



TW

The magazine of St John's College, Oxford

2021

Fantasy writing

Better reading

Pandemic teaching

Quantum fields

The President's envoi

TW

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From the Editor



We're open again! As I mentioned in last year's *TW*, not only lockdown, but also construction, has kept the main college gates closed for many months. The building work has not ceased, of course. It never does at St John's. Canterbury Quad is currently full of equipment as the Old and Laudian Libraries are restored and the Paddy Room returned to a row of sets for tutors. The rebuilding of the Lodge is, however, finally over.

As you will see, we now have a swanky new place for the porters and commodious accommodation for our pigeonholes. Best of all, the great gate to St Giles is once again open – and, as I write, the first little trickle of tourists has just started to appear. Much as we didn't miss them, the return of the tourists is undoubtedly an encouraging sign of something like normality.

Every bit as exciting, if I'm honest, are the plans to reopen the Lamb & Flag, whose closure due to COVID-19 made international headlines. We're thrilled to have signed a new, long-term lease with an exciting Community Interest Company – appropriately named The Inklings Group – who will revive the pub and ensure its future.

It's been a hard and tiring year for everyone here. The uncertainties of Michaelmas, the enforced return to online teaching in Hilary, and the mixture of anxiety and hope in Trinity affected us all. But we got through it – and, more than that, as *TW* shows, the College has thrived. The pages that follow show just how much has been done and how well. Do come and see us (and the Lamb & Flag) soon.

The Revd Professor William Whyte
Editor, *TW*



In February 2020, the Saints Women's Football team won the Cuppers tournament; this mural was drawn by the team's captain, Eva Vang-Mathisen.



I have been filled with admiration at the resilience and comradeship of our students and staff who have worked together throughout the year very effectively, whether on site or working and studying from home.



From the President

After probably the strangest period of any of our lives, it's been good to pause during the quiet of an Oxford summer to reflect on the past year. Life in College has been intense – to say the least! – but, despite the stresses and strains of dealing with the pandemic and the ever-changing official guidance, the strengths of St John's have been even more evident than usual.

I have been filled with admiration at the resilience and comradeship of our students and staff who have worked together throughout the year very effectively, whether on site, or working and studying from home. I think that you will get a good sense of the year from this issue of *TW*, the challenges of Hilary with lockdown continuing, and the pleasures of a renewed life in College during Trinity with opportunities to study and dine together again, albeit in a socially distanced and Covid-secure way. Like me, I am sure you will be impressed at College members' achievements, despite the circumstances.

The College responded to everything that COVID-19 threw at us with great innovation and imagination in our teaching and on-site set-up, with marquees in both North and TW Quads to enable students to meet securely when in College. Although physical events were not of course possible for much of the year, it was very good to be able to connect with each other through weekly newsletters, the online events programme organised by the Development Office, the Library's digital exhibitions and a whole range of sports activities. In addition, the Outreach and Access team participated in virtual Open Days and our groundbreaking *Inspire* programme reached

more pupils than ever through its online programme and virtual summer school. After the difficulties of the 2020 admissions process, we were relieved that 2021 has gone much more smoothly.

The College is in very good heart and ready for the challenges of a new academic year. I owe a big 'thank you' to everyone for their support and hard work over the past year – and I must especially thank the people who enabled us to keep going: the catering staff, the scouts, the porters, administrative staff and the welfare team, as well as the College officers and teaching staff.

Incredibly (to me if to no one else!) it will be my tenth and final year as President. The years have flown by and I am looking forward to a year of celebration and excitement, whilst also preparing to welcome my successor, Professor Dame Sue Black.

I hope to see many of you in person again over the next twelve months. In the meantime, enjoy this issue of *TW*.

Best wishes
Maggie

Professor Maggie Snowling
President

A portrait of Professor Dame Sue Black, a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a black top. She is looking slightly to the right. The background is blurred.

College News

Professor Dame Sue Black appointed next President

Professor Dame Sue Black DBE OBE FRSE FBA FRAI FRSB ChFA, Baroness Black of Strome, will take up office as successor to Professor Maggie Snowling CBE FBA FMedSci in summer 2022.

Professor Dame Sue Black is one of the world's leading forensic scientists and is currently the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement at Lancaster University, tasked with raising the University's profile locally, regionally and nationally whilst championing the economic growth and regeneration of North West England.

Since graduating from the University of Aberdeen in human anatomy and forensic anthropology, Professor Black has had a varied and distinguished academic career, lecturing in Anatomy at St Thomas' Hospital London and working as a consultant in forensic anthropology for both the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office,

undertaking forensic investigations in Iraq, Sierra Leone and Grenada. She was the lead forensic anthropologist during the international war crimes investigations in Kosovo. From 2003 to 2018 she was Professor of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology at Dundee University.

Professor Black has written widely and has made regular media appearances, including on BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* and *The Life Scientific*. She was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to Higher Education and Forensic Science and in 2021 entered the House of Lords as a crossbench peer as Baroness Black of Strome. Professor Black is also the 65th President of the Royal Anthropological Institute and she is the lifetime Professor of Anatomy for the Royal Scottish Academy.

Library and Study Centre: RIBA South Building of the Year 2021

At the heart of St John's, both physically and intellectually, the Library and Study Centre has been designed as an inspiring space for students and scholars now and for centuries to come – a place to think, read, reflect and write in.

Wright and Wright Architects were commissioned in 2015 to remodel and extend the College's library. The new Study Centre opened in October 2019.

RIBA commended the new building for its robust sustainable design and the commissioning of artisans for elements such as the stone artwork by Susanna Heron and joinery, also noting the way in which the building links old and new parts of the College, with the creation of new routes providing communal meeting points. RIBA also highlighted the student focus of the Library and Study Centre, with different types of reading/ research spaces to cater for personal preferences and study methods.

Nuffield Early Language Intervention scaled up for COVID-19 recovery

Two-fifths of primary schools in England have signed up to take part in a programme to support four- and five-year-olds whose early language and literacy development has been most affected by the pandemic. 62,000 Reception-age pupils in 6,672 schools will receive the *Nuffield Early Language Intervention* (NELI).

The NELI programme is the result of research led by Professor Charles Hulme (Department of Education) with the President, Professor Maggie Snowling, and Dr Gillian West (Department of Education). The research was funded by the Nuffield Foundation and Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the programme is regarded as the most well-evidenced early years language programme available to schools in England.

The programme was offered to state-funded schools with Reception pupils at no cost by the Department for Education (DfE) in response to disruption to schooling caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The EEF is managing the scale-up, which has been funded under the DfE's wider COVID-19 recovery efforts.

Oxford student success in 37th annual Mathematical Contest in Modeling

From 4–8 February this year, Xingjian Bai (Mathematics and Computer Science, St John's), Yizhang Lou (Maths, St John's), and Ruize Ma (Physics, University College) teamed up to enter the annual Mathematical Contest in Modeling, competing with over 10,000 teams from 15 countries.

The contest requires participants to use maths and computer science skills to analyse real-life problems and present a 25-page paper in four days. Specifically, the team utilised Cellular Automaton, Hidden Markov Chain, and Computer Vision models to provide data-centric insights into preventive measures against invasive species in North America. Their solution was awarded Outstanding Winner (top 15 among 10,000) and two additional prizes including AMS Award (the best paper for task C) and INFORMS Award (the best paper for tasks A, B, and C) for creative resolution.

The team (clockwise from top left: Xingjian, Yizhang and Ruize) expressed their gratitude to St John's for funding their registration and for providing workspaces during the competition. The experience has given them great encouragement and motivation as they continue their academic journey at Oxford.





Faith i Branko



Tlen Huicani

The sound of music

Despite the pandemic the College maintained its support of music, reaching a wider audience than ever.

The World's Music at Oxford celebrated its fifth year at St John's by hosting four very successful online concerts with performances from Serbian-Roma artists Faith i Branko, Maya Youssef, 'queen of the qanun,' the 78-stringed Middle Eastern plucked zither, the Kenyan artist Labdi, and the Mexican huapango folk band, Tlen Huicani.

The Oxford Alternative Orchestra, also in its fifth year at College, embarked on the Chrysalis project, a series of six videos exploring the idea that a particular kind of metamorphosis, transformation, and hope is only possible in a place of darkness. Each piece is a fusion of the media of dance, film, and classical music, featuring a piece of new choreography set to new compositions recorded by the Oxford Alternative Orchestra. The six



Labdi

award-winning choreographers are based in different locations around the world: Burkina Faso, South Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States, Russia, and New Zealand. Recordings are available on YouTube.

St John's-backed start-up wins FDA approval

An AI programme designed to speed up diagnosis of lung cancer launched by Optellum, in which St John's was an early investor, was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in March.

The programme, Virtual Nodule Clinic, is able to analyse scans of potentially cancerous lung modules and quickly determine which are at high risk of being cancerous, supporting optimal clinical decisions in practitioners. This has the potential to greatly reduce the number of stressful and unnecessary scans and biopsies in those who do not have cancer, as well as speeding up diagnosis in those who do, allowing treatment to begin as quickly as possible before the disease has metastasised. Crucially this will increase the survival rate of lung cancer, which is currently the leading cause of cancer

deaths in the UK, accounting for 21% of all cancer deaths in any one year.

Optellum was founded by St John's graduate Václav Potěšil (2006, DPhil Engineering), Lyndsey Pickup, Timor Kadir, Professor Sir Michael Brady and Jérôme Declerck, who met at the University of Oxford's world-renowned computer vision laboratory. St John's contributed early-stage investment to the project, and is proud to play a part in their vital mission.

In August Optellum announced a strategic collaboration with the Lung Cancer Initiative at Johnson & Johnson, Applying AI to Transform Early Lung Cancer Treatment, so the company goes from strength to strength!

Working Group for Race and Equality recommendations published

In Michaelmas 2020 St John's formed a Working Group for Race and Equality to support and guide the College's efforts to combat racism. The group is chaired by the President and comprises representatives from across the St John's community, including the JCR, MCR, Fellows and staff, supported by the Race and Equality Advisory Group of alumni. The Working Group met six times over the course of the year and aimed to review the College's statement on Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity and make suggestions for revisions, as well as putting forward an action plan to address issues of inequality, with specific reference to race.

The Working Group considered issues from across the college community, including student experience and welfare, staff training, recruitment for academic and non-academic posts, and access and outreach. Significant progress was made over the course of the year, and the group has put forward an action plan, approved by the College, to work towards sustained change.

Key recommendations include embedding diversity and anti-racism training beyond Freshers' week for both students and staff, establishing a mentoring scheme for BAME students and actively working to increase staff diversity. The report also recommends continuing to celebrate diversity in College life, starting with a photographic exhibition of current and former BAME members of the St John's community in spring 2022.



Hira Javaid speaking at the Persia international dinner in November 2020



Natalie Perman enjoys poetry success

Many congratulations to Natalie Perman (English and German, 2018) for winning this year's Martin Starkie prize with her poem 'prayer for healing in brother's bedroom, pesach 5775', inspired by 'To The Nile' by Keats. The poem will be published in *The Ash*, the Oxford University Poetry Society's termly publication.

The prize, named after the actor, writer and director who founded the Society in 1946, is awarded annually to 'an emerging, noteworthy voice within the Oxford poetry community'. There is a cash prize of £300 for the winner, and this year the prize was judged by Professor of Poetry, Alice Oswald. Natalie has previously won the 2020 Mapleton-Bree prize, and is also one of two winners of this year's New Voices First Pamphlet Award, run by a poetry press of Cheltenham Poetry Festival.

Natalie said: 'I'm so honoured to have been awarded the Martin Starkie Prize, especially as so many poets I admire, such as Theophilus Kwek and Mukahang Limbu, have been recognised by the prize in recent years. In a year of fear and uncertainty this poem circles illness, prayer and the way we mythologise lived experience. I wanted to interweave Keat's poem 'To The Nile' with the Passover story. It was my first time writing a poem sparked by something by Keats and I loved exploring the complex imagery of the Odes. I am so thrilled to have been read and judged by Alice Oswald, whose lectures as Professor of Poetry I have found fascinating.'

14th International Roman Law Moot Court – Oxford wins

Ben Stanley (Jurisprudence, 2019) was a member of Oxford's winning team.

The 14th International Roman Law Moot Court was held online in early April 2021. Hosted by the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, this year's competition featured a problem question set in the former Roman province of Raetia, and centred around an expatriate horse breeder's quarrels with the local population.

Teams from eight European universities debated the horse breeder's contractual rights against an Alemannic equestrian as well as a local sculptor under the *actio praescriptis verbis* and the *actio locati*, respectively. Students were challenged to determine these by reference to Emperor Justinian's *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, compiled in the sixth century AD, and yet the legal issues raised with regard to 30-day free trial periods and failed parcel deliveries would have been of equal contemporary relevance.

Ivan Jim Paul awarded distinction in National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition 2021

Congratulations to Ivan Jim Paul (Medicine, 2019), who was included in the best ten of the National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition (NUNC) 2021 and awarded a distinction.

The NUNC is an annual competition open to all medical students in the UK and Ireland. It first started in 2013, and has since run annually at the University of Southampton, although this year it took place virtually. The competition has three main components: a neuroanatomy spotter examination, a clinically-orientated multiple-choice examination and a series of talks on aspects of neuroscience.

In preparation for the event Ivan was given extra tuition by his tutor, Professor Zoltán Molnár, Tutorial Fellow at St John's. The team were also delighted to have the support of Oliver Bredemeyer, a runner-up in last year's competition, who was kind enough to share his experience of the NUNC 2020 to help the team prepare for this year's competition.



The 2021 Mapleton-Bree Prize for work in the Creative Arts

The Mapleton-Bree Prize is awarded annually for a piece of creative work by any junior member of St John's. This year the high calibre of entries was reflected by the fact that, in addition to the main prize, the judges awarded two runners-up and one highly commended entry across a range of creative mediums.

The winner this year is Yijia Tu (Musicology, 2020), for her song *Willow Flowers*, written as a tribute to her grandfather. The song can be listened to via the Mapleton-Bree article on the College website.

Eleanor M. Baker (DPhil Medieval Literature, 2018) was awarded runner-up for her linocut 'Hares On The Mountain', and Minying Huang (DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages, 2014) was also awarded runner-up for her poetry. Finally, Natalie Perman earned a special commendation for her collection of poetry. Examples of all the winners' work can be seen on the College website.



Yijia Tu

Return of exhibitions

The Keeper of the Pictures was delighted when it was confirmed that galleries could reopen from mid-May as long as government guidance was followed.

The first exhibition of the year in the Barn was George Quiney's exciting solo show *The Earth Moved*, which took as its starting point Hemingway's seminal novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and, in particular, a moment of intense intimacy which was reprinted in the exhibition. The work spanned print, paint, drawing and sculpture, creating links between processes, images and moods. This was followed by *A Year in the Life of an Ash*, an exhibition by

John Blandy (in collaboration with the University research station at Wytham Woods) and *Touching Distance*, an exhibition by Jon Rowland. Partly an artistic response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the isolation caused by restrictions, the artist began by exploring the concepts of separation and solitude, using rich reds and oranges to reflect cosseted interior environments. As restrictions began to ease and walks in the nearby woodlands and countryside were once again possible, the palette evolved to encompass brighter tones and more mixed media.



Major review contributes to knowledge of motor neuron disease

Dr Björn F Vahsen, DPhil candidate in Clinical Neurosciences, has published a major review on 'Non-neuronal cells in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis – pathogenesis to biomarkers' in *Nature Reviews Neurology*.

People with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as motor neuron disease (MND), usually die within three years from symptom onset, with only two licensed drugs with very moderate effects on survival and disease progression currently available. Research into ALS has classically been highly focused on the dysfunction of nerve cells, but there is now increasing appreciation of the contribution of non-neuronal cells to the disease.

The review article summarises and analyses the evidence for the involvement of these non-neuronal cells in ALS, evaluating studies on human tissue as well as cellular and animal models. The review concludes that most evidence agrees on a toxic role for non-neuronal cells in ALS, which actively contribute to motor neuron degeneration, and that it will be important to take non-neuronal cells into account in future mechanistic studies and drug development.

Grace Molloy represents Team GB in World Orienteering Championships

Grace Molloy (2019, Physics) was selected to represent Great Britain at the World Orienteering Championships in the Czech Republic in July after fantastic results in the UK trials. The GB team were placed seventh in the Relay and Grace came 12th in the Sprint.

As well as Orienteering, Grace has obtained Blues in football, athletics and cross country over her time at St John's – a fantastic achievement!



Duncan Birrwhistle

Hilary@Home

In Hilary, as members of the college community were mostly scattered away from Oxford, the MCR Committee and College ran a photo competition to capture the collective experiences of Hilary at Home. There was a great response with over 100 images and videos submitted.

The prize was judged by Professor Hannah Skoda, Dr Georgy Kantor and local photographer David O'Brien, who had the challenging task of shortlisting and selecting the overall winner from amongst the high-quality and varied submissions. Subjects included everything from sunsets and snowy landscapes to selfies of volunteers in the pandemic relief.

The overall winner was Rhianna Watt's 'A Room with a View: the view from my room for thirty days of lockdown'. For 30 days Rhianna took a picture of the view from her desk and put them together to create a collage of her lockdown view. The picture was praised by the judges for the use of the tiled effect to recreate the atmosphere of disruption felt by all of us during the pandemic, as well as making a more typically mundane view highly engaging.



Rhianna Watt: 'A Room with a View: the view from my room for thirty days of lockdown'



Gabriella Kountirides



Phoebe Walker



Zoltán Molnár: 'It's raining blossom'



Khadijah Ali: 'Sigh of Snow'



Si Suo



Rachel Pindar: 'Another day another walk'



Rachel Pindar: 'Hilary on a Hillside'

Research Talks

Every year, the College shares the extraordinary work done by Fellows and visitors to the College. There have, necessarily, been fewer ‘in person’ events over the past year, but this has been more than made up for by the new ‘SJC Online’ talks which enabled a wider audience than ever to learn about the latest research from St John’s.

June 2021

PROFESSOR MICHAEL LUCEY

The History of Sexuality and the Indexical Capacity of Novels: Woolf’s *Orlando* and Cather’s *The Professor’s House*

Professor Michael Lucey, Visiting Fellow from University of California, Berkeley, spoke on these two important novels. *Orlando* and *The Professor’s House* are both novels that have something complex to say about sexuality’s relationship to the world. What they are saying can be difficult to understand because of the obliquity with which it is said, and this has produced intriguing histories of reception for both novels. Professor Lucey’s goal in this talk was both to explore these novels’ capacity to say (often implicitly) things about sexuality, and to consider how our own place in various histories of sexuality helps determine whether we can apprehend whatever it is these novels are saying.

Sexuality often exists in language *indexically* rather than on the level of denotation. Certain novels (and novelists) are particularly intrigued and engaged by this semiotic predicament. The concepts of *social indexicality*, *indexical capacity*, and *indexical competence* are central to my understanding of the way novels and sexuality interrelate. *Social indexicality* refers to the way various

features of language allow utterances to point to (to index) beliefs or concepts (e.g. about sexual identity or about gender) that exist in the surrounding cultural universe. Such features of language enable interactions with others in ways that are to some degree mutually comprehensible (e.g. to recognise aspects of sexual or gender identity or to express sexual interest in someone without explicitly saying that is what you are doing, or somehow to make your own sexuality or your own gender – and your understanding of sexuality and gender generally – apparent enough that your interlocutor might be able to respond appropriately). When we (or Woolf or Cather) do something implicitly with language that some people will notice and others not, we instil a certain *indexical capacity* into our words and count on someone (but not everyone) having the *indexical competency* to notice. The most impressive writers about sexuality – ones like Woolf or Cather – make compositional choices in order to play with the indexical capacity of their novel and the indexical competency of their readers.

SJC Online

Orlando and *The Professor's House* both have the ambition not only to say something about sexuality, but to be about the making of sexual meanings. Reading them, we encounter theories of sexuality and of sexual meaning-making that are part of the culture in which they were written; we encounter the theories of sexuality we may or may not know we have; and we learn to negotiate meaning in an interactive space between the novels and our own selves.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM WHYTE

Emerging from pandemic: some lessons from the past

The Italian philosopher Benedetto Croce once observed that 'all history is contemporary history', and in many respects he was of course quite right. Not because there is no difference between now and then; still less because we should seek to make the past seem more like the present. Rather, historians are drawn – almost constitutionally – to answer contemporary questions by looking at the experience of history. Sometimes that shows just how wide the gap is between what we do and what they did. Sometimes, it reveals how decisions made then shape our experience now. Occasionally, it can suggest surprising commonalities in which figures from history genuinely do feel like our contemporaries.

COVID-19 has prompted many historians to look back and consider how past societies have coped with epidemics. In his talk, William Whyte focused on the local: looking at how Oxford responded to and was changed by the experience of mass disease. From the Black Death to the Influenza pandemic of the early twentieth century, he showed that many of the same preoccupations helped remake the place. Social distancing led to both the evacuation of the city and the construction of new and bigger buildings. Preventative measures produced a new landscape of hygiene and health. The exclusion of the sick and the protection of the vulnerable recurred again and again. What the current crisis has enabled us to do is look again at Oxford and see how it has been changed by pandemics of the past – and to ask how it may be changed today.

Throughout the 2020–21 academic year, the Development and Alumni Relations Team strove to keep the global community of St John's alumni connected through a programme of events and communications. Since the last edition of *TW* went to print, there have been eight *SJC Online* events. These virtual academic talks, held once per month, have been very popular with alumni, students and staff, and have highlighted the range and depth of research being conducted at St John's.

In *Medieval Memory and Nostalgia*, Professor Hannah Skoda explored ways in which people responded to deep structural change in the fourteenth century, explaining how the Black Death turned lives upside down and resulted in a resurgence of nostalgia. Professor Carolynne Larrington focused on the study of the medieval in the modern period in *Fairies, Folklore and Fantasy Epic*, when she discussed her book on British folklore, *Game of Thrones* and making new art from traditional tales.

Moving to examine the College's own history, Dr Mishka Sinha updated alumni on *St John's and the Colonial Past*, providing an overview of this pioneering project that is exploring connections between the College and colonialism. The College Archivist, Mike Riordan, took alumni on a fascinating virtual tour of the St John's Archive, highlighting a number of the College's most beautiful and important documents in *Treasures from the Archive*.

Scientific research at St John's also featured in *SJC Online*. Professor Philip Maini, in *Are We There Yet?*, shed light on the biological mechanisms cells use to move collectively to where they need to be, reviewing the mathematical modelling work he has been doing in the area of tumour development. Exploring climate change was the topic of two talks. Professor Myles Allen (1984, Physics & Philosophy), presented an inspiring case for *Achieving Net Zero*, discussing what a plausible net zero plan could look like for an oil and gas company. Professor Heather Bouman outlined her observations made over a series of research cruises in *Salty Tales from the Arctic Ocean*. She explained how these measurements are helping us to better understand the biological response of Arctic marine ecosystems to environmental change.

Finally, the incoming inaugural Hillary Rodham Clinton Chair in Women's History, Professor Brenda Stevenson, shed light on the life of a pioneering nineteenth century revolutionary icon in *Maria Stewart: A Glimpse*. All of these talks were followed by vibrant Q&A sessions, sparking lively discussion amongst the audience. The Fellows of St John's greatly enjoyed talking with alumni located all around the world.

The *SJC Online* event series will be continuing and details of upcoming events can be found on the College's website. If there are any St John's academics you would particularly like to hear from, let the Alumni Relations team know!



We rarely stop to think of the underlying complexities of what we do as we read, or the enormity of the task facing young children as they begin to learn to read.



Reading success

Professor Kate Nation, Tutorial Fellow in Psychology, dissects the art of reading.

I remember a General Studies lesson at school when the teacher asked us to discuss the greatest inventions of all time. We generated quite a list – lightbulbs, steam engines, telephones, wheels, antibiotics, computers. Our teacher added the printing press. The 17-year-old me was stunned by this suggestion – a world without the written word was impossible to contemplate. It also planted a seed, a seed that grew into my research focus since undergraduate days. Not the printing press, I hasten to add, nor pencils, pens or paper, but the invention that underpins all of these creations: written language. Surely, the written word is the world’s greatest cultural invention. Orthography – the term used to describe writing systems – provides a code that allows us to write words so that others who share our code can also share our thoughts, ideas, and dreams. The written word allows us to create narratives that play to our imaginations or teach us about the world in a way that transcends space and time. With practice, reading words becomes like listening – the connection between the letters on the page and image they construe in our minds is so fast, so rich in content and so automatic, we rarely stop to think of the underlying complexities of what we do as we read, or the enormity of the task facing young children as they begin to learn to read. Or to quote John Steinbeck:

‘Some people there are who, being grown, forget the horrible task of learning to read. It is perhaps the greatest single effort that the human undertakes, and he must do it as a child... [it is] the reduction of experience to a set of symbols.’ (Introduction to *The Acts of King Arthur and his Noble Knights*, 1976)



Chloe Dewe Mathews

Over the last 100 years, psychologists have made huge progress in understanding how reading happens. We have a very good understanding of the cognitive operations involved in skilled reading – how we as literate adults read – and how reading works across different writing systems. We also know a great deal about how children learn to read and why some children find it disproportionately difficult. From this viewpoint, it is perplexing to witness the ‘Reading Wars’ – the controversies and debates about how reading should be taught that have plagued educational policy and practice for decades.

In 2018, Anne Castles (Macquarie University, Australia), Kathy Rastle (Royal Holloway London) and I joined forces with the goal of producing an accessible yet comprehensive review of how children learn to read, focusing on lessons from psychological science. We aimed to bridge the gap from laboratory to the classroom and to explain some of the barriers and confusions that have unnecessarily fuelled the reading wars. Our article *Ending the Reading Wars: Reading Acquisition from Novice to Expert* proved timely and has been used to support transformations in reading policy and practice around the world. We were delighted to win the 2020 Economic and Social Research Council’s *Celebrating Impact Prize* in recognition of this work. Here, I summarise some of our key messages, focusing on learning to read in English.



What does the psychological science of reading tell us about learning to read?¹

What do we mean when we talk about reading?

The term *reading* has breadth. If a teacher were to say ‘Alice is the best reader in her class’, what would she mean? It might mean that Alice is able to recognise words and read them aloud accurately. It might mean that Alice reads a lot and can readily learn new information from text. Or, perhaps Alice is an excellent student of English literature, adept at literary analysis. Reading means different things to different people; it also means different things depending on the age of the child.

The question of how we read has been at the forefront of experimental psychology since the early days of our discipline. E.B. Huey, an American psychologist, was amongst the first to use experimental methods to investigate the science and pedagogy of reading. Writing in 1908, he recognised the challenge facing reading researchers:

‘Problem enough, this, for a life’s work, to learn how we read! A wonderful process, by which our thoughts and thought-wanderings to the finest shades of detail, the play of our inmost feelings and desires and will, the subtle image of the very innermost that we are [are] reflected from us to another soul who reads us through our book.’

At its heart, reading is the act of constructing meaning from print – transforming symbols on the page to the message intended by the writer. This transformation requires the orchestration of a large number of cognitive and linguistic operations, from recognising the identity of a letter (even when it’s written in a different case or font) to inferring the mental state of a character described in the story.

The challenge facing beginning readers – and their teachers – is thus substantial. In our article we set out three sets of skills that need to be acquired: to crack the alphabetic code, to become fluent at recognising words, and to understand written text. These are not completely independent capacities that develop separately, one after the other. However, there is a strong consensus that learning to crack the alphabetic code – coming to appreciate the relationship between printed words and spoken language – is a necessary foundation for learning to read.

When we as skilled adults encounter a word while reading, we don’t normally linger. Our sense is that we see a word and immediately link to its meaning. And often we do: we quickly understand the difference between *sail* and *sale*, even though they sound the same. We don’t consciously ‘sound out’ words, although we can when we

¹ Portions of this article are reprinted with permission from *Ceasefire in the Reading Wars* by Nation, Rastle and Castles, *Times Education Supplement*, June 2018.

need to ('the first titchy bobstacle you meet and you begin shouting you is biffsquiggled', said Dahl's BFG).

If adults routinely draw on automatic connections between print and meaning, one might conclude that this is what children need to be taught to do from the outset. But this is not the case. The evidence base is clear in showing that the journey towards establishing strong connections between print and meaning starts with children establishing links between print and sound. This is non-negotiable – not because of ideology or pedagogical preferences – but because it is how our alphabetic writing system works.

The alphabetic nature of the English writing system – and why phonics works

One reason why the reading wars have persisted is that there has been a view that children can learn to read in the same way that they learn to speak and understand. But reading is not like spoken language. Like learning to walk, children are born with the ability to acquire spoken language, simply through interactions with their environment. We have no such predisposition for learning to read. Presented with a library of books, a child will not usually learn to derive meaning from the sets of curves, lines, and dots that make up writing. Instead, reading is a learned skill that typically requires instruction.

Precisely how children learn to map those curves, lines, and dots onto meaning depends on the nature of the writing system that they are learning. Imagine the task of a child learning the meanings of the printed words *cat*, *cut*, *can*, and *rat*. These words share some visual symbols, but they have totally different meanings. Faced with trying to learn these meanings, the child might develop a strategy that whenever the first symbol is different, then that is the rodent-like creature. Such a strategy might work for a while, but will quickly unravel when faced with new words like *ran* and *rot*. This example shows why encouraging children to guess words from context or rely on salient visual cues results in gains that are only short-lived, at best.



Like learning to walk, children are born with the ability to acquire spoken language, simply through interactions with their environment. We have no such predisposition for learning to read.

Fortunately, learning to read in English does not require children to memorise each word. The reason for this is that English uses an alphabetic writing system, meaning that the visual symbols of writing represent the *sounds* of the language. Turning back to the previous example, once a child learns the letter-sound relationships in *cat*, *cut*, *can*, and *rat*, they can use their knowledge of the sound of each word to access its meaning; they also have the capacity to generalise – to read new words that they've never seen before, like *ran*, *rut*, *nut*, *run*, *act*, and *ant*. Alphabetic systems are extraordinarily efficient – they allow a vast amount of information to be communicated using a relatively small amount of code. It's not surprising therefore that alphabetic systems are common across the world's languages.

To read independently children must understand the alphabetic code; the purpose of phonics is to teach this directly. Myths about phonics abound – for example, that it teaches children to read nonsense, that it interferes with reading comprehension, that English is too 'irregular' for phonics to be of any value, and that phonics is boring and turns children off reading. Our review article explained why all of these claims are misguided.

Phonic knowledge provides the necessary foundation for what comes later, but it is only part of the story of learning to read. It is necessary but not sufficient.

So what else is needed?

Once children have mastered the alphabetic principle, they have the starting-kit to read words for themselves and to begin to develop the rapid links between print and meaning that underpin skilled reading. This is a slow process of building expertise in which children harness their powers of perception, memory, and language to learn and generalise from their experience with print. Our review article considered how this expertise develops and how this can be fostered in the classroom.

One implication for teaching takes us back to the nature of the English writing system. For short words that children encounter in print when first reading, the letters that they encounter code for sounds, as in *lock*, *pick* and *pack*. But as children increasingly encounter longer words, letters and groups of letters also code for meaning, as in *unlock*, *unpick*, and *unpack*. Here, the letters 'un' are contributing something important about meaning, in a way that can apply to many other words too. This type of coding is known as *morphology*, and a *morpheme* is a linguistic term used to describe the minimum meaning-bearing unit of language.

Most English words are built by combining morphemes – for example, *unlock*, *lockable*, *relocked*, *unlocking*, *locksmith*, *headlock* – and we know that skilled readers use knowledge of morphology to compute the meanings of words rapidly. It makes sense then that there should be explicit instruction in this aspect of the writing



As we read, we dynamically build a mental model, sometimes called a situation model, culminating in a rich interpretation of the text that goes beyond what is explicitly stated.

system once alphabetic knowledge is established. One barrier to this is that teacher knowledge of morphology is sparse and patchy, with many teachers becoming increasingly skilled in phonics (quite appropriately) but unaware of the ways in which morphemes communicate meaning and govern spelling. This seems a critical gap in teacher knowledge.

But children need more than explicit instruction on how the writing system works. They need many years of reading experience. It is well known that children who are good readers tend to read more, and in so doing, become better at reading. Thus, establishing this virtuous circle must be a central goal of primary schooling. Motivating poor readers to read is not easy, but the question of how to motivate children to read should not be divorced from the question of how best to teach them. On the contrary, one clear and achievable means of maximising motivation is to ensure that a child has solid basic skills and considers being ‘a reader’ as a key part of their identity. This, in combination with sufficient text experience, produces a powerful word reading system that allows children to recognise the vast majority of the thousands of words they see each day, efficiently and easily.

The goal of reading is to understand

So far we’ve been talking about words. Being able to read words well is the critical ‘front end’ of reading – the way to access language from print. But constructing meaning from text requires much more, and ‘construction’ is a key term. The product of comprehension is not usually a verbatim record of what’s been read, replicating its form and structure. Instead, as we read, we dynamically build a mental model, sometimes called a *situation model*, culminating in a rich interpretation of the text that goes beyond what is explicitly stated.

Take for example the text *Mary was stuck in a jam. She was worried what her boss would say.* To make sense of this, we need to recognise and understand the words and their contextually-appropriate meanings – that *jam* probably refers to traffic jam, not the fruit preserve. We need to go beyond individual words and make connections between them – that *she* and *her* in the second sentence refer back to *Mary*. On reading the text, we’re likely to conclude that Mary was on her way to work but was running late due to heavy traffic. But the text doesn’t say this explicitly – it needs to be inferred, using our knowledge of the meanings

of words, the rules of syntax, our background knowledge and appreciation of how the world works. Our knowledge of Mary, her boss and the situation might prompt us to elaborate further and what we conclude from the text will be coloured by this. Perhaps Mary is always late. Maybe it’s an important meeting that she cannot miss. Perhaps her boss is unreasonable and Mary fears getting the sack. Or maybe there’s no traffic at all and Mary is stuck in a metaphorical jam. There are other possibilities too, all licensed by this simple, two-sentence text.

As we read, the text prompts us to pull in relevant things we know and we use our language and memory resources to process this information as we read – to make connections between elements of the text and to draw inferences about intended meaning. What’s clear from the enormous literature on the psychology of reading comprehension is that it is not a single entity that can be taught directly. Nevertheless, there are clear pointers as to what should guide effective teaching.

