



# Postmaster & The Merton Record

2020



MERTON COLLEGE  
OXFORD



Merton College  
Oxford  
OX1 4JD

MERTON  
COLLEGE  
OXFORD

Telephone +44 (0)1865 276310  
[www.merton.ox.ac.uk](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk)

#### Edited by

Emily Bruce, Philippa Logan, Milos Martinov,  
Professor Irene Tracey (1985)

#### Front cover image

Wick Willett and Emma Ball (both 2017) in Fellows' Garden, Michaelmas 2019. Photograph by John Cairns.

#### Additional images (unless credited)

4: © Ian Wallman  
13: Maria Salaru (St Antony's, 2011)  
22: Elina Cotterill  
24, 60, 128, 236: © John Cairns  
40: Jessica Voicu (St Anne's, 2015)  
44: © William Campbell-Gibson  
58, 117, 118, 120, 130: Huw James  
68, 69, 70, 71: © Studio Edmark, Oxford  
105: © Bryan Organ  
109: © University of Exeter  
116: [www.facebook.com/photosbyoshy](http://www.facebook.com/photosbyoshy)  
123, 232, 302: Timothy Foot (2011)  
132: Professor Irene Tracey (1985)  
144: Caroline Holloway  
183: Gillman & Soame  
233: © The Royal Society  
237: © St John's College, Cambridge  
240: © Isabel 'Didi' Cutler  
248: © Magdalen College, Oxford  
269: Jessica (Bibby) Giesen  
281: © John Crossley (1960)  
300: © Virpi Andersin / Tampere University

#### Download a digital copy of *Postmaster*

[www.merton.ox.ac.uk/alumni-and-friends/publications](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/alumni-and-friends/publications)

Unless indicated, content is correct as of 14 September 2020.

# Contents

## College News

From the Warden .....4

JCR News .....8

MCR News .....10

Merton Sport.....12

Women's Rowing, Men's Rowing, Football, Squash, Hockey, Rugby,  
Sports Overview, Blues & Haigh Ties

Clubs & Societies.....24

History Society, Roger Bacon Society, Neave Society, Christian Union, Bodley Club, Mathematics Society, Quiz Society, Art Society, Music Society, Poetry Society, Halsbury Society, 1980 Society, Tinbergen Society, Chalcenterics

Interdisciplinary Groups .....40

Ockham Lectures, History of the Book Group

Departments .....44

The Chapel, The Choirs, The Library, The Archives, Development and Alumni Relations, Academic Office, Schools Liaison and Access, Domestic Bursary, The Gardens

Hail to New Fellows .....68

## Features

<b>Merton in... the response to Covid-19</b> .....	72
Some alumni, Fellows, current undergraduates, graduates and College staff tell us how they have been helping in the pandemic	
<b>Views from the Top</b> .....	80
Zaid Al-Qassab (1990), Chief Marketing Officer for Channel 4, and Anna Watts (1992), Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Amsterdam, give us their perspectives	
<b>William Heytesbury</b> .....	88
David Clark (1984) tells us about a mathematician who was appointed a Fellow of Merton in 1330	
<b>Some 13th-Century Encaustic Tiles from Merton College</b> .....	90
Five 'new' tiles from Merton Chapel are introduced by Alan Bott (1953)	
<b>Stuart Hall and his Legacy at Merton</b> .....	92
An interview with the inaugural Stuart Hall doctoral student	
<b>40 Years: Merton Women 1980-2020</b> .....	94
Plans to mark 40 years of women undergraduates at Merton, and the much-longer history of women's influence at the College	
<b>Lost, Little Known and Unbuilt Merton (17)</b> .....	96
Alan Bott (1953) has a literary stroll round the garden in winter	
<b>Memorial Meeting for Sir Rex Richards</b> .....	100
Addresses from the Memorial Meeting for our former Warden	

## Records

<b>The Warden &amp; Fellows 2019-20</b> .....	110
<b>Elections, Honours &amp; Appointments</b> .....	113
<b>New Students 2019</b> .....	114
<b>Undergraduate Leavers 2020</b> .....	117
<b>Undergraduate Results, Awards &amp; Prizes 2019-20</b> .....	118
<b>Graduate Leavers 2019-20</b> .....	122
<b>Graduate Results, Awards &amp; Prizes 2019-20</b> .....	123
<b>College Staff</b> .....	124
<b>Publications</b> .....	126
<b>Mertonians</b>	
<b>Merton Society London Lecture</b> .....	133
<b>The Merton Society</b> .....	134
<b>MC3: Merton College Charitable Corporation</b> .....	136
<b>Alumni Groups and Events</b> .....	138
Merton Golf Society, Merton College Biomedical and Life Sciences Network, Merton Lawyers' Association, 1969 Reunion	
<b>News of Old Members</b> .....	146

## In Memoriam

<b>In Memoriam</b> .....	232
Fellows: Vincenzo Cerundolo; Emeritus Fellows: David Bostock, James Coulton, John Lucas, Robert May; Honorary Fellows: Christopher Dobson, László Heltay, Patrick Wright; Bodley Fellows: Prosser Gifford; Wyliot Fellows: Ian Taylor; Former Fellows and Lecturers: Geoffrey Bath, Barney Henderson, David Pattison, George Rigg; Former Visiting Fellows: Lionel Opie; Mertonians 1934-91	

## Events

<b>Forthcoming Events</b> .....	302
---------------------------------	-----



# FROM THE WARDEN

Let me start by saying: it's good to be back. My family and I have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome and support from the staff, students, Fellows and alumni. It is deeply reassuring to return to a place so loved by us all and discover it is in great shape. My thanks go to my predecessors, Steven Gunn as Acting Warden, and Wardens Jessica Rawson and Martin Taylor, for their dedication as well as invaluable advice and encouragement. I am particularly grateful to the Sub-Warden, Jennifer Payne, who has been a fantastic support in my first year and done a sterling job during her two-year tenure. However, I was not expecting a global pandemic as my first challenge! My thoughts and good wishes go to all of you who have been affected by this dreadful disease. From crisis creativity is born, and with Merton's long history surviving many a war and global pandemic, you will be unsurprised to learn that the challenge set by Covid-19 was met with energy and inventiveness. The resilience in the face of constant change and a dedication to deliver has been humbling to witness from student through to staff and Fellow. I count myself very fortunate that I'm head of *this* House.

It started as a normal first year for a new Warden with my installation on Saturday 5 October, which was a truly splendid occasion, where the College, Chapel and Choir did us all proud. This was the first time such an event was live-streamed

so that more of you could enjoy it. I'm pleased to say that we will be, thanks to the generosity of donors, live-streaming more of our services and BBC Music Magazine Award-winning choir in the coming years. Over the summer, we have permanently fitted the Chapel with our own equipment, so do join us online for worship and music. The first term was busy meeting our undergraduates and graduates as well as staff and Fellows. It was also great to welcome our new Fellows to the College. The Winter Ball was a particular highlight and spirits were high despite the freezing cold; congratulations to the Ball Committee, who did a fantastic job.

Several other social events provided a welcome opportunity to engage with Mertonians from different generations, including my own era. We have all aged well! For example, the Merton Society's Welcome Drinks at the Apothecaries' Hall in London and the annual Carol Service were both lively and vibrant occasions. I am grateful to Dame Philippa Whipple (1984), the new President of the Merton Society Council, the committee and Mark Davison (1978) as Chair for all their work creating ways for alumni to remain in touch with each other and the College.

Michaelmas term also heralded the enthronement of an alumnus, Naruhito 徳仁 (1983) as Emperor of Japan. To





Irene being installed as 51st Warden of Merton on 5 October 2019  
© Ian Wallman

mark the actual day (22 October 2019), the College flag was flown all day and the Chapel bells were rung at 1.15pm. We hosted the Japanese Ambassador to the UK for Formal Hall, where he was able to meet with Fellows and several of our Japanese students.

In January, I had the pleasure of meeting Mertonians in Asia on visits to Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan, as well as the Emperor and members of his family. We were made so welcome everywhere we went, and I'm very grateful to those Mertonians for their generous hospitality. I am only sorry that, due to Covid-19, all other planned visits to meet alumni in other parts of the world, as well as local events, such as Gaudies, special dinners and lunches, had to be postponed. We will reschedule and I look forward to meeting many more alumni. I would like to thank Dr Duncan Barker for his work on behalf of the College as Development Director over the past three years, and wish him every success in the next stage of his career.

Hilary term was dominated by Covid-19 and our desire to keep the students, staff and Fellows safe while maintaining some normality. Our College Officers worked, and continue to work, tirelessly and selflessly to adapt to constantly changing events. I am so grateful to each of them for going well over and beyond the call of duty. The Easter vacation was consumed with tutors getting ready to deliver their courses and tutorials, as well as Finals, online, and for all



College governance and committees to be held digitally. This preparation enabled Trinity term to go much better than any of us predicted. Again, I would like to express my thanks to our tutors for their herculean efforts, and to our students, led superbly by Lucy Buxton and India Morris (JCR and MCR Presidents, respectively), for being so tolerant and positive throughout. We launched The Big Merton 1264 Challenge as a way of bringing the community together during lockdown, as well as raising funds for two worthy causes: Oxford Mutual Aid and the Merton Hardship Fund. Thanks to each and every one of you who participated. You can read more about this, and other aspects of the College's response to Covid-19, on page 72.

Despite these challenges, I am very proud to announce that our finalists produced another stellar set of results, which is a testament to them, their dedicated tutors and all the support given them by the academic and welfare offices. Let me also take this opportunity to thank Merton's former Senior Tutor, Dr Rachel Buxton, who served us fantastically well over many years and whose efforts are recognised in these successes. We wish her well down under! Of course, our leavers did not get the goodbye they or we hoped for, but a full and proper celebration will be held as soon as it is possible. A-level results in August brought another challenge to the year for College and the University, but our new Senior Tutor, Dr Jane Gover, and her team did a brilliant job under difficult circumstances. I look forward to welcoming the incoming Class of 2020.



© Ian Wallman

Our Fellows continue to lead the way in research and academia. Professor Ehud Hrushovski, Merton Professor of Mathematical Logic, was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society; Professor Peter Holland, Linacre Professor of Zoology at Merton, was awarded the Royal Society's Darwin Medal; Professor Madhavi Krishnan won the Royal Society of Chemistry's Corday-Morgan Prize; and Honorary Fellow and former Warden Professor Dame Jessica Rawson was awarded an Honorary Professorship at Peking University. These are but a few of the prizes and awards won by our Fellows, students and alumni this past year; you can read more on page 113 and pages 118-123. We welcomed two amazing women as Visiting Fellows in the Creative Arts, the poet Penny Boxall and Professor Kirsty Gunn, an academic and novelist. Both made a significant impact on Fellows, staff and students, proving once again the value of this new scheme.

Many of you witnessed for yourselves the excellence of our Fellows via our new online lecture series. This digital extravaganza began by me giving the customary new Warden's Merton Society London Lecture and was followed by lectures from five of our Fellows (you can see them at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/online-lectures](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/online-lectures)). As these have proved so popular, we're looking to do more in Michaelmas term. We were pleased to announce that the Regius Chair in Mathematics will stay at Merton. This prestigious post was announced in June 2016, and Professor Sir Andrew Wiles (1971, Fellow) was appointed by Her Majesty the Queen as the first holder of the Chair in May 2018. It was the first

Regius Professorship awarded to Oxford since 1842, and we are very honoured that it has been confirmed that it will stay permanently at Merton after Sir Andrew's retirement.

The brutal death of George Floyd shook the College community. The student body, Fellows and staff issued a joint statement in response, declaring Merton's opposition to racism and inequality in all its forms and emphasising the strength of our commitment to supporting black communities. The recent *Oxford Annual Admissions Report*, while highlighting excellent progress in attracting students from underrepresented backgrounds, shows that we must do more to improve Merton's diversity profile, particularly in terms of black and minority ethnic representation. Specific initiatives to tackle this and other aspects of diversity are in progress and this is an area I will be championing. Our students are helping us here, and I am pleased to report that Malak Khalil (2016) and Apollo Lalouschek (2016), both now alumni, have set up Black Writing Matters, a reading group that aims to study and celebrate the work of black writers.

This academic year, for the first time in the College's history, women occupied the roles of Warden, Sub-Warden, MCR President and JCR President. Although we have seen a 'triple' before – in the first year of Professor Dame Jessica Rawson's wardenship, 1996-67, Kate Knox (née Downey) (1995) was President of the JCR and Laura Nell Hodo (1996) was President of the MCR – until now we've not had a 'quadruple'. Perhaps



Irene, Myles and Colette kicking off The Big Merton I264 Challenge with a run

fate was involved because, of course, we look forward to celebrating 40 years of women at Merton this coming academic year – see page 94 for more information about this.

Of course, it is inevitable that throughout an academic year we will lose some of our nearest and dearest, including a Fellow still in post, Vincenzo Cerundolo. We also said goodbye to Bodley Fellow and former MC3 President Prosser Gifford, MC3 President John Kirby and Wyliot Fellow Ian Taylor. Emeritus Fellows David Bostock, Jim Coulton, John Lucas and Baron May of Oxford sadly passed away too, as did former Fellows Barney Henderson and David Pattison. We also lost the Honorary Fellows Sir Christopher Dobson, Master of St John's College, Cambridge; László Heltay, creator of the College's Kodály Choir; and Lord Wright of Richmond, former Merton Society Council President. Needless to say, the College flag has been at half-mast more times than I'd have liked. Do see In Memoriam on page 232 for obituaries of these and other loved Mertonians. Before Covid-19 struck, we were able to hold a Memorial Meeting for Sir Rex Richards

(Warden, 1969–84) on Saturday 8 February 2020. It was a moving occasion fitting for this extraordinary man. The speeches from the meeting can be found on page 100.

Let me finish by saying that, despite it not being quite the first year I expected, it has nonetheless been thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding. Looking ahead, we are planning for the arrival of students to our beautiful College in Michaelmas term. I cannot wait to welcome returning students, as well as greet the freshers. It will be a term like no other, but we plan on making it as special as we can with lots of creative ideas from the entire community. Thank you for all you do as Mertonians to keep our vibrant community flourishing. It means a great deal to have your support. We are hoping to hold alumni events in 2021 (see the inside back cover), and it would be wonderful to see some of you over the coming year. Meanwhile, take great care and stay safe.

**Professor Irene Tracey (1985)**  
Warden



# JCR NEWS

It's safe to say that this academic year will go down in the history books for many reasons, and yet it comes as no surprise to me to tell you that through it all, the Merton JCR has risen to every challenge, unperturbed, with its characteristic joy and enthusiasm.

Our numbers have swelled with our largest ever freshers' cohort and, following a successful Freshers' Week sweetened by many a scoop of G&D's ice cream, our new Mertonians have settled brilliantly into the bustle of Merton life. With the more seasoned older years by their side, they have attended our fortnightly JCR meetings with verve and vigour, eagerly participating in lively debate, munching on pizza and coming together to make positive change as an undergraduate body. Not even a pandemic could put these off, and so over the course of Trinity our meetings have continued (now pizza-less, alas) via the wonderful medium that is Zoom, and have been even more treasured for the limited social interaction they offer in this newly isolated world.

Many of the changes we have made have centred on the accessibility and inclusivity of the College, for though I am always immensely proud to speak of how welcoming Merton is as a community, the proof of this is only ever in the action we take. Right off the back of Freshers' Week and our annual

evening of 'organised chaos' that is the Time Ceremony, the JCR voted to create the new position of Social Backgrounds Rep to offer support and a friendly face to students from lower-income backgrounds; in consultation with our brilliant librarians, our Equality and Diversity section in the Library received a fabulous new haul of books by LGBTQ+ authors or discussing LGBTQ+ issues; over the course of the year we have established a Gender Expression Fund to offer financial assistance to our transgender or gender-questioning students; we also held our first ever Women's Formal with Corpus and Oriel to celebrate International Women's Day. Hall has never looked so colourful! Covid-19 may have hindered some of our planned celebrations for 40 years of admitting women (1980-2020), but nevertheless the JCR went steaming ahead in Trinity with online profiles of some of our most inspirational women, as nominated by their peers. Most recently, and very importantly, alongside the gathering momentum of the Black Lives Matter movement the JCR has united to take a strongly anti-racist stance, offer financial support to Black Visions Collective and put together a report of concrete actions that College and the JCR can, and should, be taking to better support and grow our BAME community.

Merton JCR is fortunate to receive fantastic welfare support from the college Welfare Team, and the care and concern





Merton matriculands 2019. This photograph has been reproduced by kind permission of Gillman & Soame and can be ordered by visiting [www.gsimagebank.co.uk/merton](http://www.gsimagebank.co.uk/merton) and using token login w64nuq2020

they have for every single Mertonian trickles down into much of what we do: our termly Welfare Weeks, held in 5th week to keep the notorious '5th Week Blues' at bay, featured activities such as mug painting, ice skating, and even entertaining a whole host of farmyard animals to pet in our illustrious Warden's back garden. Our beloved BOPs were sprinkled with a dash of the old 'welfaring' with the introduction of sober and supportive BOP angels. On top of our ever-popular Welfare Teas, we kickstarted a shiny new Treat of the Week in Hilary to offer further free food (it's always a bestseller), hot drinks and the opportunity not only to chat and play some formidable table tennis, but also to make better use of our marvellous JCR – the room – which has been too often neglected. Though we may have been apart in Trinity, concern for the JCR's welfare has not been diminished: there has been an abundance of colouring and craft sessions, tricky quizzes, online photo competitions on our JCR Isolation Station and even a remote Adopt a Finalist scheme, whereby our much-loved finalists were shipped little care packages to give them a boost amidst the difficult adjustment to online Finals.

As a JCR, we pride ourselves not only in looking out for one another but also in giving back to the wider community. We have held several events supporting Oxford-based charities,

highlights of which include our first ever Open Mic Night, a big charity Summer Fling Raffle, and, of course, committing to the 1264 Challenge, which got us all out and moving! The JCR has also endorsed the Oxford Reach Scholarship, the Refugee Scholarship, and expressed its support for the Oxford Homelessness Charter.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the Merton Winter Ball, which, with its dazzling lights, sparkling colour, first-class music and entertainment and unsurpassable food and drink, really does feel like the stuff of fairy tales in this strange new world. A huge thank you and congratulations must be given to Milo and the Ball Committee for the work they put in to organising such a special evening.

We may have lost a tree in Fellows' and a final term together in Oxford, but it is with great pride that I can say that the fierce Merton JCR spirit has in no way been dampened over this turbulent year. It has been an honour and privilege to serve this JCR and work alongside our brilliant Exec and the General Committee, and I am filled with excitement to see the direction our capable incoming Exec will take it next.

**Lucy Buxton (2018)**

JCR President 2019–20



# MCR NEWS

We began the academic year by welcoming our new Warden to the College. So many people turned up to witness Irene Tracey's installation ceremony that the Chapel was full, with many more watching the live stream at home. It's a rare privilege to get to see a Warden installed; our last Warden, Sir Martin Taylor, was installed ten years ago in 2010. It's a still greater privilege to work with Irene, whose dedication to the College and its students is second to none. A group of enthusiastic freshers have even dubbed themselves Team Irene, as her unofficial fan club in the MCR.

Irene's installation also marked the first time in history that four women have held the roles of Warden, Sub-Warden, MCR President and JCR President. It was a great honour to be part of Merton's history, and to work with Lucy Buxton, JCR President, Jenny Payne, Sub-Warden and Irene throughout the year. Next academic year promises to be even more exciting as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of admitting women to College. This year's Women's Officers Carmen Jorge Díaz and Hannah Schiller have done excellent work to advance gender equality in the MCR, and to prepare for next year's celebrations. Our Diversity Reps have continued to do brilliantly this year, and it has been wonderful to see Dalia Gala, Sushanta Mahanta and Leonie Woodland take over as Access, BAME and LGBTQ+ Officers respectively.

Michaelmas and Hilary were busy terms with our usual schedule of events. Vice-President Chris Eijsbouts supported our academic endeavours by organising regular writing groups, assisted by Fitzjames Research Fellow Daniel Sawyer. Our dedicated Arts and Culture Officer Sophia Buck also organised a considerable number of events, including regular subsidised trips to the cinema which provided a welcome break from academic pursuits. Our social calendar was full of things to do, organised by our Social Secretaries Kitty Gurnos-Davies, Sushanta Mahanta and Bora Güloğlu. Exchange dinners with other Oxford colleges continue to be a popular part of graduate life in College. Our second desserts remain a highlight of the MCR calendar, and are undoubtedly some of the best in Oxford.

Welfare Officers Clara Lepard and David Oliver introduced several new events this year. Arts and Plants, a sociable evening where you decorate a plant pot and are rewarded for your efforts with a new houseplant to take home, was exceedingly popular and you can spot several of these plants in the windows of Holywell Quad. Clara and David also organised our first animal visit. We were joined by three dogs from Therapy Dogs Nationwide in the Sports Pavilion. It's no surprise that Clara and David were elected as Welfare Officers again for 2020-21.



This academic year, for the first time in the College's history, there are women occupying the roles of Warden, Sub-Warden, MCR President and JCR President. From left: Professor Irene Tracey, Warden; India Morris, MCR President; Lucy Buxton, JCR President; and Professor Jenny Payne, Sub-Warden © Simon Cope

The end of Hilary term saw the election of the new MCR committee, led by Lucas Didrik Haugeberg, MCR President for 2020-21. Lucas and his committee had to face unique challenges as they began their roles amidst the coronavirus pandemic. Lockdown and social distancing have made it difficult to continue business as normal, but Lucas and his team have been amazing in keeping the MCR going in these challenging times.

Although Covid-19 prevented some of our best-laid plans for Trinity term it did not prevent us coming together virtually. Our Social Secretaries for 2020-21 Antonia Anstatt and Lachlan Hughes organised a virtual treasure hunt which saw us completing puzzles in a race against the clock to see who would snag the first-place prize. Charles Tolkien-Gillet worked hard on organising the weekly Bar quiz in cooperation with the JCR for some classic lockdown entertainment.

The Big Merton 1264 Challenge provided another great opportunity for MCR members to come together during lockdown. Particular praise must go to Francesca Lovell-Read (MCR Treasurer 2020-21) who completed two separate challenges: first baking an amazing 1264 themed cake complete with a fondant sculpture of Walter de Merton, and then, helped by her sister Stephanie Lovell-Read (2012), making 1,264 words



The MCR committee

out of the letters in the college motto (*qui timet deum faciet bona*). Other MCR members came up with incredibly creative challenges as well, including Kate Stanton who documented her year at Merton in 1264 photos and Silvia Trinczek who picked 126 flowers in the meadows of her hometown, Kaufering, and her mother's garden. The Big Merton 1264 Challenge was a testament to the College's ability to come together and support each other, even when we're physically apart.

Support and community remain the two most important aspects of the MCR. We're a welcoming home for graduate students at College. The most important aspect of the MCR is not the organised events or our Ordinary General Meetings, but rather the friendships one finds with other members of the MCR community. This is perhaps best typified by the number of MCR members who gather for lunch in Hall together every day, before heading up to the MCR for a coffee and a chat. Our common room is one of the most vibrant, busy and friendly spaces one could hope to find. This year has shown that even when we can't gather in our common room, Merton MCR is still welcoming, friendly and supportive. We will come together despite any and all obstacles.

**India Morris (2014)**  
MCR President 2019-20



Merton  
Sport







## Women's Rowing

This past year has been full of challenges and new discoveries for women's rowing at Merton. The season started with quite a good number of senior rowers, motivated to do everything in their power to achieve a similar success to last year's, and a very high number of novice rowers, interested in learning more about the sport. These two sides of Merton's female rowers developed into a highly committed and determined team.

Although the weather has not been in our favour in Michaelmas term and we did not have access to water training, we put all our energies into land training. The seniors trained, together with rowers from other colleges, to compete in Fairbairn Regatta in Cambridge, where they rowed the Cam stretch one minute faster than the previous year. The novices, instead, were busy learning about rowing under the supervision of our wonderful Novice Co-Captains. Eventually, even though our own Christ Church Regatta did not take place, our two women's squads did brilliantly at the Worcester Ergatta, with the women's first team being the fastest team among the participating colleges.

With only four days of green flag on the Isis in Hilary term,

our hopes and expectations for the new season soon disappeared, and once more we turned all our energies to land training. Away from the water, we learned about rowing technique either on rowing machines or by analysing various racing videos. Close to Torpids the girls were ready for the competition, which alas did not take place.

Trinity term has been the time when we all probably learned the most about rowing, although not only was the river not accessible, but even land training in groups was not feasible. The period of lockdown that our rowers have been, and are, living through asked us to understand better why we appreciate rowing at Merton and why we are not ready to give in with this sport. Beyond the great opportunity of learning a new sport and having access to some amazing equipment, rowing at Merton is about building a community and learning about yourself through it. We therefore decided to continue training remotely in Trinity term and throughout the summer, and to take an active part in rebuilding our community next year.

**Constanta Burlacu (2018)**  
Women's Rowing Captain 2019-20



## Men's Rowing

Many perplexing questions may present themselves to the mind of the uninitiated when contemplating the noble tradition of college rowing. What possesses a man to wake up, cycle a 26 km round trip in the bitter cold, repetitively place an oar into water for an hour, and return before the rest of the world has stirred? What mysterious quality allows an oarsman to meet this Sisyphean task with such

equanimity? At what point does rowing become fun? Do rowers ever think (and speak) of anything else? In a season of uniquely trying circumstances the men of Merton College Boat Club may well have struggled to find answers to these questions themselves. However, it is a testament to the character and spirit of our members that these challenges were met head on.

MCBC after the inaugural 'ergatta'



For our returning rowers this season marked a change in training location from Godstow to Abingdon as well as the hiring of new head coach Adam Donaldson. Eager to emulate the success of recent years and establish Merton as a force to be reckoned with on the college rowing scene, we enthusiastically committed ourselves to early morning sessions and the 26 km round trip commute to Abingdon. Unfortunately, Michaelmas proved to be one of the rainiest terms in recent memory and we often had to resign ourselves to our fate of indoor sessions on the dreaded erg; if necessary for months, if necessary alone.

This year's influx of novices were shown the ropes by our capable Novice Captains Colin Robertson and Paris Jagers. Although the persistent poor weather prevented much water time, our novices were swiftly acquainted with indoor training and survived a term's trial by erg seemingly undaunted. Christ Church Regatta, the traditional first racing event for a novice college rower, unfortunately had to be cancelled, but our novices proved their mettle by coming a more than respectable second place in the replacement consortium 'ergatta' event.

Before the rain gave way to global pandemic and put paid to rowing entirely, the boat club ran an inaugural club-wide ergatta that pitted teams of novices and seniors alike against each other in a brutal relay event on the erg. The event was a resounding success and among the strewn, gasping bodies of rowers questioning life decisions, it could distinctly be felt that the spirit and engagement of Merton College Boat Club had not diminished. We look forward to next term when we can regain the water and climb ever higher on the bumps charts.

**Matthew Drake (2018) and Maxwell Geurts (2018)**

MCBC Men's Co-Captains 2019-20



Early morning training for MI at Abingdon

# Football

## 1st Team

The 2019-20 season was a thoroughly enjoyable one for the Merton & Mansfield 1st team, and with an average of 6.9 goals per league game, there was no shortage of excitement. Even better, it wasn't just the opposition scoring the goals; we found the net in all ten of our matches, a feat matched only by the league winners, Magdalen. Having waited 23 months for a league victory, two came in consecutive matches towards the end of the season, (something about buses springs to mind); the first being a remarkable comeback performance from 3-0 down against Corpus & Linacre to run out 4-3 winners. The second victory, 6-0 against Univ, ensured the Ms did not finish bottom of the Oxford college footballing pyramid, an achievement I was proud to avoid.

We had a successful run in Cuppers this season also, defeating Trinity, Hertford and St John's on our way to a semi-final under the floodlights at the Oxford City 3G pitch. In atrocious stormy conditions, we fought valiantly but it was not to be; we lost 3-1 to Pembroke but I am extremely proud of the team for the desire and character they showed. Notably, despite the many University-representing players we had in our team, my man of the match that day was Ben Paterson, one of a clutch of first years who have not been lucky enough to be selected for a University team yet, but are certainly talented enough to do so. It would make me immensely proud to see more Ms push up through the Oxford footballing ranks into a University team; the determined, fearless character of the Ms is a trait that would be valued highly at this level.

With the team predominantly consisting of first and second years, the 23-month gap between league victories meant that most of us hadn't experienced a victorious 90 minutes in all our time here at Oxford; the post-match shandy had never tasted so sweet. I'm in no doubt that next season will be even better for the Ms; the future looks bright with much exciting young talent.

**Oliver Harding (Mansfield, 2018)**  
MMAFC Captain 2019-20

## 2nd Team

I am pleased to report that the 2019-20 season was a hugely successful one for the Ms Reserves football team. A highly competent crop of freshers from both colleges replaced those who graduated last year and improved the quality of the team as a whole. The final standing of the league remained undecided until the final whistle of the last game, with the Ms achieving a run of five victories in the last five matches to seal their second promotion in a row as league champions. Next season sees the team play in the top division of the college reserves leagues for the first time in many years.

The season also proved successful in Reserves Cuppers, with the Ms winning their way to the semi-final, missing out on a place in the final after a close-fought match with eventual champions Regent's Park & St Benet's Hall. The team had beaten Balliol 10-1, Pembroke 3-2 and Somerville 2-0 in the quarter-final to reach this stage, and led 2-1 with 20 minutes remaining, but conceded two quick goals and missed a last-minute penalty to miss out on a place at the final at University Parks by the finest of margins.

The team started slowly in the league, losing two out of their first three games and looking set for a mid-table finish at the break in the season over Christmas. However, 4-0 and 10-0 victories early in Hilary meant that victory in all of the final three games would assure promotion, although these were against the three teams above us. A comfortable 7-1 win against St Anne's maintained momentum going into the penultimate game against a St John's side that was unbeaten all season. They were dispatched 4-1, setting up a final high-stakes game against newfound rivals Regent's & Benet's, also unbeaten in all competitions.

Going into the game, we knew that a win would guarantee promotion as champions, but a loss or a draw would see a third-place finish, with our opponents promoted instead. Keen to avenge our Cuppers defeat, the Ms all but sealed victory in the opening 30 minutes, racing to a 3-0 lead. A strong comeback from Regent's & Benet's in the second half





M&amp;Ms 2nd football team

left some nervousness with the score at 4-2 with 20 minutes remaining, only for Trajan Halvorsen (2019), the player who had missed the last-minute penalty in the semi-final, to seal victory with the fifth goal, prompting wild celebrations on the pitch and touchline.

Honourable mentions go to those other than myself who played every minute of all 11 games this season: freshers Ben Patterson and Harry Morrison (both Mansfield, 2019) and fifth-year striker Nick Ridpath (2015). Nick was the top scorer with 13 goals, followed by Harry on 7. A special thanks also goes to James, our groundsman, who kept the pitches in immaculate condition all season, and to Neal, the college barman, who supported us home and away along with a loyal group of Merton second years and Mansfield freshers.

With the core of the team next year now centred on an exciting group of soon-to-be second years, and several

more experienced players – Nick entering his sixth season playing for the team – the Merton & Mansfield Reserves look forward to cementing their place in the top tier. It was a shame that we were not able to organise the annual Old Boys game in Trinity, nor the feistily contested Merton vs Mansfield match. This is something that we hope to play in Michaelmas. Throughout the year, I was ably assisted by my de facto Vice-Captains Ollie Bowling (2018) and Ed Spiers (2018), and am especially pleased to leave the captaincy in the capable hands of Will Barker (2019), a commanding presence and an exceptionally gifted player. I have every confidence that he will be a success.

**Joe Hyland Deeson (2018)**  
MMAFC Reserves Captain 2019-20



## Squash

Catherine Felce (2016) front row, far right, and Laura Neill (2018), holding the trophy as captain, at the Blues Varsity at the The Royal Automobile Club in London. The women's team beat Cambridge 4-1, as did the men. Photo: Anna Willis

Merton squash has had an impressive season with multiple teams entered across the league and Cuppers. Unfortunately, we had missed out last season, due to an error about the deadline to enter, so we were unseeded in all events. Despite this, we still performed incredibly well with plenty of players getting involved. Our first match in Cuppers against Keble was closely matched, with Merton managing to secure the win 3-2. This allowed us to progress to the next round, where we faced Jesus. We lost the first two matches, but luckily managed to win the last three. With another 3-2 win under our belt, we moved on to the quarter-final against St Hugh's. We knew they would be tough competition, with two Blues from both the men's and the women's side. The first three matches were played, which resulted in us being 2-1 down. Luck was on our side, as the two remaining Hugh's players chose to withdraw. Hence, we were awarded walkovers and so the final result was 3-2 to Merton.

Next up, we had Balliol in the semi-final. We put out a strong team, including Alex Roberts (2014, a former Men's Blues first seed), Laura Neill (2017, the Women's Blues first seed), and three players on the Men's Seconds team: Trajan Halvorsen (2020), Benedict Yorston (2019) and Tim Bennett (2019). We won the first four matches 3-0 and were given a walkover for the final one. Our apparent affinity for 3-2 wins ended as we earned a 5-0 win. Our opponents in the final were Somerville, last year's winners. However, the final was scheduled to take place in Trinity, so it was yet another major

sporting event that was cancelled as a result of coronavirus. Regardless of how we would have done in the final, just getting there from an unseeded position is no small feat and the team should be very proud of this achievement.

Beyond Men's Cuppers, we also entered a team into the Men's League and Women's Cuppers. Unfortunately, the latter did not end up taking place. However, the Men's League was played throughout Michaelmas and Hilary. For this team, Merton mostly played non-University squad players, increasing participation and including those of all standards. Once again, due to our lack of play last year, we were put into the bottom division. In the first term, we were undefeated, securing our promotion for the following round, which did not get fully completed.

Overall, it has been a great year for squash at Merton. Hopefully, our strong performance this year will allow us better seedings in the events for next season, facilitating us to build on this year's success even further. We have had an impressive number of Mertonians representing the University, in BUCS matches, private fixtures and Varsities. I hope this continues into next season and wish a new addition to the team, Ed Spiers (2018), the best of luck as he takes over the college captaincy.

**Laura Neill (2018)**  
Squash Captain 2019-20



The M&amp;Ms and the alumni team in February 2020

## Hockey

Having lost some key players from last year to graduation and years abroad, there was some mild concern as to the strength of the Merton-Mansfield hockey team this season; not necessarily in its quality, but rather in its quantity. However, this worry was very much unwarranted, and Freshers' Week brought with it a large quantity of new players with a wide range of levels. Some new recruits were more experienced, and also rapidly became involved in the Oxford University Hockey Club, while others had never played before and chose to come and try hockey at the weekly training sessions.

These weekly training sessions all began with some drills to improve hockey skills such as shooting, passing the ball, and dribbling. Wherever possible, we tried to include both attackers and defenders in the drills, to replicate match play so that we would be as well prepared as possible for the college league matches. The hourly session was always rounded off with some match play. Having such weekly trainings was a lovely way for the team members to bond and to keep our hockey skills up. Joining the M&Ms as a fresher almost two years ago, I can definitely say that having weekly training made the team feel more accessible and welcoming to join. The sessions also provided a welcome break in a busy Oxford week.

Michaelmas 2019 was a strong term for the Merton-Mansfield hockey team. We retained our position in the first league (out of three) and played six matches against other college teams overall, with five strong wins. This was a great

improvement from the 2018-19 season, in which we won only three out of six matches. This brought us neatly to the top of the league rankings, coming joint first with the Balliol-University College team. Our team played well together, and we had strong turnout to matches – the highest being 16 players for an 11-player game! Hilary 2020, where we entered Men's Cuppers (with a mixed team, however), unfortunately was a weaker season in terms of match outcomes. Due to several storm-ridden weekends impacting turnout, we were knocked out of the tournament after the first round. It is also a shame that Trinity 2020 was a remote term, as we were greatly looking forward to competing in Cuppers.

We also held the annual alumni match against ex-Merton-Mansfield hockey team players in February this year. It was lovely to have some familiar faces on the alumni team. The event is always a highlight of the season and a nice opportunity to meet some alumni and get to know more about what they are doing in their post-University lives. This year, the M&Ms came back victorious with a 4-2 win. At least one of the two alumni goals was scored by Matt Dodd. The match was followed by a social dinner at a local restaurant in Oxford; a lovely way to finish the day. We are looking forward to the next season 2020-21 and hope it will not be cut short! Lastly, we would like to thank Merton College for its continuing support in paying for the hockey pitches.

**Tiphaine Vibault (2018)**

Merton-Mansfield Hockey Captain 2019-20





Photo: Federico Amodeo

## Rugby

The *dictum* 'Life is like a box of chocolates... you never know what you gonna get' was as true for the Ms as it was for Forrest Gump.

The 2019-20 season started as unpredictably as ever, with the team suffering from the departure of the previous senior leadership. Typical of its 'never say die' attitude, however, the Merton, Mansfield & Regent's Park (MMR) RFC's herculean efforts prompted the valiant acquisition of brand-new kit and the recruitment of talented 'fresh young blood' to level the playing field.

Unfortunately, still, the MMR RFC witnessed a slow start to the league, recording two early losses against St Hilda's and The Queen's College. Wishing to give effect to its founding value of 'champagne rugby', the M&Ms decided to 'turn up for once', prompting an astounding 73-17 win over LMH/St Hugh's.

Following a Christmas break solely dedicated to bulking, something about the M&Ms' attitude had changed. Perhaps, it was the gentle encouragement of training with members of the opposite sex or, perhaps, it was the lack of distractions due to the sudden falling apart of numerous relationships among its ranks. Whatever the reason, the M&Ms' determination was reflected in an unprecedented league victory against Christ Church and a much-anticipated revenge against Queen's.

The boys in the maroon and white then set out on their annual Cuppers campaign. After performing a calculated loss to enter into the Bowl section of Cuppers, the M&Ms went on to defeat Exeter with a last-minute try from our very own club President Joshua Navarajasegaran (2016). After-match shandies and the desire to grace the hallowed turf of Iffley with maroon and white blood once again inspired the boys to face Queen's in the quarter-final. As Warden Tracey's





undying support by the side-line spurred the boys on, the M&Ms looked calm and collected throughout. The attack by Queen's was relentless but the MMR RFC showcased a defence comparable to that of the Romans against Hannibal. Conor 'Pitch Painter' Sheehan (2017), Tobi 'Clinical' Clarke (2017) and Callum 'The Cannon' Schafer (Mansfield, 2017) scored three decisive tries to secure a sterling 17-5 win, thus sending us onto the semi-final at Iffley against Lincoln.

The M&Ms' momentum was such that only a global pandemic could stop its advance in Cuppers. And, as a matter of fact, it did. It is hoped, however, that the M&Ms may resume their Napoleonic plans of victory once the situation allows.

Reflecting on this past season, I could not be any prouder of the M&Ms. The boys in maroon and white showed to be true ambassadors of the three core values of 'champagne

rugby', 'sustainable banter' and 'big socials'. A special mention ought to go to trusted Vice-Captain Robert Power (Mansfield, 2018) for securing the most tries and currently being in negotiations to hire a professional rugby coach, in the hope to guide the M&Ms on to even greater heights.

Looking ahead, the foundations are already in place for a successful year. I am glad to leave the team in the capable hands of the first-ever Regent's Captain Max Wormsley (Regent's, 2019), supported by Vice-Captain Alex Fisher (Mansfield, 2019) and Club President Wick Willett (2017). On behalf of all the departing M&Ms, we wish the club and players the very best of luck going into next season. Forever Standing.

**Federico Amodeo (2018)**

MMR RFC Captain 2019-20



## Sports Overview

Looking for some inspiration, I was scrolling through past *Postmaster* records to gauge what Merton College had achieved sporting wise throughout the years. Unfortunately, though not surprisingly, I discovered that our beloved College had not been able, in the past few years at least, to lay claim to much sporting success. It is, thus, with the greatest pleasure that I say that Merton has, indeed, turned this around in the year of 2019-20.

Merton and Mansfield's football teams brought unprecedented pride and joy to Merton, with both the 1st and 2nd XI reaching the semi-final of Cuppers, showcasing great skills and passion throughout the entire tournament. Notably, the seconds were also promoted to the top league after a memorable victory against St Benet's Hall. As well as success on the field, the men's football teams are to be commended for their ability to foster a sense of community among their peers, exemplified in the dozens of enthusiastic supporters gathered throughout their Cuppers campaign. It is hoped, therefore, that such sentiment will be spread across the vast array of College sports.

Similarly to football, the M&Ms rugby had an incredible season. Admittedly, I may be a little biased with regards to the boys in maroon and white, though I would be lying to myself and anyone reading this report if I said that the M&Ms rugby did not deserve such high praise. The M&Ms successfully reached the semi-finals of Cuppers (-BowI) following an inspiring streak of wins, though were unfortunately halted in their campaign by Covid concerns. Socially, the M&Ms kept

performing their ambassadorial role of great entertainers – something that I know will be carried on to next year.

Rowing was unfortunately affected by the sustained flooding in the Thames River Valley, though proved to be inspirational despite the constant adversities facing them. All college racing was cancelled, which meant that none of the crews was able to race. A slight exception was MI, who managed to establish Sunday heads racing with Abingdon Rowing Club's junior boats: MI won against both a single sculler and two women's U18 fours, as well as the ARC men's juniors. The novices really devoted themselves to land training, chalking up impressive hours on the ergometers and weekly circuit training. Unfortunately, Christ Church Regatta was the first race to be cancelled and the novices spent little time on the water. Despite the unfortunate series of events, however, I was impressed by the club's constant determination and flexibility.

Merton squash also had an impressive season with the team reaching the final of Cuppers unseeded. The final against Somerville was cancelled due to coronavirus, though it is now clear that the College can pride itself on great talent within its ranks. Without a doubt, Merton squash has the quality to produce similar results in the coming years.

Keeping up with the successes of other college sports, Merton hockey had a great season. Despite having lost key players, recruitment efforts by the hockey M&Ms significantly raised numbers in the team. In fact, although not successful in Cuppers, the M&Ms won five out of six league matches, thus



coming joint top in the league rankings. Notably, Merton hockey hosted (and won) a greatly enjoyable alumni match, proving once again the strength of the Merton community.

Merton also housed a series of inspiring individual talents at University level. Laura Neill captained the women's Blues squash team. Amy Hearn (2018) played women's Blues cricket and Claudia Murray (2019) was awarded a Blue for swimming. Madison Schaefer (2016) and Benedict Yorston (2019) were awarded Half Blues for Taekwon-Do and Real Tennis respectively. Kaiyang Song (2018) and Charlie Peters (2019) played men's football at University level; alas, the varsity match was cancelled because of the pandemic, so no Blues were awarded in the sport this year. Eppie Sharp (2018) and Charlie Lamb (2019) were University cheerleaders.

Clearly, Merton has had a very successful year, though the scores alone may not be reflective of Merton's *true* success. What was most inspiring of all was not the Cuppers campaign or the league victories, but rather the resilience showed by each individual member of Merton Sports. Embodying such quality is the response of our college teams to the Covid pandemic. Indeed, despite the dire outlooks for the next season, Merton Sports came together to raise funds in the Big Merton 1264 Challenge and each team is already drafting plans to uphold the standards and community of our College. This is, in my opinion, something to be truly proud of.

**Federico Amodeo (2018)**  
JCR Sports Representative 2019-20

## Blues and Half Blues

*New Full Blues and Half Blues in 2019-20*

Amy Hearn (2018)	Cricket
Claudia Murray (2019)	Swimming
Laura Neill (2018)	Squash
Madison Schaefer (2016)	Taekwon-Do
Benedict Yorston (2019)	Real Tennis

## Haigh Ties

*Awarded in June 2020*

Federico Amodeo (2018)  
Constanta Burlacu (2018)  
Tobias Clarke (2017)  
Matt Drake (2018)  
Matthew Feaster (2017, Mansfield)  
Max Geurts (2018)  
Benjamin Gowers (2017)  
Trajan Halvorsen (2019)  
Oliver Harding (2018, Mansfield)  
Rachel Herring (2018)  
Joe Hyland Deeson (2018)  
Paris Jagers (2016)  
Christopher Lippert (2018)  
Joshua Navarajasegaran (2016)  
Conor Ó Siócháin (2017)  
Kaiyang Song (2018)  
Tiphaine Wibault (2018)  
Wick Willett (2017)  
Benedict Yorston (2019)



# Clubs & Societies





From left: Joe Hyland Deeson, Olivia Tan, Rachel Herring, Jess Hinks, Grace Clark and Daniel Storey (all 2018)  
Photo: Joseph Jae-Sung Rhee (2018)

## History Society

It has been another successful year for the Merton College History Society, notwithstanding the unusual circumstances that we have seen towards its end. In what seems like a lifetime ago, we kicked off Michaelmas in time-honoured fashion with the Freshers' Subject Tea. The opportunity to get to know each other better over afternoon refreshments proved as popular as ever with freshers and older-years alike. It was particularly encouraging to see the enthusiasm with which the second-years took to their newfound position as advice-givers, taking the reins for their own event at which they furnished the freshers with more tricks of the trade that they had learned in their first year – as ever, accompanied by refreshments. However, this year the new faces in the Society were not all students, as we also welcomed Dr Jennifer Altehenger to Merton as our Jessica Rawson Fellow in Modern Asian History and Associate Professor of Chinese History. It was great to hear Jennifer speak about her most recent research with such infectious enthusiasm at our first speaker event of term. I know I was not alone in having my eyes opened about the potential for using furniture as a lens through which to examine modern Chinese history. Jennifer's talk was followed by the customary History Society Formal Hall, which allowed discussion to continue long into the evening.

Hilary term brought a new year, a new decade and a new schedule of events for the Society, which showed no sign of losing momentum as attendances continued to be strong despite the intensification of the academic workload for many students. Continuing to cast the chronological and geographical net far and wide, we welcomed Professor Christopher Tyerman and Dr Lucy Wooding for talks on the creation of a political space for 'commoners' on crusade, and the survival of religious images through the iconoclasm of the English Reformation, respectively. Both speaker events were well received by students, who ensured that the speakers

earned their refreshments by fielding some very thought-provoking questions. That is not to say that Merton's historians can only talk about history, as they proved at the annual History Society Dinner. The company was even better than the food, which is saying something. We are eternally grateful to the Hall staff, without whom the four History Society Dinners that I have had the pleasure to attend simply would not have been possible. We also appreciate our tutors (most of whom have been to far more than four of these dinners) for their unfailingly insightful and entertaining speeches. It was particularly pleasing to be joined by Dr Matthew Grimley, who has been on sabbatical this year.

Few might have predicted that the dinner was to be the last time that Merton's historians could gather under one roof, as the global pandemic changed life as we know it. While this has regrettably robbed us of a normal Trinity term, including the annual Garden Party, I for one have been able to draw optimism from the togetherness that our cohort has shown over the last few months. My experience of Merton's historians has always been one of a particularly cohesive community, and these unprecedented circumstances did nothing to shake this. It was particularly reassuring to see the finalists keep in close contact with each other as they sat their exams further afield than they would have liked. It is for these reasons that although the results of the election for the next History Society committee are yet to be announced, I have complete faith that the success of the Society will continue in 2020-21. In the meantime, I would like to thank the Treasurer, Grace Clark (2018), and the Secretary, Olivia Tan (2018), for their endless support throughout the year. They, and the rest of our cohort, have made my year as President a great pleasure.

**Josh Travers (2016)**

History Society President 2019-20



Roger Bacon in his observatory at Merton  
© Wellcome Collection

## Roger Bacon Society

The Roger Bacon Society is made up of all the physicists at Merton College: undergraduates, graduates and tutors. Our calendar revolves around three key events that are held during the academic year: our Freshers' Tea, the Society Dinner and the Summer Garden Party.

Being a product of Merton College, we love tradition. As always, the physics freshers were warmly welcomed to the College with a sumptuous spread of the best value snacks that we could carry from Tesco to College in one trip. After some introductions and icebreakers, we, once again compelled by tradition, migrated to the famous Turf Tavern for a drink (even though it was only the early afternoon). The Freshers' Tea provides an easy and informal opportunity for new and old generations of Merton physicists to come together – a chance to pass down old wisdom (like warnings of the notorious Hilary term problem set 5) and think up new wisdom (like how to get the best armchair in classes).

The tea, however, simply pales in comparison with the flagship event of the year: the Society's Black Tie Dinner in Hilary term. Once again, Merton's Kitchen laid on a fabulous four-course meal for us all, which was thoroughly enjoyed. The question, however, on everyone's mind was the results of the annual election for the next Society president. Given the passion of the large physics community at Merton, it was slightly disappointing to see that only one candidate, Richard Chatterjee (2017), nobly volunteered. This disappointment was based in the fact that election campaign

materials have, in recent years, become extraordinarily elaborate, sometimes taking the form of short films.

But, to our surprise, Richard (even in the absence of any competition whatsoever) produced a stunning video mirroring the recent *Avengers* film, poignantly putting forward why he deserved everyone's vote. I think, unfortunately, this video may have scared everyone off, because Richard only won the election by the slimmest of margins (3 votes, to 2 for R.O.N.).

The dinner was concluded by a speech from me which largely recycled last year's material (something which was not well received by certain recent alumni, but luckily my term was almost over so an impeachment would be futile), followed by a (lengthy, it must be said) speech from the now-incumbent Richard, listing a great many (many, many) distinctive qualities of the archetypical Merton physicist.

Unfortunately, we were not given the luxury of our Summer Garden Party due to the current pandemic, which is a great shame. But, remaining optimistic, perhaps this will mean we are looking forward even more to welcoming the next cohort of physicists to the College this Michaelmas. Or, maybe those of us leaving the College have been given yet another excuse to come back and visit in the sunshine.

**Jules Desai (2016)**

Roger Bacon Society President 2019-20



# Neave Society

It's been another busy year for the Neave Society, albeit one cut short for obvious reasons. Although it has of course been a shame to put our debates on hold for the time being, the committee are pleased that the society continues to provide a platform for the lively discussion by all Mertonians of diverse topics in an informal environment.

It's been especially pleasing to maintain a high attendance throughout the year. Michaelmas saw the strongest numbers, notably for the debate on feminism in collaboration with the 1980 Society. The committee are particularly keen to work with other societies in the upcoming year to broaden participation and discussion. It's been encouraging to see Mertonians of all backgrounds and subjects regularly attending and participating in our discussions throughout the year.

We have been delighted by the incisiveness of discussion over the course of the year. Every topic has seen discussion from the most abstract of theory to the most contemporary of examples, and it has always been a pleasure to listen to the reasoned arguments of fellow Mertonians. Without question every member of the society always has a unique and interesting contribution to make. From space travel to art criticism, to the more bread-and-butter concerns of a general election, the committee have ensured there is something to pique everyone's interest across the academic year.

Despite being forced into a brief hiatus, the committee look forward to a return to lively and respectful discussion in October, whether in person or otherwise. We are confident that new students will welcome the opportunity for open and insightful discussion provided by the society.

**Edmund Kelly (2019)**

Neave Society Vice-President 2019-20

## This year's motions and outcomes

**'This House believes that art should not be separated from the artist'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

**'This House has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

**'This House believes that "feminism" is no longer relevant to modern society'**

The Neave Society voted against the motion

**'This House would not vote in the general election'**

The Neave Society voted against the motion

**'This House would abolish the monarchy'**

The Neave Society voted against the motion

**'This House believes that capitalism has had its day'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

**'This House would not fund future space exploration'**

The Neave Society voted against the motion

**'This House would prefer to exist for a single day than never to have existed at all'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion



## Christian Union

The Merton Christian Union started off the academic year with welcoming the new freshers to Merton. We held two events during Freshers' Week to get to know some of them – a fun games night run by myself and my co-rep Alex Beukers (2018) for those wanting a nice night-in accompanied by some ice-breaking games, and a CU Tea and Cake event for those wanting some tea and cake with a nice chat. It was lovely to get to meet the new freshers, spend some time having fun together and help them settle in; and for those seeking to get involved with churches and the OICCU (Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union) it was also a joy welcoming new faces to them and introducing some freshers to these communities.

During term time the CU meet fortnightly in College for a Bible study meeting. In addition to reading the Bible together it also provides an opportunity to catch up with each other, pray together and spend some time relaxing in the middle of a busy week – this has always been a highlight of the week for me and it's great to see Mertonians across the years come together, with everyone welcome to the meetings. In addition to this regular meeting in Michaelmas we held a Text-a-Toastie event where students from the JCR could ask questions of the Christian Union in return for a conversation, however short or long, accompanied by a toastie with fillings of their choice. Later in term we also held a free mulled wine and mince pies event before going

to a University-wide Christmas carol service (in November!) in the Sheldonian, and as always the mulled wine aided the gallant singing of the carols by the Mertonians who had come together for a joyful time near the end of Michaelmas.

In Hilary term Merton got involved with the annual OICCU events week held in the Town Hall – a week with talks and Q&As giving students an opportunity to explore the Christian faith. It was great to see many Mertonians attend the talks and they provided opportunities for thought-provoking conversations about faith, life and Jesus that we wouldn't normally have.

As Trinity term was held virtually, this made us transfer our Bible study to Zoom and we have continued to meet during term. This has provided a great time to continue to catch up with each other, but most importantly, while separated, an opportunity to support one another through prayer and fellowship.

With Michaelmas 2020 approaching, Alex Beukers (2018) and I are excited to welcome more freshers to Merton and the Merton Christian Union, and to continue to be a loving, welcoming and supportive community of Mertonians in College.

**Joseph Jae-Sung Rhee (2018)**  
Christian Union Rep 2019-20



Mark Haddon © John Cairns

## Bodley Club

The Bodley Club has been delighted to host two fascinating events this year, with very diverse topics, as per our Club's mandate to invite speakers from without or within the College who are deemed to be 'fabulously interesting' and from wide-ranging disciplines.

In Michaelmas we welcomed best-selling author Mark Haddon (1981), an Oxford local and himself an alumnus of Merton College. He spoke to us about his creative work, his recent heart surgery and his new novel, *The Porpoise*, a thrilling and complex weaving together of Shakespeare's *Pericles*, Jacobean London and modern-day Greek myth.

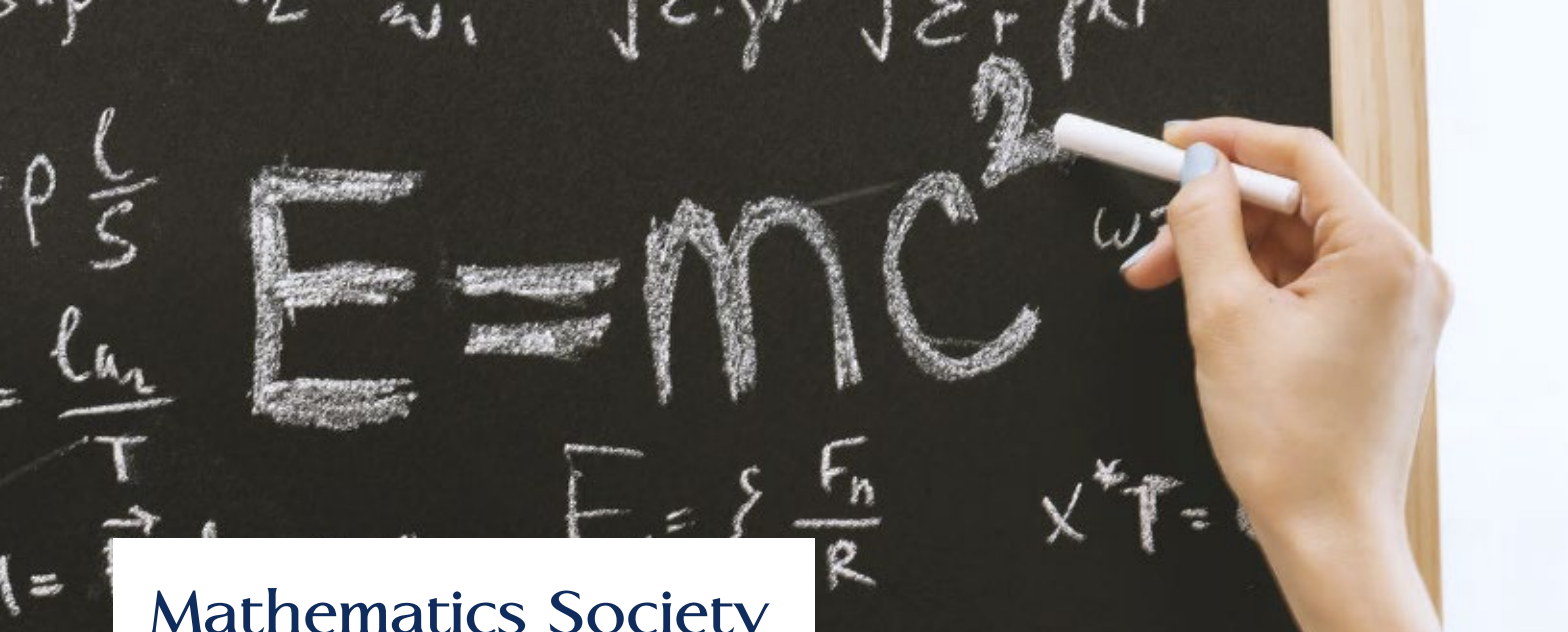
In Hilary, thanks to recent Merton alumnus Tom Fetherstonhaugh (2016), we were put in touch with Hyung Joon Won, a South Korean violinist and activist who has been using music as a medium for peace and reconciliation between the two Koreas. After a long diplomatic battle to organise an initial concert with musicians from North and South Korea in the Demilitarised Zone, he performed in China and Sweden with a North Korean musician – something that until now has been impossible.

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold the Club's Annual Dinner or Garden Party, both of which had been planned for Trinity term, due to the ongoing pandemic. We look forward to being able to reschedule these for the next academic year, and to continuing our programme of speakers.

This year saw changes in the Club's committee, as Adam Carter (2016) and Francesco Dernie (2016) moved on into the busy world of graduate medicine. We were delighted to welcome Alex Beukers (2018) to the committee, and she has been wonderfully helpful with organising this year's talks. Also graduating this year is Emma Ball (Treasurer, 2017), to whom I am immensely grateful for her long-standing efforts towards the smooth running of the Club. I also thank Victor Ajuwon (Secretary, 2015) for his continuing commitment, as well as our Senior Member, Fra' John Eidinow (Fellow, 1986), and all who have attended this year.

**Wick Willett (2017)**  
Bodley Club President 2019–20





## Mathematics Society

It has been a very exciting year for the Mathematics Society. Following a nail-biting election in which they ran unopposed, the joint presidents Rodrigo Marlasca Aparicio and myself (Jonny Durston) were elected, taking over from the superb Abbie Manning and William Whitehouse. We have focused on making several key changes to the society, most notably improving communications between year groups and making events as accessible as possible.

The academic year began with a fantastic subject tea, with representatives from all years present. The particular highlight, aside from the Colin the Caterpillar cake of course, was a chance to have some great conversation with the new freshers. In particular, it is lovely that more than half of the first years taking mathematics are female, which represents some of the progress that has been made in the ongoing efforts to improve gender equality in the subject. We were able to pass on some of the tips and tricks we have learned from studying at Oxford, and just generally have a good laugh.

Having a laugh while helping one another has remained a key theme throughout the year, as we held weekly maths help sessions. Unsurprisingly, these consist of older years assisting the first years with their problem sheets, and there have been lots of snacks available too, most notably

Rodrigo's famous baking (I would particularly recommend the cookies). These have been a great opportunity to bridge the gap between years and have really strengthened the sense of mathematical community in Merton.

The yearly subject dinner occurred as usual, with a decent turnout. There was delicious food and drink, good conversation and an uplifting talk by our tutor Radek Erban about how he came to be a mathematician. He also mentioned the progress made in gender equality, and his hopes that this would be reflected in the tutors as well as the students. After the meal, we retired to the bar for some more drinks and card games.

It goes without saying that Trinity has ended rather abruptly, but despite the issues that may have arisen, we have still been able to remain in contact with one another, albeit in a different way to usual. Weekly virtual maths help sessions are still occurring, and we are looking into a way of expanding Rodrigo's baking into a global cookie empire! This year has been a fantastic success, and undoubtedly this greatness will continue to be upheld by our successors.

**Rodrigo Marlasca Aparicio (2018) and Jonny Durston (2018)**

Mathematics Society Co-Presidents 2019-20



## Quiz Society

This has been another successful year for the Merton College Quiz Society.

We entered three teams into the University-wide Inter-Collegiate Quiz competition, of which our A team reached the quarter-finals. This was despite three of our members being ineligible to take part: because of regularly playing for the University A or B teams, we were instead helping to write the questions.

As far as those reading this are concerned, our most prominent activity is the selection of the *University Challenge* team, with which we have had considerable recent success at reaching the televised rounds. The Merton team for the 2019-20 series, consisting of James Kempton, Rowan Wilson and Jacob Robertson, captained by Nick Ridpath and with Lucienne Pullen as reserve, were successful in making it onto the television: you might have seen them on air in July 2019. The 2020-21 Merton team – William Isotta, Tom McLean and Conor Sheehan, captained by Pax Butchart, and with Elisabeth Le Maistre as reserve – have also made it onto the television. The series is on air from July 2020; you'll have to watch it to find out how they get on!

James Kempton from the 2019-20 Merton *University Challenge* team wrote the following about his experiences.

'After a rigorous internal selection process, we were interviewed by the producers. Whatever criteria they sought, we were apparently deemed to possess, and were greatly excited to receive an invitation to compete on the show.

'Come February that we did. Upon arrival at the home of *University Challenge*, in Salford, we discovered that we would be playing Corpus Christi College Cambridge (CCCC), in one of the first round Oxbridge clashes. A tight affair ensued with much toing and froing of the lead. I suspect this led to an exciting viewing experience, as much as it did to a nerve-racking experience on our parts. After about 25 minutes of competition the gong sounded to see the score at Merton 140-195 CCCC. Historically 140 would be sufficient in about half of the series to be a highest scoring loser and thereby provide the opportunity to vie for a final two places in the second round. Alas, it was not be, with the highest scoring loser at 145 points.

'CCCC went on to reach the final where they were finally defeated by Imperial College, in beautiful justice, captained by old Mertonian Caleb Rich. No team scored higher than us against CCCC until the final.

'While we were naturally disappointed with the result, the experience was a great one. To have one's name called to the high heavens by Roger Tilling, to meet the man himself, Jeremy Paxman, to have my introduction lambasted on Twitter, it was all great fun.

'It was a pleasure to practise and compete alongside my teammates and I thank them greatly. To the current Merton team, bonne chance!

**Leonie Woodland (2016)**  
Quiz Society President 2019-20



## Art Society

This past year the JCR Art Society has been working on projects to diversify portraiture in College, alongside many students representing Merton's creativity to all of Oxford by taking on artistic roles within our wider Oxford community.

Following on from the discussion we hosted on 'Diversifying the portrait' in the summer of 2019, this year we worked on changing the portraits hanging in the JCR. Our very own former artist in residence, Rebecca Fortnum, kindly donated three artworks to the JCR which now hang on the walls of

our common room to preside over events from BOPs to JCR committee meetings. These three portraits are of female Junior Research Fellows who study and work at Merton. We hope greatly that this small gesture will help to celebrate the role of women in both the wider academic world and in our own Merton community, for there is still a long way to go until we see equality in academia.

Sadly, due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, many of our plans for Trinity term had to be cancelled or postponed. The greatest shame is that we were unable to host our annual Mertonbury concert – the much-anticipated highlight of Arts Week. We had planned to combine our resources with the JCR Entertainment Representatives to make this the greatest one yet; however, I have no doubt that next year's will be even better for the wait. Being unable to celebrate Arts Week together, we instead sent out art supplies directly to members of the JCR so that they could get creative from home. Though this is no substitute for celebrating creativity together, I am very excited to see what our students come up with. Some students have already shown me what they have done, and I hope that in the future we might be able to host a small exhibition in the JCR displaying the art that these students managed to create in lockdown.

Next year, we very much look forward to being back together and continuing our project of commissioning more diverse art to hang around College. We have some exciting new projects in the pipeline, and I anticipate this will be another fantastic year for the Art Society. We also can't wait to be reunited with everyone in the Merton community, and greatly hope the lack of a Trinity this year will make next term even bigger and better for the Art Society.

**Ellen Sharman (2017)**

JCR Art Society Representative 2018–20





Kodály Christmas Showcase in the Chapel

## Music Society

Michaelmas term 2019 saw the introduction of the College Music Awards, whereby the recipients are contracted to participate in college music. These musicians participated in recitals and showcases through the two in-college terms. On 19 November, MCMS hosted its Music Showcase in the TS Eliot Theatre. The evening featured a varied programme from college musicians and College Music Award recipients, including ensembles and solo performances, followed by a wine reception. The Showcase is a staple of the MCMS Michaelmas programme and was well attended. There was

an attempt to advertise for the college orchestra, *Fidelio*, with a social held in Mob 1 in fourth week of Michaelmas, but although this was advertised, the event was poorly attended. There are ongoing efforts to revive the college orchestra. Through Michaelmas term there were organ recitals on the Chapel's Dobson organ on Tuesday lunchtimes, including a performance by our Director of Music. The final event of Michaelmas term was the Kodály Choir Christmas Showcase, where the open-to-all College Choir performed at the end of a term's work in the Chapel.

Hilary term's main event for MCMS was the musical soiree on 13 February in the TS Eliot Theatre. This was a new addition to the year's programme. Participation was open to all college performers, including performers from the MCR, as an informal evening of music-making. The concert was preceded by a wine reception. The evening was well attended, and featured an extremely varied programme of instruments, ensembles and performance modes that reflected the rich music-making in College.

There were lunchtime recitals in the TS Eliot Theatre throughout the year, varying in instruments and performers. These recitals continue to be a cornerstone of college music-making, and offer the opportunity for public performance for Merton musicians and students from other colleges. The final recital of the Hilary term recital series was the performance of one of our third-year music students of her finals' recital programme, and late-Hilary recitals continue to be a useful opportunity for music students to perform their exam programmes in College.

Plans for Trinity term included a continuation of the recital series, as well as an all-female production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. This performance would have taken place in the Chapel on Friday and Saturday of fourth week, and would have been the first opera production for both Merton and MCMS. This production has been postponed indefinitely.

**Áine Smith (2018)**

MCMS President 2019-20



From left: Luke Bateman, Verity Stuart and Julianna Barker

## Poetry Society

The 2019-20 academic year has been transformative for Merton College Poetry Society. Michaelmas term saw a surge of first-year students filling the JCR at our events and exhibiting a genuine love of poetry. The society hopes to provide members of the College with a space to enjoy, discuss and showcase poetry in an accessible and relaxed environment, and the reaction has been brilliant. Our Hopeful Poetry event at the start of 2020 was a highlight, as was our Poetry Workshop in Hilary term, during which we split into small groups to discuss our writing. These events were attended not just by English students, but also by medics, linguists, philosophers, biologists and more.

We are especially proud of the continued popularity of the termly Merton poetry pamphlet, *Pekes and Pollicles*. The title comes from a poem by a fellow Mertonian, TS Eliot's 'The Awefull Battle of the Pekes and the Pollicles'. We hosted launch parties for each release of the pamphlet, which has included work from students across Oxford. It is important to us that the wide variety of innovative voices at Merton could have a free medium to express their creativity, and you can find previous editions of *Pekes and Pollicles* in the Merton Library.

Mertonian poets were also prominent in the wider Oxford community this year, with students featured in Oxford University Poetry Society's termly publication *Ash*, and graduate student Eric McElroy interweaving poems by Robert Graves and Gregory Leadbetter into his music. His concerts at the Holywell Music Room were generously funded by Merton College and The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH). Penny Boxall, Merton's Visiting Research Fellow in the Creative Arts, helped beginners and experienced writers alike through her weekly workshops and feedback sessions. Similarly, the company of poets such as Jennifer Wong, Laura Scott and Michaela Batten at our collaborative feminist poetry event in Hilary term was an excellent opportunity to meet and engage with professional writers.

Despite the difficulties of Trinity term being held remotely, Merton poets have continued to thrive, proving the importance and resilience of poetry during this global crisis. Associate Chaplain Jarred Mercer curated the Merton Poets at Home series on Facebook, featuring resonant contributions from students. We have received positive feedback from our growing online presence, and the release of our first online edition of *Pekes and Pollicles*, with a cover design by the first-year classicist Rachel Jung, features 20 incredible new poems.

I am so grateful to Julianna Barker for her endless creativity which has helped uncover powerful poetic voices at Merton. As I hand on the presidency of Merton College Poetry Society to two exceptional first-year students, Luke Bateman and Rachel Jung, I know that Merton will continue its reign as one of Oxford University's hubs of poetic innovation and creativity.

**Verity Stuart (2017)**

Poetry Society President 2019-20



From left: Liam McKenna (2017), Ross Moore (2018), Siddhant Iyer (2018) and Riya Bhatt (2017) at the annual Halsbury Society Christmas Drinks.  
© [www.facebook.com/photosbyyoshi](https://www.facebook.com/photosbyyoshi)

## Halsbury Society

The past academic year has been another highly successful one for the Halsbury Society with a wide range of events and fantastic achievements by Merton law students.

During Michaelmas term, the society hosted our Welcome Tea Party for the incoming fresher law students to allow them to get to know the other law students, a Subject Tea in honour of Professor Imogen Goold, who has been a great help to our students for a number of years, and our annual Christmas Drinks. In Hilary term, we welcomed Lady Arden of Heswall, Justice of the Supreme Court, to Merton, who delivered a highly engaging and interesting lecture on the topic 'Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both'.

The Halsbury Society is fortunate to receive sponsorship from many leading law firms each year. Special mention must go to Sullivan & Cromwell for sponsoring our annual Christmas Drinks and to Slaughter and May, who sponsored the lecture dinner with Lady Arden.

The Halsbury Society is always looking for ways to provide Merton law students with new and exciting legal opportunities. Professor Anselmo Reyes from the University of Hong Kong provided the unique opportunity for Merton law students to undertake a mini-pupillage in Hong Kong, which was an enlightening and educational experience for

those students involved. Students also had the opportunity to attend the Doshisha Merton Advocacy Network Initiative (DOMANI) which was hosted at Doshisha University, Japan, in September 2019. DOMANI was an excellent chance to apply our academic skills in a novel setting, with students having the opportunity to practise examination in chief and cross-examination style questioning as well as to discuss strategy.

Every year Merton law students participate in a number of mooting competitions, often with great success. This year Liam McKenna (2017) and Stephanie Bruce-Smith (2017) were the winners of the first Oxford v Cambridge edition of the Herbert Smith Freehills Disability Mooting Championship. Petra Stojnic (2018) and Ameer Ismail (2016) were runners-up in the renowned ELSA European Human Rights Moot Court Competition. All should be congratulated for their excellent performance in these competitions.

Although our year has been cut short and a number of planned events have not come to fruition, it has been an absolute privilege to serve as the Halsbury Society President for 2019–20. I wish Merit Flugler (2019), President 2020–21, and the rest of her committee the best of luck for next year.

**Petra Stojnic (2018)**

Halsbury Society President 2019–20





Tri-college women's formal hosted at Merton

## The 1980 Society

With women students being only a recent addition to Merton's centuries-long history, the 1980 Society offers a women-led space that values education, intersectionality and inclusivity at its core. Founded in 2018, we held our inaugural event in Michaelmas term 2019 with welcome drinks in the MCR. Corks flew, introductions were made and the run-up to celebrating 40 years of women at Merton began.

Both Michaelmas and Hilary terms included a diverse range of events as we sought to ensure an inclusive environment for all JCR members. In collaboration with the Neave Society, a debate on the term 'feminism' was held, and a feminist book club was hosted alongside the Merton English Society, which I hope will become a recurring event. Discussion groups also took place, which looked at women's guilt,

media representation and the pitting of women against one another. No events required any prior knowledge, but they were instead opportunities for individuals with all levels of prior-feminist knowledge to discuss and learn from one another. Conversations like these are what makes being at university such a character-building and rewarding experience, and the Merton environment ensured they were not only thought-provoking but welcoming evenings. There is still much that 1980 and the wider Merton community must do to increase intersectionality and equality within our community. We hosted a virtual discussion on black feminism, intersectionality and theory to this end, which entailed meaningful and self-reflective conversation. It is vital that 1980 is not a society which reflects gender equality only for privileged individuals, and we hope to continue discussions such as this next year and beyond.

In addition to discussion groups, we sought to create an inclusive social space. 2020 began with a women-themed bar quiz, featuring rounds such as 'firsts', 'herstory', and the discovery that the jockstrap inspired the modern-day sports bra. We hosted a social along with SpeakOut Oxford, a student-run advocacy and support group for victims of sexual assault, in the Merton JCR. The 1980 Society hopes to continue encouraging an atmosphere of consent, belief and support at Merton. One of the year's most heart-warming moments was the 'cake and compliments' afternoon. A 'postbox' (a Yorkshire Tea tin) was filled with notes of gratitude and messages of inspiration written by students to one another. We paged so many notes our arms ached, but each one reminded me why I chose Merton, and how grateful I am to be a part of such an incredibly supportive community. In lieu of a garden party, we have marked the end of Trinity with a raffle raising money for the Okra Project and My Sisters' House; with feminist prizes, including a copy of *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo, we are rounding off an often-difficult year with positivity.

Throughout the year we have showcased inspirational women. The Tinbergen Society hosted a talk by Professor EJ Milner-Gulland, and after her presentation we held a Q&A on the changing experience of being a woman in STEM, and the advice she would offer current students. Popcorn and gin accompanied a screening of *On the Basis of Sex*, depicting the powerhouse that is Ruth Bader Ginsberg, while the 1980 Instagram account has provided a platform to showcase the achievements of women from afar. From inspirational women of the JCR, nominated by their peers, to the women featured in the Black Cultural Archives' Breaking Barriers exhibition, the extraordinary and the everyday achievements of women are something we believe is important to highlight. Without in-person events, our Instagram became a source of education and inspiration. A team of students created film, music, book and theory recommendations, and wrote definitions of terms from 'patriarchy' to 'consent'. We posted daily reminders of self-kindness coupled with informative resources, as we sought to meet our three core aims regardless of our remote position.

The highlight of the year is undoubtedly the tri-college women's formal hosted at Merton. A talk in the TS Eliot

Theatre was given by Irene Tracey, Helen Small and Marion Durand (Corpus Christi), who discussed their experiences as women in academia. A drinks reception and formal dinner followed, and attendees discovered mutual interests, shared experiences and the everyday inspiration of fellow women students. Credit must go to Jessica Searle, Gender Equality Representative 2019-20, and her counterparts at Oriel and Corpus Christi, for its inception. As the four of us stood and gave a speech to a hall and high table filled with women, I was struck with awe and pride at the accomplishments of our attendees and predecessors. I hope this will become a regular and equally cherished tradition for future women of Merton.

I am deeply grateful to all those who helped with both events and content creation, especially the 1980 committee members; all have been a continual source of inspiration. Individuals of all genders have a role to play in holding the JCR to the highest standards of equality, and ensuring that Merton is an inclusive, welcoming place to call home. As I hand over to the new 1980 President, we hope to continue with these aims, and use the 40-year anniversary to connect women of Merton past and present. I look forward to reading *Postmaster* in 40 years' time and seeing the further advances towards equality that will have been made, and I shall look back with pride and warmth at a society that is becoming a part of Merton life.

**Olivia Tan (2018)**

President of the 1980 Society 2019-20



# Tinbergen Society

Otmoor nature reserve © Steve Daniels

Although cut short, it has been an exciting year for Merton's Tinbergen Society.

We started off the year with an inspiring talk by Professor EJ Milner-Gulland on 7 November. The presentation was titled 'An optimistic vision for a sustainable, wild and socially just future' in which Professor Milner-Gulland spoke about three inspirational conservation case studies and implored a view of 'conservation optimism' – a more positive view of conservation, rather than the bleak dogma we often hear. Additionally, since we were heading into Merton's 40-year celebration of women in the College, we ended the talk by discussing Professor Milner-Gulland's experience as a woman in academia.

We continued our events this year with our annual trip to see the starling murmurations at Otmoor nature reserve, on 27 November 2019. It was utterly brilliant to see the large group displays the starlings perform at that time of year, which some of us had never seen before. Seeing and experiencing nature is a vital part of being a biologist, and so there was a large turnout from across the JCR and MCR community, allowing us to form stronger inter-year bonds within the Merton biology community. After we had watched the starlings, we walked to a nearby pub to get some dinner. Although the oven wasn't working, it was a lot of fun and we all look forward to the possibility of going again next year.

In Hilary, Christl Donnelly, Professor of Statistical Epidemiology at Imperial College London, gave a fascinating talk about badger culling and bovine TB on 31 January. We learnt a lot about the different considerations and effects

that different methodologies of badger culling have on the numbers of badgers and rates of bovine tuberculosis across the country. At the end of the presentation, during the Q&A, there were some provocative questions asked by anti-badger culling activists which Professor Donnelly responded to. Watching this interaction was a wonderful reminder of how science doesn't just exist in a bubble and often has real-world political implications and controversies.

Our second talk in Hilary was given by Dr Nessa Carey on 10 February. This lecture was titled 'Hacking the code of life' and discussed the history and current ethical, social and political implications of the recent gene editing technology CRISPR: from the possibility of super humans, to the recent illegal experimentation on twins by He Jiankui. This talk showed the complex issues surrounding modern science and its wider effects on society and the environment, which are essential concepts to consider as a biologist. After the talk the members of the Tinbergen Society, along with Dr Carey, attended our annual Tinbergen Society dinner. This was a lot of fun for everyone and allowed us to get to know Dr Carey and interact with many people we don't see very often. As always, the food was delicious! We then concluded the night with some cheese and wine in the MCR, which was a lovely end to a great day.

The society, unfortunately, did not hold any events in Trinity term due to the coronavirus. However, this year we have still had an amazing series of events and we are all looking forward to what we will be able to do next year.

**Christian Kirk (2018)**

Tinbergen Society President 2019-20



# Chalcenterics

The 2019-20 year was a very successful one for the Chalcenterics. We kicked off in Michaelmas term by welcoming our classics freshers with our annual subject tea which was, as always, very well attended and gave new students the chance to meet the Merton classics undergraduates, graduates and tutors in a relaxed and informal setting.

There were two Chalcenterics talks in Michaelmas, both given by in-house speakers. Dr Evert van Emde Boas, Leventis Research Fellow in Ancient Greek, spoke about messenger narratives in Greek tragedy, examining the visual impact of these speeches and the ways in which they appeal to the imagination. The talk combined a focus on specific tragedies, especially Euripides' *Phoenissae*, with a fascinating discussion about the ways in which insights from cognitive science can aid interpretation of messenger narratives in Greek tragedy. It was very much enjoyed by all who attended. The evening was concluded with a fantastic formal dinner in Hall which provided the Merton undergraduates with an excellent opportunity to discuss Greek tragedy, and more besides, with Evert.

Our second talk of Michaelmas term was delivered by Dr Amber Gartrell, who joined Merton this year as a tutor in Ancient History. The talk, entitled 'Myth and history in Ancient Rome', looked at and questioned attempts to categorise events as being mythical or historical by chronology, location or individuals featured, with a special focus on the treatment of the Roman epiphanies of the Dioscuri to explore the permeability of the boundary between myth and history. This memorable talk was concluded with a drinks reception in the TS Eliot Theatre.

The highlight of Hilary term was undoubtedly the annual Chalcenterics dinner, a black-tie event held in the Savile Room. This year's dinner was well attended and gave the Merton classicists a welcome opportunity to relax together and socialise over a delicious three-course meal. We wished the Mods students luck for their impending exams, and congratulated Merton postgraduate Gian Piero Milani (2017) on his recent appointment as Trustee of the British School at Athens, as well as wishing both Professor Rhiannon Ash and



Dr Evert van Emde Boas © John Cairns

Evert well for their sabbatical leave and new job, respectively. Our Hilary talk, entitled 'Travelling, measuring and drawing Ancient Rome', was given by Gian Piero Milani. The talk was run in collaboration with the History of the Book Group at Merton and featured an appearance of *Les edifices antiques de Rome*, one of the chained books from Merton's medieval library. After listening to Gian's fascinating discussion, the audience were able to take a closer look at the book. A drinks reception and dinner on High Table concluded a wonderful evening.

Hilary term for the second-year classicists meant Mods examinations, and our Mods tea held in 6th week provided them with a much-needed break and chance to chat to (and be reassured by) Mods survivors. Hilary term ended with a leaving party hosted for Evert, who has now taken up a new position at Aarhus University in Denmark.

Although the year ended sooner than planned, and it was a shame not to be able to host the usual summer garden party in Trinity term, I have very much enjoyed organising all the Chalcenterics events this year, and am grateful to our speakers for delivering such engaging talks and to everyone who attended the events. I am sure that next year's presidents, Cristina Chui (2018) and Guy Smith (2018), will do a wonderful job in making 2020-21 a successful year for the society.

**Sarah Bennett (2017)**

Chalcenterics President 2019-20

# Interdisciplinary Groups





Professor Stuart Bale's talk



Dr Chiara Marletto's lecture

## Ockham Lectures

Once a term, the physics tutors at Merton host the Ockham Lecture — a physics-related talk given by a distinguished external speaker. The lectures are always some of the most interesting and enjoyable events of the term — a great way for the physics community at Merton to get together, meet non-Merton academics, and broaden our intellectual horizons. The lecture begins with a drinks reception, before we are prompted to move into the theatre by Professor Schekochihin's famous words '*The lecture is served*'. The lecture typically lasts for an hour, with plenty of time for questions (of which there are always many). We then migrate to Formal Hall, where wine is graciously provided by the physics tutors (one might think we study physics at Merton for the teaching; perhaps this shows otherwise). The event concludes with after-dinner drinks in the MCR, which typically involves a healthy amount of arguing over a range of physical or philosophical topics, and occasionally a series of heated table-tennis matches between students and tutors.

Michaelmas saw Professor Stuart Bale elucidate some salient features of NASA's recent Parker Solar Probe mission, to take the first in situ measurement of our sun's corona. The talk contained some recent, cutting-edge experimental data, and so it was extremely interesting to be shown the forefront of international experimental physics.

Hilary's lecture turned to the more theoretical-philosophical, with Dr Chiara Marletto informing us about constructor theory — a rethinking of the way we approach physical theories and their basic commitments. The new mode of thought was applied to areas across physics, including information theory, thermodynamics and quantum gravity, with profoundly deep philosophical ramifications.

The physics tutors had pulled out all the stops for Trinity — we had all anticipated the second ever Ockham Debate in the Ockham Lecture's ten-year history. In 2013, we saw Professors James Binney and Simon Saunders face off over the measurement problem in quantum mechanics. We had been looking forward to Professor Saunders' return, this time against Professor Ard Louis, about whether or not Physics implies Atheism, or whether it is a new kind of Deism. Regrettably, the debate was postponed due to the current pandemic, to take place whenever it is safe, hopefully in Michaelmas 2020. We certainly look forward immensely to that debate; I have no doubt that it will be a highlight of the year.

**Jules Desai (2016)**

Roger Bacon Society President 2019-20





Illustrated architectural books featured in both History of the Book seminars held this year.

The Michaelmas term seminar, on 20 November 2019, was given by Dr Benoit Seguin (ETH Zurich), a Visiting Scholar at Merton and research collaborator of JRF Lia Costiner. Dr Seguin's talk, entitled 'Analysing text and image in early-modern architectural treatises using machine learning', brought together visual arts and software engineering. He explained how interdisciplinary teams were working to address a question of relevance to many researchers: given the increasing wealth of digital images of works of art and illustrated books now freely available online, how does one search in this vast sea of material for images that may be relevant to a given research question? Drawing intriguing parallels with the development of self-driving cars, Dr Seguin described one of his current projects in which researchers are helping computers learn to distinguish and 'read' different structural elements of a book illustration or the compositional elements of a work of art. The bi-tonal engraved illustrations and diagrams in digitised copies of architectural treatises lend themselves as a corpus of material for this type of project. Dr Seguin also showed examples of searches across digital images of paintings. These digitised materials offer huge untapped research potential when their visual content is made fully accessible to computer indexing and searching. The end of the presentation focused on current work related to bringing the same exploratory power developed for images to the textual contents of the indexed books. Dr Seguin's talk gave a glimpse of the great changes coming soon to research methods in the humanities. An appreciative audience of curious Mertonians and those from Oxford's digital humanities community also had an opportunity to view two early printed architectural treatises from Merton's collections.

One of the most-frequently-viewed books in the Merton Library happens to be an architectural study composed mostly of engraved illustrations. This is the book chained in the Upper Library, and most visitors pay more attention to the way it is fixed to the shelf than to the contents of the book itself. On 5 February 2020, the book took centre stage in the TS Eliot Lecture Theatre when Merton postgraduate in archaeology Gian Piero Milani spoke on

'Travelling, measuring and drawing Ancient Rome: Mistakes, misinterpretations and misattributions in Antoine Desgodets' *Les edifices antiques de Rome* (Paris 1682)'. Gian Piero recounted the story of the origins of this publication: how a young French architect Antoine Desgodets was sent by the powerful French Minister of State Jean-Baptiste Colbert on a special mission to Rome in 1674 to make drawings and take exact measurements of the major ancient monuments. Desgodets had an adventurous journey to Rome, since his ship was captured by Ottoman pirates, and he was sold into slavery in Africa for a year before Colbert ransomed him. After this detour, Desgodets spent an intense 18 months in Rome climbing around and in ruined sites, making detailed drawings of ancient buildings. On his return to France, the drawings were engraved and published in 1682. The book became a standard source of information and inspiration for classicists and for generations of French architects who wished to create accurate classical buildings. Following the talk, attendees, including the Merton Chalcercics (the Merton Classics society), co-sponsors of the event, had the opportunity to examine the many illustrations in the book, which had been released from the Upper Library for this special occasion.

Finally, it is a pleasure to record that a third Teaching the Codex colloquium, co-sponsored by the History of the Book Group, was held in the TS Eliot Lecture Theatre on 24 October 2019. The organisers, Mary Boyle (2011), Tristan Franklins (2011), Alex Peplow (2013) and Jessica Rahardjo (Wolfson, 2016). The theme, 'Decentring the Codex', focused on manuscript books outside of Greco-Latin tradition. Speakers provided a fascinating exploration of how they teach palaeography and material aspects of manuscript books in the Hebrew, Chinese, Armenian, Arabic and Irish-language traditions.

**Dr Julia Walworth**  
Fellow Librarian



# Departments







The Installation of Professor Irene Tracey as 51st Warden of Merton College on 5 October 2019 © Ian Wallman

## The Chapel

For the Chapel, as for every other part of College life, it feels like this year has been dominated by our response to Covid-19 and the lockdown. To an extent, that's true; but it's important not to overlook all that took place within the first six months of the academic year and, not least, the installation of Merton's 51st Warden, Professor Irene Tracey, with which it began. Merton likes firsts, and this installation included several: music performed by our Girl Choristers and a brass ensemble as well as the College Choir and organ; a reading from the introduction to the Statutes of 1274; the presence of Wyliot Fellows; and, perhaps most significantly, the livestreaming of the ceremony so that it could be enjoyed by alumni and friends around the world. If you haven't watched it yet, you can find it through the College website: a wonderful record of the happiest of days.

Michaelmas and Hilary terms followed their normal pattern, with the All Souls' Requiem and Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Carol Services attracting large numbers of visitors as well as members of the College. Our worship continues to be enriched by choral and organ music of the highest standard. The reputation of our Girl Choristers, as well as

the College Choir, continues to grow. Both groups are great ambassadors for the College, and our ability to webcast many of this year's services, thanks to the generosity of Cheyney and Sandy Ryan, enabled their talents to be enjoyed by a global audience. At the beginning of the year we welcomed Kentaro Machida as our new Organ Scholar. He has been playing alongside Alex Little, our Assistant Organist, who gained his FRCO (Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists) this year, and who leaves us in the summer to continue his organ studies in the United States. Alex has been with us for five years and has contributed hugely to the musical life of the Chapel. I would like to put on record my thanks to him, as well as to Ben Nicholas, under whose direction music at Merton has developed an international reputation.

Alex is not the only member of the Chapel team to leave for the States this year. The Revd Dr Jarred Mercer, our Associate Chaplain, left us in May to become Rector of St Paul's Church, Newburyport, in the Diocese of Massachusetts. While with us, Jarred has increased the range of the Chapel's non-liturgical activities, broadening their scope and enabling

them to appeal to a diverse group within the College. As we wish him well in his new ministry, we look forward to welcoming the Revd Dr Melanie Marshall, currently Chaplain and Welfare Coordinator at Lincoln College, who takes up this post in September. Finally, in terms of personnel, in November Lizzie Casey joined the team as Chapel Administrator. She came to us from OUP, and has already made a significant contribution, not least in helping us develop our social media presence.

Merton's Verger, Leah Collins, oversees the day-to-day running of the Chapel, including our team of Chapel officers. This year, 13 undergraduate and graduate students have served in this capacity, a record during my time at Merton! I'm very grateful to Leah, and to all those who work with her; in particular, to Tim Foot and Oliver Pateman, who both leave us this year after many years of service to the Chapel and, among other leavers, to Adrian Burbie, Rob Lentz, Tom Lousada, Thomas Nightingale and Colin Robertson.

Our principal service of the week, on Sunday evening, has once again been enriched by a variety of visiting preachers. This year's episcopal visitors have included the Rt Revd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton; the Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester, who preached the University Sermon on the Grace of Humility; the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop at Lambeth; and his predecessor in that role, the Rt Revd Nigel Stock, both of whom also baptised and confirmed. We

have also enjoyed visits by the Revd Dr Hugh Jones, Vicar of St Nicholas', Lincoln; the Revd Professor Robert Gilbert, Fellow and Tutor in Biochemistry at Magdalen College; the Revd Canon Dr Jennifer Strawbridge, Fellow and Tutor in Theology at Mansfield College; and the Revd Canon Imogen Nay, Canon for Evangelism and Discipleship at Chelmsford Cathedral. The Warden, Professor Irene Tracey, gave the address at this year's Postmasters' Evensong and, on the final Sunday of Hilary term, the BBC News Home Editor, Mark Easton, gave the address at Evensong.

Following the imposition of lockdown, our services and activities moved online. I'm grateful to my colleagues in the Chapel team for taking the initiative in this at a time when I needed to focus on the welfare aspect of my role. *Socially Isolated, Spiritually Connected* became our hashtag. Moving online enabled us to connect not only with the current student body, staff and Fellows, but also with alumni. The resources we put together are available on the College website, as are the Sunday evening online services, which included a homily on 7 June by our Honorary Fellow, Bishop Tom Wright.

As for what the Chapel programme will look like next term, it's too early to tell, except to say that generous donations from the Reed Foundation and the McElwee family will enable us to install cameras over the summer to complement the existing webcasting equipment. This will add sight to sound, enabling us to livestream services and concerts.

## The Chapel's Social Media Accounts

**Instagram:** @MertonCollChoir and @MertonCollChapel

**Twitter:** @MertonCollChoir and @MertonChapel

**Facebook:** @MertonCollChoir and @MertonCollChapel

## Patronage

The Revd Elveen Mead, Assistant Curate of Gauzebrook (Diocese of Bristol) has been appointed Priest-in-Charge (Interim Minister) of Stratton St Margaret with South Marston and Stanton Fitzwarren (Diocese of Bristol).

The Revd Diane Whitaker, Rector of Potterspury with Furtho and Yardley Gobion with Cosgrove and Wicken (Diocese of Peterborough) has been appointed Rector of the Astwell Benefice (Diocese of Peterborough).

## Welfare and Student Support

At Merton, the welfare and wellbeing of all members of the community remains a priority, and the members of the welfare team work in partnership with our GP practice, the University's Counselling and Disability Advisory Services, and a range of private therapists to support our students in different ways. This year it has been a particular pleasure to work alongside Jenny Barrett in her new full-time role as Welfare Adviser.

The pandemic has brought many challenges to members of the Merton community, not least in relation to mental health. During the lockdown, Jenny and I have been able to offer remote support to students both in Oxford and at home. A range of welfare activities has gone online, including yoga, circuit training, writing workshops, and *Make, Do and Send*, a project to make blankets for the charity *Knit for Peace*. The team is already planning for next term. In addition to offering support, we are also keen to be proactive in fostering a sense of community within whatever constraints Covid-19 presents us with, particularly among our freshers.

