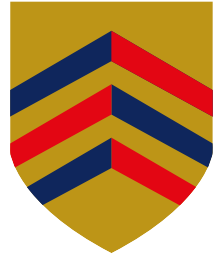


# Newsletter

2016



MERTON  
COLLEGE  
OXFORD

A RECYCLED  
DISCOVERY IN  
THE LIBRARY

GETTING TO  
KNOW YOU:  
WHO ARE  
MERTONIANS?

60 SECOND  
INTERVIEW:  
FROM ALEPPO TO  
OXFORD



# CONTENTS

## FROM THE WARDEN 3

## NEWS IN PICTURES 4

## COLLEGE NEWS 6

A round-up of news from the College, Fellows and Mertonians.

## FEATURED FELLOW REGULATING UNFAIR STANDARD FORM CONTRACTS 11

Merton's Fellow and Tutor in Law Professor Mindy Chen-Wishart discusses ethics and the regulation of the contracts we are asked to agree to when going about our daily business, both in the real world and online.

## A MERTON CONVERSATION ON... THE EU REFERENDUM 12

Join Roger Bootle (1970), Professor Simon Wren-Lewis (Emeritus Fellow) and Dr Sergi Pardos-Prado (Fellow in Politics) in a discussion on the EU Referendum (written before the vote).

## FROM THE LIBRARY & ARCHIVE AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY: EARLY MODERN RECYCLING 14

Conservator Jane Eagan (Oxford Conservation Consortium) on her unusual discovery during a routine task in the Merton collection.

## HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT MERTON 16

At a time when student debt in the UK is higher than ever, how does the College support its students financially?

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS GETTING TO KNOW YOU 18

Mertonians: who are you and how do you stay in contact with the College? Explore some of the information we have about our alumni.

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS BEYOND SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE 22

Development Director Christine Taylor gives an overview of Merton's strategic direction towards enhancing the graduate experience.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 24

## 60 SECONDS WITH... THE CARA ACADEMIC AT MERTON 26

The Syrian researcher welcomed to Merton through the Council for At Risk Academics talks to us about his experiences in his home country.

## FAQS 27



## NEWSLETTER

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[www.merton.ox.ac.uk/newsletter](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/newsletter)

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Suggestions for news items to go in this year's edition of *Postmaster & the Merton Record* should be sent to Merton's Communications Officer at [publications@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publications@merton.ox.ac.uk)

## CORRECTIONS

In last year's edition, it was stated that Beth Williamson (1988) was involved in the acquisition of John Coleridge Patteson's portrait. This was, in fact, with help from Susan Braithwaite (née Skedd, 1988). The editor would like to apologise to all parties concerned.





MERTON  
COLLEGE  
OXFORD

# FROM THE WARDEN

In an organisation of Merton's age, self-reflection is inescapable, especially when, as is the case for the Governing Body and me over the past 12 months, our eyes are firmly fixed on the future. We have examined the changing climate of higher education, and seen the growing importance of graduate degrees in the working world. We have scrutinised ongoing changes in student finances, and recognised that College-awarded student support – both for undergraduate and graduate students – will always be indispensable. We have pored over what has made Merton a shining example of academic excellence in its 750 years and have consistently been brought back to its unique and talented community, which brings together Fellows with students at all stages, and the staff and alumni who support them. The results of these meditations are the seeds of a new College strategy that will focus on graduate provision, as outlined in brief on page 22 of this newsletter.

Our plans would not be possible without a strong academic foundation. Over the last year there have been many examples of academic excellence. To name just two of these: Professor Sir Andrew Wiles was awarded the exceptional Abel Prize – the mathematics equivalent of the Nobel Prize – in May, and Professor Artur Ekert was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for his work in quantum physics and cryptography. Whenever I take part in College events, I take endless pleasure in hearing about the broad range of research in the Merton community, from Ancient Egyptian curses (Ann-Katrin Gill, 2010; DPhil Oriental Studies) to searching for the building blocks of the universe at the Large Hadron Collider (Professor Alan Barr, Merton Tutor in Physics and Professor of Particle Physics). Merton's law students continue to impress with their competitive and academic achievements, and the Boat Club is working hard to prove Merton's mettle: M1 and M2 won blades at Eights and Torpids respectively this year, much to my delight.

None of this would be possible without your generosity, which continues to invigorate Merton's academic community. You made it possible for the College to secure eight Fellowships



for posterity and provide ongoing support to students – undergraduate and graduate – currently fighting rising tides of student debt (see page 16). Our newest initiative – the recently formed Girls' Choir – will start this autumn and has been made possible by the generosity of David Harvey (1957). It is the first of its kind in Oxford, offering local girls of all backgrounds the enviable opportunity to take part in Oxford's centuries-old musical tradition.

Merton and its members – students, Fellows, alumni and staff – are entering an exciting new stage. Meanwhile, the search for a new Warden for Merton will begin in autumn this year, in preparation for my retirement in September 2018. There is still a lot to achieve in the next two years to ensure that I pass the College on to my successor with a crisp vision for a strong and successful future. For now, I am looking forward to seeing many of you next year, whether in the UK, in South East Asia or in North America.

*Professor Sir Martin Taylor*

The Warden addresses gathered Mertonians and Fellows at the Ditchley Park 'away weekend' in January 2016.

Photograph: © John Cairns

## NEWS IN PICTURES



1

### 1. A GOOD DUNKING

The cox of the Merton College first men's boat, Toby Adkins (2014), is thrown into the river in celebration of winning blades in the 2016 Eights.

Photograph: Bertie Beor-Roberts (2014)

### 2. A LOVE WORTH GIVING

Mertonian Luke Yates (2012) in the documentary film *A Love Worth Giving*. While Luke was studying for his DPhil at Merton, his wife Sam's cystic fibrosis worsened. Filmed over four years, the documentary follows their wait for an organ donor to provide Sam with a new pair of lungs, her only chance for survival.

The film was premiered at DocHouse, Curzon Bloomsbury on 1 December 2015, and is available to watch online at [www.aloveworthgiving.com](http://www.aloveworthgiving.com)

Photograph: [aloveworthgiving.com](http://aloveworthgiving.com)



2



3



### 3. PROFESSOR SIR ANDREW WILES RECEIVES THE 2016 ABEL PRIZE

Professor Sir Andrew Wiles is awarded the 2016 Abel Prize by Norway's Crown Prince Haakon for his groundbreaking solution to Fermat's Last Theorem. For the full story, see page 6.

Photograph: Audun Braastad

### 4. THE MERTON EQUALITY CONVERSATION 2016

Human rights and LGBTI activist Peter Tatchell addresses the audience at the 2016 Merton Equality Conversation on 'Legal equality is important – but not enough'. Peter was joined by Helen Charlesworth, Vice-Chair of the University's LGBT Advisory Group, Vivian Holmes, OUSU's LGBTQ Campaign Chair (also pictured) and Megan Delahunty-Light, Merton JCR's LGBTQ Representative.

The conversation is available to view online at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/merton-equality-conversation-2016](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/merton-equality-conversation-2016)

Photograph: © John Cairns ([www.johncairns.co.uk](http://www.johncairns.co.uk))



4



5

### 5. RUNNING AROUND OXFORD

Students, staff and alumni get ready to take on the 2016 Oxford Town and Gown 10k race in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK. The fastest Merton finisher this year was student Oliver Paulin (2015) who completed the route in only 35min 19sec, coming in 19th place overall.

Do you have any College photographs to share with us? Send them to [publications@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publications@merton.ox.ac.uk)

## COLLEGE NEWS

FELLOWS' PRIZES,  
AWARDS & ELECTIONS

**Congratulations to all our Fellows who celebrated successes over the past 12 months. To name just a few:**

**Professor Véronique Gouverneur** (Tutor of Organic Chemistry) was awarded the 2016 Tilden Prize by the Royal Society of Chemistry in May for the impact of her research in fluorine chemistry. She will be presented with the prize in November and will give a series of lectures across the UK.

Merton's Tutor in Music **Professor Daniel Grimley** won the 2016 Oxford University Student Union Teaching Award for Outstanding Supervisor in the Humanities.

In February, College Chaplain **The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones** was placed in the stall of the Prebendary of Exceit at Chichester Cathedral. The position is that of a fixed-term wiccamical honorary canon, and the postholder contributes to the liturgical life of the diocese.

In December 2015, **Professor Jennifer Payne** (Professor of Corporate Finance Law) was appointed a member of the Consultative Working Group of the European Securities and Market Authority (ESMA)'s Corporate Standing Committee. ESMA is charged with improving the functioning of financial markets in Europe in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

**Professor Boris Zilber** (Professor of Mathematical Logic) was presented with the 2015 Pólya Prize by the London Mathematical Society in November 2015. He received the prize in recognition of his 'visionary contributions to model theory and its applications'.

Also in November, **Professor David Paterson** (Sub-Warden and Tutor in Preclinical Medicine) was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

In the same month, **Dr Michael Booth** (JRF in Chemistry) won the Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology category of the Scopus Young Researcher UK Awards for his work developing synthetic cells and tissues.

