Turning the Page
A Tangled Bank
Henry V: The Reluctant Soldier
Fighting Under Pegasus

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The magazine of St John’s College, Oxford
This year we have been very pleased to move all of our spaces for alumni into one building at 20 St Giles’, which will henceforth be known as The Alumni House. We have also made changes to our two annual publications, TW and its sister, the Benefactors’ Report (now renamed simply Benefactors). TW first appeared in 2003 to keep alumni informed about what is happening in St John’s, and in 2008 we produced our first Benefactors’ Report, to acknowledge donors and show what alumni support is doing for the College. In future, the two magazines will share a common size and format. TW will appear in Michaelmas Term, and Benefactors in Hilary Term.

Covering Darwin
Don’t be alarmed! We are not claiming Darwin as one of our own. That privilege belongs to Christ’s College, Cambridge. For the Fellows of St John’s, though, Darwin is not only a historical figure: his ideas live on to be examined through the research of those who are leading the fields of biology and mathematical biology. In this issue of TW, they talk to us about their work and show us how the links to Darwin’s ideas still hold strong. The photograph of Darwin used on our cover (courtesy of Bridgeman Images) was taken in 1881 at Darwin’s home (Downe House in Kent). It has sometimes been misattributed to the photographer Julia Margaret Cameron. Although Cameron died in 1879, the mistake is perhaps understandable, given the interest in figures of myth and legend which sometimes tinged her work with a sense of spiritualism.
Richard Rawlinson

Rawlinson was born on 3 January 1690 in his father’s house in the Old Bailey, St Sepulchre’s, London. His father Thomas had (like Sir Thomas White) been Lord Mayor of London. Educated first at St Paul’s School and then at Eton, Rawlinson matriculated at St John’s in 1708, and graduated BA in 1711 and MA in 1713. In the late 1710s he enrolled as a student at the Universities of Utrecht and Leiden, and in 1719 Oxford created him DCL (Doctor of Civil Law). In 1754 Rawlinson’s health began to fail and he died on 6 April 1755 at Kirtling.

The Neglected Benefactor

It is strangely comforting for all of us—students, dons and alumni—to think that St John’s has been around for ever: an entity, an abstraction almost, that existed long before we arrived and will continue long after us. We talk a lot about our Founder, Sir Thomas White, and properly so. Without his vision—literally since he saw the site of his proposed college in a dream—there would of course be no St John’s at all. But there have been other great benefactors too, and sometimes we are in danger of dismissing or simply forgetting these men (for they usually were men) whose likenesses hang, a little dustily, on the walls around us.

Such men are not always easy people to like, or even to understand. In the case of Richard Rawlinson (1690-1755), we encounter a St John’s man whose obsession with preserving the past made him seem cantankerous and combative to some minds. Born into what was in his day a relatively wealthy family (his father was a successful tea merchant), Rawlinson was one of fifteen children. His love of topography and of history began early in life, and he spent time travelling in England, making notes about monuments with a view to writing a history of the counties. His near-mania for collecting also started early, and today’s more moderate collectors and connoisseurs would probably be horrified at the sheer rate he acquired manuscripts, books and papers. Rawlinson, though, was not someone who simply amassed stuff for the sake of having things, and he was by no means shielded from the divided and difficult political life of eighteenth-century England.

Rawlinson was a non-juror—a hard choice if you wanted an easy life—and he felt it was his special duty to preserve the sermons, records and correspondence of other non-jurors. Indeed, his keen interest in Anglo-Saxon history (he left money to endow the chair in Anglo-Saxon at Oxford) probably stemmed from a desire to find precedents for his own conservative ideas in earlier times. There were also compelling personal reasons why he was driven to preserve the past. His older brother squandered the family estate, leaving his affairs in a mess when he died, a situation that Rawlinson had to work long and hard to remedy. For many years, he lived on relatively little money and he stopped travelling, even within England (and even to Oxford, a place he was devoted to). The worst part came when he had to sell his brother’s splendid library, and he struggled to raise money to hang on to as many of the books as he could. Eventually, when he had secured the wealth he had inherited, he turned it into an empire of ancient manuscripts and letters.

At the end of his life, Rawlinson was described in one newspaper as a person who pretended to be an antiquarian ‘out of sheer hatred to the present generation’. This was a caricature, and cruelly unfair. Certainly, he thought his generation neither valued nor understood the past as it should, and he gave himself over to gathering and rescuing materials of historical interest. So eager was he to ensure that nothing would be lost that he bought whole heaps of papers, by weight if he had to, and then had the heaps sorted, classified and bound to make sure they could never go astray again.

But his thirst for manuscripts and England’s past did not make Rawlinson into a forerunner of Mr Cusaubon in Middlemarch. In fact, personally he was very convivial. He took full advantage of the new fashion for coffee houses, and it is no accident that one of the ways the College chose to remember him was with an annual feast. But Rawlinson’s strong moral principles did not make for an easy and cooperative public life. He had been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and had planned originally to leave his extensive collections of manuscripts and objects to the Society. However, only a year after electing him its Vice-President, the Society removed him from its council because of his Jacobite (non-juror) sympathies. Rawlinson promptly changed his will, and bequeathed the bulk of his huge collection of manuscripts and books to the Bodleian instead. What he gave Oxford was one of the richest collections of literary and historical manuscripts in the world.

The best way to describe the man behind the benevolence is to consider the personal side of Rawlinson’s clubbable, sociable character, but it is not true to his love of Oxford and St John’s, Rawlinson stipulated that his body should be buried in St Giles’ church and in his heart in the College chapel—a bit grizzly to modern tastes perhaps, but it meant everything to him. He left money specifically for an oration ‘to the memory of the said worthy benefactor of the said college’ but very early on, the College turned the oration into a feast. This might well fit with one side of Rawlinson’s clubbable, sociable character, but it is not enough. He was a considerable man who was not afraid to row against the tide, and he was a great supporter of Oxford scholarship. The Fellows have been reflecting on what his enormous generosity means to us now, and we believe it is time to honour him in a new and more significant way. We think it is one he would have approved of. In the coming months we will tell you more about this.

John Pitcher
Founder’s Fellow

Richard Rawlinson

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**News**

**A Horror of Sherry**

A newly discovered letter shows the poet’s reluctance to step into the limelight

As elections to Oxford’s Professorship of Poetry got underway at the start of the summer, a newly discovered letter from Philip Larkin (English, 1922–1985) showed how he had politely declined an offer to nominate him for the post in 1968. Extracts from the letter, published in the Guardian, show Larkin’s wit, intelligence, self-deprecation and kindness, as he explains that ‘the embarrassment of giving lectures and his dread of literary parties make it impossible for him to accept the nomination.

The letter was found in St Hugh’s College, Oxford earlier this year among the papers of the novelist and literary scholar, Rachel Trickett. (1923–1999). In 1968, Trickett was Fellow and Tutor in English at St Hugh’s (where she later served as Principal), and she wrote to Larkin to suggest that she might nominate him as a candidate for the Professorship. The post of Professor of Poetry, established in the eighteenth century, carries an obligation to nominate him for the post in 1968.

The opening Reception of ‘Meeting Minds’ in Vienna’s Rathaus (photograph by Stephan Polzer Photography)

**The Journeying Professor**

World renowned tenor returns to St John’s to take a Winter Journey and praise the value of obliquity

Dr Ian Bostridge (Modern History, 1983) joined us at the end of Michaelmas Term 2014 for a week long residency as part of his Humanitas Professorship with TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities). Beginning with a lecture in St John’s on Schubert’s Winterreise and moving on to a symposium and a singing masterclass in the Sheldonian, Ian offered current students, Fellows and alumni the chance to explore the rich mixture of texts and music that have inspired him.

Ian’s book, Schubert’s Winter Journey: Anatomy of an Obsession, published by Knopf (out before Christmas 2014), ranges over subjects from the German postal system, to ice flowers, crows and charcoal burning, all offered as ways to reach into the song cycle that he has made his own.

In his lecture on Winterreise, Ian gave us a taste of his research into this work about a solitary travel in a winter landscape, and stepped away from the lectern to perform parts of the work with pianist Osman Tack (Chemistry, 2013). He also spoke of the intellectual rigour and excitement that tutorials had given him, and remembered how sympathetic the College had been to helping him develop his interest in singing.

In a powerful plea for the value of the Humanities, Ian acknowledged his debt to Oxford and St John’s and, in particular, to his tutors, Keith Thomas, Ross McKibbin and Malcolm Vale. His experience of education was, he said, a lesson in what Oxford colleges do best: allowing academic disciplines to mix with one another and encouraging their members to think widely and try new things. Looking for inspiration to another member of St John’s, Sir Michael Scholar, Professor Chris Llewellyn Smith said: ‘Oxford is a library and the slanted view. He warned of the dangers of the commodification of learning and the constraints that funding changes have put on the kind of intellectual freedom he enjoyed.

**Viennese Whirl**

On a warm evening in April, alumni and their guests gathered in Vienna for a dinner hosted by Honorary Fellow Dr Tony Boyce. Held in Schnall’s restaurant, the event included a speech from former President, Sir Michael Scholar. The evening was part of the Oxford University ‘Meeting Minds’ weekend, held from 24 to 26 April. The weekend began with a reception in the Rathaus for over 400 guests. Saturday saw a programme of academic lectures and panel discussions in the Orangerie of the Schönbrunn Palace. Subjects ranged from early twentieth-century Viennese culture (where the panel included Honorary Fellow Professor Ritchie Robertson), to the Ukraine, to the future of sustainable energy (for which the panel included another Honorary Fellow, Professor Chris Llewellyn Smith). Sunday offered the chance to enjoy the atmosphere and beauty of Vienna, with walking tours and even the opportunity to try the famous Viennese waltz.
Bho aos gu aos

The first student ever to come to Oxford from Uist in the Western Isles of Scotland, Dòmhnall Iain MacDonald (Biomedical Sciences, 2012) prefers, modestly, to call himself a ‘failed novelist’ than a successful Cell and Systems Biologist. Graduating this year with a First, Dòmhnall Iain will go on to doctoral study at UCL. So unusual is his story that he has been the subject of a BBC documentary. Bilingual (in Gaelic and English), and fiercely interested in Scottish politics and culture as well as in neuroscience, Dòmhnall Iain has only one ongoing complaint: that people always address him ‘Dear Iain’, no matter that he carefully signs himself ‘Dòmhnall Iain’ in letters and emails. ‘It’s as though people think ‘Dòmhnall’ is some sort of title,’ he says. (For those of you without Gaelic, our title here is taken from the BBC documentary. ‘From age to age’).

Celebrating the Two Thousand

St John’s first admitted women undergraduates and graduates in 1979 and the 2000th woman matriculated at the beginning of the academic year 2015. To mark this achievement, the College has held a series of events and programmes during the last two years. 4 and 5 July 2015 saw the Big Party weekend, a celebration to bring the events of the 2000 Women programme to a close. The President and Fellows joined women alumni for panel discussions on subjects including politics and English), and fiercely interested in Scottish politics and culture as well as in neuroscience, Dòmhnall Iain has only one ongoing complaint: that people always address him ‘Dear Iain’, no matter that he carefully signs himself ‘Dòmhnall Iain’ in letters and emails. ‘It’s as though people think ‘Dòmhnall’ is some sort of title,’ he says. (For those of you without Gaelic, our title here is taken from the BBC documentary. ‘From age to age’).

Alumnus confirmed as Secretary of Defense

Ash ton Carter (Theoretical Physics, 1976) has been confirmed by the US Senate as Secretary of Defense. Dr Carter, who studied at Harvard before taking up a Rhodes Scholarship in Oxford, taught at Harvard before serving as Assistant Secretary for Defense for International Security Policy under the Clinton administration and Deputy Secretary of Defense under President Obama. He is a recipient of both the Distinguished Public Service Medal and the Defense Intelligence Medal.

The Cleverest Person ever to come to St John’s?

In 1914, a brilliant physicist took up the Directorship of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics in Berlin. He held the position until 1933, but realised early in the 1920s that it would not be possible for him to remain in Germany. It is a little known fact that the Institute’s Director, one Albert Einstein, then spent a period of time in Oxford. In May 1921, Einstein arrived to take up a post at Christ Church. This had been arranged by Frederick Lindemann, Professor of Physics at Oxford and later Churchill’s wartime scientific advisor, and Christ Church went on to offer Einstein a five-year research studentship.

Einstein was only able to stay in Oxford for three short periods between 1921 and 1933 before leaving for the US and Princeton to escape the worsening situation in Europe, but it was a happy association. When he left, he asked that the annual emolument he received for his research studentship—a £400—might be used to create posts for others scholars in need of funds, including other refugees. It was a generosity not reciprocated by all those in Oxford: the then Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology complained to the Dean of Christ Church that the money should not have been given to Einstein, claiming that it was ‘unpatriotic’ to use funds for non-British nationals. The Dean replied firmly that Einstein’s attainments and reputation are so high that they transcend national boundaries, and any university in the world ought to be proud of having him.”

We are certainly proud to have played host, albeit briefly, to Einstein in St John’s. Venturing to the College for dinner one evening, the great man startled Fellows by bringing his famous raincoat to High Table, folding it to store carefully under his chair. He himself seems to have been somewhat overwhelmed when taken from Hall to the Common Room after dinner, reportedly saying nothing but ‘So many rooms!’ At some point during this visit or another, Einstein was captured on camera in the College gardens. The photograph was given to St John’s by Andrew Campbell (jurisprudence, 1969), and taken by Andrew’s father, in a part of the gardens that has now been remodelled. Alumni seeking other souvenirs of Einstein’s time in Oxford might be interested to know that a blackboard preserved from one of his three public lectures can still be seen in Oxford’s Museum of the History of Science.

Bidding Farewell

Lots of people very important to St John’s have done something brilliant in the past. This year, for example, Sophie Petersen has been so valuable to St John’s that we have given her the title of Secretary of Defense. She has been such a wonderful addition to our community, always ready to lend a hand and make everyone feel welcome. Sophie has been a true leader, always taking the time to listen and provide support. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her all the best in her new endeavours. Sophie is just one of the many amazing people who have contributed so much to St John’s, and we are grateful for all that she has done. Thank you, Sophie, for being such an amazing part of our community. We will miss you, but we know that you will go on to achieve great things. We wish you all the best in your future adventures!”

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If not you, who? If not now, when?

Alumna and entrepreneur Caroline Plumb (Engineering, Economics and Management, 1996) returned to College on 15 February to give the second Lady White Lecture. Caroline reflected on her time at St John’s and how it had given her the confidence and skills to start a business. She encouraged those thinking about their next steps to take the time to have ideas and not to be trapped by worries about what others would view as ‘normal’. When asked what had been the most important thing she had learned at St John’s, Caroline told the audience (which included some of her own tutors) that the tutorial system had given her the power to form an argument and to see a problem from all angles: ‘University made me a better and more confident version of myself’.

Caroline’s lecture brought together high-level institutional networking and the practicalities of networking: ‘Work out what you don’t know,’ she advised, ‘and then find someone who does.’ Twice named as one of Management Today’s ‘55 women under 55’, Caroline gives much of her time to promoting entrepreneurship and to encouraging all of us to use technology to push business forward. She ended her lecture by reminding her audience about Lady White, who in the sixteenth century had taken the risk of investing in St John’s, the Bedegul College founded by her husband. Almost five hundred years later, we can readily agree that it was a risk that paid off handsomely.