One important conclusion is that beyond reading words, many aspects of reading comprehension are not specific to reading. Instead, they are features of language comprehension more broadly. What follows from this is that those children who start school with low levels of language are at a huge disadvantage from the outset when it comes to reading comprehension. This has been captured by discussions of ‘the language gap’ and ‘the word gap’, and the recognition that explicit instruction in oral narrative and vocabulary needs to start early – and to continue throughout the school years. Not only does this promote language and oracy, it benefits reading comprehension too.

Once children are able to read fluently, there is clear evidence that explicit instruction in strategies can help comprehension. This includes instruction in clarification, summarisation, prediction, and in helping children make inferences and actively monitor their comprehension. Pleasingly, these strategies can be learned quite quickly and applied to new reading material. Importantly however, strategies can only take us so far. Without having access to the relevant knowledge to understand the content, comprehension will fail. And note too that these reading strategies do not help beginning readers learn to read words. Instead, they depend on children being able to read words accurately and fluently – the critical ‘front end’ of reading we discussed earlier.

While strategy instruction might be quite quick, the acquisition of knowledge, of discipline-specific language and ‘cultural literacy’ is gradual and continuous. It relies on rich input, much of which will come from reading experience itself. The implication of this is clear: teach children to read and then provide opportunities for varied, extensive, and successful reading experience.

‘The wonderful process’ and ending the reading wars

Our review of the literature led us to make two conclusions about why the reading wars have continued. First, phonics has been unfairly criticised, partly because people have perhaps not understood *why* phonics works for alphabetic systems. At the same time, practitioners know that there is more to reading than alphabetic skills, but a full discussion of other aspects of reading acquisition has been lacking; as a result, calls for a greater focus on phonics instruction can seem unbalanced.

The evidence is there to get the balance right. Though the term *balanced literacy* is in widespread use, it is too often used to describe approaches with ‘a bit of everything’. In our view, it is time to reclaim a term such as *balanced instruction* and recast it in a more nuanced way that is informed by a deep understanding of how reading develops. This requires teacher knowledge about how the writing system works, and how the broader

language system it represents underpins becoming a reader. In our review, we concluded that reading is multifaceted – children must learn alphabetic decoding, fluent word reading, and text comprehension – but this does not mean that instructional time should be devoted to all of them at all points in reading acquisition. Rather, instructional regimens to support these various abilities are likely to be most effective at particular points in development, and precious teaching time should be structured to reflect this.

Returning to E. B. Huey’s words from over 100 years ago, we are reminded not just of the enormity of what we do when we read, but also of the status of reading as an extraordinary cultural invention. Huey argued that to ‘completely analyse what we do when we read’ would be at the pinnacle of achievements ‘for it would be to describe very many of the most intricate workings of the human mind, as well as to unravel the tangled story of the most remarkable specific performance that civilisation has learned in all its history’.

Those tasked with the difficult job of teaching reading are opening children to this ‘wonderful process’ and all that follows from being able to read well. And returning to the 17-year-old me that opened this article, written language is surely one of the greatest inventions of all time.



Photographs by Niina Tamura (2012, DPhil Experimental Psychology) and photoshoot organised by Helen Norris (1988, Lit Hum).

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



Arrivals

Honorary Fellows

In March 2021, the College elected four new Honorary Fellows. They are notable for their distinction and we are delighted to welcome them back to College.



PROFESSOR ALEXANDER BIRD (PPE, 1983)

Alexander Bird is the Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge, and a Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge.

Bird matriculated at St John's as a Thomas White Scholar in 1983, initially to read Physics and Philosophy, graduating in PPE. Thereafter he studied in Munich and Cambridge. After a period as a civil servant, Bird was appointed to a lectureship at the University of Edinburgh and later to the chair of Philosophy at the University of Bristol. He was Peter Sowerby Professor of Philosophy and Medicine at King's College London before being elected to the Russell Professorship at Cambridge in 2020. He has held visiting positions at Dartmouth College, St Louis University, Helsinki University, St John's College Oxford, Exeter College Oxford, and All Souls College Oxford. He was chair of the Philosophy subpanel in REF2014 and has been President of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science.

Bird's published books are *Philosophy of Science* (1998), *Thomas Kuhn* (2000), and *Nature's Metaphysics* (2007). His work is characterised by the rejection of empiricism, in both metaphysics and epistemology, and by integrating central topics in metaphysics and epistemology with philosophy of science. His current project *Knowing Science, Knowing Medicine* aims to bring insights from general epistemology to bear on the philosophy of science and medicine.

'I owe my current position to the path upon which St John's put me. My tutors, Peter Hacker and Gordon Baker, were the world's leading scholars of the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein. Their work was an important influence on my PhD (on Wittgensteinian philosophy of mathematics), even though I went to Cambridge to pursue the latter, and remained an influence thereafter also. So it is particularly

fitting that the chair I now occupy is the one once held by Wittgenstein himself — not something I could have foreseen (or would have even dared contemplate) during those tutorials in the Holmes Building. After something of a gap, I am delighted to see that St John's once again has two excellent tutorial fellows in Philosophy, Alison Hills and Nick Jones. There is, as before, nowhere better to study philosophy. The support that St John's gave my career continued after I graduated, thanks to the exchange between the College and the Stiftung Maximilianum in Munich, which is still active today. This allowed me to get my academic career back on track after a mixed undergraduate record (too much rowing!) and to study mathematical logic and philosophy of maths in depth (and without pressure of exams).

In the light of my debt to the College, I regard my election to an Honorary Fellowship not only as an honour of which I am very proud. It is also as an opportunity to become actively involved in the life of the College and thereby to support its goals and to contribute in particular to the nurturing of a community that includes not just current fellows, students, and staff, but also its alumni.'





BOON HUI KHOO JP (ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS, 1973)

Boon Hui Khoo read Engineering Science and Economics at St John's, matriculating as an Open Scholar in 1973 with Oliver Jacobs and John Kay as his tutors. He subsequently obtained his Master's from the Harvard Kennedy School and also studied at Wharton.

He returned to Singapore in 1976 and spent most of his career in policing and the civil service. He was Singapore's Police Commissioner from 1997 to 2010 and INTERPOL's President from 2008 to 2012. Following his retirement, he has served on various international commissions and working groups looking into cyber stability, UK policing, sports security and INTERPOL's governance. He is a Justice of Peace and a Senior Fellow of Singapore's Civil Service College and the Home Team Academy. He is also on the Executive Board of the Cyber Peace Institute based in Geneva and holds advisory and board positions in International Banking, Healthcare, Security, Technology and Philanthropy. He chairs a Digital Assets Exchange and the Governing Council of the Singapore Golf Association.

Besides being accorded National Honours by Singapore for his leadership in policing, he has been recognised for promoting bilateral and international policing relations by several countries, including knighthoods from Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand and The Vatican, as well as the Order of Australia, Ordre national du Mérite and Légion d'honneur from France.

'Oxford and, in particular, St John's College, will always have a special place in my heart. Not only did I meet my wife there, I also learnt how to differentiate fact from opinion and how to discern which opinions are worth considering, thereby starting me on a lifelong journey of self-directed learning and purposeful intent.'

As I could not afford to return home to Singapore at the end of term, and with free vacation accommodation offered since I was a scholar, I remained in College and completed a fortnight's worth of tutorial assignments before the

start of each term. This afforded me the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities without feeling the pressure of deadlines. I also got to know many UK and international graduate students who stayed behind when my fellow undergraduates had gone down.

An incident involving one of them in particular taught me that security cannot be taken for granted. A former student leader exiled from Uganda had been awarded a scholarship to study Jurisprudence at the College. He unexpectedly went missing during the vacation. Much to my relief, he returned a fortnight later, revealing that he had been taken into protective custody by Special Branch. I later learnt that a three-man team despatched by Idi Amin had actually turned up at the Porters' Lodge enquiring about him and were subsequently detained for deportation. Such early exposure certainly influenced me in my career choices in policing and international organisations.

As I write this, while many countries find themselves in precarious COVID-19 situations, for others where vaccination programmes are doing well, there is cause for optimism. I take pride that Oxford has contributed to this by developing an effective vaccine, and am delighted that St John's will soon be buzzing again. I am deeply humbled by my election to an Honorary Fellowship and look forward to being better able to support the current aims and future plans of the College.'



PETER PHILLIPS (MUSIC, 1972)

Peter Phillips has spent his career encouraging musicians to take notice of, and perform, the choral music which came out of the renaissance period, often called polyphony. To further this ambition, he founded The Tallis Scholars while an undergraduate at St John's, his first concerts funded by the College Music Society. He has always felt that he has a mission in life, rather as a priest may do, prepared to go anywhere to proselytise, in any circumstances. This has led to working with singers all over the world, from Lusaka to Moscow, Reykjavik to Taipei. Fortunately, he enjoys discovering new foods, new languages and new colleagues, and has on occasion shown exemplary broad-mindedness in the musical results he's been responsible for, happy just to see how Tallis and Byrd are received, far from the shores they knew.

The Tallis Scholars have made over 60 discs and given nearly 2500 concerts since 1973, also all over the world. With them he has shown less patience if the sound is not to his liking, having identified an ideal of choral beauty in his mind while at Oxford, and deciding to pursue it relentlessly. This quest has resulted in some milestones: his first recording in a series dedicated to the masses of Josquin des Prez won the Gramophone Record of the Year title in 1987, while the ninth and last won the BBC Music Magazine Record of the Year title in 2021, 34 years later.

He is the owner of the *Musical Times*, for whom he has written articles on renaissance polyphony, especially the Eton Choirbook, Josquin and Palestrina; and in 2016 stood down from *The Spectator* magazine after exactly a third of a century as a regular music critic. It was his idea to start a Choral Foundation at Merton College in 2008, where he is also a Fellow.

'As someone whose career was launched by holding the organ scholarship at St John's, I shall be keen to see music in the Chapel flourish. When I started in 1973 the St John's choir was only just below the full-time choral foundations in reputation. And I have seen at first hand, through my activities at Merton, how effective a really good Chapel choir can be as an ambassador for a college. You can give out as many bursaries as you like for instrumental playing, but in the public imagination nothing rivals a top-flight choir.'



PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER SCHOFIELD FRS (DPHIL INORGANIC CHEMISTRY, 1982)

Chris Schofield is an Organic Chemist whose research aims to link mechanistic chemistry, biology and medicine. He came to undertake DPhil work (in the Dyson Perrins Laboratory and St John's) supervised by Jack Baldwin on mechanistic and biosynthetic studies on penicillins and related medicines, motivated by a desire to understand how enzymes catalyse reactions not presently possible for non-biological synthesis. In early independent work he made contributions to mechanisms of antibiotic resistance and in defining the special qualities of β -lactam antibiotics such as the penicillins. Insight from these studies has helped to enable development of new drugs. This work also led to textbook-recognised insights into enzyme mechanisms. Anticipating that metal dependent enzymes would become clinically relevant in beta-lactam resistance (as is now the case), he has pioneered metallo beta-lactamase inhibitors. With Peter McHugh he characterised related human enzymes which act in the repair of DNA cross-linked with anti-cancer drugs, opening new targets.

Chris Schofield's biosynthetic work led to structures of microbial 2-oxoglutarate (2OG) oxygenases, involved in penicillin and cephalosporin biosynthesis (with Jack Baldwin and Edward Abraham). He extended this work to plants giving insights into biosynthesis of secondary metabolites and hormones, such as the gas ethylene which is important in fruit ripening. Importantly, these studies led to the prediction that 2OG oxygenases are widely distributed, including in humans. Consequently, he initiated research to define functions of human oxygenases – they are now known to have multiple roles including in lipid metabolism and epigenetics. Breakthrough work with Peter Ratcliffe defined unprecedented mechanisms by which animals respond to hypoxia, i.e. when oxygen is limiting such as at high altitude, a long-standing physiological problem. It was shown that hydroxylations – i.e. addition of oxygen atoms to proteins – play key roles in the response of animals to hypoxia, and drugs modifying these processes are now approved for anaemia treatment. He continues to work on new antibiotics (via the Ineos Oxford Institute) and the functional assignment and mechanisms of enzymes of physiological importance.



Governing Body

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS JONES

Nick Jones joined the College from the University of Birmingham, where he taught for seven years as a Birmingham Fellow, Senior Lecturer, and then Reader. He holds a BA and MA from the University of Leeds, a PhD from Birkbeck, London, and was a Research Fellow at King's College London and then Merton College, Oxford.

Nick's research interests lie at the intersection of metaphysics with the philosophy of logic and the philosophy of language. Most of his recent work concerns the metaphysical status of the languages of higher-order logic, as well as applications of those languages to some of the classical problems of mainstream metaphysics, focusing on problems about the nature of particulars, universals, propositions and possibility. His main research project this academic year has been an attempt to use these logico-metaphysical tools to understand what philosophers call *absolute generality*, maximally general thought about absolutely everything whatsoever, without restriction. Drawing on earlier work by Bertrand Russell,

Nick has been investigating the connections between absolute generality on the one hand, and the structure and limits of meaningful thought and talk on the other.

Since joining St John's, Nick has taught tutorials on logic, metaphysics, epistemology and the philosophy of religion. Meanwhile, his four-year old daughter has enjoyed using Nick's online tutorials to show off her dance moves for the College's undergraduates. Outside philosophy, Nick likes to run, especially when mountains are involved.



PROFESSOR ELIZABETH WONNACOTT

Elizabeth Wonnacott obtained her undergraduate degree in Linguistics and Artificial Intelligence at the University of Edinburgh and her MA and PhD from the Department of Brain & Cognitive Science, University of Rochester (USA). Following her PhD, she came to Oxford as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Experimental Psychology and later a Junior Research Fellow at Linacre College. She has since held posts as a Lecturer in Psychology at Warwick and Associate Professor in Developmental Psychology at UCL. She returned to Oxford in Michaelmas Term 2021, joining the Department of Education as an Associate Professor in Linguistics and the College as a Supernumerary Fellow.

Her research spans the disciplines of Linguistics, Psychology and Education and investigates the remarkable phenomenon that is human language. Our species is unique in the capacity to acquire a complex and productive communication system. What are the cognitive mechanisms that allow us to achieve this remarkable feat? Somewhat unusually, she has been interested in understanding both the type of language learning that occurs in early childhood, and how adults learn languages later in life. Her research has also

touched on aspects of literacy development and questions about language evolution.

She is currently running a Leverhulme Trust-funded project entitled *Language learning as expectation: a discriminative perspective*. This explores the extent to which learning a 'grammar' can be captured by *discriminative learning* – a well-understood theory of learning developed in the study of animal learning, yet historically rejected by mainstream approaches in linguistics. This project uses experimental and computational approaches to compare human learners against the learning of models which embed these discriminative learning principles.





Supernumerary Teaching Fellows

DR JENNIFER RICHARD

Jenny Richard is Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Geography. She read Geography at St John's, before working as a research assistant at Adelaide University. She studied at UCL for an MRes in Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology and returned to Oxford University for her DPhil. Her research currently investigates how climate change will affect built heritage.

DR WILLIAM ALLEN

William Allen joined St John's as a Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Politics in autumn 2020. He completed his DPhil in Politics at Oxford, having been a senior scholar at Hertford College and a Fellow by Examination at Magdalen College. His research into the causes and consequences of citizen engagement with information about immigration won prizes from the UK Political Studies Association and the American Political Science Association. He is also an associate editor for the journal *Evidence & Policy*.

Early Career Fellows

DR AKANKSHA AWAL

Akanksha Awal studies the pursuit of sexual liberty in contemporary India. Her postdoctoral work, supported by the Leverhulme Trust, investigates how the police respond to women's demands for social and sexual freedoms.

Before joining Oxford, Akanksha worked as a journalist for the *Financial Times*, where she covered large-scale protests against corruption from Delhi, which inspired her doctoral research.

Junior Research Fellows

DR ZHENYU CAI

Zhenyu Cai obtained his BA and MSc in Physics at Cambridge. He then moved to Oxford for his DPhil studying the practical implementation and applications of quantum computing devices. Continuing his line of research on practical quantum computation, he joined St John's College as a Junior Research Fellow in Physics in the autumn of 2020.



DR ISABELLA MAUDLIN

Isabella Maudlin is a Junior Research Fellow in Biochemistry. She is interested in the links between pre-mRNA splicing and transcription in human cells, with the aim of filling in the gaps in our knowledge of these essential biological processes. This expands on her PhD research at the University of Edinburgh, where she explored the links between splicing and transcription in budding yeast.



DR EMILY KATZENSTEIN

Emily Katzenstein is a Junior Research Fellow in Politics. She joined St John's in October 2020. Prior to coming to St John's, Emily completed her PhD at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on normative conceptions of economic orders, with a particular interest in the intersection of struggles for economic justice and so-called 'identity-based' emancipatory movements. She is currently completing a book project that examines how practices and ideologies of race shaped processes of risk commodification in the US in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.



DR JUSTINE POTTS

Justine Potts' research centres on the study of ancient religion and the history of mentalities. She studied Classics at Balliol College, where she also completed her doctoral thesis, 'Confession in the Greco-Roman world: a social and cultural history' (monograph forthcoming). She is now working on a comparative history of the rise of monotheism in the Roman Empire and Ancient South Arabia.





Leavers 2021

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

PROFESSOR FRASER ARMSTRONG, FRS

Fellow and Tutor in Inorganic Chemistry (now Emeritus Research Fellow)

PROFESSOR CHARLES BATTY

Official Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics (now Emeritus Research Fellow)

DR LYDIA BERESFORD

Junior Research Fellow in Physics

DR HARRY DESMOND

Junior Research Fellow in Physics

PROFESSOR ALAN GRAFEN, FRS

Official Fellow and Tutor in Biology (now Emeritus Research Fellow)

PROFESSOR SIR JOHN KAY

Investment Officer (now Emeritus Fellow)

PROFESSOR DOMINIC KWIATKOWSKI, FRS

Professorial Fellow in Genomics and Global Health (now Emeritus Fellow)

PROFESSOR ANDREW PARKER

Official Fellow and Tutor in Physiology (now Emeritus Research Fellow)

DR KAROLINA SEKITA

Woodhouse Junior Research Fellow in Classics

DR GEMMA TIDMAN

Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in French



The Bursarship

St John's and its Bursars

With the arrival of Zoe Hancock as the new Principal Bursar, Dr Malcolm Vale, Emeritus Research Fellow and former Keeper of the Archives, traces the history of the Principal Bursarship.

On 26 July 1969, under his pseudonym 'Mercurius Oxoniensis', Professor Hugh Trevor Roper reported to the *Spectator* magazine on recent events in Oxford. Among them was the translation of 'Master Southern' from the Chichele chair of Medieval History at All Souls to the Presidency of that 'dull place north of Balliol'. That (not-so-dull) place's 'monstrous' wealth was in part the result of sheer historical accident. But its stewardship by successive Bursars had also played a significant part. How 'professional' did those Bursars need to be as the nature and condition of the College's needs and obligations changed in the past and continues to change today? Recent developments have led to the appointment of full-time holders of two vital College offices – the Senior Tutorship and the Principal Bursarship. In 2020, but not for the very first time, a Principal Bursar was elected on that basis.

In 1882, T.S. Omond (1846–1923) became the first to hold the position as a full-time office. It had previously rotated among the Fellowship on a five-yearly basis. Although he had been a Fellow since 1872, Omond had married in 1878 and, under the terms of the College Statutes, was obliged to resign his Fellowship. This stemmed from the fact that Fellows had, before the reforms initiated by Lord John Russell and Gladstone in

Left: R. V. O. Hart-Synnot with T. Clarke (Bailliff) and Montague-Jones (Farm Manager) of Long Wittenham

the second half of the nineteenth century, been obliged to live in College, as celibate bachelors, most of them members of the Anglican clergy. Only the President was permitted to live with a wife in the President's Lodgings within the College. Upon marriage clerical Fellows were obliged to resign their resident Fellowship and take up a living in the Church of England (see the Barchester novels of Anthony Trollope). After the first attempted reform of the celibacy rule in 1877 and the subsequent revision of the College's statutes in 1881, Fellows still had to declare to the Governing Body their intention to marry and resign their Fellowships. They were often re-instated, although the College was not obliged to re-elect them to a Fellowship. But they could remain employed by the College as tutors, lecturers, or holders of college offices. In 1896 this was the outcome of a cause célèbre involving the Fabian socialist Sidney Ball who was deprived of his Fellowship on marriage but served as non-Fellow Senior Tutor until he was re-instated in 1902.

Omond was not restored to his Fellowship although at that time he clearly intended to remain in College employment. His rather fine 'Queen Anne' style house, designed by his brother-in-law, the distinguished architect J.J. Stevenson, can still be seen at 29 Banbury Road, now St Anne's College's Principal's Lodgings. Stevenson, during Omond's bursarship, also skilfully repaired and restored part of the Old Library and a section of the Canterbury Quad which had, alarmingly, suffered a partial structural collapse in 1887. In 1886–7 Omond was also responsible for the building of properties on the College's North Oxford estate which came as close to social housing as was known at the time – the 'cottages for working men', leased at low rents next to the canal coal wharf in Hayfield Road. Omond was an outsider to St John's, a Scot who had been an Exhibitioner at Balliol, and had won the Stanhope Prize (1870) with an essay on 'The National Debt' and the Chancellor's English Essay Prize (1872). Although he was called to the Bar in 1874, his academic interests lay in the study of English verse on which he subsequently published. He had not been educated at a Merchant Taylors' School, the source of



**'A Dull Place North of Balliol
but Monstrous Rich'**



Revd H. J. Bidder

most St John's Fellows and Scholars since the foundation. But he remained employed by the College as a non-Fellow Principal Bursar until his resignation in 1889. It had been discovered that a college bailiff in the Bursary had defrauded the College. Applying the principle of what was once called ministerial responsibility, Omond was obliged to resign by the Governing Body. He was already apparently intending to resign because he considered that, largely as a result of the agricultural depression of the period, he had been set impossible tasks. He was followed by another non-Fellow bursar, W.J.W. Glasson, who was also forced to resign in 1896, having 'borrowed' a large sum from college funds. Playing safe, or so they hoped, the College then reverted to a Fellow Principal Bursar and the Revd H.J. Bidder (1847–1923), who designed the rockery in the college garden and published a *Handlist of the Alpine and other plants* there (1913), held the Bursar's office until 1920.

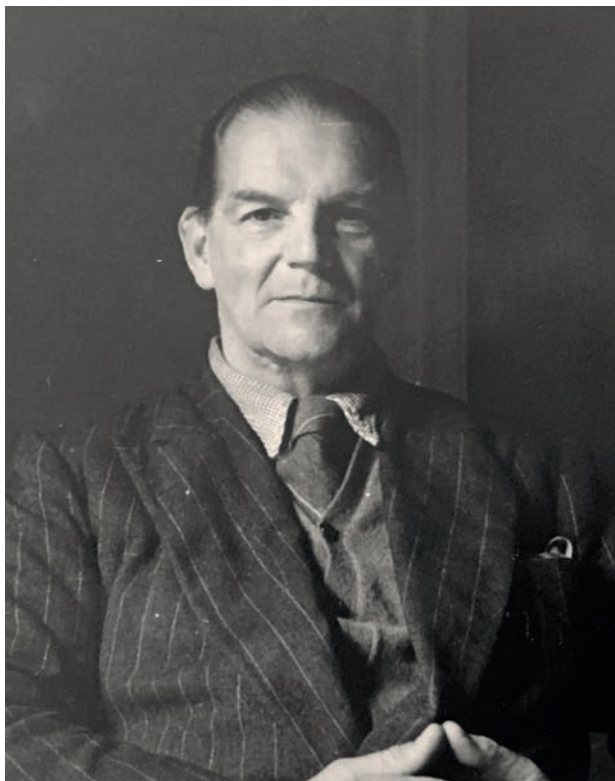
It was then decided, owing to the predominantly agricultural character of the College's properties (with the exception of the North Oxford urban estate), to appoint a full-time professional Estates Bursar. But the development of North Oxford was not quite completed (with about four roads left unfinished) and the new bursar was also to be responsible for its management. The College appointed R.V.O. Hart-Synnot, D.S.O., O.B.E. (1879–1976), from a high-ranking Anglo-Irish military family, who had become, in 1909, private secretary to Sir Horace Plunkett (1854–1932), the Irish land reformer



R. V. O. Hart-Synnot

and expert on co-operative farming. Hart-Synnot had also been Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at University College, Reading, the precursor of Reading University. As bursar, he promoted 'progressive' farming on the College's estates. He established an experimental farm at Long Wittenham, in collaboration with the University's Department of Rural Economy, breeding the Wittenham White, a breed of pig which won first prize at successive Royal Berkshire agricultural shows in the 1930s. A far greater (and no doubt highly desirable) degree of professionalism was introduced into the College's financial management during his time as Principal Bursar and his name is of course immortalised in Hart-Synnot House for postgraduates (Leckford Road) and the Fellows' housing scheme. He was a prolific deviser of schemes and projects of all kinds, one of which was the building of Oxford's first large block of residential flats (Belsyre Court, 1936), and he was also closely involved in the establishment of the Oxford Playhouse on its site in Beaumont Street, owned by the College (1938). He also devised the University Air Raid and Fire Service, 'manned' during the Second World War partly by women undergraduates as front-line firefighters.

On his retirement in 1949, it was decided to continue with the appointment of professional full-time bursars, and Arthur Garrard, formerly surveyor-general to the Duchy of Lancaster estates, held office until 1967. He was experienced in both housing and agricultural estate



Arthur Garrard

management, and oversaw the latter years of the North Oxford estate when it was still under direct College management. He also gave his name to another College development – Arthur Garrard Close, for staff housing, off St Bernard's Road. The near-revolutionary creation (some considered it an eruption or even excrescence) of the modernist Beehive building in North Quad also took place, not without controversy within the Governing Body, on his watch. It is said that, when inspecting College farms in winter, Garrard wore some kind of complicated heating apparatus, possibly derived from the heated jackets worn by bomber crews during the war, under his coat to keep out the cold. On his retirement in 1967, he was succeeded by Harry Kidd, an expert on charity law and finance, who was a self-styled 'refugee from the LSE', during its troubles of the late 1960s. In 1968, the sale and management of the remaining North Oxford properties were entrusted to the agents Cluttons and were no longer directly administered from the Bursary. Harry Kidd retired in 1977, and the College reverted to a Fellow Principal Bursar with the appointment of Professor William (Bill) Hayes, subsequently succeeded by Dr Tony Boyce and Professor Andrew Parker. The College now welcomes Zoe Hancock as Principal Bursar. As in the past, modes of operation will necessarily change with the times but the historic purposes and aims of the office of Principal Bursar may remain essentially similar.

Professor Andrew Parker

A Cambridge graduate, Andrew Parker spent time at St Catherine's College, Oxford, and at MIT before joining St John's as Fellow in Physiology. Appointed Professor of Neuroscience in 1996, he has written widely on the physiology of vision, exploring the way in which binocular vision functions and how it is related to other ways of perceiving the world. His work has been recognised with a Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship and a Wolfson Research Merit Award by the Royal Society. He was an Invited Visiting Scholar at the Getty Research Institute for visual art in Los Angeles and also delivered the GL Brown Prize Lectures of the UK Physiological Society. His international reputation was further confirmed by a Presidential International Fellowship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

As this suggests, Andrew has always been enviably expert at multitasking. Even as he researched and taught, he served as Senior Tutor. As Principal Bursar, he also undertook the demanding role of Vice-President in an election year, overseeing the appointment of Maggie Snowling as President. In his time in office, the endowment has increased and the College grown – not least through the completion of Kendrew Quad and the construction of our new library. The College has invested in local business and in overseas property. It is a quite remarkable record of achievement.

In retirement, Andrew will not, of course, stop working. Not least, he has become Senior Research Fellow at the Otto-von-Guericke University in Magdeburg, Germany. It is an index of just how much he did that in St John's that he has been succeeded by a full-time Principal Bursar. We are enormously grateful to him for all his work.



Rory Carnegie

The year of five Bursars

The College has many reasons to be thankful, most especially for the diligent service of its Bursars over many years. Particular thanks go to Professor Andrew Parker (Principal Bursar from 2011–20 and Strategic Projects Officer until his retirement at the end of March 2021), Professor Steve Elston (Acting Principal Bursar for Michaelmas 2019, and Acting Estates Bursar and Deputy Bursar from 2019–21), Professor Kate Nation (Domestic

Bursar from 2019–21 and Establishment Bursar in 2020–21), and Tim Verdon ((Acting) Home Bursar from 2019–21). Longest-serving of all of course has been Professor Sir John Kay as the College's Investment Officer (1987–2020). We are also delighted to welcome Neil Tindall as Domestic Bursar who joined us from Wadham in June 2021.



The first full-time Principal Bursar for over half a century, Zoe has identified four key areas of work.



Zoe Hancock, Principal Bursar

On her arrival at St John's, William Whyte interviewed the latest addition to the Bursary team.

Spiritually, it is a long way from St John's to Merton – a foundation described in current college guides as 'the place where fun goes to die'. Geographically, though, it is far less distant. A short walk or cycle ride will get you there in minutes. Yet it has taken Zoe Hancock the best part of two decades to travel from Merton, where she read Modern History, to St John's, where she is the new Principal Bursar – and the journey has taken her to all sorts of other places.

Merton undoubtedly made an impact. Zoe confesses that for years her recurrent nightmare was one of running to a pigeonhole and failing to find her essay title for the week. But she left behind History on graduation. Having sworn as an adolescent not to follow in her father's footsteps by becoming an accountant, she swiftly followed in her father's footsteps, and became just that. After training at Coopers and Lybrand (now PwC), she moved to Walker's Crisps, and has vivid memories of seeing Gary Lineker at various factories in the Midlands as he worked as the public face of the brand.

Still less predictable was her transition from Walker's Crisps to the British Museum, first as a member of the finance team, and then working in strategic planning. She was responsible for the international strategy and for major capital projects. She also encountered our Honorary Fellow, Sir Keith Thomas, who was a long-serving – and assiduous – trustee.

This would all prove helpful preparation for St John's. But, before she could complete her journey, there was another – seemingly unlikely – stop. Having worked in business and for a major London museum, Zoe moved

to work at Oaklands College, a large further education provider in Hertfordshire, serving as Principal and Chief Executive for a decade. It was a big job. The college educates more than 10,000 students a year and is split across several campuses. Under Zoe, it engaged in a series of massive building projects. Alongside this, she chaired WENTA, a not-for-profit organisation that provides free start-up advice for new businesses.

Coming back to Oxford, Zoe thus brings an extraordinary array of experiences and expertise: in finance and building, in education and public engagement. 'I like making things happen', she observes. St John's appealed because it felt a little like Merton – though more fun, of course – and because its commitment to student access and plans for the future seemed close to her own interests.

The first full-time Principal Bursar for over half a century, Zoe has identified four key areas of work. The first is thinking about how the College can continue to make strategic decisions about its finance, planning effectively for the future. The second is about investment in infrastructure and the college estate, ensuring that our buildings are preserved and our facilities fit for purpose. Thirdly, she wants to encourage a conversation about student support – from application to graduation, and beyond. Last of all, but just as importantly, she wants to support our staff with training and excellent HR processes.

These are big jobs at an uncertain time. But then she is used both to responsibility and to uncertainty. It is a great delight to welcome her to St John's – even if she has taken a rather circuitous route from Merton to reach us.

St John's and the Colonial Past



Over the last year Dr Mishka Sinha has been delving into the archives in search of St John's and the colonial past. Here she explores how even the most apparently commonplace document can reveal some surprising connections.

The Case of the Debating Society Minute Book

The St John's College Student Debating Society was established in 1879, and continued to keep records of its debates in the Society's Minute Books until 1953. The Minute Book displayed here records debates held in the years 1903–13. The debates recorded over the years of the Society's existence offer a dense, detailed and vivid picture of the intellectual, cultural and social lives of St John's students, and the topics – political, social, economic, national, international, and local – that interested and animated them. From the 1870s, when the Debating Society was founded, the university of Oxford, the city, the College, Britain and the Empire were undergoing rapid, unprecedented changes that would alter the shape of each. Two of the most important of these changes for the university was the founding of the first Oxford women's colleges from 1879, and the passing of the Universities Tests Act in 1871, which allowed students from across the Empire – Asia,



The image (from the College Archive) shows (centre, top row) Ahmed Abdul El Ghaffar (1891–?) (St John's College: 1910–13) with fellow members of the St John's College VIII rowing team in 1911.

Ahmed Abdul El Ghaffar (1891–?) (St John's College: 1910–13)

Photograph from St John's College Archive

Ahmed Abdul El Ghaffar was the son of Ahmed Bey Abd El Ghaffar, an Egyptian landowner. Ghaffar read Modern History at St John's and was – as this Debating Society Minute Book shows – an enthusiastic member of the Debating Society. He was also a member of the college Essay Society and read an essay there on the Position of Women in Islam. Judging from photographs from this period kept in College Archive, in which we we have sought to identify him, Ghaffar was also a keen sportsman and appears in photographs of the St John's College VIII in 1910–1913. Here we find him standing, second from the left, with the other members of the College Rowing Team.

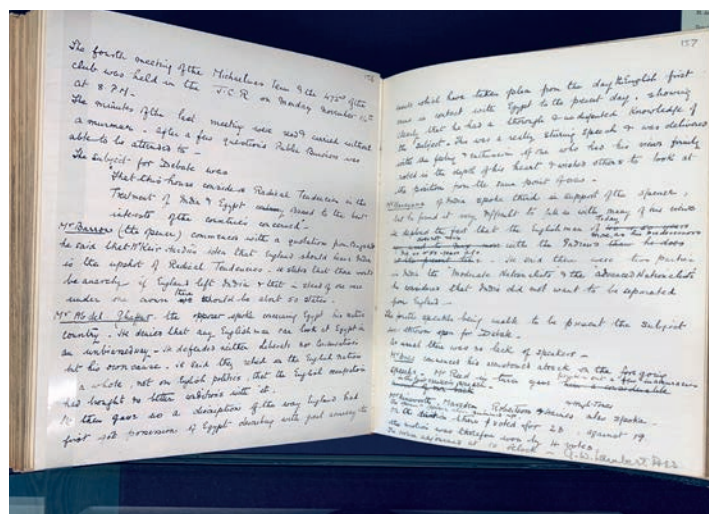
Ghaffar returned to Egypt after university, and is described in college records as being a farmer and Minister of Agriculture and Public Works, Egypt. We know from a Foreign Office Despatch from Cairo in 1950, that Ghaffar was regarded at the British Embassy as a 'leading liberal constitutional deputy.... very outspoken and headstrong'.

Africa and the Caribbean, to study at Oxford. From the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the student debates at St John's show the influence of these new interlocutors.

