



# THE MARTLET

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

ISSUE 15 | 2023



## GUIDING LIGHTS

An update on Univ's Beacon programme

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

#### MEET UNIV'S POET LAUREATE

Pireeni Sundaralingam

#### LEADING QUESTIONS

Laurence Unger

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Univ entrepreneurs

## From the Editor

Welcome to Issue 15 of *The Martlet*, the annual magazine for all members and friends of University College, Oxford. I would like to thank the Old Members, students, Fellows and staff who contributed to this issue.

Particular thanks to Grant Clelland (1981, History) and to my colleagues Ariane Laurent-Smith and Justin Bowyer. If you have any comments or news, please email [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk).

**Sara Dewsbery**  
Communications Officer

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If you would like to share your view, please email: [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk) or write to us at the above address.

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

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An update on Univ's Beacon programme



### Problem-solving, poetry and paradigm-shifts

Pireeni Sundaralingam  
(1986, Experimental Psychology)

“

**The ability to reframe situations, to look at things from different perspectives, is essential to our resilience, both as individuals and as a society.”**

Pireeni Sundaralingam (1986, Experimental Psychology)



“

To study, teach and work in Univ is to be surrounded by histories, some as visible and startling as the Shelley Memorial, others that you need to know to look for.”

Professor Joe Moshenska, Beaverbrook and Bouverie Tutorial Fellow

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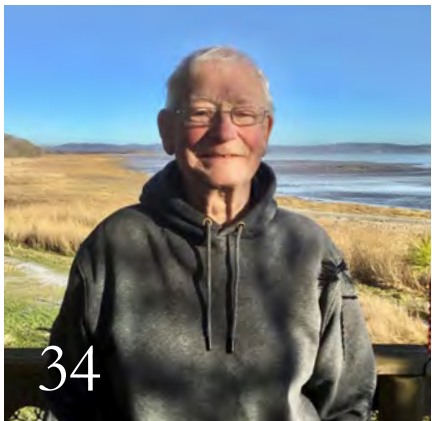
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“

Univ, the environment and more importantly the people I was around there are really formative to who I am and some of the things that I’ve done.”

Avin Rabheru MBE (2001, PPE)

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# From the Master

Baroness Amos LG discusses College and University priorities against the backdrop of world events

January saw the installation of the University's new Vice Chancellor, Professor Irene Tracey, a neuroscientist and former Warden of Merton College. Irene Tracey takes over the helm at a time of continuing global debate about the purpose of Universities in a changing world and particularly post the "pandemic years". It is clear that our students value an in-person University experience. They want the opportunity to engage with and be challenged intellectually by their peers, tutors, and others from across the world and participate in the wide range of extracurricular activities Oxford offers.

And it is not only students who value this, many of you attended or saw the recent Univ Seminar "Culture Wars: Who Owns History". Our panellists Afua Hirsch, Dr Casely-Hayford and Univ's Professor Ben Jackson provided a thought-provoking debate about the ways in which we view history.

In her installation speech the VC set out four priorities: education and teaching, discovery and translational research, local and global engagement and people. It's an agenda with people and engagement at its heart, focused on ensuring that Oxford continues to deliver world-class teaching and research, preparing our students to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

The University has also appointed its first Chief Diversity Officer, Professor Tim Soutphommasane, who joined Oxford from the University of Sydney. Tim is a human rights advocate and former Australian Race Discrimination Commissioner and is responsible for coordinating the delivery of the University's Race Equality Strategy.

At Univ, we were delighted to welcome our first cohort of Beacon programme students.

“  
We continue  
to build on  
our strengths,  
including our  
ability to balance  
tradition with  
modernity and  
to maintain  
high levels  
of academic  
excellence.”

Beacon is the first programme of its kind and offers bursaries and fellowships to talented students and early-career researchers from under-represented backgrounds.

I write these notes in a week that has been dominated by the twin themes of natural disaster and war. We all watched, as tragedy unfolded in southern Türkiye and northwest Syria following massive earthquakes on 6 February. There were extraordinary scenes with grief, loss and hope evident. And as the days passed, hope replaced by anger and feelings of abandonment. Here in Oxford, the Turkish and Syrian diaspora as well as University students and staff have been instrumental in raising money.

We were also reminded of the price of war as President Zelensky visited a number of European countries to make the case for more support for Ukraine. It a year since Russia invaded Ukraine and although there has been an international outcry, a year on there seems to be no prospect of peace. We all hope that this will change.

I end with Univ. We continue to build on our strengths, including our ability to balance tradition with modernity and to maintain high levels of academic excellence, while encouraging our students to experience the wide range of extracurricular activities available in Oxford.

Thank you for your continued support as we do our bit to challenge, encourage and support our students.



Valerie Amos

# Fellows' news

New appointments



## Visiting Fellows



**Professor Mathias Thoenig** has been appointed the inaugural Centenary Visiting Professor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), a position created to mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the PPE degree at Oxford. The post has been possible thanks to an anonymous gift from a friend of University College, Oxford and an Old Member of The Queen's College, Oxford. Professor Thoenig joins the Department of Economics from the School of Business and Economics (HEC) at the University of Lausanne for the academic year 2022-23.

## Tutorial Fellows




**Dr Aneurin Ellis-Evans** has been appointed Cawkwell Fellow in Ancient History. He was most recently Lecturer in Ancient History at Oriel

and Jesus Colleges and was previously a Junior Research Fellow in Classics at The Queen's College. His first book, *The Kingdom of Priam: Lesbos and the Troad between Anatolia and the Aegean* (OUP, 2019), is a regional history of the island of Lesbos and the region of Türkiye opposite it known as the Troad in antiquity. He teaches and researches Greek history from the Archaic through to the Imperial period.



**Dr Natalya Benkhaled-Vince** has been appointed Sanderson Fellow in Modern History. She joins Univ from the University of Portsmouth.

Her research interests include oral history, decolonisation, women's and gender history and state- and nation-building in Algeria and France, but also more broadly in Europe and Africa. Her works include *Our Fighting Sisters: Nation, Memory and Gender in Algeria, 1954-2012* (MUP, 2015), *The Algerian War*, *The Algerian Revolution* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020) and the ongoing documentary project [Generation Independence](#) .

## Junior Research Fellows



**Dr Grace Mallon** (2015, History), Sanderson Junior Research Fellow in History.

Dr Mallon's research interests include the history of the US Constitution and of law, politics, and government between the American Revolution and American Civil War.



**Dr Lea Rees**, Lady Wallis Budge Junior Research Fellow in Egyptology.

Dr Rees' PhD project at FU Berlin was titled, *Transformations of the cultural landscape in Dahshur*. She was previously a Research Assistant at the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo.

### Stipendiary Lecturers



**Mx Alex Benn** (2018, Law), Stipendiary Lecturer in Criminal Law. Alex Benn specialises in criminal and discrimination law, and is the author of various articles, including for the *Criminal Law Review* and the *Oxford Human Rights Hub Journal*. Mx Benn is also a barrister at Red Lion Chambers.



**Dr Tess Johnson**, Stipendiary Lecturer in Philosophy. Dr Johnson is a GLIDE postdoctoral researcher in the ethics of pandemic preparedness, surveillance and response. Her particular focus is on antimicrobial resistance, and natural and engineered pathogens.



**Dr Anca Popescu**, Stipendiary Lecturer in Engineering. Dr Popescu specialises in microelectronics. She was previously a lecturer at Trinity College, Oxford, where she taught mathematics to first and second year Engineering Science students.



**Mx Mori Reithmayr**, Stipendiary Lecturer in Politics. Mx Reithmayr's DPhil thesis *Community before Liberation: Theorizing Gay Resistance in San Francisco, 1953-1969* is located within the tradition of queer intellectual history.

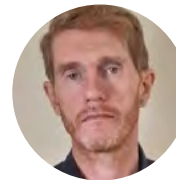


**Mr Hans Robin Solberg**, Stipendiary Lecturer in Philosophy. Mr Solberg is a DPhil student at Oxford. His research interest is in the philosophy of mathematics, in particular the philosophy of set theory.



**Dr Simon Stephenson**, Stipendiary Lecturer in Earth Sciences. Dr Stephenson's research is interested in understanding how processes within the Earth's mantle are manifest at the surface in landscapes and in the geological record.

### Research Associates



**Dr Anthony Howarth**, Research Associate in Gerontology. Dr Howarth's research focuses on how the relationship between design, place, community and intergenerational living might enable healthy ageing.



**Dr Yiyang (Bruce) Li**, Research Associate in Chemistry. Dr Li started his research in Professor Edman Tsang's group in 2017. His research interests focus on clean energy, including the utilisation of solar energy and production of hydrogen.



**Dr Caroline Potter**, Research Associate in Gerontology. Dr Potter is a medical anthropologist with expertise in qualitative and mixed-methods health research.

### Departmental Lecturers



**Dr Patrick Quinton-Brown**, Departmental Lecturer in International Relations. Dr Quinton-Brown's research focuses on the Global South in the international order and the globalisation of international society.

You can read more Fellows' news in the *University College Record* and on the College website.



# Fellow in focus

Professor Joe Moshenska, Beaverbrook and Bouverie Tutorial Fellow in English and Professor of English Literature



My office in Univ is in 90 High Street, which means that my daily walks to lunch or my pigeonhole take me back and forth past the Shelley Memorial. I've become used to these frequent glimpses of the naked marble body of the great poet since I arrived at Univ in 2018, but my experience of them is always inflected by the fact that – as a plaque on the High Street side of the wall records – this is a spot that features several historical layers. Two and a half centuries before marble Shelley was plonked there, this was the site of the house where the great chemist and natural philosopher Robert Boyle performed his experiments with an air pump, exploring the possible existence of a vacuum, and what is now the easternmost slice of the Fellows' Garden was Boyle's long, thin back garden.

I mention these accidents of historical convergence because I've always been interested in my work – which focuses on the period of Boyle's lifetime and a little before, the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries – in the ways that histories tend to get piled atop one another, and the peculiar kind of access that literary works give to these histories, the traces that they leave, and human experiences of them. It's also fitting that Boyle and Shelley, a scientist and a poet, converge in this space since I've always been interested in moving between literature and other fields of culture and human endeavour. I tend in my work to return to two complicated and inexhaustible poets – Edmund Spenser and John Milton – but to move back and forth between the minute linguistic workings of their great poems, and the histories of religion, philosophy, science, and art, as well as critical and cultural theory. This was true of my first book, on the sense of touch in renaissance England,

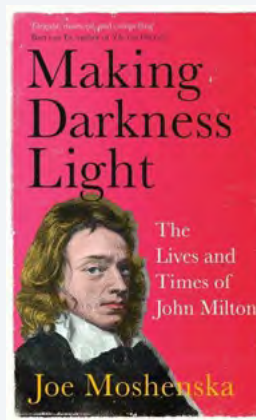
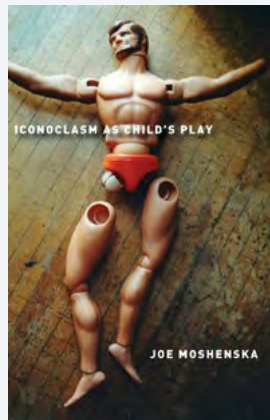
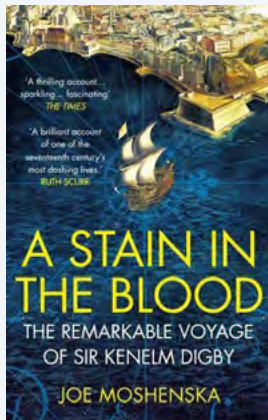


“

To study, teach and work in Univ is to be surrounded by histories, some as visible and startling as the Shelley Memorial, others that you need to know to look for.”



### Recent publications by Professor Moshenska



which included chapters on relics, statues, the early reception of Chinese medicine in England, and the philosophical history of tickling; it was true in a different way of the book that I published soon after moving to Univ, *Iconoclasm as Child's Play*, which traced the practice of giving formerly holy things to children as toys during the Reformation, a project that took me not just back to Spenser, but through the long history of philosophies and theories of play. I maintain my love of Spenser even when not reading him through my role as President of the International Spenser Society, in which I

founded a Zoom reading group during the pandemic where we choose – and discuss – a stanza from *The Faerie Queene* using a random number generator – email me if you're interested in trying it!

