA) as an executive director and represented the European powder metallurgy industry on UK boards, European project groups and several international committees. He also collaborated with EPMA's sister organisations in North America and Japan, nurturing close links between them.

## JOHN ANTHONY GREGORY

(1972) (King Edward's Birmingham) died on 5th February 2016 aged 62 after a long battle with cancer. John read Chemistry at Univ before working for Air Products Ltd. in Surrey and then becoming a Development Director for the Axial Tibbett and Britten Group plc. He leaves a wife, Pat, a son, Michael, and two stepchildren, Julia and Jason. In the last few years he spent the winter months skiing in Vail, Colorado, where he volunteered on the mountain, loving nothing better than helping others on the slopes.

## STEPHEN JOHN BEVAN

(1976) (Eccles College) died on 4th May 2014 aged 56. He read Maths and gained a First. He was a Scientific Officer at the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment (RSRE) at Malvern (later made part of QinetiQ). He leaves a widow and daughter.



## GEOFFREY ERNEST LANGER

(1978) (N. Staffordshire Polytechnic) died on 9th November 2015 aged 67 after a struggle with cancer. He read for a teaching degree at Univ. He taught Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Abingdon College, and Physics at Tudor Hall, Banbury, where he is commemorated through the Langer Cup, awarded to an Upper 6th Form pupil for excellence in Physics. Outside teaching he was a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF Volunteer Reserve, and was also a Judo Instructor up to Black Belt 3rd Dan. [We are very grateful to Geoffrey's widow Elaine for supplying much of the information for this tribute].

# 1980s

## KEITH WHEATMAN

(1981) (Prior Pursglove College, Guisborough) died on 20th September 2015 aged 52. He read Chemistry at Univ. He went to work in Germany in the 1990s, first for Dr Karl Thomas GmbH in Baden-Württemberg, and then for Boehringer at Ingelheim.

# OTHER LIVES

## MRS MARIAN SNELGROVE

died on 12th February 2016. Her son William (Bill), had come up to Univ in 1975, but died suddenly in January 2011. Bill had intended to remember Univ in his will, but his premature death prevented him from doing so. Mrs Snelgrove, however, has now most generously left a legacy to the College in memory of her son.

# 1990s

## REBECCA WILLIAMS



(1990) (King Edward VI School, Edgbaston). As material for this issue of *The Martlet* was being prepared, we received the sad news that Becky Williams died of cancer in April 2016 aged 44. She read Classics at Univ. We will include a fuller tribute to Becky in this year's *Record*.



# SPORTS & SOCIETIES

## REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COLLEGE

### FOOTBALL

JACOB MORGAN (2012, GEOLOGY), MEN'S FIRST TEAM CAPTAIN,  
GEORGINA KOFFLER (2013, ENGINEERING), WOMEN'S FOOTBALL  
CAPTAIN AND TORY ERSKINE (2013, BIOCHEMISTRY)

The Univ Women's Football team has had a very successful year. We had many new players join us – most of whom had never played previously – several enjoyable events and even a goal or three! Investments into the club by Old Members and the Development Office played a vital role in this; allowing us to purchase kit and equipment for the women's side so that complete novices were able to join in. Outside of the cuppers and league games we had a lot of fun as a team, even submitting for the first time a women's squad to the Univ Old Members' football day – which was a fantastic event. Women's Div 4 watch out: we'll be back next year:

Player's Player: Tory Erskine, Most Improved: Lizzie Walker, Best Newcomers: Joana Isabella and Kirsten Anderson, Golden Goal: Georgina Koffler:



For the Men of UCAFC, 2015/16 was a record-breaking season in many respects. For the first time in recorded history both teams won promotion, escaping from the bottom tier of college football. The 1st XI did so particularly emphatically, finishing nine points clear after securing the title with a thrilling 5 – 4 win over Christchurch.

Other record breaking players from this season include Univ's most capped player of all time, the infamous Paul Cheston (82 appearances); our top goalscorer of all time, Josh Broughton (59 goals); and Aaron Simons, who now has the most assists of any Oxford footballer, past or present.

Despite these successes, we were still unable to triumph at Old Members' Day.



# BOAT CLUB

AMY HUGHES (2012, PHYSICS), UCBC VICE PRESIDENT



UCBC started the year off well with four novice boats out of five reaching the second rounds of Nephthys and Christ Church regattas. The men's and women's senior squads secured multiple wins in the Isis Winter League, and victories for W1 (4+) in Autumn Fours, Nephthys regatta and Wallingford Head.

Hilary saw a fantastic £1,261.71 raised in our second 24-hour Ergathon for UCBC and Shelter, a charity for homelessness. Meanwhile, weekends at Dorney lake (thanks to the generosity of our Old Members) paid off for M1, who had four

great rows in Torpids and achieved a long overdue set of blades – their first in seven years – to finish fourth in Division 2.

M3 unfortunately did not manage to qualify this year, and klaxons and carnage meant that the second eights weren't able to show their true potential, with M2 embracing their spoons and W2 dropping three places. A penalty bump meant that despite bumping every day, W3 only gained two places, but celebrated their 'moral blades' nonetheless.

W1 managed two bumps, but were caught

by a fast Christ Church crew and finished sixth in Division 1. They were later delighted to be placed 39th at the Women's Head of the River in London, finishing as the fastest Oxbridge college.

Congratulations also go to UCBC members Rebecca te Water Naudé and Alex Rowe-Jones, who rowed in the varsity women's reserve and men's lightweight races.

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# RUGBY

WILLIAM WILSON (2014, CHEMISTRY), CAPTAIN

This year Univ made some much needed improvements on the pitch, with regularly getting 15 players out being the main contributor. The first 'season' (Michaelmas term) kicked off with a bang, with Univ beating St Hilda's in a close fought encounter 27-24. Filled with confidence we went on to beat Pembroke and Merton/Mansfield, playing some truly gorgeous rugby at times. We narrowly missed out on promotion to the heady heights of division 3 after a 26-19 loss against Wadham/Trinity. We actually drew the game 19-19 but incurred a 7-point penalty after not fielding an eligible front row, which was a truly gutting way to finish such a promising term. Hilary term was not as

fruitful for Univ, as the number of divisions was reduced from 5 to 4, meaning more games to play. This, coupled with endless rearrangements due to some awful weather, meant we struggled for numbers, reflected in our mid-table finish. We had big ambitions for cuppers, but our hopes were dashed after yet another rearrangement meant we could only field 12 players on the day and sadly got knocked out in the first round by Lincoln.

Special mentions for the season go to the player of the season: Vannevar Taylor, most improved: Will Yeldham and most dedicated to Univ rugby: Charles Smye. Also to Louie Mackee and Matt Brown for their significant

contribution to the organisation of the club (including ordering some outrageous new stash). Good luck to incoming vice-captains Thomas Shortall and James Raftery and the new captain Michael Turner.

## OLD BOYS' DAY

Old Boys' Day was another classic, albeit with only four old boys present, meaning the game was played as 7s. They 'won' again, although we did have to lend them three players, so it's a very questionable victory. Lunch and dinner afterwards were both thoroughly enjoyed by all and we look forward to having them back (and beating them) next year.



# SQUASH

LOUIS GRANDJOUAN (2013, LAW), CAPTAIN



Univ squash has had a particularly combative season. Our first league game of the year saw a fresh Univ side blow Worcester out of the water: John Morse, seeded first, played with his characteristically effective languor, ingeniously shuffling his opponent into corner after corner for a 4-1 victory. John-Henry Charles and Tom Gourd (Social Secretary) each brought, in their own ways, a refreshing Springbok-esque physicality to the game. Meanwhile Ben Shennan – a new arrival at Univ – has played disarmingly technical squash to great effect. Other

notable features of the Univ squash scene include the pugnacious Harry Woodcock, Charles Smye of the astonishing octopean reach, and Hugo 'Crabfeet' Lu. All of these players have carried Univ up to the top of Division III. We had two setbacks: after being prematurely knocked out of Cuppers by Balliol (who are leading Division I), we suffered a painful defeat against the second-rate grads of Green Templeton. We accordingly decided to hire a professional coach to bring Univ squash up a notch. Promotion is now well within reach.