This Debating Society Minute Book has been opened to a debate held on 14th November, 1910. The subject was: *'That this House considers Radical Tendencies in the treatment of India and Egypt opposed to the best interests of the countries concerned.'* The opener, speaking in favour, was Geoffrey Selwyn Barrow, the son of an Indian army officer, who would die tragically young, in 1918, of pneumonia contracted during active service in World War One. The opposer, speaking second and against the motion, was Ahmed Abdul El Gaffar, the son of an Egyptian landowner, who would return to Egypt after university, and enter politics serving as Minister for Agriculture and Public Works. Speaking third, for the motion and in support of the opener, was Haldodderi Surappa Narayana, the son of an Indian landholder, who would serve in colonial administration in India as Conservator of Forests. Recording the debate and noting the quality and convincingness of the speeches and arguments, was Guy William Lambert, also the son of an army officer, who would join the War Office as a civil servant in 1913, remaining there until 1951.

For us the fascination lies in seeing the debate and its many voices from a range of perspectives through Lambert's eyes – from across the distance of a hundred and eleven years – and sensing through his writing something of the intellectual tension and emotion of the moment:

'He (Ghaffar) gave us a description of the way England had first got possession of Egypt describing with great accuracy events which have taken place from the day the English first came in contact with Egypt to the present day, showing clearly that he had a thorough and undisputed knowledge of the subject. This was a really stirring speech and was delivered with the feeling and enthusiasm of one who has had his views firmly rooted in the depth of his heart and wished others to look at the position from the same point of view.'



St John's College Student Debating Society Minute Book, Volume III, 1903–1913, St John's College Archive



The image (from the College Archive) shows (middle row, seated on a bench, third from the left) Guy William Lambert (1889–1984) (St John's College: 1908–12) with his rowing team. Judging from his position in the centre, he was probably Captain in this year.

Guy William Lambert (1889–1984) (St John's College: 1908–12)

Photograph from St John's College Archive

Guy Lambert, the son of Col. Joseph Alexander Lambert, came to St John's from Cheltenham College on an Open Scholarship. He read Lit. Hum. (Classics) and was Captain of the Boat Club, a member of the Archery Club, President of the Debating Society (in which capacity he kept the minutes of the debates during his presidency) and Vice President of the Essay Society. Lambert joined the War Office in 1913, just before World War One, and continued there as Principal Private Secretary and Assistant Under Secretary of State for War, serving under several Secretaries of State for War until his retirement in 1951. In later years, Lambert was an active member of the Society for Psychical Research, published several papers on the subject, and served as its President from 1956–58.

The Society for Psychical Research was founded in Cambridge in 1882 by a distinguished group of scholars. Among its former presidents are Arthur Balfour, the British Prime Minister, William James, American philosopher, and Sir Oliver Lodge, Physicist and Mathematician.



Reflections of a President

Professor Maggie Snowling looks back over the past nine years.

Looking back over nine years, let alone a decade, is challenging. I still remember the feeling of astonishment when the then Vice-President, Andrew Parker, phoned to tell me that Governing Body wished to appoint me as the 36th President of St John's College – he and I would go on to work together closely for the ensuing eight years. So what could be expected of an outsider, an academic who had little concept of what an Oxford college was and the first woman to hold that role? I really wasn't sure; all I was certain about was that this was an incredible honour and privilege. With that in my mind, I heard my late mother's voice in my head: 'Well, Margaret, you can only try your best' and that is what I've tried to do!

Soon after arriving it became clear to me that this was a much bigger job than I had anticipated. Mindful that my principal role was as Chair of Governing Body, there were also many stakeholders to take into account – not only students, as our educational mission might suggest, but also Fellows, tutors, staff and alumni. And

I was impressed – impressed by the commitment and dedication of all members of College – and I marvelled that it was primarily the Fellows who were running the College as well as fulfilling their teaching, research and pastoral duties.

As it turned out, it was a good thing that I came without an agenda. Rather, I came with the values that I had held throughout my academic career: to uphold the highest of academic standards, to enable those in my remit to fulfil their potential; and to recognise individual differences in people's strengths and needs. On reflection, these have been my guiding principles and have underpinned all that I have done as a custodian of St John's – from supporting access to Oxford, through diverse experiences of College life and as a steward of former members.

A critical imperative has been to maintain the academic standing of St John's and this has been at the forefront of my mind in valuing all disciplines equally, in supporting mentoring for early career researchers, and

Professor Maggie Snowling (left) with Professor Zuzanna Olszewska, Fellow for Women, and Tabassum Rasheed (PPE, 2008) at the final event to celebrate 40 years of women in September.

in making some twenty-two appointments to Governing Body (nine of them women). I have been proud to witness the many successes of our undergraduate and graduate students and to ensure that their academic and welfare needs are addressed. Early in my presidency, however, I became aware of the need to focus on the well-being of Fellows whose time must be protected if they are to deliver the exceptional tutorial teaching that is the hallmark of an Oxford education whilst also conducting cutting-edge research. It wasn't clear how this could be achieved without increased 'professionalisation' and the establishment of a set of 'permanent secretaries' to provide administrative support.

Not everyone shared this vision and the process of change is always hard. Nevertheless, I am pleased that, as my tenure comes to a close, we have a full-time Senior Tutor, Principal Bursar, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Finance Bursar, Domestic Bursar, Academic Administrator, Bursary Manager, Master of Works, Head of Communications and HR Manager who together take care of operational matters, reporting to the Trustees through Governing Body meetings. Of course, some of the historic roles continue to exist, notably the Senior Dean (whose office is now afforded by the Welfare Dean and four Junior Deans), Keepers of the Groves, Bagley Wood, Pictures, Silver and Vestments, and Dean of Degrees.

Far less contentious – except insofar as they entailed some disruption – has been our process of building and refurbishment – again reaching the highest standards as befits this college. Although strictly the province of the Principal Bursar, I am proud to be leaving an exceptional Study Centre offering the best of twenty-first century facilities – and the first 'library' ever designed for students at St John's – a refurbished Auditorium with excellent acoustics, an accessible and welcoming Lodge and an enviable St Giles House, not to forget the 'Greenhouse' that replaced the no longer fit-for-purpose Gardeners' Bothy!

But more important are the intangibles, notably equality, diversity and the larger concept of 'inclusion'. Oxford has changed and is changing still, and St John's remains ahead of the curve: in 2012 I was one of nine female heads of house; I am now one of seventeen. When I arrived, the College already had an Equality Officer and long-established Tutor for Women. In 2014 it had admitted some 2000 women and it was time to 'Celebrate, Enable and Empower' all women of the College: staff, students, Fellows and alumnae. And that is what we aimed to do! We have lasting legacies from 2000 Women, among them a College nursery, a women's leadership scheme run

by our MCR, and a Women's Network which has done wonderful things to bring together alumni to support each other and our students. Time has flown by since then and it is already two years since the College marked the admission of women 40 years ago. We were not to spend the year celebrating women (again) but to take a hard look at where the College had reached in terms of equality and diversity, to learn lessons from the past and to look to the future. We have taken a serious look at access to Oxford, feminism in Oxford, women in science, and the impact of disability on the Oxford experience; much has been learned and will fuel future initiatives to support students' academic and psychological well-being.

Gender is only one aspect of diversity. In 2015, frustrated by the slow pace of change in Oxford in achieving its equality and inclusivity objectives, I joined a small group of like-minded Heads of House who have continued to meet termly to share good practice. The ideas of this group flourished over breakfast in St John's and we made great progress, not least by establishing a cross-College Equality and Diversity Forum, of which I was the inaugural Chair, subsequently setting up two sub-groups to focus on disability and on BAME welfare and well-being.



I came with the values that I had held throughout my academic career: to uphold the highest of academic standards, to enable those in my remit to fulfil their potential; and to recognise individual differences in people's strengths and needs.





Professor Maggie Snowling with her two predecessors as President: on the left Dr Bill Hayes and on the right, Sir Michael Scholar.

Soon afterwards, St John's appointed its first Fellow for Ethnic Minorities to support our BAME students and we established termly dinners to celebrate the cuisine of different nations. This has been the bedrock of our more recent review of the experience of our minority students as they progress through College and into the workplace.

This work links very closely with themes of my scientific work, which has always focused on access to education for all regardless of financial means, background or disability. In 2016, I took a short sabbatical to write *A Very Short Introduction to Dyslexia* and OUP also published our *Nuffield Early Language Intervention Programme* (2018). Both publications attest to individual differences in learning ability and in learning opportunities. This is also why we need to enable those with the highest academic potential to aim for Oxford and for their journey to be supported. In College, I am delighted to have seen the design, development and scale-up of our sustained, evidence-based outreach programme, made possible through philanthropic support. I am also proud to have chaired the collegiate University's Admissions Committee and to have seen through the passage of a bridging programme, *Opportunity Oxford*, for less advantaged students admitted to study here with the usual offer, and a *Foundation Year* aimed at severely disadvantaged applicants which will admit its first students in 2022. Both initiatives are fully funded through the College Contributions Scheme to which St John's is a major contributor – money that is well spent.

Inclusion of course is never a finished task and this was demonstrated by the Black Lives Matters protests in 2020. In the previous year, we had set up a working group to consider the ethics of the College's investing. The work of this group resulted in an ESG policy for Governing

Body to adopt when deciding on issues of investment and, conversely, divestment. In a similar vein, we set up a working group to consider Race and Equality and, sitting alongside the St John's and the Colonial Past project, to consider in the round how to move forward with an action plan to address diversity in College and an anti-racism statement; as a tangible symbol of our values, we will celebrate diversity with an exhibition of portraits of our BAME members from across the generations in 2022.

Much of this is about actual measures, but the larger goal is always to change the informal ethos of the institution. This is a difficult goal to achieve, but I have done what I can to render the College less formal, and more inclusive of staff, students, and Fellows. We have got rid of some of the formalities at dinner, without impinging on the importance and quality of these events. We have a Fellows' disco at Christmas (for the many but to the disapproval of some) and have made Gaudies less about formality and more about sociability. In this journey I have been hugely supported by nine Vice Presidents (we now have two at a time), three PAs, innumerable College Officers, loyal staff, nine sets of JCR and MCR Presidents, Governing Body Fellows and fellow Heads of House. I have learned a huge amount about community, collegiality and inter-disciplinarity and have even co-authored a history book. What I now know is that the values of an Oxford college extend beyond its walls and beyond current and past members; that a belief in education, equality and excellence engenders the trust that is needed to ensure a 466-year-old institution can remain resilient in the face of the many threats it encounters from changes in government policies, financial markets, funding regimes, climate and even viruses. My period in office is coming to an end, but the College is poised to move forward and it will continue to thrive.



Chloe Dewe Mathews

The Reading List

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

PETER BURKE

Peter Burke, *Play in Renaissance Italy* (Polity, 2021)

Peter Burke's latest work provides a wide-ranging and accessible introduction to play in all its forms: from comic verse to practical jokes, pornography to satire, acting to acrobatics. The book synthesises over forty years' research and includes discussion of the *Decameron* which was set in similar circumstances to the current pandemic.



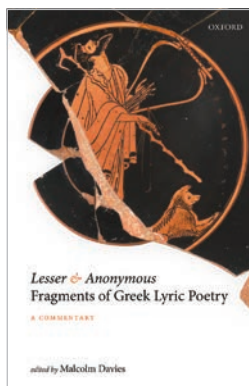
an imaginary banquet, including a long list of different types of food.

Our knowledge of Euripides and Aristotle is expanded by the preservation of a quotation from a victory ode the former wrote for Alcibiades, and of an entire lyric eulogy for a dead friend composed by the latter. Also extended is our knowledge of the tantalising and, in many ways, baffling period of Greek literature between the death of Sophocles and the death of Aristotle. Also included is the scurrilous verse of Timocreon, which extends our awareness of the capabilities of fifth-century literary invective, and its capacity for parody and inversion of the *topoi* of praise poetry.

MALCOLM DAVIES

Malcolm Davies, *Lesser & Anonymous Fragments of Greek Lyric Poetry* (OUP, 2021)

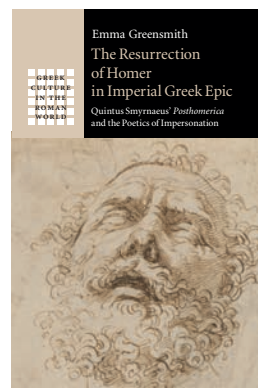
This book provides an authoritative commentary on the surviving fragments of Greek lyric poetry up to the death of Aristotle. No comparable work exists, partly because these fragments are usually small, textually corrupt and difficult to interpret. But they cast light on several aspects of Greek culture: for example, religion and prayer formulae (many of them take the form of hymns), the symposium (they include a collection of *scolia*, drinking songs), and the development of the so-called 'New School' of poetry and music. There are also fragments of poems by Telesilla and Praxilla, two of the rare band of female poets of antiquity other than Sappho, and Philoxenus' *Deipnon*, which puts into dactylo-epitrite metre the contents of



EMMA GREENSMITH

Emma Greensmith, *The Resurrection of Homer in Imperial Greek Epic* (CUP, 2020)

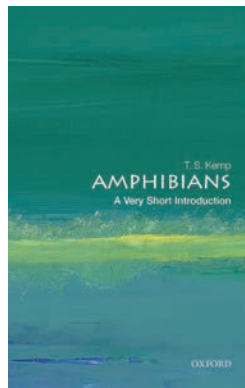
This book offers a radical new reading of Quintus' *Posthomerica*, the first account to combine a literary and cultural-historical understanding of what is the most important Greek epic written at the height of the Roman Empire. Quintus emerges as a key poet in the history of epic and of Homeric reception. Writing as if he is Homer himself, and occupying the space between the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, Quintus constructs a new 'poetics of the interval'. At all levels, from its philology to its plotting, the *Posthomerica* manipulates the language of affiliation, succession and repetition not just to articulate its own position within the inherited epic tradition but also to contribute to the literary and identity politics of imperial society. This book changes how we understand the role of epic and Homer in Greco-Roman culture – and completely re-evaluates Quintus' status as a poet.



TOM KEMP

Tom Kemp, *Amphibians: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2021)

Following on from *Mammals: A Very Short Introduction* (2017) and *Reptiles: A Very Short Introduction* (2019), Professor Kemp's latest work explores the extraordinary diversity of amphibians, from the history of early tetrapods to the 8000 species of amphibians alive today, and contemplates the threats to amphibians which humans pose, and their possible risk of extinction.



CAROLYN LARRINGTON

Carolyne Larrington, *All Men Must Die: Power and Passion in Game of Thrones* (Bloomsbury, 2021)

This latest book on the *Game of Thrones* series generated an article in the *Telegraph* and coincided with the tenth anniversary of the first broadcast of the show. This created considerable reflection on how the biggest TV show in broadcasting history has changed our perceptions both of medievalist epic fantasy and of kinds of stories (about families, about power and politics, and about friendship and human relationships). Given the show's global reach (it has been broadcast in 207 countries), it is clear that the power of storytelling transcends all kinds of cultural boundaries.



RITCHIE ROBERTSON

Ritchie Robertson, *The Enlightenment: The Pursuit of Happiness, 1680–1790* (Penguin, 2020 and HarperCollins, 2021)

The Enlightenment is one of the formative periods of Western history, yet more than 300 years after it began, it remains controversial. It is often seen as the



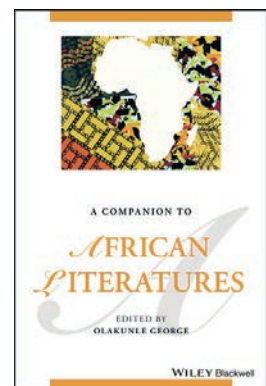
fountainhead of modern values such as human rights, religious tolerance, freedom of thought, scientific thought as an exemplary form of reasoning, and rationality and evidence-based argument. Others accuse the Enlightenment of putting forward a scientific rationality which ignores the complexity and variety of human beings, propagates shallow atheism, and aims to subjugate nature to so-called technical progress.

Answering the question 'What is Enlightenment?' Kant famously urged men and women above all to 'have the courage to use your own understanding'. Professor Robertson shows how the thinkers of the Enlightenment did just that, seeking a rounded understanding of humanity in which reason was balanced with emotion and sensibility. His book goes behind the controversies about the Enlightenment to return to its original texts and to show that above all it sought to increase human happiness in this world by promoting scientific inquiry and reasoned argument. His book overturns many received opinions – for example, that enlightenment necessarily implied hostility to religion (though it did challenge the authority traditionally assumed by the Churches). It is a masterclass in 'big picture' history, about one of the foundational epochs of modern times.

MOHAMED-SALAH OMRI

Professor Omri's co-edited book published in 2010 has been translated into French and published this year: *Echanges culturels et commerciaux dans la méditerranée moderne: l'héritage maritime de Fernand Braudel*, eds. Maria Fusaro, Colin Heywood and Mohamed Salah Omri, Trans. Daniel Verhyde (Presses universitaires Septentrion, 2021).

He also published three chapters in edited books: 'Représenter la méditerranée moderne dans l'Afrique du nord contemporaine' in the above title; 'Representations of History in Times of Revolution' in *On History and Memory in Arab Literature and Western Poetics*, eds. Boutheina Majoul and Yosra Amraoui, (Cambridge



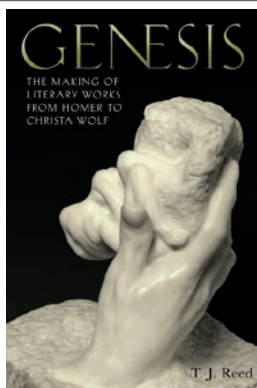
Scholars, 2020) and 'North Africa: An Introduction' in *A Companion to African Literatures*, ed. Olakunle George (Wiley, 2021).

An essay by Professor Omri on the state of the Humanities, originally published in Arabic for UNESCO, was published in English as 'Building equitable knowledge: challenges facing the humanists and the university'.

JIM REED

T. J. Reed, *Genesis: The Making of Literary Works from Homer to Christa Wolf* (Boydell and Brewer, 2020)

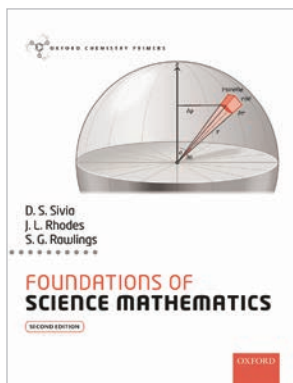
This book seeks the roots of great literary works and the processes by which they arose. It first illuminates the process from idea and inspiration through intention, formulation, revision (and sometimes frustration) to publication and reception. The textual studies that follow range from single poems to epic and dramatic works, from the genesis of new genres to that of a whole career. Professor Reed sets the scene by going back to Homer's epics and the Bible, refreshing familiar scholarly material with new insights. Two early modern chapters then treat Montaigne and Shakespeare. In the book's second half Reed concentrates on his specialty, modern German literature: Goethe, Buchner, Thomas Mann, Kafka, Brecht, Celan, and Christa Wolf. A sense of the origins of literary meaning in each case is a firm foundation for understanding, staying close to the quick of human communication.



DEVINDER SIVIA

Devinder Sivia, Joanna Rhodes, and Steve Rawlings, *Foundations of Science Mathematics OCP 2nd edn* (OUP, 2020)

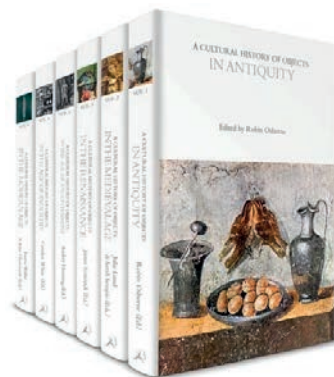
The second edition of Devinder Sivia's now amalgamated Maths books in the Oxford Chemistry Primers series.



WILLIAM WHYTE

William Whyte (Series Editor, with Dan Hicks), *A Cultural History of Objects, Vols. 1-6* (Bloomsbury, 2020)

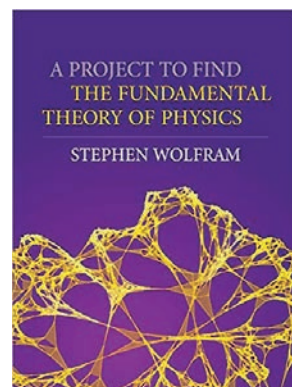
Covering antiquity to the modern age this series examines how objects have been created, used, interpreted and set loose in the world over the last 2,500 years. Over this time, the West has developed particular attitudes to the material world, at the centre of which is the idea of the object. Bringing together over fifty scholars, these volumes examine how the world of human subjects shapes and is shaped by the world of material objects.



STEPHEN WOLFRAM

Stephen Wolfram, *A Project to Find the Fundamental Theory of Physics* (Wolfram Media inc, 2020)

Dr Stephen Wolfram, Honorary Fellow, has released a new book, *A Project to Find the Fundamental Theory of Physics*, alongside the launch of the Wolfram Physics Project. The book provides a unique opportunity to learn about a historic initiative in science right as it is happening. The Wolfram Physics Project is a bold effort to use breakthrough new ideas and the latest in physics, mathematics and computation to find the fundamental theory of physics, often viewed as the ultimate goal in all of science. Written with Stephen Wolfram's characteristic expositional flair, the book includes both an accessible introduction to the project and its background, as well as core technical documents, and breathtaking visualisations that bring to life a dramatic new understanding of how our universe works.



Oxford North aerial looking towards
Oxford City Centre and Headington
Global Health & Life Sciences District



Oxford North

An introduction to a significant new development
for both the College and the city

As a charity with a large endowment the College considers very carefully how best to manage its assets for the furtherance of its educational purposes. We are able to take the long view, planning for the education of generations of St John's students yet to come. This is even truer when Governing Body decides on the use of land that forms part of the College's original endowment.

After many years of discussion, the innovative Oxford North project has made significant progress over the past year. The project will develop land at the top of the Woodstock Road through Thomas White Oxford (TWO), the College's wholly owned subsidiary company, to create a new sustainable innovation district for Oxford. With the success of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine and amidst much talk of the 'golden triangle' between

Oxford, Cambridge and London, with its combination of established and start-up life-science businesses and ground-breaking research in universities, the timing is very propitious.

The site was included in Oxford City Council's Oxford Core Strategy 2026 (adopted in March 2011) and as part of the City's Northern Gateway Area Action Plan in 2015 and has been key to Oxford County Council's vision for how the City supports economic growth. Following the determination of the need to strengthen the knowledge-based economy, provide much-needed housing and improve local and strategic road networks, TWO submitted a planning application. The City Council approved the outline masterplan and detailed first phase in March this year. Work began immediately through Oxfordshire County Council on the A40 transformation, and on



Oxford North will facilitate life-enhancing science and technology research and will create a new district of Oxford where people can live, visit and learn. It will have a positive impact on people's lives and contribute significantly to the local economy.

ZOE HANCOCK, PRINCIPAL BURSAR

necessary infrastructure works. In August, the enabling works' Reserved Matters Application was approved and these infrastructure works started. In September 2021 there was a public consultation with Hill Group on the emerging plans for 318 new homes, 111 of them affordable (and of those 80% provided as social-rental homes with a further 20% provided for shared ownership), and a public park at Oxford North's Canalside.

The overall greenfield site is the largest in the City Council's boundary and covers 64 acres of land. It will be unlocked with around 23 acres of open space, including plans for three public parks. It is envisaged that Oxford North will create 4,500 new jobs, housing for c. 1,500 people in 480 new homes (of which a minimum of 35% will be affordable), and 1 million sq ft (87,000 sq. m.) of space for laboratories and workspaces designed for flexible, innovative ways of working. Oxford North is estimated to boost the economy by c. £150 million.

The vision for Oxford North includes cutting-edge laboratory space to help researchers' ideas become successful commercial businesses. Oxford is one of the most expensive cities in the UK to live in and new housing is much needed. The area has excellent access both to the city and wider transport links, including to Oxford Parkway station, with connections to London, Birmingham and the North. There will be improved public transport and walking and cycle routes to promote sustainable transport modes and reduce car dominance. The project aims to be environmentally sustainable in support of Oxford City Council's commitment to achieving a carbon-neutral city.

TWO is committed to ensuring that Oxford North is recognised as taking a lead on Environmental, Social and Governance within the sector. It will be measuring,



monitoring and managing these priorities and will deliver the approach through alignment of the planning, procurement and delivery of these commitments through the project.

There are more than 40 commitments in the Section 106 agreement with the City Council. These include an innovative employment and skills' strategy with the City Council and OxLEP (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership), along with carbon reduction and social impact. Other commitments include creating biodiversity net gain of at least 10% through significant tree and shrub planting to create a more diverse habitat across the site, pollinator-friendly plants to benefit insects and the whole food chain. Also, Canalside Park will be a wildlife area with new ponds and management regimes to enhance its habitat value with sustainable drainage ponds for surface water drainage. There is also c. £8 million of Community Infrastructure Levy, of which 25% will go to the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum.

The College has appointed three Non-Executive Directors to the Board of TWO (the Principal Bursar, Professor Jan Obloj and Professor Jason Schnell) and has a new Oxford North Committee reporting to Governing Body to provide governance oversight. As a new life sciences district, Oxford North is a very significant development not just for the city but also for the College, securing its financial position – and underwriting its ability to provide a first-class education and research environment for its students and Fellows – long into the future.

The algebra of the observable



Professor Christopher Beem is Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics. An expert in the mathematics of quantum field theory, and in particular the algebraic structures that underpin strongly interacting quantum systems, he here explains what it is all about.

Since at least the early modern period and the work of René Descartes and Isaac Newton, the development of novel theories of physics has been tightly intertwined with the invention of the mathematics necessary to render those theories quantitative and rigorous, sometimes to the point of indistinguishability. Even as the fields of physics and mathematics became better delineated in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the ever-increasing sophistication and abstraction of the frameworks utilised to describe physical phenomena kept the dialogue flowing. In recent decades, and especially in the new century, the nexus for much of this mathematical–physical exchange has been the study of an important class of models known as *quantum field theories* (QFTs). With its origins in the 1920s, QFT has subsequently seen unprecedented success as a quantitative framework for the description of (amongst other things) interactions of elementary particles but has proven stubbornly resistant to efforts to incorporate it into the canon of rigorous mathematics.

A surprisingly powerful strategy for investigating QFTs, which evades any number of thorny technical difficulties, is to disregard the ‘fundamental degrees of freedom’ of the theory (the quantum fields, more on these below) and focus instead directly on the internal consistency conditions that must hold amongst the observations and measurements by which one would

probe the system. This ontological move has roots in the work of Werner Heisenberg on particle scattering in the 1940s, but renewed interest in the last decade has seen stunning progress on a variety of previously intractable problems, along with unexpected new connections with pure mathematics. My own work, currently being carried out under the banner of a European Research Council project, ‘*Algebraic Foundations of Supersymmetric Quantum Field Theory*’, leverages this philosophy to uncover and explore new mathematical properties of certain special classes of quantum field theories.

For the uninitiated, it is not a simple exercise to develop any intuitive sense for what QFT is all about. To be well appreciated, many of the most important facets of the subject should be viewed in light of comparison with those theoretical frameworks that preceded it in the progression of scientific thought. To this end, we start our discussion with the eminent physical paradigms of the nineteenth century and earlier.

The Classical World

In the physics community, it is conventional to refer to the collective classes of theories used to describe nature prior to the quantum revolution of the early twentieth century as *classical physics*. The hypothetical reality that obeys the rules of these theories is the *classical world*. Unsurprisingly, the classical world looks very much like



our own, and indeed is in many ways an intuition-friendly formalisation of normal experience of macroscopic phenomena. The big surprise is ultimately how far from the truth the classical models land!

In the classical world, the fundamental objects were originally thought of as solid bodies (with an idealisation as point particles, with no physical extent or internal structure). The laws of classical mechanics predict the future behaviour of a system of such particles/bodies whose current state of affairs (to wit, their positions, velocities, and orientations, collectively referred to as their *degrees of freedom*) is exactly known. The classical prediction of the future in terms of the present is deterministic in principle, though in practice such prediction will be impossible for systems of sufficient size and complexity, such as a room full of air molecules. (For this situation, the subject of classical statistical mechanics was developed to describe averaged or aggregate behaviour without modelling the dynamics of the individual constituent particles.)

The detailed study of electromagnetic phenomena altered the mechanical picture of the world in terms of particles and extended bodies in fundamental ways, while retaining the key deterministic flavour of the subject. The theory of electromagnetism was put in essentially its final form by James Clerk Maxwell in the second half of the nineteenth century, and it posits the existence of electric and magnetic *fields*, which permeate all of space and evolve in time according to a fixed system of equations (partial differential equations, to be exact) known as Maxwell's equations. Though for some time it was widely expected that electric and magnetic fields could be understood as disturbances of an underlying mechanical

medium, just as water waves are collective disturbances of a large number of water molecules, the fundamental and irreducible nature of these fields was pretty much settled by experiments carried out in the United States in 1887 by Albert Michelson and Edward Morley.

At a higher level of abstraction, we observe that in the classical world, a system is modelled as having a state at any given time that amounts to definite values for all the degrees of freedom. The *observables* of the system are then whatever functions one would like to construct from these basic configurational variables. For example, the instantaneous velocity of the third of a collection of particles, or the square of the magnitude of the electric field at a particular point in space and time. Though it might pose a challenge to devise a physical experiment that would detect any given observable of a classical system with arbitrary precision, in principle there is no obstruction to doing so, and therefore there is no real subtlety to the ontic status of the collective observables. They are essentially one and the same with the description of the system in terms of its underlying degrees of freedom. Surprisingly, this innocuous observation fails to hold true in the theories that superseded classical physics.

Quantum Theory

The scientific world was revolutionised by the development of quantum theory, which got underway in earnest in 1900 with Max Planck's quantum hypothesis on the energy content of light radiation. The theoretical framework that developed over the course of the following three decades represents a departure from the classical worldview, the magnitude of which cannot be overstated. Of particular interest for this essay, the close bond between the basic

degrees of freedom of the system and what can be observed or measured in principle is dramatically severed.

In the quantum world, the state of a system is represented mathematically as an element of a *Hilbert space* (a certain type of vector space with additional structure). In particular, in a vector space, any two elements can be superimposed in linear combination, so given any two possible states of a physical system, another viable state is their *linear superposition*. Roughly speaking, the possible states of a system are then arbitrary linear combinations of the possible classical configurations of that system, the so-called *wave functions*.¹ Just how significantly this situation deviates from classical intuition is well-illustrated by the famous (and hypothetical) Schrödinger's cat, which in certain circumstances could be made to exist in a superposition of life and death!

The observables of a quantum system are described as *linear operators* on the state space (with some additional technical conditions imposed). There is quite a lot of machinery hidden in this statement; most importantly it implies that measurements of a quantum system necessarily disturb the system (they 'operate' on the state space, rather than just reflecting a property of the instantaneous). In contrast to the classical world, where ideal measurements that have no impact on the system under investigation make perfect logical sense, in the quantum world there can be no such thing as a matter of principle. This means, for example, that when performing two different measurements, the order in which the measurements are made may affect the result, and in particular there is no sense in which the results of the two different measurements can be known simultaneously. A famous example of this quantum effect is the well-publicised Heisenberg uncertainty principle, which states that there is a fundamental (and non-zero) lower bound on the uncertainty of the result when measuring both the position and velocity of a quantum particle.

The mathematics required to give a precise formulation of these quantum principles did not exist when the theory was originally being elucidated. Inspired by this situation, John von Neumann and others in the 1930s made important advances in a field of mathematics known as *functional analysis* in order to provide the foundations needed to describe quantum systems with mathematical rigour. In this formalism, there is a striking disconnect between the fundamental degrees of freedom (the configurations of particles in space) and the observables (self-adjoint operators on a Hilbert

space). The observables themselves also have much more mathematical structure than in the classical theory. They obey complicated rules under composition that encode, amongst other things, the generalisation of Heisenberg's uncertainty relation to other measurements. When a set of objects can be added together and composed (multiplied) in a consistent manner, mathematicians say that the set has an *algebraic structure*. So it is that in quantum theory, the set of observables is endowed with an elaborate algebraic structure that goes far beyond anything present in the classical case. The properties of these quantum-mechanical operator algebras remain a subject of active research today, but from a physical point of view this is only the opening act.

Quantum Fields

The original application of quantum theory was to the mechanics of elementary particles (a key example being the study of the Hydrogen atom, comprising an electron and a proton bound together by their mutual electric attraction). However, the existence of fundamental fields, namely the electromagnetic field, meant that the quantum revolution would not be complete until there was a quantum theory of fields. At first, the development of quantum field theory was restricted to the theory of quantum electrodynamics, which describes the quantised electromagnetic field and its interaction with matter. This is because the electromagnetic field was the only known classical field at the time.² But by the late 1920s it had been realised that even what had been understood as particles in the classical world (such as the electron and proton that make up the Hydrogen atom) should actually be identified as excitations of an (exotic type of) quantum field. This democratisation of the quantum world, with fields and only fields as the relevant actors, positioned quantum field theory as the central framework for the description of fundamental physical phenomena, a position it continues to occupy today.

Unfortunately, quantum field theory is plagued by both computational and conceptual difficulties that do not arise in the quantum theory of particles. One can morally think of the additional difficulties as originating in the infinitely larger configuration space of fields compared to particles. Whereas a particle moving in three dimensions has that same three-dimensional space as its possible configurations, the possible configurations of a field are *all functions of three-dimensional space* (roughly, a choice of field value for each of the infinitely many points in space).

¹ A subtlety here is that these are *complex* linear combinations, with coefficients that are both real and imaginary numbers. What's more, the classical configurations in question are now only to the positions of particles, not their velocities. To understand velocities is complicated by the Heisenberg uncertainty principle described below.

² The other most important classical field, the gravitational field, is a more complicated story. Even its correct classical formulation had not been worked out by Einstein until 1915 and attempts to quantise it fall under the banner of *quantum gravity*. This is a treacherous subject, though string theory is a leading contender.



My own research focuses on identifying and exploiting additional structures that equip the local operator algebras of interesting subclasses of theories known as supersymmetric and superconformal field theories.

Making sense of the mathematical objects that generalise the quantum formalism to this setting (e.g., wave functions on infinite-dimensional configuration spaces) poses a real challenge. Furthermore, proceeding by naive analogy in an attempt to compute things, as physicists are wont to do, often led to encounters with nonsensical results.

