

PROFESSOR SIR ANDREW WILES (1971) AWARDED TOP MATHEMATICS PRIZE

Merton's Professorial Fellow in Mathematics Sir Andrew Wiles has been awarded the 2016 Abel Prize by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters "for his stunning proof of Fermat's Last Theorem."

The Abel Prize has been described as 'the mathematicians' Nobel Prize'. It

was established by the Norwegian government in 2002 to mark the 200th anniversary of the pioneering Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel. The prize recognises contributions to the field of mathematics that are of extraordinary depth and influence.

Sir Andrew will receive the prize

from HRH Crown Prince Haakon at a ceremony at the University of Oslo on 24 May. Sir Andrew commented: "It is a tremendous honour to receive the Abel Prize and to join the previous Laureates who have made such outstanding contributions to the field." ♥

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Peter Tatchell and panellists at the third Merton Equality Conversation. Photograph © John Cairns

THE 2016 MERTON EQUALITY CONVERSATION

The College welcomed the LGBTQ rights campaigner Peter Tatchell to give the introductory talk at the third annual Merton Equality Conversation in March, on the subject of 'Legal equality is important – but not enough'. He was joined in discussion by a panel of commentators, including Megan Delahunty-Light (2014), Merton JCR's LGBTQ Representative.

Meanwhile, attendees took part in the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #MertonEquality. The Conversation was recorded and will be made available online. 🍷

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Photograph © John Cairns

AUDITIONS OPEN FOR OXFORD'S FIRST GIRLS' CHOIR AT MERTON

The College is pleased to announce that it is establishing a Girls' Choir at Merton to enable girls from Oxford and the surrounding area to take an active part in Merton's musical tradition. Auditions will take place in April and May, and girls selected for the Choir will sing regularly in the College Chapel.

Girls interested in auditioning are invited, along with their parents, to join Benjamin Nicholas, Reed Rubin Organist and Director of Music, who will be leading the Choir, for an information evening on Tuesday 26 April. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)

TOUR MERTON ON GOOGLE STREET VIEW

On 27 January, Googlers from all around the world were able to see inside Oxford's historic grounds for the first time, including inside Merton's quads, the Chapel, Hall and Library.

Why not take a tour of Merton College on Google Street View now? 🍷

[EXPLORE OXFORD FROM YOUR DESK](#)



A happy retirement to Douglas Bamber, Merton's Domestic Bursar for eight years.

FAREWELL TO DOUGLAS BAMBER

The College is sad to say goodbye to Douglas Bamber who retires this term after nine years as Domestic Bursar at Merton. His counsel and skilful management will be missed by all at the College.

Douglas will be succeeded by Timothy Lightfoot, who comes from a previous role as Domestic Bursar at Worcester College. He will start at Merton on 9 May. 🍷

MERTON FELLOW HELPS RESTORE SIGHT TO THE BLIND

Research led by Bodley Fellow Professor Robert MacLaren that restored sight to a woman left virtually blind by *retinitis pigmentosa* (RP) was featured on the BBC's *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor* series back in January.

Rhian Lewis was given a 'bionic eye' retinal implant in June 2015 and has since been able to read a clock for the first time in more than six years.

Professor MacLaren said:

"It's an amazing process because what Rhian and others are trying to do is reactivate a part of the brain that hasn't been doing anything for the last ten years or so." 🍷

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Frederick Delius by Elliott & Fry. Photograph © National Portrait Gallery, London (licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)

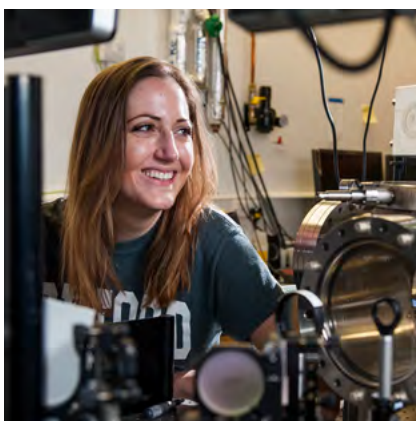
EXPLORING DELIUS'S 'SEA-DRIFT' ON BBC RADIO 3

Professor of Music Daniel Grimley appeared on BBC Radio 3's *Record Review* on Saturday 5 March, joining Andrew McGregor to present the regular 'Building a Library' feature. During the programme, Daniel explored Delius's 'Sea-Drift', his 1904 setting of Walt Whitman's poem 'Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking', and compared over a dozen interpretations of the piece.

