



# TW

The magazine of St John's College, Oxford

## 2025

Masterplan

Master-minds

Climate change

Language learning

Memories of the old JCR



# TW

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**St John's College**  
Oxford



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# From the Editor



Returning to your old college can be a disconcerting experience. Just read Philip Larkin, whose ‘Dockery and Son’ uses a gaudy at St John’s as the prompt for an existential crisis. ‘A known bell chimes’; ‘The lawn spreads dazzlingly wide’: but the door of his old room is locked, and news of his contemporaries provokes a typically Larkinesque reflection on the choices he has made.

The return of alumni is sometimes equally unsettling for those of us still here. Glimpsed in a quad or over the dinner table, the look on so many former students’ faces is an unhappy confirmation that I really do appear as ancient as I feel. Moreover, this is often accompanied by kindly enquiries about the college: what have we been up to and how has it changed?

One of the great values of *TW* is that it provides an annual opportunity to address precisely those questions. Here you will find evidence of scientific breakthroughs and scholarly endeavour as well as students working and playing hard. It is an undeniably impressive record. Here, too, you can find out more about ambitious masterplans for the college site, which really will change the place.

It is also wonderful that more people are sending in their recollections of St John’s for the magazine and we are delighted to be able to share a particularly splendid account of the JCR in the 1970s. Do please let us know more – and, as always, do come back soon and see for yourself.

**The Revd Canon Professor William Whyte**  
Editor









*I hope that, within these pages, you will experience the pride we share in the accomplishments of every member of our community and celebrate the rich diversity of activity that takes place in College.*

# From the President

It is a great pleasure to read this year's edition of *TW* with its look back over the 2024/25 academic year. As always, it is a testament to the thriving intellectual and communal spirit that defines St John's.

Within the College walls, we have celebrated some outstanding academic achievements. Our Fellows have secured prestigious awards from funding bodies and accolades from learned societies. We have also hosted visiting academics, welcoming the new ideas they bring to the College, and have elected distinguished new Honorary Fellows who embody exceptional public service in their contributions to society.

St John's students and our cultural programme have ensured that College life remains dynamic and enriching. From the launch of the inaugural International Piano Series at St John's in the Garden Quad Auditorium to hosting insightful talks and thought-provoking exhibitions, our arts and lecture programmes have flourished. Furthermore, we take immense pride in our students, who continue to excel in both their academic and extra-curricular pursuits.

Our Inspire programme continues to thrive and to reach thousands of students every year, encouraging them to believe in themselves and to be ambitious for their futures. You will get a sense of our ambition for the future of the College itself in our new and developing masterplan: you will hear more about this over the course of 2026.

I hope that, within these pages, you will experience the pride we share in the accomplishments of every member of our community and celebrate the rich diversity of activity that takes place at St John's. The College's dedication to scholarship, culture, and social impact is what truly makes it a very special place indeed.

My deepest gratitude goes to everyone who has contributed to this success, and I anticipate with excitement the achievements that the next academic year will bring.

**Professor Lady Sue Black, Baroness Black of Strome**  
LT DBE FRS FRSE FRAI FRSB ChFA  
**President**





From upper left to lower right: Dr Alina Utrata, Dr Anna Dewar,  
Dr Sean Hardy, Dr Nick Jones, Dr Muting Hao, Dr Kaitlyn Cramb,  
Dr Alice Millington, Dr Matthew Nicholls, Professor Lady Sue Black,  
Dr Amogh Sharma, Dr Carolyn La Rocco

# College News



## Career Development Research Fellowships

In October 2024, St John's established an ambitious new fellowship programme for early-career researchers. These four-year, fixed-term Career Development Research Fellowships provide an outstanding opportunity for postdoctoral scholars to pursue a programme of original research whilst contributing to teaching and other academic activities within the College.

The programme is unrivalled across Oxford colleges in terms of its scale and range. St John's ultimately aims to have at least one Career Development Research Fellow (CDRF) in each subject taught in College, enriching our research and teaching community across a range of disciplines.

Seven early career researchers were elected as CDRFs in 2024: Dr Samuel Boateng (Music), Dr Anna Dewar (Biology), Dr Muting Hao (Engineering), Dr Carolyn La Rocco (Late Antique and Early Medieval History), Dr Shurui Miao (Chemistry), Dr Alice Millington (Archaeology and Anthropology), and Dr Alina Utrata (Politics).

For the 2025–26 academic year, St John's will welcome new CDRFs in Computer Science, Fine Art, History of Art, Law, Mathematics, Modern Languages, and Psychology.



***Career Development Research Fellowships are a fabulous way for researchers to become fully integrated in all aspects of St John's College. These prestigious fellowships recognize research excellence and provide protected time and a fabulous opportunity to enable Fellows to address ambitious research questions. It is exciting to see the vibrant and growing community of CDRFs in College.***

**Professor Rebeccah Slater, Fellow for Early Career Researchers & Lecturers**



'I have been a Career Development Research Fellow at St John's since October 2024. My research looks at the politics of Silicon Valley technology corporations, taking an expansive view of corporations across global history. I also work on outer space colonization – or how Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos's projects for celestial settlements compare to the histories of colonizing corporations such as the British or Dutch East India Companies.

The College has been a really special place to conduct my research. One of the challenges of my work is that it is often very interdisciplinary. At St John's, I'm lucky to be able to have lunch with experts not just in politics, but geography, technology, literature, science and even astronomy. Being around such a diverse and exciting intellectual community has been such an inspiring part of being at the College – I often leave the Senior Common Room excited and inspired by conversations, and my work is deeply enriched by conversations across disciplines.

The College has supported me in expanding this community even further. I received a Small Research Grant to host a workshop about outer space. Getting to invite leading experts in the field of outer space studies was an unparalleled opportunity – and considering St John's beautiful gardens, buildings and wonderful catering staff, it is perhaps not a surprise that very few people have said no.

Everyone at St John's has been extraordinarily welcoming and supportive during the past year, from senior Fellows to the vibrant community of early career researchers. Being a CDRF has been a wonderful chance to pursue and develop my own research in what are often precarious postdoctoral years.'

**Dr Alina Utrata**



## Alumni donate historic photograph of St John's

With immense generosity, Stephen Barber (1974, Maths and Philosophy) and Mark Bedingham (1974, Agricultural and Forest Sciences) donated a unique mid-nineteenth century photograph of St John's.

The photograph depicts the west range of Front Quad and the College's embattled gate tower, as well as Cook's Buildings in North Quad, as seen from St Giles' looking southward. All available evidence suggests that it was taken by the pre-eminent British photographer Roger Fenton (1819–1869), during the period that he spent working in Oxford in the late 1850s.

Dr Georgy Kantor, Keeper of Pictures, welcomed the donation: 'The College has always tried to collect works of art documenting its history and buildings. Nineteenth-century views of St John's in our collection include works by William Turner of Oxford, George Pyne and Joseph Pennell, among others. We were late, however, to develop an interest in the art of photography for our collection, and the earliest artists' photographs of the College were commissioned within living memory. This incredibly generous gift of Roger Fenton's image of the St Giles' front of the College, made just a few years after the foundation of the Royal Photographic Society, takes us more than a century earlier than that, to the first pioneering efforts of British photography. These days, St John's provides one of the venues for the biennial Photo Oxford festival and for the Royal Photographic Society Documentary Photographer of the Year

exhibitions, and it is exciting to add a deeper historical dimension to our engagement with modern photography. We are most deeply grateful to Stephen Barber and Mark Bedingham for their donation.'

The generous donation commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of Barber and Bedingham's matriculation and first encounter at St John's.



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## About Roger Fenton

Roger Fenton was among the earliest British adopters of photography, travelling to Russia in 1852 to produce a series of career-making photographs of monasteries and churches in Moscow and St Petersburg. On his return, he helped found the Photographic Society of London (later the Royal Photographic Society): the leading group promoting the artistic status of the new medium. As Honorary Secretary, Fenton guided Queen Victoria and Prince Albert through the Society's inaugural exhibition in 1854.

In 1855, royal patronage secured Fenton the role of Britain's official war photographer in Crimea. Fenton produced over 360 photographs during the conflict, including a celebrated image of the site of the Charge of the Light Brigade – made famous by Lord Tennyson's poem.

After the war, Fenton resumed work as photographer to the British Museum and remained active in the Photographic Society. At its 1860 exhibition, he displayed several striking views of Oxford. These included photographs of Wadham College, the New College cloisters, the Lily House and the entrance at the Botanic Gardens, as well as Magdalen College tower. Other contemporary Oxford views attributed to Fenton appear in the V&A's Royal Photographic Society Collection. These include several photographs of University College, Merton College, and the University's Museum of Natural History, then still under construction. About the same time, Fenton also contributed to a series of stereoscopic images of Oxford, produced by the local firm Spiers and Son, his blind stamp appearing on views of Magdalen Tower and Bridge.

There is clear evidence, then, of Fenton visiting Oxford between returning from the Crimean War in 1855 and the summer of 1860 when his photographs of the University and the city were exhibited and sold. It is almost certain that the recently donated photograph of St John's was taken by Fenton during this period.

Inexplicably, given that he was the pre-eminent photographer of the period, Fenton gave up photography entirely in 1862. He returned to a career at the Bar, continuing to practise until his death in August 1869.



## Global Young Scientists Summit

During the Christmas vacation, the President gave the closing plenary lecture at the Global Young Scientists Summit at the National University of Singapore. The annual Summit brings together promising young scientists and world-leading researchers to discuss how research and innovation can address major global challenges. The President's lecture, 'When Research Goes on Trial', emphasized the importance of effective scientific communication in the courtroom.



## College's Cardinal

In May, St John's hosted a dinner in honour of His Eminence Timothy Radcliffe OP (1969, Theology). An alumnus and Honorary Fellow, Timothy Radcliffe is the first cardinal in the College's history.

Radcliffe was elevated to the rank of cardinal by the late Pope Francis in December 2024 at St Peter's Basilica. Assigned Cardinal Protector of Chiesa dei Santi Nomi di Gesù e Maria, Radcliffe's elevation brought the current number of English cardinals to four. Following the death of Pope Francis in April 2025, Radcliffe and other members of the College of Cardinals participated in the papal conclave that elected Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as the 267th Bishop of Rome, Pope Leo XIV.

It was an honour to welcome Cardinal Radcliffe back to St John's so soon after the conclusion of the conclave.



## College works

The refurbishment of the College properties at 19–21 St John Street was completed during the Long Vacation, with postgraduates moving into the newly upgraded bedrooms ahead of the start of the 2025/26 academic year.

The project has successfully transformed and modernized the three houses. The outriggers which previously housed the old bathrooms have been removed, with all bedrooms being converted into en-suites. A new garden room extension now provides a bright and comfortable common space where students from all three houses can study and relax together. In addition, the kitchens have been fully upgraded, and a new laundry room has been built.

Improving the energy-efficiency of these properties while preserving their historic character was a key priority. The old gas boilers have been removed and replaced with air-source heat pumps and heat recovery systems for heating and hot water. Woodfibre insulation has been added to the internal face of the building, and windows upgraded with secondary glazing throughout.

Just around the corner, architectural works on Pusey Lane revealed significant features associated with the former minor Royal Palace that occupied this site in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, known as the King's Houses or Beaumont Palace. The excavation uncovered a possible cellar or waste pit containing a rich assemblage of pottery and tile, including a near complete Brill jug and multiple fragments of moulded stone.



Renovation has also begun at 22–23 St Giles. This Grade II listed seventeenth-century property has a storied history, having previously accommodated a plumbing, painting and decorating business; a milliner's firm; and a tea shop. Acquired by St John's in the late 1990s and converted into a six-bedroom house for Visiting Fellows, the building is now undergoing sensitive restoration. Historic features – including eighteenth- and nineteenth-century wood panelling, and nineteenth-century cast iron fireplaces – will be carefully restored, while essential structural and fabric improvements will make the property more comfortable and energy-efficient. The renovated property will provide accommodation for graduate students.







## Bagley Wood

In June, parts of the 568-acre College-owned woodland, Bagley Wood, were closed for significant felling works. Unfortunately, a substantial number of trees were identified as having been affected by Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), a serious disease that weakens and eventually kills Ash trees.

While the decision to remove trees is never taken lightly, felling these diseased Ash trees was necessary to ensure the safety of visitors and surrounding properties owing to the potential for falling branches or complete tree failure.

Following completion of the felling, the College woodsmen, Eddie and Paul Smith, will begin a comprehensive replanting programme in the affected area. In addition to mitigating the future risk to visitors and surrounding properties, the replanting will contribute to the College's wider sustainability goals for Bagley Wood. By increasing species diversity, we aim to create a more robust and sustainable landscape that can better withstand future environmental challenges.



## Bainton Road Nursery is outstanding

St John's early years education facility, Bainton Road Nursery, was rated 'Outstanding' across the board in a recent Ofsted inspection. Inspectors commended staff for placing children 'at the heart of anything they do to ensure that their needs always come first', noting that 'children thrive in this caring, dedicated' environment.

Following the inspection, the Nursery team were recognized in the President's Values Awards for 'Excellence' in Hilary Term. These awards are a termly opportunity for the College to celebrate outstanding members of its community, and everyone is encouraged to make nominations.



## Shadow of War

In January, the President presented a programme on BBC Radio 4 in which she investigated Nazi-sponsored neuropathological research on British prisoners of war. *Shadow of War: A Tainted Anatomy* called for justice for the families of the soldiers whose brains were experimented upon after their deaths and raised important questions about the history of medical ethics and research consent. The programme is still available via BBC Sounds.





## News of Great Joy

The Choir's Christmas album, *News of Great Joy*, was named *BBC Music Magazine's* 'Christmas Choice' for 2024. Showcasing the Choir's exceptional talent under the direction of David Bannister, the album includes a carefully curated selection of carols, designed to mark the sixtieth anniversary of Elizabeth Poston's *Penguin Book of Carols*. It was praised by the BBC as a 'purely pleasurable listening experience', full of 'warmth and luminescence'. The album is available to stream on all major platforms and as a physical CD from Resonus Records.

## Visiting Scholars

Six Visiting Scholars arrived at St John's during the Long Vacation: Katarzyna Andrejuk, Professor of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences; Sebastian De Haro, Assistant Professor in Philosophy of Science at the University of Amsterdam and a Senior Researcher at QuSoft; Bernd Goebel, Professor of Philosophy and History of Philosophy at the Faculty of Theology in Fulda/Marburg; Jinjoon Lee, Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Culture Technology and Director of the Art & Technology Centre at KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology); Jeffrey Murray, Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Cape Town; and Sławomir Sztajer, Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Religious and Comparative Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The diversity of fields and institutions represented contributed to the academic and cultural life of the College.



## Long service awards

In February, the President hosted an afternoon tea in the Lodgings to celebrate the long service of four members of the professional staff: Matt Jennings, Rita Ross, Ashby Hope, and Eileen Marston (pictured above left to right). The President also raised a cup to three further long-serving colleagues – Tony Friary, Paul Smith, and Michael Seivert – who were unable to attend. Remarkably, these members of staff had over 140 years of combined service at St John's.

## Green impact

St John's was awarded 'Gold' at the University's Sustainability Showcase in Trinity Term. Environmental successes in the past academic year included: ending the use of disposable takeaway containers in Hall and issuing all students and staff with a reusable alternative; installing a wildlife 'drink station' in the gardens, along with hedgehog and insect piles and bird houses in the trees; and changing the College's waste contractor to allow for improved recycling separation. These new initiatives form part of the College's ongoing commitment to positive environmental stewardship and sustainability.







## Craft and restoration

Throughout the year, St John's offered a series of workshops and talks celebrating the skilled craftsmanship that goes into maintaining and restoring the College's historic buildings, gardens, and special collections.

Events in the 'Craft and Restoration' series included: a workshop on the College silver collection with Matthew Winterbottom, Supernumerary Fellow and Assistant Keeper and Curator of Decorative Arts & Sculpture at the Ashmolean; a walking tour of the College Groves and a talk on the restoration of the 'theatrical shrubbery' with Michael Lear, expert consultant in the management of historic parks and plant collections; an outdoor talk on the restoration of the Canterbury Quad columns delivered by Jonathan Brock, Head of Special Projects at Beard Construction; and a tour of the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century tapestries in the President's Lodgings, led by Professor Hannah Skoda, Keeper of the Silver and Textiles.



## The ambassador's apéritif

In Hilary Term, we had the pleasure of hosting His Excellency Georges Friden, Luxembourg's Ambassador to the European Union, for a special Luxembourgish dinner. The JCR's International Students Representative, Jan Huebel (2022, History and Economics), himself from Luxembourg, travelled to the Luxembourgish Embassy to collect several bottles of Crémant generously donated by Mr Friden.

## Only Connect

A team of St John's alumni – Hannah Fitton (2014, Biological Sciences), Kai Laddiman (2014, Mathematics and Computer Science), and Sam Morris (2015, History) – appeared on the popular BBC television quiz show, *Only Connect*, in which teams compete to find connections between abstruse clues. The show is notable for its association with St John's alumni, through its host, Victoria Coren-Mitchell (1991, English Language and Literature), and question editor, Jack Waley-Cohen (1998, Experimental Psychology).



## Honours

In July, the President was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Glasgow Caledonian University in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the scientific field of forensic anthropology and to academic leadership.





## Outstanding scientific communication

Amy McCall, DPhil candidate in Psychiatry (2022), won the Medical Research Council's (MRC) Max Perutz Award for outstanding scientific communication for her video, 'Researching Panic Disorders in Young People'. Named after Dr Max Perutz, the Nobel Laureate and founder of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, the award recognizes researchers who excel at making their research accessible and engaging to non-specialist audiences. Amy's award-winning video explores what panic looks like in young people (13–18), why it happens, and how we can treat it.

## Call the Midwife

Dr Alice Watson, College Lecturer in Human Geography, co-produced a video series for the BBC exploring how audiences engage with, and express their passion for, the popular television drama *Call the Midwife*. In the six-part series, Dr Watson speaks with people from across the UK who have engaged in creative activities inspired by the show, from collecting memorabilia to embroidering nuns and midwives, capturing the motivations behind their creative endeavours. The series builds upon Dr Watson's AHRC-funded project 'Tales from Call the Midwife': a 28-part podcast issued for the BBC's centenary in 2022.



## Engineering award

Zaheen A-Rahman, a second-year undergraduate reading Engineering Science (2023), won the Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) Student Prize for 2025. The prize is awarded to one outstanding student in each university department offering an IET-accredited course. Zaheen, who placed first in the Department in both his first- and second-year exams, is interested in bridging the gaps between vastly different domains of engineering, particularly the combination of control theory, thermodynamics, cancer biology, and artificial intelligence.



John Cairns





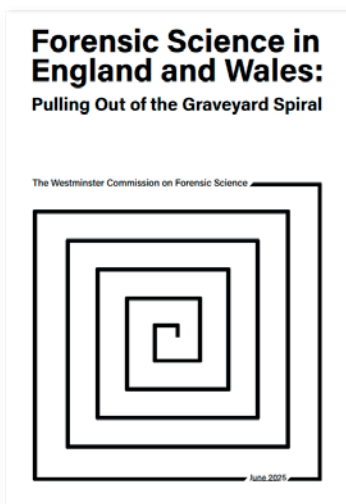
## Staff fundraising

St John's College staff have raised several thousand pounds for a range of charities through a series of fundraising challenges and events over the past year.

Amanda Curtis, Works Administrator, completed the 13-mile Cotswolds Mighty Hike in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. Beginning in Stow-on-the-Wold and finishing at Blenheim Palace, Amanda raised an impressive £1205 to help support people living with cancer.

Ellie Cundy, Bursary PA, took on a daring challenge to mark her thirtieth birthday: a 13,000 ft skydive in aid of Re-engage, a charity that helps people aged 75 and over to overcome loneliness and social isolation. Supported by colleagues across College, Ellie raised £675.

During the Long Vacation, a staff wine-tasting event led by Cellarer Ian Dennis raised £420 for the Silver Star Maternity Fund, a part of the Oxford Hospitals Charity with a specialist unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital's Women's Centre.



## Graveyard spiral

In June, a Westminster Commission co-chaired by the President published a report warning that forensic science in England and Wales is in a state of crisis. The result of a three-year inquiry, the report found that years of funding cuts and reckless policy decisions have left the sector in a 'graveyard spiral', increasing the risk of investigative failures and potential miscarriages of justice. The report makes thirty-four recommendations for reform, including creating a new National Forensic Institute and halting the expansion of police in-house forensic provision. The report was welcomed by Kim Johnson MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Miscarriages of Justice.



## Shakespeare in the Chapel

Megan Bruton, Access Officer, directed and acted in a performance of Shakespeare's *Richard II* staged in St John's Chapel. This was the first theatrical production in the Chapel for over a decade: the last being an all-female performance of Jean Racine's *Esther* in 2013.



# Lecture Notes

## Donald Russell Memorial Lecture (October 2024)

The College established the Donald Russell Memorial Lecture series in 2023 to commemorate Professor Russell's (1920–2020) exceptional contribution to Classics teaching and research during his seventy-year Fellowship at St John's.

The Donald Russell Memorial Lecture for 2024 was delivered by Judith Mossman, Professor Emerita of Classics at Coventry University. The subject of her lecture – 'Plutarch Speaking Metaphorically' – was especially fitting given that Professor Russell's final publication was a chapter on Plutarch's 'Language, Style, and Rhetoric' in the *Cambridge Companion to Plutarch* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). In that posthumously published chapter, Professor Russell wrote that '[n]o Greek prose writer comes near Plutarch in richness of metaphor and simile'.

Professor Mossman's lecture examined one particular aspect of the figurative richness of Plutarch's prose: his sophisticated use of metaphors to explain abstract ideas about the nature of communication. Through close readings of Plutarch's essay *On Talkativeness* and other works, Professor Mossman demonstrated that Plutarch's metaphors did not merely function as an ornament to his prose, but as a genuinely instructive feature of his thought and a deliberate means of persuading his readers to adopt his perspective on events, persons, and problems.

This lecture, and many of our other lectures, can be found on the College's YouTube channel.



## Black History Month Lecture (October 2024)

In October 2024, St John's welcomed Dr Christienna Fryar for our annual Black History Month Lecture. Dr Fryar's lecture, entitled 'Fears of Jim Crow: Jamaica at the Dawn of the American Century', opened with an account of the devastation caused during the 1907 Kingston earthquake, as recalled by survivors in the 1950s. She then examined the immediate aftermath of the ecological disaster, considering what the actions of Governor Alexander Swettenham can tell us about the complex entanglement of British sovereignty, US expansionism, and racial politics in the early twentieth-century colony.

Dr Fryar also provided a fascinating prehistory of Jamaica's racial climate in the decades before the 1907 catastrophe. She explored British perceptions of the 'incidental' relationship between the labour of Black Jamaicans and the socio-economic fortunes of the verdant island, as expressed in late nineteenth-century travel writing and ethnographic studies of Jamaica.

Dr Fryar concluded her lecture by reflecting on recent personal experiences as a Black American woman working in UK Higher Education at a time when, she argued, Black and Indigenous studies have been suppressed.



## Founder's Lecture (May 2025)

The twentieth anniversary Founder's Lecture for 2025 was given by Professor Sarah Knott, the Hillary Rodham Clinton Chair of Women's History, on the subject of 'Care in the Fifties: A Story of Women and Psychoanalysis'.

Professor Knott's lecture turned to 1950s America and the work of psychoanalyst Erik Erikson and his wife, Joan, to examine the intellectual conceptualization of 'care' before 1980s feminist thinkers identified the term with the domestic labour often performed by women. The lecture focused on Erik Erikson's seminal eight-stage model of psychosocial development, in which he described the characteristic crisis of mid-life as a struggle between generativity and stagnation. Strikingly, Erikson defined the product of this mid-life crisis as 'care', drawing on the term's Latin etymon, *caritas* (charity). As Professor Knott argued, Erikson's influential definition of 'care' as a kind of avuncular stewardship, born of a loss of usefulness, was a distinctly male conceptualization, one that largely erased the hands-on, labour-intensive caregiving typically performed by women.

The masculinist bias of Erikson's model was all the more striking, Professor Knott argued, given Joan Erikson's significant contributions to its development. An arts therapist, Joan was the first to identify the necessity of characterizing the crisis of middle life. Yet as her husband's academic celebrity grew and his model became a cultural phenomenon, Joan's contributions were erased. Meanwhile, as described in her daughter's memoirs, Joan was left to take on the caregiving duties that Erik's theory failed to recognize.

By returning to the moment at which Erikson's masculinist conceptualization of 'care' first emerged in the 1950s, Professor Knott made the case for a feminist history of care: one that re-centres the intellectual history of care on women carers and theorists alike.





## Robert Penson Garden History Lecture (June 2025)

In June we welcomed Dr Kate Feluś, an experienced researcher and advisor on all aspects of the restoration, planning and management of historic parks and gardens, to give the annual Penson Lecture.

Dr Feluś drew on the research for her book, *The Secret Life of a Georgian Garden: Beautiful Objects and Agreeable Retreats*, to offer a 'multisensory canter through a day in the life of an eighteenth-century garden'. Landscape gardens in this period were actively used for pleasure, escape, and entertainment by the aristocracy and gentry who commissioned them. The gardens were much more than serene works of art composed of monumental trees, water and grass.

The gardens offered a vital retreat from the city and from the cramped, public life of the country house, offering an opportunity for rare moments of privacy and solitude. These landscapes were also the setting for a wide variety of daily activities ranging from morning horse rides and walks, to fishing, archery, boating, and reading in secluded garden buildings including temples, grottos and follies, all of which also offered shelter from unpredictable British weather. Dr Feluś used drawings and paintings from Stowe, Sir Robert Walpole's Houghton Hall in Norfolk, Heveningham Hall in Suffolk, and more to illustrate the talk, showing the 'chaises, grotto, fishing, all in perfection' as one visitor to Stowe wrote.

At night, gardens were the setting for elaborate entertainments, including al fresco dining, musical interludes, and fireworks. They were also the place for a surprising amount of scandalous activity and amorous liaisons.

While perhaps not wishing to promote the latter activity, this year's Penson Lecture encouraged us to think about the College's own groves as a setting for relaxation and escape from the demands of the Library and office.



# What signals in the brain underlie learning?

Armin Lak, Tutorial Fellow in Pre-Clinical Medicine, introduces his research on the brain.

Whether at work, on the sports ground, or while grocery shopping, we strive to make accurate decisions. However, making such decisions in our dynamically changing environment requires *learning*. For example, new products frequently appear on supermarket shelves, and trying them turns routine shopping into a continuous learning experience. A fundamental question that has engaged neuroscientists for decades is: What signals in the brain underlie learning? My research group at the Department of Physiology, Anatomy, and Genetics on Parks Road seeks to shed light on this question.

We focus specifically on key brain regions such as the dopamine system, striatum, and frontal cortex – interconnected brain regions critically involved in learning. Dopamine neurons are relatively few and located in small nuclei deep within the brain. These neurons send extensive branches (axons) to many brain regions, notably striatum and the frontal cortex. When active, dopamine neurons release dopamine, altering the strength of connections between frontal and striatal neurons. In addition to dopamine, the striatum and frontal cortex also receive substantial inputs from many other brain regions, positioning them as hubs for integrating signals to regulate learning and decision-making.

Studies of individuals with lesions in these brain regions – due to accidents, for example – have demonstrated their essential roles in learning and decision-making. Functional scans of patients with psychiatric disorders often reveal abnormalities in these regions, further emphasizing their importance. Over recent decades, experiments on animal models have provided valuable insights into neuronal signals in these

brain regions during learning and decision-making. These studies showed that dopamine neurons generate specific teaching signals guiding learning. These dopamine signals are sent to the striatum and frontal cortex, where they alter neuronal activity and refine future behaviour. Nonetheless, critical questions remain: How do neuronal networks across the frontal cortex and striatum cooperate to learn from experience and shape decisions? What roles do dopamine signals in the striatum and frontal cortex play in facilitating learning? What are the computations that neurons perform to arrive at a decision, and learn from the outcome of that decision?

To approach these questions, my lab uses mice as a model organism, and takes a three-fold approach. First, we design high-throughput, highly quantifiable behavioural tasks that enable us to study learning. Second, we utilize optical, genetic and electrophysiological tools to measure or manipulate neuronal signals during behaviour. Third, we develop



**A fundamental question that has engaged neuroscientists for decades is: What signals in the brain underlie learning?**



or utilize available computational models to study and establish the link between the neuronal signals and behaviour.

In one of our recent papers, we examined the neuronal signals that enable us to learn temporal regularities of stimuli: how regular are the stimuli we encounter? Learning about these temporal regularities is important because they can be exploited to predict the future from the recent past, thereby facilitating decisions. Crucially, however, real-life environments exhibit a multitude of different temporal regularities. For example, a traffic light that recently turned green can be expected to remain green for a while, allowing the driver to maintain speed while passing a junction. Conversely, a yellow traffic light

can rapidly change to red, thus prompting the driver to decelerate. The exploitation of these temporal regularities therefore necessitates learning complex sequential information. Thus far, it has been unclear how brains can achieve this.

We addressed this question by designing a behavioural task where mice responded with left or right choices to visual stimuli that appeared with different levels of regularity – sometimes consistently on the same side of the screen, other times appearing randomly. Our mice learned these regularities, adapting their decisions to temporal regularities of stimuli. This enabled us to probe the computational principles and neural circuits underlying this learning. The results led to the surprising





**Overall, the results of our studies provide basic insights into computational principles and neural mechanisms underlying the brain's ability to learn.**

discovery that seemingly complex learning of temporal regularities can be explained by relatively simple learning algorithms, commonly known as reinforcement learning algorithms. Furthermore, by measuring dopamine released in the striatum, our experiments revealed that this neurotransmitter tracked the behavioural adaptations and signalled key components of the reinforcement learning algorithm.

In another recent paper from the lab, we have been focusing on *long-term learning*, the learning process from naivety to expertise. It has been difficult to study such a learning in a lab setting because it requires long periods of time. To overcome this, we developed a suitable learning paradigm for mice that was simple enough that mice could learn it over multiple days, yet complex enough that we could observe individual diversity in learning. The task involved showing mice a visual stimulus either on the left or right half of a screen. Over a few weeks, the mice learned to use their front paws to turn a wheel to move the visual stimulus to the centre of the screen and receive a reward.

Our results showed considerable diversity in behaviour across mice, particularly early in learning when the mice were moving the wheel without using the visual stimuli. Some mice were moving mostly left, others mostly right, and some in a more balanced fashion. The diverse behaviour early in learning predicted the mice's strategies later in learning, when they were able to perform the task accurately. Those animals that were initially right-biased developed a strategy where they only used the stimulus on the right side of the screen and never on the left. Conversely, left-biased animals only used the left stimulus. The balanced animals, that moved the wheel both left and right early on, developed a strategy using both left and right stimuli.

Having established this behavioural paradigm to examine long-term learning, we next asked what the

roles of the brain's dopamine are signals in shaping long-term learning. We used optical tools to record dopamine release in the striatum. Our recordings demonstrated that dopamine is involved in long-term learning, working like a teaching signal to update associations between stimuli and actions. However, we found that the common description of dopamine encoding a 'total' reward prediction error (the difference between predicted and actual reward) did not explain our dopamine signals. Instead, dopamine signals we measured acted as a 'partial' reward prediction error, reflecting the difference between predicted reward based on a subset of stimuli and the actual reward. To verify whether these dopamine signals play a causal role in driving learning, we used optogenetics to turn dopamine neurons ON and OFF during learning, confirming the partial reward prediction error hypothesis. Finally, we used a deep neural network model to capture the mice's learning trajectories. The network was trained with teaching signals that mimicked our recorded dopamine signals. The model explained the mice's diverse progression through strategies, as well as why mice often remained stuck using certain strategies.

Overall, the results of our studies provide basic insights into computational principles and neural mechanisms underlying the brain's ability to learn. Building on these results, our current projects are taking several new directions, some of which include measuring the activity of many frontal and dopamine neurons simultaneously or testing the role of other neuromodulators such as acetylcholine in learning. Beyond basic neuroscience, our research might have impacts both on clinical studies as well as artificial intelligence. Learning is impaired in a wide range of psychiatric disorders. Thus, in the long term, the insights from our studies might pave the way towards mechanistic understanding of disorders entailing learning deficit.



# Observations of African climate change



Callum Munday, Tutorial Fellow in Geography, reports on his research in Africa.



***Recent unprecedented droughts in southern Africa, for example, resulted in an 80 per cent reduction in harvests in Zambia and Zimbabwe, and widespread power cuts.***

Africa has contributed less than 3 per cent to total greenhouse gas emissions, yet is widely held to be the continent most at risk from climate change. Recent unprecedented droughts in southern Africa, for example, resulted in an 80 per cent reduction in harvests in Zambia and Zimbabwe, and widespread power cuts. One colleague, who lives in the mining town of Solwezi in northern Zambia, reported power cuts lasting 22 out of 24 hours a day, crippling local business and indirectly causing accelerated deforestation as people turned back to cooking over fire. This story, and many like it, are being repeated across the continent with increasing regularity in a warming world.

In the face of the severe climate change impacts, our research aims to figure out exactly where and how warming global temperatures are influencing the African continent. Such an understanding is needed to improve predictions of climate extremes and change. Improved predictions, in turn, can lead to better decisions – for example, around the allocation of water resources – as climate extremes become more common.





Unfortunately, advancing our knowledge of climate change impacts is hampered by a lack of reliable observations in Africa. For example, across the Congo Basin – home to the second largest rainforest on the planet – we have only six active weather stations reporting to global networks. In comparison, the UK, which occupies only 10 per cent of the land area of the Congo, has over 200 active stations. These data black holes leave us in the uncomfortable position of bearing witness to climate extremes, without fully understanding why they are happening.

Addressing this problem is difficult. While international climate institutions like the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) aim to maintain and build effective monitoring networks, a lack of sustained funding, as well as the remoteness of key regions like the Congo Rainforest or the Sahara, make this a slow and uphill battle. Indeed, over the last 30 years, the number of weather stations over Africa reporting to global climate networks has actually declined, precisely when we need this data most.

With the observational base in decline, our team is working to close some of the most pressing data gaps through intensive fieldwork. This research, together with African universities, has taken us from desert to savannah, to central Nairobi and to the heart of the UK Met Office supercomputers. One recent scientific adventure in the hot, dry Kalahari Desert is an example of the kind of progress that we can make with real-world observation.

The Kalahari field programme (KAPEX; <https://kapex2024.com/>), run in collaboration with the University of Cape Town, aimed to understand how increasingly extreme heating of the desert surface affects storms at the start of the vital rainy season across southern Africa – including over Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Our



challenge was to capture the state of the atmosphere at the location of maximum heating and to work out how this influences regional winds and thunderstorms.

The challenge started in Cape Town, where the team arrived in early December to transport equipment to the Kalahari. Our kit included weather balloons capable of measuring the structure of the atmosphere, from the surface to the stratosphere, a series of automatic weather stations, and a LiDAR – an instrument which emits a laser beam to measure winds at high vertical resolution. The journey north involved driving up the kilometre-high southern African plateau and a fantastic trip through the ancient Karoo Desert.