ABEL PRIZE FOR  
PROFESSOR SIR  
ANDREW WILES FRS

Professor Sir Andrew Wiles outside the Andrew Wiles Building, home of the University of Oxford's Mathematical Institute. Photograph: © John Cairns

Merton may not (yet) count any Nobel Prize winners amongst its current Fellowship but now, thanks to the groundbreaking work of Professorial Fellow in Mathematics **Sir Andrew Wiles FRS**, the College is home to a Fellow who holds the mathematical equivalent.

Sir Andrew has been awarded the 2016 Abel Prize for his 'stunning proof of Fermat's Last Theorem' which has 'heralded a new era in number theory'. Sir Andrew proved the theorem in 1994, after seven years of intense private study at Princeton University. The theorem – unsolved since it was formulated by French mathematician Pierre de Fermat in 1637 – was for over 300 years widely regarded by many mathematicians to be intractable.

The Abel Prize is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. It was established in 2002 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel, and recognises contributions to mathematics that are of extraordinary depth and influence. Sir Andrew was presented with the prize by HRH Crown Prince Haakon at a ceremony at the University of Oslo on 24 May. The ceremony, attended

by over 400 people including famous mathematicians and local residents, was accompanied by an 'Abel week' of activities around mathematics aimed at young people.

As he accepted the prize, Sir Andrew explained that his fascination with Fermat's Last Theorem started when he was a boy of ten. When it came to solving the problem, he commented:

"One has to spend years mastering the problem so that it becomes second nature. Then, and only then, after years of preparation is one's intuition so strong that the answer can come in a flash. These eureka moments are what a mathematician lives for; the bursts of creativity that are all the more precious for the years of hard work that go into them. The moment in the morning of September 1994 when I resolved my last problem is a moment I will never forget."

What is Fermat's Last Theorem? And why has it exercised the world's greatest mathematical minds for the past 300 years? Marcus du Sautoy, Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University, explains in a video produced by the University of Oxford. Find it at [youtube/1BSFyE1Y2BY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BSFyE1Y2BY).



# LONG-LOST FIRST WORLD WAR MERTONIAN FOUND?



Earlier this year, Merton's Web and Media Officer, **Simon Cope**, was surprised to be contacted by the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum about one of the Mertonians named on the College's War Memorial.

In 2013 a French farmer in the village of Hénin-sur-Cojeul (near Arras) stumbled across the remains of a First World War soldier in his garden following heavy rain. After confirmation that the remains were of no criminal interest, the discovery was reported to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Work began to identify the unknown soldier, and two years of extensive research followed.

Based on the location of the missing soldier, the nature of his personal

possessions and records of the units who fought in the area, it was concluded that there are two likely candidates, one of whom is a Mertonian commemorated on the College's War Memorial: 2nd Lieutenant John Legge Bulmer (1913).

The soldier's remains were reinterred at the HAC Cemetery at Écoust-Saint-Mein, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, in September 2015. On 17 May this year, the museum in Woodstock took possession of the soldier's personal effects. An appeal for further information about the unknown soldier has been put out through BBC News and local press in Oxfordshire and in Yorkshire, where 2nd Lt Bulmer was born. The search continues to find a member of his family to provide a DNA match.

A short biography of 2nd Lt Bulmer can be found on the Merton@750 Anniversary Collection at [share.merton.ox.ac.uk/items/show/412](http://share.merton.ox.ac.uk/items/show/412). If you know more about 2nd Lt Bulmer or his family, please contact Simon Cope at [simon.cope@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:simon.cope@merton.ox.ac.uk).

Top left: 2nd Lieutenant John Legge Bulmer (1913) Photograph: © Marlborough College

Below: The soldier's torch and penknife, on display in Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum.



## MERTON ANNOUNCES A NEW GIRLS' CHOIR

From October, Merton will be the first Oxford college to play host to a girls' choir, opening up the wonderful musical tradition of the college chapels to girls in school years 5-10 from the city of Oxford and surrounding areas. The Reed Rubin Director of Music **Benjamin Nicholas** conducted auditions for the Merton Girls' Choir in April and May, and rehearsals will start during the summer. The choir will sing regularly in Merton's iconic chapel from October, as well as take part in services and concerts in Oxford and further afield.

## MERTONIANS ON THE AIRWAVES

BBC Radio 3's Free Thinking programme featured Merton Tutor and Professor in Chinese Politics **Professor Patricia Thornton** in May, debating the impact of China's Cultural Revolution 50 years on. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b079mcg9](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b079mcg9)

**Professor Robert MacLaren** (Bodley Fellow) was featured on the BBC news – on the radio, online and on our screens – in April for his ongoing, groundbreaking research into genetic therapy for sight loss. One of Professor MacLaren's study participants, **Joe Pepper**, was interviewed about the moment he knew his sight was returning, as well as others who have received the therapy. [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-36101786](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-36101786)

Merton Professor of Music **Professor Dan Grimley** appeared on BBC Radio 3 in March looking at Delius's *Sea Drift* as part of the 'Building a Library' feature on the radio station's *Record Review* programme. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b072hc90](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b072hc90) (no longer available to listen).

Former Merton Junior Research Fellow **Dr Yijie Zhuang** appeared in the first part of Michael Wood's BBC Two series *The Story of China* in February. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06yglmh#t=22m18s](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06yglmh#t=22m18s)

*Open Book* on BBC Radio 4 in February featured Journal•Lists, the online project set up by new Junior Research Fellow in English **Dr Will Bowers**. Journal•Lists allows readers to subscribe to great periodicals and recreate the 18th- and 19th-century traditions of periodical writing. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06vjlbld](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06vjlbld)

Supernumerary Fellow, Director of Science at Kew Gardens and holder of the prestigious Michael Faraday Prize for work in science communication (2015), **Professor Kathy Willis** has been on the airwaves over the past months, including several appearances on the BBC World Service's *The Science Hour* and appearing as **Jim al-Khalili's** guest on *The Life Scientific* in November 2015. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06nnqdl](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06nnqdl)

**Have you seen or heard a Mertonian on the radio or television? Let us know at [publications@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publications@merton.ox.ac.uk)**

## COLLEGE NEWS

## STUDENT PRIZES AND AWARDS

We are always delighted to learn about the prizes and awards our students (graduates and undergraduates) receive, including the following.

**Toby Adkins** (2014) was awarded first prize in the 2016 Department of Physics Speaking Competition for a talk on 'The wisdom and madness of crowds' in May.

Final-year graduate student in medicine **Nicholas Black** (2010) won the Meakins McClaran Prize in April for an outstanding overall performance as a student graduating from clinical studies (BM, BCh).

In December 2015, **Jena Meinecke** (2011) won the Institute of Physics' 2015 Very Early Career Female Physicist Award. The award recognises both research and outreach work.

Two second-year undergraduates in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) were awarded essay prizes in their subject in October 2015: **Benedict Holden** (2014) received the First Year Political Analysis Essay Prize and **Josh Parikh** (2014) was awarded the Philosophy of Religion essay prize, run by InterVarsity Press (IVP) and the Tyndale Fellowship, making him the IVP Young Philosopher of Religion, 2015.

Also in October 2015, **Yining Yang** (2013) won the 2015 SAB Miller prize for achieving first place in her second-year Part IA chemistry exams.

And finally, first-year English undergraduate **Bethan Hughes** (2015) appeared on film for the University of Oxford with her teacher **Lynne Jones**. Bethan nominated Lynne for a 2016 Oxford University Inspirational Teachers Award, about which they talked in the video available at [bit.ly/outeachers](http://bit.ly/outeachers) (from 5m 36s).

## PROFESSOR ARTUR EKERT ELECTED FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY



Photograph: © John Cairns

Professorial Fellow in Quantum Physics and Cryptography **Professor Artur Ekert** joined the distinguished ranks of the Royal Society in April. Fellows of the Royal Society have included such famous scientists as

Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

Professor Ekert works on information processing in quantum-mechanical systems and has led the way in transforming quantum information science. He started his academic career as a Junior Research Fellow at Merton and, on his election to the Royal Society, recognised the College's role in his success.

"Merton College has played a pivotal role not only in shaping my research career but also in promoting quantum information science in Europe. At the time I was elected a Junior Research Fellow at Merton the field was considered a niche academic activity. I can only admire the foresight of the Fellows who interviewed me and gave me a chance. I want to thank all my friends and colleagues at Merton for their support and encouragement."

## WELCOME TO THE NEW DOMESTIC BURSAR



The College welcomed a new Domestic Bursar, **Timothy Lightfoot**, on 9 May. Tim joined Merton from Worcester College, where he was also Domestic Bursar. Before working at Worcester, he worked in the car industry and motorsport. Tim started his career as an apprentice maintenance engineer before taking on a variety of managerial roles in organisations including Rover Group, BMW Group and Williams F1.

Tim has taken over from **Douglas Bamber**, who retired earlier in the year following eight years at Merton. We were all sad to say goodbye to Douglas, whose counsel and skillful management will be missed, and wish him a joyful retirement.





# EBOLA MEDAL FOR PROFESSOR NICOLE ZITZMANN



Professor Zitzmann with her team at Makeni in Sierra Leone, where she volunteered in a diagnostic lab during the Ebola outbreak. Photograph: Jerome Lock-Wah-Hoon

**Professor Nicole Zitzmann** (Research Fellow and Lecturer in Biochemistry) joined over 3,000 others recognised with an Ebola Medal by the UK government for their selfless and invaluable work on the Ebola crisis in 2015.