The programme is available on the BBC iPlayer until (Monday) 4 April. ♥

[READ MORE](#)

[& LISTEN ONLINE](#)



Jena Meinecke (2011). Photograph © John Cairns

MERTON GRADUATE STUDENT ANSWERS ANY QUESTIONS

On 12 February, astrophysics graduate student Jena Meinecke (2011) logged onto the popular website Reddit to take part in an 'Ask Me Anything' event about her upcoming research with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's National Ignition Facility – the world's strongest laser. Jena will be using the laser to probe the origins of magnetic fields in the universe.

Questions ranged from the intricacies of conducting experiments with lasers and understanding magnetic fields, to being a successful woman in physics and giving words of advice for young people hoping to enter the field. ♥

[READ THE Q&A ON REDDIT](#)



Toddy Hoare with one of the panels from 'The Flight to Egypt' in Merton College Chapel.

'STATIONS OF THE NATIVITY' IN ANTECHAPEL

In January, the Chapel exhibited four pieces from the 'Stations of the Nativity' sequence by local artist Toddy Hoare. The panels, depicting four parts of the Nativity story from 'The Birth of Jesus' to 'The Flight to Egypt', were on display in the North Transept antechapel until Candlemas (31 January). ♥

[READ MORE](#)

LAW STUDENTS CONTINUE MOOTING SUCCESS

Merton law students have been making waves in mooting competitions both within the University and beyond. The College mooting team – Niamh Kelly (2015), Ioana Burtea (2015), Nanae Hart (2014), Laura King (2013) and Michael Withers (2014) – were close runners-up in the final of the Maitland Chambers University of Oxford Intercollegiate Mooting Competition in March against Harris Manchester.

[READ MORE](#)

This closely followed two other Merton law students – Anna Williams (2014) and Katie Ratcliffe (2014) – reaching the semi-finals of the National Rounds of the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Gray's Inn, London, in February as part of a University of Oxford team. They lost out to King's College London, who went on to win the final. ♥

[READ MORE](#)



Photograph © John Cairns

ON THE RIVER: NEWS FROM THE BOAT CLUB

Congratulations to Merton's M2, who won blades in Torpids this March and were subsequently promoted to Division 5! They moved up six places, while Merton M1 moved up one place in Division 2. W1 were less successful, losing six places in Division 3.

For Mertonians looking for a stroke-by-stroke account of MCBC's ups and downs, the Boat Club has published a series of Youtube videos of this year's Torpids. ♥

[WATCH THE TORPIDS VIDEOS](#)

[VISIT THE BOAT CLUB WEBSITE](#)



Viri Galilaei: Favourite anthems from Merton.
Released 18 March by Delphian Records.

VIRI GALILAEI: CD OF CHORAL FAVOURITES

The latest recording from the Merton College Choir was released on 18 March: *Viri Galilaei: Favourite anthems from Merton*. Recorded in the Chapel, it combines fresh inspiration in specially commissioned pieces for the *Merton Choirbook* with timeless favourite choral works.

The album is available to buy on iTunes and Amazon. 🍷

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

MERTON COLLEGE: A LONGER HISTORY

Following the popular *Short History*, Alan Bott (1953, Bodley Fellow) has written a longer, illustrated history of Merton College's buildings and furnishings, including more than 500 plans and illustrations.

Merton College: A Longer History of the Buildings and Furnishings is available to buy now online for £25 or by contacting the Development Office by calling +44 (0)1865 276 316 or emailing development@merton.ox.ac.uk. 🍷

[BUY ONLINE](#)

MERTONIAN NEWS



Dame Philippa Whipple QC takes part in the Merton Conversation 'On Liberty' in 2014.
Photo © John Cairns

MERTONIANS IN THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

Congratulations to two Mertonians who were recognised in the 2016 New Year's Honours list in January:

- Dr Will Barton (1969), awarded an OBE for services to Innovation and Manufacturing.
- Professor Andrew Wathey (1981), Vice-Chancellor of Northumbria University, awarded a CBE for services to Higher Education.

Congratulations also to Dame Philippa Whipple QC (1984) who was made a DBE in November 2015. 🍷



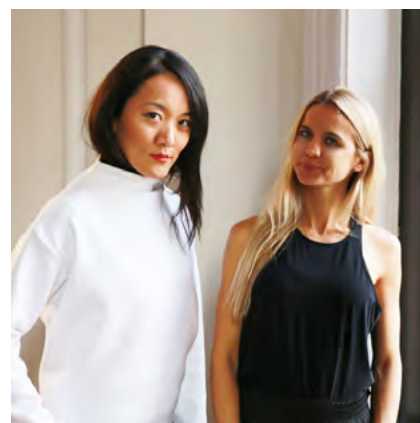
Oliver Ford Davies (second from right) meets up with other Mertonians in Hong Kong.