Next term will also see several changes of personnel within the team. Over the past two years, Lucille Champion has served Merton magnificently as College Nurse. Lucille will be leaving us before the beginning of Michaelmas term, as will our two Junior Deans for Welfare, Seb Wylie and Catherine Paverd. It has been a great pleasure to work with them

all, and I am hugely grateful for their commitment to the flourishing of all members of the Merton community.

Finally, the College's Student Support Committee continues to make a large number of grants for various purposes. Since the lockdown, our focus has been on students who have been financially disadvantaged as a result of the pandemic. Gerry Grimstone very kindly allowed us to deploy his travel grants for this purpose. The Big Merton 1264 Challenge has raised additional hardship funds that can be used to support students, staff and alumni. We have been fortunate in being able to respond to those with immediate financial needs. One of the challenges for the next few years will be to provide doctoral completion bursaries to graduate students whose research has been disrupted by the pandemic. We are also committed to continuing to fund private counselling and therapy of various sorts, where needs cannot be met by the NHS or central University services. The cost of this makes up a part of the Student Support Committee's total spend of £137,000 this year.

As always, the generosity of many Mertonians towards student support is very much appreciated. I am always happy to speak to anyone who would be interested in finding out more about how we deploy these funds and, more generally, about this aspect of my work.

**The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones**  
Chaplain

## Baptisms and Confirmations

Yuri van Nieuwkerk (2016) was baptised and confirmed by Bishop Tim Thornton on 20 October 2019

Imogen Miller, daughter of Richard Miller (2008) and Sarah Miller (née McAvoy, 2008), was baptised on 15 February 2020

Emily Capstick (2017) was baptised and confirmed by Bishop Nigel Stock on 16 February 2020

## Funerals

The funeral of David Bostock (Emeritus Fellow) was held on 6 November 2019

## Ordination

Siôn Rhys Evans (1998) was ordained priest by the Bishop of Bangor on 15 August 2020 in the Church of St Tudno on the Great Orme. He is serving his title in the Llandudno Ministry Area (Diocese of Bangor)

## Weddings

Philip Madgwick (2012) to Elizabeth Milne (2012) on 28 September 2019

Christian Willmes (2016) to Lily McElwee (2016) on 11 July 2020

Edwin Lock (2016) to Divya Sridhar (2016) on 24 July 2020





Three Choirs Festival, July 2019  
© Michael Whitefoot

## The Choirs

With the cessation of choral services on 12 March, the choirs' activities came to an unexpected halt. While the College Choir has met socially online and recorded a number of pieces for the Virtual Chapel in 'isolation', it's easy to feel that the year lacks any completeness. Intensive rehearsals prior to 12 March left the choir ready for two performances of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* and three broadcasts for the BBC. The Girl Choristers have met via Zoom weekly throughout Trinity term and I am grateful to Carys Lane for her resourcefulness in devising various musical games for the younger choristers. However, it's still possible to look back on a year which included two particular highlights: just before Michaelmas term began, the College Choir and the Girl Choristers combined to sing for the installation of Professor Irene Tracey as Warden. It was a memorable ceremony and the choirs enjoyed contributing Vaughan Williams' *O clap your hands* and Herbert Howells' *Collegium Regale Te Deum*. Then, in May 2020, it was announced that the College Choir had won the Choral Award at the 2020 BBC Music Magazine Awards for the recording of Gabriel Jackson's *The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ*. This is the first time that a choir from Oxford has won this accolade, and I would like to thank all those benefactors who made it possible for us to make the recording in the first place.

Michaelmas term included a visit to sing a concert at St Matthew's Church, Rushall, one of the College livings. Once again, we received wonderful hospitality from Lady Jones. At the 2019 Oxford Lieder Festival, the choir gave a concert which included Maurice Duruflé's beautiful *Requiem* and motets by Judith Weir and Cheryl Frances-Hoad. I

am delighted that Cheryl has since been appointed to the Visiting Fellowship in the Creative Arts at Merton and we look forward to fruitful collaborations in 2021. It was good to welcome the composer Gregory Rose to the College to work with the choir in preparation for the premiere of his demanding motet *Ut queant laxis*, which was sung at Evensong on 30 October.

In addition to the Advent and Christmas Carol Services, the College Choir sang a carol service for alumni at St Vedast, Foster Lane, London, and, with the Girl Choristers, gave a Carols by Candlelight concert in the Chapel. At the invitation of Oxford University Press, the College hosted a concert of music by OUP composers, at which John Rutter conducted the College Choir in two of his recent carols.

Hilary term began with the Epiphany Carol Service, sung by the College Choir and Girl Choristers; at a tea party beforehand, members of the College Choir had an opportunity to thank the Friends of the Choir for all the support they offer each year. The Carol Service included the world premiere of Nico Muhly's *Song of Ephrem the Syrian*, commissioned for both choirs (the choristers have their own very distinctive part) through the generosity of the Reed Foundation. *Song of Ephrem the Syrian* is included on the new CD *Sleeper's Prayer* – a collection of choral and organ music from North America, released on Delphian Records in May. The disc has been in the top 20 of the Classical Charts and was described on BBC Radio 3's *Record Review* as 'a fantastic disc ... a real feat of excellence and precision'. Due to the impact of Covid-19, the



The Choir recording *Sleeper's Prayer* © William Campbell-Gibson

planned CD recording of music by Ian Venables and Herbert Howells has had to be postponed until next year and we look forward to this. The Choir's recordings and recordings of the Dobson Organ are available through our online shop at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-choir/recordings](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-choir/recordings).

The Girl Choristers began the academic year with a visit to Chichester Cathedral, where we sang Evensong between 27 and 29 August. Accommodation at Cobnor Activity Centre enabled us to enjoy daily walks at Chichester Harbour, and we were entertained to lunch at the home of Phoebe Pexton (2015) near Bosham. Apart from the obvious social benefits of a trip like this, the musical rewards of this intense period of rehearsal and performance have been felt all year. In addition to the singing of Evensong on Wednesdays during term, the choristers have taken part in a number of extra events including a joint service with the choristers of Magdalen College, the Carols by Candlelight concert as well as the Christmas Celebration for OUP. Sadly, the current situation has meant that our residency at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, planned for August, has been cancelled. In September 2020, the choir will become an Associate Member of the Choir Schools' Association – a wonderful tribute to the College's educational work with girls from nine different schools. David Harvey's continued support of the choir is greatly appreciated.

The services that take place in the Chapel remain the heart of our work and it has been a pleasure to welcome a number of choirs to sing with us as we continue our outreach work

through our Choral Open Day and other events. The choir from Abingdon School sang with the College Choir for Evensong in the Michaelmas term, and the choirs from Tiffin School and Winchester College visited in early January to record discs of Christmas carols. As ever, I welcome enquiries from potential organ and choral scholars, and potential girl choristers (aged nine at admission) and I am always happy to meet them at any point in the year.

Kentaro Machida has made a very promising start as Organ Scholar, and has coped well not only with lockdown, but also with illness in the Michaelmas term. We look forward to his return to the College in the autumn. Leah Collins, as ever, works incredibly hard supporting both choirs and Elizabeth Casey has completed her first year, during which she has vastly improved the choirs' profiles on the various social media platforms. Our Assistant Organist, Alex Little, leaves us this summer to pursue doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York. He has served the Chapel brilliantly over the last five years, and we wish him well for his time in the USA. Jarred Mercer will also be much missed by all, but we hope to visit him on a future US tour! Finally, on behalf of all the singers and organists, a huge debt of gratitude to Simon Jones for all he does to make the Chapel the thriving community that it is.

**Benjamin Nicholas**

Reed Rubin Organist and Director of Music



## The Library

As Trinity term came to a close, the Classics Room in the OWL library was filled, but not with finalists. Instead, the large oak tables were covered with neatly labelled piles of returned library books waiting for 72 hours to elapse before they could be re-shelved. All through term, library staff had been working from home, answering enquiries every day, helping students and tutors track down electronic resources and, in some cases, arranging for newly purchased books to be sent directly to students. The Fellow Librarian and the Archivist took turns checking the Upper Library and store areas regularly – a task deemed ‘essential’ by the Governing Body for heritage collections like Merton’s. Librarians from colleges and Bodleian libraries worked together to purchase e-books that could be shared by all. When college libraries were able to allow staff back to work on site, librarians scanned chapters and sections of books to send to students or share online.

Looking back on the early months of the pandemic, I am struck by how active libraries were, even while reading rooms were closed, and by how libraries across the University worked collaboratively to provide services to our users. I usually conclude these reports with thanks to the library staff, but this year I’ll put the thanks at the beginning and acknowledge the excellent work of Harriet Campbell Longley, Julian Reid, Verity Parkinson, Rosslyn Johnston, Leah Collins, Cathy Lewis and Tuija Ainonen.

With all the dislocations to working patterns and planned activities since March 2020, it is easy to forget that a lot happened earlier in the academic year. Here are a few highlights.

### Brenchley TS Eliot Collection

In January 2020 Cathy Lewis, Resource Description Project Librarian, completed the detailed cataloguing of the contents of the Brenchley TS Eliot Collection. This collection of over 1,300 items was formed by Mertonian Frank Brenchley (Honorary Fellow, 1936). It contains many of Eliot’s publications in their original format as they appeared in magazines and newspapers as well as the Epstein bust of the poet now displayed in the foyer of the TS Eliot Lecture Theatre. Researchers can now locate items in the collection by using Oxford’s online catalogue. Many of the 20th-century journals and paperbound volumes of poetry are fragile, and Cathy also worked with conservators from the Oxford Conservation Consortium to re-house individual items in acid-free protective folders and boxes.

### Equality and Diversity Collection

In February 2020 the library launched a loan collection dedicated to exploring issues around gender, sexuality, disability, race, nationality, religion, and the interactions between these areas. The idea for the collection was



proposed by Merton students to ensure that subject areas not well covered by the existing curricula are represented in the library. This project is a participatory work in progress with ongoing involvement of the JCR and MCR.

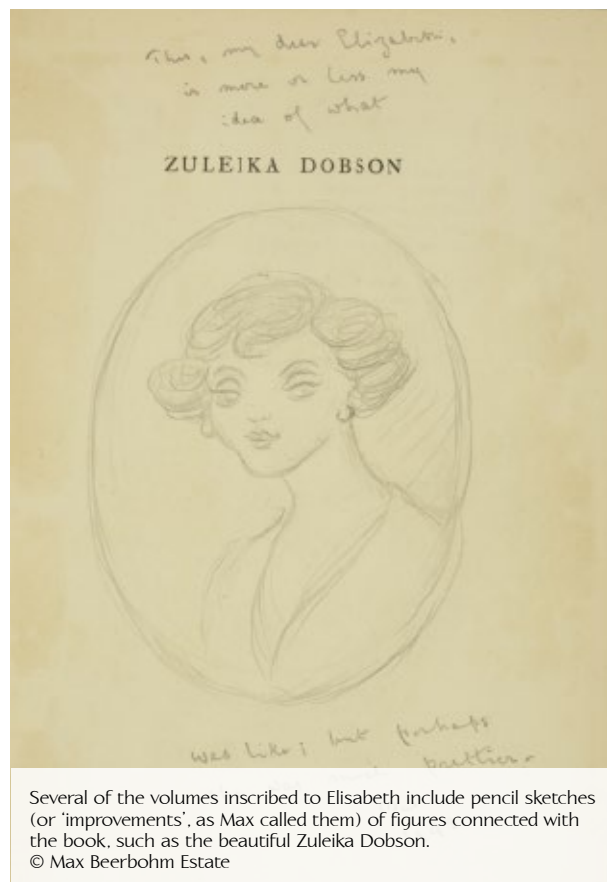
### Online catalogue of medieval manuscripts

One project that was not disrupted by the pandemic was the electronic catalogue of Merton's medieval manuscripts, completed at the end of May 2020. The descriptive entries from Professor Rodney Thomson's 2009 printed catalogue were encoded and added to the online platform, Medieval Manuscripts in Oxford Libraries ([medieval.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://medieval.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)) by project officer Tuija Ainonen, who worked remotely. All 329 manuscripts and 256 fragments can now be found in this freely accessible union catalogue that allows searching across a growing number of Oxford's libraries. In addition, the online records contain over 2,000 bibliographical references to published research on Merton's manuscripts. If a given manuscript has been fully digitised, a link in the catalogue record takes researchers directly to the digital images.

The extraordinary interest in Merton's medieval manuscripts has, paradoxically, become even more evident because of the lockdown. One response to the crisis that prevented researchers from visiting libraries was to 'tweet' about one manuscript every weekday, starting with manuscript 1 and continuing in number order. At the time of writing, manuscript 85 is next in line. Even manuscripts that might have seemed run of the mill turned out to have intriguing personalities. The series will continue even after everything reopens. The posts by @JuliaWalworth can be found by searching #MertonMSS on Twitter.

### Manuscript of the *Zohar*

The conservation and digital imaging of Merton's significant 16th-century manuscript of the *Zohar* took place this year, thanks to the generosity of Neil F Brown (2002) and Eric Braverman. Although delayed in its final stages by the pandemic, the project to make the Merton *Zohar* (an important Jewish mystical text) freely accessible online should be completed by the time *Postmaster* appears. An announcement on the website and in the Merton Messenger will let Mertonians know when this is available for viewing.



### Donation for the Beerbohm Collection

Seven books by Max Beerbohm (Merton 1890), inscribed by him to Elisabeth Jungmann over the period 1941-52, were a special gift to the library this year from Pauline Paucker. Elisabeth Jungmann (1894-1958) first met Max Beerbohm and his wife Florence in Italy in 1927 when she was working as personal secretary to the German writer Gerhard Hauptmann. Years later, having left Germany to escape persecution, Elisabeth reconnected with the Beerbohms in England. Later, she went to Italy to help Max after his wife died in 1951 and stayed to care for him in the final years of his life. They were married in 1956 shortly before his death.

It was Elisabeth's idea to donate material to establish a Beerbohm Collection at Merton, but sadly she did not live to see it happen. Instead, it was her sister Dr Eva Reichmann who worked with Dr Roger Highfield (then Fellow Librarian) to make Elisabeth's wish a reality. The chain of ownership of the books donated this year bears witness to a chain of friendships: from Max to Elisabeth, Elisabeth to her sister Eva, who gave them to her book-loving friends Pauline and Arnold Paucker (d. 2016). And it was their friend, Michael Diamond (1959) who suggested to them that the Merton Library might be a good permanent home for them.

### A new history of the Merton Library

One of the many events postponed this summer was the publication date of a new history of the Merton Library: *Merton College Library: An Illustrated History* by Julia C Walworth (Oxford: Bodleian Library, 2020). This short illustrated survey traces the development of the library from its origins in the 13th century as a shared collection for a new type of community of scholars to the present

day and its multiple functions as a working college library. The book can now be bought at [www.bodleianshop.co.uk/products/merton-college-library](http://www.bodleianshop.co.uk/products/merton-college-library), and Mertonians can get a 10% discount by using the code OUALumni at the checkout.

My work was made possible by the remarkable wealth of documentation in the College's archives, by the manuscripts and books which in themselves constitute an archive, and by a number of more focused specialised studies, some of them by my predecessors in the role of Librarian. After writing about the various ways that the library has changed over more than 700 years, I was confident that the library could adapt routines and services this spring to continue to support the Merton community when the members of that community were physically dispersed. We are fortunate in the preservation of beautiful and inspiring buildings, but what remains truly unchanging is our academic purpose.

**Dr Julia Walworth**

Fellow Librarian

### Grateful thanks for gifts and support are extended to:

Kristin Böse, Penny Boxall (Visiting Research Fellow in the Arts, Michaelmas term 2019), Emily Capstick (2017), Christ Church, Corpus Christi College, Gail Fine (Emeritus Fellow), Michael Garton-Sprenger (1969), John Gibbons, Sam Gormley (2010), Rosslyn Johnston (Library Assistant), Simon Jones (Chaplain: Fellow), Iacovos Kareklas, Lincoln College, MJP Architects, Oriel College, Oxford University Press, Pembroke College, Stephen Phelps, John and Rose Randle, Jessica Rawson (Honorary Fellow; Warden 1994–2010), Nicholas Richardson (Emeritus Fellow), Paul Saenger, Verity Sherwood, Christopher Skelton-Foord, Somerville College, Mark Synnott, Roger SO Tomlin (Harmsworth Senior Scholar 1966–68), Julia Walworth (Fellow Librarian), Elia Weinbach (1967), Joella Werlin, Steve West, Hanna Wimmer, Worcester College, Simon Wren-Lewis (Emeritus Fellow), Clare Wright.

### Donations to the Library and Archives 2019–20

It is a pleasure to record the following particularly noteworthy donations to library and archive collections:

- Seven works by Max Beerbohm with inscriptions to Elisabeth Jungmann (Lady Beerbohm), donated by Arnold (†) and Pauline Paucker
- Books and archival material from the library of Sir Rex Richards FRS (Warden 1969–84), donated by his family
- Corrected proofs of *For Want of the Golden City* by Sacheverell Sitwell, donated by Michael Raeburn (1959) to complement the Ritchie Sitwell Collection
- Family correspondence and personal papers of Professor Kuruvila Zachariah (1912), donated by the Zachariah family
- Photograph of Merton College in the snow, April 1908, taken by Reggie Chenevix Trench (1906), donated by Anthony Fletcher (1959)
- Merton College and other student memorabilia, 1970–71, donated by John Symes (1969)

† Donated posthumously

## We also thank Mertonians who have given copies of their publications to the College:

**Allen, RH (1967).** *Medicine Man* (PublishNation, 2018)

\_\_\_\_ *It's All Over Now, Baby Blue* (PublishNation, 2019)

\_\_\_\_ *Death on the Volga* (PublishNation, 2019)

\_\_\_\_ *The Body in the Marine Buildings* (Beacon Publishing Group: New York, 2019)

\_\_\_\_ *Misfits and Miscreants* (PublishNation, 2019)

\_\_\_\_ *Post and Perfidy* (PublishNation, 2020)

\_\_\_\_ *Defenestration and Devilment (A Play of Deceit)* (PublishNation, 2020)

**Bott, A (1953; Emeritus Fellow).** *A History of the Churches of Bramley and Grafton & Womersley and Blackheath* (self-published, 2020)

**Bowers, W (JRF 2015-19).** *The Italian Idea: Anglo-Italian Radical Literary Culture, 1815-1823* (Cambridge University Press, 2020)

**Carey, J (Emeritus Fellow).** *A Little History of Poetry* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020)

**Fine, G (Emeritus Fellow)** (ed). *The Oxford Handbook of Plato*, 2nd edn (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019)

Rodger, T, P Williamson and **M Grimley (Fellow)** (eds). *The Church of England and British Politics since 1900* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2020)

**Franklinos, TE (2011)** and **H Hope (2008)** (eds). *Revisiting the Codex Bezae Cantabrigiae: Contents, Contexts, Composition* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2020)

**Gunn, K (VRF in the Arts, Hilary term 2020).** *The Big Music: [Selected Papers]* (London: Faber & Faber, 2012)

\_\_\_\_ *My Katherine Mansfield Project* (Honiton, Devon: Notting Hill Editions, 2015)

\_\_\_\_ *Infidelities* (London: Faber & Faber, 2016)

\_\_\_\_ *Going Bush* (London: Sylph Editions, 2016)

\_\_\_\_ *Caroline's Bikini: An Arrangement of a Novel with an Introduction and Some Further Material* (London: Faber & Faber, 2018)

**Hall, M (1962)** (ed and tr). *John of Garland's De Triumphis Ecclesie: A New Critical Edition with Introduction and Translation* (Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2019)

**Yang, CN, M-L Ge and Y-H He (Fitzjames Research Fellow in Mathematics 2005-09; Lecturer in Mathematics)** (eds). *Topology and Physics* (New Jersey: World Scientific, 2019)

**Houghton, LBT (1996).** *Virgil's Fourth Eclogue in the Italian Renaissance* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

**Huitink, L (Leventis Research Fellow in Ancient Greek 2009-13)** (contributor). In A Willi and P Derron (eds) *Formes et Fonctions des Langues Littéraires en Grèce Ancienne: Neuf Exposés Suivis de Discussions* (Fondation Hardt: Vandœuvres, 2019)

Grethlein, J, **L Huitink** and A Tagliabue (eds). *Experience, Narrative, and Criticism in Ancient Greece: Under the Spell of Stories* (Oxford University Press, 2020)

**Hunt, D (2005)** (contributor). In H Puschmann (ed) *Butterworths Challenges in Arbitration: Challenges against Arbitrators. Awards and Enforcement in England and Wales* (London: LexisNexis, 2019)

**Jones, S (Fellow)** (contributor). In S Croft (ed) *Rooted and Grounded: Faith Formation and the Christian Tradition* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2019)

**Karlin, D (JRF 1978-80)** (ed). H James. *The Bostonians* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

**Lemos, IS (Fellow)** and A Tsingarida (eds). *Beyond the Polis: Rituals, Rites and Cults in Early and Archaic Greece (12th-6th centuries BC)* (CREA-Patrimoine: Bruxelles, 2019)

\_\_\_\_ and A Kotsonas (eds). *A Companion to the Archaeology of Early Greece and the Mediterranean*, vols 1 & 2 (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2020)

**Morrish, PS (former Assistant Librarian).** *Libraries in Leeds: A Historical Survey, 1152-c.1939* (Leeds: Thoresby Society, 2019)

**Phelps, D (†) (1962).** *Using Drugs to Cheat Old Age: The Daughters of Pelias and the Emblems of Zoroastrian Immortality* (Scotts Valley, California: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015)

\_\_\_\_ (tr) and HR Webster (ed). *The Annals of Dunstable Priory* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2018)

\_\_\_\_ (tr) and JG Clark (ed). *The Deeds of the Abbots of St Albans: Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2019)

**Raeburn, M (1959).** *A Book of Celebratory Cakes* (London: Cacklegoose Press, 2020)

**Rastall, P (1970).** *Bottom-Up Linguistics: Perspectives and Explorations with a Postscript on Language and Reality* (Brno: Masaryk University Press, 2019)

**Richardson, N (Emeritus Fellow)** (ed). *Autogiro Pioneer: The Life of Jack Richardson* (Stroud: Fonthill, 2019)

**Sawyer, D (Fitzjames Research Fellow in Medieval English Literature).** *Reading English Verse in Manuscript c.1350-c.1500* (Oxford University Press, 2020)

**Siebert, Y (2018)** (tr). C Maillard. *Killing Plato* (with original subtitles) (New York: New Directions, 2019)

**Späth, M (VRF 2018)** (contributor). In *Marburger Jahrbuch für Kunstwissenschaft*, Bd. 45 (Marburg: Veröffentlichung des Kunstgeschichtlichen Instituts der Philipps-Universität, 2018)

**Walworth, J (Fellow Librarian).** *Merton College Library: An Illustrated History* (Oxford: Bodleian Library, 2020)

**Wormald, J (1963)** and K Rennick. *National Policy, Global Giants: How Australia Built and Lost its Automotive Industry* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

**Wycheley, L (former Library Assistant).** *The Testimony of the Trees* (Beeston, Nottingham: Shoestring Press, 2018)

We would also like to thank those who anonymously returned missing books.





## The Archives

Merton in snow, April 1908. Photo by Reggie Chenevix Trench (1906), kindly donated by his grandson Anthony Fletcher (1959)

I hope Mertonians will forgive my referring to the uncharted territory in which we find ourselves. I am sure I will not be alone in this edition of *Postmaster* in referring to these interesting times, but they have preoccupied our minds for the past six months or so.

Readers will be aware from previous reports that at the end of Michaelmas term the Fellow Librarian and I normally provide a workshop for first-year history students, looking at medieval documents from the archives as an introduction to the sources of history. It is always fascinating watching them teasing out the clues and starting to draw conclusions. November 2019 was no different. At the end of Hilary or the start of Trinity term I usually contribute to a slightly different class organised by the History Fellows, talking to

second-year historians starting to plan their dissertations: how to identify sources, the pitfalls of research and making the most of visits to physical archives.

How different things were by the start of Trinity. We were no longer able to meet together in person but rather gathered online. It seemed unlikely then that students would be able to visit record repositories and access original sources, so I too was placed in the novel position of asking how one could undertake original research without physical access to sources. With the not-unreasonable assumption that libraries might reopen sooner than record offices, there are many sources (diaries, collections of letters, and so on) available in printed editions. Moreover, over the last two decades much work has been done to digitise and make available online a wealth of

original resources held in both national and local collections. Previously, access to some of these has been restricted by a paywall but, in the current circumstances, many of these restrictions have been removed for the duration.

Answering enquiries and providing information is part of the bread and butter of being a college archivist, and this has perhaps proved even more true in lockdown, as people have found themselves without direct access to sources that are normally taken for granted. While I have largely been working from home, I have been permitted to go into College once a week, primarily to check the security and environmental conditions of the parts of College, both library and archives, where special collections are housed; to ensure, for example, that we have neither suffered a flood nor been invaded by insects. I have used these visits to check original sources in response to queries.

One such enquiry received was from the Curator of Rare Books at the Alexander Turnbull Library, part of the National Library of New Zealand. Alexander Turnbull was a member of a late-19th-century comfortable mercantile family, who had established a comprehensive collection of all aspects of the history and natural history of New Zealand, which he left to the nation at his death in 1918. In addition to this primary collecting interest, he was a collector of the works of John Milton. Turnbull had purchased a copy of Milton's *Areopagitica* advertised for sale in a catalogue issued by Blackwell's in February 1907. The curator was aware we held the Blackwell Collection; were we able to supply any further information? As it happens, the collection includes the set of catalogues from the 'Gaffer's Office': Sir Basil Blackwell's own reference set. The entry was quickly found, revealing that Turnbull's purchase had been a small quarto edition of *Areopagitica* published by Lucien Pissarro's Eragny Press in 1904. The catalogue also records that it was inscribed, 'To Prof. York Powell from Lucien Pissarro'.

Pissarro had established the Eragny Press in 1894 to print beautiful books in the tradition of William Morris's Kelmscott Press. Further research revealed that the *Areopagitica* was originally printed in the autumn of 1903 but that a fire had destroyed all but 40 copies. The printing of a further 160 copies was completed in March 1904, of which Pissarro

retained 26 copies to give to friends and admirers. One such was York Powell, to whom Pissarro had presented this copy. Powell, Regius Professor of Modern History from 1894, died aged just 54 at his home on Banbury Road, on 8 May 1904. So we can place quite closely the date of Pissarro's gift, since the book came off the press in March 1904 and Powell died just two months later. It is satisfying when a bookseller's catalogue preserved in our archives can reveal so much of the story of a book held in a library on the other side of the globe.

In October I had the pleasure of meeting an older generation of Mertonians at the lunch for matriculands of 1969. John Symes entertained the company with his recollections, including a Myrmidons dinner at which John Cleese, whose star was then rising as one of 'the Pythons', was the guest of honour. John subsequently kindly donated the menu from that dinner, signed by all those in attendance, together with other memorabilia from his time at Oxford. Professor Anthony Fletcher (1959) has also augmented the archive of his grandfather Reggie Chenevix Trench (1906), which he had previously given to the College, with a framed photograph of the College taken in the snow, in 1908. This might not seem so remarkable, except that the event occurred in April. Snow fell across southern England for four days, 23–26 April, with a blizzard raging across Oxfordshire and Berkshire on the 25th; the depth of snow in Oxford measured c.16 inches/40 cm. Reggie Chenevix Trench rose early on the 26th and photographed the College from Christ Church Meadow, capturing the event for posterity.

Finally, I must acknowledge the kind gift by the Zachariah family of additional papers of Kuruvila Zacharia (1912). Mertonians will be familiar with his student letters from the account by Philip Waller in *The Treasures of Merton*. The recent gift comprises primarily later correspondence between himself and members of his immediate family, 1929–54; in particular with his wife Shanti, when they were separated by his work as a teacher and educator. They provide fascinating glimpses of domestic and professional life set against the wider backdrop of Indian independence.

**Julian Reid**  
Archivist



The Mertonian Dinner in Singapore, 17 January 2020

## Development and Alumni Relations

The Merton Development Office exists to keep our community of over 8,000 alumni and friends connected to the College and to each other. We organise events around the world, broadcast news through our publications and e-newsletters, and fundraise to support current and future generations of Mertonians and academics at Merton. In this most extraordinary and difficult year, I am proud to report that we have remained steadfast in our mission. We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our community of alumni and friends for their continued interest, involvement and generosity.

### A vibrant programme of events

The academic year began with two popular reunion events in College. Mertonians who matriculated between 2009 and 2011 returned for their first Gaudy in September 2019, filling Hall to capacity. The Golden Jubilee Lunch for 1969 matriculands followed in October, bringing together nearly 50 Mertonians and guests, with Year Representative John Symes (1969) presiding over the occasion.

In November and December, we held several events in London. A wonderful Welcome Drinks event for our new Warden, Irene Tracey (1985), took place in the beautiful setting of Apothecaries' Hall. More than 180 people came

to meet Irene and hear her speak about her vision for the College. The annual Merton Lawyers' Association event was as fascinating as ever, hosting a conversation between Dinah Rose QC (Blackstone Chambers), now President of Magdalen College, and BBC journalist and author Mishal Husain. We are grateful to Daniel Schaffer (1986), Matthew Tobin (1991) and William Watson (1980) for enabling us to hold this event at Slaughter and May. The Merton Society Carol Service rounded off the calendar year, with the Choir performing at St-Vedast-alias-Foster church in the City of London, which was filled to the brim with Mertonians and friends, many of whom stayed after the performance to catch up with friends over mince pies and drinks.

We are delighted to have had the chance to hold events overseas. Last November, Amna Naseer (1997) kindly hosted a lively MC3 drinks reception at her home in New York. The Warden and Development Director Duncan Barker also travelled to East Asia in January 2020 to meet with Mertonians and attended dinners in Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo. We would like to express our thanks to Tom Willett (1986), Charles Target (1975) and Steven Thomas (1979) who, respectively, hosted these events. Our Warden was honoured to meet with Naruhito, Emperor of Japan (1983) and his family, all of whom are great friends of the College.



Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we unfortunately had to postpone or cancel all in-person events for the rest of 2020. Like most other aspects of College life, events moved online from March onwards. In May, the Warden gave the annual Merton Society London Lecture on her career and research in neuroscience. This was followed by a series of lectures by Merton Fellows on: malaria vaccines (Professors Matt Higgins and Simon Draper), the value of the Humanities (Professor Helen Small), the diversity of animals (Professor Peter Holland), the ancient history of Sicily (Professor Jonathan Prag) and law and civic education in socialist China (Dr Jennifer Altehenger). Recordings of all the online lectures can be viewed at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/online-lectures](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/online-lectures).

### Supporting the next generation at Merton

Amid the many challenges of this year, our alumni and friends have remained committed to supporting Merton. We are enormously grateful for all the gifts we have received, which have even more impact during these difficult times. Donations are crucial in providing financial assistance to students in need, preserving our high quality of teaching and research, and maintaining and enhancing the College buildings. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated.

We were delighted to begin the academic year with the conclusion of the appeal to establish the Roger Highfield Graduate Scholarship in History. A total of £1 million was raised to permanently endow the Scholarship, which will honour Dr Highfield's great legacy and help us to attract the best graduate historians to Merton from all backgrounds. We also held a fruitful mini-Telethon in December, which aimed to reach alumni living overseas. A small team of four students made late-night and early-morning calls, raising over £10,000 and speaking to more than 100 people in less than a week.

The arrival of the pandemic brought a new set of challenges for fundraising. We unfortunately had to cancel the March Telethon and postpone the biennial Founder's Society Lunch for legators. In a creative and positive step, the Warden, JCR President and MCR President launched The Big Merton 1264 Challenge. This campaign encouraged the whole Merton community to take up fun challenges related to the numbers 1-2-6-4 (for example, running 12.64km or baking 126 cookies), post the results online, and make donations to

two worthy causes: Oxford Mutual Aid, a local organisation supporting individuals in need during the pandemic; and the Merton Hardship Fund, a new fund to help students, alumni, staff and other members of the College who are in need during these difficult times. The 1264 Challenge was a huge success, and more than £60,000 has been raised for the Hardship Fund at the time of writing. You can view the many creative challenges that were submitted and make a contribution here: [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/1264challenge](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/1264challenge).

Donations have also been coming in towards the Michael Baker Tutorial Fellowship appeal in Physics, which has the goal of raising £1 million to permanently endow a teaching post. This campaign will honour Professor Baker, who was our first Tutor in Physics, and ensure that the quality of this subject at Merton is preserved for future generations. If you are interested in making a gift towards this important appeal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### The Development Office – old and new faces

This year has seen much change in the Development Office. We sadly said goodbye to our Development Director, Dr Duncan Barker, who left his post in May. We are enormously grateful to Duncan for everything he has done for the College over the past three years. Our Development Officer, Megan Buchanan, has also left, and our Alumni Events & Stewardship Officer, Elizabeth Lynn, is due to go on maternity leave. We wish Duncan, Megan and Elizabeth well in their new endeavours.

Alongside these departures, we have welcomed Emily Bruce as Alumni Communications Officer and Chelsea Chisholm has returned from maternity leave. James Vickers and I remain constants in the team. We are looking forward to the coming year and helping to support the Merton 2020 (40 Years: Merton Women) celebrations among other events, as well as keeping all our alumni connected with the College.

We are always happy to hear from Mertonians and friends. If you have any questions or comments, please do contact the Development Office by email at [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) or by phone at +44 (0)1865 286314.

**Milos Martinov**

Deputy Development Director



## Academic Office

It has been an extraordinary year for the College and its community, and one in which the Academic Office has seen considerable change. Although not for the first time, the College has had three Senior Tutors over the course of the academic year. Dr Rachel Buxton ended her term of office in December 2019 to take on the role of Director of Learning at St Mark's College in Adelaide, a residential college for students from universities in the city. The post carries responsibility for the College's tutorial programme and events, and for ensuring the academic success and personal wellbeing of all students. I am sure that her time at Merton, and her commitment to enhancing the student experience, will be invaluable and we wish her every success and happiness in her new post.

Dr Buxton was succeeded in January 2020 by Fra' John Eidinow who became Acting Senior Tutor until my arrival in May. Fra' John's detailed knowledge of the College's governance and structures, his experience and his clear thinking and wisdom have clearly been of huge benefit. Not only did he successfully complete an almost normal Hilary term, but he then skilfully navigated the transition into lockdown, working

with tutors and others to introduce remote formats for teaching, assessment and academic administration.

I joined the College as Senior Tutor on 4 May and consider myself fortunate to be stepping into the shoes of two outstanding predecessors. Although I have held roles in Oxford colleges before, I have been extremely impressed by the structures and the work of the Academic Office. Without these in place, taking on a new role in lockdown while handling the Senior Tutor's usual workload and considerable amounts of Covid-related planning would have been so much more challenging. Both Rachel Buxton before she left, and Fra' John since, have been generous with their time and expertise, and I cannot thank them enough for assisting with the handover.

As Merton's students began their online studies in Trinity term, and our tutors adapted to new ways of teaching and supporting them, so the work of the Academic Office changed. Members of the team worked from home to maintain services. That it has been possible to do this is a testament to the hard work and commitment of all members





and to Katy Fifield's leadership as Academic Registrar. Over the last few months, many tasks have carried on but new ones have been added, policies have been amended, and other activities have been adjusted or paused. It is thanks to Charlotte Pawley's wizardry with Zoom that Warden's collections ran smoothly for students all over the world. Julie Gerhardt's experience gave continuity to on-course and postgraduate offer-holders. Rachel Wilkins transformed the start-of-term collections into online versions and Frances Raimo's work has helped to ensure that students facing financial hardship because of the pandemic have been well supported. Sarah North devised and delivered two virtual open days and Katy Fifield has worked tirelessly to adjust and adapt provision, including as it related to a wholly online examination season. I would like thank them all for working so collaboratively and conscientiously for our undergraduates, graduates and tutors.

Sadly for us, Sarah North will be leaving her role as Admissions Manager to become Academic Services Manager at Christ Church. I know that her knowledge and expertise in supporting the undergraduate admissions process will be sorely missed,

but we hope to have a replacement in post ready for the next exercise in Michaelmas term 2020. We are also recruiting a new Schools Liaison and Access Officer and look forward to resuming outreach activities as restrictions lift.

We know that the pandemic has been a challenging time for many of our students but I would like to end by saying that despite the difficulties, they have shown the most extraordinary resilience, commitment, tenacity and flexibility. They have learnt new skills, been reflective about their experiences, and continued to demonstrate the motivation and hard work that will enable them to thrive, on course and in the future. I cannot tell you how much I am looking forward to a more normal year in which it is possible to get to know students and tutors in person, to attend events, to hear our choirs sing, and to become a part of what is clearly a very special community of extraordinary people.

**Dr Jane Gover**  
Senior Tutor





## Schools Liaison and Access

This has undoubtedly been an incredibly difficult year for the schools and colleges that we work with and for their pupils, whose education has been disrupted to varying degrees, despite the enormous efforts of teachers to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Following the UK government's announcement of a country-wide lockdown in March 2020, due to the rising number of cases of Covid-19, it was unfortunately necessary to pause Merton's outreach work. School groups were no longer able to visit the College for tours, presentations and sessions with our current students, and outbound visits to schools and colleges by tutors and members of Merton's Academic Office also had to be cancelled.

Despite the huge challenges that pupils and their teachers have faced, and are still facing, we are extremely excited about the prospect of being able to renew and invigorate our in-person outreach offerings as soon as government guidelines permit and when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we have continued to adapt to changing circumstances, including the decision by the University that its 2020 Open Days would be held remotely so that prospective applicants did not have travel to Oxford. In July 2020, we therefore welcomed visitors to Merton's first ever Virtual Open Days. The transition to an online format and the creation of new

digital content required a great deal of time and energy from colleagues across the College community and from our undergraduates. We were delighted with the end result: tutors ran live Q&A webinars and offered pre-recorded subject videos, current student ambassadors engaged with hundreds of prospective applicants through live Q&A sessions, and new website content was produced, including some excellent new 'student life' videos.

The preparation and delivery of the Open Days were supported by a number of College staff, who went above and beyond their normal duties to ensure that the events ran smoothly. The contribution made by our students was also outstanding and demonstrated not only their love of the College but some phenomenal communication skills. We very much hope that the virtual events, and the information provided, will have helped a great many prospective applicants in their decision making. We are looking forward to repeating the process for our September 2020 Virtual Open Day, but even more so to welcoming applicants, their families and their teachers in person when it is possible to do so.

Despite all the challenges, the last few months have taught us much about working online with students and



colleagues. Although it is undoubtedly the case that face-to-face activities play a hugely important part in highlighting the welcoming and diverse nature of the College, and in dispelling myths about Oxford University, these experiences will be invaluable in informing the future place of virtual engagement in the College's access strategy.

Looking ahead to the new academic year we have some exciting news: as part of a University-wide recalibration of the outreach and access activities delivered collectively by the colleges, we are delighted to announce that Merton now forms part of the South West Outreach Consortium, partnered with Exeter College and Lady Margaret Hall. The collegiate University's move to consortia arrangements provides numerous benefits for pupils and their schools and colleges, as well as for the Oxford colleges that work with them. For Merton, this formalisation of the consortium will help to maximise the impact and efficacy of our regional outreach and will offer a means for the consortium members to work together towards common outreach aims. In doing so, we will be able to share expertise and resources where this offers mutual benefits and, importantly, improve coordination and consistency across and between regions. With sustained regional engagement, it will be possible to

enhance Merton's relationships with schools and colleges in the region and to work closely with them on existing and new initiatives. Merton will retain its existing outreach regions and school networks, as primary college contact, but the consortium arrangements will provide additional opportunities for expansion, collaboration and increased effectiveness in our outreach work.

An exciting development linked to this decision is that Merton will have the opportunity to extend its reach and visibility by building new relationships with schools and colleges in the Bath and North East Somerset regions. The South West Consortium will also be working collaboratively in Bristol, which offers a new area on which to focus recruitment opportunity. In addition to restarting Merton's outreach programme, we are very much looking forward to working with our consortium partners in the year ahead in these new areas.

**Sarah North**, Admissions Manager, and **Dr Jane Gover**, Senior Tutor



## Domestic Bursary

Ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the College is perhaps a good way to sum up the work of the Domestic Bursary staff – but as this review of the past year will make clear, we have, for obvious reasons, been presented with far more than the quotidian challenges we ordinarily face.

Throughout the 2019 long vacation we were engaged in hosting a substantial programme of meetings and conferences. At the same time we carried out a programme of annual maintenance, which involved refurbishing graduate accommodation in Iffley

Road and student accommodation in Rose Lane, improving the bedrooms and making the buildings' heating and lighting systems more environmentally friendly; the conversion of the Fitzjames Arch washrooms into gender-neutral facilities, comprising four new cubicles and a fully accessible washroom; and the commencement of a programme to convert one of our Mansfield Road graduate houses into a nursery.

The major event of Michaelmas term was the triennial Merton Winter Ball in November. Although a student-led



event, the gardeners, the Lodge, the maintenance team and the catering team all play a major role in ensuring its success, enabling around a thousand guests to enjoy an unforgettable night. Another busy term ended with our hugely enjoyable annual staff Christmas party, held at the Oxford Museum of Natural History.

As Hilary term got underway, the spread of Covid-19 across the globe drove us to consider its potential impact on the College and our staff. It quickly became apparent that we would need to make sure office-based staff could work from home where possible, so in the days before the Prime Minister's announcement of the lockdown on Monday 23 March, our HR team were busy gathering contact information and other details. Immediately after the announcement, our plans became reality: between 9.30 and 11pm that evening, information was cascaded via the management team to all members of staff, instructing them to stay at home.

There were a few exceptions, most notably the porters, who have been at work on site throughout the entire lockdown period. Head Porter Huw James divided his team of 11 into two groups, one staffing the main Lodge and the other at the Holywell Annexe. During lockdown their role has been, as always, maintaining the physical security of the College, monitoring and testing fire alarms, and carrying out routine patrols, but they have additionally been called upon to perform a number of health and safety checks – including regularly flushing the many domestic water systems to prevent the build-up of harmful bacteria.

A few students had to remain in residence, and were able to do so thanks to the unstinting work of our Head of Conference and Accommodation, Sally Hague. The porters and the kitchen team combined forces to keep them supplied with food and other necessities during the height of the lockdown, and when any of them had to self-isolate.

During the first few weeks of lockdown the Head Porter and the Head Chef Mike Wender coordinated the creation of a pop-up shop in the College Bar, allowing those students and staff who could safely come into College to purchase items that were not available in the shops, such as toilet rolls and pasta.

Another of the small number of staff who have worked on site throughout is Head Gardener Lucille Savin. During an exceptionally hot spring she single-handedly watered our collection of historic plants, maintained the lawns and prevented the gardens from running wild.

Arguably the busiest department, especially during the early stages of lockdown, has been the IT department, who have worked tirelessly setting 51 members of staff up for remote working, facilitating the move of our Fellows to online teaching and committee meetings, sourcing and supplying computer equipment and webcams, and enabling videoconferencing.

Our Maintenance Manager, Khris Watts, has also been in College daily throughout lockdown, attending to emergency issues and dealing with problems such as leaks spotted by the porters while on patrol. The absence of people on site has had some advantages: Khris has easy access to empty student rooms and offices, enabling him to clear a backlog of service desk issues.

Other staff have come in periodically, including members of the Finance Bursary team in order to ensure salaries were received and our suppliers paid. The HR team have remained extremely busy advising and supporting our staff throughout this difficult period, and in enabling us to make use of the government's furlough scheme.

When the scheme was announced we undertook a review of all staff, taking into consideration their role and whether or not they were able to be operational. Our total headcount in the Domestic Bursary is about 115, of whom around 60 are administrative staff, many of whom were able to work from home. The flexibility of the scheme meant that we were able to bring staff back off furlough as required – for example, Groundsman James Lisle was able to give the sports pitches a monthly cut.

The College is, of course, also part of a wider local community, and we have worked with Oxford Mutual Aid, helping with food supplies for homelessness charities in the city. We have made accommodation available to NHS workers at the John Radcliffe Hospital and to another doctor



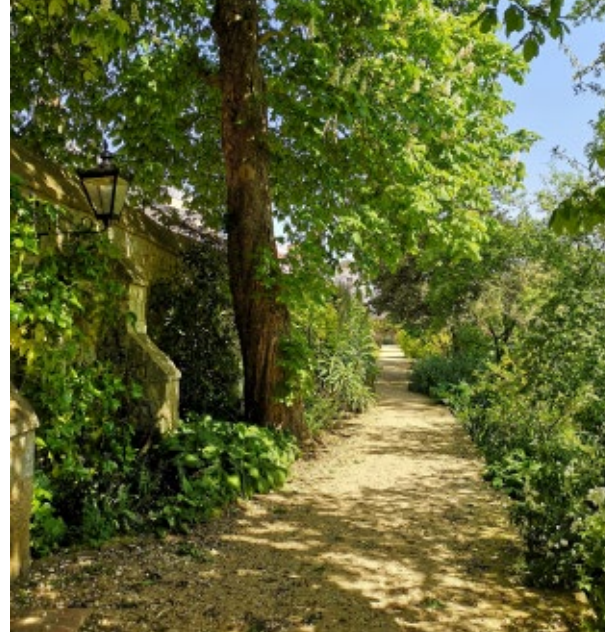
who was helping at a street clinic for the homeless.

Our tenants across the country, many of whom are in the agricultural sector, have had a similarly difficult and uncertain time these last few months, so our Estates Office have been in regular contact with them in order to address their needs.

By the start of Trinity term we had rapidly become familiar with operating in a virtual world. All the usual committees and meetings took place remotely, we had weekly online meetings with managers and heads of departments, and managers were able to maintain contact with their staff who were working at home or furloughed.

Web & Media Officer Simon Cope, as well as keeping the now-dispersed College community abreast of developments via the website and social media, worked closely with our Development Office and some of our tutors to deliver a successful and well-attended programme of online lectures throughout the term.

The pandemic has meant a different sort of busyness for our Conference and Events team. In an average year, the College hosts around 2,200 events: internal and external functions, meetings, dinners, seminars and conferences. This year, all



conference events from Easter through to the end of the summer have had to be rearranged to 2021, and the team have been in frequent contact with the event organisers to keep them updated.

As I write we are once again in the long vacation, and the summer maintenance programme has recommenced. Our priority this year has been Holywell Street, where seven student houses are being worked on. Although work on the new nursery has been paused, we are carrying out a great deal of compliance-related maintenance across the College, such as the testing of electrical systems.

Now we are planning in detail for the restart of on-site working – conducting Covid-specific risk assessments across the College and within each department. We have been re-inducting staff and explaining revised working arrangements, which will include split teams so that staff are not all in their offices at the same time. This is especially important in our kitchens, where normally between 10 and 12 people work together in a relatively small space, providing upwards of 30,000 meals a year. We will be introducing different shift patterns to try and ensure that we don't lose the entire team should one person display symptoms.



We are slowly restarting our supply chain, with a phased re-introduction of catering, and have already started providing sandwiches at lunchtime. Many of our suppliers have themselves furloughed staff, and they too need time to get up and running.

In preparing for a socially distanced world in the new academic year, we are actively looking at the creation of household 'bubbles', and the possibility of additional dining facilities, including al fresco dining spaces, for example on Chestnut Lawn.

There is a huge amount of catching up being done in preparation for the restart now that we are able to safely bring some staff back into College – in particular this has meant Joanna Twardowska, Magda Clarke and Katarzyna Adamczyk having to organise the cleaning of many rooms that have remained untouched for four months after being vacated at very short notice.

The first signs of a return to normality are starting to appear, one of which is that the SCR coffee machine is now back in use, allowing Fellows to enjoy the opportunity to read the daily papers and chat – albeit while wearing nitrile gloves and maintaining social distancing.



As people are slowly beginning to return to on-site working, I've been hugely impressed by the positivity they have expressed, and by their flexibility and willingness to accommodate a much-changed working situation made necessary by the need to get our people back into College safely.

Thankfully, to date we have still had no confirmed cases of Covid-19 in College. I am very proud of the enormous contribution that College staff have made over the last 12 months: their commitment, their loyalty and their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. The management team too has done a terrific job of ensuring that College remains safe and secure.

Much of the work of the Domestic Bursary staff takes place 'under the bonnet' and often goes unnoticed during normal times. In this most extraordinary of years their role in ensuring the continued smooth day-to-day running of the College has been very much at the forefront.

**Timothy Lightfoot**  
Domestic Bursar

Photos taken in lockdown by the Head Porter, Huw James





## The Gardens

*Allium amethystinum* 'Red Mohican'

On Monday 23 March the Prime Minister announced we should go into lockdown, only the weeds weren't listening.

I was here for the best part of two months on my own. How quickly a garden can get away from you! Mowing like crazy while juggling cramped tender perennials in the greenhouse is no mean feat.

Nothing at Merton has grown by accident and watering new tree plantings was high on my list of priorities. We have a bowser you tow with a mini tractor and a pedestrian one for tricky-to-reach places. This gave me a huge appreciation for gardeners who came before and what they have given us. Just on Fellows' Garden current students are able to compare trees from China, Hungary, Turkey, the Balkans, Northern Europe, Persia, Eastern Canada and both western and eastern Asia. Wow.

Rose Lane had a new Spanish evergreen oak planted last autumn to cope with the drought from fantastically shallow soil, all of six inches in depth, over hard compacted alluvial

gravel. Sadly, back in February, Storm Ciara mechanically ripped our mature yew out of the ground, when wind gusts reached 68 miles per hour.

Successional planting on the deep herbaceous borders didn't take place. Usually we cut down the dying foliage of spring bulbs and interplant. *Nicotiana sylvestris* (woodland tobacco plant) is our favourite as it can grow up to 1.5 metres tall and, as its common name suggests, can survive shade, in our case from other herbaceous perennials.

In contrast to the extreme rainfall last winter the UK recorded the sunniest spring since records began in 1929 – particularly warm and dry conditions ranking it the eighth warmest and fifth driest spring. What were lovely green lawns turned to being crispy underfoot within a month.

Despite this, new plant acquisitions flourished. *Mertensia maritima*, so-called oysterplant because its edible leaves taste of oyster, is native in the Shetland Isles up to northern Greenland.



*Mertensia maritima*

*Eremurus x isabellinus* 'Cleopatra', commonly known as foxtail lily, boasts flower spikes with hundreds of tiny tangerine blossoms. Suspended over sword-like blue green leaves they add drama and spectacular vertical lines in the garden. Planted south facing, the leaves die back after flowering, allowing the tubers to be baked in the sun promoting flower buds the following year. A dose of sulphate of potash also does the trick.

*Allium amethystinum* 'Red Mohican' has lived up to its name, giving us glorious wine-red flowers to complement a purple hazel nearby.

A common question during lockdown was how to get hold of compost. Staff took buckets of our leafmould to mix with sieved garden soil. Tomato plants were changing hands as people were looking to grow something to satisfy their nurturing instinct and benefit their mental wellbeing due to having so much time on their hands.

Evidence shows nutrient levels in shop-bought fruit and veg

have declined since the 1930s, possibly due to nutrient levels in soil, different cultivars grown or supermarket storage periods. In growing your own you can influence much of that. A good dose of manure or compost will nurture a healthy soil biology and eating your produce at its peak means you get more of the nutrients to keep your body healthy, to help fight off viruses and other diseases.

Things are looking up; we had the first student return to Fellows' Garden lawn on 26 June. Fingers crossed lockdown continues to ease and we can have the rest of the gardens team un-furloughed soon.

**Lucille Savin**  
Head Gardener

# Hail to New Fellows



## Dr Jennifer Altehenger

Associate Professor of Chinese History, Jessica  
Rawson Fellow in Modern Asian History

I joined the Merton history team in October 2019. I am delighted to work once more at the college where I began my postdoctoral life as Departmental Lecturer in 2010 after a BA in Chinese Studies at Cambridge and a doctorate at Heidelberg. In 2011, I held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, and I was then a lecturer at King's College London between 2012 and 2019.

I am a historian of modern China. My first book, *Legal Lessons: Popularizing Laws in the People's Republic of China, 1949-1989* (Harvard, 2018), explores the social and cultural history of laws in Chinese state socialism, demonstrating why state-led mass legal education became a crucial if controversial component of governance after 1949. Since then, I have traced the histories of propaganda production, political language and information circulation during China's period of High Socialism, and China's engagement with the wider socialist world. I am now working on a monograph on the local and global histories of Chinese industrial design from the 1940s to the 1990s, which sheds fresh light on industrial, technological and material change in China. I am also preparing a shorter history of 20th-century China, told through stories of production, materiality and daily life. I teach Approaches to History (Anthropological and Economic), modern global and imperial history, and the history of modern China.

It has been an unusual first year in post, but the College's warm welcome and team spirit as we explored new ways of teaching and working has been inspiring.





## Dr Frances Dunn

### Junior Research Fellow in Geology

I joined Merton in October 2019 to take up a Junior Research Fellowship in Geology, after my PhD at the University of Bristol. I am also a Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 Early Career Research Fellow at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

I am a palaeontologist, and my principal research focus is on the early evolution of animals: their origin and radiation in ancient oceans. Most major animal groups appear in the fossil record during a major evolutionary radiation event over 500 million years ago – the Cambrian explosion. However, the evolutionary origins of the animals are likely to be much more ancient. About 700 million years ago the Earth sunk into an ice age so severe it is sometimes known as Snowball Earth. When palaeontologists examined the rocks deposited after the ice sheets receded, they found a variety of strange and unusual fossils, which evidence suggests were ancient animals. These organisms (the Ediacaran macrobiota) lived and died in the wake of Snowball Earth and are my principal study system.

I combine fieldwork with 3D tomographic techniques and the study of morphogenesis to rationalise the anatomies of these organisms, which often have no modern analogue. Using the data, I can assess their place in animal evolutionary history and better understand the assembly of animal bodyplans more than half-a-billion years ago. Ultimately, we may use this information to inform our understanding of the interrelationships between early-diverging animal groups (sponges, jellyfish, comb jellies and the Placozoa).

The stimulating environment that Merton provides is the ideal place to continue my studies.



## Dr Jane Gover

### Senior Tutor

I became Merton's Senior Tutor in May, several weeks into the Covid-19 lockdown. Despite the unusual start, the College's sense of community has been strongly evident since my arrival.

My academic background is in zoology, which I studied as an undergraduate at Newcastle University. After my degree, I worked on conservation projects in Australia and Fiji before completing a PhD in insect biology at the University of Bristol.

I then took up a zoology teaching post at Glasgow University, where I realised that I particularly enjoyed the student-facing and organisational aspects of higher education. I moved to my first support role as Wadham College's Academic Administrator and Admissions Tutor, and then to Worcester College as Academic Registrar, Admissions Tutor and Governing Body Secretary.

After 15 years of college life, I became Senior Assistant Registrar (Education) for the Social Sciences Division, working with 14 departments on education policy and standards. This role included overseeing quality assurance processes and managing a Doctoral Training Partnership and researcher development programme. I was also seconded as Head of Administration and Finance for the Department of Politics and International Relations. Before moving to Merton, I was Director of Oxford's Student Fees and Funding team, working across the University to support and deliver fee, funding and scholarship processes.

I look forward to bringing this range of experience to Merton and to working with College members over the coming years.



## Professor Thomas Richards

Royal Society University Research Fellow, Professor in Evolutionary Genomics and Tutor in Zoology

I studied Human Sciences at University College, London, which led to an interest in the major transitions that shaped the evolution of life on Earth. After my BSc I worked in a NASA laboratory in New York where I did my first molecular experiments, which changed my perspective on evolutionary research. I then went to graduate school in Oxford, with two years at the Natural History Museum, London, before moving to the University of Exeter and, in 2017, to the University of California, Berkeley, as a Visiting Professor.

Our research team seeks to understand the shape of the tree of life, and to understand the genetic and cellular processes that have underpinned major transitions. We are particularly interested in the diversity and cell evolution of eukaryotic forms: those organisms that are subdivided into compartmentalised structures such as the nucleus where our DNA is stored. Without these, there would be no animals or plants. Our interest lies primarily in the distant cousins of these eukaryotic groups, the protists. Protists include a wide diversity of forms from huge multicellular seaweeds to slime-mould amoeba. They represent much more genomic diversity than animals or plants, and are responsible for major components of ecological functions such as the carbon cycle in the ocean and crop diseases.

We sequence genomes, calculate evolutionary trees, conduct biochemical experiments to understand cell function, and manipulate synthetic cells. We sample microbes from the depths of the ocean to the deserts of the Andes. All to understand how genome and cell evolution has underpinned the evolution of biological complexity.



## Dr Marc Roth

Junior Research Fellow in Computer Science

I completed both my undergraduate and my doctoral studies at Saarland University in south-western Germany. Shortly after defending my thesis, I joined Merton College in October 2019.

My research lies in the broad field of what is called complexity theory, a branch of theoretical computer science. More concretely, complexity theory is the study of the inherent complexity of (computational) problems. In particular, the goal is to identify which problems can be solved by computers efficiently, and which are deemed infeasible even for future hardware. One example is the task to find a shortest path between two locations in a network, which fortunately admits an efficient algorithm, as demonstrated by navigation devices. Another example is the task to decipher an encrypted message, which is highly relevant in the context of cybersecurity.

I am particularly interested in so-called counting problems. Such problems are historically motivated by questions arising in statistical physics, and the understanding of their inherent complexity often reveals a rich and, in my eyes, fascinating and beautiful mathematical structure, which is the reason why I decided early to devote my research to the study of counting problems.

The Junior Research Fellowship at Merton College allows me to combine the freedom of performing my own research with the opportunity to collaborate with some of the leading experts in my field of research at the University of Oxford. For this, I am most grateful and I am looking forward to the next few years at Merton.



## Dr Collis Tahzib

### Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy

I joined Merton College as a Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy in October 2019. Prior to this, I was a non-stipendiary lecturer in Political Theory at Christ Church, Oxford. I received a DPhil in Philosophy from St John's College, Oxford; a BPhil in Philosophy from The Queen's College, Oxford; and a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Lincoln College, Oxford.

My research focuses on contemporary theories of liberalism. In particular, I am interested in various principles of liberal political morality, such as the harm principle, the principle of state neutrality and the public justification principle. These principles all significantly constrain the way in which the state is permitted to act in relation to citizens. In pursuing these themes, I have engaged closely with the thought of John Rawls, as developed in his two seminal works *A Theory of Justice* and *Political Liberalism*. I am currently working on a book manuscript about the philosophical foundations of liberalism.

I am immensely grateful to have the opportunity to conduct this research within the physically beautiful and intellectually stimulating environment of Merton College.



## Dr Cat Quine

### Junior Research Fellow in Theology

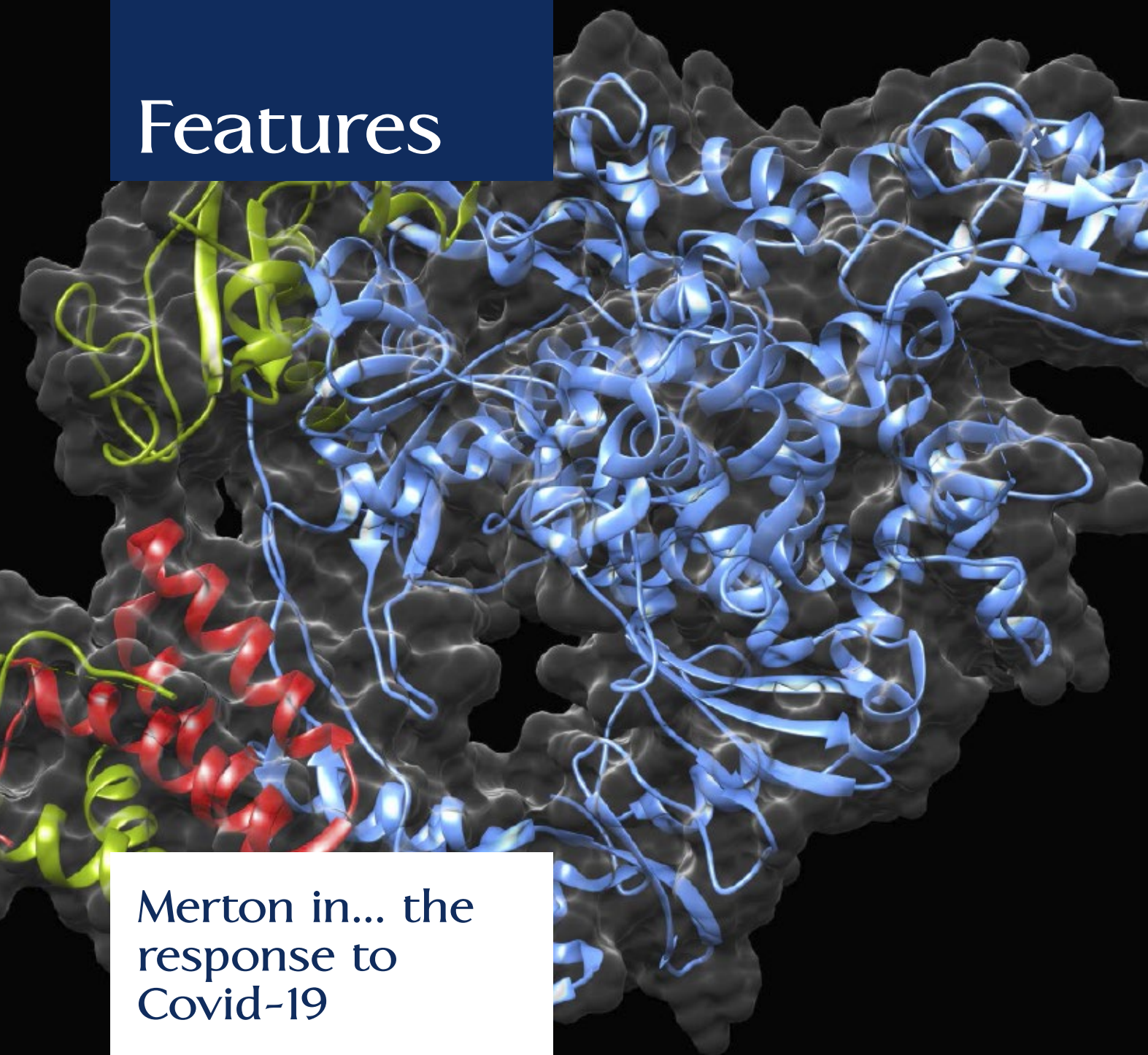
I joined Merton College in September 2019 following a one-year teaching post at the University of Nottingham. I work in the area of Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) studies, focusing particularly on historical approaches to the texts and ancient Near Eastern cultures.

I am currently writing a book on Athaliah, queen of Judah, who ruled as a monarch in Jerusalem for six years before her assassination (c.840–831 BCE). Using various hermeneutical lenses, this book will introduce Athaliah to a broader audience and explore reader responses to her throughout the centuries. I have also started a major project that seeks to understand the region of Benjamin's role in biblical history, particularly its relationship to the beginning and end of the monarchy and the patriarchal narratives concerning Jacob.

I am delighted to be a part of the Merton community and am grateful for the chance to focus purely on research in such a stimulating and welcoming environment.



# Features

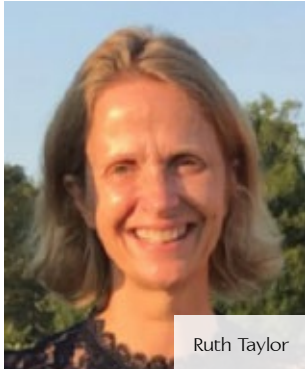


Merton in... the  
response to  
Covid-19

*The Merton community has been involved in many ways in reacting to the coronavirus pandemic: on the frontline as medics, as researchers into the virus, as carers for the vulnerable in the community, and as stalwarts who keep the business of the College running and its members connected.*

*Postmaster spoke to a selection of alumni, Fellows, current undergraduates, graduates and College staff to gain a small insight into this collective response. Please bear in mind that the interviews were conducted in July, and some statements may now be out of date – though the sentiments of help and cooperation remain unchanged.*

## Alumni



Ruth Taylor

**Ruth Taylor** (1984) is a GP and senior partner at a general practice in Worcester. Although she says that she had no fear for herself when the outbreak began, she did check that her children knew where her will was. 'My members of staff were really quite frightened – there was a feeling that we would be overwhelmed.'

In common with many general practices, in the initial weeks routine work was cleared and there were many changes in the ways of working, not least a huge uptake in remote working. 'We were worried about doing palliative care remotely, worried that we would run out of syringe drivers, and we had to devise improvisation plans. We were outside our comfort zone, but people did follow the government guidance to stay at home and reduce the pressure on the NHS, so we weren't overwhelmed and we did manage to look after everyone.'

Ruth is now concerned about the collateral damage in the community: cancer patients who have not been seen; mental health issues coming to the fore; domestic violence, abuse, suicide attempts and alcohol problems.

'When I trained to be a doctor, I never thought I would be risking my life. Now I really feel I have done something useful, and feel part of something much bigger. Now we're

trying to get back to normal work while keeping socially distanced from our patients. And that's not easy.'

Many alumni have been involved in research. **Marc Lipsitch** (1992) is Professor of Epidemiology at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and Director of Harvard's Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics. His main line of research studies the effects of treatments and vaccines on pathogen populations, and the consequences for human health.

He states: 'At the start, I had a feeling of dread. We had had dress rehearsals with SARS and H1N1, but this was different. After the first few weeks, the scale of the pandemic became clear so we increased our research involvement, collaborating widely with others in the same field.'

Marc's own research involves the immune system, determining how you can tell whether people are protected by previous exposure. He also researches how to allocate vaccines to maximally reduce transmission.

At the start of the pandemic, he sought to understand the seasonality of coronaviruses in general, and to assess the consequences if SARS-CoV-2 followed a similar pattern. Other early work involved investigating groups of travellers with Covid-19, trying to extrapolate the data to discover patterns in the source population.

His current research efforts focus on serologic data analysis. 'But it's going to be a long haul, as natural immunity and perhaps even vaccine-induced immunity may be partial and not last forever.'

Left: Chris Cooper's cartoon representation of the SARS-CoV-2 RNA polymerase complex (the enzyme that copies the viral genome during viral replication)



Dr Christopher Cooper

In the UK, Dr **Christopher Cooper** (1994), Senior Lecturer in Biological Sciences, University of Huddersfield, is working on computational analysis of the structure of some of the proteins in SARS-CoV-2.

Knowing the shape of the protein can help with drug design, and Chris's group is using computational structural methods to find new targets to help

develop the chemistry, so that novel drugs can be developed. Some of the proteins in the Covid-19 virus have already had their structure determined from similar coronaviruses: SARS and MERS and also coronaviruses that cause some common colds.

Chris's group is trying to predict the structure of the other proteins, and model compounds that bind to them to find out if they can act as potential targets for drug inhibition. The viral helicase and RNA polymerase are some of the important proteins, as they unwind and copy the viral genome during its replication cycle.

Chris says modestly: 'Mine is very small-scale research, but it is all part of trying to understand the disease – to find out how the virus works. Every bit of knowledge helps. You try and do your bit. If future related pandemic viruses develop, then we hope to have additional lines of attack.'

At the community level, **Sara Fernandez** (2006) worked with Oxford City Council to set up Oxford Together in partnership with Oxford Hub, the volunteering charity of which she is CEO. 'I'm Spanish and my mum is a nurse in Madrid, so I was fearful about what was going to happen here.'

Sara's team went into action on 12 March, devising a response plan. The first step was to divide the city into 600 segments. About 5,600 people signed up as volunteers, of whom more than 2,000 were matched with tasks. Street Champions

were allocated as the first point of contact for help with local shopping and collecting prescriptions; other volunteers manned the phone lines, either receiving calls for assistance or making regular calls to lonely people. In partnership with a charity in Didcot, Oxford Together arranged the delivery of 1,600 food parcels a week. Volunteer mechanics repaired abandoned student bikes to give them to key workers so that they could avoid public transport. And many students gave online tutoring classes for secondary school pupils.

'Oxford City Council couldn't have matched the level of need if our volunteers hadn't stepped in. We've been around as a charity since 2008, but our work has been more appreciated and more visible because of the Covid crisis.'

And if we didn't know anyone personally who had had coronavirus severely enough to be admitted to hospital, **Dominic Minghella** (1986) put us in the picture through his articles in the *Telegraph* and *Observer*. Fortunately, he has recovered completely, with no lasting ill-effects. However, his was a harrowing experience at the time; he even penned farewells to his family. He wrote about not only his symptoms but also the frightening ordeal of being in hospital, surrounded by people whose faces he could not see.

Dominic says he wrote the piece 'because I felt traumatised by the experience, and it felt like a way to exorcise it. I also felt that, in the early phase, a lot of people wanted to know what having the virus was really like.'

Even though Dominic was fit enough to travel to Italy as usual this summer, his body appears to have flashbacks. 'Packing for Italy, I opened the same travel bag that I had taken with me to hospital, and my hand and my whole arm started shaking. My body hasn't forgotten about it.'

Dominic also wanted to join the debate about what was being done and not done, and the divisions caused. 'I'm sad about that because we are all vulnerable together and we all need to get out of this situation together.' He wrote another article, in the *New Statesman*, about the 11 days of March, from 12 March, when contact tracing stopped, until lockdown was imposed on 23 March, 'because so many people were hungry to know about that. I'll leave it to others now.'



## Students

Hilary term 2020 managed to come to an end as scheduled, on Saturday 14 March. But within just over a week, Monday 23 March, the government announced a lockdown. Many students had already left Merton for the vacation, but many foreign students – mainly graduates – remained in College. The College remained closed throughout Trinity term.

**Lucy Buxton** (2018), as JCR President, had the task of holding the student body together during this time. 'The biggest challenge was that we weren't able to do anything in person. Previously we did very little online – it was all in person, especially in Trinity term: garden parties, barbecues, sports days. So we had to have quite a bit of a rethink, shifting everything online and keeping people engaged, even though we were all dispersed.'

'Our job was to keep morale up. We set up a Facebook page called the JCR Isolation Station, and set a corona challenge every week – for instance, photography or baking. We introduced an 'Adopt a Finalist' scheme, whereby volunteers in the younger years sent care packages and a little note to finalists.

'I'm proud of the way the JCR has adapted. Just handling everything and being stripped of all the fun that Oxford has to offer. We managed to stay in touch and still be quite chipper. That was quite an achievement.'

MCR President **Lucas Didrik Haugeberg** (2019) had a similar cohesive role to play. 'The MCR's job is to represent the students to the College and also to be responsible for the social activities. Representing the students to the College was as normal and worked well online. But Merton's MCR is one of the most active in Oxford. We organised some online social events, but it's not the same as having the collegiate experience.'

The Big Merton 1264 Challenge was the highlight of the online Trinity term – an initiative devised by the Warden, Lucy and Lucas. The aim was not only to bring the Merton community together, but also to raise money for a hardship fund to provide support to all members of the College who are in

need. Students, staff and alumni were encouraged to create their own challenges based on the number 1264 – Merton's foundation year. The Warden kicked off the Challenge by running 12.64 km with her husband and daughter; others baked cakes, did press-ups, concocted photo collages, several wrote short stories in 1,264 words.

Now things seem as if they will be going back to quasi-normal. Says Lucas: 'It's going to be nice to be back. Now we are organising the MCR Freshers' Week. The College has been very supportive. I think we will be able to produce a memorable event.'



Alexandra Fergen on Donnington Bridge, with her Bridge of Charity banner

DPhil student **Alexandra Fergen** (2017) set up a practical initiative in Oxford: the Bridge of Charity – a local initiative based on the German *Gabenzäune* (donation fences), where locals can leave a bag on a fence for anyone in need to take. 'I'd read about these in Germany and I'd also read articles on food poverty here.'

After speaking with the Lord Mayor who welcomed her initiative, Alexandra made a banner, hung it over the pedestrian bridge outside Oxford railway station, and publicised it on social media. People who wish to donate simply put a few basic necessities in a bag and tie it to the bridge, for someone in need to take. Items have to be long-lasting and packaged, such as tins of food or toiletries.

It was so successful that Alexandra started another Bridge

of Charity on Donnington Bridge, which has seen even more use. 'The response has been absolutely heart-warming. I go there and check regularly, so I know it's used. People are still in need. I believe that we all have a responsibility to care for one another, and this is one way to show it.'

The medical students, of course, have been either very close to the front line or on the verge of joining it. All the final-year medics were accelerated into junior doctors, starting four or five months earlier than usual. Clinical students from the earlier years, who don't yet have the training, have helped in other capacities. For instance, two fourth-year medics, **Joshua Navarajasegaran** and **Adam Carter** (both 2016), have been working as volunteers in the John Radcliffe Hospital (JR).

Josh reports: 'Our medical studies were put on pause in the middle of March. I was in the middle of a surgical rotation when we stopped. Adam and I were given the opportunity to volunteer with the Oxford University Hospitals trust. For three months from April till June, I was working Monday to Friday at the JR hospital pharmacy. I was providing general support but mainly delivering medications to all the wards all around the hospital including Covid wards, clocking up about 15km around the hospital every day.

'It's been great to be given the opportunity to help out during this time and feel part of the team in the pharmacy. Thankfully, on 6 July, we restarted our medical course.'

## Fellows and DPhils



Professor Julian Knight

Many of Merton's Fellows and doctoral students have been involved in research into different aspects of the virus and its effects. Professor **Julian Knight**, Tutor in Medicine, has been working to understand why some people develop severe disease whereas others are affected only mildly or are

asymptomatic. He is the Chief Investigator for a collaborative research project of about 100 researchers in Oxford who have joined forces to conduct deep phenotyping of patients with Covid-19, to try and identify the phenotypes of those who are most at risk.

Julian explains: 'We have recruited a core set of about 140 Covid-19 patients in the John Radcliffe and taken blood samples to try and understand their immune response, by the differences in the proteins and RNA molecules in individual cells.' This information is enabling generation of the Covid-19 Multiomics Blood Atlas (the COMBAT project).

Single-cell RNA sequencing is very expensive, and so cannot be done on a large scale. This research effort will be one of the biggest single-cell investigations ever, involving more than 60 billion individual sequencing reads.

The group has already generated data and is now starting to see the biology, with different immune cell responses in different patients. Although there are no definite answers yet, Julian can see a time when they will be able to classify response to Covid-19 using molecular signatures rather than rely on assumptions.



Professor Sunetra Gupta

**Sunetra Gupta**, Professor of Theoretical Epidemiology, has been in the media frequently during the coronavirus pandemic, for her modelling predictions. Unlike the large and complex models of the Imperial College group, which predicted a very large number of deaths, Sunetra's model is much simpler, and gives qualitative

insights but nonetheless translational information.

Sunetra says she usually steers clear of policy issues but feels she had to get involved this time – 'because I'm very exercised about the effects of lockdown. I thought it was important to make the government aware that a simple

model could equally well fit the same assumptions, and that the Imperial College predictions were an extreme worst-case scenario.

'To distinguish which model was more accurate, we needed a test to see how many people had been exposed to the virus. So we set about developing a test for antibodies that neutralise the virus. Unfortunately, the tests vary in sensitivity, and it turns out that not everyone makes antibodies. So our focus has shifted to trying to get a fuller picture of who has already had coronavirus and who has protection.'

Sunetra has been particularly vocal about lockdown, and the need to consider the overall welfare of the country. As she puts it: 'The epidemic is not independent of us; it depends on what action we take. The data shows very clearly that mortality is confined to a vulnerable fraction. The real questions are: who is vulnerable, and how can we protect them?'

Professor **Irene Tracey** has also been concerned about the effects of lockdown and possible viral infection in the brain. With international colleagues, the Academy of Medical Sciences and the mental health charity MQ, she co-authored a position paper that highlighted the potential neurological and mental health impact of infection. The article was fast-tracked and published in *The Lancet Psychiatry* online in April, with the print version in June.

After the initial focus on respiratory problems, countries ahead of the UK in the pandemic were starting to observe neurological problems in Covid-19 patients. There was a growing realisation that the virus effects on the brain and the effects of lockdown would impact people from a mental health as well as a neurological perspective, which the group was keen to flag.

Says Irene: 'We wanted to highlight this issue and to make sure we got brains and samples quickly enough for research purposes so that we could direct resources and learn. The point of the paper was a call to arms, to ensure that the effects on the brain were not ignored, and that the consequences and risks of isolation for those suffering with mental health issues, obsessive compulsive disorders, addiction and other risk factors were flagged.'



From left: Divya Sridhar, Edwin Lock and Jakob Jonnerby

Testing is a major part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. But many governments and local administrations are struggling to meet the capacities needed for their testing strategy. A group involving three Merton DPhil students – **Divya Sridhar** (Zoology), **Edwin Lock** (Computer Science) and **Jakob Jonnerby** (Physics) (all 2016), with Bodley Fellow Professor **Christopher Ramsey** in an advisory position – have turned the problem of testing constraints on its head. They have devised a novel testing and containment strategy that involves group testing and makes the most of existing capacity. It requires many fewer tests while diagnosing as many infected people as possible. The mechanism can also be used proactively to monitor smaller populations such as schools, universities, hospitals or refugee camps.

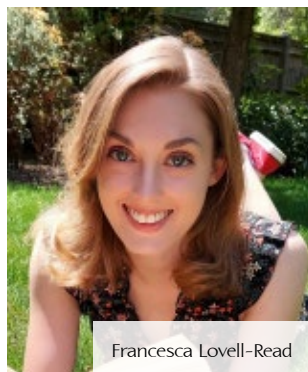
Edwin explains: 'Our approach is to assume that an organisation has a certain number of tests per week, and then decide the best way to allocate those tests. Treating this as a resource allocation problem, we classify the population according to their exposure to others and to the virus, and also according to their cost of containment.' This allows them to determine the best way of allocating available testing capacities to the different categories.

In her research on the epigenetic regulation of stem cells, Divya routinely uses a certain technique that is considered the 'gold standard' testing methodology for Covid-19. This experience means she is well placed to advise on the number of samples that can be pooled for group testing and how to scale up testing procedures.

The group have been in discussions with the NHS about streamlining the UK's testing process and have requested permission and funding to carry out a pilot of their



mechanism in Oxfordshire-based care homes. In July, they were awarded a grant to help apply their mechanism in disadvantaged communities in Mexico.



Francesca Lovell-Read

Tracking the response of governments to the Covid-19 crisis is another important piece of the jigsaw. **Francesca Lovell-Read** (2015) is a DPhil student at Oxford's Mathematical Institute, doing mathematical epidemiological research. She was working on plant diseases when the coronavirus pandemic took off, but is now engaged

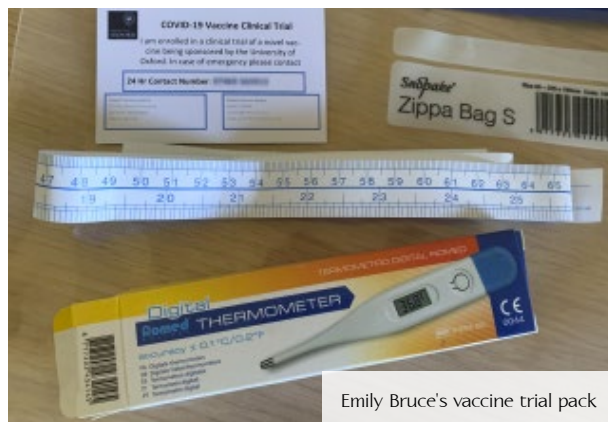
with University-wide research, initiated by the Blavatnik School of Government, to develop a tool that tracks the response of governments to the pandemic.

The Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker takes into consideration many different interventionist measures such as school closures, workplace closures, travel restrictions and fiscal stimuli. Francesca is involved in data collection for the tracker, which now has data from more than 160 countries. The different indicators are scored and collated to indicate the number and strictness of the policies.

Francesca emphasises that 'this is not a score of how well a country is doing but is more of a comparative measure of the strictness of approach of different countries'. This is a massive tool, with the results publicly available to inform action and advice issued by governments and bodies such as the World Health Organisation.

## College staff

Progress on a vaccine against Covid-19 is moving fast. At the time of writing, in late July, it appears that the coronavirus vaccine developed by the University of Oxford is safe and triggers an immune response. The trials involved 1,077 people, among whom was **Emily Bruce**, Merton's new Alumni Communications Officer.



Emily Bruce's vaccine trial pack

Emily volunteered to help with the coronavirus trials because, as she says, 'I felt I should do something – make some small contribution to the fight against the virus.' She passed the screening test and was given the vaccine in early May. In fact, half of the people in the trial were given the trial vaccine, and the others were given a control vaccine, but neither the participants nor those administering the injection knew who was receiving which.

For a month afterwards, Emily had to complete an electronic diary daily, to check for any reaction (there was none), and will have other check-ups after six months and a year. By the time that *Postmaster* is published, the reality of a vaccine may be even closer.

Many aspects of College life, of course, were greatly changed. With very few students in residence, the College had spare capacity, and was able to offer accommodation to three doctors at various times during lockdown, as they were working either at the JR hospital or with the homeless.



Mike Wender

The College kitchens closed at lockdown, but not before Head Chef **Mike Wender** had packed up as much food as possible, either to vacuum pack for storage or to give away. Plates of food were delivered to the doors of the few self-isolating students in College, and a temporary 'shop' was set up in the College Bar, with the Head Porter acting as

the shopkeeper. The kitchen staff were put on furlough for several months, though Mike was brought back much earlier to help with planning for the new arrangements.

New working practices include distance alarms, plastic screens and different procedures for meeting suppliers. Says Mike: 'The other big change is that the chefs will have to do their own cleaning now.'



The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones  
© John Cairns

Whereas the kitchens look after the body of the College residents, the Chaplain, the Revd Canon Dr **Simon Jones**, and his team look after the soul of the student body. At the end of Hilary term, all but about 15 undergraduates had gone home, though about 80 graduate students remained. 'Early on, a few people were self-

isolating, so the welfare team checked in on them each day and made sure they had what they needed. Then we set up online resources: things that we would normally have done in person, we moved online, such as yoga and other activities.'

Chapel services continued throughout lockdown, but online. It was fortuitous that webcasting equipment was installed in the Chapel last year, so the College already had a wealth of recorded music from the College Choir and the Girl

Choristers. During Holy Week, a movement from the College Choir's recording of Gabriel Jackson's *The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ* provided a focus for each day's reflection.

Once term started, there was Zoom Morning Prayer every weekday and a pre-recorded Sunday evening service on YouTube, with Zoom drinks afterwards. 'We had up to two screens' worth of people (that's about 40 people) each week and being online meant that some alumni were able to join us.' The Sunday evening virtual drinks also provided the setting for the farewell to the outgoing Associate Chaplain, Jarred Mercer; a welcome to his successor, Melanie Marshall; and farewell drinks after the Leavers' service.

The last word in this article goes to **Irene Tracey**, wearing her hat as Warden rather than as neuroscientist.

She understates the case when saying: 'It's been quite the first year! There's always something that challenges you early in a new job, but I was not expecting a global pandemic. What's been really impressive is how well everyone has come together: staff, Fellows and students.'

'We pulled it off as an institution at both a college and university level with everyone working collaboratively. Staff have been adapting to changing circumstances; tutors have worked without a break, sacrificing their Easter vacations to prepare the next term's courses and exams, all online. Creating an online degree course in two months' flat is beyond impressive. The students have been incredible - tolerant, patient and forgiving. Whether first years or finalists, they rose to the challenge and just got on with it.'

'We feel rightly very proud of how well Merton's community has responded to the pressure. It has showed me what an inspiring place this is and just how fortunate I am to be among such wonderful people.'

We are aware that many more within our community have been involved in the fight against Covid-19. Please contact us at [publications@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publications@merton.ox.ac.uk) to share your story.



## Views from the Top

*Our series of interviews with Mertonians at the top of their fields continues with perspectives from two very different professions.*

### Zaid Al-Qassab (1990)

*In September 2019, Zaid was appointed as Chief Marketing Officer and Executive Leader for Inclusion & Diversity for Channel 4, having previously spent time in the telecommunications and consumer goods industries. He tells us how many of the themes of his PPE degree and his passion for diversity are interwoven throughout his career, and reveals the surprising details of his first television appearance.*

**You studied PPE at Oxford. Did that prepare you for the world of work and, if so, how?**

I never thought it at the time, but when I look back, studying PPE prepared me very well for my career.

I'm the Chief Marketing Officer of Channel 4, which is a public service broadcaster set up to make sure our media landscape is sufficiently diverse. All the elements of PPE play a part in this.

I'm also a council member of the Advertising Standards Authority, so I am contributing to rulings on what is legal, decent, honest and truthful in UK advertising. I look back at the time I spent on the Philosophy part of the course, researching and writing papers on feminism and civil rights, and realise that it all feeds into what I do now. The ASA has recently introduced guidance on harmful stereotypes, and the courses I chose prepared me well for that sort of challenge.



And I'm a trustee of the international development charity, Water Aid. So my tutorials in economics from Vijay Joshi have come in handy too, which would no doubt amuse him given how much I struggled at the time. It's fascinating, really, how everything all ties up.

So if I post-rationalise, PPE set me up perfectly to do what I do now. Somehow the subject gave me the confidence that seemed to be needed at every step of my career.

But the most important thing that the College gave me was not my education but a wonderful family. It was where I met my wife, Claudia Drake (1991), who was also a PPEist.

**Your first job after graduating was a marketing job with consumer goods company Procter & Gamble (P&G). Why did you choose to go into marketing?**

I had no idea at the time what I wanted to do as a career. I chose to study PPE because I was really interested in it, but I didn't have a clue about what I wanted to do after university. I spent 20 years enjoyably at P&G, starting off as an intern and becoming managing director of a decent-sized company within the corporation. I got the job in the first place because my friends were applying to the milk round – mainly to management consultancies – and I thought I should submit some job applications too.

I applied to P&G because I thought it was a management consultancy – at least that's what it sounded like. I went for a day of interviews in the Randolph, and by the time I left at the end of the day I had learned what sort of company P&G was – and I had accepted a job offer from them.

**You were with P&G for 20 years, rising to become Managing Director of P&G's health & beauty division with sales exceeding £1 billion. What kept you there for so long, and what lessons did you learn along the way?**

The reason that P&G is heralded as a fantastic graduate experience is because it's a wonderful grounding in how to be successful in business: leading people of all ages and with decades of skills, from the moment you arrive as a graduate trainee. So many successful business leaders have started their careers there, or with one of the other consumer goods companies, because they train you so well.

I stayed with P&G for so long because it was immense fun. I worked in three different places in the UK and in two foreign countries: Switzerland and Greece. My daughter was born in Geneva and my wife was able to further her career there, with the United Nations; my son was born in Athens. The opportunity to work and live in other countries was fantastic for me personally, and for my family.

I changed roles about every 18 months. I worked on many famous brands, including Gillette and Pringles, and had a very exciting career path that never slowed down. It was all very much about personal growth. P&G evaluates its staff 50% on business growth and 50% on personal and team development. I felt like I had gone from one seat of learning to another, and that kept me interested.

When I was an intern, my first project was to create promotional stickers – but the stickers I ordered had a backing that you couldn't peel off. I wasted thousands of pounds of the company's money, and was fully expecting to be fired. But instead my boss said that everyone makes mistakes – just don't make the same one twice. It was an important lesson I learned that day: not being afraid to make mistakes enables you to improve in life. But I'm not sure many companies would have let me learn it.

**After 20 years at P&G, you left and spent a year at HouseTrip. Why the move?**

I moved to do an e-commerce start-up: HouseTrip, which was a holiday home rental website, similar to AirBnB, but before anyone had even heard of AirBnB. I had decided to move into a fully digital world, and it was a huge learning experience. Like many start-ups, it didn't work out, and no one got rich, but we learnt a lot. It eventually became part of TripAdvisor.

I'm sure that's why my career was able to take new directions, because I had a full-on year of immersion in the digital world.

**Then you spent four years at BT Group, as Chief Brand & Marketing Officer.**

Yes, I took the job at BT for two main reasons. First, because I knew it would be very challenging, because BT was buying the mobile operator EE at the time, and integrating two



Zaid (centre) at his 2013 Gaudy with Mark Haskins (1990) and Fellow in Mathematics Ulrike Tillmann

companies was something I had experience in. From my time at P&G, I was used to managing acquisitions, portfolios of brands, and developing multi-brand strategies. Secondly, the CEO of BT, Gavin Patterson, was one of my first managers at P&G, and I knew I would learn from him.

So I moved to BT. Like all the moves in my career, I was moving to a different industry. I'd started in consumer products, then an internet start-up in holiday home rental, and now telecommunications – I've never wanted to stay in just one industry because it's more exciting and you learn more through change.

Unless you are a doctor or a lawyer, for example, and go down one chosen path, life is all about experiences and transferable skills. That's the PPE background coming in again: with PPE, you choose breadth of learning, rather than ploughing one deep furrow.

**You moved to Channel 4 as Chief Marketing Officer in September 2019. Can you tell us a little bit about the background to Channel 4?**

Channel 4 plays an important role in the broadcast landscape. It was set up as a challenger of norms, and as a champion of voices that aren't usually heard.

It's entirely taxpayer-owned, but doesn't cost the taxpayer a penny, and was set up by the government 38 years ago, with the specific remit to provide innovative and creative public service broadcasting on topics that weren't covered by the mainstream broadcasters (which at the time were BBC1, BBC2 and ITV). Part of our remit is to make programmes for a culturally diverse audience.

Ofcom measures us on all these aspects, such as reaching BAME audiences, young audiences, and working with production companies that are more diverse.

So we have to make sure we support the diversity of UK society. Today, this means asking ourselves what we can do, for example in the summer of 2020, to make sure what we see on our screens reflects the Black Lives Matter movement or explores transgender issues. We're not perfect, but I don't think anyone does it better than Channel 4.

Going back over our history, we have always been ahead of the pack, diversity-wise. Channel 4 was the first broadcaster to air a black sitcom (*Desmond's*, set in a barber shop in Peckham), the first broadcaster to screen a lesbian kiss (in *Brookside*), and of course we are the broadcaster of the Paralympics.

### **What is your 'mission' in being head of inclusion and diversity for Channel 4?**

Diversity has been a strong thread running through my career. And that's something that I can relate back to PPE. The course taught me not only how to analyse the facts and argue well, but also that there are no right answers, so you'd better listen to and appreciate diverse opinions. It's hard to emerge from three years of PPE tutorials without a clear understanding of your own value system.

At Channel 4, I run a marketing department, an in-house creative agency, a digital content division, and I lead on inclusion and diversity. Then there are my Board roles at the Advertising Standards Authority, WaterAid and Creative Diversity Network. Diversity is probably the common thread running through all my career choices, although I didn't think of it like that at the time I got involved with these organisations.

Societal and media interest in diversity topics is higher than it's ever been. Our task is to illuminate those topics with both current affairs and entertainment in a way that's accessible to everyone, and in a way that people want to engage with.

People love *Gogglebox*, which deliberately shows the views of a massively diverse range of British people, and shows them in their homes, which again are very diverse. By making this programme, we're introducing people to topics of conversation, opinions and ways of life that they might not otherwise come across.

It's all about the cohesion of society, achieved through opening people's minds and attitudes – getting people to respect each other, and being accepting of others.

It's been an unusual period since I started at Channel 4. A few weeks into lockdown, the government was made aware of research that showed that some people – mostly young men – were not obeying the lockdown rules. So they asked if Channel 4 could help with a campaign. This included making cheeky advertising (it was literally cheeky, as it was called 'We need your butt') to get young men to sit down at home rather than go out. It resonated with far more young men than the government campaign, and Channel 4 News topped the poll of the most trusted news source which shows the value of public service broadcasting at a time of crisis, and illustrates why Channel 4 has such a valuable part to play in society.

### **What do you do to switch off? Do you watch Channel 4 yourself? You were tennis club captain at Merton; do you still play?**

Ironically, my day job doesn't give me the time to watch much telly, so I do like to watch television in the evening. I watch *Channel 4 News* and, for total escapism, I enjoy *Tattoo Fixers*. And yes, I do still play tennis, twice a week, though just for fun.

### **You spent three years at Merton. Can you pick out one particular memory of your time in Oxford?**

In my second year, in 1991, Parson's Pleasure – the area for nude male bathing in the bend of the River Cherwell by University Parks – was officially closed down. *BBC Newsnight* wanted to run a news item about it, and wanted to film some live action in the form of students swimming there. I and two other Mertonians were paid £20 each to strip off naked and jump in the river. The trouble was, it was January and we had to break the ice before jumping in. We certainly earned our £20!