A couple of flat tyres later, and we made it to the Kalahari, where we set about installing our network of monitoring stations and an operating base just south of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Installing weather stations involves digging holes in the  $+40^{\circ}\text{C}$  desert heat to secure mounting poles. This process is just as you can imagine. Once set up, we started observations proper, releasing a weather balloon every four hours, day and night, for an entire month to capture vertical snapshots of the atmosphere. Fortunately, the team featured four undergraduate geographers, who were brave enough to set their alarms for the 2 am shift.

With the weather balloons capturing the state of the extremely hot atmosphere beautifully, we also wanted to

understand the boundary between bone dry desert air and moisture-laden air which arrives from the Indian Ocean. The location and nature of this boundary is a key determinant of where thunderstorms are able to grow.

For this mission, we enlisted the help of a South African pilot – Quentin – who let us install a temperature and humidity probe onto his plane. Flying at low altitude over the red-orange desert dunes of the Kalahari, we captured dramatic changes in humidity over very small distances (think steam room versus sauna). These contrasts are larger than predicted by weather forecast models and may help explain why current models give mixed thunderstorm predictions.

More than a year later, we are still analysing the data to understand better how the desert heating shapes the summer rains. Combined with observations from projects in Kenya and Zambia, a key focus is comparing our observations with climate models – to see how and why they diverge from reality. We expect this will help refine those models and, ultimately, improve weather forecasts and climate predictions.

In an era increasingly dominated by simulation, including AI, a focus on field observation may seem a little anachronistic. But without real-world data, we have no way of truly knowing how climate change is unfolding. A challenge for us, and for the climate change research community, is to keep observations at the heart of our efforts. If we want to understand climate change, and respond to it, we need to stay grounded in the real world. That means listening to the data, and to the people already living with the impacts of climate change.

# Language and learning

Marie Elven, Lecturer in French Language, reflects on forty years of teaching at St John's.

I've just come to the end of some 40 years of language teaching (both English and French) in various settings, 30 of them teaching here at St John's. The sheer length of my time here shows how much I enjoyed my work: it was fulfilling for many reasons, one of which was the sense throughout that it was worth doing. I had a chance to talk about aspects of my work I enjoyed and valued at my retirement party in June and, without reprising the whole speech I made on that occasion, I'll try to mention here some of what seemed to me important.

First, although I was originally a reluctant language teacher (having learnt most of my English through 'séjours linguistiques' rather than in the classroom), I found with experience, and after quite a few tweaks in my teaching approach, that it is possible actually to improve command of a modern living language with classroom teaching. Students have noticeably better French at the end of two years of their course than at the beginning of their first year, even before they get the benefit of their year abroad. Many of our students have had few opportunities to travel to or spend time in France or a French-speaking country when



***Studying languages enriches our being in the world – and helping students do this has kept me busy and happy all these years.***







**Students say that what they learn on a language course is highly transferable to apparently unrelated careers. Not only because they have learnt key critical skills on the literature side of the course ... but also because of the awareness of difference they have developed on the language side of things.**

they start their degree, and I have done my utmost to encourage students to explore the French-speaking world as much as possible right from their first year. But it was reassuring and even exciting for me to see the progress achieved even with little immersion.

Over the years I've learnt to be less directive in my teaching, and to try as far as possible to enable students to experiment with language themselves, through vocabulary, syntax, etc. I increasingly tried to provide guidelines/principles rather than rules. When this method works, it's a delight to observe it in action. Students say that what they learn on a language course is highly transferable to apparently unrelated careers. Not only because they have learnt key critical skills on the literature side of the course – although that is undoubtedly true; or because their linguistic skills make it possible to move to the Paris office of, for example, some British law firm – even if that sometimes happens too; but also because of the awareness of difference they have developed on the language side of things.

Admittedly, large amounts of time in the first year are spent ploughing through a detailed grammar book and long exercises. But once this is done and embedded, the fun starts with the exceptions, interpretations, and philosophies hidden in grammar, the deviations from the norm (and the reasons for them), and, especially, deviations from the English way of saying and seeing things.

Why does French use *à* (often understood as meaning only towards) instead of *de* with verbs such as *acheter à*, *voler à*, *emprunter à*, and even *boire à (la bouteille)*, etc., all containing the idea of taking away from rather than, as English does (seemingly more logically) use a preposition indicating a widening distance (buy from, steal from, borrow from, drink from)? Why does one find death, rather than lose life, in French? Not all these questions have answers, or I at least can't answer them all, but there is something to be learnt from their existence.

And I haven't yet mentioned tenses (one of my favourite areas), the learning of which requires the building within the learner of a new kit of perceptions to make sense (I would argue in an almost physical way)

of the passing of time as well as the unrolling of events, especially as ordered into a narrative. The writer Anne Serre writes in one of her short stories (*Irène et Moi*, 2020) of a nightmarish predicament a narrator finds herself in: she suddenly loses her sense of the difference between the *passé composé* and the *passé simple*...

I fully sympathise with her panic, and this is before we get involved in the complexities of the *imparfait*, or the *passé antérieur*. Well, this predicament is the condition that all speakers of a language that doesn't have these temporal nuances languish in. Almost unbelievably, students develop this toolkit of new sense/tense perceptions over the years of their course, and gain confidence in actually using it when, as they translate into French, they are faced with the necessity of making choices that English does not require.

Which brings me to my last linguistic point, not a new or original one, but nevertheless true: translating into French forces the translator to answer questions that the English source text does not explicitly provide answers to, and in this way makes it necessary for students to read their own language multidimensionally, in much more depth than they normally do. This frequently gave rise to lively classroom discussions which I will greatly miss. Escaping the limitations of short exam passages for the longer and rigorous form of the short story provided particularly good opportunities to practise close reading, with the additional bonus that the active form of reading demanded by translation leads to a tangible creative result.

In all these ways and more, studying languages enriches our being in the world – and helping students do this has kept me busy and happy all these years. They have been trusting, curious, hard-working, and fun. My colleagues, Alice, Ana, and Nikolaj have been supportive, stimulating, and fun too. I've enjoyed wonderful teaching conditions, from my office/classroom to all the resources in books, technology and conferences I could have asked for. I hope that languages continue to be taken seriously at Oxford and that students continue to learn them and draw pleasure and wisdom from them.



Yaroslava at a rally in Radcliffe Square

# Being a Ukrainian at Oxford

Yaroslava Bukhta (2022, DPhil candidate in Anthropology) describes her experience as a student at St John's.



***So, what does it feel like to be a Ukrainian student at Oxford? It is easier at St John's College where, through all these years, I have felt enormous support for anything related to my home.***

My story with Oxford began in quite an unconventional way: while everyone was doing everything to get in, I pretty much did everything not to be here. When in 2022 my future classmates were receiving their admission letters, my family home not far from Kyiv was still under Russian occupation with a very vague prospect of its liberation. Two months later, Oxford launched a scholarship for Ukrainian students – the University's response to the full-scale invasion. In three months, I had to survive occupation, leave my country and move to an English-speaking political bubble in Brussels, while finishing my full-time master's programme in journalism. Oxford was not quite part of the plan, so I wrote my research proposal almost the night before the deadline and pretty much forgot about it. And yet, my application was selected among the twenty-six others out of the pool of almost 900 – and for the third time in half a year, I packed my life in a suitcase and came to a new country without knowing anyone here.



‘You are the ambassadors of Ukraine in the University, your college, and everywhere you go’, was the phrase I kept hearing through almost four years here. For me, there has never been an alternative: ‘as a response to the full-scale invasion’ means, after all, that my scholarship, my opportunity to join this place emerged because of the war at my home. My research, joining the Ukrainian Society, speaking up on social media and at Radcliffe Square rallies – every one of these things has always been informed by the fact that I am simply alive, due to young men and women who took up arms and went to protect their home in Ukraine. Not professional soldiers, but analysts, researchers, human rights activists, teachers – friends, classmates, family. Often, when I look around here, I can’t help thinking that it could have been them – they would have aced the toughest competition.

So, what does it feel like to be a Ukrainian student at Oxford? It is easier at St John’s College where, through all these years, I have felt enormous support for anything related to my home. And, while having financial support from the College is by no means essential, seeing the President and the Senior Tutor of my College at the rally at Radcliffe Square dedicated to the anniversary of war in my country was something that truly made a difference for me. Yet, it is still quite surreal to be talking with your family about the overnight missile attack while dressing up for a four-course meal with candles, where the speeches, ironically, centre around reminding attendees about the privilege of Oxford for all of us.

That irony came into sharp focus when I listened to Maksym Butkevych, a Ukrainian human rights activist and journalist, speaking in Oxford at the end of September. In 2022 Maksym, an anthropology graduate from Sussex



University, joined the Ukrainian Armed Forces ‘to allow his colleagues to continue doing their human rights protection job’. His unit was stationed in the village near where my parents and I lived when the full-scale war started. While I was writing in the Radcliffe Camera, Maksym was still being tortured with electric current in a Russian detention centre as a prisoner of war. Less than a year after his release, he was talking in perfect English at the Oxford–Ukraine Hub event about the need to love as ‘the ultimate affirmation of human existence’ and the only way to fight dehumanised authoritarian systems.

If I had to reduce this piece to a single message, it would be this: we have to talk less about ‘objectivity’ and detachment at places like Oxford, and more about love and kindness in what we do. The privilege of being alive and safe in this place brings not just opportunities, as the Vice-Chancellor rightly noted in this year’s Oration, but also instruments. I dare to say, it demands more than reposting something on social media; it requires taking a stance – and acting on it. At the end of the day, it is because of actions and engagement that I am able to be here and to type all these words that will hopefully become my thesis. It is because of someone caring that we have access to education, a roof over our heads, and the security of peaceful mornings.

Oxford was never part of my plan. However, as I am here, maybe this is the message Oxford needs now – so that people like Maksym can teach, not fight, to protect what they love.



Above: Maksym Butkevych speaking in Oxford

Left: (left to right) Serhii Plokhyy, renowned historian of Eastern Europe and Ukraine, who was awarded an honorary degree at Encaenia in June, with Yaroslava, and Professor Lord Tarassenko, Honorary Fellow and President of Reuben College

# Unlocking potential: the Inspire 12 and 13 programme

Dr Petros Spanou, Academic Associate, Inspire, reports.

St John's College is proud to celebrate the continued success of its Inspire programme. This long-running initiative supports talented pupils from non-selective state schools across the St John's link regions, including Brighton and Hove, East and West Sussex, Harrow, Ealing, and Southampton, as well as schools within the Oxford for South East consortium.

The Inspire Year 12 and 13 programme was the starting point of what has since developed into a broad suite of Inspire initiatives, ranging from primary school engagement to 'in reach' undergraduate support at our college. For the academic year 2024–25, we had another impressive uptake of enrolled pupils across all

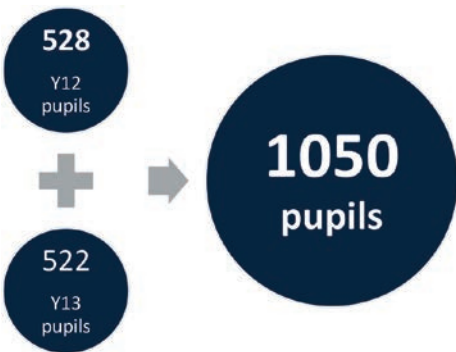
our Inspire programmes: 1403 pupils in the Inspire programme for Years 9–11 (with 43 participating schools and 48 teacher leads); 2641 participants in the Inspire Critical Thinking programme; and 1050 pupils in the Inspire 12 and 13 programme (with 171 participating schools). We are very proud that our total contact hours with pupils amounted to 74,094, which grows year on year as our reputation for high-quality, impactful resources and events gains traction in our target schools.

We are particularly grateful to David Ryan (Jurisprudence, 1978), whose generous support enabled the initial launch of the programme in 2016, the starting point for Inspire. His sustained commitment to the





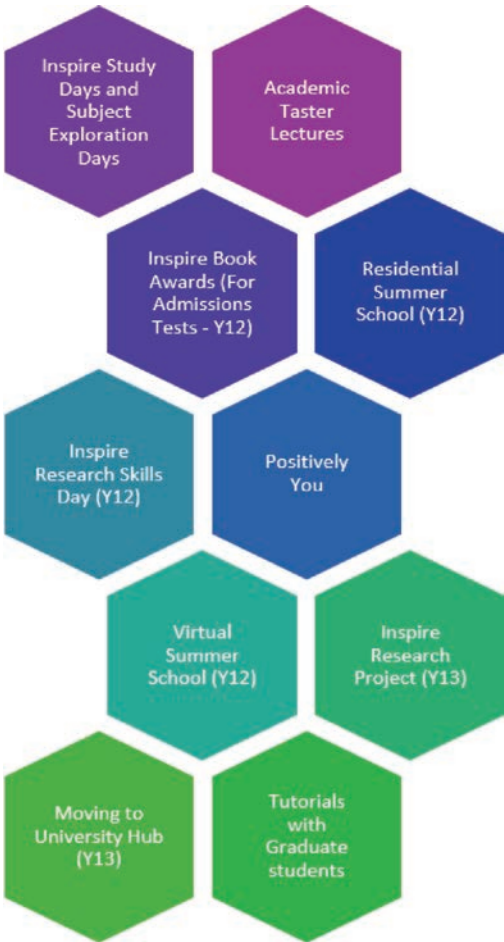
# At a Glance: The Inspire 12 and 13 Programme, 2024–25



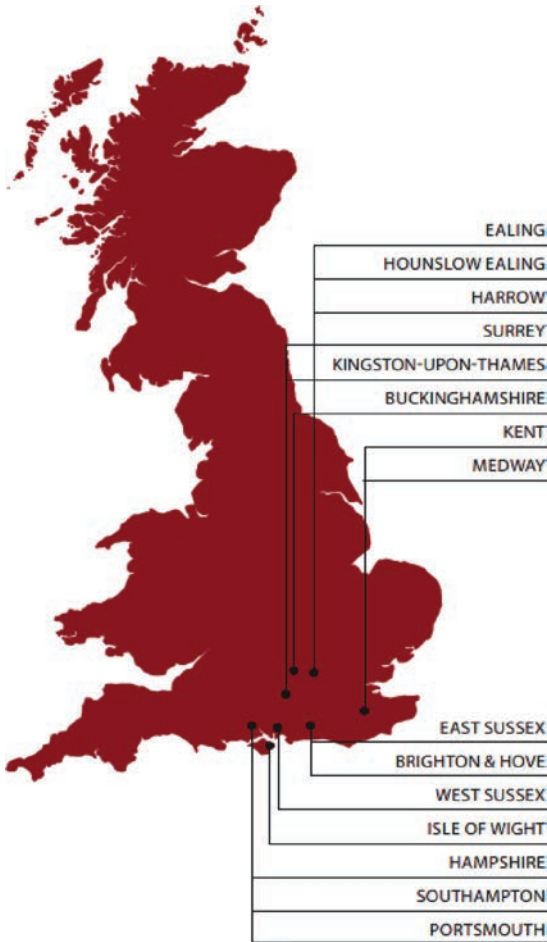
Total number of enrolled pupils



Demographic information & socio-economic composition



The different elements of the Inspire 12 and 13 programme



Link regions & the Oxford for South East Consortium

programme and its initiatives has also helped attract further philanthropic funding, allowing the wider Inspire provision to grow and thrive. Now entering its ninth year, the Inspire programme has continued to receive invaluable support from David. His encouragement has made us more ambitious in our aims and Access and Outreach strategy. As a result, the Inspire programme has evolved, offering pupils in our link regions enriching academic experiences, opportunities to raise their aspirations and attainment, opportunities to realize their potential, and continuous and meaningful support on their journeys towards higher education.

The guiding principle of the St John's Access and Outreach team is to help all pupils – not just the academically able – from under-represented backgrounds and socio-economically disadvantaged areas and schools in our link regions. Alongside this principle, we remain committed to breaking down barriers to university and 'demystifying Oxbridge': in other words, showing that a university such as Oxford is an inclusive and welcoming place and a possible route to these pupils' educational futures. The events, sessions, workshops and various mentorship opportunities we offer to these pupils allow them to get a taste of university life, try out new things and subjects that they might have never encountered before, and be exposed to new ideas which shape their understanding of the world, thereby allowing them to develop a range of transferable skills such as critical thinking skills. David has been a cornerstone to our initiatives, enabling us to successfully pursue our aims.

For the academic year 2024/25, we introduced a new element in the programme: tutorials with graduate students. So far, we have successfully provided tutorials for 49 pupils. These one-hour online sessions offer participants a taste of the Oxford tutorial system. The tutorials focus on the in-depth discussion of topics — for example, the particularly



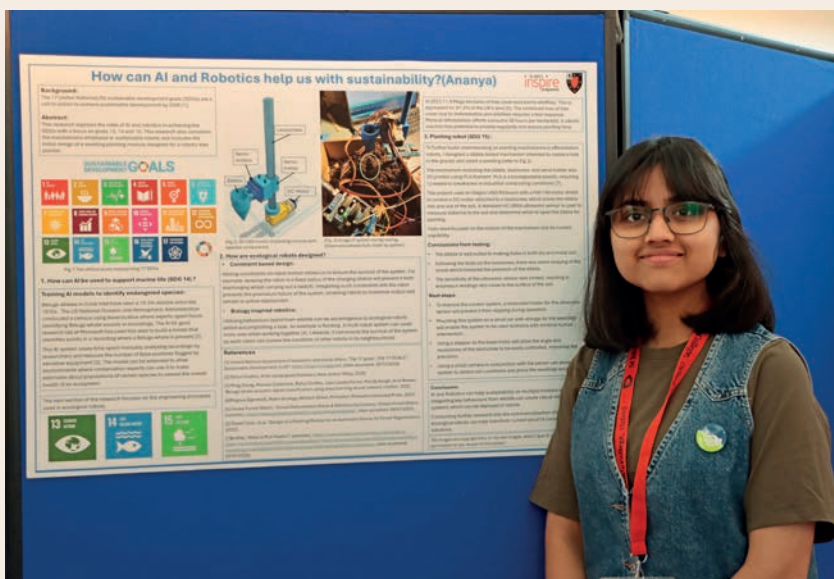
***I enrolled onto the Inspire programme at the beginning of Year 12, simply hoping to gain more insight into what university is about.***

*At this point, Oxford felt like it was definitely out of my reach. As a student at a non-selective state school, Oxford sounded like a different world, where socially I would feel alienated, and academically I would crumble. Throughout Year 12 I attended online workshops organized by the Inspire programme, allowing me to further understand how applying to Oxford worked, how the collegiate system functioned, and other important aspects of university life such as work-life balance and financing. The Summer School was one of the best experiences I ever signed up for, and I'm being honest when I say that I'm not sure if I still would've applied for Oxford if it weren't for that opportunity. The Inspire programme genuinely gave me the drive and confidence to succeed in my Oxford application, and I am so grateful for the support I was given. The programme helped me realise that I am as capable of studying at Oxford as anyone else.*

**Ishen Dodhia (2024, Biology)**







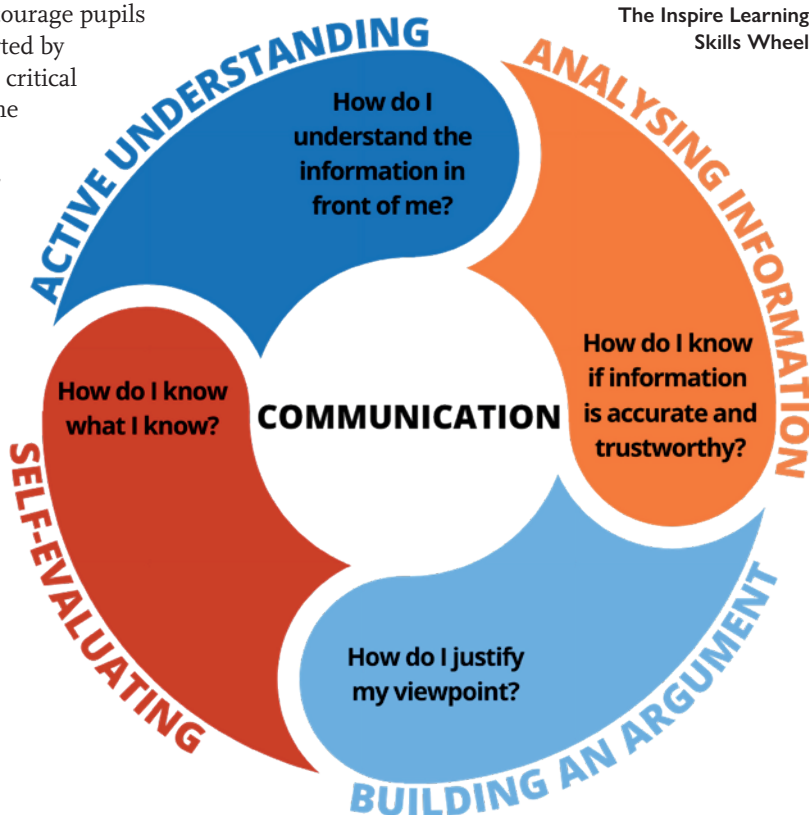
**The Inspire programme was immensely helpful in supporting my progression to Oxford, and to St John's specifically.**

It not only supported me through the application process, but in also developing my interests and how I thought about my subject. The Inspire Research Award was quite useful in that it allowed me to take my Medieval-focus EPQ on the Kyivan Rus' and expand it to literary analysis, theology, archaeology and more complex historical approaches. The freedom of super-curriculars and personal research projects was integral to developing me as both a historian, and more broadly, as an academic.

Maxim Vorobev (2024, History)

popular ‘Politics of Thatcherism’— and encourage pupils to develop well-reasoned arguments supported by relevant evidence. Tutorials sharpen pupils’ critical thinking and communication skills. After the successful launch of this new element, and the excellent feedback from enrolled pupils, we are very keen to continue developing it and offer more tutorials, covering a range of disciplines and topics.

The Inspire Learning Skills Wheel



St John's College

## Aims of our programmes

- Maintaining long-term engagement with schools, teachers, parents, and pupils, focusing support where it is most needed.
- Collaborating with school leaders to raise academic attainment and enhance transferable skills.
- Improving university progression rates among participating students.
- Evaluating our Access and Outreach programmes to ensure that they are effective, evidence-based, and continually improving.

## Stop press! Inspire hub – a new virtual learning platform

In October 2025, we launched the Inspire hub to enhance our programmes and deliver an even better experience for pupils. The Inspire hub introduces personalized accounts for each pupil, giving them a tailored pathway through the programmes they are enrolled on. Pupils can selectively view the full range of academic content, receive targeted notifications about opportunities such as summer schools and study days, and access dedicated teaching hubs such as online tutorials. The hub integrates our Inspire Learning Skills (see wheel above) that have been integrated into all academic content. This new ‘skill tagging’ feature will gamify learning, allow pupils to track their skill development, and encourage engagement with a broader range of materials.

Importantly, the Inspire hub complements our in-person activities while streamlining staff administration. By reducing time spent on programme management, the Inspire app frees up staff capacity to deliver more face-to-face opportunities, ensuring pupils will benefit from a rich blend of digital and in-person engagement.

## Next steps

The next few years will be transformative for the College’s Access and Outreach programmes as the Inspire hub becomes fully integrated into our work and provides the individual and group evaluation data that will allow powerful targeting of resources. We will continue to strive to meet the aims of the programmes.



***I liked having access to all of the academic taster videos because they were very informative and enjoyable to watch.***

Y12 pupil



# Masterplan

St John's College has been developing an innovative and exciting masterplan. The Principal Bursar, Zoe Hancock, explains.





***The masterplan has enabled us to create a series of interdependent projects which, when taken together, will greatly enhance the experience of College living and working.***

**T**he masterplan grows out of our sustainability action plan that aims to ensure we are taking the necessary actions to achieve net zero carbon and biodiversity net gain in line with the University of Oxford's target for net zero by 2035.

We are now progressing into a detailed project design phase. We have consulted widely to ensure that we will meet the needs of our current and future communities. The masterplan has allowed us to consider the curtilage as a whole and has enabled us to create a series of interdependent projects which, when taken together, will greatly enhance the experience of College living and working.

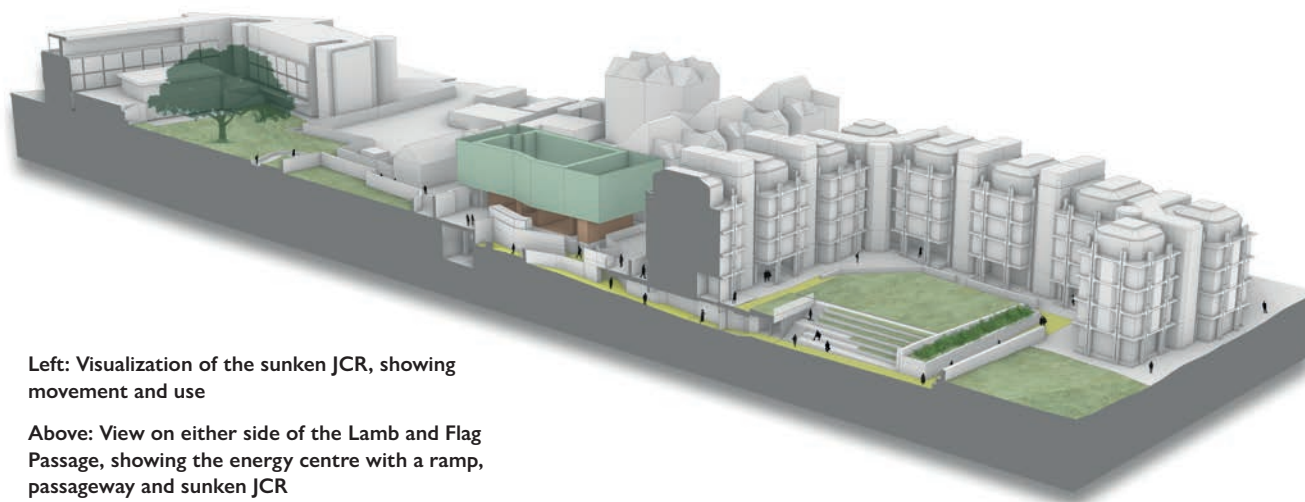
The first project will be the refurbishment of the Thomas White Building, which is at the heart of undergraduate life. Built in the 1970s, it is in dire need of renewal. The bathrooms and kitchens no longer meet the needs of our students and, in keeping with our statement on carbon neutrality, the project will introduce new roof insulation and will replace all 600 single-glazed window frames with higher-performance glazing. We will convert all rooms into en-suites and extend the kitchen areas. We will create accessible bedrooms on the ground floor, to maintain community for all students. The Thomas White

Quad is only part of our commitment to net zero and we have an ambitious ten-year fabric improvement plan to upgrade windows and to introduce insulation into the historic parts of the curtilage. In total, this will reduce our carbon consumption by 30 per cent.

The creation of accessible bedrooms means that the Junior Common Room must be relocated. We will create a new flexible space and, excitingly, it will be sunken into the western end of the Thomas White Quad, with re-landscaping that will provide seating, more social spaces, and an accessible ramp to improve movement around the quad and beyond. The College Bar will be relocated to the Old Gym.

The new energy centre will replace the current accessible student accommodation to the north of the Lamb and Flag passage. In the new energy centre, we will utilize ground- and air-source heat pumps which will achieve a 98 per cent overall reduction in carbon consumption. We hope also to create space (after Governing Body approval) for a much-needed wellbeing centre, a new professional common room, and more flexible event and meeting spaces.

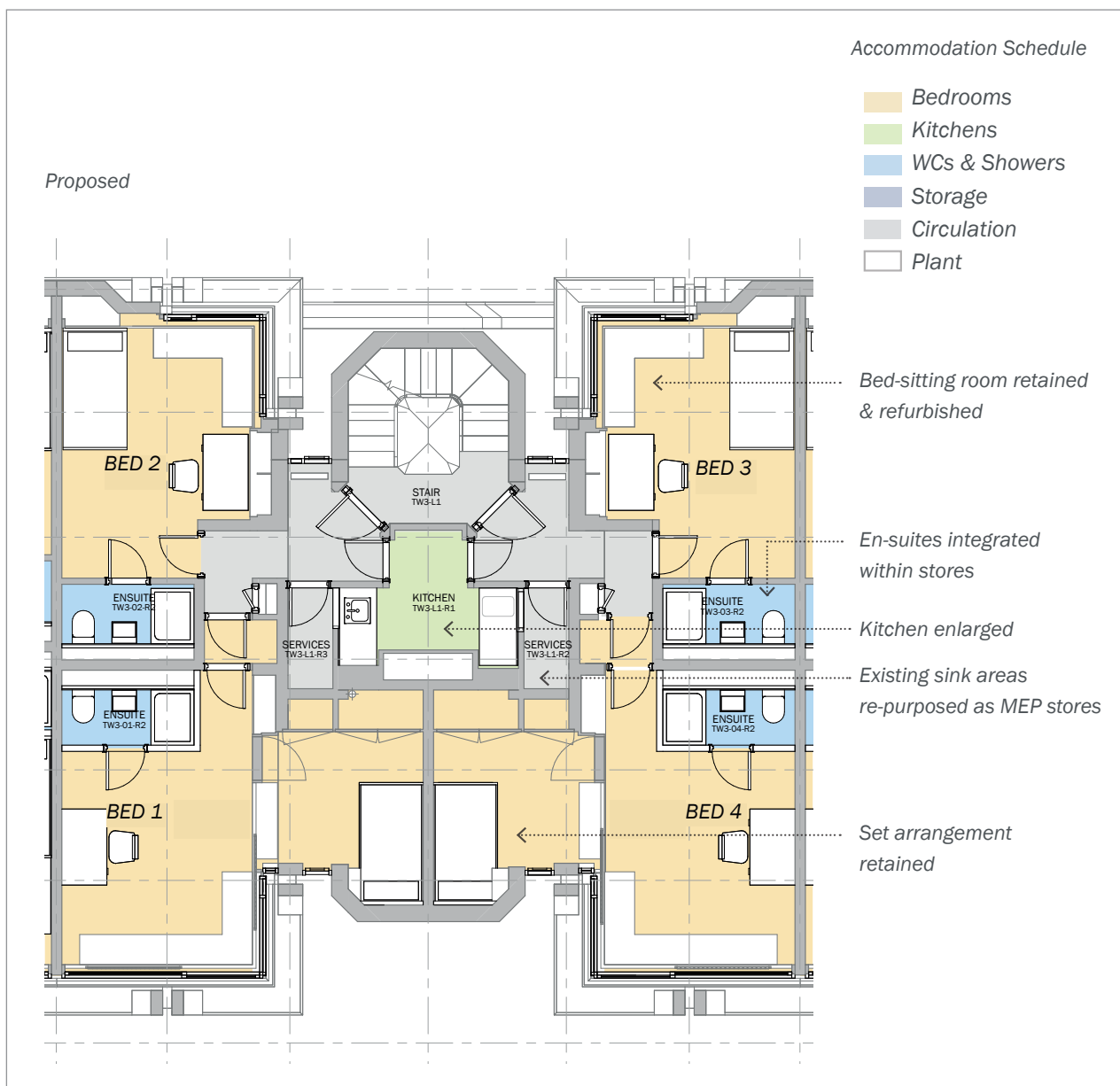
The excavation of the basement for the energy centre, and the need to provide a services link from it to



**Left:** Visualization of the sunken JCR, showing movement and use

**Above:** View on either side of the Lamb and Flag Passage, showing the energy centre with a ramp, passageway and sunken JCR





**Proposed H-block layout plan for Thomas White Building**

the buildings to the south creates a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to construct a link from south to north under the Lamb and Flag passage which will transform connectivity and provide safety and accessibility opportunities.

At the same time, we will carry out modifications to our historic buildings that will reduce their carbon intensive heat generation. This will include insulating roofs to prevent unnecessary heat loss, replacing single-glazed windows with double glazing, and where appropriate lining internal walls which are externally facing with new mineral wool insulation and plasterboard system. All of this will be done with careful

consideration of the heritage of these historic buildings.

It will be a busy time for the College, and there is much detailed consideration ongoing to ensure that we minimize the impact on current students (and staff) as much as possible.

Our endowment cannot fund everything the College does, let alone everything we want to do. This is where donations from our alumni and benefactors can make a considerable impact and we will seek support for our ambitious plans in the coming years.

If you would like to learn how you can support this landmark project, please contact Tom Childs (Associate Development Director), [tom.childs@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tom.childs@sjc.ox.ac.uk).



# The JCR in the 1970s

As part of the College masterplan, the Junior Common Room (JCR) and College Bar will be relocated from their current location in the Thomas White (TW) building, where they have been based since the mid-1970s. In the following article, St John's alumnus Roger Titford (1974, Modern History) reflects on the migration of the JCR and College Bar into TW in 1976.



*Whilst anyone could freely enter, if you could find it, the JCR seemed informally out of bounds to strangers.*

Fifty years ago, the old St John's JCR was replaced by new facilities in the Thomas White (TW) building. My cohort (1974) were the last to experience a full academic year's use of the old JCR. Different times, as they say, and perhaps worth dwelling for a moment on that lost past.

St John's was still an all-male institution and that was reflected in the JCR's lack of modernity and creature comfort. Principal access was via staircase V in the south-east corner of the Front Quad. There was an alternative back entrance via a staircase in the south-west corner of the Canterbury Quad (now sealed). I don't recall the JCR being signposted; you needed insider knowledge.

At the top of the stairs on the first floor you could either turn right for the JCR Quiet Room (used for small meetings and reading) or left and enter licensed premises and seemingly unlicensed territory. I remember the main area as a large rectangular high-ceilinged room, with off-white walls and greeny-brown carpet. It was large enough to host the monthly JCR meetings and thus was the seat of our sovereign power, such as it was, or as we imagined it was.

Over your left shoulder as you entered was the bar / kitchen. Basically, it was no more than a hatch opening in darkened wood and was tended by Bob the Bar Steward. Bob was a bespectacled Irishman of mature years, with a frosty demeanour that suggested he considered serving coffee and beer to bumptious young Englishmen something of a trial. He left St John's shortly after the migration to the Thomas White building.





**There was, for me, no sense of a hierarchy in the JCR. It was run by no-one and everyone. The main room was large enough to circulate easily and small enough to overhear, eavesdrop and join in.**

Adjacent to the bar stood a dartboard and a bar billiards table, in a poor state of repair. There was also the obligatory clatter, curses, and yelps of a four-player table football table. Curtained away to the left, overlooking the Canterbury Quad was the television lounge, just the one set, colour, it must be said.

The JCR was a place of exchange. Lectures, tutorials were over, reading paused, time to refresh the world as it pertained to you. There was a small market in goods, the lending of elements of black tie or the borrowing of a sports shirt, the collaboration of notes. But mostly it was an exchange of contacts, news, information. This was, politically, an exciting time. You could feel a buzz in the air. There had been two General Elections in 1974. The second coincided with our Freshers' dinner and the constituency results, as they came through on the JCR TV, were imbibed, with considerable passion, by some present at the end of a long evening. It was nice to know very early on where people stood. In 1975 there was a referendum on staying in the Common Market. More locally, there was a continuing and strenuous campaign for a Central Students' Union, that is, a university wide political body and social facility. During the previous year, the Exam Schools had been occupied by protesting students for several weeks. The scope of our political concerns was continually widening. There was much attention, not entirely faux, on the situation in Chile and Cambodia. All of this fed, and was fed by, the various university magazines, not just staples like *Cherwell* and *Isis* but more ephemeral efforts like the far-left *Oxford Strumpet*, made readily available in the room. This was student news in print about people you could literally see in front of you. For a fresher, that was exciting, different. I'm confident that the JCR subscribed to the *Morning Star*, the organ of the Communist Party of Great Britain, among many other national daily titles, strewn haphazardly across the tables and chairs.