Professor Zitzmann went out to Sierra Leone in March and April 2015 to work in an Ebola Treatment Centre in Makeni, diagnosing the disease, supported by Public Health England, the New and Dangerous Pathogen Team and the International Medical Corps. Her account of her time there can be found in the 2015 edition of *Postmaster*. She commented:

"I have to say that I never expected to do anything in my life that would end up in my receiving a medal, so this felt a bit unreal and very humbling. I like to think of this as for the people of Sierra Leone who have been through so much, and especially those who have lost loved ones. It's been one of the most worthwhile things I have done in my life."

Professor Zitzmann was presented with the Ebola Medal for Service in West Africa in October by the University's then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamilton, at a ceremony in the Department of Biochemistry.



Professor Zitzmann receiving her medal at the Department of Biochemistry with Professor David Paterson (left) and the Warden (right). Photograph: The Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford



The survivors' wall at the Ebola Treatment Centre. Photograph: Bill Boyes/International Medical Corps

Professor Zitzmann gave a talk on her experiences in Sierra Leone on 26 June as part of the Merton@Home weekend.



Photograph: Bertie Beor-Roberts (2014)

## A GOOD YEAR ON THE WATER

The men's first eight (M1) had a very successful Eights campaign this year, winning blades. M2 also won blades earlier in the year in Hilary Term, although the women's boats had a more mixed outcome in both sets of races.

"This follows a year in which the men's side of the Boat Club has benefited from excellent coaching under Ian Smith. The rowers were supported by large crowds, particularly on Saturday when the Warden came to the Boathouse," commented Edward Thomas (2014; Men's Captain, Merton College Boat Club).

The Eights races were followed by the annual Boat Club Dinner at College, where the Boat Club welcomed a new addition to the boathouse: a racing four called 'Chester White'. The new four is named after Dr Chester White MBE (1952) who rowed in the Merton Eight and has been a constant friend to the Boat Club. The four was christened by Dr White as part of the drinks reception in the Fellows' Garden.

Fundraising to upgrade the Boathouse continues. More information on how to donate to the College's current priorities can be found on page 22.

## COLLEGE NEWS



Sandy Irvine and Geoffrey Milling on the 1923 Expedition to Spitsbergen. Photograph from the Sandy Irvine Collection, Merton College

## OXFORD STUDENTS RECREATE 1923 MERTON EXPEDITION

A team of Oxford students is preparing to recreate the Spitsbergen expedition, undertaken by **Andrew 'Sandy' Irvine** (1921) in 1923 while a student at Merton, along with fellow Mertonians **George Binney** (1919) and **Geoffrey Milling** (1920).

The 2016 expedition aims to film an historical documentary about the two expeditions, comparing the two trips. They will also undertake scientific research, and aim to climb some of the prominent peaks on the journey. The 2016 team will celebrate their departure with an Arctic Dinner at Merton, basing the menu on the food eaten by the 1923 expedition members at their farewell dinner. (The menu for the meal is held in the Merton Archive.)

To find out more about the expedition, see the 2016 team's website: [svalbard2016.com](http://svalbard2016.com)



Anna Williams (2014) and Katie Ratcliffe (2014), the runner-up and winner of the Herbert Smith Freehills mooting competition.

## LAWYERS CONTINUE MOOTING SUCCESSSES

The news pages on the Merton website this year have been filled with Merton lawyers' successes, from winning an undergraduate Law Prize for the third year in a row (Ewan White, 2015, with the Slaughter and May Prize in Constitutional Law) to reach the final of the Maitland Chambers University of Oxford Intercollegiate Mooting Competition ('Cuppers'). In May, the firm Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF) helped Merton lawyers to hone their skills further by sponsoring a mooting competition.

**Katie Ratcliffe** (2014, BA Jurisprudence), who won the competition and helped represent the UK for the 2015 and 2016 Jessup International Law Moot Competitions, reports.

A week before the moot we had a mooting masterclass run by **Dan Schaffer** (1986) and Adam Johnson, who also judged the moot. At the same time as receiving the moot problem, we were taught how to

approach these problems step by step. We then had five days to research the legal issues and prepare skeleton arguments for the problem: issues arising from the Judgement of Andrew Smith J. in *Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander v UBS AG* [2014] EWHC 2450, a case in which Adam Johnson had been involved.

It is unusual to have a moot problem with such a large volume of evidence and I think it gave us all a better idea than most moots of what being an advocate is actually like. It was a particularly challenging question, as the facts we needed to apply were very complex. Achieving the outcome the client wanted, while also keeping one's submissions succinct and clear, is a key skill for advocates and the opportunity to have feedback on our presentations from some of HSF's solicitor advocates was very valuable for all of us. Thank you to all from HSF who gave us the opportunity to get involved, including also **Michael Hunt** (1993) and Steven Rajavinothan who came to watch us on the day.



## FEATURED FELLOW

## REGULATING UNFAIR STANDARD FORM CONTRACTS



**We encounter standard form contracts everywhere. There is not much choice but to accept them if we want to take advantage of the goods or services they provide, even if they contract unfair terms. Merton's Fellow and Tutor in Law Professor Mindy Chen-Wishart explains why the law is justified in regulating the content of standard form contracts, and shares some plans for future research.**

Making a contract is the exception rather than the rule today. We don't make contracts so much as adhere to them, like flies to flypaper. Consider the all-pervasiveness of standard form contracting, and the rise and rise of electronic commerce, with its 'clickwrap', 'shrinkwrap', and 'browsewrap' contracts. The regulation of such contracts must be one of contract law's most important tasks. In the UK, this is mainly the job of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 (UCTA) and the Consumer Rights Act 2015 (CRA). From a theoretical perspective, these legislative schemes have always been something of an embarrassment because they seem to interfere with freedom of contract and to amount to unjustifiable state paternalism. Can they be robustly defended?

In one study, only one in every 1,000 retail software shoppers accessed the licence agreement for more than one second. Those who did spent an average time of 47.7 seconds and a median time of 29 seconds; the agreements of four major sellers were on average over 74,000 words – the length of the first Harry Potter book. Another study concluded that 97% of all American adults lack the basic literacy skills required to understand consumer contracts of even moderate complexity. Other studies show that

the average person suffers from a long list of systematic cognitive biases that obstruct rational judgment. In reality then, informed consent to the fine print is impossible. The detailed terms are for all intents and purposes 'invisible'. A person today who refused to contract without being apprised of the fine print would either deny herself of most means of living in a modern society, or would lead a not very interesting or productive life. On the other hand, a contract law that demands perfect consent to everything in the fine print (striking down contracts that deviate) would be too fragile to be useful to fallible human beings in an age of mass production, distribution and contracting.

Consent is not the only criterion of contract. An enforceable contract generally also requires reciprocity and yields the right to redress for any breach. Reciprocity is supported by the idea of Kantian respect: each party should treat the other not merely as a means of enhancing her own ends, but also as an end that she simultaneously serves. The human instinct of reciprocity is a mark of just dealing, and the preserver of social stability. The right to redress for breach distinguishes contracts from mere promises that are not enforceable per se. The institution of contract enhances the reliability of voluntary exchanges: it bridges any gap in trust and provides sanctions between parties in the market domain by guaranteeing redress for breach backed up by the coercive power of the state. Remedies are the essence of the contract. More generally, the right to legal redress is a foundation of civil society and integral to the rule of law.

Voluntary consent, reciprocity and redress define the parameters of an enforceable contract and are constitutive of the rules of contract law. Standard form contracting undermines: (i) voluntariness: by binding parties to unconsented-to terms; (ii) reciprocity: when the deal contained in the headline terms (the main subject matter or price) is subverted by the small print; and (iii) access to redress: by shrinking the right to redress or otherwise ousting the court's remedial jurisdiction.

When one party gets to set the terms, they are bound to be one-sided. UCTA and CRA rightly target terms that,

relative to the headline terms, decrease the obligations or liabilities of the party proffering the fine print, or terms that increase the obligations or liabilities of the adhering party. Particularly egregious terms are invalid outright; for example, the exemption of negligently caused personal injury or death. The law will not allow one party to privatise the other's right to safety and freedom from physical harm, nor immunise itself from negligently causing such harm. Other terms are identified as suspicious and presumptively unfair, and so invalid, but all non-core terms may be assessed for unfairness. In this determination, UCTA and CRA make an overall assessment of the voluntariness, reciprocity and access to redress features of the challenged term. The courts also take into account the economic necessity of the term for the proffering party's protection given the subject matter of the contract, that party's resources to meet or insure against likely claims, and all other terms of the contract and related contracts.

UCTA and CRA protect the institution of contract against the dangers posed by standard form contracting. Such contracts can change the constitutive rules of the contract game and so undermine the possibility of the private arrangements as contract: if you change the rules of a game of chess, you are no longer playing chess. To add insult to injury, standard form contracts do this by appeal to the parties' agreement! The circular argument is that you can contract out of the rules that define a contract. This uses the contract to cannibalise itself, and it is a worthless choice that the law should not facilitate. Far from being an embarrassment to contract law, UCTA and CRA uphold the rules of the contract game.