### **What advice would you give to any Mertonian wishing to follow in your footsteps?**

When anyone ever asks me for career advice, I tell them two things. Firstly, be curious. My meandering career is a result of looking into different things. And secondly, say 'Yes'. Just about everything I've done is as a result of someone asking me 'Do you want to do this?', and me saying 'Yes'.





## Anna Watts (1992)

*Anna Watts is a Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Amsterdam, whose research interests lie with neutron stars and their thermonuclear explosions. She devotes half her time to research, and also runs the university's BSc degree in Physics and Astrophysics. Postmaster happened to catch Anna with her feet on the ground before the new term started, for her – literal – view from the top.*

Can you tell me a bit about your research? And perhaps offer a short explanation of what neutron stars are.

Neutron stars are objects of incredibly high density, and quite small, maybe 15–30 kilometres across. They are essentially dead stars, consisting of extremely tightly packed sub-atomic particles, and are created when a massive star exploded in a supernova. Pulsars are rapidly spinning neutron stars that sweep out beams of energy, and that's what we can observe and measure. My research is aimed at taking those measurements to work out what neutron stars are made of and also investigating explosions on neutron stars. I work on theoretical modelling using X-ray telescope data.

Did you always know you wanted to be an astrophysicist? And can you tell us the route you took to reach where you are today?

No, I hadn't wanted to be an astrophysicist from childhood. I didn't even particularly want to do Physics A-level, but my school felt that Physics went better with Chemistry and Maths than History did. Anyway, in the science area at school I saw a poster on the wall for the European Space School, which attracted my attention. So I went to Brunel for a two-week summer course on space. (The course still exists, but it's now three weeks long and run from Leicester.) Helen Sharman, the first British astronaut, was one of the

lecturers; she was brilliant and so inspiring. It really made me think that astrophysics was something I wanted to study. But the advice I was given there was that it was better to do a general degree in physics first.

I came from my school in Bradford to Merton to study physics, and I took astrophysics modules where I could. I really enjoyed the physics, but at that point I didn't want to stay in academia.

So I thought I would try something else. I left university and went into the science fast stream in the Civil Service for five years, but after that time I realised I was missing doing research, so decided to apply for a PhD. I came back to Merton to talk to Professor James Binney, who had been my tutor. He gave me some ideas as to where I should apply. In particular, he mentioned an astrophysicist at the University of Southampton. I went to visit, liked the guy, loved the research topics, and ended up doing my PhD there. My thesis was called 'The dynamics of differentially rotating neutron stars', and it involved trying to compute gravitational wave signals from newly formed neutron stars. It was very theoretical and I loved it.

The Civil Service had generously given me three years of unpaid leave, but I decided not to go back after my doctorate. Instead, I got a postdoctoral fellowship at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Washington, DC. There, I was working within a more observational department, including X-ray telescopes, and that's when I first got my hands on some real data. It was clear that I needed to see data to test my models.

From there I went to Germany, on another postdoctoral fellowship, to the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Munich. Here again I was working with the same mixed group of X-ray and gravitational wave scientists.

Then, in 2008, I got the chance to come to the University of Amsterdam, and fairly soon afterwards got a faculty position, and I've never left. Here at the Anton Pannekoek Institute for Astronomy, we have one of the lowest-lying observatories in the world for an optical telescope – the building is below sea level. But my research is concerned with X-ray observations, and those have to be done from telescopes in space.

## **You work on NASA's NICER mission. Can you explain what this is?**

NICER, the neutron star interior composition explorer, is a telescope on the International Space Station. It was launched in 2017 and takes very detailed X-ray measurements of neutron stars, so we can determine their mass and radius and thus work out how big they are and, we hope, eventually find out what they are made of.

The technique that NICER uses is one that will also be exploited by the next generation of telescopes, to be launched later this decade. It was because of my team's work on the technique for these future telescopes that we were invited to join the NICER collaboration. This means that we get the benefits of its data about a year before it is formally made available to others. We got some exciting first results and published them at the end of last year.

## **What has been the most exciting moment in your career so far?**

In fact, it was the work with NICER. We were able to use the technique that we had developed to get a simultaneous measurement of mass and radius for a particular neutron star, with about 10% uncertainties. That was very exciting – to discover that our theoretical technique actually worked in practice. We determined that this neutron star was about 16 miles (26km) across and about 1.4 times the mass of the sun.

A by-product of this was to find out where on the neutron star the X-rays come from. The magnetic field of the neutron star funnels particles towards the magnetic poles, heating them up until they emit X-rays; as the neutron star – or pulsar – spins around, the hot poles move in and out of our line of sight, and we see this as X-ray pulses. Textbook theory was that the magnetic poles would appear as two spots on opposite hemispheres of the neutron star, but the measurements we observed showed them both on the same hemisphere, with one of the hot regions being a long thin arc rather than a spot.

This started a whole line of research by people who work on magnetic fields on neutron stars. We tell them where the spots are, and they can feed the information into their theories. So we are working with pulsar theorists as a result



of our findings. We are now analysing a couple of other bright neutron stars that we think will yield even better results. All these neutron stars are several hundred light years away.

This work, first in developing the technique for the telescope and then interpreting the measurements, has been absolutely brilliant. We have got our technique through to completion and are learning more about neutron stars, which is the whole aim.

**Any other exciting moments?**

I was thrilled at discovering star quakes on neutron stars. While I was at NASA, we were observing a group of neutron stars with strong magnetic fields. They emit regular bursts of X-rays and gamma rays, and about every ten years or so there is such a massive eruption that it affects Earth's ionosphere.

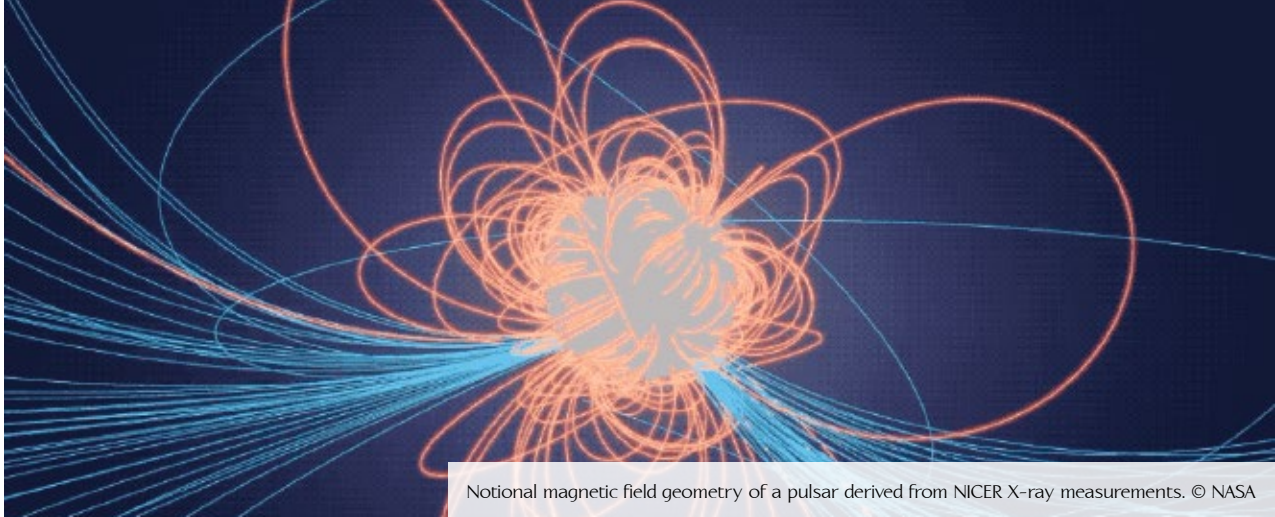
At the end of 2004, there was a very powerful event lasting several hundred seconds. We saw very high frequency ringing, at a similar pitch to a musical instrument. We think that we were seeing that big burst coming from a quake on a neutron star, which set the whole star vibrating.

We discovered this phenomenon in a couple of neutron stars. We saw them using both a dedicated X-ray telescope and also using a solar X-ray telescope that just happened to be pointing in the right direction at the time (solar telescopes wouldn't normally receive data from neutron stars!). We were able to use the data from the solar telescope as well and confirm our discovery.

**What would you say has been the greatest discovery in astrophysics in recent years?**

Definitely, the biggest change in astrophysics in recent times has been the direct detection of gravitational waves in





Notional magnetic field geometry of a pulsar derived from NICER X-ray measurements. © NASA

2016. Scientists are now using them to study the interior of neutron stars. Having left the field of gravitational waves, I am now working closely with gravitational wave scientists again.

**What are the greatest unknowns in our knowledge of the universe? What are the most challenging questions to be answered?**

It's got to be dark matter and dark energy. But that's not for me to work on! We still don't know what neutron stars are made of – that will take the next generation of telescopes – and that *is* my job.

**Would you like to go to Mars?**

Yes! If I was eligible to go (which I'm not), I would go in a heartbeat. It would be fascinating.

**Is astrophysics a hobby as well as a career for you?**

Yes, it really is, in the sense that I find myself thinking about it all the time. But I do try and switch off – by doing a lot of sport. And I have two young kids, which helps.

**Do you feel that you are in a minority, as a woman in astrophysics?**

Yes, I am in a minority, and it does make a difference. For instance, here in Amsterdam we are part of a collaboration with China, on the Chinese-European Enhanced X-Ray Timing and Polarimetry mission. The team has a great many senior women, and the atmosphere is very different to previous collaborations I've been part of – it's a completely

different way of working. It's important to have a good mix; it makes me sad that there are not more women and minority groups in my subject.

I do find myself breaking barriers. For example, I was the first female faculty member to have children at my institute, which meant that they had to make some changes. I'm also only the second female full professor in my institute. You might be surprised to know that the percentage of women professors is far lower in the Netherlands than in the UK.

**What do you remember most about your time at Merton?**

It was such a beautiful, historical place to be. Sitting in the Merton Library, being part of that history, was something special. Plus the privilege of being able to follow intellectual leads and ask questions, no matter how random, and know that my tutors would take the time to answer them. That was also priceless.

**Finally, do you have any advice you would give to anyone who is interested in astrophysics as a career?**

Find something you enjoy. Look for opportunities down the line – missions that are about to launch, rather than what's going on at the moment. There are a lot of big collaborations, so it's possible to find something that interests you. And keep up to date. Also, be very sceptical. Many discoveries have been made by people looking back through existing research and finding errors. You need tenacity and persistence to figure out what is really happening.

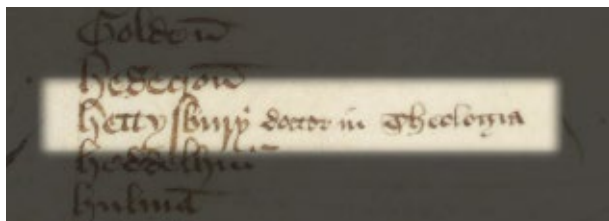


William Heytesbury's tomb in St John's, Ickham, Kent, where he was Rector in the 1350s. © Ian Hadingham

# William Heytesbury

I've often wished I was better at mathematics (especially during Chemistry Prelims!) but am still fascinated by the history of the discipline even when the subject itself eludes me. Thus, I was keen to read *Infinite Powers: The Story of Calculus, The Language of the Universe* by Steven Strogatz, Professor of Applied Mathematics at Cornell University.<sup>1</sup> The book was shortlisted for the Royal Society Science Book Prize in 2019, which was how I came to hear of it. I had no expectation that I would find any Merton connection within its pages, but then, as I was reading the section on constant acceleration (p. 173), I stumbled across a reference to William Heytesbury, 'a philosopher and logician at Merton College, Oxford' who solved the problem (of constant acceleration) around 1335. Any mention of Merton always gets my attention and, as I'd never heard of William Heytesbury, my curiosity was piqued and I decided, as a bit of a project during the Covid-19 lockdown, to see what I could find out about him.

Little is known of Heytesbury's early life; it is believed that he was born in Wiltshire before 1313, since he is first recorded as a Fellow of Merton College in 1330.<sup>2</sup> He is later mentioned as a Fellow of Queen's College at its founding in 1340<sup>3</sup> but he soon returned to Merton, with which he is primarily associated. He served as the College's Bursar in 1338-39. During that time, he undertook an arduous eight-day journey to visit properties in Ponteland, Northumberland owned by the College.<sup>4</sup> He became a Doctor of Theology in 1348 and rose to become Chancellor of the University in 1371-72. It is possible he also held the Chancellor's position earlier (1353-54), but the records are unclear about whether this was just a temporary post.<sup>5,6</sup> Heytesbury is best known for being one of the Oxford Calculators.<sup>4</sup> This was a group of Merton Fellows from the second quarter of the 14th century who became famous for their mathematical approach to solving philosophical problems. Apart from William Heytesbury, other notable members of this cadre were Thomas Bradwardine, Richard Swineshead and John Dumbleton, all remarkable men in their own right, the first even earning a mention in line 476 of Chaucer's *Nun's Priest's Tale* (written between 1377 and 1400), in which he is ranked alongside Augustine.<sup>7</sup>



William Heytesbury's entry in the Catalogus Vetus, the earliest register that Merton has of Fellows of the College. The Catalogus Vetus was begun in the 1420s, so postdates Heytesbury's time: we believe it was compiled by one of the Fellows going through the records that had been preserved in the archives and extracting the names of Fellows  
© Julian Reid

As noted earlier, Heytesbury is possibly best known, among scientists at least, for his formulation of the Mean Speed Theorem, also known, significantly (*contra* Thakker<sup>4</sup>), as 'the Merton rule of uniform acceleration'.<sup>8</sup> The Mean Speed Theorem states that a uniformly accelerated body will, over a given period of time, traverse a distance equal to the distance it would traverse if it were moved continuously in the same period at its mean velocity (one half the sum of the initial and final velocities) during that period.<sup>5</sup> The theorem also provides the basis for the 'law of falling bodies', long before Galileo, who is usually credited with its discovery. To quote from Clifford Truesdell, a mathematical physicist and historian of science:

The now published sources prove to us, beyond contention, that the main kinematical properties of uniformly accelerated motions, still attributed to Galileo by the physics texts, were discovered and proved by scholars of Merton College ... In principle, the qualities of Greek physics were replaced, at least for motions, by the numerical quantities that have ruled Western science ever since.<sup>9</sup>

In terms of what we would think of today as philosophy, Heytesbury's major work was *Regulae Solvendi Sophismata* (*Rules for Solving Sophisms*)<sup>10</sup> dated to 1335 by one manuscript.<sup>5</sup> In medieval philosophy, sophismata are ambiguous, puzzling or simply difficult sentences that were used by the logicians of the time for educational purposes and for disputation between an opponent and respondent about logic.<sup>11</sup> As my philosophical training is even more limited than my

mathematical skill, much of this is beyond me, but I did enjoy learning about Heytesbury's short work, *Sophismata Asinina*, a collection of 39 sophisms purportedly proving that the respondent is a donkey!<sup>12</sup>

William Heytesbury died in the winter of 1372-73 and is buried in the church of St John the Evangelist in Ickham, Kent,<sup>13</sup> where he was rector for nearly 20 years.<sup>13</sup> For anyone interested in finding out more about him, his life and work are the subject of a book published in the USA in the 1950s,<sup>14</sup> copies of which can be obtained from some second-hand-book websites.

David Clark (1984)

## References

1. Strogatz, S. *Infinite Powers: The Story of Calculus, The Language of the Universe*, Atlantic Books, London, 2019.
2. Hanke, M. and E Jung, 'William Heytesbury', in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2018. [plato.stanford.edu/entries/heytesbury/](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/heytesbury/)
3. [www.encyclopedia.com/history/historians-and-chronicles/historians-miscellaneous-biographies/william-heytesbury](https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/historians-and-chronicles/historians-miscellaneous-biographies/william-heytesbury)
4. Thakkar, M. 'The Oxford Calculators', *Oxford Today*, 2007. [merton.physics.ox.ac.uk/ox\\_calcs\\_article.pdf](https://merton.physics.ox.ac.uk/ox_calcs_article.pdf)
5. Longeway, J. 'William Heytesbury', in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2003. [stanford.library.sydney.edu.au/archives/sum2005/entries/heytesbury/](https://stanford.library.sydney.edu.au/archives/sum2005/entries/heytesbury/)
6. Kretzmann, N. and E Stump (eds), 'William Heytesbury: The Compound and Divided Senses', Chapter 13 in *The Cambridge Translations of Medieval Philosophical Texts: Volume 1. Logic and the Philosophy of Language*, Cambridge University Press, 1988.
7. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Bradwardine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Bradwardine)
8. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mean\\_speed\\_theorem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mean_speed_theorem)
9. Truesdell, C. Essays in *The History of Mechanics*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1968, p. 30. Cited in Ref. 8.
10. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford\\_Calculators#William\\_Heytesbury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_Calculators#William_Heytesbury)
11. [stanford.library.sydney.edu.au/archives/sum2005/entries/sophismata/](https://stanford.library.sydney.edu.au/archives/sum2005/entries/sophismata/)
12. [www.flickr.com/photos/jelltecks/8160884414/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/jelltecks/8160884414/)
13. The Wingham Clerics. [www.kentscientists.org.uk/people/ingham-clerics.html](http://www.kentscientists.org.uk/people/ingham-clerics.html)
14. Wilson, C. *William Heytesbury: Mediaeval Logic and the Rise of Mathematical Physics*, University of Wisconsin Press, 1956.





## Some 13th-Century Encaustic Tiles from Merton College

Five, fragmentary 13th-century encaustic tiles, said formerly to have come from the chapel of Merton College, have recently come to light (Plate I). They are deposited in the Museum in Norwich Castle, having been presented in 1863 (Box A 202, ACC 20.20). According to the College of Arms, only two of the tiles are heraldic. One has the personal arms of Richard of Cornwall; the other has the double-headed eagle of the Roman Empire, of which he was elected King in 1257.

Having been acquired as early as 1863, it would seem that these tiles were probably débris from the restoration of the choir of the Chapel by William Butterfield in the 1850s, rather

than from where later work was done in the Sacristy in the 1870s. Similar tiles were recovered at that time from there.<sup>1</sup>

Richard of Cornwall, 1209–72, was the son of King John, being the younger brother of Henry III.<sup>2</sup> In 1267, Walter de Merton acted as his attorney and the following year Richard presented the advowson of Horspath, Oxon, to the Founder although, in the event, the College never secured the patronage of the living. The Founder's Statutes of 1270 provided for 12 'poor secondary scholars' to pray for the soul of Henry of Almain and of his father, Richard King of the Romans. Richard's coat of arms formerly adorned the south window of the hall of the Warden's House, c.1300.



The five encaustic tiles, c.1295.

The blazon of the arms is:  
*Silver a lion gules crowned gold in a border sable bezanty.*

In the 19th century, they feature in the composite window displaying the coats of arms of the early patrons of the College, in the Library, 1858 (Plate 2) and in the Hall, 1888.

**Alan Bott (1953)**  
 Bodley Fellow

1. Alan Bott, *Merton College: A Longer History of the Buildings & Furnishings*, pp 39-40.
2. Alan Bott, *The Heraldry in Merton College*, pp 33, 145.



Coat of arms of Richard of Cornwall, King of the Romans. Library, south window, 1858



## Stuart Hall and his Legacy at Merton

*Stuart Hall, who was at Merton in the 1950s, was one of the founding figures in cultural studies. Shortly after his death, the College set up a scholarship in his honour, which is currently held by Ruth Ramsden-Karelse (2017). Postmaster spoke to Ruth to find out about her research and how it ties in with Hall's legacy.*

Stuart Hall (1951) was an academic, writer and pioneer of cultural studies. Born in 1932 in Kingston, Jamaica, he came to the UK in 1951 as a Rhodes Scholar, to study English at Merton. After his BA, he started a DPhil, but the 1956 Soviet invasion of Hungary and the Suez Crisis prompted him to leave the world of Henry James and to focus instead on his political work.

Hall became a member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, was founding editor of the *New Left Review*,

and then joined the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies at the University of Birmingham, of which he became director in 1968. He was also Professor of Sociology at the Open University. As well as his writings on politics and culture, he is best known for his wide-ranging contribution to the then-emerging field of cultural studies, covering elements such as identity, race and ethnicity.

Hall died in February 2014; shortly afterwards, the Stuart Hall Foundation was launched, specifically to provide opportunities for students and academics pursuing themes in line with his work. Merton College, in partnership with TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities), has funded one of these scholarships.

Ruth Ramsden-Karelse (2017) is Merton's inaugural Stuart Hall doctoral student. Like Hall, she taught in a London school for several years. In a happy coincidence, while she was there, the school renamed its media area the Stuart Hall Media Suite.

Ruth finds Hall's work very instructive: in content, aims and how he carried it out. Like Hall's, Ruth's work is interdisciplinary, and her research takes up many of the same questions concerning the nation, the archive, culture, historical memory and visuality, for example.

As for Hall's aims: 'His work had clear political aims – to help produce knowledge and a political vision that would open up possibilities because it is based in the lives and hopes of ordinary people. This meant always being open to complexity and rejecting oversimplified binaries along with essentialist views.'

Dialogue and collaboration were crucial for Hall. 'Although he was committed to being publicly visible, he never wanted to be made into a celebrity; he preferred to think of himself as a teacher.' Ruth thinks that part of the reason that Hall's work has endured is because 'he conceptualised theorisation as something that could not be completed or solved, but had to be continually worked at and reworked. He stressed that doing theory and politics is supposed to be difficult ("wrestling with the angels") and also discussed feeling really challenged by important developments in, for example, feminism. Now, as more people are recognising the





Ruth Ramsden-Karelse

urgent need to tackle systemic racism, Hall's openness about having to actively work through difficulty and discomfort seems as crucial as his incisive critiques of the legacies of colonialism that Britain still hasn't addressed.'

Ruth's own research is centred on the Kewpie Photographic Collection – a collection of about 600 photos in the GALA Queer Archives in Johannesburg. These photos depict a group of people in District Six in Cape Town who were legally classified 'Coloured' during the apartheid era; they were assigned to the male sex at birth but used female pronouns and called themselves 'girls'. Most of the photos were taken in the late 1960s and early 1970s – that is, not long after 1966, when the area was designated as 'Whites Only'. Over the following years, about 60,000 members of the community were forcibly removed from District Six, their houses demolished around them.

Kewpie, who collected the photographs, was a hairdresser and performer in District Six, and her pictures show the stories of this lost community as well as the better-known narrative of the forced removals. Coincidentally, not long after Ruth decided to include an exploration of the Kewpie Collection in her thesis, GALA and the District Six Museum



Kewpie (back row, centre) and friends on Sir Lowry Road, District Six, Cape Town  
© GALA Queer Archive, Kewpie Photographic Collection

mounted an exhibition of Kewpie's photographs, first in Cape Town in 2018 and then in Johannesburg in 2019.

Ruth is delighted to have the scholarship. She also enjoys the opportunity to meet up with like-minded scholars through the Stuart Hall Foundation. The Foundation's Scholars and Fellows meet up in person every year (and this year have held additional meetings on Zoom) to talk about Stuart Hall's work and their own work.

Ruth feels that being at Oxford is a great privilege, although sometimes it can seem to be a daunting place for a new arrival – but perhaps not as much as for Stuart Hall himself, setting foot in the UK for the first time in 1951.

Merton now has a second Stuart Hall doctoral student. Caetano Maschio Santos is a Brazilian musician and ethnomusicologist doing collaborative research with artists of the Haitian diaspora in Brazil, analysing the intersections of culture, history, race and politics within their varied musical output.

# 40 Years: Merton Women 1980-2020



The academic year 2020-21 will be a special year at Merton. The 40th anniversary of the admission of women will be marked with a series of events and initiatives, even though the uncertainties of planning during a pandemic may call for flexibility and ingenuity. Throughout the year there will be opportunities for celebration, recognition, and plans for the future. Women

from the wider college community will be featured in a series of profiles on the website and on social media. An exhibition will highlight the involvement of women in the College during its long history. The College is working towards diversifying the portraiture in the common spaces. There will be music composed and performed by women. The meetings

of Merton research groups will focus on work by and about women, culminating in a study day in May 2021. The JCR and MCR are also planning themed events. In the gardens, the inventive Head Gardener and her team will be creating a planting project linked to the anniversary.

This year is not just about the past and the present. Looking forward, the College will be launching a programme to link students with alumni mentors, as well as establishing a graduate scholarship for women in STEM subjects. And plans are being made to open a nursery that will benefit the young families of the entire Merton community in years to come. If some of the anniversary events have to move online, that will make it possible for more Mertonians from across the globe to participate and enjoy them. Look for the '40 years' Merton anniversary logo!

**Dr Julia Walworth**  
Fellow Librarian

---

## Women and Merton before Women at Merton

As we prepare to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the admission of women students at Merton, it is easy to imagine the College as an entirely male environment before that time. Yet women had been involved with Merton in varied ways throughout the College's history. The founder, Walter de Merton, might have expected no different. He had seven sisters and in part the College was founded to educate their sons. One sister, Christina, received a pension from the College estates after Walter's death. Another, Edith, held part of Walter's manor of Kibworth Harcourt in Leicestershire before it passed to the College and eventually starred in Michael Wood's TV series *Story of England*.



Women also donated to the College. One stands out: Ela Longespée, Countess of Warwick. She was already a benefactor together with her second husband, a political ally of Walter's, when she retired to Godstow Abbey. From there she took a close interest in the College. She wrote heartfelt letters to the

Warden in French – rather than the Latin used by the scholars – and endowed an annual drink for the Fellows, while the College sent her gifts and tipped her servants as they set up her room in the nunnery. Her greatest successor was Julia de Lacy Mann, the College's first woman Honorary Fellow. She was an economic historian and long-serving Principal of St Hilda's who gave generously to Merton out of her inheritance from her uncle, Thomas Bowman, who had been Warden here.



Queens featured among the College's notable guests. Catherine of Aragon came in 1518 to an ecstatic greeting from the then Warden, who compared her to both Juno and Minerva; Elizabeth I dined in Hall in 1592. Catherine of Braganza stayed for several months in 1665 as London seethed with plague. The serenity of the refuge was perhaps lessened by

the birth at Merton of one of the king's several illegitimate sons by Catherine's lady-in-waiting, Barbara, Countess of Castlemaine. Henrietta Maria resided longest. For ten months in 1643–4, while Oxford was the civil war capital of her husband Charles I, she occupied the Warden's lodgings at the junction of Front Quad and Fellows' Quad. Widows of royalist captains – Lady Cobham and the Countess of Northampton – served her and her Catholic entourage held baroque services in the Chapel. Not quite a queen but the sister of an emperor, Ekaterina Pavlovna, Duchess of Oldenburg, stayed with Tsar Alexander I on his visit in 1814.



Less famous women were more regular visitors. Already in the founder's time there were laundresses doing the College's washing and by the 18th century there were bedmakers like Sarah Bedding, who was granted £1 because she had grown aged and ill. She had many successors, some working on staircases and others in

the kitchens, but a more unusual expedient was the billeting in St Alban's Quad of nurses working in the hospital set up in the Examination Schools during the First World War. They horrified the natives by playing tennis in Fellows' Quad.

Whereas Fellows were not allowed to wed until 1871, Wardens were. The Warden's wife was thus a convenient scapegoat for controversial behaviour. Lady Clayton apparently insisted that the College replace all the furniture in the Warden's Lodgings and build a new summerhouse in the garden; Mrs Lydall allegedly required a coach to transport her daughters. By the 1960s and 1970s, in contrast, Margaret Harrison and

Eva Richards played a positive role in welcoming students and Fellows to the College. Many tutors' wives did the same. Eva Richards summed up their intention in an open letter to Mertonians in the 1971 *Postmaster*: 'to make the acquaintance of as many members of the College as possible'.



The 20th century brought more substantial change. Merton students were taught by women both outside the College and within, as women were appointed College lecturers from the 1960s. More women joined the staff, in secretarial, administrative, librarianship and medical roles. From 1958 the Kodály Choir rapidly became, as one early reviewer called it, 'the best mixed voice choir in Oxford' and featured, as was reported in the arch tones of the 1960s, 'vast hordes of mellifluous-voiced young ladies'. In 1959 its singers were the first women to dine in Hall in term-time. Merton drama productions drew in first professional actresses such as Hermione Gingold and then women from other colleges. Already in 1957 it was noted that the auditions for Merton Floats' Cuppers play 'seem to have involved half of St Hilda's'. As the proportion of women in Oxford's overall student body increased, so more and more entered Merton for tutorials, for student society activities and as individual guests. The stage was being set for 1980.

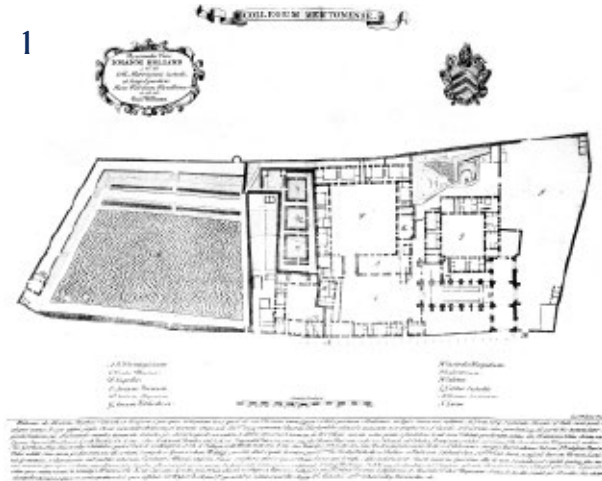
**Steven Gunn**  
Fellow and Tutor in History

- 1 The 1266 seal of Ela of Warwick from a grant in the College Archives
- 2 The College's portrait of Catherine of Aragon, c.1600
- 3 The College's 17th-century portrait of Henrietta Maria
- 4 Merton Floats' production of *All's Well That Ends Well* (1954), with Rosalind Hale (née Williams; St Anne's) as Helena



# Lost, Little Known and Unbuilt Merton (17)

## The Garden (4): Winter



Although Merton Garden was celebrated for its beauty from at least the 17th century, not all visitors were particularly enthusiastic. After describing the College's architecture as consisting of 'several ugly old buildings', Conrad von Uffenbach, who visited Oxford in 1710, noted that Merton Garden 'is considered one of the finest here. It consists of a shrubbery or some low dark walks, which are really not pleasant as they have no fresh air. On one side, is a terraced walk and a poor Summerhouse' (Plate I).

Nonetheless, during the early 18th century, Merton Garden became a fashionable resort for both the University and the Town. Thomas Hearne recalled that on a Sunday evening, the Garden was 'thronged with young gentlemen and young gentlewomen'. From two lampoons of the period, *Merton Walks, or the Oxford Beauties: A Poem* (1717) and *Strephon's Revenge: A Satire on the Oxford Toasts* (1718), the names of some two dozen of the ladies – some perhaps from the Town – are known. Each girl is glowingly apostrophised. A Miss White, for example, inspired the following lines (1717):

In *Merton Walks* when charming *Wh---te* is seen  
In *Cyprian Shades*: We view soft Beauty's Queen  
So blooming bright, and so divinely fair  
Her Gesture such, and such her charming Air.  
In vain, Ye Groves! You All your Shades oppose,  
No Screen from Love, the panting Lover knows

The second lampoon (1718) suggests the dangers to the undergraduates from these tempting visions:

In vain his *Tutor*, with a watchful Care,  
Rebukes his folly, warns him to beware

But the College, for a time at least, grew tired of its visitors so that in 1720 Merton's Garden was closed to the public. Thomas Hearne wrote that 'the young gentlemen and others partook themselves to the Magdalen College Walk, which is now [30 July 1723] every Sunday night in Summertime strangely fitted just like a fair'. In 1745, BAs were reminded that they were excluded from the main Garden as well as the



Library and, furthermore, were required always to uncover in the presence of an MA. The problem of intruders is, however, a perennial one and in 1952 Professor H W Garrod wryly began his essay on *Max and Merton* with the words: 'Some weeks ago I met an American in the Merton Garden. I knew he was an American, because the Garden is private.' However, both the former Professor of Poetry, together with one of the College's most distinguished literary alumni of the 20th century, an American, who was admitted to the College in 1914, would surely be equally surprised and delighted that, in 2010, the TS Eliot Theatre was erected in a further part of the Garden.

One of the most memorable features of the Garden, now sadly gone, was the avenue of lime trees, running below the terrace on the north side of the City Wall. The date of their planting is unknown. Perhaps they already figure in Loggan's print of 1675. But in December 1760, the *Register* noted: 'the Garden master was empowered to cut down and remove twelve lime trees, i.e. six alternate trees in each row, betwixt

the terras and the thicket' (Plates 2 and 3). This suggests sensible husbandry, some decades after the initial planting. Dendrochronology proposed a date of c.1740 for the planting, which is consistent with the other evidence. Regrettably, old age and decay rendered the felling of the avenue necessary in 1996, although one specimen, at the west end, survived until 2018. Though unfortunate in itself, the removal of the avenue has made possible the opening up of the rest of the Garden to allow in more sunlight, particularly for the herbaceous borders, and also the judicious replanting of the former 'avenue' with new specimens of plane, lime, oak and ash.

The raising of the terrace along the south-east end of the City Wall in the first years of the 18th century had provided those within the Garden a fine 'prospect' of the Broad Walk, consisting of some tall trees in Christ Church Meadow. This feature had been swept away during the Civil War, when the Royalist troops had trained there. However, according to Anthony Wood, it had been replanted by Dr Fell in 1670, with 72 elms on either side. The great sycamore in the centre of



4



Merton Garden, to the north east of the Mulberry tree, is rather later and has been dated by dendrochronology to 1705. In 1725, Merton had its rent, due to the City Council, reduced from £8 per annum to 6 guineas, on account of the cost of repairs to the Wall. The Wall was to be lowered and wooden palisades erected on top.

Turning to the history of the 'Bachelors' Garden' (now the Grove), Agas's plan (1578, repeated by Hollar, 1643), shows an area of randomly planted trees here. William Williams's plan (1733) shows some elaborate landscaping, perhaps including a small 'mount' with a tiny amphitheatre surrounding it (Plate 1). By the 19th century, the breaching of the City Wall and its substitution with iron palisades had reached the western end of the College. In 1817, it was agreed that 'the stone wall in the Grove towards the Meadow be taken down and an iron railing on a stone base be substituted', and in 1827 'an ornamental iron railing should be substituted for the wall at the north end of the Grove' (Plate 4). In 1862, after correspondence

5



with the Dean of Christ Church, it was agreed to move the south gate of the Grove 20 yards to the west, to a site where the 'penny gate' or 'late gate' was later to be located. In the 1950s, this was the classic way of 'climbing in' to the College after hours. From St Aldate's, through St Catherine's College, as it was then located, through the Meadow and, with a penny, the lock could be sprung!

The 19th and 20th centuries saw the gradual rationalisation and unification of the three Gardens. In 1843, a gardener was appointed 'to undertake to keep the Quadrangles, the Garden, the Grove and all the smaller gardens and plots attached to the College (except that called and being the Warden's Garden) in good order ... mowing, lopping and pruning, the College paying for plants and seeds, ... for £70 per annum'.

In 1904, the advent of Thomas Bowman as Warden, 1904-36, resulted in the building of the new Lodgings (OWL) in Merton Street, the redevelopment of the Warden's House in





Front Quadrangle and the construction of St Alban's Quad. As a result, the Warden, wishing 'to give up all claim to the Warden's Garden' (on the east side of Fellows' Quadrangle), it was resolved it 'be merged in the College Garden and be under the control of the garden master, but that the wages of the gardener be not, in consequence, increased' (Plate 5). The light railings surrounding the garden were therefore removed and the three gardens, including that formerly of St Alban Hall, thus became, for the first time in six centuries, a unity.

Preserved in the Library are the diaries of the Head Gardener from 1974 onwards. These are strictly factual documents but contain an amusing record of some of the hazards of maintaining the high quality of the flower displays. 'President Clinton arrived by helicopter in the meadows 8 June 1994. Three chinooks landed; most of the rose blossom was blown off' (Plate 6).

**Alan Bott (1953),** Bodley Fellow

- Plate 1. Plan of the College by William Williams, 1733, showing the three separate gardens.
- Plate 2. Garden from the east, c.1900, including the lime avenue on the left, now gone, and the still flourishing sycamore tree on the right.
- Plate 3. The avenue of limes in 1973, with J R R Tolkien on the terrace.
- Plate 4. Scything the grass in the Grove, watercolour, c.1835.
- Plate 5. Sundial Lawn in 2014. The sundial was the gift of George Tierney in 1830.
- Plate 6. President Bill Clinton with his wife Hillary, being welcomed by Dr John Roberts, Warden, with his wife Judith, 1991.



## Memorial Meeting for Sir Rex Richards



Sir Rex Richards (right), welcomed by Dr John Roberts (then Sub-Warden), at his installation as Warden of Merton

*A Memorial Meeting for former Warden Sir Rex Richards was held in the TS Eliot Theatre at Merton on Saturday 8 February 2020. We would like to share the addresses from that occasion.*

### Welcome from the Warden, Professor Irene Tracey

On behalf of all the students, staff and Fellows of Merton College, I'd like to welcome and thank you for coming here on this special day where we have the opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of a most remarkable man, Sir Rex Richards. I'd particularly like to welcome members of Rex's family – his two daughters, Frances and Jill, their husbands and all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I'm honoured to be the newly appointed Warden of this great College. Sadly, I never got to meet Rex or his beloved wife, Eva, but I still felt his influence, both scientific and as Warden and Vice-Chancellor. I have spent my entire academic career using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) methods via neuroimaging to understand the neuroscience of human pain and its relief – a direct consequence of Rex's extraordinary contributions to the development and understanding of NMR that we will hear more about from Professor David Gadian.

Rex was appointed Warden of Merton three years after I was born and he stood down as Warden the year before I started here as an undergraduate. As a student at Merton, I often sat

under Bryan Organ's striking portrait and as a biochemist I was always in and out of the Rex Richards Building.

On becoming Warden last October, many Emeritus Fellows said to me, as they probably said to my predecessors Jessica and Martin, that I should model myself on Rex's wardenship – notably, not to indulge in second dessert or too much booze and to get to bed by 10pm every night! Well, I'm doing my best but it's hard not to succumb at times.

Rex was a great supporter of women and, as Vice-Chancellor of the University, oversaw the shifting sands of women's involvement at Oxford. I am sure that he would be pleased that for the first time in Merton's 750-year history, the Warden, Sub-Warden, MRC and JCR Presidents are all women.

We will this afternoon hear about the extraordinary breadth and depth of Rex's many talents, his attributes and gifts. We can all feel immense pride in a great Mertonian, Oxonian, husband, father, grandfather – a great man who achieved so much but, more importantly, who used his considerable gifts for the benefit of those around him and for future generations.

## Rex at Merton

### Philip Waller, Emeritus Fellow

Two reasons make it a pleasure to recall Rex's wardenship. The first is my admiration for him. The second is that I become 25 again.

I joined the firm in 1971, the year that *The Go-Between* (1953) was screened. No film could better LP Hartley's opening line 'The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.' Merton was different. Fellows' stipends were paid quarterly, as befits gentlemen scholars; but times they were a-changin'. Inflation was in double figures, soon hitting 25%. This meant that Fellows were giving the College interest-free loans every three months. Much as we loved the old place, we decided we weren't gents any more. Rex, always down-to-earth, approved.

Merton also looked different. The TS Eliot Theatre didn't exist; and Rose Lane was without its mansard roof. What we did have was an avenue of limes in Fellows' Garden and, as a reality check, an actual chestnut tree on the Chestnut Lawn. There was no Holywell or Finlay Building. Bursaries occupied the east ground floor of Fellows. Mob was asphalted, but Front was paved and cobbled for Rex's arrival. As the ground was being raked in preparation, other colleges politely enquired: arable or pasture? Scaffolding was omnipresent. The Tower of the Four Orders was leaning alarmingly; but during Rex's wardenship we approached the end of a restoration programme begun in 1954. The last stage was the Merton Street front, untouched since 1838.

Rooms were parky. Central heating was for ancient Romans and modern Americans, not for character-building Mertonians. Sky-rocketing electricity bills dominated battels negotiations; that is, when there was electricity. Rex's shining wardenship was dimmed by power cuts during the three-day week caused by strikes. Offsetting this, log fires burned in Hall. Up close you were roasted, as if by Flashman; further away you could enjoy the heat disappear up the chimney.

Pervasive too was another sort of smoke, from countless cigarettes and pipes. Only a minority of dons smoked, but those who did puffed away in college meetings and tutorials; undergraduates similarly. The loyal toast was fervently

anticipated because it was cue for the butler to circulate the silver cigarette box. Rex abstained, but a hallmark of his wardenship was tolerance.

Communication was also different back then. During Rex's last year as Warden the first mobile phone was marketed in the USA. It cost over £6,000 in today's money and no one here had one. We spoke or we scribbled. Two large sacks of mail arrived each morning addressed to Fellows. Our village joke was that one sack was for Tolkien, whom we harboured in 21 Merton Street, the other sack for the rest of us.

It's no revelation to say we were all younger then, but it is startling what a young Governing Body we were. Our Senior Fellow in 1971 was aged 46. He is happily with us today: Courtenay Phillips, now clocking 95. Rex took up the wardenship in 1970, a year after his election at age 47. He still played squash, to a high level, as with everything he did. Mostly non-sporty, Fellows nevertheless pushed the boat out. An SCR eight inspired the headline, with a nod to Sholokhov, 'Slow Rows the Don'.

The Fellowship was republican-minded and committed to self-government. Senior Tutor, Tutor for Admissions, Finance Bursar, all these offices were held by tutors; and the sub-wardenship alternated between tutorial and non-tutorial Fellows, cementing their confederation.

Rex signalled his own belief in a community of scholars by briskly walking round to Magdalen, where unaccountably I'd been a Prize Fellow since 1968, to tell me I was moving to Merton. Thenceforward, a perfectly choreographed comedy occurred at Governing Body. Whenever a new committee was formed, Rex would announce, 'We need a young Fellow.' He'd then scan the Savile Room, point to me and say: 'Philip. I'm sure you'd like to take part.' This brutally ended for me in 1973 when Pitt the even Younger turned up in the shape of Jack Beatson, law tutor; but the theme was set.

It was not that older Fellows did not exist or did not count. They did. What must be figured in Rex's wardenship is the overlapping of generations, shared experience and memory. Rex was a boy of six in Colyton when a few miles away in Dorset the poet-novelist Thomas Hardy died. Hardy had



talked to soldiers who fought at Waterloo. Undertones of war reverberated throughout Rex's wardenship. In 1970, most Fellows had done National Service. Many had been under fire. Honorary and Emeritus Fellows included Great War veterans: Edmund Blunden, Nevill Coghill, Alec Cooke, Hugo Dyson, Walter Moberly, Tolkien. Rex's predecessor Robin Harrison lost both brothers killed in that war. Before Harrison was Mure, who lived until 1979. He fought at the Somme and Passchendaele, won the MC, and saw friends' names inscribed under the Fitzjames Arch. Our war survivors leave memorials in their life's work. Alister Hardy served in the cyclists' battalion; then, suitably for a budding zoology professor, he became a camouflage officer with the Royal Engineers. In retirement he pursued research into religious experience; or, as we saw him, was hot on the trail of God in a back room of Mansfield Road which the College made over to him.

Three Mertonians won the VC in the Second World War, including the dam-buster Leonard Cheshire. Among the Fellows was the Admiral, Derick Hetherington, our genial Domestic Bursar; indeed, the College's first full-time Domestic Bursar. He played the clarinet with the Kodály Orchestra and had the DSC and two bars. Then there was Bill Williams, Monty's trusted intelligence officer at Alamein and D-Day; Rodney Needham, wounded with the 1st Gurkha Rifles in Burma; and Tolkien's successor Norman Davis, whose clandestine activities with the SOE in Bulgaria earned him a death sentence in absentia. War did not go away. We had students who fought in Vietnam – then the longest war in American history – and a succession of lieutenant colonels from the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Airey Neave could escape Colditz but not an INLA bomb at Westminster in 1979. Nor had the Cold War cooled. The Berlin Wall, like Fermat's Last Theorem, still stood. Hungary produced two notable refugees for us. In 1956, George Radda fled Soviet Communism and morphed into our chemistry tutor just as, in 1938, Eva Vago fled fascism to become chemistry tutor at Somerville. Why does she merit mention today? Because in 1948 she married Rex and was his indispensable partner in life, in his science, and in his wardenship.

Together they made 19 Merton Street the epitome of hospitality. If members of the College wanted to discuss anything with Rex, Eva resolved it shouldn't be the first

time they'd met because she'd already have had them to a friendly meal, which she cooked herself. When the Boat Club acquired a new first shell, Eva was invited to launch it in a memorable ceremony – memorable not least because it had already been in a collision.

Here was a preliminary to that landmark of Rex's wardenship, the decision in 1978 to admit women. Not for the first time, Fellows were bolder than undergraduates. A JCR referendum disclosed them keener for co-residence in other colleges than in Merton. Rex himself was an enabler, not an evangelist; above all, level-headed. Since he aimed for academic excellence, how could Merton excel if it ignored half the population? Rex was also emollient, never bore a grudge or left others with one.

Rex understood that a vital part of being Warden is bridging the humanities and sciences and combining different characters. Great minds think unlike. Colleges thrive through Fellows' dissimilarity. Groupthink breeds stagnation, unless whatever is the current orthodoxy is persistently questioned. Rex was unfussy and unpretentious, sharp-minded, direct and always inquiring. He was a moderniser: how could he not be, with that unwaveringly positive look so deftly captured in Bryan Organ's portrait? He also liked most sorts of people. Those he liked less interested him for that reason.

In 1977 he became Vice-Chancellor, Merton's first since Scrope Berdmore in 1797. Uncle to a Regency dandy, Scrope B. resigned after a year, finding the whole French Revolution a trifle tiresome. Rex took all inconveniences in his stride. Hating administration, he was therefore supremely good at it. He deplored the later mushrooming of bureaucracy and aggrandisement of the office of Vice-Chancellor, under a pretext of professionalism, as if he lacked expertise or experience. During his tenure, the JR2 opened, and Green College and the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies were founded. A bonus followed, in the advent at Merton of Prince Naruhito, now Emperor of Japan, who revelled in the College's informality under Rex's wardenship.

It's no one's fault if they're not a Mertonian, only their misfortune. Rex wasn't a Merton aborigine, but he made the College and his name inseparable. Under him, Merton was going places. It still has that aura. *Gaudeamus igitur*.

## Rex and his Research

### Professor David Gadian (1968)

#### Rex as pioneer, and opening of new area of research

It's an honour for me to be able to say a few words, especially as I feel that I'm speaking on behalf of a number of friends and colleagues (and indeed my wife, whom I met in Rex's lab) who are also here. Rex was a pioneer in the development and chemical applications of the technique known as nuclear magnetic resonance, or NMR. This is a technique that detects the magnetic properties of atomic nuclei, and it became a standard method of analysis in chemistry labs.

Up to the 1970s, Rex had worked in the Physical Chemistry Lab in Oxford. But when he was appointed Warden of Merton he resigned from his post as Dr Lee's Professor and Head of Department, and with great foresight moved his lab to the Biochemistry Department, where his group worked in close collaboration with George Radda's team. This was when I joined Rex's group for my DPhil research.

I won't say much about this period in the 1970s, other than to say that Rex's and George's teams, working together, opened up a brand new area of NMR research, namely the use of NMR to follow biochemical processes that take place in intact biological tissue. This is an active area of research to this day. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which is an offshoot of NMR, was being developed at the same time in other laboratories, so by the early 1980s there were NMR or MRI systems that could both obtain images of our body and also study our chemistry.

#### Colyton and Mackay Ohm

Let's go back in time to Rex's initial pioneering days, and even earlier, to look at how his scientific career evolved up to the time when I knew him.

Rex was brought up in Colyton, a small town in Devon, and went to the local grammar school. He evidently made a strong impression, and the headmaster, a gentleman called Mr Mackay Ohm, decided to enter him for Oxford. It was a novel experience for him, so Mackay Ohm made a special

visit to Oxford on Rex's behalf, walking around the science area and asking for advice about suitable colleges for a prospective chemistry student. In one such conversation he was told 'Send him to St John's where "Tommy" Thompson is the tutor.' Tommy (later Sir Harold Thompson) was a distinguished young academic, more of whom later. So Rex was duly entered for St John's College and, as far as we know, became the first pupil of Colyton Grammar School to go to Oxford.

#### Tommy Thompson and penicillin

These were war years, and Rex kept expecting to be called up, but at the end of each year, he was summoned back to Oxford. After his Part I finals he joined Tommy's laboratory for his Part II research project on infrared spectroscopy. The lab's research was directed towards the war effort, and Rex's main project for his Part II was to work out the structure of penicillin, though it was Dorothy Hodgkin, who was working on the X-ray structure, who sorted it out.

#### NMR, physicists and chemists

Rex obtained a First in 1945, and stayed on in Tommy's laboratory for his DPhil studies. Before long, in 1947, at the age of 25, he was elected a Fellow and tutor of Lincoln College, and it became time to become fully independent and to find another research avenue. Rex became interested in NMR after reading the initial NMR papers published in 1946 by two American groups of physicists.

So he went to see Bernard Rollin in the Clarendon (physics) Laboratory just down the road. Rollin had built an NMR instrument and had published his work on NMR in *Nature* soon after the papers from the States. However, Rollin was discouraging, saying Rex would never get it to work and in any case it wouldn't be useful in chemistry. But around that time Linus Pauling came to Oxford as a Visiting Professor. One evening over dinner at Lincoln, Rex mentioned to Pauling that he'd like to have a go at NMR but that his physicist friends had advised against it. Pauling replied 'I've learned never to take the advice of physicists.'

So Rex returned to the Clarendon for further discussion with Bernard Rollin, who from then on was extremely helpful. Rex had meanwhile met Eva, and they married in 1948.

### Spectrometers and molecular structure

Rex had to build his own spectrometer, which involves a magnet and associated electronics, and managed to convince his head of department, Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, to give him the £100 needed to buy the magnet. For the electronic equipment, he went to a place known as 'the dump' at the airport hangar in Abingdon, where he could buy surplus RAF and army radar sets for next to nothing. These sets contained electronic components that Rex used to build his spectrometer. Eventually, after an enormous amount of endeavour, he obtained an NMR signal.

Rex soon set to work on using analysis of NMR to investigate molecular structure, and with his student John Smith published a paper in 1951 on acid hydrates. This was arguably the first in which a chemical problem was solved by NMR.

### Rex's strengths

By 1951, while Rex was still in his 20s, we see the strengths that were to pervade his career. He had the vision to foresee a major new field of research, namely NMR in chemistry, and the intellect, practical skills and courage to take it on, both at the level of building the equipment and of designing and interpreting experiments. He also had the ability to get on with people. This is illustrated by his interactions with Tommy Thompson who was not, by many accounts, the easiest of people. In due course, Tommy was to become Chairman of the Football Association, and for anyone who is interested, there have been some fascinating accounts of Tommy's somewhat robust dealings with eminent managers such as Alf Ramsey and Brian Clough.

### Continuations and promotions

Rex's success with the design and building of NMR equipment (and in particular with magnet design), and with new applications in chemistry, continued from thereon, and with it came rapid recognition and promotion.

In 1959, while he was still in his 30s, he was elected FRS, and in 1964, in his early 40s, he was appointed Professor and Head of Physical Chemistry. Then he and his skills evidently came to the attention of the Fellows of Merton, who duly appointed him Warden. At this stage, as I mentioned

earlier, he resigned from his post in Physical Chemistry and relocated to the Biochemistry Department.

Through his interest in magnet technology and his links with Oxford Instruments, Rex was a key figure in the development of superconducting magnets for NMR. Such magnets are central to modern MRI scanners.

### Ray Freeman's tribute

I hope that I've been able in this brief time to give you a flavour of Rex as a scientist. A key feature was his ability to bring people together, for example physicists, chemists and biochemists. Rex was also highly regarded as a teacher. I understand from Keith McLauchlan that in the mid-1960s Rex was several times voted the best lecturer in Oxford (not just chemistry) in student surveys.

Let me conclude by quoting Ray Freeman, a student of Rex's in the 1950s who has himself gone on to have a stellar career in NMR. In Ray's words: 'It is hard to adequately set out the enormous contribution that Rex made to science and education during his charismatic career. The first person in Britain to have the vision that NMR would revolutionise chemistry, and then build his own NMR spectrometers from scratch in a department largely dedicated to wet chemistry. A superlative undergraduate tutor, research supervisor, and an outstanding mentor.' I think these are fitting words with which to end this brief tribute to Rex and his science.



The late president of Switzerland, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, and his wife with Sir Rex (centre) in 1996. Reproduced by permission of The Henry Moore Foundation





Bryan Organ's portrait of Sir Rex Richards

## Rex and Art

**Sir Nicholas Serota, art historian and curator, Director of the Tate 1988–2017**

When CP Snow gave his influential Rede lecture 'The two cultures' at the Senate House in Cambridge in 1959, he wanted to draw attention to the flaws of an English education system that for more than a century had placed much greater value on the humanities than on the sciences and engineering.

Today, with the emphasis on STEM subjects, we might argue that the balance has gone the other way. However, we can share Snow's ambition that we ought not to see the arts and sciences as two competing poles, but rather as equally important components of an all-round education that equips us to face the modern world.

In his lecture Snow recounted 'A good many times I have been present at gatherings of people who, by the standards of traditional culture, are thought highly educated and who have with considerable gusto been expressing their incredulity at the illiteracy of scientists.'

Speaking as a physicist himself, he went on to point out how correspondingly limited was the understanding of even basic scientific concepts, such as weight and mass, by those he termed 'literary intellectuals'.

I don't know whether Snow ever met Rex Richards, but if he did, he would surely have recognised that Rex was the shining exception to the widely held belief that scientists were illiterate.

For Rex was a man of great distinction and achievement in the scientific world whose deep engagement with the arts, and



Sir Rex (left), on the day of his installation, with Courtenay Phillips, Tutorial Fellow in Chemistry

as a beautiful Patrick Caulfield still life in an interior, or the painting that he gave to Merton, John Hoyland's powerful 'Jinn' from 1988, which many of you will have seen during your lunches or meetings in College.

In 1978 Rex was given an opportunity to bring together his interests in science and art when he was invited to join the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Gallery. The Committee had been established to support the gallery's scientific research into the techniques and materials used by the old master painters – what is now termed 'conservation science'. It also brought a measure of independent judgement to the difficult issues arising from the conservation of old master paintings, following the controversies over the cleaning of paintings in the late 1940s. One can imagine what pleasure this appointment must have given him.

Recently, Dr Ashok Roy, a research scientist who worked in the department from 1977 until 2016, for much of that time as its director, commented on the vital and energetic contribution made by Rex. He also captured so well the character of the man whom many of us knew: 'I remember Rex as the soul of kindness – a man of great intellect and creativity – and also a person of exemplary civilised dealings with those with whom he came into contact. He always seemed to put over it was a privilege for *him* to meet you.'

especially the visual arts, ultimately enabled him to make an outstanding contribution in that field as well as in his own.

I first met Rex when I arrived in Oxford in 1973 to lead what is now Modern Art Oxford. The then Museum of Modern Art Oxford was a relatively new foundation that was in the process of merging with the well-established Bear Lane Gallery, a small gallery that showed and sold work by living artists, including artists at an early stage in their career.

In the 1960s, Rex had been a regular visitor to the Bear Lane Gallery and had begun to make occasional purchases of work. In the main he was drawn towards the leading edge of abstraction, taking a special interest in the work of artists associated with St Ives like William Scott, Alan Davie, Patrick Heron and Peter Lanyon as well as acquiring paintings and sculpture by more established figures such as Ivon Hitchens, Keith Vaughan and Henry Moore. Sometime in the late 1960s or early '70s, Rex was invited to join the board of the gallery which ran as a not-for-profit charity.

As already mentioned, in 1973 a proposal was made to merge the recently established Museum with the Bear Lane. The museum had been created by architects, designers and others in the town, many of whom were associated with the polytechnic, now Oxford Brookes. The Bear Lane was the favoured child of the University community. Given that the merger involved the closure of the Bear Lane and the amalgamation of two boards, there was considerable friction.

Fortunately, Rex agreed to join the joint council where his calm response to challenges, lucid presentation of his position and sensitivity to the views of others quickly made him a pivotal voice and earned him the respect and deep gratitude of a rather gauche young director not well versed in the politics of a university town.

After I left Oxford and moved to the Whitechapel Art Gallery in East London I had less frequent contact with Rex, though he was a regular visitor to our exhibitions. He continued to show a lively curiosity about new developments in art, while maintaining his personal affection for painting. During the 1980s he made several purchases from Waddington Galleries of works by artists of the next generation, such

It was a natural development that in 1982 Rex should have been invited by my predecessor at the Tate to serve as a trustee of the gallery and also as a trustee representing the Tate on the Board of the National Gallery. His indispensability to both galleries went well beyond his interest in conservation and may be gauged by the fact that when his term on both boards expired in 1988 he was immediately appointed a trustee of the National Gallery where he, in turn, served as the National Gallery's representative on the Board of the Tate.

When I arrived at the Tate in 1988, he immediately became an ally and counsel on many of the developments of the next few years. He became a powerful advocate within the board for the idea of creating what became Tate Modern at a time when few believed that it was either desirable or possible.

Rex had a capacity for friendship and conversation that drew him to artists. He visited his fellow Tate trustee Patrick Heron in Cornwall and over many years he was a regular visitor to the studio and home of Henry Moore in Much Hadham. In 1989, he was encouraged to become a trustee of the Henry Moore Foundation by its director, Sir Alan Bowness, with whom he had worked closely during Alan's directorship of the Tate.

Following Moore's death in 1986, the future of the Foundation was uncertain and together Alan and Rex steered it to the important place it still occupies in the British art world, as a guardian and an advocate for Moore's work and as a patron of scholarship, exhibitions and the art of sculpture of all periods. Rex became Chair of the Foundation in 1994, taking a special interest in personally leading the creation of a proper database, and continued to serve until 2002.

Rex had a gentle, courteous manner but a penetrating mind that brought wisdom and clarity to any issue. He may have served on many committees, but in my experience he was never a 'committee man'. He preferred decision to prevarication. He was prepared to argue his case but also to recognise the strength of another. He brought fairness and balance to any judgement.

I feel extremely fortunate to have worked with and learned from him. The art world institutions he served continue to bear the imprint of his wise counsel.

## Rex and the Leverhulme Trust

### Sir Michael Perry, former Chair of the Leverhulme Trust

Sir Rex Richards was our Director – our CEO, in essence – for some ten years, between 1984 and 1993. I myself was appointed a trustee in 1991, so he and I overlapped for his last couple of years. As a newcomer I was able to see him in action, to feel the warmth of his personality, and to see his contribution to our work at first hand. I became the Trust's Chairman in 2008, and from then until I stood down in 2013 I was able to experience what the records now make clear: that Rex had been the director who gave the Trust the direction and shape to transform it into the formidable research funding agency it is today.

For those of you who do not know us, the Trust was created by William Hesketh Lever, the founder of Lever Brothers, the company we know today as Unilever. When he died in 1925, Viscount Leverhulme (as he by then was) left a portion of his personal shareholding in the company to endow a charitable foundation, specifically to provide benefits for the trade charities closest to him – for needy commercial travellers, pharmacists and grocers – and also to provide funds for broad educational purposes.

By the early 1980s it became clear that the funds generated by the endowment were fast outstripping the dwindling and time-limited needs of the originally intended beneficiaries. Independent grocers and chemists were becoming much smaller in number, so Lever's will had to be revisited – to provide his charity with a lasting future, with a more clearly defined mission, and with greater independence from the company whose dividends provided it with its income.

The new arrangements came into effect in 1984. Support for the benevolent trade charities was to continue within a discrete entity, the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust, and the Leverhulme Trust in its modern form was established, with its own endowment and a specific mission to provide 'scholarships for research and education'.

The trustees of the reshaped Trust – nearly all of them business executives, most of whose academic experience did not stretch beyond their years as undergraduates – now



needed an inspirational scholar and academic leader to guide them in taking forward the new entity. They found that leader in Rex Richards.

Rex was the first head of an Oxford college and the first Vice-Chancellor of a university to become Director of the Trust. He immediately set about the substantial tasks of devising a coherent strategic framework for us, professionalising our rather traditional organisational ways, and making the Trust's approach to grant-making fit for modern purpose. Rex was, in a word, the director who created the modern Leverhulme Trust.

Future Trust historians will want to describe Rex's contribution in detail. My own summary, viewed as a trustee of some 22 years standing, is that Rex made three fundamental contributions on which the subsequent success of the Trust has been built.

First, he made sure that the trustees of Leverhulme engaged directly with what he saw as the major strategic issues of the research funding world. Ever the scholar, he did so by setting them an 'examination paper', as it were, of 18 questions about which they needed to have thought carefully and formed a collective view.

These included the different research funding needs of the sciences, social sciences and humanities; the possible role of the Trust in providing support for music and the visual arts; whether and how to support 'archival work'; the role of 'evaluation' in determining the success of completed projects and providing future support for ongoing work; and how Leverhulme's support for 'people doing projects' could be married effectively to the 'research facilities' that were provided by public funds and other foundations.

Most importantly, he encouraged the Board to find a suitable balance between support for basic, fundamental, or so-called blue-skies research, and what Rex called 'topical research': that is, research undertaken for the specific purpose of devising a practical application, or providing robust evidence to inform the design of public policy, the organisation of business, or the development of educational curricula. Rex was prescient in seeing that this particular

issue was fundamental to the whole research enterprise.

Indeed, as today's trustees remind me, it continues to be at the forefront of discussion today, in global debates about how best to fund 'high-risk/high-reward' curiosity-driven studies, where outcomes are uncertain except in the very long term, and about how best to target research which is driven by the need to deliver a specific, practical or societal 'impact'.

Today's research landscape in the UK is dominated by heated discussions about the value of the various research assessment exercises, and the success (or failure) of what we now call 'knowledge transfer' between the academic and the wider world, or – to define the issue in Rex's own words – 'the failure of scholars to communicate with practitioners'.

But Rex was also a very practical man – which brings me to the second major theme of his years as Director of the Trust. Rex was a brilliant administrator. Very quickly after his appointment, he set to and reorganised the machinery of the old, pre-1984 Trust bureaucracy. He devised new criteria for the assessment of bids for Trust funding, including revised guidance for peer reviewers. The template that Rex provided is distinctive to Leverhulme, and is still largely in use today, providing peer reviewers with rigorous and consistent criteria for assessing the originality, significance, lasting value, timeliness and excellence of research proposals. His aim was to provide trustees with more extensive and more reliable information to help inform their grant-making decisions.

The best known of these administrative reforms involved the computerisation of the Trust's database. When Rex arrived at Leverhulme, the Director was required after every trustees' meeting to borrow what he referred to as a 'small army' of copy-typists from the Unilever building half a mile away, so that award letters could be issued and carbon copies made, to create the paper files that were needed to track the progress of the awards. Rex was horrified, so he set about teaching himself coding, in order to design a computerised grant management system for the Trust. Revolutionary in its time, but no research funding agency or grant-making charity today can operate without these electronic systems.

The fact that, confronted by this data-management problem, the former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University simply sat down and devised his own bespoke and sophisticated computer package from scratch is, frankly, astounding. It speaks volumes for Rex's 'can do' attitude and lack of pretension. Most people in his position would surely have hired a team of expensive consultants (who would probably have devised a less robust system). If Rex had been a business entrepreneur rather than a scholar, he might also have patented the system, and sold it for profit to other charities and grant-making agencies. That he did neither of these things reflects the character of the man, and a life spent altruistically in public service. Rex's computerised grant-management system was so effective that it was still in use 20 years later.

Its use also allowed the trustees to make the proud claim – which is still true today – that Leverhulme's administrative costs are among the lowest in the sector. The Trust still employs only 15 people to handle the more than the 4,000 grant applications it receives each year.

The final distinctive contribution that Rex made is less obvious from the written record. Yet, in some ways it is his longest lasting legacy, and it probably presented him at the time with his trickiest challenge.

As the Trust's resources grew, the number of proposals to be considered by the trustees became unmanageable, so a new way of dealing with the Board's business had to be found. Since the trustees are all either current or former senior executives of Unilever, they are heavily dependent on the ability of the Director – who is the only academic on the Trust staff – to help them interpret the often highly specialist peer reviews of the proposals that come to the Board for consideration. Rex designed a process whereby the director provides a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of each bid, as identified in the peer review, but in plain non-technical English. This provides a framework or filter that helps trustees to read and assess each bid – but without steering them to any particular decision.

As directors since Rex have all attested, there is a real art to writing these summary accounts, and it is intriguing to



see in the Trust record how Rex himself accomplished it, for instance by gently reminding board members that certain elements of a proposal might not be eligible for Trust support. To take an example, at random of course, that it was the responsibility of universities, not the Trust, to provide routine sabbatical leave for academic staff, so that they could fulfil their contractual obligation to conduct research.

The Trust has grown immensely since Rex's time. Nowadays, it benefits from an endowment of some £4 billion, allowing it to make grants worth about £100 million annually. Indeed, it is now one of the 20 largest endowed foundations in the world. Particular research schemes have come and gone since Rex's time, but I am confident that, were he able to do so, Rex would look at Leverhulme today and still recognise it in many important respects as his own creation. The trustees – and indeed the whole academic community in this country and beyond – owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

# Records

## Merton College 2019-20

### The Visitor

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable  
the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

### Warden

Irene Tracey, MA, DPhil, FRCA, FMedSci

### Fellows

Steven John Gunn, MA, DPhil, FRHistS  
*Professor of Early Modern History & Tutor  
in History*

Ulrike Luise Tillmann, MA, (BA Brandeis,  
PhD Stanford, Habil Bonn) FRS, FIMA,  
FAMS, Mem Leopoldina *Professor of  
Mathematics*

Richard Anthony McCabe, MA, (MA Dublin;  
MA, PhD Camb), FBA *Professor of English  
Language & Literature & Tutor in English*

Chih-Hao Luke Ong, MA, (MA Camb; PhD  
Lond) *Professor of Computer Science &  
Tutor in Computer Science*

David James Paterson, MA, DPhil, (MSc,  
DSc Western Australia), FRSB, FPhysiol,  
Hon FRSNZ *Professor of Cardiovascular  
Physiology & Tutor in Pre-Clinical Medicine*

Mindy Chen-Wishart, MA, (BA (Hons),  
LLB, LL.M, Otago) *Professor of the Law of  
Contract & Tutor in Law*

Timothy Charles Guilford, MA, DPhil  
*Professor of Animal Behaviour & Tutor in  
Zoology, Garden Master*

Véronique Gouverneur, MA, (Licence en  
Sciences Chimiques, PhD Louvain), FRS  
*Professor of Chemistry & Tutor in Organic  
Chemistry*

Jennifer Payne, MA, (MA Camb) *Professor  
of Corporate Finance Law & Tutor in Law,  
Sub-Warden*

Artur Konrad Ekert, MA, DPhil, (MSc  
Cracow) FRS *Professor of Physics*

Alan David Morrison, MA, DPhil, (MSc  
Lond) *Professor of Law & Finance*

John Stuart Giers Gloag, MA, MRICS *Land  
Agent & Estates Bursar*

Julia Caroline Walworth, MA (BA  
Swarthmore; MA, PhD Yale) FSA *Librarian*

The Revd Canon Simon Matthew Jones,  
MA, DPhil, (BA, MA Durh; PhD Camb)  
*Chaplain*

Peter William Harold Holland, MA, (PhD  
Lond; DSc Rdg) FRS *Linacre Professor of  
Zoology*

Kathryn Lee Blackmon, MA, (BS Clemson;  
MBA, PhD North Carolina) Associate  
*Professor of Operations Management &  
Tutor in Management Studies, Prevent  
Officer, Dean of Graduates*

Simon Martin Hooker, MA, DPhil *Professor  
of Atomic & Laser Physics & Tutor in Physics*

Irene Stavros Lemos, MA, DPhil, FSA  
*Professor of Classical Archaeology*

Alexander David Scott, (BA, PhD Camb)  
*Professor of Mathematics & Tutor in  
Mathematics*

Jonathan Ralph Warburg Prag, MA, (PhD  
Lond) *Professor of Ancient History & Tutor  
in Ancient History*

Michael Hilton Whitworth, MA, DPhil,  
*Professor of English Literature & Culture &  
Tutor in English*

James Peter Neary, MA, DPhil, (MA NUI)  
FBA *Professor of Economics*

Ian MacLachlan, MA, DPhil *Professor of  
French Literature & Tutor in French*

Béla Novák, MA, (MSc, PhD, Dr Habil, TU  
Budapest; CSc DSc Hungarian Academy  
of Science) *Professor of Integrative  
Systems Biology*

Alan James Barr, MA, DPhil, (BA, MSci, PhD  
Camb) *Professor of Particle Physics & Tutor  
in Physics*

Rhiannon Ash, MA, DPhil, (MA Toronto)  
*Professor of Roman Historiography & Tutor  
in Classics, Secretary of the Harmsworth  
Trust*

Patricia Thornton, (BA Swarthmore; MA  
Washington; PhD Berkeley) Associate  
*Professor of Chinese Politics & Tutor in  
Politics*

Matthew Grimley, MA, DPhil Associate  
*Professor of Modern History, Mark  
Reynolds Fellow & Tutor in History*

Alexander Schekochihin, MA, (BSci  
MIPT; MA, PhD Princeton) *Professor of  
Theoretical Physics & Tutor in Physics,  
Steward of Common Room*

Daniel Grimley, MA, DPhil, (BA, MPhil, PhD  
Camb) *Professor of Music & Tutor in Music*

Sir Andrew Wiles, MA, DSc, (PhD Camb)  
FRS Royal Society Research *Professor of  
Mathematics*

Charles Alan Heathcote Alexander, BA,  
(MBA Harvard) *Finance Bursar, Wine  
Steward*

Andrew Mackie, MA *Professorial Fellow,  
Director of Legal Services & General  
Counsel, University of Oxford*

Simon Saunders, BA, MA, (M Math Camb;  
PhD Lond) *Professor of the Philosophy of  
Science & Tutor in Philosophy*

Julian Charles Knight, MA, MBChB, DPhil,  
FRCP, *Professor of Genomic Medicine &  
Tutor in Medicine*

Bassel Tarbush, MPhil, DPhil *Tutor in Economics, Equality Adviser*

Radek Erban, MA, (Mgr RNDr Prague, PhD Minnesota) *Royal Society University Research Fellow, Professor of Mathematics & Tutor in Mathematics, Senior Treasurer of the JCR*

John Samuel Christopher Eidinow, MA, (Dip Law City Univ; Barrister Middle Temple) *Dean, Keeper of the Statutes & Bylaws, Data Protection Officer*

Hugh Watkins, MD, PhD, FRP, FMedSci, FRS *Radcliffe Professor of Medicine*

Timothy John Lightfoot, MA, (BSc Hons Brunel) *Domestic Bursar*

Lorna Hutson, MA, DPhil, FBA Merton *Professor of English Literature*

Ehud Hrushovski, (BA, PhD Berkeley) FRS *Merton Professor of Mathematical Logic*

Matthew Kenneth Higgins, (BA (Hons), PhD Camb) *Associate Professor of Biochemistry Microorganisms & Tutor in Biochemistry, Principal of the Postmasters*

Hatice Yildiz, DPhil (BA Yildiz, MA Koc) *Junior Research Fellow in History*

Joshua Allan Firth, DPhil, (BSc Sheff) *Junior Research Fellow in Zoology*

Matthew Thomson, BA, MSt, DPhil *Fitzjames Research Fellow in Music*

Madhavi Krishnan, (BTech Madras; MS, PhD Michigan) *Associate Professor in Physical & Theoretical Chemistry, Tutor in Chemistry*

Helen Small, MA, (BA Hons Wellington; PhD Camb) *Merton Professor of English Language & Literature, Research Convener*

Alice Brooke, MSt, DPhil, (BA Camb) *Associate Professor in Spanish Golden Age Literature & Tutor in Spanish*

Elizabeth Stubbins Bates, BA, (LLM Harvard) *Junior Research Fellow in Law*

Lisandra Costiner, MSt, (BA Harvard) *Junior Research Fellow in the History of Art*

David Lukas Benjamin Brantner, (MA, MMath Camb; PhD Harvard) *Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics*

Sebastian Alonso Vasquez Lopez, MSc, (BSc (Hons) Newcastle) *Junior Research Fellow in Neuroscience*

Daniel Sawyer, MSt, DPhil, (BA Lond) *Fitzjames Research Fellow in Medieval English Literature*

Elias Nosrati, (BSc Bath; MPhil, PhD Camb) *Peter J Braam Junior Research Fellow in Global Wellbeing*

Jennifer Altehenger, (BA, MA Camb; PhD Heidleberg) *Jessica Rawson Fellow in Modern Asian History, Associate Professor of Chinese History*

Catherine Isabella Rose Quine, MSt *Junior Research Fellow in Theology*

Collis Tahzib, BA, BPhil *Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy*

Marc Roth, (BSc, PhD Saarland) *Junior Research Fellow in Computer Science*

Frances Susan Dunn, (BSc Warwick; PhD Bristol) *Junior Research Fellow in Geology*

Thomas Richards, MSc, DPhil, (BSc Lond) *Royal Society University Research Fellow, Professor in Evolutionary Genomics & Tutor in Zoology*

Jane Gover, (BSc Newc; PhD Bris) *Senior Tutor*

### The following Fellows resigned

Duncan James Barker, BA (Hons), (PhD Durh) *Development Director*

Evert van Emde Boas, MSt, DPhil, (BA, MA Amsterdam), *Leventis Research Fellow in Ancient Greek*

Rachel Buxton, MA, MSt, DPhil, (BA Hons Adelaide; MBA Oxford Brookes) *Senior Tutor/Senior Academic Registrar*

Minhyong Kim, MA, (BS Seoul; PhD Yale) *Professor of Number Theory & Tutor in Mathematics*

Eleanor-Jane Milner-Gulland, BA, MA (PhD ICL) *Tasso Leventis Professor of Biodiversity*

Carlas Sierd Smith, (BSc, MSc Delft; PhD Massachusetts) *Junior Research Fellow in Biology/Engineering*

## Emeritus Fellows

Courtenay Stanley Goss Phillips, MA, DSc

Robert Basil Champneys Hodgson, MA

Michael Simpson Dunnill, MA, (MD Bris), FRCP, FRCPATH

David Charles Witt, MA

Christopher John Hamilton Watson, MA, DPhil

John Carey, MA, DPhil, FBA, FRSL

The Revd Mark Everitt, MA

Sir Gyorgy Karoly Radda, CBE, MA, DPhil, FRS

Dame Olwen Hufton, DBE, MA, (BA, MA Harvard; PhD Lond), DLitt, FRHistS, FBA

Nicholas James Richardson, BPhil, MA, DPhil, FSA

James Anthony Dominic Welsh, MA, DPhil

Michael George Bowler, MA, (BSc, PhD Bris)

Henry Shue, (AB Davidson College; MA, PhD Princeton)

Vijay Ramchandra Joshi, MA

Philip John Waller, MA

Paul Francis John Chamberlain, MA, (BA, MD Dublin), FRCS(C), FACOG

Guy Manning Goodwin, BM, BCh, MA, DPhil, FRCPsych, FMedSci

David Gordon Ellis Norbrook, MA, DPhil, (MA Aberd)

Simon Wren-Lewis, (MA Camb; MSc Lond)

Robert Nigel Gildea, MA, DPhil, FRHistS, FBA

Boris Zilber, MA, (MSc, CandSc Novosibirsk; DSc Leningrad)

Douglas John Bamber, MA, MIH

Jane Christine Holmes Taylor, MA, (BA Hons Bris)

James Jeffrey Binney, MA, DPhil, (MA Camb), FRS

Timothy Softley, MA, (PhD S'ton), FRS

Judith Patricia Armitage, MA, (BSc, PhD Lond) FRS

Gail Fine, MA, (BA Michigan; MA, PhD Harvard)



## Honorary Fellows

Sir John Boardman, MA, (MA Camb), FBA, Hon RA, FSA

Sir Christopher John Ball, MA, Hon DLitt, (CNAa)

HIM Emperor Naruhito of Japan, Hon DCL

Sir Alec John Jeffreys, MA, DPhil, (DUniv Open), FRC Path, FLS, FRS

Vassos Karageorghis, DLitt (PhD Lond) FSA, FBA

The Rt Hon Sir Jack Beatson, DCL, (LLD Camb), FBA

Richard Charles Levin, LittB, Hon DCL, (BA Stanford; PhD Yale)

William Peter Cooke, CBE, MA

David Robert Holmes, BA Hons, MA, Hon DCL

Robert Owen Paxton, MA, (PhD Harvard)

Sir Howard Stringer, MA

David Francis Kerr Finlay, OBE, CFA, CMG

Jonathan Alan Hodgkin, MA, (MA, PhD Camb), FRS

The Rt Hon Sir Brian Henry Leveson, MA, (LLD Liv)

Sir Howard John Davies, MA, (MS Stanford)

Sir Charles Antony Richard Hoare, MA, FRS

Sir Anthony James Leggett, MA, DPhil, FRS

Sir Richard Hughes Trainor, MA, DPhil, FRHistS

The Rt Revd Nicholas Thomas Wright, MA, DPhil, DD

Sir Robert Andrew, MA, FRSA

Sir Jeremy Isaacs, MA, FRSA

Sir Ian Kershaw, DPhil, Hon DLitt, FRHistS, FBA

Martin Peter Read, CBE, DPhil

Mark John Thompson, BA, FRTS, FRSA

Adam John Hart-Davis, BA, (DPhil York), FRSA

Sir Callum McCarthy, BA, (PhD Stir; MS Stanford)

Guy Howard Weston, BA

Peter Warry, MA, (LLB Lond; PhD Rdg), FEng, FSA

Martha Piper, (BSc Michigan; MA Connecticut; PhD McGill), DSc (Hons), LLD (Hons)

Timothy Dewe Phillips, CBE, MA, (AMP Harvard)

Julian Blackwell

Anastasios Leventis, CBE, OFR

Dame Jessica Mary Rawson, DBE, MA, DLitt, (MA, LittD, Camb), FBA

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, QPM

Lyndal Roper, (PhD Lond), FBA

Dana Scott, (PhD Princeton), FBA

Lord Williams of Oystermouth, PC, FBA, FRSL, FLSW

Erich Gruen, (BA Columbia; PhD Harvard)

The Rt Hon Dame Philippa Whipple, MA, DBE

Sir Gerry Grimstone, MA, MSc

Martin Ney, MA

Lady Hollick, OBE

Sir Martin Taylor, MA, (PhD Lond), FRS

## Bodley Fellows

Richard Bellerby Allan, MA, FCA

Nick Allard MA, (BA Princeton, JD Yale)

Alan John Bott, OBE, MA, FSA

Robert Gould McKelvey, MA, (BA Wesleyan)

David Harvey, MA, DPhil

Reed Rubin, BA

Robert MacLaren, MB, ChB, DPhil, DiplATHE, FRCOphth, FRCS, FMedSci

Adrian Vickers, MA

Peter Phillips

Christopher Ramsey, MA, DPhil

David Ure, MA

Benjamin Nicholas, MA

## Supernumerary Fellows

Andrew John King, MA Status, (BSc, PhD Lond), FMedSci, FPhysiol, FRS

Francis Platt, MA Status, (BSc Lond; PhD Bath), FMedSci

Simon Draper, MBioch, DPhil

Michael Keith, BA, DPhil

Sunetra Gupta, MA, (AB Princeton; PhD Lond)

Anant Parekh, MA, DPhil, FMedSci, FRS

Hilary Greaves, MA, (PhD Rutgers)

Andrea Cavalleri, (Laurea, PhD Pavia)

Nicole Zitzmann, MA, (MSc, PhD Dundee), FSB

Susannah Katherine Orkin, MA, MPhil, DPhil, (BSocSc Cape Town)

Helen Barron, (MA Camb)

Michael Booth, (MChem S'ton; PhD Camb)

Craig MacLean, MA, (BSc, PhD McGill)

## Wyliot Fellows

Charles Manby, MA, (MBA Insead)

John Booth, MA

Peter Braam, MA, DPhil, (BSc, MSc Utrecht)

John Moussouri, MSc, D Phil, (AB Harvard)

## Visiting Research Fellows

Professor Simon Shaw-Miller, University of Bristol, Michaelmas term 2019

Professor Garegin Papoian, University of Maryland, Michaelmas term 2019

Ms Penny Boxall, Michaelmas term 2019

Professor Jonathan Schneer, Georgia Tech, Hilary term 2020

Professor Kirsty Gunn, University of Dundee, Hilary term 2020

## Elections

*To an Associate Professorship in Economics and Tutorship in Economics with effect from 1 September 2020*

Dr Nathaniel Lane, (BA Mass, MA Columbia)

*To a Fitzjames Research Fellowship in Ancient Greek with effect from 1 October 2020*

Dr Henry Spelman, DPhil, MSt, (BA North Carolina)

*To Junior Research Fellowships with effect from 1 October 2020*

Mr Nicholas Irwin, (BSc Hon British Columbia)

Mr Xiangyu Jie, (BSc Beijing)

Ms Alice Burnyeat, (BA Leeds, MPhil Camb, MPhil Columbia)

Ms Emily Rutherford, MPhil, (MA MPhil Bogata)

## Fellows' Honours and Appointments

**Professor Mindy Chen-Wishart** was announced as the new Dean of the University of Oxford Faculty of Law in April 2020. She will begin her tenure on 1 October 2020.

**Professor Artur Ekert** received the 2019 Micius Quantum Prize, and became a Clarivate Citation Laureate (Physics).

**Professor Radek Erban** was appointed to the International Advisory Board (IAB) of the Institute of Mathematics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic (elected the Chair of the IAB in 2020).

**The Rt Hon The Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt** was appointed Minister for Investment jointly at the Department for International Trade and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy on 18 March 2020, and appointed a Life Peer on 6 April 2020.

**Professor Peter Holland** was awarded the Royal Society Darwin Medal 2019, and appointed a Delegate of Oxford University Press.

**Dr David Holmes** was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa by BPP University in July 2019.

**Professor Simon Hooker** was awarded the Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin Medal and Prize by the UK's Institute of Physics. The citation was for pioneering contributions to the development of high-power plasma waveguides and their application to laser-driven plasma accelerators. He became head of the sub-department of Atomic and Laser Physics in Oxford's Department of Physics.

**Professor Ehud Hrushovski** was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

**The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones** was appointed Chair of the Board of Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd.

**Professor Madhavi Krishnan** was awarded the Corday-Morgan Prize 2020 of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

**The Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson** retired as President of the Queen's Bench Division in June 2019, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 70. In October 2019, he was appointed the Investigatory Powers Commissioner by the Prime Minister, and in January 2020 was elected Treasurer of the Middle Temple.

**Mr Charles Manby** was appointed MBE in January 2020 for services to charity and people with cancer. He was appointed Chairman of Motability, a disability charity, in June 2020, and appointed external member of the Oxford University Committee to review donations and research funding.

**Dr Fran Platt** became Head of Department in the Department of Pharmacology, University of Oxford

**Professor Jonathan Prag** received the Building Capacity Award at the annual University of Oxford Vice-Chancellor's Innovation Awards.

**Professor Dame Jessica Rawson** was awarded an Honorary Professorship at Peking University, at a ceremony on 5 November 2019, and won the 2020 Lifetime Award for Contributions to Chinese Art and Archaeology from the American Friends of Shanghai Museum, New York.

**Dr Elizabeth Stubbins Bates** received the Knowledge Exchange Seed Grant, University of Oxford, 2019-20, to establish the Oxford Forum for International Humanitarian Law Compliance.

**Professor Ulrike Tillmann** was Chern Visiting Professor, MSRI Berkeley, USA for Hilary term 2020. She gave the Plenary Lecture at the Abel in Jerusalem Conference 2020. She became Chair of the Royal Society Education Committee for 2020-25.

**Professor Irene Tracey** was elected a member of the Academia Europaea in August 2020.

**Professor Michael Whitworth** was awarded the title of Professor of Modern Literature and Culture in the University of Oxford's Recognition of Distinction exercise.

# New Students 2019

## Undergraduates

### Ancient and Modern History

Mr L Bateman, Miss L S R Lo

### Biochemistry

Mr E J Prince, Mr F Waterhouse

### Biology

Mr H Clutterbuck, Miss M E Franklin, Miss C A Lamb, Mr J S Malone, Mr A Tchernev

### Chemistry

Miss I Airlie, Mr D Bernstein, Miss T Biddle, Mr T Chatbipho, Mr J J Huang, Mr J A Pepall, Mr O J West

### Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Miss O Jenkins, Mr C A Peters

### Classics

Miss F J Geldard, Mr T P Halvorsen, Miss R J Jung, Mr F P O'Brien

### Computer Science and Philosophy

Miss E M Slade

### Economics and Management

Miss Y Cai, Mr J G Feehan, Miss H Y Sirringhaus, Ms L Sun

### English

Mr M Ahmad, Mr J Bowen, Ms L E Butchart, Mr L A Cameron, Miss E S Hudson, Miss N Khan, Miss G S Walters

### English and Modern Languages

Mr W G Barker

### History

Miss E R Cope, Miss E L Down, Miss E Hall, Miss L Hanson, Mr I Hawcock, Mr K L Peyton, Ms T Ralph, Mr A D Robertson, Miss E-R C Thompson, Mr W R Wickstead

### History and Politics

Ms J Neves Teixeira

### Law (Jurisprudence)

Mr D Jenkins, Mr H S S Ng, Mr N U Jin, Ms X Xu

### Law with Law Studies in Europe

Miss M Flugler

### Mathematics

Miss E J Caulfield, Mr D Crisan, Miss C Frank, Ms N I Palumbo, Miss K J Sparrowhawk, Mr B Zhang

### Mathematics and Philosophy

Miss H Y Fang, Mr S Wang

### Medicine

Miss E L Bogert, Mr H Eaton, Miss D Krouzkova, Miss P Mountain, Miss C E Murray, Miss A Wuppalapati

### Modern Languages

Miss D Badoi, Miss H C Bond, Miss I A Cree, Miss A E S Eyres, Miss J M O'Donnell, Miss A J Wallace

### Modern Languages and Linguistics

Miss V Giaimi

### Music

Mr J Cochrane, Miss C E Dixon, Mr K Machida, Mr B S Roose

### Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Mr Z H Angell, Mr Y Deesomlert, Mr A Z P Gan, Miss P Jagger, Mr E B Kelly, Mr S S Mehta, Mr H B J Roberts

### Physics

Mr A S-V Christie, Mr A-A Cristea, Mr A-H Eftime, Miss M B Evans, Mr W C J Isotta, Mr J Litarowicz

### Physics and Philosophy

Mr R Madan, Mr B M J Yorston

### Visiting Student (French and English Literature)

Miss J J L Alibert

## Graduates

In the following, *Merton* signifies Merton College, Oxford

### 2nd BM

Mr D Adeyoju, *Merton*, Mr A N Carter, *Merton*, Mr F J Dernie, *Merton*, Mr J A Navarajasegaran, *Merton*, Mr L S W Pullen, *Merton*

### BCL

Mr E Ancev, *New South Wales*, Ms M G Clifford, *Bond University, Gold Coast*, Ms N Herrett, *Merton*, Mr M A B Ismail, *Merton*

### BPhil

Mr S J Diggin, *Hertford College, Oxford*, Mr L D Haugeberg, *Science Po/Columbia*

### DPhil

Ms C Accalai, *Pavia*, Mr T J D Bennett, *Emmanuel College, Cambridge*, Ms J Y Bentil-Ojo, *Leeds*, Ms S R M Buck, *Charles University, Heidelberg/St John's Oxford*, Mr T P Corner, *Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge*, Mr D L Craig, *Queen's, Belfast*, Mr Y Fruchter, *Hebrew University, Jerusalem*, Ms D S Gala, *Glasgow*, Mr B J Guloglu, *St Hilda's College, Oxford*, Mr A L Harris, *Exeter/Kellogg College, Oxford*, Mr M Harukawa, *Merton/St Catherine's College, Oxford*, Mr L D B Hughes, *St Hilda's College, Oxford/Magdalen College, Oxford*, Ms P E Jagers, *Merton*, Ms G M Jakobsdottir, *KCL*, Ms C Jorge Diaz, *Santiago de Compostela/St John's College, Cambridge*, Mr A J Kenyon-Roberts, *Merton*, Mr J Kwok, *St Andrews/Hughes College, Cambridge/Sussex*, Ms N Li, *Shantou/Peking Union Medical College*, Mr S H Lim, *Pohang University of Science & Technology*, Ms F A Lovell-Read, *Merton*, Ms J L Maly-Preuss, *North Carolina*

*at Chapel Hill/Merton*, Mr J Morford, *Merton*, Mr D W K Oliver, *Toronto/Merton*, Ms T Roushannafas, *St John's College, Cambridge/Hertford College, Oxford*, Ms A I Sanchez-Jimenez, *Seville/UCL*, Mr C M Santos, *Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul*, Ms A Saroldi, *Pavia/St Anne's College, Oxford*, Ms E M J S Smith, *Merton*, Mr T A Swann, *New College, Oxford*, Mr E J Thornley, *Mansfield College, Oxford/Christ's College, Cambridge*, Mr P H Zimmer-Harwood *Osnabruck/Oldenburger*

### EMBA

Ms Y M He, *Sun Yat-sen/Bath*, Mr A Kulik, *RU Finance Academy*

### MBA

Mr F Niaz, *PK Institute for Business Management*, Ms J S Nkosi, *Brown*, Mr N J Sand, *Norwegian University of Science & Technology*, Ms O S Taylor, *Vassar*, Ms L Zhang, *Shanghai Normal/Nagoya*

### MJur

Mr E Morin-Lévesque, *Montreal*

### MPhil

Ms A Anstatt, *Ruhr-University Bochum*, Mr J D R Bailey, *Edinburgh*, Mr G G Farace, *Universita Commerciale Luigi Bocconi*, Ms Q Guo, *Yale*, Mr T J D Heywood, *Durham*, Ms A Ketterle, *Stratchclyde*, Mr A Pavoni, *McGill*, Ms H R Schiller, *Northwestern*, Mr C J Tolkien-Gillett, *KCL*, Ms X Zhou, *Sydney*

### MSc

Mr M M Bamborough, *Durham*, Mr J G Classen-Howes, *McGill*, Mr R J Cuthbertson, *Brigham Young*, Mr M

R E Hepplewhite, *Peterhouse College, Cambridge*, Mr M Jaensch, *Trinity College, Dublin*, Ms C Kelepeshi, *Cyprus*, Ms S Mpinga, *Kwazulu Natal/Cape Town*, Mr T G Skaras, *Rice*, Mr L Tillmann, *Exeter*, Ms S Trinczek, *Ulm*, Ms E I B Wallace, *Witwatersrand*, Ms V Zahoransky, *Freie*, Ms H Zhang, *UC Berkeley*, Mr J Zhu, *Ningbo/Melbourne*

### MSt

Ms N A J Bradley, *Durham*, Ms M K Horton, *Durham*, Ms K J Jaroszewicz, *Merton*, Mr A Lalousheck, *Merton*, Ms T R Morton, *Merton*, Ms K R Stanton, *Sydney*, Mr J Travers, *Merton*, Ms T H Truong, *Yale-NUS*, Mr D Widdowson, *Leeds*

### Visiting Students

Mr L Burger, *Technische Universität München*, Mr P L F Ramond, *École Normale Supérieure*







# Undergraduate Leavers 2020

## Ancient and Modern History

Ms E Sharman

## Biological Sciences

Mr A Fanner Brzezina, Ms H Grassi, Ms N King, Mr J Sweeney

## Chemistry

Mr R Adair, Mr R Avadanutei, Mr W Gruchot, Mr V Nicod, Ms O Shiels, Ms Y Wei

## Classics (Literae Humaniores) I

Mr M Reynolds, Ms O Tomlin, Mr J Wolstenholme

## Economics and Management

Ms A Bibby, Mr T Clarke

## English (Course I)

Ms E Donachie, Ms C Horsfall, Ms M Khalil, Ms G Shaughnessy, Ms V Stuart, Ms P Webber

## English (Course II)

Mx R Wilson

## History

Ms E Ball, Mr B Hartnell-Booth, Mr W Howie, Mr R Lentz, Mr T Nightingale, Mr J Phillips, Ms J Sheridan, Ms H Smith, Mr E Turner-Fussell, Mr H Venters

## History and English

Ms C Buchuck-Wilsenach

## History and Modern Languages (4)

Ms A Desquiers (Spanish)

## History and Politics

Ms E Capstick, Mr A Ige, Mr J Woods

## Law (Jurisprudence)

Ms R Bhatt, Ms S Bruce-Smith, Mr A Burbie, Mr S Gibbs, Ms I Janssen, Mr L McKenna, Mr E White

## Mathematics (4)

Ms L Buckingham, Mr C McGarry, Ms J Stadlmann

## Mathematics and Computer Science (3)

Mr D Y Kim

## Mathematics and Philosophy (4)

Ms Z Qureshi

## Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (4)

Ms G Acton, Mr R Dodhia, Ms C Felce, Mr J McIntyre, Mr J Robertson, Ms L Woodland

## Medical Sciences

Ms C Fields, Ms K Gadsby, Mr V Himic, Ms M Tamblyn

## Modern Languages (4)

Ms E Borsi (French and Spanish), Ms H Phelan (French and German), Ms M Schaefer (French and Spanish), Ms R Vasu (German)

## Modern Languages and Linguistics (4)

Mr S Dows-Miller (French), Ms E Le Maistre (German), Ms G Sutherland (French), Ms L Tarkanyi (German)

## Music

Ms L Gibbs, Mr W Thomson

## PPE

Mr S Chen, Mr D Gutt, Mr L Hart, Mr Z Lieu, Mr C Sheehan, Mr F Tokarski, Mr C Wong, Ms Y Zhang

## Physics and Philosophy (4)

Mr J Desai



# Undergraduate Results, Awards and Prizes 2019-20

All academic results, awards and prizes are correct as of 8 September 2020.