Of more personal concerns was finding somebody to fill a gap in a sports team or a card game, of begging a lift or ascertaining the best hitch-hiking pick-up points in a distant city. Thumbing a lift was a common mode of transport and nothing speaks more strongly of the changed relationships between strangers in our country than the

complete disappearance of recreational hitch-hiking. The JCR was, in effect, the college-specific social network and also the location of the post box for scribbled messages sent for free via the inter College Messenger Service.

There was, for me, no sense of a hierarchy in the JCR. It was run by no-one and everyone. The main room was large enough to circulate easily and small enough to overhear, eavesdrop and join in. Moveable furniture, as well as the limited access to the games, facilitated introduction and discussion among perceived equals. Whilst anyone could freely enter, if you could find it, the JCR seemed informally out of bounds to strangers. It would have been a surprise to see a member of the academic staff or a woman there. However, a few rusticates lurked, men sent down for doing too much hunting, occupying the Indian Institute, or just generally trying to overthrow the state, and now languidly awaiting their next move.

The fashion cues in the JCR spanned the decades. There were at least three members whose customary everyday attire included a bow tie, men who looked as if they'd just returned from the 1950s, having completed an energetic brass rubbing session in a distant parish church. In stark contrast stood the long hairs, men who hadn't seen the inside of a barbers since Woodstock or the Isle of Wight festival – and were proud of it. Plus the occasional pallid and glum guy in army surplus gear, for all the world channelling the fleeing loser of a battle somewhere in central Europe. But none of this really mattered. Of course, you ribbed them, sometimes to their faces, and they you, a victim of the ridiculous 1970s peacock accoutrements – loon pants, bunny-collared Ben Sherman shirts, and Brut hairspray for men! It could be spiky without being harmful.

The old JCR wasn't at all a drinking den. This was largely due to the fact that one was served in half-pint measures only, and the beer wasn't great and the cider the flat stuff. But the one advantage the old JCR had over the Lamb & Flag was the Late Bar. This was run on a rota basis by student volunteers, from a cupboard at the opposite end to Bob's bar. It opened about half past nine and ran up to midnight. In order to overcome licensing restrictions, you could only pay in St John's currency, which consisted of plastic coins, black, red, green,

yellow – a colour scheme which has a rather different meaning now – in denominations of 1p, 2p, 5p, and 10p. While those amounts look trivial today, a bottle of Newcastle Brown Ale, the staple choice given the lack of refrigeration available, cost only 15–20p.

The JCR décor and furniture was scruffy and worn (no point in upgrading with the move to TW forthcoming), but comfortable and soft. A minority smoked, though I have no recollection of the cigarette smell being horrific to a non-smoker like me. What I particularly remember, with fondness, was the atmosphere of loose, almost accidental, association which I attribute in large part to the nature of the space itself. It was a place of blurred boundaries, few rules, many possibilities, no romantic expectations, where you could so swiftly shape-shift between any kind of conversation, be it profound or profane.

I was underwhelmed by the replacement facilities we found in TW. Rather than one continuous space the JCR

had been chopped into four functionally defined parts: a smaller, ground floor, seating area that worked very much against casual circulation; a larger bar area that did not invite restful dwelling; and a secondary, usually shut, downstairs bar that was particularly hard-edged in rough materials and reached via a tight staircase. The TV lounge was set away at some distance. It became an altogether more modern and purposeful arrangement – no Bob, no bar billiards, no Late Bar, no longer a big enough space for JCR meetings, which moved to the Hall. I never ceased to be wistful for the serendipitous ease and camaraderie of the old premises that I had enjoyed in my first year. The end of the old JCR coincided perfectly with the sudden and lasting upturn in St John's academic performance from 1976.



***The end of the old JCR coincided perfectly with the sudden and lasting upturn in St John's academic performance from 1976.***





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[An] excellent programme of talks in a beautiful setting with friendly staff and volunteers.

# Oxford Open Doors 2025

Organized annually by the Oxford Preservation Trust, ‘Open Doors’ invites Oxfordshire residents to explore parts of the city and the collegiate university that they might not otherwise visit. Across the weekend, a festival of free events celebrates Oxford’s heritage and culture.

For the past four years, St John’s has proudly supported Open Doors, welcoming large audiences each September with a rich mix of events. Following the success of Open Doors 2024, when the College was open on both Saturday and Sunday, we expanded our programme even further for 2025.

We attracted 4,151 visitors across the weekend, many of whom had not previously visited the College before. Many expressed an interest in returning for future events in our cultural programme as well as commenting on the attractiveness of our historic buildings and the geniality of our Fellows and student helpers.

Open Doors also provided a platform to launch our new *Children’s Guide to St John’s*. Written with Key Stage Two aged children (7–11) in mind, this illustrated twelve-page booklet explains the history of St John’s and provides amusing anecdotes about College life. It was wonderful to see so many children – including those of Fellows and members of professional staff – enjoying the guide during Open Doors. Copies of the *Children’s Guide* are available to all visitors for free at the Porters’ Lodge.



## Highlights included:

**A two-day exhibition** of our remarkable collection of medieval vestments and embroidery.



**A live saxophone performance** by alumna, Eve Boulos (Music, 2021), in the Chapel.



**Tours of the College Groves** led by Michael and Beverley Lear, the College's consultant landscape architects and conservation specialists. For 2025, tours of the Groves were complemented by a unique 'tree listening' experience led by St John's DPhil student, Zack Di Lello (2024, Music). Zack used field recording techniques that allowed visitors to listen to the real-time vibrations of some of the most impressive trees in the gardens, sparking conversations about our connections to the natural world.



**Tours led by College Fellows**, including a tour of select portraits in Hall, led by Dr Georgy Kantor, Keeper of the Pictures, and an introduction to the College's architecture with the Revd Canon Professor William Whyte, Keeper of the Historic Buildings.

**Student-led tours** of the College's Historic Libraries and award-winning modern Study Centre.

**Talks by College Fellows** on the depiction of the ancient world in contemporary media.

**Two talks by the President**, examining hand geometry as a biometric identifier and the ethics of buying and selling human remains, respectively. (Both talks are available on the College's YouTube channel.)

**A free recital** by acclaimed British pianist, Viv McLean. Viv's performance inaugurated the 2025/26 International Piano Series at St John's – further details of which can be found elsewhere in this magazine.



**A royal visit** by His Majesty, Charles I...





# From the JCR

Laurence Cooke (2023, Philosophy and French), JCR President

It has been another very successful year for the JCR here at St John's. We have had a full committee working hard to cater for the needs of the undergraduate community, from welfare and academic support to social events and arts funding, with everything in between. I leave for my year abroad sure that our student body is as involved in College life as ever.



The year has, in some ways, been one of transition and preparation. The 2026 Commemoration Ball committee has been appointed and masterplan consultations have continued apace. A new landscape in the Oxford Student Union, with a new Conference of Common Rooms model, allows St John's students to be directly represented in discussions at the highest levels of the University. To further cement our role in this, all the JCR presidents were hosted at St John's for a very productive meeting and dinner to discuss how to work together for all students. In an extension of this theme of building bridges, I also met with my counterpart from Sidney Sussex JCR in Cambridge. Facilitated by the President herself, Sue Black, we met with a view to further collaboration in sport and arts and some enjoyable events in the very near future.

This year has also seen a successful expansion in welfare provision. JCR Officers Anya Macaulay (2022, Medicine), Ishen Dodhia (2024, Biology), and Sofya Donets (2024, Psychology and Linguistics) have worked very well with new Senior Welfare Officer Rob Styles to improve communication links between College and students. This has resulted in more and more students feeling comfortable in getting wellbeing support to help them make the most of their time at St John's.

Elsewhere, we have had some very successful showpiece events: not least a series of excellent guest dinners from Domestic Secretaries Leandro Landolina (2023, Music) and Euan Warner (2023, Medicine), bops from our Entz team of Mia Hewitt (2024, Modern Languages) and Georgina Cooper (2023, English Language and Literature), and a fantastic Arts Week in Hilary Term organized by Izzy Gregory (2023, History of Art). The latter culminated in a wonderful performance of Lucy Prebble's *Enron* in the Garden Quad Auditorium by the St John's Drama Society, but also involved poetry, painting, and musical accompaniments throughout the week.

Other hits include the (now annual) Garden Party, which took place in Trinity to great success. While the weather wasn't quite as helpful as the previous year, it was still an event to remember, with everyone getting a souvenir cup designed to match the 'daisy daydream' theme.

Formal swaps were also held with Univ and Keble to great success, allowing our members to get a taste of life at a different college. Sports dinner was again held to great acclaim, thanks to the work of Rory, our Sports Officer.

Our Women's Officer Leanne Mabena (2024, Medicine) has rebooted the John's Feminist Society and our IT Officer Andras Bard (2024, Computer Science) has rebooted the JCR website – even creating a database of all the DVDs in our collection. With our resources being put to better use, I'm confident that next year's freshers will find a more welcoming JCR than ever.

It has been a pleasure to be President this year, and I leave the JCR in the capable hands of Jerome Pailing (2024, Modern Languages), who has lots of ambitious plans to further boost the cohesiveness of this fantastic student community. I'd like to extend my thanks to the whole team of officers and reps for doing their bit to make this college the special place it is.



Art activity during Arts Week



***With our resources being put to better use, I'm confident that next year's freshers will find a more welcoming JCR than ever.***



# From the MCR

Ruthanne Brooks (2023, DPhil Theology and Religion), MCR President

It has been an absolute pleasure to witness the flourishing of the MCR community this year. From astrophysicists to evolutionary anthropologists, from neuroscientists to classicists, from engineers to lawyers, our MCR community brings together individuals from an impressive breadth of disciplines. With members hailing from all corners of the globe – Ukraine, New Zealand, Singapore, Egypt, Brazil – our diversity provides fertile ground for genuine learning and meaningful dialogue. As the MCR community expands each year, students are able to forge connections with people with whom they would not otherwise have crossed paths. It is this exchange of ideas and perspectives which will be vital for the flourishing of the academy in the years to come.



MCR members are very fortunate to call St John's their home and are immensely grateful for all of the support that enables us to sustain such a dynamic and thriving community. Whether it is the bops or the fan-favourite wine-and-cheese nights, to quieter events such as pottery painting and book club – not to mention the plethora of unofficial happenings, be it the weekly Gloucester Green lunch, random movie nights, or simply pulling up a chair to the ever-expanding Kendrew lunch table – there seems never to be a lull in the social calendar.

I want to give my most sincere thanks to the fantastic team on the MCR committee for their dedication, creativity, and generosity. This year, we had each of our nineteen different roles filled, with several roles shared by multiple people. This consistency and level of engagement is invaluable: the more people volunteer, the more we can do for the community, and the more people are inspired to participate in turn! Our officers have graciously and selflessly given their time in order to create spaces in which all members of the MCR feel welcome.

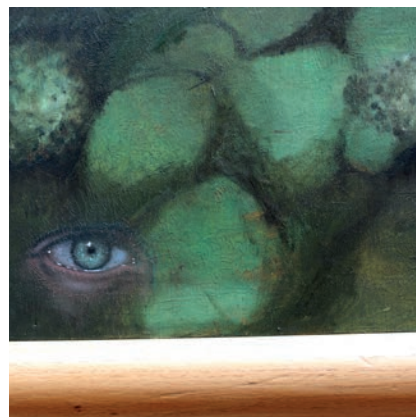
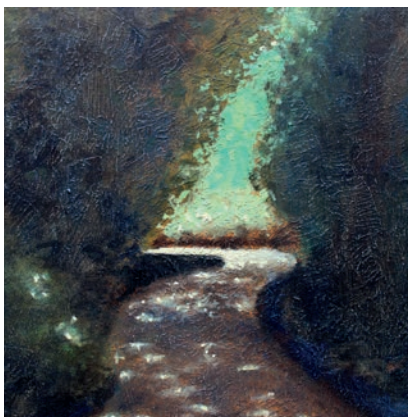


The MCR has also enjoyed our collaborations with other colleges, fostering a wider sense of community across Oxford. Our formal dinner exchanges remain a consistent favourite, hosting up to five different exchanges per term! We've also hosted an oil-painting workshop in our beautiful gardens with Hertford, bar exchanges with Magdalen, joint bops with Trinity and St Edmund Hall, and a garden party with Lady Margaret Hall. These events allow us the opportunity to share the warmth and hospitality that we want St John's to be known for across Oxford.

In addition to all of our exciting events, we've been delighted to provide other resources and avenues for our members to expand their creativity and growth across many areas. The MCR recently purchased a set of camping and hiking equipment, available for all members to borrow. We also have invested in DJ decks for use at our events; after the inaugural workshop, several new DJs showcased their skills at the following bop – some will even be performing at the 2026 Commemoration Ball.

One ongoing challenge has been transforming the MCR building into a more inviting everyday space, beyond its role as an event venue. While our organized gatherings are consistently well attended, we continue to explore ways to make the space a natural hub for casual use. A wonderful step forward has been the addition of stunning paintings of the St John's gardens by award-winning artist and MCR member Connor Phillips (MFA 2025). Now proudly displayed along the mezzanine, these works bring beauty and warmth to the space – I encourage everyone to visit and see them in person.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the College staff and Fellows, whose care and professionalism are the foundation for everything we do. We are sincerely grateful that St John's recognizes and prioritizes the holistic needs of the student body. It has been an honour to represent the MCR and to work amidst a community committed to kindness, inclusivity, and curiosity, and I look forward with excitement to all that lies ahead for our wonderful community.





# Arts at St John's

## Artist-in-Residence

In Trinity we welcomed our newest Artist-in-Residence, Heather Agyepong, to College. Heather is a British Ghanaian visual artist, performer/actor and maker who used her time with us to make meaningful connections among the students, staff, and Fellows who make up our community. Focusing the theme of her residency on rest, Heather explored the concepts of mental health, wellbeing, and belonging. After conducting a number of one-on-one conversations with members of the College, Heather used her insights to produce an exhibition in the Barn entitled *From Sunrise to Sunset She Works to Reform Herself, Part 1*. The College's gardens, quads, and study nooks were sites of inspiration. Her show, which incorporated the themes of rest as sabbath, grind culture, and burnout, revealed brand new works which featured St John's vistas as poetic backdrops. Heather made full use of her residency by also forging relationships across Oxford. We look forward to seeing Heather return to Oxford this autumn for her work with Photo Oxford and the Weston Library.



## International Piano Series moves to St John's

In Trinity, the College was delighted to announce that Oxford's prestigious International Piano Series has found a new home at St John's, marking an exciting new chapter for classical music in the city.

Originally established at St John the Evangelist Church over a decade ago, the International Piano Series has earned a distinguished reputation for presenting some of the world's finest pianists. It has previously hosted renowned artists such as Sir Stephen Hough, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Pavel Kolesnikov, and Dame Imogen Cooper.

The series' relocation to the intimate and acoustically rich setting of St John's Garden Quad Auditorium will allow for new artistic collaborations and expanded opportunities, while maintaining its long-standing tradition of excellence. With five concerts scheduled for the 2025/26 academic year, we hope to engage the University community and the wider public alike.

'We are already looking forward to moving to the delightful auditorium at St John's, with its lovely Steinway D piano', said Michèle Smith, Artistic Director of the

International Piano Series.

This development further enriches St John's vibrant musical landscape, building on the success of The World's Music at Oxford, which celebrates diverse global traditions.

'The presence of internationally renowned pianists will undoubtedly inspire both students and audiences alike', said Professor Jason Stanyek, Fellow for Performing Arts and Tutorial Fellow in Ethnomusicology.





## Songs of Resistance

Last November, we gathered together brilliant minds and performers to reflect on the history and continuing resonance of songs of resistance. We organized a two-part programme with an afternoon panel discussion and evening performance. Taking acclaimed author Dorian Lynskey's work, *33 Revolutions per Minute: A History of Protest Songs*, as a point of departure, our panel explored the impactful history of songs of resistance and highlighted their evolution and current place in public and political life today. The discussion was enriched by the perspectives of academia, performers, and community leaders. Dorian provided updated reflections on his publication and music's ongoing role in the current socio-political climate.

Our own Career Development Research Fellow, Dr Samuel Boateng, brought his dual expertise in musical research and performance to the discussion. Samuel's research sits at the intersection of music, migration, Atlantic history, and decolonial activism across the African diaspora. Dr Euton Daley, MBE rounded off our panel with a local, practice-based perspective. He served as the Artistic Director and CEO of Oxford's Pegasus Theatre for over two decades and shared perspectives on the power of song in his work.

To complement the afternoon's panel, we also organized a powerful evening performance of excerpts from the award-winning production *Nina: A Story About Me and Nina Simone* performed by Josette Bushell-Mingo, OBE. Acclaimed performer Bushell-Mingo combined song and monologue to explore Nina Simone's history, legacy, and activism. Although Bushell-Mingo's pianist was unexpectedly unable to make the performance, in true 'the show must go on' fashion, Samuel subbed into the performance with just an hour of rehearsal! Not only did he and Josette put on a stunning performance together, but the evening also proved to be the beginning of an artistic collaboration: they have performed together in Wales and have an upcoming show in London this autumn.

## Exhibitions

The Kendrew Barn Gallery remains a vibrant, accessible space for local artists and practitioners to exhibit their work and engage with members of College and the wider community.

The first exhibition of the academic year, 'Material World', was a collaborative effort by Mary Chamberlain and Tim Steward. Working across a broad spectrum of media – including rock, wax, mud, sand, and skin – Chamberlain and Steward explored how material experimentation can capture mood and feeling.

'Material World' was followed by a powerful exhibition by Usha dapur Kar, a visual artist based in Oxford who creates mixed media installations and paintings to stimulate reflection and conversation about social justice. 'Ferocious Grace' offered a deeply personal insight into the dissonance experienced when racism occurs within the not-for-profit sector, which often articulates a strongly anti-racist self-image.

In the new year, St John's welcomed local artist, sculptor, and teacher Pam Foley for 'Routes of Sorrow', an exhibition exploring inherited and intergenerational grief. Foley's exhibition was the result of a ten-year collaborative project that engaged academics, therapists, clergy, musicians, and dancers; sound recordings and a screening of a dance performance complemented Foley's wall hangings and sculptures.

The Oxford Art Society returned once again to the Barn in spring for its Members' Exhibition, followed by an Open Exhibition in September. Both shows attracted large audiences and were a true community celebration of visual arts in Oxford.

During the summer, St John's hosted two medical exhibitions. The first, 'Bridging Minds', curated by alumnus Dr Thomas Johnson (2017, Medicine), showcased artworks produced by individuals with lived experience of psychosis. Accompanied by a series of short talks on neuroscientific research, 'Bridging Minds' provided a platform for meaningful dialogue about psychotic disorders and testified to the powerful communicative role of art.

Caroline Seymour's photography exhibition, 'Beyond Fear: Surgery, Hands, Healing' took viewers inside the operating theatres of the John Radcliffe Hospital and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. Seymour's challenging photographs documented patient journeys through breast cancer and bone sarcomas and drew attention to the delicate dexterity of the surgical process. 'Beyond Fear' ran alongside the Anatomical Society's Summer Meeting, also hosted by St John's and co-chaired by Professor Zoltán Molnár.





## Concerts

In 2024/25, St John's cemented its reputation as a leading centre for global music and cultural exchange. The College hosted five concerts in the World's Music at Oxford series, celebrating diverse global traditions, from Southern Italian folk music (Mauro Durante), through the devotional art of qawwali (Chand Ali Khan), to Caribbean bullerengue (Akolá Tambó).

Michaelmas saw the launch of a new Recital Spotlight Series, which began with an exciting collaboration between the Nigerian–Scottish trumpeter Aaron Azunda Akugbo and the Turkish pianist Zeynep Özsuca. This was followed in Hilary Term by a recital from the multi-instrumentalist and hip-hop producer, Thomas Horeczko (also known as Braths), who performed on piano and violin ahead of the release of his debut classical album, *Ephemeral Memory*.

Alumni and current College members further enriched our musical programme with one-off events throughout the year. Dr Nick Jones, Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Mathematics, performed on bassoon with the Crosswinds ensemble, in a programme featuring movements from Beethoven's septet and Louise Farrenc's nonet for strings and wind as well as Bohuslav Martinů's ballet, *La Revue de Cuisine*. Dr Samuel Boateng, Career Development Research Fellow (CDRF) in Music, and Eve Boulos (2022, Music) joined the Adepa Ensemble for a memorable night of jazz in the Auditorium, followed by poetry by the former St John's Sound Artist in Residence

(2022) and social justice advocate Rawz. Alumnus Vighnesh Hampapura (2022, MSt English (1550–1700)) also hosted an evening of Karnatik music, celebrating romantic lyric tradition of Southern India.

The addition of the International Piano Series for 2025/26 will enhance the College's already-rich programming, reinforcing St John's commitment to world-class musical performances.

## John Heath

### Sir Michael Scholar writes:

John Heath, who made a generous endowment to the College to support an instrumental music bursary, died in August 2025 at the age of 94. I became acquainted with him during his long career as a Latin and Greek Classics teacher at Dulwich College, where he also gave piano recitals, and had piano pupils. An alumnus of Wadham College, he had been sent to St John's for tutorials with Donald Russell in the 1950s. Early in my time as President, and during one of his visits to Donald, I invited him to a concert at St John's. He was much impressed by the musical scene at St John's, and by the performance of several of our students – and the bursary followed.

## Small Arts Grants

This year the Promotion of the Arts Committee launched a new initiative – Small Arts Grants – to encourage proposals from current members of St John's (students, professional staff and Fellows) for events from across the visual and performing arts, including music, performance art, visual art (sculpture, painting, drawing, etc., typically resulting in an installation or gallery exhibition), sound art, environmental art, film, animation, spoken word, theatre, dance, and multimedia performance.

Two of the approved projects, 'Deconstructing Oxford' and 'Simanpreet's Story', were presented this year.

## Simanpreet's Story

In June there was a screening of *Simranpreet's Story*, a short documentary that poignantly captures the experience of pregnancy, maternal depression, and caregiving in rural India. Part of the Pregnancy and Mental Health film series produced by Professor Shahirose Premji (Queen's University, Canada), the film by award-winning filmmaker Munmun Dhalaria follows the story of one mother as she navigates psychosocial stress and patriarchal norms with the support of a community-based mental health counsellor.

The film is one artistic output of a collaborative effort to understand mental health and intervention from the perspective of women both receiving and delivering care. It highlights a maternal mental health intervention designed and implemented by Aneel Singh Brar (2017, DPhil Anthropology and Co-Founder of Mata Jai Kaur) and a global team of collaborators.

The screening was followed by a Q and A with the filmmaker and the film's two protagonists, and a panel discussion featuring the producer, filmmaker, and other members of the collaborative, joining both in person and remotely from India and Canada.

## Deconstructing Oxford

'Deconstructing Oxford' was the product of collaboration between Erick Moreno Superlano (2023 DPhil Migration Studies), Natasha Treunen, Programme Coordinator for the Oxford Sanctuary Community, and the artist and researcher Francisco Llinás Casas.

The one-day workshop in May was designed as a space for interaction and dialogue within the Oxford Sanctuary Community (OSC), in which students, Fellows, and city residents who identified as refugees and/or had been forcibly displaced could discuss their shared experiences. It also aimed to improve cohesion among sanctuary students and city residents, helping to bridge the 'town and gown' divide within the OSC.

The workshop produced a collection of art objects that captured the difficult but necessary conversations around inclusion and exclusion in Oxford. Participants explored several key questions:

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As Oxford students and city residents, how do we navigate the history and infrastructure of spaces that have historically excluded or underrepresented certain social groups?

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Can we draw on our unique life experiences (of both disadvantage and advantage) to reimagine the future of institutional and urban spaces and reshape the narratives surrounding belonging?

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Can we use art as a tool to address these concerns and challenge exclusionist views of Oxford?

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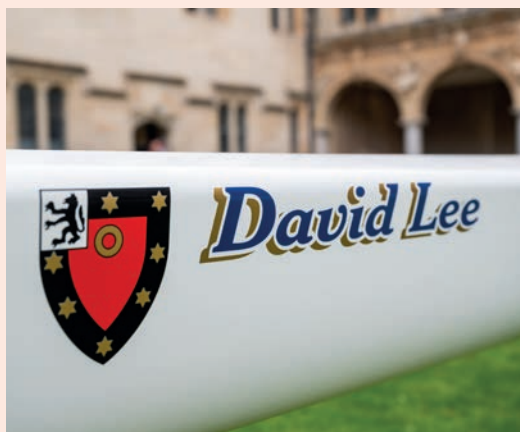
The workshop began with an Uncomfortable Oxford tour of the city. This walk examined controversial elements of Oxford's history (both city and University) about power dynamics, social discrimination, and colonial legacies.

During the main workshop, participants used photography, printing, creative writing, and sculpting techniques to reflect on their place in the University and city as members of the sanctuary community. They considered Oxford's celebrated reputation as a place of excellence and personal growth alongside the historical reality of exclusion, particularly examining how the mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion in both city and university shape their daily experiences. Participants also reflected on how people from historically underrepresented backgrounds enrich both the city and the academic life of the University.



# Sports at St John's

Ben McFarlane, Professor of English Law and Fellow for Sports, reports on a successful season of sport at St John's.



John Cairns



John Cairns

In April, the College celebrated the naming of a new racing boat in honour of the late Dr David Lee (1961, Medieval and Modern Languages), recognizing the great contributions he made for over forty years to the College and the Boat Club. The new boat was made possible by alumni and supporters donating to the Boat Club's Alumni Fund.

The ceremony commenced in the afternoon at the College Boat House, where several alumni joined current students on the water. A drinks reception was then held in Canterbury Quad, with Dr Lee's family christening the boat.

2024/25 was an excellent year for sport at St John's, both for individual and team successes and in terms of participation across the college community as a whole. The college continued to provide significant financial support to a wide range of sports clubs and teams, with the women's football and women's rugby teams particularly active, and new clubs set up for padel and powerlifting.

As ever, the annual Sports Dinner was a terrific celebration of the values of college sport. For the 2025 dinner, we were joined by guest speakers James Vowles, Principal of the Williams Formula One Team, and Emilia Bartram, captain of both the Oxfordshire Women's Cricket Team and the Italian Women's Cricket Team.

The Women's Team of the Year award went to the women's rowing crews, who enjoyed an excellent Summer Vllls with the 1st crew earning promotion to the top division. Just as importantly, the women's crews enjoyed a significant increase in participation, with novices learning the sport quickly and finding success in Torpids. Indeed, the Fellow for Sport's Special Shield went to Louisa Kotzee (2022, Experimental Psychology), not only in recognition of her personal success in rowing and powerlifting, but also for her dedicated work in coaching novices.

The potential for our students to assist others through coaching has also been recognized by the establishment of a Community Coaching Fund, to which students can apply for support to gain the qualifications needed to undertake





coaching for local sports clubs. Expanding access to our sporting facilities to community members will also be a focus of our attention in the coming academic year.

The Men's Sports Team of the Year was the 2nd XI football team. This award once again highlighted the importance of increasing participation, as the team did not exist in the previous season. Football team breakfasts, socials, and an inclusive club ethos revived the 2nd XI, and, in turn, benefited the 1st XI, who achieved a second successive promotion. The men's rugby team also had a very successful season, as Division One Champions in 2025. The Club of the Year was the Cricket Club, which was similarly revitalized in Trinity Term 2024, and continued to perform well in the 2025 season.

Many other clubs also expanded participation this year. The table tennis club organized a successful intra-college tournament and ensured that the table tennis room was well-stocked with equipment and available for students to use as a convenient break from work.

Equally, a significant number of first years joined the tennis club, and the ultimate frisbee club also welcomed new players with taster and training sessions. The running club has continued to be well-attended, and there was once again a strong St John's presence in May's Town and Gown 10k run, not only from students but also from academics and other College staff. Indeed, sport has the potential to bring different parts of the college community together, as evidenced in the Fellows/staff v students cricket match and the college five-a-side football tournament, which saw academics, professional staff, and students competing alongside, and against, each other.

College sport continues to connect alumni with current students. The rugby and football clubs both organized alumni matches, and the rugby fixture was followed by a dinner at St Anne's, marking the 10th anniversary of the 2014 cuppers victory. An Old Boys team graced the five-a-side football tournament in June, and the alumni cricket team (the Demijohns) continued to have a full fixture list over the summer, including its

traditional game against the student team.

The College has continued to support students in their wider sporting endeavours, with 43 Blues Grants approved in this academic year, and support given to members of the newly-formed Oxford Bhangra Team. There have been many individual highlights, including Sportswoman of the Year Lauryn Foster (2021, Biomedical Sciences) leading the Blues Basketball team to a Varsity win; Hannah Davis (2022, Biomedical Sciences) missing Sports Dinner to score 55 runs and take 5 wickets in a comprehensive Varsity T20 cricket win; and Sportsman of the Year Yusuf Furniss (2022, Theology and Religion) not only obtaining his Rugby League Blue but continuing his contribution to a wide range of college sports.

As ever, we owe thanks to Ian Madden, the College Groundsman, and Jim Ronaldson, the Boatman, for ensuring that our students have the opportunities to engage safely in a wide range of sports. I would also like to record my thanks to Arj Puvanachandra (2022, Engineering Science), the outgoing JCR Sports Officer, for his hard work on the budget and other sports matters, and to his successor, Rory Bristoll (2023, Geography), who played a key role in the preparations for this year's Sports Dinner.



## British Triathlon

Alumna Dr Kate Eastwick-Jones (2019, Medicine) competed for Great Britain at the 2025 European Triathlon Championships in Istanbul. Kate finished third in the 25–29 age group competition.





We are delighted to welcome  
new Senior Members to the  
St John's community.

# Arrivals



## Honorary Fellows

In March 2025, the College elected two new Honorary Fellows. They are notable for their distinction and we are delighted to welcome them back to College.

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### HENRY DIMBLEBY MBE

Henry Dimbleby (1989, Physics and Philosophy) is one of the UK's leading voices on food systems, health, and sustainability. He co-founded and led the Leon restaurant chain, known for its mission to make fast food taste good and do you good. Under his leadership, and that of his business partner John Vincent, Leon grew into a £100 million international business, before being sold in 2021.

As an advisor to the UK government, Dimbleby authored two landmark independent reviews that have shaped national policy. *The School Food Plan* (2013) introduced free school meals for children under eight and made cooking lessons mandatory for students up to age 14. His *National Food Strategy* (2021), praised by both the footballer Marcus Rashford and King Charles III, has significantly influenced both Conservative and Labour government policies. He was the lead non-executive board member of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from 2018 to 2023.

In 2023, Henry co-authored *Ravenous: How to Get Ourselves and Our Planet into Shape* with his wife, Jemima Lewis. A Sunday Times bestseller, the book was celebrated by *The Guardian* as a 'shocking and highly readable account' of how to tackle the intersecting crises of public health and climate change. In 2024, he co-authored *Nourishing Britain*, a political manual for

improving the nation's health based on interviews with three former prime ministers, one deputy prime minister, ten former health secretaries, and six other former and serving politicians, all of whom had first-hand experience of the vexed politics of obesity, food and health.

Dimbleby is now the co-founder and Managing Partner of Bramble Partners, which invests in food businesses which are playing an active role in fixing the system and advises companies, governments, and NGOs on how to accelerate that change.

Dimbleby also co-founded the not-for-profit Sustainable Restaurant Association in 2009 and the charity Chefs in Schools in 2018, which he chairs. He previously worked as a strategy consultant at Bain & Company; as a journalist at *The Daily Telegraph*; and as a commis chef at the Michelin-starred Four Seasons Inn on the Park.



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### SIR CHRIS WORMALD KCB

Sir Chris Wormald (1987, History) was appointed Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service in December 2024.

Before this he served as Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health (now Department of Health and Social Care). He has also served as Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education.

Sir Chris joined the Civil Service in 1991 as a fast streamer at the (then) Department of Education and Science. He has worked in a range of posts on education policy, including spells as Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, as well as at the Department for Communities and Local Government (now Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government) as Director General for Local Government and Regeneration. He has also previously held roles in the Cabinet Office including as Director General of Public

Service Reform, Head of the Economic and Domestic Secretariat and Director General in the Deputy Prime Minister's Office.





# Governing Body

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## PROFESSOR IAN WILLIAMS

Ian Williams is Tutorial Fellow in Law. He joined St John's in September 2024 from the Faculty of Laws, University College London. Before that he was a College Teaching Officer and Affiliated Lecturer at the University of Cambridge where he also completed his doctorate.



Professor Williams is a lawyer and legal historian whose interests range widely. He has published on topics from the late-twelfth century to the seventeenth, with his main focus being on the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. His research looks at the interaction between legal practice, more theoretical ideas of law and other sources of normative ideas, as well as the communication of law through legal education and printed and manuscript texts. He is the Editor of the *Journal of Legal History*.

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## PROFESSOR GARETH LLOYD EVANS

Gareth Lloyd Evans joined St John's in September 2024 as Tutorial Fellow in English and Associate Professor of Old Norse in the English Faculty. He holds a BA and MA from Durham University and completed his doctorate at St Edmund Hall.



He was most recently Rebecca Marsland Career Development Fellow in English at St Hilda's College. Professor Evans specializes in the languages and literatures of medieval Scandinavia and medieval England, with his research focusing on Old Norse-Icelandic literature. He is particularly interested in questions of gender, sexuality and emotion, and of identity more broadly, as well as questions of poetics and style.

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## PROFESSOR LAURA MOODY

Laura Moody is Tutorial Fellow in Biology and joined the College in September 2024. She came to Oxford as a postdoc following the completion of her PhD at the University of Birmingham in 2011. She was then awarded a Royal Society University Research Fellowship to start her own research programme. During the Fellowship, she was a Junior Research Fellow at Wadham College (2020–22) and then worked as a Biology Lecturer at

Pembroke College (2022–24). As Associate Professor in Molecular Plant Biology, Professor Moody leads a research group that aims to unravel the genetic basis of three-dimensional growth, a fundamental and invariable feature of all land plants.



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## PROFESSOR CALLUM MUNDAY

Callum Munday joined St John's in September 2024 as Tutorial Fellow in Geography. He is a climate scientist and a physical geographer whose research focuses on climate and climate change in Africa – the continent likely to endure some of the worst



effects. Before joining St John's, Professor Munday was a postdoctoral scientist on the REACH water security programme (East African climate change) and on the NERC funded DRYCAB programme (Southern African rainfall) based in the Geography department at Oxford. During his postdoctoral research, he held visiting positions at the UK Met Office (2020) and at the University of Cape Town (2021). In 2021 he became a Fellow by Special Election at St Edmund Hall.

