

# TW

The magazine of St John's College, Oxford

## 2020

Growing better food

Combating COVID-19

Renewing old buildings

Creating new gardens

Celebrating women at St John's

PLEASE  
KEEP OFF LAWNS

# TW

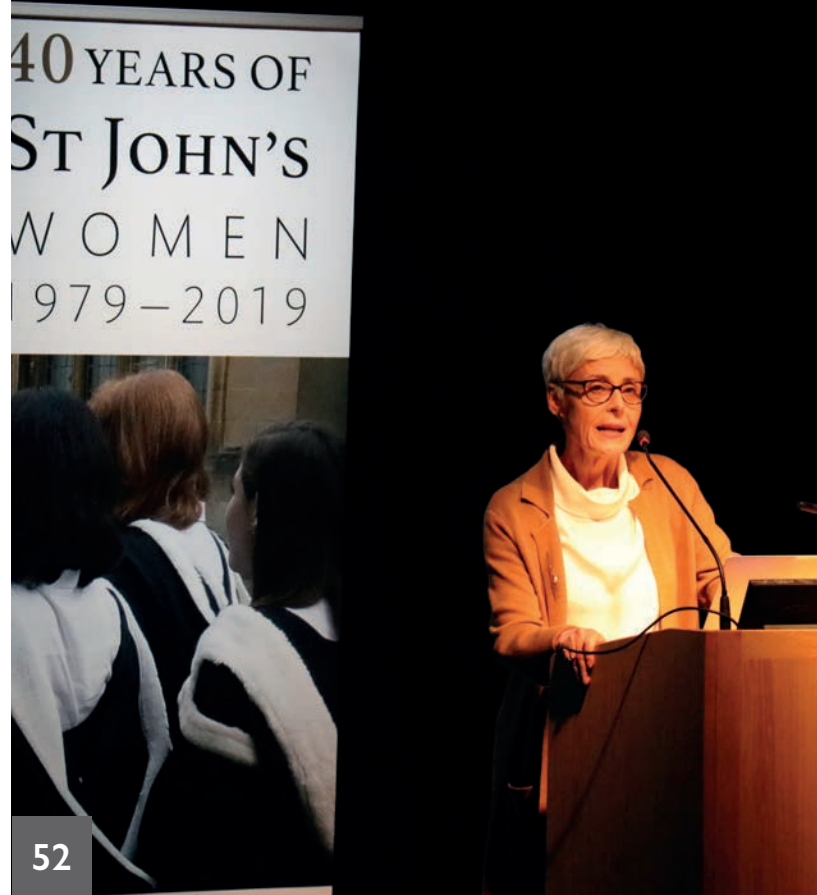
## Contents 2020

From the President	3
College News	4
Research Talks	12
Feathering the Brakes	16
Arrivals	20
Leavers	27
St John's in the time of COVID-19	28
St John's Medicine in the COVID-19 pandemic	38
We've been here before...	40
We must cultivate our gardens	42
St John's and the Colonial Past	45
The Reading List	48
40 Years of Women at St John's	52
Renewing the Fabric	60
Senior Members' News	62
From the JCR	66
From the MCR	67
Sport Review 2019–20	68
Duveen Travel Scholarship	70
In Memoriam	72
College Record	87
News of Alumni	98



**St John's College**  
Oxford

Front cover image © Hira Javaid



# From the Editor



42



45



16



9

Well, it has been quite a year. This is not the first time that disease has affected the life of the College. Closures and migrations in response to pestilence were a regular event in the first century of St John's existence. But the impact of the pandemic has been considerable – not least on our families who now, thanks to lockdown, have a much better sense of how we fill our days. I think it is fair to say that my nearest and dearest remain ambiguous about that experience.

My colleagues and their students, by contrast, have more than risen to the challenges of COVID-19 and we have tried to capture just a little of that here. From virtual Schools Dinners to urgent medical service, from engineering solutions to ground-breaking social scientific research, members of our community have risen to the challenge of the current crisis with predictable aplomb.

You can also find evidence of the many other ways in which St John's has had a good year, despite it all. The achievements of our students still impress. The work of our Fellows is genuinely making the world a better and more interesting place. We only have room for a taste of that. But do read Nick Harberd's wonderful piece on how his research is helping to reduce environmental damage and increase the provision of food. Do also look at the record of our celebration of four decades of women at St John's. Do, too, find out more about our pioneering project on St John's and the colonial past.

Throughout the period of lockdown, the main gate to St John's was closed. This was not because of COVID-19, but because the Lodge has been comprehensively redesigned to make it more open and easier to access. It is, in a sense, a perfect illustration of the College, which seemed shut, but was actually busier than ever and now reopens prepared to be still more welcoming. We do hope we will welcome you – whether virtually or in person – very soon.

**The Revd Professor William Whyte**  
Editor, TW





***We have listened and have reiterated our aim to ensure that St John's is a place where every member of the BAME community feels welcome, supported and able to thrive.***



## From the President

---

As I write, we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, experiencing a very different start to the new academic year with a mostly online Freshers' Week and socially-distanced events to welcome Freshers and new Fellows. It is not, of course, how I thought the year would pan out when, in Michaelmas 2019, we launched our '40 Years of Women' project to examine the progress made over the past 40 years and the lessons learned, and then to map out the remaining journey towards equality, diversity and inclusion. We haven't been able yet to complete everything we had planned but you can read about the events that did take place in this issue of *TW*.

At the start of the year we had also made significant progress in our outreach programmes with the launch of our Pre-GCSE Inspire programme to run alongside our ongoing activities. Through generous philanthropic funding, this project delivers a sustained outreach programme to able young people from age 14, encouraging them to aim for an elite university, such as Oxford. Like much else from March onwards, the programme moved online, including an online summer school and, despite the challenges, has made a flying start. This year's A-Level debacle brought issues of equality of access to higher education into even greater focus and has only served to strengthen the College's resolve to make a significant impact in this area.

With the start of the pandemic in the UK tutors had to adapt very quickly – almost overnight – to virtual teaching (for some, in addition to home-schooling, and

sometimes across time-zones); examinations had to go online; welfare support was needed for students, some of whom were locked down in College; and at the foremost of our minds was the need to protect the health and well-being of our staff. We also witnessed the unrest and unhappiness of our students from ethnic minorities as the Black Lives Matter movement gave voice to its concerns. We have listened and have reiterated our aim to ensure that St John's is a place where every member of the BAME community feels welcome, supported and able to thrive. As part of this, work continues on our innovative project looking at St John's own links with the colonial past and again you can read about it here.

*TW* gives us a chance to celebrate the lives of College members no longer with us – the many tributes to Professor Donald Russell, the longest serving Fellow in the history of St John's, have been very moving. It also gives us a chance to reflect on the present and I have felt so proud to be part of this College when I read about the contributions made by people across the St John's community to COVID-19 research, public policy, frontline medicine and volunteering.

Enjoy this issue of your magazine and I hope you and your family remain safe and well.

**Professor Maggie Snowling**  
**President**



# College News

## Oliver Bredemeyer runner-up in National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition

The National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition (NUNC) took place on 29 February 2020 at University Hospital, Southampton. The NUNC is an annual competition open to all medical students in the UK and Ireland, and has been running annually since 2013, now attracting over 150 students.

The competition involves a neuroanatomy spotter examination, a clinically-oriented multiple-choice examination, and a series of talks on aspects of neuroscience.

Oliver, in his second year of studying Medicine at St John's, was one of three students, along with Rafee Ahmed (Hertford College) and Kacper Kurzyp (Jesus

College) representing the University of Oxford in this year's competition. Oliver's prize for runner-up in the preclinical category was the first time that an Oxford student had received a prize in the competition, while Rafee also received a distinction, and all three students did extremely well in a very strong field.

Professor Zoltán Molnár, Tutorial Fellow in Human Anatomy at St John's, said: 'Michael Gilder and I were both very impressed by the dedication and diligence of these students during the preparatory sessions, and we hope that this will inspire more students to attend this fantastic event at the University of Southampton in future years.'

## Brook Andrew appointed Artistic Director of Biennale of Sydney

Brook Andrew, studying for a DPhil in Fine Art, was appointed the Artistic Director of the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Biennale of Sydney, the longest running in the Asia-Pacific region and one of the world's four most important art biennials alongside Venice, Istanbul and São Paulo.

The inaugural Biennale of Sydney was held in 1973 as part of the opening celebrations for the Sydney Opera House, and since then has showcased the work of nearly 1800 artists from more than 100 countries. Today it is considered one of the leading international contemporary art events, recognised for commissioning and presenting innovative, thought-provoking art from Australia and around the globe.

On being appointed, Brook said on the Biennale website: 'I am honoured to be appointed Artistic Director of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennale of Sydney 2020. As Artistic Director, I am interested in shining a light on the active, stable and rich pre-existing collaborations and connectivity of Indigenous and Edge cultures. I aim to work together with artists, collectives and communities, from Australia and around the globe, to reconfigure the world as we see it and reveal rich local and global rhizomes and unique individual cultural expressions in one place.'

Despite being delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition, titled NIRIN, was opened to the public with extended dates between June and September 2020.



## Michaelmas 2019 International Formal Hall

On 13 November 2019 we held our termly International Hall. Taking place throughout the year, each time with a different theme, these dinners give our international students the chance to come together as a community to enjoy some delicious food in Hall.

The dinner was themed around Vietnam and its cuisine, with the menu chosen by a member of the JCR and including traditional Vietnamese spring rolls and dipping sauce, a classic Vietnamese beef stew, noodle soup, and fried banana with coconut cream for dessert.

There were speeches from both the President and the JCR and MCR International Students Officers – Caroline Caruso Carter, studying Biochemistry, and Hira Javaid, studying for a DPhil in Oncology.

Hira spoke very warmly of her time at St John's, saying 'This is what international formals are meant to celebrate: a community of international students coming together and feeling like St John's is their home.'

## Music scholarship and bursaries 2019/20 awarded to a wide range of talented St John's students

This year the John Heath Music Scholarship, worth up to £400 for a gifted instrumentalist, was awarded to Julian Gonzales. Julian, a second-year mathematician and pianist, played *Études Tableaux*, op. 39, no. 5 by Rachmaninov in his audition.

Music bursaries, worth up to £120 each term to contribute to the cost of music lessons, were awarded to Max Cheung (3rd year *Literae Humaniores* – Cello), Inès Gétaz (3rd year Geography – Voice), Ishta Sharma (4th year Medicine – Flute), William Orbell (3rd year Chemistry – Piano), and Yige Huang (DPhil Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics – Organ).

Professor Jason Stanyek, Tutorial Fellow in Ethnomusicology and judge of the awards, said, 'This term, we had a record number of applicants for our

music bursaries. Twelve students from across various subjects and degree programmes auditioned, performing a diverse range of pieces (including Western classical music, American/Australian popular song, Hindustani devotional music and Brazilian choro).'

As well as the students who were awarded scholarships and bursaries, the other students to audition represented a wide range of subjects, including Chemistry, Mathematics, English Language & Literature, Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE), and Physiology, Anatomy & Genetics, whilst the other instruments played included the piano and the bamboo flute.

We were pleased to see that so many of our students, even when not studying the subject, are able to enjoy music alongside their academic work.



Competition entry from a Year 9 student enrolled on the Pre-GCSE Inspire Programme to the 'Eruptions and Transformations' competition on the Year 9 Virtual Summer School: Write a poem or short story using volcanic themes for inspiration.

a key component to the Inspire programme and we have incorporated this into the new Pre-GCSE Programme. Our overall aim is to create off-the-shelf resources and a model of an early-year sustained access programme that could be adopted throughout the collegiate University and beyond.

The teachers, pupils and the Oxford Access and Outreach team were motivated to continue our programmes during the current pandemic to ensure that our large cohort of pupils continued to feel supported despite the challenging circumstances. The Inspire team and the Fellows and academic staff worked tirelessly to successfully adapt the programmes to online versions with academic lectures, interactive digital platforms, multiple competitions and even a range of summer schools targeted at either STEM or the Arts and Humanities.

## Access and Outreach

St John's College runs a vast and varied programme of Access and Outreach that is only made possible by the generous financial support of our donors. Our bespoke Inspire Programme ([www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/schools/inspire-programme/](http://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/schools/inspire-programme/)) aims to encourage all students with exceptional promise to aim high, to stretch themselves academically and to be confident in making well-founded applications to top universities like Oxford. We also recognise that disadvantage sets in early and is hard to overcome. With this in mind, this year saw a major addition to our Inspire Programme with the launch of our highly innovative, sustained-contact Pre-GCSE Inspire Programme where Year 9 (age 13) pupils were enrolled in an extensive 3-year interactive programme which also recruited and funded a Teacher Coordinator from all 24 participating schools across our link regions of Ealing and Harrow. The programme includes an extensive range of academic interventions that are created in Oxford with the input of the Teacher Coordinators; a specially-selected Steering Committee; fortnightly after-school clubs delivered by the Teacher Coordinators; a range of whole-day aspiration days; curriculum support days at St John's; free residential summer school at St John's; and, pupil mentorship. External evaluation is

### Comment from a Teacher Coordinator on the Year 9 Pre-GCSE Inspire Programme

"I and the students enjoyed [the first Physics workshop]. Yes, it was hard, but it pushed them, and the joy when they knew they were right was one of the rare moments when I know why I am teacher - these do not happen often. [...] It has been a good term of learning and the group are so engaged and despite the fact that I have loads to do, it still manages to be fun and engaging."

### Comment from a pupil who took part in the virtual summer school

"I just wanted to say thank you for the Summer School. It was very interesting and inspiring to look at all the activities set for us. I particularly enjoyed the 3D Museum tour. It is definitely a very different experience from actually being there in person. The 3D Museum tour was very interesting. I loved looking at the ways of Tibetan people and how they managed to live and make use of the resources around them. I also enjoyed the activities surrounding the topic of the Parliament. I particularly enjoyed the 'Being an MP for a week activity'. I have always been interested in politics and how life would be being a part of the government. It was very interesting to find out that MPs may have to take decisions that may not please everyone. Thank you for setting up the Summer School."



## New Chair in Women's History

The Hillary Rodham Clinton Chair in Women's History is almost certainly the first professorship in its field anywhere in the English-speaking world. It is certainly the first in Oxford and marks not only the successful



outcome of a major fund-raising campaign but also a revolution in the study of history here. That St John's was successful in its bid to have the Chair associated with the College was also something of a coup. The inaugural Chair will be a distinguished American historian: Professor Brenda E. Stevenson, who was previously Nickoll Family Endowed Chair in History and Professor in African American Studies at UCLA.

Professor Stevenson is an internationally recognised scholar of race, slavery, gender, family and racial conflict. Her specific intellectual interests centre on the comparative, historical experiences of women, family, and community across racial and ethnic lines. Race and gender – the ways in which these two variables interact, intersect, collide with, emphasise, run parallel to and sometimes isolate one another – are at the centre of her work. Her book length publications include: *The Journals of Charlotte Forten Grimke* (Oxford 1988); *Life in Black and White: Family and Community in the Slave South* (Oxford 1996); *The Contested Murder of Latasha Harlins: Justice, Gender and the Origins of the L.A. Riots* (Oxford 2013); and, *What is Slavery?* (Polity 2015).

## The Big Climate Fightback

In November we planted a laburnum tree to mark the National Tree Council's National Tree Week (23 November to 1 December 2019) and take part in the Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fightback, the UK's largest mass tree-planting campaign.

The Big Climate Fightback aimed to encourage recognition of the importance of trees and woodlands in the fight against climate change, through getting more than a million people to pledge to plant a tree in the lead up to a mass day of planting across the country on 30 November 2019.

Planted by Head Gardener Phil Shefford and Gardener Peter Hall, the tree is a *Laburnum x watereri* 'Vossii', commonly known as Voss's laburnum. Originating in the Netherlands in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the tree is a hybrid of the Scotch laburnum and the common laburnum, and in the early summer is covered in beautiful trailing yellow flowers.

Phil Shefford said, 'Planting trees and watching them grow into fine specimens over the years has been very satisfying for me. Trees help slow the rate of global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide, as well as releasing oxygen and providing food and shelter for wildlife. We are very fortunate at St John's that we have such a lovely garden with a variety of beautiful trees for all to enjoy.'





Arturo Fuentes

## Erika Vega Gonzalez wins Henfrey Prize for Composition

Erika, a second-year DPhil in Music at St John's, wrote a piece called 'Ceci n'est pas un duo', which was judged the winner of this year's prize of £1000.

The Henfrey Prize for Composition has been running for three years. Entrants should be a student at an Oxford school or the University of Oxford, and must submit a new piece for solo piano and violin, of around ten minutes' duration. The piece must have been composed within the past three years and should not have been performed in public before.

The judging panel for the prize was made up of St Catherine's College Music Fellow Professor Laura Tunbridge, composer Emily Howard, and Dr Tony Henfrey. The shortlisted pieces were workshopped and discussed by pianist Dominic Saunders and the panel, after which there was an informal concert of the pieces at St Catherine's College on 19 November 2019.

On winning the prize, Erika said, 'It is a great honour to be awarded the 2019 Henfrey Prize for Composition at St Catherine's College, Oxford with my piece *Ceci n'est pas un duo* (2018) for violin and piano. I want to give a special mention to St John's College and the Clarendon Fund whose generous support and thoughtful engagement represent a big contribution to allowing me to pursue my studies and artistic career.'

## Library & Study Centre receives Oxford Preservation Trust Award

The new Library & Study Centre received a plaque in the New Building category at the annual Oxford Preservation Trust awards on 5 November 2019.

The Trust's annual awards aim to 'recognise the finest new buildings and the most exemplary efforts to preserve older structures'. During the awards ceremony, held in the St John's Auditorium, plaques were presented to projects throughout the city and the surrounding area that have contributed to Oxford and its green setting. In 2019, which marked the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of the awards, there were a record 56 entries in a variety of different categories, and certificates were also awarded to a number of other projects in the city.

President of St John's College Professor Maggie Snowling said, 'We are delighted that the Oxford Preservation Trust has recognised our outstanding new Library & Study Centre by presenting it with this award, and we are very grateful to everyone who was involved in creating this wonderful new building.'



Hufton+Crow

## Laura Boddy represents Oxford in Lightweight Women's Boat Race

Laura, studying Medicine at St John's, was in the Bow seat of the Oxford University Women's Lightweight Rowing Club (OUWLRC) Blue Boat, which raced against Cambridge in the 2020 Lightweight Boat Races on 15 March 2020.

Although the Oxford crew lost to Cambridge this year, Laura still had the distinction of being part of the first OUWLRC crew to race on the Tideway over the same Championship Course as the open-weight Oxford Cambridge Boat Races.

The Lightweight Boat Race, between the men's lightweight crews of Oxford and Cambridge, was founded in 1975 and raced over 2000 metres in Henley-on-Thames until 2018, when it moved to the Championship Course. The Lightweight Women's Boat Race became part of the Henley Boat Races in 1984, and this year, for the very first time, the race also took place on the Tideway.



## St John's wins prizes in 'Tug of Warpids'

St John's Boat Club emerged victorious in the 'Tug of Warpids', winning best costume and most enthusiastic.

Due to conditions on the river, 2020's Torpids were unfortunately cancelled. However, the boat clubs came up with the alternative competition 'Tug of Warpids'. MCR President Christopher D'Urso commented on how St John's rose to the challenge:

'On 29 February 2020, the St John's College Boat Club participated in the first Tug of Warpids competition. With the annual Torpids bumps races cancelled due to adverse river conditions, Pembroke College Boat Club organised a tug of war competition as a replacement activity with prizes for the best team, best costume, and most

enthusiastic. The St John's College Boat Club entered two teams, each composed of four men and four women. Since they could not actually row in Torpids, one team competed while dressed in a 7-metre cardboard boat, named the HMS Maggie Snowling, which was designed by novice rowers George Corby and Benjamin Robinson along with fresher engineer Heather Russell. This team handily won both best costume and most enthusiastic. The second St John's team, dressed as sheep after the boat club's mascot of the Lamb & Flag, reached the top eight out of 36 teams. Overall, the day was an incredibly fun way for the Boat Club to make the most of poor weather conditions and celebrate a term of tireless training.'



## Assessing the University

St John's second-ever University Assessor, William Whyte, demitted from office in March. Like a Proctor, the Assessor serves as a senior university official, sitting on all major committees, and chairing those with responsibility for student hardship. Although St John's has elected numerous Proctors since its first – Edmund Campion, in 1568 – the Assessorship is a much more modern innovation, and the only other Fellow from St John's ever elected to the role was John White, then tutor in Chemistry, in 1981.

It was a busy year to be Assessing. The University founded a new college, accepted one of the largest donations in its history and entered into a £4 billion relationship with Legal and General, intended to provide accommodation for graduate students, early career researchers, and much more besides. Assessing turned out to involve innumerable meetings, much ceremonial, a good deal of travel, and even flying a small plane as part of an inspection of the University's Air Squadron, based at RAF Benson.



## Saints Women's Football Team wins Cuppers

On 20 February 2020 the Saints Women's Football Team, made up of students from St Anne's and St John's, won Cuppers for the first time.

The Saints resoundingly defeated their opponents from St Catherine's College, with a final score of 4–0. The team's success in the final followed a strong performance throughout the tournament with the team beating Teddy Hall 5–3 in their semi-final.

The last time a women's football team from St John's appeared in a Cuppers final was in 2008.

Artemis Saddington, St John's student and one of the Captains of the team, shared the following report:

'The final took place on a floodlit pitch at the Iffley Road sports centre. The players were nervous and excited, but once the game began relaxed, thanks to the large crowd supporting us. Our first goal was scored fifteen minutes into the first half. All of our goals were scored by Berganovic, a striker for the Oxford University Blues Team, who was extremely fast and amazing at dribbling the ball around multiple players before scoring. She was supported by the players on the wing who created lots of opportunities for getting the ball down the pitch: Eaton-Hart, Hinton, Vang-Mathisen, Kalayil, and Fitzpatrick. There was also incredible midfielding from Getaz, Lawal and Savage who controlled the ball in the centre of the pitch, always winning it off the other team. Our defensive line was indestructible, with Kerr and Caterson as centre back, Saddington right back and Trump left back: St Catz had almost no opportunities for shooting at the goal! Harper showed extreme competence in goal, quickly intercepting any balls coming into the penalty area.'

The entire community of St John's extends their congratulations to the team.

## Graduate Student Adele Curness awarded Royal Historical Society Centenary Fellowship

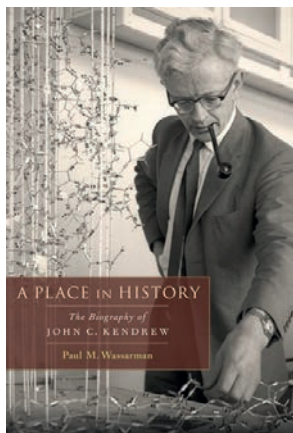
In a virtual ceremony on 22 July 2020, the Royal Historical Society, jointly with the Institute of Historical Research, awarded an RHS Centenary Fellowship to Adele Curness for research on 'Imagined Calabria: Narratives of Power and Community in Italo-Greek Hagiography'. The RHS's Centenary Fellowship is awarded to early career historians, providing funding for one-year Fellowships tenable at the Institute of Historical Research in London.

Adele is studying for a DPhil in Byzantine History at St John's, where she also completed an MPhil in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies in 2017. She

previously studied for a BA in History at Brasenose College, Oxford.

Congratulations also to St John's alumnus Robert Thompson, who was runner-up for the RHS Rees Davies Prize, awarded to the best dissertation submitted as part of a postgraduate Master's degree. While studying at the University of Southampton, Robert wrote a dissertation entitled "The true physicians here are the padres": British Christian Army Chaplains and the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen'.

## A new biography of Sir John Kendrew CBE FRS



The distinguished scientist Sir John Kendrew CBE FRS (1917–97), President of St John's (1981–87) and winner in 1962, jointly with Max Perutz, of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, is the subject of a recent biography by Paul M. Wassarman, *A Place in History* (Oxford, 2020).

Kendrew was a pioneer in structural biology and a catalyst in the development of molecular biology in

the second half of the twentieth century. He was the first scientist to describe accurately the three-dimensional structure of a protein at atomic resolution, essential knowledge for progress in curing human diseases. Kendrew was a great advocate of British and European science, becoming an international organiser and leader, and he is remembered as one of the most gifted and influential pioneers among twentieth-century scientists. Kendrew's memory lives on in St John's through the quadrangle named after him and in his generous legacy of scholarships that, in keeping with his international and humanitarian concerns, are offered to a worldwide field of applicants from economically less developed countries.

In his book, Wassarman explores Kendrew's personal and scientific life to uncover the background, traits and experiences of the man. He includes previously unpublished material, demonstrating Kendrew's vital role in the growth of molecular biology at three world-famous scientific institutions: the Cavendish Laboratory,

the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, and the European Laboratory of Molecular Biology.

Ross McKibbin FBA, Emeritus Fellow of St John's, says, 'John Kendrew was one of the most formidable of modern British scientists. He has, however, hitherto had no full-scale biography. Paul Wassarman has written an absorbing study of a man whose life is in many ways central to contemporary British life and culture.'



# Research Talks

Every year, the College tries to share the extraordinary variety of work done by Fellows and visitors to the College. Although the pandemic prevented us from staging several lectures and moved even more online, we still enjoyed a rich menu of research. Some of the highlights included:

## October 2019

### Black History Month Lecture

This year's speaker was Professor Richard Drayton, Rhodes Professor of Imperial History at King's College London, who spoke to a packed auditorium on 'Capitalism and Slavery: The view from and to Oxford'.

Eighty years ago, the historian and future prime minister of Jamaica, Eric Williams (1911–81), left Oxford in anger and frustration. For while ranked first in the First Class as an undergraduate, and with a 1938 doctorate, no college in inter-war Oxford elected Black men to their Fellowships. In 1944, he published *Capitalism and Slavery* in the United States. For decades in Oxford it was a book dismissed or ignored. But 75 years later it is key to a range of influential arguments about the role of Slavery in the making of the modern world, and about the origins of abolition in economic change and slave rebellion. In his lecture, Professor Drayton returned to Williams's experience and his book, to ask a series of important questions. What can we understand about twentieth-century Oxford by thinking about the fate of Williams and the claims and trajectory of his book? And how can we use Williams, in particular in the light of the UCL Legacies of Slave Ownership project, to understand how Caribbean slavery enriched Oxford?

PROFESSOR CATHERINE WHISTLER

### Art history and questions of evidence: Giovanni Bellini's *Lamentation* in the Uffizi

I am fascinated by the question of the value given to drawing in Venice – whether the material object featuring deliberate linear traces, or the conception of drawing (*disegno*) as the capacity to realise ideas in graphic form. Venetian art has traditionally been associated with painterly virtuosity and sensuous effects; a longstanding opposition sets the *disegno* of Florence, with its links to intellectual interests, against the seductive *colore* of Venice.

Giovanni Bellini is celebrated for his poetic religious paintings with figures often set in atmospheric landscapes. Since few Bellini drawings have survived, art historians assume that drawing was at most a purposeful tool in his busy workshop, and that *colore* rather than *disegno* fired his imagination. Technical investigation of some paintings reveals how Giovanni initially set out his designs, sometimes with minimal indications, elsewhere with meticulously-shaded forms. These 'underdrawings', completely covered with pigment, were never intended to be seen. The *Lamentation* has been widely regarded as an

underdrawing – an unfinished painting. My argument that Bellini made this as an autonomous work in monochrome, essentially a large-scale drawing, is a radical one.

First, Bellini's extremely elaborate treatment is unusual for an underdrawing – the modelling of the figures varies in tone, creating effects of sculptural relief. Moreover, he used a graphic technique of scraping out the ink to give vibrancy to details such as the hair. Crucial to my argument, however, is Bellini's daring approach to this familiar religious subject. His depiction of a tightly-knit group of mourners around the dead Christ is compelling for its utter restraint – the emphasis is not on wounds and raw grief, but on introspection and emotional intensity. Yet it is highly indecorous: the Madonna, seated on the ground, presents her son between her wide-apart legs (notice the sole of her left foot). The association in devotional meditation of the Virgin's womb with the tabernacle from which the Eucharist emerges was traditional, but this frank reference to childbirth would have been impossible in a fully-coloured painting for public viewing. Bellini's audacity of concept is tempered by the classicising dignity of the representation, which evokes the naturalism of contemporary relief sculpture.

Surely intended for a cultivated individual who appreciated its innovative character as well as its devotional affordance (the kneeling monk at right may be the patron's name-saint), the *Lamentation* also recalls the sophistication of monochrome images in illuminated manuscripts. In fact, my final argument concerns elite Venetian admiration for the virtuosity of the graphic line: the 1490s saw the dissemination of grand-scale engravings of religious and secular subjects, which could hang like pictures on a wall. Bellini's extraordinary *Lamentation* similarly displays the power of *disegno* in its artifice and expressiveness.



Giovanni Bellini (active by 1459, died 1516). *The Lamentation over the body of Christ*, early 1490s, brush and ink on a prepared wood panel, 74 x 118 cm. Florence, Gallerie degli Uffizi, inv. 943. Nothing is known of this work until 1603, when it is identifiable in an inventory of the prestigious collection of Cardinal Pietro Aldobrandini in Rome.



PROFESSOR NIKOLAJ LÜBECKER

## Feel-Bad Spaces in Contemporary Experimental Film

This image features in the avant-garde artist James Benning's 2012 film *Stempe Pass*. The film takes its name from a forest road near Lincoln, Montana, where Ted Kaczynski (aka 'the Unabomber') lived from 1971 to 1996. From his cabin Kaczynski waged war on modern society, writing anti-technology pamphlets, fabricating letter-bombs, and sending them to representatives of 'technological society', killing three people and injuring another 23 in the process. Benning rebuilt the cabin on his own land in the Sierra Nevada. He films it in four different seasons – each shot lasts 30 minutes, the camera never moving. For the first fifteen minutes of each scene Benning reads from Kaczynski's increasingly paranoid and violent diaries and manifestos, and for the remaining fifteen minutes we look, we listen, and perhaps we think about the complex relations between terror, technology, ecology and American ideology.

The cabin also features in my current project, 'Climates of violence', which I spoke about at a research soirée in November 2019. Here, Benning is in the company of other visual artists such as Chantal Akerman, Deborah Stratman and Éric Baudelaire. Their films and installations present very human stories about terror, conflict, war and other forms of violence, but they do so through a focus on landscapes and environments – at times, like Benning does, excluding all human figures. I am interested in what we find when we approach violence through a focus on settings; I examine what these works suggest about human beings and their (natural and technological) environments. I argue that they can contribute to current debates about technological innovation and the acute climate crisis by giving us a chance to experience the intimate ways in which our 'surroundings' are always part of us.

## February 2020

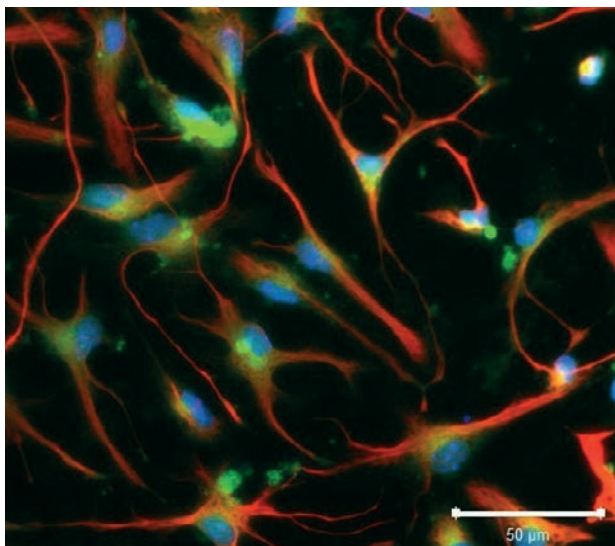
PROFESSOR ANGELA RUSSELL

### Cures from within: can we use chemistry to teach the body to heal itself?

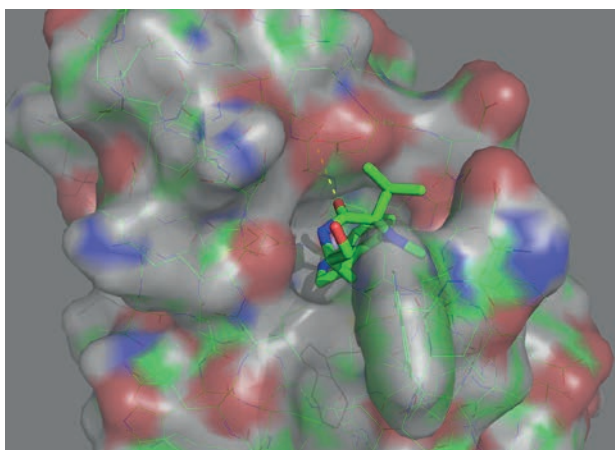
In 1928, in an essay on the central nervous system Ramon y Cajal, a noted Nobel Prize winning neuroscientist, stated “Once development was ended... Everything must die, nothing may be regenerated... It is for the science of the future to change, if possible, this harsh decree.” This was a widely held view for many decades, but in recent years we have begun to appreciate that many human organs possess some regenerative capacity, notably those associated with major degenerative diseases such as the brain, pancreas, retina and heart. Even more strikingly, this innate regenerative response is activated in response to injury. However, the natural response is insufficient to compensate for the loss of cells from degenerative diseases or injury. These discoveries have led to a new approach in the regenerative medicine field, in the development of drugs that can stimulate these innate regeneration and repair processes aiming to deliver breakthrough therapies for otherwise intractable diseases of ageing such as dementia, diabetes, blindness and heart failure.

Our group has worked for many years at the interface of chemistry and biology aiming to discover new molecules and mechanisms to allow us to develop treatments for chronic degenerative diseases. Our earliest work involved trying to develop a drug to treat the fatal childhood muscle wasting disease, Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). The drug worked to increase levels of utrophin, a muscle protein which could compensate for the pathological effects of the disease. In partnership with a biotech company (Summit Therapeutics) and DMD charities we progressed ezutromid, the first-in-class utrophin modulator, into a clinical trial in DMD patients. The clinical trial was reported to show promising efficacy after 24 weeks, but these effects were not seen after the full 48 weeks of the trial and the development of ezutromid was discontinued. We have since discovered the origin of ezutromid’s limitations and its mechanism of action which together have allowed us to rationalise the lack of sustained benefit in the clinical trial. This understanding has paved the way for our ongoing work on the first target-based disease modifying drug discovery programme in DMD.

We have since extended these concepts into the discovery of regenerative drugs to treat a range of degenerative diseases. These include developing



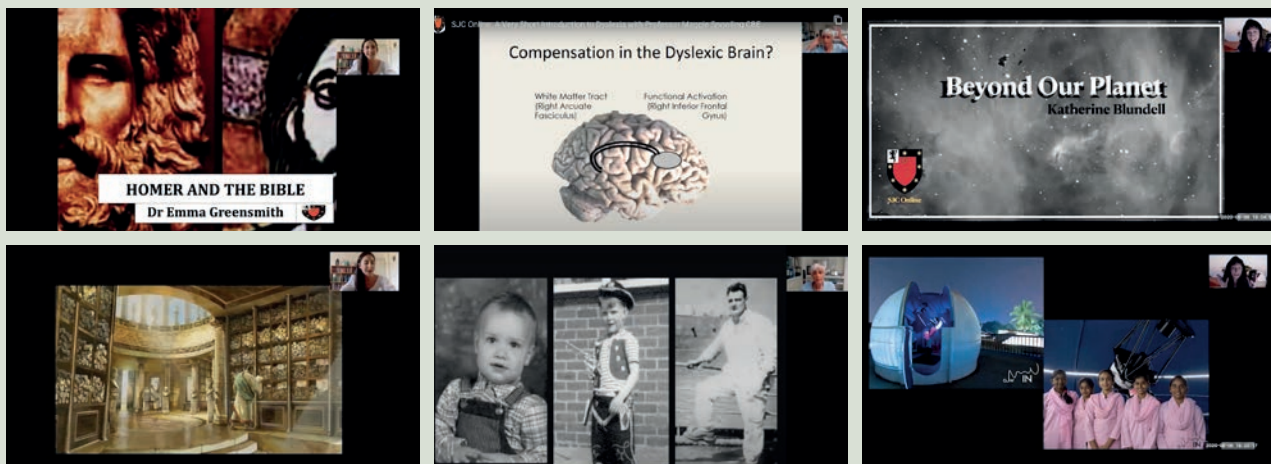
Imaging the localisation of a neuro-regeneration agent in neural cells



Modelling the molecular interaction of regeneration agent

molecules to enhance the production of new neurons for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases and brain injury, to regenerate lost cardiac tissue following heart attack, and to regenerate insulin-producing islet cells in the pancreas for the treatment of diabetes. Our ultimate goal is to translate our findings to deliver investigational new drugs targeting these major unmet medical needs.





## SJC Online

At the beginning of 2020, preparations for a series of alumni events taking place throughout March and later in the year were well underway. Seating plans were being created and menu choices were being selected for four Gaudies, the Russell Society Dinner, the Holdsworth Society Dinner and a host of other events.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the world throughout the months of February and March, it became clear that these events would not be able to go ahead, and it was with great disappointment that the decision was taken to cancel them.

Taking the perspective that the pandemic should be an opportunity to experiment, the Development and Alumni Relations Team wanted to find a way to continue to interact with the College community while the UK remained in lockdown.