**Professor Chen-Wishart is editor of *Remedies for Breach of Contract*, the first volume in the series *Studies in the Contract Laws of Asia* (Oxford University Press, 2016), with Professor Alexander Loke (City University, Hong Kong) and Associate Professor Burton Ong (National University of Singapore). Five further volumes are planned.**

**Merton continues to raise funds to endow a Law Fellowship. To find out more, visit [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/supporting-merton/law-fellowship](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/supporting-merton/law-fellowship).**

## A MERTON CONVERSATION ON...

# THE EU REFERENDUM

At the time of going to press, the UK was steeped in deep debate on the subject of the EU Referendum. In the immortal words of The Clash, would the country vote to stay or would it go? In the past year, we heard views on the subject from several Mertonians: Dr Sergi Pardos-Prado (Fellow in Politics) at the Merton Society London Lecture in May, Roger Bootle (1970) at Merton in the City in February and Professor Simon Wren-Lewis (Emeritus Fellow) in the national press. We invited them to send us their pre-Referendum thoughts.

(This Conversation took place in May, before the Referendum was held on 23 June.)



## THE OVERVIEW

**Dr Sergi Pardos-Prado, Merton Fellow in Politics, works on political behaviour and comparative politics in Europe, as well as the impact of migration on public attitudes and political outcomes. He takes a bird's-eye view of the debate and asks: 'Leavers and Remainers: who are they and what do they think?'**

While political scientists have made significant progress in understanding the motivations of voters in normal elections, knowledge on referendums is still very limited. Only a couple of regular patterns are generally highlighted. First, the option for the status quo tends to prevail. A psychological aversion to jumping into the unknown tends to grow within moderate voters as the campaign moves forward. Second, referendums are sometimes used by supporters of opposition parties to take a stand against the incumbent party's chosen option. The latter, however, is less applicable when the referendum is important and when the party in government is divided on the issue, as is the case with the EU referendum.

Data from the British Election Study show important differences in the political attitudes of Leavers and Remainers. While anti-immigrant attitudes are the best statistical predictor of a Brexit vote, concerns about the economy are more prominent amongst Remainers. Using YouGov data, Philip Cowley shows that highlighting even minimal economic benefits of belonging to the EU strongly increases Remain vote intentions. This means that a campaign focused on the economy should benefit the Remain camp, and that framing the debate in immigration terms is key for the prospects of Brexit.

In terms of socio-demographic profile, Brexiters are essentially less educated and older than average. Their educational profile is not surprising if one knows that low levels of education are the best predictor of anti-immigrant attitudes these days. Their age, however, is less obvious. Political philosophers are highlighting possible moral implications behind this finding: do older generations have the right to push the direction of a country in the opposite direction of what the young want? These intergenerational

moral dilemmas also appear in the context of referendums not split by age. How long do we have to wait for a given generation to be allowed to reverse the outcome of a past referendum? The difficulty in resolving these questions highlights the inefficiency of some referendums as a tool for policy making.

The key in this referendum will be the level of turnout and the behaviour of the undecided, which are two elements that are remarkably difficult to predict. Different studies by John Curtis and IPSOS-MORI show that undecided respondents tend to vote Remain when forced to choose sides. Matthew Goodwin and colleagues also show that exposure to pro-Remain campaign messages is more effective than pro-Leave arguments in persuading undecided voters, suggesting that the Eurosceptic camp could have reached its ceiling. Current forecasts suggest indeed that Remain has more chances to win, but the margins of error are too wide to bet for one side. Political science is better at understanding the past than at predicting the future, and this is precisely why the study of big and uncertain political events is so exciting.





'Vote Leave'.  
Photograph: Fernando Butcher

## THE LEAVER

**Roger Bootle (1970) is Chairman of Capital Economics and a Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons Treasury Committee. He was formerly Group Chief Economist of HSBC. The third edition of his book, *The Trouble with Europe*, has just been published by Nicholas Brealey.**

The European Union started with noble aims but it has gone off the rails. The first mis-step occurred with its expansion to the East. Paradoxically, this was the EU's greatest contribution to human wellbeing, as it acted as a receiving house for the refugee countries from the former eastern bloc. But the institutions and objectives that made sense for the original six do not make sense for today's 28 countries, which have very different income levels. For such a grouping, the free movement of labour and the pursuit of ever-closer union constitute a recipe for disaster.

The second major mis-step was the Euro. Warned by umpteen economists that this would lead to massive economic costs and would require fiscal and political union, European leaders pressed on regardless. The result is an economic catastrophe.

The European Union is doing badly even compared to other developed countries because it makes bad decisions. And it makes bad decisions because its institutions don't work very well – a powerful, unelected bureaucracy, a feeble parliament, horse trading between member states, all wrapped up in a childlike vision of moving towards close integration.

Heaven knows what this failing project will embroil us in over the coming years. The right thing to do is to get out.



'Vote Remain'.  
Photograph: Toby Scott (CC BY-NC 2.0)

## THE REMAINER

**Professor Simon Wren-Lewis (Emeritus Fellow) is currently Professor of Economic Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford. He has advised HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the Office for Budget Responsibility, as well as writing on economic policy issues in various publications. He tells us about 'The Case against Brexit'.**

There is an overwhelming (and unusual) consensus among academic economists that Brexit would do significant harm to the UK economy. One reason is reduced access to EU markets. This would hit trade, which reduces productivity and output. The consequent loss in tax receipts will easily offset the gain from no longer contributing to the EU budget. Another is that foreign direct investment would decline, as multinational firms no longer have access to the EU by investing in the UK. There would

be a significant depreciation in the exchange rate, making everyone who buys goods from abroad worse off.

A tiny minority of economists in favour of Brexit counter that outside the EU we could get rid of countless regulations, thereby making UK industry more dynamic. But the UK already has less product and labour market regulation than the rest of the EU, and EU regulations – beyond those that make it easier to sell goods in Europe – have relatively little impact on the UK.

Of course economics is not everything. Brexit would allow the UK to control immigration from the EU, although that in turn would be certain to harm government finances: migrants pay more in taxes and take less in benefits than UK natives. We would be completely free to make our own decisions, but at the cost of having less influence on the rest of the world. With increasing globalisation, that independence may turn out to be more apparent than real.

## FROM THE LIBRARY &amp; ARCHIVE

AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY:  
EARLY MODERN RECYCLING

The upper board of Merton's volume on natural history by John Jonston, showing the printed ream wrapper.

**This year Professor Artur Ekert generously gave the Library a donation to conserve a beautiful 17th-century natural history volume by John Jonston. The book caught the attention of the College's head conservator Jane Eagan (Oxford Conservation Consortium), thanks to an unusual stamp on the inside board of the binding. This turned out to be a trade stamp from a ream wrapper (used to keep reams of paper together) which had been reused by the binder – a rare find. Jane explores the provenance of the wrapper.**

Discoveries still happen in day-to-day Special Collections work. I was recently asked by Fellow Librarian Dr Julia Walworth to look at the damaged text-block of Merton's copy of John Jonston's (*Joannes Jonstonus*) *Historiae naturalis quadrupedibus libri*

(1657 imprint, *Ioannem Iacobi*). This beautifully printed natural history volume is in a plain workaday late 17th- or early 18th-century English binding, and the title page had been damaged with unsympathetic earlier repairs. As I started to examine the volume, it was an unusual detail on the facing page – the inner face of the upper binding board – that caught my eye. The board had been made using recycled paper which was woodblock printed, identifying it as a reused ream wrapper – a rare find (pictured).

Ream wrappers were produced by paper makers and were wrapped and tied around each parcel of 20 quires of paper – a ream – to protect the paper during transport. The printed design on the wrapper identified the quality of paper, and sometimes the papermaker, and was often the same or similar to the watermark of the paper it contained

(as in the case of the Moulin du Verger's fool, pictured opposite). In Holland and France ream wrappers were commonly made of coarse thick paper or thin board, called *maculature* in French (defined as *papier grossier servant à emballer les papiers en rames*). This thick paper was made of cheap reused materials such as coloured rags, woollens, discarded paper, trimmings, etc., and was rather bulky and soft with poorly beaten material still visible in the sheet. French, Dutch and Swiss ream wrappers were often printed in red ink.

The ream wrapper in Merton's volume was partially obscured by an internal hinge of paper along the inner joint, put in when the volume was rebaked by local Oxford bookbinders Maltby's in the 1960s. When I lifted this hinge, the two supporters on either side of the shield were revealed: two lions, the symbols of Amsterdam, with the





An example of a ream of paper with a printed wrapper, made by GJW Pannekoek, Apeldoorn, c.1850. Photograph: Den Haag, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, VI.5



Top: Image of a ream wrapper similar to Merton's from Henk Voorn's *Old Ream Wrappers*.

Bottom: A printed ream wrapper for paper produced at the French mill *Moulin du Verger* at Puymoyen, showing reams of paper wrapped and tied.

odd legend FINEPEPER below. This echoes another, very similar, ream wrapper reproduced in Henk Voorn's *Old Ream Wrappers* (North Hills, PA: Bird & Bull Press, 1969), on page 61. Voorn's wrapper comes from his own collection and he dates it to 1697. The design of his example depicts the arms of Amsterdam with the central shield supported by a lion and unicorn, symbols of England and Scotland. Below this appears the words FINEPEPER, which Voorn theorises is the phonetic spelling of FINE PAPER by a French or Dutch woodcut artist unfamiliar with the English language.