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## PROFESSOR SARAH KNOTT

Sarah Knott is Hillary Rodham Clinton Professor of Women's History. She joined St John's in August 2024 from Indiana University where she had been Sally M. Reahard Professor of History. She is a Senior Research Fellow of the Kinsey Institute for Sex, Gender and Reproduction where her work focuses on archives and histories of birth, reproduction and care. Professor Knott is a social and cultural historian with a strong interest in feminist collaboration and forms of writing for academic and public readerships. She is a past Editor of the *American Historical Review* and is on the editorial board of *Past and Present*. She was both an undergraduate and graduate at Oxford and also at the University of Pennsylvania (MA, Thouron Fellowship), and University of London (Leverhulme Trust Postdoctoral Fellowship, Feminism and Enlightenment project).



## Research Fellows

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### DR ETHAN PLAUE

Ethan Plaue is Drue Heinz Postdoctoral Fellow in American Literature. He is a literary and intellectual historian of media, science, and technology, specializing in American literature from the colonial era to the nineteenth century.



### DR AMOGH SHARMA

Amogh Sharma holds a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship, Oxford Department of International Development. His research interests focus on the interface between technology and democratic politics, with particular emphasis on election campaigns, political communication, and digital transformations in South Asia.



## Career Development Research Fellows

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### DR SAMUEL BOATENG

Samuel Boateng has a PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University of Pittsburgh as well as a BA in Music and Theatre Arts from the University of Ghana and an MA in Ethnomusicology from Kent State University. Dr Boateng has a wide range of experience as an academic researcher, teacher, performer, composer and filmmaker. His research is on Ghanaian jazz musicians in a transnational perspective.



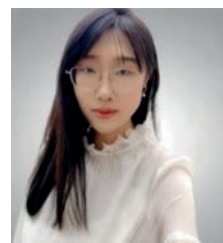
### DR ANNA DEWAR

Anna Dewar is an evolutionary biologist and was both an undergraduate and graduate at Oxford, completing a DPhil that used comparative genomics to study the evolution of cooperation and horizontal gene transfer in bacteria. Her research focuses on how genomes evolve and why they vary so much across species, using computational methods and statistics to gain broad insights from genomic data.



### DR MUTING HAO

Muting Hao graduated from Dalian University of Technology, China and has a doctorate from Oxford. Her research spans a broad range of turbomachinery applications, including gas turbines, compressors, steam turbines, and nuclear reactor coolant pumps, integrating machine learning with fundamental fluid dynamics. She also continues research in collaboration with Rolls-Royce, developing solver design tools used by the aviation industry for both next-generation aircraft engine design and research.



*Career Development Research Fellows continued overleaf →*



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## DR CAROLYN LA ROCCO

Carolyn La Rocco's research focuses on material culture as a tool for understanding social changes in the late antique and early medieval west, specializing in Roman and Visigothic Iberia. She received her doctorate from St Andrews with a thesis that examined a wide range of evidence for the decline of 'paganism' and the rise of Christianity, revaluating the role of early medieval bishops and other patrons in shaping the social, physical, and spiritual topography of Iberia. Her current research looks at material and textual evidence for various forms of patronage by women in the 3<sup>rd</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> centuries CE.



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## DR SHURUI MIAO

Shurui Miao graduated from the University of Sydney and was most recently a Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Oxford working with Professor Susan Perkins. He specializes in experimental physical chemistry with research interests centred around sustainability and self-assembly processes in solution. His current research focuses on understanding the atomic mechanism of rapid carbonate mineral formation, which is crucial for scalable carbon mineralization for mitigating the effect of climate change.



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## DR ALICE MILLINGTON

Alice Millington received her doctorate in Geography and Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge, researching connections between rapid climatic change and human perceptions of time in eastern Nepal. She works on the challenges of yak pastoralism under changing environmental and political conditions and is also interested in Indigenous astronomy, Tibetan astrology, and the broader anthropology of time.



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## DR ALINA UTRATA

Alina Utrata is a political theorist focusing on the politics of technology corporations. Her work sits at the intersection of political theory and critical technology studies, as well as integrating components of international relations and geography. After studies at Stanford University and Queen's University Belfast, she received her doctorate from the University of Cambridge in Politics and International Studies on theoretical work exploring the forms of power that technology corporations hold.





## Leavers 2025

We take this opportunity to thank warmly those Fellows and Senior Members 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.

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### DR JOSEF BORONSKI

Junior Research Fellow in Chemistry

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### MS MARIE ELVEN

Lecturer in French Language

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### DR LAURA FLANNIGAN

Junior Research Fellow in History

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### DR ALEXANDRA GRIEVE

Junior Research Fellow in Modern Languages

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### DR CHAO HE

Junior Research Fellow in Engineering

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### DR ISABELLA MAUDLIN

Junior Research Fellow in Biochemistry

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### PROFESSOR MOHAMED-SALAH OMRI

Tutorial Fellow in Modern Arabic (now Emeritus Research Fellow)

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### DR JUSTINE POTTS

Junior Research Fellow in Classics (now College Lecturer)

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### PROFESSOR TONY WEIDBERG

Tutorial Fellow in Physics (now Emeritus Research Fellow)

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### DR DANIEL ZHANG

Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics

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# Senior Members' News

**Professor Alexander Bird**, Honorary Fellow and Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge, was elected 'Correspondant de l'Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques', Institut de France. Numbers of the members of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques are strictly limited, meaning that each new member replaces one who has died. Professor Bird takes the place of the Greek ancient philosopher Evangelos Moutsopoulos.

**Professor Elleke Boehmer**, Honorary Fellow, accepted an invitation to become Patron of the International Katherine Mansfield Society. Formed in December 2008, the Katherine Mansfield Society has been set up to promote and encourage the worldwide study and enjoyment of Katherine Mansfield's writing. It is a forum for the exchange of information and for research collaboration.

**Professor Mark Cannon**, Tutorial Fellow in Engineering Science, was recognized in the University's Recognition of Distinction awards for 2025, and was conferred the title of Professor of Engineering Science.

**Sir Nigel Carrington**, Honorary Fellow, chaired Universities UK's Transformation and Efficiency Taskforce. In June, the taskforce published its report, entitled 'Towards a new era of collaboration', calling for a fundamental shift in thinking in UK higher education with a much greater focus on how universities across the UK can work together, share services and assets, and collaborate in the national interest.

**Professor Sir Rory Collins**, Emeritus Research Fellow, was awarded the Royal Society's Buchanan Medal for coordinating and conducting practice-altering cardiovascular clinical trials as well as leading the UK Biobank.

**Professor Richard Compton**, Emeritus Research Fellow, was awarded the Frumkin Memorial Medal by the International Society of Electrochemistry. The

award, named in honour of Professor Alexander N. Frumkin, the Soviet electrochemist credited with the fundamental theory of electrode reactions, was presented in recognition of Professor Compton's outstanding contributions to fundamental electrochemistry.

**Dr Anna Dewar**, Career Development Research Fellow in Biology, was awarded the American Society of Naturalists' Early Career Investigator Award for 2025. This award was established in 1984 to recognize outstanding and promising work by early-career researchers in the fields of Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Behavioral Ecology, and Genetics. Dr Dewar presented her research on bacterial genome evolution at the Society's annual meeting in Athens, Georgia, in summer.

**Dame Angela Eagle MP**, Honorary Fellow, was elected as the Member of Parliament for Wallasey for a ninth time. Dame Angela Eagle is Minister of State (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

**Dr Laura Flannigan**, Junior Research Fellow in History, was awarded the Royal Historical Society's First Book Prize for *Royal Justice and the Making of the Tudor Commonwealth, 1485–1547* (Cambridge University Press, 2024). The judges congratulated Dr Flannigan on such 'an impressive, conceptually adept and ambitiously argued book', grounded in 'extraordinarily deep archival research on a previously neglected judicial court'. Dr Flannigan has been appointed Assistant Professor and the Warner Woodring Chair in Early Modern History at the Ohio State University.

**Dr Emma Greensmith**, Tutorial Fellow in Classics, was appointed series co-editor of Aris & Phillips Classical Texts. Founded in 1979, Aris & Phillips Classical Texts publishes modern editions of Classical Greek and Latin texts, with substantial introductions and commentaries as well as the original text with facing-page English translation.

**Professor Andrew Goodwin**, Supernumerary Fellow, was awarded one of the Royal Society's inaugural Faraday Discovery Fellowships for a project investigating disorder in functional materials, such as glass and polymers.



**Dr Peter Hacker**, Emeritus Fellow, has begun a belated career as an abstract painter, producing more than one hundred paintings to date.

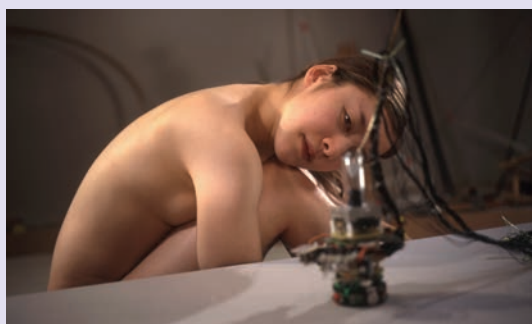
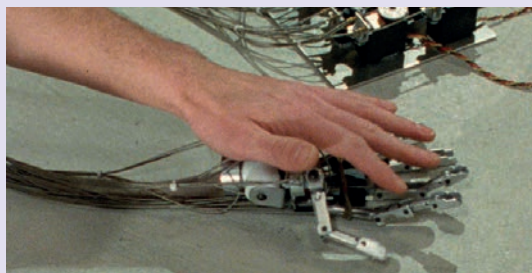
**Professor Laurence Hunt**, Tutorial Fellow in Psychology, was conferred the title of Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience in the University's Recognition of Distinction Awards 2025. Professor Hunt was also appointed Associate Director of the Oxford University Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging (OxCIN). OxCIN develops and deploys neuroimaging to solve big challenges in basic neuroscience and brain health.

**Professor Sarah Knott**, Professorial Fellow, became co-director of the University of Oxford's Centre for Women's, Gender and Queer Histories (WGQ), a cross-disciplinary research centre that meets weekly in St John's for research seminars, as well as hosting graduate-led reading groups, and lectures and conferences. As part of WGQ, Professor Knott convened a new seminar series on care as a scholarly category, drawing on the themes of her 2025 St John's Founder's Lecture: reported upon elsewhere in this magazine. Professor Knott also gave The Ewen Green Memorial Lecture at Magdalen College, Oxford, exploring 'Histories of Maternal Labour'.

**Professor Ranjit Lall**, Tutorial Fellow in Politics, won the American Political Science Association's (APSA) Politics and History Section's David Brian Robertson Best Paper Award for his co-authored paper on the economic impact of slave-raiding in Eastern Europe.

**Professor Nikolaj Lübecker**, Tutorial Fellow in French, was awarded a one-year Leverhulme Research Fellowship for 2025–26 for a project that explores the idea of the universe as a cognisant, sensing system: what H.G. Wells called a 'world brain'. 'The World Brain, A Cultural History' will investigate the concept of a 'world brain' through a heterogenous corpus of films, novels, and theoretical texts from disciplines such as systems theory, cognitive science, cybernetics, new media and art theory. Professor Lübecker also gave a plenary address on the topic of 'The World Brain, and its Presence in Twentieth-Century Film and Theory' at the Annual Conference of the Society for French Studies in Bristol.

**Professor Philip Maini**, Professorial Fellow in Mathematical Biology, visited Bangalore for five weeks as part of the Royal Society's Yusuf Hamied Visiting Fellowship scheme to generate new collaborations with researchers at several institutes.



**Professor Daria Martin**, Supernumerary Fellow in Fine Art, saw her 16mm film, *In the Palace* (2000) displayed at the Tate Modern in London. Originally produced for her MFA thesis, the film imagines what it would be like to enter Alberto Giacometti's 1932 sculpture, 'The Palace at 4 a.m.'. Professor Martin's short film, *Soft Materials*, was also on display at the New Museum in New York. Shot in the artificial intelligence lab at the University of Zurich, Professor Martin's film portrays the interaction between two human performers, trained in body awareness, and robots programmed to learn from physical experience.



**Dr Shurui Miao**, Career Development Research Fellow in Chemistry, won a three-year Springboard Award from the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, the UK's national facility for materials research which uses neutron and muon techniques to provide unique insights into the behaviour of materials at the atomic, molecular and nanoscale level. The Springboard Award will provide Dr Miao with funding to present his research at conferences and the opportunity to conduct further research at ISIS' Harwell laboratory. Dr Miao was also named as one of six Emerging Investigator Award finalists by the International Association of Colloid and Interface Scientists.

**Professor Zoltan Molnár**, Tutorial Fellow in Human Anatomy, was elected an External Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Professor Molnár was also appointed Visiting Professor at the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Sciences (March–May), where he co-organized an International Symposium on the Principles of Neocortical Development and Evolution.

**Professor Laura Moody**, Tutorial Fellow in Biology, published an article in *Development* that was selected as the journal's 'Research Highlight', leading to an interview on 'The people behind the papers'. The paper explored the major developmental innovations that enabled plants to transition from water to land nearly 500 million years ago.

**Professor Jan Obloj**, Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics, continued as President of the Bachelier Finance Society: an international organization dedicated to advancing research and its applications in the broad field of mathematical finance. The Society joined forces with the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics to launch a new seminar series aimed at the global audience of researchers working in mathematical finance. Professor Obloj also became Associate Editor of the international journal, *Mathematical Finance*.

**Professor Jaideep J Pandit**, Supernumerary Fellow in Physiological Sciences, has been appointed BH Robbins Visiting Professor of Anesthesia at Vanderbilt University, USA, for 2025–26. Professor Pandit was also invited to give keynote lectures at international conferences in Philadelphia (American Society of Anesthesia), Boston (Harvard University), Yale, China (Chinese Society of Anaesthesia), Singapore (World Congress) and Hong Kong.

**Professor Lloyd Pratt**, Drue Heinz Professor of American Literature, was awarded a three-year Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship to complete a book project on the creative reconstruction and reinterpretation of Ralph Waldo Emerson's works throughout the twentieth century. 'Other People's Emersons' will bear out Emerson's own observation that 'there is creative reading as well as creative writing'.

**Professor Barry Murnane**, Tutorial Fellow in German, was promoted to Professor of German and Comparative Literatures and Cultures. He travelled to the Morgan Library in New York for the official US opening of his co-curated exhibition on Franz Kafka. *Kafka: Making of an Icon* was previously exhibited at the Bodleian's Weston Library, attracting over 100,000 visitors during the summer of 2024. The Morgan exhibition is the first time that the Bodleian's extraordinary collection of Kafka material, including literary manuscripts, correspondence, diaries, and photographs, has been displayed in the US.



**Professor Tahera Qutbuddin**, Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Laudian Professor of Arabic, was awarded a two-year Leverhulme Research Fellowship to complete her monograph, *Ali ibn Abi Talib: Life, Teachings, and Eloquence of the Sage of Islam*. The project offers a comprehensive historical, literary, and intellectual biography of Imam Ali (d. 661), a towering figure in Islam revered across Sunni and Shia traditions. In July, Professor Qutbuddin organized a conference on the legacy of Imam Ali's teachings in the foundational texts of Arabic-Islamic knowledge and culture, hosted at St John's.



**Professor Gillian Rose**, Professorial Fellow in Geography, was awarded the Victoria Medal by the Royal Geographic Society and the Institute of British Geographers. This prestigious award, presented annually since 1902, was given in recognition of Professor Rose's outstanding contributions to cultural, feminist, urban and digital geographies.

**Dr Amogh Sharma**, Leverhulme Research Fellow, was awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship for a project that explores the role of opinion polls and psephology in Indian democracy.

**Professor Katherine Southwood**, Tutorial Fellow in Theology, delivered a keynote lecture at the 25th Congress of the International Organisation for the Study of the Old Testament at the Humboldt-University of Berlin.

**Professor Maggie Snowling**, Emeritus Research Fellow, walked the Northumberland Coastal Path to raise money for Afasic, a charity that supports families with children and young adults with language disorders.

**Dr Priya Urs**, Junior Research Fellow in Law, was awarded the Journal of International Criminal Justice's Prize for 2020 (delayed due to COVID-19) for her article 'Judicial Review of Prosecutorial Discretion in the Initiation of Investigations into Situations of "Sufficient Gravity"'. Dr Urs' article, which examines the difficult balance between prosecutorial independence and judicial oversight in the assessment of the 'sufficient gravity' or seriousness of a case, is now freely accessible via the Journal's website.



**The Revd Canon Professor William Whyte**, Tutorial Fellow in History, was delighted beyond belief to oversee the opening of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, the University's largest ever building project, which he had been leading for the last four years. The home to seven academic departments, seven libraries, two research institutes, and a suite of performance spaces, including a 500-seater concert hall, it was delivered on time and on budget ready for Michaelmas 2025. Outside Oxford, he became a trustee of Gladstone's Library and of the Radcliffe Trust.

**Professor Elizabeth Wonnacott**, Supernumerary Fellow in Language Science, established the AI in Education at Oxford University (AIEOU) hub. Based in the Department of Education, AIEOU will promote a research-informed, ethical, human-centred approach to AI in Education that supports the diverse needs of the global educational landscape through collaboration and knowledge exchange.



# Reading List

St John's Fellows have published widely over the last year, covering a range of diverse subjects. A small sample of their work is included below.

## ELLEKE BOEHMER

*Life Writing and the Southern Hemisphere: Texts, Spaces, Resonances*, edited by Elleke Boehmer and Katherine Collins (Bloomsbury, 2024)

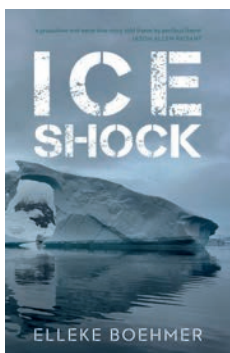
*Life Writing and the Southern Hemisphere* provides a critical examination of life stories, memoirs, biographies, and autobiographies from the southern hemisphere. From Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia in South America, through southern Africa, to Australia and New Zealand and as far down as Antarctica, this collection brings together writers and scholars in the oceanic humanities, postcolonial, Global South and polar studies, and presents works on human, animal and plant life captured in words, music, performance, visual arts and photography. By challenging the northern frameworks that have long defined southern experience, this interdisciplinary essay collection invites readers to reconceptualize life writing and the planet itself from below.



## *Ice Shock* (KARAVAN PRESS, 2025)

Elleke Boehmer's *Ice Shock* is a love-story set against the backdrop of the melting ice-caps.

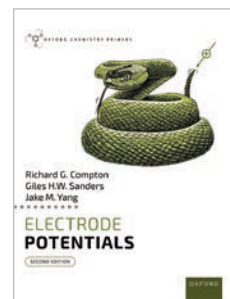
The novel asks what it is to be close even when we are far apart – distant yet proximate. Through the relationship of twenty-somethings, Niall Lawrence, working at an Antarctic polar station, and Leah Nash, a struggling student in England, Boehmer asks how we can go on loving each other when the environment around us is changing catastrophically by the day.



## PROFESSOR RICHARD COMPTON

Richard Compton, Giles Sanders, and Jake Yang, *Electrode Potentials*, second edition (Oxford University Press, 2024)

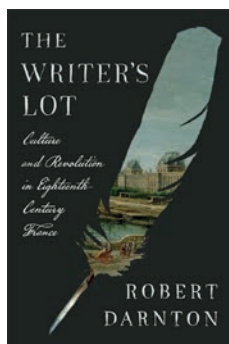
*Electrode Potentials* is a comprehensive introduction to the science of equilibrium electrochemistry. It includes important information concerning equilibrium constants, Gibb's energy, enthalpy and entropy changes of chemical reactions, and activity coefficients. Aimed at students new to electrochemistry and their mentors, the book emphasizes the foundations of the subject and how they can be applied to problems of chemical interest. It builds on the well-received, concise, and mathematically simple content of the first edition to include expanded introductory material, more problems, and worked examples, whilst retaining a direct, need-to-know approach. Professor Compton's co-authors are both former students of his, with Jake Yang having read for an undergraduate degree and doctorate at St John's.



### PROFESSOR ROBERT DARNTON

*The Writer's Lot: Culture and Revolution in Eighteenth-Century France* (Harvard University Press, 2025)

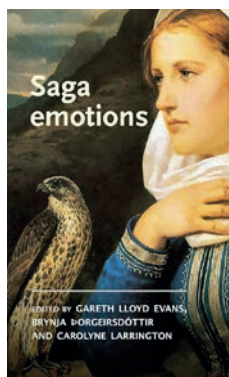
In *The Writer's Lot*, Professor Robert Darnton investigates the character of eighteenth-century literary France. Parsing forgotten letters, manuscripts, police reports, private diaries, and newspapers, Darnton shows how writers made their careers and negotiated their place within the social order. By thus immersing his reader in the lives of struggling scribblers, booksellers, censors, printers, and royal spies, Darnton offers a rare insight into the ferment of French society during the Age of Revolution.



### PROFESSOR GARETH LLOYD EVANS AND PROFESSOR CAROLYNE LARRINGTON

*Saga Emotions*, edited by Gareth Lloyd Evans, Brynja Þorgeirsdóttir and Carlyne Larrington (Manchester University Press, 2025)

Focusing particularly on historically oriented sagas, *Saga Emotions* identifies and examines a range of emotions from across Old Norse-Icelandic saga literature. Each chapter begins with a discrete emotion term, such as reiði (anger), gleði (joy), or the peculiarly Old Norse víghugr (killing-mood), exploring its usages within the broad saga corpus, and focusing on its contextual meanings and narrative purposes. The contributions explore the specifics of the lexical terms used for different emotion states and offer in-depth case studies that consider how various emotions manifest within particular examples of saga literature.



### PROFESSOR PETER HACKER

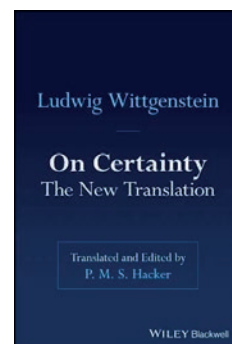
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *On Certainty: The New Translation*, translated and edited by P.M.S. Hacker (Wiley-Blackwell, 2025)

Ludwig Wittgenstein's *On Certainty* collects the final notes of one of the twentieth century's most influential thinkers, written during the final months of

his life. These posthumously published fragments offer a distinctive perspective on Wittgenstein's late philosophy, and contain many remarks which have greatly influenced epistemological debate in the ensuing decades.

Professor Hacker's new translation offers a lucid and improved rendering of the original German, restoring features of the manuscripts that are essential for understanding the text. The edition includes a detailed introductory essay, and benefits from extensive textual notes that support deeper engagement with Wittgenstein's arguments. Professor Hacker's edition also includes several appendices with new translations of select excerpts from other late Wittgenstein manuscripts with reflections on knowledge, belief, doubt, and certainty.

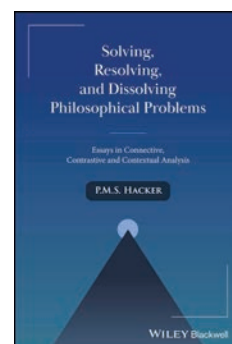
This definitive translation and edition of *On Certainty* enables students and scholars to engage thoughtfully with Wittgenstein's later works, guided by one of the world's foremost authorities on Wittgenstein's philosophy.



*Solving, Resolving, and Dissolving Philosophical Problems: Essays in Connective, Contrastive and Contextual Analysis* (Wiley, 2025)

*Solving, Resolving, and Dissolving Philosophical Problems* is addressed to all who are interested in philosophical questions. Through fifteen essays exploring perennial philosophical problems, Professor Hacker demonstrates the method of the three C-s: Connective, Contrastive, and Contextual Analysis. His method of analysis presupposes little philosophical knowledge, only curiosity and a degree of courage to suspend judgement and to challenge received ideas.

*Solving, Resolving, and Dissolving Philosophical Problems* is an excellent textbook for undergraduate students in introductory philosophy courses alongside more advanced scholars, as well as an invaluable resource for educated general readers with an interest in philosophical methodology.







## PROFESSOR CAROLYNE LARRINGTON

*The Little Book of Trolls* (British Library Publishing, 2025)

In this short British Library edition, Professor Carolyn Larrington investigates the place of trolls in the collective global imagination, tracking their journey from Scandinavian mythology to J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth. Professor Larrington reveals trolls to be creatures of contradiction: fleshy in their appetites but turning to stone in sunlight; as large as slumbering mountains or small enough to help you with your washing; charmingly charmless and occasionally comic yet emblematic of danger and disruption.



*The Little Book of Dragons* (British Library Publishing, 2025)

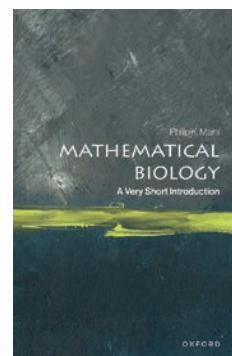
In *The Little Book of Dragons*, Professor Carolyn Larrington attests to the ubiquity of these serpentine creatures in legend and literature from across the world. Whether breathing fire from above, spitting poison on the land, or churning maelstroms in the sea, dragons have appeared in many guises: primordial chaos-monsters to the ancients, wise and auspicious guardians in East Asia, formidable foes for saints and knights, comic companions in nineteenth-century children's tales, and symbols of aerial warfare in modern fantasy. Professor Larrington reveals how the history of dragons is as slippery and sinuous as their bodies; they are creatures forever shedding old skins for new, and coiling through the landscapes of our imagination.



## PROFESSOR PHILIP MAINI

*Mathematical Biology: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2025)

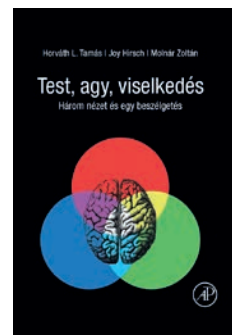
In this *Very Short Introduction*, Professor Maini illustrates how mathematics has helped make important advances in a range of ecological, epidemiological, biological, and medical fields. He explains the art of mathematical modelling in language that is accessible to non-mathematicians, pointing to the strengths and weaknesses in applying these models to biological systems and processes. Maini's introduction to this subject emphasizes that mathematics is the lingua franca of science.



## PROFESSOR ZOLTAN MOLNÁR

Tamas Horvath, Joy Hirsch, and Zoltan Molnár, *Test, Agy, Viselkedés: Három Nézet és Beszélgetések* (Alpha Press, 2025)

Professor Zoltan Molnár has produced a Hungarian translation of his 2022 co-authored book, *Body, Brain, Behaviour: Three Views and a Conversation* (Elsevier). The result of two years of interdisciplinary conversations between Professor Molnár and two colleagues at the Yale School of Medicine, Dr Tamas Horvath and Dr Joy Hirsch, this ambitious and experimental book addressed the fundamental relationship between the body, brain and behaviour. By bringing together three researchers from diverse fields of investigation – developmental neuroscience, endocrine physiology, and social neuroscience – the book shed new light on the workings of the nervous system.

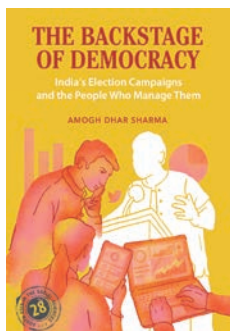


## DR AMOGH SHARMA

*The Backstage of Democracy: India's Election Campaigns and the People Who Manage Them* (Cambridge University Press, 2025)

Dr Sharma's first monograph examines the dramatic shift in the way that election campaigns have been conducted in India in the last decade. It explains that political parties are increasingly reliant on consulting firms, social media volunteers, pollsters, data-driven insights, and hashtag wars to mobilize voters and asks what is driving these changes in the landscape of electioneering.

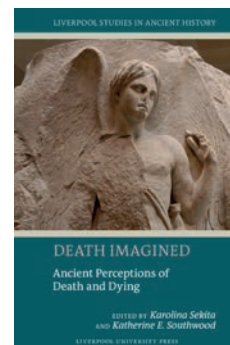
Dr Sharma argues that these changes are not merely reducible to technological innovation but indicate a new political culture in which ideas of political expertise, the distribution of power within parties, and citizens' attitudes towards political participation have undergone a profound change. It breaks new ground on how we understand the workings of India's electoral and party politics.



## PROFESSOR KATHERINE SOUTHWOOD

*Death Imagined: Ancient Perceptions of Death and Dying*, edited by Katherine Southwood and Karolina Sekita (Liverpool University Press, 2025)

This co-edited volume explores the conceptualization of death, dying, and the afterlife across a range of ancient cultures, encompassing those living in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Levant, ancient Greece, Etruria, Rome, and Inca culture (for comparative purposes). Through analysis of epitaphs, funerary monuments, grave goods, and surviving accounts of funerary rituals, its contributing authors reflect carefully on the significance and impact of death on living communities and cultures. The volume is a great example of multidisciplinary research forged at St John's: Karolina Sekita was Woodhouse Junior Research Fellow in Classics, 2017–21.







# In Memoriam

Remembering members of the St John's College community



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**1944****Dr John Jones**

05/03/1926 – 2024

**Philip Clemow**

30/06/1926 – 07/2024

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**1946****Professor Ioan James FRS**

23/05/1928 – 21/02/2025

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**1947****Dr William Richardson**

27/07/1924 – 24/04/2025

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**1948****Dr Peter Pickens**

13/01/1930 – 01/06/2025

**Dr Ivor Watts OBE**

30/04/1926 – 18/03/2025

**The Revd George Knowles**

05/10/1927 – 07/10/2024

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**1949****Dr Arthur Cain**

19/07/1930 – 14/03/2025

**Dr Kenneth Jones**

20/03/1930 – 13/05/2024

**Frank Hopkins**

18/04/1929 – 14/12/2024

**David Shaw**

31/03/1929 – 30/06/2024

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**1950****Alan Jacobs**

15/06/1931 – 18/01/2025

**The Revd Maurice Skinner**

10/09/1930 – 01/05/2025

**Peter Hill**

22/10/1929 – 17/10/2024

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**1951****Dr Victor Shorrocks**

22/12/1932 – 31/05/2025

**David Hall**

27/07/1931 – 24/04/2025

---

**William Willink**

11/07/1931 – 19/12/2024

---

**1952****William Clarence**

11/06/1933 – 01/11/2024

---

**1953****Dr Peter Howard**

08/05/1935 – 01/12/2024

**Alexander Cram**

30/05/1929 – 12/09/2025

**Bruce Hyatt**

19/01/1934 – 31/01/2025

**Trevor Pritchard**

16/11/1932 – 13/02/2025

**Peter Holland**

03/02/1933 – 22/06/2025

**Quentin Gapper**

24/10/1932 – 19/08/2024

---

**1954****Dr Richard Lowe**

12/03/1932 – 01/02/2025

**David Sims**

27/06/1933 – 30/01/2025

**Edward Argar**

06/12/1933 – 30/04/2025

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**1955****Dr William Hayes Hon. MRIA**

12/11/1930 – 16/03/2025

**Michael Goldsmid**

25/10/1934 – 01/12/2024

**Richard Gowing**

01/07/1934 – 07/01/2025

**The Revd Christopher Seaman**

27/11/1934 – 31/12/2024

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**1956****Richard Timms OBE**

02/05/1936 – 03/06/2025

**Dr Robin William Burnham**

07/05/1935 – 24/01/2025

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**1957****The Venerable Brian Halfpenny**

07/06/1936 – 02/05/2024

**Professor Peter Clegg**

08/02/1939 – 17/07/2025

**Professor John Drew**

07/10/1936 – 23/06/2025

**The Revd William Grime**

05/06/1938 – 25/02/2025

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**1958****Dr Rodney Bessent**

22/08/1939 – 01/04/2025

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**1964****Peter Dobson**

25/12/1946 – 01/05/2025

**Anthony Billington**

26/11/1945 – 04/09/2025

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**1965****Maurice Puttick**

28/11/1943 – 01/01/2024

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**1966****Surgeon Rear Admiral Peter Barnard**

22/02/1927 – 25/12/23\*

**Professor Andrew Hamnett**

12/11/1947 – 20/05/2025

**The Revd Iain Macdonald**

14/08/1937 – 14/05/2025

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**1967****Dr Oliver Jacobs**

01/10/1934 – 01/08/2025

**Michael Vincent**

03/07/1948 – 06/08/2024

**Professor Roderick Smith**

26/12/1947 – 26/12/2024

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**1968****Nicholas Evans**

21/07/1950 – 14/01/2025






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**1969**

**Andrew Campbell**

03/06/1950 – 27/08/2024

**Christopher Lee**

27/07/1951 – 01/08/2024

**Neil Goldman**

07/09/1950 – 10/09/2024

---

**1971**

**Jeremy White**

06/06/1953 – 01/12/2024

---

**1972**

**William Askew**

21/10/1952 – 09/10/2024

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**1974**

**Peter Reynolds**

07/10/1954 – 29/05/2025

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**1978**

**Paul Maddox**

30/05/1960 – 29/09/2024

**Robin Schneider**

16/05/1959 – 22/05/2023

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**1981**

**Mark Jeanes**

02/06/1962 – 13/11/2023

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**1988**

**Joanne Skolnick**

19/06/1964 – 15/12/2024

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**1998**

**Dr Karen Davies**

29/04/1980 – 10/02/2025

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**1999**

**David Warr**

18/10/1980 – 14/09/2025

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**2003**

**Tim Bickley**

28/04/1985 – 06/01/2025

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**2017**

**Cal Shearer**

21/03/1999 – 01/11/2024

\* Corrected date.

This is a record of those whose deaths we have been informed of in the last year, up to **30 September 2025**. 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.

# Former President

## WILLIAM HAYES FINSTP HON MRIA

*Anthony Boyce, formerly Fellow and Tutor in Human Sciences and Principal Bursar, writes:*

Bill Hayes, who died on 16 March 2025, spent 70 years in Oxford, where he made lasting contributions to science, to the University and, most importantly, to St John's as a Tutorial Fellow, our first Principal Bursar, and as President.

Bill was born on 12 November 1930 in Killorglin, County Kerry. He excelled at school, which led to admission to University College Dublin where he achieved an honours degree and then continued to complete a PhD. He had an opportunity to visit the Clarendon Laboratory and was especially interested in the field of microwave spectroscopy being developed by Brebis Bleaney. Bill joined Bleaney in 1954 to work for a DPhil, the recipient of an Overseas Scholarship paid for from funds arising from the Great Exhibition of 1851. He was elected to a Junior Research Fellowship in 1959 and then was appointed Official Fellow and Tutor in Physics and University Lecturer in Physics in 1960.

Soon after his election to the Tutorial Fellowship, Bill met Joan Ferriss, a graduate of University College Cork, who was working at the Agricultural Economics Research Institute, close to the College. When they wished to marry, Bill had to obtain the permission of Governing Body in order to retain his Fellowship – the last Fellow to be subjected to that requirement. Bill and Joan married in 1962 and they went on to have three children, Julia, Robert, and Stephen.

In 1976, the then Bursar of the College, Harry Kidd, retired. Harry Kidd had faced difficult financial circumstances including periods of very high inflation and had to manage with limited accounting support. The College's finances were far from secure. The College appointed Bill as Harry Kidd's successor and decided on new Bursarial arrangements with Bill as Principal Bursar, leading a team of members of Governing Body who played part-time roles in support – Estates, Establishment and Domestic Bursars, and the new post of Investment Officer. This team was supported by the modestly titled, but important full-time Assistant Bursar. Bill integrated the workings of the Bursary and the College Office, both physically and administratively, with the appointment of an Academic Administrator. In addition to these internal appointments, Bill arranged for the College's auditor, from Ernst and Whinney, to become the College's first full-time Finance Officer.