Unperturbed by the disappointment of the cancellations, the team sprang into action to create an online series of events, under the banner of SJC Online.

The inaugural event, hosted by the President, was *SJC Online: Beyond Our Planet*. Professor Katherine Blundell OBE, Supernumerary Research Fellow in Astrophysics, gave an overview of her research into the contents of our solar system and beyond, including her work with the Global Jet Watch, a project to obtain detailed spectroscopic measurements of the microquasars and related galactic objects, using five telescopes separated in longitude around the globe.

The second event was led by Dr Emma Greensmith, Tutorial Fellow in Classics, who gave an insight into her recent research for her book, *Homer and the Bible: The Religious Politics of Verse in Late Antiquity*. Dr Greensmith gave an in-depth analysis of connections between the works of Homer and Biblical texts.

Our third event gave the rare opportunity to hear the President, Professor Maggie Snowling CBE, discuss



***It was such a pleasure to forget lockdown, social distancing and not being able to see our grandson, and to listen instead to such an entertaining and informative talk***

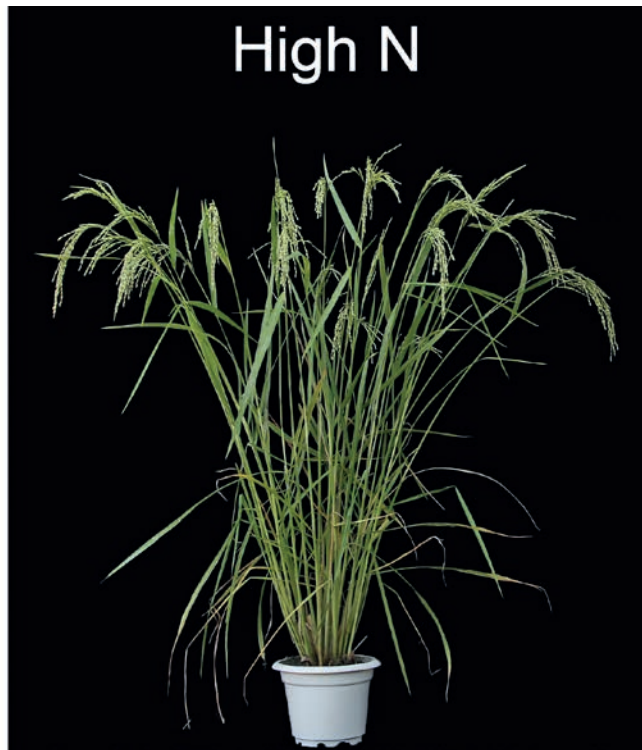
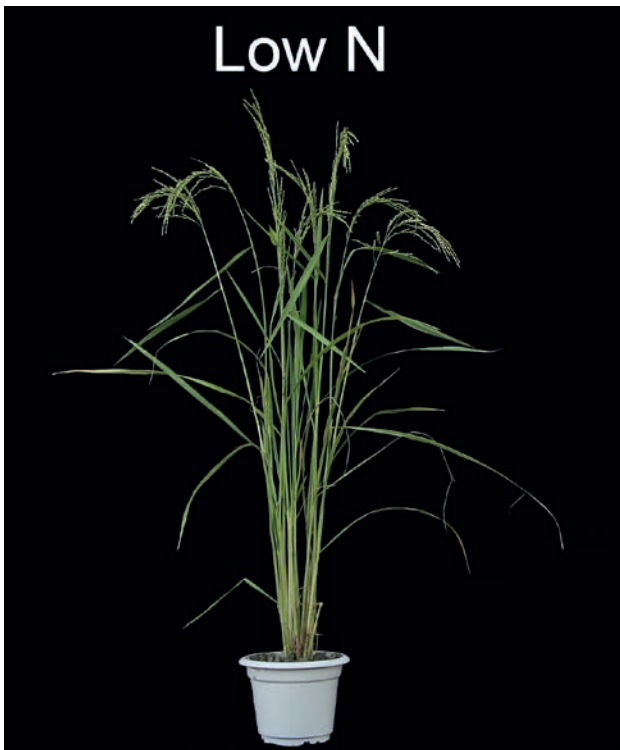
her academic research. Taking her book, *A Very Short Introduction to Dyslexia*, as a jumping-off point, the President introduced the exciting research surrounding dyslexia, considering potential causes, the neuroscience behind it and attempts to understand how it works, together with the various strategies and interventions that can help people with dyslexia today.

The talks were followed by lively Q-and-A sessions, with questions including how to take photographs of the sun safely and what text should have been saved from the Library of Alexandria before it burnt down.

Florence Maskell (1986, Classics) commented that she was ‘moved by the fact that we were collectively engaging with our fellow human beings in all corners of the globe, live, in real time. It gave a sense of community and “family” despite distance and our current difficult times’.

Edward Peacock (1968, History) also added ‘It was such a pleasure to forget lockdown, social distancing and not being able to see our grandson, and to listen instead to such an entertaining and informative talk.’

The SJC Online event series will be continuing and details of future events can be found on the College’s website.



# Feathering the Brakes

Professor Harberd is Sibthorpe Professor of Plant Science and Keeper of Bagley Wood. A Fellow of the Royal Society since 2006, he was elected for his ‘pioneering contributions to the solution of a fundamental problem in biology – the molecular mechanisms via which plant hormones control growth’. Here, he shares some of his latest research.

Imagine you are on your bike at the top of Headington Hill. You kick off and free-wheel down, gathering speed as you go. It’s exhilarating. But hoping not to end up in a heap somewhere towards the bottom you gently squeeze the brakes, taking the heat out of your descent, just enough to gain control.

Your controlled descent results from superimposed layers of regulation. There is the basic underlying impetus, the gravitational pull on you and your bike. Then there are the brakes. And finally, there is your subtle control of those brakes. The regulation of plant growth is similarly layered. Plants are primed to grow using molecular material extracted from the earth and air, and energy captured from the sun. Imposed upon this underlying growth force is a brake, an internal inhibitor of growth. And that brake is itself controlled by a growth-promoting hormone known as gibberellin.

When my research career began, despite there being good evidence that the internal plant growth inhibitor



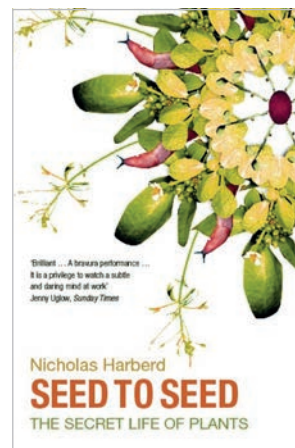
***As always in science, discoveries provoke further questions. Now that we knew more about how plants regulate their growth, we wanted to understand why. Why should plants have evolved this complex multi-layered mechanism?***

(brake) existed, its molecular identity was unknown. In the late 1990s, after more than a decade of hard work, my research group discovered the protein responsible. We called it the DELLA protein, named after a sequence of five amino acids in its chain that are crucial to its function (Peng *et al.*, 1997; 1999). We found that the strength of inhibition depends on the accumulation of the DELLA protein in plant cells: the higher the concentration, the greater the inhibition. We also found that the gibberellin hormone causes destruction of the DELLA protein, explaining how gibberellin promotes growth. We had found the final missing piece of the puzzle.

As always in science, discoveries provoke further questions. Now that we knew more about how plants regulate their growth, we wanted to understand why. Why should plants have evolved this complex multi-layered mechanism? The bicycle analogy is again instructive. Bikes have brakes because the control they provide gives a safer ride. Without them, riding is risky. Similarly, experimental removal of the growth-inhibitory DELLA protein makes plant growth risky. All gardeners know that different plants are suited to particular environments. If an aspect of the environment becomes too extreme (too cold, too salty, flooded soil, etc.) plants temporarily shut their growth down, in a sense conserving their resources, attempting not to 'live beyond their means' whilst awaiting better times. We discovered that this temporary growth shut-down is due to increased accumulation of the DELLA growth-inhibitor. When the environment improves again, the gibberellin growth-hormone promotes destruction of the DELLA growth-inhibitor, and safe and productive growth is resumed. Experimental plants

lacking the DELLA protein also lack the flexible growth-regulation of normal plants: they fail to restrain growth in response to adversity, and quickly die as a result. So, our question was answered: plants have evolved complex multi-layered regulation of their growth by DELLA protein and opposing gibberellin hormone because it makes them better adapted, more able to cope with environmental adversity (Achard *et al.*, 2006).

One of the enduring principles of biology is the concept of 'homeostasis', the idea that living organisms maintain the relative constancy of their internal environments, versus the inconstancy of the external environments within which they live. Homeostasis is frequently achieved via the operation of simple negative feedback loops that operate similarly to a domestic thermostat: the heating is on, temperature rises, a thermostat detects temperature rise above a set level and turns the heating off. Temperature then falls, the thermostat detects fall below a set level and turns the heating back on again. This cyclical feedback relationship maintains room temperature at a relatively constant set level. Whilst plant growth is an inherently progressive (rather than static) phenomenon, it rapidly became clear that many aspects of the functions of gibberellin and the DELLA protein in regulating growth are of a homeostatic nature. For example, although gibberellin promotes destruction of the DELLA protein growth inhibitor, one of the functions of the DELLA protein is to increase gibberellin production. Relating to one another within this negative feedback loop, the potent effects of gibberellin and the DELLA protein on plant growth are more optimally controlled.



In addition to his pioneering research work, Professor Harberd is the author of an accessible introduction to the science of plants: *Seed to Seed: The Secret Life of Plants* is published by Bloomsbury and available in paperback. Amongst the critical acclaim was Jenny Uglow's review in the *Sunday Times*: 'Artfully composed... brilliant at explaining the structure and growth of plants... *Seed to Seed* is a bravura performance... it is a privilege to watch a subtle and daring mind at work... and to glimpse, from so many angles, a scientist at work in the world.'



A dwarf maize plant with the author alongside, taken in 1987 in Berkeley, California, USA.



***There is great satisfaction in watching ‘the penny drop’, in nurturing our students’ own creative approaches to the wonders of our world, in helping to launch the next generation.***

More broadly, our recent progress was beginning to define how the DELLA protein homeostatically connects the regulation of plant growth with the metabolic processes that drive that growth. But to be able to make these connections, we first needed to know more about the mechanism of DELLA protein action. We were back to another ‘how’ question. How do DELLA proteins inhibit the growth of plants? Recent research had shown that DELLA proteins work in the nucleus of plant cells, the site of genes and genome, and do so through molecular associations with other proteins. In particular, DELLA proteins interact with gene transcription factors (additional proteins that themselves directly regulate the activity of genes), modulating their activity and that of the genes that they regulate. Particularly surprising was the sheer extent of these interactions, with discovery after discovery showing that the DELLA proteins interact with, and thus modulate the activity of, a wide diversity of transcription factors, each one of which has specific and individual functions. It was becoming clear that there are few aspects of the biology of plants that are not influenced by DELLA protein function.

Combining the expertise of my research group in Oxford with that of my former postdoc Professor Xiangdong Fu (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing), we are currently disentangling the relationships between the DELLA protein and the particular individual transcription factors that regulate plant metabolism. By metabolism, I mean the biochemical processes by which plants assimilate the energy, carbon, nitrogen and other resources from which they make themselves. For example, our studies of genetic dwarf plants (an example shown in the picture; dwarfed because their growth-inhibitory DELLA proteins accumulate to higher than normal levels, thus inhibiting their growth) have revealed them to have reduced rates of acquisition of nitrogen from the environment. In many ways this observation is not surprising: homeostatic principles would suggest that reduced growth would require less resource intake to maintain normal internal resource levels. But the fact that resource acquisition is altered by a change in DELLA protein biology suggested that the DELLA protein might itself be modulating metabolic homeostasis, presumably via interactions with one or more unknown transcription factors specifically regulating nitrogen metabolism. Essentially, these observations suggested that the DELLA protein is part of a feedback mechanism that informationally connects the regulation of plant growth with the regulation of plant nitrogen metabolism.

Our recent deeper exploration of this feedback mechanism has enabled our discovery of a specific DELLA-interacting transcription factor protein (GRF4), which works together with the DELLA protein in the regulation of plant nitrogen metabolism. We showed GRF4 to be a classic homeostatic regulator of plant nitrogen acquisition.

Somehow (via an unknown mechanism) plants sense their internal nitrogen level. When the level is low, the GRF4 protein accumulates to relatively high level, thus activating the genes that enable the plant to acquire nitrogen from the soil. As internal nitrogen level rises, so the abundance of the GRF4 protein falls, thus reducing nitrogen acquisition. Whilst such homeostatic regulators of nitrogen metabolism had long been known to exist, our discovery reveals for the first time their molecular identity. But the activity of the GRF4 protein in regulating nitrogen metabolism is also affected by its molecular interaction (physical association) with the DELLA protein. Essentially, the increased DELLA protein accumulation characteristic of dwarfed plants inhibits the activity of GRF4, thus reducing nitrogen assimilation, showing how the DELLA protein coordinates the regulation of both growth and nitrogen homeostasis (Li *et al.*, 2018).

Another plant property regulated by both the DELLA protein and by nitrogen is rice tiller number, or, in other words, the number of flowering (grain-bearing) branches per plant. Nitrogen promotes tiller number, and our recent studies have discovered another transcription factor protein (NGR5) that acts as a positive regulator of tiller growth, quantitatively increasing tiller number in response to increasing nitrogen fertiliser dose. NGR5 increases tiller number by repressing the activity of genes that inhibit branching, thus reducing their inhibitory function and increasing branching. As with GRF4, the effects of NGR5 are further modulated by an interactive relationship with the DELLA protein. Plants that are dwarfed by increased accumulation of the DELLA protein also make more tillers: the increased physical interaction of DELLA protein with NGR5 promotes NGR5 activity, hence increasing tiller number (Wu *et al.*, 2020).

Although another story, our discoveries of GRF4 and

NGR5, and their interactions with the DELLA protein, point out a possible route towards a more sustainable agriculture that requires less use of environmentally damaging nitrogen fertilisers (Li *et al.*, 2018; Wu *et al.*, 2020). Our future work will continue to explore how increased understanding of the fundamental biology underlying the regulation of plant growth by DELLA proteins can be combined with the expertise of plant breeders to reduce the environmental degradation caused by modern agriculture, whilst enhancing our ability to feed a growing world population.

Science has its ups and downs. But there is a kind of beauty in discovering the fit of one thing with another, in finding out how a piece of the natural world works. In addition, and more recently, since my arrival in Oxford and St John's just over a decade ago, I have found huge fulfilment in having had the opportunity to teach, both in lectures and tutorials. There is great satisfaction in watching 'the penny drop', in nurturing our students' own creative approaches to the wonders of our world, in helping to launch the next generation.

The growth restraining function of the DELLA protein enables plants to be exquisitely responsive to the environment, to the world within which they live, and hence enhances their survival in the long term. I have spent my scientific life studying plants at the molecular level, but when I look up I see a wider lesson. Using biological growth as a metaphor, there can be no doubt that our modern pace of economic growth needs to be similarly restrained, to be both more sensitive and responsive to our environment. Perhaps humanity needs the equivalent of the plant homeostatic environmentally-responsive DELLA protein brake to prevent us from careering downhill towards environmental catastrophe. A brake for us to feather.

## References:

- Achard, P., Cheng, H., De Grauwe, L., Decat, J., Schoutteten, H., Moritz, T., Van Der Straeten, D., Peng, J. and N.P. Harberd (2006). Integration of Plant Responses to Environmentally Activated Phytohormonal Signals. *Science* **311**, 91–94.
- Li, S., Tian, Y., Wu, K., Ye, Y., Yu, J., Zhang, J., Liu, Q., Hu, M., Li, H., Tong, Y., Harberd, N.P. and X. Fu (2018). Modulating Plant Growth-Metabolism Coordination for Sustainable Agriculture. *Nature* **560**, 595–600.
- Peng, J., Carol, P., Richards, D.E., King, K.E., Cowling, R.J., Murphy, G.P. and N.P. Harberd (1997). The *Arabidopsis* *GAI* Gene Defines a Signalling Pathway that Negatively Regulates Gibberellin Responses. *Genes and Development* **11**, 3194–3205.
- Peng, J., Richards, D.E., Hartley, N.M., Murphy, G.P., Devos, K.M., Flintham, J.E., Beales, J., Fish, L.J., Worland, A.J., Pelica, F., Sudhakar, D., Christou, P., Snape, J.W., Gale, M.D. and N.P. Harberd (1999). 'Green Revolution' Genes Encode Mutant Gibberellin Response Modulators. *Nature* **400**, 256–261.
- Wu K., Wang, S., Song, W., Zhang, J., Wang, Y., Liu, Q., Yu, J., Ye, Y., Li, S., Chen, J., Zhao, Y., Wang, J., Wu, X., Wang, M., Zhang, Y., Liu, B., Wu, Y., Harberd, N.P. and X. Fu (2020). Enhanced Sustainable Green Revolution Yield Via Nitrogen-Responsive Chromatin Modulation in Rice. *Science* **367** DOI: 10.1126/science.aaz2046

We are delighted to welcome new members to the St John's community, and hope that you will enjoy reading about their research, and have the opportunity to meet them at future events.



# Arrivals

## Honorary Fellows

In March 2020 the College elected four new Honorary Fellows, notable for their distinction and representative of the diversity of life at St John's. We are delighted to welcome them back to College.

---

### PROFESSOR MYLES ALLEN (PHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY, 1984)

Myles Allen, recently dubbed by the BBC as 'the physicist behind net zero', has been working on understanding and quantifying the drivers of climate change and extreme weather since the early 1990s. He came up to St John's in 1984 to read Physics and Philosophy. Those epistemology tutorials proved unexpectedly useful in arcane negotiations on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change about what exactly could, and could not, be said about the origins of global warming.

Graduating in 1987 with no idea what to do with his life, he worked for a couple of years in Kenya for the Bellerive Foundation and United Nations Environment Programme, just as the issue of climate change was climbing up the agenda. He was considering a doctorate in Economics because he thought he'd already covered all the maths required when he had a visit from Gordon Baker, one of his Philosophy tutors, who asked 'Don't you think that sounds rather... (a pregnant pause familiar to any of Gordon's tutees) ... easy?' So he came back to St John's, and Oxford Physics, to do a doctorate with David Anderson, and has been working in Oxford, with sojourns to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and MIT, ever since. He is currently Professor of Geosystem Science in the Environmental Change Institute, School of Geography and the Environment and the Department of Physics, University of Oxford, a Fellow of Linacre College, and is married to Professor Irene Tracey, a world-leading neuroscientist and Warden of Merton. They have three children, Colette, John and Jim, of whom he is inordinately proud.

*"I'm deeply honoured to be elected to an Honorary Fellowship, particularly in the year that St John's is taking a typically thoughtful, nuanced and principled position on engaging with the climate issue and the fossil-fuel industry, and I very much look forward to supporting that engagement, and the work of the College, in any way I can."*



---

### PROFESSOR DOROTHY BISHOP FRS FBA FMEDSCI (EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, 1970 – ST HUGH'S)

Dorothy Bishop is Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology at the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford and has had a long association with St John's. She heads a European Research Council-funded programme of research into cerebral lateralisation for language. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society, Fellow of the British Academy and Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and has honorary degrees from the University of Lund, the University of Western Australia, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and the University of Liège. Her main research interests are in the nature and causes of developmental language difficulties, with a particular focus on psycholinguistics, neurobiology and genetics. In addition, she has been an advocate for higher standards of methods and transparency in research, and is a founder member of Reproducible Research Oxford. Her book *Uncommon Understanding* won the British Psychological Society's annual award in 1999, and she has published widely on children's language disorders.

*"I have greatly enjoyed my affiliation with St John's College as a Supernumerary Fellow since 2006. The College has always provided a warm welcome, and the opportunity to interact with academics old and young across a wide range of disciplines has enriched my intellectual outlook. I am delighted to be elected as an Honorary Fellow and look forward to contributing to College life in the challenging times ahead."*





### PROFESSOR JANE LIGHTFOOT FBA (LIT HUM, 1988)

Jane L. Lightfoot came to St John's as an undergraduate to read Classics in 1988, and began her doctorate there. She migrated via St Hugh's to All Souls, where she held a Prize Fellowship followed by a Post-Doctoral Fellowship, before joining New College as Charlton Fellow and Tutor in Classical Languages and Literature. She became Professor of Greek Literature in 2014, and was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 2018. Rather than specifying an area of interest, she likes to think of herself as an archaeologist or maybe an anatomist of ancient literature. Having been so well trained in the central texts of the curriculum as an undergraduate, but also inspired by tutors to explore the fringes, she has made it her contribution to rediscover some of the enormous amount of Greek literature that remains largely unread or under-explored: this means developing an instinct for where to strike out, and then patiently exploring tradition, transmission, linguistic, literary, and intellectual contexts. Following these principles she has published books on ancient mythography, ethnography, oracles, geography, and astrology; her latest book, on the last of these (an extraordinarily under-exploited source for popular morality, attitudes, and mentalities), is about to be published with OUP, and her sights are set next on the revival of Hippocratic writing in early imperial medical literature.

*"I opened the President's letter minutes before embarking on a session of tutorials – giving, this time, not receiving. An Oxford education is a privilege, particularly so when one has received it from the St John's tutors, and it has now become my own privilege to transmit it. I am happy that this Honorary Fellowship has recognised my contribution as an individual, but it also seems a suitable occasion to reflect on what St John's taught me. This is not just about tutorials. It is about how we think about what is happening in these difficult and angry times, and what we do about it.*

*The first lesson is how to think. St John's didn't only ground me in my subject. It also taught rigour and independence of mind. That happens still to be within Classics, but could equally well be applied to a different field. I learned how to gather and think about evidence, how to formulate the questions that drive deep. I learned how to approach a society in some ways profoundly relatable, in others shocking. This is the lesson of cool-headedness, of not judging others by misinformed categories. The second lesson was kindness. Donald Russell had just retired when I came up, but was still very actively involved in teaching. He taught me Greek verse, and part-supervised my doctorate, and his sensitivity to language, form and style (what to say and how to say it) was the best intellectual lesson from his generation of matchlessly-trained scholars to mine, just as his gentleness was the best human one. This is the lesson of civility, not stridency. And the third lesson is that it is fine, it is good, to be contrarian. St John's has a proud history of this. Take each case on its merits, but I would also like to hope that in times where groupthink and the policing of thought and expression is such a menace, the College has the courage to stand up for freedom of thought, for scrutiny not silencing, for suspicion of orthodoxies and pieties. This is the lesson of mental strength. I would hope that St John's has the courage, courteously, to differ."*





---

## MS CATHERINE MALLYON (HISTORY, 1981)

Catherine Mallyon has been Executive Director, a Governor and a Board member of the Royal Shakespeare Company since 2012. Catherine is a member of the National Council of Arts Council England, and on the Boards of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Society of London Theatre (SOLT) and the West Midlands Combined Authority Cultural Leadership Board. She is on the Advisory Council of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and of the Orchestra of the Swan, and chairs the Advisory Groups for the Bristol + Bath Creative Cluster and the Centre for Cultural Value, based at Leeds University. Catherine has completed terms on the Board of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, as Chair of their Culture and Tourism Business Group, and on the Council of the Creative Industries Federation.

Catherine was previously Deputy Chief Executive of Southbank Centre, leading all Southbank Centre operational activity, including the reopening of Royal Festival Hall after refurbishment in 2007 and the renewal of Hayward Gallery in 2010. In her earlier career in arts management, Catherine was General Manager of Arts and Theatres at Reading Borough Council. There she managed all theatre and arts operations, programmed drama and classical music for the Hexagon and Concert Hall and co-produced the WOMAD festival. Prior to that, she was General Manager at the Oxford Playhouse and at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon.

Having spent five years working as a finance trader and analyst, Catherine trained in general arts administration on Arts Council England's bursary programme. She plays violin with the Oxford Sinfonia.

*“The things that matter to me about St John’s are that its high academic performance is always in the context of accessibility and diversity, that learning is undertaken within the “friendly, inclusive and diverse community” described by the JCR, and that there is real engagement with the wider community of the City of Oxford.*

*It’s crucial that the College is unequivocally anti-racist, that it continues to select according to real potential, and that the whole College community demonstrates an authentic openness to people from every background.*

*The opportunities, facilities, and heritage of St John’s have been great to be a part of, and I look forward to playing a renewed role in helping to make the most of these for the future.”*



John Bellars © RSC



## Governing Body

---

### **DR EMMA GREENSMITH** Tutorial Fellow and Associate Professor in Classics, from Jesus College, Cambridge

Dr Emma Greensmith researches many connected areas of Greek literature and culture during the Roman Empire. She received a BA, MPhil and PhD from Peterhouse, Cambridge. During her doctorate, she was a member of the AHRC-funded collaborative project 'Imperial Greek Epic: A Cultural History'. From 2017–18 she was Visiting Assistant Professor at Colgate University, New York, where she taught Classics within a multi-disciplinary Liberal Arts Programme. She then held a Research Fellowship at Jesus College, Cambridge, before joining St John's in October 2019.

Her work focuses on the poetics and politics of the Greek imperial period. She explores the effects of religious change on literary culture, and the relationship between, for example, 'classical' and 'Christian' canons. Her recent book, *The Resurrection of Homer in Imperial Greek Epic*, investigates the renewed obsession with Homer and Trojan mythology in the contentious third

century CE. Her newest project, entitled *Homer and the Bible*, looks at moments where traditional epic and Biblical authority directly collide: works like centos (poems or poetic sequences made up of recognisable shorter sequences from one or more existing poems), Biblical paraphrases and oracles. How does epic explore, promote, or challenge new constructions of time, knowledge and the sacred? What expressions of Greek identity does it offer, within this rapidly changing world? These are all questions that she seeks to probe.

Dr Greensmith also speaks and writes for public audiences, on topics such as (recently) the Psychology of Odysseus, Homeric Heroism and Gender, and the use of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* in modern war ideology.



---

### **PROFESSOR BEN MCFARLANE** Professor of English Law, from UCL

Ben McFarlane joined the College on becoming Professor of English Law in Michaelmas Term 2019. He was a Professor of Law at University College London from 2012, and before then had been, sequentially, a member of Governing Bodies at each of Christ Church, St Peter's, and Trinity. In his first year back, he has lectured widely in private law, focusing on land law and trusts; taught postgraduate seminars in Advanced Property and Trusts and also Restitution; and co-founded the Oxford Property Law blog. He has also produced new editions of a land law textbook and of his monograph *The Law of Proprietary Estoppel*, contributed chapters to the new edition of *Snell's Equity* and given a seminar to members of the Property Bar Association.

He is particularly interested in trying to understand the principles that organise and underpin the common law, the mass of English decisions developed by the courts over hundreds of years. For example, much of his recent work has focused on equity, making the argument that many rules of equity have a distinct formal structure which allows them to perform a vital role in supplementing, and mitigating the effect of, primary common law rules.



---

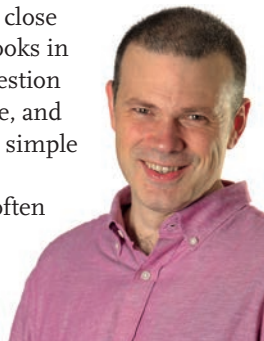
### **PROFESSOR STUART WHITE** Professor of Mathematics and Tutorial Fellow, from the University of Glasgow

Stuart White has been interested in logical thinking and games for as long as he can remember, and this led him to mathematics. His recent work has focused on classification of simple amenable  $C^*$ -algebras – a certain abstract algebra that has its origins in the mathematical underpinnings of quantum mechanics.

Classification is a natural human activity. Examples include books in the library, the taxonomic classification in biology or the complete classification of elements in chemistry in the periodic table. Classification in mathematics can take various forms but at its heart it comes down to wanting to know whether two things are the same. You and I both have one of these simple

amenable  $C^*$ -algebras but do we have the same one, and how do we decide? This particular research endeavour has been going on for close to 50 years, and a solution now looks in sight. But as ever, solving one question will naturally produce many more, and if it takes around 50 years for the simple algebras...

Outside of maths, Stuart can often be found climbing – a problem-solving activity of a different type – or continuing to play various logical and not so logical games.



## Supernumerary Fellow

---

**PROFESSOR KETAN J PATEL FRS FMedSci** Director of the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (WIMM) and the MRC Molecular Haematology Unit, from Gonville and Caius, University of Cambridge

Professor Patel is the Director of the Weatherall Institute for Molecular Medicine and also the MRC Molecular Hematology Unit at the University of Oxford. KJ trained in medicine in London and spent his research career until recently at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, which is one of the premier research institutes in the world. He was also professor for molecular medicine and stem cell genomics at the University of Cambridge. His research focuses on the molecular basis of inherited genomic instability and

the role it plays in the biology of stem cells, particularly those that make blood. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences UK (FMedSci) and also a member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO).



## Early Career Fellows

---

**DR SARAH GREER** Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in Medieval History, from the University of St Andrews

Dr Sarah Greer is a medieval historian of post-Carolingian Europe who joined St John's in October 2019 as a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow based in the Faculty of History. Her research explores how memories of the past were used to create legitimacy for the new kingdoms which emerged in tenth- and eleventh-century Western Europe. In particular, Dr Greer's current research project investigates how the burial sites of early medieval kings, queens and their families were used by political figures after those dynasties had fallen. By looking at moments when earlier dynastic burial sites were either promoted

or 'forgotten' by their successors, her work charts how and why attitudes to royal power shifted as the political landscape of medieval Europe was radically reshaped around the year 1000.



**DR GEORGE POTTS** Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in English, from University College London

Dr George Potts holds a Research Association at St John's in conjunction with his Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship in the Faculty of English. He joined Oxford in September 2019, after completing his PhD at University College London and subsequently teaching at UCL and Queen Mary University of London. George's research focuses on twentieth- and twenty-first century British and American poetry, with particular interests in literature's relationship to film and questions of influence and intertextuality. His current project, *Charlie Chaplin Among the Poets*, examines the filmmaker's far-reaching relations with poetry and poets over the past century. Chaplin inspired many poets in diverse and complex ways – from delight at his slapstick clowning to admiration of his political activism and regard for

his sentimental storytelling – while he also knew major writers in his lifetime and styled himself as an avid reader of verse. Using archival research to uncover Chaplin's biographical relationships with poets and drawing on both literary criticism and film studies to analyse their work's mutual influence, George's research seeks to open up new perspectives on writers including Allen Ginsberg, Claude McKay, Marianne Moore and Gertrude Stein, as well as on the life and work of film's most famous comedian.



## Junior Research Fellows

---

### **MR MARCO CAPPELLETTI** Junior Research Fellow in Law, from St John's

Mr Cappelletti's research interests lie in comparative law and private law, with a particular focus on tort law. His current research explores the substantive reasons by which courts and legal scholars justify the imposition of strict liability in four legal systems (England, United States, Italy and France). Mr Cappelletti's recent work has examined the role of punishment in tort law, again adopting a comparative law approach, and in particular whether punishment should be confined to the criminal law or whether it could be pursued through tort law. The underlying theme driving these different lines of research is whether tort law is better understood as a binary

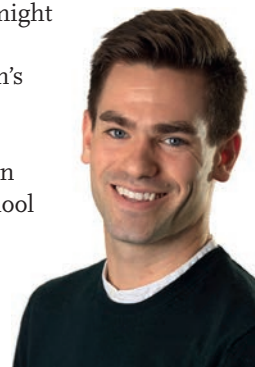
relationship between the wrongdoer and the victim, or whether it should be the tool for pursuing societal goals. In carrying on his research, Mr Cappelletti adopts a comparative approach, which allows the appreciation not only of the technical differences and similarities that may exist across different jurisdictions but also of the values, ideals, and goals which underpin them.



### **DR BRADLEY ROBERTS** Junior Research Fellow in Physiology, from Christ Church, Oxford

Dr Roberts works in the Centre for Integrative Neuroscience in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy & Genetics. His research generally focuses on understanding the mechanisms which govern dopamine neurotransmission in the brain, particularly in the basal ganglia, and their dysfunction in neurological disorders, including Parkinson's disease and addictions. During his tenure with St John's College, he is investigating how non-neuronal cells in the brain called astrocytes might regulate dopamine neurotransmission. This could be truly transformative and force a shift away from purely neuron-centric understanding of mechanisms that govern dopamine function. Dr Roberts is also working within the Oxford Parkinson's Disease Centre

to understand whether there are changes to the biology of astrocytes in the striatum in Parkinson's disease, and how these changes might impact negatively on dopamine function. Dr Roberts joins St John's after completing his DPhil at Christ Church, Oxford. He has previously held a research position at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, USA and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in Neuroscience & Biology at St Mary's College of Maryland, USA.



### **DR EMILIJA TALIJAN** Junior Research Fellow in Modern Languages, from Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Dr Talijan's research approaches film as a multisensory medium and investigates cinema as an art of sound. Her book *Resonant Bodies in Contemporary European Art Cinema* (forthcoming 2021, EUP) asks what it means to exist, in our experience of cinema, according to listening. How do sound and 'noise' reconfigure relations between spectators and screens, and by extension, spectators and their worlds? How do films raise questions about the ethics and politics of listening to different bodies? The book shows how contemporary directors such as Catherine Breillat, Gaspar Noé, Tony Gatlif, Arnaud des Pallières, Lars von Trier and Peter Strickland have worked with sound and 'noise' to address spectators as

listeners in ways that rethink all aspects of our experience of film. Her current project considers technology and examines how contemporary film engages with 'non-visual' sensors such as the thermal camera, the stethoscope or ultrasound, to think through questions of representation, subjectivity and the ability of the moving image to register signs of life.



---

**DR KENO JUCHEMS** Junior Research Fellow in Psychology, from Wolfson College, Oxford

Dr Juchems joined St John's in October 2019 after completing a DPhil in Experimental Psychology. At St John's he continues his research on human decision-making and its neural underpinnings. His focus whilst at St John's will be to study how people schedule their tasks and goals over time and how they ensure that they still progress towards their current goal. What neural mechanisms enable us to be so flexible and successful in these decisions? To address this, he currently focuses on the prefrontal cortex, the brain area that is most developed compared to other primates and mammals. How does this area – and its brain network – enable us to complete diverse tasks whilst ensuring that we meet our needs? How does it resolve conflict between two goals that cannot both be pursued? Dr Juchems

approaches these questions from two complementary angles. As a first step, he investigates what properties any theoretical framework (e.g. a computer programme) should have to solve these tasks – for this work he draws mainly on theories from machine learning and economics. Secondly, he studies whether the theoretical predictions from the first step accurately describe behaviour and neural activity across the human brain using non-invasive imaging techniques.



## Leavers 2020

We take this opportunity to thank warmly those Fellows who are leaving St John's or retiring this year. We congratulate them on their new roles, and look forward to welcoming them back to visit College.

---

**DR HANNAH ALFONSA**

Junior Research Fellow in Pharmacology

---

**DR RACHEL JAMES**

Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Geography

---

**DR DALEL BENBABAALI**

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow

---

**DR NATALIE MROCKOVA**

Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Law

---

**DR ILYA CHEVYREV**

Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics

---

**DR MARYANN NOONAN**

Junior Research Fellow in Psychology

---

**DR CYRIL CLOSSET**

Research Fellow in the Sciences and Mathematics

---

**DR ZEYNEP PAMUK**

Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Politics

---

**DR MICHAEL HETHERINGTON**

Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in English

---

**PROFESSOR AMIA SRINIVASAN**

Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy

A large window with a view of a courtyard, with a quill pen resting on the sill. The window is divided into several panes, and the view outside shows a courtyard with a building facade featuring arches and a central column. The sky is blue with some clouds. The quill pen is dark and positioned diagonally across the lower right pane of the window.

# St John's in the time of COVID-19

This year's pandemic has presented a challenge to public health and to the economy on a scale not seen for over a century. Many members of St John's have been involved in responding to the crisis, through involvement in research projects, on the frontline in hospitals and in supporting the wider community. This article draws together a picture of some of the College's activity. A fuller picture can be found on the St John's website – and do please add to this by sending us your news.

# Research

## Engineers at St John's

Two DPhil students in Professor Mark Cannon's research group, Sebastian East (St John's) and Michael Garstka (Trinity College), were involved with the OxVent project to develop a simple low-cost ventilator (responding to the UK Government's 'Ventilator Challenge'). The project involved very intense work for about six weeks, and was eventually stopped when it became clear that extra ventilators were not going to be needed. Seb and Michael worked on the control and instrumentation of the device.

---

### PROFESSOR HEATHER HARRINGTON Research Fellow in the Sciences and Mathematics

Professor Heather Harrington, co-director of the Centre for Topological Data Analysis, has been applying her expertise to COVID-19. Topological data analysis is an exciting new area of computational mathematics that has emerged over the last ten years which applies ideas from topology – a branch of pure mathematics – to uncover structures and study shape in large data sets. Professor Harrington's group has been looking at lung CT scans of COVID-19 data from Wuhan. These data were previously analysed using machine-learning techniques, to identify key structures in the scans, and her work is complementary to machine learning output in that she is computing interpretable topological signatures of these scans. She is also looking at molecular data from the blood of COVID-19 patients in Oxford, with the aim of understanding whether tensors and topology can help identify features and/or predict the severity of individual COVID-19 cases.

---

### PROFESSOR ANDREW HARRISON CEO of Diamond Light Source and Honorary Fellow

Diamond Light Source, the UK's national synchrotron provides particularly powerful instruments (CryoEM and diffractometers for protein crystallography) to study the structure of the SARS-CoV-2 virus responsible for COVID-19 as well as providing a means of looking for small molecules that bind to particular parts of the virus, as part of the global research effort to find a vaccine.