A King in the Bank

Alumni, Fellows and current students met in the City on 6 June to hear Dr Malcolm Vale, Emeritus Research Fellow and formerly Tutorial Fellow in Modern History, deliver the second annual St John’s London Summer Lectures. The evening was generously hosted at Deutsche Bank by Mr Anthony Forsyth (Modern History, 1974). Dr Vale admitted that the title of his lecture—‘Henry V: The Reluctant Soldier’—was provocative, intended to induce reflection at a time when the British were engaged in war. Juxtaposing the longue durée of Henry V’s reign with the contemporary debates on leadership and the modern nation, he challenged the notion that Henry’s kingship was ‘unelected and unpopular’. Henry V was, he argued, an elected monarch, who had a vision for his kingdom. The audience was asked to consider the question of what it means to be ‘the true university’; an university that ‘teaches a man to see things as they are’.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Philip Maini, Professorial Fellow in Mathematical Biology, has been elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society. Professor Maini works to develop computational models of spatiotemporal patterns in biology in medicine. Among his many successes in this field of applied mathematics has been the creation of multiscale models for wound healing and vascular tumour growth.

Zoltán Molnár, Tutorial Fellow in Medicine, has been elected to the Allan and Maria Myers International Visiting Fellowship to the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health at the University of Melbourne. During the Fellowship, Professor Molnár will deliver lectures on the evolution of brain development and on translational aspects of cortical development.

Walter Mattk, Tutorial Fellow in Politics, has been awarded a British Academy/ Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship. This will allow him to focus on a new book project, The New Governance of Global Capital Markets: Winners and Losers, which explores the ‘plumbing’ of global markets: exchanges, clearing houses and securities depositories. The project brings together economics, political science, sociology, finance and business studies, and will develop and test hypotheses about the governance of capital markets.

Joel Ouaknine, Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science, will lead a five-year project to investigate the software models used to try to provide answers to long-standing mathematical questions. By looking to create new and more powerful verification tools for engineers and programmers, Professor Ouaknine and his team aim to make theoretical contributions to the field of computable science which will also have practical applications for industrial research laboratories.

Hannah Skoda, Tutorial Fellow in History, has been awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize in recognition of her contributions to the study of violence in late medieval Europe. Her book, Medieval Violence: Physical Brutality in Northern France, 1270-1330, developed pioneering methods of analysing and looking at student riots and domestic violence and was recognised as a significant step forward in the study of political protest. Professor Skoda’s next research project will look at nostalgia in fourteenth-century Europe.

George Gottlieb, Professorial Fellow in Informatics, will direct a new £5.0 million programme grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and its total value, including industry contributions, stands at £3.5 million. The grant is jointed to the Universities of Edinburgh, Manchester and Oxford, and will enable scientists to investigate new ways of dealing with data and automating its interpretation.

Jason Stanyek, Tutorial Fellow in Ethnomusicology, has been named as the new Artistic Director for West Australian Opera, and will lead the company from 2016 as one of three people qualified to train 400 facilitators. Mr Stanyek was also awarded a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Social Impact. Eden, who is currently the Head of Research in the School of Business and Economics at the University of Melbourne, has been awarded a British Academy/ Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship to investigate new ways of dealing with data and automating its interpretation.

Simon Hay, Research Fellow in the Sciences and Mathematics, has been elected to Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences and of the Academy of Social Sciences (AASSC). Simon has also been appointed Professor of Global Health at the University of Washington. Professor Hay’s research focuses on the spatial and temporal aspects of the epidemiology of infectious diseases and aims to optimize approaches to controlling disease, and he has led a number of initiatives to map the global distribution of pathogens, including malaria, dengue and Ebola.

Two Fellows have been awarded Professorial distinction titles by the University: Simon Myers, (Supernumerary Fellow) and Jan Olof (Tutor in Mathematics) were recognised for their excellence in research and teaching and their involvement in other work for the University and the College.

Maria Bruna, Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics, has been appointed Olga Taussky Tallellow Fellow at the Wolfgang Pauli Institute in Vienna for autumn 2017.

John White, Honorary Fellow, has won the 2015 Asia- Oceania Neutron- Scattering Association (AONSA) Prize in recognition of his contribution to the field of Physical Chemistry using neutron scattering and for his scientific leadership and mentoring. Professor White, who has been at Australian National University since 1981, has championed the development of and investment in the science of neutron scattering, which allows scientists to understand materials on an atomic scale.

Michael Riordan, College Archivist, has won first prize in the Library History Award for 2014, which is given by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). His essay, ‘The King’s Library: a Manuscript 21440’ (The State Paper Office as Archive and Library’ was published in Information & Culture: a journal of History 48.2 (2013). It focuses on the State Paper Office, which from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries preserved the papers of Secretaries of State (predecessors of the modern Home and Foreign Secretaries), and used the papers to form the custodians of the collection of records between libraries and archives in the early modern period.

Dan Cohen (Theoretical and Physical Chemistry, 2013) has received a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Social Impact. Eden, who is currently the MCR President in St John’s and who has also served as Graduate Women’s Officer and University Student Union (OUSU) act as co-chair of ‘It Happens Here’, the OUSU campaign to raise awareness of sexual violence in Oxford. She was instrumental in organising consent workshops for first-year students at Oxford this year as one of three people qualified to train 400 facilitators.

Brad Cohen (Music, 1985), former Organ Scholar, has been appointed as the new Artistic Director for West Australian Opera, and will lead the company in the 2015 season productions of Faust, Madama Butterfly, The Barber of Seville and The Marriage of Figaro. Brad has conducted for opera houses, festivals and concerts and has also worked in television (notably as a mentor in the BBC series Masterclass) as well as editing and publishing operatic editions. He is also active in commissioning and performing new music (including for the opening of the Millennium Dome) and has toured the chamber music of Frank Zappa.
remains very involved with Oxford University Press, and has been involved with organisations including the Library of Congress Literacy awards programme. As University Professor, Professor of English, and Honorary Curator of the USA’s National Council on the Humanities. The National Council's work is important to me,' says Paul. 'The College's support of, both of me in my Fine Art studies and in the world of student activities has been key to my friendships and working relationships that endure to this very day.'

Michael F. Suarez, S.J. (Junior Research Fellow, 1993-1998) has been named by President Barack Obama as a nominee for membership of the USA's National Council on the Humanities. The National Council on the Humanities advises the National Endowment for the Humanities on its award of grants to cultural institutions (including the museums and universities), to public television and radio and to individual scholars. Currently Director of Rare Book School, University Professor, Professor of English, and Honorary Curator of Special Collections at the University of Virginia, Professor Suarez has held positions in the Oxford Faculty of English, Fordham University and LeMoyne College and acts as a trustee and board member for organisations including the Library of Congress Literacy awards programme and the Lewis Walpole Library at Yale University. He also remains very involved with Oxford University Press, and has been editor-in-chief of Oxford Scholarly Editions Online since 2010.

**ARRIVALS**

Zuzanna Chozowska (Tutorial Fellow in Archaeology and Anthropology) specialises in the ethnography of Iran and Afghanistan, with a focus on Afghan refugees in Iran, the Persian-speaking Afghan diaspora, and the anthropology of literature and cultural production. After completing her DPhil, she held a Junior Research Fellowship at St John's and a postdoctoral fellowship at LSE. Most recently, she has been a Departmental Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography at Oxford. She has taught anthropology tutorials across a broad range of topics, and courses in the anthropology of the Middle East and the anthropology of development. Her doctoral research ethnographically explored how poetic activity reflects changes in refugee youth subjectivity in an Afghan refugee community, based on work with an Afghan cultural organisation in Mashhad, Iran. She is also interested in topics of class and status in post-revolutionary Iran, contemporary Persian written and oral communicative genres more broadly, and the development of the anthropology of literary practice as a more robust sub-field of the discipline. Her current research focuses on how diasporic Afghans are using social media to construct an elusive Afghan national imaginary.

Michael Heatherington (Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in English) will be teaching English Literature 1550-1760, including Shakespeare. His research interests lie mainly in non-dramatic literature of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries and in the philosophical and pedagogical culture of the period, with a special focus on humanist logic and rhetoric. He is writing a book on the idea of ridiculous in early modern writing, setting early modern approaches to literary hermeneutics in the context of the longer history of concepts of form and function. He is also working on a role of rules and conduct in poetic theory from the beginnings of the English Renaissance to the eighteenth century. Before joining St John's, he was a Research Fellow in English at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Lucy Aplin (Junior Research Fellow in Biology) works on the process by which socially learnt behaviours arise, spread and establish in animal populations. She looks at how this transmission allows novel behaviour to be acquired, so that animals can adapt to rapidly changing environments. She has previously researched these questions in wild birds using a combination of automated tracking technologies and social network analysis. Her proposed research aims to study more complex cultural behaviours using a mix of wild and laboratory experiments in order better to understand the evolutionary roots of human culture. She took her DPhil at Oxford where she was an official fellow before holding a position as a postdoctoral researcher at the Edward Grey Institute in the Department of Zoology at Oxford University. Her teaching interests focus on animal cognition and behaviour.

Emily Corran (Junior Research Fellow in History) is about to complete a PhD in UCL’s history department on lying and deception in medieval practical thought. This looks at moral dilemmas involving lying and truth-telling in pastoral literature in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Next year she will start a new project at St John's on the early history of casuistry, which aims to trace the history of ethical reasoning based on cases of conscience from their origins in the twelfth century up to the Council of Trent. In the past, Emily has taught general papers on medieval history and the history of political thought.

Sneha Krishnan (Junior Research Fellow in Human Geography) works on youth and adulthood in the context of India’s postcolonial history. Her doctoral thesis investigated the experience of youth for middle class girls in Chennai, where debates over the age of sexual consent and education define the boundaries and social meanings of this category. Her future research will take this work forward and will focus on adults who have shaped the experience and meaning of ‘youth’ and ‘adulthood’ in post-colonial public life in Southern India. Drawing on this, she will offer teaching on contemporary India for Human Geography courses. After taking her first degree at the University of Madras, she completed her MSc and DPhil at Oxford.

Elie Chowkw (Academic Dean) comes to the College from the Higher Education Funding Council for England where, as Head of Learning and Teaching, she was responsible for leading policy development on learning and teaching excellence and innovation, provision of information to students, and teaching funding. She started her career curating a number of college archive, manuscript and art collections in Oxford and Cambridge, and subsequently worked in higher education management at the Universities of Warwick, Bath and New Zealand. She undertook her doctoral research on the development of academic and religious identities in the nineteenth-century university.

Joshua Makepeace (Junior Research Fellow in Chemistry) carries out research that aims to understand and optimise materials for hydrogen storage, and to develop new catalysts for the decomposition of the hydrogen–vector ammonia. Both areas of his work have applications in industry and society, from critical grid balancing for intermittent power supplies from renewable sources. Since completing his D.Phil in Inorganic Chemistry at Lincoln College in 2014, he has continued his work as a Research Scientist at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council.

David Camburne (Honorary Fellow) came to St John’s as a Junior Research Fellow in 1975. He became a Fellow of Christ’s College in Cambridge and went on to be Moore Collegiate Professor of History at McGill University in Canada and as a Royal Society Research Fellow in 1985. After working as a Research Fellow at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council.

Andrew Harrison (Honorary Fellow) came to St John’s as a Research Fellow in 1985. After working as a Research Fellow at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council, he became a Lecturer and later Professor in Solid State Chemistry at Edinburgh University. He is the founding Director of the Centre for Science at Extreme Conditions and has been the Director General of the Institute Laue-Langevin, the Neutron Source in Grenoble since 2011. In 2015, he was made Director of Diamond Light Source.
“that a newe librarie be erected”

During the past few years, the Governing Body of St John’s has been trying to predict the future. Never an easy task, this is especially hard when the subject of the predictions is the College’s library. Some thought that libraries with actual books and real desks had already become a thing of the past, and a brave new world of learning would see us all in individual pods, downloading data directly to our devices. But one look at how well the current library is used tells us that its future will still be one of community.

The library is at the very core of the College’s purpose and of its day-to-day life. And so the Governing Body has taken the decision to extend the current space, preserving and enhancing the library so that it can continue to be the focus of learning for at least another four hundred years. The history of the library shows that one person’s vision of beauty can be another’s idea of vandalism, so any new development requires immense care and sensitivity.
The Early Library

In its first incarnation, the library was nothing like the space that we now know. The curriculum of the late medieval university, with its foundations of grammar, logic and rhetoric, relied on lectures and formal debates, with notes passed from student to student, rather than using reading lists in any modern sense, and the College would have had very few books. The Founder’s family and friends donated the earliest books held in the library, and these were texts mostly of Theology, Philosophy or Law. Most books at this time were enormous in size, and all were enormously expensive. For security, and to keep them in place, books were usually chained to the lecterns on which they were read (which means they were read standing up: a posture we are today more familiar with). It was the College’s connection to William Laud which gave the Library its current shape (and, if rumour is to be believed, its very own ghost as well). In fact, what we know now as the Laudian Library was for many years simply called the Inner Library, but it was Laud who was the driving force behind both the building and the vision of a modern library for a modern age of mathematical and scientific learning. Had he been an even wealthier man, perhaps Laud might have considered founding a new college all of his own (as Walsley had). Luckily for St John’s, though, he was rich while being not quite rich enough to establish another Christ Church. He decided instead to fund a new quadrangle for the College of which he had been President, and where he had been a junior Fellow when the Old Library had been built in the 1590s. The College was happy to accept Laud’s proposal that he would “beautify the east part of the College with a new building”. The foundation stone of the Canterbury Quadrangle was laid in 1593, and the stonemasons raced to finish the new library by the time Laud visited again in 1635. The library building was extended twenty feet to the east (and the oriel window was dismantled and moved to the new east end of the building). The whole quadrangle, entirely paid for by Laud, cost, in the money of Caroline England, a little over £5,500, that is, four times as much as the first library. Laud did intend that his new library would contain only books, though. It was, he said, for “Manuscripts, and all smaller Bookes … or any other Rarity. As alsoe all Mathematical Bookes and Instruments which myselfe … or other shall given unto the College”. In order to house objects as well as books, the library walls were fitted with lockable cases, and these were placed flat against the walls, such that one historian has suggested the Laudian Library would have had the look of a long gallery in a country house. The cases themselves were covered with metal grilles decorated with Laud’s arms and crest. Over the door to the new library was a Greek inscription, emphasising that this was, above all, to be thought of as a ‘Mathematicall Library’: ‘God is the greatest geometer of all’. Laud carried on making gifts of books and objects to the library. In 1638 and 1639, for instance, he sent an astrolabe, maps and Arabic and Greek manuscripts. Even as the Civil War took hold, he continued to take an active interest in how things were run, writing from his imprisonment in the Tower in 1641 about the regulations for the use of the library.

Benefactions of books and objects continued. Two articulated skeletons (or ‘anatomies’, as they were known) were given to the College by John Speed, and stood on either side of a doorway that was later blocked up, but recently uncovered during the preparations for the new building. The skeletons were used for the study of medicine, but, like other such skeletons in other universities (famously at Leiden), they would have held mortalising scrolls or objects (such as hourglasses) to remind viewers of their own mortality.