If I'm interested via my academic work in connecting literature to other areas of thought and practice, I'm equally keen to connect with wide and varied audiences. Two of my books – *A Stain in the Blood*, on the 1628 Mediterranean voyage of the polymath Kenelm Digby, and *Making Darkness Light*, an experimental biography of Milton – are aimed at a general readership. I firmly believe that, while

it's important to maintain the scholarly standards for which Oxford is renowned, it's also crucial that we find ways to communicate the value of literature to the wider world if the subject is to survive and flourish. For similar reasons I've enjoyed sharing my ideas via the radio, frequently appearing on Radio 3 to discuss topics as varied as Caravaggio, the photographer Cindy Sherman, the human knee, and the history of the bedroom, and in 2017 I presented a Radio 4 documentary on Milton for which I had the chance to visit Galileo's villa outside Florence, where he and Milton probably met.

The great joy of teaching at Univ is that it gives me the chance to experiment with my teaching in the way that I enjoy experimenting in my research. Last term I ran a reading group with the second-year students on Rabelais's *Gargantua and Pantagruel* where we met weekly, often over breakfast in hall, for a different kind of discussion. This term, I teamed up with a colleague from another college to take them for a walk around Oxford to sites where Boyle's friends and contemporaries participated in the acceleration of the Scientific Revolution – a reminder that to study, teach and work in Univ is to be surrounded by histories, some as visible and startling as the Shelley Memorial, others that you need to know to look for.

“

The great joy of teaching at Univ is that it gives me the chance to experiment with my teaching in the way that I enjoy experimenting in my research.”

# Univ online

Kilmer, Cairo, Kittens and Carols



18,000

page views of our Staircase12  
resources in 2022



766,000

page views of the website in 2022



Which two of Tom Cruise's co-stars have filmed scenes at Univ's Shelley Memorial? That would be Val Kilmer and Elizabeth Shue in *The Saint* – starring previously and respectively with TC in *Top Gun* and *Cocktail*. Of course, wise readers of our website would know that thanks to one of the new website features we introduced in 2022, *Then and Now*, contrasting old photographs of College with their modern equivalents. Honestly, not all the features in the series were as whimsical and most covered a much greater timespan than 25 years; we also explored hidden ceilings in Hall, windows in Chapel and evacuees in Radcliffe Quad. Together they were amongst our most popular features of the year.

Also new online for 2022 were our student-led reviews, the vast majority of which looked at books relevant to studying subjects at Univ (or other, newer, places of learning if you must...), ranging from 1984 to *Confronting the Classics* and *The Secret Barrister*. The reviews are mostly the excellent work of our brilliant Student Ambassadors and form part of our Staircase12 online hub of resources and information for students thinking about applying to top universities – it's an area of our website that had more than 18,000 page views last year. (see [here](#))

Not new, but rather making a welcome return after almost two years of pandemic-



related hiatus, were our online student travel reports. We published a wide range of fascinating reports from as far afield as Denmark, Panama, Morocco, Hawaii and Zimbabwe covering everything from medical electives to Northern Protestant missionaries research and language training to molecular neurobiology. Whilst many reports came from our graduate students (read all of our reports [here](#)), we also collected together a roundup of undergraduate reports, which you can read [here](#).

Elsewhere helping to make up the 300+ news items and features we published online over the last year was the National Pet Day gallery of staff and student pets, our celebration of International Women's Day, details of College's first Equality and Diversity Day, updates on the Univ North development, our regular Treasure features,

new podcasts, UCBC reports, a playlist of Christmas songs from our choirs...

2023 is already proving to be a busy year for College and, judging by the emails we receive, for our friends and alumni too. It will be, as always, our immense pleasure to continue to share all this news and more online at Univ.

*Justin Bonnyer, Digital Communications Manager*

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 univ.ox.ac.uk

Images, clockwise from top left: The Shelley Memorial, "Bede the Venerable" from MS 165 fol. 2r, Alexandria to Luxor travel report by Aurelia Aslangul (2018), Classics), Guardia travel report by Ameka Prank (2020), Classics), Tibisi travel report by Gabriel Barnes (2019), Languages – French and Russian) and "Pets of Univ?"





## My view of Univ

As a master's student, I spent a lot of time recording my academic journey for social media. I wanted to write about how academic research is often about the small everyday endeavours. As a part of that, I used to take lots of pictures of my everyday surroundings – and what gorgeous surroundings they were! This white wisteria always caught my eye: it's an unusual alternative to the purple variety seen around the rest of the city.

**Dr Ellen B Brewster** (2017, MSt English Literature 1700-1830) is a Project Manager in Fast Stream Reform for HM Treasury.



# College news

Royal guests, special events and Univ North



## Royal Visit

King Charles III (then The Prince of Wales) visited Univ on 12 May 2022 to meet students and to hear about their experiences of access, diversity and opportunity at Oxford.

At a roundtable discussion, hosted in the Master's Lodgings by Baroness Amos, a small group of students spoke of their experiences of coming to Oxford from backgrounds which are under-represented at the University. The group included students who had previously participated in a variety of access programmes, including Opportunity Oxford, UNIQ, the Amos Bursary, and Target Oxbridge.

The King asked the students about the barriers they had encountered and the ambitions they hoped to fulfil. Some spoke of the relative lack of encouragement

they had received at their schools. Others spoke of the importance of individual inspirational teachers in their personal journey. All reflected on how distant

Oxford seemed from the perspective of their home communities, and the importance of targeted outreach work. Many of the students present were themselves now ambassadors, working with schools around the country to bring Oxford a little closer to communities for which it seems an impossibly long way away.

The King, who has a long-standing interest in unlocking opportunities for less advantaged young people, was particularly interested to hear of the importance of building communities within Oxford, and networks which reach beyond Oxford, for students from under-represented backgrounds. Many of those who spoke felt that the College and the University had made huge strides in access, but there was still work to do in fostering a truly inclusive environment.

The King also spoke with the JCR and WCR presidents and vice-presidents to learn more about the activities of the student common rooms, and with the Senior Tutor, Dr Andrew Bell, to find out about Opportunity Oxford, the university-wide initiative which started at Univ and has now seen 500 students from under-represented backgrounds admitted to the University.







### International “At Home” Day 2023

On Friday, 3 February, Univ held its inaugural International “At Home” Day for the whole College community, at which everyone was encouraged to bring their local delicacies, sweets or pastries to share, and to wear their own national/ cultural or heritage dress (or whatever they thought best describes who they are). The event was the initiative of our Domestic Bursar, Angela Unsworth, MBE. See [here](#).

Our thanks to all those in the Domestic Bursary and beyond, to our International Student Reps – Carlos Gonzalez Perez (MCR) and Heloise Picolet (JCR) – and to all who attended and celebrated with us.



### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Day

The first Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Day took place on 6 May to celebrate Univ’s diversity and help set the College’s EDI agenda. The programme included a panel discussion, which asked “What does an inclusive college look like?”, chaired by the Master. Halima Doski (2020, Chemistry), former JCR Racial Equality Officer, Zimpane Kawanu (2020, MSt World Literature), International Officer at The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, and Ffion Price (2017, History and Politics), Schools Liaison Officer, led an audience discussion of the question.

### Univ North update



The Univ North development reached an important milestone with the College submitting

its Notice of Commencement, the formal move to signal the start of engineering works. The engineering works started on 6 March and include widening entranceways, laying of haul road and demolitions prior to pressing on to deliver the “material start” works, comprising groundworks for each of the seven buildings in phase 1. The groundworks are anticipated to be completed by mid-2023, with detailed construction design completed in parallel ready for execution.

SDC, our building contractors, have set up the site, completed the tree works and are now ready to move into the execution of the scheme. See [here](#).

The new Univ North development will offer the College’s community of staff, students and academics modern, energy-efficient, multi-functional buildings with up to 150 study bedspaces, gym, café, study, meeting and lecture spaces, as well as a 54-place nursery provision. The scheme will renovate existing buildings, rejuvenate heritage orchards, and offer beautifully landscaped gardens, together with accessible access routes and rooms. This continues Univ’s aim to provide the very best facilities for students, staff and academics. See [here](#).

**HOUSINGDESIGNAWARDS**  
**2022 WINNER**

The Univ North scheme won the Good Neighbour Award

at the Housing Design Awards 2022. See [here](#).

# Event highlights

A number of events took place in 2022, connecting Old Members around the world. Here are some of the highlights. Follow the links to read reports, view photographs or listen to podcasts.

## January

### Univ Virtual Book Club

The book club on 25 January was facilitated by Sir Ivor Crewe, Honorary Fellow and former Master of Univ.

## March

### 15th Annual Football Day

The Univ Old Members football tournament returned to the Univ Sports Ground on 12 March. Peter Chambers (1989, Maths) provided a match report [here](#).



### 1988-1992 Gaudy

A Gaudy for those who matriculated between 1988 and 1992 took place on 19 March. Read a report by Alison Pindar (1991, English) see [here](#).

### 1970 and 1971 Golden Reunions

A joint reunion for those who matriculated in 1970 and 1971 was held on the weekend of 26 and 27 March. Read a report by Mike Jackson (PPE, 1970). See [here](#).

## April

### New York Reception

A drinks reception and dinner to welcome Baroness Amos was kindly hosted by Professor Emily Rose (1983, History) at The Century Association on 20 April.

## May

### Global Conversations from Univ – The war in Ukraine

Professor Polly Jones led a virtual conversation on 11 May with Luke Harding, James Jones, Tim Whewell and Ada Wordsworth. See [here](#).



### Annual London Dinner

Old Members and friends of Univ gathered for the 17th Annual Univ Society London Dinner on 12 May at the Lansdowne Club. Dr Nisha Mehta (2000, History), National Clinical Director of Digital Primary Care at NHS England, was guest speaker. See [here](#).

### William of Durham Club annual event

This annual celebration, which recognises members of Univ who have pledged a legacy to the College, and those considering this special form of giving, took place on 21 May and included a Champagne Afternoon Tea and an exhibition of rare manuscripts: See [here](#).

### USPGA (Golf) Spring Meeting

The spring meeting took place on 25 May at Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, kindly hosted by Anthony Young (1970, Plant Sciences), who also provided a report. See [here](#).

### Summer Eights Master's Reception

A drinks reception for Old Members and friends of the College was hosted by the Master on 28 May at the Boat House.

## June

### Univ in the Arts – Poetry Salon

Philly Malicka facilitated an In Conversation event with poets Jenny Wong and Stephen Walsh, who read from their recent work at the 1901 Arts Club in London on 16 June.

## September

### USPGA (Golf) Autumn Meeting

The autumn meeting took place on 20 September at Ealing Golf Club, kindly hosted by Mike Shilling (1975, PPE).



### 1960-62 Diamond Anniversary

On 18 September, the classes of 1960, 1961 and 1962 were invited back to Univ for a luncheon. Read a report by Rory McTurk (1960, English). See [here](#).

### Univ Virtual Book Club

The 20th Univ virtual book club on 21 September was facilitated by Lord Butler, former Master of the College. *Oxford University on Mont Blanc* by Dr Stephen Golding was chosen for the discussion.



“

As I made my way down the High Street I caught the distinctive echo of Roy Park's raspy, cigar-smoky voice, quoting from *The Mill on The Floss*: 'If the past is not to bind us, where can duty lie?'"

Alison Pindar (1991, English)

### 1993-1996 Gaudy

All those who matriculated between 1993 and 1996 inclusive were invited to attend a Gaudy on 24 September. Read a report by Dr Lexie Elliott (1994, Physics). See [here](#).



### 1972 Golden Reunion

Members of the Class of 1972 and their guests returned to Univ on 25 September. Read a report by Nigel Wood (1972, English). See [here](#).

October

### Leander Lunch

A group of Univ Boat Club Old Members gathered at Leander Club, Henley-on-Thames, on 22 October with active members of the Club as their guests. Read a report by Ron Jordan (1963, History). See [here](#).

“

Quietly, there were other strands in the day that were not just exercises in nostalgia, but rather glances forwards."

Nigel Wood (1972, English)

### Global Conversations

Baroness Amos and António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, discussed global challenges in a virtual event on 26 October, followed by a discussion with Professor Ngaire Woods, Univ Senior Research Fellow, and Professor Dapo Akande, Professor of Public International Law at the Blavatnik School. See [here](#).