The College's prosperity has its roots in the purchase of farmland north of the College shortly after its



John Cairns

foundation. Between 1855 and 1915 this land was developed into the North Oxford Estate, mainly on 99-year leases. As the leases came to an end, the College adopted a policy of selling houses. Bill continued the policy, and the College invested money widely. The new bursarial arrangements stabilized the College's finances and, combined with increased diversification of the College's investments, provided the platform for the very successful growth of the College's endowment.

In addition to Bill's services to the College as Principal Bursar, his activities in Physics expanded, including membership of the Physics Committee of the Science and Engineering Research Council and Chairmanship of the Clarendon Laboratory.

In 1987, Bill was elected as the 34<sup>th</sup> President of the College and under him the College continued its remarkable academic success. He combined his Presidency with major contributions to the wider University – including as a member of Hebdomadal Council, as Chairman of the Curators of the University Chest, and as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

In addition to enhancing the academic success of the College, Bill made lasting contributions to the College's built environment. He negotiated the ending of the lease on the Rural Economy Building to the east of the College which permitted the development of the Garden Quadrangle with accommodation for undergraduates and graduates, and the provision of an auditorium and reception room. The architect, Sir Richard MacCormac, created a set of buildings which are among the major expressions of post-modernist architecture. In a poll conducted by the *Oxford Times* in 2003, the Garden Quadrangle was voted the best building constructed in Oxford in the previous 75 years.



The completion of the Garden Quadrangle also allowed the conversion of areas above the Thomas White Quadrangle Squash Courts into the College's first Middle Common Room for graduates. This was followed by the refurbishment and extension of the Senior Common Room. And, as leases came to an end, the College took back for its own use properties on both sides of St Giles.

The College continues to benefit from initiatives begun under Bill's Bursarship and Presidency. Negotiations for the return of Queen Elizabeth House provided the opportunity for the subsequent building of the Kendrew Quadrangle to the north of the College. Early discussions and agreements with the planning authorities, and the appointment of Savills as property advisors to the College, paved the way for the major developments now taking place to the north of the city under the Oxford North project.

The academic performance of the College has been further enhanced by Bill's initiative in the creation of Research Fellowships and by the establishment of the College's Research Centre.

Bill's Presidency was, sadly, marked by tragedy. Bill and Joan had been revisiting Purdue University in May 1996, where Bill had spent a sabbatical during their early married life, for Bill to receive an Honorary Doctorate. Bill had returned to Oxford and Joan remained behind to stay with relatives. On her last evening, she was involved in a car accident. The death of Joan was a terrible blow, and it is a tribute to Bill that he was able to recover from it and resume a happy family life and the duties of the Presidency.

At a meeting of alumni in New York in 2000 Bill met Dr Anne Grocock, who had been a Tutor in Anatomy at Merton, Bursar of St Antony's College and was then Executive Director of the Royal Society of Medicine. Anne gradually became a welcome member of Bill's family group. His children Julia, Robert and Stephen, and his grandchildren, with Anne, helped Bill to recover from the loss of Joan. They looked after Bill with skill and kindness in his final years as his faculties began to decline.

As well as his contributions as Tutor and Principal Bursar, Bill is remembered as a President who created a solid basis for the College's social and academic prosperity. His wisdom, judgement, and discretion guided the College. He was devoted to duty, placing this above personal gain or ambition. The College remembers him with affection and gratitude.

*Stephen Blundell, Professor of Physics, writes:*

Bill Hayes was born in County Kerry, Ireland, and was the first person in his family to go to university. He completed his honours degree in physics at University College Dublin and stayed there to do a PhD in high-resolution molecular spectroscopy, travelling to Oxford in 1955 to complete

a second PhD under the supervision of Brebis Bleaney, joining St John's (Brebis's college) as a research student. Bill moved to Argonne National Laboratory in 1957, later commenting that he had 'no expectation that I would ever return. I assumed that, like many Irishmen before me, I would make a career in Chicago'. But in 1958, Bleaney invited Bill back to Oxford to take up a research fellowship. He became a Junior Research Fellow at St John's and was quickly promoted to a tutorial fellowship.

Bill's research in the Clarendon initially used the methods of electron paramagnetic resonance, developed by Bleaney's group, but he later branched out into other experimental techniques, including infrared spectroscopy, Raman scattering, and ultraviolet spectroscopy, reflecting his deep-seated ambition to broaden into other methods. These experiments were all carried out in the Clarendon Laboratory, but in his later career Bill also sent members of his research group outside Oxford to perform experiments at synchrotrons and muon sources. Bill was one of the first people to realise the remarkable implications of Soviet physicist Lev Landau's ideas of self-trapping, in which carriers or excitons become localized due to electron-phonon coupling. Bill studied the implications of these ideas in oxides and halides, with his edited book *Crystals with the Fluorite Structure* (OUP, 1974) becoming the standard reference in this field. His expertise in crafting lucid and clear prose was again in evidence in two co-authored books, *The Scattering of Light by Crystals* (Wiley 1978, with Rodney Loudon) and *Defects and Defect Processes in Non-Metallic Solids* (Wiley 1985, with Marshall Stoneham).

In his later career, Bill's research focus shifted again, this time to colossal magnetoresistance, conducting polymers and organic metals, where once again the ideas of self-trapping turned out to be relevant. By this time, a great deal of his time was taken up with administrative responsibilities: he was appointed Bursar of St John's College in 1977, served as Head of the Clarendon Laboratory from 1985–87, and was President of St John's College from 1987–2000. But even well into his retirement Bill remained engaged in research in the physics department, a regular attendee of seminars and, particularly, at the Clarendon common room for morning coffee, always keen to talk to new research students and postdocs and find out what they were up to. He was also happy to entertain them with his store of amusing anecdotes, which included his run-ins with Margaret Thatcher, his impromptu duet with Princess Margaret at a college dinner, and his near miss at Hollywood when he got talking to a famous director on the boat back from the US and was told 'You could be the next Marlon Brando' (Bill decided, probably wisely, to keep to physics). His colleagues in the Department remember Bill with great fondness, for his kindness and warmth, and for the wry smile and twinkle in his eye.





# Fellows

## IOAN JAMES FRS

*Professor Ioan James FRS was Reader in Pure Mathematics (1957–69) and Senior Research Fellow (1959–69) at St John's before becoming Savilian Professor of Geometry (1970–95). He was elected to an Honorary Fellowship in 1988.*

*Professor Paul Tod, Emeritus Research Fellow in Mathematics, gave this eulogy at Ioan James' funeral. We are grateful to him for allowing us to reproduce it here.*

I'm here to talk about Ioan's mathematical career and his time at St John's. I myself came to Oxford in 1971 as a graduate student and moved to the Mathematical Institute in 1973, where Ioan was Savilian Professor of Geometry, and at the height of his powers. He had been elected to the Royal Society in 1968, while still Senior Research Fellow at St John's, and to the Savilian Professorship in 1970, which required him to move to New College.

When I arrived, he had the reputation for eccentricity that you look for in an Oxford Professor: in his case this was eccentricity of dress and eccentricity of behaviour but not so much eccentricity of speech, though he was evidently Welsh.

Going back to the beginning, Ioan was born in 1928, an only child, in Merton Park, London SW19. He became a Foundation Scholar of St Paul's School, which was then located in Hammersmith before its move to Barnes, but it was evacuated to Crowthorne during the war, when he would have been there.

From St Paul's, Ioan won an open scholarship to the Queen's College, Oxford, matriculating in 1946 and graduating, with various prizes, in 1950 after losing a year due to illness. During his illness he read very widely and after graduation, he joined the research group of Henry Whitehead, then the Waynefflete Professor of Pure Maths. Whitehead was distinguished for his work in differential geometry and in topology, specifically homotopy theory, and I'll come back to these subjects.

Whitehead also owned a farm, at Noke towards Otmoor, and was particularly attached to his pigs. He claimed to find mathematical inspiration while scratching the backs of his pigs, and he would organize annually something between a progress and a garden party, taking the whole maths department to Noke. Michael Atiyah, another distinguished Oxford mathematician, in a memoir recalls Whitehead as looking not at all like an intellectual – 'most people meeting him took him for a pub-owner or a barman'.

I've been told that Ioan inherited Whitehead's dog after Whitehead's rather early death. Certainly he and



Whitehead were close, and they wrote a string of papers together starting in 1952. After completing his doctorate in 1953, Ioan won a Commonwealth Fund Scholarship which took him to America for two years, 1954–56. He describes this time in a memoir: travelling over on the Queen Mary, he first visited Princeton University, which was acknowledged as the American capital of topology at the time. Steenrod from Princeton who Ioan particularly wanted to meet was spending the second part of that year at UC Berkeley, so with two others, the four of them drove to Berkeley via Florida and Texas in Steenrod's Buick, and a 1954 Buick is a large and beautiful machine. At the end of the summer Ioan returned to Princeton to spend the rest of his two years at the Institute for Advanced Study, with, we may suppose, a taste for travel and for large American cars. His time in the Americas culminated in August 1956 in an International Symposium on Algebraic Topology in Mexico City. There is a photograph from this meeting showing Whitehead looking indeed like a pub landlord, with Ioan dapper in white shirt and tie

After this, Ioan's career took off quite fast. He was a JRF in Cambridge in 1956–57 and then came back to Oxford as Reader in Pure Mathematics in 1957, a post he held until 1969.

When he came back to Oxford, Ioan lived for a time on Whitehead's farm, and his memoir recalls: 'There was never a dull moment where the Whiteheads were concerned' (or their pigs, presumably).

At that time, and for a while afterwards, there were just four statutory professors in mathematics at Oxford, the Waynefflete and the Savilian on the Pure side, and the Sedleian and the Rouse-Ball on the Applied side. You could fit all the Oxford maths Professors into a Morris Mini Minor, the original Mini that appeared in 1959. There are now about a dozen maths professors, depending on how you do the counting.

This is where St John's enters the story. In 1959 Ioan was elected Senior Research Fellow here, with the understanding that he would look after the mathematics undergraduates. The category of Tutorial Fellow had not been introduced at that time, and Roger Elliott had been taking care of maths as well as physics – as a sign of how the subjects have grown, this is now a task for which there are five Tutorial Fellows and two Supernumerary Fellows (though of course the subjects are bigger and undergraduates then typically had eight tutorials a term and now have 20).

Ioan arrived just when the Beehive became available for use, and moved into a set in there. A cultured man, he was always interested in modern architecture and modern art, as though he responded to the urging 'One must be absolutely modern'. He was very proud of a large, four-feet square, print of a Matisse cut-out 'The Snail', the original of which is in the Tate. After its time in the Beehive, our 'Snail' was prominent in the old Maths Institute, outside Ioan's office, and is now to be seen in the Andrew Wiles Building.

I've been told that, in the Beehive, Ioan slept on a futon, an unfamiliar object in 1959, also that he painted the ceiling black, and, most strikingly and I've heard this from many sides, that he had a sand-pit in there. The sand-pit has also been described to me as a scaled-down Zen rock garden – some picturesque rocks surrounded by carefully raked sand or gravel representing water – one might recall the Zen saying: 'A flower does not talk, but a rock has the voice of water'. There is a famous Zen garden in Kyoto and there has been one in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco since 1953, which Ioan could well have seen when visiting Berkeley. At that time, hip Buddhism was approaching its apogee in San Francisco.

Also from this time, we have a photograph of Ioan at the Edinburgh International Congress of Mathematicians in 1958; the photo was taken on the conference excursion, a boat-trip on the Clyde, and Ioan is again a slight and very youthful figure.

The next big change was Ioan's marriage, in 1961, to Rosemary Stewart who was establishing a reputation in her own right for her work in management studies, and was later a Fellow of Templeton College and its successors. They lived in 17 Blackhall Road, one of the College's modern houses on that street, and Rosemary had some interesting stories about the status of women in St John's and in the University at that time: of being advised that she would need a hat, for garden parties, and that the ladies were expected to withdraw at High Table dessert. From around this time, Ioan and Rosemary had a succession of large American cars, including at least one white Cadillac, but all with the cherished number plate 5MV, initials which have significance in topology.

This is the period that can be seen as Ioan's prime: Whitehead had died suddenly and unexpectedly in 1960

while in Princeton, and Ioan edited his complete works, in four volumes; Ioan was the first editor of the new journal, *Topology*, that Whitehead had persuaded Robert Maxwell to publish, but had not lived to see; Ioan was elected to the Royal Society in 1968, and then to the Savilian Professorship of Geometry in 1970, which led to his leaving St John's and moving into one of those charming 17<sup>th</sup>-century houses at the top of New College Lane.

### Topological interlude

Now I'm going to try to give some sense of what topology and particularly homotopy is. From school geometry, you will be familiar with that subject as the study of figures composed of circles and straight lines and being concerned with lengths, angles, areas and, in short, properties that don't change when you move or rotate the figure. By contrast, topology is sometimes called 'rubber-sheet geometry', and you are now allowed to pull, stretch and squeeze, but not tear, the figure. Clearly circles, straight lines, lengths, angles and areas do not survive this treatment. What then does? One answer to this question is 'paths'.

Imagine the surface of a rubber sphere or globe: choose a north pole and contemplate paths that start at the north pole, wander down to Greenland for a while and then return to the north pole (to keep things simple to visualise, assume the paths don't cross themselves). Consider a second path that wanders from the north pole down, say, towards Alaska and returns to the pole. Now it's fairly clear that you can manipulate by stretching and squeezing the one path into the other: in topology there's only one kind of path, and furthermore by squeezing it down you can reduce it to the path that goes nowhere – call this the trivial path. Repeat this exercise on a torus (i.e. the surface of a ring doughnut) or, say, a life-belt, or even a pumped-up bicycle inner tube. Start at a choice of north pole, then you could go a little way and come back – this is the trivial path, as on the sphere – or you could go right round a loop the short way, or right around a loop the long way. With some thought you can see that these three paths cannot be stretched and squeezed into one another: there are at least three kinds of path on a torus. Repeat again, now on a balloon like an inflated figure eight: there are two different short paths you could follow and two different long ones, plus the trivial path. This is the simplest kind of homotopy: you can seek to classify things, here two-dimensional surfaces, by means of the paths on them. It gets harder.

That's the end of the interlude, but there is a story of Ioan, at dessert early in his time at St John's, being challenged to tell his fellow diners about topology and homotopy. He gave an account that was probably similar to the one I've just given, but illustrated with the aid of what was to hand: napkins and, apparently, an inner-tube from the Chaplain's bicycle.



We pick up Ioan as Savilian Professor at New College. Ioan and Rosemary had, by this time, bought Drake House on Hinksey Hill, and that had become the centre of their life. They were known for their kindness to younger and particularly incoming University staff. My wife and I benefitted from this ourselves after I started at St John's in the 1980s, and I remember Drake House as a house on the hill, among trees, and full of sun and artworks.

Ioan continued to attract honours. The London Mathematical Society is the principal learned society for mathematics in the UK. It publishes journals, funds conferences and summer schools, and awards prizes. Ioan won their Berwick Prize in 1959, was treasurer of the Society from 1969–79 (in which role he was known for his financial ability), won the Senior Whitehead Prize (named for his supervisor) in 1978, and was President of the Society, which is a major distinction, from 1984–86. He was elected Honorary Fellow of St John's in 1988, which paved the way for his return here, and made Honorary Professor of the University of Wales in 1989, a recognition of his lasting Welshness.

Ioan retired from the Savilian Professorship in 1995 and quite soon after that became a familiar figure in St John's; a very regular luncher, he had forsaken his dapper appearance. I think he wore trainers exclusively from the time they arrived on the UK market in the late 1960s, and he was an intrepid wearer of shorts, summer or winter, rain or shine. Myself, I never witnessed Ioan in a dinner suit with a Hawaiian shirt, but I have heard reports of it...

In retirement, he embarked on a remarkable series of books, with some support from Leverhulme. From long before, there had been two classic Pelican volumes of short mathematical biographies first published in 1937 and read by every mathematically-inclined sixth-former, certainly into the 1970s and probably including Ioan at St Paul's, and called, though this was not the fault of the author, *Men of Mathematics*. They gave you the stories but had a reputation for axe-grinding to go with the everyday sexism. Ioan's book *Remarkable Mathematicians* from 2002 was altogether more sophisticated and in due course he followed it up with *Remarkable Physicists*, *Remarkable Biologists*, and *Remarkable Engineers*. In the course of writing the first volume, he was struck by the number of distinguished mathematicians who could then (2002) have been said to be suffering from Asperger's syndrome, though now ASD is the preferred term. Ioan communicated with the experts in that field, notably Ute Frith of UCL, and this led to two more books, including *The Mind of the Mathematician*. Finally, and again stimulated by the research he did for the first two books, he wrote a book called *Driven to Innovate: a century of Jewish mathematicians and physicists*. That was seven books in eight years, starting when he was 74, a remarkable sequence.

Ioan and Rosemary had a serious road accident in about 2010 from which they struggled to recover. Rosemary sadly died in 2015: she was 90, and they had been married for 54 years. Both Rosemary and Ioan were only children, and they were themselves childless, and Ioan faced a lonely time. However he had the great good fortune to have a loyal and supportive friend in Sue Dopson, who took care of him even to the extent of accompanying him, with a carer, on holidays to exotic places. If ever at lunch in the SCR you overheard a conversation involving the Seychelles or the Maldives, you could be confident it was Ioan reporting on a past trip or announcing a future one. Ioan also took in lodgers at Drake House, usually graduate students, often Rhodes scholars, and they clearly added to his life, and he to theirs. There is a very charming article of reminiscence from a New Zealand newspaper, the *Otago Daily Times*, by a columnist who was one of Ioan's Rhodes scholar lodgers.

During the period after Rosemary's death, Ioan made some very generous donations, to Queen's towards the library and to St John's for the support of undergraduate and graduate study, of mathematics and other subjects, and we shall hear more about the latter shortly.

Ioan died at his home, Drake House, on 21 February, having become unwell on a final visit to an exotic place, Oman, with Sue.

He was a significant mathematician and he had a strong attachment to St John's; we were lucky to have him.

*John Newsome Crossley (1957, Mathematics and a student of Professor James) writes:*

Ioan James descended on St John's in 1959, my final undergraduate year. It was the first time St John's had appointed a tutor in Mathematics. Previously Brebis Bleaney and Roger Elliott had looked after the mathematicians, farming us out to tutors elsewhere. Ioan pressed us hard.

He was eccentric: he embraced the then-new Beehive building, residing there and sleeping on a futon, something quite exotic at the time. His London club was the Institute of Contemporary Arts, the ICA, not part of the establishment.

After my graduation, and when I was still a graduate student, he invited me to a dinner he gave in St John's SCR for Georg Kreisel FRS, a remarkable – and difficult – mathematician. The dinner was a great success, principally because Kreisel was not there to disrupt things. I remember sparrow tongues were served.

Subsequently, our paths diverged, though I remained in Oxford for some years, but we reunited many years later. By that time both he and I had written books on the history of mathematics or, in Ioan's case, rather on historic mathematicians. Then, later in life, on a few occasions, we were back in Oxford together.

I happily remember a dinner, when my wife, Sara, and I were back in Oxford in 1982, at his house with Rosemary, a time in which I really saw his remarkable, and long-lasting, domestic bliss.

I met him on the street again briefly, probably around 2015, just outside the strange Trinity gate that separates St John's and Balliol in St Giles. We were bound for different destinations, so it was just a brief encounter, but friendly as ever.

My last memories are pre-Covid, from November 2018. He was already ninety. We had a beer together in the Lamb and Flag, next door to St John's, before lunch in the Senior Common Room. He was as friendly and entertaining as ever.

Although the temporal extent was limited, his influence on me was enormous, and the affection remains.

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### EDWARD BRIAN DAVIES FRS

*Professor Edward Brian Davies FRS was Lecturer, and then Tutor and Fellow in Mathematics, at St John's College (1970–81). He was elected as an Honorary Fellow in 2003.*

*Professor Charles Batty, Emeritus Research Fellow in Mathematics, writes:*

When Ioan James was appointed to be the Savilian Professor of Geometry in 1970, the College had to decide how to proceed with teaching mathematics undergraduates. Since 1880, the College had an arrangement with Merton which lasted until the late 1940s, and then with Corpus up to 1959. Then the arrangement fell down, and fortunately the College was able to attract Ioan James to take on most of the duties of a Tutorial Fellow but with a Senior Research Fellowship. The physics tutor Roger Elliott helped out by taking tutorials in applied mathematics for mathematics students. These arrangements had worked well in the circumstances, but something different was needed with Ioan's departure. The College arranged that a Tutorial Fellow in pure mathematics should be appointed combined with a 'CUF' Lecturer in the Mathematical Institute, while Roger Elliott would continue giving tutorials in applied mathematics. The new post was advertised in October 1969, with a hopeful starting date of 1 January 1970.

Brian Davies had been brought up in Cardiff and he had swept through the Oxford undergraduate course and a DPhil, winning Junior and Senior Mathematical Prizes. His original college was Jesus, but Merton and Brasenose supported him later on, and various awards funded him enough to spend two postdoctoral years in the United States (Princeton and MIT, 1968–70). His application for the St John's post was clearly the strongest, and so he became the College's first Official Tutorial Fellow in



Mathematics, with a starting date of 1 October 1970. In 1973, Brian persuaded the College (somewhat reluctantly) and the Mathematical Institute to switch his CUF post to a University Lecturer. This was a very unusual change, and it had the effect of reducing his college teaching by 50 per cent and doubling his lectures (I attended a course in Hilary Term 1994). When Roger left St John's in 1974, the College clearly needed further tutorial teaching to support Brian. The solution was to take on a new CUF position in the Mathematical Institute (taken by David Stirzaker in 1975), and to increase the number of new mathematics students each year from four to six.

Brian sat on various college committees, and he took on the post of Senior Dean for the period 1979–81. He succeeded in persuading the College to install a turnstile gate adjacent to the Lodge in Thomas White Quad because the College had decided that the Lodge would normally be closed. After some argument, he won the battle. At this time the College was seeking to elect a new President. In a letter to the College Secretary, he made it very clear that he did not want to be Vice-President while the election was in progress.

In 1979, Brian was diagnosed with a medical condition which was liable to lead to an early death. He realized that raising a higher salary before his death would also increase the pension payment to his family after his death. Early in 1981, he accepted the offer of a Chair (post of Professor) in King's College London, starting in October 1981. For Brian, this move had the advantages not only of a higher salary, but it also reduced time spent on teaching and eccentric committees in college business.

Brian was an expert in solutions to various types of matters. Undergraduate students in the 1970s noticed his remarkable ability to present very efficient answers to questions in tutorials. In matters of college business, he could also often offer solutions which would work, although colleagues sometimes delayed the implementation. In his research, he could see mathematical solutions very quickly and so be able to write



them up quickly. He published more than 200 research papers, and he was sole author of more than 150 of them, five books in mathematics, and two on the nature of science. He also had the habit of not revising his research papers very much: he would write something down and then wait to see if it was acceptable for publication. He supervised nineteen students who completed doctorates, and most of them needed his help. A few of them needed very little help, and Brian said that his best student had been John Weir, a St John's alumnus (2002).

Brian worked initially in quantum theory and functional analysis, later concentrating on spectral theory. Spectral theory is the study of eigenvalues and other properties of operators on infinite-dimensional Banach or Hilbert spaces, thus being the extension to infinite dimensions of the study of eigenvalues and eigenvectors of matrices. Brian was Head of the Mathematics Department at King's from 1990 to 1993, and he was head of the analysis section afterwards. The collapse of the Soviet Union caused many of their mathematicians to move to other countries, and a considerable number were interested in spectral theory and related topics. The UK, and London in particular, became very strong in this area, thanks to encouragement from Brian. He retired from his chair at KCL in 2010, and he became Emeritus Professor. He and one colleague then created the *Journal of Spectral Theory*, a journal which has flourished.

Brian achieved various honours: elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1995, Honorary Fellow of St John's in 2003, and President of the London Mathematical Society (2007–09). He resigned from the LMS presidency six months early due to stalemate on the proposal that the LMS should merge with the IMA (Institute

of Mathematics and its Applications). This action had the effect of killing the proposal, as nobody wanted to continue the debate which Brian had to referee.

At the age of 20, Brian decided that his body should be used for medical research. The medical condition diagnosed in 1979 affected his liver. Remarkably he was able to carry out normal duties until the retirement age and beyond, but he eventually had a liver transplant in 2015. From that point onward, he rarely ventured out, and he became an 'armchair archaeologist'. He was in remarkably good health up to his eightieth birthday, but it deteriorated soon afterwards, and he was moved to a hospice for the final months.

*Robert Devereux, Honorary Fellow, recalls:*

Having spent a week struggling with convergent series, and rather despairing of my very limited ability, I remember that Brian simply smiled and said, 'They're a bit like crossword puzzles: sometimes they come out, sometimes they don't!' It rather cheered me up.

I recall another tutorial with him where he was trying, on the fly, to solve a problem he had set us, which we had failed to solve. He thought briefly, stood up, and wrote a reasonably complicated function out on the whiteboard. 'I think that's a counter-example', he said, standing back.

In that moment, I realized that all I'd learned was that he was a very good mathematician. Sadly, I don't think his brilliance helped me find counter-examples more readily in the rest of my life!

I do wonder what he made of us all, while he was doing all his own thinking and writing. But we were certainly fond of him, if also a little in awe.



# Alumni

## DR WILLIAM RICHARDSON

*Dr William Richardson was born on 27 July 1924 and came up to St John's in 1947. He died on 24 April 2025. We are grateful to his wife, Helen, and colleague, Javier Díaz, for this appreciation.*

William 'Bill' Richardson (PhD (EHLT) '12), Flinders' own distinguished linguist, scholar, and one of the two inaugural lecturers for the Spanish programme back in 1966, passed away peacefully on 24 April, shortly before his 101st birthday. Bill's life was marked by a passion for languages, a commitment to education, and a profound impact on generations of students and colleagues across two continents.

Bill was born in London in 1924, but moved frequently during his childhood as his father served as an RAF Chaplain. At eighteen, Bill himself was called up for service in World War II, joining the Royal Hampshire Regiment after being turned away from other branches due to colour blindness. He served in the UK and, following the war, led a team for the Graves Registration Service in Java, Malaya, and Burma, ensuring the respectful identification and burial of fallen soldiers. Bill was demobilized in 1947 with the rank of Captain.

Thanks to his war service, Bill was able to pursue university studies at St John's, where he read French, Spanish, and Portuguese and thus started his lifelong devotion to languages and their teaching. After Oxford, Bill completed teacher training and received two scholarships to travel and study in Brazil, deepening his expertise in Latin American languages and cultures.

Bill's teaching career began in England, where he spent thirteen years instructing French and Spanish at grammar schools. In 1965, seeking new horizons, Bill and his family migrated to Australia, where he joined the founding Humanities staff at the newly established Flinders University (then the University of Adelaide at Bedford Park), teaching Spanish, Portuguese, and later Brazilian Studies. As one of the original lecturers when the university opened to students in 1966, Bill was instrumental in building the language program and fostering a vibrant academic community.

Bill's teaching style was legendary. Known for his booming laugh and resonant voice, he inspired hundreds of students, some of whom went on to serve as Australian ambassadors. His dedication is immortalized in the William Richardson Prize for Excellence in Spanish, awarded annually at Flinders University to outstanding students in the field.

Even after his retirement in 1987, Bill remained deeply engaged with scholarship, publishing widely and

earning a PhD in 2011 for his prolific research. His work challenged historical narratives, notably investigating claims about early Portuguese exploration of Australia and contributing significantly to the study of historical cartography and place names.

He is survived by his beloved wife Helen, their children Elinor and Nick, and a legacy of scholarship, kindness, and inspiration. Bill Richardson's life was a testament to the enduring power of education, curiosity, and human connection. Bill's intellect, warmth, and generosity touched all who knew him.

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## DR IVOR WATTS OBE

*Dr Ivor Watts was born on 30 April 1926 and came up to St John's in 1948. He died on 18 March 2025. We are grateful to his daughter, Susie, for this appreciation.*

Ivor Watts left school in 1944 and, despite having been offered a scholarship to St John's to read maths, he was immediately sent for military training. He always believed that the training was 'not entirely serious' because the government had already predicted the imminent demise of the Nazis. After his training, he was sent to the School of Oriental and African Studies, where he studied Japanese for eighteen months. He then boarded a ship bound for Japan, as part of the British occupation. His shipmates consisted of a handful of other officers, 400 home-bound Japanese prisoners of war and an Indian crew. It was an uncomfortable journey, but there was one revelation: Indian food, which became a lifelong passion.

In late 1947, Ivor returned to England to take up his scholarship. He recalled that his weekly allowance was £6, which might have been adequate for a single man at that time, but waiting for a visa to enter the UK was his future wife, Yoshie.

There were serious obstacles to the marriage. Firstly, while both the Home Office and Foreign Office were willing to grant Yoshie a visa, the final decision was left to the office of US General McArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers overseeing the occupation of Japan. Objections were raised, as the Japanese were still classed as Enemy Aliens. That, combined with the need





to raise funds for Yoshie's travel from Tokyo to London (a convoluted week-long journey, mostly by sea plane), postponed the wedding until July 1949.

By this time, Ivor was well into his studies at St John's. While admitting to being a 'mediocre' sportsman, Ivor always talked about how much he had loved participating in College sports. After the first year, he had decided to switch to PPP and, after graduating, he was then awarded an MA, which he always claimed required no further study but was given to him 'just for being there'.

After teaching maths at a secondary school for a few years, Ivor joined the army for a second time. Ghana had just become the first African country to gain independence from Britain, and Ivor was posted there with the Education Corps. He taught map-reading, among other subjects, to cadets who would go on to be part of Ghana's first official army.

After leaving Ghana in the early 1960s, Ivor joined the British Council, where he stayed until his retirement in 1986. His postings – usually lasting for two or three years – included Nigeria, Tanzania, Guyana (British Guiana), Belize (British Honduras), Thailand, and Israel.

An anecdote that Ivor loved to tell was that he was looking in a shop window in London, some thirty years after leaving Oxford, when a voice behind him said 'Well, well... It's Ivor Watts!' He turned and looked in bafflement at the man, who then said 'I used to row behind you at St John's. I'd recognize the back of that neck anywhere.'

After retiring, Ivor settled in Tiverton, Devon, where he became Chairman of the local Arts Society and served on the local NHS Board. He also became a maths tutor for the Open University and completed a maths PhD. He indulged his passion for cooking curries, sculpting in wood, and playing the recorder and oboe.

A few years after the death of his beloved Yoshie in 2010, Ivor began to show signs of dementia. He had always expressed a fear of 'being put away', so he was cared for at home by his younger daughter until his death in March 2025. He was a month away from his 99th birthday.

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## FRANK HOPKINS

*Frank Hopkins was born on 18 April 1929 and came up to St John's in 1949. He died on 14 December 2024. We are grateful to his wife, Gillian, for this appreciation.*

Frank's time at St John's was an idyllic period when he made lifelong friends. A great pleasure, once a week, was a visit to the Lamb and Flag on Saturdays when they played darts and enjoyed a pint of beer, which is all they could afford. His contemporaries had also completed their military service and looked forward to beginning 'real life'.

Leading British companies such as ICI, Lever Brothers and Shell visited universities selecting promising graduates. Frank chose Shell. I imagine because it promised

working overseas. He went into Personnel Management.

To his surprise he was sent to a desert, a remote refinery camp and tanker port in the north of Venezuela. He had expected to work in Malaya as he was born in Singapore and could speak Malay, having served in the Royal Artillery during the Malayan Emergency in the early 1950s.

He married in Jersey in 1956, whilst on leave from Venezuela.

In his training period in Venezuela, with little Spanish, he found himself in charge of a nocturnal drilling crew. His history degree was not very helpful. Fortunately, all went well. Frank spent seven years in Venezuela nearly all in isolated oil camps.

Frank was a great linguist. He spoke Malay, French, Spanish, some German, and at the age of 90, taught himself passable Italian. When travelling with friends he was always the one to communicate in the local language.

In 1960 he was posted to Buenos Aires for four very happy years. The posting was a most welcome change after camp life. From there he was sent to Bogota and Colombia. Finally, to Port Sudan, to another desert refinery on the Red Sea. The next posting was to be Borneo but at this stage Frank decided to resign faced again with the prospect of oil camp life.

Frank joined BET (British Electric Traction) in London. BET had parking facilities in Mayfair which allowed easy access to theatres, cinemas, and galleries. He found himself on the other side of graduate selection.

In 1980 he secured a post with Inchcape in Singapore. On arrival he found residents who had known his grandparents and parents so was fortunate to be befriended by this community and, of course, by the expatriate community.

In 1984, Frank took up a new post with Inchcape in Hong Kong. He preferred the climate in Singapore and found the mist and humidity of the Peak oppressive.

In 1987, Frank returned to London. Although pleased to be home, it was challenging. We had become accustomed to the luxuries of expatriate life.

On retirement Frank became a consultant in an outplacement company. Many senior managements were being made redundant and needed professional advice with interviews and CVs.

Once retired, he was active in the local community using his outplacement skills to help friends. He was on the church PCC, a school governor and on the committee of the Islington Society.

Ten years ago, the Islington University of the Third Age was founded. He enthusiastically joined the French, Spanish and Italian conversation groups, a book group and a global history study group. After many years he had returned to his great love of history.

He continued these until he fell ill at the beginning of 2023.

Frank is greatly missed by his friends and family.

## DR GEORGE MACKIE

*Dr George Mackie was born on 20 October 1929 and came up to St John's in 1950. He died on 23 August 2023. We are grateful to his son, Richard, for this appreciation.*

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful death of our father, George Owen Mackie in Victoria. George was born in Lincolnshire, England, on 20 October 1929, the son of Mary Owen and Percival Mackie, a doctor in the Indian Medical Service and a specialist in tropical diseases.

George and his brother lived in India and England as children and with the outset of war in 1940 they were sent to live with relatives in Vernon. Their uncle Augustine was headmaster of a school near Vernon, and famous locally as a rattlesnake hunter. The boys went snake hunting with their uncle and roamed Coldstream Ranch and the Monashee lakes and mountains.

George went back to England in 1944, when he could return safely. He went to Blundell's School in Devon and did two years of National Service with an anti-aircraft regiment in Gibraltar. After gaining a BA from the University of Oxford in 1953, he obtained an MA and DPhil (1957) on Portuguese Man of War behaviour, based on his research in the Straits of Messina. George returned to Canada with our mother Gillian (1931–2021) in 1956 with their oldest two children. Until 1968 they lived in Edmonton, where George worked at the University of Alberta, and then they moved to Victoria, where George taught in the Biology Department at the University of Victoria. He did most of his research at the University of Washington labs on San Juan Island. Much of his research focused on invertebrate behavioural physiology.

George explored how nerves, muscles, and excitable epithelia interact to produce behaviour. He and Robert Meech discovered axons in a jellyfish that conduct two sorts of action potential: sodium-based in fast swimming, calcium-based in slow. With Sally Leys he found that hexactinellid sponges conduct electrical impulses through the body, triggering arrests of the feeding currents. Sponges have no nervous systems, so this work was significant. In 1982, he was made a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

In 1991, he was made a fellow of the Royal Society of London. George published 157 original research papers between 1956 and 2022, served on many editorial boards, and was Editor of the Canadian Journal of Zoology from 1981 to 1989.