One thing that may surprise us about the library before the nineteenth century is that undergraduate library use was not allowed to it. This was not unusual at the time: all colleges reserved their libraries for use only by their Fellows. But given that the number of Fellows stayed at only around fifty for some centuries, and that they probably also spent a good deal of their reading time in the Bodleian, this meant that the library was in effect as much a museum as a reading room during this period. Travellers would stop off at St John’s to view the famous Library, its assemplary skeletons, of course, but also, as one traveller noted at the end of the seventeenth century, “Skins of fish and beasts” and other curiosities. During the eighteenth century, some of these objects were moved into the so-called Ottowa Passage underneath the Laudian Library (now the centrepiece of the plans for redevelopment), and others went to the Museum of the History of Science in Broad Street. But some of these oddities remain in the library still, including a portrait of

It was only in the 1590s, twenty years after the idea was first mooted, that there was sufficient money to plan and build a new library. From Laud to the Twentieth Century

It was the College’s connection to William Laud which gave the Library its current shape (and, if rumour is to be believed, its very own ghost as well). In fact, what we know now as the Laudian Library was for many years simply called the Inner Library, but it was Laud who was the driving force behind both the building and the vision of a modern library for a modern age of mathematical and scientific learning. Had he been an even wealthier man, perhaps Laud might have considered founding a new college all of his own (as Walsley had). Luckily for St John’s, though, he was rich while being not quite rich enough to establish another Christ Church. He decided instead to fund a new quadrangle for the College of which he had been President, and where he had been a junior Fellow when the Old Library had been built in the 1590s. The College was happy to accept Laud’s proposal that he would “beautify the east part of the College with a new building”. The foundation stone of the Canterbury Quadrangle was laid in 1593, and the stonemasons raced to finish the new library by the time Laud visited again in 1635. The library building was extended twenty feet to the east (and the oriel window was dismantled and moved to the new east end of the building). The whole quadrangle, entirely paid for by Laud, cost, in the money of Caroline England, a little over £5,500, that is, four times as much as the first library. Laud did intend that his new library would contain only books, though. It was, he said, for “Manuscripts, and all smaller Bookes … or any other Rarity. As alsoe all Mathematical Bookes and Instruments which myselfe … or other shall given unto the College”. In order to house objects as well as books, the library walls were fitted with lockable cases, and these were placed flat against the walls, such that one historian has suggested the Laudian Library would have had the look of a long gallery in a country

The Governing Body took the decision “that a newe librarie be erected … for the enlarging of roome and lodgings in the College and for the better commoditie of the said Collidge and students in the same”. It is still not clear why the new building was not directly joined to the existing quadrangle, though it is surely related to the disputes with Trinity College (who refused to allow scaffolding to be put up on their land) which meant the new building had to be put up on a different orientation from that originally planned. The new building was ready in 1598. It was of Tudor Gothic construction, and its upper floor housed what we know now as the Old Library, while the ground floor provided four new sets of rooms for accommodating members of the College. The building was joined to the existing quadrangle by a cloister and this new space allowed for rapid expansion of the library’s holdings. Sir William Paddy gave 800 books, including a large number of medical works, and there was a donation too from Sir Thomas Tresham, a leading Catholic recusant (and father of one of the 1605 Gunpowder plotters). This was still a ‘chained library’ (examples of which survive in the Bodleian, as well as in Hereford Cathedral and in some school libraries), although it was the first library in Oxford to have specifically designed ‘presses’ or shelves to hold the chained books, freeing up more space for both storage and reading. The total outlay for the new building was, in Jacobean money, around £1,110 (calculating what this amount would be worth in today’s terms is anything but an exact science: some estimates would put the figure as high as eighty million pounds). Nearly half of the sum had been given by various donors, including the Merchant Taylors’ Company of London. The remainder was the College’s own funds. The library building was extended twenty feet to the east (and the oriel window was dismantled and moved to the new east end of the building). The whole quadrangle, entirely paid for by Laud, cost, in the money of Caroline England, a little over £5,500, that is, four times as much as the first library. Laud did intend that his new library would contain only books, though. It was, he said, for “Manuscripts, and all smaller Bookes … or any other Rarity. As alsoe all Mathematical Bookes and Instruments which myselfe … or other shall given unto the College”. In order to house objects as well as books, the library walls were fitted with lockable cases, and these were placed flat against the walls, such that one historian has suggested the Laudian Library would have had the look of a long gallery in a country
The traditional model of desk, book, paper and pen has been joined by others

Why does the library now look so different from the long gallery-style space of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries? The answer lies in the Victorian love of Gothic and of radical ‘restoration’. At the end of the 1850s, the Laudian Library was changed utterly. The plaster ceiling was taken down, exposing the timbers of the roof. These were then decked with plaster shields and angels. The orientation of the bookcases themselves was changed, with open bookshelves put in at right-angles to the wall. The sash windows were replaced with Gothic-type leaded casements, and the locked cases that had housed both books and objects were sold off. These far-reaching changes were calmly set out by Howard Colvin in his book on the Canterbury Quadrangle, first published in 1966. Colvin, a Fellow and Tutor in Modern History at St John’s from 1948 to 1987, had come to be one of the pre-eminent architectural historians of his age, and he had a particular interest in the architecture of Oxford and in the ways colleges planned and built (or sometimes failed to build) to accommodate their intellectual ambitions.

Colvin’s history of the Laudian Library manages to keep a calm tone until the very end, when it becomes suddenly obvious what he thought of the Victorian men who made such vast changes: ‘The total destruction, without record, of the authentic Laudian interior, and the dispersal of the original furniture was ... an act of vandalism on the part of the President and Fellows which demonstrated a total lack of the respect due to the memory of a great benefactor, as well as an undiscriminating contempt for anything that was not Gothic.’ Colvin put this behaviour down to evangelical religion as much as fashions in architecture, but it was clear that it was the architectural crime that mattered most to him, and he was one of many Fellows who worked hard to put right the “vandalism” of their nineteenth-century predecessors.

In the twentieth century, St John’s changed more, and more quickly, than at any time since its foundation. Its expansion after the Second World War took it to nearly five times the size of the undergraduate body of even the early nineteenth century. The increase in the range of subjects that could be studied at undergraduate level meant that by the 1960s, the library was bursting at the seams. It was Howard Colvin as Librarian who undertook a careful expansion, using the accommodation originally built with the Old Library to make new reading rooms that gave the library another thirty six desk spaces and space for over twenty thousand more volumes. While the library grew at one end of the College, the Thomas White Quadrangle went up at the other end, giving rooms for the undergraduates who were to read all these new books. The intelligent extension to the library postponed the need for consideration of a more radical solution, but as undergraduate and (especially) graduate numbers continued to grow (not least with the admission of women in 1979), so did the need for desks and books.

Where next?

The growth in numbers is not the only change, of course. Students at all levels (and Fellows too, come to that) work very differently from how they used to even ten years ago. The need to access databases, electronic journals and scanned manuscripts online, as well as the desire to check emails and social media, means that the traditional model of desk, book, paper and pen has been joined by others. The College has already developed additional study spaces and the Law Library has been moved to the recently completed Kendrew Quadrangle. But a quick glance into the library during Trinity Term alone shows just how popular it remains with undergraduates in particular. For them, it is somewhere they can use technology, but also (and especially at revision time) somewhere they can escape from it. When asked, they say that they use their rooms to work, but if they want to see other people and still get something serious done, the best place is always the library. The Bodleian has seen similar changes to the way it is used in recent years, albeit on a far grander scale. In the Weston Library, new reading rooms have been joined by additional study spaces and a Centre for Digital Scholarship. And so the College took the decision to respond to these changes and make a College library for the twenty-first century and beyond.

One option was simply to improve the facilities and access to the current library without any major additions of space. Whatever the other changes, it was crucial to improve accessibility and safety. There was also some discussion of whether it would be appropriate (or even possible) to reverse some of the Victorian alterations made to the Laudian Library (about which Colvin had been so scathing). But it soon became clear that there was a strong appetite to improve the provision of study space and that only a new building would allow the overflow of books, manuscripts and special collections to be housed in one space and in the best possible conditions.

And so, working with the architects Wright & Wright, the College has developed plans for a new, three-storey building to join the Laudian Library at the first floor level, taking up part of the space currently making up the President’s Garden. Key members of English Heritage were invited to comment on the design proposals and their relation to this historic site. One member noted that the proposed site “more or less chooses itself”. It was agreed (not least by current students) that this must be a space that will put readers first. To this
end, the plan is to double the number of desk spaces available and, perhaps more importantly, raise the quality of space for readers. Preliminary work to install a new entrance at the north end of the Laudian Library began last year. This entrance will take up part of the intriguingly named Otranto Passage (formerly used as a storeroom), and will feature a striking new piece of glass artwork, to be designed by the artist Kirsty Brooks, while the stonework on the outside of the extension will display carving by the sculptor Susanna Heron.

This, then, will be our new library and study centre. Let us try to imagine it: in your mind, walk towards the wrought iron gate that goes into the garden. Stop, turn left, and you will see one of the old wooden doors, behind which is the Otranto Passage. This will be the way into the ground floor of the new building, which sits behind the garden wall (the Sprott Wall), abutting the Canterbury garden front. Above you is the Laudian Library. If you imagine walking through the the Laudian Library to the very end, you will come not (as you would have done for decades) to a solid wall, but to a newly discovered doorway—this will lead into the new building and study centre. These two floors sit attractively above the level of the Sprott Wall but the building also goes deep down into basements (which have been designated to hold the immensely valuable special collections and manuscripts). While the Otranto Passage will be the formal entry point for the new library, at the other end of the building there will be an entrance from the Thomas White Quadrangle. We anticipate that this is the one that will be used most frequently by our students.

It’s hard to set out in words the gracefulness and energy—this is no exaggeration—of this new part of the College. There is flexibility built into the plans: the rooms should be thought of as spaces into which, for the present, will go shelves, desks and seating, but which can be reorganised and refashioned comparatively easily. You can glean some idea from the architect’s realisations of how the new building sits in the gardens as they are now, and we will set out the plans in as full a form as we can on the alumni pages of the website. Better still, come back and see where it will be, even if only from the outside. Remind yourself how the building looks now and relish (we hope) the way this newest part of the College is emerging. We will tell you more about it in the next issue of Benefactors, and we will do our best to show you the new building as it is made. Most importantly, we will ensure that the library will continue to be a living, working space for all members of the College: bigger and better, to be sure, but not so very far in experience, we hope, from the medieval reading room where it all began.
Darwin believed that biology was governed by laws as rigorous as Newton’s law of gravity. Yet his statement of these ‘laws’ could only really hint at the prerequisites of his theory: growth, reproduction, inheritance, variability and ‘a Ratio of Increase so high as to lead to a Struggle for Life, and as a consequence to Natural Selection, entailing Divergence of Character and the Extinction of less improved forms.’ In his conclusion to the first edition of *The Origin of Species* (1859), Darwin wrote that

> ‘It is interesting to contemplate a tangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms… have all been produced by laws acting around us… [W]hilst this planet has gone circling on according to the fixed law of gravity… endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved.’

For the vast majority in the biological community, Darwin’s theory is fundamental to their understanding of why individuals, populations and species have the characteristics that they do. Darwin, though, was prevented from providing more exact definitions by his ignorance of Gregor Mendel’s laws of inheritance, which for the first time provided an explanation of a mechanism by which evolution could take place.

Today, biology is being transformed by a renewed interest in quantitative approaches to the subject, together with the revolution in genetic understanding that has come from the ability to read whole genomes. The Human Genome Project took 10 years to produce a single reference genome, but modern machines can, at a push, read an individual genome in 24 hours, massively increasing the data available for analysis.

A key question for biologists has been how natural selection, acting at tens of thousands of loci in the genome and in hundreds of tissues, can come up with organisms in which everything pulls together to adapt to the environment. ‘One of the important questions at the level of abstraction I am working at is ‘Can you find reasons to expect that the same selective forces are at work on all the different loci, and also that they are at work in all the different tissues?’’, says Grafen.

He is particularly excited about the work he did during a recent sabbatical, in which he revisited the ‘fundamental theorem of natural selection’ published by the geneticist and statistician R A Fisher in 1930. The theorem, which united Darwin’s theory of evolution with Mendel’s laws, stated that ‘the rate of increase in fitness of any organism at any time is equal to its genetic variance in fitness at that time’. Fisher ventured that it amounted to a Second Law of Thermodynamics for biology—yet according to Grafen Fisher explained it poorly, so that by the 1960s it was largely discredited or at best misunderstood.

Grafen examined the way Fisher defined fitness—as the proportional increase in an individual’s contribution to the demography and evolution of the population between the beginning and end of one period of action (a year, for example)—and found that using this definition had ‘magical’ effects. Things that had been complicated and difficult suddenly become easy’, he says. ‘With Fisher’s definition there’s no correlation with age, and that radically simplifies it.’ While he still has further work to do, Grafen believes he is on the way to restoring Fisher’s reputation. ‘The fundamental theorem gives you reason to expect that natural selection is an improving process, and tells you how to define fitness so that fitness is improved by natural selection’, he says. ‘I think that’s what Fisher meant.’

**Professor Alan Grafen FRS**

Alan Grafen grew up in Scotland, and became one of the select few Oxford zoologists who did his DPhil under the supervision of Richard Dawkins. Through his Formal Darwinism project, launched in 1999, he is seeking to give mathematical rigour to Charles Darwin’s idea that organisms evolve in order to optimise their fitness. He has been a Fellow of St John’s since 1989.
Another application of mathematics in biology tries to understand what it is physically or chemically possible for an organism to do. Philip Maini is interested in modelling how complex patterns, such as a leopard’s spots or the fingers of a hand, develop from simple basic principles. ‘Biology looks complicated, but I don’t think it can be that complicated,’ he says. ‘If we had the right way of thinking about it, everything would be very simple. That’s what mathematics could potentially provide.’

One of those fascinated by pattern-formation in nature was the codebreaker Alan Turing. He put forward the idea that agents he called ‘morphogens’ might self-organise into signalling patterns that determine where cells go in a developing organism. It has proved to be a very controversial, yet fruitful concept. ‘When you look at evolution,’ says Maini, ‘you can ask, “Are these the only things the system could have done?”’ For example, a vertebrate limb typically starts off with one bone (the humerus), then develops more complex bone patterning as you move towards the hand. You can argue that, from an evolutionary point of view, this makes sense because hands are functionally useful, but Turing’s thinking about it, everything would be very simple. That’s what mathematics could potentially provide.’

Professor Philip Maini FRS
Philip Maini was born in Maghera, a small town in Northern Ireland, where his parents had fled to escape sectarian violence and limited opportunities in their native Punjab. Himself keen to escape a similar social landscape in Northern Ireland, Philip studied mathematics at Balliol and became one of the first graduate students in the Wolfson Centre for Mathematical Biology which he now heads. He came to St John’s in 2005 on taking up his chair.

Turing’s theory of coat pattern formation by diffusion of shape-defining molecules (morphogens) predicts that the kind of pattern will change with the size of the animal. Patterns generated by the model are scaled to the same size, but the example marked S=0.4 is 40 per cent of the size of the one marked S=1. The Welsh goat and the Belted Galloway cow provide perfect illustrations of this principle.

One of the most difficult areas in biology is genetics, so it is not surprising that many of those working at the forefront of the subject in Oxford began life as statisticians. ‘Genetic data is very complicated,’ says statistician and geneticist Simon Myers. ‘It comes from a very complicated history that we all share, and getting the most out of that data requires very careful modelling of the underlying structures.’

Of one the most significant factors is recombination, the shuffling of the genetic pack with each new generation. The process is important in maintaining the diversity essential to evolution. Early in his career Myers shared in the important discovery of a protein called PRDM9 associated with the ‘hotspots’ in the genome where the DNA molecule breaks and recombines.