	Entry	1st	2.1	2.2	3rd	Pass
Final Honours School	79	45	30	3	1	0

	Entry	Distinction/1st	Pass/2nd
First Public Exam*	8	3	5

\* All First Public Examinations were cancelled in Trinity term 2020. The results in this table relate to Law and Classics Mods taken in Hilary term 2020.

## Awards and Promotions

*Awards renewed at the beginning of the academic year*

### Exhibitioner for a third year

Mr R Avadanutei (Chemistry)  
Ms O Shiels (Chemistry)

### Exhibitioner for a second year

Mr R Adair (Chemistry)  
Mr R Chatterjee (Physics)  
Mr F Cheatle (Modern Languages)  
Ms A Coleman (Classics and Modern Languages)  
Mr V Himic (Medicine)  
Ms E Le Maistre (Modern Languages and Linguistics)  
Mr O Maata (Physics)  
Mr C Sheehan (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
Ms J Sheridan (History)  
Ms V Stuart (English)  
Mr R Yao (Mathematics)

### Postmaster for a second year

Ms G Acton (Physics)  
Mr S Dows-Miller (Modern Languages and Linguistics)  
Ms C Felce (Physics)  
Ms K Gadsby (Medicine)  
Mr B Gowers (Modern Languages)  
Mr W Gruchot (Chemistry)  
Ms B McCullagh (Modern Languages)  
Mr C McGarry (Mathematics)  
Mr J Robertson (Physics)  
Ms J Stadlmann (Mathematics)  
Ms Y Wei (Chemistry)  
Ms L Woodland (Physics)

## Promotions approved during the year

### To Postmaster

Mr E Alisauskas (Chemistry)  
 Ms E Ball (History)  
 Ms R Bhatt (Law)  
 Ms L Buckingham (Mathematics)  
 Mr A Burbie (Law)  
 Ms Z Dai (Physics)  
 Mr J Desai (Physics and Philosophy)  
 Mr A Fanner Brzezina (Biological Sciences)  
 Mr F Felfoldi (Biochemistry)  
 Ms I Goodridge (Biochemistry)  
 Ms H Grassi (Biological Sciences)  
 Mr D Gutt (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Ms I Janssen (Law)  
 Mr Z H Lieu (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr R McDonald (Physics)  
 Ms R Miller (Classics)  
 Mr P Namnouad (Chemistry)  
 Mr F Nightingale (Chemistry)  
 Mr T Nightingale (History)  
 Mr M Ortiz Ramirez (Mathematics)  
 Ms W Rolls (Biochemistry)  
 Ms H Smith (History)  
 Mr F Tokarski (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr E Turner-Fussell (History and Modern Languages)  
 Mr W Whitehouse (Mathematics)  
 Mx R Wilson (English)  
 Mr C Wong (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr T Yeh (Maths and Philosophy)

### To Exhibitioner

Mr C Aberle (Computer Science and Philosophy)  
 Ms M Archer-Zeff (History)  
 Mr N Bailey (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Ms A Beukers (English)  
 Mr B Botlik (Chemistry)  
 Ms S Bruce-Smith (Law)  
 Ms L Buxton (Classics and Modern Languages)  
 Ms G Clark (History)  
 Ms E Coomber (English and Modern Languages)  
 Mr R Dodhia (Physics)  
 Mr M Doica (Mathematics and Computer Science)  
 Mr J Durston (Mathematics)  
 Mr L Embley (Chemistry)  
 Ms I Farooqui (History)  
 Ms L Fletcher (History and English)  
 Mr R Grabarczyk (Physics)  
 Ms I Hawkins (Biological Sciences)  
 Ms R Herring (History and Modern Languages)  
 Mr J Hyland Deeson (History)  
 Mr A Jest (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr C Kirk (Biological Sciences)  
 Mr R Lentz (History)  
 Mr P Lewin (Biological Sciences)  
 Mr R Marlasca Aparicio (Mathematics)  
 Mr J McIntyre (Mathematical and Theoretical Physics)  
 Mr N Mitchell (Physics)  
 Mr J Morrison (History)  
 Ms A Mullock (English)  
 Mr F Munro (History and English)  
 Ms L Renals (Medicine)  
 Ms E Ressel (English)  
 Ms I Sanders (Modern Languages)  
 Ms J Searle (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr O Shaw (History)  
 Mr J Siuta (Physics)  
 Ms R Smithson (Modern Languages and Linguistics)

Ms K Song (Medicine)  
 Mr M Stepanik (Economics and Management)  
 Mr M Szakaly (Physics)  
 Mr S Van Teutem (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr R Vickers (Physics)  
 Ms B Watkins (Chemistry)  
 Ms E Webber (Modern Languages)  
 Ms M Whitlock (English)  
 Ms T Wibault (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr G Wolfe (Mathematics and Computer Science)  
 Mr L Wolff (Physics and Philosophy)

There were in all 42 Postmasters and 60 Exhibitioners at the end of the year.





# College Prizes

Members of the College who had achieved First Class in Schools or Mods, or Distinctions in Prelims, Law Moderations or the First BM, were given College book prizes in accordance with College Bylaw 87. Members of the College who had been awarded University prizes were given College book prizes in accordance with the same Bylaw.

The number of prizes awarded is given in brackets.

## Fowler Prizes for good work in Collections

Connor Aberle (1)  
Mashood Ahmad (1)  
Julie Alibert (1)  
Edvinas Alisauskas (2)  
Federico Amodeo (1)  
Molly Archer-Zeff (1)  
Nathan Bailey (1)  
Sarah Bennett (2)  
Alex Beukers (1)  
Riya Bhatt (1)  
Tara Biddle (1)  
Josephine Blagrove (1)  
Emma Bogert (2)  
Hannah Bond (1)  
Esther Borsi (1)  
Bence Botlik (2)  
James Bowen (1)  
Oliver Bowling (1)  
Cecilia Bronzoni (1)  
Stephanie Bruce-Smith (2)  
Adrian Burbie (3)  
Pax Butchart (1)  
Lucy Buxton (1)  
Louis Cameron (1)  
Emily Capstick (1)  
Thanawitch Chatbipho (2)  
Richard Chatterjee (2)  
Alex Christie (2)  
Cristina Chui (2)  
Grace Clark (1)  
Tobias Clarke (1)  
Emily Cope (1)  
Dragos Crisan (2)  
Zhiwei Dai (1)  
Yossapat Deesomlert (1)  
Alice Desquiens (1)  
Elizabeth Down (1)

Sebastian Dows-Miller (3)  
Jonathan Durston (1)  
Holden Eaton (2)  
Andrei Eftime (2)  
Megan Evans (2)  
Alia Eyres (2)  
Heidi Fang (1)  
Daniel Felfoldi (1)  
Kirsty Fielding (1)  
Merit Flugler (1)  
Mairi Franklin (1)  
Katrina Gadsby (1)  
Valentina Giami (1)  
Sam Gibbs (1)  
Isobel Goodridge (1)  
Radoslaw Grabarczyk (2)  
Dylan Gutt (2)  
John Handley (2)  
Lauren Hanson (1)  
Isaac Hawcock (1)  
Isobel Hawkins (1)  
Rachel Herring (2)  
Alice Hilder Jarvis (1)  
Jie Jie Huang (1)  
William Isotta (2)  
Siddhant Iyer (3)  
Isadora Janssen (2)  
Olivia Jenkins (1)  
Adam Jest (1)  
Jessy Jindal (1)  
Edmund Kelly (1)  
Christian Kirk (1)  
Daniela Krouzkova (1)  
Patrick Lewin (1)  
Zheng Hong Lieu (2)  
Chris Lippert (1)  
Jeremi Litarowicz (2)  
Oskar Maatta (1)  
Rishin Madan (2)

Rayhan Mahmud (1)  
 James Malone (1)  
 Rodrigo Marlasca Aparicio (1)  
 Ross McDonald (2)  
 Alexander McGinley (2)  
 Liam McKenna (2)  
 Rosanna Miller (2)  
 Nicholas Mitchell (2)  
 Ross Moore (2)  
 Louis Morford (1)  
 James Morrison (1)  
 Phoebe Mountain (2)  
 Anna Mullock (1)  
 Phitawat Nannouad (1)  
 Tang Ng (2)  
 Thomas Nightingale (2)  
 Frank Nightingale (2)  
 Fergus O'Brien (2)  
 Daniel Ostrowski (1)  
 Suzanna Owusu-Addo (1)  
 Jack Phillips (1)  
 Ethan Prince (1)  
 Thea Ralph (2)  
 Lowenna Renals (1)  
 Milo Reynolds (2)  
 Henry Roberts (1)  
 Willow Rolls (2)  
 Jessica Searle (1)  
 Eppie Sharp (2)  
 Conor Sheehan (1)  
 Hannah Sirringhaus (1)  
 Jan Siuta (1)  
 Hannah Smith (2)  
 Aine Smith (1)  
 Guy Smith (1)  
 Rebecca Smithson (1)  
 Kaiyang Song (1)  
 Edward Spiers (2)  
 Mario Stepanik (2)

Daniel Storey (2)  
 Leqi Sun (1)  
 Marcell Szakaly (1)  
 Olivia Tan (2)  
 Alexander Tchernev (1)  
 William Thomson (1)  
 Filip Tokarski (2)  
 Nicholas U Jin (2)  
 Robert Vickers (1)  
 Shichen Wang (2)  
 Bethany Watkins (2)  
 Emily Webber (1)  
 Oliver West (1)  
 Ewan White (1)  
 Megan Whitlock (1)  
 Tiphaine Wibault (1)  
 Wick Willett (1)  
 Lasse Wolff (2)  
 Leo Wong (1)  
 Junhui Yang (1)  
 Boran Zhang (2)  
 Xiyu Zhang (1)

NB: In terms where two small prizes were awarded separately due to a delay in receiving marks these have been counted as one large prize.

### Other College prizes

Ms L Buxton, Second Year and Above Undergraduate Essay Competition (winner)  
 Ms L Buxton, Professor WM Edwards Prize in Classics (joint winner)  
 Mr L Cameron, First Year Undergraduate Essay Competition (joint winner)  
 Mr Y Deesomlert, First Year Undergraduate Essay Competition (joint winner); Sam McNaughton Prize for best performance in year one Philosophy  
 Mr A Fanner Brzezina, Wilder Penfield Prize in Medicine and Biology (joint winner)  
 Ms K Gadsby, Wilder Penfield Prize in Medicine and Biology (joint winner)  
 Mr W Gruchot, Phillips Prize for best performance in Chemistry Parts IA and IB  
 Mr J Handley, Raff Prize for best performance in second year Economics  
 Mr S Iyer, Allen & Overy Prize for most promising second-year Law student (joint winner)  
 Mr R Moore, Allen & Overy Prize for most promising second-year Law student (joint winner)  
 Mr M Reynolds, Professor WM Edwards Prize in Classics (joint winner)  
 Mr N U Jin, Norton Rose Prize for best Moderations marks of a Merton Law student

### University Prizes

Mr J Desai, Gibbs Prize  
 Mr A Fanner Brzezina, Gibbs Prize  
 Mr N U Jin, Law Faculty Prize in Criminal Law  
 Mr Z H Lieu, Gibbs Prize  
 Mr T Nightingale, Gibbs Prize  
 Ms Z Qureshi, Gibbs Prize  
 Ms E Webber, Kolkhorst Exhibition

# Graduate Leavers 2019-20

## 2nd BM

Mr R Bendix-Hickman, Mr T I Fordwoh,  
Mr A D C Mafi, Mr E D McNelis, Mr T J  
Whitehead

## BCL

Mr E Ancev, Ms M G Clifford, Ms N  
Herrett, Mr M A B Ismail

## DPhil

### 2018-19

Mr A Ferrari (Mathematics), Mr E  
Fioravanti (Mathematics), Mr D Hollman  
(Condensed Matter Physics), Mr M van  
Loon (Mathematics)

### 2019-20

Mr M F Adamer (Systems Biology),  
Mr A A Almet (Mathematics), Ms H  
Ashmawi (History), Mr A Baram (Clinical  
Neurosciences), Ms L A Becerra Valdivia  
(Archaeological Science), Mr A M Clark  
(Classical Languages & Literature),  
Mr M J Day (English), Mr G W Eelink  
(Philosophy), Mr S U Efem (Mathematics),  
Ms J E Ford (Biochemistry), Ms L C  
Garner (Medicine DTC), Mr M J Gilhooley  
(Medicine DTC), Mr S Guggiari (Chemistry  
CDT), Mr L M Halewood (History), Mr  
G N A T Hemberg (Organic Chemistry),  
Ms A L Irving (Law), Ms E M Jacob  
(Archaeological Science), Mr B J Jordan  
(Ancient History), Mr P Klimkowski  
(Chemical Biology), Mr D P B Orton  
(English), Mr A J Payne (International  
Relations), Mr A Piccolo (Economics), Ms L  
R J Rajmakers (Archaeological Science), Ms  
A H Royall (Interdisciplinary Bioscience),  
Ms M J Sanders (Zoology), Mr A S Sohal  
(History), Ms A Steinepreis (Medieval &  
Modern Languages), Ms A Stepashova  
(Management Studies), Mr D J Treacher  
(Atomic & Laser Physics), Ms K A Watroba  
(Medieval & Modern Languages), Ms Q  
Xia (International Development)

## EMBA

### 2018-19

Mr P Gul, Ms D Luvsandorj, Mr R Sutton,  
Mr J G Tabarani

### 2019-20

Mr N S M M K Abbas, Mr A Gupta, Mr M  
Y Kalani

## MBA

### 2018-19

Mr R Luttnner, Mr B Pillai, Ms K Y Tuang

### 2019-20

Mr F Niaz, Ms J S Nkosi, Mr N J Sand, Ms  
O S Taylor, Ms L Zhuang

## MJur

Mr E Morin-Lévesque

## MPhil

Mr D P Barry (Economics), Mr N A C  
Ridpath (Economics), Mr C A Robertson  
(Medieval History)

## MSc

### 2018-19

Mr K Bomba (Major Programme  
Management), Ms V Gladkova  
(Mathematics & Foundations of  
Computer Science – D), Mr D W  
Hughes (Mathematics & Foundations  
of Computer Science – D), Ms H Hurt  
(Mathematical Modelling & Scientific  
Computing), Mr J S Johnson (Major  
Programme Management), Mr I C Y Keh  
(Contemporary Chinese Studies), Mr  
K A S Kollnig (Computer Science – D),  
Mr D W K Oliver (Neuroscience), Mr A  
Schellinx (Contemporary Chinese Studies  
– D), Mr R A Sullivan (Contemporary  
Chinese Studies – M), Ms M Tong  
(Computer Science)

### 2019-20

Mr M M Bamborough (Archaeology),  
Mr J G Classen-Howes (Mathematical  
& Theoretical Physics), Mr M R E  
Hepplewhite (Politics Research),  
Mr J R Morton (Major Programme  
Management), Mr M Jaensch (Economic  
& Social History), Ms C Kelepeshi  
(Archaeological Science), Ms A K Morgan  
(Major Programme Management), Ms S  
Mpinga (Law & Finance), Mr T G Skaras  
(Mathematical & Theoretical Physics), Mr  
L Tillman (Integrated Immunology), Ms  
S Trinczek (Mathematical & Theoretical  
Physics), Ms E I B Wallace (Mathematical  
& Theoretical Physics), Ms V Zahoransky  
(Mathematics & Foundations of  
Computer Science), Ms H Zhang  
(Contemporary Chinese Studies)

## MSt

### 2018-19

Mr R Corker (English), Ms R J Young  
(English)

### 2019-20

Ms N A J Bradley (English), Ms M K  
Horton (English), Ms K J Jaroszewicz  
(Comparative Literature & Critical  
Translation), Mr A Lalouschek (US  
History), Ms T R Morton (Greek &/or  
Latin Languages & Literature), Ms K R  
Stanton (Modern European History),  
Mr J Travers (Medieval History), Ms T H  
Truong (Greek &/or Latin Languages &  
Literature), Mr D Widdowson (Classical  
Archaeology)

## Visiting Students

Mr L Burger (Physics), Mr P L F Ramond  
(Politics)



## Graduate Results, Awards and Prizes 2019-20

All academic results, awards and prizes are correct as of 7 September 2020: as of this date not all had been received.

	Entry	Distinction	Pass
Taught Course Results	44	13	12

### College Prizes were awarded as follows:

Ms D Del Vicario, Dacre Trust Award for graduate research in History

Mr T Harrison, Eric Newsholme Prize in Biochemistry

Mr E O'Keeffe, Dacre Trust Award for graduate research in History

Mr B Schneider, Rajiv Kapur Prize for graduate research in History

### University Prizes were awarded as follows:

Ms W Yee, Beaconsfield Prize

Mrs Y Siegert, Lord Alfred Douglas Memorial Prize (2018-19)



# College Staff

Name	Appointment	First Appointed	Name	Appointment	First Appointed
Mr R J Wiggins	Decorator	16/3/1987	Ms S T Hague	Head of Conference & Accommodation	2/2/2009
Mrs L S Walsh	Sub-Warden's Secretary	16/11/1987	Mr I Knight	Accommodation & Conference Porter	13/7/2009
Mr J S Lisle	Groundsman	17/10/1988	Mr I R Walker	Lodge Porter	19/7/2010
Mr J P McVeigh	Quadman/Storeman	15/10/1990	Miss H Bednarczyk	Deputy Head Porter	4/1/2011
Mrs J Gerhardt	Graduate Officer	2/1/1991	Mrs R da Silva	Cleaner	11/1/2011
Mrs N K Lisle	Pavilion Catering Assistant	1/10/1996	Miss G Hanson	Gardener	28/3/2011
Mr J E Tomkins	Assistant Groundsman	11/8/1997	Mr S Bowdery	Senior IT Operations Officer	1/4/2011
Mrs S A Allen	Hall Assistant	7/7/1998	Mr M Weavers	Lodge Porter	9/8/2011
Mrs L J Pullen	Scout	19/10/1998	Mr T Cortes Rodrigues	Cleaner	31/10/2011
Mr M Wender	Head Chef	20/9/1999	Mrs S Rai	Cleaner	31/10/2011
Mrs C L Turner	Cleaner	27/3/2000	Mrs J Rusaitiene	Cleaner	16/1/2012
Mrs N S Mahmood	Cleaner	23/4/2001	Miss M Kowalska	Cleaner	30/1/2012
Miss S L Bird	Chef de Partie	8/10/2001	Mr S Cope	Web & Media Officer	3/12/2012
Miss L Reveley	Bursary Clerk	11/2/2002	Mrs L E Collins	Verger	23/9/2013
Mrs C Lewis	Resource Description Project Librarian	7/5/2002	Miss J I Dziadosz	Hall Steward	27/1/2014
Mr C D Joyce	Kitchen Porter	29/7/2002	Mrs S Lawino	Cleaner	10/3/2014
Miss L Savin	Head Gardener	7/10/2002	Miss M Lasota	SCR & Hall Supervisor	1/10/2014
Mr J A Reid	Archivist	2/12/2002	Mrs G Pal	Cleaner	3/11/2014
Mr C E Shackell	College Accountant	20/1/2003	Mrs F Lawrence	HR Manager	2/12/2014
Miss L Lawrence	Warden's Secretary	1/9/2003	Mrs S Hoverd	Chef de Partie	23/5/2015
Mr C Bridgman	Third Chef	29/9/2003	Miss N Lane	Lodge Porter	19/8/2015
Miss J Baker	Cleaner	2/1/2004	Mr N Hall	Bar Manager	21/9/2015
Mrs M Skalik	Head Steward	10/8/2005	Miss I Siwczak	SCR & Hall Supervisor	27/10/2015
Mr J Pawlowski	Lodge Porter	24/10/2005	Mrs M Serhej	Cleaner	6/6/2016
Mr D Brown	Second Chef	2/1/2007	Mrs S Camino Carrera	Cleaner	1/12/2016
Mr M Furse	Senior Gardener	2/1/2007	Mrs A Antofie	Cleaner	1/12/2016
Mrs G Norridge	Payroll/Personnel Administrator	25/6/2007	Miss C Chisholm	Alumni Relations Officer	9/1/2017
Miss N Harrison	Estates Administrator	23/7/2007	Dr K Fifield	Academic Registrar	1/3/2017
Mr P Macallister	Chef de Partie	22/10/2007			
Mrs K Adamczyk	Housekeeping Supervisor	1/11/2007			

Name	Appointment	First Appointed
Ms M Clarke	Accommodation Coordinator	20/3/2017
Miss R Raftery	Conference & Events Coordinator	27/3/2017
Mrs S Moore	Conference & Events Manager	19/4/2017
Mr K Watts	Maintenance Manager	3/7/2017
Miss J Wingrove	Chef de Partie	31/07/2017
Ms C De Souza Lima	SCR & Hall Assistant	14/08/2017
Mrs F Raimo	Student Support Administrator	25/09/2017
Miss P Martin Montalvo	SCR & Hall Supervisor	28/09/2017
Ms C Long	Executive PA	02/10/2017
Mrs J Cullen	Estates Secretary	30/10/2017
Mr E Tesfalem	Servery Assistant	16/11/2017
Mr P O'Keefe	Servery Assistant	27/11/2017
Ms V Parkinson	Resource Services & Support Librarian	03/1/2018
Miss R Johnston	Library Assistant	08/1/2018
Mr M Martinov	Deputy Development Director	19/2/2018
Ms H Campbell Longley	Deputy Librarian	26/2/2018
Mr J Vickers	Development Operations & Data Manager	05/3/2018
Miss M Dziadosz	SCR & Hall Assistant	03/4/2018
Miss A Nowakowska	SCR & Hall Assistant	06/4/2018
Mrs A Ostoja-Starzewska	Butler	16/4/2018
Miss J Twardowska	Housekeeping Supervisor	01/5/2018
Mr M Carroll	Chef de Partie	08/5/2018
Mr I Kozadinos	IT Operations Officer	08/5/2018
Miss E Lynn	Alumni Events & Stewardship Officer	10/9/2018

Name	Appointment	First Appointed
Miss C Pawley	Academic Officer	10/9/2018
Mr D Spencer	Maintenance Technician (Plumbing & Building Services)	01/10/2018
Mr K Lau	Lodge Porter	08/10/2018
Mr A Lopez Munoz	Bar & Catering Assistant	15/10/2018
Miss I Blasco Checa	SCR & Hall Assistant	18/11/2018
Mr H James	Head Porter	07/1/2019
Mrs R Wilkins	Academic Officer	25/2/2019
Mr S Saprykin	Lodge Porter	08/4/2019
Mr L Fekete	Lodge Porter	09/4/2019
Miss K Leach	Assistant College Accountant	27/08/2019
Mr A Little	Assistant Organist	01/09/2019
Ms J Barrett	Welfare Adviser	01/10/2019
Mr D Page	Commis Chef	07/10/2019
Mr C Evans	Housekeeping Manager	21/10/2019
Ms E Casey	Chapel Administrator	21/10/2019
Mr J Ottaway	Lodge Porter	02/12/2019
Miss S Horder	Gardener	06/01/2020
Miss E Ochiela	Bursary Clerk	27/01/2020
Miss A Forrai	HR Officer	03/02/2020
Miss C Francis	Bursary Clerk	24/02/2020
Mr T Jeffrey	Lodge Porter	02/03/2020
Ms E Bruce	Alumni Communications Officer	31/03/2020

# Publications

## Selected Fellows' Publications 2019–20

**Barr, A. et al.** and the ATLAS Collaboration (2020). 'Search for direct production of electroweakinos in final states with one lepton, missing transverse energy and a Higgs boson decaying into two b-jets in pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s}=13$  TeV with the ATLAS detector', *Eur Phys J C*, arXiv:1909.09226 (accepted)

**Barr, A. et al.** and the ATLAS Collaboration (2020). 'Performance of the missing transverse momentum triggers for the ATLAS detector during Run 2 data taking', *J High Energy Phys* arXiv: 2005.09554 (submitted)

**Barr, A. et al.** and the ATLAS Collaboration (2020). 'Search for new phenomena in final states with large jet multiplicities and missing transverse momentum using  $\sqrt{s}=13$  TeV proton-proton collisions recorded by ATLAS in Run 2 of the LHC', *ATLAS-CONF-2020-002*

**Barron, HC**, R Aukstuliewicz and K Friston (2020). 'Prediction and memory: a predictive coding account', *Prog Neurobiol*, 101821

**Brantner, L** and G Heuts (2020) 'The  $v_n$ -periodic Goodwillie tower on wedges and cofibres', *Homol Homotopy Appl* 22(1): 167–84

**Carey, J** (2020). *A Little History of Poetry* (Yale)

**Chen-Wishart, M** (contributing ed.) (2019). Supplement to chapters 2 and 27 in H Beale (ed.), *Chitty on Contracts*, Vol 1, 33rd edn (Sweet & Maxwell)

Ragotte, RJ, **MK Higgins** and **SJ Draper** (2020). 'The RH5–CyRPA–Ripr Complex as a Malaria Vaccine Target', *Trends Parasitol* 36(6): 545–59

Labbe, GM, *et al.* and **SJ Draper** (2019). 'Harmonization study between three laboratories for expression of malaria vaccine clinical trial IgG antibody ELISA data in microg/mL', *Malaria J* 18(1): 300

Warszawski, S, *et al.* and **MK Higgins**, **SJ Draper** (2020). 'Design of a basigin-mimicking inhibitor targeting the malaria invasion protein RH5', *Proteins* 88(1):87–95

Illingworth, JJ, *et al.* and **MK Higgins**, **SJ Draper** (2019). 'Functional Comparison of Blood-Stage Plasmodium falciparum Malaria Vaccine Candidate Antigens', *Front Immunol* 10: 1254

Arezes, J, *et al.* and **SJ Draper** (2020). 'Antibodies against the erythroferrone N-terminal domain prevent hepcidin suppression and ameliorate murine thalassemia', *Blood* 135(8): 547–57

Liu, AG and **FS Dunn** (2020). 'Filamentous connections between Ediacaran fronds', *Curr Biol*, doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2020.01.052

Yin, J, Y Li, S Liao *et al.* and **A Ekert** (2020). 'Entanglement-based secure quantum cryptography over 1,120 kilometres', *Nature* 582: 501–5

Dragan, A and **A Ekert** (2020). 'Quantum principle of relativity', *New J Phys* 22, 033038

**Erban, R** and J Chapman (2020). *Stochastic Modelling of Reaction-Diffusion Processes: Cambridge Texts in Applied Mathematics* (Cambridge)

**Erban, R** (2020). 'Coarse-graining molecular dynamics: stochastic models with non-Gaussian force distributions', *J Math Biol* 80(1–2): 457–79

Stadlmann, J and **R Erban** (2019). 'Limiting stochastic processes of shift-periodic dynamical systems', *Roy Soc Open Sci* 6(11): rsos.191423

Geddes, JR, NC Andreasen and **GM Goodwin** (eds.) (2020). *New Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry*, 3rd edn (OUP)

**Grimley, M**, T Rodger and P Williamson (eds) (2020). *The Church of England and British Politics since 1900* (Boydell: Woodbridge)

**Grimley, M** (2019). 'You got an ology? The backlash against sociology in Britain, c. 1945–90' in L Goldman (ed.) *Welfare and Social Policy in Britain since 1900: Essays in Honour of Jose Harris* (OUP), pp.178–93

**Gruen, ES** (2019). 'Philo's refashioning of Greek myth' in F Alesse and L De Luca (eds) *Philo of Alexandria and Greek Myth: Narratives, Allegories, and Arguments* (Leiden: Boston), pp.3–18

Barber, NM, *et al.* and **MK Higgins** (2019). 'Structure-guided design of a synthetic mimic of an EPCR-binding PfEMP1 protein', *BioRxiv*, doi 10.1101/749432

Macleod, OJS, *et al.* and **MK Higgins** (2020). 'A receptor for the complement regulator factor H increases transmission of trypanosomes to tsetse flies', *Nat Commun* 11(1): 1326

- Trevor, C. *et al.* and **MK Higgins** (2019). 'Structure of the trypanosome transferrin receptor reveals mechanisms of ligand recognition and immune evasion', *Nat Microbiol* 4(10): 2074-81
- Lennartz, F, C Smith, AG Craig and **MK Higgins** (2019). 'Structural insights into diverse modes of ICAM-1 binding by *Plasmodium falciparum*-infected erythrocytes', *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 116(40): 20124-34
- Guijarro-Clarke, C, **PWH Holland** and J Paps (2020). 'Widespread patterns of gene loss in the evolution of the animal kingdom', *Nat Ecol Evol* 4: 519-23
- Pracana, R, AD Hargreaves, JF Mulley and **PWH Holland** (2020). 'Runaway GC evolution in gerbil genomes', *Mol Biol Evol*, msaa072, doi: 10.1093/molbev/msaa072
- Zhong Y, C Herrera-Úbeda, J Garcia-Fernández and **PWH Holland** (2020). 'Mutation of amphioxus *Pdx* and *Cdx* demonstrates conserved roles for ParaHox genes in gut, anus and tail patterning', *BMC Biol* 18: 68
- Nong, W, J Cao, Y Li *et al.* and **PWH Holland** (2020). 'Jellyfish genomes reveal distinct homeobox gene clusters and conservation of small RNA processing', *Nat Commun* 11(1): 3051
- Ding H, *et al.* and **SM Hooker** (2020). 'Nonlinear plasma wavelength scalings in a laser wakefield accelerator', *Phys Rev E* 101(2-1): 023209
- Treacher, DJ, DT Lloyd, F Wiegandt, K O'Keeffe and **SM Hooker** (2019). 'Optimised XUV holography using spatially shaped high harmonic beams', *Opt Express* 27: 29016-25
- Jones, S** (2019). 'Worship transforming catechesis: catechesis transforming worship' in S Croft (ed.), *Rooted and Grounded* (Canterbury Press: Norwich), pp.21-36
- Karageorghis, V** (2019). 'Cypriote ships revisited' in F Briquel *et al.* (eds) *Nuit de pleine lune sur Amurru - Mélanges offerts à Leila Badre* (Geuthner), pp.253-60
- Karageorghis, V** and T Kiely (2019). *Salamis-Toumba. An Iron Age Sanctuary in Cyprus Rediscovered (Excavations of the Cyprus Exploration Fund, 1890)* (A.G Leventis Foundation, Cyprus Institute)
- Karageorghis, V** and E Raptou (2019). 'Palaeophos-Skaes Tomb 277. More prestigious burials', *Opuscula-Annu Swedis* 12: 327-67
- Kubincova, A, PH Hunenberger and **M Krishnan** (2020). 'Interfacial solvation can explain attraction between like-charged objects in aqueous solution', *J Chem Phys* 152(10): 104713
- Bespalova, M, S Mahanta and **M Krishnan** (2019). 'Single-molecule trapping and measurement in solution', *Curr Opin Chem Biol* 51: 113-21
- Lemos, IS** and A Tsingarida (eds.) (2019). *Beyond the Polis. Rituals, Rites, and Cults in Early and Archaic Greece (12th-6th centuries BC)*, Etudes d'archéologie 15, (CRéA-Patrimoine: Brussels)
- Lemos, IS** (2019). 'The "Ritual Zone" on Xeropolis at Lefkandi: Some preliminary thoughts' in **IS Lemos** and A Tsingarida (eds), *Beyond the Polis. Rituals, Rites, and Cults in Early and Archaic Greece (12th-6th centuries BC)*, Etudes d'archéologie 15 (CRéA-Patrimoine: Brussels), pp. 75-89
- Lemos, IS** and A Kotsonas (eds) (2020). *A Companion to the Archaeology of Early Greece and the Mediterranean* (Wiley Blackwell: Oxford)
- Lemos, IS** (2020). 'Euboea' in **IS Lemos** and A Kotsonas (eds) *A Companion to the Archaeology of Early Greece and the Mediterranean* (Wiley Blackwell: Oxford), pp.789-813
- Birgitta, E and **IS Lemos** (2020). 'From the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces to the emergence of Early Iron Age communities' in **IS Lemos** and A Kotsonas (eds) *A Companion to the Archaeology of Early Greece and the Mediterranean* (Wiley Blackwell: Oxford), pp.133-60
- MacIachlan, I** (2020). *Louis-René des Forêts and Inner Autobiography* (Legenda: Cambridge)
- Heldt, FS, JJ Tyson, FR Cross and **B Novák** (2020). 'A single light-responsive sizer can control multiple-fission cycles in *Chlamydomonas*', *Curr Biol* 30(4): 634-44
- Hégarat, N, *et al.* and **B Novák** (2020). 'Cyclin A triggers mitosis either via the Greatwall kinase pathway or Cyclin B', *EMBO J* 39(11): e104419
- Tyson, JJ and **B Novák** (2020). 'A dynamical paradigm for molecular cell biology', *Trends Cell Biol* 30(7): 504-15
- Gerard, F, C Imbert and **K Orkin** (2020). 'Social protection response to the COVID-19 crisis: options for developing countries', *Oxford Rev Econ Pol* (forthcoming)
- Garlick, R, **K Orkin** and S Quinn (2020). 'Call me maybe: experimental evidence on frequency and medium effects in microenterprise surveys', *World Bank Econ Rev* 34(2) 418-43
- Winbo, A and **DJ Paterson** (2020). 'The brain-heart connection in sympathetically triggered inherited arrhythmia', *Heart Lung Circ* 29(4): 529-37
- Bardsley, EN, OC Neely and **DJ Paterson** (2020). 'Angiotensin peptide synthesis and cyclic nucleotide modulation in sympathetic stellate ganglia', *J Mol Cell Cardiol* 138: 234-43
- Kalla, M, *et al.* and **DJ Paterson** (2019). 'The cardiac sympathetic co-transmitter neuropeptide Y is a pro-arrhythmic following ST-elevation myocardial infarction despite beta-blockade', *Eur Heart J* 41(23): 2168-79
- Quine, C** (2020). *Casting Down the Host of Heaven: The Rhetoric of Ritual Failure in the Polemic Against the Host of Heaven* (Leiden: Brill)
- Quine, C** (2019). 'The host of heaven and the divine army: a reassessment', *J Biblical Lit* 138(4): 741-55
- Quine, C** (2019) 'Jehu's slaughter of Judah's Royal Family at Beth-Eked (2 Kings 10:13-14): a closer look', *Z alttestament Wissenschaft* 131(4): 537-48





Chugunov, KV, **J Rawson** and YA Grebnev (2020). 'Allies and victims: identifying a steppe component within Shang culture', *Stratum Plus* (2): 409–38

Liu, R, AM Pollard, **J Rawson** *et al.* (2019). 'Panlongcheng, Zhengzhou and the movement of metal in Early Bronze Age China', *J World Prehist* 32(4): 393–428

**Rawson, J** (2019). *Chinese Ornament: The Lotus and the Dragon*. Lian yu long: Zhongguo wenshi 莲与龙: 中国纹饰. Zhang Ping 张平 (trans.) (Shanghai: Shanghai Shuhua Chubanshe) 上海书画出版社

Milner, DS, *et al.* and **TA Richards** (2019). 'Environment-dependent fitness gains can be driven by horizontal gene transfer of transporter-encoding genes', *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 116(12): 5613–22

**Richards, TA**, *et al.* (2019). 'Single cell ecology', *Phil Trans Roy Soc B* 374: 1786

Chambouvet, A, *et al.* and **TA Richards** (2019). 'Intracellular infection of diverse diatoms by an evolutionary distinct relative of the fungi', *Curr Biol* 29(23): 4093–101

Wideman, JG, *et al.* and **TA Richards** (2020). 'Unexpected mitochondrial genome diversity revealed by targeted single-cell genomics of heterotrophic flagellated protists', *Nature Microbiol* 5(1): 154–65

Rodríguez-Martínez, R, *et al.* and **TA Richards** (2020). 'Controlled sampling of ribosomally active protistan diversity in sediment-surface layers identifies putative players in the marine carbon sink', *ISME J* 14: 984–98

**Richardson, NJ** (2019). *Autogiro Pioneer: The Life of Jack Richardson* (Fonthill)

**Roth, M** and J Schmitt (2020). 'Counting induced subgraphs: a topological approach to #W[1]-hardness', *Algorithmica*

**Roth, M** and P Wellnitz (2020). 'Counting and finding homomorphisms is universal for parameterized complexity theory', *Proc 2020 ACM-SIAM Symp Discrete Algorithms* 2161–80

**Roth, M**, Y Forster and F Kunze (2020). 'The weak call-by-value lambda-calculus is reasonable for both time and space', *Proc ACM Programming Lang* 4 (POPL) 27:1–27

**Sawyer, D** (2019). 'Missing books in the folk codicology of later medieval England', *Mediaeval J* 7(2): 103–32

**Sawyer, D** (2019). 'Pedant's revolt: dissent in the hierarchy of scripts', *J Early Book Soc* 22: 269–80

**Sawyer, D** (2020). *Reading English Verse in Manuscript c.1350– c.1500* (OUP)

**Scott, A** and DR Wood (2020). 'Better bounds for poset dimension and boxicity', *T Am Math Soc* 373, 2157–72

**Scott, A** and P Seymour (2019). 'Induced subgraphs of graphs with large chromatic number. X. Holes of specific residue', *Combinatorica* 39, 1105–32

Chudnovsky, M, **A Scott**, P Seymour and S Spirkl (2020). 'Detecting an odd hole', *J Assoc Comput Mach* 67(1), Article 5

Chudnovsky, M, **A Scott** and P Seymour (2019). 'Induced subgraphs of graphs with large chromatic number. XII. Distant stars', *J Graph Theor* 92, 237–54

Norin, S, **A Scott**, P Seymour and D Wood (2019). 'Clustered colouring in minor-closed classes', *Combinatorica* 39, 1387–412

**Shue, H** (2020). *Basic Rights: Subsistence, Affluence, and U.S. Foreign Policy*, 40th anniversary edn with new chapter on climate change (Princeton)

**Shue, H** (2020). 'Distant strangers and the illusion of separation: climate, development, and disaster' in T Brooks (ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Global Justice* (OUP)



Shue, H (2020). 'Keeping exceptions exceptional in war: could any revisionist theory guide action?' in G Parsons and MA Wilson (eds). *Walzer and War: Reading Just and Unjust Wars Today* (Palgrave Macmillan)

Stubbins Bates, E (2020). 'The British Army's training in international humanitarian law'. *J Conflict Secur Law*. doi.org/10.1093/jcsl/kraa006

Stubbins Bates, E (2019). 'Distorted terminology: the UK's investigations into alleged torture and inhuman treatment in Iraq'. *Int Compar Law Q* 68(3): 719–39

Stubbins Bates, E (2020). 'United Kingdom' in L Lazarus et al. *A Preliminary Human Rights Assessment of Legislative and Regulatory Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic across 11 Jurisdictions*. Bonavero Institute of Human Rights

Stubbins Bates, E (2020). 'Article 2 ECHR's positive obligations. How can human rights law inform the protection of health care personnel and vulnerable patients in the COVID-19 pandemic?' *Opinio Juris*

Wallace, S, E Stubbins Bates and N Quenivet (2019). 'Legal protections for Armed Forces personnel and veterans serving in operations outside the United Kingdom: response to public consultation questionnaire'. *SSRN*. doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3463638

Byrne, HM, et al. and U Tillmann (2019). 'Topological methods for characterising spatial networks: a case study in tumour vasculature'. *IMA Math Today* 55(5). arXiv:1906.07626

Schulz, E, et al. and I Tracey (2020). 'Ultra-high field imaging reveals increased whole brain connectivity underpins cognitive strategies that attenuate pain'. *Elife*. 2020;9: e55028

Tracey, I, CJ Woolf and NA Andrews (2019). 'Composite pain biomarker signatures for objective assessment and effective treatment'. *Neuron* 101(5): 783–800

Kikkert, S, et al., I Tracey and TR Makin (2019). 'Neural basis of induced phantom limb pain relief'. *Ann Neurol* 85(1):59–73

Soni, A, et al., and I Tracey (2019). 'Central sensitization in knee osteoarthritis: relating presurgical brainstem neuroimaging and PainDETECT-based patient stratification to arthroplasty outcome'. *Arthritis Rheumatol* 71(4):550–60

Tracey, I (2020). *Pain: A Ladybird Expert Book* (Penguin Random House)

Waller, P (2019). 'Light reading for intellectual heavyweights', in WR Louis (ed.). *Serendipitous Adventures with Britannia: Personalities, Politics and Culture in Britain* (Bloomsbury: London & New York)

Whitworth, MH (2018). 'Transformations of knowledge in Oliver Lodge's *Ether and Reality*' in J Navarro (ed.) *Ether and Modernity: The Recalcitrance of an Epistemic Object in the Early Twentieth Century* (OUP)

Whitworth, MH (2020). 'Jamieson, jargons, jangles, and jokes: Hugh MacDiarmid and dictionaries' in A Blades and P Pennington (eds) *Poetry and the Dictionary* (Liverpool)

Whitworth, MH (2020). 'The historicity of "imagination" and "creativity": a response to Tom McLeish's *The Poetry and Music of Science* (2019)'. *Interdiscipl Sci Rev* 45(1): 8–15





# Graduate Publications 2019-20

**Carter, AN** (2020). 'To what extent does clinically assisted nutrition and hydration have a role in the care of dying people?' *J Palliative Care*. doi. org/10.1177/0825859720907426

**Craske, H** (2020). 'Partners in crime? Scandalous complicity between Rachilde and Jean Lorrain', *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* 48 (3-4): 326-43

**Frampton, A** (2019). 'Zelenka, Palestrina and the art of arrangement: a new manuscript fragment', *Musicology Australia* 41(2), 174-98

**Murphy, K, F Kiernan and A Frampton** (eds) (2019). 'Zelenka, Bach and the Eighteenth-Century German Baroque: Essays in Honour of Janice B. Stockigt', *Musicology Australia* 41(2) (Special issue)

**Fry, LE, et al.** (2020). 'Refractive outcomes of the Yamane flanged intrascleral haptic fixation technique', *Ophthalmology* (in press)

**Fry, LE, et al.** (2020). 'RNA editing as a therapeutic approach for retinal gene therapy requiring long coding sequences', *Int J Mol Sci* 21(3): 777

**Peddle, CF, LE Fry, ME McClements and RE MacLaren** (2020). 'CRISPR interference – a novel application of DNA targeting in retinal disease', *Int J Mol Sci* 21(7): 2329

**Fry LE, et al.** (2020). 'Association of messenger RNA level with phenotype in patients with choroideremia: potential implications for gene therapy dose', *JAMA Ophthalmol* 138(2): 128-35

**Hurford, R, et al.** (2020). 'How to do it: Diagnosis and management of acute ischaemic stroke', *Prac Neurol* (in press)

**Hurford, R, et al.** (2020). 'Prognosis of asymptomatic intracranial stenosis in patients with transient ischemic attack and minor stroke: a population-based study', *JAMA Neurol* PMID: 32453401

**Hurford, R et al.** (2020). 'Prevalence, predictors and prognosis of symptomatic intracranial stenosis in patients with transient ischemic attack or minor stroke: a population-based cohort study', *Lancet Neurol* 19: 413-21

**Hurford, R and Li** (2020). 'Journal Club: Risk of new-onset epilepsy and refractory epilepsy in older adult stroke survivors', *Neurology* 94(17): 758-60.

**Hurford, R and Lehman L** (2019). 'Introduction to the disorder: Pediatric stroke and cerebrovascular disorders (Pediatric Perspective)' in JJ Millichap, RE Strowd, JW Mink and P Pearl (eds) *Child Neurology: A Case-Based Approach. Cases from the Neurology Resident & Fellow Section* (American Academy of Neurology & the Child Neurology Society), p.25

**Jolly, JK, H Bridge and RE MacLaren** (2019). 'Outcome measures used in ocular gene therapy trials: a scoping review of current practice', *Front Pharmacol*. doi. org/10.3389/fphar.2019.01076

**Carpenter, K, JK Jolly and H Bridge** (2019). 'The elephant in the room: understanding the pathogenesis of Charles Bonnet syndrome', *Ophthalmic Physiol Opt* 39(6): 414-21

**Jolly, JK, CE Couldridge-Smith, K Xue and RE MacLaren** (2020). 'The impact of progressive visual field constriction on reading ability in an inherited retinal degeneration', *Ophthalmologica* 243(3): 207-16

**Jolly JK, et al.** (2020). 'Validation of electronic visual acuity (EVA) measurement against standardised ETDRS charts in patients with visual field loss from inherited retinal degenerations', *Br J Ophthalmol* 104(7): 924-31

**Jolly, JK, et al.** (2020). 'Transcorneal electrical stimulation for the treatment of retinitis pigmentosa: a multicenter safety study of the OkuStim® System (TESOLA-study)', *Ophthalmic Res* 63(3): 234-43

**Liau, T** and **R Leow** (2020). 'Proprietary restitution' in E Bant, K Barker and S Degeling (eds) *Research Handbook on Unjust Enrichment and Restitution* (Edward Elgar Publishing), pp.476-97

Thompson, RN, **FA Lovell-Read** and U Obolski (2020). 'Time from symptom onset to hospitalisation of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases: implications for the proportion of transmissions from infectors with few symptoms', *J Clin Med* 9(5): 1297

**Miao, R, et al.** (2019). 'Electron transfer to decorated graphene oxide particles', *Angewandte Chemie* 131(36): 12549-52

**Norwitz, NG, MT Hu** and **K Clarke** (2019). 'The mechanisms by which the ketone body D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate may improve the multiple cellular pathologies of Parkinson's disease', *Front Nutr* 6(63): 1-8

**Norwitz, NG, AS Mota, SG Norwitz,** and **K Clarke** (2019). 'Multi-loop model of Alzheimer disease: an integrated perspective on the Wnt/GSK3 $\beta$ ,  $\alpha$ -synuclein, and type 3 diabetes hypotheses', *Front Aging Neurosci* 11(184): 1-14

**Norwitz, NG** and **V Loh** (2020). 'A standard lipid panel is insufficient for the care of a patient on a high-fat, low-carbohydrate ketogenic diet', *Front Med* 7(97): 1-7

**Norwitz, NG, SS Dalai** and **CP Palmer** (2020). 'A ketogenic diet for the metabolic treatment of mental illness', *Curr Opin Endocrinol* (accepted)

**Norwitz, NG, JJ Jaramillo, K Clarke** and **AS Mota** (2020). 'Ketotherapeutics for neurodegenerative disorders', *Int Rev Neurobiol* (accepted)

**O'Keeffe, EW** (2020). 'The anatomy of a drum corps: drummers and musicians in the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry, 1803-1816', *J Soc Army Hist Res* 98:41-57

**Parisi, JF, et al.** (2020). 'Toroidal and slab ETG dominance in the linear spectrum of JET-ILW pedestals', arxiv:2004.13634

**Siegert, YJ** (trans.) (2019). Maillard, C. *Killing Plato* (New Directions)

**Sap, JB, et al.** (2019). 'Synthesis of <sup>18</sup>F-difluoromethylarenes using aryl boronic acids, ethyl bromofluoroacetate and [<sup>18</sup>F]fluoride', *Chem Sci* 10: 3237-41

**Sap, JB, et al.** (2019). 'Hydrochlorofluoromethylation of unactivated alkenes with chlorofluoroacetic acid', *Tetrahedron* 75, 130679

**Sap, JB, et al.** (2020). 'Manual and automated Cu-mediated radiosynthesis of the PARP inhibitor [18F]olaparib', *Nat Protoc* 15: 1525-41

Hell, SM, et al., **JB Sap et al.** (2020). 'Hydrosulfonylation of alkenes with sulfonyl chlorides under visible light activation', *Angewandte Chemie Int Ed* 59(28), doi: 10.1002/anie.202004070 (online ahead of print)

**Sap, JB, et al.** (2020). 'Organophotoredox hydrodefluorination of trifluoromethylarenes with translational applicability to drug discovery', *J Am Chem Soc* 142(20): 9181-7

**Turton, S** (2019). 'Unlawful entries: buggery, sodomy, and the construction of sexual normativity in early English dictionaries', *Dictionaries: J Dictionary Soc North America* 40(1): 81-112

**Turton, S** (2020). 'The confessional sciences: scientific lexicography and sexuality in the Oxford English Dictionary', *Lang Hist* (advance online publication)

**Wagner, G, DX Nguyen** and **SH Simon** (2020). 'Transport in bilayer graphene near charge neutrality. Which scattering mechanisms are important?', *Phys Rev Lett* 124(2): 026601

Nguyen, DX, **G Wagner** and **SH Simon** (2020). 'Quantum Boltzmann equation for bilayer graphene', *Phys Rev B* 101(3): 035117

**Wagner, G, DX Nguyen, DL Kovrizhin,** **SH Simon** (2019). 'Driven quantum dot coupled to a fractional quantum Hall edge', *Phys Rev B* 100(24): 245111

Schultin, R, **JA White et al.** (2020). 'Integrated stable isotopic and radiocarbon analyses of Neolithic and Bronze Age hunter-gatherers from the Little Sea and Upper Lena micro-regions, Cis-Baikal, Siberia', *J Archaeol Sci* 119, doi: org/10.1016/j.jas.2020.105161

**Windischhofer, P, M Zubič** and **D Bortoletto** (2020). 'Preserving physically important variables in optimal event selections: a case study in Higgs physics', *J High Energy Phys* 1, doi: 10.1007/JHEP07(2020)001

**Yusuf IH, P Charbel Issa** and **AJ Lotery** (2020). 'Pentosan polysulfate maculopathy - prescribers should be aware', *JAMA Ophthalmol*, doi: 10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2020.2364

Menghini M, J Cehajic-Kapetanovic J, **IH Yusuf** and **RE MacLaren** (2019). 'A novel splice-site variant in *CDH23* in a patient with Usher syndrome type I', *Ophthalmic Genet* 40(6): 545-8

**Yusuf, IH, et al.** (2019). 'Clinical characterization of retinitis pigmentosa associated with variants in *SNRNP200*', *JAMA Ophthalmol* 137(11): 1295-300

## Awards

### Miss Helen Craske

The Society for French Studies' R Gapper Postgraduate Essay Prize for graduate work in French studies in the UK



# Mertonians







## Merton Society London Lecture

The Covid-19-induced lockdown has provided challenges to us all. However, out of adversity comes opportunity; and so it was that my sixth-former daughter and I sat down, with other virtual attendees from around the world, to enjoy the 2020 Merton Society London Lecture: 'A life of pain and pleasure imaging the human brain', presented by the Warden.

As Professor Tracey took us on a journey that started with her undergraduate days at Merton, I was unprepared to be confronted by my 18-year-old-self looking out from the back row of her matriculation photograph. However, equilibrium restored, I rejoined the path as it continued through a doctorate to postdoctoral studies, during which her research focus shifted to functional imaging in the neurosciences.

The Warden set the scene for the lecture with an introduction to the structure and function of the brain and nervous system, taking in historical perspectives and discoveries along the way. Bringing us up to more recent times with the formation of the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain (FMRIB), Professor Tracey talked about the role of imaging in capturing brain activity – mapping physical, emotional and sensory experiences to something that can be observed through the scanner. Moving on to a general description of the function of pain, the Warden discussed acute versus chronic pain, the mechanisms of pain transmission and suppression, with some rather sobering statistics about the opioid crisis.



The Warden, Professor Irene Tracey (1985) is introduced by Dame Philippa Whipple (1984), President of the Merton Society Council

Establishing that pain is a highly individual experience, with a non-linear relationship between the origin of the pain stimulus and the pain felt, and taking in the role of cultural biases in the perception of pain, Professor Tracey introduced us to some intriguing experimental studies on the effect of mood on pain perception. We could imagine ourselves to be observers of experiments in which the impact of expectation management can be seen in medical images, with significant effect: 'imaging never lies'. Techniques for inducing antinociception (the blocking of detection of serious injury) via distraction or arousal were illustrated, and the complex and prevalent subject of chronic pain explored.

Returning to the theme of expectation management, the Warden introduced the final subject of her fascinating talk – the role of placebo. This is well established in drug discovery, with control-arm experiments and double-blind trials, but the subject here was the role of placebo in surgical outcomes. The existence of this research area – placebo surgery – was a revelation to me, and the outcomes even more so. I encourage you to view the recording of the Warden's lecture if you want to know more.

The time flew by and Professor Tracey concluded by promising that she would present the rest of her slides, on anaesthesia, at a future date. I do hope that she will.

Gareth Weston (1985)



Mertonians and their guests gathered at Apothecaries' Hall in London in November to welcome our new Warden, Professor Irene Tracey © John Cairns

## The Merton Society

All alumni of Merton College are automatically members of the Merton Society once they leave College. It is important to state this as I sometimes meet alumni who are not aware of it, or of the existence of the Society and what we do.

The Merton Society works with the College, but independently of it, to provide alumni with opportunities to connect or reconnect with Merton, and to meet fellow Mertonians. To do this, we organise a broad calendar of events such as lectures, dinners, drinks, a carol concert and the annual weekend in College.

It has been another active year on this front. The highlight for me was the drinks reception on 6 November held in London to welcome Professor Irene Tracey (1985) as Warden and introduce her to alumni. This event was a real success; it was attended by over 180 Mertonians and their guests, and it was great to see many new and younger faces. It was also an opportunity for Mertonians to meet Dame Philippa Whipple (1984) in her role as the new President of the Merton Society. I am delighted to welcome her on board; like the Warden she is bringing lots of dynamism and new ideas to the role.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic meant that we were forced to cancel this year's Merton Society Weekend which would have normally been held in College in June. It was disappointing that it was not possible under requirements for social distancing to go ahead, but hopefully we will be able to hold a weekend event as normal in the summer of 2021.

Our annual London lecture did go ahead almost as normal in May but in a new online format. The Warden spoke about her research and career in neuroscience, under the title 'A life of pain and pleasure imaging the human brain'. In a fascinating talk she explained what her pioneering research has taught us about how the brain perceives pain and has demonstrated, for example, that the experience of pain could be created in part by anticipation rather than actual sensation, and also that distraction reduces the experience of pain. I was particularly pleased that we were able to hold the lecture digitally. It worked well, including time for Q&A, and meant of course that the lecture could attract a larger and more global audience. We will, I expect, experiment with this format again in the future.



© John Cairns

I would like to give a big thanks to Duncan Barker for all his work for the Society as Development Director and wish him the best in the future as he leaves Merton. We continue to rely on Milos Martinov and the team at the Development Office without whom a lot of our activities could not happen. A big thank you to the Warden for her active support of the Society. Council and Committee members have also provided lots of great ideas and input over the last few months, which is also much appreciated.

At the Merton Society we are always looking to engage with as many alumni as we can, of different ages, interests and backgrounds. If you would like to become involved, please do get in touch with me via the Development Office. Perhaps you have ideas for events or have thoughts and views on what we can do to further the aims of the Merton Society; I am always interested to hear from you.

**Mark Davison (1978)**, Chairman

## Merton Society Council 2019-20

**President:** Dame Philippa Whipple (1984)

**Vice-Presidents:** RB Allan (1959), Professor Dame Jessica Rawson (Honorary Fellow), J Roberts, Sir Martin Taylor (Honorary Fellow) and Lady Taylor, AM Vickers (1958)

**Chairman:** MPH Davison (1978)

**Secretary:** GG Backler (1973)

**Past Presidents:** Sir Howard Stringer (1961), The Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson (1967), Sir Frank Bowden Bt (1928), Sir Maurice Hodgson (1938), DW Swarbrick (1945), Sir Michael Quinlan GCB (1948), WP Cooke CBE (1952), Lord Wright of Richmond GCMG (1951), Sir Robert Scott (1963), Sir Michael Jenkins (1953), Sir Jeremy Isaacs (1951)

**Committee:** NW Allard (1974), JDS Booth (1976), AJ Bott OBE (1953), DE Clark (1984), M Cowan (née Raine) (1983), TJ Foot (2011), AJ Haggerty (2007), Professor M Higgins (Fellow), LA Hurrell (née Davis) (2005), the Revd Canon Dr S Jones (Chaplain), GBS Lim (2006), R Miller (2008), RB Peberdy (1975), M Pretzler (1996), A Salvage (2008), DJO Schaffer (1986), AL Smith (1991), NJD Weller (1982)





# MC3: Merton College Charitable Corporation

## Alumni activities

MC3 sponsored small group gatherings of Mertonians in various cities. Boston held a reception and dinner with then Acting Warden Steve Gunn and Deputy Development Director Milos Martinov joining a group of ten Mertonians. In Washington, DC, Nate Olson (2005) and Jim Moxness (2008) sponsored a reception at the Army and Navy Club. The October gathering of Merton in Manhattan was deferred due to the Warden's inauguration events. Amna Naseer filled the void in November with a cocktail party in her New York home, which attracted 18 Mertonians including at least one member of every decade since the 1950s.

MC3's major social gathering, the Reunion and Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Oxford Reunion in April 2020, fell victim to the Covid-19 virus. We did, however, successfully hold a virtual annual meeting which featured a report from the Warden on the 'State of the College' and her participation throughout. It is appropriate to thank Marina McCloskey (2003) and Nate Olson who had organised a wonderful program of events to coincide with the Oxford Reunion. I would also like to note a big assist from Charles Scudder (1971), whose good offices as a member and host helped MC3 with booking guest and event rooms at the Yale Club.

What we may come to refer to as 'The Lost Weekend' would have included highlights such as MC3 covering five tables of



The MC3 Drinks Reception in New York, November 2019, kindly hosted by Amna Naseer (1997)

Mertonians at the Oxford gala dinner at Cipriani restaurant, breakfast, lunch and MC3's popular annual dinner at the Yale Club, a guided reserved tour of NBC Universal's television studios at the Rockefeller Center, a shopping expedition and tour of New York City's remarkable new Hudson Yards complex, and time to take in a Broadway show and Manhattan's many other splendid distractions. Not all is for naught because the experience organising these events will likely prove useful for offering Mertonians a similar suite of events at future reunions.

## A virtual meeting with actual results

MC3's virtual annual meeting began at the pre-announced time during the Reunion Weekend. All 17 trustees attended as did friends and guests, including the Warden and the Development Director.

Warden Tracey reported on the steps taken by the College to address Covid-19 resulting in Trinity term moving online. Development Director Duncan Barker reported on alumni and fundraising activities and expressed uncertainty about development prospects in the current environment.

Opening comments from MC3's Acting President Nick Allard (1974) included warm comments about past President, the late John Kirby (1962). He welcomed John's widow, Susan Cullman. He described the elaborate rituals of Warden

Tracey's installation ceremony, which he attended, and how MC3's presence at that historic occasion was further poignantly conveyed by the College flag flying at half-mast in honor of John Kirby. He spoke more boisterously of the new Warden's inaugural lunch in Hall, including lively conversations with Sir Howard Stringer (1961), Fellow Dominic Welsh, and other classmates and friends of John.

Mr Allard also reported that MC3 and the College were well represented at the 15 November 2019 celebration of John Kirby's life that was organized and moderated by Susan Cullman and held at Fordham University's Rose Hill Campus in its Duane Library. The capacity audience, including a large number of Mertonians and Oxonians, were touched and entertained by remembrances from the President of Fordham University, Joseph M McShane, SJ, the President of Georgetown University, John J DeGoia, United States Judge Kenneth Conboy, his children and other family friends, as well as a moving documentary film of John's life produced by his son Tim. The concluding tribute was offered by Merton's 50th Warden, Sir Martin Taylor, who, with Lady Taylor, traveled to New York to participate in the memorial program.

David Harvey (1957), reporting for the MC3 Development Committee, noted that MC3 had raised \$455,112 in 2019. The gifts supported 27 different projects or programs at the College reflecting the wide diversity of interests that overseas alumni have in College life. A total of \$340,050 was sent directly to Merton and the balance was added to MC3's scholarship endowment and used for expenses.

After the annual meeting, the Warden announced The Big Merton 1264 Challenge, to raise donations to help those in the College community impacted by Covid-19. MC3 provided a matching challenge grant of \$12,640, which inspired contributions from a wide range of Mertonians and friends towards this important new Merton Hardship Fund. At the time of writing (July 2020), more than £60,000 has been raised, with 30% coming from MC3. David Harvey noted that MC3, with only 15% of Merton's alumni, often 'punches above its weight' in supporting the College.

Treasurer Robert McKelvey (1959) reviewed MC3's most recent tax filing and the 2019 budget results. The budget for

2020 was similar to that for 2019, but he noted that a sharp eye would be kept on expenditures if contributions waned because of the impact of the pandemic.

The Investment Committee, chaired by Neil Brown (2002), reported that on 31 December 2019 the MC3 endowment reached its highest level ever, at \$3.571 million. The portfolio had gained \$614,000 (21%) in 2019. By 31 March 2020 the endowment value had declined to \$2.993 million, giving up most of the 2019 gain.

During the first quarter of 2020, the Investment Committee held a virtual conference with the portfolio manager to discuss strategy. It was reaffirmed that this portfolio had a long-term time horizon. It was confirmed that it held enough funds in investments outside of the stock market to meet all short-term and intermediate-term commitments. It was noted that an equity-based strategy had been in place since the early 2000s and had served MC3 well. Over half of the portfolio value of \$3.571 million on 31 December, a total of \$1.895 million, came from portfolio profits and income. The committee made no change in the basic strategy but asked the manager to keep it apprised of its tactics in these volatile markets. By the time of the annual meeting, the portfolio had recovered more than 40% of the first-quarter loss.

Mr Brown stated that even in the current markets the MC3 endowment of about \$3 million could support three full scholarships of \$40,000 each year. Discussions were in progress with the College to fill the third scholarship by Michaelmas term.

The Nominations Committee, led by Scott Moore (2009), nominated Nick Allard as President, Marina McCloskey and Nate Olson as Vice-Presidents, Kathleen Sheehan as Secretary and Robert McKelvey as Treasurer. This slate of officers was elected.

As the final action of the meeting, President Allard proposed the naming of the third MC3 scholarship in honor of John Kirby: the John J Kirby Jr Scholarship. It was approved by acclamation.

**Robert McKelvey (1959)**  
MC3 Treasurer



## Merton Golf Society

The season began once again in late September at Studley Wood near Oxford where a forecast of the 'possibility of a heavy shower' turned into periods of prolonged and heavy rain which at times even flooded some greens. However, despite five unfortunate weather-related retirements during the round, eight cards were completed and once again in 2019 it was Nigel Haigh who came out on top, securing another Merton tankard, with a fine score of 34 Stableford points even though he had been docked two shots for his success earlier in the year. Tony Lowman was a close second and Nick Silk third with 31 points. We welcomed a new Merton golfer, David Riddiford, to his first event and, after drying out, several members and their partners had an enjoyable evening and dinner in College.

Unfortunately after this damp start coronavirus took its toll on the remaining events in the year, with the Merton spring meeting due to be held at Newbury and Crookham

on 26 March and the Intercollegiate event on 17 April being cancelled. The latter was particularly disappointing as the prize-giving and dinner were booked in Merton Hall.

Merton has had several golf Blues in recent decades along with success also in the President's Putter. It is, however, difficult to make direct contact with people given the limitations of the General Data Protection Regulation, and it would be good if some of these players were able to support the cause at the Intercollegiate meeting.

Finally, the Golf Society is looking for a new leader as I want to pass on the responsibility after nine years. If anyone would like to pick that up or would like to play in our future events, do please contact me.

**Bill Ford (1975)**

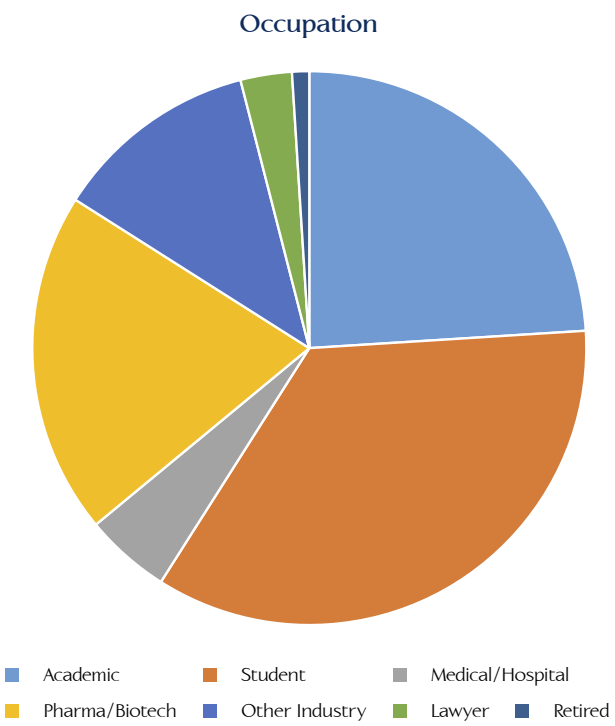
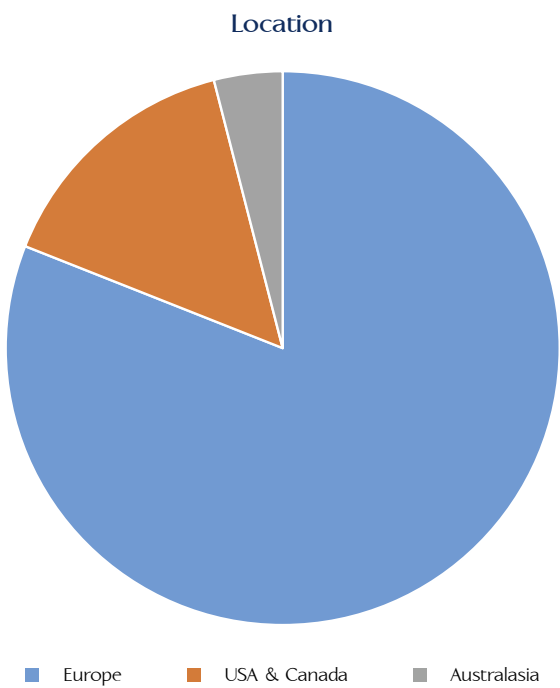
# Merton College Biomedical and Life Sciences Network

The idea for the Merton College Biomedical and Life Sciences Network arose during a conversation I had with Professor Matt Higgins of Merton (Biochemistry Tutor) in autumn 2019 during lunch in College prior to a Merton Society Council meeting. We thought it would be useful to set up a network of alumni whom current students could contact for advice or help – for example, when looking for internships, jobs or academic posts. As an additional benefit, the network enables Mertonians engaged in research or work in similar fields to find out about and get in touch with each other. For instance, I have discovered that a consultant who has been working in the same research group as me for several months is a Merton alumnus!

The network was created in March 2020 and is hosted on LinkedIn. At the time of writing, it comprises 101 members covering a range of occupations and geographical locations, as the pie charts illustrate.

If you are interested in joining, please either email me ([david.clark@merton.oxon.org](mailto:david.clark@merton.oxon.org)) or send me a connection invite on LinkedIn (you can find me by searching for 'David Clark Charles River'). I look forward to hearing from you.

David Clark (1984)







## Merton Lawyers' Association

Greg Campbell, Mishal Husain and Dinah Rose QC at the Merton Lawyers' Association's Annual Meeting on 11 November 2019  
© Dan Schaffer (1986)

Our inclusive association embraces all Merton lawyers – those who studied Jurisprudence at the College and all those Mertonians who have subsequently become involved in the legal world, whether as practitioners, academics or members of the judiciary. We have been very fortunate in recent years to have had tremendous support from the Merton Law Fellows – Sub-Warden Jenny Payne and Mindy Chen-Wishart. Among many other things, Jenny and Mindy have been instrumental in promoting (and orchestrating,

via minibus) the active participation of undergraduates and postgraduates at our annual London event, which has allowed different generations of Merton lawyers to interact and witness first-hand the amazing work being carried out by the Merton Law Fellows and their team and the energy, talent and diversity of our youngest members.

Our most recent Annual Meeting took place on 11 November 2019. We were honoured to have as our speakers Mishal

Husain and Dinah Rose QC in conversation. Mishal Husain presents the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4, the *BBC News at Ten* on Sundays and the *BBC Weekend News*, in addition to being an author and journalist. Dinah Rose is one of the UK's leading barristers, recognised particularly for her work in the area of human rights. She has represented Julian Assange before the Supreme Court in connection with extradition proceedings to Sweden, Binyam Mohammed with respect to his detention at Guantanamo, and conducted an investigation at the request of the BBC following revelations relating to Jimmy Savile and others. Earlier this year, Dinah was appointed President of Magdalen College, Oxford, having read modern history at Magdalen as an undergraduate.

Mishal told us about her early career ambition to become a barrister (having studied law at New Hall, Cambridge and at the European University Institute in Florence) but how she had reoriented her career plans as a result of an uninspiring period of work experience at a barristers' chambers. A lively discussion followed regarding the various entry points into the legal profession and the challenges facing women entering the profession specifically. Dinah provided some fascinating insights into her early career as a barrister and her subsequent journey to become one of the undisputed leaders in her professional area with humour and obvious enthusiasm for the practice of law. The Chatham House Rules Q&A session was unusually lively and enjoyable. Mishal and Dinah are wonderful role models for all of us and truly inspirational women. *Today* programme commitments require an extremely early start which means that Mishal rarely agrees to evening engagements, yet she made an exception for us. We are very grateful to them both. Although Mishal had to leave early, Dinah made herself available for informal discussion and questions over drinks.

We were fortunate in our venue at Slaughter and May, which provided a perfect space in which to enjoy the conversation between our speakers and to catch up with friends old and new over drinks and canapés. Special thanks to William Watson (1980), Dan Schaffer (1986) and Matthew Tobin (1991) for their hospitality.

It would be an understatement to say that 2020 has been an unusual year, with many aspects of our daily lives – and



particularly College life – having been disrupted. Although we would normally host our next Annual Meeting in the autumn, we have had to postpone this year's event. Nevertheless, the College is planning a few online lectures and we would encourage members to join.

**Greg Campbell (1993)**  
Chairman, Merton Lawyers' Association

# 1969 Reunion

It was a great pleasure to be back in Merton with nearly 30 other '69ers, 50 years after we matriculated together at Oxford. We are very grateful to the College for inspiring and hosting the occasion, and for extending the invitation to spouses and partners. Special thanks are due to the new Warden, Irene Tracey, who took time out during her busy first weeks in that role to meet us and share her experience with us.

This Jubilee lunch provided a spur for us to look back over 50 years, and to review what was going on in the years from 1969 to 1973 when we were at Merton:

- Harold Wilson was Prime Minister and Richard Nixon was inaugurated as President of the United States.
- The Vietnam War was intensifying, and British troops were deployed in Northern Ireland for the first time.
- 1969 was the year of Woodstock and the first Glastonbury Music Festival; Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon.
- The first episode of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* was broadcast on 5 October 1969, and in December 1973 the last episode was broadcast – so the *Monty Python* comedy series, watched together around the JCR TV, frames our Merton experience. Looking back at that time after 50 years had something in common with episodes of *Monty Python*, in that our memories served up random sketches and impressions of events, but often without accompanying context or explanation.

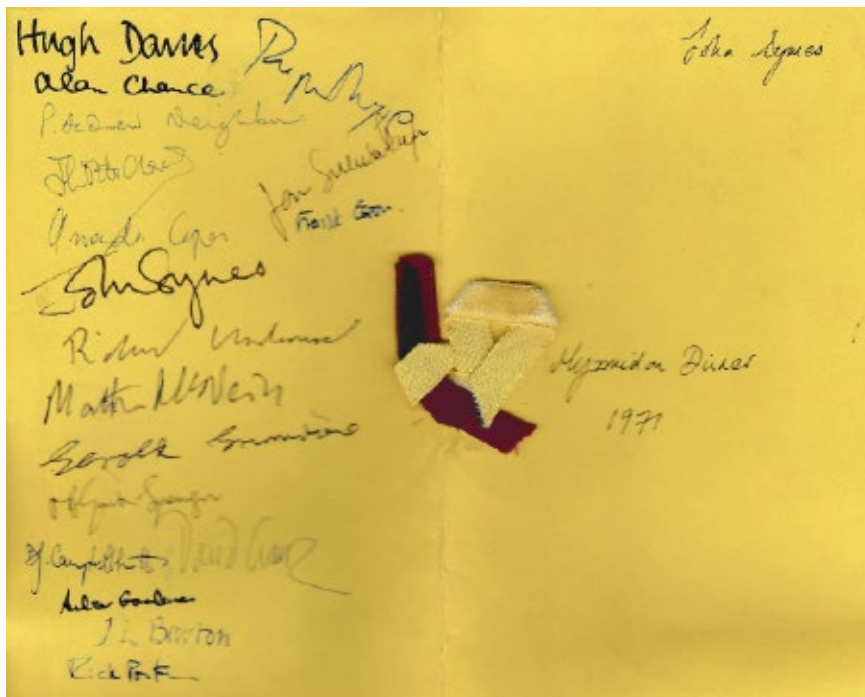
These were some we recalled:

- The Clarendon Building sit-in (1970) – something to do with student files and what now we might call data protection?
- Anti-apartheid and anti-Rhodesia demonstrations – who now has heard of the Cahora Bassa Dam?
- *Penny for a Song* – the Float's production in Merton Gardens, reviewed in *Postmaster* 1971, with a picture of the balloon carrying the current Chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland from tree to tree; and which was sadly rained off on at least two nights.
- Merton Summer Ball 1972 – according to *Postmaster*, apparently only 60 out of 660 Mertonians attended.

- A talk by JRR Tolkien in the Mure Room.
- The notorious 'Junta' election for JCR President in 1971. Five of us stood as a 'group candidate' and only just lost – which was probably the best result for all concerned. This led to a passionate debate and emergency meetings of the JCR when the outgoing President tried to rule the nomination out of order, and the proceedings were reported in the *Oxford Strumpet* as evidence of the 'Rotten Borough' of Merton.
- And finally the Myrmidon Dinner in 1971 with special guest John Cleese – not yet a household name, but star of *Monty Python* – who agreed to come provided he didn't have to be funny or make a speech. An original menu signed by the guests including John Otto Cleese has been donated to the College archives.

We were all acutely aware that much in the College has changed since 1969 – the admission of women, the rapid development of communications and the relentless increasing pressure of examinations. These have brought about well-documented changes in the College and undergraduate experience. Underpinning the rate of social change has been the extraordinary scientific and technological progress of the last 50 years, and I highlighted one particular development that is of particular significance to Merton and our year group.

When we came up in 1969, a new warden had just been appointed and started as a freshman with us – Sir Rex Richards, who died in 2019, and whose obituary was published in *Postmaster* last year. Speeches from his Memorial Meeting can be found on page 100. Rex was already an eminent scientist and a pioneer of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), a new measurement technique being introduced in research chemistry which enabled the study of the behaviour of materials in exceptionally strong magnetic fields. Rex took the technique from the Physics Laboratory into biochemical research, and while at Merton was the founder chairman of the Oxford Enzyme Group. Rex was a modern 'renaissance man'. Not only a Fellow of the Royal Society, he was also



The signed 1971 Myrmidon Dinner menu.

a trustee of the Henry Moore Foundation, the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery. His sitting room in the Warden's Lodging was hung with a collection of modern paintings, and they continued to adorn the walls in his retirement home in Devon. His portrait in the College Hall by Bryan Organ is strikingly modern, a neo-classical representation, a visible departure from the previous wardens' portraits, and emblematic of an ascetic, inquiring and interested man who was entirely natural and modest in his personality.

I was personally very grateful to Rex for supervising my Chemistry Part II thesis on the development of infrared spectroscopy and nuclear magnetic resonance in chemistry. Little did I know that 50 years later, NMR would impact the lives of thousands – everyone who has had an MRI scan owes a debt of thanks to Rex and his pioneering team.

For this reason it was a very special pleasure to welcome Irene Tracey at our Jubilee Lunch. Irene will continue

Merton's historic association with the development of magnetic resonance in physics, chemistry, biochemistry, medicine and now neuroscience. She told us that after starting her career at Merton under George Radda, she returned to Oxford in 1996 to help set up the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain, and later became its director. Her current field of research is in pain and neurological imaging, which she has subsequently described in more detail in her Merton Society London lecture on 19 May 2020 (available online).

We are very grateful to the College for creating this opportunity and hope we behaved well enough to be invited back for our Diamond Jubilee in 2029. Our thanks also go to the Development Office and hospitality staff for organising and serving a delicious lunch.

**John Symes (1969)**  
1969 Year Representative







**Back row:** Dr Jonty Boyce, Mr Martin McNeill, Mr Duncan Campbell-Smith, Mr Richard Craven, Mr Vijay Joshi (Emeritus Fellow), Mr Bill Hedley, Professor Dominic Welsh (Emeritus Fellow), Mr Tim Crick, Mr Anthony Harris, Dr Nicholas Richardson, Mr Tony Millns, Dr Jeremy Cook, Mr Roger van Schaick, Mr Hedley Stone, Dr John Cape, Mr Gareth Glynn, Mr Neil Tower, Dr Will Barton, Mr Peter Annesley, Mr Andrew Nicholson, Dr Steve Wilson, Mr Frank Keefe

**Front row:** Mr Michael Collins, Mr Stephen Howarth, Mr Nick Braime, Lord Freud of Eastry, Professor Irene Tracey (Warden), Mr John Symes, Dr Tony Hansen, Mr Mike Garton-Sprenger

# News of Old Members

---

## Up to 1948

**Year Representative: Michael Millard**

35 Armorial Road, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV3 6GH  
Tel: 02476 414776 Email: millardl72@tiscali.co.uk

Only a short contribution this year as many of our group seem to have been locked down. However Elizabeth and I have had lunch with **Brian Chapple** (1944) and Brenda. **Guy Harris** (1948) rings me from time to time and finds that I am behaving well: no doubt so is he.

**Michael Hinton** (1945) has damaged himself in a fall followed by a long period of recovery. He is still installed in the College of Saint Barbara, Lingfield, where of course, he is temporarily locked down. Nevertheless, he still writes a regular column in the *Dover Express*, reads a great deal, and is in touch with **Leonard Allinson** (1944).

**Claver Toalster** (1948) relates that in 2018 his Christmas card from **Duncan Cloud** (1948) encouraged him to go on living so that they could spend their 90th birthdays together. This they have now done, though whether they met I am not sure. I do know that Claver has recently phoned Duncan. Claver comments that he himself goes out only once a day; but he keeps himself busy.

**Christopher Rose-Innes** (1943) tells me, and we are all glad to hear it, that he and Barbara are alive, if not kicking, and are well looked after by kindly neighbours. They find that enforced isolation makes them not idle but busier than ever.

---

## 1949, 1950, 1951

*There is currently no Year Representative for the years 1949-51. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested in the position.*

**Alistair Porter** (1949) writes: 'My wife Jennifer (St Hilda's, 1948) and I, both having reached our 90s, are 'locked down' in our Sussex home in Lindfield. Like so many others, our planned holiday, cruising round the British Isles, was cancelled and we are making the most of our garden. We enjoy the help of the local good neighbours' scheme called CARE, for which we were ourselves volunteers for over 20 years. Like others of our generation, we watch with admiration, and some anxiety, our adult grandchildren accepting the challenges of being doctors and teachers in the present situation.'

---

## 1952, 1953 & 1954

**Year Representative: Dick Lloyd**

21 Manor Drive, Horspath, Oxford, OX3 1RW  
Tel: 07704 259625 Email: [dicknaudrey@lloyd77.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:dicknaudrey@lloyd77.eclipse.co.uk)

**Alan Bott** (1953) has just published his 18th guide to the churches of Surrey. This includes Gratham, built by Henry Woodyer (Merton Captain of Boats, 1835). He is starting on five more churches in the Godalming area.

He is also now planning centenary celebrations for Godalming Museum – of which he is Chairman – to be held at his and Caroline's home in Rake Court, with a marquee and Pimm's and the like! It reminds them of the visit of Merton Choir there with tea in the garden, a year or so ago, followed by Evensong in Godalming Church.

They had planned a trip to Mesopotamia in Iraq this year, but with 40 people killed in Baghdad on the starting date of their expedition, judged it better to abort until 2021!

**John Garrard** (1954) writes: 'The archivist for our collections at Harvard University sent me this link to the *Crimson*: [www.thecrimson.com/article/2020/4/30/collections-](http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2020/4/30/collections-)



photo-essay/. I had donated to them a collection of 14 engineering models done in Soviet military laboratories in the 1970s. They are the Soviet versions of Western planes – it is clear the plans for every aviation advance had been shipped to the GRU and KGB. Each plane represents a coup for Soviet spying.

'The plane featured is the Soviet copy of the first working prototype of the British/French Concorde. It has its military serial number on it. The Davis Center at Harvard's Widener Library chose this plane as the one "treasure" they would be allowed to highlight.

'I was amused that the Law Library chose to feature as its one treasure a 1298 copy of the Magna Carta – the first translated into English. Bill Gates, a Harvard dropout, donated it, and he had paid tens of millions of dollars for it.

'My "treasure" cost me nothing, and thus is priceless. The Soviet models of Western aircraft were given to me by a Soviet engineer who wishes for lifetime anonymity.

'I'm glad that students of the Cold War and the space race can hold in their hands concrete exhibits of just how good the USSR was at spying. It's a cautionary tale now that we face the Russian Federation.'

**David Barber** (1954) reports: 'Life in the States is different from last year! My wife and I have returned to Vermont from our winter respite at the beach in Avalon, NJ. We are healthy and have survived the quarantine. We had an enjoyable trip to the UK in October 2019 and met up with Sue and **Chris Paine** (1954), **Peter Husband** (1954) and **Gordon Sladen** (1954) in Oxford.

'I am about to start my vegetable garden and we are otherwise kept busy with our four adult children scattered across the US and 11 grandchildren. I would welcome hearing from and meeting with Mertonians who might be traveling in the area. We live near the Sugarbush Ski Resort which is close to Burlington and Montpelier.'

**David Watson** (1954) states: 'Sadly, my wife and I have not managed a visit to Merton this year. The Garden Party took

place while we were away on holiday and the Founder's Society lunch has been postponed. One of the things that I enjoy on a visit is walking on the old city wall and admiring the gardens; they are always a pleasure.

'Pam and I continue our struggle with the (in)justice system! One of our friends is now out, has a home and had a job until the lockdown. He is well settled and will stay out of trouble. Our other two friends are both in closed conditions – one is doing well, the other is struggling because his Parole Board has been postponed because of the lockdown. He too was hoping to get out. Ministers of Justice come and go but nothing really changes!

'All our prison activities are on hold because of the lockdown but I was brought up short by a mild heart attack in March. I spent 10 days in hospital but got out just before the virus crisis. While in hospital I had a mild stroke in my right eye and my vision is still affected. Doctors mess about with my medication because I still cannot breathe freely. I look forward to being well enough to visit Merton again soon.'

**John Ingledew** (1954) is still living on a farm in Monmouthshire, which he has done for 56 years. He walks well, which he says is useful at 86!

**Reg Hall** (1954) writes: 'Helen and I continue to mature, slowly as luck would have it; no major changes which is good and we remain quite active. Helen's International Club continues to surprise us by growing apace in membership. We now have over 250 members who have spent more than six months in 38 countries. It's surprising how cosmopolitan this rural corner of Georgia is!

'My efforts to educate myself continue, though after wrestling with physics last year I have focused on history and more particularly China's long and eventful chronicle. Harvard has an excellent series on China on the web via EdX which is free unless you want to get a diploma. (I don't.) It's a long and tortuous saga which has now arrived at 1949 when the PRC was founded. There is more to follow next year when I will be interested to see how they confront the sensitivities of the current Chinese government.



'We have not been as adventurous as in years past. Our travels revolved mostly around the UK with one excursion to Porto and a week in Canada on a luxurious train called the Rocky Mountaineer. It trundles along through beautiful country from Banff to Vancouver with extended stays in both termini.

'We spent the summer mostly in Ely but returned to Ilkley for September. In between we visited Northumberland, a beautiful county with a good deal of history. We visited the Roman wall and a nearby settlement called Vindolanda which is fascinating for its glimpse of a civilisation which was far ahead of its times. Alnwick Castle is the ancestral home of the Dukes of Northumberland who, with the help of the Bishop of Durham, were charged with keeping the Scots under control and spreading Christianity. They didn't do well on either account initially!

'Ely is a pleasant town near Cambridge which is worth a visit for its magnificent Norman cathedral but after two months begins to pall. Cambridge would be a better location were it not for the press of visitors in a town which is not equipped to handle them. There is now an embargo on groups of more than 50 and talk of a levy of some sort. How they would collect the money I have no idea; parking tickets for the buses, perhaps.

'Ilkley for a month is fine though the weather was autumnal; plenty of showers and some brisk temperatures – for a couple of wimps, that is.

'We continue to look for a pied-à-terre in East Anglia. (Stop press: we may have found one in Woodbridge.) We need a place we can leave safely unoccupied for long periods, hard to find if you seek a small number of largish, high ceilinged rooms. If one of you Mertonians has any ideas, let me know.'

---

## 1955

**Year Representative:** John Mitchell OBE

The Hedges, Church Road, Fernhurst, Surrey, GU27 3HZ

Email: johncmitchell36@gmail.com

At Christmas time, I hear from **John Adams** in Sydney, and **Lionel Jebb**, in Shropshire. Subject to aches and pains etc., they both seem reasonably well. As am I.

**Rex Jamieson**, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at Berkeley, sent a most welcome contribution from the USA. In this, he rued the failure of the country's justifiably famed medical resources to deal adequately with Covid-19, saying that the pandemic had exploded the myth that the USA has the best healthcare system in the world. He wrote also of democracy currently undergoing a stress test. I feel that we, who admire so much about the USA, can be sure it will get over its current troubles, hopefully sooner rather than later.

**Dermot Killingley** last year had a few days in London and visited contemporaries **Tony O'Halloran** and **David Hadley** and managed to see other friends in Vienna and Tours. But this year his travels have of course stopped, as have his Sanskrit classes and playing in an amateur orchestra. However, he is still working online for the journal *Religions of South Asia*, of which he is one of three editors.

**Nicholas Thornhill-Davey** is well but thoroughly frustrated by the lockdown, of course. He hopes that his teenage granddaughter and grandson will both make the grade to enter Merton in due course.

As for me, well I'm organically reasonable, but a 'mis-spent' youth on various games fields has come home to roost a bit, with a re-built ankle, two replaced knees and now one hip. The operations etc. have kept me off the golf course for much of the last two years, but I am back playing from a buggy now. I am also still trying to raise my £500k for my village's new sports pavilion, which takes some time, but is enjoyable.

I very much hope that more 1955-ers will remember to write to me next year.

With my best wishes to you all.

## 1956

**Year Representative:** Richard Kenyon

Oakwood House, 65 Randall Road, Kenilworth,

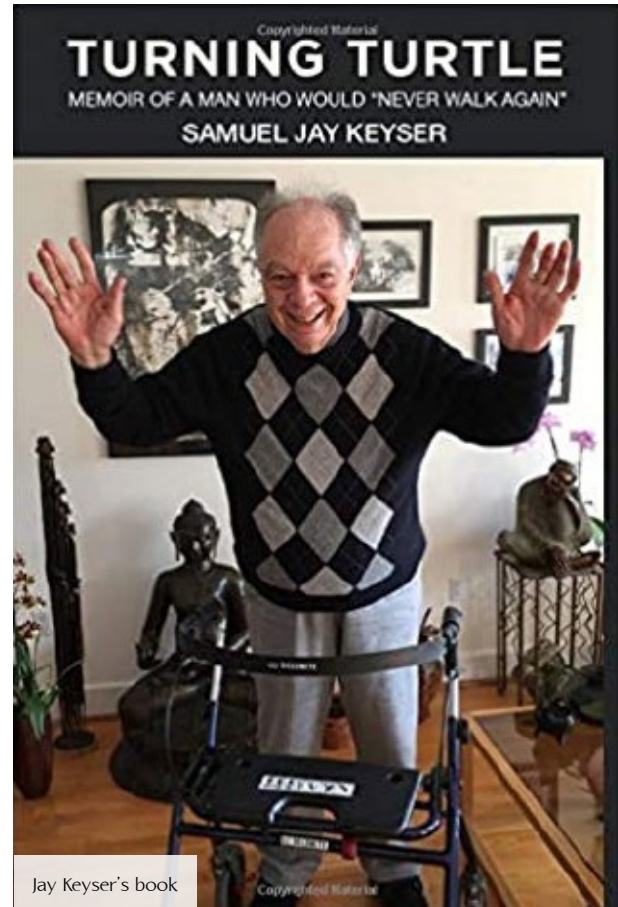
Warwickshire, CV8 1JX

Tel: 01926 859620 Email: delaroche37@gmail.com

It is a long time since we came to Merton but, as is pointed out at open days for prospective students, the 'family' bond is strong and lasting. This year the prize for the first response to my enquiry goes to **Brian Roberts-Wray** whose message after only 20 minutes was the quickest I have ever received. **John Isherwood** and **Jay Keyser** were close behind. In most years Jay has won the prize, but this year the time difference defeated him. Living in the other Cambridge, in Massachusetts, he has been busy as ever. In March he published two books, both of which are available from Amazon. Readers may recall his remarkable recovery from serious medical problems a few years ago. He describes it fully in *Turning Turtle: Memoir of a Man Who Would 'Never Walk Again'*. His second book is *The Mental Life of Modernism*.

The silver medal usually went to **Saeed Qureshi** in Islamabad, but this year his server responded 'inbox full' to my enquiry and for the moment that is all that we know. **David Pringle's** inbox responded in the same way but sterling work in the Development Office traced a new email address. David lives in the other Perth, in Western Australia; together with **Peter Wells**, **Tony Wynn-Evans** and myself, all well and in the UK, four of our six mathematicians march on.

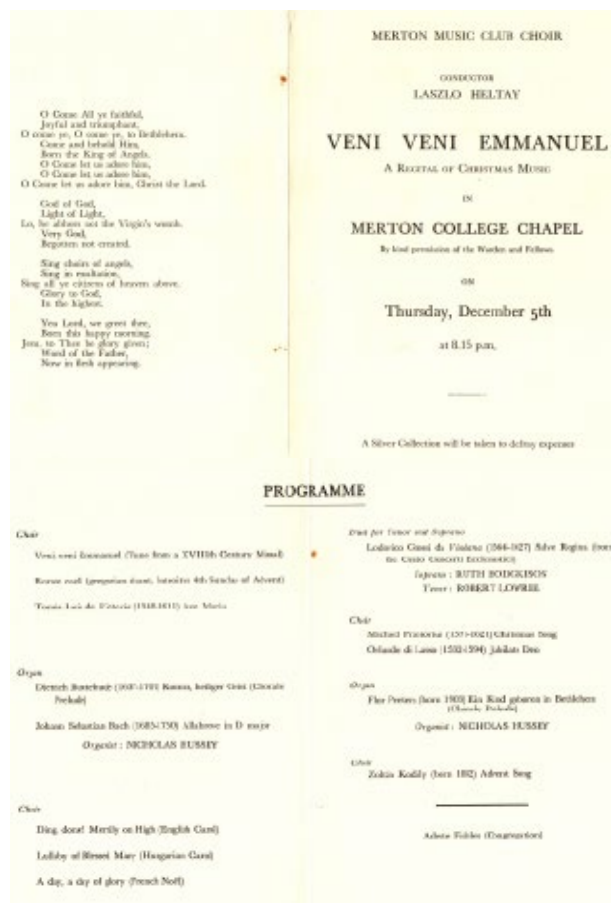
A sad event inspiring many memories was the appearance in the national press of the obituary of **László Heltay** (1957). A refugee from the Russian takeover of Hungary in 1956 he arrived in College in the Hilary term of our first year and so the musical magic of the College began. Typically of the time, the choir comprised those members of the College, and in our case also those of St Hilda's, who liked to sing. **Bob Lowrie** (1955) passed the direction to László whose greeting was 'You will teach me English and I will teach you to sing.' **Richard Thomas**, **Mike Trevanion**, Wendy (wife of **Chris Ball**) and Jane Wood of St Hilda's were all reminded of taking part. **Brian Roberts-Wray** recalls 'the carol *Ding*



*Dong Merrily on High* at the 1957 Christmas concert. Having never heard it before, László gave it his own interpretation, uninfluenced by David Willcocks or anyone else. Singing under the baton of someone so completely original and talented was a real eye-opener and very inspiring.'