# CRICKET

ANN LAUBE (2011, PHILOSOPHY AND PHYSICS), CAPTAIN

Following their success in the Women's Cricket Cuppers in 2015, Univ women once again teamed up with Corpus Christi College to defend their championship title at the one-day event in May 2016. Under cloudless skies at Marston, we started the day facing Worcester; bowling first. Credible bowling debuts from many members of the team and solid fielding concluded the 8-over innings with 31 runs to chase. Team

Captains Shona McNab (Corpus) and Ann Laube (Univ) opened the batting, with Vicky Olive (Univ) stepping up to the crease after Laube's early retirement. Without losing a wicket, Univ+Corpus won the first round comfortably. The semi-finals against St. Catherine's saw Univ+Corpus bowling first once again, but this time Univ+Corpus' bowling was no match to Catz' superior batting. Several boundaries from McNab

in the last over were not enough to turn things around, and the Univ and Corpus women trailed behind Catz' 51 runs with 30 after the last over; just before the rest of the match was rained off. It was a great day of cricket – the first for the other Univ members of the team, Hannah Jeffries, Jess Macready and Leticia Villeneuve – and we are looking forward to returning strong next year.





# COMMON ROOM NOTES

## FROM THE JCR PRESIDENT



Agatha-Christie Onwuzuruike is currently reading PPE at Univ. Prior to her degree, she completed internships at the Department of Energy and Climate Change, in David Cameron's constituency office, in the Africa Business Group at PricewaterhouseCoopers and at Credit Suisse in London.

Univ JCR continues both to reflect inwardly and align itself selectively and proudly with student movements taking place at the university, and national level. JCR meetings have been home to discussion of a wide range of pertinent issues – such as the importance of more nuanced access initiatives, the Rhodes Must Fall movement, and the necessity of accreditation to the Living Wage Foundation. I am proud to have represented a JCR filled with moral courage and with such an acute awareness of the

concerns of members of our wider college and university community.

When the JCR was not engaged in debate and activism, we were adding even more life to our vibrant community. This has been a great year for Univ's Music Society, the boat club, and the performing arts. The JCR looks forward to celebrating an eventful year at our College Ball this June.

Follow us on Twitter [@UnivJCR](https://twitter.com/UnivJCR).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Agatha'.

Agatha-Christie Onwuzuruike (2014)

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## FROM THE WCR PRESIDENT



Daniel Woods is reading for a DPhil in Cyber Security at Univ, after completing an MSci in Mathematics at the University of Bristol. His research looks at using economic theory and financial markets, in particular insurance, to address the problem of Cyber Security.

Hilary term concluded with the election of a new WCR committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's officers for their wonderful work. Special thanks go to the outgoing WCR president, Léticia Villeneuve, who stands down after many years on the committee in various roles. The universal warmth shown towards her, from staff and students alike, is testament to just how much she has contributed to our community.

Our new committee can count on the experience of a few returning members, along with the energy and ideas of members taking up their first role. We have a diverse mix of 2015 Freshers and students in the

latter stages of their courses, home and international students, even boasting a father. In many ways this is a microcosm of the wider community, which remains one of the most vibrant and inclusive colleges in Oxford.

We now face the time of year where the sun comes out and students withdraw to the library, tormented by looming finals. As ever the WCR will provide a welcome break throughout this period with a variety of events, the jewel in the crown being the Univ ball at the end of Trinity term.

For regular term-time updates on our activities, follow us on Twitter [@UnivWCR](https://twitter.com/UnivWCR).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Woods'.

Daniel Woods (2015)



# DEVELOPMENT OFFICE NEWS

## THANK YOU

### 2015-16 UNIV ANNUAL FUND QUICK FACTS

2,366

Univ Old Members and Friends of the College made donations

£1.165m

has been raised towards this year's Annual Fund – more than ever before

34%

participation rate – one of the highest in Oxford

22%

of donors are members of Young Univ (Old Members aged 35 and under)

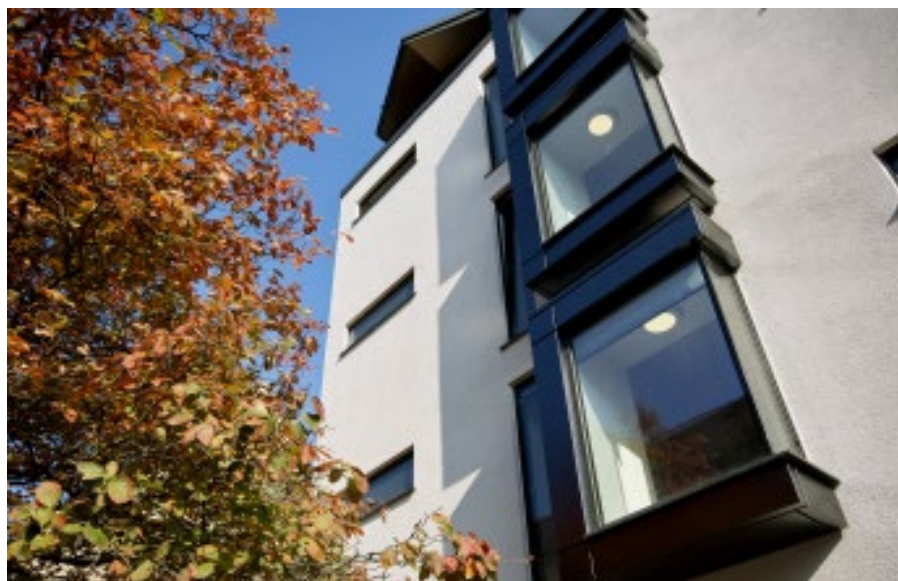


## UNIV OLD MEMBERS' TRUST

Univ Tutorial Fellow in Engineering Dr Steve Collins has joined the Univ Old Members' Trust (OMT). Dr Collins spent 12 years working for the government as a research scientist, working on topics including the origins of I/f noise, analogue information processing and smart image sensors. Our sincere thanks to Dr Keith Dorrington, who will be stepping down from the OMT this year:

The Univ Old Members' Trust was established in 1988 to provide financial support for the academic goals of the College. Any Old Members interested in joining the OMT should contact: [carol.webb@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:carol.webb@univ.ox.ac.uk)

## GOODHART PROJECT UPDATE



Univ's Goodhart Building has been shortlisted for the 2016 AJ Retrofit Awards in the Higher and Further Education category. The awards, which recognise and celebrate design, engineering and construction excellence that prolong and improve the life of the built environment, are partnered by *The Architects' Journal* and will be presented in London on 14th September.

We are still fundraising for the Goodhart project. For more information about how to make a contribution, including details of room and staircase-naming opportunities, please contact Martha Cass, Senior Development Executive, on +44 (0) 1865 276791, [martha.cass@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:martha.cass@univ.ox.ac.uk)



# UNIV DEVELOPMENT: HAVE YOUR SAY!

Univ's Development Board (UCDB\*) has opened up an independent, confidential survey in order to encourage all alumni to have their say about Univ's fundraising objectives and process.

- ☐ Do you believe that Univ's fundraising methods are appropriate?
- ☐ Is Univ properly communicating its achievements and/or ambitions for the future?
- ☐ Do you think donations should be better targeted to benefit current and future students?
- ☐ Does Univ do enough to sustain a good relationship with Old Members (whether or not they choose to donate)?

## PARTICIPATION

Participation is of course voluntary, but we do hope that you will feel able to contribute around half an hour of your time, to provide your candid feedback on a non-attributable basis.

## PRIZE DRAW

Those who participate will be entitled to receive a copy of the survey results in October, and will be entered into our prize draw.

We thank those who have already completed the survey, and warmly encourage all other Old Members to contribute your thoughts. Your feedback will form a vital input to strategic planning for Univ's future. For more details please e-mail: [philanthropystudy@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:philanthropystudy@univ.ox.ac.uk)