Still, guided by intuition and plentiful experimental data, physicists largely overcame the most pressing of the practical difficulties and developed ingenious computational prescriptions to allow them to quantitatively predict the behaviour of subatomic particles with unprecedented accuracy. This striking success of quantum field theory as practised by physicists makes the shaky mathematical foundations of the subject all the more unsettling. What's more, as physicists have pushed further ahead in their investigations, especially from the 1990s onwards, they have encountered evidence that some of the conceptual superstructure present in the conventional formulation of quantum field theory may be misleading or even unnecessary. For example, there are many examples where several theories with different sets of underlying elementary fields are nevertheless equivalent in the sense that their observables can be matched up perfectly, a phenomenon known as *duality*. Worse, there is evidence for the existence of consistent models that should by all rights be thought of as quantum field theories, but for which there are apparently no elementary fields at all!

The Algebra of Observables

These circumstances, with QFT enjoying enormous empirical success but with its mathematical foundations out of reach and its conceptual foundations called into question, suggest that an alternative approach to the subject matter might be in order. As the ultimate substance of a physical theory is its predictions for measurements and observations, the most conservative route is to centre the algebra of observables in the discussion. Of course, this can only be the starting point of a viable, standalone strategy if these observables possess enough internal structure and are subject to enough non-trivial self-consistency conditions that an analysis on these terms can get off the ground.

Fortunately, in QFT the algebra of observables has a great deal of additional structure beyond that present in the

quantum theory of particles. Namely, the basic observables of interest are *local*, in the sense that they correspond to measuring some aspect of the quantum fields at a particular point in space. For example, in quantum electrodynamics one could measure the magnitude of the electric field at a *particular point* in space. This organises our observables in important ways, and indeed having this extra geometric structure underlying the algebra of local observables leads to new types of operations.

Of foremost importance is the *operator product expansion*, which describes the behaviour of pairs of local observations that are made very close to one another. Intuitively, performing measurements at two nearby points (call them x and y) should become indistinguishable from performing a single measurement in the limit where y approaches x . This intuition turns out to be spiritually correct, but the details are important, and the actual rules for taking the limit $x \rightarrow y$ are subtle. Remarkably, when formulated carefully, consistency of the operator product expansion with other required properties of quantum observables turns out to be a powerful constraint that can be analysed on its own terms.

The study of consistency conditions arising from the operator product expansion dates to the 1960s, with important progress coming in the 1980s in the case of quantum field theories living in only one spatial dimension. But a series of pivotal discoveries since the turn of the century have reshaped the subject into a vibrant research programme capable of producing mathematically rigorous insights into much more general classes of quantum systems, many of which were previously difficult or impossible to study systematically.

My own research focuses on identifying and exploiting additional structures that equip the local operator algebras of interesting subclasses of theories known as supersymmetric and superconformal field theories. By taking advantage of the special symmetries of these theories, I've been able to identify subsets of observables whose algebraic properties are exceptionally simple, often allowing for a complete analysis. Surprisingly, many of these simplified operator algebras can be recognised as objects of interest in other areas of mathematics, which has led to the construction of new bridges between mathematics and physics.



St John's: open to the world

After years of planning and months of work, the new Lodge is welcoming its first visitors.



Former President, Bill Hayes, opening the Lodge in March

St John's has worked hard for decades to become more welcoming, more inclusive, more open to people from all sorts of backgrounds and all kinds of differences. Unfortunately, our entrance and porters' lodge have communicated quite a different message about the College. Almost entirely inaccessible to wheelchair-users, confusing and off-putting to others, it shut our team of friendly porters inside a sort of glass box, as though they were exhibits that needed to be protected from passers-by. To make matters worse, the inexorable rise of Amazon and other online delivery firms filled the small space inside the lodge with endless boxes of books, bottles, and even – on at least one occasion – a double bed.

This was bad enough. What made it worse was the fact that many other colleges had already refurbished, rebuilt, and reformed their porters' lodge. All across Oxford, indeed, the last decade or so has seen a wave of change as successive colleges have transformed their entranceways.



After many months in temporary accommodation and with the main entrance to College shut, the Porters are now back in their new improved Lodge.



There is now a common approach: step-free access, open gates, low reception desks, and comfortable seating are all effectively ubiquitous. The flow of visitors is welcomed, but also directed, with ornate ironwork separating the quadrangle from the entrance gateway and funnelling people towards the lodge. Given this new vernacular, St John's didn't just look unwelcoming, it looked deliberately – self-consciously – old-fashioned and rude.

Nor were the conditions in which the porters were working at all adequate. They had no proper place to take their breaks; nowhere appropriate to eat meals; nowhere, indeed, for confidential meetings. The porters have a multifaceted role: welcoming visitors, overseeing security, responding to emergencies, directing – and sometimes discouraging – tourists, and much more besides. They also play an important part in the College's welfare provision, whether that's dealing with anxious residents who have lost their keys or supporting students who are

panicking about their work in the long watches of the night. Yet they had nowhere to do any of this, no private space in which to work.

The refurbished lodge is designed to solve all these problems. Expertly fitted into the existing fabric, it enables the College to offer the porters a decent environment in which to work, the students and staff all the pigeonholes they could ever hope for, and everyone a parcel room for the packages they will insist on ordering. Bespoke joinery and ironwork were commissioned and the rooms restored beautifully at the same time. Perhaps above all, with the great gate opened every day, the step-free access and comfortable reception space now up and running, it really is a welcoming space to for a college that seeks to be precisely that. Do come and see it if you can!

Senior Members’ News

Dr Lydia Beresford, Junior Research Fellow in Physics, joined CERN in Geneva in March 2021 as a Research Fellow.

Professor Theresa Burt de Perera, Tutorial Fellow in Biological Sciences, and **Dr Oliver Padgett**, Junior Research Fellow, have been awarded a College grant for a project looking at spatial cognition in a wild seabird, the Manx shearwater, a bird that exemplifies the extraordinary navigational abilities of wide-ranging birds.

Dr Sandra Campbell, Supernumerary Fellow, with Professor Nicola Sibson, Professor Daniel Anthony and Professor Mark Middleton, have been awarded a Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme (DPFS) grant from the Medical Research Council for their project, ‘Permeabilisation of brain metastases for early and more effective treatment’ which will be run from the Department of Oncology.

Professor Sir David Cannadine, Honorary Fellow, came to the end of his term of office as President of the British Academy in July. He has received an Honorary Degree from the University of Strathclyde and was elected the 168th President of the Birmingham and Midland Institute.

Professor Sir Richard Catlow FRS, Honorary Fellow, has been elected as member of the ‘Leopoldina’, the German national Science Academy. He was also awarded the Faraday medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry and co-chaired the Commonwealth Science Conference, a virtual event which brought together over 300 young scientists from all over the Commonwealth in a virtual meeting. In May he became President of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), an alliance of over 140 science and medical academies worldwide.

Professor Sir Rory Collins, Head of the Nuffield Department of Population Health, and Principal Investigator and Chief Executive of UK Biobank, was awarded the Medical Research Council (MRC) Millennium Medal 2020, the MRC’s most prestigious personal award.

Professor Richard Compton, Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry, was elected as a Foreign Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in July 2021.

Dr Samuel Derbyshire, Junior Research Fellow, was awarded the Vilakazi Prize 2019 (this year) for his article ‘Trade, Development and Destitution: A Material Culture History of Fishing on the Western Shore of Lake Turkana, Northern Kenya’, published in *African Studies* 78 (3). The piece is a ‘ground-breaking account of fishing communities on the western shores of Lake Turkana in north-western Kenya, close to the border with Ethiopia and south-east DRC’ and tackles questions of social change, trade networks and identity, arguing for a new historical understanding of the communities studied. The Vilakazi Prize is dedicated to the memory and intellectual achievements of Benedict Wallet Bambatha Vilakazi, in support of new and young scholars in African Studies.

Dr Harry Desmond, Junior Research Fellow, has been awarded a Royal Society University Research Fellowship from October 2021 to continue his work at Oxford on fundamental physics from galaxies.

Professor Richard Ekins, Tutorial Fellow in Law, was on the panel for this year’s Orwell Prize for Political Writing.

Professor Georg Gottlob, Professorial Fellow in Informatics, has won the prestigious 2021 Alonzo Church Award, together with co-authors Christoph Koch, Reinhard Pichler, Klaus U. Schulz, and Luc Segoufin. The award was made for fundamental work on logic-based web data extraction and querying tree-structured data. It is given for an outstanding contribution represented by a paper or small group of papers within the past 25 years.

Heather Harrington became Professor of Mathematics, **Andrei Starinets** became Professor of Physics, and **Jaideep Pandit** became Professor of Anaesthesia in the University’s 2020 recognition of distinction exercise.

Professor Alison Hills, Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy, is a founding member of the new British Society for the Theory of Knowledge, dedicated to furthering philosophical research in epistemology.

Dr Georgy Kantor, Tutorial Fellow in Ancient History, is Co-Investigator on a project to enable publication of a comprehensive, freely available print and online edition of translations and annotations of all surviving Greek- and Latin-inscribed legislation from classical Rome in partnership with colleagues from the University of Chicago. The project is funded by the US-based National Endowment for the Humanities.

Professor Sir John Kay, Emeritus Fellow, was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2021 for services to Economics, Finance and Business.

Professor Kate Nation, Tutorial Fellow in Psychology, together with collaborators Professor Kathy Rastle and Professor Anne Castles, won the Outstanding International Impact category in the ESRC's Celebrating Impact Prize for their article, 'Ending the Reading Wars: Reading Acquisition From Novice to Expert'. Professor Nation was also elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Professor Andrew Parker, Emeritus Research Fellow, will take up office as Honorary Treasurer of The Physiological Society, the largest network of physiologists in Europe bringing together scientists from over sixty countries, in November 2022.

The Most Revd Father Timothy Radcliffe, Honorary Fellow, was awarded the 2020 Old Gregorian Prize. He reports that the prize is for an old boy (then there were only boys) from Downside School whom they wish to remember that year. Timothy notes that he succeeded in getting through his entire school career without winning a single prize, much to the (well-concealed) disappointment of his parents, who would ask gently whether there might be any reason to come to Prize Day. There never was!

Professor Karthik Ramanna, Supernumerary Fellow, won the Economics, Politics and Business Environment category in the 2021 Case Centre Awards and Competitions with a study entitled *Ikea in Saudi Arabia*, co-authored with Jérôme Lenhardt and Marc Homsy.

Professor Ritchie Robertson, Emeritus Fellow, was elected as an Honorary Fellow of Downing College, Cambridge. In September 2021 he retired from what has been renamed (thanks to a donation) the Schwarz-Taylor Chair of German.

Professor Angela Russell, Bernard Taylor Fellow in Chemistry, was awarded the 2021 Harrington UK Rare Disease Scholar Award for her work on new drugs for the treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Dr Karolina Sekita, Woodhouse Junior Research Fellow in Classics, has been awarded a Fellowship at the Center for Hellenic Studies (Harvard University) for 2021–22 and also starts a new role at Tel Aviv University as a Senior Lecturer in Classics in January 2022.

Professor Hannah Skoda, Tutorial Fellow in History, has been awarded a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship. Professor Skoda will use the Fellowship to complete a monograph on nostalgia in the long fourteenth century.

Dr Gemma Tidman, Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in French, has been awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at Queen Mary University of London from January 2022 to continue work on her second book project, *Playing on words: a history of French literary play, 1635–1789*.

Professor Stuart White, Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics, was awarded a Whitehead Prize by the London Mathematical Society in recognition of his contributions to the structure and classification theory of nuclear C^* -algebras and their interplay with von Neumann algebras. (Maths at St John's is in excellent form: other recent winners of Whitehead prizes have included Heather Harrington, Maria Bruna and James Maynard). Stuart was also an invited speaker at the 8th European Congress of Mathematics (online, administered in Portarus, Slovenia) – with another invited speaker being Laszlo Skekelyhidi (Mathematics, 1996). Stuart will also be an invited speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 2022 (in Saint Petersburg).

The Revd Professor William Whyte, Tutorial Fellow in History, was elected Chair of trustees for the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire and Chair of the editorial board for the *Oxford Review of Education*. He was also invited to join the Fabric Commission for Westminster Abbey.



Chloe Devere Matthews



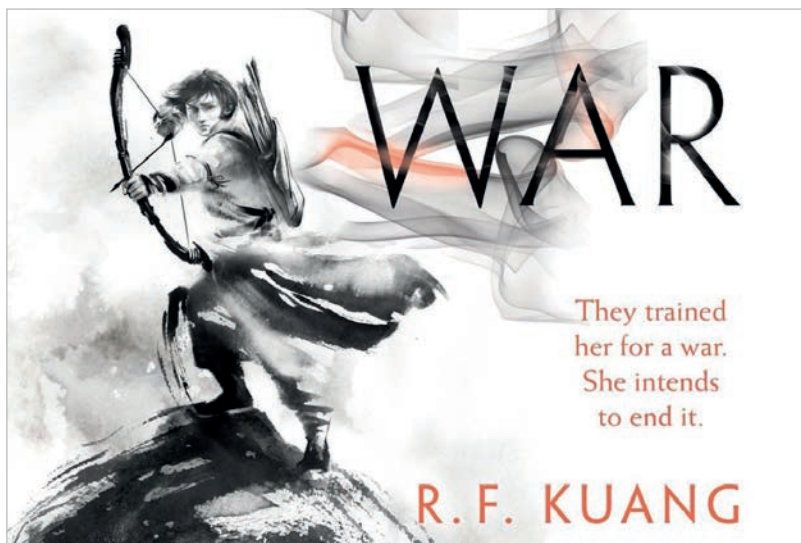
Fantasy is coming home

Vice-President (Academic) and Fellow in English Literature, Professor Carolyn Larrington, is an expert on fantasy literature.

Dragon drawing by Minjie Su

Oxford truly is the home of fantasy. It's a claim that is often made, and it's a strong one. Lewis Carroll was probably the first Oxford author to write in what has become a rich and varied tradition, while in the first half of the twentieth century J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis redefined fantasy writing as specifically *medievalist* fantasy – setting their work in imaginary worlds with strongly medieval or pre-modern features. As senior English professors, Tolkien and Lewis were also instrumental in establishing an undergraduate syllabus that was heavily skewed towards the study of medieval texts.

This was not to everyone's taste – our own distinguished alumnus Kingsley Amis took powerfully against *Beowulf*, as 'a crass, purblind, infantile, featureless heap of gangrened elephant's sputum'. But some



English undergraduates – Diana Wynne Jones and Susan Cooper and later, Philip Pullman among them – were inspired by their exposure to medieval literature in Oxford to use it as a springboard for creating their own particular kinds of fantasy: variously ‘intrusion fantasy’, where magical events disturb a recognisable normality; ‘portal fantasy’, where protagonists are whisked into an alternative world; or ‘immersive fantasy’, where a whole secondary world is constructed.

The Oxford English Faculty no longer sniffs at Tolkien’s epic as having distracted him from his ‘proper work’ and has become increasingly interested in fantasy. There’s now an annual Tolkien Lecture at Pembroke, a series that has hosted enormously popular talks from exciting fantasy writers from around the world and which can be found on YouTube. The Oxford Fantasy Cluster, organised by Dr Stuart Lee, a leading Tolkien expert, and me, held a three-day public summer school at the Faculty in 2018, followed up by a series of audio and video podcasts, recognised as a major contribution to Oxford Humanities’ public engagement work. All these podcasts are freely available from the Oxford University podcast site, and can even be downloaded via Spotify. There’s material on Tolkien, Lewis, Pullman and a good number of other writers who did not study at Oxford: Guy Gavriel Kay, Sylvia Townsend Warner, Ursula K. Le Guin and T. H. White, among others.

At the end of 2020 there was a fair amount of excitement around Project Northmoor, a fundraising initiative to buy Tolkien’s former North Oxford home. A number of questions were raised about this endeavour and in the end it did not come off. But it did galvanise the Oxford Fantasy Cluster into setting up fresh initiatives. Stuart Lee, our research assistant, Dr Caroline Batten and I are busily expanding the podcast offering to include writers of colour, such as N. K. Jemisin and

recent Oxford Master’s student, R. F. Kuang. We are creating study-packs of key fantasy texts for use in schools, and are mapping Oxford’s rich fantasy-related archival and library collections for future researchers. You can follow us on Twitter: @OxFantasyLit, download the free podcasts from: <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/fantasy-literature> and <https://writersinspire.podcasts.ox.ac.uk/themes/fantasy-literature> where there’s even a preview of my latest book: *All Men Must Die: Power and Passion in ‘Game of Thrones’* (Bloomsbury, 2021), along with links to the ‘Modern Fairies’ project (<https://writersinspire.org/themes/modern-fairies>) that explores the way fairies and their stories were reimagined by an extraordinary group of artists and musicians. Researching and exploring Oxford’s role in the history of fantasy is just the first step in the Oxford Fantasy Cluster’s project to bring fantasy home; we have many ambitious plans for the future!



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Coping with COVID-19

Dr Matthew Nicholls, Senior Tutor, explores how students and tutors responded to the pandemic.





Over the course of the following months this virus would affect every aspect of life in St John's while all of us, staff and students, worked to protect each other and sustain the academic life of the College.

On the 23rd January 2020 I received the first email from the University circulation list about a 'Wuhan novel coronavirus'. Over the course of the following months this virus would affect every aspect of life in St John's while all of us, staff and students, worked to protect each other and sustain the academic life of the College. St John's has, of course, weathered epidemics before; in the late sixteenth century the fellows decamped to manors in Woodstock, Fyfield, and Charlbury to avoid outbreaks of plague. But the events of 2020–1 must be the most disruptive episode in our existence since at least the world wars, and it might be interesting to readers of *TW* to read about our collective response.

The College, as you know, is a busy community. We have around 420 undergraduate students, 265 graduates, and 200 staff. Every day there are tutorials and other academic meetings, formal and informal gatherings, dinners, social events, talks, and of course countless private interactions among the students for whom St John's is home. We accommodate a large proportion of our students in a complicated set of buildings on a large site, with many entrances and exits and a mixture of private rooms and public spaces. Undergraduates live in College for the three eight-week terms of the academic year, and many of them will stay in the vacations for academic purposes. Graduate students are often resident year-round. We have a rich mix of students from different countries, whose degrees involve different sorts of teaching or research work. Our staff is diverse, too, with a range of people of all ages working in many different roles.

In short, the College is a complex, multifaceted organisation. It is also an autonomous and self-governing institution within the wider University, and has to balance a responsibility to its own students and staff with the rules, guidelines, practices, and constraints present within

the University, our 38 sister colleges, and UK Higher Education. This is a familiar part of our work, but it made for a challenging year and a half under COVID-19.

As we started to become familiar with the 'Wuhan novel coronavirus', and events unfolded in China, then neighbouring countries in Asia, then in Italy, both the University and the College were operating more or less as normal. Events were running and academic activities were still conducted in person. We were thinking a lot about handwashing and starting to consider the novel concept of 'social distancing' but had not yet substantially altered our life in College.

By February, as the virus spread around the world, the University established a 'Gold' level strategic leadership group, with a 'Silver' team to look at particular questions like arrangements for teaching. College accordingly set up a 'Bronze Group' to handle our own local affairs, and this became the core of our response to the pandemic over the ensuing 18 months. College governance usually proceeds through a series of committees with distinct remits, which make recommendations to Governing Body, but it was already apparent that the pandemic would require rapid decision-making on a more compressed timescale, often dealing with matters that cut across different areas of expertise (for example, decisions about teaching became closely linked to the safe capacity and management of College spaces). This Bronze group of College officers, chaired by the President, met about 60 times, and at the time of writing is gearing up again for the new term.

Bronze Group's first meeting on February 19th 2020 (5th week of Hilary) considered measures to support Chinese students who could not go home for the Easter vacation. We began to be concerned that a large-scale local outbreak might imperil big events like the Ball, access visits, and Degree Days (all eventually cancelled),

but this was still seen largely as a problem in East Asia and protracted national lockdowns affecting entire academic terms were not yet in prospect. But as the seriousness of the situation began to become apparent, things started to move rapidly.

By March 16th, our 9th Week (the day the Prime Minister announced that “now is the time for everyone to stop non-essential contact and travel”), the University had cancelled all timed, written exams during the Easter vacation and arranged online submission of all written assessments; we had cancelled our events and were telling staff who could work remotely to do so. We were fortunate that the first UK lockdown (from March 26th) occurred after the end of Hilary Term. Bronze confirmed that the College was now effectively shut down, with a minimal staff onsite to perform essential operations. We encouraged our students to go home, but over Easter we still ended up with 60–100 students on site, including international students who could not leave because of travel restrictions or spiralling costs. Many other students applied to stay – the first of what would prove to be many rounds of trying to decide who should stay in College (or later, return), and who could not.

By now it was clear that we were facing a significant interruption to College and University life. The financial costs were also starting to become apparent: we have, for example, matched University extensions of up to six

months to the doctoral scholarships we help to fund, and offered similar provisions for our early career research staff. The College was, and remains, most grateful to alumni who stepped up immediately to offer generous financial assistance which we used, for example, to help extend our academic grants to students to meet the cost of remote working, and to assist students in need.

As we moved deeper into the Easter vacation, thoughts turned to Trinity Term, which for many students brings Prelims or Finals. By mid-April it was fairly clear that Trinity Term would be, for most, an online experience. For an ancient institution with a reputation for thinking carefully (often for several years) before it changes anything, Oxford moved very fast. Most first-year undergraduate exams were simply cancelled, with students deemed to have passed. As our undergraduates look to Prelims as an opportunity to earn an academic scholarship, we put in place arrangements to allow tutors to make nominations for these instead. Other exams, including Finals, were to be moved online; University departments had to wrestle with how this would work in practice, and in College we made sure that students had the information and the IT kit they would need to take their papers. In the end the College’s finalists turned in a magnificent performance, with 64 firsts and no-one achieving below a II:i despite the enormous disruption.





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Meanwhile, teaching also moved online. Tutors got used to the constraints of teaching via Teams or Zoom, swiftly adding webcams, graphics tablets, and other tools. Tutors and students found online tutorials tiring, and connection problems could be irritating; those of us working from home, particularly with school-aged children who were now being home educated, faced various sorts of interruption. Overall, though, online tutorials worked (as did most remote lectures; classes and seminars were harder). What became clear as term went on was that students and tutors alike missed the informal interactions around the tutorial, which the particular environment of College makes possible: the discussions on the way to and from the tute, meeting peers in the Library or over lunch, chatting to a tutor in the quad, dropping into the College Office on an administrative matter. The same was true for tutors, for whom the life of the SCR offers a useful chance to catch up and compare notes with colleagues. The abrupt transition to home working reminded us of these special aspects of College life, taken perhaps a little for granted in normal times.

The minutes of Bronze Group show a continuous churn of other matters alongside these big strategic shifts. The complexity of College life – the provision of undergraduate tuition and support for graduates, alongside the provisions for a large student residential population set in historic buildings and grounds – was more evident than ever in the hundreds of questions, great and small and often quite urgent, considered by Bronze and interpreted against the shifting legal constraints of pandemic regulations. Could students living in College property outside the main curtilage come in to collect their post (no)? Could we arrange for someone to play the Chapel organ once a week to prevent its deterioration (yes, with a letter provided to vouch for the essential nature of the work)? Would the College consider making accommodation available to emergency NHS workers (yes, but never needed)?

On May 10th (Sunday of Week 3 in Trinity Term) the Prime Minister announced a phased and conditional lifting of lockdown. This made little immediate difference in College, where we were already committed to a wholly online Trinity Term, but it did signal an easing of the national crisis which continued through the warm 2020 summer of 'Eat Out to Help Out'. Our graduate students began to be able to return to their labs, though many facilities continued to be shut or restricted.

By now our thoughts were turning to the admissions season in the summer (another long story in itself, with the publication and then retraction of algorithmically adjusted A-level grades) and then to Michaelmas term, with plans required for both an in-person and a remote version. Arrangements were discussed throughout the summer as the national situation, and government advice, developed.

By September 2020 it was clear that we were going to resume in-person teaching, and we made arrangements for students to return. The College was fitted with distancing markers, screens, and hand sanitiser in common spaces; tutors' rooms were measured and marked out; we made plans for how to log and manage COVID-19 test results and cases. Our new intake arrived for an extraordinary Freshers' week, with the undergraduate and graduate cohorts divided into multiple groups and the President's speech of welcome delivered online (each Fresher was given some wine and chocolates to take to their room). The library reopened without direct access to books, and with two-hour bookable study slots. The Hall was reduced to 46 socially distanced dining places with others in the Garden and Kendrew Quads. Students were grouped into 'households', essentially consisting of each staircase with its shared access points and facilities.

As Michaelmas term went on, these households came to be very significant. The rules meant that a student with COVID-19, or waiting for a test result, had to isolate along with all members of their household. Accordingly six to twelve students would have to isolate for two weeks for every confirmed COVID-19 case in the College, and for a day or so for every possible case. As cases started to rise in the first weeks of term, spreading largely within households, the number of isolating students therefore grew quickly. The College's welfare team supported them with video calls and frequent contact; the catering team stepped up heroically, serving over 4,500 meals to their doors. By the middle of second week, case numbers were such that tutorials for all students were moved online for a fortnight.



It was a joy to have our students back; as the weather got better the Great Lawn was opened up to students – surely a sign of Extraordinary Times – and was dotted picturesquely with tutorial groups.



By the middle of term we were past our local peak, though nationally the numbers were rising steeply. The second national lockdown from November 5th had less effect on College than the first, as students stayed in residence and in-person tutorials resumed, though serious restrictions were still in place. Visitors to College were kept to a minimum and the ‘rule of six’ was in place for outdoor meetings; most of our usual social and sporting lives were on hold. It was clear that we would need to ask as many students as possible to go home for Christmas, to relieve the pressure on College staff, but until quite late in the term it was not clear how many would actually be able to leave, or how this would be managed. In the end a large programme of lateral flow testing was set up to enable students to take a test before heading home; students were tested, helped by volunteer assistants, in the marquees we’d put up for outdoor socialising. Most were able to go home, though many international students remained with us.

Readers may remember the chaos of Christmas and New Year, as the ‘Kent’ variant started to make itself known. The country accelerated through three and then four tiers of regional restrictions; from limited, through minimal, to nugatory plans for Christmas socialising; from a one-day return of children to school, to a new national lockdown on January 6th. Our College plans for welcoming students back went through at least four iterations over this fast-moving period, from a normal return, through a complicated set of staggered arrivals for different subjects, to a ban on return for students on taught courses. The government softened this by announcing that students could apply to return on grounds of mental health or insufficient workspace at home. This led to one of the toughest periods in our COVID-19 response, as scores of students quite reasonably asked to come back on these grounds, and we had rapidly to develop a system for weighing their requests, mindful that every student coming into residence would need support from catering and cleaning staff, porters, and others. Bronze group set up a panel to make quick decisions, with two layers of scrutiny and appeal; while we could not give everyone the answer they wanted, we tried to be fair and consistent and to balance competing priorities honestly.

As readers will recall, the national situation entered its bleakest phase in the early spring of 2021, with successive variant strains of the disease generating precipitous rises in case numbers and deaths. This was a difficult time. Many of our students were once again working at home, often in less than ideal surroundings and longing to come back to St John’s, and tutors again made the shift to online provision.



The seemingly miraculous aid of the vaccines, and the warmer weather, brought relief. By March we were beginning to sort out the return of students for Trinity, initially prioritising those with exams; by April we, in common with most universities, were allowing back those who felt able to return, and all but 40–50 undergraduate students did so. It was a joy to have our students back; as the weather got better the Great Lawn was opened up to students – surely a sign of Extraordinary Times – and was dotted picturesquely with tutorial groups. Finals were again online, and again our finalists, who had suffered real disruption for nearly half their degrees, performed splendidly; it was lovely to be able to congratulate them at their recent graduation, and we look forward very much to being able to do the same for the 2020 cohort, who await a date as the University catches up with the backlog of postponed ceremonies.

At the time of writing we are preparing for another in-person Freshers' Week, which this year will include 're-fresher' sessions for the new second years who missed so much of their first year. Teaching will be in person again, the SCR and Hall are once more serving meals, and we look forward in hope to something much more like normality. Of course, the pandemic is not over; we have learned to expect the unexpected, but we can congratulate all in the College on their patience, good humour, and hard work thus far in keeping the lights on and the wheels, as it were, turning: teaching and research have carried on, albeit in new ways, the complex refurbishment of the porters' lodge was finished, the new Library and Study Centre won a RIBA award, the College

completed a long-awaited size and shape review of its academic provision, and we elected the 37th President.

The pandemic absorbed a lot of time and energy, and it is right to record the thanks owed. Our students rose brilliantly to a unique challenge, and many people in the College worked above and beyond their usual duties over a sustained period of time – the President and Bronze Group, our tutors and fellows, the welfare team who did so much to support students in need, our administrative, financial, communications, catering, HR, cleaning, accommodation, gardening, and works teams, the porters, the IT staff (truly indispensable in an institution suddenly run over MS Teams), and others. These people balanced – like so many around the world – an extraordinary change in their working circumstances and responsibilities with an equally profound change of life at home, with children off school and contact with family and friends reduced to a minimum for months. Keeping our students and staff safe, and safeguarding the academic life of the College, was no small achievement, and involved making difficult decisions. In handling this we were fortunate indeed in having excellent JCR and MCR Presidents (for the JCR, Phil Fernandes and then Emmet O'Leary; for the MCR, Chris D'Urso and then Alaa Baazaoui), who were able to pass on the concerns of their constituencies and work very constructively with the President and Bronze Group, including at times when emotions were running high. We are very grateful to them, and to our students, colleagues, and alumni; and we look forward with cautious optimism to the new academic year.



Digital innovations in outreach



The College is leading the way in expanding digital outreach provision and coming up with new ways to engage prospective applicants. Dr Hannah Greenstreet, Project Support Officer, *Inspire* Programme, reports.

Since March 2020, we have all had to become as familiar with teaching and learning in virtual classrooms as in physical ones. The closure of school and university buildings in the last year has meant that much of St John's outreach work has moved online. Although born of necessity, moving online has also led to some exciting discoveries. We therefore plan to expand our digital outreach provision in the future to reach our audience of 'digital natives' even more effectively.

Blended learning: *Inspire* Digital and virtual summer schools

All the academic taster lectures and skills development sessions on the *Inspire* Post-GCSE outreach programme have been delivered over Zoom this year. Making the recordings available on *Inspire* Digital after the live session has meant that students are able to watch the talks around other commitments such as part-time jobs, caring responsibilities, or sharing digital devices with family members. Based on positive feedback from participants, we plan to keep the Year 12 after-school sessions online next year. In addition, we will invite students on the Post-GCSE programme to visit St John's to attend in-person Study Days, giving them the best of both worlds.

In 2021, we ran three virtual Summer Schools on *Inspire* Digital for state school students in Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12. The sessions were pre-recorded and were available until September,



The virtual escape room will bring together academic challenges and logic puzzles with the opportunity to discover the college in a fun, informal way.

allowing pupils to engage with the material at their own pace. The digital format enabled us to reach far more students than we would have capacity to accommodate on an in-person summer school, from all over the UK. In future years, we will have in-person and virtual participants at the St John's *Inspire* Summer Schools.

Ambitious plans: Virtual escape room and 3D tour

Even more ambitiously, the Access & Outreach team have been working on plans for a St John's virtual escape room! *Inspire* Post-GCSE Lead (and escape room connoisseur!) Dr Ana Wallis, Digital Engagement Officer Thomas Lockyer and *Inspire* Project Support Officer and playwright Dr Hannah Greenstreet are collaborating to come up with a concept and storyboard, which will be professionally realised by a company that specialises in producing digital escape rooms. The plan is to set puzzles in various locations in College, rendered digitally. In the Old Library, players might solve Maths questions to unlock the Founder's Chest, translate the ancient Greek papyrus, and find the East coast of Australia that is missing from the globe!

The virtual escape room will bring together academic challenges and logic puzzles with the opportunity to discover the college in a fun, informal way. Having tested out a virtual escape room ourselves as part of research for the project, we are very excited about the potential of such digital innovation to increase engagement. We'll also be the first Oxbridge college to have a virtual escape room – a new claim to fame!

Finally, Senior Tutor Dr Matthew Nicholls will use his research expertise in reconstructing 3D digital models of ancient Roman buildings to develop a 3D model of St John's. This will, in conjunction with other *Inspire* Digital resources, enable prospective students and school groups to direct themselves on a self-guided virtual tour of college. And, of course, any alumni who want to roam the quads again on a virtual visit!



Examples of work by pupils on the Summer Schools



The Access and Admissions team

From the JCR

EMMET O'LEARY (2019, HISTORY)
JCR PRESIDENT

In last year's edition of *TW*, my predecessor wrote of his hope that I would have a more normal term of office. It's fair to say that has hardly been true. Instead, we have been forced to get used to a 'new normal' which we neither chose nor welcomed, and in which the goalposts seemed constantly to be changing. An apparent return to some normality in Michaelmas 2020 was quickly thwarted by vast numbers of students being confined to their rooms, and hope for a brighter Hilary by the discovery of a new variant of disease and the return of an instruction to stay at home. I found that a difficult order to grapple with, because my aim as JCR President is to champion St John's as a place where students feel welcomed and safe: a place we can call home. At times this year, we couldn't offer that, and that was something I regretted very deeply, and fought where I could.

Our JCR Welfare Officers and Peer Supporters showed extraordinary dedication and resilience in a time of acute isolation for all of us. The weekly online bake-off, welfare pen pals, gift packages and drop-in sessions were all wonderful, but above all I valued that Alex, Ari and Zoe were constantly available and sincerely concerned about the wellbeing of their peers. For me this represents the core mission of the JCR Committee, listening with care and attention to the concerns of the undergraduate community, and addressing these through the structures available to us. We attend all major College Committees which impact students, and these are greatly important in the development of policy. This year, students' voices have been heard at the table as decisions were made on academic and welfare support, the rate of rents for the next year, and even in the shortlisting of presidential



candidates. But all this is also helpful in allowing JCR Officers to build mutually beneficial relationships with key decision makers, and ultimately to fight for the interests of undergraduates.

Trinity was a term in which those relationships bore much fruit, and we were delighted to be able to support a range of events in College which made life feel a little more normal. From coffee to crêpes, ice cream and even an outdoor street food bonanza, it was good to be together in person once again, especially amidst the stresses of exams for many. We were able to gather safely in Hall for celebratory dinners, and finalists enjoyed their Schools dinners. It was a point of personal privilege for me to be able to join our Muslim community to break the fast during the Holy Month of Ramadan, with a free Iftar held in Hall once a week.