In December László asked me, as Chairman of the Music Club, to arrange the concert for both Saturday and Sunday. I pointed out that the Saturday audience would be the singers' friends, College members who liked to give their support and others who were attracted by the programme; on Sunday there would be no one left to come. Saturday

was as predicted, but news of the quality had spread like wildfire. The choir was the equal of any in Oxford, and on Sunday the chapel overflowed. I should be very glad to receive any more memories and stories from our readers. László and I became close friends and I have often spoken of him; his obituary appears in *In Memoriam*.



Programme for the Merton Music Club Choir's Recital of Christmas Music, 5 December 1957

Sadly we have lost two more contemporaries this year, **Oliver Miles** and **Sandy Ferguson**, but not from the virus. The pandemic has affected all our lives but so far no

infection has been reported. **Tim Brennand** finds lockdown in the Cambrian Hills above Lampeter a delightful imposition. No vapour trails disfiguring the wonderful skyline, which were last absent when the Icelandic volcano erupted. **John Isherwood** hoped there would be no more obituary notices before the copy deadline, apologising for the unfortunate choice of word. On the brighter side, **Michael Ellman** felt that he and his friends may now have a better chance to save a lovely Victorian hall from conversion by the local council into two luxury houses. 'With the coronavirus it is unlikely that they'll be able to go ahead with their plans, so we may sin after all!', he wrote and then pointed out the close proximity of the letters 's' and 'w' on the keyboard.

Despite the virus, **Mike Trevanion** managed to downsize to a smaller house in Bath; a base from which they can easily visit their other little house in Plymouth, close to their two small granddaughters. **George Radda** and Sue bought a flat in a Witney retirement village after he finally retired, but then suffered from a severe bout of non-Covid infection and is now recovering in the village care home. **Ian Hobson** and Edith find life in their eighties to be similar to that which, when Ian was 20, he would have expected of a 60-year-old. With friendly and helpful neighbours the possibility of infection seems fairly remote, but they are anxious for the health of their children, grandchildren and washing machine.

**Richard Thomas** and Catherine have travelled a good deal in the last year, and were expecting to do a good bit more, but...! They had a splendid trip round their old stamping ground of Bulgaria and met up with friends, now senior politicians, broadcasters, judges and so on, but who had been the dissident firebrands who suddenly became the country's first democratic leaders, including the PM and the FM. Then just in time before Christmas, they did a fascinating cruise on a small passenger ship round Cyprus, Israel, Egypt and Jordan. Richard's memoir *Lucky Dip* was supposed to be coming out this year, but hardly surprisingly it could well be delayed. Quite a bit of it covers his time in Bulgaria when communism was discarded and everything changed, not all of it for the better; Merton in the time of the Suez fiasco gets a mention. **Chris Ball** translated the snippets from the sagas for the Iceland bit. On the subject of books, I thoroughly enjoyed and recommend *Thomas Cochrane and the Dragon*

*Throne* by **Andy Adam** (1959). When I told Andy, I discovered I was not the only Mertonian on email at four in the morning.

Jan and I continued our travels with a cruise from Hong Kong to Singapore in the autumn before heading to our daughter's 'Il Molino' home in Tuscany for Christmas. Their eldest son helps with their Caspin Journeys walking tours and also has his own projects looking after holiday houses in the locality: one of his clients is **Jamie Barr** (1979). We were in New Zealand with our son and family in January when Covid-19 emerged but happily got home without infection or inconvenience.

The following verse, with apologies to Thomas Gray, may remind us of the start of lockdown:

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,  
The empty shelves at Waitrose cause a fuss.  
We hungry homeward plough our weary way,  
No food because of corona virus.



Richard Kenyon at his home desk in front of his Merton pictures

## 1957

**Year Representative: Graham Byrne Hill**

26 Lawn Crescent, Kew Gardens, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3NS  
Tel: 0208 940 1281 Email: g.byrnehill@gold.ac.uk

## 1958

**Year Representatives: Bryan Lewis**

2 Bell Close, Ratby, Leicestershire, LE6 ONU

Email: kb.lewis@tazam.com

and **Peter Parsons**

Ashton House, Downside Road, Winchester, Hampshire,  
SO22 5LT

Email: pijparsons@gmail.com

The surviving 1958-ers are now, so the Merton College Record reveals, octogenarians. We are then surely members of what novelist and playwright Michael Frayn wrote recently as 'the luckiest generation' – too young to have served in the Second World War, beneficiaries of penicillin, the NHS, free education, good employment prospects... Perhaps 'the luck has now run out' not least for the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on the over-70s, let alone the over-80s.

The annual request for contributions to *Postmaster* has yielded only a few replies. Predictably, there are references to the virus in a number of them. **Colin McEachran** like several of us I suspect wrote being 'locked up in Edinburgh means time to sort through old papers'. He reflects that every year since Oxford days, with one or two exceptions, he had driven down from Scotland 'with my rifle and equipment in the boot to attend the National Championships at the Bisley ranges in Surrey. The sport has given me much pleasure, many sporting contacts in Canada, Australia and New Zealand and some successes. For the last ten years or so I made arrangements to play golf with **John Trott** in West Sussex. This year I will not be at Bisley. Age has caught up with me and my eyesight.' Alas, John's health is not good but reports are that he is stoical notwithstanding.

**David Waterhouse** and Verena, both 'mobile and reasonably active' in Shrewsbury, watched the Severn floods in February 'with some awe, particularly as they were at the bottom of the garden but ... there are 72 steps from the bottom to the top of the garden so if the water had been threatening us we would have had to phone Noah ... but there was a lot of rather unpleasant clearing up to do when the water receded.'



Like so many. Covid-19 has at least provided the opportunity to read books that they have been meaning to read for ages.

**Richard Salkeld's** sea-born peregrinations ('charted waters' as he put it) took in the Tyrrhenian Sea in 2019 entering the region of Greek and Roman mythology and legends depicted in Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*: Ponza, where Circe seduced Odysseus and turned his crew into pigs; Aeolus (the island of Lipari) where the gods of wind gave Odysseus a bag containing the energies of the winds to help him get home; Gozo where the nymph Calypso kept Odysseus captive for seven years; and Scylla and Charybdis where he resisted the Sirens by tying himself to a mast. Gardens, excavations, temples, volcanoes (trek to Vesuvius, Stromboli by night) all added to his edification. Now the boat is blocked in Valletta and planned 2020 destinations are out of bounds.

**Michael Parry's** planned fishing trips to Scotland and other outlying places presumably ruled out means getting 'somewhat bored with gardening'.

**Andrew Adam** and Jacqui's plans to downsize from their house 'Bean's Corner' (a friend suggested it should be renamed 'Has Beens' Corner') have been delayed by the virus (though now things are looking up?). 'We plan to mature like vintage Somerset cider, with bubbles and body, but we need rebottling. So it's Time Up on sailing the Seven Seas since 2013. Flying is now a nightmare and frankly I'm tired of my talks and too lazy to write new ones. New horizons beckon, so thanks and *Sayonara* to Cunard.'

**Roderick Abbott**, now in his fifth year of retirement (he worked beyond 65), has remained closely attached to the international trade world through a Brussels think tank. He has been an expatriate for 45 years. He makes no bones about his belief that leaving Europe is a historic mistake. 'Whatever it means overall for the UK's status in the world, it will have a colossal negative impact on the economy and on its trade balance.'

**Bryan Lewis** spent five days longer in the Azores in September than planned, having lost his passport inter-island hopping. It's a long story but there are worse places to be marooned. Meanwhile having gone through his diary

deleting meetings, theatre, concerts, recitals he is addressing the Japanese slang word *tsunkodu* meaning 'buying books but never reading them and then letting them pile up at home instead'.

**Adrian Vickers** writes: 'I have just been "attending", from the comfort of my own home, the Warden's fascinating Merton Society London Lecture. It occurs to me to wonder, had it been possible in our day to experience digitally, lolling in our digs or College rooms, the lectures recommended by our tutors, we would have heard a greater number of them than we actually did, possibly achieving higher academic success for our 1958 cohort than history records.'

**Oliver Ford Davies** writes: 'Last year I played the button-moulder in a National Theatre modern adaptation by David Hare of *Peer Gynt*. As I didn't come on for three hours, I did read Proust vols 3&4, something I never thought I would achieve – there's always a silver lining. Now I'm locked down but actors are so used to being out of work, I've been practising this all my life.'

---

## 1959

### Year Representatives: David Shipp

Higher Dale Cottage, 6 Dale Lane, Delph, Oldham, OL3 5HY  
Email: david@shipp.org

### and Roger Gould

4 The Park, Grasscroft, Oldham, OL4 4ES  
Email: jrbgould@btinternet.com

Since we compiled our report for 2019 in the afterglow of a successful Diamond Jubilee celebration, which had excellent coverage in *Postmaster* 2019, there have clearly been many changes to all our lives and to the life of the College. The resilience and creativity of the College and Mertonians in this situation has been very gratifying to see for those of us in the older age group. Indeed, many of us will have reached our 80th birthdays in the course of 2020. We would like to start our report with news of two of our year group who are fighting ill health with great courage, and to wish them well from all their colleagues.

First **Malcolm Faber**'s wife Pat writes: 'When you last so kindly wrote to Malcolm he was in rehab at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry. He was discharged from there at the end of October 2019 after spending a year in hospital following a spinal-cord injury. Initially he found the transition from being institutionalised for such a long period of time to being at home challenging. He is now settled into a routine and gaining strength. He is still in a wheelchair but hopes to be out and about more when the situation regarding the Covid virus improves. He sends his very best wishes to you all and his thanks for the uplifting emails he received whilst he was in Oswestry.'

Then **Hume Hargreave** writes: 'Here is a small contribution to *Postmaster*, the tenor of which I never expected to be appropriate. Mary Ann's and my life have undergone a violent upheaval, and without her help and support I doubt that I would still be around to put these words on paper. Having finally completed four years' work to our house in Arkholme in the Lune Valley last July, we made plans for visits and holidays and looked forward to a contractor-free existence. However, to our surprise and consternation, I was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia in September and told that without treatment I had only a few months to live. We were unsure whether to accept the offer of treatment in the North West and decided to seek a second opinion from the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne, part of the Newcastle Hospitals Trust of which Mary Ann had been a governor for nine years, and a leading centre for the treatment of leukaemia. When I saw one of the consultant haematologists, she tactfully dissuaded me from considering a course of aggressive chemotherapy as an inpatient with a view to killing the leukaemia, as I was too old and might not survive the first month, and recommended a less aggressive course which I could have as an outpatient with the objective of suppressing it. I opted for that and asked when it would start, to which the reply was 'immediately'.

'So, having gone to the North East thinking that we would be back in a day or two, we have never got back. We have put our life in the North West on hold – kind friends and neighbours are looking after the house – and we are installed in a house in Newcastle. Having found that I could tolerate the

chemotherapy and that it appears to be doing some good, neither of us imagined there would be a greater challenge, keeping clear of Covid-19. I am forbidden by the Government from going out of the house except to the hospital for chemotherapy, clinic appointments and emergency treatment for infections, until further notice which, in my case, may not be for months and months. Until then a return to the North West is out of the question, and then whether we could go will depend on my treatment plan. At present it requires me to remain in close range of the hospital so that incipient infections can be treated within the hour, as has been necessary three times recently – fortunately, thanks to heavy doses of antibiotics, without fatal consequences. It helps to have targets. The re-scheduled Gaudy in March next year is a good one. An 80th birthday party in the autumn does not look a runner. With luck we will all meet next spring.'

**Richard Allan** writes: 'We enjoyed a largely UK-based year with one ten-day Sicilian interlude far away from house and garden. The house received a much-needed repaint while the garden received a burst of honey fungus and, in between, there were trips to explore Wiltshire, Suffolk and Cornwall and to visit family in Newcastle. We also had some memorable days spectating at the World Cup, Wimbledon, the Ashes and Murrayfield, and attending a couple of happy golden wedding celebrations of fellow Mertonians. The garden, like so many others, has been receiving unaccustomed attention during the current lockdown, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a haven of peace in the heart of London. It means that, in my case, walking the "tops" in North Britain has been replaced by walking the "policies" in North London. In normal times, we continue with our voluntary activities and, inter alia, I still enjoy doing the rounds of the county grounds on behalf of cricket's Chance to Shine. One or two of the directors of cricket who have seen me in bygone years can't resist asking me "Are you still here?", to which the answer is "Yes, Diana and I are still here."

**John Dance** writes: 'Doris and I are both well and so far suffering only very minor inconveniences from the lockdown. We are, however, both exercising quite a bit more, and with greater consistency, so you might say we were even benefiting from it! Our main complaint is that we will be missing our annual road trips to the continent this year.'

**Alan Drinkwater** writes: 'As with many other people of our age, Joan and I are voluntarily self-isolating, but enjoying more time in our house and garden. Living in a rural village, we still have opportunities to 'exercise' in the local bluebell woods, and historic Stansted Park. I have also invested in an e-bike, so can now cycle over into adjacent valleys and admire the countryside, particularly the lambs. We keep in touch with the family via Zoom, Facetime and Skype, becoming expert in designing quizzes which we offer to our grandchildren remote in Cardiff and Ickenham. I persevere with developing the website, or virtual museum as I like to describe it, for our village Heritage Centre ([www.rowlandscastleheritagecentre.org.uk](http://www.rowlandscastleheritagecentre.org.uk), should you wish to visit it), but still a long way to go. We also enjoy contacts with other members of 1958 and 1959 at both College functions and informally too. We are looking forward to meeting up again in 2021.'

**David Forsyth** writes from deepest Dorset, in a delightful handwritten letter: 'I am very well and safe in lone seclusion, and well supplied with food and drink by the village shop. Everything is deposited in my porch by local volunteers and they take my cheque back to the shop. Occasionally one of my family brings essentials from a supermarket, delivering in the same non-contact way.'

'I have completed 11 books. My daughter types them for me. The ninth and tenth are with the publishers awaiting printing. The eleventh is about to be typed. They are all different except for the three *Tree Folk* books that are for children aged 9-11 years. I do not have a computer since I retired from general practice. My sons and my daughter have them, and will supply information I need, which is very rarely.' [To see all his books, visit [www.sundial-house-press.co.uk](http://www.sundial-house-press.co.uk) then 'David Forsyth'.]

'Since I retired to Dorset in 2007 I have led a very active life in my village. I umpired the cricket team for three years. I have travelled in the West Country a great deal and visited friends and relatives all over the British Isles and been visited by them. For the past four years I have been having an annual three-day holiday with **Niall Campbell**, **Anthony Fletcher** and **Bob Moore**. We four went round Italy over six weeks, tentless, in the summer of 1960. Our recent centres have been Ely, the island of Iona, Brixham and Norfolk. This year was to be in Ludlow but has been postponed due to the Covid crisis.'

**Peter Hayward** writes: 'All of the Hayward family are well. My son-in-law had the virus (at least he thinks so as he was not tested of course) and was pretty ill for two or three days but then recovered quickly. Ann and I and some friends had a successful first trip to Russia last autumn and then in March we had a fascinating couple of weeks in Cuba, only marred by the appearance of the virus a couple of days before we were due to leave. The plane home was packed, and the passenger next to me seemed pretty ill, but I hope with just a bad cold, so we self-isolated but failed to show any symptoms. We are now enjoying more than the usual number of walks in Richmond Park, which we are lucky enough to live only five minutes' walk from and is now given over entirely to foot traffic as cars and even bicycles have been banned.'

**John Latham** writes: 'The main thing this year was our trip to Hong Kong in October to visit our son George who was doing a term at City University. It was great for me as I spent a happy three months there in 1985 at Robert Black College, and it was nice to do the iconic Hong Kong things again like the Peak and Star Ferry. I was even able to celebrate my 79th birthday at my favourite restaurant in Causeway Bay with Dawn and my 19-year-old son! Hong Kong of course has a special Merton connection, as **Frank HH King**, author of the monumental study of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, although an American, had been at Merton. George was in Hong Kong when all the trouble broke out at the universities and in the end had to get a plane out, having climbed over the barricades with his suitcase and laptop! However, there was no animosity to foreign students and they all wished him a safe flight. On other matters, I understand they are reissuing a couple of my old collections in paperback shortly. I'd heard about **John Lucas**' death. He never taught me, but at one of the Gaudies he sat next to me and was charming. Did you know he was a big fan of George Stephenson, the inventor of the steam engine? John had even invented his own points system for switching the lines on a railway track. He was hoping someone would adopt it!'

**Joe McDonald** writes: 'News this year (at the time of writing, which is still in the Early Corona Age) is mainly about **Bob Krueger**. I had seen him in April 2019 for a very short visit, having understood that he had a life-threatening illness. Despite his physical frailty the rumour proved unfounded

and I then went for a longer visit in October last (and plan another, *Deo volente*, this autumn). Although I had been in close contact by letter for most of the time since graduation, I had not otherwise met him since 1969 when he sold me his car after being here to complete his DPhil. Last October, in consequence, was the first time I had had a longish period to get the story of his whole life, including his fascinating time in the House and the Senate of the USA.

'Bob has an endless capacity for entertaining and informative chat. I had no sooner arrived at the family home in New Braunfels, Texas, than I said naively to Bob, "Can you tell me the whole story of your life up to the present point?" He said, "I'll begin with my great-grandfather Krueger." Two full days later he had only reached the beginning of his first stint in the House. Just as I was about to board my plane back to the UK at Austin airport after another three full days of entertaining personal history, he said, "You must come again next year and I can ask you about your life!" So that's the plan. It might take me half a day to relate, but I can report back this time next year. The rest of the recent 12 months has seen a continuance of all my usual activities, so I can spare readers a repetition of last year's *Postmaster* record. Grandfatherly duties continue and the oldest grandchild responded to advice about university applications. He currently holds a place to study Music at Oriel. "Oriel?" you say. Sorry, can't win them all!'

**Michael Raeburn** writes: 'I celebrated my 80th birthday with a limited-edition publication of the celebratory cakes I made from 1955 to 2000: including a head of John the Baptist (presented to Birgit Nilsson); a realisation of Picasso's only known cake design (the lighthouse at A Coruña), and a cubist impression of the village of Horta de Sant Joan (for Marilyn McCully); a chiaroscuro woodcut in chocolate, after Ludovico Carracci (for Dr Nancy Bialler); the graveyard scene from *Don Giovanni* for my late brother Christopher Raeburn's 60th birthday; and, ten years apart, a canal lock and a rendering of the Thames Tunnel for the joint celebrations at the Science Museum of the birthdays of Sonia Rolt and Julia Elton; among various other wedding and birthday cakes. The back cover illustrates a large cake box produced around 1900 to promote Schep's coconut, which shows Lotte cutting cake for the children, and scenes from the works of Goethe and Schiller.'



Michael Raeburn's contribution left us speechless and wondering how our more prosaic news would look, but here it is nevertheless

Michael has sent this photo of one of these cakes with the following explanation: 'This is the graveyard scene from *Don Giovanni*, based on the Prague theatre where the opera was first performed in 1787, with the set from the first Munich production a year later (the Prague set designs haven't survived). It was made for the birthday of my brother (Mozart scholar and opera recording producer) in 1988. I will be sending a copy of the book to the College Library.'

**Bill Woods** writes: 'I find life ever more difficult to fathom. I read a letter in the paper the other day which said that early in 1958 nine million people in the UK had contracted a form of avian flu and 14,000 people died. I was in the Sixth Form by then so presumably awake most of the time, but I have absolutely no memories of this.'



'There was quite a lot of flooding in Hereford (in February) but the older locals who I chat with all said there had been worse, and that some of the pre-war housing was regularly flooded. We are perched on the top of a pretty steep hill, so the most significant effect for me was that the Lugg Meadows have been under several feet of water for some months, and the Wye is in reality unfishable too. It has been a pretty poor season in fact, as we have had easily the rainiest year since we arrived, and the days when I was prepared to get a soaking or to sit around in mud or wet vegetation are long gone.'

**Roger Gould** writes: 'I was pleased to get my 80th birthday celebrations in before the Covid-19 lockdown started. On the latter subject, our eldest granddaughter went to China on 8 January to teach English – not the best moment to choose! She was back home a month later and has continued to teach Chinese children online ever since. One good piece of news for us is that son Richard (46) has become engaged to lovely Rachael, who has one daughter, as Richard has. They plan to marry next year. Daughter Diana and her husband have their two adult daughters at home, plus their boyfriends, so it is quite a busy household as they all work, teach or study from home during the lockdown. Meanwhile, Cathy and I have been self-isolating with splendid views of the hills of Saddleworth and a daily walk among them.'

**David Shipp** writes: 'We still walk regularly with Oldham Wednesday Walkers. Our group residential holiday to Street in Somerset in October was very successful. Highlights were the Cheddar Gorge, Glastonbury Tor, the Somerset Levels, and the beautiful city of Wells. I retired from my role as treasurer of the Millgate Arts Centre in Delph after 23 years at the end of 2019, leaving it thriving and busy, until of course the Covid-19 crisis came along this spring, which has put everything involving "mass gatherings" on hold. This term applies to virtually all our outdoor and cultural activities: walking and bird watching groups, choral singing, theatre and concert visits. We are fortunate to live next to open countryside and have been taking full advantage of our daily statutory exercise. We enjoyed a Ramblers holiday in northern Portugal in September, with an excellent mix of walking on the coast, in the mountains, and in the midst of small-scale old-fashioned agriculture,

well suited to the terrain. We are planning our next long-distance walk on the Northumberland coast as soon as the circumstances allow.'

Finally, as a postscript, we have received a brief message from **Peter Murray** in Wellington, New Zealand. 'Dear David, Your letter came rather late. Our PM, Jacinda Ardern, has acted decisively. Our government has a better policy. Best wishes, Peter'. Follow that!

---

## 1960

**Year Representative: Keith Pickering**

24 Woodfield Road, Ealing, London, W5 1SH

Tel: 020 8998 2614 Email: oldpick@aol.com

**Keith Aspinall, Arthur Hepher, Jasper Holmes, Alan Keat, Roger Laughton, Nick Silk and John Wood** are in good order but with nothing especial to note for *Postmaster*.

**Stuart Blume** is doing fine; still working on the book about investigating his family history, doing a spot of teaching, and continuing to write academic articles on politics and the history of vaccine, all with undiminished enthusiasm.

**Gerald Cadogan** is thriving but regrets that the recent pestilence has compelled him to cancel a work session at Knossos.

**Geoffrey Copland** is still in the ring, having had a rather disjointed year in being required to take over as Chair of Trinity College London at short notice, but eventually having been able to identify a successor.

Similarly, he found himself Chair of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (forms of applied physics in some sense). This came about as the previous chair (Geoffrey had been Vice-Chair for some years) stood aside in the autumn to be free to be on call for matters concerning Brexit, the general election and other key parliamentary issues. The chair was expected to return after the election but it was felt that there was a continued need for an experienced MP to help steady the party's ship in the current turbulent times.

These plus some other charities have left little time for much else. Geoffrey attended a dinner celebrating Michael Baker's achievements and Merton's excellence in Physics, built on the foundations he had laid. It was rather sobering to realise that he was the one with the longest memory of Michael.

**John Cotton** has happily resurfaced after a silence of over 20 years and has brought us up to date with his life after Merton. He has established a strong link with Belgium, a country which has been very good to him, he having been married twice, each time to lovely girls from that country, lived there for nearly 20 years and in which he still retains a wide circle of local friends. He has three grown-up children: a daughter who is a teacher in Madrid; and two sons who work in London, like him in the financial field.

His working life still continues pretty well full time and has been centred around the City and the financial world to which he gravitated after coming down from Merton. He specialises in using the professionalism, services and products of the UK financial community exclusively for the benefit of those whose first language is not English – a gratifyingly specialist niche. As a result he has travelled extensively, his family being of an equally peripatetic bent. He finds what he does hugely interesting, usually challenging and greatly enjoyable, an ideal combination to keep him from becoming bored or getting into trouble.

Otherwise he loves reading, music, gardening and the company of family and friends. Elsewhere, he has found much satisfaction by taking up the guitar last year to complement the singing lessons he has been having for quite some time; he travels selectively, enjoys his shooting and is involved in a couple of charities together with his wife, while keeping in touch sporadically with some of his old Merton contacts.

**John Crossley** says last year was one of reunions with old friends, including Giorgio Odifreddi, a great Italian prophet of atheism, who has had public discussions with Pope Benedict XVI, and is a delightful and entertaining friend. However, there were far too many funerals. On a more cheerful note, being a Senior Scholar he had not met the 1960 Year Representative, so it was a pleasure to have him come along as his guest at the 2019 Encaenia Lunch at All Souls.

On the way to the UK, friends at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona kindly arranged a session (on the history of the Philippines and environs), which he happily shared with a fellow Australian, David Irvine. In England he was fortunate to be able to meet with Martin Pearce, who had just written a biography of Britain's spymaster, Sir Maurice Oldfield. Maurice and John had been visiting fellows at All Souls in 1979 and now John has recalled that acquaintance by publishing in an entirely new area, a surprise to both him and many of his colleagues: in the journal *Intelligence and National Security*.

On a more thoughtful note he discussed body donation with a local medico, who rejoiced in the name Michelle Lazarus. However, since he has spent more than six months in the UK since 1980, he is ineligible because of possible Creutzfeldt-Jakob infection. This year saw another sea change in that his wife Sara retired, so now there are two of them around the house.

In August he had an enjoyable meeting with the St John's College President who was visiting Melbourne and followed this by a return to Europe, going to Amsterdam after watching his niece performing at the Proms in London with the National Youth Orchestra of the USA. In October he was back in the Philippines attending the annual National Historical Society meeting, but for the first time in years did not offer a paper. In November he went to his first gay wedding, which was a delightful yet serious ceremony. Next year remains to be seen.

**George Darroch** had a tough time medically for much of the year but is now starting to resurface and look ahead.

**Andrew Devine**, after a long absence, reports that he is in fine form and wishes to pass on his regards to Keith Aspinall in memory of the old times. As a Professor at Stanford University he has returned to his Classical roots and is currently lecturing on Latin semantics and pragmatics.

**John Davies** says that his highlight for 2019 was a trip to Bulgaria along with some 55 other steam train nutters. They rode round the country in the ex-royal train behind some wonderful dinosaurs (including a Russian-built diesel which expired in the middle of nowhere), but were still able to see a great deal of that most interesting country.

He continues to be very active. He had five requests in January to carry out academic jobs (write a sum-up paper, assess manuscripts, serve on a French PhD jury, etc.) and accepted four. He is now working through them, so being told as a 70+ survivor to stay at home will not mean that he is twiddling his thumbs. Depressingly, at the time of writing, the chamber choir in which he sings has cancelled two concerts, and he fully expects that others in which he had hoped to sing will now not take place.

**Leslie Epstein** is still teaching full time at Boston University, but now with a camera and microphone (if he can figure out how to plug it in) and writing as he can. A large book about Hollywood and the Second World War is scheduled to come out next spring and he tries to put out an occasional article or story in the meantime. The latest was *Fox and Lox*, a story about his poker group, which appeared on the Tablet site last month. Anyone interested can read it online there.

**Peter Fattorini** is still around and pleased to report having enjoyed recent contact (at a distance) with **David Fletcher**, his very good companion chemist from Merton.

**David Fletcher**, apart from catching up with **Peter Fattorini**, is writing a book proposing a profitable business path towards halving global emissions by 2030. Slow progress, though Bonnie has started cracking the whip about completion by 31 May. Watch this space!

**Bruce Gilbert** continues to enjoy walking, gardening, painting and reading, though is missing being able to get up into the Dales in his MG and the opportunity to sing with the University Choir in York Minster. He notes his recently developed taste for the three TV series based in Oxford (*Morse* plus two), which are generous in their frequent shots of the College, Merton Street, view from the meadows, etc. and believes that such nostalgia is permitted now that we are truly elderly and vulnerable!

**Francis Glassborow** records that his year had been progressing well. His team had reached the third round of the English Bridge Union inter-club knockout competition for teams of four and the club team of eight which he plays

for in the local league had had an unbeaten season with one match to play; his allotment association had managed to have a palace revolt and get rid of a committee that was inactive other than a field secretary who was long past doing the job; it looked as if he would finally get to retire from teaching introductory bridge courses and the garden and house still had a lot to do before he and Gwyneth could relax.

Then mid-February the world changed. The need for a late change in the league team resulted in its only defeat and the next round match in the inter-club knockout was postponed at the last minute as their opponents were worried by the looming threat of Covid-19. Fortunately his allotment is just two minutes' walk away so maintaining that, assisted by Gwyneth (a Merton gardener on furlough), provides both their daily exercise and essential work – providing food for the summer.

**John Hartnett** is alive and well, though that now must come with a Covid-19 caveat, but is very much enjoying the numerous jokes and cartoons which the disease has happily given rise to.

**Philip Hawkes** and his wife, Patricia, who acts as his amanuensis, have had a successful sale in the chateau business – that of a chateau which used to be visited by Winston Churchill – a great relief, both for the chateau and their finances. The buyer has a wonderful Instagram account relating all the work and restoration that is now going on there, which can be seen on @annieuetchritz if you are tempted.

However, being confined within the Chateau de Missery enclosure has been a great joy and the kitchen garden has been providing, so every cloud has a silver lining.

**Alan Heppenstall** is still around, and though 2020 was in any case intended to be his last year of work the decision has been reinforced by there being no work anyway. He has recently taken up bridge but this too is on hold pending a return to normality.

**Mike Hind** goes on with what has become his main retirement activity – reading and enjoying plays, poetry

and novels with kindred spirits in local groups; expeditions to see shows in London galleries are an occasional treat; and maintaining mostly email correspondence with friends and former colleagues in a number of places remains as important as ever. In due course he hopes to make a long-projected visit to India but pending that he intends to install a smart TV, which will allow him to watch the drama and film output of the BBC as it should be seen. He has become involved as a director with the local branch of Alliance Francaise, thereby coming to appreciate the expertise that others from different backgrounds can bring to a board's activities, contributing when he can, and listening much. The group meets regularly in Exeter and Dartington, the two centres of French teaching to adults in Devon.

On a sadder note, he joined family and friends to mourn the passing of **Stephen Hazell** at a humanist celebration of his life in London late last year.

**Richard Mulgan** is in good form and having turned 80 this year has finally stopped teaching, so living a quiet life in self-isolation is no big deal.

**Tim Phillips**, jealous of **Keith Pickering's** new 2019 knee, followed suit with one of his own, just in time to spend the next six months or so recuperating.

**Keith Pickering** would wish, as always, to thank his correspondents for their generous responses to his emails, which continue to afford him the greatest possible enjoyment. Otherwise, as is his wont, lunches have formed a key part of the last year. He would like to thank **John Crossley** for his very kind invitation to the Encaenia Lunch at All Souls, a unique experience for KWP. Thank you also to **Tim Phillips**, who not only hosted him and Sandy at Wimbledon, but enabled them to meet some celebrity A-listers, hitherto only viewed at a distance on the large or small screen. Lastly, thanks to **Alan Keat** and **Richard Thompson** for making the trip up to The Great Wen for another convivial Gentlemen's Luncheon.

**David Price** can assure *Postmaster* of his continued existence and that, apart from gentle wear and tear, he is in rude health, even if the actual shape leaves something to be

desired. He has many members of his close family in frontline medical care, so is viewing current events with trepidation. All being well he and Sue hope to have a cruise à deux on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in September, trusting that by then they will not be contravening any government edicts on ancients going cruising.

**Glynne Stackhouse** is still a member of the board of Making Music, and chair of its Selected Artists Panel which provides a range of outstanding artists for inclusion in an annual guide to help member societies of Making Music select individuals and groups for their concerts at specially negotiated fees. Though no longer chairman or Secretary of Music at St Peter's, Wallingford, he is still a member of its management committee and helps with its artistic planning. He plays piano duets with a friend and together they give concerts to raise funds for various charitable causes. Despite the ailments that come with being 79, he is pretty well and as active as he wants to be, three grandchildren keeping him and Pat as busy as might be expected.

**Richard Thompson** has had a good year, with its usual highlights. He and Jane had their fifth family holiday in the same villa and idyllic village by the sea in Sicily, with the grandchildren appreciating the Italian contribution to civilisation – especially their ice cream and chocolate.

Cricket figured importantly, with a day watching England vs Australia at the Edgbaston test match, a visit to the Derbyshire cricket festival and early in the summer a guided tour of the Oval. He continues to be in good health, following his established interests of gardening and learning Italian.

**Michael Thorn** is still periodically active: giving talks to groups on matters historical, recently covering the Irish Famine of 1845-51, and spending annual sojourns in British Columbia and New York. He is also working on a large rock garden, which is showing up every weakness in his ageing body.

**Jim Trefil** is still professing at George Mason. He has a book, *Cosmic Queries: StarTalk's Guide to Who We Are, How We Got Here, and Where We're Going*, with Neil deGrasse Tyson, coming out from National Geographic next year, coming out from National Geographic, and is starting a book on



what is called the Fermi Paradox; ('Where is everybody (i.e. extraterrestrials)?'). Given that there are a gazillion planets out there and life seemed to pop up quickly on Earth, where are they indeed?

**Bruce Walter** came across to the UK in October for **Stephen Hazell's** funeral, where **Mike Hind** delivered an admirable eulogy; and also to visit a very dear sister undergoing chemotherapy for liver cancer, so not a particularly cheerful visit.

He spent a few days in and around Catania in early December, with an eerie ride through Etna's lava fields on the Circumetnea train, a visit to the magnificent baroque town of Noto and pungent rambles through what must be one of Europe's biggest open-air seafood markets. More recently he flew to Malta and was suitably impressed by Valletta's towering fortifications and the quiet stone beauty of Mdina, the old capital. Above all, though, he was struck by the Maltese people's determination to recreate the UK on their two little islands down to the tiniest detail: every single piece of street furniture and all the shops completely British and everyone speaking English from very well to native speaker standard, the Maltese language almost nowhere to be seen save in some museums – and yet these apparently fervent anglophiles go home and converse in a language largely descended from mediaeval Sicilian Arabic. He found it all spookily reminiscent of Ray Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles*.

One last and happy piece of news is that Bruce's granddaughter, Natalie, has been offered a place at St Peter's to read History of Art, so he hopes that Oxford will be up and running again by October.

**Philip Webb** as usual kindly submitted what he would authorise to have printed:

Philip Webb (Toronto) is in good health. Recently, he has read Borrow's *Wild Wales* for the first time, very much in tune with his own half-Celtic, half-continental outlook.

Borrow was half-Cornish and half-French by ancestry and centres his tale around Cymraeg, which he learned in his teens, just as Philip did before O-levels took over.

He has just finished scanning his aunt's and his great-aunt's postcards, more time-travel back to 1903-11 and 1920-74. Toronto's new streetcar fleet has now fully taken over and the city remains one of the best in the world to live in.

**Mike Williams** was in hospital for three weeks and is still undergoing treatment for a gastric ulcer, but is now recovering with confidence.

**Brian Winston** has a 20th book in production, written with his son, Matthew (St Hugh's – how did that happen?). It is called *The Roots of Fake News: Objecting to Objective Journalism*, available from all good bookshops, due out allegedly in publisher speak by September, say.

Otherwise it has been has been a pretty usual year; Brian has been fully employed, so still able to keep British Airways in clean socks, continues to do his best to rot the minds of the young and sits occasionally looking through his window at the West Front of Lincoln Cathedral, (but not thinking that he too would like to be an ancient monument).

**Jonathan Wright** is in pretty good shape. Maintaining his continued academic workload, he has also completed a chapter on foreign policy for a new OUP handbook on the Weimar Republic.

---

## 1961

**Year Representative: Bob Machin**

125 West Bay Road, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4EQ

Email: bobmachin125@gmail.com

We must start with the sad news that **John Peterson** died just before Christmas 2019. An obituary notice can be found on page 286.

**Brian Drury** is well but has nothing to report.

As a lifelong bachelor with few kinsfolk, **Ian Harrold** suspects that he is coping with solo-living better than most. Unfortunately his retirement village is deemed 'vulnerable' so, despite being fit and healthy, he is not allowed to walk

200 yards to Tesco but has to write a list of his requirements that helpful folk deliver. This takes longer to compile than it would to perform personally. Getting Emerson Wind Music to publish and market his wind ensemble catalogue is a load off his mind and his printer. Lockdown has been put to good use with three new wind quartets while the opera of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* proceeds slowly but surely.

**Peter and Ros Lee** have risen to the challenge of arranging teaching materials for their grandchildren. Ros can deal with maths and Peter with history but he has been asked to stop masquerading as a general science teacher.

**John and Jenny Sandercock** had two very memorable holidays in 2019. In June they toured to southern Italy in the Jaguar XK120. Despite the best efforts of local drivers, the Jag returned to Switzerland unscathed. September saw a jazz cruise along the Mosel and down the Rhine to Amsterdam with different musicians coming aboard at various points. His company continues to function during lockdown because there is plenty of space for social distancing. John is supposed to have taken a back seat but, after a few weeks at home, he has created a research optics lab in the basement.

**Mike and Mary Dearden** made their usual trip to the USA for Thanksgiving; then January with Mary's grandson in Grand Cayman; and back to Florida in February for more family reunions. They returned to the UK on 8 March just as the world was turned upside down. Home cooking skills have been honed, filing systems overhauled and they are now into playing remote bridge.

**Peter Cope** wistfully recalls playing in the local Big Band, singing in the Ludlow Choral Society and hill-walking with the local Ramblers in 2019. He became a volunteer at the Ludlow Food Bank when more help was needed in 2019. Sadly, that peak demand has been dwarfed by coronavirus.

After a stint as Secretary, **Alan Slomson** is now the President of the Thoresby Society. He is still actively involved with the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust and maintains sanity during lockdown by producing its daily puzzle for school pupils.

**Peter Steele** has so far survived the lockdown unscathed. There can be few better places to be quarantined than a Victorian spa town set in a deep Derbyshire dale with family strategically placed, even if one is discouraged from driving to visit them. He continues to struggle with Latin epigraphy, counts his many blessings and revels in Mozart, Hadyn and Monteverdi.

Late in 2019 **Frank Kelsall** attended the new Warden's drinks at Apothecaries' Hall and represented the year of 1961 at John Peterson's funeral. He is now missing his regular bowls and croquet matches; fears that home cooking and baking with insufficient exercise is making him portly; and finds that an inability to concentrate for any length of time is thwarting his intention to write up research during lockdown.

**Gwyn Pritchard** reports that the resounding clatter of saucepans at 8pm on Thursday nights for NHS workers is the most exciting thing that anyone can remember ever happening in Dymcha. He recently had a phone call from **Abdool Mamoojee** confirming that he managed to return to Thunder Bay, after his annual trip to Mauritius, just before all flights were cancelled.

Your correspondent spent several months in 2019 transcribing documents relating to Marshwood Vale. Lockdown has provided the time to analyse them and produce a study of the historical development of the landscape. He's particularly pleased to have identified an early 13th-century 'bypass' around the central deer park. Small things please small minds.

---

## 1962

**Year Representative: Martyn Hurst**

St Bedes, Mark Way, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2BN  
Tel: 01483 414809 Email martyn.hurst@tiscali.co.uk

Regretfully I take up the pen of my dear friend **Tim Archer** whose obituary appears in this edition of *Postmaster*.

Some of our number are marooned away from home as a result of Covid-19.

**Jeremy Hummerston** after 30 years as Rector of Torrington in Devon has retired to Yorkshire but finds himself deep in the heart of Texas where he is spending a rather longer time than planned visiting his daughter. However he is enjoying the fauna and flora of the region.

**Michael Roberts** left Australia at the outbreak of the virus to watch England play cricket against Sri Lanka. He is still there – but cricket is a rather slow game.

**Callum McCarthy** went to the south of France for a spot of spring cleaning. This has now morphed into summer cleaning and may yet run the whole gamut of the seasons. However, he says the privations are somewhat alleviated by regular supplies of excellent fresh food and any panic buying of wine has had no noticeable effect on its availability.

**Roy Stevens** has recently been under close scrutiny by the National Health Service. Happily he is now returned to the bosom of his extensive CD library. This was recently the subject of a recent TV programme featuring eccentric collectors.

The late and greatly missed **James Wroe** has messaged from the hereafter to express his delight at his obituary being included with those of the Fellows.

**Daniel Hodson** continues with his tireless efforts to ensure the United Kingdom regains/retains its independence. He is now Vice-Chair of the Foundation for Independence – a counterbalance to the CBI, representing the more entrepreneurial SME sector. It is alleged that his next move is to become Nicola's Cummings.

**Jim Doty** in Washington, DC is enjoying retirement from Chair of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (our FRC). He is coping with the lockdown by reading Andrew Roberts' *Churchill: Walking with Destiny* which he is finding an antidote to the current pessimism and malaise. He has also read all 12 of Anthony Powell's *Dance to the Music of Time* which confirms his view that Anglophilia, like noses and ears, becomes more pronounced with time.

**Martin Hall** is to be congratulated on the publication in February by Brepols of his book *John of Garland's De*

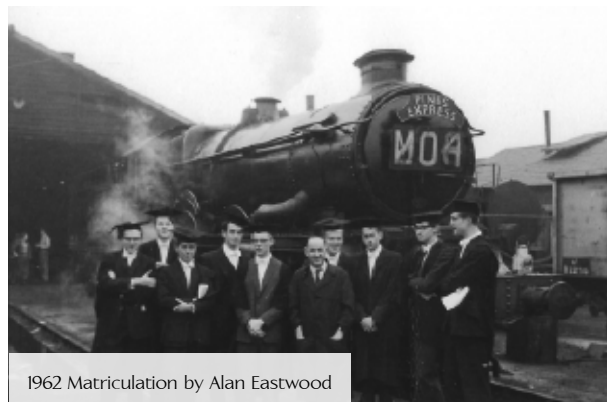
*triumphis Ecclesie* – a first ever translation. He is awaiting its review.

**Ian Hirst** hopes he has concluded his protracted correspondence with the College on the subject of his email address.

**John Keane** is enjoying retirement even more after standing down from his town council. He is missing golf and Merton music but has discovered the part of the UK that lies to the north of Watford and much of it is very beautiful. His son lives in Ilkley and he has been particularly taken with Ilkley Moor – but has failed to reveal whether he was there hatless.

**Charles Webb** continues to be based at Windsor Castle as one of the Military Knights currently guarding Her Majesty during lockdown. He reports that they have recently been joined by a raw recruit in his late sixties. There has been loose talk that the newcomer has been bullied into doing the lockdown shopping – but that's the Military for you. Meanwhile, Charles is drawing St George's Chapel from his front door but beginning to realise why most artists show it from a distance.

**Andrew Morton** is frustrated that his 24th consecutive attempt to win the Round the Island Race in the good ship *Balerno* has been postponed to the autumn or next year. He is particularly disappointed as he had a feeling that 2020 would be *his* year. A view not entirely shared by his crew whose combined age is now getting close to 400 years.



1962 Matriculation by Alan Eastwood

**Michael Brind** is intrigued by a photo of himself and some others in sub fusc standing in front of a real live steam locomotive (see picture). Mr Tretheway, shed master of the Oxford Engine Depot, is also present looking suitably bemused. Was this a normal part of the matriculation ceremony, he wonders.

**Paddy Millard** continues as a volunteer on the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group of the Chartered Institution of Taxation, badgering ministers and civil servants to correct anomalies in the tax system. Some success has been achieved by promises made in the Government's election manifesto. He is enduring the lockdown by contemplating the splendour of Lyme Bay interrupted occasionally by a little light gardening.

**Keith Burton** has tasked me with ensuring the College has his email which he thinks they may have lost in order to avoid asking him to events or even for money. I have expressed my doubts on the latter but they now have his email. In the meantime, his garden has never looked better and, through editing a philatelic magazine, his knowledge of stamps and postal history increases by the day.

**Keith Shuttleworth** taught maths at Ellesmere College for 38 years before some further part-time teaching at Concord College near Shrewsbury. It is possibly the best performing co-ed school in the country with maths a strong and popular subject. He now sings in three choirs and is a worship leader in his local church. Happily the lockdown has not overly affected his bridge playing which works well online.

**David Jenkins** writes from Toronto to say he is well but overwhelmed with grant writing.

**Christopher Roberts**, among others, makes mention of the Admiral being a casualty of friendly fire and the unusual appearance of a herd of cows in Front Quad towards the conclusion of a memorable bump supper. This is clearly the delusional ramblings of a generation of Mertonians cruelly deprived of the beneficial and civilising effect of women in their midst.

Who knew the **Admiral**, whom many of us regarded as an amiable old buffer, had a DSC with two bars and the Croix

de Guerre? How naïve and ignorant we were. Yet, if we had asked him about his experiences, he would have dismissed our questions with an offhand wave saying something like 'Well, they had to give such things to someone.'

**Footnote:** Fortunately, at the time of our graduation there was some dispute over the way in which the Norrington Table was calculated. This has provided a much-needed cloak of decency with which to shroud the combined results of our endeavours – which could not be described as stellar. By way of atonement, at least one of our number has made a significant contribution to the financial wellbeing of the College. I am reliably informed that, even at this late stage, others are examining their consciences and their wills.

---

## 1963

*There is currently no Year Representative for 1963. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested in the position.*

**John Allen** writes: 'Last year I retired from the Northern Ireland Office where since 1997 I had been reviewing departmental records due for release to the National Archives. This followed my decision to start in earnest a large new research project on church architects and artists throughout England. This is intended to be a website to complement my existing website on Sussex parish churches ([www.sussexparishchurches.org](http://www.sussexparishchurches.org)) though it may be ten years before anything emerges. The current lockdown has at least had the benefit of giving me more time for research and for starting discussions with the designer of my Sussex website on the form of the new one. Incidentally, my work on Sussex churches was extensively used in both new volumes on Sussex in *The Buildings of England* (Pevsner) series, the second of which appeared last year.'

**John Wormald's** book *National Policy, Global Giants: How Australia Built and Lost its Automotive Industry*, written with co-author Kim Rennick, was published last year (Cambridge University Press, 2019).



---

## 1964

### Year Representative: Richard Burns

31 Saxe Coburg Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5BP

Tel: 07703 439226 Email: rburns1946@gmail.com

Coronavirus-enforced free time this spring has not resulted in an upsurge in responses to my request for news from a group which, if I am anything to go by, is having difficulty coming to terms with the idea that one is now so old as to be classed as 'vulnerable'. It seems as if 'late middle age' is behind us.

Not everyone, though, is sitting on their hands or just getting on with the gardening. **Robert Irwin** spends his mornings working on a 'big history' of medieval Syria and Egypt and his afternoons on his ninth novel, a 'dark campus fiction'. **Richard Stokes** has finished his latest book, *The Complete Songs of Hugo Wolff*, but its publication by Faber has been postponed till October 2021, perhaps because his wife and daughter, both doctors, fear a second wave of Covid infections this autumn.

**Eric Colvin** has retired as Head of Law at the University of the South Pacific, but he and Julia plan to remain in Vanuatu for a few more years in their house on the lagoon-front. Surprisingly, in light of his complaints of insufficient time for scuba-diving, kayaking and lunch, he is working on *Criminal Law of the Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu*, a companion volume to the 2017 best seller *Criminal Law of Fiji*. Meanwhile Covid-19 has not reached Vanuatu, whose borders are closed to people but not cargo, so wine is plentiful and 'life is good'.

For **Tony Webster**, life continues well, though increasingly one year is merging with another (I empathise). He continues to learn the saxophone, playing with several bands and a pick-up group (don't ask). The best memory of last year was two sunny months in the Pays d'Auge in Normandy – no Mertonian visitors but there is another distinguished Yorkshire presence in the shape of David Hockney.

**David Sumner**, a 21 Merton Street neighbour of mine in 1964, writes from Wigton in Galloway, where the big news is that the 2020 book festival has been moved online. Life is, and will continue to be, quiet in southwest Scotland.

**Richard Peel** brought a group of a dozen Norwegian friends to Edinburgh last summer and I had the pleasure of giving them a walking tour of the Old and New Towns. Quite hard to keep them all under control walking up the Royal Mile thronged with tourists – what a contrast to conditions now!

---

## 1965

### Year Representative: Peter Robinson

Vallecito, 5 Fir Tree Close, Coppenhall, Stafford, ST18 9BZ

Tel: 07823 388014 Email: peteredwinrobinson@gmail.com

**David Barker** wrote to say that following their two months in Europe last summer, they returned to the (San Francisco) Bay Area, only for life to be interrupted by an unexplained foot injury and then of course by the coronavirus lockdown. Having had symptoms very similar to the virus back in November last year, they are watching with interest the various studies that suggest it may have been circulating locally much earlier than previously believed. In the meantime, they are resisting the temptation to drink disinfectant (gin and tonic tastes better) and are thankful that they are among those fortunate enough to have a house and garden, a (more or less) fixed income and, for the time being at least, their health. They take part from time to time in the local version of thanks to medical workers, which, in the slightly quirky atmosphere of southern Marin County, takes the form of a howl rather than applause. At least the dogs (and coyotes) can join in.

**Paul Everson** reports that he and his family are keeping well, but missing the regular face-to-face contact that they are used to having, now (inadequately) replaced by regular social media exchanges. Nevertheless, he is getting some steady research and writing done – with few distractions. The priority is a *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture* volume on Cambridgeshire, for the British Academy: the third in the series he has authored.

**Bill McGrew** sent greetings from social isolation in rural Fife. Bill says that their hamlet is still Covid-free, but that's not so impressive, because they are so few and peripheral. Not much to report, from the midst of fourth week of lockdown.

Thank goodness that spring is here, so there is work to be done in the garden. Otherwise, he might be watching yet more TV miniseries that he has never heard of before.

**Ray Miles** wrote to me in December last year to say that he had just been perusing the latest *Postmaster* and was amused by **Jon Zamet**'s explanation of the arcane tradition of sconcing, which has no doubt long been abandoned now that the College is co-ed. Ray was lucky, or unlucky, enough never to have been subjected to this; perhaps he would have been more compliant if the scone pot had contained champagne or even that hideous Bulgarian plonk we used to drink back then. Speaking of Bulgaria, next year Ray says that he will achieve the dubious distinction of having visited 100 countries – dubious because we should all be travelling less if we are to save our planet. The Bulgaria visit in 1968 was with fellow-Mertonians **Andrew Massey** (sadly deceased), **Paul Woodruff** and **David Holmes**. They were on their way to Turkey, so only saw Bulgaria from the inside of the train. But the transit was made memorable by the announcement of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Earlier, in 1967, Ray's second trip to Greece was in the company of two other Mertonians, **Patrick Worsnip** (1966) and **Anthony Holden** (1966), on an OUDS tour with his production of *Agamemnon*. Later, in 1974, it was **Jon Zamet** who hosted me on my first trip to NYC. Ray says he is happy to report that he is not always on the go. He has now lived in Mexico more than any of his other homes (16 years), but still keeps his tiny studio flat in the Barbican in London. He still rides horses, but gave up scuba diving some years ago: not out of decrepitude but aghast at the state of the reefs. When in London Ray still enjoys his first love, theatre, but as spectator rather than participant.

**Jerome Ripp** wrote to say that it was good to be reminded of our Merton community and indeed that he is very well. He continues to work part-time as an IB Mathematics teacher; with the lockdown, he has become proficient at teaching online with students in similar circumstances in many different time zones. His twin pleasures of walking and gardening have been relatively unaffected and with a large store of fruit and vegetables from his allotment, current shop shortages are only a minor inconvenience. Although Jerome has not published anything, he has been for the last few years the amanuensis for his Japanese wife Kyoko who had

been working on a translation of a Japanese literary classic *Oku no hosomichi* by Basho into Greek. This was published in Athens last summer and was the first translation of this entire work into Greek.

The news from **Peter Robinson** is very similar to that of our other correspondents. Planned holidays and family visits have been put on hold. My U3A activities have been curtailed but working from home is not unusual in an IT environment. Fortunately, all our family and four grandchildren are well. This is the first entire spring for which we have been in the UK in the past five years, so it has been a real pleasure to witness the progress of the season in the countryside around Coppenthall. We have discovered country lanes that we did not know existed. I attended the Memorial Service for **David Bostock** last November and was saddened to learn of the death of **John Lucas** in April. All my Greats tutors are now no longer with us.

I was pleased to hear from **Bob Wilson** again. While introducing me to the American term for lockdown, which is 'sheltering in place', he pointed out that he had received some consolation from writing stories and fantasies for their 11 grandchildren. He had not realised how much fun it would be, though not, of course, as much fun as actually being with them.

**Jonathan Zamet** wrote to say that daughter Margot is finishing her final semester online at home and will graduate in May, albeit without all the usual fanfare. Number 1 son Sam is also working from home and seems to be doing well – the investment advisory business is benefiting from this upheaval. Number 2 son Alec is also working from home but in Folsom, California. He works for an educational software company, which might not be a bad industry to be in these days. Jonathan also says that he has been making lots of pots: some pretty good ones, though he says so himself. However, goodness only knows when he will be able to sell them. His first craft fair is now scheduled for mid-June in Philadelphia, but even if it is not postponed (for the second time) or just cancelled, he's not sure that he won't pull out. Craft fairs are not a very good place for social distancing! If he has to, he'll just shut it down for the year. In the meantime, no gym, no golf, but plenty of long walks. They have several large parks

nearby, one of which, a wildlife preserve, requires a ten-mile hike to circumnavigate and you see hardly a soul. Jonathan says that his wife Pat is well. They have a wonderful new dog which is keeping her happy, as is having Sam and Margot at home to fuss over. They read the papers, do crosswords, read books, watch TV, cook meals, do some gardening and generally keep busy waiting for it all to pass.

---

## 1966

### Year Representative: David Holmes

2 Windsor Court, Prince of Wales Mansions, 1 York Place,  
Harrogate, HG1 1JB  
Tel: 01423 550078 Email: dholmes20@blueyonder.co.uk

**Chip Filson** writes that he and Joan are enjoying a very active post-work routine. Joan is volunteering for a church's Opportunity shop, is a director for the Washington Print Club, and they both sing in church and community choirs.

Chip has started a blog at chipfilson.com to comment on credit union issues, his focus for the last 40 years. Like most of us, he says that staying at home has opened new online experiences via Zoom and access to lectures, music and resources of which they were unaware.

**Rick Gekoski's** *Darke Matter*, the second in a trilogy, was published by Constable in May 2020. It is a sequel to his first novel, *Darke*, published in 2017. A recent review was highly complimentary, welcoming the 'return of a splendidly spiky narrator'.

**Anthony Holden** is writing an autobiography – including a chapter on Merton – to be published by Simon & Schuster in mid-2021.

**Lawrence James** continues to review books for *The Times*, an activity which remains possible 'while under house arrest'. His *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire* and *Raj: The Making of British India* have been published in China.

**Clifton Potter** retired in 2019 from the faculty of the University of Lynchburg, Virginia, after 54 years of teaching

history. His area of expertise was English history, and in particular the reign of Elizabeth I. Oxford and Merton changed his whole approach to his discipline, and laid the foundation for a long and successful teaching career, a debt he can never repay.

**Robert Venables** QC has been elected to an Honorary Fellowship of St Edmund Hall, where he was Tutor in Jurisprudence from 1975 to 1980. He says he is working harder than ever at the age of 72 and thinks of the line in Virgil '*iam senior, sed cruda deo viridisque senectus*', but then remembers the description of the particular old god in the previous lines.

**David Holmes** was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, by BPP University in July 2019.

---

## 1967

### Year Representative: Rory Khilkoff-Boulding

Beggars Well, Bakers Lane, Dallington, East Sussex TN21 9JU  
Tel: 01435 830859 Email: rorykb1967@outlook.com

**Michael Prest** reports that he is failing to retire. Although he ceased regular work in newspapers and consultancy some years ago, he is still unable to turn down interesting editorial projects. The latest is to help Professor Mariana Mazzucato with her new book, due out in 2021 (after also helping her with her previous book, *The Value of Everything*, published in 2018). Michael lives with his wife in the Islington house they bought 35 years ago. Covid-19 has disrupted plans to spend more time in their cottage near the North Norfolk coast. Michael reads other people's books, as well as helping write them. He tries to stay fit and enjoy London's rich cultural life. He would be delighted to hear from Merton contemporaries.

**David Giachardi** writes that 2019 was a year of highs and lows for him. As reported in last year's *Postmaster*, he was installed in February of that year as Master of his livery company, the Worshipful Company of Horners. This is a body which, although it did not get its Royal Charter until 1638 under Charles I, traces its origins almost as far back as Merton and is mentioned in 1284 in City of London record books. This meant

that he and his wife, as 'Mistress Horner', enjoyed the early part of the year taking in all the social aspects of the City, an endless sequence of lunches, dinners, church services and civic events. He was most grateful to the College for enabling him to bring a group of fellow Horners for a guided tour of the Old Library, Chapel and gardens followed by lunch in Hall. Every one of them commented how splendid the event had been, and unlike most things they would otherwise do. Sadly, Helen, his wife of nearly 50 years, was diagnosed with bowel cancer and died just before Christmas. He was fortunate that his daughter could stand and act as consort for a major event that he had to host with the Lord Mayor as his guest. He was immensely moved when a number of Merton contemporaries attended Helen's funeral and greatly touched by their support.

**Ron Scott** has been a 'finance man' in various industries, latterly retailing, and ended his career by building up a national chain of clothing stores, mainly aimed at the student-age market. He is concerned that the heyday of high street retailing may never return. After 15 years of semi-retirement his business interests are at different ends of the spectrum: part-ownership of a city centre bar in Manchester and chairman of a northern-based company about to launch its 'high tech' green energy product in the sunnier climes of Australia. A Lancastrian based for most of his life in Harrogate, he can be found in normal times in the Yorkshire hills and dales with a like-minded group of 'cynical' 60- to 70-year-olds, putting the world to rights. Or watching his beloved Blackburn Rovers (now in the fifth generation with grandsons) and Leeds Rhinos – that other northern code of rugby league. Ron is still in regular contact with **Gary Stevens** (1968) who should have been staying this summer, **Ric Harris** (1967) and **Frank Keefe** (1969). He met the latter two in York at the end of last year when Frank's wife Jennifer was Visiting Professor of Philosophy. All four of them were taught by the unique **John Lucas** and have exchanged many hilarious stories.

**Arthur (Art) Shartsis** is still in practice and managing his law firm in San Francisco, which is doing surprisingly well (working entirely remotely) in the current environment. Hopefully, this strong viability will continue, in these very uncertain times. The Law School at Berkeley recognised him this year with its Citation Award, the school's highest honour. In May 2020 he published an article in the international edition of the

*Policy Review* of the Policy Institute of King's College, London entitled 'How to fix Europe's fraying social fabric'. The article advocates the creation of a European centre for best practices in societal cohesion. This is a project he has been working on in Britain, France and Germany, and one which enjoys the support of the Mayor of London, among others.

**Christopher Hill**, FBA is now Emeritus Professor of International Relations at Cambridge (and Emeritus Fellow of Sidney Sussex College), while from 2016 to 2019 he held the Wilson E. Schmidt Distinguished Chair of International Relations at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Bologna. He is still writing; his latest book is *The Future of British Foreign Policy* (2019). He also a joint editor of the *European Review of International Studies*.

**William Clendaniel** reports at the time of writing that he is comfortably ensconced in his Back Bay apartment in Boston, MA with his partner of 23 years. They are well and walk daily in their historic Victorian townhouse neighbourhood with beautiful private gardens and several public parks. They have kept busy with Zoom lectures from various Boston institutions and friends, including one with the 1967 American Rhodes Scholars. They have both been retired for several years although William is still busy as the treasurer of a small non-profit that advocates, raises money and cares for the Boston Common, the Public Garden and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, historic parks in the centre of Boston. They belong to a 40-year-old group, Beacon Hill Village, that works to keep older people living in their own homes by providing a number of services, an idea that has spread around the world. It has given them many new friends and many virtual programmes – exercise, travel lectures, health information, etc. Recently William gave a Zoom slide lecture to the group on their three-week trip to India a few years ago. They now have more time for reading and have enjoyed Hilary Mantel's *The Mirror and the Light*, Erik Larson's *The Splendid and the Vile*, and Ta-Nehisi Coates' *The Water Dancer* recently. Earlier this month they escaped for six days to his partner's farmhouse in rural New Hampshire, and thereafter to his family's coastal summer home in Maine for two months; it will be his 71st summer there. He has two sons and two grandchildren, who have all been self-quarantined for many weeks in MA and VT, but who will join them at various points over the summer.



I have heard too from **Geoffrey Penzer** who joined the College in 1967 as a junior research fellow, and who gave tutorials to the preclinical undergraduates who arrived that year.

**David Jeans** continues in retirement to be involved at Wadsley Church, where he was Vicar in the 1990s, and at Sheffield Wednesday as Chaplain to the Wise Old Owls, a lunch club for senior supporters. David was Club Chaplain to the Owls from 1989 to 2006. He continues to be involved in theological education, teaching at the Sheffield School of Ministry, and St Mellitus North West at Liverpool Cathedral. In March 2019 his Grove Booklet on the relationship between science and faith was published; he had wanted to call it *Engaging with Science: The Question of Human Significance*, but Grove, for reasons best known to themselves, called it *How to Talk Science and God*. At the time of writing David is still coming to grips with a new skill: preaching to a laptop screen of himself for a streamed service and being unable to gauge any response. He met up with **Peter Richmond**, **Nick Wright** and **Kelvin Roberts** to support **David Giachardi** on the sad occasion of the funeral of his wife Helen. He also interacts on Facebook with **Lou Henderson** (1968). Lou had posted a photo of a bottle of the Sheffield institution of Henderson's Relish. His bottle was a red and white striped version in honour of the other Sheffield team, so David felt obliged to respond by posting a photo of the blue and white striped 'Wednesday' version.

**Eldon Zuill**, considering the ties that bind us, recalls three unexpected Mertonian contacts over the years. While a guest at the R&A and having a drink in the lounge, a gentleman passed him, and said 'Hello Eldon, I see we were at the same college' and he was gone. Eldon wondered how **Alan Elliot** (1942) could have possibly been at the Ontario Agricultural College. He later realised that he had been wearing his Merton tie; Alan was at Merton during the war. They became good friends and, with their wives, used to meet regularly for lunch. On a second occasion at a meeting in his local village hall he was contacted by a stranger who remarked the coincidence that his daughter had just been accepted to read law at Merton; **Susan Paton** (1981) was among the first cohorts of women accepted to the College. In May 2012, Eldon and his wife were visiting a sculpture park just outside Edinburgh when he was approached by another

old Mertonian, who recognised Eldon's' birthday present of a Merton sweater with a very bold crest.

**David Taylor** has been retired for some time. Five years ago, he moved into Burton in Lonsdale, a village on the borders of Lancashire, Cumbria and North Yorkshire, after living in towns for most of his life. He found country living to be a revelation and he and his wife are involved in village activities, volunteering on local committees, and the village pub. He now has time to pursue his lifelong interest in motorsport, fostered by the Oxford University Motor Drivers' Club, and enjoys historic rallying and classic cars, along with the inevitable maintenance. And there are holidays: New Zealand and Greece last year, along with skiing in the winter.

**Colin Fraser** retired as Senior Master at Marlborough College in 2011 but continued to teach A-level Greek and Latin at Marlborough and at two other schools. He and his wife, Maria, spend much of summer on the Greek island of Naxos, where they have had a home for many years. By happy coincidence, **Andrew Hobson** also has found a home there and presides at regular meetings of the Naxos Merton Society. Colin and Maria also travel each year to Ukraine to spend time with relatives there. Colin reports that it was a particular pleasure to join **Stuart Ferguson** and other distinguished young men of his year at a lunch he hosted last July in Teddy Hall for the Merton Football XI that won the League One Championship in 1970.

**Richard Smith** writes that by the time this is published he and his wife Jenny will have moved house after 12 happy years in what used to be the village pub in High Shincliffe, just south of Durham city; built in 1829, originally converted in 1955 and improved by successive owners. They will be on the other side of Durham to be nearer their children and wider families, and to be rid of the insistent needs of a two-centuries-old property, lovely though it is. For the last 20 years Richard has been Professor of Education at Durham University, where he was first appointed in 1978 after six happy years teaching at King Edward's School, Birmingham. His current title gives little clue, he says, to his various activities there. Like their former home, he has gone through various conversions, including ten years as Director of Combined Social Sciences and two spells as President of the

local branch of the lecturers' union. He is still, at the age of 71, employed on a 30% contract, which unfortunately leaves little time to attend the departmental, faculty and other meetings to which universities are prone. For Richard, one great pleasure of working at Durham has been the exceptional quality, both intellectual and personal, of the young people who go to study there. A second has been writing, both as sole author and together with the many friends he has made, generally through meeting like-minded people across four continents. He hopes, as do we all in these times, that that these pleasures will continue for future generations: that the idea of the university will go on meaning more than online study, and stand for active resistance to xenophobia and ignorance.



Mike Zollo and his wife Carol standing on the spot where they met

**Mike Zollo** has been completely retired for quite a few years now, after 42 years of teaching, examining, and writing school language books. On 8 June 2018, Mike and Carol celebrated the 50th anniversary of their first meeting in the gardens of Rose Lane, where he was living in RL 3.3, at a staircase party. They spent a very enjoyable couple of days in Oxford, revisiting old haunts, and notably Merton College. The photograph on the left shows them standing on the very spot where they met. Since that fortuitous meeting life has been good to them, producing five lovely children and, to date, ten grandchildren. After almost eight years of complete remission, Carol's cancer (multiple myeloma) has recurred. She has undergone several months of chemotherapy in Devon, but the Covid-19 situation is delaying the necessary stem-cell transplant. She and Mike very much hope that when it has happened they will be able once again to spend time in their Spanish house, concentrating on keeping themselves fit with plenty of cycling, walking and swimming – enjoying Spanish life to the full. We wish them well and a successful outcome for Carol.



The four 1967 Modern Linguists on the mountaintop in May 2019

It is good to report that all four of the 1967 Modern Linguists (the others being **Stuart Jack**, **Mike Lewis** and **Nigel Middlemiss**) and their spouses have maintained a more or less annual gathering; they call themselves, using a non-modern language, the 'carpe diem' society. In early May 2019 they gathered for a few days at Casa Zollo in southern Spain; they all climbed to the top of the small mountain behind the village for a memorable picnic next to a monument bearing a plaque with an inscription that finishes appropriately with

the words '*carpe diem*'. They find linking through 'WhatsApp' to be a great morale booster in grim times.

Nigel writes: "My beloved Prisca (Somerville 1967-71) passed away, to the immense sadness of the family, in 2016. I have a loving friendship now with Margarita Genova, once my pupil through the British Council. I maintain an interest in modern languages by speaking and writing Bulgarian and am completing a book on French and English semantic and etymological links."

Following early retirement in 2005, **Richard Allen** in recent years has been helping charities of varying sizes improve their performance. His most recent book, *The Body in the Marine Buildings*, was published in the USA last year. He still writes books and music for pleasure. After a hip replacement operation in late 2018, he no longer runs half marathons, but only shorter distances. He is also the very happy grandfather of two boys aged seven and five, who keep him young and his football skills up to date. He and Vanessa (Somerville) will have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 11 July 2020. He is also in touch with **Chris Hill** and **John Walsh**. Richard's brother **David Allen** (1968) is still working as a judge, although upon hitting the dreaded threescore years and ten, he has cut his caseload back a bit.

**John Walsh** has retired from the practice of law, leaving the Birmingham firm Anthony Collins in 2015. His wife, Lyn, retired from her employment as a legal secretary on leaving Eversheds (Manchester) in 2017. They still live in Macclesfield. John was much inspired by reading, in *Postmaster* 2015, that **Tom Head** (1968) had, following his illustrious career with Freshfields, 'discovered that sloth has its attractions'. For almost five years, John too has been discovering these pleasures. But he and Lyn have now stirred and joined the committee of the Macclesfield Literary & Philosophical Society (founded, much more recently than its name might imply, in response to news coverage that Macclesfield was the least cultured town in England). This year he is looking to take on a small organisational role with the Manchester group of the Oxford University Society, whose existence he learned of only a couple of years ago. Through the group, they have met and befriended **Paul Shrimpton** (1971) and his wife, Michelle. John and Lyn have remained friends, in regular contact, with **Ronald Graham** (1971), a long-term colleague

of his in his own years at Eversheds, and for whom Lyn did much work, and with his partner Dr Eileen Rees. He is in regular contact too with **Richard Allen**.

**Peter Richmond** and his wife Lou (Baxter) are well and continuing to enjoy life in Hexham, especially in these trying times. Last autumn he started doing the local Parkrun every Saturday morning, but that of course stopped in March.

Since retiring, **Martin Sands** has been more involved with alumni matters at his old school, Hampton, and has been Chairman of the Old Hamptonians Association for the last four years. During this period a new and mutually beneficial agreement was agreed between the association and the school; Martin believes his experience of international negotiations while working in the Ministry of Defence may have been of some help with this achievement. He still sees colleagues from the MOD from time to time including attending various lunch and dinner engagements and reunions. He is in regular contact with **Richard Harris** and his wife Lilian, **Michael Prest**, **Bill Hedley** (1969) and his brother-in-law **John Symes** (1969). Martin and Carol have continued to enjoy annual holidays to Greece, most recently to the Peloponnese where there are enough classical and historical sites to satisfy a Merton historian along with the more traditional aspects of Greek life. He reports that Carol retired in 2019 after working in the NHS for some 40 years, and their daughter Emma graduated from Newcastle University in 2018 having completed her master's. She is now working for a tech company in London.

Like the linguists '*carpe diem*' group, a subset of former first-year denizens of Merton Street have kept in close touch and have gatherings every year or two or on suitable occasions.

**Clive Richardson** reports that in retirement, over the last three and a half years he and Anne have obtained four grandchildren. Clive has joined the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and has become a Freeman of the City of London (the latter is something he shares with me, as a member of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, and with **David Giachardi** as a 'Horner'). Clive and Anne went to a Forge Day, and Anne was photographed for the front cover of the Blacksmiths' magazine – forging a scone. Clive is an active Rotarian and

is having a second stint as President of the Epson Rotary Club for 2020-21. He went with Anne to Malawi to donate 11 bicycle ambulances from the Rotary Club to the AMECA clinic in Chilaweni, near Blantyre; they are returning next year with a Rotary cheque to help fund the maternity clinic there. He has also run two successful Annual Fun Days for the local community with about 3,000 people attending.

**Keith Wade** is enjoying retirement and, family matters and various hobbies and interests apart, is spending a fair bit of time on voluntary work with their village at Sevenoaks Weald and Sevenoaks itself. Over the last two years or so he has been the initiator and co-organiser of a major exhibition on the heritage buildings of Sevenoaks on behalf of the Sevenoaks Society, which included researching various historic buildings, institutions and locations within the town, and writing material for the exhibition. He has co-authored an accompanying book, *Sevenoaks: A Remarkable Town*, and maintains a continuing role as Publicity Officer, Trees and Landscape Officer, archivist and Executive Committee member for the Sevenoaks Society. He has been the lead member of a steering group set up to prepare a Village Design Statement and Parish Plan for the village of Weald, and is engaged in the preparation of a book on the history of the pubs and inns of Sevenoaks, with publication planned for 2021.

**Terry Riordan**, now a grandfather to five, has had a remarkably interesting series of projects in hand in the last two years. Initially he helped a military historian and guide, Penny Burton, to make a Cloud-based app to explore all battlefield walks at Waterloo in a more constructive, enjoyable and informative way than anything else around. This has blossomed into a small company (Penny Guides Ltd) which led to a busy year researching, designing and marketing a Cloud-based visitors' app for D-Day (around 1,000 screens etc.), visits to Normandy for photographic research for the app, but also detailed research into local wine and cheese etc., followed by attendance at the 75th anniversary, meeting veterans, and being generally astounded at their achievements.

A Cloud-based app for Arnhem in the Operation Market Garden campaign (*A Bridge Too Far*) followed and Terry attended the 75th anniversary at Arnhem/Oosterbeek.

There he met and interviewed (and had a few beers with over the three days) a parachute veteran (Sandy Cortmann, 97 years old) who did a jump on the anniversary, 75 years after he had done the real thing in 1944. Unfortunately, Mr Cortmann died in May this year. A further product was a free D-Day to VE Day Cloud app; on release it was updated monthly to increase awareness of VE Day for the 75th anniversary, which brought about some national newspaper coverage and some local radio coverage. Additionally, VE Day street party packs to help have some fun on VE Day despite lockdown were produced and sold; on the day there was a nationwide Instagram party with clients and friends. Terry's own village street was shut and there was a 'socially distanced party'. This was based around a village friend of his, aged 96, who went in on D-Day +8, all the way through Arnhem, Belsen and on to the North East of Hamburg, and who proposed the Toast at 3pm.

The current project is to develop a free database site, Voices of Veterans, for family stories and voices, film etc. to be uploaded to preserve the memories as there are now so few left. Terry's team are interviewing participants personally, and the site (with upload capability) should be online by the autumn. On the sporting side, Terry has climbed a long-time target peak in Italy: Corno Grande in the Gran Sasso in Abruzzo (9,554 ft) and a few more peaks in Sibillini. He has recently lost a good friend in Italy to Covid-19; two other good friends in Emilia-Romagna, working in intensive care, fought it off and survived.

**Sir Brian Leveson** retired as President of the Queen's Bench Division on his 70th birthday in June 2019 and later that summer was appointed Investigatory Powers Commissioner where, for three days a week, he leads a team of 15 retired senior judges. In this capacity he is responsible for overseeing the use of covert investigative powers not only by the intelligence community but also by law enforcement agencies and local authorities. He reports that it is all very interesting and very different but it has been quite difficult during the lockdown period because he cannot go into the office and deal with the most sensitive applications; he has thus appointed ten under-70 temporary commissioners to do that work, but it is still quite demanding in policy terms. In addition, this year he became Treasurer of the Middle Temple



which is his Inn of Court. He was asked if he would do that on the basis that it would be fun. Brian says that there are lots of words to describe the last few months, but fun is not one of them: with criminal courts shut and barristers not able to earn anything there are real issues of hardship. Those who think all barristers are fat cats are sadly mistaken; many are living hand to mouth and if the briefs do not come in, there is nothing to replace them. Further, the emergency self-employed income support scheme (SEIS) does not cover those who do not have three years' worth of accounts. Brian has consequently been behind appeals for charitable funds from the wealthier lawyers and necessarily has conducted all his meetings virtually. Brian also continues as Chancellor of Liverpool John Moores University. His wife Lynne has ceased working at Kew, and greatly misses that, but is now fully engaged in remodelling and replanting their garden.

**John Wroe** has retired from the practice of criminal law which he carried out successfully through his own firm in Reading for many years.

**Chris Starr** reports that he has (temporarily) given up computer programming in Belgium and Germany and has gone into the trucking business in East Africa. He has at the same time set his own new world record for complications in his life.



Rory Khilkoff-Boulding (third from left) with his wife Marina (centre) and son Alexis (third from right) at a commemoration for Marina's great-grandfather Prince Michael Khilkoff in 2016

As for me, **Rory Khilkoff-Boulding**, although I am still practising law as a solicitor in a semi-retired fashion, it has also been an interesting few years on entirely different

fronts. A highlight as far back in 2016 was an invitation from the Russian Ministry of Transport to Marina (St Hilda's, 1970), our son Alexis, a niece from Australia and a Canadian cousin to attend a commemoration and re-interment ceremony near Sonkovo in the Tver region (roughly between Moscow and St Petersburg) for Marina's great-grandfather Prince Michael Khilkoff, as his only available direct descendants. There are none surviving in Russia. I went as spouse of the senior family member present.

As Minister of Transport, Khilkoff built the Trans-Siberian and the Trans-Caucasian railways and a network of roads in the late 19th and the first decade of the 20th century. He is now recognised there for the work he did, apparently building more roads and railways during his tenure in office than was achieved throughout the whole Soviet period. The Soviets however had built a road over his grave and those of his immediate family, perhaps during the Second World War, and all traces were lost until road repairs were undertaken in 2015. With the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Trans-Siberian coming up in 2016, a historian undertook to find all the graves and arrange the reburial of the whole family group next to the ruined family chapel, complete with dedicated memorial obelisk. We attended this occasion, expecting a small private service of locals and more distant Russian relatives, but a special train had been arranged for us and a collection of Russian VIPs from Moscow. The open-air occasion was supported by a ceremonial military escort and two Ministers (of Transport and of Railways), the Russian Railways' military band, a wonderful Orthodox choir and a small swarm of media and TV people. A bust was then unveiled in a separate ceremony at the railway station with fireworks, military wreath-laying and official speeches. Neither of us ever having been to Russia, and the family history from 1917 being rather dark and unknown to all of the family in the West, Marina and I were both astounded and moved by the occasion: family conversational tales over the decades as anecdotal history suddenly made startlingly real.

In December of that year our son's family immigrated to the UK, and now live with us.

In March 2018, on my 70th birthday, spent in Tallahassee, I was presented with an award by the Florida Bar for leadership

in providing in London MCLE (Continuing Professional Development) courses for US-qualified international attorneys, which endorsement was much appreciated. Closer to home, Marina and I were fortunate to pass an audition in the latter part of 2018 to sing at Glyndebourne in the chorus of a specially commissioned opera, *Agreed*, which was performed in early 2019. This was a fabulous new journey for us into a rather different and wholly immersive world of music, illusion and make-believe, superbly and professionally crafted at one of the world's premier opera houses. It was an experience that stretched us immensely and one we will always treasure. Then 21 June 2020 was the 50th anniversary of Marina and I meeting in Oxford – the longest day, 1970.

I would like to close by saying how pleasant it was to meet up with so many of our year at the 50th Anniversary lunch at the College in 2018, and, surprisingly, for it to be the first ever such lunch to include wives and significant others. But there was so little time there to really catch up in depth. As the years pass, friends and contacts and memories from one's most formative years become more and more important, as I think shines through in the *Postmaster* submissions. Please keep the updates coming in future years.

## 1968

### Year Representative: Ian McBrayne

44 Parkland Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9AP  
Tel: 020 8504 2491 Email: ian@mcbrayne.idps.co.uk

I invited news for *Postmaster* at the height of world lockdown, which forms a thread running through the responses. But this report begins on a sombre note for other reasons. We have all been saddened by the death of **James Hughes-Hallett** after struggling with pancreatic cancer. He sounded upbeat last year, and at the end of a stellar career was still engaged with several non-executive roles. Very sadly he died on 10 October 2019. He will be remembered for what one colleague described as 'his quiet wisdom, warmth, accessibility, humour and resilience'. His obituary appears on page 294.

It was also a shock to receive **Peter Bibby's** news. He writes: 'I am dying from metastatic lung cancer. My doctor has

signed an application for attendance allowance in special circumstances on the basis that I will be dead within six months. Last week a stair lift was installed in the house where I have lived with my wife Anne Clarke (St Anne's, 1970) for the last 45 years. Because coronavirus would surely kill me within days, Anne and I never leave the house except for me to attend hospital appointments. I expect to die at home, mainly looked after by Anne on her own, but we will get nursing support at the end.'

Peter is busy writing his autobiography, entitled *Always Up To Something*, for publication after his death. He offers the following extract: '1968: My usual propensity to acquire keys of the kitchen didn't desert me while at Merton. The kitchen was far more rewarding than my school's had been because it handled the food and wine for the high table. Slipping silently among the shadows of the kitchen furniture, I could see a tray containing scallop shells: the well-known dish *Coquilles St Jacques*. As I reached out, a hand appeared from the other side of the counter and secured them a moment ahead of me. On that occasion I left the kitchen empty-handed. I assume a fellow student was up to the same chicanery.'

Peter's message finishes: 'I have done in my life all the things that I wanted to do. I weep to be missing the next steps in the life journeys of my wife, my relatives, my friends and all the people I have known, loved and enjoyed. Farewell, I hope you will remember me from time to time.' Be assured that we will, Peter; may you go out with spirit unbowed.

On a happier note, congratulations to **Gerry Grimstone** on his new career. Elevated to the peerage as Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Gerry is now Minister for Investment and Government spokesman on trade in the House of Lords. 'During these terrible times, it's good to be back in public service again,' he says. Very best wishes for what will doubtless be a challenging role.

Others too are entering new fields. **Simon Orebi Gann** remembers a childhood wish to follow his father into the Civil Service. He continues to combine his non-executive roles with motor racing, the latter having the more extreme highs and lows. With his interest in technology innovation, the year's highlight was touring the Tesla Gigafactory in

Reno, which he found five to seven years ahead with battery technology for cars, back-up electricity grids and individual premises. The 2020 racing season having had at least the first half cancelled, he has agreed to a short consultancy assignment for the Government. Finally, albeit as an advisor, he has achieved his ambition.

**Chris Simmons** has returned to work as honorary, part-time assistant curate in the parishes of St John Lee, Warden and Newbrough, across the Tyne from his home in Hexham. St John Lee is where St John of Beverley retired when church life in Hexham became too tiresome. Chris's escape was a tour with the Antiphon choir, singing in Salisbury and Wells cathedrals and the parish churches of Frome and Glastonbury. Back home he gave a talk about two early-17th-century copies of the Geneva ('Breeches') Bible in the town. A third local copy is rumoured, but the owner was reluctant to lend it to a Church of England minister 'in case she never got it back'. The garden continues to mature, rhubarb particularly abundant, supplying the neighbourhood.

**Paul Engeham** is another one moving on. Two more work visits to the Falkland Islands enabled him to reach very remote Carcass and West Point Islands where albatrosses, elephant seals and penguins provide close-up fascination. He finds virus-induced isolation less stressful than HMS *Glamorgan*'s often lonely 105 days at sea in the South Atlantic in 1982. He recently won the Royal Navy foil fencing competition in which he first competed in 1971: 'Old age, low cunning and treachery occasionally have their day against the young.' Now partially retired from the Ministry of Defence, he has been appointed Chancellor for the Grand Lodge of England, responsible for relationships with more than 200 Grand Lodges all over the world with which English freemasons may inter-visit.

The difficulties faced by this year's graduating students have reminded **Steve Powell** of the problems with job applications caused by the postal strike of 1971. His first position, as an examiner in the Patent Office, was also affected. Patent applications that arrived late because of the strike were deemed to be filed on a single date when it was over. A final decision had to be made within four years, so there was a veritable tsunami of cases to be finished by a single deadline in 1975.

Congratulations to **Nicholas Richardson** on the publication of *Autogiro Pioneer: The Life of Jack Richardson* (Fonthill Media, 2019). This is an account of the varied life and adventures of his father, the first commercially licensed autogiro pilot, based on his memoirs. Nicholas says the publisher has produced it very well. An enjoyable launch party was held at the National Army Museum, doubling as a celebration of Nicholas' 80th birthday. Another person putting pen to paper is **John Reynolds**, prompted by lockdown to write up his trip to Iran a couple of years ago. Inspiration came from reading *The Road to Oxiana* by Robert Byron, a Mertonian of the 1920s. John finds Byron an interesting character; the introduction to the book mentions his precocious aesthetic tastes and his rooms at Merton 'filled with Victoriana in provocative bad taste'. John recommends the book and wishes he could emulate Byron's writing style.

Another recent traveller is **Alastair Northedge**, who has been to Algeria for the first time. It is a closed country and visas are difficult to obtain; when you get there, there are many checkpoints on the roads in 1970s communist style. It was more interesting culturally than Alastair expected, rumours that everything of interest had been squashed by the French colonial government proving untrue. With no tourists, he got a real taste of the country. Alastair has latterly been living the full locked-down experience in his house outside Paris, wondering whether it might prove safer to go ahead with a planned trip to China.

**George Daly** and his wife Angela are locked down in Brittany, grateful for a good rhythm of life in a beautiful place. Earlier, they visited India and Nepal; George is researching the life of Siddhartha and they saw many Buddhist sites. He continues his work with the African Prisons Project, for which the virus is a challenge: overcrowded prisons are not good places if a pandemic hits them. He finds the work of the project to transform criminal justice systems very absorbing and looks forward to being featured on the US television programme *60 Minutes* later in the year.

Those experiencing the US response to the virus include **Dave Bell** and his wife on Cape Cod and **Alan Harland** in Philadelphia, which he says is like a ghost town, with the tens of thousands of students from Temple University and other

institutions sent home to be taught remotely by Zoom. With plans scuppered for flying round the world to mark his wife's recent birthday, they settled for a Zoom party with family members across three continents and eight US states. Earlier, they continued their quest to visit all the US national parks with a wonderful adventure to the three parks in Florida. Their oldest daughter is a park ranger in Utah, who now has one of the most spectacular locations in the world almost to herself, spotting wildlife rarely seen for years.

**Alan Taylor's** son (now 12) has started school in the UK. Alan's plan to commute every few weeks between Hong Kong and the new family home in York has been stymied by the virus. But Hong Kong is not a bad place to be: relatively mild social distancing, and shops, restaurants and cafés still open. He was hoping for normal travel to be possible by July so that he could celebrate his 70th in the UK.



The football reunion lunch hosted by Stuart Ferguson

**Kit Heasman** reports a reunion lunch of the famous Merton football team of the late 1960s, kindly hosted (disguised as the Notre-Dame lunch) by **Stuart Ferguson** at St Edmund Hall. All bar one were 1968 scientists, afforded by **Colin Fraser** (1967), who despite his non-scientific discipline contributed much to the team: he is a very rare species, a Merton football blue. Merton won the first division of the intercollegiate football league and beat St Edmund Hall 7-1; hence the need for disguise, although it is rumoured the score was reversed in Cuppers. Present at the lunch were Stuart Ferguson and Tina, **David Gadian** and Ro, Colin Fraser and Maria, Kit

Heasman and Rosemary, **Peter Warry** and Rosemary, **Alec Jeffreys** and Sue and Gerry Grimstone and Li Peng. The other six would like to congratulate Gerry and wonder if he could schedule the next lunch for the House of Lords!

Another reunion, enjoyed by **Steve Drinkwater**, was of his Earth Sciences year, with a splendid dinner at St Cross College and other events across the weekend. Some there had not met since 1972: a great opportunity to catch up. Steve then took off to Scotland with his campervan, led a group on the West Highland Way and spent a couple of weeks walking and sightseeing. In August he was in Dorset doing the coast path. Then disaster struck: the van broke down and he damaged tendons in his leg. Now that he is on the mend the world has shut down. He is still actively studying French, Photography and Creative Writing, with Psychology to come in the autumn.

Two more sad notes. **Nigel Webster** and Laura used to wonder whether England would leave Europe before Europe left itself and whether they would live long enough to find out. Unfortunately Laura didn't, succumbing to cancer in 2019. Nigel is left to marvel at recent performances in Westminster. For **Scirard Lancelyn Green**, 2019 was dominated by his mother's last days, her death incongruously followed by their carillon playing *Happy Birthday* for their elder son. Her many connections meant a funeral and memorial service for about 1,000 people. Scirard and his wife took time out for a week of ice dance in January, and a week skiing in the Aletsch Glacier region. He is now wondering how to fulfil his landlord duties of repair and maintenance while working from home.

I have found lockdown a good opportunity to renew my family history researches, if only to stop the plants in our garden dying of shock at the amount of unwanted attention. It seems I am not alone. **Nicol Webster**, who retired for a third time last year, has been putting his research and paleographic skills to use in pursuing what his sceptical wife calls gene allergy. He has also rediscovered his love for the guitar and once again wears his fingertip calluses as a badge of honour. **Richard Hofton** also continues to dabble with family history, but has had to postpone plans to explore the haunts of his Sussex ancestors, prominent for centuries but reduced to ruin in the 1770s because George Naldrett,



quondam High Sheriff of that county, never got round to marrying or writing a will. Regular visits to concerts at Birmingham's Symphony Hall are also on hold. Otherwise, his life remains more or less as last year.

**Danny Lawrence** sums up the effects of 'these strange times' as multiple travel plans scuppered and withdrawal symptoms from not being able to go to the Etihad Stadium, 'none of which really matters just now, obviously'. **David Allen** is grateful for work as a distraction. He says: 'It has been interesting this week conducting High Court hearings by video link from the sitting room of our flat.' He plans to retire in February, by which time he hopes for 'some sort of normality, whatever that may be in the future'.

Nine years ago **Neil Loden** and Susan bought a 16th-century house in the Dartmoor National Park, once part of the Castle Drago estate. Having succumbed to the charms of the West Country and spent 18 months on a programme of repairs and improvements, they were gratified by an award from the Devon Historic Buildings Trust for the best restoration of a historic building. The house is now their family home and normally a regular venue for their two daughters and families, including four grandsons aged one to six. **James Miller** reports from the depths of Herefordshire that they were flooded twice last winter and now cannot get repair work done during lockdown. Having taken over as chairman of Hereford Sixth Form College, he is also concerned at the impact of the virus on teenagers and other young people: 'Missing out on so much that is important of sixth form or university life is something they can never make up.'

Following the premiere of *Akathistos* at St Stephen, Walbrook, **Nick Bicât** was delighted to have an earlier piece performed there too. *Perpetua* tells of the first female Christian martyr, and the dramatic setting of Wren's church helped to frame and enhance the theatrical narrative. When his song for the 900th anniversary of Leeds Castle was performed, Nick joined the choir in procession. 'We all wore monks' robes; however, I also had to drag a portable loudspeaker system behind me: a somewhat anachronistic sight.' His latest work should premiere at the Historic Dockyard in Chatham in October, but the Arts Council has currently suspended its grant giving. He is still able to make some progress, and

counts himself lucky when almost all musicians, singers and actors are suffering great financial hardship.

The last word goes to Alan Taylor, because it is the most upbeat: 'Looking ahead, past the current inconveniences, I am excited and optimistic for the future. I am impressed how quickly medical science and technology have progressed, and how people generally have responded to this challenge. How fortunate we are to be living in these interesting times.'

---

## 1969

**Year Representative: John Symes**

Email: [jmdsymes@btinternet.com](mailto:jmdsymes@btinternet.com)

It is hard to follow last year's exceptional response – it was our 50th anniversary and the College laid on a magnificent lunch to celebrate. An account of this event is elsewhere in this *Postmaster*, and in this section I will just summarise responses to my request for updates. (Forgive me if in shortening entries I have introduced any errors or distortions.)

On the principle that 'no news is good news', I propose to create a section for those correspondents who have nothing noteworthy to report or nothing to add to previous entries. In this spirit it was a pleasure to hear from **Jonty Boyce**, **Howard Davies**, **Martin McNeill** and **Patrick Traill**.

**Duncan Campbell-Smith** reports that his biography of Frank Whittle (*Jet Man: The Making and Breaking of Frank Whittle, the Genius behind the Jet Revolution*) will be published later this year.

**Michael Collins** divides his time between Mosta, Malta and Kyrenia/Girne on the north coast of Cyprus. In Mosta he can see the famous Rotunda from his front balcony. This year he was licensed as a Reader at St Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Valletta, where he is busy with the restoration appeal, which has raised over 5 million euros. He is also busy giving talks and lectures on his book *St George and the Dragons: The Making of English Identity* (Fonthill Media) in Cyprus, Germany, Nigeria, and hopefully Britain (when travel is permitted again).

**Peter Forster** confirms that he has now retired to live in Melrose, as reported last year.

**Mike Garton Sprenger** and his wife Clare visited South Africa in January to see the land where his grandfather's family were brought up. They travelled from the Cape and KwaZulu Natal up to Limpopo Province in the north where he tracked down the grave of his grandfather who died in 1921, the year his father, also at Merton (1940), was born.