### Univ in the Arts – broadcasting

Philip Bernie (1980, History), Head of BBC TV Sport, discussed the future of broadcast sports in an interview with Aly Vance (2002, Physiology), sports journalist, on 27 October in London.

November

### Young Univ Drinks

Members of Young Univ (alumni aged 35 and under) were invited for drinks at the Counting House in London on 17 November.

December

### Advent Carols

All Old Members, friends, students, staff and their families were invited to attend a service for Advent in the College Chapel on 3 December, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Hall.

### US Trip

The Master and Rebecca Baxter, Interim Development Director, received a warm welcome from Old Members and friends in both San Francisco and New York. It was an opportunity to meet many Old Members for the first time.

### Dates for your diary

**Thursday 13 and Saturday 15 April**  
New York and Boston Drinks  
Receptions with the Master

**Wednesday 3 May**  
Univ in the Arts – Breakfast at  
Dishoom

**Saturday 13 May**  
William of Durham Day

**Saturday 27 May**  
Summer Eights event

**Sunday 11 June**  
Old Members' Cricket Day

**Friday 29 June**  
Rhodes 120th Anniversary Drinks  
Reception

**Friday 8 September**  
1953, 1963 and 1973 Golden,  
Diamond and Platinum  
Anniversary Reunions

**Friday 22, Saturday 23 and Sunday  
24 September**  
Meeting Minds

**Saturday 23 September**  
1997-2000 Gaudy

**Saturday 18 November**  
Roy Park Memorial Dinner

**Saturday 2 December**  
Advent Carols

Please check the website for  
updates [here](#).

# Development News

Univ Donor Day 2022

On 1 October, the College hosted a Donor Day to thank our generous supporters and to celebrate the impact of their philanthropy. The programme included an update on College news, academic research and an opportunity to meet some of the students supported by gifts to Univ.

Univ Fellow Professor Adam Smith, Edward Orsborn Professor of US Politics and Political History, and Director of the Rothermere American Institute, delivered a lecture on America's "Cold Civil War". Radia Hassan (2018, Biochemistry), Ruqayah Juyel (2017, Law) and Ffion Price (2017, History and Politics) took part in a panel discussion about the Opportunity Programme, moderated by Dr Andrew Bell (1993, History), Senior Tutor. Shermar Pryce (2021, PPE), JCR President, and Jasvin Khurana (2021, PPE), JCR VP/Treasurer presented an update on the JCR over lunch in Hall.

The afternoon sessions featured talks by Robin Timmis (2020, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics), Berman Scholar in Physics, and Daniella Cheang, (2018, DPhil in Organic Chemistry: Synthesis for Biology and Medicine), Radcliffe Scholar in Chemistry.



All guests were invited to view the exhibition, *Univ and its Donors, 773 Years of Giving*, curated by Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982, Classics), College Archivist, exploring the history of philanthropy and Univ.

The afternoon session concluded with an opportunity to speak to Dr Andrew Grant (1977, Chemistry), Finance Bursar and Univ North Project Director, and Scott Walker, Univ North Project Manager, about the Univ North Project, over tea and coffee in Hall.



"Where else could one hear such diverse insights into laser physics, biological compound synthesis, US politics and environmentally-

friendly construction, all delivered with aplomb by experts in their field? This meeting of minds was typically social, highly instructive and most enjoyable, showcasing the best of Univ and the enduring impact of the College's philanthropy initiatives."

**Paul Adler** (1975, Physics)

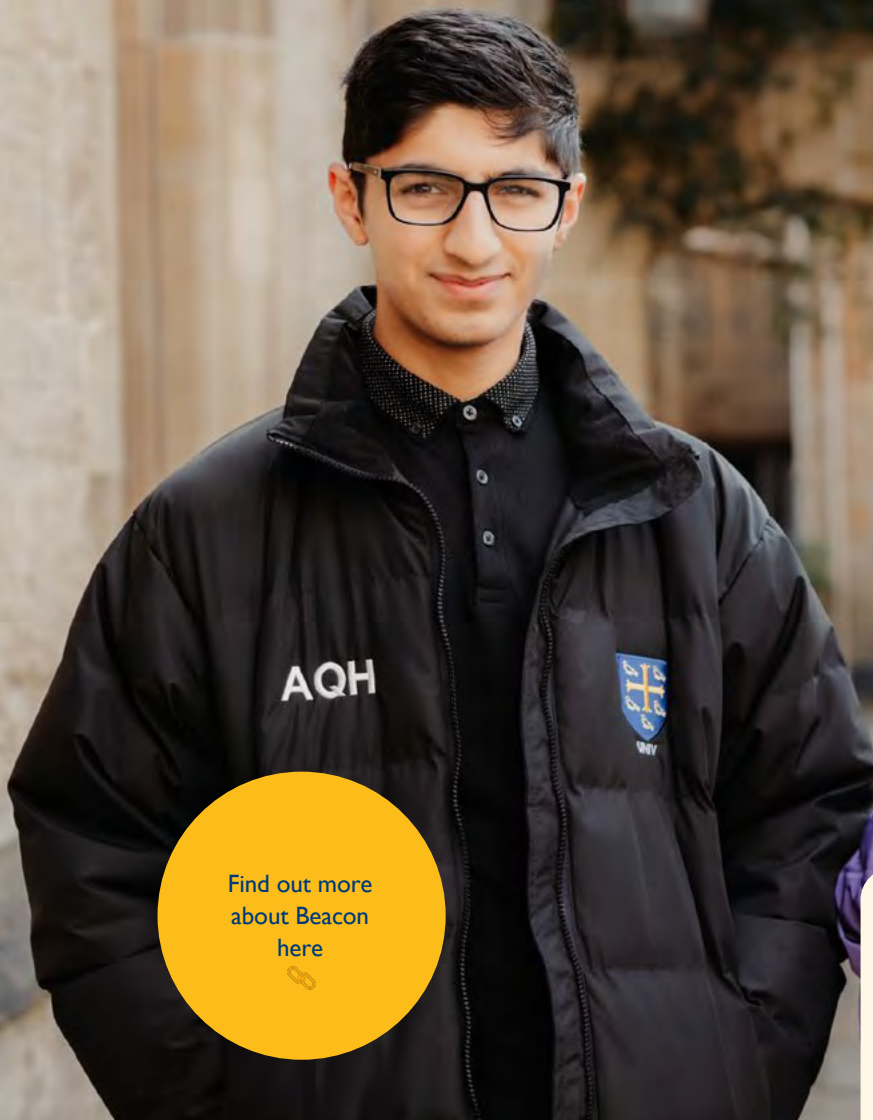


"Attending Univ Donor Day reminds you why you love the College still, years after you left. You hear about the ways in which

Univ is supporting students from diverse backgrounds, pioneering new approaches to outreach and welfare. You touch base with a College community who feel strongly enough about its future to continue donating years after graduation. And you meet an array of Univ alumni with fascinating life stories and passions to tell."

**Ashlee Godwin** (2003, History)





Find out more  
about Beacon  
here

# GUIDING LIGHTS

## AN UPDATE ON UNIV'S BEACON PROGRAMME

Photography by Philippa James

In October 2021, Univ announced the launch of the Univ Beacon Programme, a major new initiative to drive participation and inclusion in education and research. It comprises ten new undergraduate bursaries, two new graduate studentships, and a postdoctoral research fellowship, all targeted at students and researchers who come from backgrounds and communities which are priorities for widening access at the University of Oxford. These priorities include British students with Black African, Black Caribbean, Bangladeshi or Pakistani heritage, members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, care-experienced students, asylum-seekers, and refugees.

The Beacon Programme builds on the success of the Univ Opportunity Programme, launched in 2016 and now adopted university-wide as Opportunity Oxford, which promotes the success of talented students of all backgrounds who have experienced marked educational or socio-economic disadvantage. The Univ Beacon Programme forms part of the wide-ranging programme of work led by the College's newly-established Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Two recent Beacon scholars, Ardeel Hussain (2022, PPE) and Naomi Ololuo (2022, Law), describe what the programme means to them.



ARDEEL HUSSAIN



**Why did you apply to Univ?**

When choosing an Oxford college to apply to, I relied on student forums, college websites and the Student Union college suggester (part of the SU's alternative prospectus) as, unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to visit Oxford before applying. From the information I was able to gather from the internet, Univ stood out as an especially friendly college. This was important to me, and since I arrived, I have really appreciated having a college community that is open and welcoming. Univ also stood out due to its central location, architecture and the large cohort at Univ of other people studying my subject, PPE. To top it all off, Univ has an extraordinary history with fascinating alumni and the prestige of being the oldest college, which sealed the deal and made me fall in love with it!

**Why did you choose to study PPE?**

I chose to study PPE partly out of a desire to stay interdisciplinary and also out of a fascination for how the world works and why it is as it is. I studied a mix of sciences and humanities at A-Level and was always wary of narrowing down my career options and field of study. I have also always been someone who has kept up with current affairs and was interested in politics and the news. PPE was the perfect balance for me, allowing me to study three distinct but interlinked subjects that would allow me to spend three years learning about crucial questions about the world we live in whilst also keeping my options after my degree open.

**What is your favourite part of your course?**

In my first term, my favourite topic I studied was Logic as part of the philosophy side of the course. Logic is very much an abstract and theoretical topic to study and very different to anything I had done in school. But, despite it being new to me, I've really enjoyed it as it opens a distinct way of thinking and analysing arguments. Problem sheets set weekly have been both challenging and fun to do as you apply the new techniques and methods you have learnt in creative ways. That is not to say, however, that I have not enjoyed the politics and economics side of my course this term though. In fact, the best part of the course has been the opportunity to discuss questions about how the world works and why with my tutors and coursemates across all three subjects.

"The Beacon programme is an example of Univ, once again, being at the forefront of developing initiatives to widen access and remove barriers for students from disadvantaged backgrounds."

**How did you hear about the Beacon Programme?**

I first heard about the Beacon Programme when I received my offer letter in January, and I looked to the Univ website to find out more. There, I found out that Univ was offering 10 Beacon bursaries to help those from backgrounds that typically face barriers going into university. After having looked to see if I fit the criteria and putting my name down, I found out a few weeks later that I was successful and would get the Beacon bursary for my three years at Univ.

**Why is the Beacon Programme important to you?**

The Beacon Programme is important to me because of what it says about Univ and how it's creating a real impact for Beacon scholars. The Beacon Programme is an example of Univ, once again, being at the forefront of developing initiatives to widen access and remove barriers for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Univ providing financial support shows how the College is committed to making sure those who have got through the tough admissions process to get an offer should be able to take the offer if they wish without financial reasons holding people back. It's a progressive means by which Univ is widening access and driving forward inclusion and participation from underrepresented communities in higher education and academia. Beacon also has a real-life impact on those who are part of the programme. Being the first in my family to go to university meant that the high living costs associated came as a real shock, from food to accommodation. Beacon has alleviated that financial stress from myself and my family, meaning I can enjoy my time at Univ without constantly worrying about money.

**How have you found the experience of studying at Oxford?**

Studying at Oxford has been surreal but exciting! Getting used to a new environment, new people, and a new way of working has been a learning curve, but as I slowly feel myself getting the hang of it, studying here is certainly a dream come true. Being able to chat with people who are as passionate about their subject as you alongside being taught by tutors and academics who are so knowledgeable and interesting is a very unique experience.

**Is there anything that has surprised you?**

The quirks, traditions and Oxford lingo were a big surprise when I arrived, but I feel more confident in my Oxford jargon after my first term! The independence in learning at university was a big shock too, however finding a good routine and collaboration with other PPE students has certainly helped. Also, the beauty of Oxford and its stunning buildings is a real shock every time you walk around College and the city, being able to study in Univ's Old Library or the Radcliffe Camera is something I don't think I'll ever get used to!

**Do you have any advice for prospective students?**

My advice for those intending to or deciding whether to apply to Oxford is to go for it! If you have a real and deep interest in a subject and have a love for learning, look at what courses are on offer and put in an application. Ultimately, regardless of the history, traditions and prestige, Oxford is open to everybody and Univ is a testament to that, so don't let anything hold you back when deciding to apply!



NAOMI OLOLUO



"I am delighted that the Beacon bursaries are already having such a positive impact on students. Univ remains committed to driving access, opportunity, and inclusion, building a diverse pipeline into academia and the professions."