DRAMATIC CONNECTIONS IN HONG KONG

When Oliver Ford Davies (1958) visited Hong Kong in March to appear in the Royal Shakespeare Company's touring productions at the Hong Kong Arts Festival, he was warmly welcomed by fellow Mertonians living in the area. Oliver, who is known for his many appearances on film (*Star Wars*), TV (*Game of Thrones*) and stage (*Goodnight Mister Tom*, 2012; *Hamlet*, RSC 2008), appeared in *Henry IV Part II* and *Henry V*.

Jamie Barr (1979), who helped coordinate the meet-up, said: "One of the lovely things about meeting other Mertonians is that you know they are going to be interesting and delightful. Everyone commented on how enjoyable an evening it was." 🍷

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Meg He (2005) and Nina Faulhaber, co-founders of ADAY.

MEGAN HE (2005) MAKES FORBES 30 UNDER 30

Meg He (2005) was named on the Forbes fifth annual 30 Under 30 list of 'the world's most important young entrepreneurs, creative leaders and brightest stars'. Meg, who was named in the Retail and eCommerce category, is co-founder of ADAY, which produces contemporary and stylish activewear using technologically advanced fabrics usually seen in sportswear worn by Olympic athletes.

Meg commented: "I've always been incredibly inspired by this annual roundup of the world's future entrepreneurs and leaders, so it's incredibly exciting to be recognised among peers I admire deeply." 🍷

[READ MORE](#)

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

“What I particularly love about Merton is its genuine friendliness and openness to all.”

Mason Hancock (2015)
BA History
Student Telethon caller

MERTON CALLING: THE SPRING TELETHON 2016

Thirteen students will be taking to the telephones in April as part of Merton's first telethon since the 750th Anniversary Campaign: *Sustaining Excellence*. The purpose of the telethon is to update Mertonians with College news and events, as well as gather news and memories of Merton.

The students will be asking for feedback on Merton's alumni relations and development activity, as well as asking participants to support the College. In particular, they will be reminding Mertonians of our current fundraising priorities:

- **Student Support** - ensuring that all Merton students have the support they need in times of hardship, and that no potential student is deterred from coming to Merton due to financial difficulty.
- **The Tutorial System** - allowing Merton to maintain the high quality of teaching offered to its undergraduates and to protect vital posts such as the Law Fellowship.
- **Buildings and Facilities** - preserving the historic College site for future generations and upgrading facilities to supply a 21st-century learning environment.

The Telethon will take place between 4 and 18 April. 🍷

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Thirteen students will be staffing the phones this year. Meet two of them here:



Eamonn O'Keeffe (2014), BA History

"My name is Eamonn O'Keeffe and I am a second year history student at Merton. Fascinated by the past, I enjoy learning in such an inspiring and storied setting. I am involved in all sorts of activities in both College and the University. Having been on the rowing team last year, I look forward to serving as President of the University History Society next term. Raised in Canada and with Irish and American roots, I look forward to hearing from Merton alumni the world over."

Describe Merton in three words: *"Invigorating, empowering, inspiring"*



Anna Pyregov (2012), BA Modern Languages

"I am in my third year at Merton, reading French and Italian, and am currently on my year abroad in Paris, studying literature and taking history of art classes. I spend most of my free time here reading, watching films, going to museums and walking around the city. I am very interested in hearing about what Merton alumni have been doing since graduating because there are a lot of different things I would like to do after leaving university, but I also look forward to simply hearing about College memories."

Describe Merton in three words: *"Encouraging, comforting, heartening"*



THE 1264 SOCIETY

The Development Office were delighted to receive a box of brand new 1264 Society pins! If you've become a member of the 1264 Society in the 2015-16 Annual Fund year, you can expect to receive your new membership pin soon.

The 1264 Society was created to reward and celebrate generous donors to the Merton Annual Fund. Anyone who donates £1,264 in a year (£126.40 for under 30s and those who left in the last five years, or £12.64 for current students and those who left in the last year) is welcomed to the Society for that Annual Fund year. As well as the 1264 pin, members are recognised in the Donor Report, and are invited to an exclusive event in London once a year. 🍷

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE 1264 SOCIETY](#)



INSIDERS VS OUTSIDERS: THE 2016 LONDON LECTURE

This year the Merton Society welcomes the College's Fellow and Tutor in Politics, Dr Sergi Pardos-Prado, to talk at the annual Merton Society London Lecture on Monday 9 May at 7pm.