Following the death of his wife in 2018 after a very long illness, **Tony Hansen** has remodelled the upstairs of his house into a self-contained furnished apartment with bathroom and kitchenette. The house is within walking distance of the main university campus in Berkeley and he would welcome any Mertonian for a short- or medium-term visit. After five years planning with colleagues at Moscow State University he installed one of his company's air-pollution instruments at a remote weather station high in the Siberian Arctic. Although the Arctic is melting, there is almost no data concerning the emissions and transport of sunlight-absorbing 'black smoke' from the oil and gas industry in Siberia. (His journal is available at [www.mageesci.com/Yamal](http://www.mageesci.com/Yamal)).

**Bill Hedley** was elected President of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations last November. The Federation covers 44 countries and its role is to coordinate, promote and represent philatelic activities across Europe. Usually these activities take the shape of exhibitions, seminars and meetings but those arranged for 2020 have mostly been cancelled or postponed into 2021 and 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

**John Newsome** reports that, as a priest, you never retire; you just go on working in different ways but without pay! Living near Frankfurt, having served most of his ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Europe, last year he took on the role of Acting Archdeacon for parishes in Germany, Scandinavia and the Baltic. It enabled him to visit previously unseen places such as Helsinki and Riga. After the appointment of a new archdeacon he has returned to his role as Area Dean for Germany which he combines with Spirituality Advisor for the diocese.

**Will Pedder** was due this year to complete his ten-year project of sailing every European coastline with his wife Rosie. Cyprus would have been their last country, but will now have to wait till 2021, virus permitting.

**John Symes** celebrated the birth of his first grandchild, Iris, in December and with his wife Ann is adapting to the role of grandparenting. The seven-year project that he has led to restore and enhance the church in Droxford also came to a successful conclusion last year. The project raised £600,000 to restore the at-risk Norman church and to build an annex with kitchen and toilets, and open a cafe in the church, ensuring a sustainable future as a community hub. Major contributions came from the Lottery Heritage Fund, Hampshire County Council, and the Garfield Weston Foundation with many smaller but generous donations from the local community.

**Richard Underwood** retired from Imperial College on 31 December 2019 but remains Emeritus Professor of Cardiac Imaging and works part-time at Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals. Although not in the front line, it has been stirring to see the changes to routine clinical practice that Covid-19 thrust upon the hospitals. At one point there were 69 ventilated patients on ITU and a further 24 on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), by a long way the largest in the UK.

---

## 1970

**Year Representative: Nick Skinner**

Cophthorne, The Close, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8EE  
Tel: 01903 767072 Email: [nhs Skinner@sky.com](mailto:nhs Skinner@sky.com)

Many thanks as always to you all for supporting this year's newsgathering. As I write this, in the first few days of June 2020, we are cautiously beginning to make the first few careful steps out of the Covid-19 lockdown; a concern for all of us in view of our age profile. Not I am sure the way any of us thought we would be remembering our Golden Jubilee!

Many of us are now pensioners and retired from active employment, but **Geoff Ellis** writes that he is a minister to a

church in the West Park area of north west Leeds and also a chaplain to vulnerable residents in an MHA (Methodist Homes) care scheme in Hunslet, south Leeds. 'Whilst isolating at home I am keeping in contact mainly by phone and newsletter to support those who have hardly if at all left their homes or rooms for so many weeks. Church and chaplaincy business and conference meetings take place by email and Zoom. Church worship and prayers continue to be offered for people to participate in from their homes. The big discussion point now is what will the "new normal" look like when social isolation is eased, and especially for those in the most vulnerable health or age groups.'

Zoom is now a feature of our lives as we keep up virtually with family, friends, work and church.

Another involved in ministry is **Mick Holloway** who is 'on the preaching rota as a licensed lay minister and acting treasurer for All Saints Church Highams Park, Bridging the Gap Islington ([www.bridging-islington.org.uk](http://www.bridging-islington.org.uk)) providing trained volunteer mentors to adults who are homeless and/or at risk of offending, and a family endowment trust ([www.fbtrust.org.uk](http://www.fbtrust.org.uk)) providing funding for postgraduates researching matters relating to intolerance and how they might be resolved at Birkbeck College London'. Mick has been enjoying dealing with the garden in the great weather while shielding from the virus, having recovered from a bout of chemotherapy in 2018. Meanwhile wife Wendy looks after the allotment. Mick is feeling very well and keeping busy and positive.

**John Crabtree** continues to teach at the Latin American Centre at Saint Antony's College, Oxford. He is currently engaged in a research project (for a book) on business elites and their political influence in the Andean countries, specifically Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. He was in Peru for two months at the beginning of 2020 but had to cut short his visit when the shutters came down there in mid-March; a rather costly but necessary move to avoid getting stuck in the country and unable to get out. Since he mostly works from home, lockdown has not proven too traumatic; indeed, a bit of a boon in getting stuff written.

**Peter Moizer** reports: 'On 31 December 2019, I stood down as Executive Dean of Leeds University Business School and

on 1 July 2020, I will retire from my full-time role as Professor of Accounting. In December of 2019, I was made a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, which means that I can now call myself a FacSS!'

It was good to hear from **Malcolm Cook** where the lockdown has meant an enforced break from rowing. He has been keeping fit on a rowing machine and has recently been able to return to the river on a single scull following a relaxation of the rules.

**Tony Sharp** writes: 'I benefited from medical intervention this past year, having had a "minimally invasive total hip replacement" in August, which I suppose is my only significant news, apart, of course, from the loss of all my tour guiding, at least until October.

'I had been suffering with arthritis in my right hip (though the left is pretty clear, so far) for perhaps a couple of years, and thereby hangs a cautionary tale to share with others. It was diagnosed at a time when I'd just come back from a four-day Berlin tour and felt pretty good about myself, suffering only intermittent manageable pain, and so declined the offer of surgery until such time as it got worse. Four or five months later it did get significantly worse and I returned to the hospital in January last year whereupon the consultant declared that they would be very happy to offer me a new hip. The downside was that the waiting list was pushing 11 months. By that time I couldn't face the wait, and so paid £10,000 to have the same surgeon (widely recommended) perform the op that summer. Had I put down when it was first diagnosed I would have had the procedure about the same time as it actually happened, but for free. The moral is clearly "get on the list asap"! Tony's wife Catherine is working full-time from home. He wishes the Mertonians of 1970 continuing good health and a safe emergence from the current crisis.

**Les Hewitt** reports from Warrington that all is well with himself and his wife Anne: 'We've been making good use of video technology (Zoom) to have regular chats with our children. I also use Zoom to attend two Tai Chi classes a week from my study. Despite the occasional technical hitch and screen freezing, it works well.

'One of the highlights of the week is a visit to the "virtual pub" via video on a Friday night to replace my visit to the real pub. My friends and I get a can or two and a bag of crisps in our respective houses. We drink beer and talk rubbish just like a regular Friday night at the pub!

'We've managed to maintain our regular exercise – a selection from run, walk and cycle. As restrictions were relaxed this week, it was nice to go a little further afield for a run. A refreshing change of scene.'

An international perspective of the crisis is provided by **Tony Woodruff**: 'Here in British Columbia we have escaped Covid pretty well, thanks to an experienced Chief Medical Officer who has battle scars from SARS and Ebola epidemics. Quick action, focus on distancing, protecting healthcare workers, prisons and care homes right away, lots of detailed, consistent communication. Result – few deaths. Pre Covid, the most interesting part of my year was a visit to Rwanda last October. It's a country that has fascinated me for a long time. It had a well-developed, complex feudal society before Europeans started messing around, but alas much tragic history since then. The genocide museum in Kigali is chilling and superb, and surprisingly unbiased politically.' Tony expresses the belief that Rwanda, Uganda and Africa as a whole appear to be coping with Covid well.

Very best wishes to you all.

---

## 1971

**Year Representative: Allin Cottrell**

155 Crepe Myrtle Cir, Winston Salem, NC 27106-4609, USA  
Email: cottrell@wfu.edu

This year I've heard from **Simon Jones** (classicist 1971-75, who later became a solicitor, 'for his sins'). I'll let him tell his exciting news in his own words.

'Having retired, I turned my hand to writing fiction and I thought you might like to note that I have just completed a debut novel entitled *Transit of Mercury* (published by Matador in January). A supernatural mystery in the magical realism

genre, the action takes place in London, New York, Florence – and a thinly disguised Merton College. There is a copy in the College Library and it is also available at Blackwell's and on Amazon (just in case I've piqued your curiosity!)' I'm a mystery fan myself and will surely check out Simon's book.

---

## 1972

**Year Representative: Mark Signy**

White Oaks, 29 Furze Road, High Salvington, Worthing, BN13 3BP  
Tel: 07710 349949 Email: marksigny@aol.com

What a strange and terrible end to the year. I hope everyone is managing to keep safe and well.

I attended the memorial for our former Warden, Sir Rex Richards, in February, just before the lockdown. I'm pleased to report it was a lovely meeting and did Rex's memory proud. The main (terrific) eulogy was given by Philip Waller, who you will recall as the (massively over-lenient) Principal of the Postmasters during our time at Merton (and who I recall fined Steve Cole and me very unfairly for the minimal offence of breaking his office window with a snowball – in retrospect, we all three thought it was £5 well spent).

I have (eventually) had some news from several old friends some of whom, I'm delighted to say, are contacting us for the first time (some are from last year when we somehow missed the deadline).

**Paul Weindling** (from last year): Since 1998 Paul has been Research Professor in History of Medicine at Oxford Brookes University. In 2016-17 he was Senior Fellow of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute, and in 2018 Fellow of the City of Vienna at the International Research Centre for Cultural Studies, Vienna. Honours include membership of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina since December 2014, and he is an honorary member of the German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics. From 2015, he has held an Anneliese Maier Research Award awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Grants include 1.5 million euros from the Max Planck Society to research the life



histories of brain research victims from the Nazi period and its post-war use of specimens. He is President of a Commission of the University of Strasbourg to research the history of the Medical Faculty of the Reich University Straßburg. Since 2003 he has been on the Council of Management and Trustee of CARA (Council for At-Risk Academics). Recent books include *John W. Thompson, Psychiatrist in the Shadow of the Holocaust* (2010), and *Victims and Survivors of Nazi Human Experiments: Science and Suffering in the Holocaust* (2014). Among several recent edited volumes is: *From Clinic to Concentration Camp: Reassessing Nazi Medical and Racial Research, 1933-1945* (Routledge).

**John Millard** (from last year) writes: 'Time in retirement moves very quickly. It's difficult to believe that I retired (from paid work!) over two years ago. Time is spent doing a variety of things I didn't do when working. Such as spending time with grandchildren (four), parents (two), performing music (two – choir and orchestra), being a treasurer/trustee of charities (two), going on holiday (several).

'When I retired people asked me if we were going on any sort of retirement jaunt. The answer then was "no"; but after a number of years in retirement (two) we went to New Zealand and Australia to visit relatives and explore. The holiday of a lifetime – the world is a wonderful, amazing, and beautiful, place. We said it was a one-off but I wonder if it will be. A return is a tempting prospect, so in a year (or two) I might report a visit (number two).'

**Neil Hargreaves** (from last year) writes: 'I'm retired and live in the village of Newport in north Essex. Although I qualified as a chartered accountant I mostly didn't do real accounting, having spent 26 years at insurance and reinsurance brokers in the City and Norwich. After qualifying, Sally and I lived in Nairobi for a while, where I worked for Deloitte, and which is where our son Alistair was born. His wife is from Kenya. They were born in the same hospital and their birth certificates were signed by the same person, but they actually met in Sheffield. Our two daughters were born in London.

'After kindly being paid off by my long-term employer in the City in the middle of the 2008 recession, I worked briefly for a balloon manufacturer in Bishop Stortford (party balloons

not barrage). That was real accounting. It was a shock having to run a full set of accounts, which I had only ever done as a brief training exercise in an auditing firm 30 years previously. My vague recollection from chemistry degree days did, however, come in handy when I created surprise by knowing what a phthalate is – we were paying for tests on imported PVC balloons.

'In 2015, annoyed by seeing our village and district damaged by bad housing developments, I stood for election as a district councillor. In this year's elections our local Residents for Uttlesford party swept the Conservatives entirely out of power in a landslide and we are now, as far as I know, the only local residents' group in the country to be in full charge of a council. Like most councils it is run on a cabinet system, and I'm the cabinet member for Finance and Budgets. Fortunately the officers look after the detail, but it is another world!

So "retired" actually means still doing lots of things but not getting paid very much!

**Michael Lewis**, after 12 years as Bishop of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf covering all Gulf and Arabian countries and Iraq as well as Cyprus, also in 2019 became Archbishop and Primate of the even wider Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, which stretches from Iran through Aden to Somalia in the south and Algeria in the west. Serious travelling and serious headaches practical and political, to be resumed after universal lockdown. His wife Julia mostly and wisely stays put in the Troodos Hills.

**Mark Anness** writes: 'Retirement (from a career in computer programming/development) continues to be busy with church and commitments for the charity Myra's Wells ([www.myraswells.org](http://www.myraswells.org)). In connection with this, I was able to spend a week in Burkina Faso again in January visiting places where wells have been drilled recently. Over the year 2019, 29 new wells were provided, but with the security situation deteriorating, we were restricted in which ones we could visit. Visits to Burkina Faso always bring real joy, seeing what a blessing clean water brings to needy people. Having cycled across the Pyrenees just over two years ago, cycling has become restricted. Retirement is too busy to fit everything in.'

**Peter Cowdy** writes: 'In our last year some of us were cruelly rude and critical of those sensible students who had applied to become chartered accountants. John Cleese said that even a career as a bank manager was more exciting. How chastened I felt to find myself doing just the same thing (i.e. applying to train) only eight years later. I went in to my then office, resignation letter in my pocket, only to be called up to the top floor (the one with the carpets) to be offered a position working for a Chief Ohiwerri in Lagos. In response, I handed in my letter and went on gardening leave. Good choice, as the summer weather in Shropshire was idyllic that year. Then in August I started my accountancy training with an 85% cut in pay! Accountancy wasn't actually that bad. I never thought I would say so. I did my best to work only for interesting people, and it turned out that most people are. I was lucky to specialise in historic estates, preferably with castles. As I had given up history as a subject at the age of 12 this was a revelation and I've since been trying to make up for lost time.

'I'm just coming to the end of my eight-year term as a governor at Harper Adams University. This has been an amazing time to be associated with Shropshire's only university. This year we are the Sunday Times Modern University of the Year. You may have heard of the Hands Free Farm project for sustainable food, and this autumn we admit the first students to the new veterinary school, run jointly with Keele.

For anyone who might remember us, Penny and I have three daughters: a physiotherapist, a doctor and a food marketing analyst (spot the biochemistry connection).'

**Kevin Saunders** writes: 'It's been a chequered life, which took me from London to Atlanta as a lawyer, followed by a photography career, followed by hospitality and a return to Europe via 14 years in France. 2020 finds me living in the Eastern Algarve of Portugal, in a small hamlet in the hills above Fuseta. It's the right place for me at this time of my life. My 13 years of running a small hotel and restaurant in France ended last year. The land is lovely. The Ria Formosa National Park is quite beautiful, with endless deserted barrier islands, flamingos, seahorses and a multitude of birds. The farmers have smallholding crops of alfarroba [carob], cork,

medronho, olives, oranges and avocado. It is a simple life and, for many, a hard rural life, but generally worn with a smile and humility.

'I like the Portuguese people. I enjoy the milder winter climate and the almost constant breeze and heat of summer. After commuting from France since 2017, last year was spent entirely in Portugal. I am still involved in hospitality, but this time renovating and renting either a rural house or a coastal apartment to holidaymakers. Later this year a new project will be finished in the charming nearby town of Tavira. It's a difficult year, of course, for the hospitality business but guests will return next year. I like being ensconced in Portuguese life, away from the expat enclaves. Speaking French has given way to speaking Portuguese. If I had known I would become an Iberian, I would have been much more attentive at Merton to the knowledge Dr Roger Highfield could have shared with me, given his passion for Spain.

'Isolation has not been difficult here. My vegetables and plants appreciate the extra attention. For anyone interested you can find me on Facebook, Instagram and my website [www.goalgarveholiday.com](http://www.goalgarveholiday.com) (for Portugal) and [www.kevinsaundersphotography.com](http://www.kevinsaundersphotography.com) (for photography).'

**Azim Lakhani** is now in his fourth year as Diplomatic Representative in Kenya for the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). AKDN works in over 30 countries, predominantly in Asia and Africa, to help create conditions and opportunities to engender self-reliance and improve the quality of life of people in need. Alongside representing AKDN, Azim has a role in coordinating its activities covering health, education, economic development, finance, industry, hospitality, media, environment and culture. Present in Kenya for over 100 years, it has 175 institutions and programmes, directly employing over 16,000 people.

In March 2020, Azim coordinated a roundtable meeting in Nairobi, bringing together a number of international and national organisations to discuss environment and climate change issues. The meeting was presided by Prince Rahim, son of His Highness the Aga Khan. AKDN is going to follow this up by making a further contribution towards a government target to restore forest cover in Kenya to

10%. AKDN has already planted 11 million trees and hopes to create a nursery of indigenous tree seedlings as well as restore a named forest.

**John Heaton** writes: 'My appointment as the President of the ICSA (Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators) in the British Isles and Ireland should have lasted two years but was extended because the institute (now renamed the Chartered Governance Institute) switched CEOs a year ago and I provided some continuity. As you can imagine, the last few months have generated huge challenges for professional bodies so the CEO and I have been speaking regularly. It has been a very rewarding period, with an increased focus on good governance across all sectors and types of organisations seeing a rise in profile and relevance. I shall hand over to my successor at the end of July but will continue to be involved there and, having been invited to become a vice-president of the global institute, will continue to engage with governance professionals around the world. Not something I would have expected to be involved with ten years ago, but it keeps the mental cogs ticking over in a worthwhile way. As Mark knows, living close to the sea and the South Downs, makes exercising during lockdown a real pleasure. On the other end of the scale a group of the classes of 71/72 have been meeting for Zoom cocktails each Tuesday evening: **Andy Trotter, David Riddiford, Colin Carmichael, Robin Pellow, Patrick Francis, Harry Bush (1971) and Tony Boote (1971)** from Montana.'

As always, it's infinitely fascinating what people we drank with during those interminable lazy days of summer in the 1970s have achieved. In these weird days more than ever, it's great to hear from everyone. Please keep the news coming: it's welcome all year long.

I hope you all have a wonderful healthy post-Covid autumn and 2021.

---

## 1973

**Year Representative:** Gary Backler

Tel: 07939 074462 Email: ggbackler@hotmail.co.uk

Heartfelt thanks to all those who have contacted me with updates. It's always good to hear from you, but never more so than this year.

**Graham Andrews** reports that most of the seven members of the 1973 Maths & Medics group were meeting up regularly until the lockdown; the last beer and curry evening being on 7 January. Both medics are now retired, though **David Melville** continues some teaching and consulting work. **John Myatt** has now recently retired from his role as consultant at Royal Bournemouth General. All enjoyed John and Suzie's 40th wedding anniversary bash in Bournemouth last September with the special appearance of ABBA (okay, it was a tribute band).

The mathematicians, however, are working (and about time too, some readers may be saying). **Rob Lewis** is trying to finish writing his PhD thesis on extremal circulant graphs (i.e. filling gaps in the analysis that he thought were complete) and otherwise he has been going out for an 'exercise' run most days and also playing in a weekly virtual bridge session. **Bill Souster** was working in the City as a consultant actuary with weekends spent at his home in South Wales, though obviously such international travel between the two countries is now banned. **Roger Urwin** is working for pension and sovereign wealth funds in Europe, USA, Australia and New Zealand for Willis Towers Watson and enjoying a growing family now numbering 18 spread out across the UK, China and Singapore. **Richard Veryard** is now working for Inmarsat as a data architect and is writing a book on data strategy. **Graham** himself is working on various projects, mainly as before in the oil and gas and mining industries, but is now turning green and working on the financing of several renewable energy and conservation projects.

No longer in the classroom during the coronavirus lockdown, **John Bowers** is still on the active faculty at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and launched his seventh and most attention-grabbing book at the end of last year. Based on his discovery of an unpublished, unknown volume by the author of *The Lord of the Rings*, *Tolkien's Lost Chaucer* was published by Oxford University Press. It was featured in the display window of the Press's bookshoppe on High Street, and received a full-page review in the *TLS*. John's

future plans for a follow-up volume called for a research visit in Oxford during summer 2020 as a Merton Visiting Scholar, but the epidemic has put a temporary (we hope) end to those plans. He anticipates that conducting research remotely over the next two years will become a significant challenge for himself and other scholars.

**Andrew Chowns** retired last month as CEO of Directors UK (the professional body for film and television directors) and is now the chair of trustees of its charity, the Directors Charitable Foundation. His many fans will be glad to learn that he is still playing the saxophone.

While acknowledging that in the scheme of things he is very fortunate, **Peter Ghosh** expresses some frustration at being confined to online material for his researches during the lockdown, and looks forward to a time when he will be able to access his preferred sources freely.



The Merton Football Second XI in the 1975-6 season

**Phil Hudson** is delighted to report the arrival of his first granddaughter in March 2019. The year had seen an increasing commitment to supporting elderly in-laws in Derbyshire, which in turn meant a curbing of ambitious travel plans to the antipodes. Lockdown has since proven the in-laws' quite significant independence, but as for

everyone else, this year's travel plans have been cancelled anyway. A happy side-effect of the trips to Belper is that Phil has resumed playing bridge on a regular basis, and this is continuing via online options. His early resolution to contact old friends more regularly was fairly successful and with the limitations of the lockdown has been given an extra boost. The isolation-related de-cluttering has also revealed a few items of College memorabilia that have reminded him of the mid-70s and the final shaping of his formal education.

**Simon Pallet** reports that having retired from Newcastle University on 31 July 2019, he is now an Emeritus Professor. Since retirement, he has been busy with his trustee/director roles in the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre and a-n, the Artists' Information Company, all of which have become rather more challenging in the past few weeks because of the impact of coronavirus on their finances. He is missing his normal cultural fix of theatre, concerts, adult education classes and choral singing, but is enhancing his digital skills so as to be able to access what is available online. He became a first-time grandparent in May, although it may be some time before he can meet the baby in person depending on when restrictions are eased.

Making his first contribution for a number of years has forced **David Tong** to think of what may be new and to conclude 'not a lot, really'. Still retired and living in France, he and his wife are a few minutes from Chalus (which Richard the Lionheart fans should recognise) in the heart of the Limousine countryside. Bienvenue à la France profonde! As such the recent upheavals have had little effect, although it has forced them to get to grips with Zoom/Facetime/electricker, to give the garden some proper attention and to attack all those jobs that they have been meaning to do for so long now. Unfortunately they had to cancel a visit to friends and family in the UK, as well as their annual wine-buying safari to the Bergerac/Pécharmant area. At least his liver will get a break. On the plus side he has done a lot more painting but, sadly, the exhibitions planned for this year are on hold and the same applies to their choral offerings. That'll make some people happy. However, things could be a lot worse and David hopes all his Mertonian friends are safe and sound.



**Steve Williams** formally retired from Manchester University in July 2018, but still remains active in scientific research by collaborating with other researchers who are still salary-men and -women. He is able to pursue his interests in measuring brain chemicals in people using magnetic resonance spectroscopy (pioneered by Merton's George Radda, among others, in the late 1970s/early '80s) without having to take on any of the other responsibilities of a senior academic! This has led to him making a number of visits to Oxford to work with colleagues in Warden Irene Tracey's department. These trips are unfortunately on hold due to coronavirus, but he is looking forward to resuming his Oxford trips as soon as possible.

Having already been self-isolating and socially distancing for some six decades, **Gary Backler** is keeping calm and carrying on. Lockdown has enabled him finally to start a much-postponed family history project, and he is very grateful to **Bob Burton** for his expertise and generous practical support of his research.

I hope all 1973 Mertonians are managing to cope with the impacts of Covid-19 on themselves and their families, and I wish you all well. I look forward to receiving news from you, especially from those who haven't yet been in touch, at any time of the year.

---

## 1974

**Year Representative: Mike Hawkins**

Tel: 001 252 4318

Email: [mike.and.sara.hawkins@care4free.net](mailto:mike.and.sara.hawkins@care4free.net)

At the time of writing this account of your news and events, the world is beginning to 'open up' after several weeks, for many, of enforced isolation from friends and neighbours, if not always from close family. While each of you has been touched by the coronavirus to varying degrees and in different ways, a common theme has been a sudden and complete change of plans or, at the very least, a postponement until next year. For my wife Sara and me, our planned return to the UK after ten years in the United States was beautifully ahead of schedule in February but

has still not happened as we reach June. We did not expect to be seeing the next cycle of fireflies, 17-year cicadas or, heaven forbid, the 2020 hurricane season. But here we are and thankful for perfect days like today when we climbed Hanging Rock in North Carolina to gaze out under clear blue skies over the folds of hills and mountains towards the Blue Ridge and Appalachians. By the time *Postmaster* goes to press I hope that we will have made it back home to the UK.

As always I am indebted to **Nick Allard** for his own news and that of several North American Mertonians. He writes: 'On 3 May 2020 the 1974 Rhodes Scholars held a virtual class reunion that Mertonians **Kyle, Hamer, MacIver, Mitchell** and yours truly attended. During the call Rhodes Warden Kiss noted how the importance of personal protective equipment has soared during the pandemic. Speaking for our Merton group I said we always suspected that there would be some use and demand for PPE. In that vein, we shared unforgettable memories of our iconic Philosophy tutor **John Lucas** who had passed away only days before. Mr Lucas was much more impressed with **Pete Kyle, Rob Mitchell**, the late **Peter McCarthy, Crispin Drummond, Andrew Chowns** and **Nick Hollins** than me. I reminded them that he once said that I not only knew nothing but also suspected nothing about Philosophy. Once not too long ago I ran into him in the College with my kids in tow. When I gushed, "Mr Lucas, you cannot imagine how to this day how much what we discussed long ago often comes to mind." He replied, "Mr Allard, for the first time you are correct". Ouch! My kids were not impressed.'

Nick continues, 'Several of my planned trips to Merton have been cancelled but I was fortunate to represent the Merton College Charitable Corporation (MC3) at the incredible installation ceremony of our 51st Warden, Professor **Irene Tracey** (1985). It was a rare privilege to observe her traditional loud knocks to open the locked College door, her shaking hands with every gowned Fellow on the cusp of the entrance to Front Quad, the spectacular stylised installation ceremony in the Chapel using the words of every one of her 50 predecessors, and a raucously fun celebratory lunch in Hall. The whole was made more poignant by the deserved gesture of the College flag flying overhead at half-mast in memory of the late **John Kirby**. John had been the long-

serving President of MC3. Since then it has been asked of me, as all too often heard on the streets in Brooklyn, to “assume the position”. I will try my best.’

**Paul Bate** tells me that ‘I cannot bring myself to stop working and in my spare time have become a tennis fanatic. I am just brushing up on my chemistry because I have to help my daughter with her A-level studies. Physics and maths, no problem, but the chemistry is all new to me. She had the amazing opportunity to do a summer project at Oxford Physics, under Professor Ian Shipsey last summer. As for staying healthy, my wife Nicola was a health minister in the government until February, when she chose to step down. So we have been acutely aware of the risks of coronavirus and the need to be careful. So far we have been lucky but I know a few victims and near-casualties. This is not a disease to be treated lightly.’



Neil Downie with the Very Remote Control

As usual **Neil Downie** has been busily helping others despite this year’s particular circumstances. He writes, ‘The pandemic has affected both me and my wife Diane hugely and personally. Tragically, my beautiful sister Ann Heuberger died from Covid-19. Her funeral had to be a small and sad affair, so unlike her exciting life in the fashion world of Swinging Sixties London, then across Africa and in Brussels politics using her many languages.’

‘I have been doing pieces for *Engineering & Technology* magazine, in particular the “Lockdown Challenges”, where I write fun science things to do for youngsters and their parents locked down at home with the pandemic. The photo shows me with the Very Remote Control, where youngsters can take over the control of TVs and other gadgets from 150m away. Social distancing for TV sets!



Diane Downie in an NPV prototype

‘The pandemic has also driven Diane and me to work together with medics, engineers and others setting up a new charity. It is called Exovent ([www.exovent.info](http://www.exovent.info)) and it develops and promotes negative pressure ventilation (NPV) for patients with lung diseases, especially in developing countries. We have built pre-prototypes, prototypes, and tried NPV ventilation ourselves. The photo shows Diane in a prototype. It is a remarkably unremarkable feeling: you just don’t notice that a machine is making you breathe, unless you try to sing while it is making you breathe in! We are now starting a clinical trial. We already have strong contacts in developing countries, and our Ghanaian colleagues have

already built their own pre-prototype so that they can test NPV with healthy volunteers and understand all the issues.'

In his own words **David Hamer** has spent the last year in happy retirement from his law practice, enjoying life with his wife Jane, their two daughters and their young families, who live nearby in Toronto. Travel has taken Jane and David to Mexico and the North Shore of Lake Superior for photography workshops, to Washington for the 2019 Merton North American Reunion, to Albania with an Oxford/Cambridge group to tour ancient ruins, and to Rome and Sicily for more of the same just before the virus struck. David has finally started to read his complete set of the *Oxford History of England* acquired in Oxford over 45 years ago. He is beginning with the earlier Tudors, a subject he largely managed to do without while reading for Schools in Modern History back in those days. He also spends far too much time on Twitter, keeping Canada's conservatives in their rightful place, while promoting the Liberals under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

**Guy Johnson** was one of those who offered 'to return to the medical workforce, five years since retirement', an offer that, 'has, so far, not been taken up by the Scottish NHS. When we were still allowed to travel, last year, I had very enjoyable meetings in London with **Crispin Southgate** and **Tom Millest** (1975), whom I hadn't seen for many years.' Guy shares the view that the current crisis was indeed predicted, but that climate change remains a far greater threat. 'Let us hope that we can learn from our new-found ability to act quickly, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and enjoy breathable city air at last and embody some of these changes in whatever future we make for ourselves. But we must not forget the other big threat to humankind – that from nuclear weapons and nuclear war. The US withdrawal from one agreement after another is deeply worrying but, on the plus side, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is receiving new ratifications at the UN, even during the pandemic, and should become international law by 2021.'

**Graham Kemp** is 'soldiering on at the University of Liverpool, working entirely from home at the moment. Following a restructure I'm now Head of the Department of Musculoskeletal and Ageing Science in the Institute of

Life Course and Medical Sciences. I'm also Director of the Liverpool Magnetic Resonance Imaging Centre, a university research facility with the satisfying acronym LIMRIC.'

**Peter Kyle** is another Mertonian with anecdotes of the late Fellow **John Lucas**. He writes: 'John Lucas was one of my all-time favourite professors. He was very English. I remember my first tutorial with him. "You are an American", he said. "Let me make the room warmer." Mr Lucas managed to increase the temperature from about 50 degrees to a toasty 52 degrees F.'

In reflecting on the current situation surrounding the pandemic, **Rob Mitchell** writes: 'There are opportunities in times such as this to appreciate graces, large and small. For me, these include sharing life with Grayce and having our children and grandchildren close by. Emily joined Grayce and me for three weeks in Italy in September, a marvelous visit that makes watching what's happening now there even more painful. A January Board retreat in Austin, which gave us a chance to visit the LBJ Library, and a visit to my sister in North Carolina with Carrie and the kids in February, loom larger as great memories when future travel plans have had to be scrubbed.'

It was good to hear from **Clive Ruggles** who contacted me after the publication of the 2019 *Postmaster*. 'I continue to be busier than ever in retirement, not only on academic and consultancy projects but also running the Alice Ruggles Trust, which I set up together with my family following the murder of our younger daughter Alice in 2016. The Trust aims to raise awareness of the dangers of coercive control and stalking and my wife, Sue, and I spend a lot of time these days travelling around the country telling Alice's story at training and CPD sessions for the police, CPS and judiciary as well as social, health and probation services. When we're not doing that we're focusing on raising awareness among the young adults of the future: some of our PSHE-accredited lesson materials are already being used across the country and our "UnFollow Me" video, produced by Broadly UK, has been watched by more than a million young people via social media as well as being shown in schools. Our ultimate goal is to fundamentally change perceptions so that stalking is instantly recognised by both professionals and the public at large as the seriously distressing and potentially highly dangerous crime that it is.

'In some ways I feel I've become a student again: our efforts to bring about better integration between academic research and real-world practice has brought me into contact with academic fields that were completely new to me, such as criminology and forensic psychology. We held our first Trust conference in 2019 at my university in Leicester, which brought together a wide range of practitioners and academics and, from the feedback, proved inspirational for all involved. There has been real progress in recent years in tackling stalking but the problem is huge and global and there is so much more for all of us to do.

'When I'm not working for the charity I'm still doing some archaeoastronomy. My book *Heiau, 'Aina, Lani (Temples, Land and Sky)* on Hawaiian temples, written with Polynesian archaeologist Pat Kirch, was published by the University of Hawai'i Press in June 2019 and I am currently writing a guide on Stonehenge astronomy with a colleague from Historic England. On the heritage side, 2019 brought the first tangible products of UNESCO's Astronomy and World Heritage Thematic Initiative, which I have been coordinating on behalf of the International Astronomical Union for the last ten years. These are World Heritage List inscriptions for Jodrell Bank Observatory as well as a cultural landscape containing a number of important ancient astronomical sites in Gran Canaria, Spain. I'm confidently predicting more to follow!

'In our copious free time Sue and I continue piecing together segments of our long-term ambition to walk from Land's End to John O'Groats, albeit not sequentially or to any particular deadline. Vital sections of the South West Coast Path and Great Glen Way are scheduled for completion in early 2020. All of which leads to one inevitable conclusion: the back garden is still a mess!

If you read and enjoy this update but haven't thought to contribute, I normally send out a request for news by email in April or May. If you didn't receive the reminder this year it may be because the College does not have an email address for you. No matter, please send me your news at any time: it doesn't need to wait until next spring.

**Andre Gren** published *The Grimy 1800s: Waste, Sewage, and Sanitation in Nineteenth-Century Britain* in October 2019.

## 1975

**Year Representative: Robert Peberdy**

38 Randolph Street, Oxford, OX4 1XZ

Tel: 01865 798107 Email: r.peberdy.123@btinternet.com

In 2019-20 Merton suffered the deaths of three 'giants' who in different ways left strong impressions on 1975 Mertonians, namely Sir **Rex Richards**, **John Lucas** and **Barney Henderson**. Sir Rex is remembered as a hospitable Warden who concealed eminence behind outward modesty. John Lucas towered intellectually and physically over undergraduates, although his arguments against the admission of women (e.g., that it would cause men's rowing to deteriorate) failed to convince a majority. **Simon Babbs**, who is relatively short, remembers meeting Mr Lucas outside Rose Lane one rainy Sunday evening as they were both going to chapel. Mr Lucas accepted an offer to share Simon's umbrella but did not remove his mortar board. The two then paraded awkwardly along the length of the College, with Simon straining to hold the umbrella high enough so as not to displace the mortar board. 'We must have made a splendidly ridiculous sight', he recalls. **Stephen Gardiner** remembers Mr Lucas's lusty singing in chapel, especially the aplomb with which he hit high notes. Lt.-Col. Henderson, on arriving as Domestic Bursar in 1976, sought to toughen up Merton's then male junior members with quasi-military initiatives. Most famously he introduced military-grade hard toilet paper, provoking howls of protest which eventually achieved some reinstatement of softer paper. He also tagged college kettles for fear they were disappearing (an episode lampooned in a college review). Undergraduates also witnessed the bursar's demonstrations of fire-escape equipment which had been installed on his initiative. An attempt to evacuate from a Mob Quad room was foiled by his inability to squeeze through a mullioned window; and when he descended by rope from one of the College's highest windows he ended up six feet short of the ground. Soon after the colonel's arrival a shady ex-squaddie also joined the College staff as a maintenance man. Nicknamed 'Jock' by undergraduates, he inevitably prompted much speculative gossip.

For many 1975 Mertonians, life in the last year was starkly changed by the coronavirus emergency. In 2019 **Arif Ahsan**



ventured to the Galápagos Islands and the stunning Inca citadel of Machu Picchu in Peru (roughly contemporaneous with Merton's bell-tower). But from March 2020, back in Nottingham, his routine cardiac surgery was cancelled so he could concentrate on emergencies and Covid-19 patients. **Simon Babbs**, who with his wife Sue has undertaken voluntary work in Madagascar, became concerned about the emergency's impact on the country's poor population, particularly the loss of income from tourism. In early 2020 Joseph Bacal, son of **Glenn Bacal**, visited the grave of his father's former Merton tutor Sir **Martin Gilbert** (Fellow 1962–2015) near Jerusalem. Back in Arizona, Glenn's law firm was honoured to provide the USA chapter for the 'Chambers 2020 Global Practice Guide' on Trade Marks, and in January 2020 it celebrated its tenth anniversary. Soon afterwards, however, the staff were required to transfer most of their work to home because of the health emergency, and Glenn feared that it might prove hard to combat the virus in 'the independent west' of the USA.

**John Cloughton**, former Chief Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, has written *Transforming Young Lives: Fundraising for Bursaries* for the Independent Schools Council (published in January 2020). In September 2019 he was greatly saddened by the death of his close Mertonian friend Sir **Christopher Dobson** (Senior Scholar 1971–3, JRF 1973–6). In September 2019 **Alan Dolton** belatedly visited Venice for the first time, taking advantage of an expedition to nearby Jesolo to compete in the European Masters Athletics Championships (a meeting for older athletes). The 2020 'lockdown' then curtailed his athletics coaching and 'physio' work in Croydon. **Ian Doolittle** has completed an edition of some of the decrees issued by the London 'Fire Court', the court established by Parliament after the Great Fire of London (1666) to resolve disputes, or record agreements, between landlords and tenants. **William Ford** visited Cambodia in late 2019, but travel and golfing (including activity by the Merton Golf Society) were then halted by the emergency. Meanwhile he has updated the history of the London Iron and Steel Golf Society to mark its centenary in 2020.

During 2019 musician **Stephen Gardiner** was delighted to stumble across nightingales at a remote spot in Romney Marsh. They reminded him of the famous recording made

by the BBC in 1924 of Beatrice Harrison playing the cello accompanied by a nightingale. He has almost completed the transcription into braille of *The Study of Orchestration* by Samuel Adler, which extends to around 1,000 pages. **Dorian Gerhold** has added another magnificent publication to his impressive oeuvre of historical writings, namely *London Bridge and its Houses, c.1209–1761* (published by the London Topographical Society). It reconstructs, in amazing detail, the properties on the bridge until the mid-eighteenth century, and includes numerous contemporary illustrations as well as modern reconstructions. It was launched on Monday 8 July 2019 with a party at the church of St Magnus the Martyr which stands near the former north end of the bridge. At Eton College **John Harrison**, who was President of the Oxford Union in 1978, has appropriately been appointed Master-in-Charge of Debating. Success has followed: an Eton team won the Cambridge Union Schools' Debating Competition and two teams reached the final of the Oxford Union Competition, only for it to be cancelled because of the emergency. Eton also had to be closed physically, though John Harrison then found himself enjoying online teaching via 'Zoom'.

The health emergency also forced the closure of St Anne's Church, Wandsworth, where Revd Dr **Gordon Jeanes** is the vicar. But its community quickly organised support for the elderly, sick and others. Special prayers were issued, and also a service for people who were prevented from attending a funeral. Meanwhile work progressed on a new crèche/meeting room and other facilities. Back in summer 2019 **Ed Martley** experienced a new high-point in golfing when he played at the Bull Bay course on Anglesey. Opened in 1913 and situated by the coast, it offers spectacular sea and mountain views. In 2020 the health policy research unit directed by Professor **Nicholas Mays** of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine was redirected into studying the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the English population and on its health and care systems, including the public's response to the 'contact tracing smart-phone app'. He has also published a fourth edition of *Qualitative Research in Health Care*, of which he is co-editor with Catherine Pope of Oxford University. Over in Florida, Professor **Ed Myers** has had to convert his undergraduate course for remote teaching, and also had to cancel a planned visit to (of all places) Wuhan.

**Robert Peberdy** first encountered the Merton Fellow **Philip Waller** in December 1974 when he was interviewed in the Breakfast Room on his entrance-examination papers. (He remembers being grilled about the 1909 'People's Budget'.) Their names have now been yoked for eternity as co-editors of *A Dictionary of British and Irish History*, which was published by Wiley Blackwell in September 2020. Members of the Merton history school were recruited for the project. Its academic advisers include: **James G. Clark** (Lecturer 1995-6), Professor **Martin Millett** (1977), Professor **Andrew Pettegree** (1976), Dr **J.S. Rowett** (1969), and **Andrew White** (1986). Dr **Jason Tones** (1985) is a major contributor, and other contributors include: **James Clark**, **Susan Skedd** (1988), **Ann Swailes** (1984) and **Matthew Vickers** (1990).

**Crispin Poyser**, one of the Mertonians at the House of Commons, has contributed to the new (25th) edition of **Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice and Procedure**. In spring 2020 he was a member of the team that enabled the Commons to operate in 'hybrid' form (part 'virtual', part physical) during the coronavirus lockdown. Despite its reputation for resisting change, the Commons was in advance of other national Parliaments in making adaptations for the emergency. Professor **David Salter** has expanded his work with Coptic Christians in Egypt by starting a project 'to assist learning-disabled young people in the Luxor area'. Products from the scheme are being displayed at the local Hilton Hotel, though when David visited the project in January 2020 he stayed 'as usual ... in a local mud-brick village'.

**Neil Smith** continues to work for the defence and aerospace company Thales. Recent projects have included a noise survey of Oxford Airport. He is also a regular attendee at Theoretical Physics days in Oxford, which he considers to be 'uniformly good'. Down in south-east France, **Graham Whittington** has been elected to the council of his commune, Rochefort-en-Valdaine, for a customary term of six years. **Chris Wickham**, who was Merton's young Lecturer in Medieval History in 1975-6, turned seventy in 2020. He remains hard at work examining the economy of the Mediterranean in the long eleventh century, especially the interaction of regional and long-distance exchange. Bishop **Tom Wright** (JRF 1975-8), also now in his seventies and the author of over eighty books, has been appointed a Senior Research Fellow of Wycliffe Hall

in Oxford, where he prepared for ordained ministry in the early 1970s. His recent publications include *New Testament Perspectives*, three volumes of collected essays, and in 2020 the Association of American Publishers awarded a category prize to his book *History and Eschatology: Jesus and the Promise of Natural Theology* (2019).

---

## 1976

**Year Representative: John Gardner**

Email: johngardnerNZ@outlook.com

Just when you thought it was over, and we could shake hands again. The Brexit thing, I mean. As friends resumed civilities after four years of civil war, it all kicked off again with similar formations of hard and soft zealots arguing what's best. We were either giving up our ancient freedoms and cowering timidly indoors, or staying sensibly at home. So, as **Bob Cotton** suggests, 'We've all had enough of it. Let's talk about something else'. Here goes.

While lockdown meant for many of us a comfortable diet of banana bread recipes and Zoom yoga, some were more ambitious. For **Ian McVeigh**, now retired from fund management, it meant catching up on his reading. A big fan of the *Universal Short Title Catalogue*, which brings together information on every known book printed in Europe up to 1650, he'll need a while to get through its 1,500,000 listings and digital editions. The USTC is an astonishing project to preserve the world's rarest books, run by **Andrew Pettegree**, Professor of History at the University of St Andrews.

The normally energetic are getting itchy feet. **Laurence Ormerod** only managed two of three ultra marathon runs (50+ miles) he had planned recently. With energy left to burn, rather than climbing the walls he has taken up rock climbing. **Jeremy Horton's** planned triathlons, a bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats and cycling trip to Mallorca have been put back to 2021, but **Adrian Schweitzer** managed to wag off from Tonbridge School to attend a '40 years on' hockey varsity match reunion. **Ian Coote**, who opens the batting for the Gloucestershire over-60s team, has played no cricket this year. Looking forward to concluding a (part-

completed) walk of the South West Coast Path, enforced spare time activities include tinkering with his motorhome, which saw service last year across the length of the Outer Hebrides from Barra, through South and North Uist and on to the top of Lewis.



Simon Eyre on the island of Iona, off Mull

Nearby, **Mike Taylor**'s daily routine since moving to a small Scottish burgh reminds him of boarding school. The early rising, porridge for breakfast, walks around the playing fields to avoid runners in the streets, the lack of outings and the ongoing academic work (another book on 19th-century fossil collectors is out soon). But the food is better, pheasant and apricot burgers being the current favourite. **Simon Eyre** provides a photo taken on the island of Iona, off Mull. Some way from Eastbourne where he spent 30 years as a GP and further still from Kenya and Uganda where he worked periodically in 'resource-poor conditions'. A Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Physicians, he is a trustee of a charity for orphans in Uganda and author of three books so far: *Surgeons of the Royal Navy in the First World War*, *Let the Fruit Grow: A General Practitioner's Guide to the Holy Spirit* and *The Distinguished Service Medal: 1914-1938 – The First 25 Years*.

You know it's time to leave the boardroom when you laugh out loud at the annual report. **Neil Craggs**, who invests in small businesses, didn't make it to the end of a pitch recently by HelloLampPost, a company which 'encourages

engagement with street furniture'. He advises start-ups targeting Generations X and Y, which means that Zoom calls with his own generation sometimes need an interpreter. FR. Hundo P! When not in pinstripes and Guccis he is a trustee of an Abbeyfield home for the elderly, helping to keep the virus out and the residents in. Wife Fran (St Anne's, 1976), a director at the Medical Research Council, manages research funding for the Covid response nationally. **Charles Manby** also scrutinises spending like this, as a member of the committee that reviews donations and research funding for the University of Oxford. He became Chairman of Motability this year, and was appointed MBE for services to medical research and people with cancer, after chairing Cancer Research UK's campaign for the Francis Crick Institute.

**John Gardner** emigrated to New Zealand in February. Wife Tracey, due to follow a few weeks later, is stuck in England after NZ closed its border. **Geoff Lee** and wife Jane, a more settled couple, are usually in France, with some wintertime in Spain. They enjoy living at either end of the Via Augusta, banging paella pans from a Spanish balcony and planting drought-resistant olives in France. Also looking forward to a change of scenery is IT consultant **Tony Brown**, who has now retired and plans to cross Europe by train as soon as he can.

Others are happy to soldier on at work. **Tristan Needham**, Professor of Mathematics at the University of San Francisco, has a new book out this year, *Visual Differential Geometry and Forms: A Mathematical Drama in Five Acts*. Over on a visit recently he stayed with **Anthony Levy** and managed a trip down memory lane, including an afternoon at Merton. **Charles Wookey** at A Blueprint for Better Business and **Peter Truesdale** at Corporate Citizenship continue to prick the conscience of big business. Serial watchdog **Antony Townsend**'s portfolio now includes being an independent investigator of bullying and harassment in the House of Commons. **Richard Dendy**, Professor of Physics at the University of Warwick, has been elected to a second four-year term as Chairman of the European Physical Society's Plasma Physics Division. An obituary for his father-in-law, **Brian Carr** (1943), is in this edition of Postmaster.

Otherwise, for this year no news is good news.

---

## 1977

### Year Representative: Edmund Wright

Herries, Winter Hill Road, Cookham Dean, Berkshire, SL6 6PJ  
Email: edmund.wright.07@gmail.com

**Graham Brown** has stepped down as Principal of St Paul's University College at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, and has been researching and writing on indigenous rights and on the theological problem of the 'Fate of the Canaanites'. His marriage of 43 years to Janet continues in good shape, although Graham's idiosyncrasies have tested her during the prolonged self-isolation due to Canada's Covid-19 social distancing requirements.

**Ashley Knowles** has joined the board of trustees of Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft ([www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk](http://www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk)). This is home to a nationally important collection of arts and crafts, created by Eric Gill and many others during an explosion of artistic activity in the village from the first half of the 20th century.

**Edmund Wright** has signed up with the Open University to begin a BSc in Mathematics later this year. He has long regretted giving up maths after O-level, in part because of timetable conflicts with those subjects more useful for his then priority of reading Modern History at Oxford, and wants to see how far he can take it.

And finally, we have some small vignettes of the Covid-19 lockdown: from **Adam Southwell**, whose work with vulnerable children has moved online; from **Tim Reading**, whose travel plans have been curtailed but whose garden is 'looking somewhat better prepared than in previous years'; and from the Revd **Eric Kemball**, whose daily offering of Mass with nobody else physically present reminds him of the life of a medieval chantry priest.

---

## 1978

*There is currently no Year Representative for 1978. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested in the position.*

**Hugh Tyrwhitt-Drake** has published a book about former Oxford don CS Lewis, the fruit of nearly ten years' work. It is entitled *The Thought of CS Lewis* and a preview may be seen online at [www.amazon.co.uk/Thought-CS-Lewis-Hugh-Tyrwhitt-Drake-ebook/dp/B085XSNQ8T](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Thought-CS-Lewis-Hugh-Tyrwhitt-Drake-ebook/dp/B085XSNQ8T)

**Martin Glenn** left his role as CEO of the Football Association in September 2019. In January 2020 he became Chairman of the Football Foundation, a public private partnership which improves sports facilities in England.

---

## 1979

### Year Representative: Noel Privett

Email: [noelprivett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:noelprivett@yahoo.co.uk)

In last year's *Postmaster* I noted that it was the tenth year that I had been collating the contributions for the 1979 matriculands and said that I was glad to report that 'we have managed to retain the feverish levels of excitement that have been manifest in all previous reports'. So thanks, Covid-19, for lowering the stakes by bringing us the exhilaration that is lockdown. This year, we have seven contributions, including my own, down from ten last year, which may or may not be a signal of lockdown ennui. Actually, for quite a while I only had two contributions, from **Jeremy Black** and **John Girkin**. I'm glad we got more, not least because *Black Girkin* sounds like a failed early draft of a Dumas novel. Our collective listlessness is reflected, I think, by the inclusion of the word *still* by three of our contributors – *still* meaning *without change*, alas, and not *tranquil*. At least it wasn't used in the sense of *not moving*. And perhaps next year one of our cohort will inform me that he has set up *an apparatus for distillation*, just to cheer us up.

So here we are, in chronological order according to date of submission.



**Jeremy Black** informs me that his new books (I assume these are books he has written and not ordered from Amazon) include 'histories of Spain, Portugal, the English press, fortifications, the causes of war, and strategy'.

**Professor John Girkin** says that in the last year he has had his first book published – *A Practical Guide to Optical Microscopy* – and that seeing a copy in Blackwell's was 'a real thrill and one I thought I would never see'. Although still a full-time academic in Durham, John has also 'helped found a company to develop our optical dental imaging system though I have no intention of actually running this new venture. The rest of the time is still spent on choral singing and gardening and most recently learning to do all my work from home like much of the rest of the population.'

**Noel Privett** (that's me) is now the proud grandfather of four grandchildren. Almost as miraculous, he has secured a 12-month contract for a job at Livestock Information, a subsidiary of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, despite lockdown. His last contract, at London Borough of Sutton, ended in November 2019.

**Peter Toon** had a much more exciting November, when he was awarded the George Abercrombie medal by the Royal College of General Practitioners, which is given for special meritorious literary work in general practice. In Peter's case, he was honoured for his contribution relating to medical ethics and philosophy and his arguments for the application of virtue ethics and virtue theory to general practice.

**Jamie Barr** tells me that his planned long holiday and open house in Italy to mark his 25th wedding anniversary has, inevitably, been rescheduled for 2021.

**Jonathan Weaver** is still enjoying the privilege of retirement and the opportunity it affords to set his own agenda. He is enjoying volunteering two days a week for church work, even with the lockdown. Apart from that he spends what time he can outdoors in Southern California or in his wood shop making turned objects from local trees. You can see some at [Instagram.com/weaverwoodart](https://www.instagram.com/weaverwoodart).



Jonathan Weaver's wooden artwork

**Mark Fiddes** reports from lockdown, in Dubai, that he is 'still here, which in these times is an achievement' and that he is 'still the oldest bloke in advertising'. I have visions of an elderly intern usurping this position by next year's *Postmaster*. Mark is still writing poems, he 'still can't get one into *Oxford Poetry*, although his *The Kodachrome Book of the Dead* won the Oxford Brookes University Prize. Mark also reveals that he is 'so looking forward to reading that **Dave King** has conquered motorways and become a stunt driver in the new Bond movie'.

Speak of the devil: **David 'of the Road' King** has, in his own words, 'bucked the retirement trend and continues to work for the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), although he is now in receipt of a Civil Service pension and is the proud owner of a 60+ Oyster card giving him free Tube travel, which is sadly not much use in the current lockdown'. As part of his 60th birthday celebrations in February, **David** informs me that he subjected his work colleagues to a DJ set with what he regards as classic tracks from the past 50 or so years (playlist available on request). Despite being stuck at home, he is currently busy fighting coronavirus, as NIHR is funding research into vaccines, diagnostic tests and new treatments for COVID-19 ([www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/)).

## *The Kodachrome Book of the Dead*

By Mark Fiddes

Frozen in their Kodaks,  
our old folks wear slippers  
to protect the carpet from their feet.  
Colours leech. A tap drips.  
Dinner lingers in another room.  
A yucca erupts on the lawn.  
The lounge is an orgy  
of fakery: leatherette armchairs,  
plaster dogs, silk orchids,  
mock encyclopedias  
and more fringe than necessary  
on lamps, hairdos, lips, pelmets  
plus random tassels  
wherever there is dangling  
and come-hither velvet.  
If a grandparent smiles  
it is like a wolf had stopped by  
for tea and a slice of Battenberg.  
Parents vogue in folkie  
knitwear surrounded by cigarettes  
and the Sixties.  
Is this how they will see us,  
our early years tucked into albums  
balanced on the knee like babies?  
Will pages crackle as laminates  
separate and we stare back red-eyed  
as hounds from blind pubs?  
Whereas our last few decades  
will click past in seconds on a screen,  
backlit, cropped and cherry-bright.  
There they can find us,  
between swipes, catching our breath,  
wiping the joy from our sleeves.

[Reproduced with the permission of Mark Fiddes]

---

## 1980

### Year Representative: Laurence Reed

c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD  
Email: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

---

## 1981

### Year Representative: Graham Dwyer

c/o Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong  
City, Manila, Philippines  
Tel: +63 999 999 4961 Email: gdwyer@surfshop.net.ph

This section was compiled as much of the world still faced various stages of lockdown from the Covid-19 pandemic. By the time *Postmaster* is printed, hopefully the worst will be behind us. But never in our lifetimes has there been so much uncertainty concerning the state of the world or how the coming months will pan out. Under these traumatic circumstances and terrible disruption, I am grateful as ever for the updates and encouragement from Mertonians of the class of 1981.

For **Mike Below**, as for most people, Covid-19 has been a time of disruption. His daughter Claire was finishing her geography degree at Exeter and faced her finals online. In the meantime, for his son Jonathan, whose A-levels were cancelled, there is a question mark over his start of university. 'Other than that, life is really remarkably similar to normal without the grind of a daily commute into London,' he writes. 'For us the open question is really whether people will truly want to return to commuting and how much is gained from meeting face to face.'

Meanwhile, **David Clapp** was saddened to hear of the death of the legendary John Lucas. 'I have much to be thankful for from his three years of philosophical and moral guidance. The Italian lockdown is bearable. I didn't have a job anyway. Time and space to muse?' We can but hope so.

**Jon Cooper** has emeritus status at University College London in the Division of Medicine as a structural biologist

and is an honorary research fellow at Birkbeck College, London, in the same field. He has been spending the lockdown looking after six dependent motorcars (with a combined age of 226 years) and 3.3 acres of woodland near Guildford, as well as examining PhD theses, reviewing and writing papers, and dabbling with programming. During the lockdown while tidying the house he unearthed a file from his final year at Merton when he was Secretary of the Oxford University Astronomical Society. 'The society was then trying to find a suitable location for an observatory and the College very kindly agreed to this, shortly before I left. It led to an observatory being built by the society on Merton Playing Field, behind St Catz, which I gather is still there today and has been refurbished recently.'



Jon Cooper when he was secretary of the Astronomical Society

We are all certainly getting to a certain age. **Stephen Haywood** reports he has taken early retirement from being Deputy Director of the Particle Physics Department at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in order to pursue a career as a concert pianist. Unfortunately he reports that he first needs to learn *how* to play the piano and is currently stuck on page 60 of his beginner's book – the role of the black notes on the keyboard has completely confounded him, he says.

I was happy to hear once again from **Valentina Dufau-Joel** (née **Hopewell**) who sent an update from confinement in France, implemented just a week after she returned from a trip to the Lofoten Islands in northern Norway.

'Mountaineering skiing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and hiking were on the menu,' she writes. 'The landscapes are breathtaking. It turned out that our group arrived just after a heavy fall of snow, followed by four whole days of sun. A successful trip all round, getting home just as the corona nets were being thrown over borders and airport.' I am sure that was a last chance for a while for many to travel in a relatively carefree manner.

As of time of writing, my old tutorial partner **Nicki Paxman**, a senior producer with the BBC, reported she was working from her garden, except on studio recording days, when they were still attempting to provide some upbeat arts-related entertainment for the world via BBC Radio. 'Travelling with our show *The Arts Hour on Tour* is clearly off the table for now,' she writes. 'I was due to go to China this year, then in January that changed to Sweden and then they closed too. My son is not now in the middle of taking A-levels but playing a lot of international Monopoly online with his friends overnight. Partner is cooking nice casseroles and my weekend treat is Zoom parties with friends.' I truly hope she is back on the road with her show soon.

More lockdown tales from **Andrew Martin**, who reports he has been holed up in North London with his wife and one of his two sons. 'But I was mentally inhabiting Yorkshire in 1925, the setting for the tenth in my series of railway thrillers, featuring a character called Jim Stringer. My latest standalone novel is *The Winker*, out now in paperback. It's about a very unpleasant man who winks at people then kills them.' He says any Mertonian who feels like getting in touch can do so via his website, [jimstringernovels.com](http://jimstringernovels.com). I will definitely be seeking out Andrew's new novel when the lockdown ends.

**Jackie Martin**'s life under lockdown has been spent in Gloucestershire. 'As nuclear engineers working for EDF Energy we (myself and my husband Malcolm) are both designated as critical workers, so we have continued to work almost as normal. The "almost" part means working from home as much as possible, and doing a lot by Skype. Our daughter is locked down in London, where she is finishing the final year of a history degree, via online tutoring and exams.'

For **Jesse Norman**, the Covid-19 pandemic has put weighty matters on his shoulders. He was made Financial Secretary to the Treasury last May, responsible for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and for national infrastructure strategy. But, as he writes, 'since March I and my colleagues have been almost totally absorbed by the overwhelming need to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. In particular, that has meant turning HMRC around by 180 degrees in a matter of weeks, into an organisation that also now directly supports the jobs and livelihoods of more than 10 million people, through the new furlough and self-employment and sickness pay and other schemes. But we are also very much focused on the future, and on what we can do to steer the economy through this huge shock and on to recovery and renewed growth.' I am sure everyone would wish him and his colleagues every success in this work.

Like everyone else, **Graham Tebb** and his family have experienced plenty of disruption, with his travel plans for birdwatching put on hold and his elder daughter stranded in Durham and facing problems in planning her year abroad, which is supposed to be split between France and Russia. The other daughter is about to finish school in Vienna and is concerned that the traditional alcohol festival afterwards, planned to take place on a beach in Croatia, may be cancelled. Making the best of things, Graham had a virtual dinner with **Peter Phillips** and his family. 'We agreed a time and set up our laptops on the dining tables, which enabled us to chat away on Zoom almost as though we were in the same room. The children had schoolwork to do and so came and went but we did get to see them. Peter's daughter was supposed to be coming to stay with us for a few days in July: maybe she'll manage to reschedule.'

Congratulations go to the family of **Toby Thurston**, who reports that his boys have both graduated. The elder has been fighting the virus on the front line in A&E in Edinburgh. 'Our daughter has gone over to the other side and is studying at Murray-Edwards in Cambridge (at least she would be there if she was allowed – currently it's all virtual and online),' he writes.

Meanwhile, closer to my neck of the woods in Thailand, congratulations also go to **Tira Wannamethee** who received

along with his mother an Award of Merit in person from HRH Princess Sirindhorn for their respective donations for the construction of the Bhumisiri Mangkhalanusorn Building at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital (a charity-based hospital) in Bangkok. Also before the Covid-19 lockdowns, from July to December 2019, he attended a senior business leaders' course on sustainable economic development (BhumiPhalang Class 5) at Chulalongkorn University – Thailand's oldest university. 'A major part of the course focused on the agricultural and environmental conservation projects of the late revered Thai monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who was a big proponent of sustainable economic development and environmental protection long before it became fashionable,' Tira explains. 'Indeed Kofi Annan commented that some of the late king's ideas had helped influence the thinking behind the United Nations sustainable development goals.'



Tira (centre) receives the graduation certificate and pin from the President (left) and the former President of Chulalongkorn University



As for me, as of time of writing I have been working from home for 11 weeks in Makati, central business district of the capital of the Philippines, under one of the world's longest and most severe lockdowns (transgressors of the 8pm curfew are liable to be shot!). My organisation, the Asian Development Bank, has earmarked a \$20 billion fighting fund to help developing Asia in the pandemic and most of our work is oriented to that end now. My daughter made it back from boarding school as the lockdown was tightening and has spent the duration safely with me, while my son has been stranded in London finishing off his university term. Like everyone else, I hope that there are better times ahead and this time next year the trauma will all be behind us.

---

## 1982

### **Year Representative: Nick Weller**

Flat 12 North Ash, Hawthorn Close, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2BV

Tel: 01403 269883 Email: nickweller7@aol.com

Thank you to everyone who's been in touch, for your kind enquiries about how I am and how I'm coping with the consequences of the coronavirus epidemic. I'm pleased to have news to report, even though there have been many things planned but not done this year.

**David Brown** is an Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide Law School, specialising in insolvency. David came to England for a long holiday in 2020 that had to be cut short due to the coronavirus outbreak, although he did have a day in Oxford. David also taught in Ontario in January 2020. David's daughter graduated from a postgraduate degree in international relations and is now working for the New Zealand government as a policy adviser. David's son is studying Law and PPE at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. David has connected with other Mertonians in Adelaide: **Marnie Hughes-Warrington**, **Don Markwell** and **John Newton**.

**Susanna Curtis** was able to finish the run of her production *Madame Bovary, it's me too* before the coronavirus outbreak. Lockdown in Germany has meant the cancellation or

postponement of a number of work commitments. However, some of Susanna's hospital clown work has resumed, performed in the gardens and on the balconies of hospitals and old people's homes. Susanna has been very gratified to experience the delighted reactions of people who have had no outside contact for weeks. Theater Giessen has commissioned Susanna to create a piece for its dance company based on the mechanicals from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Susanna has also been involved in the planning of projects that should come to fruition if Nuremberg wins its bid to become European Capital of Culture 2025.

**Richard Dawson** now lives in Surin in Thailand, although he has had to spend some time in Bangkok due to travel restrictions due to the coronavirus outbreak. Richard has been working as an English teacher and also a legal consultant.

**Janet Edwards** enjoyed attending the Merton Mathematicians event, seeing the work of current students as well as hearing from former students from different decades. Janet also met up with **Susanna Curtis** in Glasgow in January 2020 when Susanna was rehearsing her *Madame Bovary* production.

**Rupert** and **Hilary Evenett** celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in April 2020. Hilary continues as a partner at Clifford Chance, specialising in insurance and financial sector law. Rupert has continued to grow his governance portfolio, adding being a governor of Benenden School to his board roles at Alzheimer's Research UK and the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, as well as chairing the board of a 2,000 student-strong London Sixth Form College. Their two daughters are due to take A-levels and GCSEs next year and are coping with remote full-time teaching for these exams.

**Peter Kessler** will be returning to Oxford later in 2020. Peter's wife, Dinah Rose QC, has been elected as the first female President of Magdalen, her college as an undergraduate. Peter will be dividing his time between Oxford and their home in Cumbria, and will also be involved in fundraising trips.

**Randall Martin** has been involved in the launch of a new website for the international eco-theatre research project he is leading, Cymbeline in the Anthropocene ([www.cymbeline-anthropocene.com](http://www.cymbeline-anthropocene.com)), funded by the Social

Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. So far it has participating theatre companies on four continents. Some performances were scheduled to begin in May and June, including one in Wales, but these have been postponed to 2021. Meanwhile the project is keeping going with blogs, videos, a playlist and other resources.

**Simon and Catherine Noonan** moved from Beverly Hills to Nashville, Tennessee in January 2020. They took a scenic route to get to their new home, going through the Grand Canyon before heading down close to the Mexican border, stopping in New Orleans before heading north. Simon and Catherine have been doing a lot of bike riding since the lockdown started, exploring a number of leafy cycle trails nearby. Their younger son, George, has been studying abroad in Hong Kong and Sydney, while their older son, Henry, may be moving from London to Chicago later in 2020.

**Peter Roberts** appreciated the chance to meet the new Warden at the reception last autumn. He also enjoyed the celebration of Kent County Cricket Club's 150th anniversary – a service in Canterbury Cathedral and reception in the hall of the King's School, Canterbury.

**Mark Shuttleworth** is now a professor in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University.

**Ben Slocock's** daughter, Anne, is studying Chemistry at New College, Oxford.

**James and Clare Thickett** both retired last year and also became grandparents. James has been keeping busy walking, travelling and learning Spanish as well as maintaining his charitable role as a trustee at the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). James keeps in touch with **Steve Walsh**, **Richard Ryder**, **Martin Giles**, **Dave Holbrook**, **Andrew Corrie** and **John Holland**.

Switching to a home-based working regime hasn't made much difference to me so far. Exam production and marking is still keeping me occupied.

I hope everyone and their families stay healthy and safe.

## 1983

**Year Representative: Meriel Cowan**

40 Ash Grove, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9JL

Tel: 01865 762458 Email: meriel.raine@gmail.com

This unusual pandemic year provides a strange background for a report. Gratitude for having family members home and safe is an overarching theme.

**Philippa Baker** (née **Ghaut**) continues as a primary school teacher and reports that it is proving hard to replicate the teaching experience online. 'I have got a lot better. Not yet CBeebies standard but children seem to be appreciating our efforts.' **Andrew Baker** is dispensing justice from their spare bedroom. The rest of the family just have to avoid using the loo or shower while this is happening, as it is next door and creates a potential courtroom distraction.

**Richard Baxter** is locked down in Cyprus, where his business is based. Simon and I enjoyed a memorable dinner with him earlier in the year in London, and hoped to see more of him later in the year, but our plans are sadly on hold. Richard writes to me from the Fat Fish restaurant in Limassol in the sunshine where he is enjoying wonderful seafood but missing his family. He's hoping his son Nick will come out and work there in the summer. On the other side of the world, **Earnest Cheung** writes from Hong Kong, where the law courts were shut down in February because of Covid-19, which resulted in a huge backlog of cases. Fortunately the courts are due to reopen in May.

The Oxford medical students who graduated in 1989 had a reunion in November and I was really delighted to catch up with fellow medic **Jonathan Ingham**, who I had not seen for many years. He is a consultant anaesthetist in Torquay, Devon, and recalls the recent busy few months. 'All calming down here now having bashed our hospital to bits to create Covid-positive and Covid-negative areas. Now roped in to help at Nightingale Exeter Hospital as an insurance policy against a second surge once the M5 opens up to caravans.' He says this is all virtual as there are currently no nursing staff to run ventilated beds there anyway. Jon has been busy

with cycling and yoga to keep 'moderately sane' and he is delighted Boris will now let him play golf. His daughter Freya is grumpy as her gap year is curtailed, but son Sammy has not realised there has been a lockdown yet.

'I was already working from home before the virus struck so no change in that regard,' writes **Michael Jager**. 'I still work for Qualcomm based in San Diego but now I work remotely from the UK.' He and **Bridget Jager** (née **Mills**) live in Surrey.



Clive Marsland's dog Wilfred in his garden

**Clive Marsland** has now been retired two years, and is spending even more time in his garden. His dog Wilfred, shown here, is now two. (Clive stresses he chose this name long before the Prime Minister discovered it.)

**Susan Roller** works three days a week, currently from home, as a private client tax partner at Smith & Williamson in its Salisbury office, but is also heavily involved in the local Woodford Valley community café and market garden farm shop which runs monthly on Saturdays. She is doing the finances but also contributing recipes for the online café, and baking. **Michael Roller** is Finance Director for Circassia Pharmaceuticals in Oxford, where I was able to join him for lunch earlier in the year. Currently he is hard at work from home, and their son Matthew has been staying with them during lockdown before returning to his job in London with Cricinfo. Their daughter Sarah has been undertaking a heritage internship at Godinton House Preservation Trust, in Kent, its glorious gardens providing a lovely, if isolated, place to spend the Covid restrictions as it is closed at present.

A heritage property on a different scale, the extraordinarily beautiful Waddesdon Manor where **Pippa Shirley** is Head of Collections and Gardens, is also shut. Pippa reports that her husband (**Giles Clifford**, 1982) is working from home, but she is still going into the office at Waddesdon. 'Most staff are furloughed apart from a tiny team in the house and garden who are making sure that the collections are safe and not deteriorating, and (outside) that the weeds aren't taking over. We are very hopeful that we will be able to open the garden soon, as part of the easing of lockdown, but are waiting on the Government to give us the go-ahead. The National Trust as a whole is very keen to reopen with a limited offer, where it can be done safely with all the correct guidance in place.' I learned from Pippa that the public can still visit Waddesdon through its website. 'There are all sorts of things to explore, including little lockdown diaries of what we are up to at the moment, virtual backgrounds for Zoom calls, virtual tours and so forth, which are all good fun: [waddesdon.org.uk/explore-waddesdon-online/](http://waddesdon.org.uk/explore-waddesdon-online/)'

Pippa and Giles' two sons are at home: Jack (doing Automotive Design at Coventry) has a two-term year, and finished at the end of April, having done his last couple of weeks finishing up project work at home. 'Patrick is having a year off, which is a bit disappointing. He managed all of ten days in Cuba before having to come back and was supposed to be doing Camp America. He will try and do it next year instead. He's due to start at Durham reading Theology in September – whether in person or not remains to be seen.' Similarly, **Diana** (née **Hill-Wilson**) and **Jon Thornton**'s family are all under one roof, 'an unexpected silver lining of lockdown'. They have managed to rig up five separate work spaces in the house to cater for everyone including finals revision, filming online comedy sketches, advising on green energy, legal work and devising a course for parents, depending on the family member. **Richard Weaver** misses 'real' (non-Zoom) socialising but reports that all is fine at their house, even with the children at home.

I continue to work as a GP in Oxford, and after a crazy period eight weeks ago when we redesigned our way of working overnight, we are back to steady working albeit in a different way, mostly by phone and occasionally by video. We see a few patients face to face but our waiting rooms are socially

distanced and all extraneous articles have been removed. PPE (the medical sort) is tedious but necessary, and the late effects of Covid are common and difficult to manage. It is hard to know what will happen next. **Simon Cowan** is very busy in his role of Head of the Economics Department here; the financial and practical pressures on Oxford departments are great, and he spends a lot of time on MS Teams while being based at home. All departments and colleges are currently shut, and exactly what will happen with reopening in October is still unclear. Nevertheless Oxford looks very lovely without many cars, the air is very clear and bicyclists are happy.

I do hope this letter next year will be brighter and the new normal, whatever it may be, will feel positive.

---

## 1984

**Year Representative: David Clark**  
Email: david.clark@merton.oxon.org

Many thanks, as always, to those who responded to my annual plea for news from the class of 1984, especially in these unusual circumstances when we've all had lots of other things on our minds.

As I mentioned in last year's entry, two of my erstwhile chemistry contemporaries and I had planned a reunion with our Organic Chemistry tutor, Laurence Harwood, to mark 35 years since matriculation. But Covid-19 put paid to that for the time being, sadly. Nonetheless, it does mean I have news from them I can share!

**Stephen Ashworth** writes that he has been promoted to Professor of Chemical Physics and Science Communication at UEA. In 2019, he was the Curator of the National Science Festival in South Africa (Scifest Africa) and also heavily involved with Norwich Science Festival. He also spent a couple of weeks giving lectures and attending a conference in New Zealand in July 2019 in addition to trips to Bangkok, Hong Kong and Brussels. What gets him out and about is Kitchen Chemistry ([www.kitchenchemistry.eu](http://www.kitchenchemistry.eu)). As a result of a talk given at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, Stephen was awarded an Erskine Fellowship which

he hopes to take up in 2021. This means he'll be spending six weeks at Canterbury teaching physics and chemistry in July and August of that year. The only fly in the ointment is that his younger daughter graduates in July so he might end up doing a 'round the world' flight in order to attend it.

**Andrew Davis** reports from Edinburgh that, after 15 years at Lloyds Banking Group, he has moved to become Commercial Director at TSB Bank and has also joined the Board at Historic Environment Scotland – responsible for things like Edinburgh and Stirling castles. Meanwhile, his wife Anna has been grappling with the complications of exams in a world of Covid-19 as a board member at the Scottish Qualifications Authority while his elder son, Alistair, is on the receiving end, having had his Higher Exams cancelled. Andrew is discovering there are worse cities to endure lockdown in, with acres of countryside within the city itself, but the loss of the cricket season will be especially hard for his younger son, Aidan.

Elsewhere, **David Smith** got in touch from Michigan where he'd been isolated at home for several weeks already but making the best of it. His main piece of news is that the book from a major research project that he has been involved in has just been published: *Digital Life Together* ([www.eerdmans.com/Products/7703/digital-life-together.aspx](http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/7703/digital-life-together.aspx)). It is based on a three-year study of digital technology use in Christian schools, focusing on how technology is changing school culture, relationships, goals, and the articulation and experience of faith.

**Adam Levitt** emailed to say that he and his family are finding the lockdown acceptable as they seem to have more time for walking/biking/running their over-active dog!

Congratulations are due to **Andrew Phillips**, who has completed a master's at the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership. Graduation in the Senate House reminded him of the Sheldonian, but this time **Amanda** (née **Braddock**, 1985) and their three daughters were there to celebrate. Andrew's research focused on natural capitals and on modern slavery in UK agriculture, work he is continuing as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Rights Lab, University of Nottingham. He continues to work at the Duchy of Cornwall, living in Somerset.





Andrew Phillips after graduating in the Senate House, Cambridge

**Ruth Taylor** writes that 2020 has been an interesting year so far for her and her family. January and February were dominated by the floods, as they live overlooking the River Severn in Worcestershire. They watched as the back garden turned into a lake and the water rose towards their sandbags. One lunchtime they were rung by the police who said 'We are just checking on those residents who have decided not to evacuate.' This surprised Ruth and her family as nobody had told them to evacuate! Ruth is now senior partner in a general practice in Worcester that is very busy rising to the challenges that Covid-19 is presenting, and continually learning new ways of practising medicine, often with the help of technology. The meaning of 'PPE' has changed from her son's university application to something far different. In quieter times, Ruth also teaches and examines at Birmingham Medical School. She is working with the team tasked with setting up the Three Counties Medical School in Worcester, which will admit only graduate applicants to medicine, something Ruth was herself. When not busy with medicine in these unprecedented times, she relaxes by walking along the Severn with her trusty companion, Barney the labrador.

From a personal point of view, I've had great fun setting up and managing the Merton College Biomedical and Life Sciences Network on LinkedIn (you can read more about this on page 139). It's been a welcome distraction during the lockdown. My wife and I very much enjoyed the Warden's Welcome Drinks in November and were sorry that the current crisis prevented the Merton Society Weekend. On a more positive note, the second meeting of the Old Mertonians' Progressive Rock Society was last October when **Michael Chapman** and I went to see Steve Hackett in concert together in Southend.

Please do get in touch with your news at any time of the year – I'm always delighted to hear from you.

## 1985

**Year Representative: Ben Prynn**

21 Kingsley Road, London, NW6 7RH

Email: ben\_prynn@yahoo.co.uk

**Mark Medish** continues to work as president of a boutique strategic consultancy called The Messina Group, which was founded by Barack Obama's former re-election campaign manager. His recent short publications include 'The looming crisis of emergency powers and holding the 2020 election' in *Just Security*; 'Paradigm shift by pandemic' and 'Cicero's lessons for life', both in *Counterpunch*. He and wife Sue have a son doing a postgraduate degree at Georgetown, a daughter entering her senior year at Harvard, and another son entering Form IV (10th grade) at St Albans School in Washington. They care at home for their disabled eldest son, now 26, who was stricken with a rare auto-immunological disorder several years ago. Mark has made one resolution for life after the pandemic: to visit Merton in 2021.

**Adam Broun** reports he has been holed up at home in Lexington, Massachusetts for almost three months now. He has been learning to bake bread, doing more cycling, and spending too much time on video calls. His son Daniel is about to start his fourth year at Northeastern University, although the shape of campus life is unclear for him. Adam is disappointed he won't be doing his usual trip to Europe this summer with **Jon Little** and family.

**Chris Hehir** sits at Southwark Crown Court, which is currently closed to the public due to Covid-19. This has meant having to adjust to remote court hearings, including sentencing defendants from the spare room over Skype for Business. He says if he has learned anything from the lockdown, it is that he is not cut out to be a primary school teacher. He has found homeschooling three kids under ten 'rather challenging'. I know how he feels!

**Chris Aston** has been furloughed from his work in the European construction industry. His wife Marion's teaching and most of her voluntary work has been suspended apart from that with Homestart, the family support organisation. So there's been a lot of time to do work in the garden. They live in what used to be a garden nursery in the Staffordshire Moorlands and this year have it looking better than ever. They take time out to sit and enjoy it and have also had time to give the outbuildings a thorough clear-out. Their son Peter is working remotely for EY near London; Joseph, who works in the food industry, is continuing to attend the workplace near Nottingham. Their third son, Thomas, is finishing off the fifth year of his engineering master's in Sheffield, before starting in engineering consultancy later in the year. He's working on projects in isolation and doing exams online, which seems an odd way to draw such a long commitment to a conclusion. Chris has also been taking part in services with our local Methodist church on Zoom, doing a bit of decorating, and chilling out with books and films. He thinks it's going to be very challenging to adjust when the time comes to get back to normal!

**Simon Steel** is now the Director of Education and Outreach at the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute. Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, California, the SETI Institute is the only research centre in the world dedicated to the search for life in the universe in all its forms, from microbes on Mars to advanced alien civilizations.

Back down on earth I am adjusting to life working from home while my wife Victoria has returned from maternity leave to her job as a consultant specialising in infectious diseases at University College Hospital London. Unsurprisingly Covid-19 looms large in her working life. Fortunately, school has reopened for Izzy (5) and Chloe (1) is being looked after

at home until she starts nursery in the autumn. My eldest daughter Caterina (21) graduated from Royal Holloway College last summer and is dipping her toes in the world of work at a recruitment business run by **Avirup Chakraverty** (1986).

---

## 1986

**Year Representatives: Simon Male (undergraduates)**

Tel: 001 845 548 7825 Email: [simon\\_male@yahoo.com](mailto:simon_male@yahoo.com)

and **Daniel Schaffer (graduates)**

Tel: 07711 927122 Email: [daniel.schaffer@btinternet.com](mailto:daniel.schaffer@btinternet.com)

### Undergraduates

**Sarah Fretwell** (née **Ramsden**) has started working for Young Carers, a UK charity that aims to support young people by giving them the skills and confidence to deal with the challenges of a caring role – and a safe space in which to be children. She is finding her role challenging, given the impact of the pandemic on the charity sector, but rewarding.

**Dominic Minghella's** path through the coronavirus has been documented in a piece published in *The Observer* and *The Daily Telegraph*: [www.minghella.com/from-the-dark-end-of-the-street](http://www.minghella.com/from-the-dark-end-of-the-street). Thankfully he is fully recovered.

**Simon Portman** is married to Jacqui, living in a Cambridgeshire village, working as an intellectual property lawyer for Marks & Clerk. He heads the virtual reality (VR) team as VR companies are really coming into their own during the lockdown period, and also advising healthcare companies on contracts for PPE and test kit supply and antiviral and vaccine development.

**Dominic Meiklejohn** has spent much of lockdown in his kitchen, helping to organise repatriation flights for British travellers on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**Nancy Dawrant** walked the 50km Jurassic Coast, 100k London to Brighton and 100k Thames Path Ultras last year. She was thrilled to complete the last-mentioned in 16 hours 33 minutes, way faster than her target. Covid-19 has

scuppered her long-distance walking for the time being, but she has been totally immersed in planning and delivering online Maths and teaching to all her senior school classes online. Her son Jake (9) is doing his virtual lessons also online, which has lifted her IT learning curve exponentially.



Nancy Dawrant finishing the Thames Path Challenge

**Juliet Davenport** is CEO of Good Energy Group and holds various advisory roles including Vice-President of the Energy Institute, Grantham Advisory Group and is part of Friends of Oxford Energy. She is over the moon that her daughter Moji starts at Pate's Grammar School in September, and that her stepdaughter has an offer to do Human, Social and Political Sciences at Churchill College, Cambridge.

**Ed Field** has been zooming with **Fiona Murray**, **Simon Ancliffe** and **Brian Sher**, and is wondering if he will be able to travel to Rhode Island over the summer. **Brian Sher's** eldest

daughter, Robbi, is in her second year reading Chemistry at New College. She's a bit miffed that virtual study from home in London means no Pimm's, punting or Eights Week.

**Simon Ancliffe** lives in Berkshire with Emma, a harpist, Sam (11) and Ottilie (7). He sold his crowd dynamics/analytics company, Movement Strategies, to GHD in December while staying on. After pivoting away from stadia, arenas, events and mass transit towards social distancing, he is now as busy as ever. He has taken up karate again for the first time since his first year at Merton, so that Sam can practise on him.



Espen Ronneberg speaking at Ocean Action Day

**Espen Ronneberg** is a climate change adviser at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and supports Pacific countries through its Climate Change Resilience programme. SPREP postponed or cancelled face-to-face regional meetings and in-country interventions due to the pandemic, and all groundwork in the region has been postponed. He is currently working on preparing a flagship programme that would guide the Pacific region towards a fossil-free future, securing the future of the most vulnerable atolls, boosting the resilience of marine, coastal and upland ecosystems, and building a climate-proofed infrastructure.

**Adrian Judge** lives in rural Gloucestershire, and is happy (as is your Year Rep) that the new Warden is someone with whom he played hockey while at Merton. He is enjoying the extra time with his son, who is on his gap year, and his daughter, who is studying at Exeter University. His work

in the waste sector has been unaffected by the pandemic, other than clients demanding video calls. His fingers are crossed that he will have some cricket to watch this summer.

After a couple of years as Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Development, **Matthew Rycroft** is now the Permanent Secretary at the Home Office.

**Alex Chisholm** is Chief Operating Officer for the UK Civil Service and Permanent Secretary of the UK's Cabinet Office. Formerly he was Permanent Secretary at the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

**Adrian Brough** is now a freelance database developer serving small companies. It is a long way from chemistry, but Adrian is enjoying the freedom of freelancing and seeing a bit more of his family. His business has been buoyant through the pandemic. Adrian married Cath 14 years ago and their daughter Alice is nine. They live on the western edge of the Lake District, and have been visited a few times by **Jeremy Cooper** and family (although possibly to visit the Ravenglass & Eskdale narrow gauge railway rather than him!).

**Avirup Chakraverty** is running his own IT recruitment and services company, providing IT professionals to consultancies and IT services companies and specialising in hiring EU and UK citizens speaking local languages. His company has offices in Pune, Amsterdam, Brussels and Paris, and is looking to open in Stockholm, Frankfurt and Zurich shortly. He recovered from Covid, and recalled his passage through the disease. 'The phone went and Aunt Sheila's voice was chirpier than usual – a fake jollity that almost reached a falsetto at times for emphasis. Fortunately, the paracetamol had kicked in and I could just barely get through the call. Boris is in hospital, you know (yes, I did and he went to Christ Church). You would never imagine PPE to mean what it does now when you went up to Merton, would you?'

**Simon Male** has ridden out the pandemic in suburban New York, and is relieved that he has been able to work from home rather than the city. When he isn't skiing with his family, trail running with his dog or riding one of his too-many bicycles, Simon is an Indian equity market specialist with a leading Indian brokerage. He would be extremely

grateful if anyone who did not contribute something for this report this year would please do so next year, because that makes his job much more rewarding. Please feel free to contact him if you are passing through New York, or at any time during the year on the phone/email above.

## Graduates



The MCR in 1986

**Ben Alpers** is an associate professor of American Intellectual and Cultural History at the University of Oklahoma. Ben's work centres on 20th-century American thought and culture, including film history and the history of political thought. Ben serves as the editor of the Society for US Intellectual History's blog. He reports: 'Though it feels like I've been sheltering at home for over a year, it has only been the last three months or so. Before that this had been a pretty good year for myself and my family. I finished a book manuscript on Americans during the 1970s thinking about the past and the changes wrought by the 1960s. It is currently under consideration at a university press. Our daughter Mira spent a gap year on a state department-funded cultural diplomacy program in Rabat, Morocco, which was (like so much else) cut short by the Covid pandemic. Our son Noah had a similarly interrupted sophomore year at Vassar College. In some form or another, my daughter will be a first-year student at Harvard this fall. My son is



transferring to Cornell for his junior year. My wife Karin's most recent book, *Goethe and Judaism*, which Northwestern University Press published in 2017, has just been published in a German translation by Wallstein Verlag. So far, all of four of us have remained healthy. We've spent most of the pandemic sheltering together in Norman, Oklahoma (it was lovely having both kids home again for so long). My daughter is currently on a WWOOFing (Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms) gig in Wisconsin (which seemed relatively safe), while my son is doing a remote internship with Samantha Bee's TV show from home.'

**Ricardo Bianconi** is a professor at the Institute of Mathematics and Statistics in the University of São Paulo where he was an undergraduate. Ricardo writes: 'I have posted a preliminary version of a translation into English of Georg Mohr's *Euclidis Danicus* (1672) on arxiv.org. I am adapting my teaching to the Covid-19 requirements (online teaching) and starting research on continuous logic.'

**Aaron Byerley** is a professor and director of the propulsion discipline in the Department of Aeronautics at the US Air Force Academy. He has also served as an adjunct professor at the USAF Test Pilot School. Aaron teaches and conducts research related to the aerodynamics and thermodynamics of jet engines and jet engine design. You can watch an address he gave here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih6AQuKoY34](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih6AQuKoY34)

**Susan Craighead** is a judge in the Superior Court of King County, Seattle. You can watch an interview with Susan on Youtube entitled *15 Minutes*: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-G2l6Aelms](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-G2l6Aelms). Susan reports: 'Greetings from Seattle, in the Pacific Northwest corner of the United States. I chose to live here because the climate is similar to Britain's, believe it or not. I have a medical condition that does best in cool, wet weather and I've never felt healthier than when we were at Oxford. When I was debating foreign policy in the MCR, I imagined a career as a journalist covering the developing world. During the two years I spent at Oxford, it became clear to me that I needed health care available only in the developed world – and insurance to pay for it. This would not have been available had I freelanced from Senegal or Malaysia. And so

I pursued journalism positions in the United States. After a heady summer interning at *The Economist*, I moved from London to Louisville, Kentucky, to work for a respected newspaper there. Talk about culture shock: the grocery store in my new neighbourhood devoted an entire aisle to lard. I covered the courts in Louisville and came to see the dark side of the American judicial system. The racism embedded in the criminal justice system – typified by the administration of the death penalty – revealed to me that I had the soul of an advocate.

'And so I went to law school with the ambition of becoming a public defender. That is exactly what I did. Although it would have been a greater public service to return to the South, I elected to move to Seattle because of my health. I spent seven years as a public defender, representing poor people charged with serious crimes, and then I moved to Washington Court of Appeals to do a job that is similar to being a judge, but designed to take some routine or pre-trial matters off the judges' plates. In 2007 the Governor appointed me a Judge of the King County Superior Court. This is the 13th largest court in the United States; state trial courts are where the vast majority of criminal cases are heard, as well as many civil matters (such as medical malpractice, disputes about wills, and business conflicts), all family law matters, and cases where a mentally ill person is committed to an institution. For three years I served as the Presiding Judge of this very busy court, but now I am back to trying cases and just enjoying the drama that each day brings me on the bench. I live in Seattle with my adult son and I would welcome visitors, whenever we can all travel again.'



Lionel Hogg giving the 2019 Seldon Society lecture

**Lionel Hogg** is a solicitor in Brisbane at the law firm Gadens and is head of its Corporate Advisory Group. He writes: 'I have enjoyed a satisfying year professionally, working on a number of challenging and intellectually interesting matters of some (local) significance. I also delivered a lecture to the Selden Society on Oliver Wendell Holmes and the First Amendment [[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9BvqMeQAKM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9BvqMeQAKM)], in celebration of the centenary year of his most famous free speech dissent, a topic of abiding interest even in Australia (which does not have a bill of rights). My eldest, Lauren, has graduated university and started her own business; James enjoyed a stint of US college basketball but has now bunkered down to studies back in Australia; and Alex (at 12) will keep me young and gainfully employed for a few years yet. There is a quite large community of Oxford graduates in Brisbane, particularly in legal circles, although not many Mertonians. The University of Queensland Law Alumni Association last year commenced a program to encourage graduates to undertake postgraduate study overseas, and I have enjoyed meeting some enthusiastic and highly talented young men and women about to embark on studies at Oxford and elsewhere. The life experience of attending one of the world's great universities, particularly on foreign soil, has so much to commend it, not least of which are lifelong friendships. Please pass on my best wishes to our cohort. I hope everyone is travelling well and it certainly would be nice to reconnect personally sometime soon.'

**Louis (Lou) M. Jacobs** is Co-CEO of hospitality company Delaware North. Lou also serves on the board of directors for FeedMore WNY, a non-profit agency that works to alleviate hunger across four counties in the Western New York region. He sits on the board of directors for the UB Foundation, which supports and promotes the University at Buffalo NY's activities and programmes by assisting in the acquisition of strategic assets and managing and providing resources.

Lou is a member of the Everglades Foundation's Chairman's Advisory Council, as well as the American Gaming Association CEO Roundtable and the Wall Street Journal CEO Council. He is also a Committee Member on the Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.



Julee Greenough and husband Jerry put their older son to work in a punt

**Julee Greenough** (née **Kaye**) reports: 'My husband Jerry and I are trying to settle into an early retirement hastened by Jerry's deteriorating health. In July 2019, I was glad to show Jerry and our sons Jamen and Ryden (then 18 and 16) the college of which I have such fond memories. Playing croquet on the Chestnut Lawn was a sweet nostalgic experience even though I also had to weather some taunting when the boys defeated me in their first try at the game. The whole family much appreciated the opportunity to visit the treasures in the Merton Library, and both our boys took straight to punting, just as they have always loved other forms of boating.'



Julee and her sons who had just defeated her in their first game of croquet



Julee and her boys marvelled over Merton's library and its treasures

After Cambridge and Merton, **Paul Howlonia** worked at various NHS hospitals (the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, and Northampton General Hospital) and then relocated to Melbourne and worked at The Alfred Hospital, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital, Royal Women's Hospital and Caulfield Hospital and Dandenong Hospital. He became a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in 1996. He has since worked as a GP in city (Melbourne, Brisbane) and country (Port Macquarie, NSW) practices. He has been working at Myer Centre Doctors, Brisbane since 2008 and enjoys all aspects of general practice with particular interests in dermatology and general family medicine.

**Mari Izumi** reports that she is well and living in Tokyo.

**Andrew Jenkins** writes: 'I am currently living with my partner in Horsham. After leaving Oxford I decided to apply to become a commercial airline pilot and was accepted by British Airways. I have worked for BA for the last 27 years in both short-haul and long-haul. I started out as a First Officer and progressed on to be a Captain in 2000. I was also involved in training new pilots and examining existing pilots. During my career I have flown the BAe ATP, Boeing 747 and 777 and the Airbus 319/20/21. I retired in January 2019 and believe it or not am now travelling around the world either to see places I wanted to explore in more detail or to visit countries that I still have to tick off my list. I have been back to Merton for some of the Merton Society events, all of which have been most enjoyable.'

**Paul Kemp** is a Reader at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London. After his DPhil in Professor George Radda's group in Oxford, he worked in Professor Jim Metcalfe's group in Cambridge looking at the mechanisms that control smooth muscle cell proliferation and phenotype. In 1996 he was awarded a British Heart Foundation Basic Sciences Lectureship, staying in the Biochemistry Department in Cambridge, and in 2002 he was elected a Fellow of Emmanuel College. Paul moved in 2005 to Imperial.