The JCR is pivotal in making St John's a welcoming and enriching place for students, and for that reason it has been an honour to serve as its President. As we emerge from the pandemic, this is a time of great organisational change, with a new College President and our first ever professional Principal and Domestic Bursars. The JCR exists to bridge the gap between the College as a changing organisation, and the students who call it home at any given time. Being together is the core of what we do, so I will always be grateful for the people I have met here and the time we have shared together.



From coffee to crêpes, ice cream and even an outdoor street food bonanza, it was good to be together in person once again, especially amidst the stresses of exams for many.

From the MCR

ALAA BAAZAOUI (2019, INTERDISCIPLINARY BIOSCIENCES)
MCR PRESIDENT

A demanding year lies behind us; we lost count of the number of lockdowns, cancelled flights to get back home and coffees at the University Parks. The past months have certainly been a challenge for our community; our members were scattered all over the globe, our research faced numerous obstacles and access to University and College facilities was restricted. Despite all these trials and tribulations that postgraduate students had to face, we kept going and tried our best to maintain a sense of community.

In the autumn, we welcomed a new cohort of postgraduate students to St John's who got paired with their 'MCR parents and siblings' during Freshers' Week, along with other virtual events organised by the committee. When groups of six were allowed to meet outdoors in the college bar marquee, we were willing to freeze outside in the cold to see our friends. At the mulled wine event, we managed to feel a bit warmer and meet our fellow MCR members in person before the next lockdown was announced.

We've come a long way since the start of the academic year. Trinity Term brought the relaxation of some rules which allowed us to see each other after months of isolation. The college organised many treats for us to keep up the sense of community. International hall and Iftar dinners celebrated diversity at the College. We met up to drink coffee and eat cake in the college garden after long days of research and studying. We laughed and enjoyed ourselves while eating ice cream and crepes at North Quad. On a sunny day when the weather could



not be more stunning, we gathered for a special St John's Street Food Lunch – a perfect day that made us almost forget that the pandemic continued.

With the support of College, we were able to host socials at the college bar marquee, a space that became very central for the community. So far, we have competed in a board game night, discovered college-owned Bagley Woods, collected tokens on the College site as part of a week-long treasure hunt, watched the *Cruella* film screening, hosted our first in-person wine and cheese and are soon planning to host our summer formal.

Behind the scenes, the committee has worked hard to ensure that the interests of postgraduate students at St John's are heard. The College was generous and very supportive in the Rents and Charges committee meetings where improvements were made to College grants to mitigate the effect of the pandemic on students. The College has also shown generous support in improving the MCR building to provide a welcoming social space for the postgraduate student community.

Even though at the time of writing we are experiencing a new spike in cases, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccine uptake in the MCR has been extraordinarily high with a large proportion already fully vaccinated. The next academic year can only be better and we look forward to welcoming a new cohort of students soon.



MCR Committee summer drinks 2021

Sport Review 2020–21

Professor Stuart White, Tutorial Fellow in
Mathematics and Sports Officer

As with many aspects of College life, 2020–21 was an unusual year for College sport. Just before Michaelmas Term we were pleased to reopen the College gyms under restricted capacity, and a rather ad-hoc booking system. The captains of the College sports teams got to grips with the new sporting challenge – COVID-19 administration – dealing with ever-changing government and national sports association guidance, to produce the required health and safety paperwork for organised sports clubs. Most of this was unfortunately in vain, as lockdown restrictions were introduced early on in Michaelmas. This was before most teams had managed to take to the field, though exciting new strikers emerged in the men's football team and scored eleven goals in the two games they sneaked in before lockdown. Both games were quite close, so things must have been less rosy at the back.

When lockdown hit, sporting activity had to move to exercise in groups of two, and online. The Christchurch Regatta left the water, changing format to a collection of challenges typically to be run in pairs. This gave the President a chance to compete – presumably the first President to take part in the event? – running alongside the MCR President.

With restrictions starting to ease over the Easter Vacation, much more sporting activity became possible in Trinity with most College teams making up for lost time and Cuppers events taking place for both 'winter' and 'summer' sports. Congratulations to the Saints Women's Football Team, who made it to the semi-finals; most of our other teams focused on the enjoyment of taking part! After two years of cancelled rowing regattas (pre-pandemic disruption had been caused by high water levels in late 2019 and early 2020), our boats made it back on the water for a delayed Torpids, taking place in Week 7 of Trinity Term. Despite relatively inexperienced crews in both the women's and men's boats, our rowers performed above expectations – the men's boat being the best-performing crew compared to the pre-race statistical

predictions, with the highlight being the bump of Hertford College who started two spots ahead on Day 3.

At University level, Varsity matches in a number of sports were postponed to Trinity or the Long Vacation. St John's students represented the University in a whole host of sports, from American Football to Tennis. A number of our students were selected for two teams. Congratulations to Eve Morris Gray (Cycling, Cross Country), Sophie Whitehead (Modern Pentathlon, Water Polo), and Isabella Stephens (Athletics, Cross Country). Amazingly Grace Molloy found time to pick up four Blues – in Orienteering, Athletics, Cross Country and Football – and won the long-distance British Orienteering Championships, qualifying her for the World Championships.

Squash was one of the last College sporting facilities to reopen in early Summer. While the enclosed nature of the squash courts made them a high COVID-19 risk, I'm told the real villain was a squirrel who bit through a pipe! With the courts not being in use, it took a while before the flooding was detected. Many thanks to the College's Works department for the fabulous refurbishment job they've done on the courts, which have now been brought up to date with new flooring, glass doors and new changing facilities.

The end of Week 9 saw the delayed Town and Gown run featuring the President, former Sports Officer, at least six other Fellows and around eighteen Junior Members. Congratulations to Dr Kate Doornik on her first 10k in a very respectable time, and the Senior Tutor – the fastest Fellow in this year's race – who smashed his personal best (and now has his eyes on longer distances). Later in the summer we held our first MCR vs SCR and staff rounders match, and enjoyed a celebratory BBQ.





In Memoriam

Remembering members of the St John's College Community

1943**Jo Bossanyi**

11/05/1924–04/01/2021

1944**Philip Bowcock**

28/04/1927–13/07/2021

The Revd Arthur Brown

09/01/1926–15/10/2020

Dr Desmond Orr

02/12/1926–07/12/2020

Gordon Parke

28/04/1926–12/04/2021

1945**Keith Matthews**

29/02/1928–01/12/2020

1947**Thomas Hurley**

01/12/1925–01/03/2021

Eric Walton

04/11/1924–27/12/2020

1949**Bishop Alec Graham**

07/08/1929–14/05/2021

1950**Professor John Dupre**

20/02/1931–30/12/2020

The Revd Michael Newman

28/12/1929–09/11/2020

1951**Brian Hussey**

30/08/1931–06/12/2020

John Robson

04/04/1933–17/06/2021

1952**Professor Robert Hellwarth**

10/12/1930–20/01/2021

1953**David Faulkner**

23/10/1934–02/11/2020

The Revd Keith Innes

25/04/1933–09/03/2021

His Honour Peter Slot

03/12/1932–05/05/2021

Ivor Smith

24/08/1932–17/05/2021

1954**Sadiq Al Mahdi**

25/12/1935–27/11/2020

The Revd Alan Cliff

30/01/1936–09/11/2020

1956**Oliver Prince-White**

06/07/1935–06/12/2020

William St Clair

07/12/1937–30/06/2021

Philip Waller

15/10/1935–06/04/2021

1959**Dr John Byrt**

24/12/1940–15/01/2021

Dr Pieter Kark

03/12/1940–15/06/2021

John Livesey

14/10/1940–19/07/2021

1960**Dr John Mantle**

05/06/1937–03/03/2021

1961**Dr Robert Dossetor**

20/10/1942–12/04/2021

Dr Richard Lorch

13/06/1942–17/02/2021

1963**Jon Carpenter**

02/05/1944–11/06/2021

David Edmonds

10/01/1945–15/04/2021

1964**Adrian Axford**

16/10/1945–11/03/2021

James Cooke

19/03/1945–09/11/2020

Professor Andreas Teuber

05/05/1942–15/02/2021

Professor Jon Westling

07/06/1942–01/01/2021

1965**David Barchard**

09/06/1947–25/12/2020

Lord (Andrew) Fraser

02/12/1946–06/02/2021

1966**Dr Alan Rae**

22/02/1948–19/10/2020

Professor Bernard Tinker

01/02/1930–31/01/2021

1968**Dr Richard Emmerson**

11/10/1946–04/10/2020

Professor Don Mason

24/03/1934–13/01/2021

1970**Dr Robert Fleming**

16/04/1951–02/02/2021

1976**Richard Ledsham**

06/08/1957–10/05/2021

1978**Paul Thornton**

04/09/1959–23/07/2021

1984**Kathryn Sygrove**

16/12/1965–06/02/2021

1999**Richard Diffenthal**

29/09/1980–03/05/2021

2008**Annika Fawcett**

11/03/1986–02/01/2021

2020**Alviar Cohen**

26/06/2002–21/06/2021

This is a record of those whose deaths we have been informed of in the last year, up to 31 July 2021. We regret any omission and please do write to us if this has happened. We rely on information given to us by alumni, family and friends. Our publication schedule means we are not always able to include appreciations for all of those listed. If you would like to write an appreciation to appear in a subsequent issue, please do contact us.

Honorary Fellow

RT REVD ANDREW ALEXANDER KENNY GRAHAM

As theologian, teacher and bishop, Alec Graham was an important figure in the Church of England for many decades. ‘Wise and eccentric’, in the words of one admirer, he was acknowledged by one Archbishop of Canterbury as a ‘theological polymath’.

After Tonbridge School and National Service, he came up to St John’s as a Scholar, graduating with a Second in Modern Languages. He followed this with a diploma in Theology, focusing on modern German thought and especially the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Leaving St John’s to train for ordination at Ely Theological College, he was briefly a curate in Hove before returning to Oxford as chaplain of Worcester College; combining this, first, with a role as a lecturer and then, from 1960–70, as Fellow and Tutor in Theology. He was a notable success as a tutor and as a pastoral presence within the College, as confident discussing knotty theological problems as he was cheering on the rugby team from the touchline.

In 1970, he became principal of Lincoln Theological College, presiding over a general improvement in academic standards and encouraging a succession of women as well as men to undertake training for ministry. His success there was recognised in 1977, when Robert Runcie appointed him suffragan Bishop of Bedford. A comparative lack of previous parish experience proved

unproblematic as he threw himself into the work of serving an area undergoing rapid social change.

Four years later, in 1981, he was called to become Bishop of Newcastle, a demanding role that from 1987 he combined with the taxing responsibility of chairing the Church of England’s Doctrine Commission. Both jobs called for wisdom. His diocese was far from wealthy and experiencing real economic turbulence. The Doctrine Commission was buffeted by disputes within the Church over fundamental theological principles. His ability to ride out these storms was marked by the award of a Lambeth Doctorate in Divinity. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of Worcester in 1981 and of St John’s in 1986 (although he only acknowledged the latter in *Who’s Who*).

Retiring in 1997, Bishop Graham served as an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Carlisle. He was unmarried and filled his life with many friends, including his frequent walking companion, Professor Nancy Lambton, a Persian expert many believed to have originated the coup against Mossadegh in 1953. He was also well-known for his love of dogs, with successive Labradors – Leah and Zillah – often employed as interlocutors in difficult meetings. He was saluted in one tribute as ‘a wise, clever, and holy bishop’.



Staff

MICHAEL SIGGERY



Michael (more commonly called Mick) Siggery was manager of the College bar from November 1983 until his retirement in 1999. He passed away on 16 May 2021.

Born in Temple Cowley, after a spell in the RAF stationed near Bath, Mick always worked around Oxford, including at the car factory when it was still the British Motor Corporation. He was a keen football fan (Chelsea rather than Oxford United was his lifelong passion) and he played with – and later managed – the BMC Service Casuals' team in the 1950s and 60s with the team enjoying considerable success in the Sunday League.

Gregarious and fun-loving, Mick was the perfect manager for the bar and was ably supported by his daughter, Cheryl. His son, Martin, became the manager of the Lamb and Flag. Mick was often to be found raising the spirits of lonely students with a game of cribbage or dominoes over half a pint – and usually losing on purpose to tempt them into a further pint. His practical jokes and wind-ups could be elaborate: one visitor was kept talking in the bar whilst a half-dozen eggs were removed from her shopping, hard-boiled and then returned, all without her knowledge; on another occasion, after rather too merry a wine-tasting trip with Tim Webber (SCR Front of House Manager) and Paul Ashman (Steward of Hall), Paul was alarmed to be rung up by the Lodge a few days later and asked what he wanted to do with the five hundred cases of Madeira that had arrived (they hadn't of course).

Mick's other great interest was animals, from the pigeons he kept in the 1960s (he changed them for a parrot after he developed a chest infection) to his greyhound, Shearing's Break. Scooby, his 14-year-old Jack Russell, competed in agility competitions across the country and won over twenty first-place prizes.

Mick had hugely enjoyed his time at St John's and was very moved when a celebration was organised for his 75th birthday with staff, Fellows and a very large number of alumni who returned to Oxford for the party. His funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church in Headington Quarry and, although sadly held under COVID-19 restrictions, a number of College staff were able to attend. C S Lewis is buried in the same graveyard and was also a regular at the church: Mick would proudly relate to the churchgoers that, when younger, he was Lewis's paperboy.

He is survived by Maureen, his wife of 63 years, his children and grandchildren.

If you have memories of Mick you would like to share, please send them to communications@sjc.ox.ac.uk.

BARBARA WILSON



Barbara Wilson worked as a Library Assistant from August 1999 until her retirement in July 2014. She passed away in December 2020.

Barbara was born in 1931 in Warwickshire and qualified as a librarian, initially working in Surbiton where she met her husband of 61 years, Christopher. After raising a family of six children, she joined the Information Office at Harwell near Didcot and subsequently worked for several Oxford college libraries. Barbara is survived by her children and nine grandchildren. The archetype of a granny, small with white curly hair and twinkly eyes, Ruth Ogden (Deputy Librarian) well remembers Barbara's joy when her grandchildren started to arrive.

We also remember **ROGER KITCHEN**, Lodge Porter, 1998–2012, who died in January 2021.

Alumni

JO BOSSANYI

Jo Bossanyi was born in 1924 and came up to St John's in 1943 to read Zoology. He died in January 2021. We are grateful to his daughter, Ilona, for this appreciation.

My father Jo Bossanyi, who died on 4 January in Oxford in his 97th year, was an environmental scientist and lecturer whose approach to teaching was driven by his belief that a well-educated public would be key to addressing the alarming degradation of the natural world.

Born in Lübeck, northern Germany, the only child of Ervin Bossanyi, a celebrated Hungarian stained-glass artist, and Wilma (née Maasz), he fled with his family from Nazi Germany to London, at the age of ten and without a word of English. In 1943, he won a scholarship to St John's College, Oxford, where he read Zoology. His experiences of wartime Oxford are vividly recorded in his memoir, *From Art to Zoology*, completed shortly before his death and now in press.

After taking his degree and with the encouragement of prestigious mentors such as JZ Young, Alistair Hardy, Peter Medawar and the entomologist Miriam Lane (née Rothschild), whose mother was a childhood friend of his father's in Hungary, Jo embarked on a career as a researcher in marine biology.

His first post was with the Marine Biological Station on the Isle of Cumbrae, attached to Glasgow University. He moved in 1948 to Newcastle University's Dove Marine Laboratory in Northumberland, where he became a founder member of the Institute of Biology and developed a new sampling technique for sea-bottom plankton, published in the *Journal of the Marine Biological Association* in 1951.

Building on public interest in the laboratory's aquariums that he was responsible for, Jo launched extra-mural lecturing in marine biology and ecology for communities in the region through Newcastle University's Adult Education department. He was often accompanied by Octavius the octopus, a favourite laboratory specimen, in an aerated glass tank beside him. Octavius 'shaking hands' with Jo was a great success with their audiences.

Moving to London in 1957, he became a lecturer for London University external degrees. Over sixty years later, several of Jo's students were still in touch and writing to him about the way his teaching turned their lives around and put them on track towards their own distinguished careers in biology, environmental science, social ecology and psychology.

In 1963, Jo was offered a newly created post at Southampton University, to head adult education in

marine biology and ecology. He developed an entirely new environmental science degree course based on interdisciplinary studies combining humanities with 'hard' sciences – now known as human or social ecology – which involved memorable study trips with students to different climatic regions of the world.

After retiring in 1985, my father continued to travel, from personal interest in other environments and cultures but also to disperse his late father's artwork in public collections around Britain and Europe. He also worked with a team of art specialists to co-edit a book about his father, *Vision, Art and Exile*, published in 2008. In 1993 he completed a family history entitled *Shapes in the Mist*, which highlights the devastating effects of the totalitarian politics that caused the deportation of his 91-year-old grandmother to Auschwitz and scattered his family and friends across the world.

Jo married Lucie Gevaert, daughter of the Belgian artist Edgar Gevaert, in 1950. They separated in 1974 but remained friends until Lucie's death in 1990. My father had a gift for friendship as well as for teaching and will be greatly missed by his three children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and his many friends across the world.

PHILIP PARNELL BOWCOCK

Philip Bowcock was born in 1927 and came up to St John's in 1944 to read Modern History. He died on 4 June 2021. We are grateful to his children, Stella, Matthew and Oliver, for this appreciation.

Philip Bowcock was born in Chebsey, Staffordshire. From an early age he showed an academic bent and loved reading. At 16, he gained an open scholarship to St John's to read History and went up in 1944. Philip thrived at Oxford and was elected secretary to the University Conservative Association where he succeeded Margaret Roberts (later Thatcher). He also explored his Christian faith which became a lasting and quiet influence throughout his life.

After earning his degree, Philip completed national service as an officer in the 15/19 King's Royal Hussars. His regiment was stationed in Khartoum, and this taste of travel and the charm of the Arabic speaking world sparked his interest. In 1949 he joined the Sudan Political Service and was sent to the Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies in Lebanon to learn Arabic. He kept his Arabic skills for life and also learned many other languages.

In 1951 he started as an Assistant District Commissioner in Khartoum, and in 1952–3 was posted to Western Nuer district, Upper Nile Province (now Unity State, South Sudan). During his time in Khartoum, he met Brenda Stephens, a midwife in the hospital. They married in Malakal in 1952 and worked together in Western Nuer until Sudan's independence in 1954. Philip then moved to work with the British Overseas Civil Service in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) as a District Commissioner, having previously taken the first part bar examinations. During this time, his three children were born.

When Philip returned from Zambia, he joined the Home Civil Service and became a Principal in the Ministry of Technology in London. Although the work was interesting and his colleagues stimulating, Philip decided, when offered favourable terms as an Articled Clerk in his uncle's solicitors' practice in Staffordshire, to turn to the law once he had taken the second part bar exams.

Philip flourished in Staffordshire and became senior partner in Bowcock and Pursaill, Leek. His years there were happy, and he was not ready to retire at age 67 when Brenda unexpectedly died. In time, he decided to move to Otford, Kent to be nearer family.

He made many friends in Otford. When Philip died, he was still a member of a political discussion group, a history group, a literature group, a regular bridge four, the Sevenoaks chess club as well as U3A. He was an active member of the Athenaeum club in London and often attended events at St John's, even though he sometimes complained of being the oldest alumnus there.

In his later years, Philip wrote his memoirs *Last Guardians* which is still available on Amazon. It is a fascinating story of working in three crown civil services and then the law.

Philip loved his garden and planted over 250 trees in various gardens in his lifetime. Philip was a lively optimist who was always interested in people. His was certainly a rich and varied life.

THE REVD ARTHUR WILLIAM STAWELL BROWN

Arthur Brown was born in 1926 and came up to St John's in 1944 to read Theology. He died on 15 October 2020. We are grateful to his nephew, Raymond, for this appreciation.

Arthur was the youngest child preceded by three sisters and born in Malvern where his father was a headmaster. His father had been gassed in the First World War and ill health forced a move to Winchester in 1928 where Arthur became a chorister at Winchester Cathedral from 1936 to 1940. From 1940 to 1944 he was at Bradfield. From 1944/45 and 1948/1950 he attended St John's College Oxford. He was proud to follow in the footsteps of his father and especially his grandfather in attending

St John's College. From 1945 to 1948 he did National Service with the RAF.

From 1952 to 1963 he was an assistant master at St George's School Windsor Castle, which enabled him to continue his interest in music and choirs. Since his death the writer has been contacted by friends of Arthur from both Winchester Cathedral Choir School and St George's School, remembering with fondness those far-off days.

In 1963 Arthur was called to the priesthood and studied at Cuddesdon Theological College until 1965 when he was ordained. He then became a curate at St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh until 1967 when he moved to St Mary's, Sheet near Petersfield, where he was Curate in Charge. He became the Vicar of St Alban's Portsmouth from 1975 to 1979.

Good fortune was to come his way in 1979 when he became the Rector of what was then known as St Bartholomew the Great in the City of London. It put him at the heart of wonderful people, wonderful music and choirs, wonderful ceremony and so many other interests and last but not least a magnificent church which had survived the Great Fire of London. Many of his friends have contacted the writer since Arthur's death with memories of the special times they had with him.

He formally retired in 1991 when, for a couple of years, he became Chaplain of Holy Trinity, Funchal, Madeira. Then he acquired a delightful and tiny house in Little Silver very close to Exeter Cathedral which enabled him to continue to enjoy music, choirs and ceremony.

Ill health encouraged a move to Clare Park near Farnham where he had a period room overlooking the countryside.

Arthur had a lifelong interest in canals and railways and fortunately a good sense of humour. The author of this article remembers Arthur in the 1950s on a boat hook gently sinking beneath the surface of a canal, much to the amusement of the St George's Chapel organist and myself. He had an adult tricycle which he enjoyed riding in his clerical robes, much to the consternation of lorries and other road users. He had a passion for various injustices including and, in no particular order, homelessness, electoral reform, freedom from torture and the bombing of Dresden.

During his time at Oxford he was introduced to Masonry which remained a lifelong interest and provided many great friendships.

GORDON PARKE

Gordon Parke was born in 1926 and came up to St John's in 1944 to read English. He died on 30 December 2020. We are grateful to his daughter, Rowena, for this appreciation.

Gordon Parke came up to St John's after his spell as a coder in the Navy at the end of the war. He didn't take

the surrender of the Japanese personally on HMS Glory but was around keeping a diary, news of the weather and Luton Town football results. It was at Oxford he met my mother, Eunice Gerber, who was at St Hilda's, and who died five weeks before him. He played cricket and rugby and together they attended CU meetings and punted. Graham Ross Cornes and Elizabeth Lloyd Jones, later Catherwood, are friends that were lifelong, among others.

They went on to teach and run Great Walstead School, near Haywards Heath in 1953. My father was a greatly respected Headmaster and loved by pupils and staff. He took on and built up the school following the legendary RJ Mowll, of the genre that plumbed his own classrooms and kept a 12 bore by the open window for rabbits and moles.

After he retired from Great Walstead and moved to Barcombe he taught at Bramblyte Prep school, amazing younger staff by taking games in the pouring rain. He amazed us by buying a tracksuit, having spent his years at GW only changing his clothes by putting on wellies! Sunday night, suit and wellies for British Bulldog! He continued to teach Latin at Ashdown House too and invigorate the Chess club.

Barcombe School then benefited from the chess experience and he umpired for the Cricket Club. My parents were hospitable and welcoming. Lockdown was a sadness as Church and Home Group were lost but they continued to walk round the village engaging with all until he fell over on 14 October and died on 30 December.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER MINNIS

James Minnis was born in 1923 and came up to St John's in 1946 to read French and German. He died on 28 August 2020. We are grateful to his partner, Tessa, for this appreciation.

James Christopher Minnis joined the Navy in March, 1942. Lieutenant J.C. Minnis RNR was demobbed in the spring of 1946 and, in the autumn of that year, went up to St John's to read French and German. Jim, with others, had to fetch their landing craft from northeast England and sail it round to Portsmouth. From there, aged 21, he was in command of the landing craft and was part of the D-Day landings.

On coming down from Oxford, Jim taught at the King's School, Ely, Churcher's College in Petersfield and was thirty years teaching French and German A level at Guildford College. He was pleasantly surprised when all his A level students passed! German takes a long time to mark, Jim told me.

Jim spent two years in Vienna with the Educational Interchange Council. There he met his wife, Mina, who predeceased him. They had four children. Jim was proud of his Celtic background. He wrote poetry. He was a member of Haslemere U3A Shakespeare group, which he hosted.

THOMAS GERALD HURLEY

Thomas Gerard Hurley was born in 1925 and came up to St John's in 1947 to read English Literature. He died in August 2020. We are grateful to his daughter, Clare, for this appreciation.

Born in 1925 in Wirral, Cheshire, Tom had served for several years in the RAF before taking his place at Oxford. Initially trained in radar, he was then sent to India, where the country was in the process of gaining independence. In India, Tom was assigned as a teacher on the RAF bases. This brief period of teaching informed the rest of his working life.

Tom returned to England and Oxford to take a second in English Literature. Of his time at St John's, he talked fondly about his tutor John Wain, one of the original 'angry young men', and about attending lectures by C. S. Lewis. During the long vacations he went fruit picking in Kent and in France with college friends.

On leaving Oxford, Tom's teaching career began with a two-year stint at St Edward's College in Malta. Having returned to England, he taught English at Colstone's School Bristol and St Mary's College Crosby. At both establishments he became known for directing plays.

In the early 1960s, Tom got an appointment as lecturer at Notre Dame College, a Catholic teacher training college in Liverpool. He quickly became deputy principal. The college went through a rapid development, merging with two other teacher training colleges to form what is now Liverpool Hope University. He was a well-known figure in local education and inspired many future teachers. After over 25 years, Tom retired as academic registrar in 1990.

Tom married Angela Colgan in 1962 and they settled in Wirral to bring up their three children. Tom had a long and active retirement, travelling with Angela, involved with his local parish and taking many courses. In 2017, Tom and Angela left Wirral for London to be closer to their family. Following Angela's death in May 2018, Tom then enjoyed spending more time with his children.

Tom died at the age of 94 in August 2020. He is survived by his son and two daughters.

PETER HUGHES

Peter Hughes was born in 1932 and came up to St John's in 1950 to read Chemistry. He died on 29 June 2020. We are grateful to his daughter, Gwyneth, and son, Edmund, for this appreciation.

Popular phrases such as 'living life to the full' or 'making the most of life' may be clichés but they also sum up the life of David Evan Peter Hughes who recently died just after his 88th birthday. He was also an accomplished chemistry teacher who had a very full and successful

career, holding both head of science and headmaster positions in some of England's top private schools. The tributes from his friends and colleagues show that he was also entertaining and well-liked and his published chemistry school textbooks, his work for The Cambridge Examination Board and scientific journal articles co-authored with his pupils all attest to his intellect and ability to communicate science.

Peter was born in 1932 in London. He won a scholarship to St Paul's Boys School, London and from there was awarded a scholarship to study Chemistry at St John's. It was there that he met his future wife Iris Jenkins. As well as studying Chemistry, he was a serious and committed Anglican. At university and throughout his career he was keen to reconcile science and religion and he later gave many talks and speeches to both academics and congregations on this topic.

After graduating from Oxford, he took up a teaching post at Shrewsbury School where he remained for 23 years and had a family. As Head of Science and then Second Master, he designed and built new laboratories which were much admired. He then took up a post as Head of St. Peter's School, York where he organised the building of another science block, this time opened by Prince Charles. But a long-term position at the helm was not for him, and he moved back to the chemistry teaching he loved at Westminster School. Once more he put his talents to overseeing the development of new science laboratories, this time opened by Her Majesty the Queen.

Iris was a lover of history and interested in classical civilisation and Peter shared her passion in the many holidays they enjoyed abroad. They visited countries and historic sites which are now inaccessible such as in Yemen and Libya. His spirit of adventure extended to some tough mountain and hill climbing in both Wales and Scotland which he continued well into his seventies.

Iris and Peter held celebrations for both Golden and Diamond Wedding Anniversaries. These were joyous occasions and he gave his guests personal and entertaining speeches in which everyone got a mention. Another Royal endorsement – a letter from Her Majesty the Queen congratulating them on their Diamond Anniversary – is a tribute to their long and happy marriage.

Sadly, his daughter Rosamund is no longer with us, but he is survived by his wife Iris, daughter Gwyneth and son Edmund. As a father, husband and friend he is much missed.

WILLIAM JOHN HURLSTONE ROBSON

John Robson was born in 1933 and came up to St John's in 1951 to read Classics. He died in 2021. We are grateful to his brother-in-law and friend, Andrew Edwards (1958), for this appreciation.

John Robson was a student at St John's between 1951 and 1955. He went on to teach at Fettes College, Merchant Taylors' School and, as Head of Department, at Bristol Grammar School before becoming an esteemed Headmaster for 20 years of Bury Grammar School in Lancashire.

Brought up in Staffordshire, and a pupil at Newcastle-under-Lyme High School, he won a Classical Scholarship to St John's at age 16. He then worked on a farm before spending four happy and fulfilling years at St John's. The superb tutors who taught him there included the legendary Donald Russell, who later became a great friend, and he graduated with Firsts in Mods and Greats.

After St John's, he felt a strong calling to educate the young. With much encouragement from Donald Russell, therefore, he became a teacher and taught Classics for fourteen years at the schools already mentioned.

I was one of his pupils at the first of these schools, Fettes. Razor-sharp in intellect, incisive, and full of opinions and insights on a formidable variety of subjects, vigorously projected in a strong voice, he made an unforgettable impression. He somehow managed to transform the teaching of an extraordinarily narrow curriculum, based on translating difficult classical texts, into a happy and enlightening experience. His pupils at all three schools won many scholarships to Oxbridge.

Keenly interested not only in classics but also in religion, politics, games and other school activities of all kinds, he loved to propound arresting theories and to dissect weak arguments, by politicians, sportsmen, generals and visiting preachers not least, always in an entertaining way. After quoting the offending phrases, he would emit a huge laugh followed by a shout of 'ludicrous!'

Like his colleague Eric Anderson, John became ever more successful, the more senior he became. After his 14 years of classics teaching, he became Headmaster of Bury Grammar School in Lancashire and served there for 20 years, 1969–90, as a highly successful Headmaster.

His first great achievement was to lead the school into independence in the mid-1970s when the Government's Direct Grant was withdrawn. Staunchly Conservative, and a strong supporter of the Grammar School ethos, he opposed the option of letting the long-established school be absorbed into the comprehensive system. Instead he championed the case for independence, assuming a new and prominent role as leader, public advocate and fundraiser alongside managing the school.

His other great achievement was to develop thereafter a highly successful independent school, with outstanding

teaching and facilities across the sciences, arts and games.

Important elements in this success were a large, well-judged programme to extend the fabric and resources of the school and skilful selection of outstanding staff. No less important was his keen focus at all times on doing the best that could be done for each and every pupil at the school so as to give them the best possible chances of achieving success in higher education and in life. This he saw as his own, and the school's, foremost duty.

Alongside all his duties of leadership and management, he knew every pupil personally, read every school report, attended all inter-school sports, every play and concert, every parents' evening. All this while also bringing up a young family.

After twenty years at the helm, he felt a little exhausted, not surprisingly, and decided it was time to hand over the reins. Retiring with his wife Ruth, my sister, to Ludlow, he devoted much time to preaching and pastoral roles as a greatly respected Reader in the Church of England, preaching thoughtful sermons, visiting the elderly and often taking them communion. He had earlier planned to become ordained but later felt he had been right to remain as a lay preacher and reader.

More recently, as church membership declined, he became concerned about the prospects for Christianity. He felt that the church needed to find a new way, applying the central Christian visions in the real world and re-thinking some of its traditional doctrines, including the Trinity. Its members should not, he thought, be obliged to regard tales which strained the credulity as being literally true or to hold specific beliefs on many matters about which there could be no certainty.

Also in these last years, he kept telling me how much he regretted that Donald Russell, who had often stayed with him and Ruth, had missed out on the accolades which many other scholars had received. We agreed that something must be done, and this led directly to the commissioning by luminaries of the College and the Classics Faculty of the College's fine portrait of Donald at age 97 which now hangs in the Faculty building.

John and Ruth were a loving couple for fifty-four years. He visited her every day in her nursing home during the five years for which she survived after some debilitating strokes.

He died in June, peacefully, after a few months of serious illnesses. The flags of Bury Grammar School flew at half-mast for him. So too will the flags in the hearts of all of us who were close to him. His family will miss him sorely, as will countless former pupils, colleagues and parishioners.

PROFESSOR ROBERT HELLWARTH

Robert was born in 1930 and came up to St John's in 1952 to read Theoretical Physics. He died on 20 January 2021. We are grateful to his son, Tom, for this poem.

Elegy for My Father – I'm going to call it 'Pancakes and Eggs'.

I owe you.

For the pancakes and eggs,
And the hook shots,
Not the elbows
But the hard competition
Played for focus, not to harm.

I owe you praise.

For shifting my eyes
To faraway nooks
And faraway crannies
To touch small shards in the earth's dirt,
And walk on windy pavements.

I owe you more.

For the example of love as work
And work as proving love,
Not for appearances
For seeking findable truths,
And winking at the ones just too fine.

I owe you thanks.

For showcasing the beauty outdoors
Above the timberline
Below the meteors
Heated by curiosity
And the things we don't yet know.

I owe you a loving goodbye.

Not because I believe
That we are apart
Or, that you're not thinking about something.
Because love has its own laws,
And you make me
Want to figure them out.

Tom Hellwarth

JAMES WATSON

James Watson was born in 1932 and came up to St John's in 1952 to read Jurisprudence. He died on 28 March 2020. We are grateful to his son, Jay Watson (1984), for this appreciation.

Jim Watson was a commoner of the College, reading law under Edwin Slade, having written the entrance exam in Classics. Jim's three years at St John's were among the happiest of his life. He always loved to talk about Oxford

and St John's, and had many great stories and memories. His only regret was that he missed getting a rugby Blue (he had played two years for England Schools and had also won the England Schools 440 yds).

During his lifetime, he started and ran his own business, and arranged the design and construction of his own, still arresting, house, both in collaboration with his wife Marwyn. Jim and Marwyn had two sons, Jay and Max.

An anecdote: Jim told me of an exchange at a Gaudy many years ago between himself and, I think, Ross McKibbin (I hope Dr McKibbin will forgive the error if it was not he). Jim Watson: 'I think I was Edwin Slade's worst pupil.' Ross McKibbin: 'I say, that's quite a boast!' (This may only be appreciated by those sufficiently old to remember the unique Mr Slade.)