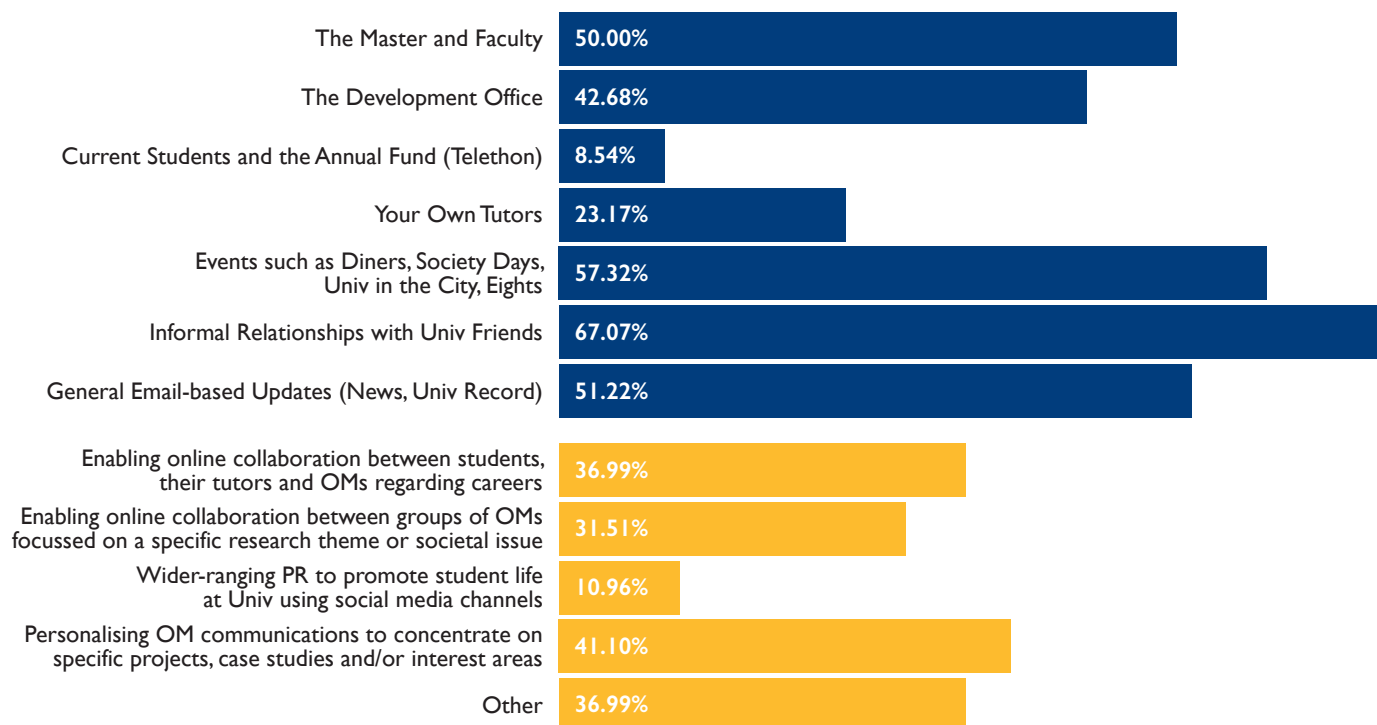
Please visit [surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Univ2016](https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Univ2016) to open the survey. The password you will need to access the survey is: Shelley.

## SURVEY SNAPSHOT

Here are some of the sample survey responses received so far:

**Which three connections to Univ do you value most highly?**

**Could Univ add more value through its communications with Old Members?**



\*UCDB is comprised of 20 Old Member volunteers who assist the College in improving its alumni engagement and fundraising practices.



# DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE



Dr Philip Mosely matriculated at University College in medicine in 2001. He transferred to Green College in 2004 to complete his clinical medical studies and graduated in 2007. After working as a junior doctor in Manchester he moved to Australia in 2009 where he completed specialist training in psychiatry and became a fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists in 2014. *The Martlet* caught up with him in the lab.

In April 2016 I was awarded over \$500,000 in research funding for my investigation: 'Psychiatric symptoms after deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's disease' as part of an early career research fellowship, sponsored by the Queensland government's 'Advance Queensland' programme, which aims to recruit and retain technical and scientific expertise in the state of Queensland, Australia.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive, incurable neurodegenerative disorder that occurs when cells in the brain producing the neurotransmitter dopamine begin to die. The most noticeable symptoms are those involving movement – tremor, slowness of movement, stiffness and difficulty walking – although sufferers may also develop 'non-motor' issues such as depression, anxiety, psychotic symptoms and dementia. In Australia, Parkinson's disease is the

most common neurological disorder after Alzheimer's dementia, with 30 people diagnosed each day and a total annual cost to the economy of \$775 million.

Most people with Parkinson's disease are initially treated with medication that replaces dopamine in the brain, but for many this medication becomes less effective as the disease progresses. Deep brain stimulation (DBS) is a treatment that offers a relatively constant and enduring improvement in the movement symptoms of Parkinson's disease. When successful, DBS dramatically improves the quality of life for sufferers and enables them to regain much of their freedom. DBS involves surgery to position electrodes deep within the brain, typically in a collection of cells called the subthalamic nucleus. These are connected to a 'pacemaker' implanted in the chest wall and emit a small field

of continuous electricity that modifies communication between nerve cells in a targeted region around the electrode. DBS is now an established therapy for Parkinson's disease and over 100,000 patients worldwide have been treated with this therapy.

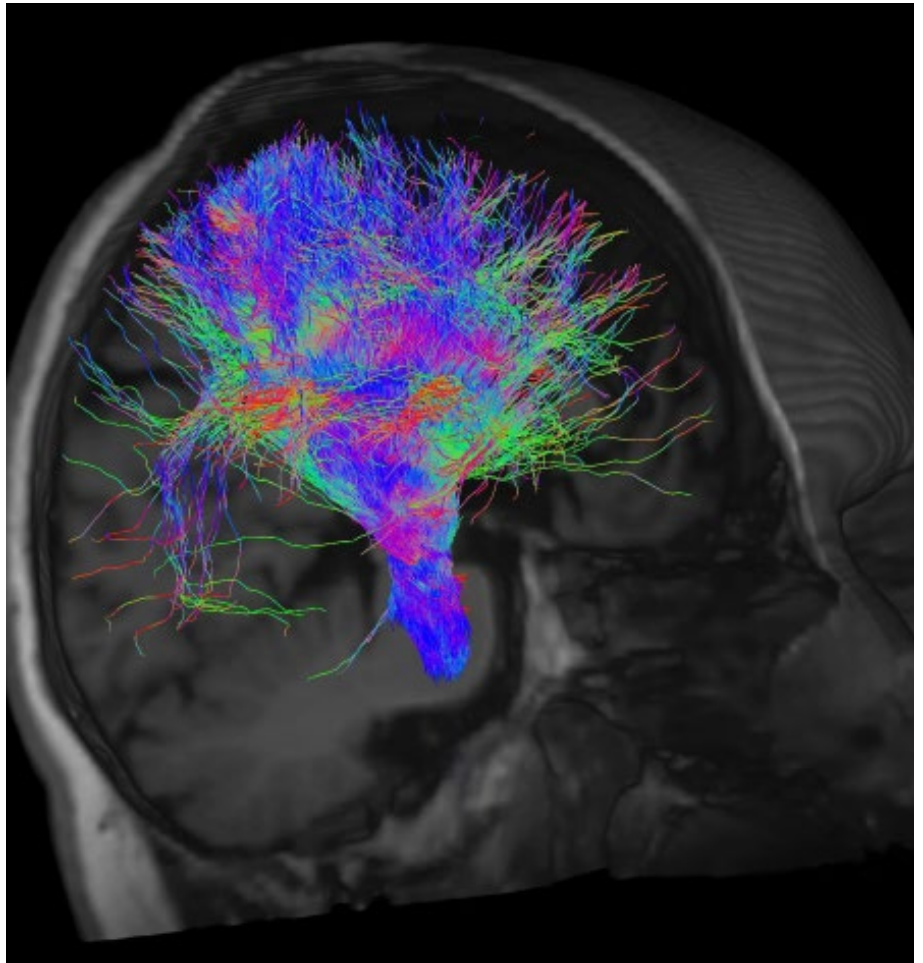
Unfortunately, it is increasingly recognised that between 10-20% of patients undertaking DBS may develop psychiatric symptoms related to the stimulation. These often take the form of a 'personality change' characterised by disinhibited and reckless behaviour, as well as a loss of empathy for the emotional needs of others. At their worst, individuals may engage in uncontrolled gambling or experience major increases in their libido, which can have devastating consequences for their relationships, reputation and finances. The most severe adverse outcome after deep brain



stimulation is suicide, which is the leading cause of mortality in the first year after surgery and may be connected to some of these mood and personality changes.

It is currently not possible to predict who will go on to develop these damaging psychiatric symptoms, despite this being a major focus for research groups across the world. Understanding why these issues arise is key to preventing them in the future and improving the safety of DBS. In our research we are examining the hypothesis that differing patterns of brain connectivity are an important factor in determining individual vulnerability to stimulation. We are using a special form of brain scan, called a diffusion magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, which allows us to track the distribution of nerve fibres within an individual brain. We can then examine how key regions of the brain are connected, as well as how they are linked to the electrode and the stimulation field we create with DBS. Our goal is to establish markers of 'safe' and effective stimulation that will assist clinicians over the world in treating their patients without inducing these unwanted side effects. This has the potential to change the way that this therapy is practised, given that the size, shape and intensity of stimulation can all be non-invasively programmed after the operation by specialists, using a handheld device.