George loved music and played the cello in chamber music ensembles. He made earthenware pottery in the English slipware tradition and developed his own glazes. He was potting, preparing music, corresponding with family, and doing his own house maintenance until three days before his death. He kept in touch with a wide network of friends and colleagues around the world.

Two of his children (Alexander and Quentin) became archaeologists, Christina an artist, Richard a historian and editor, and Rachel teaches at the University Aix-Marseille. George has ten grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

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## MICHAEL MORIARTY

*Michael Moriarty was born on 3 July 1930 and came up to St John's in 1950. He died on 23 July 2024. We are grateful to his daughters Clare (Balliol, 1982) and Joanna (Wadham, 1980), and his son, Patrick (1985, Philosophy and Theology), for this appreciation.*

Michael was born in Ealing in 1930; his father Pat a civil servant, his mother May a homemaker. The following year the family moved to West Wickham and his brother Denis was born four years later. A tranquil childhood was interrupted by the outbreak of war in 1939. After the fall of France, Michael and Denis were evacuated briefly to the Malverns before the family moved to Reading and settled in Tilehurst which was to remain his parents' home until they died.

Michael went to Reading School and won a scholarship to St John's, which he took up after military service in the Intelligence Corps in Cyprus. He left Oxford with a double first in Classics and at 24 joined the civil service as an Assistant Principal. He met and married Rachel, and they set up home first in Hampstead and then in Hampstead Garden Suburb where the three of us grew up.

Michael's marriage to Rachel was the defining relationship of his life. They were different in character but perfectly complementary. They had many shared interests and took no important decisions without reference to the other. The true extent of their mutual support became clear when Rachel died and Michael was bereft. We all – family, friends, neighbours – did our best to support him but there could be no substitute for the companionship that he had lost.

Fittingly, Michael met Rachel through one of their shared passions, singing, as members of the London Bach Society. Michael continued to sing with the LBS for over three decades, and Rachel for most of that time. The choir's long-term project of singing every Bach cantata, as well as its iconic annual performances of the St Matthew Passion, formed the musical backdrop to our growing up.

If marriage to Rachel was the mainstay of Michael's personal life, the Home Office was the mainstay of his professional life. He was 'man and boy' Home Office, with brief spells in the Cabinet Office and the Northern Ireland Office.

Michael's years in the civil service spanned a period of huge social change and his roles took him to the heart of that change. A colleague described the Criminal Department as his spiritual home and certainly the



eleven years he spent there were a particularly satisfying period. He helped two Home Secretaries cement the end of capital punishment, and was part of early systemic thinking about criminal justice including alternatives to prison. The European dimension to this work took him regularly to Strasbourg, and family holidays followed.

Later Michael worked in the Northern Ireland Office, based in Belfast, during a particularly turbulent period spanning the assassination of Lord Mountbatten, hunger strikes and a constitutional conference. Back in the Home Office as head of the Broadcasting Department, he was able to say that he played a part in postponing the demolition of public service broadcasting.

And then he became Principal Establishment Officer – Director General for People as we'd call it today. During his six years in the role Michael shaped the careers of a generation of Home Office civil servants, and the culture of the Office as a whole. That period in the 1980s is still regarded as a golden era for the Home Office, characterized by an open culture and a sense of flourishing. Michael was not just part of it; he was at the heart of it. In the words of a former colleague, he was a giant figure in the Home Office: probably more widely known, respected and loved than anyone else.

Michael was a civil servant for 36 years and a retired civil servant for only a little less than that. In retirement he carried out reviews and took on public appointments, including as a Church Commissioner. Most loved was the Radio Authority: he threw himself into visiting local radio stations, whose promotional mugs can still be found in 22 Westgate.

Michael's retirement also marked the move to Chichester, where Michael and Rachel became deeply involved in the community that they had joined. In this Cathedral Michael found both a style of worship that fed his soul, and congenial company among its clergy and congregation. He was a regular on the information desk and took the responsibilities of sub-treasurer characteristically seriously, though he could regularly be spotted sauntering up to the Cathedral with priceless medieval silver in a Waitrose bag. He was a recipient of Maundy money in 2020, though sadly Covid restrictions meant there was no ceremony to accompany it.

The breadth of Michael's interests was astonishing. He loved literature, rereading Hardy and Trollope most years. He loved architecture and landscape. In the last weeks of his life, with failing eyesight, he asked for Pevsner's guide to Sussex and knew exactly where it could be found on the bookshelves. The move to Chichester put the South Downs on the doorstep and, walking on his own and in company, Michael got to know virtually every hamlet, hill and pub. Maps were part of the fabric of our life, and Michael faithfully documented his walks as well as the travel – to Ireland, France and Italy – which he and Rachel enjoyed so much.

## PETER HILL

*Peter Hill was born on 22 October 1929 and came up to St John's in 1950. He died on 17 October 2024. We are grateful to his son, Simon, for this appreciation.*

He was father to David, Simon and Jonathan. Grandfather to Thomas, Claire, Matthew, Freya, Joshua and Olivia and great-grandfather to Chester, Amberly, Sage, Zachary, Lily-Jane, Arthur and Otilie. Husband to his beloved Jayne for 41 years.

Peter Mace Hill was born to Thomas Gray and Brenda Mace on 22nd October 1929 at Bowdon near Altrincham, a younger brother to Tim; Ann his sister would follow. The Hill family business was in cotton, an extremely marketable commodity in those days, and the family had a large house in Park Road, Bowdon named Greystoke. There was also a gorgeous home in the Lake District with superb views over Lake Windermere and to the hills beyond. Greystoke had a large garden with bee hives which Peter helped his father to maintain.

Schooling was also traditional, with prep school, believed to be in Kendal, after evacuation there during the war with the family living in Windermere. This was followed by public school at Rugby where he followed Tim into Mitchell House from 1943–48.

National Service was still in force and Peter served his times as a 2nd Lieutenant in the North Staffordshire Regiment from February 1949–August 1950, including a stint in Egypt as part of the force stationed there during tensions in the area.

Oxford University followed with a Politics, Philosophy and Economics degree at St John's College from 1950–1953, he was awarded his BA in 1953 and MA in 1981. Peter was highly intelligent but also loved his sport. He played tennis but excelled at golf, gaining his sporting colours across multiple years and being appointed captain for the 1950–51 season.

Once university was over, a career was sought. Sadly, there was no room for Peter in the family business and he joined Clarks Shoes as a Management Trainee in Street, Somerset between 1954–1955. It was here that he met Ann, the daughter of a shoe-retailing family with a chain of independent shoe shops in Kent, named Walter & Son. Following their engagement, they were married in 1956 in Hythe.

Peter managed the company's branch in Deal, and they set up home in Walmer opposite the local Lawn Tennis Club that was to feature heavily in their lives in the town. Along with social events, he was a member of Rotary, the Chamber of Trade, and his continuing love of sport kept the family busy. He was Captain at Cinque Ports Golf Club in Deal, played squash and was Secretary of the tennis club.

David was born in 1958, Simon in 1961 with Jonathan completing the family in 1965. A move to Romney

Marsh followed in 1974 with the purchase of a run-down property in 1972 that was modified to the family's needs and allowed the expansion of the menagerie – chickens, sheep, geese, and ducks joined the ever-present Alsatian dogs and Siamese cats. The garden and animals kept the family busy as they were trying to be as self-sufficient as possible.

Peter enjoyed trips to Wimbledon with his boys. Ilie Nastase, Bjorn Borg, Stan Smith, Roger Newcombe, Jimmy Connors, and others all featured in matches that we enjoyed with him while experiencing the remarkable and unique atmosphere of Centre Court – quite an experience for the children in their early teens and younger.

Peter was also a demon driver in his commute, always trying to get past buses as he tried to get us to school/work in time whilst doing the spelling tests revision for that morning! On less stressful journeys, Terry Wogan, Radio 2, or *Just a Minute* would accompany the drive to or from Folkestone – where he had moved to work in the firm's head office.

In 1979 he returned to his native Cheshire where he created a home in the Macclesfield area. He established himself as an insurance and investment adviser in the area and started to take part in local clubs and societies – he played piano as repetiteur for the local opera group where a certain Jayne Carpenter was also a member.

Peter and Jayne shared a mutual love of music and their relationship developed. They were married in January 1983. Peter worked in insurance whilst Jayne's career developed as a professional opera singer and later as a singing coach from their home.

Together they loved travelling around the world. Their special favourite was Canada, and they made regular trips to favoured haunts on the Northumberland coast. Peter was an avid sports fan and loved watching cricket, rugby, golf, and tennis. He was five days from his 95th birthday and ten days from moving into a dream home with accessible facilities when he developed digestive complications. Peter passed away after a short illness in the East Cheshire Hospice with his family and beloved cockapoo Ivy at his side. Such a strong, unassuming, kind, and gentle man.

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## DR VICTOR SHORROCKS

*Dr Victor Shorrock was born on 22 December 1932 and came up to St John's in 1951. He died on 31 May 2025. We are grateful to his son, Peter, for this appreciation.*

Victor Marsh Shorrock passed away peacefully on 31 May 2025, at the age of 92, surrounded by his family. Born in 1932 in Little Hulton,



Lancashire, Vic's family moved to Blackpool in 1941 when his father David took up a teaching post in the town. It was from here in 1943 that Vic gained a scholarship to Manchester Grammar School, which his brothers, Derek and Ken, and his father had attended before him.

Vic's 40-mile daily journey by tram, train and tram from Blackpool did not prevent him from leading a full and active life at MGS, playing in goal for the First XI football team, becoming School Vice-Captain and, in 1951, gaining a scholarship to read Agriculture at St John's. His many school trips ushered in a lifelong love of the Lake District, walking and camping. In 1946, Vic was at Burnden Park when 30 spectators sadly lost their lives: separated from his father, Vic made his own way home where his much-relieved (and probably annoyed) father joined him later.

Vic greatly enjoyed his time at St John's, making many lifelong friends and again playing for the First XI. He was awarded a First Class degree, the first for many years in Agriculture, and Vic decided to stay on to complete a DPhil. It was during his time at Oxford that Vic met and fell in love with Jill Jenkins, the secretary at the Department of Agriculture and only daughter of the Reverend John Jenkins. In 1956, they were married in St Mary's, Newport, Pembrokeshire, by Jill's father, who at the time was the local Rector. Vic and Jill are buried together in the churchyard.

Whilst at Oxford, Vic was fortunate to witness Roger Bannister's historic breaking of the four-minute mile at Iffley Road and also to attend the famous 'Stanley Matthews' Cup Final both in 1953. After graduation, Vic's first job with the Rubber Research Institute (RRI) of Malaya took him and Jill to the Far East, where both of his sons, Jonathan and Peter, were born. As a Research Officer in the RRI's Soils Division, Vic was fortunate enough to meet the Anong, the King of Malaysia, elected by the other Sultans.

The family returned to the UK in 1965, and Vic's first job was with the Hill Farming Research Organisation, based in Edinburgh. The incoming Labour Government withdrew the organisation's funding and so Vic took up the post of Agronomist with Borax, later a subsidiary of RTZ, advising agricultural institutions and farming communities across the world on the use of Boron.

In 1969, the Shorrockses moved to Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire, where both boys were Head Boy. In 1980, Vic, by then an international authority on soil science, set up, with great help from Jill, his own business the 'Micronutrient Bureau', producing bulletins and newsletters containing the latest scientific abstracts regarding the use of micronutrients in agriculture. For many years, Vic also worked as a Consultant for Phosyn, a world-renowned manufacturer of crop nutrient products, in Pocklington in Yorkshire and he attended and spoke at a number of international conferences on subjects such as Zinc and Iron.



Vic greatly enjoyed travelling and is reputed to have visited well over one hundred countries. He was an accomplished oil painter, producing over fifty paintings, made excellent curries and had a very keen interest in Geology, joining many field trips and accumulating a huge collection of (well-classified) rocks. He maintained an active interest in many scientific subjects, particularly relating to agriculture and soil science, and regularly wrote to the Times and the BBC when he felt that an inaccurate or unsubstantiated statement needed to be corrected. In 2017, Vic wrote and published a 550-page book, *Conventional and Organic Farming*, in which he gives a detailed, even handed and scientifically objective review of the contributions of organic farming to human health, crop yields and the environment.

After Jill died in 2000, Vic continued to travel with his great friend and companion, Helga, visiting many old friends and colleagues in various corners of the world and sailing on a number of cruises. He and his son, Peter, were season ticket holders for many years at Old Trafford and were privileged to attend the European Cup Final in Barcelona in 1999, when Manchester United completed their historic Treble. Vic was a great family man and his sons, four grandchildren (Jen, Tom, Ruth and Naomi), seven great grandchildren (Amber, Alice, Megan, Hollie, William, Archer and Ada) and close niece (Beverley) will all miss him and are all immensely proud of his many achievements. In the last few months of life, Vic's sense of humour and humility, and his love of ice creams, a memorable treat during the War, never left him despite his failing health.

Often quoting the saying 'Carpe Diem', Vic certainly did seize the day and how many people can say that they were at Burnden Park in 1946, Iffley Road and Wembley in 1953 and the Nou Camp in 1999?

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## WILLIAM WILLINK

*William Willink was born on 11 July 1931 and came up to St John's in 1951. He died on 19 December 2024. We are grateful to his family for this appreciation.*

Died peacefully on Thursday 19 December 2024, aged 93, at Summerhill, Kendal, after a short illness. Dearly loved husband of Hester, much-loved Dad of Daniel, Jessica, and Priscilla, devoted Grandpa to 11, and Great Grandpa to 17, as well as older brother to Julie, Nick, John, and Sarah. Bill will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

## BARWELL DIBBEN

*Barwell Dibben was born on 23 May 1934 and came up to St John's in 1952. He died on 2 May 2023. We are grateful to his children, Anne and Roger, for this appreciation.*

Barwell is remembered fondly by family and friends for his remarkable intellect, his unfailing kindness, his honesty and his sharp sense of humour. He was born and raised near Horsham in West Sussex, where his father raised cattle. He attended Steyning Grammar School and Collyer's School and is remembered by a school



friend as being 'an imposing figure among the rest of the school; a fine scholar and well respected'. He then attended St John's, where he was awarded the Sir Thomas White Scholarship in Mathematics. He distinguished himself there as a brilliant scholar and an accomplished athlete who enjoyed rugger, cricket and rowing.

Barwell's years at Oxford were eventful, both on campus and in Britain. In June 1953, he travelled to London with millions of others to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In the spring of 1954, he attended the Billy Graham Crusade in London, an event which inspired him to make a lifelong commitment to his Christian faith. In May 1954, he joined in the euphoria on campus when Roger Bannister ran a mile in under four minutes at the Iffley Road running track. In March 1955, he served as the stern of the St John's College crew in the First Torpids rowing race. To commemorate the achievement of six bumps, he received a beautifully decorated trophy blade which he proudly mounted in his home, where it remains to this day.

By combining his powerful intellect with a strong sense of personal discipline, Barwell achieved First-Class Honours in both his initial and final exams; a 'Double First'. He was admitted to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in October 1955 and Master of Arts in Mathematics in June 1960.

After graduation, Barwell began his actuarial training at the Prudential Assurance Company Ltd. in London. In 1961, he completed his actuarial examinations and became a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries. He then moved to Montreal to join the actuarial and group divisions of Prudential Head Office in Canada. In 1969, he joined the Canada Life Agency division and was later promoted to vice-president and senior vice-president within the Canada Life and Canada Corporate divisions.

Barwell married his childhood friend Shirley Richardson in 1963 and settled into family life in

Montreal. They welcomed a daughter, Anne, in 1964 and a son, Roger, in 1965. He maintained close ties with family in Britain and Australia, as well as with friends from his school days and his years with the Prudential in London and Montreal.

In 1981, Barwell moved from the Prudential in Montreal to the actuarial and consulting firm Eckler Ltd. in Toronto, specializing in pensions. Barwell and Shirley enjoyed their time in Toronto, becoming actively involved in their church and their new community. Barwell worked into his seventies, sometimes providing actuarial testimony during trials. At one particular trial, the judge made a point of commenting on his 'formidable intellect'.

Indeed, Barwell maintained the intellectual curiosity, collegial spirit and athleticism from his university days throughout his adult life. He read copiously, with a special fondness for crosswords and number puzzles. He played bridge and regularly volunteered at church events and community outreach programs. He enjoyed golfing, skiing, jogging, squash and many long walks through Montreal and Toronto.

Barwell's time at Oxford was one of the defining periods of his life and one that he cherished. After moving to Canada, he maintained contact with the university as an alumnus. He attended a Gaudy dinner at St John's in 1994 and later enjoyed Canadian Gaudies and events organized by the Oxford University Society in Toronto. Over the years, the distance between Britain and Canada never diminished his regard for the university which had shaped his formative years.

Barwell passed away in May 2023 at the age of eighty-eight. As bellringers, he and Shirley rang peals together before they were married. After Shirley's passing in 2007, her childhood friends rang a peal of bells on her funeral day in her memory. Although Barwell's childhood friends were no longer ringing when he passed away, bells rang across England on his funeral day, which was also Coronation Day for King Charles III. In giving thanks for Barwell's long, happy life and many accomplishments, Anne and Roger would like to acknowledge the special place that Oxford University always had for him as a source of pleasure and pride.

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## DR KENNETH LEA

*Dr Kenneth Lea was born on 21 July 1935 and came up to St John's in 1953. He died on 30 July 2024. We are grateful to his niece, Daphne, for this appreciation.*

Kenneth was born in Hale and attended Altrincham Grammar School for Boys before studying Physics at St John's College, Oxford. After graduation he continued at Oxford for a further three years to complete his DPhil in May 1960. He continued at Oxford for a further three years in research with his colleagues Werner Woolf and

Mike Leask, producing a paper 'The rising of angular momentum degeneracy of f-Electron terns by cubic crystal fields' which was published and is still relevant to Physics today. He then spent the next ten years at Yale University to carry out further research and produced another paper with EB Smith titled 'Thermodynamic properties of mixtures of hard sphere molecules by Monte Carlo methods'.

He returned in 1973 and, after a year or so at Swansea University, he moved to Daresbury Research Institute where he worked on the Synchrotron Radiation Source, amongst others, until his retirement in 1992. Kenneth was a talented musician and enjoyed his retirement playing the piano and the organ at his local church, Hale United Reform Church.

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## BRUCE HYATT

*Bruce Hyatt was born on 19 January 1934 and came up to St John's in 1953. He died on 31 January 2025. We are grateful to his nephew, Mike, for this appreciation.*

Bruce grew up going to school in the fells of North Yorkshire and the love of mountains never left him. Due to health reasons, his parents were advised to send him to the south of England and his secondary schooling took place at Kings School Canterbury during the war. Here he developed interests in Gothic architecture and also painting being given his first painting set by Mrs Mole, a house mistress who recognized his talent. He pursued his love of mountains, architecture and painting throughout his life, evidenced by the large body of superb paintings that he left behind.

From Canterbury, Bruce attended St John's, reading History and Divinity, where he attended an evangelical meeting and from then on, he dedicated himself to a simple life of devotion to the evangelical church. After training in Glasgow in the 50s to become a missionary, he was rejected due to his issues with a mysterious mild form of epilepsy. He always felt mystified by this diagnosis as he climbed many Munros and cycled all his life up to a month before he died, so in many respects was far healthier than most people.

Bruce married late, in his 40s, to Jacqui Pequin. Sadly she died in a car accident three years later. Bruce did find love again, marrying Margaret Jacob in 1985. He moved to Saffron Walden to be with her, where he lived for 40 years to the end of his life. Bruce approached the world with love and will be very much missed by his family, friends and those that he met around Saffron Walden, often as he weaved around the streets on his trusty bike.



## PETER HOLLAND

*Peter Holland was born on 3 February 1933 and came up to St John's in 1953. He died on 22 June 2025. We are grateful to his daughter, Jane, for this appreciation.*

On completing his National Service as a Royal Marine, serving on Dartmoor, in Malta and the Canal Zone, Peter was proud to wear his commando 'green beret'. From there, in October 1953 he joined St John's, where he read Mathematics and enjoyed playing rugby, rowing and playing timpani in the opera orchestra.

He graduated in 1956 and worked for Nelson Research, part of English Electric, where he worked as a programmer and then a systems analyst in the early days of the computer industry. He then became a company representative to universities and scientific establishments who were wanting to buy one of these new machines. He then went on to management which became more challenging as the industry expanded and English Electric Computers merged with several others and became ICL. The industry grew and so did the responsibilities and he was sent to China in 1965 to find potential customers.

He continued in management with occasional trips abroad until 1983 when he was offered a job with a user, Metal Box, to oversee IT worldwide. It was a big upheaval for the family as we moved from Potters Bar to Reading, but it meant no more commuting and Peter could walk to work. He set about getting to know his teams around the world from Australia to Europe. After a merger with the French company Carnaud, there were changes and Peter decided to take early retirement in 1994 and became treasurer for several charities.

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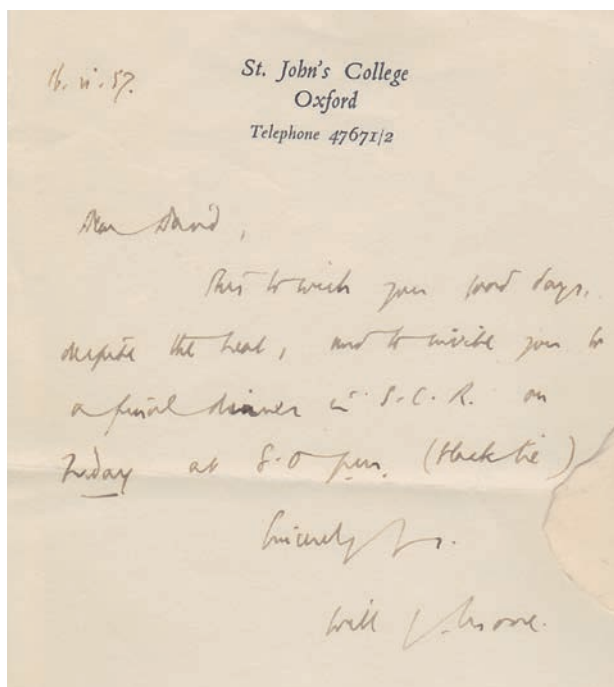
## DAVID SIMS

*David Sims was born on 27 June 1933 and came up to St John's in 1954. He died on 30 January 2025. We are grateful to his son, Ric, for this appreciation.*

David completed his National Service in Malaya for two years before going up to Oxford. At Oxford he met Sylvia Tutton, who was studying Music at St Hugh's, and was later to become his wife. David was a passionate and accomplished pianist and could have pursued a professional career in music had he so wished.

In his fourth year (studying for the PGCE or equivalent) he lodged at his tutor's house – that was Will Moore (Dr. W.G. Moore, Senior Tutor in Modern Languages at St John's). When going through my father's effects, I found an invitation from Will to my father dated 16 June 1957 for a final black-tie dinner in the SCR. A scan of this invitation can be seen above.

After graduation he stayed in Oxford for a year doing teacher training before taking up a post as teacher of



French and German at Worsely Wardley Grammar School in Swinton, Lancashire. Later he moved with Sylvia and his first son Richard (me) to Birmingham to take up a post at Solihull College. After nearly three years there, and the birth of my brother John and sister Elisabeth, he moved to Letchworth, Hertfordshire, and a post at Letchworth College of Technology. Two more daughters were born in Hertfordshire: Kathryn and Alexandra. By this time David had expanded his areas of interest and was primarily involved in teacher training and further education.

In the late 1970s David spearheaded a move to incorporate the teacher training activities of the college of technology into Hatfield Polytechnic and was subsequently based in Hatfield though remaining in Letchworth. David and Sylvia divorced in 1984 and he married his colleague Anne Castling and moved across the border to the village of Stotfold, Bedfordshire, where he remained.

After retirement from Hatfield, he continued to work for a number of charitable organisations, including a refugee centre in Brixton, and the Motor Neurone Association.

He was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2018 and died from complications of the cancer on 30 January 2025.

He will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humour, his humanity and willingness to engage warmly with people of all ages and backgrounds, his sharp intelligence, his musicality, and wonderful teaching abilities. I personally am lucky to have known him for more than sixty years as a brilliant and loving father.

## RICHARD GOWING

*Richard Gowing was born on 1 July 1934 and came up to St John's in 1955. He died on 7 January 2025. We are grateful to his daughter, Emma, for this appreciation, written by Richard himself.*

After leaving Oundle in 1952, I did my National Service with Royal Signals, serving as a radio mechanic in Germany. After demob in February 1955, I studied at Stockton Tech for Oxford Prelims before going up to St John's to read Chemistry. After completing my course in 1959 I joined the UKAEA Production Group at Sellafield to work in Health Physics (radiation protection).

During 1965–67 I spent a year and a half in Japan working on the commissioning of the British-built nuclear power station at Tokai-Mura, on the Pacific coast some 80 miles NE of Tokyo. Soon after my return to the UK I was posted to the nuclear fuel factory at Springfields near Preston, then in 1969 to the UKAEA nuclear power station at Chapelcross, near Annan in Scotland, where I remained until 1975.

By then my main interest had become the safe transport of radioactive materials, principally irradiated reactor fuel, so in 1975 I transferred to the head office of what had become British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) where I worked in the transport department for the remainder of my career. There my main task was to obtain regulatory approval for shipments of irradiated nuclear fuel from power stations at home and abroad to the reprocessing plant in Sellafield. This was very interesting multidisciplinary work, involving all the sciences plus engineering, dealing with regulatory authorities and customers at home and abroad and presenting papers at international conferences in Europe, America and Japan, so I got a lot of travel which I enjoyed, and I qualified as a chartered nuclear engineer, towards which Oundle's curriculum in engineering-related subjects didn't come amiss!

Personal life: during my first posting at Sellafield, I married a local girl, Elizabeth; during our nearly 52 years together we've raised two daughters, one of whom has, since my retirement in 1996, presented us with two grandchildren; they live quite near so we've been able to keep in close touch.

Recreation: I was brought up to enjoy the hills and started serious mountaineering at Oxford, climbing in all the main areas in Britain and (from 1959 to the late '60s) in the Alps, as well as several trips in the Japanese mountains, and while I was at Oxford, I was a founder member of the OU Caving Club. In 1956, I joined the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club, whose fellow members include OU's David Stembridge and Peter Chadwick; now 85 I still attend a few meets – it's nice to get out on the hills with old friends. Also in 1963, I was elected to the Alpine Club, and achieved my 20<sup>th</sup> and last fourthousander at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary meet in Zermatt in 2007 with a guided ascent of the Breithorn.

## RICHARD TIMMS OBE

*Richard Timms was born on 2 May 1936 and came up to St John's in 1956. He died on 3 June 2025. We are grateful to his children Ragnhild, Anders, and Eirik as well as his wife Tessa Timms, for this appreciation.*

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing on 3 June 2025 of Richard Brian Timms, OBE, aged 89. A distinguished leader, Richard dedicated almost three decades to the British Council, leaving a strong legacy in international cultural relations.

Born in Highams Park, London on 2 May 1936, Richard was the son of Ethel May and Leslie George Timms. After spending his early years in Highams Park, young Richard was evacuated from London to Hertfordshire. In 1947 Richard was awarded a full boarding scholarship at Bancrofts School, where he spent his secondary school years. After completing his A-Levels, Richard participated in a six-week British Schools Exploring Society expedition to Quebec, Canada – a fantastic experience that he continued to talk about for the next 50+ years! He then completed his National Service, serving as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery from 1954 to 1956.

After completing his National Service, Richard went up in September 1956 to St John's to read Botany, earning a BA in 1960 and an MA in 1963. His love of science and nature remained a constant thread throughout his life. It was also during a university summer placement in 1957 with his university friend, John, when planting spruce trees across mountain slopes in the western fjords of Norway as part of a regional reforestation project, that Richard first met his future first wife, Anne-Karin, one of four daughters of the regional forestry commissioner. That first meeting formed the foundation of a lasting bond when they married seven years later in Norway in August 1964 in a double wedding ceremony with Anne-Karin's older sister Tine and her husband-to-be Egil.

After coming down from Oxford, Richard took up a position as a schoolmaster of Science at Westminster School, London from 1960 to 1968, inspiring students with his passion for science and developing a deep interest in supporting learning. Subsequently, in 1968 Richard joined the British Council Overseas Career Service, travelling out by ship in the autumn to Tanzania for his first overseas posting, along with his wife Anne-Karin and their 18-month-old daughter Ragnhild. These happy initial years in Africa brought more additions to the family, firstly a son, Anders and two years later a second son, Eirik. These first few years spent in Africa started a lifelong love of Africa with its magnificent scenery and wildlife, Land Rovers and gin and tonics 'when the sun was over the yardarm'. One of Richard's 'claims to fame' was owning the first Land Rover County One Ten model in Southern Africa when taking up his post in Zambia in 1983.



This time in Tanzania also influenced the direction of Richard's British Council career that started out firstly as Assistant Representative in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (1968–71), before serving as Regional Director in Istanbul, Türkiye (1971–75), Cultural Attaché in Bucharest, Romania (1975–78), Director – Training in London, UK (1978–83), Director in Lusaka, Zambia (1983–87) and then Deputy Controller for Africa and the Middle East in London, UK (1987–91), before taking up his final tenure at the British Council in mid-1991 with an overseas posting as Director – South Africa in Johannesburg (1991–94). This was a momentous time to be in South Africa, just as all apartheid legislation was repealed and a new multi-racial constitution was created.

In recognition of his services to education and international understanding during his 26-year career with the British Council, Richard was appointed OBE in 1994 by HM Queen Elizabeth II. He was also made a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International in 1987.

Richard retired from the British Council in mid-1994 and moved to Hout Bay in Cape Town, South Africa, where he based his home for the next 25 years, albeit with much travelling to the UK and Europe to see family and friends. In April 2003, Richard married Tessa in Hout Bay, Cape Town – a very happy event celebrated over a week with family travelling over from UK, Norway and the Middle East and many local friends.

In April 2019 Richard and Tessa moved back to the UK to be nearer Richard's three children, six grandchildren and wider family and friends and they settled in Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Faringdon is happily within easy reach of Oxford – and of course of St John's College.

St John's always held a special place in Richard's heart and he often spoke of his very happy time there during his Oxford University years. There were many fond memories from his time spent at Oxford – his room at the college, the magnificent college gardens, supporting the rowing team as well as convivial times in 'The Bird & Baby' (The Eagle & Child), the Lamb & Flag, the Turf Tavern and the Trout Inn at Wolvercote. He also greatly enjoyed the many magnificent annual alumni dinners and reunions (and a few shenanigans) over the years since going down from Oxford. One favourite alumni dinner recollection of his was when Richard and a few other fellow alumni played cricket with a tennis racquet against a few St John's undergrads along the accommodation hallways in the early hours of the morning, following a rather merry alumni dinner! He was also very proud to be one of the original dozen or so Trustees of St John's College Barge who in 1961 bought the St John's Barge, one of the original college barges left on the Thames. A charity was then established to preserve the barge, saving it at that time from being scrapped.

One of Richard's favourite St John's stories to recount was when one year he won the St John's College annual

Archery competition! Although not recommended for health and safety reasons, there may have been a few drinks consumed beforehand by all concerned 'to warm up for the competition'. Richard was subsequently delighted to be awarded the St John's College Archery Winner's cup, being the only student who managed to actually hit the target with an arrow!

Richard is survived by his wife, Tessa Anne Timms (m. 2003), his children Ragnhild, Anders and Eirik from his marriage to the late Anne-Karin Berg (m. 1964–1988), and extended family both in the UK and in Norway.

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## DR ROBIN WILLIAM BURNHAM

*Dr Robin William (Bill) Burnham was born on 7 May 1935 and came up to St John's in 1956. He died on 24 January 2025. We are grateful to his wife, Helen, for this appreciation.*

After leaving College, Bill became an Assistant Governor in the prison service. He left the service and took a teaching post in classics at Bristol Grammar School. He returned to his interest in the criminal justice system and enrolled in the doctoral programme in criminology at Berkeley, California. He then worked for the United Nations in New York, Rome and Vienna. During his career he ran the criminology programme at Keele University and was appointed a distinguished visiting professor in Huntsville, Texas.

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## TIMOTHY AMBLER

*Timothy Ambler was born on 30 May 1937 and came up to St John's in 1957. He died on 3 August 2024. We are grateful to Simon for this appreciation.*

Tim was a maverick and a marketing Top Gun. Not that he actually flew fighter jets like Tom Cruise, but he led an adventurous life; he travelled widely, and crossed the Atlantic supersonically many times in Concorde as well as more slowly on the first Queen Mary.

Born in Singapore, Tim returned there with his parents at the age of twelve and was at school at the Raffles Institution until he went to Downside. From there he moved on, after returning to Singapore on National Service, with an exhibition to St John's. He claimed to have learned 'the art of the skive' while on National Service and had a thoroughly enjoyable time at Oxford, where his antics could have been penned by P.G. Wodehouse. His comment that, 'Being seen as intelligent is far more useful than being intelligent' may be true, but underplays his own hand. He gained a scholarship to the Sloane School of Management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, completing a Master's degree there in one year instead of two. In his fifties, Tim began a new career in academia, as a senior lecturer at the London Business

School for over twenty years. He was a visiting professor at Columbia University, taking the opportunity to learn to rollerblade in Central Park. He became a Senior Fellow of the Adam Smith Institute, which published many of his reports and articles, including his last book, *Shrinking Whitehall*, in 2022.

During university summer holidays, Tim was engaged by M16, for which his father worked, to subvert Russian ideological marketing at the World Festival of Youth. Tim was responsible for the marketing success of brands such as Archers, Bailey's, Croft Original, and Malibu.

Tim's faith was of supreme importance to him. Instructed in the Catholic faith at his first prep school, his faith was strengthened at Downside, and he was proud of being an Old Gregorian. Music was one of Tim's passions. He sang at school, joined the St John's College choir, sang with the University choir, and even once with the visiting Royal Opera Company in the chorus of *Aida*. Later he was to sing in a choir at the Royal Albert Hall.

In his retirement, Tim became deputy organist at St Peter's Church in Blakeney, despite being unable to play the organ, and he joined both the Kelling Singers and the Icenii Choir.

He was the author of too many papers and books to mention them all here. There are over a hundred of his publications listed on the ResearchGate website, with over ten thousand citations. Of course, he wrote books on marketing and advertising. His book on *Doing Business in China* ran to three editions. The Chartered Institute of Marketing listed him as one of the top fifty marketing experts worldwide.

He was a superb godfather to his many godchildren, asserting that godparents should be subversive and should buy those toys that children covet but parents forbid.

The greatest love of Tim's life was his wife, Katie, to whom he was married for nearly sixty years. Within the last few weeks of his life, Tim said to Katie, 'Marrying you was the best thing I ever did.' He loved his family, son Gus, daughter-in-law Viola, and grandchildren Helena and Zach.