Jim last visited St John's in late 2017. By that time, his dementia was quite advanced, and he recalled little of the College. However, he did seem noticeably more relaxed once we sat down in the Lamb and Flag for lunch and a pint.

Jim's innate kindness and modesty were appreciated by all. As a husband and as a father, he scored under the posts.

THE REVD DONALD KEITH INNES

Keith Innes was born in 1933 and came up to St John's in 1953 to read Theology. He died on 15 December 2020. We are grateful to his daughter, Rachel, for this appreciation.

After reading theology at St John's, Keith trained at Clifton Theological College, Bristol for ministry with the Church of England. While at Oxford he met Gillian (Gillian Lowe, St Anne's 1954) whom he married in 1959 and with whom he brought up three children: Rachel, Jeremy and Mary.

Keith served his curacies in an outer London suburb and in Ealing before taking up his first incumbency in the heart of rural Norfolk. From here he moved to a parish in Woking before returning to rural ministry in Surrey, Sussex and later Kent. During this time he developed a deep interest in, and concern for, the environment: in Christian stewardship of the world, the theology of environmental concerns and the practical outworkings of this. Those who knew him from the late 1980s on have commented on his concern for the environment and God's creation long before this was a mainstream issue and on how this has not only left a lasting legacy in the parishes where he lived and worked but also contributed to this becoming a more prominent concern.

In their retirement Keith and Gillian settled happily in Ringmer, East Sussex for seventeen years. Keith particularly valued the opportunity to own his own home and put down roots. During his early retirement he studied for an MPhil in theological studies, through Trinity College, Bristol, which allowed him to develop his

interest in theological aspects of environmental concern.

Sadly, in 2014 Gillian was taken suddenly and seriously ill. She battled with cancer for the next year until August 2015. Soon after her death, Keith decided to move to a retirement home – where he spent almost five years continuing his theological studies and enjoying trips out with family. For the last few months of his life he lived at the College of St Barnabas in Lingfield where he was able to receive nursing care. He died in December after several years of suffering with a progressively debilitating chest condition.

HIS HONOUR PETER SLOT

Peter Slot was born in 1932 and came up to St John's in 1953 to read Jurisprudence. He died on 15 October 2020. We are grateful to his family for this appreciation.

Peter Maurice Joseph Slot was born in London in 1932. He was educated at Bradfield in the immediate post-war years. He was inhibited in his youth by his stutter.

After leaving school, for his national service, he was recruited to Cambridge to spend two years learning Russian, in order to become a Russian interpreter. It was in the process of becoming fluent at Russian that his stutter left him. This opened the door to the career that he always thought closed to him, which was to become a barrister.

As a barrister, he specialised in commercial disputes. In 1982, he became a circuit judge. He was quickly appointed to the Old Bailey where he was the youngest judge in the highest court in the land. He became known for his versatility, switching from commercial cases to criminal and then, in his later years before retirement, to family law.

He was known affectionately in the law courts as 'Slotty'. He was also known, at the Old Bailey, for taking positions that were sometimes regarded as compassionate, always firm and occasionally controversial. The late Lord Denning, a judge who was appointed Master of the Rolls, was once given an entire editorial page in the Daily Mail explaining why 'decisions such as the one made by Judge Slot are to be applauded'.

He was married to Eiluned Lewis in 1962. They have five children, none of whom, to his dismay, shared his ability for quoting Shakespeare and *The Ancient Mariner*.

In retirement, he started a business as a stamp dealer. He also continued to work as a lay-preacher in his village church in Betchworth, Surrey. A book of his collected sermons, *A Layman's Faith*, was published in 2013.

One of his favoured subjects for his sermons was Remembrance Sunday. In one such sermon, he writes that those who gave their lives 'have left it to us to build the peace, to bring the justice, to live with the honour and, in the end, to turn the moral vision into reality'. That is certainly how he tried to live his life.

IVOR JOHN SMITH

Ivor Smith was born in 1932 and came up to St John's in 1953 to read Statistics. He died on 17 May 2021. We are grateful to his family for this appreciation.

Ivor was born in 1934 to Ronald and Enid Smith. In his last year at school, he gained a scholarship to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, reading for the Maths Tripos. This was followed by a one-year postgraduate diploma in Statistics at St John's.

On 1 October 1956 Ivor took up a permanent post at Associated Ethyl. His secretary was Joyce Linacre, who Ivor was to marry on 11 October 1958. In 1967 he was sent on his first computer programming course and increasingly computers (IT as it became), was the main focus of Ivor's work and responsibility. Ivor kept up an interest in statistics and became closely involved with the development and application of international standards relating to the precision of test methods.

On the recreational side, Ivor had a lifelong passion for stamp and postmark collecting; this was almost matched by his enthusiasm for trains and train travel. He also had a great love of classical music and opera, and this he indulged through attending many live performances and productions.

Ivor and Joyce had two children. Alistair was born in July 1959, and Fiona followed in January 1961. Ivor was tremendously proud of them both. Alistair was quite happy for Fiona to produce Ivor's five grandchildren! Julia was born in 1986, followed by Sam and Emily, later to be joined by Thomas and Charley. Joyce was a great source of strength and support to Ivor throughout their marriage. Tragically her life was cut short in 1998 when she died of a pulmonary embolism following radical surgery for deficiencies in the functioning of her pituitary gland.

At this point in their lives, Ivor and Joyce were Church Secretary and Minute Secretary respectively for the United Reformed Church at Over. Consequently, in addition to the Church family losing Joyce as a person, on the practical side, it missed her secretarial skills. The minister at that time asked Stephanie Scholes, an Elder in the Church, if she could help with minute taking. Taking up this role meant that Ivor and Stephanie were required to work together for the Church; this working relationship developed into a closer personal one, and they were married in May 1999.

THE REVEREND FRANK ALAN CLIFF

Alan Cliff was born in 1936 and came up to St John's in 1955 to read Jurisprudence. He died on 26 October 2020. We are grateful to his family for this appreciation.

Alan was born in Morecambe, Lancashire in 1936. He attended the Lancaster Royal Grammar, leaving in 1955

to begin studying for a degree in law at St John's College, Oxford. During his second year, he felt a strong calling to join the ministry, having been influenced by the Evangelist Billy Graham. After completing his degree in law and a diploma in Theology, he gained a place at Fitzwilliam College to study Theology.

In 1960, Alan married his wife Rosemary and over time they went on to have four children and nine grandchildren. He was immensely proud of them all. In the same year he married, he started his career as a Methodist minister and was initially placed at Gorleston, Norfolk. Later he served in Edinburgh and Wrexham, where he was Superintendent at both. He was much loved by his congregations for his passionate preaching and excellent pastoral care. Dogged by ill health, he had to take early retirement in 1987.

As a means of recovery, Alan was encouraged to take up writing. He was a life-long train enthusiast and wrote a popular long-running series in the British Railway Magazine called 'Lock's Siding' which led onto a series of children's books called 'The Adventures of Jack the Station Cat'. In retirement, his passion for railways saw no bounds and he built up a large collection of scale models and memorabilia and was a great supporter of railway preservation. He was hugely respected in the railway community, having a vast knowledge, and was frequently sought out for this.

Alan was everyone's friend and really enjoyed meeting people, being genuinely interested in them. He will be remembered as one of life's true gentlemen and will be hugely missed by all his family and many friends.

PHILIP HEBBERD WALLER

Philip Waller was born in 1935 and came up to St John's in 1956 to read Physics. He died on 13 February 2021. We are grateful to his family for this appreciation.

Philip's love of and talent for maths and physics started to shine while he was at Collyers Grammar school in Horsham, West Sussex. His brilliance at problem solving would be one of the many skills and talents that ran through the rest of his life and work. At 18, Philip was awarded a scholarship to study at St John's, and, having completed his national service as an engineer, became the first in his family to go to university. During his time there, Philip coxed for the St John's rowing team and sang in the college choir.

After graduating in 1959, Philip began working within electronics and electrical engineering industries. In 1968 he met and married the love of his life, Tina. Together they enjoyed many happy times and international travel with their four daughters. By 1980, with encouragement from Tina, Philip set up his own consultancy, Waller Designs. Working within the UK and internationally,

he developed and grew the business, becoming a highly sought-after expert, providing unique solutions to highly complex problems in the field of ultrasonics.

Philip's time at St John's helped him develop his incredible brilliance and creativity for problem solving. It also provided him the opportunity to enjoy and expand other creative pursuits, which he would continue to enjoy throughout his life. Philip loved life and all it had to offer, writing and producing amateur dramatic productions with Tina, learning multiple languages, running marathons, travelling, learning to play the guitar and singing in choirs – to name but a few.

And with all the passion and love he had for life, there was one love that would always outshine the others – his love for his family. His wife Tina and their four daughters Sara, Charlotte, Philippa and Penelope, who were all with him at home in the final months of his illness. Exactly as he wished. Philip died as he lived, solving each problem as it arose with intelligence, determination and often humour. He leaves his family and friends with the legacy of how to truly appreciate what one has, simply solve the next problem and let go of what can't be solved, believe in yourself and make sure you squeeze every last drop of juice out of the one life you have.

WILLIAM LINN ST CLAIR



Professor Paulina Kewes

William Linn St Clair was born in 1937 and came up to St John's in 1956 to read Literae Humaniores. He died in June 2021. We are grateful to Professor Richard Holmes for this appreciation.

William described himself in the records of the British Academy (to which he was elected in 1992) as 'an independent scholar'. He was most certainly that. But he was also a passionate Philhellene, a dauntless traveller, a sceptical Byronist, a formidable controversialist, a fearless explorer of lost archives, and an ebullient companion at a late night supper. Over four decades he established

himself as an original biographer of Romantic writers; but more than that, as a generous and Romantic friend and supporter of his fellow biographers. His name appears on innumerable Acknowledgement pages, my own included.

I first heard rumours of William St Clair as a mysterious, heroic lone figure striding over the Greek hillsides in the late 1960s. Given his wonderful early book, *That Greece might still be Free*, to review for *The Times* in 1972, I found 'a brilliant and bitter history'. I have loved and admired his work ever since. I knew him, and also did not know him, for over forty years, and valued his kindness and learning, and faint air of mischief and mystery. I recently found an early postcard from him, dated April 1987, asking how my proposed book about Coleridge was progressing, offering 'a few scraps about him that might be of interest' (they certainly were) and concluding: 'Have you tried laudanum? I think it's your duty as a responsible biographer.'

That 'independent' academic career was distinguished. A quick but by no means complete summary would include his election as Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1973, and his Visiting Fellowship at All Souls, 1981–82. Then followed his full Oxbridge Fellowships: at All Souls (1992–96) and at Trinity College, Cambridge (1999–2006). At that period, I recall a late-night research visit to the Codrington Library (as it then was) ending in William's silent but triumphal progress round the book stacks, pulled along in the wheeled book trolley like a royal chariot, while he pointed out the rare editions.

After 2007 he settled as Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, London University. I remember the big print of 'The Death of Lord Byron at Missolonghi' on the wall of his tiny, book-packed office in Senate House, and the continuous stream of professors and PhD students visiting and asking his advice.

Independent also in matters of intellectual property, hating paywalls and commercially restricted book pricing, William became co-founder of Open Book Publishing, which gave so many young academics a chance at first, accessible publication – a list that now runs to over 250 titles.

His own books were remarkable, and diverse in every sense. He published his first study *Lord Elgin and the Marbles* in 1967, which became the standard account of the international plundering of the Parthenon sculptures. When reprinted in 1998, he added an explosive Chapter 24, giving a controversial and gleefully argued account of the British Museum's damaging stewardship, and recommending their return to Greece and the new museum at Athens.

Trelawny, the Incurable Romancer, 1977, wittily exposed the biographical mythmaking of Byron's freebooting companion, especially during the Greek War of Independence. It contains a nonchalant account of

William's own investigative climb into Trelawny's piratical retreat, the notorious 'Black Hole', a huge cave set 90 feet up the sheer rockface of Mount Parnassus. William airily describes scaling an ancient iron ladder to reach its sheer, open ledge 'like the panoramic balcony of some fantastic alpine hotel'. (When I clambered up there twenty years later, supported by an ex-member of 2 PARA, I was almost paralysed with terror.)

The Godwins and the Shelleys, 1989, was again original in William's fearless expedition into the enormous Abinger archive in the Bodleian, stretching his biography across two Romantic generations, and revealing the shared inheritance of radical ideologies (both anarchist and feminist) between them. This included, incidentally, an exact record of how often Godwin and Wollstonecraft made love, by brilliant analysis of Godwin's cyphers in his manuscript diary, which no previous scholar had noticed. I associate this book with a memorable ideological supper in a small Italian restaurant off Victoria. William had invited Michael Foot (ex-Leader of the Labour Party, and passionate Byronist) to dine with his young nephew, the campaigning journalist Paul Foot (equally passionate author of *Red Shelley*). The four of us hotly debated Byron versus Shelley for several hours, with William chairing, until arguments became laughter and we were ushered out into the cool night air.

Mapping Lives: the Uses of Biography, 2002, co-edited by William and Peter France, was an outstanding collection of essays surveying British biography within a European context. William's own contribution was 'The Biographer as Archaeologist', a brilliant reflection on the contingent survival of biographical evidence. It contained a fine cautionary tale, telling how he had once tried, as a biographical experiment, to destroy the evidence of his own youthful diaries, by throwing them into a Scottish loch tied to a large stone. They were politely returned by post a few weeks later.

The Reading Nation in the Romantic Period 2004, was perhaps his most unexpected yet widely influential work, a huge 700-page source book rather than a single biography. It opens up a wholly new perspective on Romantic reception theory. It investigates how an entire national culture can be understood through 'quantitative' study – book sales, book costs, print runs, new editions, copyright, book ownership and the transmission of ideas and intellectual property. In other words, apart from reviewers, who actually read what, and when, and how? Packed with tables and statistics as well as anecdotes, it shows William at his most commanding, scholarly and comprehensive.

By contrast *The Grand Slave Emporium*, 2006, is a short and impassioned study of Cape Coast Castle, the notorious British slave trade station on the West African coast. Long before the Black Lives Matter movement, it is another of William's sudden brilliant returns to forgotten biographical (and in this case naval) archives. Vivid,

painful and intensely atmospheric, it investigates the appalling story of the trade, but includes the extraordinary Romantic tale of the betrayed and exiled poet Laetitia Landon ('the female Byron') who tragically died out there, almost forgotten until William rediscovered her.

William was committed to the idea of biographical justice, and loved a good controversy. Over the return of the Parthenon Marbles, of course; but also such things as whether Coleridge's supposed translation (1816) of Goethe's *Faust*, published as such by OUP (2007), could possibly be genuine. Crisp and charming, but also fearless in his talk, his characteristic interjection – 'Hmm? Hmm?' – briskly invited agreement or dissent. His eyes glittered behind his benign specs; but his smile was completely disarming. He was always prepared to disrupt a sleepy seminar, or an over-comfortable academic conference, with shrewd and sometimes disruptive questions. He had a Godwinian belief in intellectual honesty and the awkward truth. His big new book, *Who Saved the Parthenon?*, the subject of a lifetime's fascination, will be published by his Open Book Publishing this autumn 2021.

I shall always treasure our endless discussions of biography, and never forget his book-lined eyrie in Eaton Place, London, with its popping gas fire, its many first editions (Shelley, Coleridge, Byron, Conduct books), its haunting brooding portrait of Mary Wollstonecraft dominating one wall, but also his Oxford oars hung above the fireplace. He sent me a late email during the COVID-19 lockdown, remarking on a wild flower that had suddenly sprung up in a neighbour's abandoned window box. 'It is already two feet high. I like to think it is like the olive tree on the Acropolis which suddenly burst back into life in 480 BCE and is still there. – William.'

Note

For further obituary notes and family memoirs, see the Open Book Publishing site: <https://blogs.openbookpublishers.com/in-memoriam-william-st-clair/>.

NICHOLAS JOHN LEONARD

Nicholas Leonard was born in 1939 and came up to St John's in 1958 to read French and Spanish. He died on 22 September 2020. We are grateful to his wife and daughters for this appreciation.

Nicholas spent his early childhood in Dublin, but was sent to boarding school in Yorkshire where he was lucky to have Father Basil Hume, later the Archbishop of Westminster, as housemaster. He wanted to return to Ireland to attend Trinity College, Dublin, but the parish priest refused to ask the Archbishop for the 'dispensation' required for Catholic families. So instead, he won a scholarship to Oxford, where he thrived at St John's.

His *Cherwell* contemporaries have a vivid memory of Nicholas 'arriving in the paper's office as a freshman offering his services, quite smartly dressed and bringing his own typewriter, a much valued addition to the paper's solitary one'. Nicholas rose through the student journalist ranks to become *Cherwell* editor in Trinity term 1960. At the time, *Cherwell* was published twice-weekly, so life was hectic and required two bus trips a week to the printers in Witney. Nicholas recounted that Dr Will Moore, his French tutor at St John's, said to him: 'I hope you are not spending more than half an hour a week on that paper.' To which he replied of course not; in reality he was struggling to find a spare thirty minutes a week to devote to reading French and Spanish books for his degree. He later said that the experience producing two editions of *Cherwell* every week was infinitely more useful than the acquisition of more plotlines from European literature.

Later that summer, he worked on publicity for OUDS at the Edinburgh Fringe, where Esther Rantzen (Somerville 1959) was one of the star turns. Esther later introduced him to his future wife, Kirsty Mackenzie (Somerville 1959).

Nicholas started his career as a financial journalist on London on the City desk of the *Evening Standard*. Then in 1963, at the age of 23, he became the first financial editor of the *Irish Times*. In 1966, he founded and became editor of *Business and Finance*, the first dedicated business magazine in Ireland.

He then moved from journalism to an executive position with the Allied Irish Investment Bank. But he quickly became disillusioned with the bank's emphasis on large lending to safe propositions. In the early 1970s, with Tony O'Reilly, he launched Fitzwilton Securities, a venture capital investment trust to finance smaller expanding companies.

However, Nicholas was always a writer at heart, full of witty puns and wordplay, and, in 1989, he moved back into journalism and broadcasting. Resigning from his public company directorships, he started writing a political column in the *Irish Independent*, rounding up the news from Westminster from 1989 until 2012. He was well known in Ireland, appearing regularly on RTE (the Irish broadcasting company) and this experience led him into broadcasting at LBC, CNBC and FT.com.

He never fully retired. In 2017, at the age of 78, Nicholas launched a new career as the creator of pithy weekly cartoon comments on topical events in the financial world for the *Financial Times*, illustrated by a local artist.

Nicholas was witty and kind but also a man of contrasts. Interested, it seemed, in everything and everyone, he was also a very private man, enjoying time at home with his family and particularly his four grandchildren in Scotland and Australia. Nicholas lived with severe psoriatic arthritis for many years which

increasingly restricted his movement and ability to travel far. He lived with the pain it caused but never complained. He was always more concerned with the wellbeing of others than his own suffering. He died in hospital after a short illness and is succeeded by his wife, Kirsty and his daughters, Jennifer and Antonia.

DR RICHARD PAUL LORCH

Richard Lorch was born in 1942 and came up to St John's in 1961 to read Mathematics. He died on 17 February 2021. We are grateful to his sister, Jennifer, for this appreciation.

After gaining his first degree at St John's, Richard stayed in Oxford to read for a diploma in the History of Philosophy and Science, specialising in the early medieval period and then proceeded to the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology where he gained his PhD in 1971. His thesis was *Jābir ibn Aflah and his Influence in the West*. In 1977 he took the opportunity to teach Mathematics at the University of Birzeit. This led to a Humboldt Fellowship in the Semitic Languages Department of the University of Munich. Richard remained in Munich for the rest of his working life, returning to England in 2011. The last ten years of his life were hampered by Parkinson's.

Richard Lorch was a scholar. He published over fifty books and articles mostly in the area of mathematics and astronomy in the Arabic-Islamic World and its influence in Europe and specialised with Paul Kunitzsch, also in Munich, in producing lucid editions of hitherto unavailable texts which involved both transcription and editing. As a boy he had no desire to travel but the pursuit of knowledge took him enthusiastically to many countries: among them, Spain, Italy, India and Syria where he spent two years as a research professor at the University of Aleppo (1980–82).

Richard enjoyed good family relationships and was a loved and loving brother to Jennifer, Julia and William. He had a wonderful capacity for friendship. His friends came from all over the world, many of them academic but others from various walks of life. He was known and appreciated for his quick wit and dry, laconic humour. He was a kind and gentle man, frugal in his habits but generous with his gifts. His interests included book collecting, chess (which he had started playing as a boy at the Gravesend Chess Club), bridge and walking. While in Germany, a walk to the Andechs Benedictine monastery in Bavaria where the famous Andechs beer is brewed was a *de rigueur* outing for all visitors to Munich. He left a substantial library, which he enjoyed dipping into in his later years.

ADRIAN WILLIAM AXFORD

Adrian Axford was born in 1945 and came up to St John's in 1964 to read Modern Languages. He died on 11th March 2021. We are grateful to his wife, Anne, for this appreciation.

Adrian Axford died on 11th March 2021, aged 75. He was preparing to stand again for the Isle of Wight Council, but his sudden death brought his fruitful and committed life to an end. Before going up to St John's College to study modern languages, he spent a year in Algeria teaching in a school in Oran.

He enjoyed rowing, and was a member of his college rowing crew, and in 1967 was captain of the crew that won the Head of the River race. He was an active member of the Oxford Union, and his interest in politics was with him his whole life.

He qualified as a management accountant and combined this with his political life. When the company he worked for moved to the mainland, he and a colleague bought out the coil and sheet metal part of the business and set up Axford Engineering, which provided work for about 50 people. A casualty of recession, the business closed but some staff were relocated to other island businesses.

Adrian retrained as a teacher, and worked for some years at Cowes High School.

A committed, diligent and hardworking councillor for Ryde North West over many years, both for the Town Council and the Isle of Wight Council, he spent time as Deputy Mayor for the Town Council, and recently served as Chair of the Finance Committee. He served as Chair of the Audit Committee and the Pension Fund committee for four years at County Hall.

He was also deeply involved with the local community. He served as President of the Isle of Wight Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus for a number of years, as well as serving for the Brigstocke Almshouses, the Caring Cancer Trust, the Riverside Centre, Community Action and numerous other local organisations. He served as Chairman of the Adoption Panel on the Island for a number of years, and with Anne was a foster carer.

He leaves his wife Anne, sister Christine, daughters Cindy Penney and Lucy Sullivan, his son Gary Axford, and grandchildren, Rhys Wright, Primrose and Lilac Penney.

PROFESSOR JON NORMAN WESTLING

Jon Westling was born in 1942 and came up to St John's in 1964 to read Modern History. He died in 2021. We are grateful to his friend, Lee W. Saperstein, for this appreciation.

Jon Westling was my friend and roommate when we were up. I was at The Queen's and he at John's; we would invite each other to graduate table at Hall and we would always have lunch together at the Eagle and Child, now

sadly reconfigured to look more antique. During his long career as a university administrator, ending as President Emeritus of Boston University, he continued to teach; his personal touch made him an excellent teacher. He taught long after he left the President's office.

Jon had a room in the John's annex on Saint Giles and his scout, Frank, was tolerant of his schedule. I was at the Engineering lab and would walk down to Jon's room and together we would go for a simple pub lunch. I could stand a pint then without gaining weight. Jon was a medieval historian and would tell me of oddities during the minority of Henry VI. I thought that 'Ye' was a version of a Quaker's second-person pronoun until he explained the Old English thorn, best pronounced as 'the', which made a lot of sense. He would go to the Public Records Office, then in central London, and read original manuscripts. He explained that he had to learn 'diplomatic', a word derived from reading diplomas and not from diplomacy.

He loved machines that moved: motorcycles and motorcars. He had a BMW R50 bike that he rode everywhere. He told of the College's Senior Tutor, who spied Jon outside of the College, and, placing his forefinger on the seat, asked, 'Does it go fast?' He and another friend bought a 1934 (not sure about the year) Rolls-Royce and discovered to their chagrin that they do not last forever. After he moved out of college, we were roommates until his discovery that my landlady was not as tolerant of his schedule as was his college scout. He then went to more tolerant digs. The last car that I remember was a rare Riley drop-head (US=convertible) coupé. In retirement, my regret is that travel was not easy and we did not visit as often as I should have liked.

DAVID MAXWELL DOMINIC BARCHARD

David Barchard was born in 1947 and came up to St John's in 1965 to read Modern History and Languages. He died on 25 December 2020. We are grateful to his friends and family for this appreciation.

David Barchard, who died on Christmas Day after a fall, was an exceptionally distinguished commentator on international affairs and the best-informed and most insightful foreign analyst of modern Turkey in particular.

David arrived in St John's in 1965 as a scholar in modern history from Stonyhurst, well versed in the classics. Diffident, scholarly, and not as outgoingly bombastic as some public schoolboys, he blossomed under the formidable tutelage of historians Howard Colvin, Michael Hurst and Keith Thomas. Few of his contemporaries imagined that he would become one of the world's leading experts on modern Turkey.

David was a brilliant student but by one of the flagrant injustices of which the examination system was capable,

he was denied a First, the usual passport to an academic career. Whether, in retrospect, David would have been happy in a modern British university, with its overbearing bureaucracy, assembly-line mentality and commissars of enlightenment is an open question. For David was, above everything else, a person of strongly-held opinions and deeply-held values. The life he chose and made for himself allowed him to maintain a remarkable degree of personal independence – one of things that made him such an engaging and rewarding companion.

In fact, it was academic disappointment that re-directed David's life in what proved a highly productive direction. He went to Turkey to spend a year teaching English in the coal-mining town of Zonguldak. He developed in the process a growing fascination with Turkish politics as well as what became remarkable fluency in the language. David was particularly attracted by what seemed the hopeful experiment in liberalism associated with the leadership of Bulent Ecevit. After his year in Turkey he returned to Oxford to begin a doctorate on modern Turkey under the supervision of Geoffrey Lewis and in 1971 moved to a studentship at Nuffield College, where Turkish politics was (then) somewhat exotic. Rather than seek an academic appointment, in short supply by the mid 1970s, David chose to carve out a career based on his knowledge of Turkey and rapidly growing contacts in the country. He wrote for the Guardian and subsequently for the Financial Times and acted periodically as a 'stringer' for the BBC. The 1970s were a lively time in Turkish politics with the added complication of Cyprus, and David's services were much in demand. He acquired a comfortable flat in Ankara, was a welcome visitor to the British Embassy and became part of the substantial expatriate community in the city. He made friends among Turkey's liberal academics and journalists in what seemed a hopeful era. He was sought after as a consultant and translator. In later years he was a frequent speaker at academic seminars, and at Chatham House and contributed briefings to policy-makers. For several years he taught part-time at Bilkent University, the prestigious institution in Ankara. Above all, David loved to write. His interest in Byzantine history was undimmed, but he was also deeply interested in the later Ottoman Empire, knew its historiography well, and was engaged at the time of his death in a closely-researched study of the international crisis in Crete in the late nineteenth century.

David remained unmarried and unattached but he had an exceptional capacity for friendship. As a committed Catholic, he had a wide circle of friends among the Catholic communities in both Britain and Turkey. He was in regular touch with commentators on Turkish affairs both in Britain and Turkey. He was a generous host as those lucky enough to visit him in Turkey and be guided round Cappadocia will know (David liked to say that he lived in a cave in Cappadocia). In later years he

used the Reform Club as an operational base in London and entertained generously there. Those who knew him will remember the characteristic rapid-fire burst of questions he would direct at any topic of conversation, the extraordinary range of his knowledge and reading, but also the laughter that punctuated every encounter. A stickler for proprieties, but the most human and original of personalities, he will be much missed.

ANDREW JAMES MCNAB

Andrew McNab was born in 1948 and came up to St John's to read Geography in 1966. He died on 17 March 2020. We are grateful to his wife, Carolyn, for this appreciation.

Andrew became Andy at St John's, overcoming his shyness by joining the debating society and enjoying Oxford despite it being the deep south – he came from Wirral. He was very much inspired by his tutor Freddie. He went up the hill after St John's to take Town Planning. His first post was with Westmorland where his lifelong interests became apparent. The wild landscape and cultural history drew him to take up fell running and orienteering, writing and painting. He wrote wonderful prose about the area whilst encouraging public participation in the new Cumbria structure plan. Newly married to Carolyn, he joined an international team on a statewide project in Tasmania, Australia. On returning to the UK, with young Andrew and Douglas, he became a partner with Oxford-based Cobham Resource Consultants (landscape and planning) and lived in Charlbury, a good place to raise the family, to enjoy cycling, to continue orienteering and from which to take holidays in the Hebrides or the mountains of Europe. With Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick he could work overseas, from national parks in Vietnam to new towns in China. He specialised in environment and sustainability. He could write reports well and meet deadlines; his team members have applauded his mentorship. He welcomed living in Malaysia and SW China, learning about and enjoying the art, literature and architecture. His patience, diplomacy and integrity (and later, silver hair) were welcome in China. Friends and colleagues say he was a true gentleman.

Both keen gardeners, Andy and Carolyn retired to a large garden in SW Scotland which they filled with Tasmanian and Chinese plants. Andy's business experience and skills were soon in demand by the Southern Upland Partnership and Crichton Carbon Centre. He chaired the local branch of the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland and served on its Council, supported Wigtown Book Festival and Galloway National Park. He was writing a biography of Theodore Hubback, founder of the first national park in Malaya, when he died.

DR JOHN ALAN RAE

Alan Rae was born in 1948 and came up to St John's in 1966 to read Biochemistry. He died on 19 October 2020. We are grateful to his friend, John Twisleton (1966), for this appreciation.

Alan's record at College is striking for its academic, musical and social prowess. His biochemistry led to doctoral studies on plant cell wall growth. His presidency of the University of Oxford Folk Music Society indicates the calibre of his music and that of the Middle Common Room his social acumen. During his time at Oxford he met his future wife Isobel who, with their children Jason and Emily and families, mourns his sudden death. After Oxford Alan ran a thriving horticulture business with Isobel. He became managing partner at Ai Consultants, the research and consultancy arm of Free Spirits Ltd. Alan ran small businesses in IT, business training and research since 1981 and used his expertise to teach small companies how to use internet related tools to improve operations and marketing. He developed training and information packages for the EU, the British government and schools at several British universities. Alan was an adjunct faculty member in the Southampton Business School, much valued by students and staff who knew him as a jovial and proactive colleague.

A gifted mentor of young people, Alan advised on how to grow a business, combining practical advice on pulling all the tasks of a small owner together with counsel on the best use of technology in marketing, while not lacking academic rigour. His music continued most lately as front man of Newick Folk, a quirky Folk Band from East Sussex he described as a normal folk band with a jazz orientated rhythm section. In recent years he joined our London Johnsonian reunion primarily with Nigel Brown, the late John Landais, Andrew Smyth and Hector Steen. As a fellow musician living near him I was invited to join Newick Folk and played at his funeral following his death swimming with Isobel on a family break in Turkey. As businessman, musician and social being, Alan had an inspirational gift that brought people together, affirmed them and drew out their potential. With Isobel and the family, he lived a full life, achieving much personally and professionally, and will be mourned by his many friends.

PROFESSOR DONALD WILLIAM MASON

Don Mason was born on 24 March 1934 and came up to St John's in 1968 to read Medicine. He died on 13 January 2021. We are grateful to his wife, Mahalla, for this appreciation.

Don Mason, 1934–2021, research physicist, immunologist, and Quaker activist died peacefully at home on 13th January 2021.

He started his working life researching Thermonuclear Fusion at Harwell and Culham Laboratories. However, the loss of his firstborn son Donny to childhood leukaemia pivoted his life towards medical research. In 1968 Don was accepted by St John's College to study Medicine as a mature student with a family. He studied under Bob Torrance and passed BM and BCh examinations in 1973.

He will be remembered for his seminal discoveries about cells of the body's immune system, notably the regulation of lymphocytes, and how fast and with what specificity their receptors recognise parts of foreign molecules. He began this work in 1973, joining the Medical Research Council's Cellular Immunology Unit in the Dunn School of Pathology. He stayed for 26 years until his retirement in 1999, in his final years as its Director.

Scientists Don educated and mentored now occupy senior posts in academia and industry across the world. His approach of unshowy, collaborative rigour particularly inspired women in his group to further their scientific careers.

Strong and principled concern about societal issues permeated his whole life. Turning vegan in 1977, he discovered the Quakers through CND activism in the 1980s while protesting against CRUISE missiles, and the F1-11 nuclear bombers at Upper Heyford. A week spent in prison for civil disobedience gave him insights which were useful in his later activities as a prison visitor at Grendon prison and writing to prisoners on 'death row' in the USA. In 1988 he co-edited a collection of 12 essays by activists who were prepared to go to prison rather than put their faith in weapons of mass destruction.

In retirement he published *Science, Mystical Experience and Religious Belief* – topics of enduring interest to him.

He was artistic, experimenting with different media. He enjoyed carpentry, renovation work, gatherings with friends and family, growing flowers and fruit and walking in the countryside.

His devoted wife Mahalla, their four children and three grandchildren survive him.

JAMES PERRY MOORE WAUGH

James Waugh was born in 1945 and came up to St John's in 1968 to read Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology. He died on 24 August 2020. We are grateful to his wife, Charlene, for this appreciation.

In September 1968, on the chilly decks of the *Empress of England* that carried him to Oxford, Jim had a camera around his neck, his eyes surveying the horizon like a bird of prey. This was a prelude to decades of keen observation and enjoyment of life. As a student at McGill University, he was already looking beyond the conventional boundaries of architecture, more interested

in the impact of building design on people than in winning the aesthetic acclaim of clients or peers. As a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, he studied philosophy, psychology and physiology to prepare for that broader approach. As Bob Rae (Ontario and Balliol, 1969), former premier of Ontario and leader of Canada's Liberal Party, recalls, 'He was an exceptionally thoughtful man who took full advantage of what Oxford had to offer, doing brilliantly in a challenging graduate course before putting that knowledge into action.'

By the time he returned to Canada in the mid 1970s to teach at the newly-formed architecture school of the University of Calgary, Jim was one of a dozen people in the world putting human behaviour at the centre of the profession. Other than one stunning corporate building, Shell Court in Calgary, he designed modest structures for community organisations with limited budgets like the Girl Guides, which needed to last, be easy to run, and stand up to unusual challenges. In planning a women's shelter, for example, he had to foresee outraged husbands ramming the facility with a pick-up truck.