Patients who are undertaking DBS at our centre in Brisbane have a diffusion MRI brain scan prior to their surgery, which involves them visiting our state of the art neuroimaging centre where we have a research-quality MRI scanner that can obtain these brain images at ultra-high resolution to enable a fine-grained analysis of brain architecture. The scans are safe and do not involve radiation, and the patient remains awake throughout. We then process and analyse the data at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane, using algorithms developed at Oxford and the University of Melbourne, which have been made freely available to researchers. We also follow the patients at regular intervals during their journey at the DBS centre. We assess their decision-making, obtain feedback from their relatives and ask them to play computerised 'games' that measure personality traits such as impulsivity and cooperation. Money from the grant is used to fund all aspects of this project, from the high-quality MRI scans to the servers that we use to analyse the data. 🐦



I'm very grateful to University College for enabling me to study medicine at Oxford, which has been such a life changing and enriching experience. I wasn't very confident of getting in. I remember sitting an incomprehensible exam, an uncomfortable interview in which I couldn't answer most of the questions and then I had a lovely chat with Dr Stephen Golding about Descartes, the brain and the Univ chalet. I can only think he put in a good word for me. I never made it to the chalet during my time at Oxford, which is one of my few regrets. I was also grateful for understanding in my second year when I was captain of the Oxford University amateur boxing team and my grades dropped considerably! I had the dubious distinction of scoring a 'zero' in one pathology exam, despite giving a full answer to each and every

question. Thankfully I did better in my second attempt. I remember that the small group tutorials were an outstanding feature of the teaching experience at Univ. I recall lively discussions continuing after afternoon meetings with Dr Julian Jack and Dr Keith Dorrington, on topics such as the qualia of colour vision. Other favourite memories involve sneaking up onto the roof to admire gargoyles that could only be seen from that particular vantage point (not something I would condone). If I could give any advice to prospective students interested in medicine at Oxford it would be to keep hold of the enthusiasm that inspired you in the first place. I first became interested in medicine because I wanted to learn about the brain and its influence on personality and behaviour. Fast-forward 15 years and I am in a position to do exactly that.



# LIFE ACCORDING TO SAKI

*While Shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
A high-explosive shell came down  
And mutton rained around.*

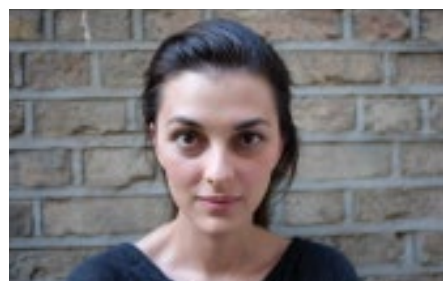
It is surprising that Saki is not as well-known as his admirers Dahl, Milne and Coward. Over the last year (since completing my DPhil at Univ) I have been working with author Katherine Rundell (*All Souls; Rooftoppers, The Wolf Wilder*) to adapt Saki for theatre. The product of this work, a new play called *Life According to Saki*, will premiere at the Edinburgh Fringe this August.

We began development by reading everything we could by and about Munro, drafting a long list of favourite stories, anecdotes, and lines. A thought began to make itself clear. We didn't want to plunder his work for a haul of miscellaneous stories to dramatize. We wanted to bring Saki's own life into dialogue with his stories, foregrounding him as the root of the play as both writer and man.

In the play, Saki tells us his stories from the trenches. He defies boredom and fear and mania with art. (Not dramatic fantasy: in articles like 'The Square Egg' and 'Birds on the Western Front', Saki wrote of mud and death, but also of badgers, miraculous Norman chickens, and, even here, malicious aunts.) We escape into an imagined world of fables and parables with twisted morality, where tyrants are vanquished and underdogs thrive, old gods might not be dead, and freedom can be bought from a polecat ferret for some stolen nutmeg and a few red berries. The staging of mud, duckboards, and uniforms shifts with each story into a unique style of design and performance (from naturalism to music hall to puppetry to early film) supporting this concept.

Yet every time the vision fades we return to Saki's own story, over which he has much less control. Art brings relief. It brings a form of immortality. But Hector Hugh Munro died in the trenches of the Somme a hundred years ago, like hundreds of thousands of others. That is something wit or writing cannot assuage.

*Life According to Saki* will be at the Edinburgh Fringe from 3rd-29th August 2016. Children's Laureate Chris Riddell designed the poster for the production. 🐣



**Jessica Lazar** (2009, English) is a theatre director. She was at Univ between 2009 and 2015, most recently completing a DPhil in English (supervised by **Professor Tiffany Stern**) on early seventeenth-century literary propaganda. She shares with *The Martlet* the process of writing her new play, inspired by the life and works of Saki.

On 14th November 1916, Hector Hugh Munro was killed by a sniper in the closing days of the Battle of the Somme. He was over the enlistment age, but had volunteered regardless and, refusing a commission, chose to join up as a private in 1914. His last reported words, 'Put that bloody cigarette out!'

Munro was better known as Saki, a popular writer of satirical, comic, often dark short stories. He wrote over one hundred and thirty stories (his complete works run to almost a thousand pages) in a style like

a cross between Oscar Wilde and Roald Dahl. Dahl, a confessed admirer, commented decades later that, 'the best of his stories are still better than the best of just about every other writer around.' A. A. Milne called them 'dearly loved', and when Noël Coward 'casually' picked up *Beasts and Super-Beasts* at a house party, he was (he declared) 'unable to go to sleep until I had finished it'.

Saki's work, bizarre and hysterical and horrifying as it sometimes is, was often semi-autobiographical. When he was two, his mother was killed by a runaway cow. The toddler and his siblings were sent to live under the isolated rule of two warring and unmistakably cruel aunts. For anyone familiar with Saki, the childhoods of Conradin in 'Sredni Vashtar' and Nicholas in 'The Lumber Room' come to seem like bitter wish-fulfilment. (Then again, Ethel Munro's earliest memory of her brother was when Hector, detecting a quiet moment in the nursery, 'seized the long-handled hearth brush, plunged it into the fire, and chased [his siblings] round the table shouting: "I'm God! I'm going to destroy the world!"') As an adult, he enjoyed society, he travelled Europe and the Empire as a foreign correspondent, he was quietly celebrated. His humour remained within him, even in the trenches. Ethel received a 'Christmas carol' at Christmas 1915:



# MUSIC AT UNIV

OSCAR HANSEN (2015, MUSIC), PRESIDENT OF UCMS, 2016-17

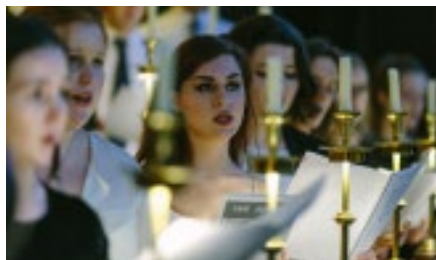
The newly elected committee of the University College Music Society has striven for the continuation of the great work which the outgoing committee has done throughout this year. This began with the second Univ Day of Music on 30th April. Following last year's success, this year's Day of Music saw a range of musicians and ensembles performing simultaneously at various locations around College. We were also delighted to welcome the Pukeko Coffee van, providing for everyone's caffeinated desires whilst they were able to drop in on one of the casual performances.



On 7th May, UCMS hosted the Oxford Commas, Oxford University's freshest 'a capella' group (many of whom are Univ students), who performed their latest musical arrangements for members of the William of Durham Club at its annual luncheon.



3rd week of this Trinity term was Univ Arts Week. UCMS organised two events, both in keeping with Univ Arts Week's theme of 'women in the arts:' an open-mic night on 10th May, at which students offered their musical interpretations of Ella Fitzgerald, Amy Winehouse, Joan Jett, and many more, as well as the first Master's Lodgings Lunchtime Concert, which was an opportunity for students to perform and featured a programme of music exclusively by women composers. UCMS also hosted another of the popular, alphabetically-themed Master's Lodgings Concerts on 1st June, this time Piano, Pimm's, and Popcorn.



On 11th June, The Martlet Ensemble joined in concert with students Isla Ratcliff and Freddie Waxman, and Univ's Director of Music, Giles Underwood, to give a marvellous recital of music by Finzi, Bridge, and Barber.

UCMS looks forward to an exciting summer, with the recording of a CD of advent music by the chapel choir, to be released in November, as well as the choir's tour to Prague, before we embark upon the next academic year. Next year holds lots of potential for UCMS to innovate, and organise more musical events! 🐦



# OLD MEMBER EVENTS

**W**e were delighted to welcome our Old Members to reunions and College celebrations this spring and summer. We would like to thank everyone who hosted and supported these events, and to all those who attended and helped to make them such a great success. We hope you enjoyed re-connecting with old friends and with the College. Event reports and photographs can be viewed at [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/event-reports](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/event-reports)



## USPGA (GOLF) SPRING MEETING

**Richard Burridge** (1973) welcomed Univ Golfers to Hendon Golf Club on 16th May 2016. The Cup was won by **Colin Bough** (1969) with a very decent score of 34, with **Mike Shilling** (1975) runner up on 33, and **Tim Low** (1976) in third place with 32 points. **Peter Fisk** (1974) won nearest-the-pin on the 9th, with Tim Low getting the straightest drive on the 18th – although **Robin Butler** (1957) got so close to the line with his second shot that he was given a prize as well.