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## GEORGE DAVID SAUNDERS

*George David Saunders was born on 1 January 1940 and came up to St John's in 1959. He died on 2 June 2024. We are grateful to his wife, Gillian, and Laurence Chase (1961), for this appreciation.*

George David Saunders, going by David, was born in Streatham in South London in 1940 and came up to St John's to read French, Italian, and Geology in 1959. David bridged the generations. He could remember aerial dogfights over London in 1945, was an enthusiastic spectator on the Richmond jazz scene in his youth, and then entered St John's at the onset of the swinging 60s.

That he arrived in Oxford on a beat-up motorbike and occasionally tapered the trousers of his fellow students so that they could look cool, points to his engagement in the life of the College. An American post-graduate student and friend Laurence Chase remembers David's good sense and hospitable warmth towards a newcomer to England and Oxford. The grand old man of letters, Robert Graves, was poet-in-residence at this time, and David had fond memories of drinking claret while listening to the poet's declamations. But David never quite forgave England its class culture and resisted this wherever he found it.

Perhaps this explains why he also resisted the blandishments of the recruiters from MI5 and Saatchi & Saatchi when they came calling at the end of his studies. Instead, David and his wife Gill made their way to Brisbane in Australia, via San Francisco in the heyday of the Summer of Love, where the young couple were mistaken for members of the Beatles' entourage. In 1964, David joined the French department at the University of Queensland before joining the founding faculty cohort at Griffith University in 1975. In between these appointments, he obtained his PhD at the University of Grenoble, studying the Italian populist writer Curzio Malaparte and submitting his thesis in French under the title *Une image du peuple: étude de l'évolution littéraire de Curzio Malaparte* (An Image of the People: A Study of the Literary Evolution of Curzio Malaparte).

At Griffith, David became a leading light, initially in the School of Humanities, but later as the University's Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research. David was an active researcher and publisher throughout his career, specializing in the history and theory of law and legal institutions. Unusually, he published major works after completing his stint as a senior administrator. His *Authorship and Copyright* was published in 1992 to be followed by *Anti-Lawyers: Religion and the Critics of Law and State* in 1997. In the early 2000s he co-edited *Natural Law and Civil Sovereignty* with his longtime collaborator and friend Ian Hunter. And as his final scholarly work he translated Fiammetta Palladini's landmark book *Samuel Pufendorf discepolo di Hobbes: per una reinterpretazione del giusnaturalismo moderno*, which appeared in English as *Samuel Pufendorf Disciple of Hobbes: For a Re-Interpretation of Modern Natural Law* in 2019. That David should have become Palladini's firm friend in the process is a sign of the kind of intellectual collaborator that he was.

But David's successful academic and intellectual career tells only part of his story. During the 1970s, 80s and 90s, David and Gill kept a warm family household, raising two wonderful children, Thom and Amelia, and entertaining a wide circle of friends. David and Gill's dinner parties were thoroughly festive and enjoyable, with lovely food, wine, and conversation. Often held in the warm Brisbane evenings on a deck overlooking a



swimming pool, these were memorable occasions for all concerned, not least because of the stylish and humorous way in which David and Gill presided over the gatherings.

Travelling from Streatham to Oxford on his motorbike, studying in France, cultivating a multi-lingual scholarship, thriving in Brisbane, and travelling widely, David Saunders was a cosmopolitan English exile who found his home in the wider world. He is fondly remembered and sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to enter his orbit.

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## PROFESSOR ANDREW HAMNETT

*Professor Andrew Hamnett was born on 12 November 1947 and came up to St John's in 1966. He died on 20 May 2025. We are grateful to his daughters, Dr Hilary Hamnett (St Catz, 1999) and Dr Gillian Hamnett (LMH, 2004), for this appreciation.*

Dr Andrew Hamnett passed away on 20 May 2025 aged 77 after a short illness. Andrew was born in Stockport to Albert and Dorothy Hamnett in 1947. He attended William Hulme Grammar School in Manchester and came up to Oxford (University College) in 1966 to read Chemistry. He moved to St John's to complete his DPhil in electrochemistry, and held a JRF at Queen's before visiting the University of British Columbia in Canada. It was there that he met his wife of 49 years, Suzanne, with whom he had three daughters, Erica, Hilary (St Catz, 1999, Chemistry) and Gillian (LMH, 2004, Ancient History).

Andrew was a Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry and Fellow by Special Election at St Catherine's College from 1980 to 1989. After that, he took up a Chair in Physical Chemistry at Newcastle University where he continued to author and co-author many publications including translating the textbook *Electrochemistry* from German into English (1998). He continued his research in this area, and together with Professor John Goodenough, Andrew laid the foundations for electrocatalysis in direct methanol fuel cells.

After taking on the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 1997 at Newcastle, he moved to the University of Strathclyde as Principal and Vice-Chancellor in 2000 and stayed there until he retired in 2009. He is remembered at Strathclyde for guiding the University through a period of significant transformation, growth and modernisation. Andrew received honorary degrees from Newcastle University and Łódź University of Technology (Poland), and, in 2024 was awarded the title of Emeritus Principal at the University of Strathclyde.

In his retirement, Andrew completed an Open University degree in Mathematics and Statistics (another First) and rediscovered various hobbies from his younger days including Meccano, railway modelling and philately. A dedicated church organist, he played regularly in

Northumberland where he and Suzanne retired. He was also heavily involved in community organisations, including the local Rotary club, the Mid-Northumberland Chorus, the Newcastle and District Society of Organists, and the United Reformed Church. He leaves behind a family legacy in his two grandsons, Ralph and Luke, with whom he greatly enjoyed sharing his model railway.

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## THE REVD IAIN MACDONALD

*The Revd Iain Macdonald was born on 14 August 1937 and came up to St John's in 1966. He died on 14 May 2025. We are grateful to his wife, Lois, for this appreciation.*

Iain Thomson Macleod Macdonald was born in 1937 in Edinburgh. His earliest memory was of being pulled away from a window and carried to shelter under the stairs as bombs fell, probably in October 1939. With his mother and infant sister, Iain was evacuated to the small town of Millport on the Greater Cumbrae, an island on the west coast

of Scotland. There Iain began school. Experiences during the war inspired his life-long interest in military history.

In 1947 the Macdonalds immigrated to Canada, moving often as Iain's father sought work and a good home for the family. In all, Iain attended 22 schools.

In 1966, Iain returned to Britain with a BA from the University of Alberta. At St John's, he studied philosophy with Peter Hacker whose books continue to have pride of place in Iain's library.

Back in Canada after 1969, Iain worked in education, broadcasting and advertising before he answered a call to enter the Christian ministry. He studied theology at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, receiving his MDiv and becoming an ordained United Church minister in 1980. In Kingston, Iain met and married Lois Miller, a Nova Scotian.

Iain served congregations in Ontario and Nova Scotia. He was considered an excellent narrative and Biblical preacher and compassionate pastor.

Iain cherished his education at St John's, although he left the university without a degree. In a note to daughter Christina, he wrote 'I [spent] seven terms at what I continue to believe is the best university in the world. It has made me a much better minister than I might otherwise have become, and I can't imagine any other career I might better or more usefully have pursued.'

Iain proudly took his family to visit St John's. They dined at High Table, enjoyed tea at the President's



Lodgings and in Dr Hacker's rooms, went punting on The Cherwell, and ate meals at the Lamb and Flag and The Trout.

On one solo visit, Iain stayed in a College guest room. He recounted how he had admired the massive lock on the washroom door, thinking it dated from the sixteenth century. As he closed the door, he heard an ominous click and found himself locked in the washroom. He had to sleep on the floor until cleaners freed him in the morning.

Iain delighted in participating in alumni activities. He and Lois attended the Canadian Gaudy of 2005 in Toronto where he presented the President with a new chapel banner created by Canadian artist Donna Hogan. Iain helped establish the Lester B. Pearson Graduate Studentship. He enjoyed the get-togethers of the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Nova Scotia, especially the annual Boat Race Dinner.

Iain kept in touch sporadically with College friends Wilson Parasiuk and Sir Geoffrey Tantum. Lois and Iain visited with Wilson and Geoff at their homes: Wilson in Vancouver, British Columbia and Geoff in Devon.

Iain loved family, travelling and cats. He voraciously devoured both books and sushi. The last meal he enjoyed was sushi served in his hospital room.

Iain is survived by Lois, his wife of 47 years, daughters Margaret Macdonald and Christina Macdonald (Ian Sinclair) and grandson Alden Macdonald-Sinclair, all of Nova Scotia. Iain's funeral was held in Fall River, NS, and his interment on Manitoulin Island in northern Ontario, both locations where he had served as minister.

The family thanks St John's for the warm welcome Iain enjoyed on his visits. Iain always felt honoured to be a member of the College.

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## ANDREW CAMPBELL

*Andrew Campbell was born on 3 June 1950 and came up to St John's in 1969. He died on 27 August 2024. We are grateful to his wife, Louise, and their family for this appreciation.*

Andrew Malcolm Campbell came up to St John's from Rugby School to read Jurisprudence. His father, AMG Campbell, had read medicine at the College from 1927 to 1931, subsequently becoming an eminent neurologist in Bristol.

Andrew had a large circle of friends at St John's across a number of different faculties and he stayed in regular touch with them for the whole of his life. He was excellent company



and a great raconteur. He was famous for reciting, word for word, lengthy passages from *Beyond the Fringe* and other similar sketches.

During his time at St John's he was a keen cricketer and was responsible for forming the Occasional Savages, a group of College friends of varying cricket ability who after leaving St John's went on to host several tours in the West Country against local teams.

After going down from College Andrew duly passed his law exams and then served his Articles in his home city of Bristol. On qualifying, he moved to London where he spent the bulk of his career at the city firm of Simmons & Simmons as a highly regarded dispute resolution lawyer. His special area of expertise was construction law. Towards the end of his career, he practised in the Oxford office of Morgan Cole and then subsequently became a consultant at Payne Hicks Beach.

Andrew was an avid historian and could discuss military campaigns in considerable detail, particularly those in the Napoleonic era. In retirement he derived enormous pleasure from attending a number of history lectures at Oxford. He was very widely read and would surprise his friends in other parts of the world with how much he knew about the politics in their respective countries.

He adored his wife, Louise, and his three children, and is sorely missed by them, by his three sisters, and by his many, many friends.

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## NEIL GOLDMAN

*Neil Goldman was born on 7 September 1950 and came up to St John's in 1969. He died on 10 September 2024. We are grateful to his wife, Olivia, and their family for this appreciation.*

Neil Vernon Harold Goldman came up to St John's from Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood on a Thomas White scholarship to read Modern Languages.

Neil rapidly made a wide range of friends at Oxford across faculty and colleges, particularly in Law and Medicine, and he remained a close friend to all for the rest of his life. Despite being a naturally hard worker, he was excellent company with a rapid wit and easy charm. He was a keen cricket, squash and tennis player and his artistic talents were readily apparent via effortless playing of his own jazz compositions on piano.

When he left St John's, most of his friends thought Neil would follow an artistic career, but he joined Colpac,





the packaging company founded by his father, Martin, who had escaped Hitler's Germany just before the war. Neil was proud of his Jewish heritage and brought up his two daughters in the Jewish faith. He remained with the company throughout his life transforming a successful but essentially British enterprise into a very international company aided by his easy mastery of languages – he spoke at least five of them fluently – and won export contracts throughout the world. He leaves a business legacy of which his father would have been proud.

Despite not following a professional career in the artistic world, he was a highly accomplished amateur writer of books and plays and produced a musical about the unification of Italy which premiered at the Oxford Old Fire Station, titled *Garibaldi*. A head for successful business is not often associated with an education and mindset that can discourse widely across politics, science, or the arts. Neil Goldman combined culture and enterprise as a true polymath with innate common sense and sound judgment of human nature.

He bore a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer with great fortitude and was responding well to treatment, but died suddenly when still at work.

He was devoted to his wife Olivia, his children Aura and Talia, and his two sisters, Fiona and Rowena.

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## ROBIN SCHNEIDER

*Robin Schneider was born on 16 May 1959 and came up to St John's in 1978. He died on 22 May 2023. We are grateful to Tim Connolly (1978) and Robin's wife Rachael, for this appreciation.*

Robin Schneider went up to St John's in 1978 after spending his childhood in the Chalfont area of Buckinghamshire and attending Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, but he always regarded Switzerland, from where all four of his grandparents hailed, as his spiritual home. Indeed, the slopes of the Alps played a large part in Robin's life, whether hurtling down a mountain or enjoying the après-ski which played to his love of convivial time spent with good friends, food, and drink.

He made the most of Oxford life, combining his study of history with playing hockey, socializing extensively, editing the satirical *Tributary* magazine, building lifelong friendships, and becoming well-known for the bright yellow and black Watford FC scarf that he wore everywhere. I would love to think he at least tried to get



away with wrapping it over his sub fusc when taking Finals. A fellow historian, I became one of those lifelong friends and was honoured to have him as best man at my wedding in 1993.

After initially working in recruitment and industrial relations for Esso UK, Robin became a global expert on diversity and inclusion. Schneider-Ross, the consultancy that he ran with his wife Rachael for over thirty years, built a first-class reputation across the globe, enabling their clients to reap the tangible benefits of increased profitability and sustainable growth that came from operating diverse teams. Robin assembled a client base that included Aviva, Barclays, BP, and Shell, as well as contributing to more than twenty UK government commissions, the development of the public sector equality duties that paved the way for the 2010 Equality Act and, earlier in his career, the Patten commission to help redesign the Police Service of Northern Ireland as part of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

Above all, however, Robin was a happy and devoted family man. The home that he and Rachael made for their two children, Tom and Sophie, in the beautiful Pewsey Vale, Wiltshire, was a beacon of love and hospitality to which every visitor was always assured of the warmest of welcomes.

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## JOANNE SKOLNICK

*Joanne Skolnick was born on 19 June 1964 and came up to St John's in 1988. She died on 15 December 2024. We are grateful to Dr Kate Molesworth (1985), Chair of the Women's Network, for this appreciation.*

The Women's Network is sad to announce the sudden passing of its Steering Group member Joanne Skolnick (1988, MSt in Modern History) on Sunday 15 December 2024.

After her degree at St John's, Joanne completed a Master's in Journalism at Northwestern University and an LLB and a BCL at McGill University's Faculty of Law. She was a qualified solicitor in England and Wales, an attorney in New York, and a barrister and solicitor in Ontario, Canada. After a brief stint in journalism, Joanne worked in private practice in Toronto and New York City before becoming an Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York and a legal consultant in London.

Joanne devoted much of her time to advising charities and non-profit organisations, serving as a legal trustee



for the British American Security Information Council (BASIC), and as a trustee for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) in East London.

Joanne cared deeply about empowering women and served on the board of several women's organisations over the years. She was also an editor of a UK women's legal publication.

We will greatly miss Joanne and send our condolences to her husband Gregory, her family, and friends.

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## DR CAL SHEARER

*Cal Shearer was born on 21 March 1999 and came up to St John's in 2017. They died on 30 October 2024. We are grateful to Professor Carolyne Larrington for this appreciation.*

Cal Shearer, who identified as non-binary, was born in London to Vicky Licorish and Paul Shearer. They had an older sister, Eleanor. Cal's maternal grandparents emigrated to Britain from the Caribbean in the 1950s and the connection with St Lucia was an important part of their identity. Cal was educated at City of London Girls' School; here they met their future wife, Imogen, when they were both aged seven. Cal excelled in school, deciding to read Psychology and Linguistics. Following in Eleanor's footsteps, Cal applied to Oxford. After talking to Professor Kate Nation on a couple of occasions in 2015 and 2016, they were convinced that St John's was absolutely the right college for them. Indeed, Cal always valued both the College and their research laboratory as places where they could be themselves and pursue the things that really mattered to them.

Cal's undergraduate career, beginning in 2017, was stellar; from statistics to behavioural neuroscience and historical linguistics, they loved what they were studying. At the same time, Cal was quietly committed

to volunteering: a tireless listener for the University's Nightline helpline and later training as a Samaritan. The Samaritans named a star after Cal in the constellation of Aries to honour their memory. They coxed for St John's, enjoyed women's football, and played in a recorder ensemble. Cal's competence and calm was a boon to their undergraduate tutors, who could always rely on them to ask the right questions and to help struggling peers. For their third-year dissertation, Cal turned to a project involving working memory and visual attention: this was their introduction to cognitive neuroscience, the eventual area of their doctoral study.

Gaining a First-Class degree, despite the vicissitudes of sitting Finals during lockdown, Cal remained at St John's for graduate work, undertaking an MSc and then doctoral study in cognitive neuroscience, funded by a Wellcome Trust Biomedical Vaccination Scholarship. Cal proved a skilled and inspirational tutor, teaching statistics classes for their supervisor; they also revitalized the College's psychology society. In 2022 they became the only Oxford representative in the second cohort of British Neuroscience Scholars, set up to support students from under-represented ethnic groups. At the time of their death, Cal's doctoral thesis was almost complete and, thanks to the efforts of their supervisors, Helen Barron and Jill O'Reilly, the University agreed to posthumous certification of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Cal and Immi's marriage was blessed in St John's chapel on 2 July 2023, where their funeral also took place, fifteen months later, with the Revd Elizabeth Macfarlane once again officiating. Cal was not only a brilliant scientist, they were also witty, compassionate, and brave. They loved animals, particularly the family's dogs and cats, and cared deeply about other people struggling with their mental health. Their life ended much too soon, but their contribution to life in St John's, to neuroscience, and to mental health support across the City and University lives on.





# College Record



## FIRST IN FINAL HONOUR SCHOOLS 2025

Reece Aaron, History and Economics  
Isidor May Acton, Modern Languages (French and German)  
Emmanuel Appiah, Medicine (Pre-clinical)  
Adam James Arnfield, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
Yusuke Atsuta, Mathematics and Computer Science  
Allanah Jade Booth, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry (MBiochem)  
Eve Boulos, Music  
Patrick George Finlay Breeze, Literae Humaniores  
Esther Carr, History of Art  
Benjamin Cave Calland, Chemistry (MChem)  
Nicholas Champness, Modern Languages (German)  
Junyuan Chen, Mathematics and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)  
Kieran Jack De-Ville, Chemistry (MChem)  
Lauryn Anna Foster, Neuroscience (MBiomedsci)  
Jack Gamblin, Medicine (Pre-clinical)  
Guy Clifford Tudor Griffiths, Modern Languages (French and German)  
Disha Hegde, History  
Ryan Duncan Heppell, Mathematics (MMath)  
James William Sylvester Hindle, Engineering Science (MEng)  
Gareth James Hopkins, Physics (MPhys)  
Edward Huang, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
Jan Erik Huebel, History and Economics  
Thaejus Ilango, Music  
Ali Imam-Sadeque, Mathematics (MMath)  
Haru Ishizaka, Physics (MPhys)  
Ella Mai Jackson, Music  
Nathaniel Alexandre James, Engineering Science (MEng)  
Yuchen Jiang, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry (MBiochem)  
Sophie Kenelm, Modern Languages (French)  
Sarah Louise Kime, Theology and Religion  
Mehmet Koca, Mathematics and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)  
Zhi-Xuan Koh, History and Politics  
Jan Krzysztof Maciejewski, Archaeology and Anthropology  
Atharv Shivram Mahajan, Physics (MPhys)  
Connor Manship, Fine Art  
Robert Harry Mungo McGlone, Ancient and Modern History  
Annabelle McInroy, English and Modern Languages (French)  
Toby Peter Morton-Collings, Chemistry (MChem)  
Georgi Nedyalkov, Chemistry (MChem)  
Matilda Noble, Biology (MBiol)  
Atharva Mahesh Parulekar, Mathematics (MMath)  
Ian Michael Holger Pebody, Engineering Science (MEng)  
Arjuna Puvanachandra, Engineering Science (MEng)  
Jin Rhee, Engineering Science (MEng)  
Aamina Rizvi, Mathematics and Computer Science  
Holly Madeline Shearsmith, Chemistry (MChem)  
Jihwan Shin, Engineering Science, (MEng)  
John Henry Spence, Modern Languages (French and Russian)  
Flora Timney, Biology (MBiol)  
Andy van Horssen, Mathematics and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)

Chirag Verma, Mathematics (MMath)  
Shaun Walker, Mathematics and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)  
Thomas Harold West, History  
Thomas Whiting, Engineering Science (MEng)  
Dylan Wilson, Engineering Science (MEng)  
Sol Woodroffe, Philosophy, Politics and Economics

## DISTINCTION IN PART C (MMATH)

M Ahsan Al Mahir, Mathematics and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)  
Sara Dragutinovic, Mathematics and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)  
Jake Aaron Masters, Mathematics and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)  
Xingyu Nie, Mathematics (MMath)  
Yu Xiao, Mathematics (Mmath)

## DISTINCTION OR FIRST CLASS IN FIRST PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS 2025

Naomi Armstrong, History of Art  
Amelia Bateson, Experimental Psychology  
Thomas Blackburn, Chemistry  
Sin Chan, Computer Science  
Daniel Cunningham, English Language and Literature  
Somsuryagni Das, Mathematics and Statistics  
Sofya Donets, Psychology and Linguistics  
Uma Eickelberg, Engineering Science  
Isabel Elsner, English Language and Literature  
Hannah Fareed, History and Politics  
Maya Flint, Jurisprudence  
Merit Habib Matta, History and Politics  
Fraser Hauser, English Language and Literature  
Joe Hennings, Biology  
Xin Yi Ho, History of Art  
Ariene Horner, History  
Lia Jobanputra, Human Sciences  
Mahnoor Kamran, Geography  
Philip Kimber, Jurisprudence (with Law in Europe)  
Arda Kurtoglu, Physics  
Gvozden Lapcevic, Mathematics and Statistics  
Xingjian Li, Chemistry  
Frederick Li, Mathematics and Statistics  
Xinyuan Ma, Fine Art  
Anna MacKinnon, Jurisprudence (with Law in Europe)  
Ruth Magedera, Psychology and Linguistics  
Julia Marshall, Geography  
Rushil Mathur, Mathematics and Computer Science  
Ellie McCartney, Computer Science  
Vishal Mohanty, Physics  
Dara Moh'D, Philosophy and Theology  
Nimrod Morwood, Geography  
Robert Moustafa, Arabic  
Cameron Noble, Chemistry  
Jack Pentland, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry



Ewan Plowden-Wardlaw, Modern Languages and Linguistics  
 Patrick Rabey, English Language and Literature  
 Chao Ren, Mathematics and Statistics  
 David Richter, Dip Legal Studies  
 Louise Smith, History  
 Ryan Teo, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
 Clementine Thorpe, History  
 Tanupat Trakulthongchai, Mathematics and Statistics  
 Maxim Vorobev, History  
 Frederick Weir, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Elliot Wigham, Music  
 Jessica Williamson, Jurisprudence  
 Zichi Zhang, Physics

## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS 2025/26

Tegan Addison, Music  
 Zaheen A-Rahman, Engineering Science  
 Naomi Armstrong, History of Art  
 Athavan Arulalagan, Pre-clinical Medicine  
 Yusuke Atsuta, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Amelia Bateson, Experimental Psychology  
 Zohaib Bhatti, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Thomas Blackburn, Chemistry  
 Ava Chadderton, History of Art  
 Sin Chan, Computer Science  
 Junyuan Chen, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Alejandra Cilleruelo Pascual, Law with Law Studies in Europe  
 Yvonne Clark-Lewis, Psychology and Linguistics  
 Alexander Cooke, Physics  
 Laurence Cooke, Philosophy and Modern Languages  
 Daniel Cunningham, English Language and Literature  
 Somsuryagni Das, Mathematics and Statistics  
 Samuel Dayan, Pre-clinical Medicine  
 Bulcsú Diosis, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
 Sofya Donets, Psychology and Linguistics  
 Emily Doughty, English Language and Literature  
 Gabrielle Drutchas, Archaeology and Anthropology  
 Alice Dunn, English Language and Literature  
 Megan Eastick, Biology  
 Uma Eickelberg, Engineering Science  
 Saifir Elliott-Goddard, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies  
 Isabel Elsner, English Language and Literature  
 Thomas (Job) Estill, History  
 Hannah Fareed, History and Politics  
 Oscar Fitzgerald, Theology and Religion  
 Maya Flint, Jurisprudence  
 Elliot Francolla, Ancient and Modern History  
 Jack Gamblin, Pre-clinical Medicine  
 Richard Garrard, Theology and Religion  
 Ben Gascoyne, Biology  
 Liv Goldreich, English Language and Literature  
 Lilia Goldstein, Music  
 Yangchen Guan, Computer Science  
 Emily Gurney, Human Sciences  
 Merit Habib Matta, History and Politics

William Hartridge, Biochemistry  
 Fraser Hauser, English Language and Literature  
 Feng Ming (Eric) He, Mathematics  
 Joe Hennings, Biology  
 Xin Yi Ho, History of Art  
 Ariene Horner, History  
 Haozhe (Kevin) Huang, Chemistry  
 Ali Imam-Sadeque, Mathematics  
 Haru Ishizaka, Physics  
 William James, Physics  
 Lia Jobanputra, Human Sciences  
 Rohan Joshi, Biology  
 Supatpong (Nat) Juntarawatt, Chemistry  
 Burak Karatas, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Mahnoor Kamran, Geography  
 Zain Khan, Biochemistry  
 Philip Kimber, Jurisprudence (with Law in Europe)  
 Arran Kinnear, Biomedical Sciences  
 Dylan Knight, Mathematics  
 Mehmet Koca, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Martin Kopchev, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Louisa Kotzee, Experimental Psychology  
 Zheng Kuang, Chemistry  
 Arda Kurtoglu, Physics  
 Nikola Lakic, Physics  
 Leandro Landolina, Music  
 Dimitri Lang, Mathematics  
 Gvozden Lapcevic, Mathematics and Statistics  
 Joseph Leach, Mathematics  
 Ziji Lee, Mathematics  
 Frederick Li, Mathematics and Statistics  
 Judy Li, Biochemistry  
 Xingjian Li, Chemistry  
 Yitong Liu, Biomedical Sciences  
 Xinyuan Ma, Fine Art  
 Anna MacKinnon, Jurisprudence (with Law in Europe)  
 Ruth Magedera, Psychology and Linguistics  
 Atharv Mahajan, Physics  
 Julia Marshall, Geography  
 Rushil Mathur, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Ellie McCartney, Computer Science  
 Katinka Mitchell-Thomson, Biochemistry  
 Vishal Mohanty, Physics  
 Dara Moh'D, Philosophy and Theology  
 Nimrod Morwood, Geography  
 Robert Moustafa, Arabic  
 Joseph Munn, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
 Cameron Noble, Chemistry  
 Alexander Mylet, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Sanaya Narula, English and Modern Languages  
 Atharva Parulekar, Mathematics  
 Jack Pentland, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry  
 Ewan Plowden-Wardlaw, Modern Languages and Linguistics  
 Isabella Preschern, Law with Law Studies in Europe  
 Alexander Prvulovich, Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Patrick Rabey, English Language and Literature  
 Elena Radulova, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History  
 Jessica Rance, English Language and Literature  
 Adam Rashid-Thomas, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies  
 Chao Ren, Mathematics and Statistics  
 David Richter, Dip Legal Studies  
 Aamina Rizvi, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Cameron Setiadi, Law with Law Studies in Europe  
 Holly Shearsmith, Chemistry  
 Jihwan (Ben) Shin, Engineering Science  
 Katie Skilling, Physics  
 Louise Smith, History  
 Jack Southall, Experimental Psychology  
 Ian Sun, Medical Sciences  
 Joshua Swan, Biology  
 Sofia Tagliani Beltran, Experimental Psychology  
 Elsa Tamayo Diaz, Chemistry  
 Gareth Meng Ian Tan, Jurisprudence  
 Neos Tang, Physics  
 Amelia Taylor, History and Politics  
 Ryan Teo, Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
 Clementine Thorpe, History  
 Tanupat Trakulthongchai, Mathematics and Statistics  
 Anna Trofimova, History and Politics  
 Chirag Verma, Mathematics  
 Maxim Vorobev, History  
 Zuzanna Wagrowska, English Language and Literature  
 James Wakefield, Biology  
 Shaun Walker, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Toby Webster, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History  
 Ruozhou (Joyce) Wei, Fine Art  
 Frederick Weir, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Oscar Whittle, History and Politics  
 Elliot Wigham, Music  
 Jessica Williamson, Jurisprudence  
 Eleanor Wilson, Experimental Psychology  
 William Withers, Biology  
 Ziyang (Michael) Xing, Engineering Science  
 Xinran (Nicole) Zhang, Biomedical Sciences  
 Zichi Zhang, Physics

### UNIVERSITY PRIZES 2024/25

Zaheen A-Rahman, IET Prize 2025, Engineering Science  
 Adam Arnfield, Gibbs Prize for best Philosophy results in PPE finals  
 Patrick George Finlay Breeze, Ancient History Prize (1) 2025  
 Laia Casajoana Guardia, Law Faculty Prize in Feminist Perspectives in Law  
 Samuel Cass, Law Faculty Prize in Advanced Administrative Law, Law Faculty Prize in Human Rights at Work, and Law Faculty Prize in International Environment Law (Shared)  
 Sara Dragutinovic, Gibbs Project Prize for Part C in Mathematics and Computer Science 2025  
 Jack Gamblin, Wronker Prize in Pharmacology  
 Philip Kimber, Law Faculty Prize in Constitutional Law  
 Dylan Knight, Gibbs Prize for Mathematics

Martin Kopchev, Department of Computer Science Group Project Prize for 2025  
 Judy Li, Part I Prize, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry  
 Jake Masters, Hoare Prize for best overall performance in Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Rushil Mathur, Department of Computer Science Prize for Mathematics and Computer Science 2025  
 Katinka Michell-Thompson, Part I Prize, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry  
 Thomas Philip Stranex, 2025 Gaisford Prize for Greek Prose  
 Mia Sturgess, Practical Chemistry Prize (Shimadzu)  
 Elsa Tamayo Diaz, 3rd Year Turbutt Prize, Chemistry  
 Tristan Taylor, Vinerian Scholarship (Proxime Accessit) for the second-best performance in the BCL (Shared)  
 Andy Van Horsen, Gibbs Prize for best overall performance in Part B 2025, Mathematics and Computer Science  
 Toby Webster, Charles Oldham Scholarship 2025, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History  
 Jessica Nisha Williamson, Law Faculty Prize in Constitutional Law

### COLLEGE PRIZES 2024/25

Tegan Addison, Kendrew Songwriting Prize (joint winner)  
 Famin Ahmed, Hans Michael Caspari UN Travel Grant  
 Patrick Breeze, Ancient History Prize (joint winner)  
 Samuel Cass, Roy Goode Prize  
 Laurence Cooke, Hanlon Prize  
 Chloe Davis, Peter Fan Award  
 Jen DeNike, Mapleton-Bree Prize  
 Kieran Didi, Duveen Travel Scholarship  
 Alessandra Enrico Headrington, Burke Knapp Travel Scholarship  
 Rachel Ing, Peter Fan Award  
 Kush Kale, Peter Fan Award  
 Elspeth Rogers, Ancient History Prize (joint winner)  
 Jun Yang, Peter Fan Award

### CHORAL SCHOLARS 2024/25

Georgina Cooper  
 Iris Corran  
 Rachel Ing  
 Sophie Kenelm  
 Maria Torras Perez  
 William Withers

### IOAN AND ROSEMARY JAMES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS 2024/25

Atharva Parulekar, Mathematics (2022/23)  
 Martin Kopchev, Mathematics and Computer Science (2023/24)

### REACH SCHOLARS 2024/25

Artharv Mahajan, Physics (2022/23)  
 James Wakefield, Biology (2022/23)  
 Burak Karatas, Mathematics and Computer Science (2023/24)  
 Hannah Fareed, History and Politics (2024/25)  
 Moksha Rajesh Rao, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, (2025/2026)



## BIG SCHOLARS 2024/25

Gvozden Lapcevic, Mathematics (2024/2025)  
Kevin Adi Senjaya, Mathematics and Statistics (2025/2026)  
Aleksij Tasikj, Mathematics and Statistics (2025/2026)

## SIMON & JUNE LI SCHOLARS 2024/25

Zaheen A-Rahman, Engineering (2022/23)

## GRADUATE DEGREES CONFERRED 2024/25

### Doctor of Philosophy

Solomon Matthew Kremen Adler, Fine Art  
Patrick Aloysius Atkinson, History  
Alaa Baazaoui, Interdisciplinary Bioscience (BBSRC DTP)  
Druva Bhat, International Development  
William Matthew Blythe, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies  
Nishant Chauhan, Earth Sciences  
Gerald Julius Chick, Chemical Biology  
Chinedu Kiwera Chukwudinma, Geography and the Environment  
Anna Rhiannon Clark, History  
Graiagh Rose Cordwell, Music  
Theo Winston Costain, Engineering Science  
Kaitlyn Mary Louise Cramb, Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics  
Victoria Louise Davies, Theology  
Kyle Davison, Education  
Yuzhen Dong, Experimental Psychology  
Munazza Ebtikar, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies  
Andrea Estandia, Environmental Research (NERC DTP)  
Janey Fehmi, Clinical Neurosciences  
Sally Hesham Mostafa Galal, Women's and Reproductive Health  
Lucian Frederick George, History  
Sergio Giron Pacheco, Mathematics  
Gemma Shelley Gothard, Neuroscience  
Charlotte Jesamin Hand, English  
Harriet Katherine Haysom, Chemistry in Cells  
Daniel Haywood, English  
Greg James Henderson, Theoretical Physics  
Thomas Holvey, Particle Physics  
Muhammed Ikramul Hoque Miah, Theology and Religion  
Julien Walden Huang, Engineering Science  
Minying Huang, Medieval and Modern Languages  
Yi-Ge Huang, Medical Sciences  
Michal Tomasz Jezierski, Zoology  
Xiaobo Ji, Physical and Theoretical Chemistry  
Mateusz Kotowski, Medical Sciences  
Claire Marriott Keene, Clinical Medicine  
Sebastian Matthias Kopp, Inorganic Chemistry for Future Manufacturing (EPSRC CDT)  
Saad Labyad, Mathematics  
Lynn Catrin Lewis-Bevan, Zoology  
Simon Matthias Lichtinger, Chemistry in Cells  
Pierre Lucien, Education  
Alexander David James Manby, Geography and the Environment  
Matthew Juan Mason, Fine Art  
Elise Jantina Meijer, Physiology Anatomy and Genetics  
Daniel Patrick Molland, Biochemistry

Robert Mihai Neagu, Mathematics  
Andreea-Maria Oncescu, Engineering Science  
Sophie Patrick, Inorganic Chemistry  
Krishnendu Ray, Theoretical Physics  
Hussam Rostom, Women's and Reproductive Health  
Lorika Shkreli, Psychiatry  
Jane Tan, Mathematics  
Martin Duy Tat, Particle Physics  
James Christopher Thomas, Clinical Neurosciences  
Ho Lung Tsui, Mathematics of Random Systems: Analysis, Modelling and Algorithms (EPSRC CDT)  
Maike van Niekerk, Psychiatry  
Sophia Romana Vaughan, Astrophysics  
Andriko Ilmar Benjamin von Kügelgen, Molecular Cell Biology in Health and Disease  
Alex David Waldman, Biomedical Sciences  
Joshua Owen Werrett, Classical Languages and Literature  
Chang Ho Yoon, Biomedical and Clinical Sciences