The Lecture will be on 'Insiders vs outsiders: Immigration, nationalism, and the new politics of identity'. The rise of anti-immigrant populist parties and attitudes throughout Europe, the unexpected increase of secessionist movements as in Catalonia and Scotland, and the EU referendum in Britain are some paradigmatic examples of the strength of the new politics of identity. Sergi, whose research focuses on political behaviours, comparative politics and migration politics, will explore the political causes and effects of these different forms of identity, and will suggest some policy frameworks to cope with them.

The Lecture will take place at Imperial College Business School in London, followed by refreshments. Tickets are £10 per person and can be booked online through the College website. 🍷

[FIND OUT MORE & BOOK NOW](#)

MERTON COLLEGE WINTER BALL 2016

The Merton College Winter Ball Committee are pleased to welcome Mertonians of all generations to the 2016 Ball, which will take place on 26 November 2016. Tickets will be released to Mertonians past and present on 15 May, before being made available to the wider University on 22 May.

Non-dining tickets will cost £180 (dining ticket prices to be confirmed). Mertonians will be able to purchase three guest tickets in addition to their own, and requests for larger bookings may be made through the Ball Secretary.

More details about the Ball and ticket sales will be provided nearer the time. In the meantime alumni are invited to keep up to date through the Winter Ball [Facebook page](#). Please do contact the committee at ball.secretary@merton.ox.ac.uk if you have any questions or special requests. 🍷

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Photograph from the Merton Archive



Runners at the startline of the Oxford Town & Gown 10k. Photo © Dave Morris (licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

OXFORD TOWN & GOWN 10K

Calling all runners and would-be runners: join the Merton College Team (alumni, undergraduates, graduates, Fellows and staff) and take part in this year's Oxford Town & Gown 10k run, which raises funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. After your morning of exercise, the Development Office invites you and all 'Team Merton' competitors for brunch in College.

Voted one of the best road races in the UK, the Oxford Town & Gown gives runners the unique opportunity to run through the closed streets of Oxford city centre, passing historic sites and ending in the beautiful University Parks. The route is flat and scenic, which makes it perfect for everyone, including those who want to take to the streets in fancy dress, beginners who have signed up to their first race, and the more experienced runners that want to get their personal best.

Don't forget to give 'Merton College' as your team name when you sign up on the Town & Gown website! 🍷

[FIND OUT MORE & SIGN UP NOW](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR: TRINITY TERM AND LONG VACATION 2016

MARCH

24 & 25 March | Concert: Mozart's *Requiem* | Venue: Auditorium St-Pierre-des-Cuisines, Toulouse, France

[MORE INFO](#)

31 March | Spring Golf Meeting | Venue: Newbury & Crookham Golf Club

[MORE INFO](#)

APRIL

3 - 10 April | Merton College Choir Tour of the US | New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Washington, DC

[MORE INFO](#)

8 - 10 April | MC3 Weekend and Annual General Meeting in Washington, DC
Saturday dinner will be held in the Cosmos Club and Sunday brunch hosted by Marla and Nick Allard (1974)

[MORE INFO](#)

15 April | Inter-Collegiate Alumni Golf Tournament | Venue: Frilford Heath Golf Club

[MORE INFO](#)

16 April | Gaudy for the years 1982 to 1986 | Venue: Merton College

[MORE INFO](#)

MAY

9 May | Merton Society London Lecture | Venue: Imperial College Business School
Speaker: Dr Sergi Pardos-Prado, Fellow and Tutor in Politics

[MORE INFO](#)

14 May | Concert: Striggio's *Ecce beatam lucem* | Venue: Merton College Chapel

[MORE INFO](#)

15 May | Oxford Town & Gown 10k race for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign
followed by brunch in College for members of the Merton Team

[MORE INFO](#)

28 May | Boat Club Dinner | Venue: Merton College | All Mertonians and their guests are welcome

[MORE INFO](#)

JUNE

3 June | Founder's Society event | Venue: Merton College

[MORE INFO](#)

25 - 26 June | Merton@Home | Venue: Merton College

[MORE INFO](#)

SEPTEMBER

16 - 18 September | Oxford University Alumni Weekend 2016

[MORE INFO](#)

23 September | Autumn Golf Meeting | Venue: Frilford Heath Golf Club

[MORE INFO](#)

24 September | Gaudy for years up to and including 1961 | Venue: Merton College

[MORE INFO](#)