We have worked with scientists in China from the start of 2020 and have continued to work with scientists from across the UK and further afield ever since. Our work can be accessed on our website: <https://www.diamond.ac.uk/covid-19.html>.

---

### PROFESSOR DOMINIC KWIATKOWSKI Professorial Fellow in Genomics and Global Health

Worked on a national project to detect COVID-19 outbreaks before they become problematic (as they did in Leicester).

---

### PROFESSOR CHARLES NEWTON Cheryl & Reece Scott Professor of Psychiatry

- Survey of the impact of COVID-19 in people with epilepsy and health care staff looking after epilepsy.
- Co-authored a paper on guidelines for the care of people with epilepsy.
- Part of a World Health Organization work group to draw up guidelines about the impact of COVID-19 on health services in low and middle income countries.
- Grant applications for funding to determine the mental health consequences of COVID-19 in Africa.

---

### JIAXIAN SHI (MBA, 2019)

Jiaxian Shi participated in a hackathon, hosted by the Saïd Business School in June 2020 on COVID-19 and the automotive mobility industry. The purpose of the hackathon was to address challenges which are exacerbated by the effects of COVID-19, looking across all aspects of automotive. The participants were tasked with developing ideas and solutions for short- and medium-term benefits, in the areas of their interest, including fuel, AI, materials, manpower and logistics. Jiaxian and his team developed a business case for ERP (enterprise resource planning) software dedicated to improving the transparency and resilience of the automotive supply chain.



## **PROFESSOR SIR RORY COLLINS** Professorial Fellow in Epidemiology

In 2005, I was asked by the UK Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust to take on the leadership of the UK Biobank study. During 2006 to 2010, 500,000 people aged 40 to 69 years from all around the UK agreed to join the study, answering lots of questions, allowing us to make physical measurements and providing blood samples. With their permission, we have followed their health through their medical records and have been providing all of this information (including genetic data) in a de-identified form to researchers from around the world. More than 15,000 researchers are now using the UK Biobank data to study genetic and lifestyle determinants of many different diseases, and they have published more than 1,200 papers based on those data.

As someone who had thought infectious disease epidemiology was a dying art as the major causes of disease worldwide transitioned from communicable to non-communicable, early Spring involved me in a rapid introduction to the speciality. In particular, we looked at ways in which UK Biobank could best contribute to studying COVID-19, and provided researchers with updated coronavirus testing data on a weekly basis, along with updated death, hospitalisation and primary care data on a monthly basis. These data may well help to identify reasons why one person has a bad outcome with COVID-19 while another does not.

In addition, 10,000 nationally representative UK Biobank participants plus 10,000 of their adult children and grandchildren have agreed to provide monthly blood samples over at least the next six months. The aim is to track seroprevalence rates for the coronavirus antibodies over time in different communities across the UK, and to determine the persistence of those antibody levels. This information will be of value in helping to plan a safe and effective way to manage the national response to COVID-19.

Beyond UK Biobank, our team in the Nuffield Department of Population Health has set up the large RECOVERY trial, which has randomised 10,000 UK patients who had been hospitalised with COVID-19. Within just three months of starting, it has provided the first reliable evaluation of any treatment for COVID-19, compellingly refuting claims of beneficial effects with hydroxychloroquine (which, as all will be aware, had some high-profile promoters of its use). Importantly, RECOVERY is continuing to test other potentially beneficial treatments, so it will yield further information over the next few months that can help guide safer and more effective treatment of COVID-19 worldwide.

<https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/>

<https://www.ndph.ox.ac.uk/>

<https://www.recoverytrial.net/>

---

## **QIUJIE SHI** (Geography and the Environment, 2017)

Qiujie Shi wrote two journal articles and a blog piece on COVID-19 looking at the spread of the disease and the role of migration.

---

## **PROFESSOR SÉVERINE TOUSSAERT**

Wrote a series of policy reports with colleagues on contact tracing via mobile apps and an article on the same dataset.







# Public Policy and Engagement

---

## **BRIAN O'CALLAGHAN** (Geography and the Environment, 2019)

Brian O'Callaghan specialises in energy finance and has been very active throughout the pandemic, writing journal articles, giving TV and radio news interviews, offering comment to news outlets including *Bloomberg*, *The Guardian*, *Forbes*, *The Times* and *New York Times*, and contributing advice to senior policymakers.

---

## **PROFESSOR SIR DAVID CANNADINE** Honorary Fellow

- Virtual teaching at Princeton University for the second half of the spring semester.
- As President of the British Academy moved activity – very successfully – to an entirely virtual existence.
- Made programmes for BBC Radio 4: Archive Hour on Anthony Blunt and a new series, *Behind the Buzzwords*.

---

## **ROBERT HORTLE** (DPhil International Development, 2014)

Robert Hortle finished his DPhil in 2020 and has since worked for a consultancy as part of a team for a COVID-19 project with a UK government department. The resulting case study helped the department respond to the longer-term COVID-19 effects and the resultant political imperatives while the government managed the peak of the pandemic in the UK. The analysis and tools were an important resource the department will use to enable their sector to recover from the crisis and take advantage of new opportunities.

---

## **PROFESSOR PHILIP MAINI** Professorial Fellow in Mathematical Biology

Professor Maini runs a departmental group under the name cohesion-discuss. As Associate Head for Career Development, he kept in touch with all the heads of research groups to ensure that their students, Post-Doctoral Research Associates and colleagues were coping with the challenges of lockdown. He also liaised with the social contacts from each group to ensure that online social activities were ongoing to help everyone still feel part of a community.

He has also been a co-leader of Task 4 on the Royal Society's RAMP – Rapid Assistance in Modelling the Pandemic – initiative. Professor Maini co-ordinates the Rapid Review Group with his Oxford Colleague, Alain Gorieli. The group was tasked to commission rapid expert assessment of research outputs, reports and codebases nominated directly by SPI-M members, SAGE members, or RAMP Task Team Leaders, and to decide whether these had the combination of scientific importance and policy relevance that merited their consideration by SPI-M/SAGE in their roles as advice channels to the Government.

This meant that they were contacted by scientists and asked to review key research outputs (on a 24-hour, 48-hour turnaround, including weekends), distributing tasks to the appropriate experts amongst the team of approximately 120 experts they had assembled. All this was done in people's 'free' time – no funding, just free time the community has given up to help out.

---

**DR ZEYNEP PAMUK****Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Politics**

Wrote a paper, 'The Paradox of Scientific Advice', that analyses the dynamics of scientific advice in politics. The paper argues that scientific advisory committees face two inherently contradictory demands: on the one hand, they must provide useful advice that is responsive to democratic needs and priorities; on the other hand, they must remain neutral and stay out of politics. After illustrating the tension between these demands on a variety of issues, Dr Pamuk concludes that while this is in some ways an irresolvable dilemma, opening up scientific advice to broader democratic scrutiny and contestation could mitigate its force and improve the use of science for policy purposes.

---

**PROFESSOR JAIDEEP PANDIT**

- Professor Pandit has written a number of papers relating to COVID-19, including a paper looking at demand-capacity modelling and identifying themes for future NHS planning, another on the 'RO' number and its use, and a look at the use of personal protective equipment.
- As a Member of Council, Royal College of Anaesthetists, Professor Pandit worked on guidance to plan for restoration of surgical services after the peak pandemic. He also ran two national webinars for the Association of Anaesthetists on personal protection during anaesthesia and on restoring anaesthesia/surgical services post-COVID-19.

---

**THE MOST REVD. FATHER TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE OP  
Honorary Fellow**

Throughout the pandemic, Father Timothy Radcliffe has given lectures, written articles and been interviewed, offering both a human and spiritual perspective on the experience and focusing on its meaning. A list of his activity is on the College website and includes links to articles on 'Story telling in the face of a pandemic' and 'Living in isolation' as well as to his lecture, 'Singing from balconies' for the Ebor Lecture Series in July 2020 which can be found on YouTube.

---

**PROFESSOR KARTHIK RAMANNA  
Supernumerary Fellow**

Karthik Ramanna has responded to COVID-19 with a range of articles on its implications for public policy, including the opportunity to improve Britain's corporate regulators, the implications of lockdown and reflections on contracting in a time of crisis. He also made a video on how teaching by the case method continued at the Blavatnik School of Government during lockdown.



Hira Javaid



Ana Surduc

# Community and volunteering

## Admissions

The Admissions Team held two Virtual Open Days on 1 and 2 July 2020. They were hugely successful, with 240 active participants – the number of users who asked a question or liked a question – and 3,027 ‘joined’ participants (the total number of users who viewed the Q&As). At the time of writing there had been a total of 1,180 views of our videos, including 664 of the ‘Why St John’s?’ video, 230 of the ‘Meet the Students’ video, and 286 of the ‘Meet the Tutors’ video.

## Development and Alumni Relations

### Events

The team launched a series of online events for alumni, called SJC Online. These consist of a St John’s Fellow giving a 30–40 minute talk on an aspect of their research, followed by a Q&A with the audience. These have included ‘Beyond Our Planet’ with Professor Katherine Blundell, ‘Homer and the Bible’ with Dr Emma Greensmith and Professor Maggie Snowling on ‘A very short introduction to dyslexia’. The talks have been very popular with large audiences of over 200. Recordings of the talks are available on the College website.

Speakers for the future include Professor Philip Maini, Professor Carolyne Larrington, Professor Hannah Skoda and Professor Lloyd Pratt. We also ran a virtual Trivia Quiz for alumni.

### Online resources

We now have a dedicated section of the website full of online resources to connect alumni with the College; quizzes on past issues of *TW* and the College history, nostalgic Spotify playlists, links to podcasts and lectures featuring St John’s Fellows, and the Alumni Bookshelf.

---

### MARCO FABUS (Physics, 2016)

Marco Fabus took part in the first vaccine trial in Oxford and found it a really interesting experience. He was hopeful of an early vaccine given the promising results thus far.

### He also reported on the Physics Schools dinner:

‘This was moved to Teams which was quite a unique experience. Our tutor, Tony Weidberg (to whom all of us remain eternally grateful) sent us vouchers for food delivery and we marked the end of our undergraduate degrees at least with some elegance. It was a pleasant way to catch up with the rest of the year and Tony in quite a festive mood, albeit in an online-only capacity.’

## Vaccine trials

Oxford University has led the world in developing a COVID-19 vaccine. A number of St John’s staff and students enrolled as participants in the COV001 vaccine trials, including Professor Tony Weidberg. Physics student Marco Fabus was one of the very first volunteers for the phase 1 trial. Participants, of course, did not know if they had been given the COVID-19 vaccine (ChAdOx1 nCoV-19) or the control vaccine.

---

## REVD DR ELIZABETH MACFARLANE

Chaplain and Welfare Dean

### The Chaplain reports:

‘Chapel moved online, with Evening Prayer on Sunday, Morning Prayer Monday to Friday, and Compline intoned by the Chaplain in place of Wednesday Evensong. At no service was I alone, and I was particularly delighted by the fact that we saw so many leavers at the Leavers’ Service. I’m grateful that the porters were able to ring the chapel bell once for each leaver, recorded by a Junior Dean and played at the end of the service, poignant and celebratory.’

---

## LEO NASSKAU (PPE, 2018)

As President of the Oxford PPE Society, Leo Nasskau had an exciting Trinity Term. In place of the society’s usual eight physical events, Leo helped to create the world’s first international PPE society, bringing professional organisations, university faculties, and student societies together from every continent in the world.

### He reports:

‘We had politics and finance groups from Canada and the USA, including from Tufts, Harvard and Princeton; in

## Zooming ‘Women, Peace and Security’

**REVD DR LIZ CARMICHAEL**, Emeritus Fellow and Co-convenor, OxPeace, reports on moving a conference online...

To cancel, or move online – and if the latter, how to do it? When ‘lockdown’ suddenly happened the annual conference of OxPeace, the Oxford Network of Peace Studies, was among many facing that question. This year’s theme honoured 20 years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 of the year 2000, on increasing the participation of women in the fields of peace and security. A dozen speakers were lined up to present on policy, research and practice flowing from Resolution 1325. The venue was to be the Garden Quad Auditorium on Saturday 16 May, with a dinner and speaker at Rewley House the previous evening. College had adopted the Conference as part of its ‘40 Years of Women’ programme and was to sponsor the sandwich lunch for an anticipated 80–100 participants.

We turned to IT wizard Matt Jennings, who efficiently organised time on the College Zoom PRO account. But the limit was 100 participants, and registrations filled up immediately. Three knowledgeable young OxPeace committee members, scattered between Oxford, Germany and Singapore, came to the rescue and we secured our own account for 500 participants for one month. One member was already organising another conference, and advised condensing our whole-day programme into four hours including a 20-minute break. Wise advice as that was just the right length. Two speakers dropped out, one being NATO’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security (Zoom was deemed a security risk) and one being unwilling to transfer to the cyber-world. That left three plenary speakers: Teohna Williams, CEO of Business Plan for Peace,

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, Director of LSE’s Centre for Women, Peace and Security, and Frances Guy, Gender Adviser, UNDP Regional Bureau of Arab States; and seven panel speakers making up three panels. Each speaker had 15 or 20 minutes, with questions through ‘chat’. Out of 290 registrations, the actual ‘attendance’ was 106, a fairly typical ratio apparently. No doubt more will watch the podcasts.

The input was gripping, from the question of ‘the feminine’ in peace and security to the role of women in peacebuilding in Sudan and Afghanistan, women in British army UN peacekeeping missions, research at Edinburgh on the increasing involvement of women in peace agreements and implementation, the need for training and raising gender awareness, and combatting gender and sexual violence. Frances Guy in Amman sent an accolade: ‘That was honestly the best Zoom conference I have been in – and I have been in a few meetings that attempted to have panellists... none worked as smoothly as yours.’ We learnt to keep it short, facilitate confidently, have a break, and remember to put the speaker on full screen when recording! A record of this and previous conferences, including podcasts, can be found on the OxPeace website.

South America and Africa we had a number of economics societies; in India we partnered with a range of economic faculties at the University of Delhi, as well as the Inclusive India Economic Forum; whilst in Australia we worked with a few PPE student societies. Of course, we also set up links to groups in the British Isles too, bringing 60 different organisations together in total. We shared with them our livestreams and our podcasts, which represented 24 events in total. From academia we spoke to Cass Sunstein and Patricia Churchland, who feature extensively on humanities reading lists; from politics we spoke

to Michael Howard, Andrew Adonis, and Jess Philips; we interviewed former ambassadors Peter Westmacott and Peter Ricketts; economists like Tim Harford and Kimberly Clausing joined us; and we also spoke to two St John's alumnae: Bronwen Maddox and Faiza Shaheen, respectively the Directors of the Institute for Government and the Centre for Labour and Social Studies.'

### PROFESSOR STUART WHITE

The Mathematics Fellows held a Virtual Schools dinner for 2020's graduating mathematicians and computer scientists. The screenshots of the event also show Professor Charles Batty opening a mysterious parcel that the students had sent him with strict instructions not to open it until the dinner. It turned out that abominable snowmen play a key role in one of Charles's lectures – and now he has his own!

### PROFESSOR CHARLES BATTY EXPLAINED FURTHER...

The connection with my lectures is that the existence of a non-measurable set of real numbers has been compared to the existence of yeti (specifically in a book by Hilary Priestley, an Oxford tutor who is now retired). You are very unlikely ever to meet one, but you should be cautious in case you do. The lecture in question occurs in Week 2 of Hilary Term, when there is a chance of snow. In 2019 when most of the students at the dinner were in my lecture, there was a bit of snow on the ground but not really enough for a snowman. I have lectured this course six times, the first time in 2009 when there had been a substantial overnight snowfall and there were plenty of snowmen to be seen, and some of them might have been thought to be abominable but they were probably not yeti.

The term 'abominable snowman' for yeti was invented by the British-led expeditions trying to climb Everest. Who were the first people to succeed (including returning alive)? Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary. I cannot establish the gift's gender so we should allow for it being a snowwoman. Possibilities: Alex, Chris, Sam, ... Hilary. So the gift's name is Hilary!



# Frontline medicine

St John's medics have been active throughout the pandemic. A number of them sent in reports on their activities.

---

## **ALI AMINI (Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, 2018)**

Ali Amini helped out in early February with clinical shifts out of hours whilst still a full-time DPhil student. This included going to people's homes in full PPE with a paramedic as part of the home-swabbing programme rolled out in the containment phase of the pandemic.

After lockdown, he paused his DPhil and went back to the NHS full-time for a few months, working on the John Radcliffe COVID-19 and Infectious Diseases wards, as well as contributing to some of the research in the hospital.

In June 2020 Ali returned to his DPhil, helping process COVID-19 bloods regularly as part of the 'Oxford Immunology Network COVID-19 response: T cell Immunity Team' at the Peter Medawar Building. He also helped with research projects looking at the immune response of vaccinated patients.

His DPhil pre-pandemic was on the immune response to respiratory viruses and vaccine vectors (ChAdOx1); ChAdOx1 is particularly topical as it is the backbone of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine.

recruitment at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH). RBH was, at its peak, an overall top five recruiter (second place for patients per bed spaces), and remained in the top ten over late April/May during the peak of the pandemic.

She was also involved in the Recovery Trial which was responsible for the breakthrough regarding dexamethasone in treating COVID-19.

In addition, Jessica worked on PRIEST, an Urgent Public Health Study, prioritised by the Department of Health and Social Care as part of the Government's research response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the PRIEST study was to optimise the triage of people using the emergency care system (999 ambulance or hospital emergency department) with suspected respiratory infections, namely coronavirus, and identify the most accurate triage method for predicting severe illness among patients attending the emergency department with suspected coronavirus.

---

## **ISOBEL ARGLES (Medicine, 2016)**

During lockdown Isobel Argles helped her supervisor (Tammie Bishop) with a project looking at whether the HIF pathway is involved in regulating the expression of the SARS-CoV-2 receptor ACE2. This is with a view that if it is involved, clinical agents that modulate the HIF pathway might be useful as either prophylactic measures or treatments for COVID-19.

---

## **JESSICA CATERSON (Medicine, 2014)**

Jessica Caterson worked in the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading in the Intensive Care Unit. Whilst she was there she helped with three projects.

Jessica was particularly involved as an incoming junior doctor in the GenOMICC Study and was the major contributor to the screening of, consenting of, and collecting blood samples from, patients who were either on ICU, or had been stepped down to wards from ICU. The purpose of the study was to determine if there was any genetic preponderance to becoming critically unwell with SARS-CoV-2. She was responsible for 90% of

---

## **ANDREAS HALNER (Medicine, 2015)**

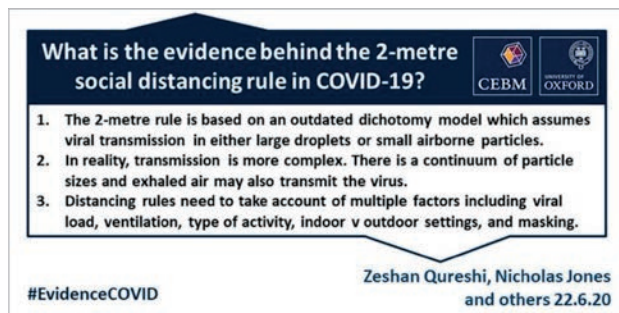
Andreas Halner's DPhil research is interdisciplinary, applying machine learning in order to develop a variety of predictive tools for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He is also co-founder and chief operating officer of the start-up Oxford Cancer Analytics which seeks to detect cancer early through machine learning-based analysis of blood samples.

At the end of March Andreas and his supervisor engaged in one week of research into global patterns of inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) use. Understanding ICS use patterns might be significant because of the interesting observation in a number of studies that severe cases of COVID-19 are less prevalent than expected in patients with chronic lung diseases, leading to the hypothesis that ICS, which are routinely used by patients with chronic lung disease, may help reduce COVID-19 severity. If the Oxford-based STOIC trial confirms this, then ICS could be prescribed to patients in the early phase of COVID-19 illness to help avoid severe symptoms. Andreas familiarised himself with the STOIC trial protocol and began helping doctors and nurses with the STOIC trial by helping record details from phone-based STOIC patient conversations.

---

### JESSICA LARWOOD (Medicine, 2015)

Jessica Larwood worked with the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine and Lydia Bourouiba from MIT and published a critical review of the 2-metre rule.



Jessica also worked on the COVID-19 Vaccine Trial from the beginning of lockdown. She helped on the ground in Oxford and then switched to working as the Project Manager for Sheffield, helping them to set up their vaccine trial site. She also contributed to writing the ‘Standard Operating Procedure for Vaccine Management’, creating training packages for the sites, sourcing supplies and organising the distribution of them, and creating and reviewing trial documents.

---

### OMAR ABDEL-MANNAN (Medicine, 2005)

Omar Abdel-Mannan published a paper on neurological manifestations in children with COVID-19 at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

He has also been appointed to a one-year research Fellowship at UCL institute of neurology on paediatric multiple sclerosis.

---

### LIAM PECK (Medicine, 2015)

Liam Peck started lockdown by volunteering as a driver for an impromptu food bank and pharmacy delivery service (Dons Local Action) near his home in Wimbledon, set up by the AFC Wimbledon Football Club. He found it to be a really impressive operation across a large area of south-west London.

On his return to Oxford he was heavily involved in the day-to-day management of the Oxford University Hospitals staff COVID-19 screening programme, which routinely screens the 10,000+ staff members across four hospital sites. As part of this work, he was also seconded to work at the Europa school in Oxfordshire on the ‘COVID-19 surveillance in Kids’ (sKID) pilot trial for similar viral screening in schools. The trial was commissioned by Public Health England to inform the government’s decisions about a safe return to schools and ongoing virus screening in schools from September onwards.

---

### ANKIT RANJAN (Biomedical Sciences, 2017)

Ankit Ranjan worked with Curative in Los Angeles, which ran approx. 7% of the tests in the USA. He was also involved in starting their vaccine trial.

---

### THOMAS RITTER (Medicine, 2015)

In addition to working on the Oxford University Hospitals staff-testing scheme, Thomas Ritter worked as part of the ISARIC4C team, one of the UK-wide NIHR Urgent Public Health Priority studies for hospitalised patients with COVID-19. His role was to assist the research team in collecting samples from patients from a wide array of hospital settings, including from ICU, and then transporting these samples to the multitude of labs that are running the investigations

He commented:

‘I have been fortunate enough to meet and interact not only with patients but also front-line research staff from the OUH trust, colleagues at CCVTM, the Peter Medawar Building for Pathogen Research, and the Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics. Truly integrating into this multidisciplinary team, and being able to contribute in a meaningful way to work that is producing an extensive amount of results that will shape future treatments and policies, has been immensely rewarding, and hopefully these friendships and collaborations will continue long after we emerge from the current global pandemic.’

Thomas also travelled to Bradford to play a part in unravelling a mystery: the curious case of a choir, who in January had many members suffer from a mysterious pneumonia-like disease, as documented by Professor John Wright for the BBC. Thomas connected a handful of these choir members with the research teams he had been working with and took samples from them. The work was to investigate if potentially the unknown disease was in fact SARS-CoV-2, making the choir the first case of COVID-19 in the UK.

---

### ISHTA SHARMA (Medicine, 2016)

- Worked on a clinical research audit with Dr Robert Shaw in the microbiology department, logging the timeline of symptoms of all the patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This database was used to inform trust pathways for CXR testing.
- Contributed to a paper reviewing the guidelines for remote consulting in the post-COVID-19 era supervised by Mr Peter Kalu (plastic surgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital).

# St John's Medicine in the COVID-19 pandemic



Professor Jaideep J Pandit,  
Consultant Anaesthetist  
& Fellow and Tutor in the  
Physiological Sciences

The change to our patterns of work came quickly. I completed a DPhil viva (hence the attire in the picture), picked up my respirator mask (marked 'Prof Pandit – Anaesthesia') and headed to the 'front line'.

I normally anaesthetise for major cancer surgery; long 10-12 hour operations in some of the sickest patients: rotas were changed to focus on the COVID surge and my skills were needed for the 'intubation team'. COVID -19 attacks the lungs impairing the body's oxygen uptake. Sometimes, the only option is to take over the patient's breathing (ventilator) and this requires a tube passed into the windpipe (intubation). In the picture, I hold a laryngoscope still used for intubation, invented by Robert Macintosh, the first professor of anaesthesia in Oxford (1935). Intubation is stressful for the body and requires general anaesthesia. Mechanical ventilation is continued for as long as needed in the intensive care unit – the patient is kept in what is colloquially known as 'induced coma' (but is in fact simply sustained general anaesthesia or sedation).

Late one night I was called to attend a COVID-19 patient. Wards have been efficiently transformed into 'red zones'. Staff are unrecognisable as every part of the body is covered with personal protective equipment (PPE), and we are helmeted and double-gloved. The patient was in a closed side room. Remarkably, he looked well and – the wonders of modern technology – was having a last, touching conversation with his family on his phone. One



of COVID's extraordinary features is that although oxygen levels can be lower than someone at the top of Everest, patients do not gasp for breath like others in respiratory distress. We prepared our equipment, once again checked each other's PPE, and entered the room, the air (in our wild imaginations) thick with infection. Talking to the patient to reassure them at this moment of anaesthesia, as I normally would, is impossible through the respirator – the sound of our own breathing hissing through the valves of the mask was louder than any sound in the room. All the reassurance and talking had already been done by the dedicated team caring for him.

General anaesthesia stops the breathing – for a short period until the ventilator takes over. In a patient already starved of oxygen this can be a critical period – but intubation was happily uneventful. The beauty of anaesthesia is knowing the patient is now comfortable and will not feel all the interventions necessary to keep them alive. And COVID-19 is a horrible disease. In many centres Internationally, fewer than half the patients who reach intensive care do not survive (Oxford's data are happily better).

Everyone has pulled together to fight COVID-19. Senior colleagues have been working round the clock to develop vaccines and trial novel therapies, profiled in media reports: Oxford as ever is at the forefront of innovation. Sir Nicholas White (Hon Fellow) is leading a major trial on (hydroxy) chloroquine, funded by the Gates Foundation. Professor Charles Newton, whose clinical practice is largely based in Kenya, is managing cases at Kilifi hospital (with far fewer resources than we have Oxford). The sheer bravery of patients and their families is evident as their lives are transformed in minutes or hours.

I am especially proud of our medical students. The medical course was suddenly suspended but they all volunteered, unhesitatingly, to help the NHS. Separated from their own families they have undertaken up to 12 hour shifts, helping staff don and doff the PPE (a formal ritual designed to prevent cross-infection); supported bereaved families; assisted with COVID-19 testing – and more. Some of their vignettes accompany this article. They have witnessed things otherwise seen only in wartime and, while this needs strong ongoing pastoral support, the values they have shown are exemplary. The students will translate their experiences to guide their practice in years to come to care for other patients. This is what medicine is about. They have been magnificent ambassadors for St John's. College's support for them, in so many ways, has been greatly appreciated and has helped preserve our strong sense of professional community.

In between hospital shifts my own academic activities continue, including online tutorials for preclinical students. I published three articles on anaesthesia and COVID-19, and lectured on two national 'teaching webinars', to share experiences with senior colleagues. Although this was not in white tie: we will get back to that sort of 'Oxford normality' one day.

***'The loveliest part of the tough rota is being a messenger between children isolated in the red zone, and their parents; difficult but so heartwarming'***

GREG HOWGEGO 4th year Medicine

***'I've been working in Sir Peter Ratcliffe's lab (Nobel Laureate 2020) on the role of oxygen in COVID-19 pathophysiology'***

ISOBEL ARGLES 4th Year Medicine

***'Being posted to the Nightingale, London, was daunting; it's a huge hospital built in just 9 days, and some other volunteers include cabin crew and zookeepers – so I am suddenly quite experienced and 'senior'! But we all hope it stays as empty as possible, as a sign of lockdown's success'***

SUZANNA ANJUM 4th year Medicine

***'I've helped co-ordinate the staff COVID-19 screening program. Nearly 10,000 have been tested: everyone – professors, porters, physios, pharmacists – are placing themselves at considerable personal risk and the opportunity to help in this way has been incredibly rewarding (even if one misses the vein occasionally!)'***

LIAM PECK 4th Year Medicine

***'Tragedies are so common; I have never seen so much bad news broken so often. Teamwork takes on a special importance; I never felt so supported and encouraged'***

SAMUEL KIM 6th year Medicine

# We've been here before...

Oxford was a strange place during lockdown, with the students gone, the tourists away, and the streets empty. It seemed unprecedented – but, of course it was not. In its long history, Oxford has faced pandemics before. **Professor William Whyte** explores that experience.

In 1513 the great Dutch scholar Desiderius Erasmus found himself trapped in England, forced by the arrival of pestilence to endure a sixteenth-century experience of lockdown. ‘We have been living’, he complained, ‘for some months a snail’s life. We shrink and hide ourselves indoors, and are as busy as bees in study. There is a great solitude here, most people away for fear of plague... I am determined to take flight’, he concluded. ‘If nothing else, at any rate I should die elsewhere.’

Erasmus was in Cambridge, of course, so perhaps his complaints should not be taken too seriously. He disliked the university in the Fens, considering it cold and poorly provided for. The beer, in particular, he thought especially unpleasant. In every respect, in fact, Erasmus judged Cambridge far inferior to Oxford.

But if this experience of lockdown was particular, it nonetheless speaks of a wider and more general issue. The early modern world was one in which plagues of various sorts frequently shut down whole cities – something explored to brilliant effect in our Honorary Fellow Paul Slack’s work on *The Impact of Plague in Tudor and Stuart England* (1985).

Universities and colleges were especially at risk. As dense agglomerations of people, they were the perfect incubators of plague. Their wider connections only made matters worse – as they did in the 1660s, when parliament and the court fled London to Oxford, bringing the plague with them. And so, throughout the sixteenth century, the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge got used to lockdown, evacuating the city for months, sometimes



**Throughout the sixteenth century, the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge got used to lockdown, evacuating the city for months, sometimes even for a year at a time. In some years, indeed, the universities were closed more often than they were open.**





even for a year at a time. In some years, indeed, the universities were closed more often than they were open.

To mitigate the effects of these frequent, disruptive migrations, colleges established alternative places of work. In the sixteenth century, Christ Church acquired ample accommodation in Wallingford, Exeter escaped to the rectory at Kidlington, while the founder of Trinity erected a 'lodging' at Garsington in 1559 to serve the same purpose.

St John's did something similar. In 1571, the Fellows escaped plague by moving to Woodstock for a year, spending 3 shillings 'For a cariage loode of beare [beer]'. In 1580, they fled to Fyfield, taking up residence in an old chantry house, now the White Hart pub. A decade later, they travelled to the Manor House in Charlbury. In 1603, they urged junior members to depart 'as the College has no convenient house to repair unto in the country', but the President was rehoused in the pretty village of Combe.

We get the clearest glimpse of how the College kept going despite these interruptions during the evacuation of summer 1604. Much of the community escaped to Fyfield, where lectures and dinners were held in the great hall of the Manor House. Academic dress was enforced



throughout the village, with surplices and hoods worn at the compulsory church services. The students and Fellows took over the place: residing in the White Hart, the Manor House, and other accommodation. Some leases, indeed, made provision for the College to evict tenants for just such a purpose.

This exodus seems to have been the last. Thereafter, Oxford coped with pestilence by expelling the sick to 'cabins in Portmeadow'. The system of re-locating to attractive houses in the picturesque villages in the surroundings of the city consequently broke down. Given the horrors of Zoom, Skype, Teams, and all the rest, perhaps the time has come to revive it.



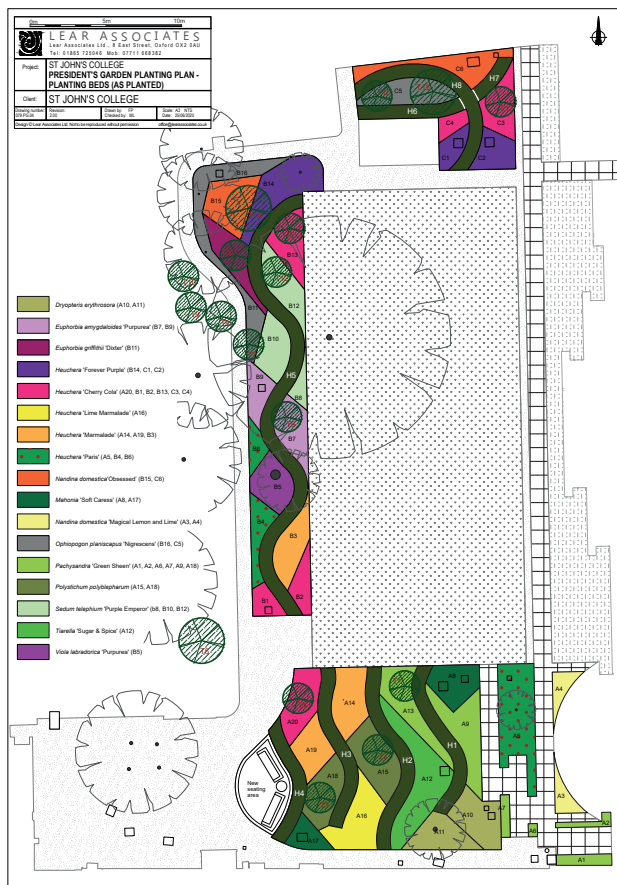
# We must cultivate our gardens

Out of the remains of a building site, and amidst all the anxiety of lockdown, one part of the College site was utterly transformed, bursting into life as a new garden.

The President's Garden, lying between the SCR and the newly-completed Library was mud at the start of the year and is now an eye-catching oasis. Michael Lear, who designed it, and the College's Head Gardener, Phil Shefford, who laid it out, explain.

Having worked with Professor Rosalind Harding in her capacity as *custos sylvarum* (Keeper of the Groves) for a number of years, we were excited at Lear Associates to be asked to provide a garden scheme for the President's Garden, following completion of the new Library and Study Centre. The garden is at the heart of the College and used by the President and her guests. As might be imagined, there was little that resembled a garden in the aftermath of the building works and it was widely agreed that a completely new design was needed in response to the modern elevations of the new building. At an early stage, it was further decided that surviving shrubs and a poor cherry tree growing close to the Canterbury Wing should also be removed, thereby enabling a larger scale design and an effective *tabula rasa* with which to work. The underlying principle was that this garden could, and should, be entirely different from any other part of the College gardens. The question remained, just what?

Dismissing the possibility of traditional flower borders, a contemporary grass garden or shrubberies, we nonetheless felt strongly that we should retain a sense of openness sufficient to 'answer' the powerful effect of Susanna Heron's bas-relief wall and to build the garden plan around a substantial lawn at its centre. There were



A garden inspired by the chapel windows. Panels of coloured foliage are divided up as if panes of stained glass.

shade as well as full sun – an important consideration in unifying the overall garden space. By good fortune, *Heuchera* also occur in a wide range of coloured cultivars suited variously to shade or light according to the intensity of their leaf colour. Five varieties were chosen for the scheme – ‘Cherry Cola’ (red), ‘Marmalade’ (orange), and ‘Forever Purple’ (magenta violet) for sunny areas; ‘Paris’ (silver-green) and ‘Lime Marmalade’ (chartreuse) for areas of shade. Each of these is planted in blocks forming abstract wedges of colour isolated one from another with dividing metal strips. For good measure, these varieties also produce tall slender flower spikes bearing tiny flowers ranging from red to pink to white, which are attractive to bees and add another tier of colour.

Other herbaceous species have also been included in the colour panes, including the purple foliaged Orpine (*Sedum telephium* ‘Purple Emperor’) which has late summer flowers attractive to butterflies and Japanese Spurge (*Pachysandra* ‘Green Sheen’) with glossy dark green evergreen foliage. Two types of *Euphorbia* have been chosen for their coloured foliage and orange flowers; and two species of fern – the Japanese Shield Fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*) and Japanese Lace Fern (*Polystichum polyblepharum*) were selected to add visual texture in areas of shade. Overall a strong ‘hot’ colour scheme of reds, oranges and purples predominates, with height, suitability as ground cover, and season of interest also factors taken into consideration in plant selection, with many versions being mocked up in our studio.

For the framework hedge, we selected Japanese Holly, *Ilex crenata* in preference to box which has become widely susceptible to blight and other diseases. The scheme also includes a number of trees clustered according to type, including the pale pink-flowered cherry – *Prunus* ‘Pandora’ adjacent to Canterbury Wing, and *Sorbus ulleuensis* ‘Olympic Flame’ – a superb Rowan from South Korea with bright orange berries and rich autumn colour. The ancient Black Mulberry, which could well be the oldest tree in the College grounds was retained and incorporated within the scheme.

Having watched the garden develop through its first season, we must now wait with anticipation as its various component parts mature under the watchful eye of head gardener Phil Shefford and his team. To my knowledge, this is the seventh garden layout to have occupied this space in the past 407 years, and I feel quite sure that each of these schemes in their day would have looked as modern as this new garden seems today.

also many discussions concerning the degree to which the garden would be overlooked from the Study Centre. This was also clearly a consideration for Wright and Wright architects, since the connecting corridor with the Laudian Library was initially glazed with opaque glass to ensure privacy to the area of the garden adjacent to the President’s rooms. Putting this aside, the Principal Bursar, Andrew Parker, advised that the corridor should be considered as a viewing opportunity with potential to assist in the detailed design of the space. When the privacy film was duly removed and we were able to peer into the garden from a height, I was struck at the way that the east gable of the chapel was visible. It was this view that inspired the garden with its panels of coloured foliage divided up as if panes in a stained-glass window, and a dwarf evergreen hedge contributing the structural ‘masonry’. These hedges were developed as a series of sinuous lines in representation of water, picking up on the moat which fronts the Study Centre and its symbolic links with John the Baptist.