A champion swimmer at McGill, Jim was tall and broad-shouldered, but soft-spoken and self-deprecating rather than overbearing. Some thought him shy, while others saw him radiating among those he was comfortable with, who shared his curiosity, his attention to detail, and his boyish sense of fun. When he laughed, it could be uproarious, his eyes glinting with mirth but also signs of a certain Prairie restraint thrown to the wind. He had little time for nonsense but was always eager to learn. After a pompous lecture by a renowned architect at McGill describing the highlights of his glorious career, which had the student audience rolling their eyes, Jim was awarded a prize for posing the most intelligent question.

He had interests as wide as the Rocky Mountains and remembered other people's pursuits with photographic faithfulness. He commiserated with one friend whom he hadn't seen in twenty years on the death of the last surviving member of the Bloomsbury Group. And his sense of history and humour reinforced each other. He chuckled when told of Che Guevara's parting words before going off to fight in the eastern Congo – 'I feel the ribs of Rocinante [Don Quixote's horse] pressing against my legs' – as if they summed up his own idealism and ambition, tempered with reality. He relished the outdoors and long-distance walks, including a memorable fifteen-mile trek across a peat bog at Cape Wrath. But he also loved books and libraries and the *Oxford English Dictionary*, where he would trace the origins of obsolete words as keenly as his own family history.

His daughter Xanna remembers him as a remarkable father, not only to her but also to friends who had lost their own or were less fortunate in that respect. Jim was loyal to his friends but could discomfit them with his

piercing honesty. 'I'd be surprised if you spent much time in 'immense Gothic spaces', he wrote to one, who had described a visit to Mont St Michel, 'since most of the Mont pre-dates the Gothic era by a century or two.' Yet his learning and precision never got in the way of being practical. In retirement, he could be found digging the Prospect Trail which he designed to connect the Elbow River pathways to downtown Calgary and re-shaping the landscape of his property in Hawaii.

A devoted educator, he served for thirty years on the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee for the Prairie Provinces, where his wit and lack of stuffiness set applicants at their ease. His wife Charlene Prickett, whose Arkansas upbringing prepared her badly for the rigours of a Canadian winter, wanted them to slip away each year to Hawaii by the beginning of November, but Jim would insist on seeing the selection process through. He saw promise in everyone, inviting a successful candidate home for dinner one evening alongside another who had fallen short, to buck up his spirits. 'He shared stories of his life and career,' the first recalled, 'in an utterly warm and unpretentious way. I marvelled at his infectious energy and passion for life.'

At the University of Calgary, he endowed a Rural Medicine Residency Award to honour his two grandfathers, who were country doctors, and an architecture scholarship for those who had demonstrated a palpable concern for the well-being of others.

DR NICHOLAS JOHN HOLMAN

Nicholas Holman was born in 1959 and came up to St John's in 1977 to read Chemistry. He died on 18 July 2021. We are grateful to his friend, Michael Prior (1974), for this appreciation.

Nick was born at home in Wimborne, Dorset, in December 1959. His father was a schoolmaster and his mother a midwife, and Nick was the youngest of their four children. Nick attended Queen Elizabeth's School in Wimborne; the same school where his father taught history. Nick's interest in chemistry, stimulated by a great teacher, led him to apply to study the subject at Oxford and be awarded a place at St John's. Nick was still only 17 when he came up in October 1977; a result of him being recognised as a gifted pupil when at primary school and moved up a year. He did his chemistry part II research and then his DPhil with Dr (subsequently Professor) Steve Davies and was one of the first members of Dr Davies' research group in Oxford following Dr Davies's move from France to take up a University Lectureship.

Having completed his DPhil, Nick moved to Nottingham in 1985 to begin his working life as a research chemist in what was then the pharmaceutical division of the Boots Company plc. Boots sold this part

of their business to the German chemical company BASF in 1995, but in 2000 after a period of review and consolidation, BASF decided to close the Nottingham R&D facilities. Having explored a range of job opportunities in the UK and overseas, Nick emigrated to the USA in 2001 to work for Albany Molecular, initially at their Syracuse (NY) site and latterly at Albany. He changed jobs again in 2010 to work for Johnson Matthey at their Devens (MA) site, but doing similar work concerned with pharmaceutical development. Nick had a reputation as a valued colleague among those he worked with, always ready to give support and advice.

Nick met his wife Ilene after he had moved to Massachusetts, and they were married in December 2016. He also gained two stepsons, Tony and D'vonne, and two step-grandchildren, Aiden and Illana.

Sadly, Nick was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer in late 2019. He faced up to his treatment with characteristic stoicism and fortitude, and for a long period was doing remarkably well. The end came quite suddenly, but peacefully, and with Ilene by his side. Travel restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic meant that, alas, family and friends from the UK were unable to attend his funeral. His sister Jenny did, however, manage to get to Nick's 60th birthday party in December 2019 in the USA, and his brother Philip saw him earlier that month after his treatment had started. Those were their last chances to see him in person.

Nick's interests were wide and varied, including cooking, gardening, opera and the theatre. His intellect and knowledge were considerable and his friends in Nottingham remember him being a formidable teammate in pub quizzes! He also enjoyed travelling, and although his time with Ilene was all too short, they were able to have a number of trips together before the final phase of his illness.

PETER DAVID WARNER

Peter Warner was born in 1963 and came up to St John's in 1983 to read Modern History. He died on 22 June 2020. We are grateful to his family for this appreciation.

Peter David Warner was born in St Albans in 1963, ten minutes before his twin brother Michael, and three years after his elder brother, John. His mother, June, was a local primary school teacher, and his father, David, was the Headmaster at St Helen's Primary School in Wheathampstead. Peter obtained a prestigious Academic Scholarship to St Alban's School, where his love for academia and passion for rugby grew. In 1982, Peter went up to St John's to read Modern History. He was awarded a Scholarship and successfully graduated with 1st Class Honours, whilst also making it to the Rugby Cuppers Final, and making lifelong friends, particularly his great

friend Martin Collier, with whom he ran the popular student nightclub, 'The Shindig'. It was also during his time in Oxford that he met Sally, the love of his life. After graduation, Peter started work at Lazards Investment Bank in London, but had a brief hiatus to travel, first via the Trans-Siberian Express, and then through China, Australia and Bali. Peter returned to London and led an extraordinarily successful career, working at Lazards in London and briefly in New York for a total of 25 years and rising to the position of UK Head of Investment. After his time at Lazards, Peter completed and published his book, *Candide Redux* (a reworking of Voltaire's *Candide*), before then working at Gleacher Shacklock for eight years as Chief Operating Officer. Finally, Peter happily returned to Oxford, as Finance and Estates Bursar at Exeter College and re-established a connection with St John's. Although Peter worked at Exeter College for only ten months before his sudden and untimely passing, he made a great impact across the University as a whole.

Outside of work, Peter held many charities close to his heart, and was a trustee at a local homeless charity in Northampton, 'The Hope Centre'. His passions were always history, politics and rugby, and his most enjoyed activities were watching Northampton Saints at Franklins Gardens with his family. He had many brilliant local friendships which he cherished greatly. Above all though, Peter loved spending time with his wife, Sally, his two sons, Samuel and Toby, and his twin daughters, Catherine and Isobel, as well as his adored dogs, particularly Pickle the Jack Russell. Peter's sharp wit and brilliant sense of humour was coupled with his enormous generosity and kind-heartedness, and all who loved him will miss him terribly.

KATHRYN SYGROVE

Kathryn Sygrove was born in 1965 and came up to St John's in 1984 to read Modern Languages. She died on 6 February 2021. We are grateful to her friend, Sue Schneider (1984), for this appreciation.

'A friend is, as it were, a second self.' – Cicero

My first encounter with the lilting Mackem* accent of the 'canny Northern lass' who was to become my best friend throughout our time at St John's, and beyond, came at the Candidates' weekend of December 1983. Kathryn Sygrove – then Kathryn Cowley – already stood out from the crowd. Not only because she was the only girl among us already to have an unconditional offer to read Modern Languages at SJC, but also because of her sharp wit, beautiful copper-coloured hair and down-to-earth Sunderland spirit.

Kathryn (aka 'Kat' or 'Kirti') came up to St John's in 1984. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of the German language in particular – and her perfect Hochdeutsch

accent with no trace of the Mackem lilt – was mesmerising. Both Kathryn and I studied Modern Languages (French and German) and both of us were young women from state schools north of Watford, a fairly rare breed back in 1984 in Oxford. Yet it is not only this that cemented us together. Kathryn's vivacious, yet sensitive and generous nature was impossible to resist, as all who had the privilege of knowing her will testify.

Our first year at St John's was punctuated by stints in the Taylorian library when the next essay crisis loomed, and by longer stints spent recreating the world over coffees unstintingly supplied by the 'Garfield café' (aka John Lee in his Beehive room). Despite our meagre student budgets, we managed to sample most of the coffee shops and vegetarian eateries in Oxford, as well as enjoy regular trips to London to take in stage productions on the cheapest seats up in the gods. Even if we never – ever – managed to agree on the correct pronunciation of 'scone', we shared everything: our joys, our woes, our hopes, our dreams, even our secret stashes of raisins and peanut butter. And 'sinewy' photos and silliness to boot. Who else but Kathryn would suggest walking barefoot down Oxford High Street wearing baskets with plastic forks and toy parrots on our heads? Don't ask why... Our much-respected French tutor, Professor Terence Cave, dubbed us 'the terrible twins'. We always feared that this might be a veiled reference to Jean Cocteau...

Kathryn's long-term commitment to a fairer, brighter, more vibrant world for all continued to build throughout her undergraduate years. Actively involved in charity and Christian Union events, she found time to volunteer in St Aldates coffee shop during her second year at SJC to promote these values long before 'Organic' and 'Fairtrade' became fashionable buzzwords. A talented artist, as well as a linguist, she would often sketch posters and flyers for charity fund-raising events – her remarkable drawing for the 'Brown Rice week' event in hall to raise funds and awareness of the situation in Ethiopia was nothing short of photographic in its detail and accuracy. And her sense of fun pervaded everything. Once we found a melted-down traffic cone that she transformed with a few deft pen strokes into a jaunty figure of resistance. It still stands, mischievous and defiant, in my office today.

Being linguists meant that our third year would be spent abroad. Kathryn went to Vienna, where she began two lifelong love affairs – her enduring attachment to Austria, which brought a Tyrolian lilt to her Hochdeutsch accent, and the formal beginning of her relationship with Malcolm, a fellow-student at SJC, who was to become her husband. Indeed, even before she left for Austria, the attraction between the lively linguist and the clear-sighted chemist had been palpable to all her friends. Luckily, chemistry was also a four-year course, so once back from our respective years abroad and summer spent interrailing together, Kathryn and

Malcolm were a definite item. And, thanks to Patrick Domhof's shrewd intervention in the room ballot, Kathryn and I were able to enjoy cosy adjoining rooms in Front Quad with our own private fridge – luxury indeed! – for our final year at SJC.

After graduating from St John's, with a brilliant performance in German as expected, Kathryn and Malcolm were married. I was her bridesmaid, just as Kathryn would be mine (several years later); I was also godmother to her first child, just as she would be to mine (several years later). The Sygroves set up residence in the lovely city of Durham, Kathryn staying true to her northern roots. Married life suited her well and she was soon the proud mother of two 'sweet bairns', Rosie and Matthew.

Professionally speaking, directly after graduation, Kathryn spent a few years working as securities officer at Nat West bank, but her heart was clearly never in finance. She completed a PGCE at Durham University and turned to teaching her beloved German language at comprehensive school and community college level, as well as German for Engineers at New College and Durham University. Yet her deep-seated convictions relating to Fairtrade were never far away; from working in Gateway World Shop, as a Fairtrade consultant to Durham County Council and, as Chair of Durham City Fairtrade Partnership, her energy and vibrance succeeded in obtaining Fairtrade City status for Durham as of 2007. Kathryn went on to pursue this commitment as Membership and Marketing Coordinator for BAFTS (British Association for Fairtrade Shops and Suppliers), being promoted to Executive Officer in 2016.

Kathryn was also a keen runner and completed many marathons. I went to cheer her on twice at the Paris marathon, and each time was inspired by her passion, energy and determination to stay the 42.195 km course and cross the finish line fresh as a daisy and with a huge smile. Her only requirement then being endless refills of tea or coffee. Fairtrade only, of course.

Kathryn shared her passion for running with Malcolm, both going out to run regularly with their local club, the Elvet Striders, and conquering many of the major races, on- and off-road. She would often describe the delights of getting up at the crack of dawn to run through muddy vales and dales, the sense of fun and achievement it engendered – whatever the weather. And running was to become her release, her escape, her comfort bubble, when life started to take its toll...

Over the years and despite the distance – I lived in Japan for several years, before moving to southwest France – our friendship had continued to flourish and we met up whenever and wherever possible, with our most recent post-lockdown meetings being confined to Skype calls. One of our favourite games has always been the linguistic challenge of who would be the first to find

the German term for some arbitrary and obscure item. It was a futile game, as Kathryn always won, but I did learn some new (albeit quasi-useless) vocabulary along the way. When Kathryn visited me in Toulouse for what was to be the last time in March 2018, the lexical item in question was the ‘prong’ of a fork. For reasons that I failed to fathom, Kathryn knew without hesitation that the German term was ‘Zinke’, a word we both found too delightful to designate anything as prosaic as a prong. So, in our private linguistic idiom, the term ‘zinke’ became a synonym for feeling good, i.e. ‘feeling zinke’ – and by extension ‘feeling un-zinke’.

In 2019, ‘un-zinke-ness’ sadly began to prevail. Kathryn began to suffer from mental health issues and depression, doubtless compounded by the subsequent pandemic and lockdown that curtailed many of her running escapes. In February 2021 she made an attempt on her life and was looked after in the Intensive Treatment Unit at the hospital in Durham, where she passed away on 6 February.

Kathryn is survived by her beloved husband Malcolm, her ‘sweet bairns’, Steven (né Rosie) and Matthew, her parents, Bob and Marie, and her sister, Gillian.

And by a world that, without her, is a less fair, less bright, less vibrant place.

In liebevoller Erinnerung, my ‘terrible twin’, my ‘second self’.

*Mackem = referring to someone from Sunderland and its surrounding area, and to the local accent.

ANNIKA FAWCETT-GREUP

Annika Fawcett-Greup was born in 1986 and came to St John's in 2008 to read for an MPhil in European Politics and Society. She died on 2 January 2021 in a tragic and freak accident whilst out walking with her family and a friend, when a tree suddenly fell over. We are grateful to her husband, Richard Fawcett (2007), and her many St John's friends for this appreciation.

Annika grew up in the village of Voorschoten (close to The Hague) in the Netherlands. After being inspired by her international experiences at secondary school, she studied Politics as an undergraduate at the English language University College Utrecht (UCU) in the Netherlands. During her time at UCU Annika's love of foreign cultures and politics blossomed in many ways, such as serving as chair of the student association, going on exchange in Hong Kong and participating in climate summits.

In 2008 Annika came to Oxford, with the ambition for a career in global climate change policy. She moved into 21 St John's Street, and quickly turned a house of strangers into a family. That was part of Annika's magic – with her, you instantly felt at home. Housemates affectionately

remember Annika as ‘President’ of 21 St John's Street and the many house dinners she organised, giving everyone a chance to sample each other's cultures. Truly a citizen of the world, Annika had a love and appreciation for all cultures and histories. No one could top her diplomacy, whether it was over a friendly dinner debate or a crucial public policy. A beloved member of the MCR, Annika was a familiar face at many events, and organised them as well, most notably her MCR culture trips. Always eager to try new things, she also picked up a love for rowing. Fellow SJC alumni remember her for her kindness, her unflappable optimism, and her uncanny ability to inspire the best in everyone around her.

In 2010 Annika left Oxford, together with Richard, to move to the Netherlands to start her dream job working for the Dutch government. Here she quickly made her way into the Dutch delegation for the International Climate Negotiations and was a crucial member of the delegation. She used her diplomacy skills to the fullest, negotiating on global climate policies, including the Paris Agreement. Her work took her around the world from the Marshall Islands to Tajikistan. In 2016 she became the project lead for the Dutch government on EU single market policy, and thrived in working to achieve agreement between European governments.

Annika and Richard married in 2012, and became the proud parents to Mattias (2015), Lennart (2017) and Tilda (2020). Annika loved her children dearly, photographing every step, and capturing all of their ‘firsts’. She always thought carefully about what was best for them, and how she could help them to grow up to be confident, happy, and loving adults. Even though her friends lived around the world, Annika travelled regularly, children in tow, to see SJC friends abroad. One of her last trips was to bring the family to Oxford, where she beamed with happiness as she shared her memories with her children.

Tragically, Annika's life has been abruptly cut short, and the void she leaves is great. Her family and friends will ensure though that Annika's love for others and the world will stay alive. She will live on through the precious memories we have of her, the wise words she gave us and her optimism to see the best in each other. Her boundless spirit and generosity will continue to unite those she touched.

As Maya Angelou said, ‘A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again.’

College Record



FIRST CLASS IN FINAL HONOUR SCHOOLS 2021

Freya Tamsin Allery, Engineering Science (MEng)
Kathryn Annesley, Chemistry (MChem)
Ayse Atun, Jurisprudence
Luke Christopher Barnes, Medical Sciences
Kiu Sang Max Cheung, Literae Humaniores
Benedict Jerome Charles Clinch, English Language and Literature
Elizabeth Bryson Davis, Literae Humaniores
Oluwayemisi Kirsty Fabiyi, Fine Art
Konstantin Garov, Maths and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)
Julian Gonzales, Mathematics (MMath)
Martha Roma Alexander Gritt, Geography
Nicholas Hall, Oriental Studies (Chinese)
Michael John Hasland, Physics (MPhys)
Sofia Caroline Henderson, History
Matthew James Hopkins, Physics (MPhys)
Maya Humphries, Medical Sciences
Catherine Jamieson, History of Art
Suzanne Kapelus, Archaeology and Anthropology
Isobel Lucy Kent, Modern Languages
Yong Min Kwon, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry (MBiochem)
Shaun Arnold Marshall, Maths and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)
Eve Sonja Miles, Modern Languages
Ava Natalie Mitchell, Human Sciences
Firdaus Mohandas, Jurisprudence
Eve Morris-Gray, Geography
Leo Nasskau, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Costin-Andrei Oncescu, Computer Science (MCompSci)
William Orbell, Chemistry (MChem)
Oliver James Hyatt Parkes, Literae Humaniores
Caspar Paton, History and Modern Languages
Zuzanna Patryas, Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics
Alexander Philip George Pellatt, Ancient and Modern History
Elena Lauren Perticucci, Cell and Systems Biology
Tomasz Robert Ponitka, Maths and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)
Michael Reynolds, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Dimitar Zdravkov Ruzhev, Engineering Science (MEng)
Jeongwon Ryu, Jurisprudence
Samuel Timothy Saunderson, History
Aura Schonfeld, Human Sciences
Charles Qiao Shan, Music
Nathan Paul Spiller, Engineering Science (MEng)
Felix James Robert Stocker, History
Ana Stuhec, Chemistry (MChem)
Albany Summers, Chemistry (MChem)
Yiming Tang, Mathematics (MMath)
Elspeth Vowles, Archaeology and Anthropology
Leo Warburton, Geography
Amy Grace Ward, Theology and Religion
Georgina Claire Pennant Williams, Music
Sholto Benedict Wright, European and Middle Eastern Languages
Emily Zhao, Jurisprudence
Guo Zheng, Physics (MPhys)

DISTINCTION IN PART C (MMATH/JOINT SCHOOLS & MCOMPSCI) 2021

Benjamin Karel Bedert, Mathematics (MMath)
Stefan Lucas Clarke, Mathematics and Statistics (MMath)
Taavet Kalda, Mathematical & Theoretical Physics (MMathPhys)
Violeta Nikolaeva Licheva, Mathematics (MMath)
Diamor Marke, Mathematics and Statistics (MMath)
Arun Soor, Mathematics (MMath)
Sebastian Rene Towers (MMathCompSci)
Pengcheng Zhang, Mathematics (MMath)

DISTINCTION OR FIRST CLASS IN FIRST PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS 2021

Xingjian Bai, Mathematics and Computer Science (MMathCompSci)
Matthew James Barrett, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Ciara Beale, English and Modern Languages
Gideon Joseph Bernstein, Biology (MBiol)
Emily Rose Bicknell, Geography
Maya Blanco, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Giacomo Alexander Bognolo, Jurisprudence
Isabella Boileau, History
Allanah Jade Booth, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry (MBioChem)
Chloe Lorraine Davis, Medical Sciences
Nicolae Alexandru Dobra, Physics (MPhys)
Alfred Conor Dry, Human Sciences
Flora Dyson, Music
Ozan Can Erder, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Felix Gerard Farrell, Music
Alexander Foster, English Language and Literature
Liam Bradley James Fowler, Chemistry (MChem)
Damyán Stoyanov Frantzov, Chemistry (MChem)
Gregor Gajic, Physics (MPhys)
Gessienne Beatrice De Charmoy Grey, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Andrew Law Wei Keong Hangchi, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Simeon Joel Hellsten, Mathematics (MMath)
Eleanor Rose Hetherington, Chemistry (MChem)
George Hosking, Geography
Rachel Emily Ing, Medical Sciences
Hannah Koch, Human Sciences
Joe Arthur Lee, Mathematics (MMath)
Ruining Li, Computer Science (MCompSci)
Tevez Lotric, Physics (MPhys)
Tade Marozsak, Engineering Science (MEng)
Lily Middleton-Mansell, English Language and Literature
Luke Moore, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry (MBiochem)
Fiona Elizabeth Neave, Geography
Sergiu-Ionut Novac, Mathematics (MMath)
Emily Grace Oldridge, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
Zhe Ren Ooi, Mathematics and Statistics (MMath)
Carys Louisa Owen, History of Art
Felipe Pinto Coelho Nuti, Computer Science (MCompSci)
Ella Frances Piron, Medical Sciences

Patricia Henriette Preller, History and Politics
Cameron Renwick, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry (MBiochem)
Nicolas David Rix-Perez, Theology and Religion
Robert Sabovcik, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Joshua Owen Sharkey, Physics (MPhys)
Adam Sikorjak, Chemistry (MChem)
Yasmina Slaoui, Oriental Studies (Arabic and Islamic Studies)
Lochie Springett, English Language and Literature
Xavier St John, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry (MBiochem)
Charmian Ella Lane Thwaites, History
Jemima Louise Tweedale, Biology (MBiol)
Ramarni Wilfred, Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics
Ziyang Zhang, Mathematics (MMath)
Yasmin Joy Ziv, Biology (MBiol)

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS 2021/22

Molly Acheson, Archaeology and Anthropology
Boris Antov, Mathematics
Xingjian Bai, Mathematics and Computer Science
Matthew James Barrett, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Ciara Beale, English and Modern Languages
Gideon Bernstein, Biology
Talav Bhimnathwala, History and Economics
Emily Bicknell, Geography
Itrisyia Binti Kamarul Baharin, Oriental Studies (Arabic & Islamic Studies)
Maya Blanco, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Joanna Bland, Chemistry
Giacomo Bognolo, Jurisprudence
Isabella Boileau, History
Tamara Bojanic, Physics
Allanah Jade Booth, Biochemistry
Maria Buhl, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Daniel Bundred, Engineering Science
Andrew Chen, Mathematics and Computer Science
Xuhui Chen, Physics
Zeyu Chen, Chemistry
Ilker Can Cicek, Mathematics and Computer Science
Elliot Cocker, Geography
George Corby, Medical Sciences
Bianca Dammholz, Jurisprudence
Chloe Davis, Medical Sciences
Simone Dawes, English
Scott DeGraw, Physics
Juan Davila Desmontes, Engineering Science (MEng)
Alexandru Dobra, Physics
Alfred Dry, Human Sciences
Flora Dyson, Music
Kate Eastwick-Jones, Medical Sciences
Ozan Can Erder, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Lilia Evgeniou, Biochemistry
Felix Farrell, Music
Philip Fernandes, Biology
Alexander Foster, English
Liam Fowler, Chemistry
Damyan Frantzov, Chemistry
Gregor Gajic, Physics
Konstantin Garov, Mathematics and Computer Science
Alessandro Giacometto, History and Modern Languages
Julian Gonzales, Mathematics
Gessienne Grey, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Andrew Hangchi, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Peiyang He, Physics
Simeon Hellsten, Mathematics
Eleanor Hetherton, Chemistry
George Hosking, Geography
Zemira Humphrey, Geography
Rachel Ing, Medical Sciences
Anisha Jagdev-Harris, Classics and Modern Languages
Gareth James, Oriental Studies (Chinese)
Megan Jaschinski, Chemistry
Ben Jureidini, English
Michal Karlubik, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Hannah Koch, Human Sciences
Joe Lee, Mathematics
Ruining Li, Computer Science
Clarissa Lim, Biomedical Sciences
Tevez Lotric, Physics
Yizhang Lou, Mathematics
Adam Loweth, Physics
Alexander Makaveev, Chemistry
Milo Mallaby, History
Tade Marozsak, Engineering Science
Shaun Marshall, Mathematics & Computer Science
Lily Middleton-Mansell, English
Luke Moore, Biochemistry
Fiona Neave, Geography
Sergiu-Ionut Novac, Mathematics
Wilfred Offord, Mathematics
Emily Oldridge, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
Emmet O'Leary, History
Costin-Andrei Oncescu, Computer Science
Zhe Ren Ooi, Mathematics and Statistics
Carys Owen, History of Art
Hari Patel, Chemistry
Ivan Paul, Medical Sciences
Rachel Pindar, Chemistry
Felipe Pinto Coelho Nuti, Computer Science
Ella Piron, Medical Sciences
Tomasz Ponitka, Mathematics and Computer Sciences
Patricia Preller, History and Politics
Julia Ragus, Chemistry
Jack Rawson, Mathematics
Zoe Reed, Medical Sciences
Naomi Reiter, History and Politics
Harry Renshaw, Law with Law Studies in Europe
Cameron Renwick, Biochemistry
Nicolas Rix-Perez, Theology and Religion
Edward Russell, English
Robert Sabovcik, Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Shaina Sangha, History
 Joshua Sharkey, Physics
 Adam Sikorjak, Chemistry
 Yasmina Slaoui, Oriental Studies (Arabic and Islamic Studies)
 Sevvien Smith, Chemistry
 Lochie Springett, English
 Xavier St John, Biochemistry
 Rachel Stacey, Modern Languages
 Benedict Stanley, Jurisprudence
 Tang Sui, Mathematics
 Si Suo, Mathematics and Computer Science
 Yiming Tang, Mathematics
 Alexander Teeger, European and Middle Eastern Languages
 (Russian and Arabic)
 Charmian Thwaites, History
 Andrew Tinkler, Chemistry
 Paul Tirlisan, Computer Science
 Jemma Tweedale, Biology
 Kristiyan Vasilev, Mathematics
 Lucy Vickers, Geography
 Yuqing Weng, History and Economics
 Sophie Whitaker, Chemistry
 Ramarni Wilfred, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 Antoni Wojcik, Physics
 Ziyang Zhang, Mathematics
 Yasmin Ziv, Biology

UNIVERSITY PRIZES 2020/21

Xingjian Bai, Gibbs Prize for Mathematics & Computer Science for performance in Computer Science papers in the Preliminary Examination
 Kiu Sang Max Cheung, Gibbs Prize for performance in Ancient History in Final Honour School of Classics Examination
 Stefan Clarke, Gibbs Prize for best overall performance in the Honour School of Mathematics & Statistics Part C
 Alfred Dry, Gibbs Proxime Accessit Prize in Preliminary Examination in Human Sciences
 Helena Erikstrup, Laurence Binyon Prize (DPhil in History of Art)
 Sofia Henderson, Barbara Savage Thesis Prize for the best thesis on black history
 Shaun Marshall, Junior Mathematics Prize for Mathematics and Computer Science for outstanding performance on mathematical papers in the Part B examination
 Firdaus Mohandas, Proxime in the Wronker Prize for the best overall performance in FHS; joint winner of the Gibbs Prize; and winner of the Slaughter and May Prize for the best performance in Contract law
 Oliver Parkes, Arnold Ancient History Prize for best performance in Ancient History written paper, and Harold Lister Sunderland Prize for performance in the Greek literature papers, both in the FHS of Literae Humaniores, Classics & English, Classics & Modern Languages, and Classics & Oriental Studies
 Casper Paton, Richard Cobb Thesis Prize for the best thesis on European history
 Jeongwon Rhu, Law Faculty Prize for best performance in Moral and Political Philosophy

Nicholas Rix-Perez, Gibbs Prize for best performance in Preliminary Examination in Theology
 Lochie Springett, Gibbs Prize for best performance in the Preliminary Examination in English Language and Literature and Mrs Claude Beddington Prize for best performance in Preliminary Examination in English Language and Literature
 Amy Ward, Senior Pusey and Ellerton Prize for best performance in Hebrew in the Final Honour School of Theology and Religion
 Sophie Whitehead, Linklaters Prize in Competition Law and Policy for the best performance in Competition Law and Policy
 Yihong Zhang, George Webb Medley Prize for Best Overall Performance (MSc in Economics for Development)

COLLEGE PRIZES 2020/21

Eleanor Baker, awarded runner-up Mapleton-Bree Prize
 Adem Berbic, awarded Hanlon Prize
 Max Cheung, jointly awarded Ancient History Prize
 Nia Evans, awarded Dr Raymond Lloyd Williams Prize (Biochemistry)
 Callum Harries, Peter Fan Support Award
 Minying Huang, awarded runner-up Mapleton-Bree Prize
 Jessica Larwood, awarded DL Davies Bursary and Peter Fan Award
 Oluwatomisin Osibona, awarded Hans Michael Caspari UN Travel Grant
 Oliver Parkes, jointly awarded Ancient History Prize
 Yusra Shammoun, Peter Fan Award
 Yijia Tu, awarded Mapleton-Bree Prize

CHORAL SCHOLARS 2020/21

Jonathan Hampshire
 Daniel Roade

IOAN AND ROSEMARY JAMES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS 2020/21

Yiming Tang, Mathematics (2018/19)
 Ilker Can Ciek, Mathematics and Computer Science (2019/20)
 Zhe Ren Ooi, Mathematics and Statistics (2020/21)
 Ziyang Zhang, Mathematics (2020/21)
 Juanru Zhao, Mathematics (2020/21)
 Sara Dragutinovic, Mathematics and Computer Science (2021/22)

GRADUATE DEGREES CONFERRED 2020/21

Doctor of Philosophy

Tunrayo Adeleke-larodo, Theoretical Physics
 Marco Cappelletti, Law
 Dritero Demjaha, Theology
 Aravind Ganesh, Clinical Neurosciences
 Soufiane Hayou, Statistics
 Friederike Hillemann, Environmental Research (NERC DTP)
 Hila Levy, Zoology
 Liam Peck, Ion Channels and Disease
 Qiujie Shi, Geography and the Environment
 Barbara Emanuella Souza, Engineering Science
 Collis Tahzib, Philosophy
 Benjamin Thorne, Astrophysics

Alexander Wilson, Experimental Psychology
Ruo Chen Xie, Physical and Theoretical Chemistry
Gabija Zemaityte, Particle Physics

Master of Science

Jennifer Stephanie Silver, Social Anthropology

Master of Philosophy

Thamara Valerie Jean, Politics: Political Theory
Rayan Semery-Palumbo, Politics: Comparative Government

Master of Studies

Ja Vaughn Thabiti Osaze Flowers, Music (Performance)
Leo Kadokura, World Literatures in English
Ella Rose Marshall-Shepherd, Music (Musicology)
Tobias Paterson, Global and Imperial History
Matthew James Lloyd Prudham, Latin Language and Literature
Gabrielle Marie Russo, Comparative Literature and Critical Translation

Master of Business Administration

Jiaxian Shi

Bachelor of Civil Law

Tatiana Michelle Kurschner
Aliya Al-Yassin,
Jonas Atmaz Al-Sibaie

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

Celine Isabelle Brendler-Spaeth
Jessica Poppy Jane Larwood
Yusra Fatimah Shammoon



NAMED AWARD SCHOLARS 2020/21

450th Anniversary Fund Scholars

Isabel Brooks, Clinical Medicine (joint with MRC)
Chinedu Chukwudinma, Geography and the Environment (joint with ESRC)
Sparshita Dey, Particle Physics (joint with EPSRC)
Maja Friedemann, Experimental Psychology (joint with ESRC)
Pol Hernandez, Synthesis for Biology & Medicine (joint with EPSRC)
Muhammed Hoque Miah, Theology and Religion (joint with AHRC)
Alice Huxley, English (joint with AHRC)
Tom Mulder, Environmental Research (joint with EPSRC)
George Pickering, History (joint with ESRC)
Ashkan Sepahvand, Fine Art (joint with AHRC)

Nicholas Bratt Scholar

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

Drue Heinz Scholars

Rebecca Bradburn, English (joint with Oxford University)
Charlotte Hand, English (joint with Oxford University)

Elizabeth Fallaize Scholar

McNeil Taylor, Modern Languages

Ioan and Rosemary James Graduate Scholars

Solomon Alder, Fine Art (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)
Alejandro De Los Angeles, Psychiatry (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)
Simone Hu, Mathematics
Rosemary Huck, Geography and the Environment (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)
Sergio Giron Pacheco, Mathematics (joint with Mathematical Institute)
Filippos Sytilidis, Mathematics (joint with Mathematical Institute)
Jane Tan, Mathematics (joint with Mathematical Institute)

Kendrew Scholars (all joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Nishant Chauhan, Earth Sciences
Guneet Dhillon, Statistics
Sally Galal, Women's Reproductive Health
Claire Keene, Clinical Medicine
Ainura Moldokmatova, Clinical Medicine
Erika Vega Gonzalez, Music

Lamb & Flag Scholars

William Blythe, Oriental Studies (joint with AHRC)
Katie Croft, Medical Sciences (joint with MRC)
Peter George, History (joint with AHRC)
Sebastian Kopp, Inorganic Chemistry (joint with EPSRC)
James Linyard, Interdisciplinary Bioscience (joint with EPSRC)
Alexander Manby, Geography (joint with ESRC)
Adrian Martini, Statistics (joint with EPSRC)
Sylvia McKelvie, Geography and the Environment (joint with ESRC)
Judit Molnár, Anthropology (joint with ESRC)
Björn Vahsen, Clinical Neurosciences (joint with MRC)