Paul writes: 'On leaving Merton, I moved to Cambridge to do postdoctoral work in the Department of Biochemistry. The start of that year was hectic, as in March I had my viva on my birthday and married Ruth the following week. Still in Cambridge I obtained a British Heart Foundation fellowship in 1995 which I held for ten years until 2005 when I became a Senior Lecturer at Imperial College London, where I still work (I became a Reader in 2017). My group works on muscle wasting in disease (in particular, following critical illness on the intensive care unit) and in frailty, both growing issues. I completed my move to the other side of education when I became head of assessment for the early-year medical students and I must admit I still find deciding who passes and who doesn't a bit odd. Ruth and I have two boys, Sam and Matthew, who have now finished university (probably, though one may do a PhD). I haven't really been back to



Merton and I guess that my interactions are more like near-misses. Both boys studied at Warwick, where I now find out there is a Professor **Mark Newton** in Physics; the boys were in Chemistry and Biochemistry. My trips to Oxford these days tend to be to play hockey, and I recently saw that a Mike Tappin was captain of one of the Oxford teams though not the one we were playing. Whether this is the same **Mike Tappin** (1987) who sat at the other end of a boat to me all those years ago I do not know.'

**Antoine Lebel** is a dealer in antiques and fine art in Brussels, Belgium. Antoine specialises in Chinese Export porcelain. His gallery was established in the Carré Rive Gauche in Paris for nine years, and then moved to Brussels. Watch an interview with Antoine (in French) here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=C67tK9dlt98](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C67tK9dlt98)

**Larry (aka Lazza) Mathews** is a duty solicitor specialising in criminal defence at Edward Fail, Bradshaw & Waterson in London. Demonstrating that he has lost none of his laconic humour, Larry reports: 'I cannot report much of note to assist you in your much appreciated endeavours. I have been working now for 23 years as a criminal solicitor in the east end of London. During that time I have won no awards or accolades, published no books or articles and achieved nothing of note either professionally or otherwise. For some of us, it is our lot in life to labour quietly unnoticed. Due to the rather modest remuneration that my labours command, I look forward to doing so for many years to come. I am unfortunately without issue but am sustained by my saintly and long-suffering fiancée Jenny. We are both, I am pleased to say, in good health, and have spent the pandemic mostly doing what we usually do, namely working. I pass on my best wishes to the class of '86 (as our transatlantic brethren would say), particularly the boys from 59 Holywell Street and of course the lovely **Julee**.'

**Mark Newton** is a professor in the Department of Physics at Warwick University where he was an undergraduate before Merton.

**Eric Olson** is a consultant and Senior VP with BSR based in San Francisco. You can watch Eric on Youtube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=szr8fvQZE7w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szr8fvQZE7w)

**Chris Parker** qualified in medicine in 1989. After a research fellowship in Toronto, he was appointed Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Clinical Oncology and Prostate Cancer Translational research at The Institute of Cancer Research and The Royal Marsden in 2001. Chris is a past Chair of the National Cancer Research Institute Prostate Clinical Studies Group. He has published over 250 articles on prostate cancer. You can watch Chris on Youtube at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6wQyFZIS5c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6wQyFZIS5c)



Daniel Promislow and his dog, Frisbee

**Daniel Promislow** began his career in biology as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago. At Merton Daniel completed his doctoral work in evolutionary biology with Paul Harvey. After postdoctoral work in Paris, at Queen's University in Ontario, and at the University of Minnesota, in 1995 he joined the faculty in the Department of Genetics at the University of Georgia. Daniel moved to the University of Washington in July 2013, where he is professor in the Departments of Pathology and Biology. Daniel is broadly interested in evolutionary genetics, with a particular



focus on projects related to aging, as well as studies on sexual selection, natural genetic variation, networks and metabolomics. Daniel is the Principal Investigator of the Dog Aging Project, an NIH-funded long-term longitudinal study of the biological and environmental determinants of healthy aging in companion dogs. You can watch Daniel here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW--Q-tIRyw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW--Q-tIRyw)

Daniel reports: 'I live in Seattle, Washington, and have been keeping busy with the launch of the Dog Aging Project ([dogagingproject.org](http://dogagingproject.org)). I and a team of researchers from around the US are studying the genetic and environmental factors that influence aging and age-related disease in tens of thousands of pet dogs. The project is just launching, and all are welcome to sign up their dogs on the Dog Aging Project website. As a citizen science project, this work is helping me realise an aspiration I had when I came to Merton in 1986 of serving as a liaison between scientists and the non-science community. In 2018, my wife Leslie took on a leadership position at Boston Children's Hospital, so we now divide our time between the two coasts. When in Boston, we enjoy spending time with our daughter Carly, an MD/PhD student, and when in Seattle, with our son on Joey, a musician and student of acupuncture.'

**Dan Schaffer** is a solicitor and partner at Slaughter and May in London. You can watch him here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aNIWHBMkvc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aNIWHBMkvc). Dan reports: 'I have enjoyed coming back to Merton again this year to help run the second-year undergrad moot and do a bit of Trust law teaching as well as attend Council meetings and (with two of my partners fellow Mertonians) law lectures and dinners. I was also delighted to help organise the annual Merton Lawyers' Association event ([www.merton.ox.ac.uk/event/merton-lawyers-association-annual-meeting-2](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/event/merton-lawyers-association-annual-meeting-2)). I like to keep in touch with Merton alumni **Ben Alpers** (who is a FB social commentator phenomenon), **David Wright**, **Lionel Hogg** and **Nick Allard**. I am very pleased to have taken over from **Julee** as MCR 1986 matriculands' year rep and would like to thank Julee on behalf of us all for doing such an excellent job. Covid-19 lockdown has meant two of our three sons back at home in St John's Wood, London. Our eldest, Antoine, now works in Munich with [mytheresa.com](http://mytheresa.com) but the middle one, Vincent, had to return from Yale in March mid

semester and has carried on from his bedroom albeit in a different time zone. He will hopefully return in August for his junior year to start his major in computer science. The youngest, Louis, repurposed the second half of his gap year by volunteering for the NHS and raising money for a food bank. He starts in September at the University of Chicago. Marianne and I will then be à deux again with the company of our Labrador (the daughter we never had) Roxy.'



**Jack Da Silva** is a professor in the Department of Molecular & Biomedical Science in the School of Biological Sciences, University of Adelaide. Jack writes: 'I lecture in genetics at the University of Adelaide. Before moving to Australia, I had worked in Canada (McGill University and Laurentian University) and then the US (University of Pennsylvania and East Carolina University). I have two daughters. My older daughter (27) followed in her dad's footsteps and is now a postdoc in biology at Monash University in Melbourne. My younger daughter is studying for her PhD in clinical psychology at Flinders University in Adelaide.'



Jack Da Silva

**Lawrence Stanley** reports: 'I am a Distinguished Senior Lecturer in the English department at Brown University where I have been teaching since 1993. I directed and co-directed its Nonfiction Writing Program for the past 23 years and was responsible for designing and developing it. We have just hired a new director, so I am finally able to step down. I will continue to teach. Throughout my years, I have taught full-time a range of courses: Romantic poetry (my DPhil speciality); American Modernist fiction; travel writing; cognitive poetics; and introductory courses in academic writing and creative nonfiction. I spent a year teaching at Stanford.

I have presented papers at a number of meetings of the Rhetoric Society of America and the International Society for the Study of Narrative, which have taken me to England numerous times, to Amsterdam and Prague and Pamplona.

**Luc Tremblay** is a professor in the Law Faculty at the University of Montreal.

**David Wright** is a journalist with ABC News. David has interviewed six US presidents. He has worked in London, Washington, DC and LA, and now works in New York City.

**Christine Winzor** is an archaeologist, teacher, writer and librarian.

## 1987

**Year Representative: Simon Male**

Tel: 001 845 548 7825 Email: [simon\\_male@yahoo.com](mailto:simon_male@yahoo.com)

**Russ Mould** is now a qualified cricket coach, having passed the ECB's Level I course this year. He now knows where to put out the cones, according to the chairman of his local club, St Peter's in Brighton, where he runs (and coaches) the under-11 team. He has also finally given up on Leeds United and become a shareholder in non-league football club FC Lewes. When he is not ignoring his (much-loved) wife and two children because of sport, he is a regular commentator on the financial markets for his employer AJ Bell on the BBC and Sky.

**Andy Castell** has spent recent months at home in the Scottish highlands, walking his dogs in the hills, struggling with the foibles of Zoom, Skype and MS Teams and wondering whether a beard trimmer will be up to the job of a home haircut. His Triumph TR4 can transport a week's worth of groceries, his rowing machine is seeing some use and he is deriving a certain satisfaction in building up a decent crop of callouses.

**Fiona Harris** (née **Worthington**) is enduring the steep learning curve of teaching maths online.

**Christopher Hill** has spent the past 28 years in Moscow, as a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church and a hospice chaplain.

---

## 1988

**Year Representative: Tim Gardener**

c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD

Email: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

Last summer **Beth Williamson** (née **Jackson**) was promoted to Professor of Medieval Culture at the University of Bristol. In December she was awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship, to run for three years from September 2020, working on an interdisciplinary project called 'Describing devotion'.

Meanwhile, **Jonathan Trembl** was appointed as Clinical Service Lead of Healthcare for Older People at the newly merged University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. This means that he is responsible for geriatric medicine services at four hospitals. Lately he has been kept busy contributing to the medical response to Covid-19 at the main hospital site. He has also worked with Public Health England to develop a programme to promote activity in older people rendered housebound by the lockdown. Singing and playing the ukulele take up the remainder of his time.

**David Gartside** joined McKinsey last year to lead its digital transformation after four years at Google. He continues to reside in New York with Archana and Arya, and persists in pretending that he is not actually a New Yorker.

**Toby Nicholson** writes: 'As we are all turning 50 a group of us all started planning parties and we did manage to get together at the first one then got locked down. So I'm staying officially 49 until this is all behind us and I can have a delayed party.'

**Peter Howe** has happy news to report: his engagement and putting his house up for sale. He observes ruefully that he has chosen perhaps the worst time for a century to do these things!

---

## 1989

**Year Representative: Matthew Grimley**

Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD

Email: matthew.grimley@merton.ox.ac.uk

Although it was disappointing that our year group was not able to reconvene as planned for the Gaudy in March, several members have been in touch with news.

After many years in Cambridge, **Tadashi Tokieda** moved to Stanford in 2017 as Professor of Mathematics. **Jonny Woodward** was promoted to full professor at the University of Tokyo in 2019. **Stephen Walton** is still working at Christ Church, Dusseldorf, and recently completed a ThM from Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. **Dave Swinnerton** has been appointed as a Circuit Judge, based in Liverpool. **Chris Bunting's** co-authored and updated book, *The Complete Guide to Japanese Drinks*, was shortlisted for a prestigious James Beard Foundation Award.

**Steve Barge** reports that he is still teaching, though latterly via a computer screen. In his spare time, Steve is a crime fiction historian, and has been instrumental in bringing a long-forgotten mystery writer, Brian Flynn, back into print. The first ten volumes were published last year by Dean Street Press, with introductions by Steve, and ten more are on their way in October. You can find out more on Steve's blog, [classicmystery.blog](http://classicmystery.blog).

---

## 1990

**Year Representative: Christine Barrie**

15 Badminton Close, Cambridge, CB4 3NW

Tel: 01223 501598 Email: christine.barrie@btinternet.com

**Jayne Joyce** continues as Project Lead at Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support, which was awarded a large grant (the largest ever given in infant feeding) by the National Lottery Communities Fund at the end of 2019. Infant feeding is really important during a pandemic when supplies of formula milk may be unreliable and keeping babies out of hospital

is a priority. The charity had already moved to 100% virtual working before the official lockdown and the team is very busy, not least because many health visiting team colleagues have been redeployed. **Dominic** (1986) has finally installed that home office he'd not got round to for years and is quite happy working from home rather than the Maths Institute, though he does miss his better computer. Tilly continues as a second-year Cambridge NatSci from home, Kitty is kept busy with virtual year 12 work and Daisy (year 7) is going to find it very strange not to be able to chat to her friends on her phone during every lesson, when school finally resumes.

**Zaid Al-Qassab** is now Chief Marketing Officer for Channel 4, at time of writing working to ensure the country has something to keep them all entertained while stuck at home in lockdown, not to mention the news they have come to depend on. **Claudia Drake** (1991) has started a new role as an advancement manager at the University of Surrey in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences. What else would a PPEist do?!

Since September **Daniel Morley** is on leave from Deutsche Bank to take up a role as a senior advisor within HM Treasury.

**Howard Harding** still lives in Prague and is now a Czech citizen. His 13-year-old son is almost bigger than he is. He has been working for the last couple of years in Ukraine on strengthening local governments and related development issues. Howard is so far surviving in the new normal, during which he has been discovering the joys of online bridge with old friends with whom he hasn't been in touch for over 20 years.

**Katie Banister** (née **Bingham**) is still based in Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire, running clinical trials at the health services research unit at the University of Aberdeen and supporting public involvement and engagement with research. She's currently working from home along with her husband and three teenagers and, when not working, managing to fit in a good deal of dancing and gardening.

**Gunilla Karlsson Hedestam** is currently a professor in immunology at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. She investigates how the immune system responds to virus

infections and how immunological memory is established. She is a member of the Nobel Committee for Medicine or Physiology since 2018 and of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences since 2020. She lives with her husband Jan, daughter Jenny, son Alexis and husky/collie dog Greta in Stockholm. She keeps in touch with her Oxford friends as much as possible and keeps fond memories of Merton College.

**Philip Wilson** continues to work as a freelance theatre director. Recent shows have included a major revival of *This Island's Mine* by Philip Osment at King's Head Theatre in London (which he also designed – reminding him of days working on Merton Floats productions at the Burton-Taylor Theatre and Old Fire Station). In addition, his adaptations of Philip Pullman's *Grimm Tales* have been performed at the Unicorn Theatre – for which he is writing a new piece of theatre. His website, for those interested in following his work, is [philipwilsondirector.com](http://philipwilsondirector.com).

**Ralph Parfekt** is still living in northeast London, has two boys in secondary school, and is still working for King's College London, currently as Head of Administration for the School of Security Studies. Pastimes mainly relate to music and beer, and he's always glad to make contact with fellow Mertonians on Facebook.

**Mark Cockcroft** and his family are seeing the lockdown through in Zurich which is where they have been living for the past four years after three years in Qatar. Mark's role has changed during that time as he is now CEO of three Gibraltar-based insurance companies: Zenith, Markerstudy and St Julians.

**Michael Szonyi** is the Director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies and Frank Wen-hsiung Wu Professor of Chinese History at Harvard University. His recent books include *The China Questions: Critical Insights into a Rising Power* and *The Art of Being Governed*, a study of the lives of soldiers in the Ming dynasty. He also advises the US government on China policy, but assumes no personal responsibility for the current crisis in the bilateral relationship. He is married to Francine McKenzie, an international economic historian, and they have two children, Robert and Katie.



---

## 1991

**Year Representative: Anna Smith (Chairman of the Year Representatives)**

c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD

Email: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

---

## 1992

**Year Representatives: Andrew Davison**

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, CB2 1RH

Email: apd31@cam.ac.uk

and **Steve Maxwell**

654 Creek Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA

Tel: 001 510 4425 Email: stevemaxwell99@gmail.com

**Kelyn Bacon Darwin** writes: 'The Bacon Darwins have been fortunate enough to be able to carry on more or less normally during the lockdown, save that all the music lessons are now on Zoom and I am now doing virtual court hearings, which have shown both the capabilities and the limitations of video conferencing. We've hosted virtual dinner parties and games nights, and have participated in virtual choral and orchestral recordings. We benefit from an active and supportive local community and have engaged in enthusiastic swapping of domestic utensils through our newly formed street WhatsApp group. And our older relatives have now become adept at using Skype and FaceTime! I'm enormously thankful for the many blessings in our life at this time that is so difficult for many people around us and indeed further afield.'

**Andrew Davison** is back at the Faculty of Divinity in Cambridge after two terms of research leave. He will become a senior lecturer in October of this year. His book *Participation in God: A Study in Christian Doctrine and Metaphysics* (Cambridge, 2019) has been doing pleasingly well. He has had a year of adding Dean of Chapel to his roles at Corpus Christi, and is much enjoying that.

**Damian Crowther** was appointed Head of Early Drug Discovery, Neuroscience, AstraZeneca where he continues

his interest in neurodegenerative disease and its treatment. He was happy to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London.

**Colin Marsh** is living in Spain, running a translation business.

**Elizabeth Tollfree** reports: 'At time of writing I'm in full lockdown mode (it's hard to be an osteopath at a two-metre distance). So I'm dabbling in baking, insomnia and re-learning the piano. Doubtless a sourdough starter will be next. I hope everyone is safe and well.'

**Hadrian Wise** has had a turbulent but not unenjoyable life since leaving Merton. He got married in 2001 and divorced in 2015, and has three wonderful daughters. He did a number of office jobs before landing a job running the tobacconist on Oxford High Street, which he enjoys; he has published articles in several obscure periodicals and has completed one novel he hasn't got round to trying to publish and is using the lockdown to write a second. He reads a lot and now describes himself, with characteristic incoherence, as a Tory socialist. In due course he hopes to retire to the south of Italy.

---

## 1993

**Year Representative: Joanna Cooke**

Email: jvicooke@hotmail.com

**Jonathan Young** (45) has moved out of London to live and work in Andover, Hampshire. Martha is now five and at primary school. He humbly claims 'no [other] major contributions to the world'.

**Helen Powell** (née **Tesh**) updates that 'all is well in the Powell household and our three-year-old daughter is due to start school in September'. Team Powell are moving to Wales sometime between now and January, where Helen will be taking up a new teaching post and her husband, Will, will be exploring his burden for ministry in the area and doing some brass teaching on the side.

**Anna Jones** is sanguine about these strange lockdown times pointing out that 'if *Postmaster* is still going, there's hope for

us all!’ Anna was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England last year and began to serve as a curate in five rural parishes between Soham and Newmarket.

**Richard Marriott**, together with wife Kate and three sons, recently moved to Istanbul to be Country Manager Amazon Turkey. They are loving it so far.

**Jim Freeman** is surviving lockdown by putting all his energies into quizzes and pastry (not easy to make in a kettle). His second son Joe is now 10 and Hamish is 2!

**Charley Smith** (née **Haines**) said she had nothing of any interest to report but still sent the longest report (read that as you will). She did admit that it was great to get some of the Merton ladies together in November 2019 for lunch and walk round the old haunts as well as the more extensive achievement of a Christmas 2019 meal for at least a dozen of class of 1993. Charley then points out that the global lockdown gave everyone (aka Clive) a great excuse not to keep those resolutions to ‘do it again soon’!



**Alan Renwick** says he has no exciting news but does report: ‘I have been very lucky to be able to wander through Oxford’s deserted streets during these months of lockdown – the place has been even more beautiful than usual, and the ring of the Merton chimes has carried further.’ How totally lovely to hear that.

As for me, the kids are still trying desperately to persuade us to buy a dog. And apparently the middle two have a £50 bet on that Rob and I will be divorced by 2021. Watch this space.

## 1994

**Year Representative: Nick Quin**

Email: nickaquin@yahoo.co.uk

The 1994 diaspora continues to be well spread in this upside-down Covid world.

While **James McEvoy** and **Nick Quin** are ‘working from home’ in the Surrey suburbs, trying to keep their kids from exceeding 15 hours screen time each day, **Eleanor Needy** (née **Hodby**) is a physics instructor at University of Colorado in Boulder; both she and the kids making the transition to online learning but loving every minute of it. With the Rockies on one edge of town, who can blame them?

**Anthony Costella** remains living and working in the Netherlands. After separating from his wife after 14 years, he is adjusting well back to single life. Spending more time than ever with his two daughters – Caitlin (12) and Meghan (10) – and still greatly enjoying his dream job as Head of Insights and Analytics at Heineken.

**David Wallace**’s second child Maia was born in February 2020.

**Alastair Chirnside** will be returning to Oxford in September 2021 to take up the role of 14th Warden of St Edward’s School.

While most of us are doing everything we can to stay out of the way of the virus, **Anna Goodman** is working as an infection consultant at Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital in London and unsurprisingly busy as a result. Hosting a guest through the charity Refugees at Home has been a positive for the whole family in these times. Kudos to Anna.

Looking forward to hearing from more of you in due course, and hoping you are staying safe wherever you are, and whoever you are sharing these challenging times with.

---

## 1995

### Year Representative: Tom Brown

Cloisters, 1 Pump Court, Temple, London, EC4Y 7AA  
Tel: 0207 827 4008

At the time of writing, lockdown is slowly being lifted in the UK; it will be interesting to see where things are at the time of *Postmaster's* publication. Thanks to all who responded, even if it was just to say hello. I hope that you are all keeping well.

**Tamzen Isacsson** is now CEO of the Management Consultancies Association and is living in Wiltshire.

Congratulations to **Noel Cross** on the publication in March of *Criminal Law for Criminologists* (Routledge). I have bought my copy; no joke. Noel writes that he is in his 18th year on the staff teaching Criminal Justice at Liverpool John Moores University.



Paul and Serena White and sons in Yosemite National Park, California last summer

**Paul White** (pictured with **Serena** (née **Eade**, 1999), and sons **Dominic** (7) and **Callum** (4), in Yosemite last summer) remains in Sydney where the early summer was spent working remotely while home-schooling the boys during lockdown.

**Helen Bray** is now a Chief Inspector with the West Mercia Police, with responsibility for Shropshire's 999 response, firearms and custody functions. She writes that the pandemic has made for some interesting challenges. When not at work, Helen's 'downtime' involves home-schooling Toby (10) and Noah (8) to give husband Nick a well-deserved break. Helen and Nick are looking forward to getting back out to pursue their newfound love of mountain biking, and hoping that they can keep up with the kids. Please don't break anything Helen – Shropshire needs you!

**Irasema Sarmiento** has been home-schooling her son and daughter from Rome, where she works as an integration specialist for an IT firm specialising in digital transformation.

Why my interest in Noel's book, you ask? I'm now sitting part-time as a Crown Court judge on the Western Circuit, and it's been a long time since I studied crime. Meanwhile, my first book, *Employment Law*, was published by Macmillan in April.

---

## 1996

### Year Representative: Maria Pretzler

Email: m.pretzler@swansea.ac.uk

For the 1996 cohort, this year started out with various professional and social activities.

**Catherine Tucker** had the joy of being a Visiting Fellow at All Souls in Oxford in 2018-19. She says: 'It was strange returning to the Oxford University environment as a grown-up rather than a teenager. It was also strange to be at All Souls studying the topic of algorithmic bias on digital platforms, among people studying far more stereotypical All Souls things, such as alchemy and Ottoman history.' Catherine also managed to meet up with several Mertonians at All Souls, and has now returned to her ordinary life as a professor at MIT.

**Anna Hatt** (née **Price**) and **James Hatt** made a trip to Singapore last August when they met up several times with **Eugene Goh** who did PPE in the same year as James. Eugene introduced us to *prata* (a Singapore breakfast bread), one of the best breakfasts we have ever eaten.

**Eugene Goh** is still running his own small start-up, TalentKraft: talentkraft.com. His company does HR consulting, but they also build their own tools for assessing business skills. Eugene writes: 'One of the world's largest consulting firms is our client, so that is kind of exciting!'

**James Hatt** attended the Memorial Service of **David Bostock** (his philosophy tutor) at Merton, which was a wonderful opportunity to meet Mertonians of many generations. And he was pleased to find that his most recent pupil barrister is a Mertonian (**Anna Hoffmann**, 2009).

For **Malte Herwig** this year brought some exciting news. He reports: 'I still haven't won a Nobel Prize, but the man whose biography I wrote has. Last October, Peter Handke was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. The news was met with acclaim but also widespread criticism because of his advocacy for Serbia during the Yugoslav Wars.

'As his biographer, I've always had two goals: To observe as closely as I can, and to dig deeper than anyone else to uncover new facts about my subject. So I had one question when I visited Handke in Paris after the news was announced: What is it like to be in the middle of a Nobel shitstorm? He answered with a line from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*: "Hell is empty and all the devils are here." The next day, I visited Handke at his home in Chaville, an unremarkable suburb ten miles from Paris. I had been to the old house many times before and, as I turned from the main road into the overgrown alley of trees, I felt reminded again of how Handke's home has always seemed like a refuge, surrounded by towering hedges and filled with piles of books, feathers and other flotsam that he collected on walks through his "No-Man's-Bay" on the outskirts of the French capital.

'But this time seemed different. He had glued the wings of an owl and half a dozen boar tusks to his front door like protective charms. I slipped through the old iron gate and found Handke peeling chestnuts in the garden, which a few weeks ago had been filled with journalists. After his impromptu press conference on 10 October, Handke had complained that all everyone wanted to talk about was Serbia without having read any of his actual texts on the subject. On his dining table, I found a copy of his essays on

Yugoslavia. "Everyone is coming to my house," he lamented, "and if I catch just one more of them coming to me and acting like he knows everything, I'll hit him over the head with the book."

'As Handke's biographer, I was invited to attend the Nobel ceremony and banquet in Stockholm. Even by Mertonian standards, it is a feast like you've never seen before. The silverware and plates were made especially for the occasion and, my Swedish friends told me, half the country has dinner in front of the TV to watch the king and queen of Sweden lead the procession of Nobel laureates into the dining hall followed by a three-hour meal and dance in the Egyptian Hall.

'But enough of feasts and frolics, for the biographer had to work. I added a new chapter to the biography including a fly-on-the-wall report of the Nobel party and surrounding controversy. Because of Covid-19 the book will come out two months late, in July 2020, and if there's interest in publishing an English translation I'd love to hear from you.'

And then 2020 changed all our lives. We have at least one Mertonian in our year group who worked in a hospital in the middle of the crisis.

Another, **My Chi To**, had been working at the same law firm, Debevoise & Plimpton, which she joined in 1998, fresh out of Oxford. But a few months ago, she joined the administration of New York Governor Cuomo as his Executive Deputy Superintendent for Insurance. In that role, she oversees all life, property and casualty and health insurers doing business in the state. Thanks to the pandemic, a global recession and now anti-racist protests across the US, her first few months have been very intense, extremely interesting and more rewarding than she could have imagined.

For many of us, the pandemic meant dealing with changed circumstances in our daily lives. **Anna Hatt** noted that she and **James** were enjoying the time at home, while also struggling to find enough hours to combine work and childcare. **Lisa Cater**, too, talks about juggling working from home and home-schooling. She lives in Jersey with her family, where they could access beaches and the countryside and enjoyed the beautiful weather. She also reports that some



Mertonians have been meeting up for monthly pub quizzes on Zoom: the lockdown meant that she is actually in more regular contact with some than before.

Many Mertonians are academics who moved their activities online. **Maria Pretzler**, who is still teaching Ancient History at Swansea University, found the shift to online teaching both exhausting and exhilarating. Her experience makes her confident that old dogs can, in fact, learn many new tricks, and within days, too, if necessary. While visiting family abroad suddenly became impossible, for academic work, distances suddenly do not seem to matter so much anymore. This means that at the moment, Maria is running a seminar series with international speakers and audiences, organised on the hoof in a matter of a few days, and she hopes that this is something we can continue doing after the crisis.

**Lucy Allais** still has her joint appointment at San Diego (UCSD) as the Henry Allison chair in the History of Philosophy and at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg where she is professor of philosophy. She writes: 'All I've done is continue teaching, publishing, living in two countries, giving lots of talks. And possibly had Covid!' She also has a new book out, *Kant & Animals*, co-edited with John Callanan (OUP, 2020). This is an edited volume, but it is the first volume ever on the theme – which is an achievement, Lucy adds, because there is so much written on Kant in relation to everything!

---

## 1997

**Year Representatives: Catherine Sangster**

Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford,  
OX2 6DP

Email: catherine.sangster@oup.com

and **Jill Davies**

Email: jilldavies1997@yahoo.co.uk

2020 has been a challenging year so far and my thoughts are with everyone affected by the coronavirus. Last May, before lockdown could have been imagined, we enjoyed a week in

Oxford. It was great to visit Merton and see Dr Gunn. Kate and Emma still talk about the SCR 'crystal' doorknobs and delicious flapjacks. More recently, we have unfortunately been navigating the complexities of lockdown as my lovely Gran, who some of you will remember as a regular visitor to Merton, sadly passed away aged 99.

It has been great to receive some updates, including baby news, from around the UK and overseas.

Congratulations to **Helen Barugh** who reports: 'During lockdown we have welcomed a new baby into our family. Little Bobby is a brother for Anna who is taking big sisterly duties very seriously – lots of cuddles! Sadly he has yet to meet any of his wider family but hopefully that will have changed by the time *Postmaster* comes out.'

Thanks to **Ben Warth** for his update. Ben, his wife Annie and their four-year-old twins Owen and Alys have finally left London. They moved to Penarth, just outside Cardiff, to be nearer to both sides of their family, and as yet have absolutely no regrets.

Thanks to **Dan Hertz** for getting in touch from the US. Dan is working as a private tutor and living just outside Washington, DC, with his wonderful wife Beth, a primary care paediatrician, and his two daughters Eleanor (4) and Katherine (1). They are fortunate not to have been too directly affected by Covid-19 and look forward to being able to spend time with friends and family once again.

Hopefully life will have returned to normal by this time next year and Catherine and I hope to receive more updates then.

---

## 1998

**Year Representative: Alex Edmans**

Email: aedmans@london.edu

**Alex Edmans'** book on responsible business, *Grow the Pie: How Great Companies Deliver Both Purpose and Profit*, was published in March 2020 and headed the *Financial Times* list of Business Books of the Month.

**Ben Garner** is currently a program director for 2U, a company that partners with universities (including Oxford) to offer its degrees and short courses online. Once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, Ben was planning to move from Baltimore back to the Oxford area this summer with his wife and kids, Grace (10) and Tony (8).



The Gazdacs at Merton, July 2019

**Cristian Gazdac** became the head of the English-taught branch of the Department of Security Studies at the Faculty of History and Philosophy in University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The photo shows Cristian and his family at Merton last year when he was visiting All Souls.

**Jane Rawson** is now Director of Library Services at Nuffield College, Oxford. She was due to marry Hal Jones on 11 April until the coronavirus lockdown happened. Hopefully by the time *Postmaster* goes to press, the delayed ceremony will have taken place!

## 1999

**Year Representative: Andrew Tustian**

Email: andrewtustian@hotmail.com

**Heenal Rajani's** daughter Anika Raven Rijnen Rajani was born in May 2019. He currently lives in London, Ontario, Canada with his wife Kara, two children and two step-children. They run a zero-waste shop called Reimagine Co and are active in the climate change movement.

**Karen McAtamney** is continuing to establish her own practice KJM Legal Ltd ([kjmlegal.co.uk](http://kjmlegal.co.uk)), dealing with special education needs, disability and related areas. When not in lockdown, she enjoys being the closest babysitter for her nephew and new tiny niece. Like many of us, she has been using lockdown time to improve her house.



Robert and Sanela's wedding

**Robert Hollas** married Sanela Saric at Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire, on 8 June 2019. Sanela gave birth to a daughter, Isobel Kata Hollas, in Westminster, London, on 28 March 2020.

Myself, I have felt like I've been in the epicentre of Covid-19 as the tri-state area has been the hardest hit in the USA so far, but I guess a lot of people feel that way wherever they are. I continue to work at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, although I have switched from working on antibody- and bispecific-based therapies to viral vector production for gene therapy. I continue to raise my two small boys just upstate of New York City.

---

## 2000

**Year Representative:** Alex Perry

Email: alexpperry@gmail.com

A big 'thank you' to all those who have taken the time to contribute their news in these chaotic times. Wherever they might be living, it is clear that all of our classmates' lives have been affected by Covid-19. As we approach the 20th anniversary of our matriculation, I hope we can all look forwards to celebrating better times together again at Merton soon. As ever, feel free to reach out with your news however trivial it might seem to you.

**Ben Sparks** is living in Bath and working around the country (and occasionally around the world too when allowed to travel) as a mathematician, musician and speaker. He crops up occasionally on the Numberphile YouTube channel. He is also due to be married in the summer of 2020, though fears his lockdown hair may cause his fiancée Jen to call the whole thing off.

**Nancy Zhang** has double helpings of baby news: her first daughter Arya Leung arrived in March 2018, and at time of writing in May 2020, Nancy was on maternity leave expecting her second child imminently.

**Joanna Kenner** is still living in Paris with her husband and two daughters, Alessandra (5) and Scarlett (2). She continues her political advisory work for clients in the financial sector and this year began working with the Institut Montaigne, a French think tank, writing on international politics and trade issues.

**Jana McPherson** (née **Schulz**), husband Duncan, son Alan and daughter Flora relocated from Calgary to Vancouver last summer after her husband had commuted weekly for 18 months. The family is enjoying being together in one place, as well as making the most of the milder climate and proximity to the ocean. Jana continues to work (remotely) for Calgary Zoo, coordinating projects that combine conservation and sustainable development in various parts of Africa.

**Marc Stoneham** informs us that he spent most of 2019 rebuilding a decrepit house in Putney to house his now three-generation household of six. Marc continues to pursue his passion for building Africa's leading private sector businesses across the continent.

**Paul Trippier** had a busy 2019, welcoming a new baby (a third girl – Abigail Hope), receiving tenure and moving to a new position as Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, incidentally where a lot of early research on Covid-19 was performed.

Not all of the class of 2000 have ventured quite so far. **Andrew McDonald** writes from closer to Merton with a confession: 'I never managed to leave Oxford. After 15 years in the video games industry, working on titles such as Aliens vs Predator, Guitar Hero Live, and the Sniper Elite series, I am now a software engineer at Oxbotica, which spun out of the University's robotics group a few years ago. We are developing autonomous vehicles, and you can see our test fleet self-driving around Oxford. It is exciting to be part of something which could revolutionise transport for decades to come. I live in a village just outside town, and work in Cowley. Anyone passing through Oxford should feel free to get in touch.'

**Nick Hine** lives with his wife Hattie and their two children Bobby (born 2016) and Alice (born 2018) in Kenilworth in Warwickshire, having joined the University of Warwick in 2015. He has recently been promoted to Reader in Physics and is Director of Studies for the HetSys Centre for Doctoral Training.

**Rebecca Ansell** (née **Thomas**) writes: 'My husband Richard and I welcomed Mary Rosalind in May 2017 and Elizabeth Faith in October 2018. They keep me busy, as does my work as a consultant rheumatologist in West Yorkshire.'

---

## 2001

### Year Representative: Katherine Millard

46 Laburnum Crescent, Allestree, Derby, Derbyshire, DE22 2GQ

Email: katherine.l.millard@gmail.com

Thank you to those who responded to my request for news this year. It was great to hear your updates and be able to submit an update from the 2001 intake for the first time in a while. I would love to hear from more of the group during the year if you have news to share.

**Michael Pounds** married Guoliang Yin in 2016 at the British Ambassador's Residence in Beijing. They now live in Coventry where he is Associate Professor of Physics at Warwick University.

**Stephen Burgess** is still living in south east London and working on financial stability policy at the Bank of England.

Also in London, **Hinesh Rajani** writes that the capital is treating him well. He is still at the FCO, working on the UK-EU relationship, while looking for his next adventure overseas.

**Stephanie Meats** has spent the year on maternity leave. She and partner Paul welcomed Esther Rose into the world in April 2019, a little sister for Stuart.

**Paul Boswell** and **Louise** (née **Powell**) have had a busy year both professionally and personally. Paul has moved roles at American Express to become director of the UK's lending card portfolio, and Louise has recently been promoted to partner in the litigation and arbitration team at international law firm CMS. Alongside that, they juggle looking after their twin sons Alex and Luke (aged 2), who keep them on their toes!

I moved to Melbourne, Australia in January this year with my family to take up a Neonatal Fellow post at the Royal Women's Hospital. We plan to return to the UK in early 2021, international travel restrictions permitting.

---

## 2002

### Year Representative: Ben Zurawel

64 Oyster Wharf, London, SW11 3RR

Tel: 0207 832 0500 Email: ben.zurawel@gmail.com

**Dan Botting**, currently Deputy Head Academic at Royal Russell in Croydon, will be taking up the role of principal at the Bobby Moore Academy in Stratford in September 2020. The academy, which opened in 2017, is a 4 to 18 all-through school in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It is a member of the David Ross Education Trust, an advocate of education as a vehicle for social justice. Dan is 'looking forward to leading the growth and development of primary and secondary phases, and helping them to become firmly established at the heart of the local community'. He remains a governor of Stillness Infants School in Brockley Rise, but his most important recent achievement has been honing his lockdown skill of 'junk modelling' (mainly architectural, with occasional warships) as well as finding time to tinker in his bike shed (which Sarah, Edward and Alice have painted in rainbow colours).

After three years as Head of Maths at his alma mater, Watford Grammar School for Boys, **Phil Matthews** is taking a slightly different tack, becoming, in addition to his teaching, the school's first lay chaplain. Phil is also in the Church of England selection process for ordination training and looks forward to the combination of teaching and ministry he may end up doing in the future.

**Madeleine Brook** has managed to find that rarest of beasts, a permanent full-time job in academia. She will be starting in the research department of the German Literature Archive Marbach in Baden-Württemberg in September – which will be her first permanent job since stacking shelves in Tesco when she was 16!

A 'Grüezi!' from **Joe Noss** who lives in Basel, Switzerland, where he works for the FSB. Disappointingly, that's the Financial Stability Board, the international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system, and not the successor agency to the KGB. Roxna and Joe are expecting their first child in October 2020.



Joe and **Mark Brighthouse** visited **Oscar Scafidi** in Tunis for what Joe describes as ‘a few days of undergrad-style irresponsibility’. Oscar is currently working on the first Bradt Travel Guide to Tunisia, having been amazed to discover, upon moving there in August 2019, that there was no up-to-date English-language guidebook to the beautiful North African country. Alongside travel writing, Oscar is an African risk consultant, an international educator and a documentary film maker: you can follow him on YouTube at ‘Scafidi Travels’.

**TengTeng Xu** and Eric had a little girl, Elizabeth Aili, on 29 October 2019: at time of writing she (Elizabeth, that is) had ‘two shiny new teeth’. TengTeng works at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC.

**Paul Hollands** and Gemma welcomed their third child, Jamie, in November 2019, a little brother to Harry (5) and Finlay (3). Unsurprisingly, he reports that lockdown was ‘pretty challenging’!

**Rachel Huckvale** (née **Turvey**) had her second daughter, April, last year – a much longed-for and adored little sister for Caroline (6).

A belated announcement that **Claire Chee** and Chiin-Zhe Tan welcomed Julian into the world in 2018. Claire reports that she has now finally emerged from the fog of parental sleep deprivation.

Finally, **Dave Bird**, **Krizia Li**, **Rachel Mumby** (née **Curtis**) and **Mel Orchard** all say ‘Hello!’, while modestly claiming that they have nothing newsworthy to report – which, knowing them, almost certainly isn’t true.

---

## 2003

**Year Representatives: Andrew Godfrey and Helen Nicholas**

c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD  
Email: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

In our first year as your correspondents, **Andy Godfrey** got engaged to his partner Jerry (though wedding plans are on hold till some normality is restored), and **Helen Nicholas** returned to work following maternity leave, managing a couple of months in the office before the world went into lockdown. Andy is still living and translating in Cardiff, while Helen is still a pensions actuary in Leeds.

We also both had the pleasure of attending **Rebecca Molyneux**’s wedding to Jonathan Middleton in October 2019, which was not only a joyful occasion, but also an excellent opportunity to catch up with some fellow Mertonians. **Emily Fildes** and **Steve Buckley** welcomed baby Iris in July 2019, and Emily has started a new job at the Bodleian. **Fleur Willson** and **Olivia von Wulffen** are both working for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Fleur is based in Tripoli, while Olivia is hoping to move to Rabat once lockdown restrictions permit. **Rob Bradley** is currently back in Leeds sheltering from the pandemic.

Many other Mertonians from our year are thriving in places right across the world, albeit in various states of lockdown. **Tomas Furlong** has relocated to the Herbert Smith Freehills Singapore office as a partner in the disputes group, and welcomed his first baby, Astrid, on 15 September 2020. **Rami Chowdhury** is still in Washington, DC with wife Kat and Wesley the dachshund, and has just joined a new company working on open-source tools to make sense of the floods of data that surround us. Closer to home in Europe, **Brian Melican** and **Caroline Taylor** are continuing to maintain a Merton Germanist enclave in Hamburg, while **Mike Lightfoot** is still doing well in Amsterdam.

Back in the UK, **Hannah Beacham** (née **Dolman**) is celebrating her tenth year at Gowling WLG in Birmingham. She and **Andrew Beacham** (2002) are enjoying life in semi-

rural Shropshire with their son Connor, and taking advantage of Andrew's knowledge of vertical farming to maximise crop production in the garden while under lockdown. **Kirsten Claiden-Yardley** has had a book published, *The Man Behind the Tudors: Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk* (Pen & Sword Books, 2020). She and **Nat Merry** are still running a heritage consultancy business. Former year rep **Simon Beard** is living with his family in Histon, near Cambridge, and continuing to work and publish on global catastrophic risk.

We have set up a year group Facebook group so that we can all keep in touch throughout the year. Please email us if you haven't already received a link and would like to join.

## 2004

**Year Representatives: Nicola Davis, Gavin Freeguard and Natasha Zitcer**

Email: merton2004@gmail.com

The Mertonians of 2004 have been busy with personal and professional developments aplenty.

**Nicola Davis** is busier than ever on *The Guardian*, covering unfolding news on the Covid-19 pandemic as well as other health and science stories, both through articles and *The Guardian's* Science Weekly podcast. She is also teaching temari – the Japanese art of embroidering a thread ball – and was enjoying shooting her bow and arrows (and hitting new PBs) until lockdown struck. She is currently living with her partner, Nick, in Cambridge.

**Chris Bryan** tells us he is based in Hong Kong, where he has been since January 2012, and hopes fellow Mertonians are faring well. 'It has been quite a turbulent 12 months in Hong Kong (with protests), but I think it's still a great place to be for an expat,' he writes. 'I got married to Stephanie in May 2017 (Gavin was there!) in the UK near my hometown Farnham, and our daughter was born in August 2018. I was working for Evercore investment bank for several years, before moving into renewable energy investment across Asia (which, pre-virus, was taking me to India and Australia quite often), which is my current specialty.'

**Gabriel Ling** is also in Hong Kong, and says he hopes everyone is safe and well. 'A few other Mertonians are here too. Let me know if you ever visit the city and we can come together for a drink,' he says.

**Hui Mun** writes: 'I've been working as a civil servant with the Singapore government since 2011. I was with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, posted to Bangkok during the coup d'état in 2013/14. Went on to the Ministry of Law in 2015, then was sent to work with the unions in 2018. I'm currently at the Ministry of National Development, overseeing public housing. Some Covid-related busy-ness, as you can tell from the bad press on Singapore's foreign workers situation!'

But it is not all government work. 'My friends and I opened a restaurant which got a Michelin star in 2017! And I've also been working with my friend to look at tech start-up investments,' he writes.

**Martin Ash** continues to make music. 'Still in London, still freelance musician – in principle at least; this currently means I'm largely self-unemployed, but also available for remote recording/tracking/filming/arranging if anyone is putting together socially distanced musical projects! Website still at [www.martinashmusic.com](http://www.martinashmusic.com).'

**James Biggin-Lamming** has had an interesting start to his new job as the Transformation Director for London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, which he began as the Covid-19 pandemic kicked off. 'It has been an exciting and rewarding "baptism by fire" supporting new colleagues meet the initial peak and now starting to organise the recovery,' he writes, adding that his wife Eleanor and their daughter Olive (6) enjoy seeing him at their home in Harpenden far more than last year, when he was commuting each week to the Middle East.

**Stewart Pringle** tells us he is continuing his work as a dramaturg at the National Theatre, developing new artists and stories for its stages. 'Due to coronavirus, quite a lot of that has been done remotely from the north-east of England,' he writes, but adds the comparative remoteness has been a boon to all concerned as he has also recently taken up the trombone.'

Across the pond, the impact of the pandemic has also been strongly felt. **Gabriel Gann** says: 'We're weathering the lockdown in California's Bay Area with our 8-month and 3-year-old girls. My tenure case at UC Berkeley was approved the same week the lockdown was announced. California hasn't started to reopen yet, but we're looking forward to being able to go out to celebrate once it does!'

And others are finding the lockdown is strangely familiar.

**Tash Beth** (née **Zitcer**) and her husband Ian welcomed their daughter Matilda (Tilly) on 16 September 2019. Tash has just about adjusted to the world of new motherhood, but says 'it turns out that maternity leave and lockdown have an awful lot in common!'

Tilly is not the only new arrival for the Mertonians of 2004. **Rory Holmes** and his wife Esme had a son, Santiago, on 19 May 2019 and **Tom Hanna** welcomed his third child, Eleanor, into the world in December 2019. 'Two weeks before she was born, a tree fell on our house. Since coming out (as it were) she has lived through drought, bushfire, flood and the Covid pandemic. She doesn't seem bothered, and there is much to learn from her outlook on life. Still running a small business (four employees now!) and busier than ever, pandemic or not.'

**Gregory Peter** has also had a number of highlights, telling us he is now married with a one-month-old son and a new job – director at The Riverside Company, a lower middle market private equity firm with global footprint.

There have also been other developments.

**Carl Anglim** tells us that he has big news. 'In November 2019 my partner (Tiffany) and I won the International Tray Racing Association Doubles World Championship at the Olympic track in Igls. The competition is held annually by the International Sliding Club. We first won the doubles title in 2017 and have held on tightly ever since. Which is pretty much how you win. Hoping to be back competing on the track late 2020.'

Carl says the Oxford Fashion Studio is also doing well. '2020 marked our tenth international season of shows

launching collections for independent designers across New York, London, Milan and Paris fashion weeks. A clear highlight being that time we put Romesh Ranganathan and Rob Beckett on the runway in New York. In 2019 we introduced Voussoir, our own fashion house, with a show at the Royal Opera House during London Fashion Week. The current situation, while undoubtedly challenging, has been a catalyst for rethinking and challenging the industry. This is something we had already begun doing and are now more energised to continue with.'

And there are other positives. 'In very recent news Oxfordshire Youth, a 71-year-old charity that I have been on the board for since 2013 and chairing since 2017, has been awarded £9.8 million over seven years to take an innovative youth work approach to supported housing in Oxfordshire,' Carl tells us. 'Covid-19 is challenging a generation of young people. The team and I will be putting to use the relationships and expertise of Oxfordshire Youth to support and strengthen some of the most vulnerable young people in this challenging time and for years to come. The project is in partnership with mental health charity Response. Tiffany and I also ran the Oxford Half in October 2019, our first half-marathon and yes in the pouring rain, raising funds for Oxfordshire Youth.'

Finally, **Mikhail Kizilov** tells us he received a fellowship grant from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (USA) for the project focusing on the relations between the Russian Old Believers (Raskolniki) and the Jews during the Holocaust. He also signed a contract for a book about the history of the concentration camp Krasnyi in the vicinity of Simferopol (the Crimea), which he is going to write in Russian.

---

## 2005

**Year Representative: Emma Bullimore**  
Email: emmabullimore@gmail.com

**Fiona Walker** and her husband Chris welcomed their baby Glenn Christopher Morgan into the world.

**David Pritchard** writes: 'I got married last year to Dr Shoko Sugawara who I met during my PhD in St Andrews. We had

two weddings: one in Glasgow (where many of my family live) and a traditional Shinto ceremony at a shrine near my wife's home town in Japan. We currently live near Stirling, where I am a postdoc studying bee behaviour, while my wife is a research fellow at St Andrews studying how birds build nests.'



David and Shoko's wedding in Japan

## 2006

**Year Representatives: James Dobias (undergraduates)**  
c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD  
Email: publications@merton.ox.ac.uk

and **Gregory Lim (graduates)**  
Email: gbslim@gmail.com

### Graduates

**Ryan Manuel** writes that he has mostly left academia (but is still teaching a couple of courses) and started a

small research firm doing China big data and investment analytics. The company was acquired by his largest client, and so he is now working mainly in finance, albeit still doing some writing. Ryan notes that a DPhil on Chinese public health has proved surprisingly relevant this year! Social distancing is fairly real in post-SARS Hong Kong, although he self-deprecatingly comments that his less-than-winning personality still does more to keep people away than the government's public health messaging. (Hong Kong's Chief Executive closed all bars for a couple of weeks, declaring that 'alcohol encourages intimacy'. Oh, the memories...) Although Ryan doesn't really see anyone from Merton, he recently raised a couple of glasses with some friends in honour of **James Upcher**, whom they all miss.

**Thomas Papadopoulos** was promoted from Lecturer to Assistant Professor of Business Law at the Department of Law of the University of Cyprus.



2006 graduate Mertonians in a Zoom meet-up

During the global lockdown, several Mertonians (pictured from top left: **Anna McConnell**, **Hendrik Coldenstrodt-Ronge**, **Verena Heise**, **Gregory Lim**, **Reto Bazzani**, **Nick Crump**, **Michael Uy** and **Lisel Nunns**) arranged a video call to share their experiences during the pandemic and to reminisce about happy times at Merton. Just agreeing a time was a challenge, with people joining from Germany, New Zealand, Switzerland, the UK and the USA!



---

## 2007

**Year Representative: Alistair Haggerty**

8 Northfields Close, Bath, BA1 5TE

Tel: 07809 357351 Email: alistairjhaggerty@gmail.com

For most of us, the year 2020 marks the ten-year anniversary of our graduation from Merton. Having dusted off our yearbook, I can see that while some of us made quite prescient predictions about what the next decade would bring, nobody had anticipated the bizarre turn of events resulting from Covid-19. However, in these uncertain times, it has been really encouraging to hear of the positive life events that have been taking place over the last year. Thank you to all of you who responded to my request for updates.

At the cutting edge of the response to Covid-19 is **Christian Jorgensen**, who is working at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He is currently doing virtual screening to ascertain whether he and his team can identify a therapy for the virus.

Also living across the Atlantic is **Ellen Feingold** who, in the last 12 months, has been hard at work (albeit now from home) curating a new gallery about money for children called *Really BIG Money*. It will open at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History next year. Her daughter Hannah (2) inspired this project and Ellen says that it has been a joy to be able to merge work and motherhood in this way. Alex, Ellen and Hannah are all still enjoying life in Washington, DC and are spending most of their outdoor time during the Covid lockdown at the Bishop's Gardens at the National Cathedral, which remind them so fondly of Merton and Oxford.

**Sarah Stuart** (née **Wilson**) noted in her update that 'I had predicted a glamorous life in Spain ten years on. Instead, I'm trying to survive lockdown with two children.' Sarah and Dustin are living in Surrey and they welcomed their baby boy Sebastian in March. Their daughter Mabel is two and she is thrilled with her little brother. Sarah is currently on a career break from the NHS and has been enjoying the joys and challenges of looking after a toddler and a newborn.



Sarah, Mabel and Sebastian

In his yearbook prediction, **Matthew Adcock** anticipated that he would be having a barbecue in 2020. As luck would have it, he and **Hannah Harris** have recently moved to Sydney and are enjoying life, and presumably plenty of barbecues, in Bondi Beach. They have embraced the outdoor lifestyle and the ups and downs of learning to surf.

Matthew and Hannah are not the only enduring Merton couple from our year group. **Matthew Martin** and **Rebecca Price** got engaged on 31 August after Matthew fittingly proposed in the stunning surroundings of the Merton gardens.

August was also an important month for **Lizzie Bauer**, who married **Netan Dogra** (graduate matriculation 2011) in Hertfordshire on a gloriously sunny Bank Holiday weekend.

Between lockdown life and her work as a personal injury and clinical negligence barrister, **Kriti Upadhyay** is attempting

to plan a wedding following her engagement to her fiancé Daniel Frank last September.

In October, **Harry Spencer** married Carolina at a wedding ceremony held in her home city of Londrina in Brazil.



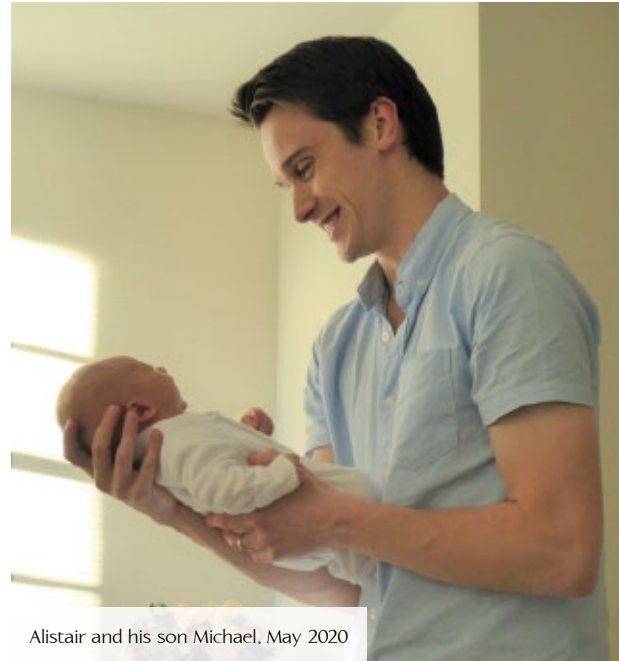
The Tovey triplets

According to the yearbook, **Richard Tovey** had hoped that he would be 'settled with a family and house, working in a satisfying job' ten years after leaving Merton. He perhaps got more than he bargained for, but in the most wonderful way, when he and his wife **Maddy** (née **Rudge**, 2005) welcomed triplets – Frances, John and Thomas – in November. He tells me that the family are doing well and, with the triplets now starting to eat solid foods, apple puree is in great demand during the lockdown. Richard and Maddy have been married for four years and are settled in Hampshire.

In his ten-year forecast, **Simon Kerry** saw himself 'with a successful career as a barrister, living in London, and proud owner of the world's largest Scalextric layout'. After a brief foray into accountancy, Simon is now a barrister living in London (he is too modest to say whether he has a successful career!) and, most excitingly, he and his wife Nicole celebrated the arrival of their daughter Eleanor Junling in March. The status of the Scalextric layout is unknown.

As for me, I am writing this update bleary eyed and sleep deprived after the arrival of our first child, Michael James

Haggerty, less than two weeks ago. Rachael and I are delighted and hope that the lockdown will soon ease sufficiently to enable our families to get to meet him. Incidentally, in our yearbook, I had seen myself 'in the car waiting at traffic lights outside Ikea' ten years after leaving Merton. If only I had been less ambitious in my prediction...



Alistair and his son Michael, May 2020

It has been really uplifting to hear your news and updates. I hope you all continue to stay safe (and alert!) and look forward to catching up with plenty of you in the not-too-distant future.

---

## 2008

**Year Representative:** Alice Salvage

Email: [alice.salvage@gmail.com](mailto:alice.salvage@gmail.com)

**Rosie Birchall** continues to cohabit with **Niall Allsopp** in the same house in Peckham where **Alice Salvage** and **Prakash Parameshwar** also live. As a wise woman once said, 'nothing has changed', except that we are now enjoying much more of each other's company, for obvious reasons. Niall's first book was recently published: *Poetry and Sovereignty in the English Revolution* (OUP, 2020) is available in all good bookshops. Alice continues to spoil her housemates with her culinary delights, having regained her evenings and weekends after graduating from the National Film and Television School in February 2020 with a diploma in Script Development. The household is debating whether to get a dog or a cat; at present, the consensus is it is hard enough looking after Prakash.

After spending three years in America (Boston and San Francisco) to complete her Master's in Public Policy, **Corinna Fehst** recently moved back to London and is now working on technology policy issues at Google.

**Elsa Ryder** (née **Paroissien**) welcomed her third child, Iseult, on 27 December 2019. Iseult is her second daughter, sister to Julia (8) and Aurélien (7), and is a great source of joy and hope in these troubled times.

---

## 2009

**Year Representative:** Stephanie Cadoux-Hudson

101 Plater Drive, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 6QU  
Tel: 07814 951309

Hello all, I hope you are all keeping safe and well in these strange times. Hopefully we will get a chance to see each other again sometime soon but until then here's some news.

**Claire Higgins** has won a prestigious three-year Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award.

to investigate the history of safe visa pathways for refugees. The idea for this research was first sparked during her doctoral study in History at Merton. Claire would like to thank her fellow Mertonians in Australia, **Nyrie Palmer** and **Andrew Cichy**, for their help writing the grant application. Claire is now based at the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, at UNSW Sydney.

**Bevil Luck** was awarded his PhD in English Literature from the University of Southampton at the end of June last year with a thesis on the South-African born British poet F.T. Prince called 'The Froward Master; or, F.T. Prince and the Poetry of Time'.

As announced in last year's update, **Finola Austin's** debut historical novel *Bronte's Mistress* is now available to order. Deliciously rendered and captivantly told, the book reimagines the scandalous affair that has divided Brontë enthusiasts for generations and gives voice to the woman vilified by history as the 'wicked elder seductress' who allegedly brought down the entire Brontë family. Do get your copy asap!

Congratulations to **Joshua Baldwin** and **Eloise Barker** (2008), who report that they have ended up engaged (to each other). They're delighted! They recently moved to Bristol after Joshua accepted a director role at Aardman.

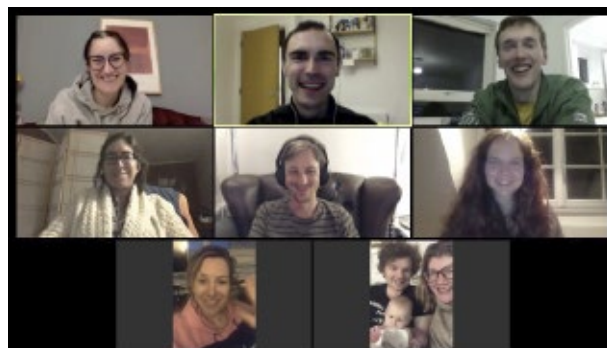
**Max Boulet-Audet** has, this year, joined Impossible Foods as a Principal Materials Scientist to lead the development of biomimetic tissue for food product technology. The mission is to drastically reduce humanity's destructive impact on the global environment and public health by completely replacing the use of animals for meat by 2035. Impossible Foods intends to accomplish this by creating the world's most delicious, nutritious, affordable and sustainable meat and dairy foods directly from plants.

**Edmund** and **Amber Hood Highcock** welcomed their son, Giles Galahad Philip (Gally), on 18 August 2019. Gally was born in Sweden where his parents have lived since 2016. His interests include robot vacuum cleaners and rabbits, both real and illustrated. He is frequently to be found sharing a book with Bodley (the dog).



Edmund and Amber Hood Highcock and their son Giles Galahad Philip (Gally)

And finally, your Year Rep is still living and working in Oxford (will I ever leave?). As a Principal Scientist/Team Lead at Oxford Biomedical it has been an extremely busy few months with our growing involvement in the Covid-19 vaccine production. Wandering around Oxford during the lockdown, empty of tourists and students, has been a weird and surreal time but Oxford remains stunningly beautiful and magical as always.



Reunions in the time of Covid-19: Zoom catch-up from across the world during lockdown of (from top left): Stephanie Cadoux-Hudson, Phil Entwistle, Francesco Fermani, Julie Bastianutti, Wolf Rittershofer, Pari Kritsiligkou, Claire Higgins, and Edmund and Amber Hood Highcock with Gally

## 2010

**Year Representative: Martin Schmidbaur**  
(undergraduates)

Email: [martin.schmidbaur@gmail.com](mailto:martin.schmidbaur@gmail.com)

*There is no graduate Year Representative for 2010. Please email the Development Office if you are interested in volunteering: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)*

### Undergraduates

Writing this update in 2020 – a decade since we first met – would have been impossible without chronicling the impact of a global pandemic on the crowd of 2010 Merton matriculands. I asked you about your experience of living through the days of quarantine, lockdown, self-isolation and sheltering-in-place – and here's what you all had to share.

**Will Bennett** wouldn't be Will Bennett if he hadn't found a way of doing outrageous things even when he was literally told to stay at home and sit still. Instead, Will cycled all the way from London to his home in Hull, (inexplicably) packing books and a laptop for the journey and thus almost collapsing from exhaustion. As at time of writing, he was



quarantining in Yorkshire. Says Will: 'Far nicer [than a bike ride along the Mill, presumably] and being only a few minutes' drive from the national parks, we belong to the select few who are allowed to walk in areas of natural beauty.' Will expects to finish his (second) degree because, in his own words, 'basically they have just decided to pass everyone'.

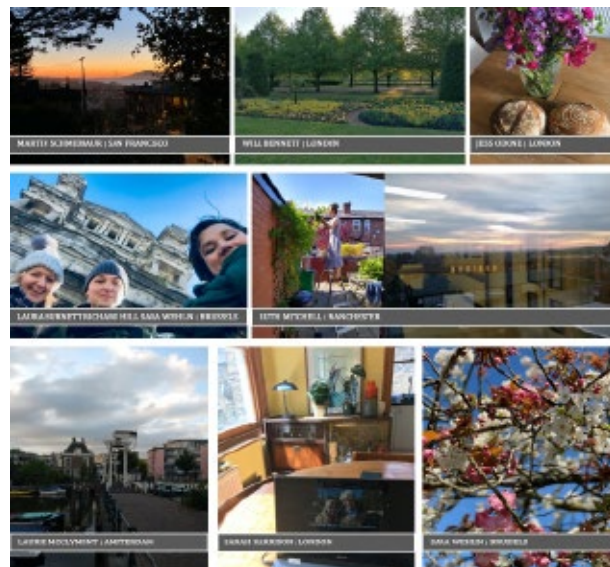
**Laura Burnett** spent the locked-down part of 2020 in Mitcham with her husband Sam and their cat Marmite – and a refugee from Afghanistan whom they hosted through a charity called Refugees at Home. She says it's quite a hilarious combination. She is still trying to make the world a better place, but now works in an education technology company. Together with **Richard Hill**, she was ('finally', as she says) reunited with **Sara Wehlin** who has moved back to Europe after finishing her PhD and now lives in Brussels.

Sara is glad to be with her boyfriend (whom Laura has already approved as 'quite lovely') and started a job at a company called N-Side, where she will work on optimising supply chains for clinical trials. And much like the essential workers throughout the year, we of course applaud anyone pursuing a career in health and hopefully help us all avoid something like this year's pandemic from happening again. Sara's views from quarantine tell of her walks around Brussels where she's been learning the names of various flowers in French and enjoying the cherry blossoms (*fleur de cerisier*).

In more news of academic excellence (hear that, Merton?), fellow chemist **Mike Geeson** also graduated with a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before moving back to Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, where he's starting a new position as a postdoctoral researcher.

He's been playing the occasional virtual game of poker with **George Lockett**, **Chas Lake** and **Laurie McClymont**. Laurie is still in Amsterdam, where he enjoys his daily walks along Amsterdam's picturesque bridges and canals – his view from quarantine.

Also writing from the Netherlands, **Pip Schuijt** said she was excited to be going back to cafés and beach pavilions after they reopened in May.



Various 2020 undergraduate views from quarantine

**Pietra Koulia** is living in London with her partner Liam, where she's been appreciating her little garden, going running (her view from quarantine), and taking time to do more cooking. She's grateful to be busy at work, if slightly woeful about the difficulties of potentially not seeing family in Cyprus for an extended period of time. Like many of us, she's been Zooming and Facetimeing with friends – and making an effort to stay in touch with fellow Mertonians **Fatima Zafar**, **Alina Giesen** and **Alessandro Geraldini** in particular. She thinks **Wesley Tan** could do a better job of staying in touch (hint, hint). She's looking forward to being able to travel and go on holiday again, and given that she hadn't seen *Tiger King* yet, presumably that, too.

**Alina Giesen** is back in Germany and having 'tons of fun' working on her PhD in the lovely city of Marburg. She's investigating memory politics – looking at how narratives on the so-called Years of Lead are used and negotiated in Moroccan society.

**Jess Furness** retreated to the (relative) safety of the family home in Bromley from the 'virus hotspot of Vauxhall'

– her words not mine. At a time when we've seen mass demonstrations about social injustice and discrimination, Jess continues to do her bit to make the tech industry more diverse – while her employer has helped the NHS to develop a more data-driven response to Covid-19. Jess has in fact seen *Tiger King* (presumably enjoyed it), is spending lots more time cooking, and staying in close touch with **Catriona Hull** and **Sarah Harrison**.

Much like Laura, **Catriona Hull** also works in education and as **Sarah Harrison** put it, 'the educational resources Catriona is providing are proving to be in high demand now all the kids are having to learn at home.'

**Sarah** herself says her job in the science directorate at the UK's Department of Health and Social Care suddenly became a lot more intense at the outset of the pandemic, as the UK government rediscovered their trust in experts (her words not mine) and Sarah's bosses appeared in daily news conferences. They have been doing a lot of work on research into vaccines, treatments etc. and some fascinating behavioural science to try and get us all out of lockdown.

**Jess Odone** has been enjoying the appropriately named Oddono's ice cream in East Dulwich. Outside work, she's been keeping up with her keepee-uppies in a way that befits a former Merton College girls' football captain, and ran her fastest-ever half marathon in under 1hr 40mins. Her view from quarantine is of the sourdough loaves she's been making.

**George Lockett**, also working in hospital, has been delivering babies throughout the pandemic. As at time of writing, he said he was in desperate need of a haircut as his hair is 'worse than during Freshers' Week.'

He can go head to head with **Matt Constable**, who shaved his hair for charity and reports that it looked shocking, apparently.

It's only fitting that we close with an update from another of the many Merton medics this year. **Ruth Mitchell** shared two views from quarantine – sunny afternoons in her little back garden and night shifts on neonatal intensive care, where she tried to capture the sunset from the window of Royal Oldham Hospital in Manchester. Ruth and her

fiancée Yuhao were planning to spend their honeymoon in California this summer, but they've unfortunately had to postpone the wedding until next year. We keep our fingers crossed for them to have a fantastic celebration next year.

Hearing your stories, as ever, has been humbling and incredibly interesting. On behalf of the entire year, I wanted to recognise that 2020 surely will have been a difficult year for many with its own ups and downs, but it was heartening to hear that many of you found your own moments of joy. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to each and every one of you – as well as the essential workers and healthcare professionals all around the world – who has been working to keep us safe. Our heartfelt thanks!

## Graduates

**Alkiviadis Ginalis** writes: 'Although we are facing a challenging time with constant unpleasant news, I am glad to inform you that I recently got appointed to the position of Curator for Late Antique and Byzantine Archaeology at the German Archaeological Institute in Istanbul. Also in terms of personal life I have the exciting news that my wife and I are expecting a child.'

**Eleni Siskou** and her husband Feiran Long and were very happy to welcome their baby boy, Heikki, in November 2019.

**Jay Lu** reports: 'After completing my DPhil at Merton College in 2015, I returned to Taiwan for mandatory military service. Then I joined an immunology research lab at the University of British Columbia as a postdoc, working on various topics including gene editing, immunotherapy development and creating a monoclonal antibody biologic to target certain types of cancer cells. After my postdoc, I joined a local start-up (in Oxford), called MappingLab as a Global Sales and Business Development Manager. I focus on expanding our business to the rest of the world and introduce our latest cardiac mapping technology to the research community, helping them to advance their research fighting against diseases.

'In response to Covid-19, one of my recent interesting projects with MappingLab is to evaluate the cardiotoxicity of the controversial drugs hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin.

with our electrical and optical mapping systems. Hopefully, this will provide a comprehensive insight into current therapeutic suggested doses of both drugs.

‘For more information, please feel free to check out the blogs I wrote earlier for cardiac mapping technology: [mappinglab.com/cardiac-electrophysiology-mapping-system](http://mappinglab.com/cardiac-electrophysiology-mapping-system) and [mappinglab.com/why-ipsc-technology-is-vital-to-cardiac-research](http://mappinglab.com/why-ipsc-technology-is-vital-to-cardiac-research)’

---

## 2011

**Year Representative: Timothy Foot**

Email: [tim.foot@gmail.com](mailto:tim.foot@gmail.com)

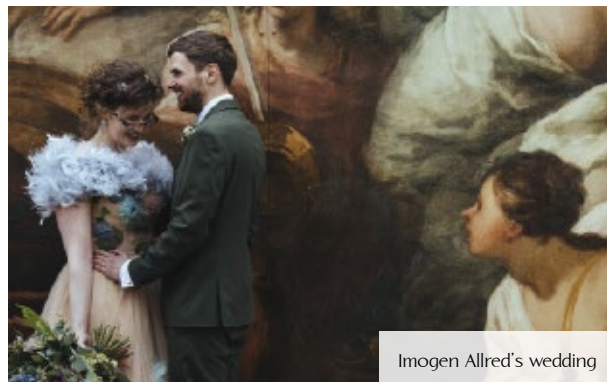
It was lovely to hear from many of you this year, whether to report particular news or just keep in touch. Amidst immense worldwide turbulence, there is nothing to lift the spirits like a friendly email.

It has been a busy year for the young academics among our number. **Mary Boyle** will be taking up a JRF at Linacre College alongside her Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship. **Ben Hopkins**, having moved out to UC Davis last summer, reports that he has been awarded a three-year Human Frontiers Fellowship to fund his work on the evolution of sex-specific traits. **Matt Booth** has hopped across the Channel to the Netherlands to begin a postdoc at the University of Antwerp, having finished his PhD at Edinburgh last year. Many congratulations too to **Kresimir Vukovic**, who will be moving to Germany in the autumn, to take up an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship.

Sticking with academic updates, **Christopher Lilyblad** writes to share the news of the publication of his book, *Sovereignty and Illicit Social Order*, largely based on the work he completed as a DPhil student at Merton. He has now started a new post as a Policy and Strategy Specialist with the United Nations Development Programme.

It is always wonderful to hear of 2011-ers celebrating significant moments in their lives. **John Brazier** writes to say that coronavirus has interfered with his immediate wedding

plans, but that he and his fiancé Andrew are to be married in June 2021. In other nuptial news, **Imogen Allred** (née **Large**) was married to Stephen in late 2018, with Mertonians **Roland Armstrong**, **Arne Bruyneel** and **Youxin Kong** in attendance.



In other life updates, **Cathy Scott** writes to say that she is still living in London with her partner Tom and working in academic publishing. Also in London is **Jeannette Smith**, now working for the National Childbirth Trust.

As for me, I will (finally) be leaving the bounds of the Oxford ring-road, moving to Lincoln's Inn to begin training for the Bar (no, not that sort).

---

## 2012

**Year Representative: Stephanie Cadoux-Hudson**

101 Plater Drive, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 6QU

Tel: 07814 951309

**Amanda Thomas** is now in her second year of a DPhil in linguistics at Trinity College, Oxford. On 15 March she raced with OUWLRC in the first women's Lightweight Boat Race to take place on the Tideway, earning a Full Blue. Amanda reports that it was an amazing experience and a very exciting race, with Cambridge taking the victory this time. They were extremely lucky that the race went ahead just before the lockdown began. Huge congratulations to Amanda on achieving a Full Blue!



**Julia Wang** has lived in Paris ever since leaving Merton at the end of a wonderful though at the same time difficult year, when she started by going back to France for 48 hours in order to get married, and then lost her father. This academic year (2019-20) has obviously been quite eventful for the entire world, for France, for Paris in particular, and also for Julia. She defended her PhD thesis on Selene (the moon in the Greek and Graeco-Roman world) in December 2019, after five years of (more or less) hard labour. She has taught Latin at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris since September and has been thoroughly enjoying it – even during the lockdown, when she had to teach on GoToMeeting. Julia is in the process of publishing an article ('Death, dream and desire') as part of the proceedings of a humanities conference on the moon in human imagination that took place last December in Genoa, just a few months before the pandemic struck Italy so hard.

And finally **Dominik Fischer** has moved back to the UK this year and has just taken up a position at the JR in Oxford as Professor of Ophthalmology and Consultant Surgeon. He feels like this is a 'coming home'. Welcome back!

---

## 2013

*There is currently no Year Representative for 2013. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested in the position.*

**Marcia Favale** has been a CEO since 2009, and worked in investment banking and portfolio management before

founding Blingby – a company that makes interactive digital content from video, live streaming, and podcasts.

In March 2019, Tech:NYC named Blingby as one of the five female-founded companies to watch.

Marcia still teaches on the MSc in Major Programme Management, is a guest lecturer on private equity at the Saïd Business School and is featured in the Women Leadership online program and as a Masterbuilder – MMPM Masterbuilder, Masterclass Series 2020.

---

## 2014

**Year Representative: Tamara Davenne**

c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD  
Email: [publications@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publications@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---

## 2015

*There is currently no Year Representative for 2015. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested in the position.*

---

## 2016

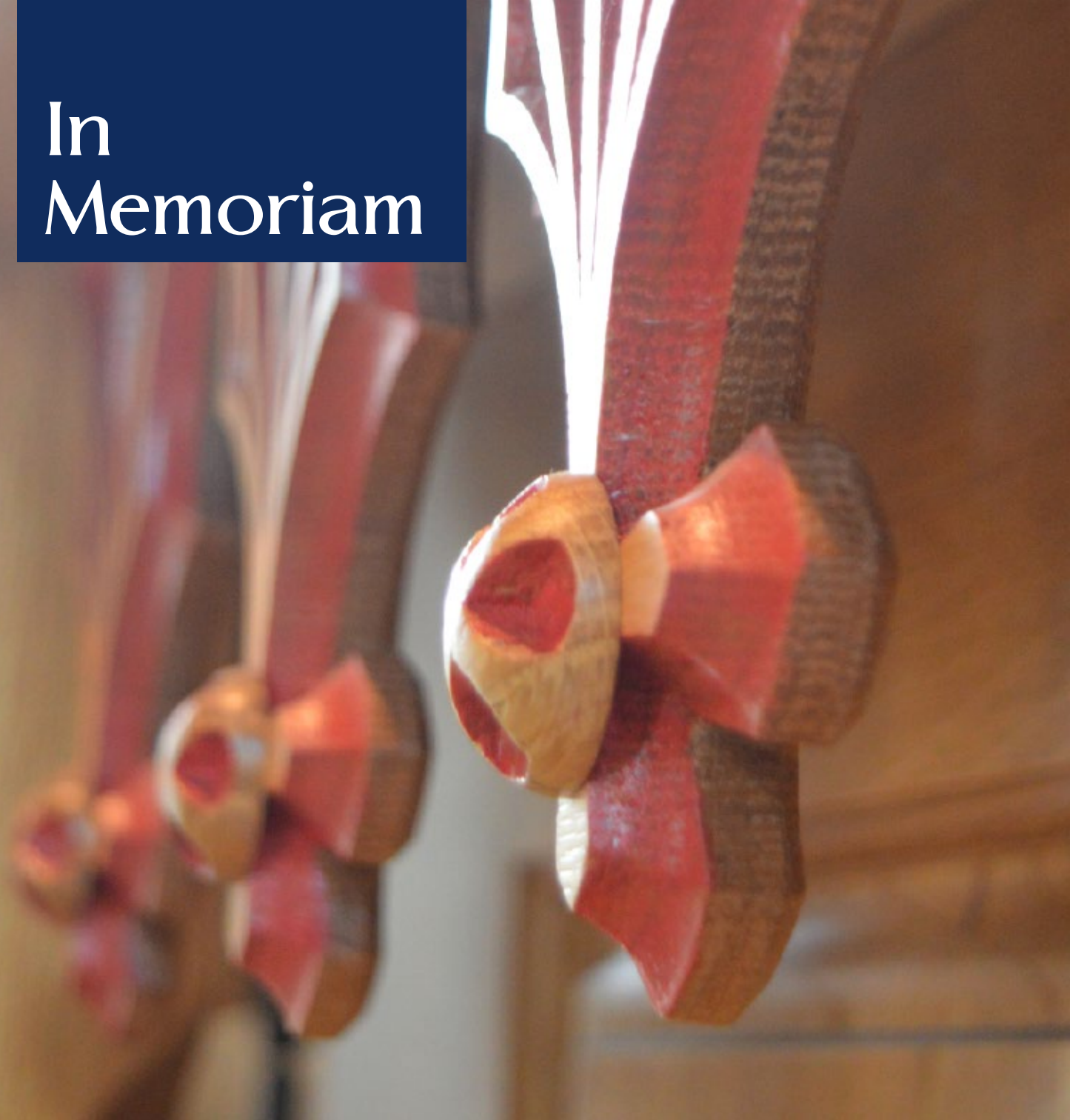
*There is currently no Year Representative for 2016. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested in the position.*

After graduating from Merton in the summer of 2018, **Michael Bruckner** moved to the US to commence his PhD in Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has been a PhD student there since the fall semester of 2018. He also held a graduate school fellowship in the fall semester of 2018 and appointments as a teaching assistant in all consecutive semesters.

**Karolina Wątroba** reports: 'I took up a new job in October 2019: a postdoctoral research fellowship in Modern Languages at All Souls College (the first ever in this subject!).'



# In Memoriam



---

## Fellows



Professor **Vincenzo Cerundolo** passed away on 6 January 2020.

Professor Cerundolo was Director of the MRC Human Immunology Unit at the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford. Fellow of the Royal Society, Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Head of Division at Investigative Medicine, Radcliffe Department of Medicine, and Fellow of Merton College. His work focused on understanding mechanisms of processing and presentation of lipid and peptide antigens to T cells. There were many seminal findings, including work with Alain Townsend FRS and colleagues, in which it was found that genes in the MHC region encode transporter proteins that translocate peptides for eventual presentation by MHC class I; and in subsequent studies, he went on to lead a study describing a clinical syndrome associated with defective peptide transport. More recently, he helped define the structural and functional basis for the T cell recognition of lipids bound to CDI molecules, with consequent enhancement of antibody and peptide-specific T cell responses. The findings have relevance across immunology, including for mechanisms of inflammation, immuno-oncology and vaccination, with key discoveries being taken forward to clinical trials.

Enzo, as he was known among friends and colleagues, was well known and loved for his warm, open and encouraging approach which benefited so many students, staff and collaborators across the world. Many of his previous team members have gone on to lead teams of their own, which was a source of enormous pride.

He worked tirelessly and passionately for the benefit of the MRC Human Immunology Unit and built on the work

of Andrew McMichael FRS to create a strong collaborative environment with a positive and inclusive culture which has directly contributed to its success. He brought together people from different disciplines and took enjoyment in seeing investigators thrive in such a warm environment.

Enzo was held in great affection by those fortunate enough to work with him. He leaves a loving wife and two children, of whom he was very proud. Enzo was particularly happy to have been able to enjoy seeing his daughter marry in 2019 and for his son to have a successful start to university life. He will be greatly missed.

*This obituary was first published on the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine website. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*

---

## Emeritus Fellows



**David Bostock** was born in 1936, and after National Service he went to St John's College, Oxford, where he read Greats and studied under Paul Grice. His first academic appointment was at the Australian National University in Canberra. He said that provided an excellent start to teaching philosophy, because so much had to be done in so very short a time. It helped him to think and argue clearly and efficiently.

He came back to Oxford in 1968, to become a Fellow and tutor at Merton. He retired in 2004, having written on numerous philosophical subjects, and he continued to write until quite close to his death. He wrote books on logic, mathematics, and the relation between them; on Russell, Plato and Aristotle. He wrote articles on these subjects and on a variety of others too. His philosophical breadth was great, and his work was always characterised by clarity and

precision. It was presented in a way that compelled the reader's interest – very often the reader's consent as well. His lectures and tutorials had the same character. Students found him demanding, but also effective in arousing their interest: he was good at presenting difficult issues in the right way for the particular audience. Colleagues found him an excellent person with whom to discuss philosophical issues of any kind. Again and again, he would resolve a complicated issue in a manner that was both clear and compelling.

He had a great many other interests outside academic life. These included sailing, hill-walking, theatre and opera, interests he shared with his first wife Jenny. Their two children, Tim and Penny, have inherited many of their parents' qualities. Jenny's death from breast cancer in 1996 was almost certainly the worst thing in David's life. But he married again and had many happy years with his second wife Rosanne. Latterly she looked after him increasingly, as he suffered a wasting illness. But he continued to think about philosophical issues until perhaps a year before he died. Then he decided that he had not read enough literature, and undertook a programme of reading all the books on his bookshelves, in the order in which they happened to have been placed.

Rosanne writes: 'I have known David since I was first married and he was first married to Jenny. In those days David looked and sounded like the film star Michael York.

'I partly wanted to marry David because he had been happily married to Jenny and as he said to me "Expect nothing." His daughter-in-law, Mel, said to me "The house was filled with love." He was very easy to be married to, met one halfway. David was a modest man. Everything he did, he did to the best of his ability, whether it was writing his books, learning his lectures by heart, or ironing a shirt, it was all done beautifully, his confidence was built on very solid ground.

'We had some very good times together, travelling to visit David's family in Hawaii and Australia and exploring those countries, but also Europe and India. David was good to go to art galleries with as he was interested and observant. His knowledge and collection of music was extensive and covered a wide range. He particularly liked Old Time Music

Hall songs and knew them by heart. We did not agree about religion but he knew far more about the Bible and religion than I did.

'David loved entertaining and we managed to combine that in poetry evenings, covering a huge range of poems, long and short, sad and harder to find, funny. In his last few years David was stoical, never complaining about his increasing ill health, enjoying each day.'

By his family and Dr Ralph Walker (Balliol, 1964)

---



The College was sad to learn of the death of Emeritus Fellow Dr **John James (Jim) Coulton** on 1 August 2020. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

Jim was an undergraduate and postgraduate student at Cambridge, and he taught at the Australian National University and the Universities of Manchester and Edinburgh. In 1979, he was appointed to the Readership in Classical Archaeology at Oxford and to a Fellowship at Merton, from which he retired in 2004. During his Oxford career, he was Director of the Institute of Archaeology (1990-93), chaired the Sub-Faculty of Archaeology, and was instrumental in the creation of the BA in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. Jim also served the College on committees, as Secretary to the Harmsworth Trust, and as Sub-Warden. He excavated in Greece, Turkey, Libya, Jordan, and Iran, and published several important monographs.

Jim was a world expert on the study of ancient Greek architecture and published widely on the subject. His book *Ancient Greek Architects at Work: Problems of Structure and Design*, first published in 1977, remains a classic for the study

of Greek architecture; his monograph *The Architectural Development of the Greek Stoa* is another example of his profound understanding of the subject. His meticulous study and publication about the monumental building at Toumba, in Lefkandi (Euboea) changed our knowledge of early architecture during a period that was previously assumed to be a Dark Age. He taught a large number of students at all levels and was much appreciated for his dedication and great care.

Jim will be deeply missed by the Merton community. Our thoughts are with his family.



**John Randolph Lucas** died on 5 April 2020, at the age of 90.

John Lucas was a Fellow and tutor of philosophy at Merton from 1960 to 1996. As a philosopher, he was remarkable for the eloquence and originality of his prose style and the sheer breadth of his intellectual focus. Best known for his work on Gödel's incompleteness theorem and its relevance to the existence of free will, he also wrote well-regarded books on space and time, philosophy of mathematics, principles of politics, theology, metaphysics, Plato and ethical economics. John was one of the last great polymaths – a characteristic displayed even as an undergraduate at Balliol where he was awarded a scholarship in chemistry, promptly changed to study mathematics and then switched to read Greats. Throughout his career, he was equally at home citing and discussing the views of Ancient Greek philosophers, Locke, Kant, and the latest research by academic contemporaries in a wide range of disciplines.

In the opening chapter to *Freedom of the Will*, John wrote that 'Philosophy has to be self-thought if it is to be thought

at all. It is an activity, rather than a set of propositions.' This is perhaps the key to understanding his philosophical method as well his teaching style. In both cases, he sought to apply the dialectical method first associated with Socrates, where respectful dialogue between individuals probing each other's arguments leads to clearer understanding of the central issues. In his writing, John was at pains to rescue reason from the narrow straitjacket of deductive logic or the search for infallible explanations and certain knowledge. If reason is to help make sense of a multifaceted and complex world and provide us with reasons for action – despite our inability to know everything relevant – it must adopt the two-sided nature of reasonable dialogue. Given the different layers of reality and the limitations of any single perspective, every scheme of explanation has questions it cannot answer and will benefit from qualification and complementary perspectives. No matter how illuminating a model or explanation is, there always remains more to be said.

John's tutorials followed the same method – with probing questions designed to lead even the most sleep-deprived undergraduates to think for themselves about the topic and readings assigned. There was no right answer, no Lucas view you were required to internalise, just the excitement of being encouraged to work out the shape of a problem. Nearly 30 years after my own tutorials with John, I reviewed his magisterial book, *Reason and Reality*, and was humbled to realise that – while our philosophical concerns and views were on the surface very different – there was a methodological texture and a philosophical attitude in John's writing that had been hugely formative of my own. To have such an influence in the course of perhaps 25 tutorials in his notoriously untidy study overlooking Fellows' Quad is the mark of a great teacher.

No appreciation of John's life would be complete without mentioning his eccentricity and the apparent contradictions in his character. His gown was so old it reputedly had moss growing on it; and his only car was a 1929 open-topped Humber inherited from his father. He was extremely tall and yet had an impish sense of humour. He had strong political principles – an early environmentalist and a brave campaigner for philosophical freedom in Communist Czechoslovakia – but was also prone to adopt positions (such as initially opposing



the entry of women to Merton) that seemed calculated largely to provoke. He used archaic language and yet wrote with astonishing clarity. He was old-fashioned in many of his habits and yet embraced modern technology much sooner than many – an early adopter of personal computers and famously relishing the freedom an electric razor gave him to shave while pacing the Fellows' Garden. John had an almost monastic conception of academic responsibilities, but encouraged many of his students to use their Oxford training to enter public service. He was even tolerant of the large number of those he taught who became bankers – though, as Mustafa Abbas remembers, he was prone at reunions to ask the compelling question: 'How are you treating the world?'

John will be remembered by many for his kindness and generosity – whether taking groups of over-anxious finalists to walk among the bluebells of Wytham Woods, sharing his home-made cider, or discussing career possibilities. He was also a deeply loyal family man, married to Morar for 59 years and with two sons, two daughters, and a fine collection of grandchildren to whom he was devoted.

#### Richard Bronk (1979)

---



**Robert May**, Baron May of Oxford, passed away on 28 April 2020.

Robert was born and educated in Sydney, Australia, where he began his academic career as a theoretical physicist. In the late 1960s he became interested in environmental issues and began the work in theoretical ecology that made his name.

This led him to take up a professorship at Princeton University, during which time he spent summers in England.

Bob's approach was always collaborative, and he found stimulating colleagues at Imperial College and elsewhere. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1979 at the age of 43. After 15 years at Princeton, he agreed with Richard Southwood that it was time to move to the UK. From 1988 onwards, Bob was a Fellow of Merton College and Professor of Zoology jointly at Oxford and Imperial College.

While continuing his teaching and research, Bob began his public roles, serving as a Chairman of the Trustees of the Natural History Museum and as trustee or committee member of many other similar bodies. It still came as a surprise to some when he was appointed Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government (1995–2000), first under Prime Minister John Major and then Tony Blair. This was followed by the Presidency of the Royal Society (2000–05), a life peerage, and appointment to the Order of Merit. He was the recipient of many prizes and more than 30 honorary degrees.

Through all this he spoke his mind, sometimes with memorable effect, and continued to help and inspire students for which he is remembered with affection and respect.

In the words of a colleague, 'Over five decades, his work transformed mathematical ecology by posing new questions and introducing analytical approaches adapted from his training and early research in physics. Those who had the good luck to know and work with him knew that their world was vastly larger and better because of his presence in it. And thanks to his engaging and lucid writing (and his enormous output) he will remain effectively present for many future generations of scientists and scholars.'

Bob leaves behind his wife Judith who was his constant companion for 60 years, and their devoted daughter Nome.

#### Judith May

## Honorary Fellows



Sir **Christopher Martin Dobson** was a leading chemist whose research, including into Alzheimer's, could transform the prevention and treatment of the diseases of ageing. He died of pancreatic cancer on 8 September 2019, aged 69.

More than a century ago, the German pathologist Alois Alzheimer observed that people who died with dementia had deposits of an insoluble material in their brains, later known as amyloid plaques. Amyloid turned out to be made of protein, but in a form unlike the thousands of proteins our cells turn out every minute of our lives to carry out all our essential functions.

Chris Dobson devoted his life to explaining the chemical processes that disrupt the production of healthy proteins and instead trigger their aggregation into toxic clumps. He focused on the mechanisms that direct long protein chains to fold up into the three-dimensional shapes that allow them to engage in essential biochemical interactions, and exhaustively researched the question of how they 'misfold' when these mechanisms fail, instead adopting forms that stick tightly to one another as toxic amyloid fibrils.

Dobson pursued the question out of scientific interest, but came to realise that his discoveries were of enormous potential benefit to patients: the range of misfolding diseases now includes diabetes and Parkinson's disease as well as Alzheimer's, and many others that are less well known. He was knighted in 2018 for his work, among a host of international awards.

A key discovery came about by chance. In the early 1990s one of Dobson's graduate students left a solution of the

protein lysozyme (derived from egg white) inside a laboratory instrument over the weekend, and found on his return that it had set like a jelly. On closer inspection it proved to contain amyloid fibrils, structures that until that moment Dobson had known only from descriptions of disease.

Using the latest advances in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and mass spectrometry, techniques that had only recently begun to be applied to molecules as large as proteins, Dobson and his colleagues systematically set about understanding the dynamics of protein folding and misfolding, applying insights from chemistry to this biological problem.

He went on to provide a strong theoretical underpinning by writing a mathematical description of the way fibrils form, and of how they can set off a chain reaction by 'seeding' the production of new fibrils, as happens in prion diseases such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

More recently he turned to drug discovery, screening a variety of agents for their ability to prevent fibrils forming. Encouraging laboratory results suggest this approach could transform the prevention and treatment of the diseases of ageing, which emerge as the body's natural repair mechanisms begin to fail.

Born on 8 October 1949 in Rinteln, Lower Saxony, Germany, Dobson had his roots in Yorkshire. His parents, Arthur and Mabel (née Pollard), grew up in Bradford, and both left school without qualifications. Arthur worked in the Wool Exchange before joining the army on the outbreak of war. He rose through the ranks and had been commissioned as an officer by the time Chris was born, the third of three children after his siblings, Graham and Gillian. The family followed their father from one posting to another, including a spell in Nigeria. Dobson's education became more stable when he went to Hereford Cathedral Junior School and then to Abingdon School in Oxfordshire, where he enjoyed excellent science teaching.

He entered Keble College, Oxford, to read chemistry in 1967, graduated with a first, and then moved to Merton College, Oxford, for a doctorate. As a graduate student with the physical chemist Iain Campbell, he was one of the first to

demonstrate dynamic change in the structure of a protein molecule (lysozyme) using nuclear magnetic resonance.

After a spell at Harvard University he returned to Oxford as a lecturer in chemistry and fellow of Lady Margaret Hall in 1980, and subsequently became founding director of the Oxford Centre for Molecular Sciences.

Dobson moved to the University of Cambridge in 2001 as John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Chemical and Structural Biology. Thereafter his research group began to apply their new understanding of protein folding more directly to diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and in 2012 he founded the Cambridge Centre for Misfolding Diseases. In 2016 he completed the journey from basic science to medical application when he co-founded Wren Therapeutics, a company specialising in the discovery and development of drugs for such diseases.

He always insisted his discoveries owed everything to the bright young people he attracted to work with him and paid particular attention to promoting the careers of women in his lab. For example, he appointed Carol Robinson, now president of the Royal Society of Chemistry, to a postdoctoral position at Oxford after she had taken an eight-year career break to raise her family.

In 2007 Dobson accepted the post of Master of St John's College, Cambridge. He threw himself into the life of the college and was reputed to know the name of every student and staff member. He took particular interest in making St John's more accessible to students from non-traditional backgrounds, introducing a grant scheme for those from low-income families and initiatives for students with disabilities.

In 1977 he married Mary Schove, a historian of medicine. She survives him, as do their sons, Richard and William.

**Georgina Ferry**

*This obituary was first published in The Guardian on 25 September 2019. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*  
© Guardian News & Media Ltd 2020



**László Istvan Heltay**, born in Budapest on 5 January 1930, died on 17 December 2019, aged 89.

László Heltay, a pupil of Zoltán Kodály, came to Merton in Hilary term 1957, having escaped from Hungary when the Soviet Union took over the previous October. He transformed what was a typical college choir into the equal of any in Oxford and laid the foundations for musical developments in both Merton and the University which endure to this day.