### Master of Science

Mohammed Abuelem, Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics  
Adam Farhan Bin Salmaan Hussain, Nature Society and Environmental Governance  
Alfred Conor Dry, Social Anthropology  
Paul Thalakkottore Francis, Mathematical Sciences  
Wanjiku Ndeithi Gatheru, Nature Society and Environmental Governance  
Karolina Stoja Martina Lagercrantz, Nature, Society and Environmental Governance  
Jannick Moritz Reichert, Mathematics and Foundations of Computer Science  
Benedict Aaron Tjandra, Advanced Computer Science  
Katherine Rosemarie Tourigny, Neuroscience  
Kaitlyn Louise Walsh Sparks, Neuroscience  
Rhianna Lowri Watt, Psychological Research  
Brian Hanearl Wee, Global Governance and Diplomacy

### Master of Philosophy

Xingzhi Jing, Economics  
Shuyang Song, International Relations

### Master of Studies

John Thomas Atwood, Medieval History  
Charlotte Mary Jane Bookham, Modern British History 1850–present  
Sze Hang Jesse Cheung, Classical Archaeology  
Zi Ying Fan, Comparative Literature and Critical Translation  
Grace Rees, History – Women's, Gender, and Queer History  
Antonia Schneider, Modern Languages  
Selen Turgutalp, Greek and/or Latin Lang and Lit

### BM BCh Clinical Medicine

George Corby  
Kate Eastwick-Jones  
Jonathan David Alex Hampshire

Ivan Jim Paul  
Zoe Kathryn Reed

### Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL)

Tristan Kubacz Taylor

### Bachelor of Philosophy

Ran Tao

### Master of Public Policy

Rayene Bouzitoun  
Tahlia Grace Smith

### Master of Business Administration

Prachaphum Amornpisit  
Dougald Charles Wylie Coulson

### NAMED AWARD SCHOLARS 2024/25

Nicholas Bratt Scholar  
Jessica Nicklin, Public Policy

### Drue Heinz Scholar

Lochie Springett, English

### Beeston Scholar

Muhammed Aslaner, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

### Michael Pragnall Scholar

Eva Bailey, Modern Languages

### North Senior Scholar

Kieran Didi, Computer Science  
George Kirkham, Geography and the Environment  
Raman Van Wee, Biophysics

### Kendrew Scholar

Isadora Marques Da Costa, Fine Art (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

### Lester B Pearson Scholar

Claire Mallard, Clinical Medicine (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

### St John's Alumni Fund Scholars

Jonny Gondzic, Molecular and Cellular Medicine (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)  
Mengjun Huang, Migration Studies (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

### UKRI Partnership Scholarships

Eleanor Albin-Clark, Geography (joint with ERSC)  
Magdalene Blincoe-Deval, Medieval and Modern Languages (joint with AHRC)  
Francesco Cannone, Economics (joint with ERSC)  
Tomas Gillanders, Mathematics (joint with EPSRC)  
Andrzej Karpinski, Theology (joint with AHRC)

Rohan Kaya, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (joint with AHRC)  
Naomi Kingston, Experimental Psychology (joint with ERSC)  
Stanislavs Kurass, Life and Environmental Science (joint with EPSRC)

Marlowe McCaffrey, Anthropology (joint with ERSC)

Rosalind McDonald-Hill, Experimental Psychology (joint with MRC)

Ruth Mitchell-Fox, Classical Languages and Literature (joint with AHRC)

Amy O'Connor, Molecular and Cellular Medicine (joint with MRC)

Alice O'Hagan, Primary Health Care (joint with MRC)

Nick Parak, Chemistry (joint with EPSRC)

Oana Puicar, Clinical Neurosciences (joint with MRC)

### Daniel Slifkin Scholar

Olivia O'Connor, Law

### Michael Prior Scholar

Flamini Muratori, Chemistry (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)





# SENIOR MEMBERS 2025/26

## Members of Governing Body

**Susan Margaret Black, Baroness Black of Strome**, (BSc, PhD Aberdeen), LT DBE OBE BSc PhD FRS FRSE FRAI FRSB ChFA, Visiting Professor of Forensic Anatomy, President

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

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

**Mark Cannon**, MA, MEng, DPhil, (SMMech, MIT), Tutor and Professor of Engineering Science

**Kate Anne Nation**, MA, (BSc, PhD York), FBA, FAcSS, Tutor in Psychology and Professor of Experimental Psychology

**Philip Kumar Maini**, MA, DPhil, FRS, Professorial Fellow in Mathematical Biology and Vice-President

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

**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, Provost for Academic Affairs

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

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

**Hannah Skoda**, BA, MSt, DPhil, (DEA Paris), Tutor and Associate Professor in History, Keeper of the Silver & Textiles

**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, Fellow for Libraries and Keeper of Archives

**Angela Russell**, MChem, DPhil, Bernard Taylor Fellow, Tutor in Chemistry, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry

**Charles Richard James Carruthers Newton**, MA (MB ChB, MD Cape Town), FRCPCH, MRCP, Professorial Fellow and Cheryl and Reece Scott Professor of Psychiatry, Fellow for Welfare

**Richard Edwin Ekins**, BCL, MPhil, DPhil (BA, LLB, BA Auckland), KC (Hon), Tutor and Professor of Law and Constitutional Government

**Jan Krzysztof Oblój**, (MSc, MA Warsaw, MSc Paris VI, PhD joint Paris VI and Warsaw), FIMS, Tutor and Professor in Mathematics, Keeper of the Cellar

**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), Tutor in German and Professor of German and Comparative Literatures and Cultures, Fellow for Graduates

**Jason Stanyek**, (BM City University of New York, MA, PhD University of California, San Diego), Tutor and Associate Professor in Ethnomusicology, Fellow for the Performing Arts and Cultural Engagement

**Katherine Emma Southwood**, MSt, DPhil, (BA Durham), Tutor in Theology and Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

**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 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

**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 Professor of Mathematics and Theoretical Physics

**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**, (Dipl Stuttgart, PhD Munich), Tutor and Professor of Computer Science

**Nöel Kimiko Sugimura**, DPhil (MA Yale), Tutor and Associate Professor in English, Keeper of the Groves

**Séverine Toussaert**, (MA Sciences PO Paris School of Economics, PhD New York), Tutor and Associate Professor in Economics, Fellow for Research

**Rebecca Slater**, MA, (BSc, MSc, PhD London), ARSM, Professorial Fellow in Paediatric Neuroimaging and Fellow for Early Career Researchers & Lecturers

**Stuart Andrew White**, (BA Cantab., PhD Edinburgh), Tutor and Professor of Mathematics

**Emma Marie Greensmith**, (MA, MPhil, PhD Cantab.), Tutor and Associate Professor in Classical Languages and Literature, Fellow for the Senior Common Room

**Ben McFarlane**, MA, BCL, Professorial Fellow in English Law, Fellow for Sports and Information Reviewer

**Elizabeth Wonnacott**, (MA Edinburgh, PhD Rochester NY), Professor of Language Science, Dean of Degrees

**Matthew Charles Nicholls**, MA, MPhil, DPhil, FSA, SFHEA, Senior Tutor

**Nicholas Kenneth Jones**, (BA, MA Leeds, PhD London), Tutor and Associate Professor in Philosophy

**Zoe Julie Clare Hancock**, MA, ACA, Principal Bursar

**Sandra Campbell**, (BSc Edin, MSc, PhD Dundee), Tutor in Physiology, Fellow for Access and Outreach

**Katherine Doornik**, BA, MPhil, (PhD Stanford), Supernumerary Fellow in Economics and Senior Dean

**Ketan Jayakrishna Patel**, FRS FMedSci MRCP, (MBBS London, PhD Cantab.), Director of MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine

**Robert Hoye**, MA (BE Auckland, PhD Cantab.), Tutor and Associate Professor in Chemistry

**Laurence Tudor Hunt**, MSc, DPhil (MA Cantab.), Tutor and Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience

**Ranjit Lal**, BA (MA, PhD Harvard), Tutor and Associate Professor in Politics

**Tahera Qutbuddin**, (BA Ain Shams, Cairo, MA, PhD Harvard), Professorial Fellow and AlBabtain Laudian Professor of Arabic in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

**Armin Lak**, (BSc, MSc, Trieste, PhD Cantab.), Tutor in Neuroscience

**Ian Williams**, (MA, LL.M, PhD Cantab.), Tutor and Associate Professor in Law, Fellow for Statutes

**Gareth Lloyd Evans**, MA, DPhil (BA, MA Durham), Tutor in English and Associate Professor in Old Norse

**Laura Alison Moody**, (BSc Durham, MRes Glasgow, PhD Birmingham), Tutor in Biology

**Callum Munday** MA, DPhil, Tutor in Geography and Associate Professor of Climate Science and Physical Geography

**Sarah Knott** MA, DPhil, (MA Pennsylvania), FRHistS, Professorial Fellow and Hillary Rodham Clinton Professor of Women's History

**Prabhat Jha**, DPhil (MD Manitoba), Nuffield Professor of Population Health and Head of the Nuffield Department of Population Health

**Ewa Batory**, (BA, Warsaw; MSc, PhD LSE), Tutor in Human Sciences and Associate Professor in Social Demography

### 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

**Elizabeth Clare Macfarlane**, MA, DPhil, Chaplain

**The Rt Hon Lord Drayson of Kensington**, PC, (BSc, PhD Aston), FEng

**Karthik Ramanna**, (PhD MIT), Professor of Business and Public Policy

**James Alexander Maynard**, DPhil, (BA, MMath Cantab.), FRS, Professor of Number Theory, Mathematical Institute

**Walter Mattli**, MA, (BA University of Geneva, MA New York, PhD Chicago)

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

**Jessica Omukuti**, (BSc Nairobi, MSc Sussex, PhD Reading), Net Zero Fellow

**Lucy Foulkes**, (PhD London), Youth Mental Health Research Fellow

**John Fulljames**, (MSc Cantab.), Director, Cultural Programme, University of Oxford

**Peter Martin Visscher**, (BSc Dronen, MSc, PhD Edinburgh), FRS, Professor of Quantitative Genetics

**Matthew Winterbottom**, (BA Leeds, PGDip Manchester), Assistant Keeper (Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture), Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology

**Heather Harrington**, (BS Amherst, PhD Imperial), Academic Faculty, Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford; Director for the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden and Head of the Center of Systems Biology in Dresden

**Andrew Leslie Goodwin**, MA (BSc, PhD Sydney, PhD Cantab.), FRS, Professor of Materials Chemistry

### Associate Fellow

**Ji-Seon Kim** (BSc, MSc Ewha Seoul, PhD Cantab.), Associate Fellow and Professor in Chemistry

**Henry Snaith** FRS, (BA Bristol, PhD Cantab), Professor of Physics

### Supernumerary Teaching Fellows

**Jenny Claire Jones Richards**, BA, DPhil (MRes London), Geography

**Alice Roullière**, (BA, MA Paris Sorbonne and ENS Ulm, PhD Cantab.), Medieval and Modern Languages, French

**Nicholas Geraint Jones**, (MSc, PhD Bristol, MSc Waterloo), Mathematics

### Emeritus Research Fellows

**Fraser Andrew Armstrong**, MA (BSc, PhD Leeds) FRS, formerly Tutor in Inorganic Chemistry

**Charles James Keith Batty**, MA, MSc, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Mathematics

**Julia Margaret Bray**, MA, DPhil, formerly Abdulaziz Saud AlBabtain Laudian Professor of Arabic

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

**Sir Rory Edward Collins**, (BA George Washington University, MSc Oxon, PhD London), FMedSci, FRS, formerly Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Head of Nuffield Department of Population Health

**Richard Guy Compton**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Chemistry

**Paul Philip Craig**, Hon KC, MA, BCL, FBA, formerly Professorial Fellow in English Law

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

**Alan Grafen**, MA, MPhil, DPhil, FRS, formerly Tutor in Quantitative Biology

**Nicholas Paul Harberd**, (MA, PhD Cantab.), FRS, formerly Sibthorpean Professor of Plant Sciences

**Carolyn Ann Larrington**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in English

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

**Mohamed-Salah Omri**, (Maîtrise Tunis, MA, PhD St Louis, Missouri), Emeritus Research Fellow in Arabic Language and Literature



**Andrew John Parker**, (MA, PhD, ScD Cantab.), FSB, formerly Tutor in Physiology  
**John Charles George Pitcher**, MA, DPhil, FEA, FRSA, formerly Tutor in English  
**Margaret Jean Snowling**, CBE (BSc Brist, PhD UCL), FAcSS, FBA, FMedSci, formerly President  
**Kenneth Paul Tod**, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Mathematics  
**Anthony Robin Weidberg**, MA, DPhil, (BSc London, PhD Cantab.), Emeritus Research Fellow in Physics  
**Catherine Whistler**, MA, (PhD National University of Ireland), formerly Supernumerary Fellow in Art History, Research Keeper, Western Art Department, Ashmolean Museum  
**Simon John Whittaker**, MA, DPhil, DCL, formerly Tutor in Law  
**Georg Gottlob**, MA, (MSc, PhD TU Wien), FRS, formerly Professorial Fellow in Informatics

### Research Fellows

**Yasmeen Raj Arif**, MPhil, DPhil, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, Anthropology  
**Daniel Gwyn Congrave**, (MChem Bangor, PhD Durham), Research Fellow in Chemistry  
**Noah Benjamin Kravitz** (BS Yale, PhD Princeton), NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Mathematics  
**Ethan Plau**, (BA Columbia, MFA Iowa, PhD Pennsylvania), Drue Heinz Research Fellow in American English Literature  
**Amogh Dhar Sharma**, MPhil, DPhil (BA Delhi), Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Politics  
**Antoni Grzegorz Wrobel**, MBiochem, (MRes, PhD Cantab.), Research Fellow in Biochemistry

### Junior Research Fellows

**Auguste Vadisiute**, DPhil (BSc LUHS, MSc VU), Physiology and Medicine  
**Christopher David Frugé**, (AB Harvard, MA Houston, PhD Rutgers), Philosophy  
**Kaitlyn Mary Louise Cramb**, (BSc British Columbia, MSc ETH Zurich), Biochemistry  
**Aniruddha Saha**, (BA Manipal, MA, PhD London), Politics  
**Sean Alexander Hardy**, (BBIotech, PhD Newcastle, Australia & Graz, Austria), Biochemistry

### Career Development Research Fellows

**Jascha Achterberg**, (BSc Osnabrück, PhD Cantab.), Neuroscience  
**Samuel Boateng**, (BFA Ghana, MA Kent State, PhD Pittsburgh), Music  
**Conor Fergus Brennan**, MSt (BA, PhD Dublin), German  
**Anna Elizabeth Dewar**, BA, DPhil, Biology  
**Eleanor Jane Eldridge**, BCL (BPsychHons, JD Sydney), Law  
**Muting Hao**, DPhil, (BSc Dalian), Engineering  
**Carolyn Tyler La Rocco**, MSt, (BA St Mary's College of Maryland, MLitt, PhD St Andrews), Late Antique and Early Medieval History  
**Shurui Miao**, (BSc, PhD Sydney), Chemistry  
**Alice Millington**, (MA London, MA, PhD Cantab.), Archaeology and Anthropology  
**Giulia Morale**, (BA, MSt, PhD London), History of Art

**Ashkan Sepahvand**, DPhil (AB Vassar, MA EGS), Fine Art  
**Jakub Skrzeczkowski**, (BSc, MSc Warsaw, PhD Polish Academy of Sciences), Mathematics  
**Joshua Michael Smailes**, (MCompSci), Computer Science  
**Alina Petra Utrata**, (BA Stanford, MA Queen's University Belfast, PhD Cantab.), Politics

### Lecturers

**Lars Bathe-Peters**, (BSc, MSc Berlin, MAST Cantab.), Physics  
**Laurence John Belcher**, (BSc, MRes Exeter, PhD Bath), Biology  
**Ben Bollig**, (BA Nottingham, MA, PhD London), Spanish  
**Vladimir Bortun**, (BA, MA Bucharest, MA, PhD Portsmouth), Politics  
**Susan Michelle Doran**, BA (PhD London) History  
**Marion Durand**, (BA Cantab., PhD Toronto), Ancient Philosophy  
**Manuel Alberto Fernández-Götz** (MA Seville, MPhil Complutense Madrid, PhD Christian Albrecht Kiel & Complutense Madrid), MAE, FSA, FSA Scot, FHEA, MCIfA, Professor of Later European Prehistory  
**Lydia Gilday**, MChem, DPhil, Chemistry  
**Francesco Giusti**, (BA, MA L'Aquila, PhD SUM – Florence), Italian  
**Paul Griffiths**, (BSc, PhD Liverpool), Quantitative Methods and Statistics  
**Adam Harper**, DPhil (MA London), Music  
**Matthew Hosty**, MSt, DPhil, Classics  
**Leo Kadokura**, BA, MSt, English  
**Claudia Kaiser**, (MA Erlangen-Nuremberg, Dipl Bamberg), German Language  
**Lucy-Anne Katgely** (BA Verlaine, MA Strasbourg, Agrégation, MA Paris-Est, PhD Strasbourg), French Language and Translation  
**Tamar Koplatadze**, DPhil (BA Bristol, MA London), Modern Languages  
**Heike Krusemann**, (MA, PhD Reading), German Lektorin  
**David Colin Lee**, (MA Nottingham, PhD Bristol), Philosophy  
**Samuel Carwyn Lewis** (MMath Bath, PhD Glasgow), Mathematics  
**Louise Nelstrop**, (BD AKC, PGCE, MA Bristol, PhD Birmingham), Theology  
**Michelle Pfeffer**, MSc (BA, PhD Queensland), History  
**Justine Laura Potts**, MA, MSt, DPhil, Ancient History  
**Marie Raulier**, (BA Liège, PhD McGill), Early Modern French  
**Jennifer Redmond**, MChem, DPhil, Chemistry  
**Charlotte Elaine Ross**, BA, MSt, (PhD Warwick), Italian  
**Angelo Ryu**, BA, BCL, MPhil, Law  
**Hannah Scheithauer**, BA, MSt, French  
**Devinderjit Sivia**, (BA, DPhil Cantab.), Mathematics for the Sciences  
**Nathan Paul Spiller**, MEng, Engineering Science  
**Ana Maria Stoienescu**, (MA Paris Nanterre), French Lectrice  
**Alan Strathern**, MA, DPhil, (MA London), History  
**Kate Anne Tallon**, BA (MA London, PhD Dublin), Linguistics  
**Vlad Tuchilus**, MMath, Mathematics  
**Rohan Wijesurendra**, DPhil, MRCP, (MB, BChir, MA Cantab.), Clinical Medicine  
**Peter Anthony Thompson**, BA, MPhil, Classical Archaeology  
**Cornelia Wiedenhofer**, German  
**Alice Elizabeth Watson**, MSc, DPhil, Human Geography  
**Samuel Wolfe**, (MPhil, PhD Cantab.), Linguistics

## Emeritus Fellows

**Sir Royston Miles Goode**, CBE, KC, 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

**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

**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 Sibthorpian Professor of Plant Sciences

**Ritchie Neil Ninian Robertson**, MA, DPhil, FBA, formerly Tutor in German; formerly Taylor Professor of the German Language and Literature, Fellow of The Queen's College

**Nicholas Purcell**, MA, FBA, formerly Tutor in Ancient History; formerly 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Elizabeth Dorothea Harriet Carmichael**, MBE, MA, DPhil, BM, BCh, (MRCS Eng, LRCP London), formerly Tutor in Theology

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

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

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

**Sally Jayne Layburn**, MA, FCA, formerly Finance Bursar and Supernumerary Fellow

**Sir John Anderson Kay**, MA, (MA Edin), FBA, formerly Supernumerary Fellow in Economics

**John Stephen Kelly**, MA, DPhil, (MA Dublin), formerly Tutor in English

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

## Honorary Fellows

**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

**John Carey**, MA, DPhil, FRSL, FBA, formerly Lambe Scholar and Fellow and Tutor in English; sometime Merton Professor of English Literature

**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

**His Eminence Timothy Peter Joseph Radcliffe**, OP, MA, DD, formerly Commoner; Cardinal and Master Emeritus of the Order of Preachers

**Sir Anthony Charles Lynton Blair**, KG, formerly Commoner; formerly MP and Prime Minister; formerly Special Envoy to the Middle East; Chairman of the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation

**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

**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; formerly Director of Energy Research at the University of Oxford; formerly President of the Council of Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME)

**Robert 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 formerly University Librarian, Harvard  
**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  
**Sir 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; formerly 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; formerly Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority; sometime Principal of St Hugh's College 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

**John Graham Cottingham**, MA, DPhil, formerly Thomas White Scholar; Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Reading University; sometime President, Mind Association; sometime President, Aristotelian Society; former Chair, British Society for the History of Philosophy; former President, British Society for the Philosophy of Religion

**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, President, Institute of Physics

**The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Price Richards**, MA, formerly Scholar, Lord Justice of Appeal; formerly Deputy Head of Civil Justice for England and Wales; formerly Privy Counsellor

**Bernard John Taylor**, CBE, CVO, DCL, DL, FRSC, Hon FREng, CChem, CSi, LRPS, MA, formerly Scholar; formerly Vice-Chairman of JP Morgan; formerly Member of the Council of the University of Oxford; Chairman Emeritus of Evercore Partners International LLP; formerly Chairman for the Royal Commission for the Great Exhibition of 1851; Chairman of Garsington Opera; Chairman of the Ashmolean Museum Board of Visitors; Deputy Steward of the University of Oxford; Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire; Chair of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

**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; formerly 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 Director of the CIA; formerly graduate student; formerly US Ambassador to Jordan, US Ambassador to Russia; formerly US Under Secretary for Political Affairs and Deputy Secretary of State; formerly 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

**Dame 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; formerly Minister of State for Border Security and Asylum; Minister of State for Food Security and Rural Affairs

**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; formerly Dodge Professor of History, Princeton University; formerly Chair, National Portrait Gallery; Editor, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

**Andrew Harrison**, OBE, MA, DPhil, FRS, 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; formerly Director of BBC Sport

**John Darwin**, BA, DPhil, formerly Scholar, FBA, Professor of Global and Imperial History, Nuffield College, Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College

**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; formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Homelessness and Democracy

**Rt Hon Sir Keith John Lindblom**, KC, PC, BA, formerly Commoner; formerly Lord Justice of Appeal

**Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Hamblen**, KC, PC, BA, (LLM Harvard Law School); formerly Scholar; Lord Justice of Appeal; Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

**Sir Robert Devereux**, KCB, BA, (MA Edin), formerly Commoner, formerly Permanent Secretary for the Department of Work and Pensions

**Sir Nigel Carrington**, formerly Commoner; formerly 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

**Lord 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, formerly Scholar; Professor of Greek Literature and Charlton Fellow and Tutor in Classics, New College

**Catherine Rowena Mallyon**, CBE, MA, formerly Commoner; formerly Executive Director, Royal Shakespeare Company; Chair of Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre Trust, incoming Chair of Creative UK

**Dorothy Vera Margaret Bishop**, MA, DPhil, (DM Lond), FMedSci, FBA, formerly Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology

**Myles Robert Allen**, DPhil, CBE, FRS, FInstP, formerly Scholar; Professor of Geosystem Science, Fellow of Linacre College

**Alexander Bird**, MA (PhD Cantab.), formerly Scholar; Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy, Cambridge University

**Christopher Joseph Schofield**, FRS, FRSC; DPhil (BSc Manchester), Head of Organic Chemistry, Oxford University

**Khoo Boon Hui**, MA, formerly Scholar; Légion d'honneur, Ordre

national du Mérite; formerly Police Commissioner, Singapore (1997–2010) and President of INTERPOL (2008–12)

**Peter Sayer Phillips**, MA, former Organ Scholar; Bodley Fellow, Merton College; founder of The Tallis Scholars

**Sarah-Jayne Blakemore**, BA (PhD London), FRS, FBA, FRSB, formerly Scholar; Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge and Co-Director of the Wellcome Trust PhD programme in Neuroscience at University College London

**Elleke Deirdre Boehmer**, FRSL, FRHistS, MPhil, DPhil (BA Rhodes), formerly Commoner; Professor of World Literature in English, Oxford University

**Sir John Oliver Frank Kingman**, KCB, BA, FRS, formerly Scholar; Chairman, Legal & General Group

**Sir Michael Graham Jacobs**, KCB, BA (MB BS, PhD London), MRCP, FRCP, FRCPEd, formerly Commoner; formerly Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, Warden of Keble College

**David Andrew Flood**, BA (PGCE Cantab.), formerly Organ Scholar; formerly Organist and Master of the Choristers, Canterbury Cathedral

**Pratap Bhanu Mehta**, BA (PhD Princeton), FBA, formerly Commoner; formerly Vice-Chancellor of Ashoka University, and President, Center for Policy Research, Delhi, Laurence Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton University

**David Edward Herbert Edgerton**, BA (PhD London), FBA, formerly Scholar; Hans Rausing Professor and Professor of Modern British History, King's College London

**Judy Hirst**, DPhil, FRS, FMedSci, formerly Commoner; Director of the Medical Research Council Mitochondrial Biology Unit and Professor of Biological Chemistry, University of Cambridge

**Musa Olara Cwa Okwonga**, BA, FRSL, formerly Commoner; award-winning author and co-host of the Stadio football podcast

**Sir Stephen Huw Powis**, MMed (PhD London, MBA Warwick), FRCP, SFFMLM, Hon FRCP(G), Hon MFPH, formerly Commoner; formerly National Medical Director, NHS England and Professor of Renal Medicine at University College London

**Salim Yusuf**, DPhil, FRCPC, FRSC, OC, Distinguished University Professor of Medicine, McMaster University and Executive Director, Population Health Research Institute, Hamilton General Hospital, Canada

**Brenda Elaine Stevenson**, (BA Virginia, M, PhD Yale), formerly Hillary Rodham Clinton Professor of Women's History

**Nadia Motraghi**, KC, formerly Commoner; barrister in employment, professional discipline and public law

**Caroline Bayantai Plumb**, OBE, formerly Scholar; CEO and co-founder of Fluidly; formerly CEO of FreshMinds, CEO of Amtivo Group

**Sir Christopher Wormald** KCB, MA, formerly Scholar; formerly Permanent Secretary, Department for Education; formerly Permanent Secretary, Department of Health; Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service

**Henry Dimpleby** MBE, MSc, formerly Commoner; Co-founder of Leon restaurant chain, Government adviser on national food strategy



# Alumni News

The College thanks alumni who have supported College committees and activity over the past year (2024/25):

**Audit, Risk & Governance Committee:** Chair: The Rt Hon Alistair Burt (1974, Jurisprudence), Sarah Deaves (1980, Geography), Piers Kenyon (1986, Modern History), Tim Polglase (1980, Jurisprudence)

**Committee for the Promotion of the Arts:** Matthew Morrison (1997, Jurisprudence)

**Development and Alumni Relations Committee:** Dr Kate Molesworth (1985, Biological Anthropology), Bernard Taylor CVO (1975, Chemistry)

**Development Board:** Chair: Bernard Taylor CVO CBE DCL DL HonFREng (1975, Chemistry), Dr Genevieve Davies (1994, Modern Languages), Tom Ewing (1995, PPE), Hannah Gilbert (1993, Arabic and Islamic Studies), Edward Hocknell (1980, Classics), Dr Yungtai Hsu (1971, History), Michael McDonough (1994, Visiting Student Programme), Dr Nigel Meir (1975, Medicine), Jonathan Ross (1991, PPE)

**Finance and Estates Committee:** Nicholas Dunning (1981, Chemistry), Thomas Hill (1980, Physics), Dr Nigel Meir (1975, Medicine)

**Investment Sub-Committee:** Chair: Michael McLintock (1980, History and Economics), Nick Bratt (1967, PPE), Neil Matheson (1976, PPE), Peter Wilson (1985, Engineering, Economics and Management)

**Oxford North:** Dr Isobel Pinder (1980, Literae Humaniores), Bernard Taylor CVO (1975, Chemistry)

**Remuneration Committee:** Chair: Sir Nigel Carrington (1975, Jurisprudence), Simon Forshaw (1997, Jurisprudence), Jeanette Holland (1985, Jurisprudence), Alastair Levy (1986, PPE), Eleanor Tanner (2003, Jurisprudence)

**Women's Network Steering Group:** Chair: Dr Kate Molesworth (1985, Biological Anthropology), Alex Bollen (1991, History), Joanne Skolnick (1988, MSt Modern History), Zoe Stockton (2016, Human Sciences), Rose Sundt (2015, Oriental Studies)

## 1960

**Professor Ervand Abrahamian** was honoured by students and colleagues with a surprise Festschrift titled *Political, Social and Cultural History of Modern Iran* (Edinburgh University Press, 2025).

## 1962

**Professor Glyn Burgess** published *Wace: Roman de Brut: New translation by Glyn S. Burgess*, Oxford World's Classics (Oxford University Press, 2024).

## 1965

**Rupert Swyer** published a translation of *Alias Caracalla* by Daniel Cordier (Swan Isle Press, 2024).

## 1969

**Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP**, Honorary Fellow, was named a Cardinal by Pope Francis. Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP is the College's first cardinal.

## 1970

**Dr Andrew Boyd CMG, OBE** published his book *Arms for Russia & The Naval War in the Arctic, 1941–1945* (Seaforth Publishing, 2024).

## 1973

**Thom Braun** published his latest historical novel *Mr Hogarth's Morning* (2024).

**Adam Philips** was in conversation with UCLA English Professors David Russell and Mona Simpson in February to discuss his recent publication *On Giving Up* (Penguin Books, 2025).

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## 1975

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**Dr Alan Halliday** published *Tante Brutus* and *Letting Go* (Vanguard Press, 2024), and continues to produce and exhibit his artwork.

**Professor Timothy Whelan** was appointed to the Order of Canada for his work that redefined radiation therapy's use in treating breast cancer.

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## 1978

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**Professor Jeremy Black** has continued to publish new books, including *A History of Railways in 100 Maps* (British Library Publishing, 2024), *The Civil War* (St Augustine's Press, 2025) and *The Four Georges: An Awfully British Kind of Monarchy, 1714–1830* (Amberley Books, 2025).

**Dr Peter McDonald** has been appointed a Visiting Fellow in the College of Arts and Social Sciences at the Australian National University in Canberra.

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## 1983

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**Kishor Kale** is now a Senior Member of the London Mathematical Society, and his interview on Mensa was published in the September 2025 edition of the World Health Network's *Kids' Zone* magazine.

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## 1984

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**Keith Brown** is now the Fulbright Bicentennial Chair in North American Studies at the University of Helsinki.

**Dr Raymond Lang** has begun writing his autobiography.

**Michael McKinley** has started a new publishing company called BookGo.

**Professor Hugh Possingham** was elected as a Fellow of The Royal Society for outstanding research.

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## 1985

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**Kate Montgomery** held her third solo exhibition, *Nuits Blanches*, with Long and Ryle Gallery.

**Douglas Carpenter** has returned from his posting as European Union Ambassador to the Central African

Republic and the CEMAC regional grouping, and is working on support to EU civilian operations and crisis management. He and **Anne-Therese Mulgrew** are living in Belgium where Anne-Therese is teaching at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

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## 1987

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**Sir Chris Wormald KCB** was appointed Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service and has been elected as an Honorary Fellow of St John's College.

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## 1989

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**Henry Dimbleby MBE** was elected as an Honorary Fellow of St John's College.

**Dr Kedar Kale** has been presented with the Mount Waverley Cricket Club Female Cricket Program Volunteer of the Year Award for the 2024/25 season, and had the honour of having a team named after him.

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## 1990

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**Professor Marcus Munafo** was appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost at the University of Bath.

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## 1991

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**Victoria Coren Mitchell** continues to host BBC Two's quiz show *Only Connect*, with alumni Hannah Fitton (2014), Kai Laddiman (2014) and Sam Morris (2015) appearing in recent episodes.

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## 1992

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**Dr Paula Aamli** completed an MFA in Creative Writing at City, University of London, and released an essay 'Goofiness and Horror in Gideon the Ninth and Harrow the Ninth', published in *Speculative Insight*.

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## 1993

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**Adam Sandman** was elected to be the new President of the Oxford University Society of Washington, DC (OUSDC), the official Washington, DC chapter of the Oxford University Alumni Network.

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## 1996

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**Bruce Gaston** published a critical edition of some of the stories of the Edwardian writer Hector Hugh Munro, titled *Saki (H.H. Munro) Original and Uncollected Stories* (Open Book Publishers, 2024).



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## 1997

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**Professor Danny Busch** was elected as a member of Academia Europaea, the European Academy of Sciences.

**Matthew Morrison KC** (Serle Court) was appointed to King's Counsel.

**Nadia Motraghi KC** was appointed the joint head of the Employment Group at Old Street Chambers, where she has practised since 2004.

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## 1999

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**Rebecca Leek** published *The School-Ready Governor: A guide for trustees, governors and school leaders* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2024).

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## 2002

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**Laura Poots KC** (Pump Court Tax Chambers) was appointed to King's Counsel.

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## 2003

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**Anton Dudnikov KC** (Essex Court Chambers) was appointed to King's Counsel.

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## 2004

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**Dr Dov Fox** recently published *The Conscience of Care: Navigating Health in the Culture Wars* (Harvard University Press, 2025).

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## 2005

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**Dr Jason Arora** was selected as a 2025 Aspen Health Fellow.

**Alex Barden KC** (Fountain Court Chambers) was appointed to King's Counsel.

**Dr Ben Robbins** published *Faulkner's Hollywood Novels: Women between Page and Screen* (University of Virginia Press, 2024)

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## 2007

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**Dr Nicola Laurieri** published *Mathematics for Biosciences – from Theory to Worked Examples and Applications* (World Scientific Europe Ltd, 2025), written with Professor Elspeth Garman, and held the book launch in the Biochemistry Department, University of Oxford, in May.

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## 2008

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**Dr Alma Brodersen** is now Full Professor for Old Testament Studies at the University of Siegen in Germany.

**Rachel Dedman** was interviewed by current student Meira Lee on 'What art can do' for The Oxford Student.

**Dr Tom Crawford** covered for Rachel Riley MBE on the game show *Countdown*.

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## 2010

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**The Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie** published *Twelve Churches: An Unlikely History of the Buildings That Made Christianity* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2025), which featured in the New Yorker's 'Best Books of the Year So Far'.

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## 2012

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**Michael Lok** organized two successful alumni events in Hong Kong: a dinner with tutorial fellow in Law at St John's, Professor Richard Ekins KC (Hon), and an evening with alumni at the races with Nick Hunsworth (1976).

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## 2013

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**Rachel Kolb** recently published *ARTICULATE: A Deaf Memoir of Voice* (Harper Collins, 2025).

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## 2014

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**Hannah Fitton** and **Kai Laddiman** took part in the BBC Two series *Only Connect*.

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## 2019

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**Dr Julia Ebner** was named 'Austrian of the Year 2024' by the Austrian Foreign Ministry and was the keynote speaker at the annual SJC Women's Network Dinner.

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## 2020

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**Yijia Tu** released her album *TU* and presented her musical journey behind the project in a TEDx Talk 'Connecting Across Culture and Time Through the Gift of Music'.

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## 2021

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**Susan Kellaway** held her first solo exhibition *They Meet Between Me* at the Pembroke Art Gallery in Oxford.







## St John's College Oxford

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Find details of Oxford University alumni events at [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk)

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