The PRDM9 gene turns out to be one of the most rapidly-evolving in the genomes of any species, reprogramming the recombination hotspots in humans every million years. The steady rate of change has made it possible to use recombination patterns to track human lineages in fine detail over timescales of a few hundred years, opening human history and geography to detailed genetic analysis. ‘Human populations in evolutionary time separated very recently, within the past 100,000 years’, says Myers. ‘Things like skin colour and eye colour are controlled by positions that are among the most varied in the genome, so they give a false sense of differences between populations being large, when actually they are rather small.’

The recently-published People of the British Isles study looked at DNA from people native to particular rural regions and grouped them in clusters with the same distinctive patterns. ‘It was hard to tell apart people from Kent or Norfolk or Dorset or Lincolnshire who had a common Anglo-Saxon inheritance’, says Myers. ‘In contrast, around what we think of as Celtic areas, we found fine-scale differences, even between different islands in Orkney, or North and South Penbroseshire.’ Each cluster had genetic connections with a region of Europe known to have been a source of migration to Britain, and the timescales matched known historical events such as the Viking colonisation of Orkney. Cataclysmic historical events have also left genetic footprints in populations globally. ‘The Uighur in northwest China, the Hazaras in Pakistan, people as far west as Turkey—all of these have DNA shared with people from Mongolia, up to 50 per cent in the case of the Hazaras’, says Myers. ‘By looking at the decay of recombination we can tell that this happened in about 1200 AD, which gives our historical knowledge squares with the Mongol expansions.’

Professor Simon Myers
Simon Myers came to Oxford to study mathematics, and found himself drawn to statistics. His DPhil with Bob Edwards in statistical population genetics led him to a post-doc at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, where he worked on the International HapMap project. He is based jointly at the Department of Statistics and the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, and has been a Fellow of St John’s since 2007.

The ‘People of the British Isles’ study groups those native to particular regions in clusters with the same distinctive patterns of DNA.
**Professor Rosalind Harding**

Rosalind Harding, a geneticist from Australia, has developed a project focusing on how resistance genes in bacteria can mutate and spread within hospital settings. Her research is aimed at understanding the evolutionary dynamics of antibiotic resistance, which is particularly crucial in the context of hospital infections.

**Professor Nicholas Harberd FRS**

Nick Harberd, a plant geneticist, has been studying the effects of environmental factors on mutation rates in plants. His work, particularly with Arabidopsis thaliana, has provided insights into how mutations can be influenced by environmental changes, offering a controlled approach to understanding natural selection in plants.

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**Species as about two things: the fact that variation arises; and how natural selection causes certain variations to become fixed in populations.**
From plants to brains might seem a big leap, but ultimately the same evolutionary mechanisms are at work in shaping cognition and behaviour as they are in basic functions such as growth and reproduction. Theresa Burt de Perera studies the way animals use their senses to find their way around, and her experimental subjects are fish. ‘Fish are interesting because they move freely through three dimensions, which adds a layer of complexity to any navigational task’, she says. ‘It’s something that’s really hard for artificial intelligence and for humans, yet these small-brained vertebrates manage well.’

To navigate efficiently, animals need to sense spatial information, learn and remember it, and use it appropriately. Burt de Perera’s group studies the sensory input, and also the eventual behavioural output, and by doing this she can make inferences about the way that spatial information is processed in the brain. ‘On the input side, fish have interesting sensory systems’ she says. ‘Many have an electric sense, and they all have a mechanosensory lateral line system – senses that are interesting in their own right, but that also give you a good model for looking at how senses interact.’

She is currently working with the elephant-nosed fish, Gnathonemus petersii, which lives in lakes in Africa. ‘They are beautiful animals about 10-15 cm long,’ she says. ‘They generate their own electric flow field that changes when the animal is close to an object, and they sense these perturbations with special receptors that are all over the skin. They have reduced eyes and are nocturnal: the active electrosense probably evolved for living in turbid waters.’

Burt de Perera wanted to know how well this system worked with the fish’s other senses: if you learn about an object using one sense, can this information be transferred to another? The fish will work for a piece of bloodworm, so in the laboratory she tests their ability to discriminate between objects, manipulating the objects or the environment so that they have to use different senses. ‘You can find out quite sophisticated things about how the brain works’, she says. It turns out that the elephant-nosed fish is very good at switching between senses. ‘That’s surprising for a fish—it’s a complicated thing to do’, she says. ‘It probably means there’s an area in the brain where these streams of information are arriving together, creating a representation of the object in the brain that can be used to navigate.’

Another of her experimental subjects is equally specialised for its environment. The Mexican cave fish is completely blind, though for comparison there is a version with eyes that lives in southern Texas. It navigates using the close-range lateral line pressure-sensing system. ‘How do they navigate when they can sense only a very small volume around them?’ asks Burt de Perera. ‘One of the things they do is to link things together in an order: they know where they are and can link adjacent areas together in sequence using their memory.’

From mathematical modelling to fish cognition, the biologists of St John’s have one thing in common. Whether they are engaging with the simplicity of its underlying principles or the diversity of organisms it has engendered, they and their colleagues across the biological sciences continue to work to build our understanding of the natural world through the framework of evolution by natural selection. Darwin would surely have been delighted to know how well his ideas have held up. What he might not perhaps have predicted is the extraordinary diversity of methods that are being devoted to analysing its implications.

Professor Theresa Burt de Perera
Discovering animal behaviour as an undergraduate at Cardiff, Theresa Burt de Perera came to Oxford for a DPhil on pigeon navigation. A post-doc in Mexico led her to specialise in spatial cognition in fish, and she returned to Oxford first for a JRF at Keble and later a Tutorial Fellowship at St John’s. In 2007 she won a L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship.
We live in an age of anniversary-mania. Not a year passes without a flurry of celebrations, commemorations and recognitions of past events which are deemed to have ‘made history’. From the British past alone, this year sees at least three significant anniversaries: the 800th anniversary of King John’s sealing of Magna Carta (15 June 1215); the 600th of Henry V’s victory at Agincourt (25 October 1415); and the 200th of Wellington’s at the battle of Waterloo (18 June 1815). All of these events have come to claim an ‘iconic’ place and status in our national history. Magna Carta may prove to be the least controversial of these commemorations. Both Agincourt and Waterloo, for example, may spell out rather different messages across the Channel, especially to our French neighbours and allies. But, to those who take a certain view of ‘our island’s story’, the two great battles occupy a fundamental place in the nation’s historical psyche, to which homage has subsequently been paid.

Henry V: the Reluctant Soldier?

IN A YEAR OF ANNIVERSARIES, EMERITUS RESEARCH FELLOW Dr Malcolm Vale takes issue with the stereotype of Henry V as charismatic military commander. Here, he sets out the evidence for a Henry who was learned, pious and perhaps even battle-shy.
I n 1944, Laurence Olivier was commissioned to direct what was in effect a wartime propaganda film of Shakespeare’s Henry V, acclaimed by critics at the time, and now a classic of the cinema. Its dedication was to ‘the Commandos and Airborne Troops of Great Britain, the spirit of whose ancestors it humbly attempted to recapture’. During a previous World War, a direct line of descent, celebrating their martial prowess and fighting spirit, had been created between ‘our bowmen’ at Agincourt and the British infantrymen of 1914, linked through the continental wars of Marlborough and Wellington. Major Arthur Corbett-Smith, writing in 1917 about the first Battle of the Marne (September 1914), could speak of these continuities in high-flown prose: ‘prowess and fighting spirit, had been ancestors it has humbly attempted to recapture’. During and Airborne Troops of Great Britain, the spirit of whose

The image of Henry V (1413-1422), the charismatic military commander, leading, encouraging and haranguing his troops in the thick of battle, has been, and remains, a pervasive one. Shakespeare’s Henry V (c. 1599-1600) did not largely enhance it. But even in the play, other qualities in the image of Henry V, of all people, as a ‘reluctant soldier’ is likely to meet with a critical response, or pre-conditioned set of responses. It may, at the very least, occasion surprise. We have become accustomed to see him as, perhaps, the pre-eminent English war-leader of the Middle Ages. For him, it is claimed, war and its waged representation the primary aim and activity of any ruler. This was the warrier-king, whom one historian has called ‘a warlord…who clearly enjoyed campaigning and felt most at ease in the company of his comrades-in-arms’. But there is little in our surviving evidence which stems directly from the king himself to suggest any great relish for an exclusively military life. As Master Jean Fusoris suggested, if martial qualities and a lust for soldiering were sought, then his younger brother Thomas, duke of Clarence, was a more likely candidate. Clarence had been preferred to Henry as a military commander by his father, Henry IV (1399-1413). He had been charged by him with leading an expedition to France, which in the event turned out to be conspicuously inglorious, in the late summer of 1412. Henry V’s own correspondence, much of it in an English language now acceptable as a medium of government and administration is revealing in this respect. There is in it little evident enthusiasm for warfare and its conduct. If anything, he appears to have seen war, if not as a necessary evil, then as an inescapable, if not regrettable, duty incumbent upon rulers if right and justice were to be upheld in a disorderly and turbulent world. St Augustine had taught that wars were to be fought in order to bring peace. Henry V would have concurred with that view.

Henry V, as ruler. This was the warrior-king, whom one historian has characterized as a ‘man of relatively few words, mistrustful of rhetoric and hyperbole. His attitude to warfare often appears rigorously pragmatic. His own early experience of it may have made him well aware of its less glorious aspects, and every utterance which we possess from him on the subject attributes his later successes largely to God’s grace and might. He might even have had some sympathy for the Duke of Wellington’s expression, on the morrow of Waterloo, that ‘I hope to God, I have fought my last battle. It is a bad thing to be always fighting. While in the thick of it I am too much occupied to feel anything; but it is watched just after. It is quite impossible to think of glory… and I always say, next to a battle lost, the greatest misery is a battle gained’.

In the event, for both men, this was actually to be their last battle. Henry V’s first, and only, battle may have had lasting effects on him which went beyond those of a very severe physical injury. At Shrewsbury in July 1403, fighting beside his father against the baronial rebels of the Percy clan, at the age of sixteen years, he had suffered a potentially fatal wounding and very narrow escape from death. An arrow from a longbow struck an exposed part of his face, entering his cheekbone. The arrow’s wooden shaft was quickly extracted, but the metal arrow-head remained lodged at the back of his skull. It was only removed some weeks later by a London surgeon, John Bradmore, using a vice-or pincer-like instrument which he had invented for the purpose. That closeness to mortality may have made Henry much more than normally aware of the effectiveness of archery fire – which was, ironically, to a large degree to win him victory at Agincourt. But it may also have made him more conscious of the state of his health. The high risks involved in campaigning, not only from death in battle, may have led him, unusually, to make no less than three wills, each on the eve of one of his departures for France. It was, after all, from disease contracted on campaign, not from actual fighting, that he was to die in the castle at Vincennes, outside Paris, in August 1422.

That his health may not have been as robust as has sometimes been assumed might be inferred from the recurrent purchases of medicaments in his household accounts as prince of Wales (1403-15). As king, he often appears to have consulted university-trained physicians, and their need for skilled medical attention was met by the summons, on the king’s express order, of Master John Swanwych, MA, Bachelor in Physic, from England to France, ‘to do him service’. Henry’s physicians, given the fever from which he was suffering, had apparently been afraid to give him medicines to be taken internally, and he seems to have taken action on his own initiative. The regular provision at this time of portable urinals, housed within the king’s ‘privy seat’ [privata uesta], transported in leather cases, may relate to ‘chronic intestinal condition’ from which he was said to have certainly experienced its severe symptoms by mid-June 1422, rendering him too ill to ride. An earlier testimony of Richard Courtenay, bishop of Norwich, to Jean Fusoris, in 1415, is noteworthy in this respect. Courtenay was apparently very concerned for Henry’s state of health at that time and requested Fusoris to draw up the king’s horoscope, or birth chart, thereby offering some prognosis for the future.
The king’s experience of battle at Shrewsbury might also have made him especially conscious of the plight of those who suffered in war. In November 1413, for example, he granted one Thomas Humfrey and his wife Agnes a pension of 8d per day for the term of their lives, drawn on revenues in Essex and Hertfordshire. Thomas had, like the king himself, also been wounded at Shrewsbury and ‘could not earn his living, nor did he have anything on which to live, as it is said’. Later in the reign, the king had also made provision for those left wounded and deprived of sufficient means by their service in his French war. It was recorded that he had given sums of money and pensions ‘at various times’ to ‘certain soldiers, wounded [mutualiter] in the king’s service, and reduced to poverty through the weakness of their bodies’. Chelsea Hospital and Les Invalides had some earlier, if less institutionalised, precursors.

For a ‘warrior king’, the fact that he took part in only two pitched battles—Shrewsbury and Agincourt—throughout his military career must give us cause for reflection. His personal courage, demonstrated on both those occasions, is not in question. But an aversion to battle in the field, with its enormous risks, was not entirely uncommon among later medieval commanders. Henry’s attempts to negotiate himself and his army out of the predicament in which they found themselves on the very eve of Agincourt suggests some reluctance to put his quarrel to the test of God’s judgement in those potentially adverse conditions. His subsequent war in France was to be one of sieges, economic warfare and attrition, not even punctuated by pitched battles. With the exception of a single ill-judged fight at Baugé (1421), for which his brother Clarence paid with his life, the conquests of 1417-22 were reduced to poverty through the weakness of their bodies’. Chelsea Hospital and Les Invalides had some earlier, if less institutionalised, precursors.

He was especially concerned for the condition of the Church in war zones. He tried to reduce, if not minimise, casualties, especially when non-combatants and civilians were involved. In September 1415, he told the mayor, aldermen and ‘worthy citizens’ of the city of London (in French) that he was prepared to parley with the inhabitants of the besieged town of Harfleur ‘to avoid the effusion of human blood on the one side and the other’. Again, in another letter to the city, in August 1417, he told them (in English) that he had taken the castle of Touques ‘without shedding of Christian blood or defence made by our enemies’. By August 1419, with his French conquest already well advanced, the king wrote once more to the Londoners, thanking them for their apparently spontaneous offer of financial aid for the war effort. He wrote that ‘we have written to all our friends and allies [mainly in Germany and Eastern Europe] throughout Christendom… to have aid and succour from them, so that ‘we will have a good end of our said war in a short time, and…come home to you…’ This concern for the establishment of a durable peace became even more marked towards what we know, but he did not, would be the last year of his life. He claimed to desire ‘peace and rest among Christian princes’. Hardly the words of a great warmonger.

As with Wellington, the mere fact that one could be successful in war did not necessarily mean that one derived any great pleasure from waging it. Whatever the propagandists, patriots and armchair exponents of the ‘glory’ of war might claim, many of those who have engaged in it—even those who gained the most conspicuous successes—seem to have thought otherwise. There was certainly another Henry V. But will we be celebrating the ‘greatest misery’ on 25 October 2015?
everyone should write an autobiography. All lives are interesting, though some are more interesting than others. Harold Padfield, who worked for St John’s for 23 years, and who was known to most as ‘Paddy’ (though ‘Mr Padfield’ to younger members of the College, who were somewhat in awe of him) was one of those whose lives were more interesting, as his book Twelve Mules and a Pegasus (Pegasus was the badge of the Parachute Regiment) proves. During his 95 years Britain changed enormously and he, like everyone else, experienced that change. But his autobiography is also a personal chronicle of the last days of the British Empire, which was not experienced by everybody. He was born in 1921, the son of a Kent miner—there are now no miners or mines in Kent—who was forced to retire in 1933, which left the family poor but intact. Paddy speaks with affection of his schooling and those who taught him. Unlike many, he stayed at school until 14. After a brief spell as a gardener he then joined the army in 1939. He instructed one of his squad (Sapper Butterworth, a friend) to tie a white rag to his rifle— the standard way of indicating surrender. But Butterworth was shot by a German machine gunner, who was then, even more extraordinarily, shot by his commanding officer. After the usual nightmarish trips in cattle wagons Paddy almost saw out the war as a POW. Almost, since in early April 1945 he and a friend simply walked out of their camp and wandered around Austria (partly by train) until they found the Americans. Although whereabouts could have been revealed to the gestapo no-one did.