After a period of mulling it over with my colleagues Beverley Lear and Fiona Paramor, and some more detailed horticultural research, we decided to focus on *Heuchera*, a genus of evergreen herbaceous plants from North America notable for their adaptability to deep



## Phil Shefford writes:

The President's Garden is one of the biggest projects I have worked on during my time as Head Gardener. Rosalind Harding and Michael Lear and I spent many hours discussing ideas for the garden and in particular whether to keep some of the remaining shrubs from the President's Garden or start with a blank canvas. We decided it would be great to start with a blank canvas and create a completely unique garden unlike anywhere else in College.

When Michael Lear produced a plan, I was taken by it straightaway. However, I felt quite overwhelmed by the amount of preparation and planting that had to be done on top of our regular maintenance to get the garden in shape and get as much done as possible before the opening of the new Study Centre. Rosalind and I agreed that we should get the trees, hedging and evergreen plants in first for the opening. All the garden team were involved in the first phase and worked really hard, especially with the planting of the 600 *Ilex crenata* hedging plants, which were laid out in a wave design to reflect the architecture of the building, followed by a

further 837 evergreen plants and seventeen trees, five of which are beautiful flowering cherries *Prunus* 'Pandora'.

In March this year I ordered a further 1,526 plants, which included 896 *Heuchera*, to complete the planting design. The plants turned up at the start of the lockdown and, as my staff had just been furloughed, I was faced with a massive task to get them planted. My son Jamie had also been furloughed by his own employer and offered to help me with the planting. I gladly accepted his help and after a solid two weeks of father-and-son time and hard work we finally completed the planting and celebrated when the last heuchera went in.

The garden was without doubt a challenging project but the end result is fantastic and well worth the hard work. The various colours from the flowers and foliage of the heucheras alone are stunning and are attracting many bees. I look forward to seeing it mature and watching the changing colours throughout the seasons. Also, most importantly, the President has said to me she is very happy with the garden and is really appreciating how beautiful it all looks.

# St John's and the Colonial Past



2019 saw the launch of a pioneering project investigating the links between the College and the British empire – an initiative that was covered across the world, and swiftly imitated by several other colleges. In her first report, research associate Dr Mishka Sinha shares some initial findings.

St John's and the Colonial Past is a pioneering research project, the first of its kind to be launched in Oxford or Cambridge, and one of the first amongst universities in the UK. It is unique in that it investigates St John's College's connections with slavery and the slave trade as well as more widely the larger history of British imperialism, from the seventeenth century until the late twentieth. The project, which began in Michaelmas 2019, is being directed by Professor William Whyte with Dr Mishka Sinha. Research in the College's rich Archive with the help of the Archivist, Mike Riordan, is at the heart of this project, but other College

collections – including those in the Library, paintings, silver, and buildings and architecture – provide a range of sources for investigation, while also offering exciting ways of presenting and communicating our findings, through tours and exhibitions, for example.

Beyond research, the project has focused on building a strong set of networks within and outside Oxford, to learn from and contribute to similar projects and to offer a hub or point of contact connecting together institutions and initiatives: we are a core part of an Oxford University-wide network, analysing connections between Oxford and Empire, we are in conversation



Matriculation 1955, with Esmond Kentish, an accomplished cricketer, civil servant and general manager of the Bank of Jamaica.



Silver Cigar box belonging to Herbert Kitchener, given by H. J. Creedy to the College.

with researchers and scholars working on the colonial pasts and links with slavery of other universities in the UK and US, and are working on a (possibly unique and certainly unusual!) cross-university collaborative seminar with the Legacies of Slavery project at Cambridge! Most recently, we have been invited to advise and collaborate on projects engaging with the histories of colonialism and slavery at the Ashmolean Museum, Rugby School, and English Heritage. The third and final aspect of our work is concerned with dissemination, through academic channels such as conferences and scholarly publications, as well as through our website, social media, and planned events such as exhibitions, special College tours, and other ways of presenting our findings to a non-specialist audience, including, we hope, students, alumni, and a wider public.

From the end of March, as a result of the pandemic, access to most College buildings, including the Library and Archive, has had to be closed or severely limited, and we have been largely unable to continue our research, being forced to rely on photographs and notes taken earlier in the year. We decided to use the opportunity to develop the two other aspects of our project, expanding our networks and launching our website, blog, and video series – see p.43 for the website link

Given the range and richness of the College Archive, we have taken several approaches to researching the colonial past. Some of this has been about tracing past alumni and Fellows possessing significant or interesting connections with colonialism and slavery in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, whether as colonial administrators or colonial subjects, recognising that these are complex stories of complex individuals, not a villains and heroes narrative, but a narrative of complicated identities and motives, connections and contributions to a dense, textured tapestry. But we also have records and materials that might reveal a more intimate understanding of the historical relevance of colonialism to the everyday life of the College in past centuries. Our endeavour to gain a richer sense of the experience and impact of the ‘empire at home’ even within the enclaved environment of an Oxford college with a historically small and contained membership has borne fruit in some fascinating discoveries. These include, with images on the opposite page, a student debate on contemporary government policy regarding Britain’s colonies and protectorates in the 1910s at which St John’s students from Egypt and India, as well as Britons, argued their cases with sophistication and eloquence, recorded in the Minutes of

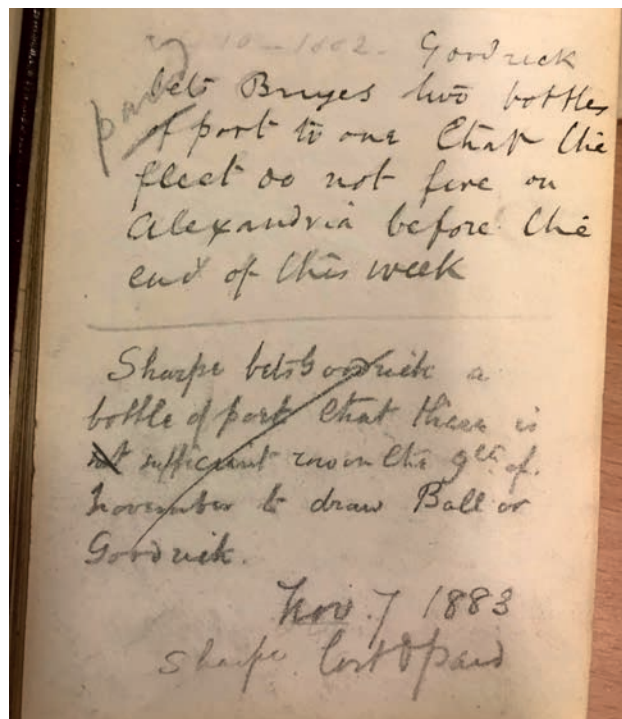
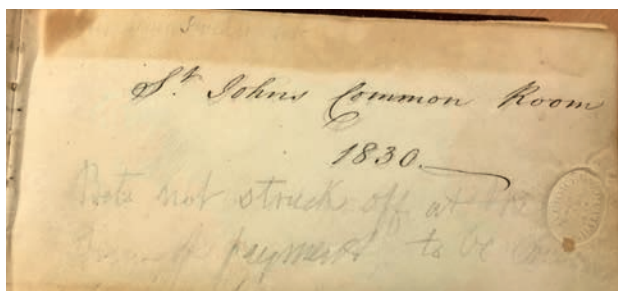
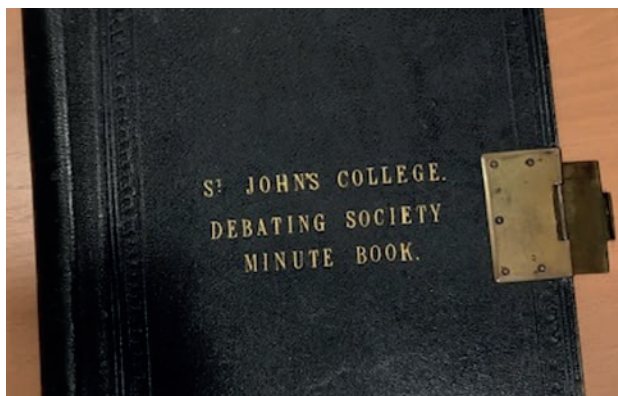


the College Debating Society, and an 1882 wager recorded in the SCR betting book, in which a Fellow bet two bottles of port that the Navy would open fire on Alexandria in a particular week. It did, the Fellow in question won his port, but the bombardment of Alexandria would lead to the British Occupation of Egypt in 1882 which would not end, in practice, until 1936.

It has been an important aspect of this project to actively invite the interest and engagement of the College community, with three objects in mind: first, to ensure that we remain open and sensitive to the expectations and responses of members of the College, second, to receive valuable feedback, suggestions and criticism which will enable us to shape and improve the project in the course of its duration, and third, to encourage students, especially, to feel invested in a project that we hope will contribute positively to their university experience and enable them to participate in enriching and deepening their own and others' understanding of the history and culture of their college. Earlier this year, the College History Society helped us organise a presentation over afternoon tea, on *St John's and the Colonial Past*, followed by a Q&A. Despite it being the last week of term, twelve students from four faculties attended, and a lively

conversation ensued for almost two hours. We were further invited to present the project at an SCR Research Soirée, which was generously well attended on a wet and windy Monday evening, and elicited many questions from the Fellows, who were able to add considerably to our archive-based understanding with a fund of personal accounts and valuable oral histories. We are happy to have already received several emails from interested alumni and invite any who might be willing to contribute to share their experiences connected with empire and the College's connections with colonialism, to write to us.

We have uncovered since October a considerable volume of colonial connections and yet barely scratched the surface. There is a great deal still to be done in the short time left, and in some ways no research project is ever complete – there are always more questions than there is time to answer them! However what we do hope to achieve, and have begun to achieve, is to show that research into the colonial past and its communication and dissemination is not only imperative and useful, but also exciting, engaging, and ultimately beneficial for all those who share in the life and legacy of the College of St John the Baptist – students, colleges, alumni, benefactors and the wider public.



Debating Society Minute Book and SCR Betting Book: both reveal the interest of the college in colonial matters.

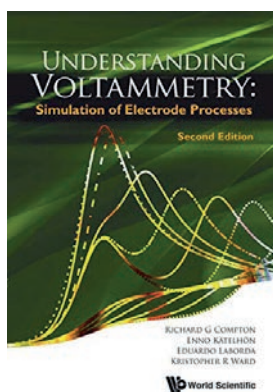
The project website contains more information, debates, and a blog. We are also keen to hear from anyone with relevant stories or material to share. [www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/colonial-past](http://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/colonial-past).

# The Reading List

St John's Fellows have been responsible for many publications over the last year, covering many diverse subjects. A small sample of their books is included below.

## RICHARD COMPTON

Richard Compton, E. Laborda, E. Kaetelhoeven and K. R. Ward, *Understanding Voltammetry: Simulation of Electrode Processes (Second Edition)* (World Scientific Press, 2020).



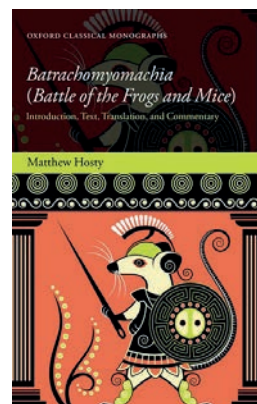
This is the first textbook in the field of electrochemistry that will teach experimental electrochemists how to carry out simulation of electrode processes. Processes at both macro- and micro-electrodes are examined and the simulation of both diffusion-only and diffusion-convection processes are addressed. The simulation of processes with coupled homogeneous kinetics and at microelectrode arrays are further discussed.

Over the course of the book the reader's understanding is developed to the point where they will be able to undertake and solve research-level problems. The book leads the reader through from a basic understanding of the principles underlying electrochemical simulation to the development of computer programmes which describe the complex processes found in voltammetry.

This is the third book in the 'Understanding Voltammetry' series, published with Imperial College Press and written by the Compton group. Other books in the series include *Understanding Voltammetry*, written by Richard G. Compton with Craig Banks and also *Understanding Voltammetry: Problems and Solutions* (2012) written by Richard G. Compton with Christopher Batchelor-McAuley and Edmund Dickinson. These are and continue to be successful textbooks for graduates in electrochemistry and electroanalytical studies.

## MATTHEW HOSTY

Matthew Hosty, *Batrachomyomachia (Battle of the Frogs and Mice): Introduction, Text, Translation, and Commentary* (Oxford, 2019).



The *Batrachomyomachia* (Battle of the Frogs and Mice) is a Hellenistic pastiche of Homer's *Iliad* which was often attributed to Homer himself by later commentators. As a parody of epic battle narrative it is quite unlike anything else that survives in full from antiquity; however, despite its popular and influential reception throughout much of history from the Roman period onwards, the advent of the twentieth century saw it largely dismissed and overlooked as a curio.

This volume presents a new critical edition of the poem, comprising an introduction, Greek text and English verse translation, and line-by-line commentary, which aims to rehabilitate its image and return it to the centre of scholarly attention by mapping out the wide range of metaliterary jokes, references and parodies concealed within the apparently simple and childish story. The Greek text is entirely new, based on a fresh collation of the nine most important early manuscripts as well as on the work of previous editors. All verses which appear in these manuscripts are included – those which do not belong in the main text are presented separately at the foot of each page – and are accompanied by a full apparatus criticus and a new facing verse translation, which aims to strike a balance between precision and readability. A comprehensive introduction thoroughly orients readers in the poem's historical and literary context, covering its (highly uncertain) date and disputed authorship, its relationship with the wider genre of 'parody', its language and metre, and its reception and influence up to the present day, among other topics. The commentary forms the largest part of the volume, offering detailed discussion of linguistic, stylistic, and thematic questions, as well as guiding readers through the complex network of references to Homer and Hellenistic poetry and breaking down the textual problems for which the poem is so notorious.

### CAROLYNE LARRINGTON

Carolyne Larrington, *All Men Must Die: Lethal Love and Fatal Attraction in Game of Thrones* (IB Taurus, 2019).

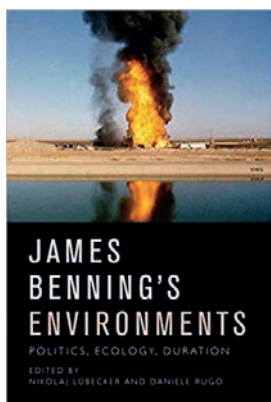
'All men must die': or 'Valar Morghulis', as the traditional Essos greeting is rendered into High Valyrian. And die they do – in prodigious numbers; in imaginatively varied and gruesome ways; and often in terror within the viciously unpredictable world that is HBO's sensational evocation of 'Game of Thrones'. Epic in scope and in imaginative breadth, the stories that are brought to life tell of the dramatic rise and fall of nations, the brutal sweeping away of old orders and the advent of new autarchs in their eternal quest for dominion. Yet, as this book reveals, many potent and intimate narratives of love and passion can be found within these grand landscapes of heroism, honour and death. They focus on strong relationships between women and family, as well as among the anti-heroes, the 'cripples, bastards and broken things'. In this vital follow-up to *Winter Is Coming* (2015), acclaimed medievalist Carolyne Larrington explores themes of power, blood-kin, lust and sex in order to put entirely fresh meanings on the show of the century.



### NIKOLAJ LÜBECKER

Nikolaj Lübecker and Daniele Rugo, *James Benning's Environments: Politics, Ecology, Duration* (Edinburgh, 2019).

For more than forty years, the experimental filmmaker James Benning has been engaged in a systematic investigation of the relations between man, landscape, and the filmic medium, and during the last decade it has become increasingly clear how much these investigations have to offer to contemporary debates about ecology, the age of the anthropocene and the potentialities of new digital technologies. In *James Benning's Environments* a range of international scholars highlight the thematic and formal coherence of Benning's practice, whilst providing readers with an artistic and historical context to understand his experimental film work. The volume offers a number of interpretative frameworks drawing on film theory, environmental humanities, visual culture and philosophy, explaining why Benning has emerged as one of today's essential filmmakers.



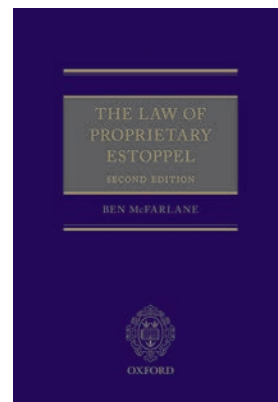
### BEN MCFARLANE

Ben McFarlane, *The Law of Proprietary Estoppel* (Oxford, 2020).

This is the second edition of the leading authority on the law of proprietary estoppel, which has been cited by courts across the common law world. It is a comprehensive and practically structured resource which offers guidance on managing proprietary estoppel cases. Relevant authorities are set out in a clear and accessible way, helping readers to make sense of a complex and rapidly developing area of law. Recent case-law is discussed in the second edition, from England but also with updated reference to other common law jurisdictions, including new decisions of the top courts in each of Australia, Canada, and Singapore.

Proprietary estoppel has come to particular prominence in recent years: it is frequently pleaded by litigants wishing to show that they have informally acquired an interest in land. As a result of its vigorous development by the courts, there is no comprehensive and uncontroversial definition of the doctrine. There is also much debate as to the relationship between proprietary estoppel and other doctrines, such as constructive trusts and unjust enrichment. A problem faced by anyone seeking to make, or respond to, a proprietary estoppel claim is that the law is to be found almost entirely in cases.

This new edition of *The Law of Proprietary Estoppel* sets out a clear structure with which to understand the law and thus assists practitioners, academics and others in navigating their way through the complex case-law on proprietary estoppel, and also in understanding its relationship with related doctrines, particularly other forms of estoppel.



## JOHN KAY

John Kay and Mervyn King, *Radical Uncertainty: Decision-making for an unknowable future* (Little, Brown, 2020).

This major, critically acclaimed work asks a vitally important question for today: when uncertainty is all around us, and the facts are not clear, how can we make good decisions?

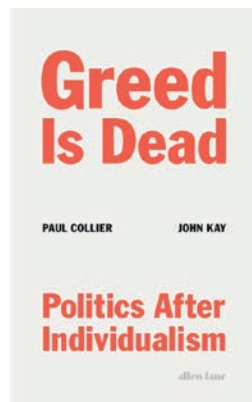
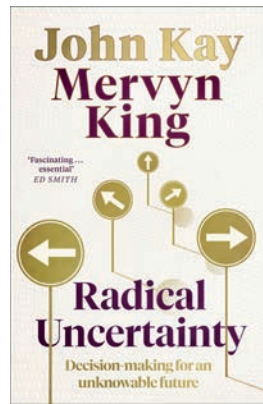
We do not know what the future will hold, particularly in the midst of a crisis, but we must make decisions anyway. We regularly crave certainties which cannot exist and invent knowledge we cannot have, forgetting that humans are successful because we have adapted to an environment that we understand only imperfectly. Throughout history we have developed a variety of ways of coping with the radical uncertainty that defines our lives.

This incisive and eye-opening book draws on biography, history, mathematics, economics and philosophy to highlight the most successful – and most short-sighted – methods of dealing with an unknowable future. Ultimately, the authors argue, the prevalent method of our age falls short, giving us a false understanding of our power to make predictions, leading to many of the problems we experience today.

John Kay and Paul Collier, *Greed is Dead: Politics After Individualism* (Penguin, 2020).

Throughout history, successful societies have created institutions which channel both competition and co-operation to achieve complex goals of general benefit. These institutions make the difference between societies that thrive and those paralysed by discord, the difference between prosperous and poor economies. Such societies are pluralist but their pluralism is disciplined.

Successful societies are also rare and fragile. We could not have built modernity without the exceptional competitive and co-operative instincts of humans, but in recent decades the balance between these instincts has become dangerously skewed: mutuality has been undermined by an extreme individualism which has weakened co-operation and polarised our politics.



Collier and Kay show how a reaffirmation of the values of mutuality could refresh and restore politics, business and the environments in which people live. Politics could reverse the moves to extremism and tribalism; businesses could replace the greed that has degraded corporate culture; the communities and decaying places that are home to many could overcome despondency and again be prosperous and purposeful. As the world emerges from an unprecedented crisis we have the chance to examine society afresh and build a politics beyond individualism.

## ROSS MCKIBBIN,

Ross McKibbin, *Democracy and Political Culture: Studies in Modern British history* (Oxford, 2019).

*Democracy and Political Culture: Studies in Modern British History* attempts to give a total picture of the political-social culture of Great Britain in the twentieth century. To do so it chooses a number

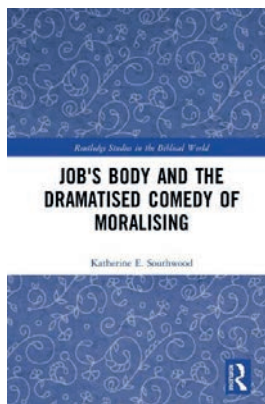
of particular subjects which nonetheless stand for this culture as a whole, and which together allow us to reach a number of general conclusions about modern British history. In this sense it is a successor to McKibbin's previous collection of essays, *The Ideologies of Class* (1991), while it also takes up a number of the themes of his *Classes and Cultures* (1998). Above all, it is a study of British democracy and asks the questions: what does it mean to describe Britain as a democratic society and how might we measure it against other comparable societies? To do so, McKibbin has chosen not only more 'global' subjects – Britain's social structure and the sources of political authority; the social and political effects of the first world war; Britain's electoral and party system; its literary culture; its sporting culture, and the relation of that culture to the rest of the world, as well as to Britain itself; and a comparison of Britain's political culture with one of the closest comparable societies, Australia, and what that tells us about Britain – but also individual studies of three men, very prominent in British life, who, in different ways, both contributed to Britain's political culture and were also students of it: J.M. Keynes, an economist, Harold Nicolson, a politician and writer, and A.J. Cronin, a novelist. All three represented British political culture in its broadest spectrum.



**KATHERINE  
SOUTHWOOD**

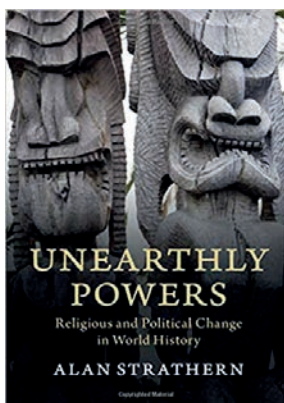
**Katherine Southwood, *Job's body and the dramatised comedy of moralising* (Routledge, 2020).**

This monograph highlights the key role Job's body plays in undermining the idea of retribution. Job's friends provide a wealth of 'moralising', retribution-centred advice in response to his body-centred language. However, it is argued that this profound juxtaposition between bodily experience and traditional wisdom is explored in a light-hearted way in Job. This monograph imagines Job as a play wherein tragedy and comedy regularly collide, perhaps with similarities to Aristophanes and the Athenian theatre. The vitality and dynamism of the dialogues in Job emerges more clearly as the characters pontificate about Job's problems. Moving through the dialogues, the puffed-up, self-righteous Job becomes ever more frustrated, and his body-centred language adopts key exaggerated metaphors of deity-attack and deity-surveillance in a symbolic protest against retribution language. In response the friends increase their moralising until, after thirty chapters, the comic character Elihu suddenly emerges stating that he is 'full of words' and that the wind within constrains him. As all the characters become increasingly vexed, the audience watches the windy discussion elaborate; knowing all along that the entire scenario is the result of a gamble based on Job's supposed blamelessness.



**ALAN STRATHERN**  
**Alan Strathern, *Unearthly Powers: Religious and Political Change in World History* (Cambridge, 2019).**

Why was religion so important for rulers in the pre-modern world? And how did the world come to be dominated by just a handful of religious traditions, especially Christianity, Islam and Buddhism? Drawing on sociology and anthropology, as well as a huge range of historical literature from all regions and periods of world history, Alan Strathern sets out a new way of thinking about transformations in the fundamental nature of religion and its interaction with political authority. His analysis distinguishes



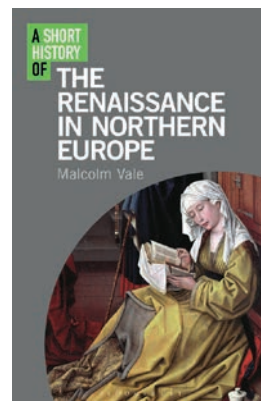
between two quite different forms of religiosity – immanentism, which focused on worldly assistance, and transcendentalism, which centred on salvation from the human condition – and shows how their interaction shaped the course of history. Taking examples drawn from Ancient Rome to the Incas or nineteenth-century Tahiti, a host of phenomena, including sacred kingship, millenarianism, state–church struggles, reformations, iconoclasm, and, above all, conversion are revealed in a new light.

**MALCOLM VALE**  
**Malcolm Vale, *A Short History of the Renaissance in Northern Europe* (IB Taurus, 2020).**

The idea of a rebirth in the art and civilisation of the western world during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries has proved an enduring one. Italy has long been seen as its home: the source of both its origins and its finest cultural expressions.

Yet in the north, the bright Mediterranean dawn of Boccaccio and Michelangelo was echoed by the artistic genius of Memling and the brilliant humanistic insights of Erasmus. This lively new history argues that the rediscovery of the antique worlds of Greece and Rome between 1400 and 1540 is only one part of the story. Though Italy was the natural heir to the Roman era, northern Europe developed a realism and illusionistic naturalism in painting which owed little, if anything, to the south. Some of Jan van Eyck's and Rogier van de Weyden's portraits have never been surpassed. These painters were profoundly influential, not only on their northern followers like Hans Holbein the Younger, but on Italian artists as well. Netherlandish painting was universally admired by fifteenth-century Italians, while the musical creativity of the Low Countries was also much prized in Italian cities and courts.

Expertly traversing religion, art, history and culture, Malcolm Vale suggests that the region that produced Luther and Dürer owed as much to its own past heritage as to new ideas from Italy. His book will change our perceptions of this flowering of European art and culture.





From None to A Network:

# 40 Years of Women at St John's

Following over 400 years of single-sex education, the College started admitting women in 1979, alongside many other Oxford colleges that took the step of amending their statutes and welcoming women at around the same time. It was an event celebrated in innumerable ways, as Professor Carolyne Larrington and members of the St John's Women's Network recall.

## 40 YEARS OF WOMEN: EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The 2019–20 academic year will likely be remembered for very different reasons to the ones that we may have envisioned at the outset. When we began the year back in October, we were beginning our anniversary year to mark forty years of women being admitted to St John's, and had a wide variety of events planned to mark the progress that we've made in the past forty years, and to look ahead to what still needs to happen as we strive for true equality.

The events we planned for this year focused on different themes that encompassed our desire to look

back as well as forward. We gained an insight into the history of women at St John's, investigated the position of women in science, looked ahead to see what the next forty years holds for feminism at Oxford, watched feminist films, considered the writing of feminist lives, focused in on photos of St John's women, and discussed the inherent contradictions in the concept of equality in elite higher education.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved in the events that we've held to mark this important anniversary.

*'Since 1555, St John's has striven to provide excellence in education and research. In this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of admitting women, let us take the opportunity of stepping back and reflecting on how we can ensure that a commitment to equality and diversity is at the core of our mission'*

PROFESSOR MAGGIE SNOWLING  
President

*'I am very proud to have this important anniversary fall during my term of office as Fellow for Women. When I was born many of the Oxford colleges did not admit women, which makes this relatively new (in the context of over 400 years of men) initiative something which is particularly exciting and which I hope will endure for another 400 years and beyond'*

PROFESSOR KATHERINE SOUTHWOOD  
Fellow for Women

*'Equality and inclusion are not just aspirations, they are a responsibility for all of us. As Fellow for Equality, I welcome the '40 years of Women' programme of events as a reminder of what has been achieved and, more crucially, as a way for us all to discuss what lies ahead'*

PROFESSOR IAN KLINKE  
Fellow for Equality

## The History of Women at St John's

On 25 October 2019 we launched our year of events by looking back to when the first female students arrived 40 years ago.

The panel of speakers, chaired by the President, consisted of Professor Ross McKibbin, who had been on the Governing Body at the time when the statutes were amended to admit women, Professor Carolyne Larrington, one of our first female Fellows, and two alumnae who were among the first co-ed cohorts at St John's – Sue Vermes and Ruth Huddleston.

Professor McKibbin gave an illuminating insight into the discussions that took place prior to women being admitted, and it was encouraging to gain the impression that women becoming members of the College had generally been a welcome change!

Sue Vermes, one of the very first women admitted to the College in 1979, gave us a glimpse of the student's perspective of the changes with some fascinating views of what life was like as a woman in a college that had once been the preserve of men. Ruth Huddleston, who came to St John's in 1980, continued with an enlightening talk full of anecdotes about her time at Oxford that allowed us to develop a greater appreciation of the significant changes that have occurred since women were first admitted.

Professor Carolyne Larrington, who became a tutor at St John's in 1989, discussed her efforts to promote equality

both within the College and the wider University as part of a newly set up women tutors' group, and outlined the substantial changes that have occurred for female members of staff in Oxford over the past few decades.



## Women in Science: Lessons from Experience

At our second event, held on 15 November 2019, we brought together a panel of St John's academics, from a wide variety of different scientific fields and at various stages in their careers, who spoke about their own experiences, gave advice on how to deal with difficult situations, and answered audience questions on a range of subjects relating to equality and diversity.

Chaired by Professor Dorothy Bishop (Supernumerary Fellow in Developmental Neuropsychology), the panel comprised of Dr Hannah Alfonsa (Junior Research Fellow in Pharmacology), Professor Katherine Blundell (Supernumerary Fellow in Astrophysics), Professor Philip Maini (Professorial Fellow in Mathematical Biology), Professor Angela Russell (Bernard Taylor Fellow in Chemistry) and Professor Rebecca Slater (Professorial Fellow in Neuroscience). The event was introduced by Dr Kate Doornik (Supernumerary Fellow in Economics).

Each panellist began by introducing themselves, giving the audience an insight into their research and careers so far, and their experiences as a minority in their field. It was interesting to hear about the similarities and differences in the experiences of each panel member,



and the issues that they had faced in getting to where they are today.

The panel then responded to questions submitted by the audience on a diverse range of subjects, including ways of making interviews fairer, how to make sure that toxic colleagues do not affect your confidence, methods of gaining more support from male peers, ways of attracting more women to academic positions, and how to encourage more men to see the benefits of shared parental leave. There was a lively discussion, and the members of the panel provided plenty of words of advice and encouragement to the audience.

## Feminism at Oxford

27 November 2019 saw a large audience fill the auditorium for our fascinating panel discussion on the subject of 'Feminism at Oxford'.

The event was chaired by Professor Gillian Rose (Professorial Fellow in Geography at St John's) and the panel was made up of Dr Sabina Lovibond (Emeritus Fellow in Philosophy at Worcester College, Oxford),



Professor Amia Srinivasan (Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy at St John's), and Neha Shah (DPhil candidate in History).

Covering the history of feminism in teaching and scholarship at Oxford, as well as the extent to which this has changed in the present, the wide-ranging discussion began with the question of what feminism is, before continuing by examining the beginnings of Women's Studies as a course at Oxford, and the high demand for the study of feminism, and wider radical political thought, among students today.

Elements of the Oxford teaching style, particularly tutorials and small group teaching, were brought up in discussion of power and privilege, while the ongoing UCU strikes were used as an example of the structural issues that can affect women in positions across the University.

There were a wide variety of interesting questions posed by members of the audience, covering areas including the progress there has been for current undergraduates, the challenges and opportunities posed by the collegiate system, and what students can do to change things for themselves.



## Writing feminist lives: Elizabeth Fallaize, Simone de Beauvoir and others

A seminar on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020 marked ten years since the death of Elizabeth Fallaize (1950–2009), the first female Official Fellow of the College. The day was inspired by Professor Fallaize's interests in the work of Simone de Beauvoir, in changes in the lives of women born in the post-war era and in the work of other influential women writers.

The three sessions were organised around the titles of de Beauvoir's autobiography. The first session 'Memoirs of a dutiful daughter', reflected on girlhood, access to university and social and geographical mobility. Dr Jennifer Oliver (Departmental Lecturer in French, Worcester College), the first holder of the Elizabeth Fallaize Scholarship in 2011, focused on 'Elizabethan inheritances: inspiration, aspirations and books' and told the story of Elizabeth's working life, moving from a lectureship at Wolverhampton Polytechnic to Birmingham University and then election as the College's first female Official Fellow in French. Elizabeth forgot her umbrella at her interview and, when phoned with the offer of the job, initially assumed she was being rung to say it had been found. Her final role was as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), the first female holder of such a role in the University. Dr Oliver talked about women as dutiful daughters and of women balancing aspirations as intellectuals with motherhood. Reflecting on choices made by Simone de Beauvoir, she considered the meaning of feminism for a new generation of scholars and the permission given to your self to be yourself.

Dr Eve Worth (Jenny Wormald and Women in Humanities JRF in History, St Hilda's) presented her work on the history of women's experience in Britain since 1945 and the role of the state in women's social mobility across generations. She described women born in the long 1940s as the 'welfare state generation', their entire lives defined by the post-war settlement, with the 1944 Education Act as the single most important piece of law, sitting alongside the creation of a National Health Service. Drawing on a wealth of oral history, Dr Worth highlighted the impact of the welfare state on women's

sense of self and their self-worth as opportunities for working-class girls were transformed.

The second session of the day focused on 'The prime of life'. Professor Linda McDowell (Emerita Professor of Human Geography, University of Oxford) explored the significance of feminist scholarship in the academy, describing the key texts of second-wave feminism in the 1970s and 1980s. She recalled the excitement of the ideas, the focus on the personal as political, and the growth of women in academic jobs in the 1970s. As well as rising opportunities in the labour market, changes in the role of the family were important, a transformation that is still continuing. Dr Kate Kirkpatrick (Lecturer in Religion, Philosophy and Culture, King's College London and author of *Becoming Beauvoir*) then focused on Simone de Beauvoir's life and the story of her becoming herself: in de Beauvoir's famous quote 'One is not born a woman but becomes one'.

The final session 'All said and done' looked at age, retirement and (too early) death. Professor Diana Holmes (Professor of French, University of Leeds) considered old age and its gendered dimensions, quoting George Sand and Colette on the acceptance and joy of ageing and the opportunity to leave behind the banalities of one's younger life, balanced by the indignities of becoming old. She explored these themes further through two novels, Annie Ernaux's *The Years* and Margaret Drabble's *The Dark Flood Rises*.

Professor Dame Hermione Lee (Emerita Professor of English Literature, University of Oxford) concluded the seminar with a description of the life of the novelist, Penelope Fitzgerald, a late starter who began her literary career when she was 58 and won the Booker Prize in 1979 at the age of 63. Fitzgerald's life was full of challenges and her writing wry and sharp with subtle themes of sadness, faith and belief.

Stimulated by the themes of the day's excellent talks and reflecting on women's lives in the twentieth century, the day ended with tea and cake – and with Elizabeth Fallaize's favourite champagne.



**The day was inspired by Professor Fallaize's interests in the work of Simone de Beauvoir, in changes in the lives of women born in the post-war era and in the work of other influential women writers.**



## 2000 Women Exhibition

We were delighted to welcome artist Chloe Dewe Mathews back to St John's on 11 February 2020 for the opening of our exhibition of portraits of St John's women.

The exhibition brought together the portraits, photographs taken by Chloe, commissioned as part of our '2000 Women' celebrations in 2013-14 that celebrated the matriculation of the 2000<sup>th</sup> woman at St John's. To mark 40 years of women at St John's this year we displayed these portraits, currently on display at locations around the College, together in the Barn.

Following a speech given by Fellow for Women Professor Katherine Southwood, Chloe spoke about how much she had enjoyed visiting different spaces within the College to take the photos and finding out more about the wide variety of women who feature in them.

## Equality in Elite Higher Education

Our last event before the lockdown came into force took place on 3 March, taking the form of a thought-provoking discussion on the topic of ‘Equality in Elite Higher Education: A Contradiction in Terms?’

We had an expert panel of speakers to comment on some of the issues raised in this area. Chaired by Professor Kate Nation, our panellists were Danny Dorling, Anne-Marie Canning, Will Hutton and Samina Khan.

We began with each of the panellists giving a short speech on their views on equality in elite higher education, following which there were a number of pertinent questions raised by members of the audience. When asked at what age access initiatives should start, and the extent to which these initiatives are the university’s responsibility, the panel agreed that all of us must hold some responsibility for initiating change, and that access work should start as young as possible.

Questions were also raised about access work in relation to international and postgraduate students, while the panel were in agreement that there is also work to do once students arrive at university – the importance of

social belonging was stressed, as was talking to students about the on course experience to ensure that students are thriving once they get to university. Another area that provoked interesting discussion was the question of academic support for parents, and the ways in which families and communities must also be involved.

There were wide-ranging discussions of how concepts such as advantage and privilege can be measured, particularly through our school system and admissions processes, and the final question of the evening asked: what is the most important thing to do to change things now? The answers included – finding out what students and communities want; focusing on children whose parents haven’t been to university; and centralising and contextualising the admissions process.