Baroness Valerie Amos LG  
Master of University College, Oxford

#### Why did you apply to Univ?

I applied to Univ on a whim. My favourite English teacher had studied there and had recommended it to me before for its welcoming and diverse student population, and when I saw that the current master, Baroness Valerie Amos, was the first black head of an Oxford college I was absolutely sold. Old, friendly, diverse, trail-blazing – what more could I ask for of a college?

#### Why did you choose to study Law?

As a creative person with a natural aptitude for scientific disciplines, I love problem-solving and engaging in anything that requires me to be critical and analytical. I saw a law degree as an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about important social issues, as well as be equipped with legal knowledge and vital skills that will help me navigate my adult life. It hasn't yet disappointed me!

#### What is your favourite part of your course? Is there a particular area that you are most interested in?

So far, I have particularly enjoyed constitutional law. I did not study politics at sixth form, so a lot of what I have learnt in the past eight weeks has been completely new to me, which has been a welcome challenge. I think the best way I can describe it is "fuzzy" – I like how nothing is so clear cut in this subject, and with there being so much going on right now and in the past decade e.g. with Brexit, devolved governments and issues with ministerial conduct, tutorials have been extremely engaging.

"This scheme has afforded me more freedom and choice than I have ever had before, allowing me to enrich my personal life and focus on academics without constantly worrying about money."

#### How did you hear about the Beacon Programme?

I heard about the Beacon Programme through email a few weeks after I received my offer.

#### Why is the Beacon Programme important to you?

Growing up in a single-parent household with four siblings, worrying about money is something I have become accustomed to, even as much as my mum tried to shield me from it. I have had to sacrifice a lot of my childhood interests such as athletics and dance because they were too expensive and starting university, I expected that sacrifice would similarly be a large and defining part of my experience. This programme has afforded me more freedom and choice than I have ever had before, allowing me to enrich my personal life and focus on academics without constantly worrying about money.

#### How have you found the experience of studying at Oxford? Is there anything that has surprised you?

It got really intense quite quickly, but I have really enjoyed it. It helps that I am absolutely in love with the city and have become involved with various aspects of college and university life, recently becoming the Junior Access Officer for the University's African Caribbean Society (ACS).

#### Do you have any advice for prospective students?

Be yourself! You have something unique and interesting to offer; so don't let your fear of Oxford's grandeur or your desire to appear "perfect" diminish that. Also, if you are from a minority and/or low-income background like me, don't rule yourself out for fear of not fitting in. The student population is becoming more and more diverse, and organisations such as the ACS will genuinely help make you feel heard, seen, and welcome.

#### Do you know what you would like to do after Univ?

Ultimately, I hope to pursue a career in law, hopefully as a barrister. I am not yet sure about the area I would like to specialise in, so I hope to spend my holidays over the next three years gaining experience in many different sectors.





# Problem-solving, poetry and paradigm-shifts

Pireeni Sundaralingam (1986, Experimental Psychology) has been appointed as the College's inaugural Poet Laureate. The position will be for three years, beginning in Hilary Term 2023. A multiple award-winning poet, Pireeni's work has been published in over 30 literary journals and translated into five languages.

## You're both a cognitive scientist and a poet. Are these two things related for you?

I'm fascinated by the cognitive and neural processes of "thinking outside the box": the mechanisms that allow us to invent tools, innovate new business solutions and create radical paradigm-shifts in both the sciences and the arts. And what processes lead us to get trapped in mental cul-de-sacs, leaving us prey to fear-based thinking and political polarisation, or diminishing our agility to adapt to the future? The ability to reframe situations, to look at things from different perspectives, is essential to our resilience, both as individuals and as a society.

Cognitive psychologists at Michigan State University noted that those STEM graduates who had an arts practice on the side created a significantly higher number of patents, research publications, and founded more companies, than those without an arts practice. Data suggests that it's not even the quality of the art/music that is produced but the regular practice of "stretching the brain" that boosted the inventiveness of these scientists and entrepreneurs. The arts in general encourage us to find new ways of looking at what lies right in front of us. I would argue that poetry, with its conjoint skills of close observation, mapping analogies between disparate situations and mental reframing, is one of the best practices for supporting our ability to think and rethink. Some of my favourite poems are those which jolt the reader into seeing even the most mundane objects in radically new ways, such as Pablo Neruda's *Odes to Common Things* or Thomas Tranströmer's poems in his collection *The Deleted World*. As our very own Shelley once noted: "Poetry is the art of making the familiar, unfamiliar."

## What do you see as the role of the poet in modern-day society?

For many decades, there's been a tendency to value poetry purely for its emotional or aesthetic dimensions. While these are

definitely valuable qualities, poetry is also a vital component in our cognitive toolkit, a key catalyst for helping us think better. Many of the skills that we treasure and invest in at Univ, including deep reading, analytical thinking, and originality of thought, are increasingly under pressure in our current society. The research programme I've been leading at Silicon Valley's Center for Humane Technology indicates that the algorithms underlying most of the major tech platforms with which we interact these days – from search engines to social media – are downgrading our ability to engage in both flexible and original thinking. We're seeing the fallout in all kinds of creative industries from architecture to advertising, with a downtick in the production of original ideas. Yet we will need cognitive systems that are more agile, not less, if we are to adapt to the unprecedented levels of global change that we are now facing.

## Are you a proponent of art-science interdisciplinarity?

In terms of tackling the planet's greatest problems, whether it's climate change or global health, we obviously need not just a diversity of approaches but also in-built mechanisms for questioning and adapting our methodologies to the rapidly evolving situations we're now facing.

Additionally, arts modalities can often convey ideas and information more effectively than direct messaging of scientific information alone. A few years ago I was tasked with assessing, on behalf of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals action portal, how the arts might play a role in mobilising populations to take action; I subsequently had the wonderful opportunity to create a "nudge unit", using data-driven cognitive and behavioural science techniques to select specific arts modalities that would not only communicate information about the SDGs but also enact authentic behaviour change in different populations.


I very much appreciate Univ's capability as an "ideas collider": we're so fortunate to be able to bump into colleagues from a diversity of disciplines simply by walking through the quads or sitting down to eat in Hall. Interdisciplinary debate can spark such deep paradigm-shifts; I'm excited that Sir Ivor Crewe was keen to emphasise my function as an interdisciplinary catalyst as part of my role as College poet laureate. It is in the very DNA of Univ. After all, Shelley, Univ's most famous poet, spent hours running science experiments in his rooms.

## What do you hope to do as College poet laureate?

I'm looking forward to catalysing ways of thinking differently! I'll be hosting a diverse programme of events. A few highlights include: a regular Creativity Salon, exploring the neuroscience of creativity and how to catalyse creativity in our respective fields; a podcast series, interviewing paradigm-shifting thinkers from a diversity of fields; live panels bringing together artists and scientists to discuss interdisciplinary approaches to some of the world's most challenging issues; poetry-read-a-thons (alumni welcome!); and of course both poetry and creative thinking workshops. And there will be Poetic Happenings in the quads, so stay tuned!

## What do you plan to write about while you are at Univ?

I'm fascinated by the phenomenon of Univ as an incubator of ideas, with layers going back down so many centuries. I'm planning to write a series of lyric essay-prose poems, interweaving lives of different Univ artists and scientists, together with a multi-sensory conjuring of the sensory landscape of College: space and time mapped against each other. We'll be translating this into an audio-tour which will also include the latest augmented reality (AR), as well as a printed collection.

Find out more [here](#) .



# **THE SECRET OF MY. SUCCESS**

## **PART THREE: UNIV ENTREPRENEURS**

We invited some of our established and emerging entrepreneurs to talk about what inspires them and how they got started on their entrepreneurial journey.





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What one generally finds is that really exceptional founders will find opportunity anywhere, whereas weak founders can't.”

**A**vin Rabheru MBE (2001, PPE), is the Founder and CEO of Housekeep, the UK's largest home services platform. He has spent most of his career in venture capital, and has invested in more than 50 early stage businesses as an angel investor and non-executive director.

In 2014, the cleaning industry was offline and inefficient. Housekeep has built technology to make the customer and cleaner experience seamless – from click to clean to cashless payment. They became the market leader in three years, delivered 1,500,000+ cleans and generated an average rating of 4.9\*. They also raised the earnings of thousands of cleaners by 50%, and were ranked the 6th fastest-growing

company in Europe by the *Financial Times* in 2019.

Housekeep has won over 50 business awards, including Scale-up Business of the Year at the Amazon Scale-Up Awards (2020), Tech Company of the Year (Medium) at the UK Business Tech Awards (2022) and Property Tech Company of the Year at the Global Business Tech Awards (2022).

Avin Rabheru was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours in 2021 for services to entrepreneurship and digital innovation. He was named Scale Up Entrepreneur of the Year 2019 at the British Entrepreneurs Awards and Tech Entrepreneur of the Year in 2022.

We interviewed him for *The Martlet* in October 2022.

[housekeep.com](https://housekeep.com)  
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Read more  
here



### Why did you apply to Univ and why did you choose PPE?

I'd always loved studying history, politics and economics, and had led or been closely involved in the relevant societies at school. PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) was therefore a very natural fit, both in terms of the intellectual rigour required and the subjects themselves. Of course, like all good politics students in those days, I also wanted to make sure I was on track for the job of Prime Minister!

I distinctly remember arriving at the open day with my father. The students welcomed me with a smile and offered to show me around – it made a lasting impression on me and I've felt at home at Univ ever since.

### What did you enjoy most about studying here?

I had a genuine interest in the subjects in their own right, and also enjoyed the intellectual problem-solving and challenge. There were also some terrific tutors, some of whom are still at Univ, such as Bill Child and Ngaire Woods. I also loved the social side – I took my role as President of the aptly-named Beveridge Society very seriously indeed.

What really stood out for me was the group of people that I was around. I made lifelong friends who are exceptionally talented and all doing incredible things today. One of those very good friends of mine joined Housekeep, a fellow PPEist from my year, Gareth Lloyd. He joined as CTO and was our head of the tech team for five years. We wouldn't be where we are without him, without any doubt, and he remains a close friend. Recently, another PPEist, Oli Scully, who was Beveridge Society President the year before me, joined Housekeep in our product team.

### What is it about Univ and the Oxford college experience that makes it so special?

The college experience, especially at Univ, is a really special part of studying at Oxford. Univ was a big enough college to ensure you could find your own group of friends, but small enough for it to feel like a close-knit community.

### Are there particular memories that stand out?

I often reminisce about walking on High Street early in the morning or late at night

when it would be empty apart from me. I'd find myself looking up in wonder at some of the buildings and asking myself how I got there. Or, at essay crisis time, at 4am when you walk from the library back across the Quad in the direction of Boster Hall, and because it's so peaceful and quiet you catch yourself for a moment appreciating just how special that experience is in the moment itself.

Of course, there are the other weird and wonderful things that happened. Chatting to Chelsea Clinton whilst eating chips outside a kebab van, or Lord Butler and his various VIP guests coming through the Master's Lodgings.

### What do you remember about tutorials?

Tutorials were great, although they were a challenging experience. I had never been taught in that way before, and no one really prepares you for the change in style and emphasis. I wish there had been some explanation of what they were and how to get the best out of them – or perhaps that in those days I had the confidence to ask, and I'd encourage our newer students to do just that. I really loved British politics and when I saw that Vernon Bogdanor was



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Univ, the environment and more importantly the people I was around there are really formative to who I am and some of the things that I've done.”

a tutor, I badgered the powers that be to allow me to be taught by him; he was the equivalent of a celebrity to me.

**Was there anything about your experience at Univ that took you in the direction of venture capital?**

I'd always assumed that I would work in business. I grew up in a family where everybody worked in business or ran their own company. I don't know if it was Univ specifically, but certainly Oxford opened my eyes to investment banking, management consulting, venture capital and private equity. Most of the insight into what a career in business might really mean came from the careers days, with the big firms coming to do talks and presentations.

**How did you think about businesses when a venture capital investor?**

I used to invest in the growth capital space – specifically businesses with up to a few million pounds of revenue but that hadn't reached hundreds of millions of pounds revenue yet. The first thing I would say is it's all about the founders or the management team that you're backing. By getting to where they've got to, they've already proven they're in the top 1%, but they're going to have to be in the top 0.01% to build a really standout business. The second thing is around fundamental proposition and consequently the economics. Why do people want this? Is there an economic model that works here? The third thing is the size of the opportunity. What one generally finds is that really exceptional founders will find opportunity anywhere, whereas weak founders can't.