As a regular Paddy continued in service after the war in Palestine and Germany as well as at home. In Britain he trained Territorials, which had its ups and downs, but he increasingly took on the duties of a quartermaster. He ended his army career as a Regimental Sergeant Major and joined St John’s in October 1963 as Estate Foreman; the Estate he found ‘a shambles’. His immediate boss was the Clerk of Works, Tom Sherwood, with whom he had served. Increasingly his job was as College quartermaster, which, as he says, was what the Army trained him for. Many ex-regulars came to work for Oxford colleges because the kind of administrative tasks the College need the army are very good at teaching. (It was much less good, however, at teaching National Servicemen.)

He also trained as a para, and thus became an ‘Airborne Sapper’, and it was this that took him to Arnhem in the Netherlands. He had already served in North Africa and Italy (very much under fire) but Arnhem was a disaster. Just what a mess comes out all too clearly here. A problem in any war, even the most successful, is finding a way to ensure that everyone knows what is happening. At Arnhem, no-one knew what was happening. After heavy fighting it became obvious to Paddy, who was his squad’s senior NCO, that they would have to surrender. He instructed one of his squad (Sapper Butterworth, a friend) to tie a white rag to his rifle—the standard way of indicating surrender. But Butterworth was shot by a German machine gunner, who was then, even more extraordinarily, shot by his commanding officer. After the usual nightmarish trips in cattle wagons Paddy almost saw out the war as a POW. Almost, since in early April 1945 he and a friend simply walked out of their camp and wandered around Austria (partly by train) until they found the Americans. Although whereabouts could have been revealed to the gestapo no-one did.

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This is a life story that is unlikely to be repeated.

There are now no outposts of empire to be protected; and Britain is unlikely to be a major participant in another world war. But the empire did leave its mark. Like many men who served in the last mismanaged days of Britain’s Palestine Mandate, Paddy developed a sympathy for the Palestinians. In this book there is a straight-talking appendix which could make uncomfortable reading for supporters of the present Israeli government.

Operation ‘Market Garden’: The Battle for Arnhem

Had it been successful, Operation ‘Market Garden’ might well have shortened the Second World War by six months. The plan was that of General Montgomery, the commander of the British forces in Europe. It was, to say the least, daring. Airborne troops were to be dropped into Holland, with the aim of securing eight key bridges on the Dutch/German border. This quick, deep attack on the front was supposed to change the dynamic of the war, allowing the allied troops to push across the front in France. But with insufficient time to plan the drop properly, and insufficient aircraft to drop all the troops at once, those who landed near Arnhem could not take the bridges. By the time the decision was taken to evacuate the remaining allied troops, 1,500 were dead and 6,500 had (like Harold Padfield) been taken prisoner. An arresting image of ‘Paddy’ helping to stretcher out the wounded appears in his book (a copy of which is held in the College Library), but it is, sadly, not in good enough condition to reproduce here. The opposite photograph (from Imperial War Museums’ collection) shows paratroops dropping from Dakota aircraft over the outskirts of Arnhem on 17 September 1944.
Review

Sport in College goes from strength to strength. This year saw the second Annual Sports Dinner, attended by over 100 people. St John’s Sports Medals were presented by guest speaker Kate Grey, Paralympian swimmer and sports reporter, who gave an inspiring speech (including noting that a typical day involved swimming 10km before breakfast). Sportsman of the Year was Zebedee Nicholls (Physics, 2012) and Sportswoman of the Year was Sophie Louth (Engineering, 2013), although Sophie was unable to attend due to sporting commitments. The Saints Rugby XV (a combined team from St John’s and St Anne’s) were presented with their awards for Sports Team of the Year (having been unable to attend last year’s dinner as they were busy winning the Cuppers final that evening). Over the year, St John’s has continued to be strongly represented in University squads, and the College has also maintained a high profile in intercollegiate sports.

Our selection of sports reports here gives a flavour of the year, but we should also record some of the other sporting achievements by St John’s women and men. In cricket, St John’s finished runners-up in Division 1 of the Oxford Intercollegiate Cricket League, losing just one match in the season. Congratulations also go to Abi Sakande (Human Sciences, 2013), playing for MCCU (the combined Brookes and Oxford team) against Surrey in the MCC University Match in April. Abi took the wicket off Kevin Pietersen (on 170), helping MCCU to a draw. In rowing, the Men’s 1st VIII were victorious in the Nephthys Regatta during Michaelmas Term and the Men’s ‘Novice A’ boat finished 4th overall at the Christ Church Regatta. Both Men’s and Women’s 1st boats raced at the Cantabrigian Winter Head, finishing, respectively, as the fastest and second fastest Oxford crews to attend. The St John’s canoe polo team finished second in Cuppers behind Merton. Team captain Sophie Louth competed for Oxford in both BUCS and Varsity tournaments, as well as at national level, winning bronze at Charleroi and coming in 8th at Saint Omer with the GB squad. Last but not least, Emily Troscianko (Junior Research Fellow in Modern Languages 2010-14, and now Knowledge Exchange fellow at The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities) achieved first place in the International Powerlifting Championships 63kg category with a 117.5 kg squat.

Professor Fraser Armstrong, Sports Officer
Netball

The last year has been a particularly successful one for the St John’s netball team. Our first tournament took place over the course of Michaelmas Term and the team had a great intake of freshers. We worked hard at training and managed to create the largest squad in recent years which was testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of all the girls. After some hard fought games, particularly against St Anne’s and LMHF, we managed to finish the term in a well-earned second place in Division 5. It was during Hilary, however, that the team really began to come together. We won every single one of our weekly matches, with particularly high scoring games against Trinity (23-3) and Balliol (11-5). Our winning streak won us the division and led to our promotion to Division 4 for Michaelmas 2015. Although the Coppers tournament in Trinity left us feeling disappointed with our performance, we came a formidable second in our Group. A big thank you for their hard work and commitment goes to Jen Appleton, Lauren Au and Zoe Dickey who are leaving SJC Netball Club following several years as members. Jenny Smith is looking forward to taking the team on as Captain next year and we are even hoping to enter a second team in the Michaelmas league!

Lidia Fanzo (Spanish and Linguistics, 2013)

Michaelmas league!

Women’s Football

Having finally been promoted to the Women’s Premier League following a tremendous run of form in the 2014/15 season, SJCW AFC were faced with the difficult task of adjusting to an altogether more demanding level of football. We retained many of our long-standing key players: Sophie Stone, Cressida O’Donoghue, and Christina St Clair have shown unflinching commitment and consistently great performances in matches; Habiba Daggash and Claudia Hill, despite being busy as Captain and Treasurer of the University ITS team, have had just as much input as ever to SJCW AFC’s success and team spirit. Our team has benefited greatly from the return of new players this season. Our defensive line-up, in particular, has been completely constituted by new faces: we could not have been more impressed by the performances of Ophelia Stampson and Elise Hall as Centre Halves, and Jessica Caterson and Frances Belsham as Full Backs. Louise Chegwidden and Jessica Skett also have been valuable recruits, who have lots of potential and will undoubtedly continue to make an impact next season.

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The start of Michaelmas was not quite up to Ollie Garner’s ambitious planning, but we certainly found our stride in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Not disconcerted by a Coppers exit and disappointing league results, we pole- vaulted ourselves back up the league with an 8-1 demolition of Magdalen. This also started a healthy, albeit eccentric, scoring contest between Sym Hunt and Laddiman who were both embarrassing centre-backs on a weekly basis.

Hilary firstly saw our ‘champagne-defending’ in the 1-1 draw with a blues-studded Pembroke. The emergence of Thomas Gate and our very own De Jong (Samson) proved Garner’s selection profitable. However, the term’s highlight has to be the 10-1 routing of Christ Church. It was a game that showed Hunt can chip a keeper five times, and that we aren’t very good at training and managing to create the largest squad in recent years which was testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of all the girls. After some hard fought games, particularly against St Anne’s and LMHF, we managed to finish the term in a well-earned second place in Division 5. It was during Hilary, however, that the team really began to come together. We won every single one of our weekly matches, with particularly high scoring games against Trinity (23-3) and Balliol (11-5). Our winning streak won us the division and led to our promotion to Division 4 for Michaelmas 2015. Although the Coppers tournament in Trinity left us feeling disappointed with our performance, we came a formidable second in our Group. A big thank you for their hard work and commitment goes to Jen Appleton, Lauren Au and Zoe Dickey who are leaving SJC Netball Club following several years as members. Jenny Smith is looking forward to taking the team on as Captain next year and we are even hoping to enter a second team in the Michaelmas league!

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This is a record of those whose deaths have been notified to us in the last year. We regret any unintended omission. Please do write to us if this has happened, or if you would like to write an appreciation. We rely on information given to us by alumni.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Leslie Atkinson (1962)
28 January 1954 – 10 March 2015

14 March 1931 – 11 December 2014

Philip Alexander Beattie (1959)
1 November 1939 – 17 December 2014

Christopher Seymour Bennett (1945)
2 March 1943 – 20 April 2014

John Pugh Bingle (1944)
15 November 1926 – June 2015

Clifford Edmund Bosworth (1948)
29 December 1928 – 28 February 2015

Alan Chambers (1956)
10 May 1956 – 9 October 2014

William Edgar Stanhope Clarke (1949)
7 March 1920 – 20 November 2014

Terence McQueen Collins (1967)
9 January 1945 – 4 March 2015

Thomas Percy Norman Devonshire Jones (1954)
15 April 1934 – 27 February 2015

Eric Gordon Guthrie Dykes (1957)
6 December 1950 – 19 September 2014

Michael De Norman Ensor (1938)
11 June 1920 – 13 February 2015

Peter Michael Evans (1970)
21 September 1952 – 9 October 2014

Robert Terence Fenton (1954)
22 December 1930 – 28 November 2013

John Albert Fowler (1935)
12 February 1931 – December 2013

IN MEMORIAM

Saul Benjamin Fridman (1958)
21 September 1960 – 30 June 2014

Geoffrey Goodwin (1950)
11 February 1953 – 23 June 2015

John Wallace Gordon (1957)
6 July 1956 – 2014

Peter Warland Groves (1966)
15 September 1941 – 8 June 2015

Francis Montgomery Higman (1956)
17 September 1935 – 2015

Alan Hall Jones (1958)
18 May 1954 – 22 October 2014

Dudley R. Knowles (1968)
20 May 1947 – 26 October 2014

Ronald Alan Keith Lesley (1948)
11 July 1926 – 9 July 2015

Kenneth Harold Lewis (1961)
11 June 1938 – 19 May 2015

Nevil John Wilfred Macready (1940)
7 September 1921 – 27 September 1944

Jack Mann (1943)
15 February 1925 1943 – July 2014

Peter McDonagh (1967)
3 December 1948 – 11 February 2015

Sara Jane Milne (1983)
23 April 1962 – 31 October 2014

Rabin Edward Morris (1952)
15 May 1935 – 9 April 2015

Frederick Nelson (1954)
15 June 1934 – 2015

George Edward Orchard (1956)
26 November 1935 – 2015

Nicolas Hood Phillips (1939)
7 August 1941 – 15 October 2014

James Emory Price (1956)
10 March 1926 – 1 February 2014

Alexander McAndrew Robertson (1950)
12 June 1931 – 2014

Peter Donald Rubery (1974)
7 June 1955 – 22 December 2014

Cedric Annesley Scroggs (1950)
2 January 1941 – 21 February 2015

Gerald Harold Frederick Seifllow (1957)
10 February 1918 – 25 October 2014

Richard George Scott Simon (1951)
28 January 1932 – 2015

Christopher D. Stephens (1978)
18 January 1935 – 24 November 2014

Trevor Bryan Thomas (1951)
15 December 1954 – May 2014

Martin Litchfield West (1966)
21 September 1973 – 27 January 1977

Charles Alan Wood (1916)
7 September 1927 – 24 June 2015

Michael John Graham Yearwood (1964)
15 July 1944 – 2011

IN MEMORIAM

**MARTIN WEST**

Martin West was born on 23 September 1937. He came to St John’s as a Junior Research Fellow in 1960 and was made an Honorary Fellow in 2001. He died on 13 July 2015. We are grateful to Official Fellow and Tutor in Classics Professor Malcolm Davies for this obituary.

The sudden death of its Honorary Fellow Martin West has bereft the College of the most distinguished classical scholar associated with it since A.E. Housman and Gilbert Murray, the former of whom characteristically declined, the latter of whom, like West, accepted, the Order of Merit. Housman and Murray were students at St John’s, whereas West won a scholarship to Balliol. He shared with Murray the distinction of an undergraduate career festooned with all the prestigious university prizes for verse and prose composition and proficiency in classical literature. He shared with Housman the distinction of not obtaining a First in ‘Greats’. Final Honours School of Literae Humaniores, though, unlike Housman, he did not fail to obtain a degree at all. West was not the sole, merely the most illustrious, victim of the straitjacketed system whereby ancient literature perforce gave way to compulsory ancient history and philosophy in the second part of the course. The system was finally changed, almost twenty years after West sat Finals, to allow continuation of literary studies into ‘Greats’, a change partly meant to cope with rare cases such as West’s, envisaging ‘a small cadre of future Housmans’ as one of the engineers of the charge—the other being Donald Russell—optimistically put it.

West’s association with St John’s began in 1960, when he was appointed the first Woodhouse Junior Research Fellow in Classics. The hesitations of those responsible for this all-important election to a new post were due not to the understandable lack of a First, but to the awesome tightening-up of the relationship between supervisor and supervisee into force. The superfluity of such tightening-up in this particular case soon became apparent.

West’s thesis took the ambitious form of a commentary on Hesiod’s Theogony—whose author West took to be the earliest surviving Greek poet, antedating even Homer—, a work particularly important for the early history of Greek religion. West was sent, like many subsequent pupils of Lloyd-Jones, to Germany, to profit from its leading role, set back but not extinguished by the interlude of National Socialism, in the professional conduct of classical studies. To say he ‘sat at the feet’ of Reinhold Merkelbach, a very versatile scholar particularly noted as an expert in Greek religion, would be to give a ludicrously passive impression. Merkelbach was preparing a new edition of the so-called fragments of Hesiod (composed in his style but not in fact by him), whose numbers had swollen thanks to papyrus finds, and was sufficiently impressed by the young RF’s ability as to invite him to become co-editor in the enterprise. The resulting edition, together with West’s commentary on the Theogony, was published by Oxford University Press in 1966/7. Contact with Merkelbach’s dazzling range of scholarly interests clearly played a decisive role in West’s own development, but his contribution to the joint enterprise cannot be overestimated. As a scholar said of a later work by West, not since the editions produced by Housman had so many beguiling textual conjectures sparkled in the apparatus criticus at the foot of the page. Allied to this capacity for emendation, though occupying a less serious and important level, was the alarming ease with which West could convert a passage of English into ancient Greek, as witness his early
rendering of Lewis Carroll’s Jabberwocky into hexameters in the contrasting styles of Homer and Nennus (fourth century A.D. composer of a dismal 46-book epic), or his more recent translating, into the idiom of the Agamenon’s raving Cassandra (he was editing Aeschylus at the time), the menu for a 1988 dinner at St John’s to celebrate the Woodhouse Junior Research Fellowship.