**It was hard for women in Oxford 40 years ago; still hard 30 years ago; and now, I'd like to think, it's less difficult, but the elimination of difficulty is a constantly moving target.**

## Speech delivered by Professor Carolyn Larrington at the 40 Years of Women launch event

2019 is a significant anniversary for me, as well as for women in College. It was exactly thirty years ago that I first arrived at St John's, aged 30. My Oxford journey had thus far taken me to St Catherine's, where I was an undergraduate, and, for two years, a graduate student; Christ Church, where I was a Junior Research Fellow (or a Lecturer as we were paradoxically called); and New College, where I had been teaching for a year, learning my trade in medieval English language and literature and the history of the English language. There were also, in the middle of this, a couple of years teaching English in Japan, at Gakushuin University in Tokyo, on what was a forerunner of the now well-known JET Scheme.

Technically I was the College's first woman Fellow, though I was not its first Official Fellow. My appointment was as a Supernumerary Fellow and Tutor for Women; here I was following in the footsteps of Cathy la Farge, my predecessor teaching medieval English, who had been a Stipendiary Lecturer. Elizabeth Fallaize was elected to the Governing Body after my first six months or so, and thus became the first woman Official Fellow. She arrived in 1990, and with her election and that of June Clark, an administrator from the University Offices in Wellington Square, Governing Body meetings – which I attended

*ex officio* – became slightly less strange. St John's was not devoid of women at a senior level of course; in the SCR there were lecturers and Senior Research Fellows, but there were no women involved in College governance. I found the atmosphere to be both welcoming and positive; the College wanted to lead in making itself into a good place for women at all levels.

In 1989 the College was not by any means trailing behind compared with the wider University. While still at Christ Church, I had joined the Women Tutors' Group, a campaigning group of senior women across the University, whose aims included the appointment of Fellows for Women at College level, the adoption of sexual harassment codes, maternity pay for College staff, female representation on all appointment committees, non-sexist questioning in interviews, and University nursery provision. Three of us were once summoned to Wellington Square (and had to attend in full subfusc) by the Vice-Chancellor and Daphne Parks, Principal of Somerville, to be grilled about the issue of interview questions. Daphne Parks was aghast that we felt it was inappropriate to raise questions such as 'Who would be looking after your children?' in interviews with women. It was also typical of this era that a friend was asked in

an interview for a College Fellowship what her husband would think about her moving to Oxford to take up the post; she retorted that, since she was getting divorced, she neither knew nor cared. And she got the job.

Back in St John's, I want to pay particular tribute here to Mark Freedland, who, as Senior Dean, quietly, but with clear and incontrovertible argument, spearheaded the important policies that were needed to lay the basis of equality in College. And it would be quite untrue to claim that this was a long-running battle against entrenched male ideas of entitlement. There was plenty of warmth and goodwill, a real commitment to making change, but there were also occasional failures of understanding. A kind of paternalism was often evidenced: Fellows argued that the College would (of course) always aim to look after its female members. So, it was mooted, can't women rely on College to do the best for them that it could if they were to become pregnant, but this need not necessarily mean that hard-and-fast maternity leave policies for College-only staff needed to be set down. But you can't make career and life-changing decisions about fertility based on a trust in paternalist benevolence.

This, of course, is exactly the kind of thing that equality actually means in practice. Overall our aim was, in effect, to bring about a situation in which we were not always having to pipe up: but what about the women? And so we got things done. There was no pushback against making sure that women were always represented on appointment committees (except they were hard to find), the logic of asking identical questions of men and women in interviews was recognised, and issues around maternity leave were resolved. We started talking about a College nursery too back then... and twenty-five years later it opened its doors.

I want now to talk about Elizabeth Fallaize, whose portrait you may have seen in Hall, if you were not here when she was. As a member of the Governing Body, she had some particular battles to fight; these were outward-facing ones for the most part, in her interactions with the University, particularly when she became a Proctor. As someone who came here from outside the Oxbridge system, when she first arrived she had lots of questions about how we did things here in Oxford – and why? In anthropological

terms, I was her friendly native informant, trying to interpret these things to her, but quite often failing, shrugging and saying, 'Well, it's just because we do'. Gradually more women appeared on Governing Body in those years before I left St John's in 1994, when my five-year Fellowship was up. There was still work to do, on equality, on harassment, on welfare issues affecting women, and still there were not so many women in permanent appointments.

But since my return to St John's in 1999 (twenty years ago!), there really has been an exponential rise in the number of women. When we reached the figure of ten women on the Governing Body, a celebratory dinner was planned – but by the time it had been organised, there were another three of us, and that increase has continued. We've had a woman as Senior Dean (that was me), and a woman President, a woman as Tutor for Admissions, two successive women chaplains, any number of women Vice-Presidents and briefly last year a woman as Acting Senior Tutor (that was me again).

This speech was intended to give some sense of women in our institutional history. St John's women arrived 40 years ago, and we are clearly here to stay, to make our mark and to shape the history of the College. It was hard for women in Oxford 40 years ago; still hard 30 years ago; and now, I'd like to think, it's less difficult, but the elimination of difficulty is a constantly moving target. Our task this year must be to reflect on how being a woman intersects with other identities in our environment, where inequality is still palpable and full inclusivity remains in our sights rather than in our lives.



***I found the atmosphere to be both welcoming and positive; the College wanted to lead in making itself into a good place for women at all levels.***

# Renewing the Fabric

This year saw two major building projects in College: the restoration of St Giles House and the reconstruction of the Porters' Lodge. Both projects involved significant work on important historic buildings. Each will make the College more accessible and welcoming to staff, students, alumni, and visitors.



## A better welcome to St John's

The entrance to College from St Giles predates St John's. It was built towards the end of the fifteenth century for St Bernard's College, the monastic foundation suppressed at the Reformation and then resurrected as St John's in 1555. The tower was deeply influential, inspiring imitation at other colleges, not least Balliol and Corpus Christi, which both acquired variations on this theme in the decades after St Bernard's.

From at least the 1690s – and probably before – the porters occupied a place here. By 1888, a room was known as the Porters' Lodge. As the College grew, so did the Lodge. It expanded in the 1970s and was refurbished in the 1990s, but in recent years it became clear that St John's had fallen behind. Other colleges had refreshed their Lodges. More importantly, the Lodge at St John's was not working well. It was inaccessible for anyone using a wheelchair. It was not planned for a world of Amazon packages and multiple different sorts of deliveries. It was not a welcoming place for prospective applicants – especially those for whom an Oxford college already seems an alien and off-putting place.

This year's works will preserve the historic fabric of the place: the plaque commemorating previous building and noting that 'This chimney was erected by A: 1694. Porter'; the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century panelling installed in former students' rooms. But the project will also create a genuinely modern and welcoming space: one accessible to everyone; one that works. It is completely transformative – and we do hope you will come and see it soon.



## The best house in Oxford

Built in 1702, St Giles House was described by Nikolaus Pevsner as ‘the best house of its date in Oxford’. Originally constructed for the Oxford MP Thomas Rowney, its smart neo-classical façade was intended to signify his importance to the town. It was subject to attack by those who suspected its owner of Jacobite sympathies. His son, Thomas junior, inherited the property and his father’s seat in the House of Commons. His importance to Oxford was demonstrated by his role in the foundation of the Radcliffe Infirmary and his financial support for the building of the Town Hall.

From the middle of the nineteenth century, 16 St Giles served as the Judges’ Lodgings: the place where justices resided during the sitting of Assize Courts. In between these grand events, the house was let to others. It was here that the Oxford High School for Girls was founded, and here too that Lord Curzon resided as Chancellor of the University. In 1965, St John’s assumed ownership: restoring the building and using it thereafter to accommodate Fellows, tutors’ rooms, seminars, and other events.

In 2019, the College began the first major works on the place in more than fifty years: restoring the roof and the stonework, waterproofing the basement, overhauling the windows, replacing and upgrading all the mechanical and electrical services, completely redecorating the interior, and replanting the garden. Most importantly of all, and for the first time in 300 years, the building became accessible to wheelchair users, with a retractable lift at the rear.

It has been a major project – and a voyage of discovery. Work on the roof revealed reused timber, including what the architect, Nick Wright, believes to be moulded timbers from an Elizabethan building: perhaps the remains of a previous house on the site. The roof also provides evidence of early adaptations, not least the addition of a pediment years after the building was first constructed.



# Senior Members’ News

**Professor Christopher Beem**, Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics, received a Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council.



ERC Consolidator Grants are awarded to outstanding researchers with between seven and twelve years’ experience after gaining their PhD, and a scientific track record showing great promise. The funding, on average 2 million euros per grant, is provided for up to five years.

**Professor Katherine Blundell**, Supernumerary Research Fellow in Astrophysics, was elected Gresham Professor of Astronomy.



**Heather Bouman**, Supernumerary Fellow in Biogeochemistry, and Richard Compton are part of the Oxford Martin School



Programme on Monitoring Ocean Ecosystems, involving the development of a novel prototype sensor for studying phytoplankton in the oceans, monitoring their diversity and abundance for indications of harmful environmental change such as acidification. The grant application was only possible with the support of ‘seed corn’ funding from the Thompson Family Charitable Trust, for which both the researchers and the College are very grateful.

**Professor Peter Burke**, Honorary Fellow, was awarded a sixth honorary doctorate, this time by the University of Oviedo. He has also published a new book: *Polymaths: a cultural history from Leonardo da Vinci to Susan Sontag* (Yale University Press, 2020).

**Professor Terence Cave**, Emeritus Fellow, was awarded two honorary degrees this year, one at the University of St Andrews, the other at the University of Oslo.

**Professor Richard Compton**, Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry, published a second edition of *Understanding Voltammetry: Simulation of Electrode Processes* (World Scientific Press, 2020).



**Dr Dejan Draschkow**, Stipendiary Lecturer in Psychology, published several articles, including the top downloaded paper 2018–19 in *Psychophysiology*.



**Professor Georg Gottlob**, Professorial Fellow in Informatics, was one of six world-class scientists awarded a Royal Society Research Professorship,



the Royal Society’s premier research awards. These prestigious appointments provide long-term support for internationally recognised scientists of exceptional accomplishments from a diverse range of fields. Professor Gottlob’s research project is entitled ‘RAISON DATA – Rule-based AI Systems for Reasoning on Massive Data’. He is working to build better, and more trustworthy, artificial intelligence (AI) by combining existing machine learning approaches with the use of transferable knowledge that humans deploy.



**Professor Nick Harberd**, Sibthorpe Professor of Plant Sciences, was among a team of researchers whose research, published in the journal *Science*, led to the discovery of a new gene improving the yield and fertilizer use efficiency of rice. You can find out more in his article on p.16

**Professor Heather Harrington**, Research Fellow in the Sciences & Mathematics, was awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize. The prizes recognise the achievement of outstanding researchers whose work has already attracted international recognition and whose future career is exceptionally promising. Each prize is worth £100,000 to be used over two or three years to advance their research.



**Professor Ann Jefferson**, Honorary Fellow, published *Nathalie Sarraute* (Flammarion, 2019), a year ahead of the English original, due later in 2020.

**Sir Simon Jenkins**, Honorary Fellow, published *A Short History of London* (Penguin, 2020), a study of the creation and physical development of the metropolis. His book on railway architecture, *Britain's 100 Best Stations*, also appeared in paperback.

**Dr Georgy Kantor**, Tutorial Fellow in Ancient History, delivered invited lectures on *Greek City under Rome: Institutional Aspects* as a visiting professor at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa on 18–22 October 2019. He has



also been nominated as the chair of the sub-faculty of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology from September 2020.

**Professor John Kay**, Supernumerary Fellow in Economics, has published two books: *Radical Uncertainty: Decision-making for an unknowable future* (Little, Brown, 2020) co-authored with Mervyn King, and *Greed is Dead: Politics After Individualism* (Penguin, 2020).



**Dr John Langton**, Emeritus Research Fellow in Geography, has completed a draft of the gazetteer of English and Welsh forests and chases, on which he has been working for two decades. It is 581 pages long, with information on 1,025 forests and chases.

**J. L. Lightfoot**, Honorary Fellow, published *Pseudo-Manetho, Apotelesmatica, Books 2, 3, 6, Edited with Introduction, Translation, and Commentary* (Oxford, 2020).



**Professor James Maynard**, Professor of Number Theory, was awarded the 2020 Cole Prize in Number Theory by the American Mathematical Society. The prize recognises a notable research work in number theory that has appeared in the last six years, and Professor Maynard



received the award in recognition of three papers, published between 2015 and 2019.

**Professor Ben McFarlane**, Professor of English Law, has published three books: a second edition of *The Law of Proprietary Estoppel* (Oxford, 2020), a second edition (with S. Nield) of *Land Law: Core Text* (Oxford, 2020), and, as a contributing author, the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of *Snell's Equity* (Sweet and Maxwell, 2020).

**Professor Stephen Mitchell**, Honorary Fellow, was awarded the 2020 Gustave Schlumberger Prize for his recent publication



*The Greek and Latin Inscriptions of Ankara (Ancyra) Vol. 2*. The prize is awarded by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres in Paris, with each year's prize alternating between one of three different areas of study: Byzantine history, Byzantine archaeology, and the history and archaeology of the Latin East. Professor Mitchell's publication, co-edited by David French, is the second volume covering the Greek and Latin inscriptions of Ankara. Volume 1, published in 2012, contains inscriptions dating from AD 1–300, while Volume 2 includes texts from AD 300–1000, alongside extensive historical introductions and commentaries on the texts, as well as analysis of how the historical sources relate to the archaeology of the city.

**Professor Zoltán Molnár**, Tutorial Fellow in Human Anatomy, was elected to a visiting 'Einstein Fellowship' to Charité, Berlin for the next three academic years to collaborate with the laboratory of Professor Britta Eickholt. The Einstein Foundation funded their collaborative project to study brain

development disorders. Professor Molnár will investigate some of the earliest neuronal circuits of the cerebral cortex that will directly inform the understanding of developmental processes associated with autism and epilepsy, and will have important clinical implications in the development of treatment strategies of these neurodevelopmental diseases. Professor Molnár also organised an Oxford–Berlin Symposium on 22 November 2019 at the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, University of Oxford, on ‘Mechanisms of synaptic release and secretion’ and ‘Mechanisms of Brain State Control’. He was elected to deliver the 2019 Ray Guillery Lecture at the Grossman Institute of Neuroscience at the University of Chicago, as well as giving the Presidential Lecture of the Croatian Neuroscience Society’s Meeting at Zadar, Croatia. He gave keynote lectures at the European Conference on Comparative Neurobiology (ECCN) in Murcia, Spain and at the Japan Neuroscience Society (Neuro 2019) at Tokyo Metropolitan Institute, Tokyo, Japan.

Professor Molnár is also part of the team who will be working on the Oxford Martin Programme on 3D Printing for Brain Repair. The project will pioneer a radical new approach in which the brain is repaired with 3D-printed neural tissues, looking initially at traumatic brain injury, which affects 5.3 million people globally.

**Professor Charles Newton,** Cheryl & Reece Scott Professor of Psychiatry, is working on the Oxford Martin Programme on Global Epilepsy. The project will work across Brazil, India, Kenya, South Africa and



Zimbabwe to develop new portable technologies for the diagnosis and treatment of people with epilepsy in resource-poor areas.

**Professor Jan Obloj,** Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics, spent the first half of the academic year in Sydney as a Visiting Researcher at the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute. He spoke at two conferences, speaking at a special session at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Australian Mathematical Society, and giving a plenary talk at the Quantitative Methods in Finance Conference.



**Fr Timothy Radcliffe,** Honorary Fellow, published *Alive in God: a Christian imagination* (Bloomsbury) in October 2019, with translations in Dutch, Italian, Portuguese and French due shortly. He was awarded the Old Gregorian Medal for 2020. A prize intended for former pupils of Downside, it is a particular delight as he never managed to win a prize during his entire school career.

**Professor Karthik Ramanna,** Supernumerary Fellow, has been involved in a number of reports and debates in the past year.



At least since the 2008 financial crisis, the audit industry globally has been subject to intense public scrutiny – how did the gatekeepers of capitalism miss some of the biggest governance failures in recent times? Karthik Ramanna, professor at the Blavatnik School of Government and Director of

the Oxford Master of Public Policy, has been actively engaged in this matter. His independent report for PwC in 2019, ‘Building a culture of challenge in audit firms’, was widely circulated in government, business, and the media, and was covered by the *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg* and others. His report provided the opening quote in the UK government’s own Brydon review on the future of auditing, and is cited numerous times within it. The report offers a number of specific steps that the audit firms must commit to, including changing the way dissenting views are surfaced and managed within audit firms and the way audit partners are paid, so that their compensation is not driven by profits from supplying consulting advice to clients.

More recently, Professor Ramanna has also been involved in the British Academy policy debate on the Purpose of the Corporation in Anglo-American Societies. He has also been engaging with other schools of government worldwide on building a curriculum to educate future public leaders for better judgment, especially in times of crisis and uncertainty. He contributed to a cover feature on this subject in *Times Higher Education*, and he convened the faculty from nearly three dozen universities globally for a train-the-trainers workshop at Oxford.

**Professor Ritchie Robertson,** Honorary Fellow, published *The Enlightenment: The Pursuit of Happiness, 1680–1790* (Allen Lane, 2020).

**Professor Maggie Snowling,** President, was one of nine Fellows of the British Academy who provided a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Professor Snowling provided an insight into the ways in which the crisis may impact on educational attainment, with a particular focus on the current need for home-schooling and the way in

which this may not affect all pupils equally.

Professor Snowling, along with Professor Charles Hulme at the University of Oxford, also published a paper on reading comprehension in children with dyslexia and developmental language disorder. The paper, entitled 'Dyslexia and developmental language disorder: comorbid disorders with distinct effects on reading comprehension', was published in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

The Nuffield Early Language Intervention programme, a result of research led by Professor Maggie Snowling and Professor Charles Hulme and funded by the Nuffield Foundation, was also found to be highly effective in a large-scale effectiveness trial involving 1,156 pupils in 193 schools across England.

**Professor Katherine Southwood,**

Tutorial Fellow in theology and religion, has published her third monograph, *Job's body and the dramatised comedy of moralising*.



**Professor Alan Strathern,**

Lecturer in Early Modern History, was awarded this year's World History Association Bentley Book Prize for *Unearthly Powers: Religious and Political Change in World History* (Cambridge, 2019).



**Professor Sir Keith Thomas,**

Honorary Fellow, was appointed Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour (CH) for services to the study of history.



**Dr Gemma Tidman,**

Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in French, was awarded the PGCert Portfolio Prize, part of the Vice-Chancellor's Education Awards



Scheme. Inaugurated in 2020, the awards celebrate high-quality education across the University, and are intended to recognise innovative approaches to teaching and the steps being taken to further Oxford's exceptional educational experience. Dr Tidman's work was described as 'truly outstanding', and as demonstrating 'a clear understanding of how different approaches to teaching, assessment and feedback can affect students' learning'.

**The Revd Professor William Whyte,** Tutorial Fellow in History, served as University Assessor, and also published essays on sixteenth-century Oxford, eighteenth-century Westminster Abbey, nineteenth-century architecture, and twentieth-century student funding. He produced *Somewhere to live: why British students study away from home – and why it matters* for the Higher Education Policy Institute.

Together with Professor Kate Nation, Professor Maggie Snowling, and former research associate Dr Phil Kirby, he edited a special edition of the *Oxford Review of Education* on the history of dyslexia in post-war Britain. *Unlocking the Church: the lost secrets of Victorian Sacred Space*, appeared in paperback in 2019.



# From the JCR

Phil Fernandes, JCR President

This year has certainly been a unique time to be a student at St John's. With the entirety of Trinity Term taking place remotely, we would sadly miss out on many of the things that we love about College life, such as meeting up with friends and having memorable discussions with tutors and fellow students at dinners and other events.

Like all other parts of society, the JCR had to adapt. Our Welfare Officers worked hard to provide virtual alternatives to the social events we would usually enjoy, with events including a Virtual Pub Quiz and a JCR Pen Pals scheme. Our JCR meetings moved to an online format via Zoom, ensuring that JCR democracy would continue despite the pandemic.

One moment that stands out was the Extraordinary General Meeting near the end of Trinity Term. It was called to discuss matters relating to institutional racism, both in a global context, following the brutal murder of George Floyd, and within Oxford. Almost 150 people took part in the voting, making it one of the most significant meetings in recent JCR history.

Among the motions that passed was one that established a 'Black Literature Society' to build up a collection of books written by black authors and books that explore issues surrounding race, and the JCR is working together with the Library to encourage everyone to make use of our resources.

Another casualty of the pandemic was the Summer Open Day; instead of the usual student-run College Tours, members of the JCR ran Q&A sessions on our Instagram account (@stjohnsoxjcr) where they



answered questions from our two thousand followers. The hard work and creativity of our Social Media Rep, Issy Stephens, meant that the JCR maintained its public presence throughout the lockdown, with a 'Quad by Quad Virtual College Tour' being a particular highlight. Separately, we have set up a sub-committee to give our Alternative Prospectus a much-needed update, enabling prospective applicants to gain a student's perspective of what life at St John's is like.

With everything that has happened this year, it would be easy to forget about what was happening whilst we were still in Oxford. For example, the newly-formed St Giles' Society for the Homeless carried out its first shifts at the start of this year, sending out groups of students to hand out food, warm clothing, and other supplies to rough sleepers throughout Oxford. Now fully-established as a JCR Society, this is an initiative that should last for many years to come, giving St John's students the opportunity to volunteer their time for a cause that seeks to make a real difference within the Oxford community.

Perhaps more so than in other years, I believe that this year has demonstrated the crucial role the JCR Committee plays in providing the link between the College and its undergraduates, ensuring that people's concerns are heard whilst striving to make the student experience at St John's as enjoyable as possible. It has been an honour to serve as President during these unusual times, although I hope that my successor will have a much more 'normal' term in office than I have experienced!



***I believe that this year has demonstrated the crucial role the JCR Committee plays ... ensuring that people's concerns are heard whilst striving to make the student experience at St John's as enjoyable as possible***

# From the MCR

## Christopher D'Urso, MCR President

The conversation breaks off mid-sentence. The video freezes with an unflattering image of you talking, mouth wide open. The dreaded message, 'Your internet connection is unstable,' appears on your screen. These are just some of the common perils of switching to an entirely virtual MCR. But, they are also a metaphor for this academic year: suddenly disrupted with little idea when life will return to normal.

COVID-19 has interrupted the lively flurry of academic research, scattered our members around the world, and introduced unexpected trials and tribulations.

However, it has not prevented us from coming together as an MCR community. Instead of wine and cheese evenings with members of the SCR, we have sipped on mojitos over Microsoft Teams in a virtual Cocktail Night. When we couldn't rush to the MCR for the weekly tradition of Sunday cake, we hosted an online Sunday bake-along with banana bread that would knock the socks off the judges of The Great British Bake Off. True to our academic roots, we have continued to critically engage with pressing issues of gender, race, and sexuality through our MCR Book Club.

The extraordinary challenges of the past few months make it easy to forget that not too long ago, members of the MCR did come together within 2 metres of each other. We welcomed a new cohort of freshers to College with a lively quiz night, intercollegiate bar crawl, and salsa dancing in the Kendrew Events Room.

We continued our traditions of bi-termly guest dinners, donning our tuxedos and flapper attire for a trip back to the 1920s, as well as bops, movie nights,



and exchange dinners. For the first time, our Women's Officers hosted a discussion over wine and nibbles on the uncomfortable legacies from historic events in Oxford, facilitated by the Uncomfortable Oxford team.

The engagement of our community did not stop at the door of the MCR Building either. Many of our members volunteered with the newly formed St Giles Society to help feed the homeless population who live mere steps outside our halls.

The MCR Committee also worked tirelessly to advance the interests of our members. We collaborated with College to revise the Special Grant criteria, providing greater support for students with mandatory fieldwork and greater opportunities to attend academic conferences. We contributed to the College's development of a new Ethical Investment Framework. We helped College to navigate the many challenges created by COVID-19 related to funding, housing, and academic support. And we are now teaming up with College on a working group to address the concerns of our Black and minority ethnic members.

However, this year was not without sadness as we unfortunately lost a beloved member of our community, Dr Simon Kay. Simon had been an undergraduate at John's and returned to complete his PGCE. He was an avid sailor and active parishioner at our Chapel. Simon's passion for teaching and kind spirit will be forever remembered in the MCR.

As we look forward to the next academic year, much remains uncertain. Nevertheless, whether in-person or virtually, the MCR will again welcome a new cohort of freshers and will continue to be a home for the postgraduate students at St John's.



# Sports Review 2019–20

## Professor Zoltán Molnár (Fellow for Sport)

Sport at St John's continues to thrive, with members of the College participating in a large variety of sports, and members also being represented in elite University squads as well as national and international competitions. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 lockdown substantially altered the possibilities for Trinity Term, and it will continue to have an impact beyond the summer. Sport has an important role, and it continues to link JCR, MCR, SCR and staff together.

Sports at College level range from the traditional – Rowing, Badminton, Rugby, Football and Netball – to newer arrivals such as Ultimate Frisbee and Zumba, and members of the JCR and MCR are encouraged to start new clubs if the College does not already offer support for their chosen sport. After lockdown, the College continued to support virtual yoga and Zumba sessions, realising the importance of sport during these testing times.

With this year's Oxford Town and Gown race being cancelled due to coronavirus, we decided to run our own virtual event, with students and staff from across College taking part. There were plenty of St John's runners who still wanted to be involved, so a virtual race was organised to enable students and members of staff to do their own run and compete against other members of College for

the best time. Eighteen people completed the 10k run, with fourteen opting to take on 5k, and everyone provided verification of the distance run and the time it took. Runners were also invited to submit photos of themselves on their run as part of a photo competition, which produced some entertaining results. Solomon White finished first in the 10k, with a time of 37:32, while Aidan Smith won the 5k with a time of 15:25. Charlotte Dannatt was the fastest woman, and the runner-up in both races (37:43 in the 10k and 17:58 in the 5k).

Our seventh annual Sports Dinner to celebrate achievement and participation in all sports was due to be on 8 May 2020. Unfortunately, this could not go ahead as normal due to the restrictions imposed on us due to COVID-19. Instead, we hosted a virtual awards ceremony on 22 May. Ahead of the dinner, students had voted for the winners of each category using online voting. This year's winners were: Charlotte Dannatt (Sportswoman of the Year); Luke Hand (Sportsman of the Year); Saints Lacrosse Team (Mixed Team of the Year); Saints Women's Football Team (Women's Team of the Year); SJCAFC Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Football Team (Men's Team of the Year); and Isobel Howard (Fellow for Sport's Special Prize).



*Sport at St John's continues to thrive, with members of the College participating in a large variety of sports, and members also being represented in elite University squads as well as national and international competitions*







# Duveen Travel Scholarship

**Benedict Gardener**

**T**he Duveen Scholarship came at an important crossroads in my studies, as I was preparing for my final year of Geography at St John's. My intention for the Scholarship had been two-fold. The first was to explore the world of higher education in the United States, as a potential post-Oxford trajectory. The second was to meet young climate activists across the country, after studying UK-based climate movements through my Geography degree. Thanks to the generosity and support of the St John's alumni base, I was able to fulfil both these aims. Perhaps more importantly though, I benefitted immensely from hearing the wisdom of the alumni base, and gained a renewed excitement for life after Oxford.

My itinerary took me down the East Coast, with a flyover to California to finish. The first stop was Boston

and Cambridge, home of Harvard University. Staying with Pascale and Professor Paul Harris (Emeritus Fellow of St John's), who both work at Harvard, was a great help in fully accessing the campus, attending an introductory lecture and getting a feel for the campus, even while battling jetlag! On a quick stop in New York I took a tour of Columbia University, which felt like an Oxford college dropped into the middle of a Manhattan suburb. Next on the itinerary was Philadelphia, where Chris Adams (1981, Modern History and Economics) generously allowed me to stay, showing me some of Philadelphia's finest vegetarian restaurants in the process. Philadelphia was one of many places along the trip where I was able to meet with America's youth climate activists, with the birthplace of several environmental movements,

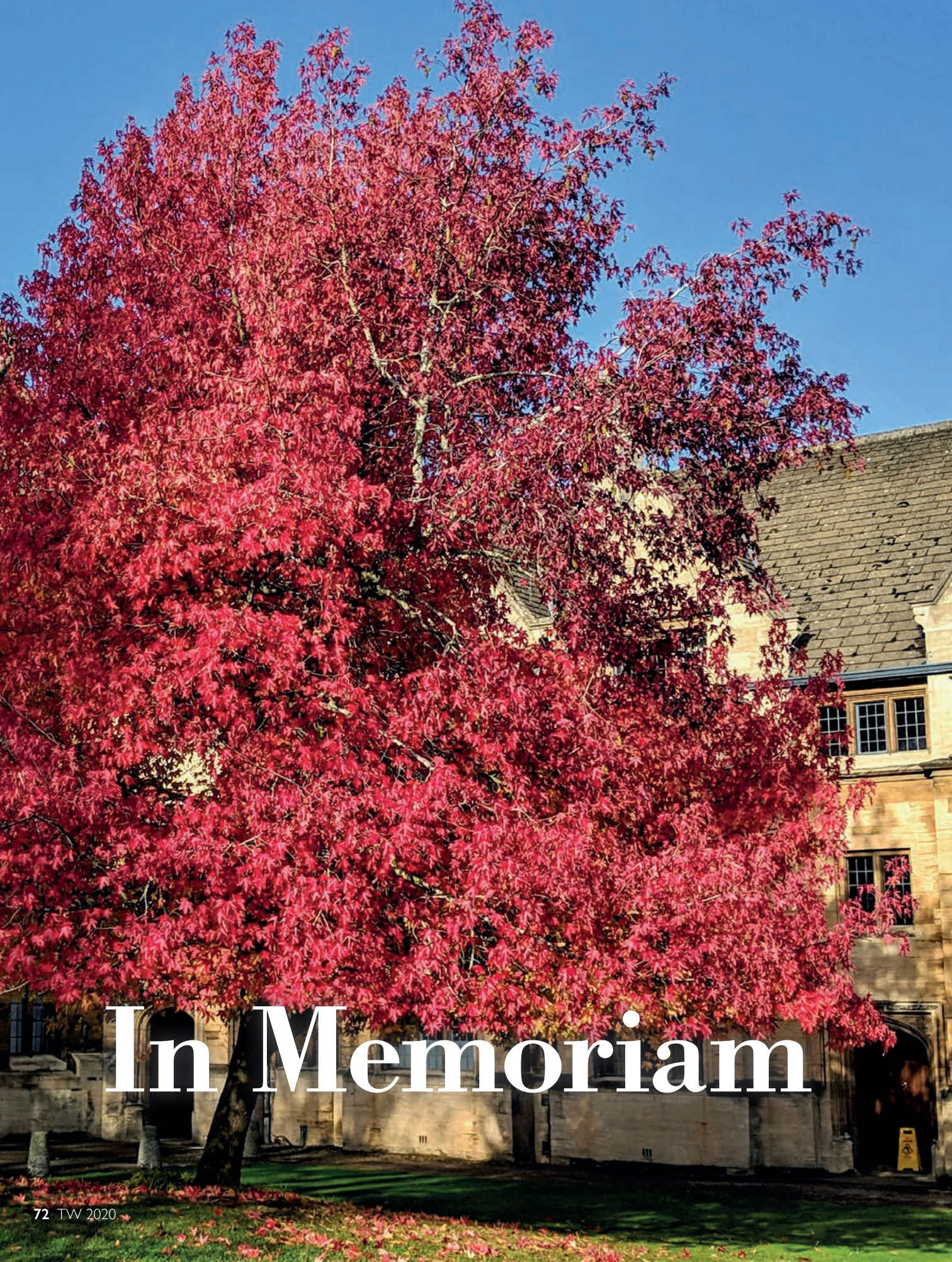




Swarthmore College, just down the road. My final East Coast stop was Washington DC, where Daniel Minchew (1961, PPE), a fount of DC knowledge, was able to secure me special access to both Capitol Hill and the Library of Congress. I stayed with Courtenay Ellis (1964, Jurisprudence), who while hosting me in Maryland, gave some incredibly insightful careers guidance, which I've since been following. My final destination was San Francisco, where the generosity of Rachel Simpson (1987, Medieval & Modern Languages) and her family, and James Ross (2004, Biochemistry), allowed me to experience San Francisco as a local. A notable highlight was visiting Stanford University, which I had been considering for postgraduate study. I was able to meet with their International Relations department, take a tour of the campus, and marvel at their outdoor Olympic swimming pool. I was also fortunate enough to meet with Daniel Guhr (1993, Comparative and International Education), an alumnus now working as a higher education consultant, who gave me some invaluable pointers on selecting postgraduate institutions. After a brief stop in California's capital Sacramento, thanks to Peter Brown (1976, Engineering Science), I capped off my trip with a visit to Yosemite National Park. Words fail a comprehension of this magical place, and visiting provided new perspective for the ideas I have had the privilege to study at St John's over the last two years.

I cannot adequately express my thanks to the alumni who hosted and met me in my travels. The unquestioning generosity of those who opened their homes to me and treated me like family was truly touching, and something I will endeavour to offer when I soon become a St John's alumnus. It struck me how, despite studying a variety of subjects across several decades, all the alumni commonly noted how special they found their time at St John's. It reinforced my belief that St John's is a place that will stay with me and my peers, wherever our career paths take us. I will certainly take the memories, lessons, and advice from this trip well into my future life and career. I would finally like to express my thanks to the Duveen Charitable Trust, and Peter Loose (1953, Jurisprudence) for their generosity in funding the scholarship.





# In Memoriam

**Richard Allen**  
(1947)  
03/01/1926 – 25/10/2019

**The Revd Jerome Bertram**  
(1969)  
10/05/1950 – 19/10/2019

**David Bostock**  
(1957)  
26/10/1936 – 29/10/2019

**Professor Peter Day**  
(Honorary Fellow)  
20/08/1938 – 19/05/2020

**Graham Flower**  
(1980)  
30/04/1961 – 12/04/2020

**Johannes Frankfort**  
(1951)  
30/09/1929 – 09/10/2019

**Colin Franklin**  
(1947)  
08/10/1923 – 17/05/2020

**The Revd Canon Brian Hardy**  
(1951)  
03/07/1931 – 16/11/2019

**Charles Hindley**  
(1954)  
03/11/1932 – 07/04/2020

**Peter Hughes**  
(1950)  
27/04/1932 – 29/06/2020

**Robert Ingham**  
(1949)  
31/10/1928 – 01/12/2019

**Dr Peter Jesson**  
(1954)  
25/07/1936 – 08/03/2020

**Dr Simon Kay**  
(2008)  
01/11/1990 – 12/02/2020

**David Loxley**  
(1971)  
13/12/1952 – 08/03/2020

**Brian Lupton**  
(1945)  
28/03/1927 – 15/04/2020

**Daniel Mervis**  
(2014)  
22/07/1996 – 29/10/2019

**Jan Mirkiewicz**  
(2016)  
27/09/1997 – 27/11/2019

**Gerald Moriarty**  
(1946)  
23/08/1928 – 09/10/2019

**Paul Norton**  
(1971)  
21/08/1953 – 12/02/2020

**Geoffrey Poole**  
(1955)  
10/09/1934 – 24/11/2019

**Anthony Provis**  
(1948)  
08/10/1926 – 05/10/2019

**David Rampton**  
(1955)  
05/11/1934 – 20/01/2020

**John Rednall**  
(1942)  
21/08/1924 – 30/01/2020

**Perry Rees**  
(1967)  
24/01/1948 – 03/04/2020

**Malcolm Reid**  
(1948)  
02/03/1927 – 01/05/2020

**Professor Donald Russell**  
(Emeritus Fellow)  
13/10/1920 – 09/02/2020

**Robin Schlich**  
(1953)  
31/10/1934 – 13/05/2020

**Mark Speller**  
(1975)  
01/05/1957 – 27/04/2020

**Michael Stafford**  
(1944)  
15/07/1926 – 13/12/2019

**Robin Taylor**  
(1964)  
15/04/1946 – 25/03/2020

**Dr Chris Waller**  
(2009)  
08/06/1942 – 17/01/2020

**Peter Wardle**  
(1996)  
15/08/1978 – 19/03/2020

**Peter Warner**  
(1983)  
15/11/1963 – 22/06/2020

**Nigel Williams**  
(1957)  
29/04/1937–27/08/2019

This is a record of those whose deaths we have been informed of in the last year, up to 1 July 2020. We regret any omission and please do write to us if this has happened. We rely on information given to us by alumni, family and friends. Our publication schedule means we are not always able to include appreciations for all of those listed. If you would like to write an appreciation to appear in a subsequent issue, please do contact us.



## DONALD RUSSELL

This address was given at Donald Russell's funeral in the College chapel on 8 March 2020

Ten minutes is not much of a ration of time to evoke – in love and gratitude – a friend who lived for a century, all but six months. Even those with much shorter lives have been, effectively, more than one person. So I shall say a little about three Donalds, and conclude with two ways in which our colleague must be remembered as a consistent and indivisible whole. If that schema makes this brief oration a Quincunx, you will now know, thanks to the text – chosen by Donald – which Michael [Winterbottom] has just read, why I point that out... [the text was from Sir Thomas Browne's *Garden of Cyrus*].

The *bios* of Donald Russell the First, then, 1920–48, must now be reconstructed from sound authorities, in the general absence of surviving witnesses (David Raeburn is the only one known to me). Among these sources, the most helpful by far is the memoir preserved by the British Academy, in Donald's own MS, headed (I quote) 'in usum necrologorum'. Since I find myself now just such an obituarist, if an oral one, I am indeed profoundly grateful for this document, as well as much touched by parts of it, as I think you will be too.