Merton's ream wrapper is printed on a thin (c. 0.3mm) sheet of greyish pulpboard, with many inclusions and a relatively rough surface. This board has been laminated to another, thicker, layer of pulpboard to provide a more rigid board for the volume. Two folds – one about 3cm from the left edge of the printing and the other about 10cm away, to the right of the printing – can be seen in the pulpboard. The wrapper would have been folded around the ream of paper with the printed label at the top, creating these two fold lines. These folds allow us to determine the size of the paper contained in the ream. They show that the wrapper contained a parcel about 224 mm wide, with the

printed design on the upper surface. On the upper right edge of the printed design, there is a mark left by a string or thin cord which seems to have been dipped in red ink or paint. This is slightly redder than the ink of the wrapper label which is more orange/brown. Could this have been the cord used to tie up the ream of paper? As the quires were folded in half parallel to the short side of the sheet of paper, this gives a sheet size of 448mm in the longest dimension, or about 17½ inches. The nearest paper size to this is foolscap writing paper at 13¼ by 16½ inches. It is likely that this is an example of a printed ream wrapper for a bundle of French or Dutch foolscap fine quality writing paper destined for the English market.

The lower book board is also made of a thin board laminated to a thicker board, and is most likely another waste ream wrapper, although no printing or discernable fold lines can be seen on the exposed surface. It may be that the ream wrapper used for the lower book board has had its printed surface laminated to the second, thicker board, leaving the unprinted side face up.

Merton's copy of *Historiae naturalis quadrupedibus libri* was probably bound locally in Oxford. Given the rarity

of ream wrappers, it is interesting that this one shares an Oxford connection with another ream wrapper in the rare books collection at Princeton: *Miscellany Poems and Translations by Oxford Hands*, printed in London in 1685 for the Oxford bookseller Anthony Stephens, and with the ex libris of William Preston, Queen's Oxon, 1742 on the upper flyleaf.

For detailed pictures of Merton's ream wrapper, see Jane's entry on the Library pages of the College website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/ream-wrapper](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/ream-wrapper).

## HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

# SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT MERTON

The Sutton Trust reported in April 2016 that university students from England are now graduating with higher levels of debt than students from any other English-speaking country, including the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Now that tuition fees are £9,000 per annum, students will complete their undergraduate degree owing an average of £44,500, compared with an average of £20,500 - £29,000 for students in the USA. Undergraduates in the USA, for example, have their loans supplemented by generous private systems of bursaries and grants provided by their university and other funders – systems that do not yet exist

in many UK institutions. This is even before the government's non-repayable maintenance grant is replaced with a loan in September 2016, as announced in the 2015 Budget.

In an attempt to minimise the impact of these debts Merton, and the University of Oxford more widely, offers a range of sources of financial support for its students. At Merton, for example, more than £120,000 in grants and loans was awarded to undergraduates and graduates in 2014-15. For the 2016 *Newsletter*, we spoke to members of the Student Support Committee, bursary recipients and the Development Office about student support at Merton.

### GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS FROM ENGLAND UP TO SEPTEMBER 2016

HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL INCOME	MAINTENANCE LOAN (REPAYABLE)	MAINTENANCE GRANT (NON-REPAYABLE)
£0 - £25,000	£4,047	£3,387
£25,000 - £42,620	£4,047 - £5,715	£50 - £3,387
£42,620 - £62,143	£3,731 - £5,740	£0
£62,143 upwards	£3,731	£0

"During my time at Merton I have been fortunate enough to receive a bursary that has allowed monetary concerns never to be an issue during my studies. It has also meant I have not had to find short-term work over the summer and have instead been able to fund myself through an internship, thus helping me to set myself up well for life after Oxford too. It has meant that I am able to live student life in Oxford to the full."

Sarah Bosworth (2014, BA History and Politics)  
Oxford-Merton Bursary recipient

The University of Oxford estimates that the basic term-time living costs for students in 2015-16 is £8,556. This means that, with £9,000 of tuition fees, undergraduate students can expect to spend almost £18,000 per year on their studies. Although the University offers tuition fee reductions to students from the lowest income households (starting at a reduction of £3,000 each year for those whose household income comes below £16,000 per annum), students in the 'squeezed middle' (£42,620 - £62,143 household income) are those most likely to struggle. For these students, their family income is not enough to supplement living costs not covered by the government's maintenance loan and (until September 2016) grant scheme. To help support these students, the Merton-Oxford Bursaries are awarded to full-time undergraduate

UK and EU students with qualifying household incomes. Non-repayable, these are intended to help students with living costs while at Merton.

Additional student support at Merton is administered and awarded by the College's Student Support Committee, convened by the College Chaplain, The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones, and including the Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduates and other members of the College Fellowship. The Committee meets once a term to consider applications to its various funds, as well as once during the long vacation. Over the course of 2014-15, the Committee awarded over £120,000 to students, including over £55,000 for hardship grants. The Committee approves not only general support and hardship grants, but also book, travel, research and doctoral completion grants for both

for students allowing Merton's students to fulfil their academic potential regardless of their financial means.

As part of Merton's 750th Anniversary Campaign, the College aimed to raise £8 million for student support – both specifically for the Merton-Oxford Bursary and more generally for the annual pot from which the Student Support Committee draws its funds. In the Campaign's seven years, generous Merton donors gave £8.74 million in total for student support, of which £2.4 million was routed into the Merton-Oxford Bursaries (unlocking match-funding from the University's Moritz-Heyman Challenge) and £2.27 million into the general Student Support Fund. There is, however, a £87,000 shortfall towards securing the Student Support Fund in perpetuity, towards which money is still being raised.



"The support given by the Committee makes a positive difference to the lives of many of our students, as we see from the reports we receive on how the money has been spent. It enables them to flourish academically and personally in a supportive environment, helping them to achieve their full potential. Merton is very fortunate in being able to offer this level of financial support each year, and we are enormously grateful to be able to help our students in this way."

The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones, College Chaplain

Mertonians clearly understand the importance of student support. Throughout Merton's fundraising efforts, and during the annual telephone campaigns in particular, a consistently high proportion of the money raised is directed towards student support. In 2016's telephone campaign, for example, of the donors who asked for their gift to go towards a specific project ('restricted' gifts), over 60% chose to give specifically to student support.

However, the full impact of higher fees is still to be seen. As of September this

year, students will also feel the impact of the government's 2015 Budget decision to replace maintenance grants with loans. It is likely that this increased debt will have an especial knock-on effect for students going on to study for further degrees, which are ironically deemed more and more desirable by graduate employers. New plans for postgraduate loans will do little to help combat this. This, coupled with the increasing costs of paying back student loans (taken out since 2012) that were unveiled in the Chancellor's most recent budget, means that many recent graduates will be paying back

a higher percentage of their loans, at a higher level of inflation, than was envisioned when higher fees were introduced in 2012. It is clear that support for students at all stages will be an ongoing priority.

For more information about the College's nascent future plans, including provision for graduate study, see pages 22-23. More information about the College's current fundraising priorities can be seen in "'Thank you' from the 2016 Telephone Campaign Team" on page 23.



Olivia Williams (2014, BA Modern Languages – French and Portuguese) and Hugh Evans (St Peter's, 2014) in the Ler Devagar bookshop in Lisbon.

Olivia received an Undergraduate Travel Grant which allowed her to spend her long vacation in Lisbon studying Portuguese at the Faculdade de Letras of the Universidade de Lisboa.



Oliver Ashford (2013, DPhil Zoology) processes material with Dr Laura Robinson (Reader in Geochemistry, University of Bristol) gathered from an Agassiz trawl. Oliver spent over a month on the British Antarctic Survey's 'South Orkneys - State of the Antarctic Ecosystem' research cruise from February to April 2016 thanks to a Graduate Research Grant from Merton. Oliver's blog on the trip is published at [oxfordoceanresearch.org/expedition-blog](http://oxfordoceanresearch.org/expedition-blog) (Photograph: Melanie Mackenzie)

"Mertonians implicitly understand that students need financial support, and they are consistently generous to these causes – for example, we were delighted to announce a new award funded by Sir Gerry Grimstone (1968) in May this year, making available £25,000 each year for specific project-related graduate and undergraduate travel, for which a report must be submitted to the Student Support Committee. As fast as we can plug the gap, the financial pressures on students continue to grow; as fees increase, living costs soar and higher education changes. Graduate studies are becoming more and more important just as the burden upon the shoulders of new graduates grows heavier. Far from being complete, the need to support students to unlock their full potential will only continue to grow."

Christine Taylor, Fellow and Director of Development

Here in the Merton Development Office, it's our job to know who Old Mertonians are. Where do you live and what subjects did you study? What College events do you like to come to and how are we communicating with you? These are the questions Elina Harjula, Merton's Information and Research Officer, asks every day. She has gathered some of the more interesting results here for you to peruse.