At the time he attended this dinner, West had progressed professionally from St John’s to a Tutorial Fellowship at Univ., and thence to the professorship of Greek at Bedford College, London, and was shortly to return to Oxford as a Senior Research Fellow at All Souls, from which position he retired in 2004. By then he had acquired a unique world reputation based on expertise in a wide variety of fields, perhaps the most important involving the realization, originating in his study of Hesiod and shared with his great friend and colleague Walter Burkert, a pupil of Merkelbach’s, that, to quote his Theogony commentary, ‘Greek literature is a Near Eastern literature’; or, from a relatively early article, ‘we live in a fine house but there is nothing to be gained by not looking down the street’. ‘Splendid isolation’, indeed, is the very antithesis of the trail blazed by West and Burkert over the years, the most important and beneficial development in classical studies of the second half of the twentieth century. West’s endeavours in this field culminated, with existing renderings in two wide-ranging volumes, Twentieth Century. West’s endeavours in this field culminated with existing renderings in two wide-ranging volumes, The East Face of Helicon and Literature in the New World, and a lifetime of monographs, including parts of al-Tabari’s History of the Islamic Caliphate and several standards of the medieval Islamic underworld. West’s many works on the medieval Islamic underworld (including the standard reference work, The Medieval Islamic underworld) has become a standard reference work. The main focus of his research was on the medieval political history of eastern Iran and Central Asia. His contributions to Iranian history were much appreciated in Iran where he received several official awards including the UNESCO Avicenna Silver Medal (1998). His work on medieval Islamic society, The medieval Islamic underworld: the Banū Sāˈdān in Arabic society and literature (2 vols. 1976) was especially acclaimed. He also worked on translations, including parts of al-Tabari’s universal history and the histories of Gurdzi and Baihaqi, and undertook the editorship and co-editorship of a number of journals. From his time at school, he had been interested in opera and choral music. In recent years, he had taken a particular interest in chapel music at St John’s and he gave a generous benefaction towards the building of the new organ in 2008. Edmund Bosworth died on 28 February 2015 in Yeovil. He is survived by his wife, Annette, and three daughters.

Leslie (Les) Atkinson was born in 1944 and came up to St John’s in 1961 to read Chemistry. He died on 10 March 2015. We are grateful to Leslie’s widow, Nikki, for her help with this appreciation.

Les Atkinson was educated at Merchant Taylors’ School, Crosby. He came up to St John’s in 1962 as an Open Scholar to read Chemistry. After taking his undergraduate degree, he went on to complete a D.Phil. in Chemistry, and then joined BP as an international oil supply analyst, working first in London and then in Deutsche BP’s Hamburg Office. In 1978, Les was seconded to the British Government’s Central Policy Review Staff in the Cabinet Office where he worked for both the Callaghan and Thatcher governments. Les described this as a unique opportunity to observe and contribute to the workings of central government and one which he found perhaps the most fascinating part of his career. Subsequently, he was appointed Chief Executive of BP Switzerland, based in Zurich. Returning to London in 1985 he undertook various senior management roles. During this time he served as a Member of the Board of the Securities and Futures Authority in London and as Vice President of the UK Chamber of Shipping. In 1993, Les moved with his wife Veronica Nikki to Singapore where he was Chairman of BP Asia Pacific. He also became a member of the Board of the INSEAD Euro-Asia Centre and a Member of the Council of the National University of Singapore. After he retired from BP, Les again became more involved in life in Manuden, a rural village on the border of Essex and Hertfordshire which had been his home since 1974. For the last twelve years of his life he was chairman of the Parish Council, and he worked tirelessly with other volunteers to provide the village with a new Community Centre. Les was awarded at British Empire Medal for services to the community in Manuden. He died on 10 March 2015 after a short illness.

Colin Baker was born in 1953 and came up to St John’s in 1974 to read Biology. He died on 11 December 2014. We are grateful to his friend and contemporary, Michael Godfrey (1953) for this appreciation.

Colin won an Open Scholarship to read Biology at St John’s. He went up in 1974 after completing his National Service serving in Gibraltar. Ill health in childhood resulted in a late start in his education and probably accounted for an aversion to virtually all sports. At Maidstone Grammar School he did no Latin and had to teach himself this in order to matriculate. At a time when male graduates outnumbered female graduates three to one, he was the envy of his contemporaries in managing to persuade his girlfriend, Diana, (later to become his wife and the mother of his three children) to come and live in Oxford. He lived his life and, rather than the amused concern of his landlady, he used his digs as a laboratory with tanks of Brazilian tadpoles around the walls (Brazilian because they were larger than the British variety and it was easier to make the identical twins he needed). Ill health prevented him from taking all his final examinations but based on those he sat and work at the University he was awarded a degree and obtained a place at the recently established Keele University as a demonstrator in the Biology Department. Keele with its new campus and modern teaching style suited Colin. He found he enjoyed teaching and was good at it. He got on well with students and other teaching staff. He quickly became a lecturer in Life Sciences. He remained there for his academic career. He set up the department’s Field Study Course at Aberystwyth. Alongside his teaching commitments, he built up the department’s animal nursery where his goat not only kept the grass down but also, with its ability to eat almost anything, sometimes accompanied him to staff and student parties. Colin is survived by Diana and their three daughters, Sarah, Fran and Emma.

EDMUND BOSWORTH

Clifford Edmund Bosworth was born in 1928 and came up to St John’s in 1949 to read Modern History. He died on 28 February 2015. Bosworth became editor for Britain of the 2nd edition of the Encyclopaedia of Islam and remained a major contributor to it until its completion in 2009. His scholarly interests took in the political history of the whole Islamic world and his 1976 chronological and genealogical handbook of Islamic dynasties, revised in 1996 as The New Islamic Dynasties has become a standard reference work. The main focus of his research was on the medieval political history of eastern Iran and Central Asia. His contributions to Iranian history were much appreciated in Iran where he received several official awards including the UNESCO Avicenna Silver Medal (1998). His work on medieval Muslim society, The medieval Islamic underworld: the Banū Sāˈdān in Arabic society and literature (2 vols. 1976) was especially acclaimed. He also worked on translations, including parts of al-Tabari’s universal history and the histories of Gurdzi and Baihaqi, and undertook the editorship and co-editorship of a number of journals. From his time at school, he had been interested in opera and choral music. In recent years, he had taken a particular interest in chapel music at St John’s and he gave a generous benefaction towards the building of the new organ in 2008. Edmund Bosworth died on 28 February 2015 in Yeovil. He is survived by his wife, Annette, and three daughters.
ALAN CHAMBERS

Alan Chambers was born in 1936 and came up to St John’s in 1956 to read English. He died on 9 October 2014, and we are grateful to his long-standing College friend Peter Combey (1956) and Alan’s family for this appreciation.

Alan, and his twin sister Mavis, spent all of their childhood in Chingford, Essex. He attended Sir George Monoux Grammar School in Walthamstow where, despite a leaning towards developing his artistic talent, he was strongly encouraged to follow an academic career. He came up to St John’s in 1956 after two years of National Service in the RAF based at Stanmore, where he was mainly employed on routine office work, though there were occasional high spots, like being a member of the official guard of honour at the Leicestershire premiere of The Dam Busters film in 1955. He was the first member of his family to have a university education, and hugely enjoyed attending lectures in Oxford given by luminaries such as J.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. Writing essays for his quixotic tutor, J.B. Leishman, was a more demanding experience, but it earned him a good degree.

He worked hard throughout his time at St John’s, but also took full advantage of the sporting and social opportunities available. For instance, he played football and threw the javelin for the College with vigour, if only modest expertise. And he had some quixotic experiences: learning how to climb out of North Quad on May Morning while paddling a punt containing females covered with shape bushes and flower beds.

While never at a loss for something practical to attend to, Alan was happiest when joining with Maureen to entertain his children, his grandchildren, Albert, Carrie-Bea and Marley, and their numerous long-standing friends. They were consummate hosts, generous to a fault with excellent food and wine, and delighted to welcome guests. Alan had a full life, and will be sorely missed.

THOMAS DEVONSHIRE JONES

Thomas (Tom) Devonshire Jones was born in 1954, and came up to St John’s in 1974 to read Literae Humaniores, switching to Theology after Classical Mods. He died on 27 February 2015.

Thomas Percy Norman Devonshire Jones was born in Bath on 15 April 1954. Tom’s father was one of the churchwardens at Bath Abbey, and time spent in the Abbey gave Tom a grounding in the Bible and also allowed him to develop a strong aesthetic sense. During his time at Marlborough, one major influence was his art teacher, and it was the combination of his love of art and his faith which would lead in later life to some of his most innovative and exciting work.

At St John’s, Tom read Theology, but he also continued to develop his interest in art and was especially inspired by the lectures of the art historian Edgar Wind. Tom trained for the Anglican ministry at Cuddesdon Theological College and was ordained in 1960. From 1970-71 he was chaplain at Portsmouth Technical College, and he then studied in the US for a year before returning to the UK to become Vicar of St Savio’s, Folkestone. In 1981, he became Vicar of St Mark’s, Regent’s Park in London, where he led the congregation until 2000. In the 1990s, he was particularly instrumental in helping to train the first generation of women priests.

Alongside his ministry at St Mark’s, Tom began, in the late 1980s, to develop a programme of work that would lead to closer links between religion and the visual arts. In 1989, he met the art historian Jane Dillenberger and the two set up what has become a bi-annual international conference on the subject of religion and the arts. He also founded Art and Christian Enquiry (ACE), a charity established to offer advice to churches working with creative artists and to promote education in this area. The quarterly journal, Art and Christianity, grew out of ACE’s work and remains a forum for the discussion of its themes. Tom developed strong connections with artists and with galleries. He was a consultant in 2000 to the National Gallery’s exhibition ‘Seeing Salvation’, and in 2005 he co-authored English Cathedrals and the Visual Arts. In 2014, he produced a new edition of the Oxford Dictionary of Christian Art and Architecture. As one journalist noted on meeting Devonshire Jones, he could give the impression of being old-fashioned, but this belied his interest in the modern world. In particular, he understood that the arts were often best equipped to deal with spiritual ideas, or with what he himself called the “more awkward factors in our existence.”

Tom Devonshire Jones died on 27 February 2015. He is survived by his second wife, Susan, and his stepson, Kwesi.

PETER EVANS

Peter Michael Evans was born on 21 September 1952 and died on 9 October 2014 in Singapore. He came up to St John’s in 1971 to read PPP but transferred to PPE early in his first term. We are grateful to Peter’s friends for this appreciation.

Educated at Uppingham, Peter arrived at St John’s when he was just 19, but seemed wiser than his years having spent 18 months travelling around Australia and New Zealand playing a lot of rugby and learning about life coming up—the benefit of having gained his place at an impressively tender age.

Beyond the academic side, which he managed with enviable assurance, Peter’s time in Oxford was probably most dominated by sport at which he seemed to excel effortlessly. He captained the St. John’s rugby team that won the Division 1 championship in 1971 and represented the University on occasions, as well as being a main pillar of the College cricket team. He also gained his car in the summer bumps in 1972 as part of the DVB crew—his one and only venture in rowing. His time at Oxford can also be exemplified by the fact that he based a Finals essay on Descartes on the premise «I drink therefore I am».

After graduation, Peter continued his travels, this time in Canada, and, after brief spells in Birmingham and Bristol settled in Aylesbury and later Cookham, Berkshire. After a few early roles in HR management and recruitment with, amongst others IMI and the Wellcome Foundation, he moved into the executive search business that was his true métier, and was for the last 15 years with Russell Reynolds Associates. In 2011, Peter moved to Singapore as the Head of their Global Consumer Practice and thoroughly enjoyed both living and working in Asia. In mid 2014 Peter developed health problems that very sadly turned out to be a swiftly progressing neurodegenerative condition ( sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

Nobody who knew Peter will forget his generosity of spirit, his irreverent sense of humour, his easy friendliness and charm, his very particular rich and warm laugh, his energy and his deep caring for people. Peter married twice. He is survived by Carol, his wife of the last 23 years, and their twin daughters, and by Mary Ann, his first wife, and their son and daughter. He was inordinately proud of his family, and is hugely missed.

ROBERT FENTON

Robert Fenton was born on 21 December 1930. He came up to St John’s in 1954 to read Forestry. He died on 28 November 2013. Robert Terence Fenton (known as Bob, or just Fenton) grew up in northwest London and experienced the Blitz. In
1947, after finishing his schooling at Harrow Grammar, he travelled with his parents to New Zealand at the age of 16, and joined the Forest Service there. After a year in the field, he was sent to Victoria University College as a part-time student and spent his long vacations on the National Forest Survey. He came on to Oxford with his wife, Pauline and took a first in the Forestry degree.

Fenton returned to New Zealand after his degree. Crucially, he worked from 1961–1971 on the economics of silviculture, carrying out sawmill and land-use studies and proving that forestry was a competitive use of land for New Zealand. Alongside this work, he also gained his PhD at Canberra. His silvicultural research led to radical proposals encapsulated in the development of the Direct sawlog regime. This was based on heavy intervention early on, aggressive early pruning and, most heretically to many, no commercial thinning. Many were sceptical of this new approach, but Fenton had the figures to back up his theory, and the Direct regime went on to become standard practice for most of New Zealand’s plantation forest estate.

From 1971, Fenton no longer had a managerial role. He took up an increasing number of consultancies, working in over 20 different countries. He enjoyed working in foreign environments and cultures but was incensed by corruption and bloated bureaucracies. Two notable consultancies were in Chile in 1978 where he met his second wife María Eugenia and in the tropical heat of Guyana. Only in 1945, when his father’s posting ended did Francis live in the UK, and when his parents were re-posted to St Vincent in the Caribbean in 1946, Francis remained as a boarder in Kingwood School, Bath. The school proved hugely influential for him, and bolstered his enthusiasm for learning—and in particular it oriented him towards his later passion for French culture and language. Two years of National Service in the RAF took him to Germany, optimistically to employ his A-level German skills as an interpreter. And then he moved on to St John’s in 1956 to study French. For Francis, Oxford was a magical place where he could work hard and develop his other interests, especially in music. He recalled being told by his tutor in the first term that his timetable of 12 hours of lectures a week wouldn’t leave him time to study and he must cut half of them out. So he felt this left plenty of time for his other interests: Opera Society, John Wesley Society and the college hockey team. And here he met his first wife, Ruth, and married in 1956.

Francis’ studies in Oxford set him on a career that brought together teaching French, with research into language, philosophy, theology and history. He was fascinated by the way in which John Calvin wrote French in the 16th century and the effect of the Calvinist Reformation on the French language, culture and especially music. His thesis (The Style of John Calvin and his Polemical Treatises) was published in 1957 and identified Calvin as one of the creators of modern French. He was awarded the French honour of Chevalier dans l’Ordre National du Mérite in the 1970s for his services to French language and culture. After Oxford, Francis worked at Bristol University and was offered the position of Professor of French at Trinity College, Dublin in 1970—at 34 years old, the youngest professor of French in the UK and Ireland. After nine years in Dublin and a further nine as Professor of French in the University of Nottingham, Francis was appointed as Director of the Institute for Reformation History in the University of Geneva. He considered this to be quite an honour—given that he wasn’t Swiss, or French, nor a theologian, or a historian, and certainly not a Calvinist!