## YOUNG UNIV: PHILIP BERNIE IN CONVERSATION

Univ Old Members aged 35 and under were invited to join us for an In Conversation event with **Philip Bernie** (1980, History), Head of BBC Sport on 28th April at Broadcasting House. Our thanks to **Ashlee Godwin** (2003, History) guest interviewer.

## WILLIAM OF DURHAM CLUB ANNUAL LUNCHEON



We welcomed members of the William of Durham Club to the College on 7th May 2016 for a special recognition day. The programme for the day included settings of the songs from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, with commentary by **Prof. Tiffany Stern** organised jointly with **Giles Underwood**, Univ's Director of Music, a lecture on *Univ in the Age of Shakespeare* by **Dr Robin Darwall-Smith** (1982, Classics), a performance by the Oxford Commas and the Univ Players, luncheon in Hall and drinks in the Fellows' Garden.

## 2004-2006 GAUDY



We welcomed back all matriculants from 2004 to 2006 on 2nd April 2016 for their first Gaudy. The programme included tea in the Master's Lodgings, College tours, an exhibition of the College's Hidden Collections, a 'scratch choir' in the Chapel and a formal dinner in Hall.



## UNIV OLD MEMBERS' FOOTBALL DAY

All past and present members of Univ, their families and friends were invited to join us for the annual Univ Old Members' Football Day on 12th March 2016 at University College Sports Ground.



## ALUMNI WEEKEND IN NORTH AMERICA

### WASHINGTON D.C. RECEPTION & DINNER

The Master and Lady Crewe, and William Roth, joined Univ Old Members and their guests for a Drinks Reception and Dinner on 9th April at the University Club in Washington D.C. Dr Tim Evans (1984, Plant Sciences) was guest speaker.

### WASHINGTON D.C. BRUNCH

Univ Old Members and their guests enjoyed brunch at Cava Mezze in Washington D.C. on 10th April. We were delighted to welcome Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Nick Rawlins (1968, PPE) to this event.

### NEW YORK DRINKS & HORS D'OEUVRES

Alexander Zaslavsky (1992) kindly hosted a drinks reception at the Foley Gallery in New York on 11th April.

### SAN FRANCISCO DRINKS & LIGHT LUNCH

Edward Hieatt (1995, Maths) kindly hosted drinks and a light lunch for Univ Old Members at his home on 16th April.

## YOUNG UNIV: LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Univ Old Members aged 35 and under were invited to attend an exclusive performance by the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican on 9th June. With thanks to Fabienne Morris (2004, Music) for kindly hosting this event.



## UNIV IN THE CITY: ANTONY JENKINS

Univ Old Members attended an evening drinks reception on 20th June in the magnificent surroundings of Goldsmith's Hall, London as part of 'Univ in the City', our networking series. Guest speaker Antony Jenkins (1979, PPE), former Group Chief Executive of Barclays plc was interviewed by William Reeve (1991, Engineering and Management).

## SUMMER EIGHTS: 1249 SOCIETY DRINKS RECEPTION AND THE MASTER'S RECEPTION



Members of the 1249 Society were invited to join us for a private drinks reception at Univ Boat House, followed by a barbecue, at this year's Summer Eights on 28th May. All Univ Old Members and their guests were invited to join us at the Master's Reception later the same day, to cheer on the Univ crews and enjoy a pop-up cafe in the sunshine.

## THE MASTER'S VISIT TO HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE



The Master and William Roth visited Singapore and Hong Kong in July. A Dinner for Old Members was held at the Tower Club in Singapore on 5th July, kindly sponsored by Mr Lak Chuan Ng (1984, PPE).

A Dinner for Old Members also took place at the Shanghai Jade Restaurant, Hong Kong on 8th July, kindly hosted by

Jun Tung Wu (1996, Maths) and organised by Gigi Woo (1992, Law).

To view photos and read reports from Univ's recent events visit [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/event-reports](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/event-reports)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our thanks to everyone who contributed an announcement for this issue. If you have news you would like to share in the next issue of *The Martlet*, please e-mail [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk) by 31st October 2016.

## 1930s

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There will be one hundred candles on **Prof. Eric Bentley's** (1935, English) birthday cake this year.

## 1950s

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**Jack Diamond's** (1956, PPE) firm Diamond Schmitt Architects has been commissioned to re-design the interior of David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Centre, New York. The project calls for a reimagining of the auditorium and ultimately creating a place where the architecture is at one with the music.



*George and the Blue Moon* is the fifth adventure in the series for children written by **Lucy Hawking** (1989, Modern Languages) and her father **Prof. Stephen Hawking** (1959, Physics). The book contains up-to-the-minute scientific facts and information by the world's leading scientists, including Univ Earth Sciences Fellow **Prof. Tamsin Mather**. Prof. Hawking also joined the Chinese social media platform Sina Weibo in April, amassing over 2 million followers in 24 hours.



**Iver Mackay** (1959, Modern Languages) wanted to share with *The Martlet* this photograph of himself with daughter Wendy and son Stuart in Camden, North London.

**Michael Jefferson** (1959, PPE), ESCP Europe Business School, is senior editor of the journal *Energy Policy*, where he observes at first hand many of the exaggerated claims made for the various routes proposed to low carbon economies.

**Prof. Michael Walker** (1959, Medicine) published an article in *Antiquity* recently on research into 'Combustion at the late Early Pleistocene site of Cueva Negra del Estrecho del Río Quípar (Murcia, Spain)'. The research confirms that the oldest evidence of fire at a Palaeolithic site outside Africa is that which has been uncovered in SE Spain, dating from between 865,000 and 815,000 years ago, by archaeological excavations that Professor Walker has directed there annually since 1990.

## 1960s

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Poet and critic **Adil Jussawalla's** (1960, English) collection *I Dreamt a Horse Fell from the Sky, Poems, Fiction and Non-Fiction* (1962-2015) was published by Hachette India in December 2015.



Critically acclaimed film and stage actor **Michael York, OBE** (1961, English) has launched RENEWAL (Research Exploring New Amyloidosis Learning) a new initiative to call attention to amyloidosis, a rare disease that occurs when abnormal proteins called amyloid build up in the body.





The photographic archive of **Michael George**, ARPS (1962, English) is available to view at [www.michaelgeorgephotography.com](http://www.michaelgeorgephotography.com). His latest collection, *Sussex by the Sea*, with a foreword by Michael York, was published by Monterey Press in July 2011.



In January 2016 **Philip Bushill-Matthews** (1962, English) was awarded a First Class BA (Hons) degree in Archaeology at the University of Leicester. All part of a happy retirement.



An article by **Sir Max Hastings** (1964, History) 'What's New About the War?' featured in the 10th March issue of *The New York Review of Books*. His new book *The Secret War: Spies, Codes and Guerrillas 1939-1945* is out now.



**Prof. Michael Fang** (1965, Engineering) was awarded an honorary degree at Liverpool University on 11th May, for his work towards establishing the Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU).

**Michael Jago** (1965, Classics) will publish his fourth book in Spring 2017, an authorised biography of **Lord Butler of Brockwell** (1957, Greats; Master 1998-2008). Robin Butler had a career of 36 years in the Civil Service, rising to be Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service under Margaret Thatcher, John Major and Tony Blair. Jago's full-length biography includes two chapters covering Lord Butler's Oxford years, first as an undergraduate, later as one of the College's most popular Masters. ([bitebackpublishing.com](http://bitebackpublishing.com)).



**Prof. Robert Reich** (1968, PPE), former Secretary of Labour in the President Clinton administration, was interviewed by BBC News about the United States presidential campaign recently.



**William F. Weld** (1966, Economics) looks set to be on the national ticket as the vice-presidential nominee of the Libertarian Party. The twice-elected former Republican Governor of Massachusetts gave his first interview since accepting an invitation to be the running mate of former Governor Gary Johnson of New Mexico with *The New York Times*.