The first sign of the famous Hellenist in the making comes in a note of an illness at secondary school. In 2003 he wrote 'I spent [the time] ... translating Demosthenes' Third Philippic, & I'm not sure if I could do it any better today'. Scholarship to Balliol in 1939 (the examination was seven three-hour papers), Mods in 1940 by emergency disposition, a year of work on the Greats course, call-up to the Army, and in 1943 secondment to Japanese code-breaking, which took him to Bletchley Park, about which he was long becomingly discreet. As recently as ten years ago, he wrote 'I am glad I kept no diary, or any of the letters I sent to friends or family in those days'. But that is, I think, from talking to him about it often, because he was actually very happy and fulfilled by his crucially important

work there. He also told me something that he didn't put in his memoir. One of Bletchley's many researchers after the veil of secrecy was eventually lifted from the archives visited him to hear his memories, and on leaving, said, 'By the way, I've seen your record – did they ever tell you your final assessment? Discharged with the highest merit.' No-one had, in fact, ever told him that. The story returns to Oxford, to Greats in 1947, and two terms of work at Christ Church on a DPhil with E.R. Dodds as supervisor. Donald again: 'I still regard myself as his disciple, though I am so much more timid and conservative than he was'. It was at a class on Plotinus run by Dodds that Donald met Colin Roberts, tutor in Greek at St John's; in 1948 Colin invited him to apply for a Fellowship, 'to fulfil a need perceived to be mainly in Latin' [St John's], writes Donald, 'thought there was a longer future in it than Greek'. He got it: and that ends my first life.

But the Quincunx of Heaven runs low, and 'tis time to close the five ports of knowledge; We are unwilling to spin out our awaking thoughts into the phantasmes of sleep, which often continueth præcogitations; making Cables of Cobwebbes and Wildernesses of handsome Groves. Beside Hippocrates hath spoke so little and the Oneirocriticall Masters, have left such frigid Interpretations from plants, that there is little encouragement to dream of Paradise it self. Nor will the sweetest delight of Gardens afford much comfort in sleep; wherein the dulnesse of that sense shakes hands with delectable odours; and though in the Bed of Cleopatra, can hardly with any delight raise up the ghost of a Rose.

Night which Pagan Theology could make the daughter of Chaos, affords no advantage to the description of order: Although no lower then that Masse can we derive its Genealogy. All things began in order, so shall they end, and so shall they begin again; according to the ordainer of order and mystical Mathematicks of the City of Heaven.

Though Somnus in Homer be sent to rowse up Agamemnon, I finde no such effects in these drowsy approaches of sleep. To keep our eyes open longer were but to act our Antipodes. The Huntsmen are up in America, and they are already past their first sleep in Persia. But who can be drowsie at that howr which freed us from everlasting sleep? or have slumbring thoughts at that time, when sleep it self must end, as some conjecture all shall awake again?

**Sir Thomas Browne, *The Garden of Cyrus*, read at Professor Donald Russell's funeral.**

Donald's long and golden second age runs from 1948 to 1992. 'I think' (he writes) 'my sixties the happiest and most fruitful time of my life'. He is a Tutorial Fellow of St John's, fully committed to the education, in the fullest sense, of undergraduates, and often teaching 20 hours of tutorials a week. With seniority, he becomes a person of considerable authority in the Faculty of Literae Humaniores, as it then was, and especially in the Sub-Faculty of Classical Languages and Literature. Donald claimed, no doubt correctly, that he played a major part in the reforms of the structure of the four-year Greats course which gave literature a standing equal to ancient history and philosophy, and, shortly after, permitted those who had not had the opportunity to study Greek at school to develop it while at Oxford. This was no mere syllabus reform – Donald thought of it as a revolution – but the most important modification to Greats since its foundation a century before, and the foundational impulse to changes still underway today, to make the study of the Greeks and Romans and the world they inhabited accessible to students of every background. I hope therefore that Donald would have endorsed our choice of charity for the collection this afternoon, since these are also very much the aims of *Classics for All*.

These years also see Donald's reputation as a scholar and as a Hellenist burgeon. These attainments and their influence will no doubt be the subject of much detailed laudation at a future memorial event, as and when pestilence permits such gathering. For this funereal context, it is better to emphasise a different kind of flowering. I was speaking to Michael Moriarty, taught Latin literature by Donald in 1950, the other day, and he said 'you know, Donald was very shy, and quite tongue-tied, in those days – everything changed when he met Joy'. Donald met Joyceline Dickinson in 1951, and they married in 1967 – the delay derived from the needs of elderly parents on both sides, but Donald later greatly regretted it. All who knew him could see how this partnership transformed every aspect of his life: it is the centrepiece of his reminiscences. The words about happiness and fruitfulness which I quoted a moment ago are followed in that memoir by 'mainly because of Joy'. And of the marriage itself he says 'once the decision was made, the gates of heaven opened for me'. The catastrophe of losing her to cancer in 1992 needs no evocation.

Of the third period, Donald's last 28 years, many of us here today know much more. The sadness and desolation of Joy's death never wholly left him, but her memory also greatly comforted him: 'I am still so conscious of her love and courage all the time'. But these were also in themselves years of happy friendship and companionship, and of Donald's own hospitality at Belsyre Court; this was, too, a time when he could enjoy, and add to, the very considerable scholarly esteem which his work had brought him. It is of course famous, but must be recalled

here, how he continued until very recently to teach prose and verse composition to undergraduates. He was also regularly consulted on, it always seemed to me, *increasingly* obscure and desperate pieces of late Antique learning. He would speak of how, in order to establish a more plausible text, he had to infiltrate the contorted thought of the writer – Synesius *On dreams*, or the *Solutiones ad Chosroem* – and succeeded in making new emendations in these strange treatises even in his last months.

After 2008, these were, of course, also the years of increasing bodily infirmity, met with resolution and with notable realism and common sense, supported by that very evident robustness of mind. In this address, it is essential to do justice to the extraordinary devotion to Donald's welfare over nearly 30 years of Jenny Barney, always ready to help, thoughtfully, responsively, unobtrusively, kindly – and latterly ever adjusting to inevitably more demanding needs. Donald appreciated that his intellectual and emotional well-being derived from the independence which retaining his own flat gave him, and that it might not long survive institutionalisation – but also that this self-determination was owed, to a very important degree, to all that Jenny has provided so willingly.

In this Chapel, it is proper for us to give thanks for Donald's exceptional attachment to this College. No-one has been able to find a longer span of Fellowship: it is around 72 years since he was elected, alongside Howard Colvin, and that amounts to a good deal more than a seventh of this society's history. The span covers many different incarnations of St John's – like rivers, colleges flow differently after you have once stepped into them. Donald found the now nearly forgotten St John's of President William Costin an extremely agreeable place, and always spoke with great affection of the warmth of his welcome here. He gave much in return. The acme of his career coincided with the College's extraordinary efflorescence of academic success, of which his students were part: but he was a memorable tutor – and a very demanding one – long before, and indeed long after, as his former pupils here today can testify. He served the College in innumerable other ways – he was the first ever Tutor for Admissions, for instance – retaining a highly principled sense of his duty and responsibilities on a Governing Body which was for most of his career nearly co-extensive with the body of tutors. Characteristically, he identifies 'good humour, conscientiousness and concern' as the central virtues needed for College office.

I don't at all wish to imply that his affection for this place was uncritical: his principles included a strong sense of what could be wrong with policies, and, it has to be said, with his colleagues' behaviour, and the practical wisdom of his years as an Official Fellow fed a rich flow of sometimes rather pointed anecdote shared with visitors in his retirement. Donald remembered his long past with deep affection, but he lived in it less than

some much younger than he. He was up to date with most aspects of what was happening at St John's, and was very pleased to have got to know Maggie Snowling, his eighth President. And, in a sense, his slice of the College's history is even longer than his Fellowship. Colin Roberts, his patron and first colleague, had become a Fellow in 1934; and in Donald's last months, it gave him great pleasure to meet Emma Greensmith, who has taken up the post which he had himself held – another expert in late Greek, too, and a deserving recipient of a great many books from a very substantial library. As he himself understood, her appointment frames his long career, on the other side – and open-endedly.

Finally, though, a different way to pull the threads together. From undergraduate days to his last weeks, Donald read Greek philosophy, and indeed nearly became a philosophy tutor. As literature or as philosophy, the texts which he interpreted were far from being only the raw material of a great scholarly and educational career. He approved what they taught – he praises his lifelong companion Plutarch of Chaeronea as 'portrayer of some of the best features of the ancient world'. This is understatement: Donald's reading nourished a careful and reflective engagement with that deceptively simple Greek question, *ti dei prattein*, what ought we to do?

And here too his keen sense of his duty lasted into his very last weeks. He was an emphatic supporter of our membership of the European Union, and – something which might have surprised those who knew his somewhat conservative political positions earlier in life – when offered a government headed by a Balliol classicist, he voted elsewhere.

The ethics which he read spoke to the principles by which he lived, and his daily wisdom, generosity of heart, and subtle understanding of what people felt and feel, were not distinct from the percipience and sophistication with which he read Plato or Plutarch. His choice of the reading which we just heard, like his old, old interest in Plutarch's reflections on Socrates' experience of the divine, was also part of this lived Greek thought, as well as something which one might expect of a real disciple of E.R. Dodds. These are high matters: but the ultimate consequence of this fusion of thought and reading was a kind of moral greatness, visible in a long life of high principle.

Timid and conservative? I don't think so.  
Donald, ἥρωας χρηστός, χαίρει.

**PROFESSOR NICHOLAS PURCELL**  
Honorary Fellow

---

### PROFESSOR MALCOLM DAVIES Emeritus Fellow adds...

In 1960, Donald Russell took a sabbatical. Hardly earth-shaking news this, even if it was his first ever, and therefore occupied a whole academic year. But given that he had been appointed to his tutorial Fellowship in 1948, an unusual degree of devotion to teaching is suggested, and one quite at odds with present attitudes in academia with its (over?) emphasis upon research at the expense of teaching. Further light is cast if we ponder a few more details from the earlier stages of his career, allowing glimpses of a world long vanished in many ways. We do this the more easily now, since the publication of *Rediscovering E.R. Dodds* (Oxford 2019), for the various contributors to this volume included D., whose thesis had been supervised by Dodds from 1947 onwards. This contribution must rank as the final published work by D., bringing his academic career appropriately full circle.

In his contribution, D. observes that he 'had very rashly...wanted to write a commentary on Plutarch's dialogue on the daimonion of Socrates...Dodds wisely tried to persuade me to do something less ambitious...I should have taken his advice. But I was obstinate, and so harnessed myself to a job beyond my powers'. The self-criticism is characteristically frank, but the error, if error it was, had no seriously damaging consequences, since the next year D. was appointed to the Fellowship at St John's

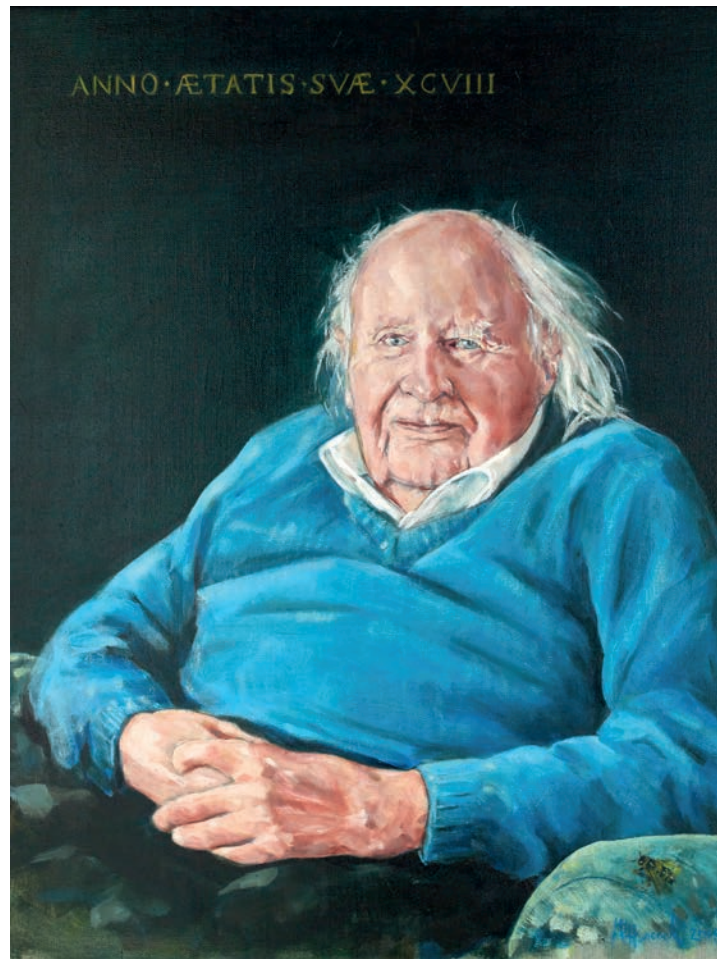
College, where he continued, despite allurements from Christ Church conveyed via Trevor-Roper, until retirement in 1989. To modern eyes, it may seem extraordinary that someone with no doctorate or published work to his credit should have been elected in this way. But, as K. J. Dover has stated in his autobiography *Marginal Comments* (London, 1994), 'to go without a doctorate was', at the time, 'no disadvantage at Oxford. There was even a tendency to look askance at people who completed doctorates, because it meant that they had not been snapped up for tutorial Fellowships and had stayed on the shelf for three years'. That it should have been Dover who makes this observation is very relevant, since it was against competition from him that D. gained his appointment. Dover, whose British Academy obituary D. was later to write, generously observes that D. 'was certainly right for St John's,' and adds the comment that their Ancient History tutor at Balliol, Russell Meiggs 'had warned me, with characteristic bluntness, that D. 'had a better brain' than I had, although he would never be so good a historian'. That latter consideration told in Dover's favour when he soon afterwards applied with success for a Fellowship at Balliol, since this involved teaching some Greek history. There was no need for this extra complication at St John's, where Sherwin-White



***I shall be content if I have given the beginner some help and encouraged others to attack the innumerable problems of this text with more success than has attended me***

was already installed as Ancient History tutor. With him, D. enjoyed a harmonious relationship, finally writing his obituary for the College notes. I add to the oral tutorial testimonial just quoted, another from D.'s former literature tutor at Balliol, Roger Mynors (later professor of Latin at both Cambridge and then Oxford). He once told me in D.'s presence that he had never been quite sure whether the apparently effortless brilliance of this pupil's work was due to extensively intensive work behind the scenes, or to the fact that he simply did not perceive that the work he was expected to do was at all difficult. The way in which Mynors related this dilemma suggested that he was inclined to the latter explanation.

Dover as quoted added that St John's 'wanted someone whose teaching would be mostly on the Latin side'. This was to balance the Greek teaching of a Fellow already in post, but also implied the College's fear for the future of ancient Greek as a course. I am not the only person to whom D. confided that he had initially shared this fear, anticipating that, by the end of his tenure, Greek would be attracting the same number of candidates as a subject such as Arabic. Not a little of the credit for averting this bleak prognostication belongs to D. himself. In collaboration with his friend and colleague Robin Nisbet, he finally achieved what had eluded such great minds as Dodds and Dover, and reformed the second part of the classics course so that it could continue with the study of literature (for details see their contribution to *Oxford Classics: Teaching and Learning 1800–2000* chapter 14). The greater part of D.'s publications do indeed deal with Greek matters, but he was much more than competent in Latin. As witness his publication in his mid-seventies of five (count 'em!) volumes of Loeb text and translation of Quintilian, in which he had the help of Michael Winterbottom (Nisbet's successor as Corpus professor of Latin), who had earlier produced an Oxford Text of that author. The experience inspired the latter to publish an article in 2000 entitled 'More Problems in Quintilian,' an offprint of which, despatched to D., bore the signature 'with best wishes and thanks (what fun it was!)'.



Back to the beginning. As D. himself explains in the volume on Dodds cited above, he gradually became mildly 'depressed' at his 'inability to cope' with the over-ambitious research topic there mentioned, and was besides 'engrossed by teaching (fifteen hours or so a week was common those days)', but was also beginning to change his 'interests'. One new interest was the ancient literary critic known as 'Longinus', and a commentary on that author's treatise on 'the Sublime' was D.'s first substantial publication. 'I am so glad your book is out' wrote the famous and formidable Eduard Fraenkel, on an offprint for him dated 30.4.64. D.'s own preface was more modest: 'I shall be content if I have given the beginner some help and encouraged others to attack the innumerable problems of this text with more success than has attended me'. With this infinitely characteristic (and, most will think, grotesquely meiotic) understatement, we take leave of Donald Russell near his mid-forties, on the threshold, incredibly, of well over half a century of further publications.

To find out more about Donald Russell and share your memories of him, visit [www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/donald-russell](http://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/donald-russell).

## DR GEORGY KANTOR, Fellow in Ancient History:

I first met Donald Russell late in the day. When I was joining St John's, Nicholas Purcell kindly arranged a lunch at his place for us to meet. I had of course used Donald's books many times before, but before that day, he remained a mythical figure to me. Little did I know what an important stage of my Oxford education was about to begin. By the end of that lunch, I could not be in any doubt about Donald's wisdom, immense knowledge, kindness – or of his role in holding the St John's Classics community together. Over the next eight years, I would see Donald regularly, in company and on my own, sometimes every week. At first, while he was still coming to the SCR – moving with incredible speed with his mobility help across the North Quad, often getting to the gate ahead of me and Katharine Earnshaw – that was mostly over lunch in College. As years went on, increasingly it became an afternoon tea in Belsyre Court 35, and then in his last flat, Belsyre Court 6. The fascination of that first meeting never left, however. Even as I was visiting him in hospital on the last day of his life, after he lost consciousness, his face remained so expressive that I was half-expecting him to resume the conversation at any moment.

Scholarship, and enjoyment of thinking anew about ancient texts, of course, continued till the end. Donald used to preface with 'I have not been doing anything much lately' an announcement of yet another publication, or a story of what he figured out in pseudo-Quintilian's *Declamations* or of manifold work he was doing for Richard Sorabji's *Ancient Commentators on Aristotle* project. He was perhaps particularly proud of figuring out the original Greek of Priscian's *Answers to King Chosroes of Persia* from an unintelligible Latin translation – a task Ingram Bywater had given up as hopeless a century earlier. However, his intellectual curiosity remained much broader than what he was working on, an example to many of us at a younger age. On the day of my visit, he could be reading Athenaeus (Donald had an idea on the dating of the epitome in which a part of his work survives, and hoped younger colleagues will develop it), or Rilke (memories of his colleague J.B. Leishman would follow), or getting through something completely new. Whatever the conversation turned to, there was something to learn from Donald. It could be German plans of invading Russia in 1941: Donald deciphered the reports of the Japanese military attaché in Romania as his final task at Bletchley after the war ended, and was wondering how Stalin could ignore it all, if he knew half of that. Or Hungarian political philosophy: a friend from Bletchley later translated Eötvös, of whom I had not even heard. Or admissions: Donald clearly had quite an effect on how some of the schools that used to send candidates to St John's taught Classics, his strictures leading to the appointment of much better teachers. Or, back in the ancient world, an emendation

in Philostratus: it took him all of a minute to create an elegant solution to a problem with which I was struggling. Or it could simply be a delightful story: the unforgettable American tourists at Sherwin-White's Front Quad window ('Look, look, a professor here, professing!'), a presidential election derailed over the return of a lawnmower, or Donald and the then Head Porter rescuing Robert Graves from a trouser fly mishap as he was about to deliver the Creweian Oration... Graves was trying to resist their efforts by claiming that this was how you get recognised as a poet in Majorca, and it was only later that Donald learnt that they were successful where President Mabbott had failed.

What was in a way even more striking was Donald's vivid interest in, and ability to think anew about, the world today. One could be forgiven in his nineties for wanting to shut it out. Not so Donald, and whether it was politics, syllabus changes, or study habits of students, his eye remained as sharp as ever. Whatever was happening in this College, Donald would know it (often before I did), and offer the fairest and the most perceptive commentary. He was by no means uncritical, either of individuals or of institutions, but in everything he said and did he also gave the crucial lesson of kind and unostentatious care about colleagues and students, pride and interest in their achievements, and loyalty to the community to which you belong. I remember the joy with which he told me that one of our recent Gaudy orators needed fewer corrections in her speech than what the Public Orator brought him for the Encaenia (by no means a negative comment on the Public Orator), or related how a student enjoyed a tutorial with my new colleague. He wanted to see all Woodhouse JRFs and Classics lecturers, and would always tell them to call 'if he could be helpful in any way'. For years Donald would say that he would teach again next term 'if he is still around', and it seemed this would go on forever, but even after he stopped teaching in 2017, students continued to come to his door: to get the new verses he was sending to the Russell Society, to get advice on a Gaudy oration, or simply to have tea with him. Just a few days before he went to hospital, he was telling me to send the next orator to see him, and it seems somehow fitting that as soon as Donald's advice was not available, the pandemic cancelled the Gaudies.

When I came to see Donald on Boxing Day last year, the last long conversation we had, he repeated something about his service at Bletchley he told me before, and perhaps wanted to emphasise: 'It taught me three important lessons. To do my work quickly and on time. To work in a team. And to not expect credit for what I have done.' Lessons to remember always, but the lesson Donald gave us was larger than that: it was one of humanity, of loyalty and care, and of joy in learning, and in passing that learning to others. *Semper memoria eius nobis cara manebit.*





***The list of Peter's achievements and the honours he received is long but throughout everything runs a thread: his commitment to bringing people and ideas together, across disciplines, cultures and countries, and his belief that interesting and good things will come of it.***

## PETER DAY

**PROFESSOR ANDREW HARRISON, Honorary Fellow:**

Peter Day, who died on 19 May 2020 at the age of 81 was a Fellow of St Johns (1963–1988), made seminal contributions to his field of chemistry, and led world-class institutes for science research and outreach.

Like so many of his generation, Peter was the first of his family to attend university. He came up to Oxford in 1957 from Maidstone grammar school on an Open Scholarship to Wadham College and chose his tutor there, Bob Williams, as his Part II project supervisor. Right from the start he showed an interest and aptitude for research across the traditional boundaries of chemistry, indeed of science, first exploring whether certain materials made of molecules not unlike those in organisms – the stuff of organic chemistry – could conduct electricity, regarded then as physical chemistry or even physics, all under the aegis of the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory.

Building on this early work, he found himself in 1966 as a visitor to the Bell Telephone Laboratories in the USA where over one remarkable summer he and staff scientist Melvin Robin first started to explain the behaviour of what are now known as 'mixed valence' materials. In these remarkable substances, the atoms of a particular element could, unusually, either be bound up in two distinct ways, or exist as an average of the two forms. Some of these materials, such as the first modern synthetic pigment, Prussian Blue, with applications from the original blueprints to Turner's landscapes, were well



known, but the origins of their properties remained obscure. The Robin-Day classification – now one of the most widely cited papers in chemistry – and the work that flowed from it is a critical part of our understanding today of phenomena as diverse as superconductivity and energy generation in living cells.

Peter and his rapidly growing research group in Oxford went on to explore how to optimise the properties of some of these materials, blending organic and inorganic materials to make, for example transparent magnets that could be grown in a beaker and possessed magnetic properties that could be controlled with light. Peter's international standing as a scientist was recognised by his election as Fellow of the Royal Society in 1986 while the Royal Society of Chemistry named an award for Materials Chemistry after him in 2008 to acknowledge his role in establishing what is now an established discipline in its own right.

But what of Peter's association with St John's? In 1962, after the elevation to a University Research Professorship of Sir Harold 'Tommy' Thompson, then sole Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry at St. John's, the College advertised for 'either a Tutorial Fellow or a Junior Research Fellow'. John White was first appointed Fellow in Physical Chemistry, with Peter, still a graduate student, elected to Junior Fellow in Inorganic Chemistry in 1963 – and thence to full Fellow and University Departmental Demonstratorship in 1965. The set of Tutors in

chemistry was completed in 1980 with the appointment of George Fleet and undergraduates of that era remember challenging, thought-provoking tutorials from all three that transported them well beyond lectures and text-books and provided glimpses of the terra incognita of research. Those who were attracted by this prospect and enticed into Peter's research group were not disappointed: supervision was not as close and documented as it today, but rather fuelled by wide-ranging discussion in Peter's office – commonly with the door welcomingly open – and an open laboratory in which students were given essentially free rein to explore the fresh ideas and Peter standing back to give them space to do so.

Peter left Oxford in 1988 to become Director of the Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble, jointly owned by France, Germany and the UK and the leading laboratory in the world for neutron scattering, a technique critical both for his research and for thousands of other researchers from across the sciences and across many countries. The appeal of the post for Peter lay as much in the opportunities it provided to bring people together across disciplines as in the excellence of the

science – though of course the two were related – and during his period there he worked hard, with some success, to expand the membership among European countries. He returned to the UK in 1991 to become director of the Royal Institution, arriving to find its finances and facilities in a parlous state. He threw himself wholeheartedly into improving its public profile, developing much closer relations with the BBC, raising funds and lifting the in-house research of its Davy Faraday Laboratory to a new level. Although he was ultimately disappointed in his attempts to win funding from the Millennium Commission to support an extensive modernisation programme, he left the RI in much better shape than he found it.

The list of Peter's achievements and the honours he received is long but throughout everything runs a thread: his commitment to bringing people and ideas together, across disciplines, cultures and countries, and his belief that interesting and good things will come of it.

## We also remember

**George Francis**, Stores Handyman, from 1978 to 2002 died on 10 May 2020.

**We thank Clare and Jim Healy and Jackie Couling for their memories of George Francis:**

We worked with George for many years and we all had lots of good times. As well as being a good work colleague, he did lots of things beyond his daily duties.

I remember him looking out for many of our students with various disabilities, who sometimes needed a helping hand. George would go to the hall and help them carry their meal from the kitchen to hall and make sure they had somewhere suitable to sit.

He was always helpful to students, staff and Fellows who needed a hand with lots of requests.

George was also a much-appreciated member of the Domestic Stores and was always ready to help the scouts. We have many happy memories of him.

And of course George really enjoyed being part of the St John's Staff Mumpers, and the students enjoyed the show too. George was asked back to be Father Christmas for many years after he retired – he was clearly a man of many talents!

**Ron Lygo**, Head Porter, died on 11 February 2020.

**Eric Patmore**, Head Woodsman at Bagley Wood, died on 15 October 2019.

**James Rockall**, Lodge Porter, died on 16 October 2019.



**Sid Smith**, Porter, died on 7 July 2020.

**Ralph Wilkins** joined the College at the age of 14 in 1944 and worked in the Estates Yard. He retired in 1995 and died on 9 April 2020.

# Alumni

## PETER NEVILL BARBOUR

*Peter Nevill Barbour was born in 1927 and came up to St John's in 1948 to read Modern Languages. He died in October 2018. We are grateful to his son, Stephen Barbour (1978), for this appreciation.*

Peter Nevill Barbour was born in Tangier in 1927. His father David Nevill Barbour (1918) was head boy of Charterhouse School and came up to St John's with a fellow pupil, Robert Graves, after both had served in WWI. Peter's parents started married life in Venice and then moved to Malaga where Nevill became interested in the Arabs and their culture. They moved to Tangier, then Cairo and Jerusalem. Nevill became a well-known writer and commentator on Arab affairs. Peter's brother John was born in Cairo, his sister Carmen in Bethlehem, and another brother Julian (see [www.platonica.com](http://www.platonica.com)) in Jerusalem. In 1938 Peter was sent to school at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire. The family returned to England in 1939. They were on holiday in France when the war broke out and the return to England involved an 'exciting war-time crossing by night in pitch darkness on a completely empty boat'. Back in England they lived near Banbury in Oxfordshire, where Peter's youngest brother David was born in 1941 (see [www.heathfarm.com](http://www.heathfarm.com)). Peter left school in 1944 and joined the army. His father suggested that he should apply to be a Japanese interpreter/translator and Peter transferred to the Army Intelligence Corps and began an 18-month course in Japanese at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Japan surrendered but Peter finished his course and was commissioned as a Lieutenant.

In 1947 Peter and his fellow interpreters were sent to Japan to be part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. He was attached to an Australian Infantry Division in Okayama near Hiroshima. After a year in Japan Peter returned to England and went up to St John's and took a degree in French and Italian. His particular friends at St John's were Ken Slatcher, who became a diplomat, Alan Ferguson, who married Joy (St Anne's) and became an actuary in the US where Peter often visited him and his family, Mark Gudgeon, who became a photographer, Peter Kilner, who ran the Middle East Economic Digest, and John Cradock-Watson, who became a doctor. After Oxford, Peter moved to London and started working in the travel industry with some of the pioneers of the package holiday, such as Erna Low and Vladimir Raitz. He obtained an accountancy qualification and developed a special interest in winter sports. He married Brigid Neill and started a family.

After his career in the travel business, he retired from London to Chipping Norton to be near his siblings, having separated from his wife. He involved himself in local affairs, supporting the Museum, Theatre and becoming treasurer of the Day Centre. He was instrumental in the campaign to save the Lido and was treasurer there too. He became chairman of the Oxfordshire Ramblers and was asked by the BBC to do a film testing thermos flasks. He asked another Rambler, Monica, to join him and they became firm friends. With Monica he enjoyed an Indian summer of 20 years, travelling widely and spending many holidays on the island of Skopelos. In his last years he researched the history of his mother's family (Bates) who were clergymen and sportsmen and founded Rye Golf Club at Camber Sands.

Monica survives him along with his children, Jeremy, Stephen (1978) and Joanna, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

---

## STEPHEN JAMES BUTCHER

*Stephen James Butcher was born in 1952 and came up to St John's in 1970 to read English. He died on 21 May 2017. We are grateful to his wife, Jane Butcher, for this appreciation.*

Stephen went from Stonyhurst College, Lancashire, to St John's College, Oxford in 1970 to read English and graduated in 1973. Of his Oxford days he spoke warmly of his tutor, John Carey, who, he recalled, had been kind enough to drive him to exams following an injury requiring his leg to be in plaster. After Oxford he spent two years in Florence teaching English at the British Institute and subsequently joined Cassell Publishers Ltd as a rep selling to overseas customers. By 1982 he was sales manager on the religious, educational and college lists and over the following eighteen years he took on various roles with responsibility for different lists within the company including becoming Sales Director, Publishing Director and Managing Director of certain divisions. He helped establish Geoffrey Chapman as a leading publisher of Catholic books including the mainstays of Catholic worship such as the Missal and the Lectionary.

In 2000 he joined the exam board Edexcel and in 2002 he was recruited by Eduserv, the academic IT company originated by the University of Bath to be their CEO in Bath. The not-for-profit company grew considerably under his leadership and was chosen to host websites for major cities and the Cabinet Office among

other organisations as well as establishing itself as a leading provider of software for the academic world.

In 1989 Stephen married Jane Thorne whom he met through Cassell and they had three children, Katie, Ellie and John, and in 2002 they moved from London to a village near Frome in Somerset. In late 2016 Stephen was diagnosed with Grade 4 glioblastoma multiforme, an aggressive type of brain tumour and he died six months later surrounded by his family at home, as he had been throughout the course of his illness.

---

## GRAHAM EDWARD FLOWER

*Graham Flower was born in 1961 and came up to St John's in 1980 to read Modern History. He died on 10 April 2020. We are grateful to his wife, Lindsay Flower, for this appreciation.*

Graham Flower, who read History and was JCR President in the early 80s, died suddenly of a heart attack in Hobart, Tasmania, on April 10th 2020. After graduating from SJC, Graham joined ICI (Astra Zeneca) in 1983 on their Graduate Programme and worked there for eight years before moving to the Post Office and, from there, into Management Consultancy.

In 2003 he and his family emigrated to Tasmania, Australia and Graham started his own successful consultancy business there. He greatly enjoyed the lifestyle that Tasmania offered, especially bushwalking in the wilderness and also continued to play Real Tennis, a sport he started to play at St John's.

He will be sadly missed by his friends from SJC days, his family and his many friends throughout the UK, and his wife, two sons and many friends in Australia.

---

## THE REVD CANON BRIAN HARDY

*Revd Canon Brian Hardy was born in 1931 and came up to St John's in 1951 to read for a BA in Modern Languages. He died on 16 November 2019. We are grateful to his friend, Richard Holloway, for this appreciation.*

Canon Brian Hardy, former Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh in the Scottish Episcopal Church and, alongside the Reverend James Maitland of the Church of Scotland, a founding member of the Livingston New Town Ecumenical Ministry, died peacefully in the Western General Hospital on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Brian Hardy was born in 1931 in Heanor, Derbyshire, where his father was minister of Heanor Baptist Church. Though Brian became a member of the Anglican Church while a student at Oxford in the 1950s, his admiration for and devotion to his father never varied throughout his life, and it was probably from him that he inherited the gentle modesty that was such a marked aspect of his

character. After seven years at City Boys Grammar School in Leicester, Brian spent his two years of National Service as a Sergeant in the Army Education Corps, where he served his time in Germany and began his long love affair with the German language and the German Lutheran Church. His love of Germany became an enduring attachment and for the rest of his life he visited regularly, usually getting there on his beloved long-distance bike. His last visit to Germany was in May this year where he became ill – he died a couple of hours after seeing two friends from Germany who had come to see how he was.

After National Service there came four years at St John's College, Oxford, where he studied French and German, as well as fitting in a diploma in theology, a hint of what was to come when he started training for the ministry of the Church of England at Westcott House in Cambridge, where the principal was Kenneth Carey, later to become Bishop of Edinburgh and a continuing influence on Brian's life. Ordained in 1957, Brian served a curacy in Rugeley, followed by four years as chaplain of Downing College, Cambridge. It was from Cambridge that Kenneth Carey, now installed in Edinburgh, lured him to that pioneering ministry in Livingston.

Apart from four years in Telford New Town from 1974 to 1978, the rest of Brian's life and ministry were spent in Scotland. There were four years as chaplain in Coates Hall Theological College – now St Mary's Music School – in the west end of Edinburgh, followed by nine years as rector of St Columba's-by-the-Castle. It was while he was at St Columba's that he also served as Dean of the Diocese from 1986 to 1991. His last charge was in All Saints, St Andrews, from which he retired from full-time ministry in 1996, and returned to spend his last years in Edinburgh, bringing his much-travelled bicycle with him.

As well as being an outstanding linguist, a considerable theologian with a special interest in liturgy, and a dedicated and caring parish priest and counsellor, Brian Hardy was a gifted musician. A fine pianist and organist, he also possessed a pitch-perfect singing voice. In a more assertive or egotistical personality, this constellation of talents might have been overwhelming to lesser mortals. In Brian Hardy they came packed into a personality so modest and kind, that it was easy to overlook what a formidably endowed human being he was.

---

## DR JAMES PETER JESSON

*James Peter Jesson was born in 1936 and came up to St John's in 1954 to read Chemistry. He died on 8 March 2020. We are grateful to his daughter, Claire Smith, for this appreciation.*

Dr J. Peter Jesson was a highly accomplished scientist and research manager, best known for his landmark work on experimental and theoretical nuclear and electron magnetic resonance spectroscopy and their applications

to transition metal chemistry, stereochemically nonrigid molecules and homogeneous catalysis.

After completing his undergraduate and graduate education at St John's in 1960, with a DPhil under the direction of Sir Harold W. Thompson, Peter remained at St John's as a Lecturer in Chemistry in 1961 and he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the National Research Council of Canada Spectroscopy Laboratory led by Nobelist Gerhard Herzberg in Ottawa, Canada before joining the DuPont Company Central Research Department, Wilmington, Delaware, USA in 1963.

He was a natural leader who maintained a strong engagement with research as he took on increasingly demanding management assignments. From 1985–1992 when he retired, he was Director of the DuPont Jackson Laboratory where he managed over 1,000 employees, including 450 scientists and engineers.

Peter is survived by his wife of 48 years, Dr M. Lana Sheer, two daughters, Claire A. Smith and Helen M. Jesson, four granddaughters and two great grandsons.

---

## GEOFFREY ERNEST POOLE

*Geoffrey was born in 1934 and came up to St John's in 1955 to read Classics. He died on 24 November 2019. We are grateful to Geoffrey's family for this appreciation.*

From an early age Geoffrey had instilled in him the value of education and a love of the natural world. These were the pillars that guided much of what he achieved throughout his life.

Returning to Bristol from having been evacuated with his family during the war, he gained a place at Bristol Grammar School. It was this that enabled a young man from a modest background to attend St John's. Encouraged there to develop a love of Classics, he won the Thomas Whyte Scholarship, and came up to Oxford in 1955 to read Greats.

However, as was the norm at that time, National Service beckoned first. Several months on a windswept airbase in Pembrokeshire, controlling flights for seaplanes, gave him a lifetime of stories and a further appreciation of his following life at St John's. It was here that he made lifelong friendships, consolidated by student travels and cycling holidays, and constantly refreshed by mutual attendance over the years at Gaudies.

Geoffrey recognised how important his own experience at grammar school had been in creating opportunity and chose to devote himself to helping give others similar opportunities. Initially this meant training to teach at the University of London where he met his wife, Margaret. Married life for them began in Chesterfield with teaching posts for both. Children quickly followed and a move into educational administration for Geoffrey. This was a move which led them gradually southwards.