**When you are investing, do you find you are more attracted by the people or the idea?**

It's very hard to assess a team until you've got lots of experience yourself, and some

sense of seeing things go well or go wrong. In the early days of my career, I relied more heavily than I now would have wished on how good the idea was, how big the market was and what the current traction was.

What I would do now is look at what people are actually delivering, whilst ignoring what I think about the proposition or what I think about the market. In other words, do customers like it, come back for more and are they willing to pay for it? If that's true, it's going in the right direction.

**What was the inspiration for Housekeep?**

I sat down with a blank sheet of paper and listed the attributes that are common in businesses that I'd seen do well. Typically, there's: a big market, a fragmented supply base and scope to do it better, possibly through technology. I would describe this model as being applicable to what Pret did for sandwich stores, what Uber did for taxis, or what Just Eat did for take-out.

I'd already invested in the consumer services and property services space, so started looking at home services. It's a huge £40 billion market, very fragmented and there was no technology. I started looking at cleaning specifically, where there are really acute pain points on either side. Consumers can't find a good quality cleaner, while cleaners can't generate decent earnings. It also had the additional element of the potential for subscription and ongoing repeat purchases if you get it right.

I wanted to figure out how it really works so signed up a handful of friends as customers and did much of the early cleaning myself, which was physically exhausting (which in itself was a valuable learning experience). We've always had the ethos of doing the right thing and doing things right and that pervades through the company and in how we think about cleaners. As it happens, it makes very good economic sense to look after cleaners

because ultimately a customer doesn't care about how good the technology is, how slick our user flows are or how beautiful our copy is. They care about getting their home cleaned by a good quality cleaner who shows up every week, on repeat. As such, looking after a cleaner secures a whole group of customers. From that basic idea, we have just kept going.

**It's exciting to see there are plans to branch out into other areas.**

Absolutely. Housekeep started in 2014 with a relentless focus on just cleaning and just London. That went well and by 2019 we'd become the market leader, had reached meaningful scale and were profitable.

Our vision now is to deliver every job in every home in the UK, whether you're looking for a cleaner, plumber, electrician, builder, carpenter, gardener, painter and decorator or handyperson. We're currently testing the model outside London, for example, in Brighton and St Albans.

**What was it like receiving the MBE?**

It's a proud moment personally, but also for my family, for my community back home in Manchester, for my peers at Univ, and really for the hundreds of people who have contributed to building Housekeep. I'm grateful to be able to share the moment with those around me.

**What advice you would give to Univ students with entrepreneurial ambitions?**

I'm a stronger founder because of the time I spent in strategy consulting and venture capital. I would say go and get some good, structured experience that will make you a stronger founder – if that's what you really want to do – which also gives you some optionality. If it doesn't work out, it means you've got a structured grounding for the rest of your career.

**Is there anything else you'd like to say about your time at Univ?**

Univ, the environment and more importantly the people I was around there are really formative to who I am and some of the things that I've done. I'm immensely grateful to have had the opportunity to study there and to meet such brilliant people. And I have a very deep love for the College and can only say good things about my time there.

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The best part of being a founder is the freedom to create and deliver something in line with your values. Equality – levelling the playing field for women – is a key driver for me.”



**D**r **Nina Wilson** (1998 MA Physiological Sciences) is the CEO and Founder of One Woman Health, an online clinic dedicated to the health of women in midlife.

After a brief spell in pharmaceutical research, I qualified as a doctor and then, alongside clinical practice, joined the world of digital health start-ups. I helped a number of companies set up their digital clinical business operations from scratch until one day, I decided I was going to do it for myself!

One Woman Health is an online clinic specialising in the health and wellbeing of women in midlife. We work with individuals and corporates, taking care of their senior female leaders. If there's one theme in mid-life it's overload. The women I speak to are busy, successful and spinning a lot of plates. Prioritising their own health is difficult, and then menopause hits. Evidence shows that too many women are forced to step back or even leave the workplace instead of progressing as they deserve because the support that would make the difference isn't available. People can only perform at their best if they are feeling healthy and well. We provide specialist care for menopause plus a whole wrap-around service optimising physical, emotional and psychological health.

Arriving at Univ was a breath of fresh air. Coming from a state background, being successful academically (especially as a female) was not considered “cool”. I'd had to self-censor for the best part of 14 years. Suddenly, the brakes were off and it was liberating.

The sheer number of opportunities on offer allowed me to explore and challenge myself in new ways. Univ was a place which promoted exposure to a range of ideas. Living in College meant making friends beyond one's own subject. I enjoyed a trip to the Univ Chalet and was President of the Dornford Yates dining society. A theme of both of these is to foster the cross-pollination of ideas by bringing together people who might not ordinarily mix.

As a founder, I have to step into worlds where I am not the expert – software, product, commercial, investment. This experience has given me the confidence and curiosity to enjoy this rather than be intimidated by it.

The best part of being a founder is the freedom to create and deliver something in line with your values. Equality – levelling the playing field for women – is a key driver for me. When women tell me they've felt heard for the first time and that they feel like themselves again, that's success.



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Without being authentic and passionate it's hard to get up in the morning and to persuade customers, investors and colleagues that it's worth trusting your brand. The goal needs to be about more than just money.”



**B**en Grass (1990, History) and **Tom Grass** (1992, History) are co-founders of Grass & Co, premium suppliers of ethically-sourced CBD oil products.

My brother, Tom and I have always been big believers in the spiritual and healing properties of Cannabis. A simple plant that can both improve human health, create meaningful social connections, and enhance our sense of a profound relationship with nature.

Cannabis contains several hundred active compounds, and one of these – CBD (short for cannabidiol) – has been shown to have beneficial effects for sleep, anxiety and pain management, but also has no psychoactive properties (i.e. it doesn't get you “high”).

My first career was in the film business, and as a regular visitor to California (which legalised CBD earlier than the UK), I was able to experience the benefits of CBD first-hand over many years, and decided to create a wellness brand in 2018. Co-founding with Tom, and having the surname “Grass” made it all feel a bit like destiny.

We called the company “Grass & Co”, and our mission is to enhance human health with natural, plant-based products.

Tom and I spent a lot of time initially developing products that we felt would deliver on this ambition, and which really stood out from the competition. After many months of visiting

potential suppliers, and trialling different formulations, we decided that our core products would all combine CBD with other botanical ingredients and vitamins to optimise and help target specific health benefits. Another huge area of focus has been to make all our products taste delicious and smell fantastic.

We now have three ranges of products with CBD as the core ingredient – the “Ease” range targeting pain management, the “Calm” range targeting anxiety and the “Rest” range targeting sleep. We sell our products in the UK through Holland & Barrett, Planet Organic, Ocado and other partners, and I'm pleased to say that four years on, our customers seem to like what we do.

If I had to pass on any tips from our journey so far, I would say that it's firstly very important to believe in what you do and to be excited about it. Without being authentic and passionate it's hard to get up in the morning and persuade customers, investors and colleagues that it's worth trusting your brand, and coming on the journey. The goal needs to be about more than just money.

It's also very important to choose the key people around you with great care (if you have the luxury to do so). Entrepreneurial life is almost necessarily stressful and charged at times, and it can make all the difference to be dancing the dance with folks who are supportive and get the job done well. You will need their trust every day to succeed. Next up – a range of functional mushrooms!

*Grass  
& Co.*



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Angry Monk would not exist had we not blended talk of philosophy with entrepreneurial ambitions late at night on Main Quad.”



**N**athan Lucaussy (2017, Computer Science and Philosophy) and Andy Guariglia (2017, Medicine) are co-founders of Angry Monk, a climate-tech startup.

Angry Monk is a venture-backed social enterprise tackling the 10% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by food waste. We divert surplus food from landfill by redistributing it to canteens and caterers. Founding Angry Monk with Andy Guariglia was a direct result of so many of our shared Univ experiences.

I was visiting friends on the Oriental Studies programme in China, where, living in a monastery, we ate nothing but cabbage for a week. A chance encounter with a monk hungry for a more exciting lunch led us to an all-you-can-eat buffet, where I helped myself to three plates of food. Despite my enthusiasm, this was one plate too many, and the monk flipped from his usual calm composure. Ultimately, I was not able to leave until my plate was licked clean!

Back in Univ, I learnt through my good friend Andy that for every two plates of food consumed in the UK, a third plate is lost to landfill from supply chain inefficiencies – a stark contrast to the third plate I was forced to finish by the angry monk.

Though consumers are able to rescue surplus food through great initiatives like Too Good To Go/Olio, Andy noticed that the biggest, industrial buyers of food were not. At the same time, my Philosophy tutorials were showing how difficult rallying individual consumers in the fight against climate change would be. Suddenly,

we had an opportunity to create meaningful change in the food system, and Univ's head chef helped us with the first clues of what a canteen would look for in a surplus-rescue initiative.

We were lucky enough to be funded by BGV, Europe's leading tech-for-good VC, and Imperial College, both of which supercharged the early refinements to our product. The first days were gruelling: Andy and I would wake up at 4am to deliver produce around London. Quickly though, Angry Monk grew, fuelled by customer appetite for sustainable procurement and a great support springboard of advisors.

Today, our technology platform helps supply surplus produce to many of the biggest canteens in the UK, from tech companies to London universities and charities. We've grown to a team of six, and Andy and I were able to take jobs at McKinsey and Google while contributing to running the company. We're still very much involved as founders, stewarding through the next phase of growth, and if there's something I wish I'd known as a student two years ago, it is that a corporate career and social entrepreneurship are not fundamentally incompatible.

To anyone with an idea, I'd recommend biting the bullet and riding the entrepreneurship wave, in confidence that you will come out more employable than before should things ever go South.

And to anyone without an idea, look out for the Andy in your year at Univ! Angry Monk would not exist had we not blended talk of philosophy with entrepreneurial ambitions late at night on Main Quad.

🌐 [www.angrymonk.co.uk](http://www.angrymonk.co.uk)  
 🐦 [twitter.com/angrymonkUK](https://twitter.com/angrymonkUK)  
 📷 [instagram.com/angrymonkuk](https://www.instagram.com/angrymonkuk)  
 💼 [linkedin.com/company/angry-monk](https://www.linkedin.com/company/angry-monk)

**ANGRY MONK**





# Your Legacy

## Why Leave A Legacy To Univ?

Legacies are an enormously important source of funds for the College, 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 will. 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
- An invitation to an annual special recognition day
- A commemorative William of Durham Club pin

UK legators who leave more than 10% of their estates to charity receive a 10% discount on Inheritance Tax. Speak to your solicitor for the details.

For further information on remembering Univ in your will, please contact: Martha Cass on +44 (0) 1865 276958, email: [Martha.Cass@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Martha.Cass@univ.ox.ac.uk) or see [here](#) .

“Univ is an extraordinary college. The range of characters and interests found there, and the interdisciplinary exchange, creates a wonderful atmosphere. It is this diverse and exciting community that I hope to support by remembering Univ in my will.”

Jessica Lazar (2009, English)



# PICTURING THE NEWS

**Tilly Binucci** (2019, Classics), explains the process of creating illustrations for *The Oxford Blue* newspaper.

I tend to make my choices on what I illustrate based on a couple of things: firstly, whether the article itself inspires me (which, more often than not, it does); secondly, is there scope for me to put my own stylistic spin on it? Can I make it funny? I also tend to look for a way to represent the article through a character, since my style lends itself to depicting things with expressions.

I begin with a particular idea in mind of the general aesthetic direction I'd like to take the piece in, based on my prior reading of the article. Sketching out the composition of the piece in pencil often takes the most work: the illustrated headlines I produce are the readers' first impression of their articles, so something fairly simple, eye-catching, enticing, and most importantly, representative of the article's contents, is required. I paint over the sketched-out illustration in watercolour paint, and then go over it in pen (my favoured technique, Luddite that I am). Photographing my pieces renders the highest quality image, and this is then uploaded straight to *Oxford Blue*'s illustration portal.

My degree is in Classics, which I have had a keen interest in since I began learning Latin at 15. I particularly enjoy Ancient Philosophy, as well as reading texts in Greek and Latin. As a hobby, I have always been devoted to art, especially illustration, and was lucky enough to study it in school up to A-level.