## 1970s



**Michael Brand** (1971, Music) brought his latest musical – *CLD – The Real Lewis Carroll* – to Oxford in July and August. The musical was produced by Oxford Music Theatre with a professional cast at St Columba's United Reformed Church in Alfred Street. Old Members may remember Michael's first musical *Zuleika*, written with Univ classmate **Reggie Oliver** (1971, Classics) and produced by **Jon Plowman** (1971, English) for the Univ Players in 1974. It was based on *Zuleika Dobson*. Michael claims that it was this show – which ran at the Playhouse – which started him on the slippery slope of writing musicals and from which he has never fully recovered! Reggie and Michael started conceiving the show when they were guests at the Chalet and wrote it that autumn.



**Sir Andrew Motion, FRSL** (1971, English) gave a poetry reading on 9th May at the Folger Theatre in Washington D.C. Sir Andrew is the author of twelve books of poetry, most recently *Peace Talks*.

His biography of poet Philip Larkin won the Whitbread Prize for Biography. Motion also wrote *Keats: A Biography* which inspired film director Jane Campion's adaptation *Bright Star* in 2009. He served as Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom from 1999 to 2009. He is the co-founder and co-director of the Poetry Archive (UK) and Poetry by Heart.





**Michael Soole QC** (1972, PPE) has been made a High Court Judge, Queen's Bench Division. Recognised as a leading silk in construction and professional indemnity matters, Michael has had a distinguished career during his time as a member of chambers as well as being chair of TECBAR (the Technology and Construction Bar Association) between 2013 and 2015 and a trustee of the Oxford Literary & Debating Union Charitable Trust. He was also a trustee and board member of the charity Christian Aid from 1992 to 2002.

**Dr Seán Lang's** (1979, History) play about Percy Shelley being expelled from Univ, *The Necessity of Atheism*, was presented at the Edinburgh Fringe 2016, at the Surgeon's Hall, from 5th to 20th August. It was also shown at the Maddermarket Theatre, Norwich, on Sunday 17th July.



## 1980s



As of September this year, **Prof. Alec Cameron** (1986, Engineering), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) at the University of Western Australia, will be returning to the UK to take up the position of Vice-Chancellor at Aston University in Birmingham. Professor Cameron holds a DPhil from Oxford, where he was also a Rhodes Scholar and Rugby Blue.



Prize-winning journalist and co-author of smash *New York Times* bestseller *I Am Malala*, **Christina Lamb's** (1983, PPE) latest book *Nujeeh* (September 2016) tells the inspiring true story of another remarkable young hero: Nujeeh Mustafa, a teenager born with cerebral palsy, whose harrowing journey from war-ravaged Syria to Germany in a wheelchair is a breathtaking tale of fortitude, grit, and hope that lends a face to the greatest humanitarian issue of our time, the Syrian refugee crisis.



**Prof. Karen O'Brien** (1983, English) has been appointed as the new Head of Oxford's Humanities Division from September 2016. Professor O'Brien is currently Vice-Principal (Education) and Professor of English Literature at King's College London.

Award-winning Guardian foreign correspondent **Luke Harding** (1987, English) delivered an Oxfam Author Talk in Oxford on 10th May, and discussed his latest book *A Very Expensive Poison: The Definitive Story of the Murder of Litvinenko and Russia's War with the West*. The book has been nominated for a Crime Writers' Association non-fiction Dagger.

## 1990s



**Dr Alexander Zaslavsky** (1992, PPE) and wife Katya are delighted to announce the safe arrival of baby Lev on 10th May, 3.5kg and 52cm.



After serving for three years as head of a United Nations office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's city of Bunia, **Maurizio Giuliano** (1993, PPE) has been appointed by the Secretary-General as Chief of Protection of Civilians in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). At a time when civilians in Mali are threatened by conflict and violence, including by terrorist armed groups, MINUSMA is widely considered one of the United Nations' most challenging missions.



Commotio, one of Oxford's foremost chamber choirs, founded and conducted by former Univ Organ Scholar and assistant organist **Matthew Berry** (1995, Music), presented *An Evening with Bill and Bob* (Celebrating Shakespeare and Chilcott) on 23rd July at St Nicholas Church, Chadlington. Commotio breathed new life into Shakespeare's familiar words with contemporary choral settings by Leslie, Hyde, Larsen and Łukaszewski. They gave the first European performance of Bob Chilcott's *Ophelia*, *Caliban*, and *Miranda* in which poet Charles Bennett gives new voice to Shakespeare's much loved characters in a choral-jazz fusion.



**Dr Matthew Woodcock** (1995, MSt and DPhil in English literature) published a festschrift for Univ Honorary Fellow **Prof. Helen Cooper** recently.

The collection, which comprises academic essays written by Helen's former supervisees, has a strong Univ connection since several of its contributors and both editors were at the College in the 1990s and 2000s. The collection was presented to Professor Cooper in March. Matthew has kindly donated a copy of the collection to Univ Library: ([boydellandbrewer.com/medieval-into-renaissance-hb.html](http://boydellandbrewer.com/medieval-into-renaissance-hb.html))

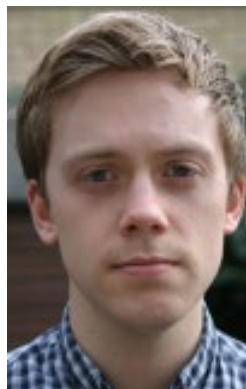


**Mohamad Al-Dah** (1998, Engineering) was interviewed by The Institution of Structural Engineers website earlier this year about his role as Director of Technical Affairs for the Dubai Land Department, where he is leading a survey of Dubai's buildings. The survey is to verify data against rental contracts and classify buildings in terms of quality – the intention being to create a fairer system of rent prices and service charges. Mr Al-Dah was voted a Fellow of the Institution of Structural Engineers in March 2016, making him one of the few from Univ at that level and certainly the only Emarati. He is the UAE Regional Group Chairman of The Institution of Structural Engineers.

## 2000s



**Dr George Van Mellaert**, PhD, MBA (2000, Law) released an original sound track recording of J.S. Bach's (1685-1750) 'French Suites' for harpsichord (BWV 812-817). The Suites Françaises were composed by J.S. Bach during the period 1722-1725 and consist of a group of six suites (split over 2 CDs) with various dance movements, adapted for the keyboard. ([amazon.com/Suites-Francaises-I-III-J-S-Bach/dp/B015HWAD20/](http://amazon.com/Suites-Francaises-I-III-J-S-Bach/dp/B015HWAD20/)).



Guardian columnist and author of *Chavs: The Demonisation of the Working Class* **Owen Jones** (2002, History) joined former Political Editor of both ITV and BBC **Nick Robinson** (1983, PPE), now presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Today*, to discuss influences, impartiality and political life at the Barnaby Festival in Macclesfield on 18th June.



**Dr Agnes Fong** (2004, Medicine), **Dr Ben Ballisat** (2003, Medicine) and **Dr Kate McGlennan** (2004, Medicine) recently obtained their Fellowships of the Royal College of Anaesthetists at the same graduation ceremony.





**Dr Oliver Cox FRSA** (2006, History), Knowledge Exchange Fellow – Thames Valley Country House Partnership Project, was in Texas as Visiting Professor in Public History in April. He returned to the States in May to lecture for the Royal Oak Foundation on Country Houses in the Thames Valley Area in Philadelphia, Boston and New York.



**Fabienne Morris** (2004, Music) was interviewed about her job as Communications Manager at the London Symphony Orchestra for a feature in *The Guardian* 'You don't need to be a singer to have a career in classical music' on 16th February.



Former member of the Univ Players, playwright **Joe Robertson** (2008, English), was shortlisted for a Freedom of Expression Award 2016, for the theatre space he set up with fellow playwright Joe Murphy in the refugee camp in Calais. Good Chance Theatre starred the likes of Jude Law and Benedict Cumberbatch, and a succession of British theatre companies.



**Oliver Watts** (2008, Physics) and his production company Twice Cut Films are working on their first narrative short film *Ferried*, which explores the issue of loneliness in older people. Working with Age UK and The Silver Line Ollie hopes the film will raise awareness of the work of these charities.

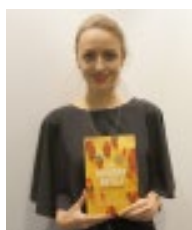
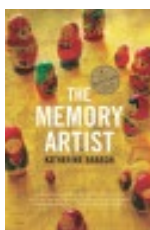


**Dr Tristen Naylor** (2008, International Relations) won an OUSU Teaching Award in the category of Most Acclaimed Lecturer (Social Sciences) in May 2016.



In the last issue we announced that **Dr Tara Shirvani** (2009, Chemistry), a Climate Change Policy Analyst at the World Bank, had been listed by *Forbes Magazine* as one of their 30 under 30: 300 of the top young leaders, creative inventors and entrepreneurs in 10 different sectors. Dr Shirvani was included on the front cover of *Forbes Magazine*.