Francis stayed in Geneva until 1998 when he retired from the Institute. Having met Claude, his second wife in 1990, they married in 1997 and he spent the remainder of his years ensconced in the foothills of the Cevennes Mountains in Languedoc-Rousillon in southern France. Here, he and Claude offered a warm welcome in their beautiful Cévenole home to family, friends from around the world and professional acquaintances. Throughout his life, music formed a hugely important thread for Francis. He sang and ran choirs in Oxford, Dublin, Nottingham and Geneva, and for many years was choirmaster for his choral group in Languedoc, as well as playing the organ for his local church in Saint Hippolyte du Fort.

KENNETH LEWIS
Kenneth Harold Lewis was born on 22 June 1928. He came up to St John’s in 1946 to read Medicine. He died on 19 May 2015. We are grateful to his daughter, Susannah, and to his family for this appreciation.

Born in West End Lane to Winifred Schoenfield and Henry Emanuel Lewis, he was educated, with his brother Neville, at Wimbourne Grammar and Epsom, after which he studied medicine at St John’s (1946-50) and St Mary’s (1951-54). He then entered the Royal Navy as Medical Officer on board HMS Mountbatten 1955-58, before joining his father in private practice from their family home at 236 Finchley Road, NW3, until Henry’s death in 1956 when he inherited the practice. He married Anne Margarette Davis in June 1961 and they had two daughters, Susannah, born in 1962 and Juliet, born in 1965. In 1972, they moved to Neville Court in Grove End Road, where he continued to practice for the next 36 years.

As a general physician, Kenneth always had a very hands-on approach to medicine, working closely with consultants in many of the London Hospitals: St John and St Elizabeth, Fitzroy Nuffield, the Wellington, The King Edward VII, The Princess Grace amongst many others. He was well-known and loved on the wards as he often dropped in for pre- and post-op visits, a style of practice that he learnt from his father and never gave up.

Alongside his medical career was a great interest in the arts. His consulting room at Neville Court had a magnificent library on subjects as varied as history, biographies, politics and fine art. But his abiding lifelong passion was for music, with an abundant collection of manuscripts, records and CDs. He was himself a naturally gifted musician and performer, with the St John’s Mummers at Oxford, which gave him opportunities to sing Gilbert and Sullivan, under the direction of the D’Oyly Carte Opera Company. In later life, he joined The Angel Orchestra and was proud of several years playing flute in their windwood section. He worked for many charitable associations, linking medicine and the arts and was personally involved in the establishment and direction of BAPAM—the British Association of Performing Arts Medicine. He was honorary medical adviser to the Royal Society of Musicians, and their Benevolent Fund, as well as President for many years of the Hampstead Medical Society, and author of a book for their centenary. But perhaps his proudest achievement was as medical officer to the London Symphony Orchestra. He was also medical adviser to the London Zoo.

Everyone who ever met or worked with him was impressed by his gentleness, care and generosity. Kenneth was a modest, intelligent and cultured man, greatly loved and admired by all his patients and those who worked closely with him. His passing is greatly mourned by all his family and friends.
RONALD LOXLEY

Ronald Alan Keith Loxley was born on 11 July 1926 and came up to St John’s in 1948 to read Engineering Science. He died on 9 July 2015. We are grateful to Reverend Loxley’s family for this appreciation.

Engineer, industrial chaplain, parish priest... Ronald was rightly proud of his different careers. But he was also a husband, father, grandfather; aficionado of steam locomotion, apiarist, devotee of Gilbert and Sullivan, owner of a unique sense of humour and possessor of an astonishing memory. A man of many parts.

He came from Oxford. His grandfather (founder of the building firm Benfield and Loxley) had built much of North Oxford and his father ran a furnishing ironmongers in St Giles. He attended Dauntery’s School in Wilshire. In 1944, aged 18, Ronald volunteered for the Royal Artillery and was sent to India to be in the third wave on the beaches of Malaya. The invasion never happened but he remained in Karachi for partition, returning to Oxford to study engineering science at St John’s.

His working life began in Barrow-in-Furness. Three years as an apprentice at Vickers shipyard fitting giant propellors and turbines left a deep impression. As he moved towards retirement, grandchildren began to arrive. In the end there were six: Alex, Adam, Anna, Sam, Max and Ben. In 1992 he left Essex and retired to Lincoln. For 16 years in that city he preached at the cathedral, served the local housing association and was President of Probus. And he returned to the huge ships of his apprenticeship—although this time he was travelling atop the turbines, cruising cabin class to America and Russia. In 2008 he and Ann moved to Tunbridge Wells, where Ronald was a committed member of St Paul’s church in Rusthall.

Ronald died hours short of his 89th birthday—‘full of years’, as the bible puts it. But if his life was as rich and varied as it was long, two simple threads were woven through it: a sense of vocation and the courage to follow it. A man of many parts, yes—but all drawn together by spirit, belief and conviction.

SARA MILNE

Sara Milne was born in 1962 and came up to St John’s in 1981 to read English. She died on 1 November 2014. We are grateful to Sara’s friends and family for their contributions to this appreciation of her life.

Sara was born in Rome on 25 April 1962. Her parents were musicians, and had worked and travelled in Italy. Sara returned to Italy during holidays as a child and as a student, and her connection, both to the language and the country, stayed with her throughout her life. One of the first generation of women to be admitted to St John’s, Sara was also one of the co-founders of the famous Salome society as a deliberate rebuke to the all-male dining societies of the College of St John the Baptist.

Sara founded a London-based company, Science and Media, and did extensive work with the Science Museum on educational programmes that were designed to make the most of these attractions. After a career break to raise her young family, Sara was re-engaged by the Science Museum where she ran a number of their exhibition spaces and assumed responsibility for a large part of the museum’s international business, ultimately becoming CEO of the museum’s commercial arm called The Science of...’

Throughout the earlier part of her career in marketing and television production, Sara continued to have links with Italy, and in March 2011, she took up the directorship of the British Institute in Florence. She established herself so quickly that, when the British Consulate in Florence closed in 2012 after 550 years, Sara was named Honorary Consul. She worked hard to promote and develop connections between Florence and Britain, making links between the Institute and the National Gallery’s BP Portrait Award and starting a discussion about new ways to teach art history in schools.

Sara’s talent and professionalism were underpinned by huge personal charisma, and her tenacity and inner strength were very much in evidence in the last three years of her life as she battled with cancer. Sara died in November 2014. She leaves two sons, Alex and Nico.

NICOLAS PHILLIPS

Nicholas (Nick) Phillips was born in 1941 and came up to St John’s in 1959 to read PPE. He died in October 2014. We are grateful to Robert Lyons (1959) for this appreciation.

Nick Phillips went to school at Rokeyh from where he won a scholarship to St Paul’s School, making many lifelong friendships there. He came up to St John’s in 1959 and read PPE under George Richardson, John Mabbott, and Michael Hurst. He was a conscientious student and had a wide range of interests which he carried through to the rest of his life.

After Oxford his first job was a graduate trainee at Fisons. He then went on to a distinguished career in marketing, becoming Director of Research at the Central Office of Information at the early age of 32, before going on to hold directorships at Beecham Products and Granada Television. He gained considerable marketing research and advertising experience over this period. In 1989 he was appointed Director General of The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the professional body for advertising, media and marketing communications agencies in the UK, where he was able to draw on the wide range of experience and connections that he had built up over the previous 25 years; he held this post until his retirement 12 years later in 2001. During his time there, he modernised the operation, negotiated a secure arrangement for staying in their headquarters building in Belgrave Square, and made an enormous contribution to the advertising industry. He represented the IPA on many organisations in the industry, including, among many others, the Advertising Association, the Mail Order Protection Scheme and the Audit Bureau of Circulations. He was a member of the Government’s Advisory Committee on Advertising and of the Creative Industries Export Promotion Advisory Group. He helped attract leading industry figures to serve as president of the IPA and they all appreciated his wisdom and guidance during their terms of office. After his retirement he held various advisory and commercial posts and charity trusteeships. He kept up his connections with the IPA and hosted a reception for St John’s College Benefactors there in Belgrave Square in November 2012.

Nick married Katherine in June 1969 (having proposed to her in St John’s College gardens) and they held their 40th wedding anniversary celebration in the College in 2009. They lived in Barnes for many years where they brought up their three children. Nick was churchwarden of St Mary’s in the early 1980s, being closely involved in the imaginative restoration of the church following a fire in 1978. For many years he was an active member of the Barnes Charity Players. Nick and Katherine owned a property in Oxford where they moved in October 2012, as well as maintaining a flat in Barnes to keep up their connections there. He was a frequent visitor to St John’s.

Sadly, he contracted bladder cancer in December 2012 but after much treatment was able to resume normal activities to some extent. He and Katherine attended the memorial service of his contemporary St John’s PPE student John (Tex) Rickard on the Isle of Wight in October 2013; they had a trip to South Africa in January 2014 and also attended a St John’s College Benefactors’ reception in London in May 2014; his health declined thereafter and he died, at the age of 73, in Charing Cross Hospital in October. A service of thanksgiving was held in St Mary’s Church Barnes attended by a very large number of friends and former students, giving thanks for his life and ministry.
number of friends and family. His family was always hugely important to him and he took great pleasure in following the progress of his six grandchildren, the eldest of whom, Alfie, aged 11, gave a brave and moving testimonial to his grandfather at the service.

Nick had many interests, including opera, classical music, fell walking, bridge, architecture and table tennis, as well as amateur dramatics. With exceptional energy and enthusiasm, and for ever cheerful, Nick had a remarkable talent for raising the spirits of those in whose company he found himself, showing a genuine interest in and kindness towards people from all walks of life. He is much missed by friends and family.

CEDRIC SCROGGS
Cedric Annesley Scroggs was born on 2 January 1941. He came up to St John’s in 1956 to read English. He died on 11 February 2015. We are grateful to his family and friends for their contributions to this appreciation.

Cedric Scroggs was born on 2 January 1941 in Tilehurst. At Reading School, he was School Captain and Head Boy and was also in the 1st VIII. He came up to St John’s in 1956 as a Thomas White Scholar and read English. Alongside his academic work, he kept up his rowing, and was part of the 1st VIII that won Torsides.

Cedric’s career after St John’s took him into management and then into marketing work for Gadbury’s and Leyland Cars. In 1981 he took up the role of CEO for the scientific division of Fisons, and just over a decade later became CEO of the Fisons organisation. Subsequently, he became Chairman of Montpellier Group Plc. Alongside his business work, he gave a great deal of time throughout his life to supporting hospitals and health trusts, serving as a non-executive director and trustee for Hillingdon Hospital and for Hazelfield Hospital Heart Transplant Trust in the 1980s and 1990s and later as Deputy Chairman of the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. Cedric also kept up his connections with both Reading School and St John’s. He served as President of the Old Redingensians Association in 2008 and was Governing of Reading School in 2010-11. As Treasurer of the St John’s Barge association, he worked with a group of dedicated alumni ‘to maintain restore and preserve the Barge in its historical setting on the River Thames at Oxford.’

Alongside his hard work and dedicated service to the community, Cedric was a great family man. He married Patricia on 4 April 1964 and they became loving parents of Duncan, Joanna and James, and proud grandparents to Alice, Edward, Izogon, Verity and Dougal. At the thanksgiving service for Cedric’s life held in Dunchester Abbey on 7 March 2013, his children recalled what a kind and courteous man he was, and how upbeat and cheerful he always remained, even in the most stressful of situations. In Cedric’s sporting life, rowing had given way to golf, and it was after a golf match (which, as his son Duncan proudly recalled, he won) that he collapsed suddenly and died on 11 February 2015. He is greatly missed.

JOHN SPRECKLEY
John Edward Spreckley was born on 26 May 1937. He came up to St John’s in 1958 to read Jurisprudence. He died in September 2013. We are grateful to Graham Laurie (1958) for this appreciation.

John went to Marlborough, where his father was a housemaster, leaving in 1955. His national service in the Intelligence Corps involved active service in Suez and Cyprus. He was fluent in Modern Greek.

At St John’s he studied Law. He opted out of taking his finals in 1961 but returned in 1962 to take a gallon 48l. He gained colours in the college hockey, tennis and squash teams. He was a keen bridge player. Among his other interests were the cinema (Swedish, French and Greek mainly) and 50s and 60s pop music. I remember him standing in the North Quad on 3 February 1959, dressed in his usual black, announcing in sepulchral tones that Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper had been killed in a plane crash.

In spring 1959, he persuaded Mike Leitch (1958) and me to go to Greece in the summer. Two short memories from many on that trip: the first, John resolutely looking elsewhere as we passed the Leaning Tower of Pisa while Mike and I got out to have a look; the second, John insisting that we see the film A Girl In Black by Michael Cacoyannis in Greek on a very hot evening in a crowded open air cinema in Athens.

With David Hancock (1958), we later shared a flat in Gloucester Road. John enjoyed a small private income, was never really gainfully employed for very long and, later, when living in the Surrey/Sussex borders was somewhat reclusive. However for his St John’s friends he was one of the most interesting and fascinating people we have met.

ALAN WOOD
Charles Alan Wood was born in 1917 and came up to St John’s in 1936 to read Law. He died on 24th June 2015. We are grateful to his son Nicholas Wood (1964) for this appreciation.

Alan Wood was part of the generation at Oxford many of whose lives were shaped by the idealism of the 1930s and the war against Fascism which followed. The younger son of a miller with strong Quaker principles, he was sent to Schools—the Downs and Bryanston—which broadly represented progressive alternatives to traditional Public School education.

At St John’s, Alan’s friends included the Rhodes Scholar Carlton Chapman (later Dean of Dartmouth Medical College), and Edward Pugh (who, after serving with the ‘Desert Rats’ was to become a key figure in Britain’s Postwar Reconstruction). Like many idealistic young men at the time my father was a member of the University Communist Party (along with Denis Healey, then at Balliol). On a skiing trip with friends, sharing accommodation with a group of German students who sang nationalistic songs into the night, my father became convinced that war was inevitable. Although my grandfather had been a pacifist in the First World War, my father joined the University Air Squadron, and soon after the successful completion of his Finals was training at RAF Cranwell, from which he was posted to 204 Squadron of Coastal Command. Beginning as a Pilot Officer, by the end of the war he was commanding the squadron (still in his twenties).

At this time he became engaged to a young drama student, Joan Veale. At their wedding the following year they learned that Alan’s closest friend from Cranwell had been killed in the Battle of Britain, requiring Alan’s older brother Peter to stand in at the last minute as Best Man. One feature of 204 Squadron was the group of friends, with whom, like his friends from Oxford, he remained in lifelong contact.

My father remembered an occasion when Terence Rattigan saved his manuscript of Pure Path by sitting on it, during a long and eventful flight from the U.K. to West Africa, in which every other moveable item had been jettisoned from the aircraft to save fuel.

After the war, my father joined Hovis, as its Advertising Manager; a post he held for about sixteen years, before moving to the same post with Guinness. During his working life he was able to develop his interests—commissioning books and educational films, joining the Board of the Philomusica of London and supporting the Wedxford Opera Festival. It was relatively late in his career that he saw the opportunity to move to Guinness Overseas, enjoying the informality of life away from the more constrained atmosphere of the Guinness Board, of which he was now a Director. He successfully opposed any involvement of Guinness in apartheid South Africa and became an advocate of positive discrimination around the world. After retirement, he had no desire to stop working, bringing his administrative skills first to Riverside Studios, and then Sadlers Wells, and continuing to serve on various Boards. He enjoyed the opportunity of having somewhere to go on Monday morning, maintaining this was one of the secrets of a happy life.