Clockwise from top left:

### Riot Grrrl/math rock

The “vibe” of the music is meant to come through the choice of characters. For *Riot Grrrl*, I had fun with the imagery of different 20th-century punk women and assembled them into a rock band. Math rock sounds like hanging out with your friends in a car, so that’s what I drew.

### Les Mis

One of my favourite articles I have illustrated for. It was about someone who read *Les Misérables* at the angsty age of 12 and it taught them empathy. I was keen to encapsulate one such intense scene (using the recognisable film characters) which might have appealed to a bored 12-year-old.



### Uncle Sam

A fun, standard type of illustration: someone writes a piece critiquing a world power and I get to go to town depicting its corrupt leader in caricature. The old war propaganda character of Uncle Sam is probably the most American thing you can think of, so having him wielding a gun speaks for itself, really.

### Ukraine

An inflammatory piece about war tourism, specifically, some students who had gone to Ukraine at the height of the war. The drawing is what I imagine you would do on holiday in a war-torn country. Taking a selfie while a city is bombed seems satisfactory to capture the absurdity and outrageousness of the situation.



Read more  
here





# WELFARE STATE INTERNATIONAL

An interview with John Fox MBE (1959, PPE and Education)

**John Fox MBE** (1959, PPE and Education) has a worldwide reputation for creating celebratory participatory art with communities. Artist, printmaker, published poet, filmmaker, lecturer, cultural provocateur and occasional musician, John is an Honorary Fellow of the Universities of Cumbria and Central Lancashire and a Companion of Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. Along with Sue Gill and others he founded Welfare State International (1968-2006) – a collective of radical artists and thinkers who explored ideas of celebration, site-specific theatre, with communities, fireshows and spectacles. In January 2022, the University of Bristol Theatre Collection was awarded £281,758 by The Wellcome Trust for a three year project to conserve, catalogue, digitise and make available the archive of Welfare State International (WSI).

With their latest company, Dead Good Guides (DGG) Fox and Gill create ecological sculpture trails, secular ceremonies and celebrant training for Rites of Passage. Recent work includes *Wilderness*, a sanctuary garden on the shore of Morecambe Bay and *On The Edge Of A Rising Tide* (with Sound Intervention), a processional fable with musicians, tricycles, off-grid amplification and digital projections.

John received a lifetime achievement award from Arts Council England in 2006 and was appointed MBE in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours for his "unstinting contribution as an inventor of forms of creative participation and celebration."

## What brought you to Univ?

I went to a direct grant school in Hull and was expected to do well academically; if you went to Oxbridge then you had done really well. I don't know why, but I'd put down PPE and to my amazement, I got in, but first did my National Service in Ghana. At Univ, Sir Maurice Shock and Sir Peter Strawson were fantastic. They knew I was a maverick spirit who was probably never going to be an academic, but they let me turn my room into a studio and make a complete mess. Sir Peter Strawson was really good for somebody like me on logic. I think the only decent mark I got was in logic. But he and Sir Maurice Shock were just very open, relaxed and wise. I really appreciated it.

As an undergraduate, I could enrol in The Ruskin School of Drawing for £3 a term and spent all my time there drawing life models. It was wonderful. I designed

and constructed many sets for *All For Kicks* an ETC (Experimental Theatre Company) musical and then designed Ibsen's *A Doll's House* for the Oxford Playhouse.

The most important thing about Univ for me was finding out about who I was, which is what I think university used to be and could be about. It wasn't just about the process of learning, it was about discovering how to develop oneself. Univ gave me total encouragement.

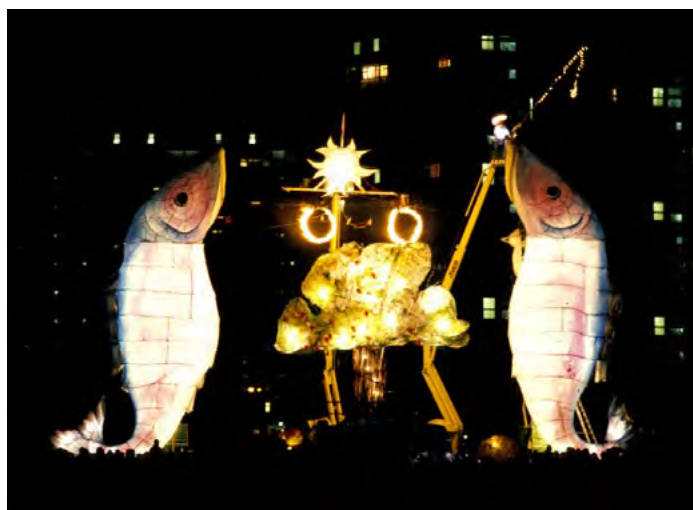
## How did Welfare State International (WSI) evolve?

WSI started in Bradford in 1968. I was the tutor librarian at Bradford School of Art (alumni include David Hockney). Radically we wanted to get art out of galleries and theatres. A small group of us including Sue Gill started creating street theatre, initially with stories like *Punch and Judy* or *The Arabian Nights*. We put out a circle of

oil drums painted yellow, banged drums and persuaded people to come to see us. Gradually we got better at it. At that time we were all living in a large Victorian house in Leeds before we moved out into caravans parked in a former rubbish tip in Burnley. We lived as a collective of artists, mainly couples with children and a few single people. We weren't hippies, it was simply cheaper to live in caravans and our life and work were nomadic. Our manifesto proclaimed "Art as an Entertainment, an Alternative and a Way of Life."

## You created the Ulverston Lantern Festival in 1983, which is still going strong. What inspired its creation?

We'd been to Japan to perform King Lear on a mountainside and experienced a wonderful Shinto/Buddhist lantern festival. We imported it to Ulverston using our own techniques of woven willow sticks



Clockwise from top left: *All Iir Uir*, Glasgow Coat of Arms, 1990; *Longline Finale*, 2006. Photo Ged Murray; Lantern Parade, Ulverston. Photo Ged Murray; *Parliament in Flames*, Catford, 1981.





Clockwise from top left: Poster for *Parliament in Flames*, Burnley; Welfare State Handbook 1983; *Glasgow All Lit Up* poster – University of Bristol Theatre Collection, Welfare State International, Ken Meharg and Annie Butcher; Beach clean poster – design by John Fox 2022; John Fox, *The Rain Days* – cover design by Bel, John's granddaughter then aged 6; *Foxy's Song Book*, 2021 – cover design by John Fox

“

The most important thing about Univ for me was finding out about who I was, which is what I think university used to be and could be about.”

(withies), tissue paper and candles. After a very small procession in 1983, it has grown extensively. Now in a moment of joyous excess families gather to fabricate lanterns for the parade. Children involved in those early processions now bring their own children to the annual parade. Lantern Parades have spread worldwide.

In 1988 WSI bought The Old National School, a Victorian landmark in Ulverston which we used as a base until 2006. In 1999 we were awarded a £1.7 million lottery grant to develop it into The National Centre for the Celebratory Arts.

We produced a lot of work there including many exhibitions, a *Song Cycle* and our last performance *Longline: The Carnival Opera* in 2006. *Longline*, which took three years to make, was a commemoration of the lives and deaths of generations around Morecambe Bay. As a community theatre event, it relied on 200 local people, including choirs and performance groups. A work about The Bay, it referenced the tragic deaths of 23 migrant Chinese cockle pickers in 2004.

It was an extremely difficult gig. As our last performance (in a circus tent in heavy snow!) it was a rite of passage both for the end of WSI and also for many people in Ulverston who had worked and volunteered with us for more than 20 years. I was delighted with the review in

*The Guardian* from Lyn Gardner because she spotted its essence, i.e. people making and celebrating together, with a community voice articulating and revealing deep-rooted memories and concerns.

I have always written poetry, whether through songs or poems, or scripts that have been used in shows. A catalogue of our books is on our website.

Sue and I now live in a timber-framed wooden house on stilts, with a grass roof, above the shoreline in Baycliff, a village south of Ulverston. We are lucky to own 150 yards of beach for *Wilderness*, a devotional garden. It's our answer to religion, a mixture of whirligigs, weathervanes, and poster poems, with observation points and accompanying publications, including small illustrated books for children. After working with scientists documenting the micro life in the Bay we have created videos about critters in the bay (and threatened oystercatchers), all of which can be triggered on the beach with smartphones via QR codes mounted on posts. They can also be viewed on the Dead Good Guides website.

“

Our manifesto proclaimed ‘Art as an Entertainment, an Alternative and a Way of Life.’”

### Where did the idea come from for Dead Good Guides?

We archived Welfare State ([welfare-state.org](http://welfare-state.org)) on April Fool's Day 2006 and on the same day started Dead Good Guides, to pick up where Welfare State left off, using many of the same ideas in a more domestic way.

With Dead Good Guides ([deadgoodguides.co.uk](http://deadgoodguides.co.uk)), as well as *Wilderness*, we have been invited to create many works including *After The Storm*, a Requiem for a forest on the Falkland Estate in Fife, 2012–2013, an arboreal cloister, to mark the decimation and storm trauma. Also, *I Could Read The Sky*, another ecologically orientated sculpture trail in Ballycroy, County Mayo. In 2022 we directed a workshop on community theatre in Romania and performed in *All Lit Up*, a concert of WSI songs for Mid Pennine Arts, the people who first gave us a home in 1968.

So, here we are, Dead Good Guides. We don't have the same resources we had with Welfare State International but we judge things accordingly, look for adventures and take what comes. We are open to offers!

# Sports & societies

## UCBC

Following the unprecedented success of UCBC's women taking Headship in last year's Summer Eights, Michaelmas term got off to an inspiring start at the annual Leander Lunch, provided by Friends of UCBC at Leander Club. Current and former rowers shared their experiences of UCBC over the years, and the women's headship crew were delighted to meet Margaret Chamberlain (1979, Jurisprudence), pictured right with the crew, who was the first woman to row for Univ in 1979 and who founded the Women's Boat Club.



Buoyed by this experience, UCBC's seniors continued to train hard throughout the term. Under the guidance of head coach Jonathan Cheesman, Univ crews competed in regattas both in Oxford and externally, gaining valuable experience we hope to take forward to bumps and beyond. External regattas included Upper Thames Autumn Head, Fours Head on the Tideway, and The Fairbairns Cup in Cambridge. Spending the majority of the term training in fours, Univ crews enjoyed success in the Oxford side-by-side races, with the women taking victory at Autumn Fours and the men victorious in Nephthys Regatta. Fours Head, the culmination of fours season on the Tideway, saw Univ field five crews in the academic divisions. At Fairbairns, where Univ boats



were again among the only Oxford crews in attendance, four crews took the fight to the colleges of the Other Place. So much racing outside the Oxford bubble has been immensely valuable to all of us lucky enough to be given these opportunities, and we hope to be able to convert this into bumps aplenty for the rest of the year!

The success of the Univ novice programme bodes well for the future of UCBC. Our taster day in Freshers' Week saw record attendance, and this was reflected in the outrageous number of signups received for Michaelmas Novice Rowing. Three men's boats and two women's boats were formed, with coaching from committed seniors helping the novices

learn the ropes. Many early mornings later, the novice crews were keen to get their hands on some side-by-side racing at Nephthys regatta, where the Men's A boat stormed to a commanding defence of the title won by Univ's novice men in 2021. There was a tangible enthusiasm running through all the novice crews, some even seeming genuinely excited to turn up to training sessions deep into November, and we hope that this spirit stays with them over the vacation and that we will see them all back and ready to row come January.

Attention now turns to Hilary Term and Torpids, the first Oxford bumps of 2023. Univ rowers depart for the vacation ready to spend many long hours on the ergs over Christmas, all in the hope of returning in 0th week ready to lay down the watts and help Univ repeat the blades-winning performance of Torpids 2022. All around, Univ rowing continues to grow healthily with the support of The Friends and our senior members, whom this year oversaw the founding of our alumni outfit, The Martlet Club. The Martlets have got off to a flying start, racing at Fours Head and beyond. Have a look at the Martlet Club section of our website to learn more!