The graph displays the number of Mertonians over time, categorized by gender. The y-axis represents the 'Number of Mertonians' (0 to 1600), and the x-axis represents the 'Matriculation Year' (1930 to 2010). The 'Overall' trend (dark blue) shows a steady increase from 1930 to 2000, peaking at approximately 1550, before dropping to about 450 in 2010. The 'Male' trend (medium blue) follows a similar path but with a less pronounced peak in 2000 (around 900) and a drop to about 250 in 2010. The 'Female' trend (light blue) begins in 1980 at approximately 280, rises to about 630 in 2000, and then drops to about 180 in 2010.

Matriculation Year	Overall	Male	Female
1930	50	50	-
1940	230	230	-
1950	500	500	-
1960	730	730	-
1970	850	850	-
1980	1060	750	280
1990	1200	730	450
2000	1550	900	630
2010	450	250	180

international studies chemistry computer science psychology  
 physical sciences modern languages  
 politics PPE theology business physics  
 geography & geology biochemistry agriculture MBA  
 history maths foreign service  
 philosophy archaeology medicine literature & linguistics  
 zoology visiting student english forestry & nature  
 engineering & materials education biology social studies  
 music law classics

- Top ten degree areas



# HOW DO MERTONIANS STAY IN TOUCH?

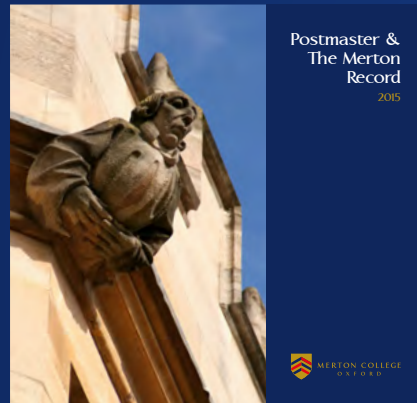
6,082 of you have some form of contact details on our system.

EACH YEAR, MERTON SENDS OUT 19,200 PUBLICATIONS BY POST:



6,600 NEWSLETTERS (JULY)

149 recipients have opted to receive these postal mailings by email only.

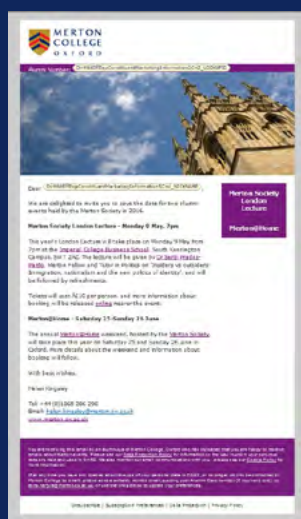


6,600 POSTMASTER & THE MERTON RECORD (OCTOBER)



6,000 DONOR REPORTS (JANUARY)

IN ONE YEAR (MAY 2015 – MAY 2016) THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE SENT 81,058 EMAILS TO 5,245 OF YOU WITH VALID EMAIL ADDRESSES, INCLUDING:



EVENT INVITATIONS



MERTON MESSENGERS (E-NEWSLETTER)



EMAILS FROM YEAR REPRESENTATIVES



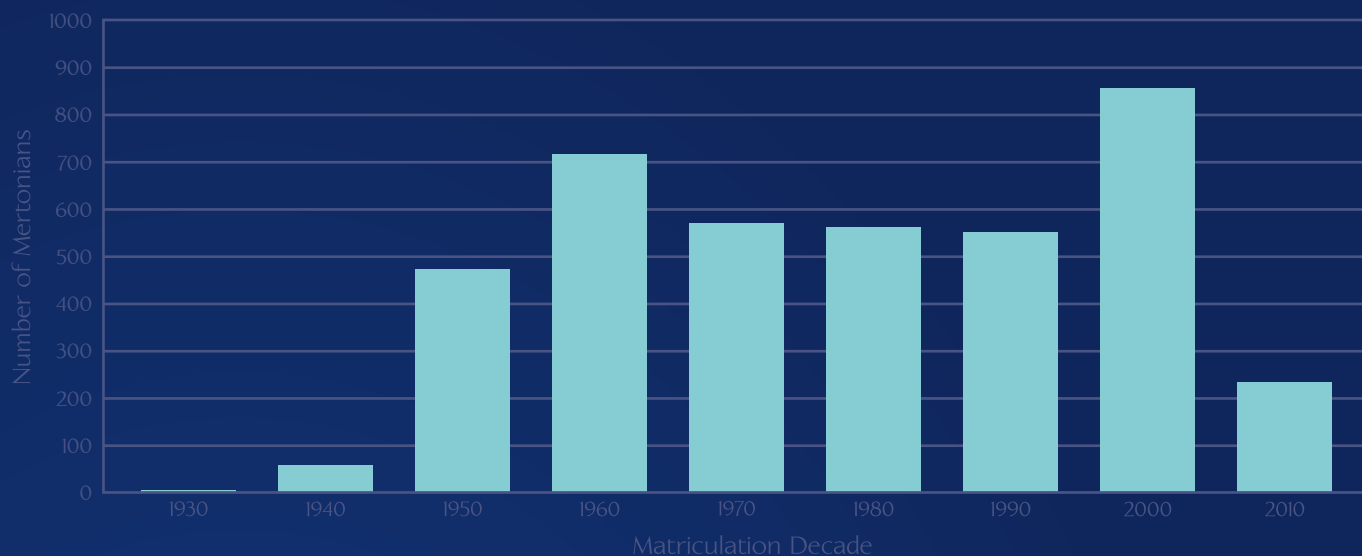
FUNDRAISING EMAILS

# OUR DATA PROTECTION PROMISE TO YOU

All the data you see on these four pages comes from records held in the Development and Alumni Relations System (DARS) of current living alumni of Merton College. It is very important that these data are held correctly and with your informed consent. When you update your details with Merton College, you are always given access to our Data Protection statement – you can find this online at [www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/oao/dataprotection](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/oao/dataprotection)

# HOW MANY MERTONIANS COME TO EVENTS?

4,061 total attendees at events since August 2010.



## WHAT ARE MERTONIANS UP TO?

Some of you have told us what you do for a living. Based on this information, we have:

992 Mertonians working in Education, whether Primary, Secondary or Higher Education

466 in Legal Services – lawyers, judges, legal aids

409 in Banking and Finance

302 in Business and Management

218 working in Health Care and Psychology, including doctors, researchers, therapists and administrators

189 in The Arts – culture, media, publishing and journalism, music, interpretation

We also count amongst Merton alumni at least:



396 Professors



36 Sirs



5 Judges



2 Lords



1 Dame



1 Senator



1 Her Imperial  
Highness  
Princess



1 His Imperial  
Highness  
Crown Prince

## UPDATING YOUR DETAILS

900 Mertonians are 'missing' to the College: we do not want you to go missing too! The Development Office relies on you letting us know where you are. There are many ways you can keep us up to date:

- The **Alumni NetCommunity** is most immediate, as your log-in feeds directly into the database. Register for your account at [www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/merton](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/merton)
- **Update Form** (enclosed) – fill it in and return it to the Development Office, and we'll update your details
- Contact the Development Office **by email** at [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) or **by telephone** at 01865 276316
- You can also update your preferences for receiving post, emails and telephone communications from Merton via these channels.



# WHERE ARE MERTONIANS NOW?

## UNITED KINGDOM: 4,281

1,766 Mertonians in the UK have attended at least one Merton event since 2010

### Events:

Gaudies (Spring/Autumn); Oxford Town & Gown 10k Race (May); Boat Club Dinner (May); Merton@Home weekend (June); 50 Year Reunion (October); other College events

## INCLUDING 1,099 LIVING IN LONDON ALONE

### Events:

Merton in the City (February); London Lecture (April/May); London Drinks (October); Lawyers' Association (November); London Dinner (November/December)

## EUROPE: 453

93 Mertonians in Europe have attended at least one Merton event since 2010

### Events:

Dinners in Vienna (2015), Madrid (2013) and Paris (2011)



## USA & CANADA: 736

215 Mertonians in USA & Canada attended at least one Merton event since 2010

### Events:

MC3 weekend (April); Merton in Manhattan (October)

## MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA: 48

## ASIA: 224

58 Mertonians in Asia have attended at least one Merton event since 2010

### Events:

Warden's visit to Japan and Hong Kong (2014); Dinners in South East Asia (2015); Upcoming Warden's visit to South East Asia (2017).

## AUSTRALASIA: 168

The Development Office tailors alumni events to Mertonians' interests. The more we know about you and your interests, the more tailored we can make our events programmes. For more information on forthcoming events, see pages 24-25

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

BEYOND *SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE*: THE GRADUATE EXPERIENCE AT MERTON

At the end of January, the Warden and members of the Governing Body gathered with key major donors to the College, many of whom had been central to the success of the 750th Anniversary Campaign, for an 'away weekend' at Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire. Attendees learnt of the seeds of Merton's strategic plan for the coming years, as well as a new Case for Support to fund this strategy.

The central focus of the weekend was the position of graduate students at Merton, set against a background of the increasing global significance of graduate studies. As with all its endeavours, Merton seeks out the best international postgraduate talent. Moreover, graduate students are the engine-room of research: excellent graduates not only increase the international reputation of the College, but attract the best Fellows and help support undergraduate teaching. As discussed at Ditchley Park, the next phase of the College's strategic development will focus its energy and fundraising ambition on ensuring that Merton provides both the funding and a physical setting to rival any other graduate offering elsewhere in the world.