Initially, in Sheffield, he was in charge of sites and buildings but was also set the challenge of organising the North of England Education Conference, which, at that time, was one of the most highly regarded forums for educational debate. This was at an exciting time in education when a new, more egalitarian, approach was being attempted, and many of the first comprehensive schools were being established. From here, he went onto Northampton where, as officer in charge of further education, he helped establish the new College of Education, opened in 1972 by the then Secretary of State for Education, Margaret Thatcher, and now evolved into the University of Northampton.

Finally, a move to Chichester saw Geoffrey returning to overseeing local schools, first as Western Area Education Officer and then as Assistant Director of Education for West Sussex. For a man who always saw the value and potential in children, teachers and schools, and was devoted to helping them make best use of this, it was the perfect role. Much respected for his humanity, intelligence and dedication he made a true difference to many people's lives.

After retirement, Geoffrey continued to make a difference, firstly, through Chichester Rotary Club and then as Chairman of the Boys' Club, where his efforts over ten years to secure funding helped save it from extinction and allowed it to carry on today, providing services to support local youth – now of both genders. His love of the natural world, started all those years ago in the war and which had grown over time into dedicated bird-watching, now also took him to the Sussex Wildlife Trust where, as education officer, he was able to combine both his interests, and help instil in others the same appreciation for the environment. Alongside this, he managed to fit in presidency and membership of the Rotary Club, dedication to completion of the Times crossword and a renewed enthusiasm for travel. Ultimately, however, he was a family man. Although he sadly lost his 17-year-old son, Simon, his love of his wife, children and grandchildren, and pride in their achievements, continued always to be at the centre of all he did. He will be much missed by them all.

---

## DAVID RAMPTON

*David Rampton was born in 1934 and came up to St John's in 1955 to read Mathematics. He died in December 2019. We are grateful to his sister, Mary Townsend, for these details of his life.*

After leaving St John's, David worked at AWRE as a model builder from 1958–1962. He then moved to South Australia, working on the WOMERA project in Adelaide until 1968. Returning to the UK, he briefly worked at the British Aircraft Corporation, before twenty years at H.M. Treasury as a Statistician. He retired in 1990.

---

## ROBIN ANTHONY SCHLICH

*Robin Anthony Schlich was born in 1934 and came up to St John's in 1953 to read Modern Languages. He died on 13 May 2020. We are grateful to his daughter, Gill Williams, for this appreciation.*

After St John's Robin became a schoolmaster at Rugby School where he met his wife Heather, a school nurse. They were both very involved in school life at Rugby, Trent College and then Uppingham, where they remained after retirement. Robin became a passionate advocate of Rutland, serving on both the town and county council. Education was always a key part of Robin's life, and he was proud to be a founder of HMC Projects which has provided scholarships to students from Eastern Europe since 1993.

He is much missed by family and friends.

---

## MARK KIRBY SPELLER

*Mark Speller was born in 1957 and came up to St John's in 1975 to read PPE. He died on 19 April 2020. We are grateful to his friend, Nigel Dacre (1975), for this appreciation.*

After leaving St John's, Mark went on to develop a successful career in corporate finance, specialising in mergers and acquisitions. His first job was at Price Waterhouse, where he worked for seven years, based in London and Milan – and was then recruited to work for the United Nations in Rome, consulting on projects across Southern Asia, the Far East, and Central and South America.

Mark returned to London in 1988, first working at S.G. Warburg & Co, and then, in 1991, joining what later became the merged PricewaterhouseCoopers. His job included a stint in their Dubai office, which he found fascinating. He later worked for Opus Corporate Finance and most recently Wyvern Partners. The late 80s and 90s were exciting times in the M&A market, and Mark became highly respected and successful in the field. He also became closely involved with the emerging AIM market, and played a key role in the launch of the AIM Awards.

After he died, one of Mark's colleagues wrote: 'Mark was likeable, friendly and easy to get on with and his honest and fair communication style gained the respect of colleagues and clients alike.'

Outside work, Mark was a passionate cyclist, taking part in a series of demanding rides, including the Étape du Tour de France, the Prudential Ride London and the Deloitte Ride Across Britain. He was an accomplished skier and a keen football and cricket fan.

But above all, he was incredibly proud of his family. He had met his wife Elaine while working in Italy, and they had been married for 26 years. They lived in an Edwardian house in Putney, which they had spent many

years extending and improving. Whenever we met, Mark always talked happily about the latest family news, including the activities of their two children, Thomas, who is about to start studying medicine, and Georgina, who works for a global PR company. Mark was also close to his wider family – including his brother and sister, and half-brother and sisters. His father was the late Tony Speller, the Conservative MP who defeated Jeremy Thorpe in 1979 in the North Devon constituency.

Mark had come to St John's from a comprehensive school, without the advantage of the extra Oxbridge term – a major achievement at the time, and one that reflected his approach to life. He set himself demanding goals, and then worked hard and conscientiously to achieve them. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at Oxford. In his first year, he was pleased to be allocated a room in what was then the new Thomas White Quad, he gained a wide group of friends, and was an active member of the St John's football club (becoming captain of the 1st XI).

He kept strong links with St John's throughout his life – meeting College friends for dinners and drinks, and, most recently, attending last year's 1974–76 Gaudy. At the Gaudy he sat with myself, Jeremy Chantry and Dave Turnbull – the four of us had lived in a house in Museum Road in our second year, 44 years ago.

Mark died of a heart attack while out cycling. He was 62. He died too young, but had nevertheless lived a full, eventful and successful life, and achieved a lot, both professionally and personally.

---

## THOMAS HENRY MICHAEL STAFFORD

*Michael Stafford was born in 1926 and came up to St John's in 1944 to read History. He died on 13 December 2019. We are grateful to his son, Andrew Stafford, for this appreciation.*

Michael Stafford, former Managing Director of the last felt hatting factory in England – Wilson and Stafford Ltd in Atherstone, Warwickshire – died after a short illness. He was 93. Wilson and Stafford Ltd was founded by Michael's great-grandfather in the 1870s and the business was taken on by William Stafford and later Michael's father, John, from whom he took over the firm.

Michael was born and bred in Atherstone. He attended Atherstone Grammar School and then Oakham School in Rutland, before winning an exhibition scholarship to St John's College, Oxford, where he studied history, eventually achieving an MA in PPE. From there he returned to Atherstone to run the hat factory. He married Lorna Vero, whose family ran J. L. Vero & Sons Ltd, the sheepskin slipper manufacturer in Atherstone, as well as being related to the Veros of the Vero and Everitt hat factory in the town.

The couple had two sons – Andrew and Rupert; and three daughters – Judith, Alison and Charlotte. Michael's

eldest son, Andrew, said: 'Our family were the last felt hat manufacturers in England. I think people will remember my father as the perfect gentleman and a very fair boss to work for – he was a popular man. My father bequeathed land in the garden of his father's house in Grove Road to create a Memorial Garden to celebrate the history of hatting in the town, and to recognise the contribution all the employees made to the success of the industry over many years. The family is delighted that the gardens will be opening in the very near future.'

Michael was a Warwickshire county councillor for many years and was also a Freemason, becoming Master of the Athelstan lodge. He was also a leading light in the town's Gilbert and Sullivan Operatic Society, often taking the star role in performances. His funeral took place on January 7th at St Peter's Church in Mancetter, where he and Lorna were married.

---

## ROBIN BARRY ST JOHN TAYLOR

*Robin Taylor was born in 1946 and came up to St John's in 1964 to read PPE. He died on 25 March 2020. We are grateful to his son, James Taylor, for this appreciation.*

Robin Taylor often said that his life only really began in 1964, when he arrived at St John's College, Oxford to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Robin fell in love with Philosophy – a love that would last for the rest of his life. He had always had a sceptical and enquiring mind, which made him an exceptionally talented philosopher.

Robin was also deeply modest and prone to self-doubt. This propensity was all too evident in 1967: after learning that he had been awarded a first-class degree – with first-class marks in all four Philosophy papers – Robin thought that the examiners had made a mistake! He even called his former tutor, who told him that the examiners had been particularly impressed with his use of extensive quotations from Immanuel Kant's writings (Robin was an ardent Kantian). That detail finally put his mind at rest.

Robin also made several lifelong friends at St John's and was renowned for his playful sense of humour. On one occasion, he returned a water pistol to an Oxford joke shop, complaining that it was incorrectly calibrated.

In 1969, Robin left St John's to join the Philosophy department at the University of Kent, Canterbury, where he remained until his retirement in 2011. He was popular with students and colleagues alike at UKC, and in 1976 he met another love of his life, Anna-Louise Beck. Less than a year later, he proposed to her in the St John's garden, and in 1978 they were married. They went on to have two sons, both of whom would later study at Oxford.

Robin was also passionate about music – a passion that he passed on to both of his sons. He always remembered being deeply moved by a performance of Bach's Christmas Oratorio at Oxford. He was an

accomplished guitarist, lutenist and pianist, who gave numerous jazz and classical performances in Canterbury.

Robin passed away peacefully in March after a long illness. He is survived by his wife Anna-Louise and his sons James and Mark.

---

## PROFESSOR JOHN KEITH WIGMORE

*Professor John Keith Wigmore was born in 1941 and came up to St John's in 1959 to read Physics. He died on 11 April 2020. We are grateful to his daughter, Sarah Tibble, for this appreciation.*

Keith was born in Anston, South Yorkshire and attended Nottingham High School. After leaving St John's, Keith studied for a DPhil at the Clarendon Laboratory until 1966. During that time, he married his fiancée, Valerie, whom he had met in Nottingham in the 1950s. In 1967 they moved to New York where Keith worked as a research consultant for IBM.

In 1969 Keith took up a lecturing post at Lancaster University. His research consisted of the study of condensed matter devices for detecting photons and particles of astrophysical origin. For much of his research career Keith worked in collaboration with the astrophysics research group of the European Space Agency. From 1985 to 1991 he also took on an additional consultant role with GEC Hirst Research Centre. Keith was promoted to reader in 1996 and appointed to a chair in Physics in 1999. He was also visiting professor at the Kyushu Institute of Technology and Université Pierre et Marie Curie. He became Head of Department and played a significant role in moving the department towards its current status as one of the top Physics departments in the country.

Keith was a patient and dedicated teacher whose fundamental desire to understand the inner workings of the universe was inseparable from his need to share this with others. His teaching focussed on two areas, condensed matter physics which was his professional specialism and astrophysics, in which he had a lifelong interest. Keith was also passionate about presenting physics in a meaningful way to non-specialists and initiated the introduction of courses which taught physics systematically to non-majors. In addition to his research and teaching, he was fully involved in wider university life as a college principal and treasurer and coordinator of USA exchange programmes.

Keith and Valerie settled in Caton, near Lancaster, where their daughter was born in 1972. In his spare time Keith played an active role in his local community as a member of the parish council, school governor and member of the local tennis club. He continued to have a keen interest in many subjects throughout his life, particularly astronomy and scientific instruments.

In 2008 Keith took early retirement to care for Valerie and remained her full-time carer until her death in 2014. He will be remembered as a kind, caring and interesting man with an enquiring mind, a quirky sense of humour and a commitment to helping others. He will be greatly missed.

---

## NIGEL CHRISTOPHER RANSOME WILLIAMS

*Nigel Williams was born in 1937 and came up to St John's in 1957 to read Literae Humaniores. He died on 27 August 2019. We are grateful to Professor Sir Brian Harrison for this appreciation.*

Born in 1937, Nigel grew up in a cultivated family with his younger brother Hugh. His father, a solicitor with wide interests, was Town Clerk of Rickmansworth and his mother sang at concerts under her stage-name, Corinne Belden. In middle life Nigel dropped 'Ransome' from his surname; it was the maiden name of his paternal grandmother, and his father had incorporated it into his surname only from administrative convenience. At Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, Nigel excelled in classical studies, developed strong musical interests, and at local concerts usually brought the score with him. Our lifelong friendship grew out of a shared, and still to my mind rational, distaste for compulsory rugby football on cold winter Saturday afternoons; Nigel's precocious diplomatic skills were honed on the enviable ingenuity of his excuses for evading it. After national service as a second lieutenant with the Royal Signals (1955–57) in West Germany, he studied Mods and Greats at St John's (1957–61), winning all three key university classics prizes: Craven, Hertford and Ireland. Twice during Greats translation papers, fellow examinees were astonished to see him leaving the room well before the allotted time. His double first enhanced his lifelong love of the classics, and whenever in Oxford he visited Donald Russell, who placed him among the top three or four of his St John's pupils.

The Foreign Service, then the great career, led Nigel to learn Japanese and took him to prominent posts in

New York, Tokyo, and Bonn before he became British ambassador to Denmark (1989–93) and UK permanent representative to the United Nations at Geneva (1993–97). Authoritative and decisive in an emergency, lucid in drafting, liked and respected by colleagues, he really cared about outcomes, and was appointed CMG in 1985. His short *Who's Who* entry omitted his recreations (music and travel). After preparing carefully for his numerous travels worldwide, sensibly contracting his range with age, he stored up his experiences in photo albums, and responded generously to requests for touristic advice. He retired to Blakeney, where he gardened, welcomed guests and exhaustively explored Norfolk churches.

Nigel's unusual combination of qualities intrigued many people. His measured conversation and rational outlook did not preclude maverick outbursts of whimsical fantasy. His sudden, brief and seemingly incongruous conversion to Moral Rearmament in 1960 led to a sudden de-conversion in the College garden which in later years he often recalled; thereafter he quietly but forensically criticised religion of any kind. Though a generous and resourceful host, he was a laconic correspondent, and kept his friends in separate compartments, assiduously catching up with them in periodic 'progresses' round the UK, bearing gifts to his many godchildren. He was reticent and quietly spoken, quieter still in later life, and – in Denmark as in Japan – his linguistic perfectionism limited the range of his overseas sociability. Music was for him a lifelong passion: he was an early enthusiast for Mahler, later supplanted by Wagner. His capacious memory enabled him to recall in detail and at will the plots of little-known operas, and he would have gone to Bogotá or Timbuktu to experience an abstruse Monteverdi performance. When ambassador in Copenhagen he befriended and assisted young professional musicians, and eventually moved there, where he lived unobtrusively. Leaving precise instructions on funeral arrangements, he died alone of an embolism in his flat on 27 August 2019, with only one English friend at his funeral, about which the others learned only later.



# College Record



## FIRST IN FINAL HONOUR SCHOOLS 2020

Erin Ailes, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History  
Anjali Anicatt, History  
Harriet Aspin, History of Art  
Jonas Atmaz al-sibaie, Jurisprudence  
Beatrix Banks, Medical Sciences,  
Astrid Breitenstein, Human Sciences  
Oliver Brown, Engineering Science  
Samuel Burns, History  
Cas Burton, Mathematics (MMath)  
Anna Busuttil, Fine Art  
Ee Hsiun Chong, Jurisprudence  
Joshua Clements, Jurisprudence  
Henry Cole, Mathematics (MMath)  
Clarissa Costen, Physics (MPhys)  
Elizabeth Coyle, Literae Humaniores  
Jed De Ruiter-Swain, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry (MBioChem)  
Cameron Di Leo, English and Modern Languages  
Eleanor D'Souza, English Language and Literature  
Joseph Elliott, Chemistry  
Edwin Stanley Ewing III, Jurisprudence  
Marco Fabus, Physics (MPhys)  
Gabriella Farah, Modern Languages  
Joanna Feliks, Philosophy and Modern Languages  
Joel Footring, Biological Sciences  
Noah Francis, Chemistry  
Oliver French, Archaeology and Anthropology  
Benedict Gardner, Geography  
Rosemary Gooda, Biological Sciences  
Andrew Grassick, Physics (MPhys)  
Henry Hatwell, Jurisprudence  
Leonhard Hochfilzer, Mathematics (MMath)  
Rohan Jain, History and Economics  
Megan James, Human Sciences  
Daniela Johnstone, Medical Sciences  
Leo Kadokura, English Language and Literature  
Brian Leong, Mathematics and Statistics (MMath)  
Xiusi Li, Mathematics (MMath)  
Ella Marshall-Shepherd, Music  
Selin Millward, History and Modern Languages  
Alicja Monaghan, Experimental Psychology  
Jemma Moorhouse, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History  
Henrietta Morgan-Jones, History and Modern Languages  
Isabella Morris, English Language and Literature  
Patrick Osborne, Engineering Science  
Jake Owen, Biological Sciences  
Tobias Paterson, Ancient and Modern History  
Hannah Pook, Medical Sciences  
Adrian-Mihai Radu, Engineering Science  
Andrei Raducea-Marin, Mathematics (MMath)  
Alice Roberts, Physics (BA)  
Cara Shearer, Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics  
Hannah Smyk, Classics and Modern Languages  
Akasha Strub, Engineering Science

Emma Swift, Cell and Systems Biology  
Martin Tat, Physics (MPhys)  
Sophia Vaughan, Physics (MPhys)  
Georgiana Wilson, History of Art  
Emma Wilson Kemsley, Biological Sciences

## DISTINCTION OR FIRST CLASS IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS 2020

Bianca Dammholz, Jurisprudence  
Benedict Stanley, Jurisprudence

## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS 2020/21

Molly Acheson, Archaeology and Anthropology  
Katie Annesley, Chemistry  
Boris Antov, Maths  
Itrisyia Binti Kamarul Baharin, Oriental Studies (Arabic and Islamic Studies)  
Luke Barnes, Medicine  
Benjamin Bedert, Mathematics  
Talav Bhimnathwala, History and Economics  
Joanna Bland, Chemistry  
Tamara Bojanic, Physics  
Maria Buhl, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
Daniel Bundred, Engineering Science  
Andrew Chen, Mathematics and Computer Science  
Xuhui Chen, Physics  
Zeyu Chen, Chemistry  
Kiu Sang Max Cheung, Literae Humaniores  
Shuichi Chiba, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
Ilker Can Cicek, Mathematics and Computer Science  
Stefan Clarke, Mathematics  
Benedict Clinch, English Language and Literature  
Elliott Cocker, Geography  
Bianca Dammholz, Jurisprudence  
Elizabeth Davis, Literae Humaniores  
Simone Dawes, English Language and Literature  
Scott DeGraw, Physics  
Millicent De Leyser, Human Sciences  
Lilia Evgeniou, Biochemistry  
Philip Fernandes, Biological Sciences  
Constantin Garov, Mathematics and Computer Science  
Alessandro Giacometto, History and Modern Languages  
Julian Gonzales, Mathematics  
Martha Gritt, Geography  
Michael Hasland, Physics  
Peiyang (Tony) He, Physics  
Matthew Holman, History  
Matthew Hopkins, Physics  
Zemira Humphrey, Geography  
Maya Humphries, Medicine  
Anisha Jagdev-Harris, Classics and Modern Languages  
Gareth James, Oriental Studies (Chinese)  
Catherine Jamieson, History of Art  
Megan Jaschinski, Chemistry  
Ben Jureidini, English Language and Literature

Taavet Kalda, Physics  
 Suzanne Kapelus, Archaeology and Anthropology  
 Michal Karlubik, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
 Isobel Kent, Modern Languages  
 Yong Min Kwon, Biochemistry  
 Jan Lebioda, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Clarissa Lim, Biomedical Sciences  
 Yizhang Lou, Mathematics  
 Adam Loweth, Physics  
 Alexander Makaveev, Chemistry  
 Milo Mallaby, History  
 Diamor Marke, Mathematics and Statistics  
 Shaun Marshall, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Eve Miles, Modern Languages  
 Ava Mitchell, Human Sciences  
 Firdaus Mohandas, Jurisprudence  
 Eve Morris-Gray, Geography  
 Helena Murphy, Oriental Studies (Arabic)  
 Violeta Naydenova, Mathematics  
 Elvi Nimali, Biochemistry  
 Wilfred Offord, Mathematics  
 Emmet O’Leary, History  
 Costin-Andrei Oncescu, Computer Science  
 William Orbell, Chemistry  
 Oliver Parkes, Literae Humaniores  
 Hari Patel, Chemistry  
 Ivan Paul, Medicine  
 Alexander Pellatt, Ancient and Modern History  
 Rachel Pindar, Chemistry  
 Tomasz Ponitka, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Julia Ragus, Chemistry  
 Jack Rawson, Mathematics  
 Naomi Reiter, History and Politics  
 Harry Renshaw, Jurisprudence with Law Studies in Europe  
 Edward Russell, English Language and Literature  
 Dimitar Ruzhev, Engineering Science  
 Jeongwon Ryu, Jurisprudence  
 Shaina Sangha, History  
 Samuel Saunderson, History and Economics  
 Aura Schonfeld, Human Sciences  
 Sevven Smith, Chemistry

Arun Soor, Mathematics  
 Nathan Spiller, Engineering Science  
 Rachel Stacey, Modern Languages  
 Benedict Stanley, Jurisprudence  
 Felix Stocker, History  
 Anna Stuhec, Chemistry  
 Tang (Michael) Sui, Mathematics  
 Albany Summers, Chemistry  
 Si (Ariadne) Suo, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Yiming Tang, Mathematics  
 Alexander Teeger, European and Middle Eastern Languages  
 Andrew Tinkler, Chemistry  
 Paul Tirlisan, Computer Science  
 Sebastian Towers, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Oliver Tushingam, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
 Kris Vasilv, Mathematics  
 Lucy Vickers, Geography  
 Elspeth Vowles, Archaeology and Anthropology  
 Flora Waller, Ancient and Modern History  
 Leo Warburton, Geography  
 Amy Ward, Theology and Religion  
 Yuqing Weng, History and Economics  
 Sophie Whitaker, Chemistry  
 Antoni Wojcik, Physics  
 Pengcheng Zhang, Mathematics  
 Emily Zhao, Jurisprudence  
 Guo Zheng, Physics

### UNIVERSITY PRIZES 2019/20

Benjamin Bedert, Gibbs Prize for FHS Mathematics Part B  
 Cas Burton, Gibbs Prize for FHS Mathematics Part C dissertation  
 Gabriella Farah, Paul McLean Prize in French Studies for best performance in FHS French sole  
 Joanna Feliks, Gerard Davis Prize for best Extended Essay in French Literary Studies in FHS of Modern Languages and joint schools  
 Benedict Gardner, Gibbs Book Prize (Geography)  
 Jan Lebioda, British Telecom Research & Technology Prize for Mathematics & Computer Sciences FHS Part B papers  
 Tahmid Rahman, GlaxoSmithKline: 3rd Year Undergraduate Prize in Practical Organic Chemistry  
 Nathan Spiller, Gibbs Prize for best performance in the FHS of Engineering Science (Parts A & B combined) – meritorious work  
 Martin Tat, Gibbs Prize for performance in the MPhys examination

### COLLEGE PRIZES 2019/20

Joanna Bland, awarded Dr Raymond Lloyd Williams Prize (Chemistry)  
 Elizabeth Coyle, jointly awarded 2020 Ancient History Prize  
 Nia Evans, awarded Dr Raymond Lloyd Williams Prize (Biochemistry)  
 Alessandro Giacometto, jointly awarded 2020 Hanlon Prize  
 Ioana Grigoras, awarded Duveen Travelling Scholarship  
 Anisha Jagdev-Harris, jointly awarded 2020 Hanlon Prize  
 Tobias Paterson, jointly awarded 2020 Ancient History Prize  
 Jessica Prince, awarded Peter Fan Support Award



## CHORAL SCHOLARS 2019/20

Cameron Di Leo (Carrington Senior Choral Scholar)  
Elizabeth Davis  
Jonathan Hampshire  
Jenny Moulds  
Harry Reddish  
Daniel Roade  
Lola Salem  
Sara Speller

## IOAN AND ROSEMARY JAMES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS

Pengcheng Zhang, Mathematics (2017/18)  
Yiming Tang, Mathematics (2018/19)  
Ilker Can Ciek, Mathematics and Computer Science (2019/20)  
Zhe Ren Ooi, Mathematics and Statistics (2020/21)  
Ziyang Zhang, Mathematics (2020/21)  
Juanru Zhao, Mathematics (2020/21)

## GRADUATE DEGREES CONFERRED 2019/20

### Doctor of Philosophy

Francesco Bianchini, Oriental Studies  
Lara Cravo, Pathology  
Kelli Francis-Staite, Mathematics  
Megan Grundy, Engineering Science  
Martin Henstridge, Physical and Theoretical Chemistry  
Georgios-Alexandros Kavvos, Computer Science  
Timothy Lawrence, Clinical Neurosciences  
Vlad Dumitru Margarint, Mathematics  
Luuk Metselaar, Theoretical Physics  
Eleanor Milnes-Smith, Physical and Theoretical Chemistry  
Alexandra Panman, International Development  
Adam Proszynski, Partial Differential Equations: Analysis and Applications (EPSRC CDT)  
Oraib Toukan, Fine Art  
Curt von Keyserlingk, Theoretical Physics

### Master of Science

Ruby-Anne Birin, Archaeological Science  
Thomas Dowling, Comparative Social Policy  
Gemma Gothard, Neuroscience  
Marie Malmberg, Nature, Society and Environmental Governance  
Bardia Monavari, Environmental Change and Management  
Tyler Payer, Comparative Social Policy  
Krishnendu Ray, Mathematical and Theoretical Physics

### Master of Philosophy

Dhruva Bhat, Development Studies  
Chun Xue, Economics

### Master of Studies

Sofia Blanchard, Archaeology  
Billy Holt, Modern British History (1850-present)  
Ffion Jones, Theology  
Damian Maher, English (1900-present)



Hira Jawaid

### Master of Public Policy

Morgan Mohr

### Master of Business Administration

Anirudh Garg  
David Graham  
Ali Ilci

### Bachelor of Civil Law

Ellen Tims

### Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

Laura Boddy  
Jessica Caterson  
Ameen Chekroud  
Hwa Jong Kim  
Charles Kind  
Jessica Prince

## NAMED AWARD SCHOLARS 2020/21

### 450th Anniversary Fund Scholars

Maja Friedemann, Experimental Psychology (joint with ESRC)  
Pol Hernandez, Synthesis for Biology & Medicine (joint with EPSRC)  
Muhammed Hoque Miah, Theology and Religion (joint with AHRC)  
Alice Huxley, English (joint with AHRC)  
Andreas Kjær, Interdisciplinary Bioscience (joint with MRC)  
Tom Mulder, Environmental Research (NERC DTP) (joint with MPLS)  
George Pickering, History (joint with ESRC)  
Victoria Pike, Interdisciplinary Bioscience (joint with EPSRC)  
Tereza Ruzickova, Psychiatry (joint with MRC)  
Ashkan Sepahvand, Fine Art (joint with AHRC)  
Alice Watson, Geography and the Environment (joint with ESRC)  
Yining Yang, Synthesis for Biology and Medicine (joint with EPSRC)

### Nicholas Bratt Scholar

Andriko Von Kügelgen, Molecular Cell Biology in Health and Disease (joint with Oxford University)

### Drue Heinz Scholar

Charlotte Hand, English

### Elizabeth Fallaize Scholar

McNeil Taylor, Modern Languages

### Angela Fu Scholar

Sara Speller, Music

### Ioan and Rosemary James Graduate Scholars

Solomon Adler, Fine Art (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Diego Berdeja Suarez, Mathematics

Patric Bonnier, Mathematics (joint with Mathematical Institute)

Sabrina Chou, Fine Art (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Alejandro De Los Angeles, Psychiatry (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Sergio Giron Pacheco, Mathematics

Hira Javaid, Oncology (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Saad Labyad, Mathematics

Jan Steinebrunner, Mathematics (joint with Mathematical Institute)

Filippos Sytilidis, Mathematics (joint with Mathematical Institute)

Jane Tan, Mathematics (joint with Mathematical Institute)

### Kendrew Scholars (all joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Nishant Chauhan, Earth Sciences

Helio Cuve, Experimental Psychology

Sally Galal, Women's and Reproductive Health

Claire Keene, Clinical Medicine

Saeed Mahdisoltani, Theoretical Physics

Qiujie Shi, Geography and the Environment

Erika Vega Gonzalez, Music

### Lamb & Flag Scholars

Eleanor Baker, English (joint with AHRC)

William Blythe, Oriental Studies (joint with AHRC)

Rebecca Buxton, International Development (joint with ESRC)

Lucian George, History (joint with ESRC)

Alexandra Hibble, Experimental Psychology (joint with MRC and Clarendon Scholarship)

Helena Karlsson, Interdisciplinary Bioscience (joint with EPSRC)

Sebastian Kopp, Inorganic Chemistry (joint with EPSRC)

James Linyard, Interdisciplinary Bioscience (joint with EPSRC)

Alexander Manby, Geography (joint with ESRC)

Adrian Martini, Statistics (joint with MPLS)

Judit Molnár, Anthropology (joint with ESRC)

Miriam Pfister, Experimental Psychology (joint with ESRC)

Tomos Potter, Environmental Research (joint with EPSRC)

Aleisia Preite, Philosophy (joint with AHRC)

Lola Salem, Music (joint with AHRC)

Björn Vahsen, Clinical Neurosciences (joint with MRC)

### Angus McLeod Scholar

Romain Fournier, Statistics (joint with Oxford University)

### North Senior Scholars

Asher Leeks, Zoology

Bruno Marinic, Chemistry

Barbara Souza, Engineering

Daniel Sutton, Ancient History

### Lester B Pearson Scholar

Kaitlyn Cramb, Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics (joint with Oxford University and Clarendon Scholarship)

### St John's Alumni Fund Scholars

Brook Andrew, Fine Art (Aurora Project)

Gwen Antell, Earth Sciences (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Anna Clark, History (joint with AHRC)

Rachel Coombes, History of Art (joint with AHRC)

Samuel Dobson, Physics (joint with MPLS)

Julia Ebner, Anthropology (joint with ESRC)

Andrea Estandia, Environmental Research (joint with EPSRC)

Aidan Gomez, Computer Science (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Ioana Grigoras, Clinical Neurosciences (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Jan Grohn, Experimental Psychology (joint with MRC)

Annabel Hancock, History (joint with AHRC)

Soufiane Hayou, Statistics (joint with EPSRC)

Gabriella Kountourides, Anthropology (joint with ESRC)

Asher Leeks, Zoology (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Suraj Mahato, Inorganic Chemistry (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Matthew Mason, Fine Art (joint with Clarendon)

Amedeo Minichino, Psychiatry (joint with MRC and Clarendon Scholarship)

Jana Muschinski, Anthropology (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Michael Nastac, Physics (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Adam Packer, Geography and the Environment (joint with ESRC)

Gabriele Paone, Anthropology (joint with ESRC)

Archana Ramesh, Clinical Neurosciences (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Michael Scott, Archaeological Science (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Leora Sevi, Experimental Psychology (joint with MRC)

Lorika Shkreli, Psychiatry (joint with MRC)

Szilvia Szanyi, Theology (joint with AHRC)

Collis Tahzib, Philosophy (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Xingchen Wan, Engineering Science (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Lee Young, Biochemistry (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

### Daniel Slifkin Scholar

Aliya Al-Yassin, BCL

### Dr Yungtai Hsu Scholar

Lushanya Dayathilake, Environmental Change and Management



## SENIOR MEMBERS 2020/21

### Members of Governing Body

**Margaret Jean Snowling**, CBE (BSc Brist, PhD UCL), FAcSS, FBA, FMedSci, Professor of Psychology, President

**Charles James Keith Batty**, MA, MSc, DPhil, Tutor in Mathematics and Professor of Analysis

**Richard Guy Compton**, MA, DPhil, Tutor in Chemistry, Professor of Chemistry and Aldrichian Praelector in Chemistry

**Simon John Whittaker**, MA, DPhil, DCL, Tutor in Law, Professor of Comparative European Law and Fellow for Early Career Researchers

**Alan Grafen**, MA, MPhil, DPhil, FRS, Tutor in Quantitative Biology, Professor of Theoretical Biology

**Anthony Robin Weidberg**, MA, DPhil, (BSc Lond., PhD Cantab.), Tutor in Physics and Professor of Particle Physics, IT Fellow

**Andrew John Parker**, (MA, PhD, ScD Cantab.), FSB, Tutor in Physiology and Professor of Physiology, Strategic Projects Officer

**Fraser Andrew Armstrong**, MA (BSc, PhD Leeds) FRS, Tutor in Inorganic Chemistry and Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, Fellow for Research

**Stephen John Elston**, MA, (BSc, PhD Exeter), Tutor in Engineering Science and Professor of Engineering Science, (Interim) Estates Bursar and Deputy Bursar

**Catherine Whistler**, MA, (PhD National University of Ireland), Supernumerary Fellow in Art History, Professor of the History of European Art and Keeper of Western Art at the Ashmolean Museum, Fellow for Graduates

**Zoltán Molnár**, MA, DPhil, (MD Szeged), Tutor in Human Anatomy and Professor of Developmental Neurobiology

**Mark Cannon**, MA, MEng, DPhil, (SMMech, MIT), Tutor and Associate Professor in Engineering

**Kate Anne Nation**, MA, (BSc, PhD York), Tutor in Psychology and Professor of Experimental Psychology, Domestic & Establishment Bursar, Steward of High Table, Steward of Common Room

**Philip Kumar Maini**, MA, DPhil, FRS, Professorial Fellow in Mathematical Biology and Fellow for Ethnic Minorities

**Carolyn Ann Larrington**, MA, DPhil, Tutor in English, Professor of Medieval European Literature and Vice-President Academic

**William Hadden Whyte**, MA, MSt, DPhil, FRHistS, FSA, Tutor in History, Professor of Social and Architectural History and TW Editor

**Daria Martin**, (BA Yale, MFA California), Supernumerary Fellow in Fine Art and Professor of Art

**Alison Hills**, MA, (BA, PhD Cantab.), Tutor in Philosophy and Professor of Moral Philosophy, Vice-President Domus

**Rosalind May Harding**, MA, (BSc Brisbane, PhD La Trobe), Tutor and Associate Professor in Human Sciences, Keeper of the Groves

**Heather Bouman**, MA, (BSc Guelph, MSc, PhD Dalhousie), Supernumerary Fellow and Associate Professor in Biogeochemistry

**Nicholas Paul Harberd**, (MA, PhD Cantab.), FRS, Professorial Fellow and Sibthorpean Professor of Plant Sciences, Keeper of Bagley Wood

**Simon Robert Myers**, MMath, DPhil, Supernumerary Fellow in Bioinformatics

**Alastair Ian Wright**, MA, (BA Cantab., MA Minnesota, PhD Columbia), Tutor and Associate Professor in History of Art

**Andrei Starinets**, (CandSci, Dipl Moscow, PhD New York), Tutor and Professor of Physics

- Jason Schnell**, (BS Minnesota, PhD Scripps Institute La Jolla), Tutor and Associate Professor in Biochemistry
- Theresa Burt de Perera**, DPhil, (BSc Wales), Tutor and Associate Professor in Zoology, Senior Dean
- Sally Jayne Layburn**, MA, FCA, Supernumerary Fellow and Finance Bursar
- Mohamed-Salah Omri**, (Maîtrise Tunis, MA, PhD St Louis, Missouri), Tutor in Arabic Language and Literature, Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature, Fellow Librarian, Keeper of the Archives
- Hannah Skoda**, BA, MSt, DPhil, (DEA Paris), Tutor and Associate Professor in History, Keeper of the Silver and the Laudian Vestments
- Nikolaj D’Origny Lübecker**, (DEA Paris, MA Copenhagen, PhD Paris), Tutor in French, Professor of French and Film Studies
- Patrick Ronald Hayes**, MA, MPhil, DPhil, Tutor and Associate Professor in English
- Angela Russell**, MChem, DPhil, Bernard Taylor Fellow, Tutor in Chemistry, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Safety Officer
- Charles Richard James Carruthers Newton**, MA (MB ChB, MD Cape Town), FRCPCH, MRCP, Professorial Fellow and Cheryl and Reece Scott Professor of Psychiatry
- Georg Gottlob**, MA (MSc, PhD TU Wien), FRS, Professorial Fellow in Informatics and Fellow for Graduates
- Richard Edwin Ekins**, BCL, MPhil, DPhil (BA, LLB, BA Auckland), Tutor and Professor of Law and Constitutional Government, Statutes Officer and Information Reviewer
- Jan Krzysztof Oblój**, (MSc, MA Warsaw, MSc Paris VI, PhD joint Paris VI and Warsaw), Tutor and Professor in Mathematics, Pinkernes
- Georgy Kantor**, MA, MPhil, DPhil, (MA RSUH Moscow), Clarendon Fellow, Tutor and Associate Professor in Ancient History, Keeper of the Pictures
- Barry Murnane**, (BA Trinity Dublin, PhD Göttingen), Clarendon Fellow, Tutor and Associate Professor in German
- Jason Stanyek**, (BM City University of New York, MA, PhD University of California, San Diego), Tutor and Associate Professor in Ethnomusicology, Music and Visual Arts Officer
- Julia Margaret Bray**, MA, DPhil, Professorial Fellow and Laudian Professor of Arabic
- Dominic Peter Kwiatkowski**, MA (MB, BS London), FRCP, FRCPCH, FMedSci, FRS, Professorial Fellow in Genomics and Global Health
- Katherine Emma Southwood**, MSt, DPhil, (BA Durham), Tutor and Associate Professor in Theology and Religion
- Jaideep Jagdeesh Pandit**, MA, BMBCh, DPhil, FRCA, FFPMRCA, DM, Supernumerary Fellow, Professor of Anaesthesia and Consultant Anaesthetist
- Zuzanna Olszewska**, MSt, DPhil (BA, Harvard), Tutor in Archaeology and Anthropology and Associate Professor in Social Anthropology, Fellow for Women
- Sir Rory Edward Collins**, (BA George Washington University, MSc Oxon, PhD London), FMedSci, FRS, Professorial Fellow, BHF Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Head of Nuffield Department of Population Health
- Ian Thomas Klinke**, (BA Maastricht, MA, PhD London) Tutor and Associate Professor in Human Geography
- Lloyd Pratt**, (BA Louisiana, MA Temple, PhD Brown), Professorial Fellow and Drue Heinz Professor of American Literature
- Christopher John Beem**, (BSc, MSc Stanford, MA, PhD Berkeley), Tutor and Associate Professor in Mathematics
- Luca di Mare**, (Laurea Naples, PhD Imp), Tutor in Engineering and Associate Professor in Engineering Science
- Gillian Rose**, (BA Cantab., PhD Lond) FBA, Professorial Fellow in Geography, Professor of Human Geography
- Stefan Martin Kiefer**, (PhD Munich, Dipl Stuttgart), Tutor and Associate Professor in Computer Science
- Nöel Kimiko Sugimura**, DPhil (MA Yale), Tutor and Associate Professor in English
- Séverine Toussaert**, (MA Sciences PO Paris School of Economics, PhD New York), Tutor and Associate Professor in Economics
- Rebecca Slater**, MA, (BSc, MSc, PhD London), ARSM, Professorial Fellow in Paediatric Neuroimaging and Fellow for Graduates
- Robert Crow**, MA, Director of Development and Alumni Relations
- Stuart Andrew White**, (BA Cantab., PhD Edinburgh), Tutor and Professor of Mathematics, Sports Officer
- Emma Marie Greensmith**, (MA, MPhil, PhD Cantab.), Tutor and Associate Professor in Classical Languages and Literature
- Ben McFarlane**, MA, BCL, Professorial Fellow in English Law
- Elizabeth Wonnacott**, (MA Edinburgh, PhD Rochester NY), Associate Professor in Applied Linguistics
- Matthew Charles Nicholls**, MA, MPhil, DPhil, SFHEA, Senior Tutor
- Nicholas Kenneth Jones**, (BA, MA Leeds, PhD London), Tutor and Associate Professor in Philosophy