*Max Bolton (2021, PPE), UCBC IT and Communications Officer*

[univboatclub.com](https://univboatclub.com)





## RUGBY

The end of the 2021/22 year came with Univ's involvement with the mixed touch rugby cuppers, which resulted in the team taking home the plate thanks to a massive turnout from both the men's and women's teams. Utilising members of both teams in conjunction and the experience of the game that was brought, the Univ squad found itself against Hertford in the final to win 3 tries to 2 right on the whistle.

Men's rugby at Univ has seen the success of the end of last year continue into the 2022/23 season, starting off with a very successful first game against The Queen's College for the opening game of cuppers. Fighting an uphill battle in terms of squad size, the Univ team pulled away from the off. The yellow and blue ended up 38 points to Queen's 20, thanks to the effective application of tidy back plays, a 10 – 12 combo fresh from the blues locker room, and an ample serving of pace around the field.

The next game saw a promising start to Univ's cluster with Exeter for the league games. The new arrangement is shaping up to be a formidable side, with good-looking cohesion after just a single



game against Jesus. The game resulted in an Exeter/University walkover after Jesus failed to get out sufficient numbers. The subsequent friendly showed how the strengths of the two colleges complement each other well, though resulted in a last-minute loss of structure and a Jesus try to close out their win.

The combined team looks forward to continuing their growth as a single squad

in the league in upcoming games against Brasenose, Queen's (again), and Oriel. Univ also has its continued success in the Plate competition of the year's cuppers and the annual Old Boys Day, where the current club plays a game and goes for a social with its former members, still to come this year.

*Edward Stevenson (2021, Computer Science),  
Univ RFC Men's Captain*

## NETBALL

Michaelmas 2021 saw the return of college netball to normality post-Covid, and the Univ team were excited to take to the court. Since then, despite being in Division 5, the girls (and the occasional boy) have enthusiastically turned up to LMH every week looking to play a fun, moderately competitive match against our opponents. Consistency was clearly our strength, coming a respectable third place in both the Michaelmas and Hilary Leagues last year. Trinity term saw non-mixed Cuppers, playing a whole tournament of matches in just one day. We did not make it out of the group stages, but since we had been up against teams from much higher divisions, we did not see this as a great loss (or surprise), and Josie Ilingworth-Law (2019, Music) and I, as Co-Captains, were very



proud of the effort that the team had put in.

This term has seen the netball team take on a new life, now with some new kit and a full set of pumped-up netballs, as well as three new Captains: Via Strachan, Anna Price and Alice Blackmore. With Via's weekly Training Academy of Netball honing our skills, our highlight of the term was our 11-3 victory over LMH B, even



though it, unfortunately, resulted in a trip to the JR for Chloe Bardou (2020, History and Politics). We are looking forward to our matches next term, and encourage anyone to join our team, whatever prior experience you may have!

*Anna Hastie (2019, Classics), Netball  
Co-Captain 2020-2022*



## Leading questions

**L**aurence Unger (2001, Modern Languages) is Head of Public Markets at Legacy Trust Company in Houston, Texas, where she oversees \$3 billion in public market investments for families and foundations. She is also a dedicated Impact Investor and invests in early-stage life sciences ventures focused on some of the most challenging areas of healthcare such as Alzheimer's. She loves film and served as Executive Director of the Houston Cinema Arts Society, Houston's largest film festival, and brought the Sundance Film Festival to Houston in 2021. She holds an MBA from Columbia Business School and an MFA in Film from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She is a Trustee and Treasurer of the American Friends of University College, Oxford (AFUCO).

“

Every moment that I spent with my Russian tutor, Dr Michael Nicholson, remains a treasured memory. His love for his subject was infectious and had a profound impact on me.”





Below: Laurence Unger is pictured in front of the *Hieronymus Box*, a digital collage reworking of Hieronymus Bosch's *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, with famous Houstonian personalities, landmarks, flora and fauna. The work was commissioned by the City of Houston as part of a pandemic project to create outdoor artwork around the city.



### What brought you to Univ?

I came to Univ to study Russian literature, so every moment that I spent with my Russian tutor, Dr Michael Nicholson, remains a treasured memory. His love for his subject was infectious and had a profound impact on me. Observing his passion inspired me to search myself deeply to understand my own passions. Memories of our blind translation sessions of English text into Russian still make me laugh. I remember him asking me to translate, “Good heavens! A dentist in pink socks just tore up my pyjamas.” He had amazing anecdotes about Russian history at Univ that really brought the subject to life. When people ask me about my time at Oxford, I still always mention that Prince Felix Yusupov, slayer of Rasputin, lived in the College’s computer room once upon a time.

### You are a long-term supporter of the arts, and film in particular – what sparked that interest and does it provide a nice balance with the finance world?

It has been challenging to find a path that includes film and the arts and finance. It has been a path that I have had to create for myself, but it’s been incredibly rewarding. I dreamed of being a filmmaker when I was a kid, and I’m naturally inclined towards self-expression through scribbles and paint. I am in awe of the efforts, risks, and sacrifices that filmmakers and artists pour into their work. It’s really, really hard to be an emerging artist or filmmaker. My work with the Houston Cinema Arts Society has been focused on finding ways to support local emerging talent and encourage local storytelling. I would love to see Houston (my home town) take a greater place in the cinematic consciousness.

### Why do you support Univ, and why would you encourage others to do the same?

I support Univ because it fosters an incredible student and alumni community. It offers students an unparalleled opportunity for self-exploration through study and friendship, and I hope it will continue to do so for another thousand years!

**Describe Univ in three words:** Enigmatic, quirky, cerebral

# Announcements

If you have news you would like to submit for the next issue, please email [communications@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@univ.ox.ac.uk) by Friday, 24 November 2023.

## 1950s

**Nick Schlee** (1952, English) exhibited oil paintings and drawings inspired by the river Pang, *Dazzling Water* at Gallery 8 in London in September 2022.

**Professor Robert I Rotberg** (1957, History), is vice-chair of Integrity Initiatives International, which campaigns for the establishment of an International Anti-Corruption Court.

## 1960s

*Cabaret*, starring **Michael York** (1961, English) alongside Liza Minnelli, returned to cinemas in 2022 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its cinematic release.

**Peter Buckley** (1966, Law) completed 50 years at the Bar in July.

**Dr Martin Yuille** (1966, Biochemistry), Honorary Reader at the University of Manchester, presented a webinar on 5 October, on the change needed for the NHS to survive.

## 1980s

**David Campanale** (1982, PPE) won Exclusive of the Year in the BBC News Awards for 2021, for his investigation with Matthew Hill into the Uyghur detention camps in Xinjiang.

**Dr Robin Darwall-Smith** (1982, Classics), is now Joint General Editor of the *Oxford Historical Society* and Editor of *History of Universities*.

**Professor Stephen Keevil** (1983, Physics) is President of the British Institute of Radiology (BIR) for 2022-24. Having previously been President of the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), he is the first person for 25 years to serve as president of both institutes.

**Christina Lamb OBE** (1983, PPE), Honorary Fellow, was named Foreign Correspondent of the Year in 2022 for her reporting from Afghanistan, Ukraine and the Amazon.

**Dr Tom Marshall** (1983, Physiology) was awarded a Travelling Professorship by the Royal College of Radiologists and the British Society of Skeletal Radiologists, in recognition of his contributions to Skeletal Radiology and teaching.

**John Authers** (1985, PPE) wrote an article, "Britain Still Can't Look Beyond Oxford for Its Leader" for *The Washington Post* in July.

**Emma Tucker** (1986, PPE) was named the first female Editor-in-Chief of the *Wall Street Journal*.

**Shomit Dutta's** (1989, Classics) play, *Stumped* is on at the Hampstead Theatre from 16 June to 22 July.

## 1990s

**Frank Thurmond** (1990, English) is preparing his first novel for publication, which he has also adapted into a screenplay for a feature film.

**Dr Caroline Campbell** (1991, History) has been appointed as the new Director of the National Gallery of Ireland. Dr Campbell is the first female Director in the Gallery's 158-year history.

**Professor Charlotte Deane MBE** (1993, Chemistry) joined Exscientia, a global pharmatech company, as Chief Scientist of Biologics AI.

**Dr Christian E Mammen** (1993, Law) gave a talk on 25 May to the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre on the topic of whether AI algorithms should be considered artists and authors under copyright law.

**Elizabeth Garner** (1994, English) shared the development of *Lost & Found*, her first collection of rewritten folk stories, in an event at the Bodleian Library on 11 October.

**Dr Najib Rahman** (1994, Medicine), Supernumerary Fellow, was named National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Senior Investigator.

Former Organ Scholar, **Matthew Berry** (1995, Music), directed *Commotio* in a programme celebrating the music of Vaughan Williams on 18 June in Oxford.

**Professor Suzanne Kingston SC** (1995, Law) was appointed as a Judge of the General Court of the European Union in January 2022.

**Dr Jennifer Wong** (1998, English), Visiting Fellow at TORCH Oxford, ran a series of workshops as part of the project, *A Personal History of Home*.

**Joseph Kotri-Monson** (1999, Modern Languages), represented a defendant whose conviction was eventually overturned by a London court, in a bribery case prosecuted by the UK Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

**Luke Ramsden** (1999, History), Deputy Head at St Benedict's School, London, was awarded "Pastoral Leader of the Year" and a second award for "Raising Awareness about Pastoral Care" in 2022 by the NAPCE (National Association for Pastoral Care in Education).

## 2000s

**Neil Slinger** (2001, Engineering) and **Pete Smith** (2003, Maths) completed IRONMAN Barcelona to raise money for Combat Stress in memory of fellow UCBC rower **James Townley** (2001, Engineering and Computer Science) in November.





Images (clockwise from top left): Dr Caroline Campbell, Luke Ramsden, Professor Suzanne Kingston, Isaac Agyiri Danso

**Alex Cook** (2003, Law) will be appointed King's Counsel in March 2023.

**Dr Sonja C Vernes** (2003, Medicine) was one of just nine scientists to be recognised in the prestigious 2022 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists.

**Dr Oliver Cox** (2006, History) was appointed Head of Academic Partnerships at the V&A, starting in August 2022.

In July, **Jim O'Connell-Lauder** (2007, PPE and PGCE), Vice Principal of Dixons Trinity Academy, Bradford brought a group of 60 students from the school for a tour of Univ.

**Dr Emma Liu** (2008, Geology), a volcanologist and lecturer at UCL, wrote a piece on her research expedition in January 2020 to the South Sandwich Islands for *Antarcticity* magazine (UCL Press, 2022).

## 2010s

The Royal Academy of Music has conferred Associate Honours (ARAM) to **David Todd** (2010, Music).

**Dr Nicolas Kyriakides** (2011, Law), was awarded the European Citizen's Prize, for "Oxygono", the NGO he founded in 2012.

NASA has awarded a prestigious astrophysics research fellowship to **Dr Ryan MacDonald** (2011, Physics).

**Abigail Karas** (2012, Modern Languages) was awarded the SHERA (The Society of Historians of East European, Eurasian, and Russian Art and Architecture) 2022 Emerging Scholar Prize.

**Joshua Richards** (2013, History and Politics) was ordained as deacon of St Mary's, Upper Street, Stepney in a service at St Paul's Cathedral on 2 July.

**Alexandra Wilson** (2013, PPE) joined 4PB, one of the UK's largest chambers of family law barristers. Alexandra is one of the founders of One Case At A Time (OCAAT).

**Lieutenant Jack Edwards** (2014, History) was presented with the Beaufort-Wharton Award for the highest marks in navigation, for the 2021-2022 training year at HMS Collingwood.

**Frederick Waxman's** (2014, Philosophy and Psychology) historical performance ensemble, Figure, performed Handel's opera *Serse* at Opera Holland Park on 30 June.

**María Ordovás-Montañés** (2015, Medicine) became the first recorded female to complete the 55-mile Oxford Green Belt Way circular walk on 29 May, in the fastest known time of 17h 51m 1s.

**Dr Beatriz Moreno García** (2016, Bioscience), a Plant biotechnologist, had an article published in the *Journal of Plant Physiology*.

**Dr Mitch Robertson** (2016, History) chaired a discussion with John R Price, former Special Assistant for Urban Affairs to President Nixon, at the Rothermere American Institute on 11 May.

**Euan Friend** (2017, Earth Sciences) and his brothers competed in the Atlantic Rowing Race in December 2022. They covered 3,000 miles and raised £90,000 for homelessness and youth charities.