## 2010s



**Katherine Brabon** (2012, Art) won the prestigious 2016 Vogel's Literary Award for her debut novel *The Memory Artist*.

'A haunting, poignant and beautifully written novel, and a moving meditation on loss, memory and the impact of generational terror.' Jenny Barry (Prize Judge), *BooksPlus*.





# UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

'Once a member, always a member' **Roger Potter** (1964, History)

## 1966 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION

**Saturday 10th – Sunday 11th September**

Come and celebrate fifty years since first coming up to Univ, with activities including a tour of Oxford and lunch in Hall.

## UNIV ALUMNI DAY

**Saturday 17th September**

A drinks reception, garden tours and talks for Univ Old Members, organised as part of the Oxford Alumni Weekend.

## 2007-2009 GAUDY

**Saturday 24th September**

We welcome back all matriculants from 2007 to 2009 to re-connect with old friends and reminisce, with tea in the Master's Lodgings, College tours and formal dinner in Hall.

## UNIV IN THE CITY

**Tuesday 11th October**

The Law Society, London. Our speaker and networking series for Old Members in the City. Guest speaker: David Miles (1978, PPE), Member of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee 2009-2015.

## 12TH ANNUAL SEMINAR & BUFFET SUPPER

**Thursday 24th November**

Join us at The Royal Society in London where our guest panellists, including Lord Butler (1957), Prof. Marc Stears, Prof. Dr Julian Lindley-French (1976) and Prof. Anand Menon (1984) will discuss 'How can the Government meet the challenges of Brexit?'.

For further details about any of these events, please contact Julie Boyle, Alumni Relations Officer [julie.boyle@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julie.boyle@univ.ox.ac.uk) or visit [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/alumni-event-listing](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/alumni-event-listing)

## ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

**Saturday 3rd December**

All past and present members of Univ, their families and friends, are very warmly invited to this year's Advent Carol Services in the College Chapel. The candlelit services will take place at 2.30pm and 4.30pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Hall.





## MY BRIEF UNIV HISTORY

Univ Old Member **Stephen Cockburn** (1959, English) addresses some of the myths surrounding Stephen Hawking and the Univ Boat Club.

It was in October 2013 in Waterstones window in London Wall that I saw a book with my photograph on the dust jacket. Perhaps not surprisingly I went in and purchased a copy at full price for cash (being rather old-fashioned in these matters) and within minutes was reading the chapter in Stephen Hawking's *My Brief History* about his time at Oxford.

Readers of the Trinity Term 2015 edition of *Oxford Today* will have seen a feature 'Hawking at Oxford' which reproduced the photograph on the said dust jacket described as 'Hawking waving a handkerchief and what are thought to be other members of the University College Boat Club, for whom he coxed, 1961' and

quoted a short paragraph from the book 'I felt rather lonely during my first year and part of the second. In my third year, in order to make more friends, I joined the Boat Club as a coxswain'.

Readers of the letters column in the Michaelmas Term 2015 edition of *Oxford Today* would have seen a truncated letter from me describing this paragraph as 'absolute tosh'. Readers of *The Daily Mail* Thursday 22nd October 2015 might have seen that Ephraim Hardcastle had read it and wrote a paragraph as follows:

'Professor Stephen Hawking claims that to fend off loneliness as an Oxford student, he joined the Boat Club as a coxswain.

This is contradicted by his contemporary at University College, Stephen Cockburn, who says: "It is absolute tosh. The fact is that Hawking and I joined the university Boat Club in the first week of our first term in October 1959." Who knows the truth? Hawking's statements about the origin of the universe will also have attracted doubters.'

How dangerous it is to let a journalist's version of anything go unchallenged. What was 'tosh' was Hawking's claim that he joined the University College (not the university) Boat Club in his third year and we do know the truth: he did join the UCBC in October 1959, and, in passing, the dust jacket photograph was taken in June 1962 not 1961.





Although he was not much of an athlete we both volunteered to try the Boat Club and within days he was coxing and I was rowing in the Univ Novice Eight training for the Christ Church Regatta later in the Term. On page 33 of his book the crew is pictured with the trophy that we won: not much of an editor to publish a photograph taken two years before the text describes the event, although the picture of him with the Rugger Eight was taken in 1962.

Describing his first experience of bumping races (which were the Torpids of 1960) he tells of his bung getting caught in the rudder lines and consequent disqualification and indeed the Univ Second Torpid that year did not do very well but in the Summer Eights

he coxed us to four bumps as demonstrated by the illuminated blade now in the possession of the UCBC.

Alun Evans rowing at 7 weighed rather less than cox Stephen Hawking (Alun had coxed the First Eight in the previous year) and Colin Lowry (whose blade passed on his decease to the UCBC through the good offices of his executor John Miles who had rowed at Bow) actually weighed well over 15 stone but always denied it!

The College archives contain photographs of all four Eights that Stephen Hawking coxed, being the Second Torpid and Second Eight of 1960 and 1961 (his fellow Physics undergraduate Gordon Berry coxed the

First boats), and the Rugger Eight in 1962, as described in David Filkin's memoir with a photograph.

As the only other boy called Stephen coming up to Univ on General Election Day 1959 (neither of us old enough to vote), of the 110 matriculands I had an affinity with Hawking throughout our time at the College although we read markedly different subjects (mine was English with the much lamented lately deceased Peter Bayley). He confirmed to me through his office my recollection of his membership of the boat club is much more accurate than what he allowed to be written in his name in *My Brief History*. 🐦







# STEPHEN HAWKING AND THE RUGGER EIGHT

Univ Old Member **David Filkin** (1961, PPE) shares his memories of Univ Honorary Fellow Professor Stephen Hawking (1959, Physics).

I went up to Univ in 1961, determined to play rugby as well as get a useful degree in PPE. I proved good enough for the College First XV, and learned that this made me eligible for a place in the rugger eight during Summer Eights towards the end of the Trinity term. We met up one day, during my second term, on the College Barge. One man was much smaller than the rest of us: a third year student I did not know. I could see he was no rugby player. 'Who is that?' I asked. 'He is going to be our cox', one of the second year Rugby players explained. 'He may not look very strong but he can certainly steer a boat. He is called Stephen Hawking. Very bright. Third year physics.' He did not look particularly strong, and he was certainly not a large man.

And as I was to discover, several years later, when I was filming with him, he had very little bodyweight. At the time of our first meeting he was fully able bodied; when I helped lift him from his wheelchair many years later he was beginning to experience the first symptoms of his motor neurone





disease and I had no problem helping carry him to a couch in the place where we were filming. I could tell then that he had a physical problem, although his condition had not then been fully diagnosed.

Nevertheless, as our cox, he was determined to get the best from his crew. On the first day of racing, we were stationed well towards the end of a long line of boats on the river.

crabs were caught nearly ejecting most of our crew from the boat. To our amazement, Stephen was clapping and cheering wildly, saying 'Well rowed Univ. You have rowed over today.' But alas we had learned our lesson and were bumped on every day that followed, partly because we could not face another day's effort which any further rowing over would have involved and mainly because better crews were able to come

with me as a student, and I owed them a lot when I ended up with a reasonable degree.

I astonished many of my fellow students when I was given a BBC General Traineeship as the next step in my career. I stayed at the BBC for a number of years, rising through the ranks to become a Producer, then a Programme Editor and finally Head of Science and Features.



Behind us were crews of third year men, too busy with preparing for their Finals to have trained hard for the bumps, but with enough skill to take on makeshift crews like our own. We had had the foresight to get a half bottle of whisky on board, strictly for medicinal purposes of course. Even before the race started, we had passed the whisky along the boat a couple of times and most of us had taken a swig. Stephen was soon barking at us to pull harder as the race got underway, and our medicine was soon forgotten. We realised that the fit crew of third year men behind us had been caught and bumped, so they were in no position to bump us; and the next fit crew of third year men who had caught them were already pulled in to the riverbank. At the same time we were making no impression on the third year men who had started ahead of us, and Stephen was triumphantly gesticulating for us to go even faster so we could row over and complete the full length of the course without a bump being scored either by us or against us.

As we struggled on to the finish the whisky made a further appearance and several

up behind us and each in turn bump us at some time during the next few days of racing. Needless to say we never managed to get anywhere near catching the crews ahead of us. But Stephen was undeterred until the end, barking out orders and saying how well we had done.