In 2012, we went together to a Gaudy, and as the senior St John’s man present, he was placed next to the President, Sir Michael Scholar. After the President’s short speech, and the expected response from the floor, my father rose to make an impromptu speech thanking the President for his term of office, which was coming to an end. Feeling the occasion called for something more, he looked down the Hall, ‘And speaking as the oldest person present,’ he said, ‘I would like to thank St John’s.’ And that was very much the spirit in which he lived his later years, gracious and thoughtful of those around him, and grateful for the many opportunities he had received.
## COLLEGE RECORD

### FIRST IN FINAL HONOUR SCHOOLS 2015

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### DISTINCTION OR FIRST CLASS IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS 2015

UNIVERSITY PRIZES 2014/15

Samuel Carter, jointly awarded the Gilbert Byle Prize for the best overall performance at distinction level in the examinations for the BPhil in Philosophy

Ross Chessman, WilmaCrowther Prize 2015 for best Human Sciences dissertation

Yuchen Cai, The Microsoft Prize for best Computer Science project in Part C Computer Science examination

Jessica Caterson, proxime accessit Gibbs Prize for First BM Part I

Hai Wen Chen and Habiba Daggah, jointly awarded BP Prize for best Chemical Engineering Part B project

Natalie Denneh, Medical Women’s Federation Prize in Obstetrics & Gynaecology 2014

Biogivist Gospodinow, The Palantir Prize for 2015 (Group Design Pracitcal)

Khalil Hamadouche, James MewSenior Prize for outstanding performance in FHS Arabic Language papers; Joseph Schacht Memorial Prize for outstanding performance on an FHS paper on Islamic religion, law or history

Daniel Peter Kossas, proxime accessit for the Ancient History Prize for graduate students 2015

Boon Hou Derek Khu, Gibbs Prize for best performance in Part A of FHS Mathematics

Leroy Lim, The Head of Department Prize for excellent performance in Part B Engineering Science examinations

Andre Luppi, Iversen Prize for best overall performance in Psychology papers, Part I

Dönhall Iain MacDonald, nominated for the 2015 British Pharmacological Society BSc Prize for most outstanding research on a project in the field of pharmacology in the Honour School of Cell & System Biology or Honour School of Neuroscience

Stuart Mires, NDS Prize in Surgery 2015

Alma Marija Mozetic, jointly awarded The Clifford Chance Civil Procedure Prize 2015, for performance in Civil Procedure examination

Lewis Kingsley O’Shaughnessy, proximately awarded The best English language paper in Part II, Engineering Science

Henry Tudor Pole, excavation for the History of Art

David Eduardo Villalobos Paz, Mathematics

Oliver Joseph Vipond, Mathematics

Zoe Walmsley, Biochemistry

Samuel Whiteby, Chemistry

Conor Wilcox-Mahon, English

Shinn Mann Woo, Chemistry

Edmund Wooliams, Physics

Minjun Yang, Chemistry

Ka Man Yim, Physics

Sonia Yuhui Zhang, Human Sciences

We gratefully record the continuance of Shlomo Steinmark’s name from the College Record section of last year’s issue of TR. Mr Steinmark was awarded a First in Finals in Law in 2014.

UNIVERSITY COMMENDATIONS 2014/15

Laura Boddy, for performance in the Medical Sociology paper for First BM Part I

Jessica Caterson, for performance in the Medical Sociology paper for First BM Part I

Hannah Jeffery, for performance in the Psychology for Medicine paper for First BM Part II

COLLEGE PRIZES 2014/15

Cristiana Banila, Dr Raymond Lloyd Williams Prize

Ruaridh Battleday, Dowren Travel Scholarship

Matthew Ford, Mahindra Travel Scholarship

Muhammed Maki and Jamie Rosen, jointly awarded 2015 Burke Knapp Travel Scholarship

Joseph Riley, Hans Caspari UN Travel Grant

Edward Edgar Skudra, Ancient History Prize, for general excellence in undergraduate work

Samuel Thomas, jointly awarded the Nicholas Hanlon Prize in Modern Languages

Michael Rizq and Samuel Thomas, jointly awarded the Nicholas Hanlon Prize in Modern Languages

Yuchen Cai, jointly awarded the Dr Raymond Lloyd Williams Prize

Michelle Kaggle, jointly awarded the Nicholas Hanlon Prize in Modern Languages

David Eduardo Villalobos Paz, Junior Mathematical Prize for undergraduate work in Mathematics

Stuart Mires, for performance in the Medical Sociology paper for First BM Part I

Henry Tudor Pole, excavation for the History of Art

David Eduardo Villalobos Paz, Mathematics

Oliver Joseph Vipond, Mathematics

Zoe Walmsley, Biochemistry

Samuel Whiteby, Chemistry

Conor Wilcox-Mahon, English

Shinn Mann Woo, Chemistry

Edmund Wooliams, Physics

Minjun Yang, Chemistry

Ka Man Yim, Physics

Sonia Yuhui Zhang, Human Sciences

We gratefully record the continuance of Shlomo Steinmark’s name from the College Record section of last year’s issue of TR. Mr Steinmark was awarded a First in Finals in Law in 2014.
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Sadyuki Hayashi, Hon. G.C.V.O., M.A., formerly Commoner; Ambassador of Japan to the Court of St James; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

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Hywel Rhodri Morgan, B.A., (M.A. Harvard), formerly Exhibitioner; formerly First Minister for Wales; Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Sir Timothy Patrick Lankerton, K.C.B., M.A., (M.A. Cantab., M.A. Yale), formerly Fellow and Principal Bursar; 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; Emeritus Fellow of the Delegates of the Oxford University Press; formerly Wykeham Professor of Modern History

Sir Andrew William Dilnot, C.B.E., M.A., formerly Commoner; formerly Professor of Economics; sometime Principal of St Hugh's College; Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority and Warden of Nuffield College

Sir Simon David Jenkins, M.A., formerly Commoner; sometime editor of The Times; sometime political editor of The Economist; formerly Deputy Chairman of English Heritage; sometime Chairman of the National Trust

Peter John Preston, M.A., formerly Commoner; sometime editor of The Guardian; Co-Director of the Guardian Foundation; sometime Chairman of the British Executive of the International Press Institute

Edward Brian Davis, M.A., F.R.S., formerly Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics; Professor of Mathematics, King's College, London

John Graham Cunningham, M.A., D.Phil., formerly Thomas White Scholar; Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies; sometime Principal of Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Emeritus Fellow of the Delegates of the Oxford University Press; formerly Wykeham Professor of Modern History

Sir Michael Sydney Perry, C.B.E., M.A., formerly Commoner; sometime Chairman, Unilever Plc and Centrica Plc, the Senior Statesman

The Rt. Hon. Sir Stephen Price Richards, M.A., formerly Scholar; Lord Justice of Appeal; Deputy Head of Civil Justice for England and Wales; Privy Counsellor
Bernard John Taylor, D.L., F.R.S.C., C.Chem., C.Si., L.R.P.S., M.A., formerly Scholar; formerly Vice-Chairman of JP Morgan; formerly Member of the Council of the University of Oxford; Chairman of Exornerce Partners International LLP; Chairman of Isis Innovation Ltd; Chairman of Garsington Opera; Chairman of the Ashmolean Museum Board of Visitors; Deputy Steward of the University of Oxford; Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

Ulick Peter Burke, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., F.B.A., formerly Scholar, formerly Professor of Cultural History, University of Cambridge; Life Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge

Andrew Frederic Wallace-Hadrill, O.B.E., M.A., D.Phil., F.B.A., F.R.S., F.R.S.C., formerly Senior Scholar; formerly Director of the British School in Rome; formerly Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; Professor of Roman Studies and Director of Research for the Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge

John Lawson Thornton, M.A., (A.B. Harvard, M.P.P.M. 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, C.B.E., M.A., D.Phil., (M.Phil., Cantab.), formerly Scholar; Concert and Operatic Tenor

C. Richard Catlow, M.A., D.Phil., F.R.S., F.R.S.C., 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


Anthony John Boyce, M.A. D.Phil., formerly Scholar, formerly Tutor in Human Sciences; sometime Principal Bursar

Henry Reece, M.A., D.Phil., (B.A. Bristol), formerly graduate student; formerly Secretary to the Delegates and Chief Executive, Oxford University Press; Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College

William Joseph Burns, M.Phil., D.Phil., (B.A. LaSalle), formerly graduate student; formerly US Ambassador to Jordan and US Ambassador to Russia; formerly US Under Secretary for Political Affairs and Deputy Secretary of State; President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Stephen Wolfram, Ph.D. Caltech, formerly Scholar; creator of Mathematica and WolframAlpha; Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Wolfram Research

Sir Michael Charles Scholar, K.C.B., M.A., D.Phil., (M.A., Ph.D 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

Professor Sir John Tooke, K.B., F.R.C.P., F.Med.Sci., formerly Commoner; formerly inaugural Dean of the Peninsula Medical School; President of the Academy of Medical Sciences; Vice-Provost (Health), Head of the School of Life & Medical Sciences (incorporating UCL Medical School), University College London

Angela Eagle, M.P., M.A., formerly Commoner; M.P. for Wallasey and Shadow Leader of the House of Commons; formerly Minister of State for Pensions and the Ageing Society and Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Ruth Harris, M.A., D.Phil., (B.A., M.A., Pennsylvania), F.B.A., formerly Junior Research Fellow; Professor of Modern History and Fellow of New College

Evan Davis, M.A., formerly Scholar; formerly Economics Editor for the BBC and presenter of Today; lead presenter on Newsnight

Sir David Nicholas Cannadine, D.Phil., (M.A., Litt.D. Cantab.), formerly Junior Research Fellow; 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

Andrew Harrison, M.A., D.Phil, M.R.S.C., F.R.S.E., formerly Fereday Junior Research Fellow; formerly Research Fellow, Nuffield College; formerly Professor of Solid State Chemistry, University of Edinburgh; Emeritus Fellow of Corpus Christi College

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Ann Jefferson, M.A., D.Phil., F.R.Hist.S., formerly Junior Research Fellow; Professor of French and Fellow of New College; Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques

Barbara Jane Slater, M.Sc., formerly graduate student; (B.A. Birmingham, P.G.C.E. Loughborough), D.B.E.; Director of BBC Sport
NEWS OF ALUMNI

Peter Checkland (1990) has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Linnaeus University in Sweden, marking his development of the process for tackling ‘wicked’ problem situations (known as Soft Systems Methodology).

Tim Ambler (1997) has a new book: The Lucky Marker: Golden Days of the Drinks Trade (Quiller Press, 2014). After a career in marketing (involved in the development of Baileys, Malibu and Archers and in making Smirnoff vodka a worldwide brand), Tim taught at the London Business School. He is now a Senior Fellow of the Adam Smith Institute.

Peter Bush (1967) has been awarded the 2015 Ramon Llull Translation Prize (for works of Catalan literature translated into any language) for his translation of Josep Pla’s The Gray Notebook (published in the New York Review Books Classics series, 2014).

Ted Gorton (1970) retired from energy work in 2009 and has been hard at work on the things that occupied him 40 years ago at St John’s. He has published translations of Arabic poetry (two volumes in Eland Books’ Poetry of Place series, published in 2007 and 2009 respectively) and an anthology of writing about Lebanon, in Eland Books’ Poetry of Place series, published in 2007 and 2009. His most recent projects include a biography of the Levantine Druze prince Fakhr ad-Din Ma’ruf (Quiller Press, 2019). His work on travel writing about Beirut is included in an anthology of travel writing about Beirut is published by the American University of Cairo Press in 2015. Otherwise his energies are spent sailing in the Ionian Sea on his beloved sailboat Moira. He lives in Islington with his archaeologist (and sometimes co-author) wife Andree Feghali Gorton.

Peter Atkinson (1975) was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the University of Worcester in November 2014.

Charles Crawford (1973) has published Speechwriting for Leaders as an e-book (http://leaderspeak.strikingly.com/). Drawing on Crawford’s own experience when ambassador in Sarajevo and Warsaw, this book analyses speeches given by world leaders to show how information technology is changing the world of speechwriting.

Giles Dawson (1973) continues to teach Classics, mostly by video-conferencing for WhiTech. In 2011 he wrote Sibola Castorum of Oxford - the first 50 years. As a baritone singer, Giles styles himself a village oratorio soloist (chiefly at Great Milton and Cumnor); he also took part in a performance of Act II of The Marriage of Figaro in the President’s Lodgings in 2007. He much enjoys singing with North Cotswold Chamber Choir. Giles lives with his wife Victoria in Charlbury.

Sir Mark Warby (1973) has been appointed a Judge of the High Court Queen’s Bench Division.

Julian Parish (1979) left Microsoft in 2014 after 17 years with the company. In his last position with Microsoft he was responsible for the international strategy of its Office products and services. He continues to live in Paris and now splits his time between freelance work as an IT strategy consultant and indulging his passion for old cars, as a writer and translator of motoring books. Julian’s first book, France: the essential guide for car enthusiasts, from Veloce Publishing, was released in January 2015 and was followed in February by his translation of a French book on the history of car design. He is now writing his second motoring book (for publication at the start of 2016) and translating a history of the Alpine Rally from French into English.

John Hayns (1978) is now a member of the Council of the Magic Circle and is very busy running an entertainment agency and working as magician Johnny Oxford. He will be living in Christ Church as his wife Clare has just been appointed Chaplain there.

David Scorey (1992) has been appointed Queen’s Counsel.

Anne Mortimer (née Price) (1991) and Duncan Mortimer (1994) are delighted to announce (slightly belatedly!) the birth of Euan Mortimer (March 2014). They are now over a year in parenthood and enjoying it very much.

Alison Ireland (1997) has established a new literary creative outlet Hour of Writes (www.hourofwrites.com). The site offers a weekly, peer-reviewed writing competition with a new title each week, and has just published its first book: Mountains: oblique angles. The first judge was Tom Chatfield (1998). Alison now lives in the Lake District and manages international art projects using independent artists, as well as her new publishing venture.

Giulia Manca (1999) has recently won a European Research Council Consolidator Grant for her work on Particle Physics. These awards are given to frontier research projects, selected primarily on the criterion of scientific excellence. Giulia’s project, ‘Exploring Matter’ will use the Large Hadron Collider beauty (LHCb) detector at CERN to study collisions of heavy ions in a new configuration that has never been studied before. Giulia will move to the Laboratoire de l’accélérateur linéaire d’Orsay in France to form her group and begin her research.

Emily Stevenson (2002) has been adventuring in the particle physics research and has most recently been awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship from the European Commission. She will use this to develop research into investigating glacial processes that exert a fundamental control on the release of bioavailable elements and nutrients to rivers and oceans, and their associated ecosystems. Follow her research @emiestevenson.

Gaudies
We currently hold two Gaudy Dinners and two Gaudy Lunches each year, inviting alumni by matriculation year. A ‘save the date’ email will go out around four months before each Gaudy. Gaudy invitations are sent out by email (or by post to those without email addresses) approximately two months before the date of the Gaudy. We now invite alumni to most events by email. To update your details, please email alumni@sjc.ox.ac.uk

CALENDAR

2015
19 November 2015 Oxford and Cambridge Club Dinner
10 December 2015 Varsity Match
12 December 2015 Alumni Carol Service

2016
18 February 2016 Lady White Lecture
8 and 9 April 2016 North American Reunion, Washington D.C.
12 May 2016 Founder’s Lecture
24 June 2016 Gaudy Dinner (for those matriculating in 1986 and 1987)
2 July 2016 Gaudy Lunch (for those matriculating in the years up to and including 1952, in 1990, 1991 and 1992)
16 September 2016 College Society Dinner