### Supernumerary Fellows

- Sir Nicholas John White**, OBE, MA, (BSc, MB, BS, DM, DSC London), FRS, Professor of Tropical Medicine
- Katherine Mary Blundell**, OBE, MA, (MA, PhD Cantab.), Professor of Astrophysics
- Sandra Campbell**, (BSc Edin, MSc, PhD Dundee), Tutor in Physiology, Fellow for Access and Admissions, Dean of Degrees
- Katherine Doornik**, BA, MPhil, (PhD Stanford), Supernumerary Fellow in Economics and Fellow for Equality
- Elizabeth Clare Macfarlane**, MA, DPhil, Chaplain, Welfare Dean
- John Duncan**, DPhil, FRS, FBA, Professor of Experimental Psychology
- The Rt Hon Lord Drayson of Kensington**, PC, (BSci, PhD Aston), FEng
- Karthik Ramanna**, (PhD MIT), Professor of Business and Public Policy
- James Alexander Maynard**, DPhil, (BA, MMath Cantab.), Research Professor, Mathematical Institute
- Ketan Jayakrishna Patel**, FRS FMedSci MRCP, (MBBS London, PhD Cantab.), Director of MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine
- Walter Mattli**, MA, (BA University of Geneva, MA New York, PhD Chicago)

### Supernumerary Teaching Fellows

- Gemma Tidman**, BA, MSt, DPhil, French
- Jenny Claire Jones Richards**, BA, DPhil (MRes London), Geography
- William Ludwig Allen**, MPhil, DPhil (BA Alma), Politics

## Emeritus Research Fellows

**Ronald Lee Bush**, CBE, MA, (BA Pennsylvania, BA Cantab., PhD Princeton), formerly Professorial Fellow and Drue Heinz Professor of American Literature

**Paul Philip Craig**, Hon QC, MA, BCL, FBA, formerly Professorial Fellow in English Law, Data Protection Officer

**Malcolm Davies**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Classics

**Paul Kevin Dresch**, MA, DPhil, formerly Fellow by Special Election in Social Anthropology

**George William John Fleet**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Chemistry

**Mark Robert Freedland**, MA, DPhil, (LLB London), Hon QC, FBA, formerly Tutor in Law

**Peter Stephen Michael Hacker**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Philosophy

**Thomas Stainforth Kemp**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Zoology

**John Langton**, (MA Cantab., BA, PhD Wales), formerly Tutor in Geography

**Linda Margaret McDowell**, CBE, (BA Cantab., MPhil, PhD London), DLitt, FBA, formerly Professorial Fellow in Human Geography

**Ross Ian McKibbin**, MA, DPhil, (MA Sydney), FBA, formerly Tutor in History

**Robin Clayton Ostle**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Modern Arabic

**David Robert Stirzaker**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Mathematics

**Kenneth Paul Tod**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Mathematics

**Malcolm Graham Allen Vale**, MA, DPhil, FRHistS, formerly Tutor in History

## Research Fellows

**Natalia Gromak**, (BSc Belorussian State, BSc Edin, PhD Cantab.), Biochemistry

**Elizabeth Fooksman**, MPhil, DPhil, (BA UCLA), Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Area Studies

**Cyril Closset**, (BSc, MPhys, PhD ULB), Research Fellow in the Sciences and Mathematics, Physics

**Heather Harrington**, (BS Amherst, PhD Imperial), Professor of Mathematics, Research Fellow in the Sciences and Mathematics, Biology

**George Potts**, (MA, PhD London), Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, English

**Sarah Greer**, (MA Auckland, PhD St Andrews), Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Medieval History

**Akanksha Awal**, DPhil (BEng LondonMet, MSc London), Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Anthropology

**Mishka Sinha**, MPhil, (PhD Cantab.), Research Associate, St John's and the Colonial Past

## Junior Research Fellows

**Jennifer Johnson**, MSt, DPhil, (BA Cantab.), History of Art, Assistant Dean of Degrees

**Harry Desmond**, MPhys, (PhD Stanford), Physics

**Lydia Audrey Beresford**, DPhil (MPhys Manchester), Physics

**Karolina Sekita**, DPhil, (Magister Warsaw), Woodhouse Junior Research Fellow in Classics, Assistant Dean of Degrees

**Guy Cooper**, (BSc Sewanee: University of the South, MSc Lausanne), Zoology

**Samuel Derbyshire**, MSt, DPhil, (BA UCL), Archaeology

**Oliver Padget**, DPhil, (BSc Nottingham), Biology

**Darci Sprengel**, (BMA, BA Michigan Ann Arbor, MA, PhD UCLA), Music

**Keno Juchems**, (BSc Hamburg, MSc Osnabrück), Psychology

**Marco Cappelletti**, MJur, (Laurea Magistrale Perugia, LLM Harvard), Law

**Emilija Talijan**, (MPhil, PhD Cantab.), Modern Languages

**Bradley Roberts**, DPhil, (BA Maryland), Physiology

**Emily Alexandra Katzenstein**, MPhil (BA London, MA, PhD Chicago), Politics

**Justine Laura Potts**, MA, MSt, DPhil, Classics

**Zhenyu Cai**, DPhil (BA, MSc Cantab.), Physics

**Isabella Eileen Maudlin**, (BSc, PhD Edinburgh, MPhil Cantab.), Biochemistry

## Lecturers

**Christoph Bachhuber**, DPhil, (MA Texas), Archaeology

**Ben Bollig**, (BA Nottingham, MA, PhD London), Spanish

**Panayiotis Andreou Christoforou**, MPhil, DPhil (MA St Andrews), Ancient History

**Tom Crawford**, MA, (PhD Cantab.), Mathematics

**Julie Alexander Evelyn Curtis**, MA, DPhil, Russian

**Wilfred Thomas Diment**, MChem, Chemistry

**Dejan Draschkow**, (MA LMU Munich, PhD GU Frankfurt), Psychology

**Marion Durand**, (BA Cantab., PhD Toronto), Ancient Philosophy

**Marie Elven**, (DEA Paris III), French Language

**Patrick Gill-Tiney**, BA, (MSc London, MA Maryland), Politics

**Thomas Godard**, (Licence, MA, DEA Paris, PhD Cantab.), Linguistics

**Paul Griffiths**, (BSc, PhD Liverpool), Quantitative Methods and Statistics

**Kirstin Gwyer**, BA, MSt, DPhil, German

**Britain Hopkins**, MPhil, DPhil, (BA Barnard College), Geography

**Matthew Hosty**, MSt, DPhil, Classics

**Claudia Kaiser**, (MA Erlangen-Nuremberg, Dipl Bamberg), German Language

**Asher Leeks**, BA, Biology

**Natalie Mrockova**, MSc, MSt, DPhil, Law

**Annika Münster**, (BA, MA Bonn), German Lektorin

**Matt Myers**, DPhil (MA, MSc London), History

**Alison Pollard**, MA, MSt, DPhil, Classical Archaeology

**Andréa Rosinhas**, (BA, MA Université Paris Nanterre), French Lectrice

**Devinderjit Sivia**, (BA, DPhil Cantab.), Mathematics for the Sciences

**Alan Strathern**, DPhil, (MA London), History

**Leila Tai**, MSc, (BA, LLB Melbourne), Law

**Emmanuela Tandello**, MPhil, DPhil, Italian

**Georg Viehhauser**, (PhD Vienna), Physics

**Rohan Wijesurendra**, DPhil, MRCP, (MB, BChir, MA Cantab.), Clinical Medicine

**Samuel Wolfe**, (MPhil, PhD Cantab.), Linguistics





### Emeritus Fellows

**Sir Royston Miles Goode**, CBE, QC, MA, DCL, (LLD London), FBA, formerly Norton Rose Professor of English Law

**Iain McLaren Mason**, MA, (BSc Cape Town, PhD Edin), FRS, formerly Tutor in Engineering Science; Professor of Geophysics, University of Sydney

**Wilferd Ferdinand Madelung**, (DPhil Hamburg), FBA, formerly Laudian Professor of Arabic

**Sir Anthony John Patrick Kenny**, MA, DPhil, DLitt, FBA, sometime Master of Balliol College; formerly President of the British Academy; formerly Chairman, British Library Board; sometime Warden of Rhodes House; formerly Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development); formerly President of the University Development Office

**Oliver Louis Robert Jacobs**, MA, DPhil, (MA, PhD Cantab.), formerly Tutor in Engineering Science

**Paul Lansley Harris**, MA, DPhil, FBA, formerly Tutor in Psychology and Professor of Developmental Psychology; Victor S Thomas Professor of Education, Harvard; Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

**Desmond Stephen King**, MA, DLitt (BA Mod Dublin, MA, PhD Northwestern), FBA, MRIA, FRHistS, FAacSS, formerly Tutor in Politics; Andrew W Mellon Professor of American Government and Professorial Fellow, Nuffield College

**John Alexander Montgomery**, MA, FCA, formerly Finance Bursar and Supernumerary Fellow

**Christopher John Leaver**, CBE, MA, (BSc, ARCS, DIC, PhD London), FRS, FRSE, MAE, formerly Professorial Fellow and Sibthorpean Professor of Plant Sciences

**Ritchie Neil Ninian Robertson**, MA, DPhil, FBA, formerly Tutor in German; Taylor Professor of the German Language and Literature, Fellow of The Queen's College

**Nicholas Purcell**, MA, FBA, formerly Tutor in Ancient History; Camden Professor of Ancient History, Fellow of Brasenose College

**Gerard Jan Henk van Gelder**, MA, (kandidaatsexamen Amsterdam, doctoraal examen Leiden and Amsterdam, PhD Leiden), FBA, formerly Laudian Professor of Arabic

**David Llewellyn Bevan**, MA, formerly Tutor in Economics

**Terence Christopher Cave**, CBE, MA, DPhil, FBA, formerly Tutor in French and Professor of French Literature

**Joel Ouaknine**, MA, DPhil, (BSc, MSc McGill), formerly Tutor in Computer Science and Professor of Computer Science

**Ian John Sobey**, MA, (BSc Adelaide, PhD Cantab.), formerly Tutor and Associate Professor in Engineering Science

**Marlia Cordelia Mundell Mango**, MA, DPhil, (BA Newton, Mass, MA London), FSA, formerly Fellow by Special Election in Byzantine Archaeology and Art

**John Stephen Kelly**, MA, DPhil, (MA Dublin), formerly Tutor in English

**Elizabeth Dorothea Harriet Carmichael**, MBE, MA, DPhil, BM, BCh, (MRCS Eng, LRCP London), formerly Tutor in Theology

**John Anderson Kay**, MA, (MA Edin), FBA, formerly Supernumerary Fellow in Economics

### Honorary Fellows

**The Right Revd Andrew Alexander Kenny Graham**, MA, (DD Lambeth), formerly Scholar; formerly Bishop of Newcastle, Hon Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Carlisle

**Sir Keith Vivian Thomas**, CH, MA, FBA, formerly Professorial Fellow and Tutor in History; sometime President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford; formerly President of the British Academy; Honorary Fellow of All Souls College

**Ioan MacKenzie James**, MA, FRS, formerly Fellow and Tutor in Pure Mathematics; sometime Savilian Professor of Geometry

**John Carey**, MA, DPhil, FRSL, FBA, formerly Lambie Scholar and Fellow and Tutor in English; sometime Merton Professor of English Literature

**Alan Marshall Bailey**, KCB, MA, BPhil, formerly Exhibitioner and Honorary Scholar; formerly Permanent Secretary of the Department of Transport; sometime Chairman of London Transport Buses

**Sir Michael John Anthony Partridge**, KCB, MA, formerly Fish Scholar; formerly Permanent Secretary of the Department of Social Security; Pro-Chancellor and Governor of Middlesex University; sometime President of the Old Merchant Taylors' Society

**The Most Revd Father Timothy Peter Joseph Radcliffe**, OP, MA, DD, formerly Commoner; sometime Master of the Order of Preachers

**Anthony Charles Lynton Blair**, formerly Commoner; formerly MP and Prime Minister; formerly Special Envoy to the Middle East; Chairman of the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation

**John William White**, CMG, MA, DPhil, (BSc, MSc Sydney), FRS, FRSC, FAA, formerly Fellow and Tutor in Chemistry; Science Policy Secretary of the Council of the Australian Academy of Science; Professor of the Research School of Chemistry, Australian National University

**Terence James Reed**, MA, FBA, formerly Fellow and Tutor in German; sometime Taylor Professor of the German Language and Literature; Corresponding Fellow of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences

**Paul Alexander Slack**, MA, DPhil, DLitt, FBA, FRHistS, formerly Casberd Exhibitioner and Scholar; sometime Professor of Early Modern Social History; formerly Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford and Principal of Linacre College



**Quentin Bone**, MA, DPhil, FRS, formerly Exhibitioner and Casberd Scholar; Hon Research Fellow of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom

**Sadayuki Hayashi**, Hon GCVO, MA, formerly Commoner, Ambassador of Japan to the Court of St James; sometime Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

**Sir Christopher Hubert Llewellyn Smith**, MA, DPhil, FRS, formerly Professorial Fellow and Tutor in Physics; formerly Director General of CERN; formerly Provost and President of University College, London; Director of Energy Research at the University of Oxford; President of the Council of Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME)

**Geoffrey William Anderson**, MA, DPhil, FSA, FRSE, formerly Casberd Exhibitioner; formerly Director of the British Museum; Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge

**Robert Darnton**, DPhil, formerly Rhodes Scholar; sometime Professor of History, Princeton University; Carl H Pforzheimer University Professor and University Librarian, Harvard

**William Hayes**, MA, DPhil, (MSc, PhD, National University of Ireland), Hon MRJA; formerly Professorial Fellow and Tutor in Physics; sometime Principal Bursar; formerly Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and President of St John's

**Sir Stuart Hampson**, CVO DL, MA, formerly Commoner; formerly Chairman of The Crown Estate; formerly Chairman of the John Lewis Partnership; formerly Chairman of the Royal Society of Arts

**Timothy Patrick Lankester**, KCB, MA, (MA Cantab., MA Yale), formerly Fereday Fellow; formerly Permanent Secretary of Overseas Development Administration and the Department of Education; formerly Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies; sometime President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Chairman of the Council of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

**Sir Andrew William Dilnot**, CBE, MA, formerly Commoner; formerly Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies; sometime Principal of St Hugh's College; Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority and Warden of Nuffield College

**Sir Simon David Jenkins**, MA, formerly Commoner; sometime editor of the *London Evening Standard*; sometime editor of *The Times*; sometime political editor of *The Economist*; formerly Deputy Chairman of English Heritage; sometime Chairman of the National Trust

**Edward Brian Davis**, MA, FRS, formerly Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics; Professor of Mathematics, King's College, London

**John Graham Cottingham**, MA, DPhil, formerly Thomas White Scholar; Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, Reading University

**Sir Michael Sydney Perry**, GBE, MA, formerly Commoner; sometime Chairman, Unilever Plc and Centrica Plc, the Senior Salaries Review Body, the Leverhulme Trust and the Shakespeare Globe Trust

**Sir Keith Burnett**, CBE, MA, DPhil, FRS, FAPS, FOSA, FInstP, formerly Tutor in Physics and Professor of Physics, Head of Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division; sometime Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University

**The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Price Richards**, MA, formerly Scholar, Lord Justice of Appeal; Deputy Head of Civil Justice for England and Wales; Privy Counsellor

**Bernard John Taylor**, CBE, DL, FRSC, CChem, CSI, LRPS, MA, formerly Scholar; formerly Vice-Chairman of JP Morgan; formerly Member of the Council of the University of Oxford; Chairman of Evercore Partners International LLP; Chairman of Isis Innovation Ltd; Chairman of Garsington Opera; Chairman of the Ashmolean Museum Board of Visitors; Deputy Steward of the University of Oxford; Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

**Ulick Peter Burke**, MA, FRHistS, FBA, formerly Scholar, formerly Professor of Cultural History, University of Cambridge; Life Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge

**Andrew Frederic Wallace-Hadrill**, OBE, MA, DPhil, FBA, FSA, formerly Senior Scholar; formerly Director of the British School in Rome; formerly Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; Professor of Roman Studies and Director of Research for the Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge

**John Lawson Thornton**, MA, (AB Harvard, MPPM Yale), formerly Commoner; formerly President of Goldman Sachs; Professor and Director of Global Leadership at Tsinghua University, Beijing and Chairman of the Board of the Brookings Institution; Chairman of Barrick Gold

**Ian Bostridge**, CBE, MA, DPhil, (MPhil Cantab.), formerly Scholar; Concert and Operatic Tenor

**Sir Charles Richard Catlow**, MA, DPhil, FRS, FRSC, formerly Exhibitioner, formerly Wolfson Professor of Natural Philosophy, the Royal Institution; Professor of Solid State Chemistry and Head of Mathematics and Physical Sciences Faculty, University College London; Foreign Secretary, Royal Society

**Sir Brian Howard Harrison**, MA, DPhil, FBA, FRHistS, formerly Scholar, formerly Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford; sometime Editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*; Emeritus Fellow of Corpus Christi College

**Anthony John Boyce**, MA, DPhil, formerly Scholar, formerly Tutor in Human Sciences; sometime Principal Bursar

**Henry Reece**, MA, DPhil, (BA, Bristol), formerly graduate student; formerly Secretary to the Delegates and Chief Executive, Oxford University Press; Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College

**William Joseph Burns**, MPhil, DPhil, (BA LaSalle), formerly graduate student; formerly US Ambassador to Jordan, US Ambassador to Russia; formerly US Under Secretary for Political Affairs and Deputy Secretary of State; President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

**Stephen Wolfram**, PhD Caltech, formerly Scholar; creator of Mathematica and Wolfram/Alpha; Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Wolfram Research

**Sir Michael Charles Scholar**, KCB, MA, DPhil, (MA, PhD Cantab.); formerly Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Office and the Department of Trade and Industry; sometime Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority; formerly President of St John's

**Sir John Tooke**, KB, FRCP, FMedSci, formerly Commoner; formerly inaugural Dean of the Peninsula Medical School; President of the Academy of Medical Sciences; Vice-Provost (Health), Head of the School of Life & Medical Sciences (incorporating UCL Medical School), University College London

**Angela Eagle**, MP, MA, formerly Commoner; MP for Wallasey; formerly Shadow Leader of the House of Commons; formerly Minister of State for Pensions and the Ageing Society and Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury

**Ruth Harris**, MA, DPhil, (BA, MA, Pennsylvania), FBA, formerly Junior Research Fellow; Professor of Modern History and Senior Research Fellow, All Souls College

**Evan Davis**, MA, formerly Scholar; formerly Economics Editor for the BBC and presenter of *Today* and *Newsnight*; presenter of *PM* on BBC Radio 4



**Ann Jefferson**, MA, DPhil, formerly Junior Research Fellow, FBA; Professor of French and Emeritus Fellow of New College; *Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*

**Sir David Nicholas Cannadine**, DPhil (MA, LittD Cantab.), formerly Junior Research Fellow, FBA, FRSL, FRHistS; formerly Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge; formerly Moore Collegiate Professor of History, Columbia; formerly Director, Institute of Historical Research; Chair, National Portrait Gallery; Editor, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

**Andrew Harrison**, OBE, MA, DPhil, MRSC, FRSE, formerly Fereday Junior Research Fellow; formerly Research Fellow, Nuffield College; formerly Professor of Solid State Chemistry, University of Edinburgh; Founding Director, Centre for Science at Extreme Conditions; Director General, Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL), the Neutron Source, Grenoble; Director, Diamond Light Source

**Barbara Jane Slater**, MSc (BA Birmingham, PGCE Loughborough), OBE; Director of BBC Sport

**John Darwin**, BA, DPhil, formerly Scholar, FBA, Professor of Global and Imperial History, Nuffield College, Fellow of Nuffield College, FBA

**Rushanara Bini Ali**, BA, formerly Commoner; MP for Bethnal Green and Bow, formerly Shadow Minister for Education, and for International Development; Co-Founder of the charity Uprising

**Rt Hon Sir Keith John Lindblom**, QC, PC, BA, formerly Commoner; Lord Justice of Appeal

**Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Hamblen**, QC, PC, BA, (LLM Harvard Law School); formerly Scholar; Lord Justice of Appeal

**Sir Robert Devereux**, KCB, BA, (MA Edin), formerly Commoner, formerly Permanent Secretary for the Department of Work and Pensions

**Sir Nigel Carrington**, Vice-Chancellor of University of the Arts London; formerly Managing Partner and European Chairman at Baker & McKenzie and Managing Director of McLaren Group, Chairman of the Henry Moore Foundation and of Advance HE, Founder Director of the Creative Industries Federation and member of the Board of Universities UK

**Stephen Mitchell**, MA, DPhil, FBA, formerly Leverhulme Professor of Hellenistic Culture at Exeter University; member of the German Archaeological Institute; honorary doctorate Humboldt University Berlin, formerly President of the British Epigraphy Society and of the Association Internationale d'Épigraphie Grecque et Latine, Council of the Arts and Humanities Research Board, Chairman of the British Institute at Ankara

**Lionel Tarassenko**, CBE, MA, DPhil, CEng, FIET, FMedSci, FREng, FIEE, formerly Professorial Fellow in Electrical and Electronic Engineering; founding President, Reuben College

**Jane Lucy Lightfoot**, MA, DPhil, FBA, Professor of Greek Literature and Charlton Fellow and Tutor in Classics, New College

**Catherine Rowena Mallyon**, MA, Executive Director, Royal Shakespeare Company

**Dorothy Vera Margaret Bishop**, MA, DPhil, (DM Lond), FMedSci, FBA, FRS, Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology

**Myles Robert Allen**, DPhil, FInstP, Professor of Geosystem Science, Fellow of Linacre College



#TEASING\_OUT\_CONTINGENCIES 2019-2022



# News of Alumni

**The College thanks alumni who have supported College committees and activity over the past year:**

*Development and Alumni Relations Committee:* Dr Tony Boyce (1957, Zoology), Robin Gorna (1984, Theology), Dr Nigel Meir (1975, Medicine), Laura Poots (2002, Law), Bernard Taylor CBE (1975, Chemistry)

*Development Board:* Chair: Bernard Taylor CBE (1975, Chemistry), Dr Genevieve Davies (1994, DPhil Modern Languages), Edward Hocknell (1980, Classics), Dr Yungtai Hsu (1971, BLitt History), Michael McDonough (1994, Visiting Student Programme), Dr Nigel Meir (1975, Medicine)

*Remuneration Committee:* Chair: Professor Sir John Tooke (1967, Medicine), Paula Aamli (1992, History), Emily Bell (1999, Law), Sarah Deaves (1980, Geography), Alison Lakey (1998, Human Sciences), William Mackesy (1978, Law)

*Finance Committee:* Sir Robert Devereux KCB (1975, Mathematics), Roy Copus (1977, English)

*Committee for the Promotion of the Arts:* Dr Alex Connock (1984, PPE), Sir Nigel Carrington (1975, Law)

*Research Committee:* Professor Sir John Darwin CBE (1966, History)

*Women's Network Steering Group:* Chair: Robin Gorna (1984, Theology), Chair Elect: Hannah Gilbert (1993, Arabic), Dr Anita Cooper (1981, DPhil Psychology), Izzy Fewster-Jones (2015, Archaeology and Anthropology), Ann Hyams (2008, Geography), Dr Jessica Kindler (2001, DPhil English), Rosie Le Voir (2009, Human Sciences), Angelika Love (2011, Experimental Psychology), Tabassum Rasheed (2008, PPE), Andrew Tiernan (2000, English Literature and Language)

**Jennifer Allen (1998)** is in the process of preparing for her next show at the Tate Modern under her moniker Quilla Constance. Satirically contrasting opulent interiors from Buckingham Palace, to include people from different and diverse backgrounds as they inhabit the space in new and surprising ways, the installation incisively observes the mixed society that is Britain today through an oil painting at Tate Exchange, Tate Modern. The installation is scheduled for Autumn 2020.

**Kevin Alton Honeywell (1968)** has retired from the legal profession, but has not ceased to be active. Last March, he was at the Sheldonian to receive his Diploma in British Archaeology, with Distinction. This was a two-year course, theoretically part-time, in which Kevin studied the periods from the Iron Age to the end of the Middle Ages. He has continued this with other, non-accredited, courses at the Department of Continuing Education.

**Dr Terry Babcock-Lumish (2002)** was named the sixth – and first female – Executive Secretary of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, the United States’ official living memorial to its thirty-third president and the American presidential memorial to public service. Previously, she led Islay, a certified minority and women-owned small business that she founded in 2005 to provide strategic guidance for philanthropic foundations and other mission-driven organisations across six continents.

**Professor Alexander Bird (1983)** is currently the Peter Sowerby Professor of Philosophy and Medicine at King’s College, London, and has recently been elected to the Bertrand Russell Professorship of Philosophy at Cambridge University.

**Jacci Bulman (1987)** has recently created a new YouTube channel to help uplift and restore people during these challenging times. It contains her poetry, deep guided relaxations, plus some very simple universally accessible prayers, all recorded in the beautiful nature around where she lives in Cumbria. You can visit the channel by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and searching for ‘Jacci Bulman’.

**Professor Jonathan Culler (1966)** has been elected to a Corresponding Fellowship of the British Academy.

**Ian Davey (1969)** is currently writing a memoir, and would like to compare notes about his years at St John’s from those who were also there between 1969 and 1972. If anyone would be interested in connecting, please get in touch with the Alumni Office.

**Tim Daw (1979)** used the sceptical observational skills learned in the Agricultural and Forestry schools to add

a little to our knowledge of Stonehenge. You can read more in this article: Banton *et al.* (2015), ‘Parchmarks at Stonehenge, July 2013’, *Antiquity* 88, p. 733–739. It can also be read in *The Twisted Trilithon* (2015), WANHS. He has also recently revived a Neolithic practice of inurnments by building the first Long Barrow for about 5,000 years. Tim continues to farm in a small way but was also the first local internet service provider in Wiltshire and founded a software company which burnt through millions of other people’s dollars, which wasn’t as much fun as it ought to have been.

**Robert Entwistle (1970)** has published *Britannia Surveyed* with Armatura Press. The book breaks new ground in Roman studies by identifying military planning lines from the time of the Conquest, examining their implications for our understanding of Roman strategy and mathematical competence.

**Dr Georgi Gardiner (JRF 2017–2019)** was a Junior Research Fellow at St John’s between 2017 and 2019, before taking on a permanent position at the University of Tennessee. She was awarded the Royal Institute of Philosophy Annual Essay Prize in February 2020 for her essay entitled *Profiling and Proof: Are Statistics Safe?*. The essay will be published in the journal *Philosophy*, as the prize winner. Georgi is grateful for the opportunity St John’s gave her to develop this research.

**Hannah Gilbert (1993)** was included in the Innovate Finance Women in FinTech Powerlist 2019 in the Senior Leaders Category, as a result of her achievements in the previous twelve months as a Client Director at Moneyhub UK.

**Sarah Goodenough (2014)** has signed up to participate in the White Collar Fight Club. She will be fighting in a muay thai ring in front of 1,500 people, and will be raising money for Mind to tackle the stigma around mental health.

**Dr Ted Gorton (1970)** came up to St John’s in 1970 with a Marshall scholarship, took a BPhil (now MPhil) in Comparative Literature in 1973, then a DPhil in Arabic Studies in 1976. After teaching for a year in the Arabic Department at St Andrews, he joined Shell and spent 30 years in the oil industry, negotiating concession agreements or advising governments (through the World Bank). Ted moved to London in 2003, and after retiring (progressively) from 2006, has published seven books, from translations of Classical Arabic poetry to a biography of a 17th-century Druze prince, Renaissance Emir. His most recent publication is a novel, *Only the Dead: a Levantine Tragedy* (Quartet, 2019). This follows a young Armenian from Aleppo as he comes of age during

the turbulent time of the First World War and genocide of the Armenian population of Cilicia. He ends up old and alone in a crumbling palace in Beirut, with the Persian poetry of Rumi and others to console him. The next book will be a much less grim travel memoir of sailing among the Ionian Islands of Greece.

**Professor Peter Griffiths (1961)** recently received the 10,000th citation to his work, according to [www.researchgate.com](http://www.researchgate.com), and is now in semi-retirement in San Marcos, Texas.

**Dr Mandy Haggith (1984)** has recently had the final volume of her historical novel trilogy set in the Iron Age, *The Lyre Dancers*, published by Saraband books. Both of the first two volumes, *The Walrus Mutterer* and *The Amber Seeker* were Historical Novels Review editor's choice and the first was long-listed for the Highland Book Prize.

**Professor Michelle Hartman (1994)** has published an edited collection, *Teaching Modern Arabic Literature in Translation* (Modern Language Association 2018), which has just received the Honourable Mention for the 2019 Teaching Literature Book Award, an international, juried prize for the best book on teaching literature at the university level, given biennially by the faculty in the graduate programmes in English at Idaho State University.

**John Hayns (1988)** was voted in as the Chair of the Magic Circle, the premier magical society in the fascinating world of magic and illusion.

**Dr Val Hennelly (1980)** is coordinating a project to celebrate the centenary of The Pinnacle Club – a national club for women climbers – having been awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £70,000 to create a multimedia archive to mark the anniversary. It is the first National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of this kind awarded to a climbing club. The project will also see the first dedicated oral collection on climbing in the British Library Sound Archive. If you would like to get involved, you can check the pages on Facebook and Instagram.

**Jane Ho (1998)** has published *Emi Takes Hong Kong: A Kids' Story Travel Guide* (Fly High Press, 2019), an illustrated children's book which celebrates one of the most vivid cities in the world.

**Dr David Kenrick (2012)** has published a book: *Decolonisation, Identity and Nation in Rhodesia, 1964–1979* (London, 2019). The book focuses on national symbols and national history to explore the origins of contemporary Zimbabwe.

**Andrew Loutit (1962)** has donated a book to the College's Library. The book is titled *Theodora Salusbury: Stained Glass Artist* (2018) and was written by Andrew Loutit and Georgina Maltby.

**William Mackesy (1978)** was due to have an exhibition in London in June 2020 but it has, needless to say, been postponed. He has decided to hold an online exhibition instead which can be viewed at <https://www.williammackesy.com/>. The show includes his 'Lockdown Pictures'. Lockdown has been grim and weird, but can have fringe benefits – such as quiet time. So, William has been busy, mostly working with cut paper painted in gouache, the form pioneered by Henri Matisse from the early 1940s, but also with oils and drawing. He didn't have a project to make lockdown-related work, but many of them have unplanned metaphorical links. Considering the dark times, most of them seem surprisingly joyous. But then Matisse was a pain-ridden invalid when he created his superb late cut-outs, so maybe that can come from adversity. To misquote Leonard Cohen misquoting: despite the tough world outside, 'cheerfulness keeps breaking through'.

**Stephen Martin (2002)** and his wife are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Akila Florence Martin, on 20 December 2019. She was born in St Thomas's Hospital, London, with a full head of hair.

**Professor Ricardo Martinez-Botas (1989)** has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

**Blathnaid McCullagh (2013)** has released her first original singles on Spotify under her stage name of BLÁNID. The first is called Fool's Gold and the second is an acoustic and emotional cover of the 2003 hit 'Dragostea Din Tei'.

**Paul Raudnitz (1989)** was appointed Queen's Counsel on 16 March 2020. He is based at QEB Hollis Whiteman Chambers in London, practising in criminal and professional regulatory law, with a particular specialisation in white collar and commercial crime, and homicide. In his last year as junior counsel, he was also nominated for the 'Legal 500 UK Crime Junior of the Year' Award 2020.

**Professor Viktoria Robertson (2010)** is an Associate Professor at the University of Graz and in February 2020 published *Competition Law's Innovation Factor: The Relevant Market in Dynamic Contexts* in the EU and the US with Hart Publishing Oxford.

**Brendan Roche (1983)** was appointed Queen's Counsel on 16th March 2020. He practises in child and family law at 7 Bedford Row Chambers in London.

**Dr Michael Schultz (1967)** has been made an Officer of the Order of Cultural Merit by the President of Romania, in recognition of his contribution to Romanian scientific research, notably as an adviser to Romania's National Research and Development Institute for Marine Geology and Geoecology.

**Professor Henry Segerman (1997)**, now at Oklahoma State University, gave a public lecture in the Andrew Wiles Building (Mathematical Institute) in January on Artistic Mathematics: truth and beauty. Video available at <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/node/34486>

**Professor Simon Shepherd (1969)** has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

**Philip Smith (1986)** has co-authored, with Professor Oonagh B. Breen of University College Dublin, a new legal text – *The Law of Charities in Ireland*, published by Bloomsbury Professional in November 2019. The book is a guide for charity trustees and their advisers to Irish charity law and in particular the practical aspects of dealing with the relatively recent new law in this regard in Ireland. He has donated a copy to the College Library.

**Rose Sundt (2011)** has helped to publish a seminal book on Sake, which is the first of its kind in English. The book was written by Anthony Rose, former Wine Critic for The Independent and Co-Chairman of the International Sake Challenge. Rose was the primary researcher and wrote the 'Sake Outside Japan' chapter, which included interviewing over 100 breweries across the globe, from Spain to the East Coast of the US, to Peckham, and of course she used her Oxford degree to help translate and collaborate with the Japanese breweries.

**Dr Hugh Turner (1977)** is presently Chair of the Friends of HMS Trincomalee, Secretary of the North East England branch of the Oxford University Society and the Organist at St Mary's Church in Middleton-in-Teesdale. Anyone for croquet when public health permits? He now has a Hurlingham set to try out.

**Professor Brian Upton (1951)** was recently awarded the Collins Medal by The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland. The award was established in 2008 and is named after Henry Collins (1841–1916). The Collins Medal is awarded annually to a scientist who, during a long and active career, has made an outstanding contribution to pure or applied aspects of Mineral Sciences and associated studies, taking into account publications, teaching, outreach and other activities leading to promotion of mineral sciences in the broadest sense. He has also previously been awarded the Clough Medal, the senior medal of the Edinburgh Geological

Society, in 2001, and a Distinguished Fellow Medal, also by the Edinburgh Geological Society, in 2014.

**Professor Tyler VanderWeele (1997)**, now John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb Professor of Epidemiology in the Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, has been the Eastman Visiting Professor for the academic year 2019/20.

**Jason Webster (1989)** has published a book: *Violencia: A New History of Spain: Past, Present and the Future of the West* (London, 2019).

**Dr David Willis (1987)** has been appointed Jesus Professor of Celtic at Jesus College, Oxford, from 1 July 2020. Read more details here: [www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/about-jesus-college/news/2020/january/dr-david-willis-appointed-new-jesus-chair-celtic](http://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/about-jesus-college/news/2020/january/dr-david-willis-appointed-new-jesus-chair-celtic)



**St John's College**  
Oxford

Visit the Alumni and Benefactors pages at [www.sjc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk)

Find details of Oxford University alumni events at [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk)

 St John's College, University of Oxford

 [facebook.com/sjc.oxford](https://facebook.com/sjc.oxford)

 @StJohnsOx

 [stjohnsox](https://stjohnsox)

Development and Alumni Relations Office  
St John's College  
Oxford OX1 3JP  
+44 (0)1865 610885

#### Keep in touch!

Have you recently moved house or changed your email address? Visit [www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/update-your-details/](http://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/update-your-details/) to let us know