Thanks to the 750th Anniversary Campaign *Sustaining Excellence*, the tutorial system and student support are in a much stronger position. However, it will be vital to keep these streams of development running alongside the burgeoning need for increased graduate provision.

We have outlined opposite a brief overview of some of the College's future plans, based on these ambitions. We envision these plans taking up to 15 years to come to fruition, and it is an important and exciting new leg of the journey on which we have embarked. Thank you to all of you who have helped us come this far – your support sets the groundwork for the College's continuing success.

Christine Taylor, Fellow and Director of Development

## NEW RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR MERTON ANNOUNCED

A new partnership between the Rhodes Trust and Merton to fund Rhodes Scholarships for Merton was signed this year. The Scholarships not only help with Merton's new strategic goal to achieve needs-blind graduate admissions, but also work towards the Rhodes Trust's aim to fully endow 83 Scholarships in perpetuity as part of its 110th Anniversary Campaign for the Second Century. The College and the Rhodes Trust are delighted to announce that the first Scholarship (for three students, one in each year) has been funded in full by Dr John Moussouris (1971).

## THE FOUNDER'S SOCIETY

The Founder's Society, which recognises those who have pledged a legacy gift to Merton, has welcomed a new chairman, Harry Bush (1971), and a new vice-chairman, John Mills (1958). Legacies left to Merton are transformative, and the College hopes to build on the support already pledged by Mertonians through the legacy programme.

To find out more about leaving a legacy to Merton, please visit [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/legacy](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/legacy) or contact Christine Taylor, Development Director, at [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk). (We strongly recommend you consult a solicitor when making or changing your will.)

Fundraising continues for all Merton's current priorities. To find out more about donating to Merton, please visit the College website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/support-merton](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/support-merton) or email the Development Office at [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)



## ONGOING STUDENT SUPPORT

Support for all students at Merton – graduate and undergraduate – is in much stronger shape since the 750th Anniversary Campaign. It will remain a priority, however, as the financial climate for students continues to change (see page 16 for more information). Student support will stay at the centre of the College's future plans.

## SECURING THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM

£13.1 million was successfully raised during the 750th Anniversary Campaign to secure tutorial positions at Merton. Knowing that these positions are endowed into the future gives the College the much-needed security to focus its energy on teaching and research. There remain, however, 20 Fellowships in Merton still to be endowed. We wish to secure these positions against the withdrawal of external funding.

## NEEDS-BLIND GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

In a world in which second degrees are increasingly required for a wide range of careers beyond academia, the primary financial barrier at Oxford is at graduate level. The average master's degree costs between £26,000 and £36,000 per year.

Merton aims to be able to admit the best and brightest graduate students, without needing to consider whether they can afford their place at Oxford. Every year, Merton loses some of its best candidates to US universities that offer more comprehensive funding portfolios. About 66% of the 2015-16 intake of graduates to Merton were funded (including by external funding bodies). As external funding becomes more uncertain, the College aims to ensure that all graduate students are funded.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

Graduates are central to the College community, which also encompasses undergraduates, Fellows, staff and alumni. Merton is planning two main projects in the coming years to help nurture every member of the unique College community.



An artist's mock-up of what the Merton Hub/Café might look like.

### A MERTON HUB/CAFÉ

Sited in the heart of College life (where the bar, games room and MCR are currently situated), the Hub will provide a social, informal and flexible eating space for all members of Merton – students, Fellows and staff. Similar projects at other colleges have been described as 'transformational', fostering a well-integrated college community.

### A GRADUATE CENTRE

Merton's graduates have doubled in number since 2000. The MCR is small, lacks disabled access and offers only basic meeting space. A new Graduate Centre in Holywell will provide much of the space and the modern facilities currently lacking in the MCR, including teaching and studying rooms, somewhere for music practice and, importantly, a dedicated social area.

## 'THANK YOU' FROM THE 2016 TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN TEAM



Thirteen student callers took to the phones in April, calling over 500 Mertonians to talk to them about their time at Merton and ask them for their support for the College. Two-thirds of the Mertonians contacted decided to make a gift to the College, and the telephone campaign raised over £183,000.

The Mertonians who made a gift during the 12 days of the campaign have directed their support to a range of the College's current priorities, including:

- The **Reach Scholarship**, to provide the living and tuition costs for an undergraduate from a low-income country. Merton's first Reach Scholar, Uros Ristivojevic (2015, BA Physics), arrived in Oxford from Serbia in Michaelmas Term.

- The endowment of a **Law Fellowship** at Merton, to strengthen and secure the College's excellent teaching in Law.
- Extending the College **Boathouse** to give the Boat Club more space and better facilities to maintain its boats, and to boost its performance on the Isis.
- Ongoing **Undergraduate Student Support**, unlocking matched funding from the Moritz-Heyman money to support undergraduate bursaries.

The gifts given by Mertonians during the telephone campaign have a huge effect on the College's efforts to remain at the forefront of academic teaching and research. Having as many people involved as possible is vital to Merton's continuing success – thank you to all who gave their time and support to the campaign.

The student callers would also like to thank you directly. You can watch their short video online at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/thankyou](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/thankyou)

## EVENTS NEWS

# Forthcoming Events

More information about forthcoming events can be found on the Merton College website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/events). Contact Helen Kingsley, Alumni Relations Manager, at [helen.kingsley@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:helen.kingsley@merton.ox.ac.uk) or on 01865 286298 if you have any questions.

## MERTON LIBRARY EXHIBITION: SHAKESPEARE IN PRINT

MARCH – SEPTEMBER

The Library at Merton is commemorating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death by displaying its own Second Folio (1632) edition of his plays in the Upper Library, together with material relating to the Shakespeare Head Press, part of the Merton Blackwell Collection.

Tours of the Upper Library throughout the summer are free to Mertonians. To find out more about visiting the Library, contact [tours@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tours@merton.ox.ac.uk).

## OPEN DAY IN THE FELLOWS' GARDEN

24 JULY

Merton's award-winning gardens will be open to the general public to raise money for charity as part of the National Gardens Scheme (NGS).

For more information, visit the NGS website at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk).

## MEETING MINDS: OXFORD UNIVERSITY ALUMNI WEEKEND

16-18 SEPTEMBER

The University hosts an Alumni Weekend every September showcasing the best and brightest of the University, past, present and future. The Rhodes Trust will also be organising a programme for Rhodes Scholars which will include a North American Reunion Dinner for the Class of 1966.

To find out more and to see photographs and listen to podcasts from the 2015 Alumni Weekend, visit [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/alumni\\_home](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/alumni_home).



Photographs on pages 24-25: © John Cairns

## MUSIC AT MERTON

### ORGAN CONCERT: OLIVIER LATRY

12 NOVEMBER

The final concert of the 2016 Organ Festival welcomes Olivier Latry, organist of Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris, to play pieces from Liszt, Debussy and Dupré, as well as his own improvisation.

Box office: 01865 305305 / [www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford)

### NEW CHOIR CDs

The Choir has released two new CDs this year: *Viri Galilaei: Favourite Anthems from Merton* of some of the 20th century's major choral works; and *Elgar Organ Works* performed on the Merton organ by Benjamin Nicholas, Reed Rubin Organist and Director of Music.

More information about the Choir's recordings and how to buy them can be found at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-choir/recordings](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-choir/recordings).

## MERTON GOLFING SOCIETY MEETING

23 SEPTEMBER

Join us for Merton Golfing Society's Autumn meeting at Frilford Heath Golf Club. Bacon rolls and coffee will be available before a few rounds of golf, followed by lunch and an optional dinner in College.

## GAUDY

24 SEPTEMBER

For Mertonians who matriculated in the years up to and including 1961.

Invitations from the Warden and more information have been sent to Mertonians. These reunion dinners are always very popular, so make sure you sign up promptly to ensure your place at the dinner and to book overnight accommodation.

## BENEFACTORS' DINNER

28 SEPTEMBER

This annual event for all Benefactors of Merton College will be held in the Writing Room at Lord's Cricket Ground, London. Invitations from the Warden have been sent to all Benefactors.



## '50 YEARS ON' LUNCH

1 OCTOBER

Mertonians who matriculated in 1966 are invited to return to College to enjoy lunch and reminisce with their year group. Pull out your photographs and other College memorabilia as an aide memoire for years past.

Invitations have been sent to all Mertonians who matriculated in 1966.

## LONDON DRINKS PARTY

OCTOBER (TBC)

Gather informally with other London-based Mertonians to welcome new Merton graduates to the city and catch up with old friends.

More information, including a confirmed date and venue and booking details, will appear on the College website nearer the time.

## MERTON IN MANHATTAN

5 OCTOBER

A special autumn feature of the MC3 annual calendar. Mertonians working in Manhattan or based in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey are invited to hear a topical speaker and network over canapés midweek. This year's speaker will be Simon Male (1986).

We are most grateful to John Augustine (1984) for hosting the event at Barclays. More information, including booking details, will be sent to Mertonians.

## MERTON LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING

9 NOVEMBER

Merton lawyers, both alumni and students, gather together once a year to network and hear a guest speaker. This year's meeting will take place at Herbert Smith Freehills in London, thanks to Dan Schaffer (1986), and there will be a panel discussion on public enquiries.