During the rest of my time at Univ I never forgot how determined Stephen was to drive us on; and he was to need all that determination to manage his own disability when it finally caught up with him towards the end of his time at Univ and in his early weeks at Cambridge, doing his PhD. Meanwhile I was happily preoccupied with my own life at Univ, playing rugby and contriving to get a second class degree. This was largely due to the revision I did at a desk in the College Library, re-reading my notes from my tutorials and the wise words of my tutors. We had a spectacular array of academic gurus, from Peter Strawson and Alasdair Macintyre for philosophy, to David Stout for economics and Maurice Shock\* for politics. They had all proved very patient

This was when I went to see Stephen Hawking again and we agreed to make a series about the scientific history of Cosmology, fronted by Stephen. I called that series 'Stephen Hawking's Universe' and it went out on BBC 2. I had left the BBC in order to make the programmes as an independent producer with a lot of help and co-operation from Patrick Uden and his company in Chelsea. I also had it co-produced with an American version going out under WNET New York, with my equivalent in the USA being Bill Grant, who I knew from his time at WGBH Boston, where he was deputy on Nova to Paula Apsell. I also wrote a book of the same name as the series which the BBC published. And there was an American version. The book became a world-wide best seller.

My time at Univ prepared me for a career as a producer of a series on cosmology, something I might not have realised had it not been for my time on the river with Stephen Hawking. 🐦

\*Sir Maurice Shock, Honorary Fellow





# STAVERTON PEAR AND RASPBERRY TEAR WITH RASPBERRY TUILLE AND PISTACHIO CREAM

Head Chef Rob Mercer shares a Univ recipe with *The Martlet*.

## PEAR AND RASPBERRY MOUSSE

### Ingredients

250g peeled and cored ripe pears (from Staverton Gardens!)  
50g caster sugar  
2 tsp Poire William liqueur  
1/2 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice  
Pinch of salt  
2 sheets leaf gelatine  
300ml double cream  
2 vanilla pods, split and seeds removed, scraped into cream  
50g freeze-dried raspberry pieces

### Method

1. Roughly chop the pear flesh and put into a pan along with the sugar, Poire William, lemon juice and salt.
2. Cover with a lid and bring to boil.
3. Reduce the heat and simmer till the pears are soft, then remove from heat.
4. Soak the gelatine in cold water till soft. Squeeze out the water.
5. Add the gelatine to the pears and, using a hand blender or food processor, blend until smooth.
6. Allow to cool to room temperature.
7. Lightly whip the cream and vanilla seed mix and fold into the pear mixture.
8. Fold in raspberry pieces.
9. Divide among tear shaped chocolate moulds, dariole bowls or terrine and set in the refrigerator for at least two hours before turning out and serving.

## RASPBERRY TUILES BISCUITS

### Ingredients (makes about 40)

120g raspberries  
1 egg white  
1tsp sugar

### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 120°C, gas mark 1/2.
2. Put the ingredients in a jug, blitz them and pass them through a fine sieve but then add a spoon of the seeds in the bottom of the sieve back into the mix (so a few of the seeds remain but not all) to obtain a coulis.
3. Prepare baking sheets with Silpat mats or silicone paper. With a small spoon, form blobs of the coulis on to the tray, about a level teaspoon each. Bake at a very low temperature.
4. Check after 45 minutes. To test whether they are done, they should not be moist or spongy when you touch them in the centre. Leave them to cool for about one minute then lift them off the baking sheet with a thin-edged palette knife.
5. Stored in a sealed container, these keep for one to two days. If they do go soft, dry them out in an oven for a few minutes.

## PISTACHIO CREAM

First either buy ready made pistachio paste from a specialist Deli or make from the recipe below:

### PISTACHIO PASTE

#### Ingredients

125g untoasted, unsalted pistachios  
30g almonds or almond flour  
60g granulated sugar  
20g water  
3 drops bitter almond extract (optional)  
1 or 2 tablespoons peanut or sunflower oil

#### Method

1. Place the pistachios on a paper lined pan, toast them for 15 minutes at 150°C then let them cool down.
2. Leave the sugar and the water in a saucepan on medium heat.
3. When the sugar syrup reaches 121°C, throw in the pistachios and stir for a few seconds.
4. The pistachios will crystallize, that's normal: when they are covered in sugar and almost no syrup is left in the saucepan, remove them and scatter them on parchment paper to cool down slightly.
5. Place the pistachios, the almonds (or almond flour) and almond extract in a food processor.
6. Mix for about 2 minutes until you obtain a coarse mixture.
7. Add 1-2 tablespoons of peanut or sunflower oil.
8. Keep mixing for about 10 minutes or until the mixture becomes a thick paste.

### TO MAKE THE PISTACHIO CREAM

Whip 300ml of double cream to soft peaks and carefully fold in 75ml of pistachio paste. If the mixture is too soft whip after the paste is added, rewhip to soft peaks, but be careful not to over whip.





# A WALK AROUND MAIN QUAD WITH ROB MERCER

JOB TITLE HEAD CHEF  
DEPARTMENT DOMESTIC BURSARY  
YEAR JOINED UNIV 2008

## Q&A

**Where did you work before Univ?**

I started washing up at Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells. I was there for six years. By the end I was running the kitchen. I left there and got a job at the Waterside Inn in Bray, one of the only three Michelin-starred restaurants in the country. I started off as a commis chef and ended up as a senior chef de partie in a team of twenty-five chefs and fifty front of house staff. After my son was born, I started a job in contract catering for BaxterStorey. When the Univ kitchen was being rebuilt they were looking for a Head Chef, so I applied.

**Who or what inspired you to become a chef?**

My first Head Chef was Bruce Wass in London. I was at university and wasn't enjoying my Engineering degree. Bruce took me on as a kitchen porter, a chef left and I started cooking. I didn't know how long to boil broccoli. He took me from that to running a kitchen.

**Which food or cultures inspire you?**

It's got to be French food. I'm French classically trained. My wife's French as well. I'm inspired by the modern style of Heston Blumenthal and the Fat Duck, where it's more about food science. I'm interested in learning about the new trends and seeing what we can put into place here.

**What would you say are the biggest challenges at Univ?**

We've got an enclosed audience so we're always trying to keep things fresh. Every term we try and do something different. The other big challenge is dietary requirements. At the Gaudys for those who matriculated 25 years ago, there will be few dietary requirements – for more recent years, 25% of the food we are doing caters for special dietary requirements.

**Of what achievement at Univ are you the most proud?**

I love doing the Gaudies and the Domus. They're the ones where I feel most like I'm back at the Waterside again.

**What do you enjoy most about working at Univ?**

The variety of things we're doing. We could be preparing curry for the Buttery and the next minute searing off 800lb of fillet of beef for a dinner.

**What is your favourite part of the College?**

I love the Fellows' Garden in the summer. The Alington Room is stunning as well, I love the dinners we do upstairs.

**Do we eat anything that is grown in College?**

We're getting a herb garden. There's talk about getting bees as well. I would love to have honey. Thackeray's used to have a beehive outside and it used to be the job of one of the kitchen porters to go and collect the honey, which was fun.

**Tell us something about yourself that not many people know.**

I enjoy carp fishing. It gives me time to relax and think. You can develop plans when you're fishing because there's peace and quiet. I'm a keen photographer and I enjoy mountain biking as well.

**Do you own lots of cook books?**

Hundreds. One of my favourite books is about elBulli and chef Ferran Adrià. There's a section of handwritten notes of what he's done throughout the day, which I would frame.





# EVENT LISTING

## 2016

Saturday 10th – Sunday 11th September  
**1966 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION**

Saturday 17th September  
**UNIV ALUMNI DAY**

Saturday 24th September  
**2007-2009 GAUDY**

Tuesday 11th October  
**AUTUMN USPGA (GOLF) MEETING**

Tuesday 11th October  
**UNIV IN THE CITY**

Thursday 24th November  
**12TH ANNUAL SEMINAR & BUFFET SUPPER**

Saturday 3rd December  
**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

## 2017

Friday 27th January  
**DINOSAURS & CASSANDRIANS DINNER**

Thursday 2nd February  
**UNIV SOCIETY LONDON DINNER**

Saturday 11th March  
**OLD MEMBERS' FOOTBALL DAY**

Saturday 11th March  
**ST CUTHBERT'S FEAST**

Saturday 18th March  
**GAUDY (UPTO AND INCLUDING 1959)**

Saturday 20th May  
**WILLIAM OF DURHAM CLUB  
RECOGNITION DAY**

Saturday 27th May  
**SUMMER EIGHTS, 1249 SOCIETY &  
THE MASTER'S RECEPTION**

For event enquiries, please contact Julie Boyle,  
Alumni Relations Officer: [julie.boyle@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julie.boyle@univ.ox.ac.uk)  
or visit [www.univ.ox.ac.uk/alumni-event-listing](http://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/alumni-event-listing)