Angus McLeod Scholar

Romain Fournier, Statistics (joint with Oxford University)

North Senior Scholars

Andreea-Maria Oncescu, Engineering Science

Björn Vahsen, Clinical Neurosciences

Lester B Pearson Scholar

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

St John's Alumni Fund Scholars

Anna Clark, History (joint with AHRC)

Samuel Dobson, Physics (joint with EPSRC)

Julia Ebner, Anthropology (joint with ESRC)

Andrea Estandia, Environmental Research (joint with EPSRC)

Annabel Hancock, History (joint with AHRC)

Abigail Hayton, Theology and Religion (joint with AHRC)

Eduard Oravkin, Statistics (joint with EPSRC)

Gabriele Paone, Anthropology (joint with ESRC)

Joseph Pollacco, Interdisciplinary Bioscience (joint with EPSRC)

Richard Rehman, History (joint with AHRC)

Leora Sevi, Experimental Psychology (joint with MRC)

Lorika Shkreli, Psychiatry (joint with MRC)

Daniel Slifkin Scholar

Firdaus Mohandes, Bachelor of Civil Law

Beeston Scholar

Annabel Hancock, History

Robert Oxlade Scholar (joint with Clarendon Scholarship)

Aida Seyed-salehi, Psychiatry

SENIOR MEMBERS 2021/22

Members of Governing Body

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

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

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

Anthony Robin Weidberg, MA, DPhil, (BSc London, PhD Cantab.), Tutor in Physics and Professor of Particle Physics

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

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

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

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

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

Philip Kumar Maini, MA, DPhil, FRS, Professorial Fellow in Mathematical Biology

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

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

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

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

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

Heather Bouman, MA, (BSc Guelph, MSc, PhD Dalhousie), Supernumerary Fellow and Associate Professor in Biogeochemistry, Keeper of Bagley Wood

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

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

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

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

Jason Schnell, (BS Minnesota, PhD Scripps Institute La Jolla), Tutor and Associate Professor in Biochemistry

Theresa Burt de Perera, DPhil, (BSc Wales), Tutor and Associate Professor in Zoology, Senior Dean

Sally Jayne Layburn, MA, FCA, Supernumerary Fellow and Finance Bursar



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

Supernumerary Fellows

- Sir Nicholas John White**, OBE, MA, (BSc, MB, BS, DM, DSC London), FRS, Professor of Tropical Medicine
- Katherine Mary Blundell**, OBE, MA, (MA, PhD Cantab.), Professor of Astrophysics
- Elizabeth Clare Macfarlane**, MA, DPhil, Chaplain, Welfare Dean
- The Rt Hon Lord Drayson of Kensington**, PC, (BSci, PhD Aston), FEng
- Karthik Ramanna**, (PhD MIT), Professor of Business and Public Policy
- James Alexander Maynard**, DPhil, (BA, MMath Cantab.), Research Professor, Mathematical Institute
- Ketan Jayakrishna Patel**, FRS FMedSci MRCP, (MBBS London, PhD Cantab.), Director of MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine and Fellow for Ethnic Minorities
- Walter Mattli**, MA, (BA University of Geneva, MA New York, PhD Chicago)
- Georg Viehhauser**, (PhD Vienna), Physics

Supernumerary Teaching Fellows

- Gemma Tidman**, BA, MSt, DPhil, French (until 31/12/21)
- Jenny Claire Jones Richards**, BA, DPhil (MRes London), Geography
- Jordan Stanley English**, BCL (LLB, BCom, Queensland), Law
- Jane Ivy Coons**, (BA, State University of New York at Geneseo, MSc, PhD, North Carolina State University), Mathematics
- Alice Roullière**, (BA, MA Paris Sorbonne and ENS Ulm, PhD Cantab.), Medieval and Modern Languages, French

Emeritus Research Fellows

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

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

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

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

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

Malcolm Davies, MA, DPhil, formerly Tutor in Classics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Andrew John Parker, (MA, PhD, ScD Cantab.), FSB, formerly Tutor in Physiology

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

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

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



Research Fellows

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Junior Research Fellows

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

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

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

Oliver Padget, DPhil, (BSc Nottingham), Biology

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

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

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

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

Bradley Roberts, DPhil, (BA Maryland), Physiology

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

Justine Laura Potts, MA, MSt, DPhil, Woodhouse Junior Research Fellow in Classics, Assistant Dean of Degrees

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

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

Josef Boronski, (MChem York, PhD Manchester), Chemistry

Chao He, DPhil (MEng Tsinghua, MRes London), Engineering Science

Laura Flannigan, (BA, MA York, PhD Cantab.), History

Dylan Andrew Charles Gaffney, (BA, MA Otago), Anthropology

St John's Research Associate

Karolina Sekita, DPhil, (Magister Warsaw), Classics (until 31/12/21)

Lecturers

William Ludwig Allen, MPhil, DPhil (BA Alma), Politics

Christoph Bachhuber, DPhil, (MA Texas), Archaeology

Laurence John Belcher, (BSc, MRes Exeter, PhD Bath), Biology

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

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

Nicola Jane Dawson, (BA, BSc, PhD London), Experimental Psychology

Dejan Draschkow, (MA LMU Munich, PhD GU Frankfurt), Psychology
 Marion Durand, (BA Cantab., PhD Toronto), Ancient Philosophy
 Marie Elven, (DEA Paris III), French Language
 Lydia Gilday, MChem, DPhil, Chemistry
 Patrick Gill-Tiney, BA, (MSc London, MA Maryland), Politics
 Francesco Giusti, (BA, MA L'Aquila, PhD SUM - Florence), Italian
 Paul Griffiths, (BSc, PhD Liverpool), Quantitative Methods and Statistics
 Kirstin Gwyer, BA, MSt, DPhil, German
 Matthew Hosty, MSt, DPhil, Classics
 Péter Juhász, MPhys (BA, MSci Cantab.), Physics
 Claudia Kaiser, (MA Erlangen-Nuremberg, Dipl Bamberg), German Language
 Nick Mayhew, (MPhil, PhD Cantab.), Russian
 Rolf Morel, MSc (BSc Eindhoven), Computer Science
 John Morris, (MB, ChB, MD Bristol), Medicine
 Annika Münster, (BA, MA Bonn), German Lektorin
 Alison Pollard, MA, MSt, DPhil, Classical Archaeology
 Alice Bethany Rose Raw, MSt, DPhil, History
 Andréa Rosinhas, (BA, MA Université Paris Nanterre), French Lectrice
 Devinderjit Sivia, (BA, DPhil Cantab.), Mathematics for the Sciences
 Florentine Charlotte Stolker, MSt, DLS (LLB, LLM Leiden, LL.M Amsterdam), Law
 Alan Strathern, DPhil, (MA London), History
 Rohan Wijesurendra, DPhil, MRCP, (MB, BChir, MA Cantab.), Clinical Medicine
 Conor Adam Wilcox-Mahon, BA, (MPhil Cantab.), English
 Samuel Wolfe, (MPhil, PhD Cantab.), Linguistics
 Justin Conrad Rosen Wormald, MRCS PGDip (MBBS, MRes, UEA), Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Emeritus Fellows

Sir Royston Miles Goode, CBE, QC, MA, DCL, (LLD London), FBA, formerly Norton Rose Professor of English Law
 Iain McLaren Mason, MA, (BSc Cape Town, PhD Edin), FRS, formerly Tutor in Engineering Science; Professor of Geophysics, University of Sydney
 Wilferd Ferdinand Madelung, (DPhil Hamburg), FBA, formerly Laudian Professor of Arabic
 Sir Anthony John Patrick Kenny, MA, DPhil, DLitt, FBA, sometime Master of Balliol College; formerly President of the British Academy; formerly Chairman, British Library Board; sometime Warden of Rhodes House; formerly Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development); formerly President of the University Development Office
 Oliver Louis Robert Jacobs, MA, DPhil, (MA, PhD Cantab.), formerly Tutor in Engineering Science
 Paul Lansley Harris, MA, DPhil, FBA, formerly Tutor in Psychology and Professor of Developmental Psychology; Victor S Thomas Professor of Education, Harvard; Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
 Desmond Stephen King, MA, DLitt (BA Mod Dublin, MA, PhD Northwestern), FBA, MRIA, FRHistS, FAacSS, formerly Tutor in



Politics; Andrew W Mellon Professor of American Government and Professorial Fellow, Nuffield College
 John Alexander Montgomery, MA, FCA, formerly Finance Bursar and Supernumerary Fellow
 Christopher John Leaver, CBE, MA, (BSc, ARCS, DIC, PhD London), FRS, FRSE, MAE, formerly Professorial Fellow and Sibthorpe Professor of Plant Sciences
 Ritchie Neil Ninian Robertson, MA, DPhil, FBA, formerly Tutor in German; Taylor Professor of the German Language and Literature, Fellow of The Queen's College
 Nicholas Purcell, MA, FBA, formerly Tutor in Ancient History; Camden Professor of Ancient History, Fellow of Brasenose College
 Gerard Jan Henk van Gelder, MA, (kandidaatsexamen Amsterdam, doctoraal examen Leiden and Amsterdam, PhD Leiden), FBA, formerly Laudian Professor of Arabic
 David Llewellyn Bevan, MA, formerly Tutor in Economics
 Terence Christopher Cave, CBE, MA, DPhil, FBA, formerly Tutor in French and Professor of French Literature
 Joel Ouaknine, MA, DPhil, (BSc, MSc McGill), formerly Tutor in Computer Science and Professor of Computer Science
 Ian John Sobey, MA, (BSc Adelaide, PhD Cantab.), formerly Tutor and Associate Professor in Engineering Science
 Marlia Cordelia Mundell Mango, MA, DPhil, (BA Newton, Mass, MA London), FSA, formerly Fellow by Special Election in Byzantine Archaeology and Art
 John Stephen Kelly, MA, DPhil, (MA Dublin), formerly Tutor in English
 Sir John Anderson Kay, MA, (MA Edin), FBA, formerly Supernumerary Fellow in Economics
 Dominic Peter Kwiatkowski, MA (MB, BS London), FRCP, FRCPCH, FMedSci, FRS, formerly Professorial Fellow in Genomics and Global Health

Honorary Fellows

Sir Keith Vivian Thomas, CH, MA, FBA, formerly Professorial Fellow and Tutor in History; sometime President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford; formerly President of the British Academy; Honorary Fellow of All Souls College
 Ioan MacKenzie James, MA, FRS, formerly Fellow and Tutor in Pure Mathematics; sometime Savilian Professor of Geometry
 John Carey, MA, DPhil, FRSL, FBA, formerly Lambe Scholar and Fellow and Tutor in English; sometime Merton Professor of English Literature

Alan Marshall Bailey, KCB, MA, BPhil, formerly Exhibitioner and Honorary Scholar; formerly Permanent Secretary of the Department of Transport; sometime Chairman of London Transport Buses

Sir Michael John Anthony Partridge, KCB, MA, formerly Fish Scholar; formerly Permanent Secretary of the Department of Social Security; Pro-Chancellor and Governor of Middlesex University; sometime President of the Old Merchant Taylors' Society

The Most Revd Father Timothy Peter Joseph Radcliffe, OP, MA, DD, formerly Commoner; sometime Master of the Order of Preachers

Anthony Charles Lynton Blair, formerly Commoner; formerly MP and Prime Minister; formerly Special Envoy to the Middle East; Chairman of the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation

John William White, CMG, MA, DPhil, (BSc, MSc Sydney), FRS, FRSC, FAA, formerly Fellow and Tutor in Chemistry; Science Policy Secretary of the Council of the Australian Academy of Science; Professor of the Research School of Chemistry, Australian National University

Terence James Reed, MA, FBA, formerly Fellow and Tutor in German; sometime Taylor Professor of the German Language and Literature; Corresponding Fellow of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences

Paul Alexander Slack, MA, DPhil, DLitt, FBA, FRHistS, formerly Casberd Exhibitioner and Scholar; sometime Professor of Early Modern Social History; formerly Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford and Principal of Linacre College

Sadayuki Hayashi, Hon GCVO, MA, formerly Commoner, Ambassador of Japan to the Court of St James; sometime Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Sir Christopher Hubert Llewellyn Smith, MA, DPhil, FRS, formerly Professorial Fellow and Tutor in Physics; formerly Director General of CERN; formerly Provost and President of University College, London; Director of Energy Research at the University of Oxford; President of the Council of Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME)

Geoffrey William Anderson, MA, DPhil, FSA, FRSE, formerly Casberd Exhibitioner; formerly Director of the British Museum; Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge

Robert Darnton, DPhil, formerly Rhodes Scholar; sometime Professor of History, Princeton University; Carl H Pforzheimer University Professor and University Librarian, Harvard

William Hayes, MA, DPhil, (MSc, PhD, National University of Ireland), Hon MRJA; formerly Professorial Fellow and Tutor in Physics; sometime Principal Bursar; formerly Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and President of St John's

Sir Stuart Hampson, CVO DL, MA, formerly Commoner; formerly Chairman of The Crown Estate; formerly Chairman of the John Lewis Partnership; formerly Chairman of the Royal Society of Arts

Timothy Patrick Lankester, KCB, MA, (MA Cantab., MA Yale), formerly Fereday Fellow; formerly Permanent Secretary of Overseas Development Administration and the Department of Education; formerly Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies; sometime President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Chairman of the Council of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Sir Andrew William Dilnot, CBE, MA, formerly Commoner; formerly Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies; sometime

Principal of St Hugh's College; Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority and Warden of Nuffield College

Sir Simon David Jenkins, MA, formerly Commoner; sometime editor of the *London Evening Standard*; sometime editor of *The Times*; sometime political editor of *The Economist*; formerly Deputy Chairman of English Heritage; sometime Chairman of the National Trust

Edward Brian Davis, MA, FRS, formerly Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics; Professor of Mathematics, King's College, London

John Graham Cottingham, MA, DPhil, formerly Thomas White Scholar; Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, Reading University

Sir Michael Sydney Perry, GBE, MA, formerly Commoner; sometime Chairman, Unilever Plc and Centrica Plc, the Senior Salaries Review Body, the Leverhulme Trust and the Shakespeare Globe Trust

Sir Keith Burnett, CBE, MA, DPhil, FRS, FAPS, FOSA, FInstP, formerly Tutor in Physics and Professor of Physics, Head of Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division; sometime Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University

The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Price Richards, MA, formerly Scholar, Lord Justice of Appeal; Deputy Head of Civil Justice for England and Wales; Privy Counsellor

Bernard John Taylor, CBE, DL, FRSC, CChem, CSi, LRPS, MA, formerly Scholar; formerly Vice-Chairman of JP Morgan; formerly Member of the Council of the University of Oxford; Chairman of Evercore Partners International LLP; Chairman of Isis Innovation Ltd; Chairman of Garsington Opera; Chairman of the Ashmolean Museum Board of Visitors; Deputy Steward of the University of Oxford; Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

Ulick Peter Burke, MA, FRHistS, FBA, formerly Scholar, formerly Professor of Cultural History, University of Cambridge; Life Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge

Andrew Frederic Wallace-Hadrill, OBE, MA, DPhil, FBA, FSA, formerly Senior Scholar; formerly Director of the British School in Rome; formerly Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; Professor of Roman Studies and Director of Research for the Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge

John Lawson Thornton, MA, (AB Harvard, MPPM Yale), formerly Commoner; formerly President of Goldman Sachs; Professor and Director of Global Leadership at Tsinghua University, Beijing and Chairman of the Board of the Brookings Institution; Chairman of Barrick Gold

Ian Bostridge, CBE, MA, DPhil, (MPhil Cantab.), formerly Scholar; Concert and Operatic Tenor

Sir Charles Richard Catlow, MA, DPhil, FRS, FRSC, formerly Exhibitioner, formerly Wolfson Professor of Natural Philosophy, the Royal Institution; Professor of Solid State Chemistry and Head of Mathematics and Physical Sciences Faculty, University College London; Foreign Secretary, Royal Society

Sir Brian Howard Harrison, MA, DPhil, FBA, FRHistS, formerly Scholar, formerly Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford; sometime Editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*; Emeritus Fellow of Corpus Christi College

Anthony John Boyce, MA, DPhil, formerly Scholar, formerly Tutor in Human Sciences; sometime Principal Bursar

Henry Reece, MA, DPhil, (BA, Bristol), formerly graduate student; formerly Secretary to the Delegates and Chief Executive, Oxford University Press; Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College

William Joseph Burns, MPhil, DPhil, (BA LaSalle), Director of the CIA; formerly graduate student; formerly US Ambassador to Jordan, US Ambassador to Russia; formerly US Under Secretary for Political Affairs and Deputy Secretary of State; formerly President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Stephen Wolfram, PhD Caltech, formerly Scholar; creator of Mathematica and Wolfram/Alpha; Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Wolfram Research

Sir Michael Charles Scholar, KCB, MA, DPhil, (MA, PhD Cantab.); formerly Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Office and the Department of Trade and Industry; sometime Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority; formerly President of St John's

Sir John Tooke, KB, FRCP, FMedSci, formerly Commoner; formerly inaugural Dean of the Peninsula Medical School; President of the Academy of Medical Sciences; Vice-Provost (Health), Head of the School of Life & Medical Sciences (incorporating UCL Medical School), University College London

Dame Angela Eagle, MP, MA, formerly Commoner; MP for Wallasey; formerly Shadow Leader of the House of Commons; formerly Minister of State for Pensions and the Ageing Society and Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Ruth Harris, MA, DPhil, (BA, MA, Pennsylvania), FBA, formerly Junior Research Fellow; Professor of Modern History and Senior Research Fellow, All Souls College

Evan Davis, MA, formerly Scholar; formerly Economics Editor for the BBC and presenter of *Today* and *Newsnight*; presenter of *PM* on BBC Radio 4

Ann Jefferson, MA, DPhil, formerly Junior Research Fellow, FBA; Professor of French and Emeritus Fellow of New College; *Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*

Sir David Nicholas Cannadine, DPhil (MA, LittD Cantab.), formerly Junior Research Fellow, FBA, FRSL, FRHistS; formerly Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge; formerly Moore Collegiate Professor of History, Columbia; formerly Director, Institute of Historical Research; Chair, National Portrait Gallery; Editor, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

Andrew Harrison, OBE, MA, DPhil, MRSC, FRSE, formerly Fereday Junior Research Fellow; formerly Research Fellow, Nuffield College; formerly Professor of Solid State Chemistry, University of Edinburgh; Founding Director, Centre for Science at Extreme Conditions; Director General, Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL), the Neutron Source, Grenoble; Director, Diamond Light Source

Barbara Jane Slater, MSc (BA Birmingham, PGCE Loughborough), OBE; Director of BBC Sport

John Darwin, BA, DPhil, formerly Scholar, FBA, Professor of Global and Imperial History, Nuffield College, Fellow of Nuffield College, FBA

Rushanara Bini Ali, BA, formerly Commoner; MP for Bethnal Green and Bow, formerly Shadow Minister for Education, and for International Development; Co-Founder of the charity Uprising

Rt Hon Sir Keith John Lindblom, QC, PC, BA, formerly Commoner; Lord Justice of Appeal

Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Hamblen, QC, PC, BA, (LLM Harvard Law School); formerly Scholar; Lord Justice of Appeal; Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

Sir Robert Devereux, KCB, BA, (MA Edin), formerly Commoner, formerly Permanent Secretary for the Department of Work and Pensions

Sir Nigel Carrington, formerly Vice-Chancellor of University of the Arts London; formerly Managing Partner and European Chairman at Baker & McKenzie and Managing Director of McLaren Group, Chairman of the Henry Moore Foundation and of Advance HE, Founder Director of the Creative Industries Federation and member of the Board of Universities UK

Stephen Mitchell, MA, DPhil, FBA, formerly Leverhulme Professor of Hellenistic Culture at Exeter University; member of the German Archaeological Institute; honorary doctorate Humboldt University Berlin, formerly President of the British Epigraphy Society and of the Association Internationale d'Épigraphie Grecque et Latine, Council of the Arts and Humanities Research Board, Chairman of the British Institute at Ankara

Lionel Tarassenko, CBE, MA, DPhil, CEng, FIET, FMedSci, FREng, FIEE, formerly Professorial Fellow in Electrical and Electronic Engineering; founding President, Reuben College

Jane Lucy Lightfoot, MA, DPhil, FBA, Professor of Greek Literature and Charlton Fellow and Tutor in Classics, New College

Catherine Rowena Mallyon, MA, Executive Director, Royal Shakespeare Company

Dorothy Vera Margaret Bishop, MA, DPhil, (DM Lond), FMedSci, FBA, FRS, Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology

Myles Robert Allen, DPhil, FInstP, Professor of Geosystem Science, Fellow of Linacre College

Alexander Bird, MA (PhD Cantab.), Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy, Cambridge University

Christopher Joseph Schofield, FRS, FRSC; DPhil (BSc Manchester), Head of Organic Chemistry, Oxford University

Khoo Boon Hui, MA, Légion d'honneur, Ordre national du Mérite; formerly Police Commissioner, Singapore (1997–2010) and President of INTERPOL (2008–12)

Peter Sayer Phillips, MA, former Organ Scholar; Bodley Fellow, Merton College; founder of The Tallis Scholars



News of Alumni

The College thanks alumni who have supported College committees and activity over the past year:

Committee for the Promotion of the Arts: Dr Alex Connock (1984, PPE), Sir Nigel Carrington (1975, Jurisprudence)

Development and Alumni Relations Committee: Dr Tony Boyce (1957, Zoology), Hannah Gilbert (1993, Arabic), Dr Nigel Meir (1975, Medicine), Laura Poots (2002, Jurisprudence), Bernard Taylor CBE (1975, Chemistry)

Development Board: Chair: Bernard Taylor CBE (1975, Chemistry), Dr Genevieve Davies (1994, DPhil Modern Languages), Tom Ewing (1995, PPE), Edward Hocknell (1980, Classics), Dr Yungtai Hsu (1971, BLitt History), Michael McDonough (1994, Visiting Student Programme), Dr Nigel Meir (1975, Medicine)

Finance Committee: Sir Robert Devereux KCB (1975, Mathematics), Roy Copus (1977, English)

Investment Advisory Group (IAG): Chair: Michael McLintock (1980, History and Economics), Neil Matheson (1976, PPE), Nicholas Bratt (1967, PPE), Cressida Hogg CBE (1987, PPE)

Race and Equality Advisory Group: Jenny Fay (1996, Chemistry), Tabassum Rasheed (2008, PPE), Dr Rashmi Shankar (1980, Experimental Psychology), Shamim Tong (1994, Jurisprudence), Uche Ukachi (2010, Engineering, Economics and Management)

Remuneration Committee: Chair: Professor Sir John Tooke (1967, Medicine), Emily Bell (1999, Jurisprudence), Sarah Deaves (1980, Geography), Alison Lakey (1998, Human Sciences), William Mackesy (1978, Jurisprudence)

Research Committee: Professor Sir John Darwin CBE (1966, History)

Women's Network Steering Group: Chair: Hannah Gilbert (1993, Arabic), Jennifer Armstrong (2004, PPE), Alex Bollen (1991, History), Joanne Harrison Gross (1981, Modern Languages), Dr Jessica Kindler (2001, DPhil English), Rosie Le Voir (2009, Human Sciences), Nyasha Mbewe (2015, German), Kate Molesworth (1984, MSc Biological Anthropology), Tabassum Rasheed (2008, PPE), Rose Sundt (2015, Oriental Studies), Andrew Tiernan (2000, English Literature and Language)

1951

Dr Victor Shorrocks has recently published *Conventional and Organic Farming: A Comprehensive Review through the Lens of Agricultural Science* with 5M Publishing.

1957

Professor Peter Burke has published *The Polymath: A Cultural History from Leonardo da Vinci to Susan Sontag* with Yale University Press.

1958

Professor Allen Scott was awarded an Honorary Doctorate at the University of Toronto on 16th June 2021. He is a distinguished research professor in the Department of Geography and the Department of Public Policy at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research interests are focused on issues of urbanisation, regional development, and economic geography.

1960

Professor Ervand Abrahamian has published *Oil Crisis in Iran: From Nationalism to Coup d'Etat* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

1962

Professor Glyn Burgess co-authored *The Roman de Thèbes and the Roman d'Eneas*, translated by Glyn S. Burgess and Douglas Kelly' (Liverpool University Press, 2021); xvii + 422 pp. This publication marks the end of a project begun in the mid-1990s to make all the Old French narrative lays and early romances available to scholars and the general public. Many lacked either a satisfactory edition or translation. The entire project has required eleven books.

1963

Anthony Portner welcomed a fifth grandchild and fourth grandson named Kai Arbel Portner on 21st October 2020.

1964

William Graves MBE was made an MBE in the 2021 New Year Honours List.

1970

Dr Andy Boyd has published *British Naval Intelligence through the Twentieth Century with Seaforth Publishing in September 2020*.

1974

Dr Christopher Fitter, Professor of English at Rutgers University, has recently published his third and fourth books: *Shakespeare and the Politics of Commoners* (Oxford University Press, 2017), and *Majesty and the Masses* (Routledge, 2020), a study of Shakespeare in the tradition of Western anti-monarchism.

Dr Nic Hyde retired from his general medical practice in 2015. He has been active in early music since then, in particular playing the viol. If any current St John's students or alumni are interested in learning to play the viola da gamba, he would be glad to help you get started. It is a very suitable instrument for adult learners. He is on the committee of the national society and in touch with other players and teachers.

Dr Michael Prior, after a career in the pharmaceuticals sector, is involved as a volunteer with various Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) activities, principally in supporting clinical research. He is also a volunteer with the Benevolent Fund of his professional body (The Royal Society of Chemistry).

1975

Mark Abley has now retired from McGill-Queen's University Press, where he worked for eleven years as an acquisitions editor. His most recent book, *The Organist: Fugues, Fatherhood, and a Fragile Mind*, was named one of the top ten classical music books of 2019 by BBC Music Magazine.

Professor Brian Foster is the Donald H. Perkins Professor of Experimental Physics and a Fellow of Balliol College. In 2020, he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Physics for his leadership of experimental particle physics internationally and, in the United Kingdom, for the promotion of physics both by novel public engagement and high-level involvement in learned society activities.

1977

Professor David Edgerton, Hans Rausing Professor of the History of Science and Technology and Professor of Modern British History, Kings College London, was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2021.

1978

Professor Jeremy Black is a historian and writer and has recently published a series of Brief Histories on Spain, Italy, Portugal and the Mediterranean.

1979

The Revd John Gillibrand launched a new podcast, *The Good Conversation*, in 2020. He believes that leaders – in the churches where he operates, and more widely in society – should be prepared to ask and to answer the most challenging questions. All his podcast guests will be taking part on that basis – and it has led to great conversations, based on courtesy, mutual respect and willingness to learn from each other. You can find the podcast on Spotify, Google and a range of other platforms.

Professor Usha Goswami was made a Dame in the 2021 New Year Honours List.

Professor Jeffrey Wilson published his edited book, *Mystery and Intelligibility: History of Philosophy as Pursuit of Wisdom*, with The Catholic University of America Press.

1980

Dame Angela Eagle was made a Dame in the 2021 New Year Honours List.

1981

Danielle Fontaine published a pictorial memoir titled *Still Time on Pye Pond* with Clemson University Press in February 2021.

Professor John Turner, having spent three years as Dean of Postgraduate Research and Head of the Doctoral School at Bangor University, returned to the School of Ocean Sciences as Head of School in late 2019. He now leads a four year £2m project on the response of remote coral reefs to climate change in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

1982

Professor Wendy Erber was awarded the Alumni Award for Professional Achievement by the University of Sydney in recognition of her work to establish one of the world's first comprehensive leukaemia diagnostic laboratories.

Vincent Katz published a collection of poems called *Broadway for Paul* with Alfred A. Knopf publishers. The poems in this book were all written after the presidential election of 2016 and attempt to minimise the poem's defences while circulating amid the flux of people passing through the streets of an urban centre. There are also poems written in the countryside that are meditations on impermanence and a series written in relation to the paintings of 92-year-old Paul Resika.

1983

Kishor Kale, in a medico-legal double-bind and its resolution, was in the happy position that if he went to get his COVID-19 vaccination, he might return to find himself not only homeless but without any protection from COVID-19 until the vaccination had taken effect. He received an eviction letter from the person in whose house he is currently living. Two solicitors advised him that if he were to leave the house, she would be entitled to change the locks and make him homeless without first going to court. So now both Boris Johnson and his legal adviser were advising him to stay at home (though for different reasons). He had been shielding since March 2020 and the next event on his social calendar would have been his COVID-19 vaccination. If Julian Assange were still in diplomatic asylum at the Ecuadorian embassy, then he would also have a legal reason for being reluctant to travel to get his vaccination. Kishor's GP resolved his predicament by putting him on the housebound patients list, and he had the vaccine in his back garden.

There are many situations in which someone may need a medical letter to comply with some legal or administrative requirement, but it must be rare for someone to be put on the housebound patients list as a consequence of legal advice unrelated to any medical condition. Kishor's garden vaccination was oddly reminiscent of the occasion when he sat for his Open Scholarship in Mathematics to St John's back in 1982, as his school refused to support his application or teach him for the Entrance and Scholarship Examination but allowed him to sit the exam on the premises (not the garden) – these are both examples of unusual special arrangements involving tension and drama.

Dr Joe McAleer's book, *Escape Artist: The Nine Lives of Harry Perry Robinson*, was published by Oxford University Press.

1985

Eric Penton-Voak OBE was made an OBE in the 2021 New Year Honours List.

1987

Jacci Bulman's new book, *Talking to God: Daring to Listen*, was published by Lion Hudson on 18th June. The book begins by inviting the reader to accompany Jacci through a series of eleven revealing interviews with people of Christian, or 'Jesus-connected' faith, who hold a wide range of beliefs. Two of these people are tutors from the University, and there are several references in the book to time spent writing and being inspired by people and places in the city.

In the book, Jacci invites you to ask, 'what do I personally believe?' and to join her as she finds out how these dedicated spiritual 'pilgrims' each respond to a set of fourteen important questions about God, Jesus and Christianity. We begin with uncertainty and travel in hope to find our own resolution. Inspired by these conversations, Jacci then explores her own faith during Easter time on Iona Island. She asks how we can understand truth and find unity in our diversity, and which spiritual 'language' works best for us.

The book hopes to lead the reader through some of faith's deepest questions – exploring what God means to us, and what we mean to God.

1988

Dr Geoffrey Pigman published a book entitled *Negotiating Our Economic Future: Trade, Technology and Diplomacy* with Agenda Publishing.

1990

James Stewart, after leaving St John's, trained for the Christian ministry at St John's College, Durham. He then retrained as an actor at Birmingham, and he's been flipping between the two realms ever since! Despite 2020 being difficult for us all he still managed to book various gigs. He filmed an advert/ident for Trivento wine, which actually filmed in Cape Town, despite making him look like he was up a Scottish mountain! Ironic, as James lives in Edinburgh.

He has been involved in various short films and documentaries; some of which will be going to festivals this year. He has also performed in the (inevitable) online Zoom plays, including two with *The Show Must Go Online*. Shakespeare's entire first folio canon remains free to access on YouTube. James also invested in recording equipment and has got into voice acting gigs. Readers of TW might appreciate *The Silt Verses*, a

rather gothic tale you'll find on Spotify, and other podcast providers!

After a rather over-dramatic 2020, he wishes all his fellow Johnians a rather run-of-the-mill 2021. (Fat chance, eh!)

1992

Robert Mayhew, Professor of Historical Geography and Intellectual History, University of Bristol, was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2021.

1994

Marius Gudonis is currently working and studying in Warsaw and has co-edited a new book on post-truth and history titled *History in a Post-Truth World: Theory and Praxis* with his colleague Benjamin T. Jones. The book was published by Routledge in October 2020.

Belinda Kirk's professional life has revolved around adventure for the past twenty-five years, and this year she will publish her new book *Adventure Revolution: The life-changing power of choosing* with the Little Brown Book Group. The book is about the transformational power of adventure. From managing anxiety and overcoming fear, to finding self-worth and building interpersonal connections, to being happier, healthier, and more playful, *Adventure Revolution* draws lessons from more than two decades of experience leading groups into the wilderness around the globe.

2002

Rasha Barrage is the author of a book published in June 2021, titled *Say No to Racism*. It is being published by Summersdale and further details can be found on their website. Rasha believes that many current students of the College (and others across the University) will be interested in this book, particularly following the debate about the removal of the Cecil Rhodes statue at Oriel College.

Dr Jacob Sider Jost received tenure in Spring 2020 and was promoted to Associate Professor of English at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, USA. His second book, *Interest and Connection in the Eighteenth Century: Hervey, Johnson, Smith, Equiano*, was published by the University of Virginia Press in late 2020.

2005

Dr Omar Abdel-Mannan, alongside colleagues at Great Ormond Street Hospital (London), recently published an article highlighting for the first time the

neurological complications of COVID-19 in children in *JAMA Neurology*, titled *Neurologic and Radiographic Findings Associated With COVID-19 Infection in Children*. The article was covered in the media by a number of news organisations, including NBC, CNBC and The Independent.

Professor Jennifer Gosetti-Ferencei's book, *On Being and Becoming: An Existentialist Approach to Life*, was published in 2021 by Oxford University Press.

Dr Sophie Brockmann published *The Science of Useful Nature in Central America: Landscapes, Networks and Practical Enlightenment, 1784–1838* (CUP, 2020).

2008

Dr Caroline Saunders (née Pendleton) and Dr Ben Saunders welcomed their daughter Edith in April 2021, a sister to Owen (born February 2019).

2013

Blathnaid McCullagh released her new single in March 2021, *Fool's Gold*, under her moniker, BLÁNID, having worked with an acclaimed producer and manager over the past year.

2015

Sofia Kirwan-Baez released her debut album in February 2021, *Take One and a Half*, containing only her own compositions. You can listen to the album on all the standard streaming services.

Former JRFs

Dr Juliane Fürst has published *Flowers Through Concrete: Explorations in Soviet Hippieland* (OUP, 2021).

Dr Georgi Gardiner received a Fellowship from the American Council for Learned Societies for her project titled *'She Said, He Said': Rape Accusations and the Balance of the Evidence* which will investigate the epistemology of rape accusations, focusing on formal institutional procedures.

Professor Adrian Hill KBE was made an Honorary KBE in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List.



St John's College Oxford

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Visit the Alumni and Benefactors pages at www.sjc.ox.ac.uk

Find details of Oxford University alumni events at www.alumni.ox.ac.uk

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Have you recently moved house or changed your email address? Visit www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/alumni/update-your-details/ to let us know.