More information, including a confirmed date, venue, speakers and booking details, will appear on the College website nearer the time.

## MERTON COLLEGE WINTER BALL 2016

26 NOVEMBER

Join current Merton students at the triennial Winter Ball. For full information and tickets, visit [www.mertonball.co.uk](http://www.mertonball.co.uk).



## LONDON DINNER WITH ALEX WILLIAMS (1986)

2 DECEMBER

The Merton Society London Dinner, hosted by the Society's new President, Sir Howard Stringer (1961), will take place this year at The Law Society Hall, Chancery Lane. The after-dinner speaker will be Alex Williams (1986).

Alex is a cartoonist and animator, who counts among his film credits *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, *The Lion King*, *The Iron Giant*, the three latest Harry Potter films, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*. He has worked for many studios including Disney, DreamWorks, Fox, Warner Bros and Sony. He also teaches animation and draws the weekly cartoon strip *Queen's Counsel* which appears in *The Times* on Thursdays.

All Mertonians and their partners are very welcome to attend. The Society particularly encourages younger Mertonians to join them by offering a subsidised ticket price.



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

13 DECEMBER

The College Choir returns to St John's Church, Smith Square, London to perform a Christmas Concert. Further details to be confirmed.

## 1264 SOCIETY EVENT

13 DECEMBER

A reception of the 1264 Society will follow the Christmas Concert at St John's, Smith Square, London. Invitations will be sent to all members nearer the time.

## ADVENT CAROL SERVICES

26 AND 27 NOVEMBER

All Mertonians and their families are invited to join us at one of Merton's Advent Carol services. Arrive early to ensure you get a seat.

## MERTON SOCIETY LONDON CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

9 DECEMBER

The College Choir will sing at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. The Merton Society is grateful to Greg Lim (2003) for arranging for us to use the church. Wine and mince pies will be available afterwards.



## FAMILY GARDEN PARTY

25 JUNE 2017

Join us for fun and games at a Family Garden Party in the College gardens. More information will be available nearer the time.

# 60 seconds with...

## THE CARA ACADEMIC AT MERTON

Last year Merton welcomed an academic from Aleppo thanks to the generous support of the Council for At Risk Academics (CARA). CARA arranges for promising academics displaced through war or oppression to be placed in a host university in the UK.

Merton's CARA academic talked about his experiences as an 'academic at risk' as part of the Merton@Home weekend's series of 'Global Issues Today' Fellows' talks on 26 June 2016.



Photograph: epa / Ali Mustafa

### **You are here in Oxford as one of the University's CARA academics, hosted by Merton. How did you get involved with CARA?**

I applied to the CARA charity in January 2015 after a colleague of mine at the University of Aleppo pointed out the scheme to me: many of my colleagues from Aleppo are now placed in various universities throughout the UK thanks to CARA. After about five or six months of constant contact with them, I was approved by the University of Oxford in June of the same year. It was a surprise to be placed at Oxford as I didn't know where I might be going.

The placement at Oxford is to undertake postdoctoral research, so I am based at the Department of Plant Sciences, which provides me with a supervisor and all the necessary equipment and resources. Merton very kindly provides my food and accommodation in Oxford for free, which is essential, while CARA provides the crucial support and advice to make the journey to a safe country. This year I have also been helped by the Scholar Rescue Fund provided by the Institute of International Education (IIE), USA. The UK government has also helped me through the process of applying for and receiving a visa.

### **You talked at this year's Merton@Home weekend about the experience of moving from Aleppo – your home city – to Oxford. How do working and researching in Oxford differ from working and researching at your university in Syria?**

They couldn't be any more different! Even before the civil war, Syria's universities were undeveloped and the Syrian higher education system was focused on accepting as many students as possible rather than on quality of education or research. In science in particular, Syrian universities, including the University of Aleppo, lacked basic laboratories, equipment and funding to allow a level of research beyond rudimentary sciences. I was only able to develop my own

research in molecular biology while undertaking my PhD in Germany between 2007 and 2012: on my return to Aleppo, I was unable to continue this research and, most frustratingly, unable to impart my knowledge of molecular biology to the next generation of students.

### **What has been the biggest adjustment you have had to make?**

I have been lucky to flee from the violence and conflict in Aleppo. I have come to Oxford from a city in the depths of a civil war, where the simplest things – electricity, heating, clean water or even any water at all – are lacking. Applying for CARA's support was itself a challenge: with no internet access in Aleppo, I had to contact CARA through my brother living in relatively-untouched Latakia (on the coast). I would send a CD with my application documents to him in a taxi and he would monitor my email account for emails from CARA.

### **What has been your biggest highlight of being in Oxford so far?**

I can now not only do my work in safety, but with financial and practical help! Oxford is allowing me to expand my scientific career by performing postdoctoral research that I was unable to carry out in Aleppo. One day I hope that I will be able to return to my home country to contribute to rebuilding and improving Syrian higher education.

### **You must miss and worry about your family, friends and colleagues still in Syria. Do you have anything you'd like to say to them?**

I feel very lucky that most of my family live in Latakia, which has escaped most of the violence so far. However, the situation changes every day, and Aleppo is now almost unrecognisable. Very simply, I wish for peace for all my countrymen and an end to the war so that we can attempt to rebuild our country and our lives.



# FAQs

## THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ANSWERS SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How do I obtain a copy of my degree/attend a degree ceremony?

If, for any reason, you did not receive your certificate or your current certificate is lost, destroyed, damaged or stolen, please visit the University's graduation pages at [www.ox.ac.uk/students/graduation](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/graduation).

To attend a degree ceremony, you need to book a place at a suitable ceremony. Please visit the Alumni Information page on the Merton website ([www.merton.ox.ac.uk/alumni-information](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/alumni-information)) to find out how to apply. If you have any questions about your degree ceremony, please contact [degree.ceremonies@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:degree.ceremonies@merton.ox.ac.uk).

### When and how can I dine at College?

Merton MAs and Mertonian holders of any higher Oxford degree are warmly invited to dine up to six times a year at their own expense at High Table in Hall (but may not invite guests). On guest nights (Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during Full Term) they may attend dessert free of charge. Dinner begins at 7.15pm (7.30pm on Sundays) and those dining gather in the Queen's Room (or the Upper Bursary outside term) from 7pm.

Please contact Wajid Wahid (01865 286475 or [wajid.wahid@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:wajid.wahid@merton.ox.ac.uk)) before 10am on the day you are dining, or before 10am on Friday if you are dining on a Sunday. Gowns are worn in Hall during Full Term. The dress code is black tie or equivalent when dining on Sunday evenings during Full Term.

### Can I stay at the College?

The College does not currently have provision for accommodating alumni except during specific College events where accommodation is advertised. We recommend you go to the Coming Back to College page on the Merton website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/alumni-and-friends/coming-back-to-college](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/alumni-and-friends/coming-back-to-college) where details of accommodation in Oxford and other colleges can be found.

### How I update my information or tell you about my preferred methods of communication?

Mertonians can register for an online NetCommunity account at [www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/merton](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/merton) to update their details and communications preferences immediately. Alternatively, please contact the Development Office via email at [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) or by telephone at 01865 276316.

Your contact details are held in our database, DARS (Development & Alumni Relations System), which holds the details of alumni, students, staff and friends from Merton and the wider University and participating colleges. We do not give out contact details due to Data Protection legislation and your data are held securely. For full details on the way in which your data will be held and used, please see the DARS Data Protection Statement at [www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/oaq/dataprotection](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/oaq/dataprotection). If at any time you have any queries about the use of your personal data in DARS or wish to change your personal data or the extent of its use, please email Elina Harjula ([elina.harjula@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elina.harjula@merton.ox.ac.uk)).

### How can I make a donation to the College?

Full details on how to give to the College can be accessed via the Supporting Merton page on the website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/support-merton](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/support-merton). If you wish to discuss your donation requirements directly with the Development Office please contact Christine Taylor, Director of Development, at [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

### Can I get married in the Chapel?

Those wishing to explore the possibility of being married in Merton Chapel should, in the first instance, contact the College Chaplain, The Revd Canon Simon Jones (01865 276365 or [simon.jones@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:simon.jones@merton.ox.ac.uk)).

The Chaplain will usually arrange to meet the couple. If he is satisfied that they are eligible to be married in the Chapel and a suitable date can be agreed, they should then write to the Warden requesting the permission of the Governing Body.

The College Chapel is not licensed for weddings. If a marriage is to be solemnised by Special Licence, the Chaplain or official minister needs to check availability of the parish marriage registers before a date can be confirmed.

### How can I contact you?

The Development Office can be contacted by email at [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk), by telephone at +44 (0)1865 276316 or by post at Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD.



Photograph: © John Cairns

### When is my next Gaudy?

Gaudies up to 2018 are as follows:

#### 2016 Autumn

Up to and including 1961

#### 2017 Spring

1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971

#### 2017 Autumn

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001

#### 2018 Spring

2006, 2007 and 2008

#### 2018 Autumn

1972, 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976





# Never miss a moment...

## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Fill in and return the enclosed update form to the Development Office or log on to your NetCommunity account at [www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/merton](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/merton)