**Sage Goodwin** (2017, History) designed a Valentine's Day card which was sold in Sainsbury's. Sage works as a freelance artist, illustrator and portraitist.

**Alex Benn** (2018, Law), Senior Lecturer, set up a new module with the Oxford Law Faculty, "Hate Crime and Discrimination."

**Matthew Hardy** (2018, English) directed *The Pacificist*, a short film about John Fulljames, a conscientious objector and undergraduate at Oxford during WWII.

**Jack Rennie** (2017, PPL) wrote the screenplay, and composed and performed the soundtrack. It was filmed on location at Univ.

**Isaac Agyiri Danso** (2019, MPP) organised an exhibition, *Pathfinders, Enablers and Matriarchs: Untold Histories of Ordinary Women*, as part of an Oxford University Africa Society project.

On 23 May, **Rebecca F Kuang** (2019, Oriental Studies) delivered the Tolkien Lecture on Fantasy Literature at Pembroke College, Oxford.

## Honourable Mentions



In 2022, **Dr David Frederick** (1983, Politics) was appointed a Foundation Fellow in recognition of his exceptional support of the College.

## In the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours:



**Professor Charlotte Deane** (1993, Chemistry), Professor of Structural Bioinformatics in the Department of Statistics at Oxford, was appointed MBE for Services to COVID-19 research.

## In the 2023 New Year Honours:



**Professor John Finnis AC** (1962, Law), Honorary and Emeritus Fellow, was appointed CBE for services to Legal Scholarship.



Former Univ Professorial Fellow and Registrar, **Dr Julie Maxton**, Executive Director of The Royal Society, was promoted to Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE), for services to science and law.

Read the stories in full on the College [website](#)



## Publications



**Dr Graeme Baber** (1987, Medicine) published a new monograph, *The British Judges of the International Court of Justice: An Explication? The Later Jurists*, in June 2022.

**Dr Grahame Booker's** (1977, Philosophy) new book, *Coercion, Authority and Democracy: Towards an Apolitical Order*, was published in October (Palgrave Studies, 2022).

**Christopher Bowden** (1971, Modern History) published his seventh novel, *Mr Magenta*, a literary mystery about hidden lives and second chances, moving between a house in south London, a Brooklyn bookstore, a theatre in Marseille, and a cottage on the east coast of England.

**Dr Ross Bowden** (1969, Philosophy) published *Art and Creativity in a New Guinea Society: The Kwoma in Cross-Cultural Perspective* (Lexington Books, 2022).

**Alex Braslavsky** (2018, Modern Languages – Slavonic Studies) is to publish her first book of translations of Polish poetry: *On Centaurs & Other Poems* (World Poetry Books, 2023), the first selected volume in English of Zuzanna Ginczanka, a visionary Polish-Ukrainian-Jewish poet.

**Amanda Brookfield's** (1979, English) new novel, *The Split*, (Boldwood Books, 2022) was published on 8 August.

**Adam Curphey** (2003, Law) published *The Legal Team of the Future: Law+Skills* in September (LPP, 2022).

**Dr Robin Darwall-Smith** (1982, Classics) co-edited, and wrote three chapters for, a special edition of *History of Universities: Volume XXXV/1: The Unloved Century: Georgian Oxford Reassessed* (OUP, 2022) in June.

**Dr Lexie Elliott's** (1994, Physics) third novel, *How To Kill Your Best Friend* (Corvus), was selected as a Richard&Judy Bookclub summer pick in July. Her fourth psychological thriller, *Bright and Deadly Things*, was published in February 2023.

In September, **Elizabeth Garner** (1994, English) published *Lost & Found*, a collection of rewritten folktales. **Dr Andrew Bell** (1993, History), Senior Tutor, helped with some of the medieval Latin text.

**Professor Mitsuaki Yumiko Hada** (1989, Engineering) published, *Cross-Cultural Studies: Newest Developments in Japan and the UK* in May 2022. The foreword is written by Sir Ivor Crewe, former Master of Univ.

**Dr Seán Haldane** (1961, English) published *An Evil Tale I Heard* – sequel to the award-winning *The Devil's Making*.

**Dr Stephen Hoare** (1974, Biochemistry) is lead author of a series of textbooks for the new T Levels: *T Level in Science*, *T Level in Health* and *T Level in Healthcare Science*.

*Babel*, the latest novel by **Rebecca “R.F.” Kuang** (2019, Oriental Studies), was published in August 2022.

**Henry Marsh CBE FRCS** (1969, PPE) published, *And Finally: Matters of Life and Death* (Vintage, 2022) in September 2022.

**Andrew Meier** (1986, Modern Languages), a former Moscow correspondent for *Time*, published *MORGENTHAU: Power, Privilege & The Rise of An American Dynasty*, (Random House, 2022).

**Sandy Nairne CBE** (1971, History), Honorary Fellow, published (with Peter Williams), *Titan of the Thames*, the first biography of Lord Desborough, a towering figure of early 20th-century public life.

**Memoona Ahmed's** (2018, Experimental Psychology) debut poetry collection *once-joined pieces* (Bite Poetry Press) is due for release in late April.

**Frank Thurmond** (1990, English), Lecturer in English at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, published his debut poetry collection *Remembrance and Other Poems* in September 2022.

## Student publications

**Marcella Giobbe** (2018, Classical Archaeology) is co-editor (with Emanuele Prezioso, Keble) of a new publication, *Innovative Approaches to Archaeology* (BAR Publishing, 2022).

# In memoriam



## Former Fellows

**David John Burgess**  
(Assistant Chaplain 1966-9;  
Fellow 1969-78) died on 14  
March 2022 aged 82.

**Dr Mike Nicholson**, Emeritus  
Fellow and Dean of Degrees,  
died suddenly on 9 September  
2022 aged 79.

## 1940s

**John Stanley Downham**  
(1943, PPE) died in January  
2022 aged 97.

**Joseph David Abrams** (1945,  
Medicine) died on 4 November  
2022 aged 94.

**Professor Yi-Fu Tuan** (1948,  
Geography) died on 10 August  
2022 aged 91.

**Francis Ernest Cameron**  
(1949, Music) died on 14 May  
2021 aged 93.

**Humphrey John Patrick  
Chetwynd-Talbot** (1949, PPE)  
died on 2 August 2022 aged 92.

**David Robin Kimball Medley**  
(1949, Medicine) died on 5  
October 2022 aged 90.

**Robin John Charteris  
Mallinson** (1949, Maths and  
then Law) died on 17 March  
2022 aged 93.

## 1950s

**Godfrey Heath Fowler** (1950,  
Medicine, and College Doctor  
1981-91) died on 29 March  
2022 aged 90.

**Colin Peter Honey** (1950,  
History) died on 26 July 2022  
aged 92.

**William Proudfoot** (1950,  
Physics) died on 1 June 2022  
aged 90.

**John Joseph Monaghan**  
(1951, PPE) died on 14 May  
2022 aged 90.

**Robert Thomas Taylor** (1951,  
Physics) died on 26 May 2022  
aged 89.

**Jay George Blumler** (1952,  
Politics) died on 31 January  
2021 aged 96.

**Alan Henry Catchpole** (1952,  
Law) died on 2 March 2022  
aged 89.

**Malcolm Anderson** (1954,  
History) died on 13 September  
2022 aged 88.

**Dr Henry Jacob Cohn** (1954,  
History) died on 2 February  
2021 aged 84.

**Alan John Bale** (1954, Law)  
died on 28 December 2021  
aged 86.

**Colin Shrimpton** (1954,  
History) died in November  
2020 aged 86.

**Michael Tobbell** (1954, Law)  
died on 2 February 2022 aged  
88.

**Hidetoshi Ukawa** (1954, PPE)  
died on 17 January 2018 aged  
86.

**Denis Paul Dearnaley** (1955,  
Chemistry) died on 6 February  
2022 aged 85.

**Lawrence Anthony "Tony"  
Hutchinson** (1955, History)  
died on 18 July 2022 aged 87.

**Abel Joseph "Jack" Diamond**  
(1956, PPE) died on 30  
October 2022 aged 89.

**Nathaniel Hamilton Harris**  
(1956, History) died on 13 June  
2021 aged 83.

**Christopher Ian "Kim"  
Morbey** (1956, PPE) died on  
31 August 2021 aged 85.

**Alan James Small** (1956,  
History) died on 31 March  
2022 aged 87.

**Christopher Richard Terras**  
(1956, PPE) died on 9 February  
2022 aged 84.

**Stuart Samuel Lazarus** (1957,  
Law) died on 17 July 2022 aged  
86.

**Peter Henry Willison** (1957,  
History) died on 9 July 2022  
aged 85.

**Alan Egerton Parker** (1958,  
History, Education) died on 24  
November 2022 aged 85.

**Philip John Stewart** (1958,  
Oriental Studies, Plant Sciences)  
died on 23 November 2022  
aged 83.

**Derek William Lawrence  
Burnham** (1959, Geography  
and Education) died on 22 July  
2022 aged 82.





**Garth Creswick** (1959, Geography) died on 29 January 2014 aged 73.



**Roger John Flavell** (1964, English) died on 14 February 2022 aged 77.



**James Anthony Jaques Martland** (1969, History) died in 2016.

**Bayan Peter Northcott** (1959, English, Education) died on 13 December 2022 aged 82.

**Paul Humphrey Gilbert** (1964, Philosophy) died on 2 January 2022 aged 79.

**Geoffrey Snowball** (1969, PPE and then Geography) died on 6 April 2022 aged 71.

**Richard Charles Phillips** (1988, English) died on 26 March 2018 aged 48.

We were informed of the death of **Christopher Lewis Oastler** (1959, English) in September 2022.

**Joseph Raz** (1964, Law) died on 2 May 2022 aged 82.

## 1970s

**Nicholas Rathbone Utechin** (History, 1970) died on 17 August 2022 aged 70.

**Aveek Sen** (1989, English) died on 3 December 2021 aged 56.

**David Alexander Robert Peel** (1959, Classics) died on 7 February 2022 aged 81.

**David Michael Smith** (1964, History) died on 30 September 2022 aged 76.

**Christopher Nigel Jordan** (1973, History) died on 9 August 2022 aged 67.

## 1990s

**Caroline Te Aika (née Churchley)** (1991, PPE) died on 26 August, aged 49.

## 1960s

**Peter John Southgate** (1960, Classics) died on 12 November 2020 aged 78.

**Thomas Jeffrey Taylor** (1964, Chemistry) died on 21 May 2021 aged 81.

**Geoffrey Vivian Klempner** (1976, Philosophy) died on 12 October 2022 aged 71.

## 2000s

**Nicholas Duke-Ambridge (né Ambridge)** (2002, History and Modern Languages) died on 28 March 2022 aged 39.

**Michael Peter Walker** (1960, Physics) died on 20 July 2022 aged 80.

**Paul Francis Snowden** (1965, PPE) died on 12 August 2022 aged 76.

## 1980s

**Richard Paul Lewis** (1980, Modern Languages – Russian and French) died in early 2022 aged 60.

**John Vaio** (1961, Classics) died on 19 November 2021 aged 82.

**Malcolm Edwin Burn** (1966, History) died on 4 December 2021 aged 74.

**Diana Jane Eve Christine Phillips** (1981, Law) died in August 2022.

**Michael George Rathmore Nevill** (1961, History) died on 13 August 2021 aged 78.

**Robin Michael Sanders** (1968, Theology) died on 1 November 2022 aged 73.

**Mark André Bond** (1983, Modern Languages – Russian and French) died on 22 June 2022 aged 57.

**Michael James Inwood** (1962, Classics) died on 31 December 2021 aged 77.


**Timothy Duffus Holland Scott** (1968, English) died on 3 December 2020 aged 71.

**Christopher Stephen Peter Harding** (1969, Law) died on 31 December 2021 aged 70.

## Members of Staff

**Adam Stephen Sawyer**, the College's Hall Supervisor since 2015, died on 10 July 2022 aged 29, after a long fight against cancer.

**Tom Gibbons**, former Kitchen Porter who worked for the College for over 30 years, died on 16 December 2022.



“So what does make a college? A curious mix of all things, I suppose: the buildings and the people, the traditions and the ethos – and, perhaps most importantly, the way we hold it all dear in our memories.”

Dr Lexie Elliott (1994, Physics)