When László first addressed the choir he said, 'You must teach me to speak English and I shall teach you to sing.' At Christmas that year the Chapel was nicely busy with the usual Saturday congregation. On the Sunday word of the choir's performance had spread and every nook and cranny was packed. One member of the choir commented, 'What I best remember was rehearsing *Ding Dong Merrily on High*. It was well known to all choir members but László had never heard it before, and he gave it his own interpretation, which was fabulous and completely original, giving gave the carol meaning which it had previously lacked. It was a real eye-opener and also very inspiring to sing under the baton of someone so completely original, as well as talented.'

It did not take László long to found the Kodály Choir, followed in 1960 by Collegium Musicum Oxoniense. 'Rehearsals were fun and fascinating', recalls one early member 'and hard work and also full of humour.' It was from his teacher Kodály that László requested a new choral piece – *The Music Makers* – to mark Merton's 700th anniversary in 1964, as part of a programme that was first performed in the College Chapel and shortly after at the Bath Festival. At the same time, László was applying to New Zealand for, and got, the post of assistant conductor of the New Zealand Broadcasting

Corporation's symphony orchestra and director of music at NZ Opera. As he left Oxford, the choir he had founded four years before was re-named Schola Cantorum of Oxford. Its 60th anniversary will be celebrated at the Town Hall on Saturday 6 February 2021 – nearly a year later than planned, thanks to the lockdown for Covid-19.



László Heltay in 1960, aged 30, at the Concorso Polifonico, Arezzo. He founded Collegium Musicum Oxoniense initially to take part in this annual competitive festival in Tuscany. CMO would later win prizes in Arezzo. © Mary Hill

László returned to England in 1967, taking up the musical directorship of Phoenix Opera, with which he worked for several seasons before the company fell victim to one of the Arts Council's periodic fits of reorganising regional touring. He was Director of Music at the Gardner Arts Centre (now the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts) at the University of Sussex from 1968 until the mid-1980s. By then he had been asked to inaugurate the Brighton Festival Chorus (BFC), formed initially for a performance of *Belshazzar's Feast*, to be conducted by its composer Sir William Walton. László went on to conduct the BFC for 27 years, frequently preparing the choir for concerts to be conducted by such as Antal Dorati, Leonard Bernstein and Andre Previn, but also often as conductor in his own right – including gramophone recordings for Decca of works by Kodály.

László's influence on the performance of choral music in Britain and elsewhere was considerable. He sought a singing style devoid of explosive consonants when they simply needed to be defined, with a tone that was clear and informed by a fresh spirit. It was his high reputation in the music business, plus his continuing friendship with an (originally) Oxford musical friend Sylvia Holford, that led to his being asked to inaugurate a choir to go with Neville Marriner's Academy of St Martin in the Fields for a tour of Bach's *B Minor Mass* around (then West) Germany in January 1975. This was a terrific success and led to many more tours and recordings for Decca and Philips of several major choral works by Handel, Haydn and Mozart in particular.

László also founded Collegium Musicum of London (still thriving) and was music director of the Royal Choral Society from 1985 to 1994. He then moved to live near Barcelona, and finally to his native Hungary, where he was persuaded to lead the Budapest première of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*. He received a steady stream of friends, professional and amateur musicians. Many of the stories he shared with them can doubtless be found in *Katyák és Karmesterek*, a volume of memoirs László wrote with Istvan Elmer, which was published in 2018.

Richard Kenyon (1956) and Giles Dawson (St John's, 1972)





**Patrick Wright.** Lord Wright of Richmond, GCMG, died after a long illness on 6 March 2020, aged 88. He was head of the diplomatic service from 1986 to 1991.

Patrick Wright found Margaret Thatcher's views of diplomats puzzling. He recorded that while she was contemptuous of the diplomatic service, 'after almost every foreign trip she made, she appeared to be impressed by the head of mission (particularly if he was tall and good-looking), often complaining to me that so-and-so was "far too good for X; why is he not in Paris or Washington?"'

As Wright observed in his memoir *Behind Diplomatic Lines: Relations with Ministers*, Thatcher was also suspicious of men with facial hair. 'When a bearded colleague of mine started a Foreign Office job which was likely to involve close contact with Number 10, I warned him that it might be better, given Mrs Thatcher's known prejudices, if he shaved it off. He replied that this put him in a dilemma between a prime minister who disliked beards, and a wife that liked them. But he shaved it off.'

Wright's time as head of the diplomatic service – during which Thatcher, apartheid and the Berlin Wall all fell – continued under John Major, whom he had known from the Foreign Office. He recalled how Major's desire to be fully briefed was impossible given the number of countries he was dealing with. 'When he had the Cyprus high commissioner coming to pay a courtesy call, we had great difficulty persuading him that he didn't need to read a history of the Cyprus problem, going back 30 years,' Wright noted. 'What he needed was a clear statement of British policy on Cyprus as it now was.'

Throughout everything, ordinary human concerns remained an essential part of Wright's character. Notable in his memoir

is how wives were still expected to be a significant part of their husband's work and how in 1991 he made a formal recommendation to lift the ban on homosexual diplomats. It was accepted by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, endorsed by Major and came into effect just after Wright's retirement later that year.

In addition to visiting the key embassies, Wright would visit the most obscure outposts, always showing himself well briefed and wholly committed. After meeting staff at the end of one long day at a quiet embassy he drew the ambassador aside to deliver a classic example of his genial perfectionism. 'I have now met everyone in the room except that lady over there,' he said, indicating a quiet woman. 'Would you introduce me to her please?'

Patrick Richard Henry Wright was born on 28 June 1931 at Wellington College, where his father, Herbert Wright, was a housemaster. His mother was Rachel (née Green), who when Patrick was seven asked what he would like as a present. 'A train set,' was the reply. However, to his great, though short-lived, disappointment he received a younger sister, Diana, who survives him with an older sister, Elizabeth.

Despite the Wellington connection he was educated at Marlborough College before National Service with the Royal Artillery. At Merton College, Oxford, he was a Postmaster (senior undergraduate scholar) and read Classics before in 1955 joining the Foreign Service. There he was pleased to discover that 'a knowledge of Latin and Greek was an extraordinary help in learning entirely unrelated oriental languages'. Soon he was dispatched to learn Arabic at the Foreign Office's school at Shemlan, in the hills above Beirut.

He was there when the 1956 Suez adventure called into question all the assumptions about Britain's relations with the Arab world. Two years later he was learning the diplomatic ropes in the embassy in Beirut when US Marines swarmed ashore to rescue the Lebanese government of the day.

In 1958 he married Virginia Gaffney, who was working at the British embassy in Beirut. She survives him with two sons, Marcus, a financial journalist in Singapore, and Angus, an actor who was seen in *The Crown*, and a daughter, Olivia, a special-

needs teacher, whose husband Sir Simon McDonald has since 2015 occupied his father-in-law's former post as head of the diplomatic service. He also had eight grandchildren. Wright tried to be home to read the children a bedtime story, but often it was he who would doze off rather than them. 'He's crushing me again, Mummy,' was a common refrain.

A guest at one of their parties in Beirut was Kim Philby, who was later unmasked as a double agent. Virginia recalled finding him on their balcony saying that he wanted to throw himself over, something she later slightly regretted not encouraging.

Two years later Wright was sent to Washington as private secretary to the ambassador, later recalling how the ambassador's peacocks once almost drowned out an interview that Harold Macmillan, the prime minister, was giving to Robin Day. 'The problem of the peacocks was incidentally compounded a few weeks later when the New Zealand ambassador's dog (from next door) severely mauled one of them,' he wrote in a letter to *The Times* in 1997. 'It was left to me to explain to both their excellencies what had happened: an early piece of diplomatic training.'

Once when delivering a letter from David Ormsby-Gore, the ambassador, to the president he was thrilled to be invited to hand it over in person, which meant spending five minutes in the Oval Office with President Kennedy. During the Cuban missile crisis, Kennedy wanted a low-key meeting with Ormsby-Gore, which meant Wright driving him to the White House in his battered old Morris Minor.

After several more postings, including Cairo and Bahrain, he moved to Number 10 as overseas affairs secretary to Harold Wilson, the prime minister, where he was one of the few people to know that Wilson intended to step down in March 1976. 'I was, of course, not allowed to tell anybody else, so I still had an extremely difficult hand to play with the Foreign Office, who kept phoning me up and saying what's happened to our advice, and when is the PM going to go to such and such a place?' he recalled.

After two years as ambassador to Luxembourg, Wright was appointed ambassador to Syria, where this punctilious

English gentleman never felt comfortable with the local custom of male acquaintances holding hands, especially when being followed by a British military officer. The move surprised some colleagues. 'When Luxembourgers heard that I was going to Damascus, I think they all assumed that I must have been found with my hand in the till,' he said. 'I think the Queen thought the same, because when I went to kiss hands on appointment to Damascus, [she] was obviously intrigued to know why I was being moved from a nice comfortable monarchy under 'Johnny Lux' to those horrible Ba'athists in Syria.'

By the time he returned to the Foreign Office as deputy under-secretary, Thatcher was prime minister. On one occasion he was taken to task by MPs on the foreign affairs committee over the expense of a red carpet for VIPs. It was, he insisted, misleading to suggest that it had cost £15,000. 'The material cost £2,000 and the remainder was spent on a trailer to take the all-purpose carpet round Heathrow, Gatwick and Northolt,' he said, to which one Tory MP retorted: 'You could have saved some cost by buying it from Allied Carpets, who make the first fitting free.'

After five years as permanent under-secretary and head of the diplomatic service he retired in 1991 and three years later was created a life peer. In 1995 he became chairman of Chatham House, the international affairs think-tank, but it was not a happy time and on stepping down he also resigned his membership.

As a young man Wright had a particularly attractive speaking voice and a wonderful head of hair. Although the mellifluous voice remained, he lost the hair in the 1970s and President Assad of Syria took to calling him Kojak. While living in East Sheen, southwest London, the family took in Pirri, a rescue cat who had such a strong a dislike of men that when she became stuck in a tree Wright had to wear a dressing gown to rescue her.

Two years ago he published *Behind Diplomatic Lines*, recalling in its pages how in 1986 he cheered up Lynda Chalker, the Europe minister, whose confidence had been dented by officials who kept speaking to her in Latin, by reminding her that the most successful foreign secretary since the war had

been the unclassical Ernest Bevin who, on seeing 'mutatis mutandis' in an official document, scribbled the tetchy reply: 'Please do not write in Greek.'

*This obituary was first published in The Times on 9 March 2020. It is reproduced with permission of News Licensing.*

---

## Bodley Fellows



**Prosser Gifford** of Woods Hole, Massachusetts, was an accomplished scholar, author, educator, academic administrator, director of think tanks and centers of scholarship and inquiry, and sportsman. His unfailing personal integrity and gentle, thoughtful nature complemented enormous strengths. Among his virtues were a voracious lifelong appetite for learning and robust civil discourse, his passion for social justice and his energetic enthusiasm for vigorous physical activity such as world class sailing. 'Pross', as he was known informally, died peacefully in his home on 5 July 2020 with his family by his side. He was 91.

Pross will long be remembered for his kindness, his expansive spirit, intellectual discernment, open mind, and most distinctly for his signature booming laugh that could be identified anywhere by all who met him. As fellow Mertonian and founder of MC3 Bob McKelvey put it, 'It was possible to find him in a crowded room in an instant.' In brief, Prosser Gifford was good company.

The tall, lanky, craggy, gravel-voiced, indifferently and slightly rumpled but invariably appropriately dressed Dr Gifford was the quintessential real-life embodiment of a scion of an old Yankee family; which he was, from the top of his tousled full head of hair to the tips of his sensibly, preferably nautical-shoe-shod toes. In its golden age, Hollywood would have

cast Walter Pidgeon, Gregory Peck or possibly Edward Everett Horton Jr (in lifts) to play the part.

His authentic Yankee roots originated from a bit farther south than New England. Prosser was born on 16 May 1929 in New York City, the only child of Barbara Prosser and John Archer Gifford. He was the grandson of Constance Barber Prosser and Seward Prosser, Chairman of Bankers Trust Co and philanthropist, and Helen Conyngham Gifford and Charles Alling Gifford, of Newark, New Jersey, an architect who designed the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire and numerous armories and courthouses along the northeastern coast of the United States.

Prosser graduated from the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut in 1947, before going to Yale University to earn his undergraduate degree in 1951. He matriculated as a Rhodes Scholar at Merton in 1951, reading English. Returning to the United States in 1953, he completed a law degree at Harvard in 1956 and then went back to Yale to gain a PhD in history in 1964.

While continuing at Yale as an assistant professor he taught undergraduates and graduates and wrote about African history. As told by Pross in an Amherst College oral history interview, utterly unexpectedly on an especially rainy day he was visited in his Yale office by an enormous soaking wet, poncho-clad Calvin Plimpton, the then President of Amherst. Plimpton, whom Prosser knew only slightly, lured him away to serve as the first Dean of the Faculty at that prestigious Massachusetts liberal arts college. Prosser served deftly in that role during the tumultuous years from 1967 until 1979. During this tough time of civil rights, Vietnam War and Watergate activism on American campuses, Pross was an effective champion for coeducation, equal rights and free speech. He wrote later that his proudest achievements during his 12-year tenure as Amherst Dean were leading the commission that resulted in College trustees admitting women in 1974 and increasing the number of women faculty members from one when he arrived to 26 when he left.

In 1979 he became Deputy Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Over his eight years there he brought together hundreds of scholars from around the world to collaborate on research,

writing, and discussion of national and world issues. *The Wilson Quarterly* described Prosser as an 'exemplar of the strenuous life'. He was tireless in his pursuit of knowledge, reading three to four books a week and amassing a library of over 9,000 volumes in his home, organized using his proprietary Gifford Decimal System.

Prosser left the Wilson Center to become the Director of Scholarly Programs at the Library of Congress, a position created for him which he held for 15 years until his retirement in 2005. He was the first director of the John W Kluge Center at the Library of Congress that brought together some of the world's eminent thinkers and supervised the selection of the \$1 million Kluge Prize for lifetime achievement in the humanities and social sciences. Over the course of his long productive career Prosser wrote a series of books on British and German colonialism in Africa and had extensive experience as an editor of books on African history and United States policy.

It is an understatement to note that in 'retirement' Prosser remained busy. In 2005, he and his wife Deedee moved from Washington, DC to Woods Hole, Massachusetts as the third generation of their family to live on the water there. Prosser spent his time writing and serving on the board or volunteering with numerous local institutions. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Marine Biological Laboratory for 13 years, was an Honorary Member of the Corporation of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), President of the Woods Hole Public Library and served in varying capacities for a dozen other organizations including the Falmouth Chorale, Falmouth Academy, Highfields Hall and the Church of the Messiah.

Since he was a young child, Prosser's great passion was sailing. He met his vivacious athletic wife named at birth Shirley, but known to all as Deedee, in a sailing race in Woods Hole when he was 11 years old and she was 9. They were active members of the Ensign fleet in Quissett. Many claim Deedee was the better skipper. Prosser crewed for the Bermuda Race half a dozen times and raced trans-Atlantic twice, and once a hurricane-filled trial from New York to Spain. He captained his own boat the *Windhover* 28 times between Woods Hole and Solomons Island, Maryland,

a trip that became known as the 'Annual Stress Test' for its unpredictable weather and mechanical mishaps. For unsuspecting crews it was not a pleasure cruise up or down the East coast.

Prosser was married to Deedee for 56 years until her death in 2010. He is survived by his three daughters, Barbara, Paula and Heidi; their respective spouses Bill Shimer, Chris McKenzie and George Melas-Kyriazi, and his six grandchildren: Eliot and Sophie Shimer; Jessica and Melanie McKenzie; and Luke and Lily Melas-Kyriazi. The interests and chosen occupations of Prosser's children and grandchildren reflect the broad-ranging passions of their grandfather: environmental affairs, medicine, healthcare strategy, computer science and artificial intelligence. One grandchild, Luke Melas-Kyriazi, will follow his grandfather's early voyage across the Atlantic and then to Oxford, although Luke's trip may be at least initially made virtually. He begins Michaelmas term as a 2020 Rhodes Scholar at Oxford this fall.

Pross served from 1998 to 2006 as the second president of MC3 succeeding Roderick Richards and eventually handing over to John Kirby. He remained a life trustee of the organization until his passing. He and Deedee, his enthusiastic constant companion, attended and livened up College and MC3 events until the end of their lives. Pross was a great friend of the College which he loved and served so well. The College flag was flown at half-mast on receiving the news of Prosser's death.

Prosser Gifford, whether family, friends or anyone privileged to know you, we all miss you. We need to remember and emulate your virtues and your steady hand navigating through a contentious period in our collective history. Your life's beacon light can help us steer through our present storms to a better and safer world.

**Nick Allard (1974)**

Bodley Fellow



---

## Wylliot Fellows



It is with great sadness that the College learned of the death of **Ian Roper Taylor**, alumnus, Wylliot Fellow, and great friend of the College, as well as a distinguished businessman and philanthropist. He died of cancer, on 8 June 2020, aged 64.

Born on 7 February 1956, Ian was educated at King's School, Macclesfield, and came up to Merton in 1975. He was elected as JCR President during his time at the College and was central to student life. After completing his degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics in 1978, he joined Shell and spent time working in South America and Southeast Asia.

In 1985, Ian moved to the energy and commodities trading company Vitol, where he gave the company strong leadership as CEO from 1995 to 2018. Over this time, Vitol became the world's biggest independent oil trader. Ian most recently served as the company's chairman, managing to maintain a busy schedule despite his ill health.

Through the Taylor Family Foundation, Ian and his family have supported a wide variety of organisations involved in social inclusion, arts, music, education and other areas. Among his many philanthropic and voluntary endeavours, Ian served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Opera House.

Ian was a major supporter of Merton's 750th Anniversary Campaign, and his gifts have enabled the College to develop vital financial help for undergraduate students in need.

He retained strong links to his roots in the north of England, and Manchester in particular, and was a keen supporter of Manchester City Football Club.

*Former Warden, Dame Jessica Rawson, writes:*

Ian Taylor arrived at Merton one afternoon with an unexpected offer. He wanted to encourage students from East Asia to come to Merton to read for an undergraduate degree in PPE. He came to my office with one of his former tutors, Vijay Joshi, who was Sub-Warden at the time, and spoke with what I came to recognise was his usual enthusiasm and conviction about his objectives, in this instance to bring students from an entirely different world to gain, as he had done, from an engagement with their tutors and with life in Oxford. I have never forgotten his enthusiasm and sparkle on a rather grey afternoon in 1995. The tutors made alternative proposals, trying to persuade Ian to fund a post or perhaps more local students. Vijay Joshi, who had known him as an energetic, popular and very effective President of the JCR, recognised the Ian of his undergraduate days and was, therefore, convinced that we should follow his lead.

Ways to reach into East Asia were not at all clear to me. An advertisement for the scholarship was drafted and circulated through the British Council. And in the late autumn of 1996 Shengyan Fan, a student from the prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing, came for interview. We are fortunate that her visit to Merton and the discussions at the interview captured Shengyan, as she was also offered opportunities in the USA. In 1997, Shengyan arrived and embarked on three years of PPE. This was a life-changing experience for her, and her tutors were not entirely sure what to make of this lively Chinese student. But Ian proved absolutely correct. With Shengyan, Merton and Oxford gained a strong foothold among the huge and vigorous populations of the Far East; someone who held fast to the teaching and values she had gained, while building her life in East Asia, married to another Mertonian (Stephen Lee, 1998). And probably Merton should also thank Ian for that, for while Shengyan was at Merton, he visited her, encouraged her and made sure that she enjoyed her life with us.

Thereafter, Ian supported other students and other schemes at Merton, always enthusiastic and generous. But Ian clearly enjoyed most of all the unusual, with a slight element of risk. As Oxford has discovered, exploring China to find students who will appreciate what the University has to offer is not

straightforward. But Ian's suggestion triumphed, perhaps because it was a rare adventure in its time. And Shengyan proved willing and more than able to take up the challenge.

In the years that followed, Ian came to Merton from time to time. But meeting him in London was a greater pleasure, often somewhat fleetingly, sometimes unexpectedly at exhibitions. His office displayed his large and often very unusual collection of art, one of his passions. And in Ian I found a friend who recognised my quest to see China through its early relations with Siberia, Mongolia and Central Asia. Ian of course understood how important that part of the world was for resources, trade and above all politics. I shall always remember Ian's wonderful, lively and glamorous 60th birthday party in the heart of London, where he made sure I was at a table with like-minded guests. But away from the excitement and glamour, what was so special was Ian's understanding of distant places and different peoples and of the ways to reach them and indeed of the imperative to do so.

---

## Former Fellows and Lecturers

It is with great regret that we report the death on 30 December 2019 of a former Fellow of Merton, **Geoffrey Bath**, lecturer in physics during the 1970s, whose research in astrophysics won him an enduring international reputation in his field.

One of three brothers who grew up in Poole, where he was educated at Poole Grammar School, Geoffrey chose to follow his elder brother Michael to Keble College after achieving passes with three straight 'A' grades at A-level (an achievement somewhat rarer in those days than it has since become). He confessed only recently that it was the good time he saw his brother having at Oxford that drew him to follow his example, even though his brother's subject was not science but Eng. Lit. On graduating he completed his doctorate in the University of Sussex before returning to research in astrophysics at Merton and Wolfson colleges; he also worked as a research fellow with NASA at Princeton.

In 1980 he edited for Clarendon Press the 1979 Wolfson College Lectures in astrophysics, which appeared under the

magnificent title *The State of the Universe* with state-of-the-art papers by such leading researchers in his field as DW Sciama on 'The origin of the universe', DE Blackwell on 'The stars as suns', and R Penrose on 'Black holes'. He left a somewhat less familiar legacy to Merton College in the shape of the sundial on the northeast corner of the Chapel. As he explained in a typically erudite article for *Postmaster* 1972 (pp. 15-20) the positioning of the gnomon of this, which had become detached many years ago, had defeated the best efforts of architects and mathematicians in finding the correct position to replace it – situated on the northeast corner of the building, which is obviously not the ideal orientation for a sundial, its design and construction drew on the mathematical skills of former Savilian Professors. In his *Postmaster* article Dr Bath outplays all of them by starting with Socrates and calculating logarithmically the historical position of the heavenly bodies at the date of the sundial's construction, research which allowed the College to replace the bullet-shaped gnomon in its present position. May it, and the 1972 *Postmaster* article, thus long remain as a lasting tribute to the memory of this former Fellow.

His wider interests included photography, mountaineering and sailing. His early passion was rock-climbing up the Purbeck cliffs, which he only decided to give up following fatal accidents involving prominent mountaineers, including friends of his. His photographic skills survive him in the jacket illustration for Jan Morris's book of *Oxford*. His work in Oxford was, however, sadly interrupted in middle age by mental illness, though following this he moved to Weymouth, where he worked for his remaining years before retirement with the defence contractor QinetiQ. He never lost his astronomical interests, however, and in 2008 he chose, in a typically eccentric manoeuvre, to demonstrate his theories of 'the way gravitational fields are formed in cataclysmic variable stars' to his local friends in Weymouth, and to the general public, by setting up a demonstration, using vessels filled with water, elastic and a siphon, on the pavement outside the Red Lion pub in Hope Square. An account of this, with photograph, appeared in the local newspaper (*Dorset Echo*, 17 June 2008).

As a research astrophysicist at Oxford (1972-91), Geoff published more than 100 papers, many of which were

immediately ground-breaking and influential. Of particular note are four papers on the evolution of viscous discs published between 1981 and 1983, the first three of these being in collaboration with Jim Pringle (University of Cambridge). Mass transfer, viscous variations, giant discs in symbiotic stars and stream penetration effects were the topics covered; of specific concern were the consequences of viscous disc formation for the later stages of stellar evolution. The four papers on viscous disc formation continue to attract citations nearly 40 years after their publication, the continuing interest arising from the contemporary interest in planetary systems outside the solar system.

A commemorative service in Weymouth, Hope United Reformed Church, following his death brought together at least some of his many friends and family. He is survived by the daughter, Emily, of his first marriage and by his second wife, Penny.

#### Michael Bath

---



**James Barney Henderson** died on 28 March 2020, aged 90, at Barton-on-the-Heath, Gloucestershire. A man of great vitality, he was Domestic Bursar from 1976 to 1990, a Fellow from 1979.

Barney, as he was familiarly called about College, initially manifested himself as Lieutenant Colonel Henderson. He was Merton's second full-time Domestic Bursar, the post previously shouldered by a tutor on top of academic duties. The new arrangement had begun in 1961 with Rear-Admiral Derick Hetherington. Accordingly, in 1976 the College simply switched armed services. Whereas nowadays domestic bursars are commonly drawn from the world of business, hotel and catering management especially, it was the norm

back then to recruit high-ranking ex-servicemen. Univ had Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Gretton, Magdalen Brigadier Eric Darlow, Wadham Rear-Admiral Philip Edwards, and so forth. What the Fellows' thinking was is difficult to capture, like so much Fellows' thinking; but it will be remembered that the College was still a single-sex male institution. It was known that boys, even the best and brightest, would be boys; that is, prone to occasional outbursts of boisterousness and puerility, when reversion to a prehensile state occurred. In extremis, therefore, to prevent mayhem after a JCR Entz thrash, a club dinner or bump supper, the capacity to muster a defensive formation might not go amiss; besides, many Fellows and College staff had seen war. They understood that good officers were resourceful, took matters in their stride, liked a bit of spit and polish about the place and, above all, were adept at handling miscellaneous bodies of men.

Barney fitted that image. He was a child of Empire, born in Sumatra in 1929 to a rubber planter and his wife, both parents originally from Edinburgh. He spent his first six years there, before going to prep school in Stirling and on to Melville College. He won a place at Edinburgh University and considered reading Geography. Instead, he passed into Sandhurst in 1948; his father had been in the Great War, and Barney had an appetite for service, mixed with adventure. He enjoyed Sandhurst, both the training and all-round education; he also played rugby there. Commissioned in 1949, he was sent out to Hong Kong in 1950 with the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers. Their task was twofold: to repel a potential Chinese attack on the colony, and to stem the tide of illegal border crossings by economic and political refugees. Neither objective was remotely feasible. Here were valuable lessons to absorb: retaining a sense of perspective, maintaining good order and morale, digging in, perseverance and dauntlessness. Merton's future challenges were all minor by comparison.

Clearing scrub, cutting trenches and laying barbed wire in the New Territories to forestall a feared Chinese invasion proved perfect preparation for withstanding the actual Chinese onslaught in Korea. Barney, now a platoon commander, was shipped there in April 1951, to relieve the Argylls. His first serious action occurred across the Imjin River on 3-4 October, the assault on Hill 355, which was taken. About 25 miles north of Seoul, which Barney recalled as a pile of

rubble rather than a capital, Hill 355 was nicknamed Little Gibraltar because of its strategic prominence. It would be the focus of fierce combat for the rest of the war, with opposing front lines solidifying around the 38th Parallel.

Barney thus fought in what was dubbed 'The Forgotten War'. He was posted to Malaya in 1955-57 and Sarawak, Borneo in the 1960s, conflicts that register even less in popular memory. Like many a veteran, Barney remained phlegmatic about seeming public indifference. Pressing *might* get him to talk about past engagements but wasn't guaranteed. Characteristically, he omitted his service record from his entry in the *Merton College Register II, 1891-1989* (1989), except for his rank. Fortunately, he was interviewed in 1999 for the Imperial War Museum, in which he delivered an archetypal Barney performance: clear, calm, precise, downplaying his personal contribution, awarding credit to others, and exemplifying a soldier's stoical acceptance that their fate was ultimately decided by politicians. Barney's faith in the regimental system also shines out, through which individuals from diverse backgrounds pull together.

Colleges bear some resemblance to regiments, however indistinct. This explains why Barney was drawn to Merton. Once here, the differences slightly puzzled him and continued to do so, albeit to a diminishing degree. Barney rightly suspected that academics constitute a rare breed and that it's easier to herd cats; but quite what their chain of command was or whether any structure existed at all, seemed mysterious. It was emphasised to him at the outset that a Domestic Bursar held great responsibility and virtually no power. That took getting used to, but Barney was adaptable, endlessly affable, and came to appreciate this new-found atmosphere of freedom and independence. Further, he was equipped with an essential asset, a sense of humour, even if the abstruse scholarly stuff was lost on him – as it is on most of us.

He made a stunning start. The Cold War remained chilly, and Barney quickly ascertained that Merton had no nuclear fall-out shelter. The Fellows were a trifle dubious, but a bunker was duly established in cellars beneath the west flank of Fellows' Quad. Barney did not stop there. New regulations demanded fireproof doors and means of escape. Upper-storey rooms were installed with thick ropes coiled around

metal fittings bolted to a wall by a window. These being viewed with suspicion and not a little trepidation, Barney set about reassuring inmates. A fire drill was scheduled, and the College marshalled one morning in Fellows' Quad. It was a predictably motley Merton crowd, huddled in groups, several seizing on the fag break, all grumbling: random students, sundry secretaries and assorted staff, a sprinkling of tutors, their impatience spiced by curiosity. Exactly on the appointed hour, the window of a top room alongside the Tower of the Four Orders was flung open by Barney, who began to address the waiting mob through a loudhailer. He had their attention. What followed would pass into College lore. He leapt onto the ledge, rope in one hand, megaphone in the other, and proceeded to abseil down the stonework. Magnificently, he paused half-way, leaning out to his full height, still booming instructions, before completing the descent. It was impossible not to be impressed. Merton had its very own Action Man. At the same time, his awestruck audience silently vowed not even to dream of touching the lethal device.

Barney was no martinet, though not inclined to mollycoddle undergraduates. As a fresher, Steve Gunn tentatively raised with Barney whether anything might be done about the heat coursing out and the breeze blowing into his room at 20 Merton Street, because the window was permanently clamped open by a scaffolding pipe. He got the drift of Barney's probable verdict as they marched upstairs together: 'Strapping lad like you, you should be glad you're not in a tent on the Afghan plain.' It was January 1980, when the USSR invaded; but at home we could be consoled that Oxford's weather was less severe than during the previous Winter of Discontent.

The rest of Barney's tenure does not call for elaboration, although the admission of women and expansion of student numbers – almost one in three were graduates by 1987 – imposed demands for rooms and amenities that had to be met. Likewise, to cater for unforeseeable extras, including suitable accommodation and services for the Crown Prince of Japan and for a new Merton Vice-Chancellor, Sir Richard Southwood, the first since the 17th century who was not a Head of House. Barney expected staff to do their duty; in turn, he repaid them with his loyalty, solicitously looking after their welfare and delivering kindly tributes on special occasions.



Among the many College clubs to which he gave unstinting help, he grew closest to the boat club. He became a long-standing President of the Friends and driving force behind the golden jubilee celebration of the 1951 Headship of the River, organising an Old Mertonian Eight (and rowing as Five) on 24 June 2001 during the Merton Society Weekend. The warmth of this relationship is epitomised by the MCBC naming a shell *Barney Henderson*. More transient, yet perhaps more extraordinary, was his achievement in cajoling members of the SCR onto the river in 1978. The SCR Eight broke no records, but their presence alone underlined Barney's leadership gift. Anyone who can make a crew of such inveterate soloists as Mike Bowler and John Lucas deserved every medal going.

Barney Henderson is survived by his second wife, Caroline.

**Philip Waller**  
Emeritus Fellow

---



Dr **David Pattison**, who has died aged 76, passed on his love of the language and culture of Spain to his students. His interests saw him delve into the complexities and quirks of the centuries-old tongue during his almost 40 years as a Tutorial Fellow in Spanish at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Until being restricted by poor health in his later years, Dr Pattison visited Spain every year to conduct research and immerse himself in the country. Although a dedicated and accomplished researcher and author, he was primarily concerned with teaching young people to exercise their minds and think for themselves.

Born in Wakefield, Yorkshire, on 15 August 1942, David came to Oxford as a student at Exeter College. He met his wife June

Edwards at the University jazz club and they married in 1964 and had two sons: Mark, born in 1968, and Richard in 1972.

He began his teaching career at Merton College, and switched to Magdalen in 1969, following in the footsteps of John Betjeman. He would later become Chairman of the Betjeman Society. Also a member of the Victorian Society, the Ecclesiological Society and the Trollope Society, he had a long-standing interest in Victoriana and family holidays were often punctuated by visits to churches.

As well as helping to re-found the Oxford branch of the Betjeman Society, he served as its national chairman from 2008 until 2014. He contributed a piece on the poet's conflicted relationship with Magdalen and particularly with his tutor, CS Lewis, to the College publication *Floreat* in 2009.

A lover of trains and music, his spiritual homes were the cross-country service from Paris to Spain and Magdalen's chapel, where he attended evensong several nights a week before dining.

During his time at Magdalen, Dr Pattison held positions including Junior Dean of Arts, Senior Dean of Arts and Dean of Degrees. Colleagues remember his 'raised eyebrows and knowing smile' when someone was being obtuse – not unknown in academic circles – as well as his measured judgement and ability to see through nonsense. He cared passionately about being part of the historic institution and dedicated himself to his students, ensuring their welfare as much as their studies were looked after.

While retaining his keen interest in the Spanish language, he increasingly became more interested in literary topics during his long career. He contributed to and edited books on the Spanish epic *The Celestina*, which were complemented by a steady stream of articles in journals devoted to medieval and Hispanic studies.

He was a committed member of the Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature, of which he was honorary treasurer for some years, and of the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland, of which he was President from 2000 to 2001.

When he was asked to give the President's Friends' Lecture for the association, the Revd Dr Colin Thompson said that Dr Pattison became very excited when he was told the title would be 'Cervantes in the land of werewolves'.

'Will you be mentioning my favourite television programme, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*?' Dr Thompson recalls being asked, and he was happy to confirm that, indeed, she would be making a cameo appearance.

After retirement in 2005, he remained an integral part of the group of retired Oxford Hispanists which meets once a term, on the same day and at the same time as their younger colleagues are holding their termly meeting and digesting yet another paper from the faculty board.

Dr David Pattison died on 3 September 2018 after a three-year battle with cancer. He is survived by June, Mark and Richard, and his grandson Oliver.

*This obituary was first published in The Oxford Mail on 11 October 2018. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*



We acknowledge with deep sadness the death of Professor **Arthur George Rigg** on 7 January 2019.

George, as he was known universally to friends, colleagues and generations of admiring and grateful students, died peacefully at home, in the presence of his beloved wife Jennifer, after a period of declining health.

George was born on 17 February 1937 at Wigan, Lancashire, and received his secondary education at Wigan Grammar School, which was known for its strong reputation in Classics.

As an undergraduate he attended Pembroke College, Oxford from 1955 to 1959 leading to a BA in the English School. He wrote his DPhil thesis, 'An edition of a fifteenth century commonplace book', under the supervision of Norman Davis. That work was published in 1968 as *A Glastonbury Miscellany of the Fifteenth Century: A Descriptive Index of Trinity College, Cambridge*, MS 0.9.38.

Concurrently with his doctoral work, George taught at Merton College, Oxford, when he first met Jennifer, as well as later at Balliol College. From 1966 to 1968 he held a Visiting Assistant Professorship in the Department of English at Stanford University. In 1968 he took the position of Assistant Professor in the newly formed Centre for Medieval Studies and the Department of English at the University of Toronto, where he taught until his reluctant retirement (still mandated by law at 65) in 2002. As an emeritus, his generous and energetic mentorship of graduate students continued for many years thereafter.

George's exacting philological standards secured his international reputation as a scholar of medieval Latin as well as of Middle English. His editions included the poems of Walter of Wimborne (1978), his controversial edition of the Z-Text of *Piers Plowman* (1983, with Charlotte Brewer) and a glossed epitome of Geoffrey of Monmouth, *A Book of British Kings* (2000). The last was published as volume 30 of the Toronto Medieval Latin Texts, a series that George established and for which he served as general editor for its first 30 volumes. His many articles included a signal series of codicological studies of medieval Latin poetic anthologies which appeared in *Mediaeval Studies: Medieval Latin: An Introduction and Bibliographical Guide*, co-edited with Frank Mantello, remains an invaluable resource for students of the field, while his magisterial survey, *A History of Anglo-Latin Literature, 1066-1422*, published in 1992, will remain the definitive reference work for decades to come. He was elected Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America in 1997 and of the Royal Society of Canada in 1998.

His passionate advocacy for reading competence in medieval Latin as a central feature of serious advanced training in medieval studies led to the creation of the Committee for Medieval Latin Studies, which he chaired from its inception

until his retirement, and to the system of examinations that remains a hallmark of a Toronto training in the field. It was his tireless and exacting but endlessly patient encouragement of students in their pursuit of a notoriously rigorous standard that exposed the greatest number of Toronto graduate students to his teaching over the years. Those who took his seminars, and above all those who benefited from his kindness, enthusiasm and bonhomie as their doctoral supervisor experienced even more abundantly his rare combination of extraordinary erudition, good humour, genuine humility and quiet empathy.

We are all of us the poorer for the loss of this kind, good and brilliant man. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer, sisters-in-law Joanne Hope and Ann Nicholson, and by his nephew, Rupert Hope.

David Townsend

*This obituary originally appeared on the University of Toronto's Centre for Medieval Studies website. It is reprinted with permission of its Editors.*

---

## Former Visiting Fellows



Professor **Lionel Opie**, one of South Africa's leading cardiac researchers and a co-winner of the 2014 NRF Lifetime Achievement Award, passed away on 20 February 2020.

As one of the foremost researchers in cardiology in South Africa, Professor Lionel Opie established an enviable international reputation in his field over a period of more than half a century. He was described as 'Africa's best known heart doctor' in the citation for the Order of Mapungubwe: Silver that he had received from the State President for

'excellent contribution to the knowledge of and achievement in the field of cardiology' in 2006.

He obtained his MBChB (first class honours) in medicine from the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 1955 and completed his DPhil in physiology at the University of Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. He then left for Harvard Medical School to work in the Metabolic Research Unit at the Brigham Hospital and returned to UCT in 1962 to complete his MD in biochemistry and, in 1994, his DSc. He subsequently went on a scholarship to train further under two Nobel laureates: Professor Sir Hans Krebs, who described the Krebs citric acid cycle, at Oxford; and Professor Sir Ernst Chain, who co-developed penicillin, at Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. In 1969 he was appointed Consultant in Medicine at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London.

He returned to UCT Medical School in 1971 to develop the MRC Unit for Ischaemic Heart Disease. During sabbatical periods he was a Visiting Fellow at Merton College and the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Oxford, and later Visiting Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, California. In 1998 he co-founded the Hatter Cardiovascular Research Institute at UCT.

Professor Opie's major interest was in the field of cardiology in relation to the application of metabolic therapy to heart disease as well as research concerned with acute heart failure, cardiovascular drug therapy and hypertension.

He published more than 500 scientific articles during his career, which have appeared in journals including *Nature*, the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *The Lancet*. His book, *Heart Physiology from Cell to Circulation*, won the UCT Book Award in 1987 and *Living Longer, Living Better* won the Medical Journalists' Association's first prize. His book *Drugs for the Heart*, which has recently appeared in its eighth edition, has become a standard reference book.

Professor Opie received numerous prestigious awards over the course of a long career including the Silver Medal from the International Society of Heart Research; the Wellcome Gold Medal for Research of Specific Importance to South Africa; and Honorary DSc degrees from the Universities of

Stellenbosch and Copenhagen. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, the Royal College of Physicians (London) and the American Heart Association, and a Life Fellow of UCT.

He was respected as a scientist, as a mentor and as a friend to many and his legacy will continue to be felt far into the future.

*This obituary was first published on South Africa's National Research Foundation website. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*

---

## 1934

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Alan Henry Coburn**, who died peacefully in a care home on 31 May 2018 at the age of 101. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---

## 1941

**Ernest William Denham** died on 27 August 2019. Denny (as he preferred to be known) was born on 16 September 1922 and grew up in Dalston, east London. He attended Wilton Street Primary School, where he already showed his academic qualities, winning a scholarship to the City of London School for Boys. From there he won a Classics Postmastership to Merton, where he took an outstanding first in shortened Honour Moderations in 1942 and was then recruited to naval intelligence. After a course in basic Japanese at Bletchley Park, he worked as a translator alongside the codebreakers first at Bletchley and then at HMS Anderson in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Needless to say, he kept his specific duties a close secret until the role of Bletchley Park and its codebreakers became public knowledge in the mid-1970s, and even then remained reluctant to discuss them.

On returning to Merton after the war he switched to law and after graduation he worked briefly as assistant secretary

with Plant Protection Ltd (a subsidiary of ICI) before entering the civil service examination, following which he was posted to the Public Record Office. Like many of his generation he spent the rest of his working life in the same organisation, rising to be Deputy Keeper of Public Records in the years before his retirement in 1982.

His work colleagues saw him as a realist with an ability to get to the nub of any problem and to ask awkward questions, but always with the intention of helping to find an appropriate and viable solution. He could be extremely kind while at the same time deliberately provocative (in *Who's Who* he listed his hobby as 'armchair criticism'). Outside the day job, he returned to academia part time as lecturer in palaeography and diplomatic teaching on the archives course at University College London from 1957 to 1973.

In 1957 Denny married Penelope Gregory, with whom he set up home in Hertfordshire, where they brought up their two children, Giles and Julia, in a very stable and secure family environment. The family moved later to Northwood, where Denny lived for the rest of his long life. Unfortunately, Penelope suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for over 40 years and as the disease progressed Denny patiently took on the responsibility of being her carer until her death in 2009.

Denny retained his enquiring mind well into his nineties, and was always capable of springing surprises. Despite doubting the value of computers in his working life, in retirement he took to the internet, making use of the opportunities offered by email, online banking and social media. After many years as a sceptic, late in life he embraced the Christian faith. He was fiercely independent, gradually accepting in the last five years of his life more support from family, neighbours and, eventually, daily carers. After his final admission to hospital with an infection, he remained aware and communicative until the last few hours before his peaceful death. He is survived by his children and five grandchildren.

**Giles Denham**





**John Alfred Griffiths** passed away peacefully on 18 April 2019 aged 96. John was born on 22 October 1922 in North Wales and his family moved to Southbourne, Bournemouth when he was a child.

He went to Bournemouth School where he made lifelong friends, and then went on to attend Merton College where he studied law and always spoke very fondly of it, saying they were the best years of his life.

After this he qualified as a barrister. He did this for a short time before taking his post in the House of Lords as a law report writer, where he remained until he was 75 years old: a position he loved and which provided him with many riveting tales to pass on to his family and many friends. John remained a bachelor and split his time between his childhood home in Southbourne and his lodgings in London.

After retirement, he spent his time enjoying the many restaurants of the Bournemouth area and indulging in his passion for books and classical music. John unfortunately lost his sight in his late eighties and moved into a nursing home, where he was very well cared for and kept the staff and his visitors amused with his many and varied stories. He remained there until his passing.

John had a diverse and fascinating life with too many parts to mention in an obituary – he should have written a book!

**Andy McKinney**

---

## 1942

**Lawrence Daniel Lyle** died on 12 December 2019, aged 96. He was born in Maidstone in 1923 and educated at Maidstone Boys Grammar School before gaining a scholarship to Merton in 1941 to read History. He had two terms in Oxford before being called up for War Service with the RAF as a navigator with Lancaster bombers. He was one of the first to return to his studies at Merton in September 1945, graduating in 1947 with an MA. His working life was spent as a teacher, mostly in Canterbury where he was Head of History at the Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys from 1955 to 1983. In retirement he continued to take classes for the U3A.

Archaeology was always one of his interests and he was instrumental in the founding of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, serving in a voluntary capacity in many roles for more than 40 years. He was the longest serving member of the Kent Archaeological Society (he joined in 1958); on the Governing Council from 1968 to 2005 and as treasurer from 1970 to 1986, for a record 16 years – the longest serving treasurer in the 160-year history of the society.

He joined the Historical Association in 1949, serving on the council and as Tours Officer, leading a total of 39 tours over the years.

In recognition of his services to history and archaeology in Kent and Canterbury, he was awarded an MBE in 2012.

My father kept up his connections with Merton, regularly attending alumni events, including both the 700th and 750th anniversaries of the foundation of the College.

**Catherine Drewett**

---

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Norman Primhak** on 7 May 2020. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition, please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---

## 1943

**Brian Carr** died peacefully, of old age, in a Covid-constrained environment at his care home in Dorking, Surrey on 18 April 2020. With him at the last were his beloved daughters Felicity Dendy (St Hilda's, 1979) and Miranda Nutt. Brian's wife, the professional singer Doreen Murray (St Hilda's, 1945), predeceased him by five years.

Born on 19 November 1925, many of the events that shaped Brian and his career occurred before his second matriculation at Merton (1947) and his graduation in law in 1949. He followed his older brothers, Lieutenant Peter Carr RA (died 1941) and Brigadier Bob Carr RA, DSO DFC, to Marlborough. Called up at 18, his initial matriculation at Merton was to a short course officially intended to provide 'a scientifically trained officer corps' but, in Brian's view, intended more to avoid some of the mistakes of the First World War in relation to subaltern casualty rates. Commissioned into the 3rd (The King's Own) Hussars, Brian was training for the seaborne invasion of the Japanese home islands at the time of its unexpected cancellation in August 1945. Thereafter his armoured car reconnaissance unit was attached to the 6th Airborne Division in Mandate Palestine. Based near Mount Tabor, Brian would have witnessed much human suffering. Of this time he seldom spoke, beyond mentioning that the required switch from the brown beret of the hussars to the maroon beret of the paras was not universally welcomed – an intriguing item of oral military history that departs with him.

Returning to Merton in 1947, Brian opted for an accelerated two-year degree in law, graduating with 'a very safe second', to quote a letter from his tutor, John Jones (1942). A hockey Blue, on a tour of the South African universities with a joint Oxford-Cambridge team in 1948, Brian was introduced both to outgoing premier JC Smuts (in the Boer War, a commando leader; subsequently a member of Lloyd George's war cabinet) and incoming premier DF Malan, a founder of apartheid. In this way, as in so many others – for example, Brian's recollections of the Silver Jubilee procession of King-Emperor George V in May 1935, which he viewed from a stand in Green Park – with Brian's departure we lose a human link to a world that is utterly vanished.

Brian was admitted as a solicitor in 1953, and in 1959 embarked on his life's work as a partner at Downs Solicitors in Dorking. It was then a two-partner entity, but under Brian's guidance as senior partner in the 1970s and 1980s, Downs expanded greatly in scope and scale, to its present pivotal role in the legal and commercial life of the Mole Valley. In parallel, with immense energy and commitment, Brian assisted the work of the Surrey Wildlife Trust, Dorking Preservation Trust, St Martin's Church, Cancer Research UK, Age Concern and the United Nations Association, together with many private and understated acts of kindness. Brian was awarded the MBE in 2003 'for services to the community in Dorking, Surrey'.

Both at Downs and more widely, Brian is remembered with immense affection. The singularity of his approach to life is perhaps encapsulated by his role in local politics. Pressed to stand for the Liberal Party in a 1970s district council election, in order to 'give the voters a choice' in a then political monoculture, Brian was – to his own surprise, but no one else's – duly elected. While the associated workload was not sustainable into a second term, Brian, with his daughters, remained a stalwart of Liberal bazaars for several decades. It is characteristic of Brian's sense of fair play that, as a committed internationalist, he nevertheless resigned from the party in his 94th year because he considered that its 2019 general election manifesto breached democratic norms.

In his final years, Brian enjoyed researching the life of his great-grandfather, also a lawyer: John Carr, born in Trinidad in 1810 to a slave-owner of the same name and to a woman of colour who remains unidentified; later Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, the first person of colour to attain this rank.

Brian was a devoted husband to Doreen, who pursued a demanding career involving much international travel, a loving father and grandfather, and an admirable father-in-law.

### Richard Dendy (1976)

---

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **William Goodchild** on 7 October 2019. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write

some words for next year's edition, please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---

## 1944

The Revd Canon **Bernard Herbert Vincent Brown** passed away on 10 September 2018, aged 91.

Bernard Brown was born on 4 December 1926, the son of the Revd CHV Brown. He attended Lancing College before coming up to Merton in Trinity 1945 as a naval cadet, and then studied theology from 1947 to 1950. While at Merton, he was involved in the Merton Floats.

Bernard took his theological training at Westcott House, Cambridge, and spent his years of curacy in Rugby before moving to Bristol as the Diocesan Youth Chaplain. He was Industrial Chaplain in the Rochester diocese and Chaplain to the Bishop of Rochester from 1962 to 1973; then Rector of Crawley. He moved back to Bristol to become Industrial Chaplain in 1983, and Social and Industrial Adviser to the Bishop of Bristol. In recognition of his services to Bristol diocese, he was made an Honorary Canon of Bristol Cathedral in 1985. He was also Rural Dean of Bristol City from 1985 to 1991.

Bernard married Erica (née Cullen) in 1954, and they had a son and a daughter. Their son, QPV Brown, was at Merton (1977).

---

**David Hopkinson:** born 14 August 1926, died 24 October 2019.

David Hopkinson, who has died aged 93, was a champion of small investors as head of the M&G unit trust business – and an activist for causes ranging from the financial wellbeing of the Church of England and St Anne's College, Oxford, to the interests of railway commuters.

M&G (originally Municipal & General Securities) created the UK's first unit trust in 1931 and pioneered other retail investment products, including a 'thrift plan', launched in 1954, which allowed savers to make monthly contributions.

As its chief executive and deputy chairman from 1979 to 1987, Hopkinson – widely known as 'Hoppy' – pursued a mission to make equity investments accessible to people at all levels of wealth. By the end of his tenure M&G was the market leader in its sector, managing unit trusts for half a million savers.

Hoppy was particularly alert to mismanagement and boardroom excess in listed companies in which M&G funds were invested: his skill in spotting bad apples was legendary. His team were encouraged – more so than many fund managers of the era – to make close contacts and frequent visits throughout British industry; underperforming chief executives would receive sharp reprimands from Hoppy himself.

A man of many kindnesses, he was also combative when interests he cared about were threatened. He distrusted the City establishment, prized M&G's independence (protected by a charitable trust as its major shareholder) and had no truck with tycoons such as Robert Maxwell and Tiny Rowland when they sought M&G's support for their deals.

After the 'Big Bang' Stock Exchange reforms were unveiled in 1983, heralding the creation of Wall Street-style investment banks in London, he warned against 'financial conglomerates ... using their petty cash' to acquire excessive power 'at the expense of the smaller institutions and the smaller men'.

David Hugh Laing Hopkinson was born in London on 14 August 1926, the son of Cecil Hopkinson, a Welsh-born engineer-turned-bookseller, and his wife Leila, née Laing.

After their parents divorced in 1929, David and his older brother Geoffrey (who died on war service in 1943) were brought up by their mother. David was educated at Wellington and Merton College, Oxford, where he read History until his studies were interrupted in 1944 for service in the RNR.

After two years as a lieutenant in minesweepers in the Bay of Bengal he returned – a somewhat restless student – to graduate in 1949.

He achieved admission to the Civil Service and was a House of Commons clerk, and briefly a junior Treasury official, before joining the merchant bank Robert Fleming in 1959.

In 1963 he moved to M&G – then a small, old-fashioned firm with just £25 million under management – to become its first investment director. He recruited a talented team who attracted new customers and achieved remarkable investment returns; by the time he retired, funds under management had grown to more than £4 billion.

Outside M&G, Hopkinson was chairman of Harrisons & Crosfield – a trader in tea, rubber and palm oil which he helped to reposition as a chemicals and building supplies conglomerate – and deputy chairman of English China Clays.

He was a non-executive director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries and of Lloyds Bank's southern board, a member of the Housing Corporation and an adviser to the Bank of England.

Among his many projects beyond business was the expansion of the Pallant House Gallery of modern British art in Chichester. During his chairmanship of its trustees from 1992 to 2002 the gallery doubled in size and added greatly to its collections.

He was also a trustee of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton; chairman of the Edward James Foundation, which provides arts education at West Dean College near Chichester; and a deputy lieutenant and former High Sheriff of West Sussex.

Further afield, he received the Distinguished Friends of Oxford Award in 2007 in recognition of many years as an adviser to St Anne's College, Oxford, whose fortunes he helped transform. He was also a trustee of the National Association of Almshouses and a governor of Sherborne School and Wellington College.

A lifelong railway enthusiast, Hoppy was also a long-suffering commuter who regularly reached his office 'with steam coming out of his ears' (a colleague recalled) when his train ran late.

He carried replacement light bulbs in his briefcase because those in his compartment often failed – and wrote so many letters of complaint to the Southern Region of British Railways that he was eventually invited on to its board and

was its chairman from 1983 to 1987. To his dying day he maintained that the Arundel and Portsmouth line was slower than it had been before the war.

His contributions to the life of the Church of England ranged from playing the organ for 50 years at his parish church of St Nicholas, Poling to membership from 1970 to 1990 of the General Synod and Central Board of Finance. He was chairman of the Church Army board, chairman of Chichester Cathedral's finance committee and a trustee of its Development Trust.

It was principally for his work as a Church Commissioner from 1973 to 1982 that he was appointed CBE in 1986.

His marriage to Prue Holmes in 1951, at Udimore in East Sussex, was conducted by the Bishop of Chichester George Bell (1883-1958), who was a friend of Prue's parents. When Bell was posthumously accused of sexual abuse, Hopkinson was one of a group who remained loyal to his memory and campaigned for the unproven allegations to be set aside.

Prue survives him with their two sons and two daughters.

*This obituary was first published in The Telegraph on 2 December 2019. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*  
© Telegraph Media Group Limited

---

## 1947

*David Tristram died on 22 February 2020. The below is from a eulogy given at his funeral service in Binsted church, in Walberton parish near Arundel, on 6 March 2020.*

Those of you here will have known David as father, grandfather, uncle, friend, neighbour, and some will also have known him as botanist, chemist, brewer, nurseryman, churchwarden and quiet champion of many good causes.

David was born in 1928, the youngest son of Guy and Ruth Tristram. Tragically, of five boys born, David was the only one of Guy and Ruth's children to live a full and independent life, three of his brothers having died by the time he was only



15 and the fourth severely disabled by encephalitis. David's passion for botany and love of plants was inspired by a deep-rooted family enthusiasm for the natural world and in particular by his parents' love of gardening and wildflowers. David's mother Ruth, like her own mother before, was a well-respected botanical illustrator, and his father Guy had an interest in plant breeding, naming a hellebore that he raised while stationed in Stoke-on-Trent 'Potter's Wheel' and naming a rose for his wife Ruth. Later, after Ruth's death, Guy also named a rose for his second wife 'Toby Tristram', of which there is an example at the Old Rectory.

His Uncle Jack encouraged David's interest in botany in the 1940s by taking him on botanising motorbike tours to Scotland to find uncommon wild flowers and photograph them with plate-glass film cameras.

The war was to deprive David of the only brother with whom he had a real fraternal relationship. He and Christopher, three years older than David, were sent to stay with a family friend in the USA during the war years to keep them safe.

Sadly 'Uncle Toby', as their guardian was known, died not long after their arrival and the boys were deposited on an island on the Puget Sound for a summer where, despite a natural homesickness, they had great adventures before each being fostered into separate families. David always spoke very warmly of his years living with the Mills family in Portland, Oregon with whom he kept in touch throughout his life.

Guy and Ruth sought to bring the boys home in 1943 and hoped to secure passage for them both to travel together. Places were hard to come by, however, so priority was given to his brother Christopher who was approaching 18 and could be enlisted into the army. Tragically the ship in which Christopher was travelling was torpedoed and he never made it home.

Christopher had been learning to play the flute as a boy and David later took up Christopher's flute and went on to develop a musical hobby which gave him pleasure for many decades.

David finally returned to England himself a little later where he resumed his English education at Radley College, from

where he later went up to Merton College, Oxford to study Chemistry.

As well as a love of plants, from boyhood David had a great love of messing about in boats, a hobby begun on the millpond in his parents' Sussex home and that he and Christopher had been able to pursue during their castaway summer in the States.

At Merton David's boating skills stood him in good stead as he became 'stroke' for the legendary rowing eight of 1951 which won Head of the River for the only time in the College's entire history to date.

It was at Oxford that David and Rosemary met through David's friend and fellow botany enthusiast, Rosemary's cousin Guy Harris. Some women might have been put off by a courtship of long motorbike rides in pursuit of random wildflowers and pottering about in boats on the Broads but happily Rosemary was made of sterner stuff.

They were married in 1953 at Woodham, Surrey and moved to Dublin for 20 years where David worked as a manager for Guinness. In Ballybrack village David and Rosemary created a warm and loving home and a truly glorious garden for themselves and their three children. An endlessly practical and inventive man, David conjured up no end of wonders from simple materials and infected all of his children with his outdoor spirit; Ruth, Mike and Fran have very fond memories of their idyllic Irish childhood.

In 1971 David and Rosemary decided to return to England because of the Troubles. They looked for a place where they could make a new home for the family. David's deep Sussex family roots naturally drew them to the area, and eventually they found their way to Binsted where they settled at the Old Rectory with Rosemary's parents next door at Stable Cottage.

In 1973 David bought the six-acre Homestead Nursery which later became Walberton Nursery and is the seed from which Tristram Plants grew to its present form.

Their early days at Binsted fell at a difficult time economically but David and Rosemary resourcefully rose to every

challenge, finding ever more inventive ways to tighten belts and make something from nothing. David was a sound businessman, but not a ruthless one and he earned great respect and affection from employees and colleagues alike for his kind and generous spirit.

From their arrival in Binsted, David and Rosemary and Rosemary's parents, Hubert and Emily, immersed themselves in community life. David took over the role of churchwarden from his father-in-law Hubert and, together with Rosemary, started the now much celebrated Binsted Strawberry Fair primarily in order to keep this church building viable. Their efforts and energies were rewarded many times over by deep friendships they made in this community.

All of you will at one time have been familiar with David's horticultural take on fashion – rarely seen without his signature green wellies and blue bobble hat! He never really retired from plant breeding and went on pursuing it right until his final days. His plants won accolades and awards including Royal Horticultural Society gold medal winners, but he was not one to shout this from the rooftops; his plant breeding was born out of creative passion and interest far more than by any real desire for plaudits.

One of his recent great successes was the upward-looking pink hellebore which he called Rosemary; there is a beautiful photo of Rosemary herself standing by a wonderful display of Hellebore Rosemary in full bloom at RHS Wisley and there are many also planted on her grave at Sompting. These will soon be doubled in number as David will join her there today.

Rosemary truly was the love of David's life and there has not been a day since her death that he has not missed her ... and that profound loss also recalled for him latterly the sadness of losing his brothers and parents so early in his life. David was never maudlin, however, and despite so much experience of loss he always lived his life with an impressive spirit of gratitude. Only days before he died, when already very weak and barely able to speak he said these words: 'I'm the luckiest person the world has ever produced.' What a wonderful example to us all.

**Michael Tristram**

## 1948

**John Duncan Cloud**, one of the most senior members of Leicester University, died on 24 June 2020.

Duncan Cloud had taught at Leicester since 1957, the year in which the university received its charter, and rose to be senior lecturer in Classics. He taught mainly Latin literature and Roman history, while his research focused on Roman law, early Roman history and the Latin satirists. He published many distinguished papers as well as a chapter on Roman law in the *Cambridge Ancient History*. A complete devotee of Classical learning, he also sought to make its arcana accessible to both specialists in other areas and non-experts wanting to learn more. He was more amused than dismayed by the times he lived through, but never detached from them.

Duncan grew up in Godalming and attended Stonyhurst College before winning a Postmastership (senior entrance scholarship) to read Classics at Merton College, Oxford. After graduation in 1952, he completed three years' National Service in the Royal Army Education Corps with the rank of sergeant, helping service personnel prepare for civilian life.

After taking his research degree at Glasgow, Duncan was appointed assistant lecturer in Classics at Leicester, being confirmed as lecturer in 1960 and promoted to senior lecturer in 1974. Eight years later he became head of the Department of Classics, at a time of growing crisis. The Barron Report of 1987, set up by the University Grants Commission, recommended the transfer of Classics staff from Leicester, as from several other universities, to larger departments elsewhere. In Leicester's case, however, there was an unusually strong tradition of Ancient History teaching and research, and the Barron Report left the door open for Ancient History to be maintained at Leicester.

At this point, the imaginative decision was taken to merge this aspect of Classics with the equally small Department of Archaeology. Duncan played an important role in designing the combined unit, and in 1990 he duly became an enthusiastic founding member of the School of Archaeological Studies.

The last Classics graduates left in 1991, but Duncan taught Roman history and Roman law until he retired in 1993. He remained an active contributor to many areas of the social and intellectual life of the school (renamed the School of Archaeology & Ancient History in 2000) for many years. His research flourished, too: nearly half of his 40 or so academic papers appeared after retirement.

Duncan's ironic humour, and a gift for the apophthegm, stood him in good stead in difficult times, and he often wondered whether he should write a comic novel of academic life. He would have had a wealth of material, for his memory for incidents, especially the absurd, was phenomenal. A first-rate linguist, he had a marvellous sense of rhythm and timing, once being heard to remark of a colleague elsewhere that they had been appointed to a post during a period of expansion 'when it was almost impossible not to get a lectureship'. Colleagues recall his urbane speeches, particularly his retirement oration, in which he pretended that soon after coming to Leicester and after sharing an office with a certain young lady classicist for a prolonged period, he felt it was only decent to make her an offer. That young lady was Jean Allison, who became Duncan's wife and co-author of one of his papers.

As head of department he was wise, realistic and humane. He is remembered by former junior staff and part-time tutors as a supportive and understanding mentor, and by graduates as a generous host, the kindest of tutors, and an engaging lecturer with a particular gift for the unforgettable one-liner. Former students recall the tours of Roman sites in Britain, led by Duncan, as highlights of their degree. Another remembers his asides during lectures, in one of which, after quoting Aristotle, Duncan paused and added, 'I don't think Aristotle had much insight into literature.'

Duncan was an influential figure at Leicester University, commanding wide affection and loyalty, as exemplified by his popularity as Acting Dean for a term in the late 1980s. Staff in other departments and faculties have paid tribute to his intellectual generosity, for example in sharing his compendious knowledge of both Classics and Catholicism as a background to their own researches in history or English. His anecdotes about the Senior Common Room

included a memory of puritanical members pushing through a resolution banning alcohol; this was soon rescinded, no doubt facilitating the leading role Duncan would play for many years in the staff Wine Club. Fond of country walks, Duncan and Jean enjoyed introducing younger colleagues to the best pubs around Leicestershire and Rutland.

Beyond the county, he was a well-liked figure at the Institute of Classical Studies in London, to whose library he made regular visits, and had strong academic connections with scholars in Germany. A devout Catholic, he played an active role in the life of the Church, writing letters to the *Tablet* and for many years visiting housebound parishioners. On the professional level, after the inauguration of the Second Vatican Council (1962–65), he was invited to make expert contributions to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, attending meetings in the UK and North America. Sometimes irreverent in private, he would confess to liberal (with a small 'l') leanings, being tolerant of different opinions and lifestyles. He always looked for the best in those around him.

Duncan is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jean, and their daughters Frances and Elizabeth.

*Adapted, with permission, from an obituary written by Graham Shipley (Wadham, 1974)*

---

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **David Jenkins** on 9 October 2019. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---

Professor **Frank Palmer**, a former Vice President of the Philological Society since 1992, passed away on 1 November 2019.

Professor Palmer was educated at the University of Oxford, at New College for his undergraduate degree and at Merton College for his MA. He then became a member of the teaching staff at the School of Oriental and African

Studies (SOAS) in London, as a lecturer from 1950 to 1960. He became Professor of Linguistics at the University College of North Wales, Bangor (now Bangor University) in 1960. In 1965, along with several Bangor colleagues, he moved to the University of Reading to establish the Department of Linguistic Science, where he was appointed Professor of Linguistic Science. The department rapidly acquired an outstanding international reputation under his headship. In 1955 he was inducted into the Linguistics Society of America (LSA). In 1971, Professor Palmer was appointed one of the Professorship Holders of the LSA. He was later made a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Academia Europea.

Professor Palmer carried out important descriptive research on Ethiopian languages, and his seminal work on mood and modality was highly influential, with his CUP textbook on the topics being widely used internationally. For further information about his life and work, see *Linguistics in Britain: Personal Histories* (2002; Wiley-Blackwell, PhilSoc Publication 36) by Keith Brown and Vivien La. He retired in 1987 with the title of Emeritus Professor of Linguistic Science.

*This obituary was first published on The Philological Society Blog on 8 November 2019. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*



**Francis Rossotti** was born on 2 January 1927, the elder son of Carlo and Elsie Rossotti. He grew up in Brixton and attended school at Christ's Hospital, from where he won a Postmastership to Merton College, Oxford. The country was however still under the shadow of war and Francis first did his National Service with the Royal Air Force Regiment in Palestine during the final years of the British Mandate, including the final withdrawal from Jerusalem to Haifa.

His chemistry studies under Courtenay Phillips at Merton led to the expected First and he went on to complete his Chemistry Part II and DPhil degrees, under Bob Williams (Professor RJP Williams, FRS). Francis's DPhil thesis on the stability of metal complexes in solution formed the basis for his scientific work; but more importantly, for his future life, he met and married Hazel Swaine (née Marsh). Those who knew Francis and Hazel will not be surprised to know that they chose the society church of St Peter-in-the-East for their wedding in 1952 – following the lead of Lord Peter Wimsey and Harriet Vane in the detective series by Dorothy Sayers. Francis was delighted by the later transformation of this beautiful church into the St Edmund Hall undergraduate library.

Francis and Hazel left Oxford between 1955 and 1961, first to spend 18 months in Professor Lars Gunnar Sillén's laboratory in Stockholm, and then to enable Francis to take up a university lectureship in Edinburgh. Their researches led to a definitive 400-page book on *The Determination of Stability Constants and Other Equilibrium Constants in Solution*, published in 1961. Somewhat later, after returning to Oxford, he was discouraged in his research by a failure within the scientific community to recognise the significance of his observations arising from the analysis of his complexes by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). The phenomena were later independently discovered by others and attained importance as 'contact shifts'. They allowed the detailed geometric shapes of molecules to be determined in solution by NMR for the first time.

Francis returned to Oxford as a tutorial fellow at St Edmund Hall in September 1961, which became the focus of his energy and enthusiasm until his death 58 years later. He was above all a superb tutor, although not always in the best of health. One of his earliest tutorial pupils, Francis Pocock (St Edmund Hall, 1960), writes that: 'He set high standards but was a patient teacher who helped his pupils to master the more challenging aspects of the subject. Many went on to complete their Part II and DPhil research projects with him. He was brilliant in guiding the writing of a thesis: "Argue your main conclusions and what you believe in, and then write about them in good English with short clear sentences".'

Another former pupil remarked: 'He taught me as much about marshaling a logical argument and writing good



English as he did Chemistry!’ A third Aularian writes of a ‘kind man, first and foremost, although in his three-piece tweed suits and with a pipe, he sometimes appeared from a different era and a bit intimidating. Nevertheless, he was always very interested in his students and I will remember sherry in his room overlooking the quad. I will always be grateful to him for giving me a place.’

The attendance at Francis’ retirement dinner in 1994 attests to a host of grateful memories.

Francis was also an enthusiast for college and departmental business. A Governing Body meeting without him was a flat affair, although perhaps more rapidly conducted. One of his major contributions was to sit on the Architectural Committee, which oversaw the construction of the Wolfson Hall and Emden and Kelly buildings between 1968 and 1970. He also served on the Investments Committee, Bursarial Committee, as Library Fellow, and was Vice-Principal from 1987 to 1990. In later years he was an enthusiastic member of the Wine Committee. Members of such committees sometimes complain about the time spent on tastings, but Francis took this chore in his stride until well after retirement.

His retirement years centred on the Hall, where he took lunch nearly every day, while often preparing to attend a seminar in the science area. His vacations with Hazel invariably took him to Greece, where Hazel was completely at home with the language. Each vacation was devoted to a different island, but I am unsure how far they reached the goal of visiting them all.

Francis died at the age of 92, on 15 July 2019, survived by Hazel, his son Ian and his daughter Heather.

#### Dr Mark Child

*This obituary first appeared in the St Edmund Hall Magazine 2018-19. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*

---

## 1949

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Julian Beck** on 29 February 2020. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year’s edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---



**Geoffrey Cornelius Frowde** passed away peacefully in hospital on 17 April 2019, aged 90 years. He was a member of the Common Room at Uppingham School from 1953 to 1988 and a much respected and admired housemaster of Fircroft from 1962 to 1977.

A Londoner by birth, Geoff arrived in Uppingham in 1953 by way of Haberdashers’ Aske’s Boys’ School, where he was Captain of the School and of cricket; the Royal Artillery, where he won the Sword of Honour at the Gunner OCTU (Officer Cadet Training Units); and Merton College, Oxford, where he read Modern History and represented his college at rugby, cricket and tennis.

After a term’s teaching practice at Uppingham, he was appointed as a permanent member of staff for the following September. Over the next 35 years – a span interrupted only by a Fulbright Scholarship to America in 1956 and a sabbatical world tour in 1982 – his teaching career covered everything from School Certificate to GCSE and Henry V to Harold Wilson.

Geoff served in the CCF for 14 years and as its commanding officer for four years, achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel. He took regular groups on adventure training and CCF parties to the ski slopes of Scotland and Norway.

He supervised cricket leagues for many years and was a stalwart of Common Room tennis and theatre. He produced three staff plays and well over 100 editions of the Uppingham magazine over a period of 31 years.

In 1957, Geoff married Liz and they had three children: Alastair, Tessa and Jeremy. The couple ran Fircroft for 15 years and both worked hard to establish a happy school house, with a no-nonsense, cheerful and optimistic approach, often joined in the classroom by his beloved dogs, Jester, then Punch.

*This obituary was first published in OU, Uppingham School's magazine, issue 47. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*

---

The Very Reverend **Patrick Mitchell**, who died on 23 January 2020 aged 89, became Dean of Windsor in 1989, having spent 16 years as Dean of Wells. He was, as someone once remarked, 'Nature's own dean' – tall, handsome, energetic, a gifted musician and a fine preacher, very knowledgeable about church buildings and a first-class pastor.

There was scarcely a position in the Church of England that he could not have occupied with distinction, but he remained a humble man and was not only a long-serving but also an extremely popular dean.

His greatest work was at Wells where, with the Prince of Wales, he raised £2.3 million during the 1970s and carried out a major restoration of one of England's loveliest cathedrals.

The work on the 13th-century West Front with its 300 statues was contentious, for there were those who believed that missing heads should not be replaced and others who objected to the choice of sculptors for some of the new figures.

Mitchell was not deterred, however, and besides the West Front restored the cloisters (turning part of them into an agreeable shop and restaurant) and the Vicar's Close, regarded as the most complete mediaeval street in Europe.

He had in fact a fine artistic sense as well as a comprehensive understanding of mediaeval buildings, qualities recognised

by his appointment in 1981 to the Cathedrals Advisory Commission for England. He was also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

At Windsor the financing of St George's Chapel required some administrative skill, and a good deal of his time was claimed by St George's House, the training centre for senior clergy and meeting place for eminent lay people in industry and commerce who would gather to discuss the religious and moral aspects of their work. He soon became a trusted adviser to the Queen on church affairs.

Patrick Reynolds Mitchell was born in Somerset on 17 March 1930. He was the second son of Lt-Col Peter Reynolds Mitchell, DSO, of the Royal Artillery, and came from a large family of Mitchells, who were originally merchants in Doune, in the parish of Kilmarnock, Perthshire, several of them having interests in Jamaica over many years.

Patrick had many cousins to whom he was close, including Dame Mona Mitchell, the first woman to hold the office of Private Secretary to a member of the Royal Family, Princess Alexandra. One uncle was an admiral, another a major killed in the First World War.

At Eton Patrick felt called to Holy Orders, but first completed his National Service as a Welsh Guards officer between 1948 and 1949, serving mainly on ceremonial duties in London and, for four months, at Windsor, where he lived just a few yards from the Deanery he was to occupy 40 years later.

At Merton College, Oxford, he took a Second in Theology and then went to Wells Theological College, where he was also a vicar-choral in the cathedral choir.

From 1954 to 1957 he was a curate at St Mark's, Mansfield – a coal-mining parish where he lived in a shabby house with a brothel on one side and an Irish family with 17 red-headed children on the other.

He then returned to Wells as priest-vicar of the cathedral and chaplain of the theological college but, after only three years in these posts, in 1960 he moved to Portsmouth to become vicar of St James' Church, Milton.

In this tough, artisan parish, with a population of 35,000 and a staff of four curates, he was fully stretched and kept exceedingly busy with 450 funerals and many hundreds of weddings and baptisms every year.

The Somerset market town of Frome, to which he moved in 1967, was a less exacting assignment and allowed time for him to serve as director of ordination candidates and post-ordination training for the diocese of Bath and Wells.

In all these spheres he displayed wisdom and pastoral insight far in advance of his years. Although he was only 43 when the deanery of Wells fell vacant in 1973 it soon became apparent to the Crown that the next dean was waiting on the doorstep.

Much needed to be done and Mitchell's youthful energy kept Wells alive.

The 800th anniversary of the cathedral was celebrated in great style in 1986. In the same year, he was made an Honorary Freeman of the City of Wells.

From 1987 to 1992 he was chairman of the Deans' Conference and played an important part in the negotiations which led to the Care of Cathedrals Measure and subsequently to the granting of state aid to cathedrals.

He was appointed Dean of Windsor, Register of the Order of the Garter, and Domestic Chaplain to the Queen in 1989, succeeding the proactive Michael Mann, who retired after 13 years.

In contrast to Mann, Mitchell is mainly remembered there for his considerable pastoral care, always finding time to help those in need, systematically getting to know the extended community and never forgetting a name, though he was not the first dean in history to have to contend with some difficult canons who did not always find it easy to work as a collegiate body.

He arrived at a time when the Deanery's joists and floorboards needed substantial work, due to the activities of the deathwatch beetle. He and his wife were generous hosts,

and they also joined the Friends of St George's on overseas travels, most notably to the Holy Land and Jordan.

Mitchell took a keen interest in the history of St George's, and invited the British Archaeological Association to hold a conference there in 1998. He established a new fabric advisory committee with the Duke of Gloucester, a trained architect, as one of its members.

He presided at the wedding of Lady Helen Windsor, daughter of the Duke of Kent, in 1992, the first royal wedding in the chapel for many years, and also prepared Prince William for confirmation there in 1997, not long before the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. When she was killed, he was summoned to Balmoral to give pastoral care.

His philosophy was summed up in his last letter to the Friends of St George's: 'Worship must always come first.'

He was also appreciative of 'all those self-effacing people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the wheels turning'.

He loved his dogs and could often be seen heading with them for a walk in the Home Park. On his retirement in 1998 he was appointed KCVO. He and his second wife retired to Somerset.

His first wife Mary, née Phillips, whom he married in 1959, died in 1986, and in 1988 he married an old family friend, Pamela Douglas-Pennant, who had also been widowed in 1986. She died in 2016.

He is survived by three sons and one daughter of his first marriage, and a stepson and stepdaughter from his second.

*This obituary was first published in The Telegraph on 27 January 2020. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors. © Telegraph Media Group Limited*

**Alan Anthony Price**, journalist and author: born 16 August 1928; died 30 May 2019.

As a cub reporter on *The Oxford Times* in the early 1950s, Anthony Price, who has died aged 90, was asked if he fancied reviewing a book for its sister paper, the *Oxford Mail*. It was, he was told, 'only a children's book but it's by a local author'. The local author turned out to be a Professor JRR Tolkien and the book was *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Price's career as a reviewer was off to an auspicious start.

He was to specialise in crime fiction, and his reviews in the *Oxford Mail* made him one of the most highly regarded commentators on, and judges of, the genre, so much so that in 1968 the publisher Livia Gollancz asked him to consider writing a history of the crime novel. Price turned down the offer, feeling it would involve too much work, but added that he did have an idea of his own for a novel, if Gollancz might be interested.

They were; and when *The Labyrinth Makers* was published in 1970, it was to ecstatic reviews (from Edmund Crispin and Marghanita Laski among others) and won the Crime Writers' Association Silver Dagger award. The book introduced Dr David Audley and Colonel Jack Butler, respectively an academic and a solid military man working for British counter-intelligence, who were to feature in many of Price's 19 novels over the next 19 years.

Anthony was born in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, his parents having recently returned from India where his father, Walter, had been a civil engineer. His mother, Kathleen (née Lawrence) died when he was seven and he was brought up first by an aunt and then, when his father remarried, a stepmother from whom he was quickly estranged.

He was educated at the King's School, Canterbury, where he prospered academically and came to the attention of the headteacher, Canon Frederick Shirley. When Anthony's stepmother wouldn't pay his last year's school fees, Shirley's wife paid and Anthony returned her faith in him by winning a scholarship to Merton College, Oxford.

Oxford had to wait until after National Service, 1947-49, first in the Royal Signals, then the Education Corps, where Price achieved the rank of captain. After reading history at Merton he remained in Oxford, where he met Ann Stone, a nurse, and opted for a career in journalism with *The Oxford Times*, becoming editor in 1975.

While reviewing crime fiction, he became a friend of the literary editor, Brian Aldiss. He treated thrillers with the respect reviewers usually only showed to traditional detective stories and was an enthusiast for the early Bond books of Ian Fleming, though he did add the caveat when reviewing *Dr No* in 1958 that the villain was 30 years out of date and belonged more to the era of Fu Manchu.

In the 1960s he welcomed the arrival of writers such as Len Deighton, Dick Francis, Gavin Lyall and John le Carré, the last of whom he particularly admired. It was a source of wry amusement that his favourite Le Carré novel, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, was pipped to the 1974 Gold Dagger award by his own *Other Paths to Glory*.

For two decades Price juggled careers as a newspaper editor, book reviewer and author, with Ann acting as his unofficial business manager. The success of his first novel resulted in rapid election in 1971 to the Detection Club, where he met and befriended many of the authors he admired, including Eric Ambler, and gained international recognition with the Martin Beck Award from the Swedish Crime Writers' Academy in 1978.

All his novels reflected his deep interest in military history, and sub-plots and background settings could contain elements of Roman legions on Hadrian's Wall, the Camelot of King Arthur, Napoleonic warships and the battlegrounds of the American Civil War and the First World War. In his research for *Other Paths to Glory* he visited the Western Front battle sites well before there was an established visitor trail there, and taped interviews with survivors in the Oxford area.

The Second World War got the Price treatment in two thrillers: *The Hour of the Donkey* (1980, Dunkirk) and *Here Be Monsters* (1985, D-Day).



Price also used military history in his Cold War spy thrillers as, in effect, long diversions, – almost ‘shaggy dog stories’ – providing red herrings for the characters, and for readers. The actual espionage in his plots, which Price always insisted were straightforward and simple, would be resolved in last-minute flurries of action and recrimination. It was a technique which, as one reviewer pointed out, put him ‘in the upper IQ spy story bracket’. With such praise, and the constant use of the adjectives ‘ingenious’ and ‘intelligent’ by the critics, Price’s books were never likely to appeal to a mass readership, which preferred more blood with their thunder.

Even so, it was no surprise that television took an interest, although the result was far from satisfactory when Granada produced a short series in 1983 under the title *Chessgame*, with Terence Stamp woefully miscast as Audley. In an interview in 2011, Price described the series as ‘dreadful’ but by then, as he himself declared, his days of writing fiction ‘were not so much history as archaeology’.

In 1989, with the publication of his 19th novel, his retirement from *The Oxford Times* and the fall of the Berlin Wall, Price announced he was going to stop writing fiction. There was protest from reviewers, readers and his editors at Gollancz, but he was adamant and retired to the Oxfordshire countryside. There was, at one point, a plot masterminded by the Oxford don (and crime writer) Tim Binyon to lure Price into the wine cellars of Wadham College where other writers, including Colin Dexter and Michael Dibdin, would press him to return to the crime fiction fold. The plot never materialised.

With no new books, most of Price’s backlist went out of print with indecent haste, but he is still rated among connoisseurs of spy fiction alongside Le Carré, Deighton, Ted Allbeury and Ambler. His storytelling technique and authorial voice were unique. Price novels are unmistakable and all featured historical backgrounds because Price felt the past was lying in wait for the present.

Following the death of his wife in 2012, Price moved to Blackheath in London. He is survived by two sons, James and Simon, and a daughter, Katherine.

**Mike Ripley**

*This obituary was first published in The Guardian on 9 June 2019. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*

© Guardian News & Media Ltd 2020



**Gordon Frederick Rock:** born 7 April 1930; died peacefully on 28 May 2018, aged 88.

Gordon Frederick Rock was born into modest beginnings as the only child of Fred and Mary Rock, who were small-time shopkeepers in Wolverhampton. He won a scholarship to Wolverhampton Grammar School. His precocious musical talent became apparent at an early age, writing his first piece of music at the age of six and at the age of nine performing a piano solo at Wolverhampton Town Hall.

Gordon went on to be awarded a Postmastership at Merton to read Greats. He always retained his love of the Classics and right to the end had a volume of Virgil’s poetry, in the original Latin, by his bedside.

Before he could attend university, Gordon was called up for National Service with the Army and posted to Cyprus. One of his tasks was to help guard the camps full of Jewish refugees from Europe seeking entry into the Holy Land. Gordon contributed to an international incident when, at great personal risk, he enabled a Canadian journalist to access one of the camps and view the conditions there. The resulting newspaper report caused an international uproar and helped to end the restrictions on Jewish immigration and, shortly after, the end of the British Mandate itself.

In 1949 after National Service, Gordon took up his degree. He was very much involved in music at Merton, composing the score for an outdoor performance of *A Midsummer*

*Night's Dream*. Another piece he wrote while at Merton (and had performed) was a setting of I Corinthians 13, which was subsequently performed at his wedding and also recorded for his funeral. This is available to view at [youtu.be/YzDltHIFIM0](https://youtu.be/YzDltHIFIM0)

Gordon claimed that his room had the last coal fire in Merton. While at Merton he married Marie Withers whom he had met at a tea dance in Dudley just before his National Service. He was always amused to relate that in those days, on marrying you lost your Postmastership award!

Gordon qualified as a teacher and taught music and classics. He was noted for arranging spectacular large-scale semi-professional school music productions, such as Britten's *Noye's Fludde* and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

With the encouragement of Marie, Gordon was accepted into the Catholic Church. He wrote a series of folk masses for their local church, firstly the *Pilgrim's Mass*, followed by others such as the *Missa de Saeculis*, the *Sinner's Mass* and the *Mass for All Seasons*. This music became enormously popular worldwide in the Catholic community and beyond, being probably the best known folk masses of the 1970s and 1980s, recently relaunched with their own website.

Gordon's career culminated in becoming headmaster of Duston Upper School, Northampton and he retired in 1985. In retirement he was appointed a Teacher Fellow at Nene College, Northampton and was also Director of Music at Northampton Catholic Cathedral.

In 2018 Gordon was diagnosed with cancer and died after a short illness. Marie survived him but sadly herself died a few months later following a severe stroke. They are survived by their three children, 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Simon Rock**

**Hugh Sackett** and his family must be the most Mertonian of all Mertonians. Hugh's father, two uncles, a cousin and three brothers were all at the College. His father and uncles married three Salter sisters of the Oxford boat-building family, which today operates steamers from its base at Folly Bridge.

Hugh was born in the Salters' house on the Banbury Road, but grew up in Bath at Kingswood School, where his father was headmaster from the time of Hugh's birth in 1928 to 1959, and he was a pupil, winning an Exhibition to Merton. After Greats and a DipEd, he went to the British School at Athens (the UK's oldest research institute abroad) in 1954–55, which confirmed a budding interest in Greek archaeology. He was able to continue this for the rest of his life, becoming a leader of British fieldwork in Greece, thanks to being appointed to a post at Groton School in Massachusetts (on the recommendation of his Mods tutor Robert Levens). There he taught classics and archaeology from 1955 to 2018, introducing these rare subjects in secondary education to many generations and taking boys, and then girls and boys, on study trips and excavations — and producing several archaeologists. Groton was rightly generous with study leave. In 2014 Hugh was honoured with the Gold Medal of the Archaeological Institute of America, the highest award in the USA for Old World archaeology, and the only time it has gone to a schoolteacher.

In Greece he took part in, and led, excavations and archaeological surveys from the 1950s till the 2010s. When he was a director of a project, it was *always* as co-director. Almost everything he tackled was in partnership with colleagues from the school and reflected his generosity, his love of Greece and its continuity from the Stone Age till today, his emphasis on precision (he was a master of the art of excavating) and his readiness to share with others of all ages: qualities that also made him such a star schoolteacher.

The rollcall of the many school excavations he (co-)directed, and the books and articles that have followed them, show a pioneering diachronic approach, and a rare breadth of vision and knowledge. They range in time and place from Minoan Crete (Palaikastro in the east of the island) through prehistoric

and Early Iron Age Euboea (Lefkandi, following survey) to Classical Attica and back to Roman Crete (Knossos). This is an extraordinary list of major contributions.

Palaikastro produced the largest chryselephantine statuette of a young male yet known in the Aegean (now the centrepiece of the Siteia Museum) and a rich report. His masterpiece study of early Roman Knossos a millennium and a half later increased understanding of the whole island (and the fact, extraordinary in today's world, that the Romans had a united province of Crete and Cyrene) and made a valuable counterpoint to Gortys in the south of the island.

Lefkandi on Euboea has proved revolutionary for virtually every period from before 2000 BC to around 700 BC. Among the team with Hugh was Irene Lemos, then a graduate student, but now leading the project as Professor of Classical Archaeology and a Fellow of Merton. And the excavation in the 1950s of the Dema House in Attica gives us a snapshot of people's state of mind around 420 BC (when the house was probably built) and the optimism that the Peace of Nicias of 421 would end Athens' war with Sparta. Nobody builds a nice house in the country that would be easy for invaders to attack unless there is a sense of security.

Hugh was a quiet, controlled and outstandingly generous person and, for his colleagues, pupils and co-directors, a rock of stability. He had a happy and creative marriage with Eleanor Davis (née Childs). I first met Hugh when I was put to be his trench assistant at Knossos in the summer before I came up.

#### Gerald Cadogan (1960)

---

## 1950



**Hugh 'Harry' Martin Chase Quick** was born in Carlisle in March 1930. He was the fourth child of the Revd Canon Oliver Chase Quick, who became Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford in 1939, and Frances Winifred Pearson. He was educated at Shrewsbury School and left to study Chemistry at Merton, after first completing 18 months' National Service.

Already an accomplished oarsman from school days he rowed for Merton and the University, winning three Blues, and was president of OUBC in 1954. The friendships he made within the Oxford crews remained for the rest of his life. He continued rowing after university in America and later with Leander.

On leaving Merton, Hugh won a bursary to Harvard Business School and set sail for the United States on board the *Queen Mary*. While studying at HBS he got a holiday job in an oil refinery in Houston which ultimately influenced his career choice on return to the UK. Despite studying, working and rowing Hugh managed to visit 34 of the 50 states in the US in his short time there. On his return to the UK, seeking the excitement and challenges of working overseas Hugh joined Royal Dutch Shell and was posted to Sarawak, Borneo. Shortly before leaving for Borneo he met his future wife, Margaret Joy Hayes, but did not see her again for three years.

He returned to the UK and married Joy in the icy winter of 1963. He was posted to Sriricha, Thailand while Joy was pregnant with their first child. They left Thailand in 1967, now with two children, and postings to Holland, Curacao and Singapore followed before they returned to the UK. Hugh worked with Shell for 31 years, mostly in planning and managing of oil refining. He latterly worked as an independent consultant in the oil business based in the family home in Surrey.

Hugh immersed himself in the culture and ways of whichever country he was living and working. He would try to learn the local language and become familiar with the local customs.

Hugh fell in love with the sea after spending his summer holidays sailing on an old gaffe ketch. He built two boats while living in Sarawak and Thailand. His pleasure in sailing came from the independence and self-reliance it offered and demanded. He delighted in the wildness and solitude of the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland with the occasional more ambitious cruises into the Arctic Circle.

On retiring Hugh and Joy moved to Somerset. Sadly, Hugh had a stroke in 2001 which restricted his mobility but gladly not his intellect. He died in November 2017 at the age of 87.

He is survived by his wife, his son David and by three grandchildren, Miles, Juliette and Eddie.

#### David Quick

---

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Esmond 'Patrick' Roney** on 26 January 2019. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---

## 1951

**Colin James Pennycuick**, zoologist: born 11 June 1933; died 9 December 2019.

Colin Pennycuick, who has died aged 86, was the pre-eminent researcher in animal flight over the last century. He focused on the flight of bats and birds (and their possible ancestors), and asked the question: how do they work? To answer this deceptively simple question he brought to bear a mix of sharp logic and original and practical invention.

Though he sought to ground his work in the rigorous application of physics and mathematics, he was not satisfied

with abstract results and conclusions by themselves, but always sought to democratise his findings, first to the biological sciences community and then to the huge population of lay people fascinated with birds and their flight escapades.

Pennycuick was an expert glider pilot, and gained some notoriety by piloting his craft in and around flocks of vultures, storks and eagles in Africa, and condors in Peru.

The son of Brigadier James Pennycuick and his wife, Marjorie, Pennycuick was born in Windsor, Berkshire. His family followed his father's army postings, which in 1938 took them to Singapore, which they left in 1941 shortly before the Japanese invasion. Pennycuick was later sent as a boarder to Wellington College, Berkshire, studied zoology as an undergraduate at Merton College, Oxford, and worked on his PhD at Peterhouse, Cambridge. There he studied muscle mitochondria, whose task of converting oxygen and nutrients into energy he viewed as the basic engine of flight.

During two years' National Service with the RAF, he flew Provosts and Vampires, early jet-powered aircraft. He subsequently worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Animal Behaviour Laboratory in Madingley, Cambridge, and in 1964 began a long association with the zoology department at Bristol University as a lecturer.

He used the first computer at the university to design a tiltable wind tunnel, which he built from scratch and hung in a stairwell. He developed and adapted aeronautical ideas from helicopter theory to bird flight and tested their application based on meticulous observations of the free-flying pigeons that he kept in a loft on the roof of the building.

In 1968 he travelled to Nairobi, which he made his base for three years, installing his tilting wind tunnel between two acacia trees to study bat flight in the same manner as he had previously done with pigeons. He then spent another two years in the Serengeti National Park as deputy director of the research station there. He learned how to fly his powered glider alongside pelicans, storks and vultures, documenting for the first time their extraordinary and essential abilities to travel economically over large distances by exploiting thermals.



From here on, his career was not so much a list of academic positions and research topics as a restless migration (frequently aerial, frequently self-piloted) of his own. He flew back to Bristol in 1973 via Addis Ababa, Cairo and Crete, in and around the Shetlands, France and Sweden, and down to Bird Island in South Georgia, Antarctica. There he first used his 'ornithodolite', an instrument he designed for measuring birds' flight paths and speed, to track in detail the soaring flight of albatrosses. He found that the standard explanation – that they could power their flight by following a specific trajectory through a wind shear profile – was only partly responsible for their ability to fly continuously, without flapping for very long times, and that instead they used the wind in different ways.

In 1983, he left for Miami University, which became a handy launch point for expeditions to the Everglades, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Idaho, and further afield in Puerto Rico, the Bahamas and Peru. In 1992 he left Miami, via Greenland, Iceland and Sweden. He began a continuing association with the animal ecology group at Lund University in Sweden, tracking migratory birds by radar, and in 1994 the bird flight wind tunnel was inaugurated there by the king of Sweden.

In the late 1990s he collaborated with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, in Gloucestershire, in tracking whooper swans which, as the largest flapping bird, can provide a stringent test of aerodynamic theory at relatively large extremes of scale. He appeared in the 2003 BBC radio series *Swan Migration Live*, which tracked six Bewick's swans and a whooper swan from Arctic Russia to the UK, with updates on their progress on the *Today* programme each morning.

In 2008 Pennycuik took part in an even bigger and more ambitious Radio 4 project, *World on the Move: Great Animal Migrations*, which tracked brent and white-fronted geese from the UK to Canada. With the aid of very accurate meteorological data, combined with measurements of wing beat frequency and wing shape, he modelled a gauge that could estimate the fuel consumed while these geese were migrating: this would give audiences, and the scientific community, some idea of the effort involved.

Pennycuik's primary goal was to provide and test a physically reasonable theory of vertebrate flight, which

could then be used to predict and understand how and why birds and bats do what they do. Many of his inventions, in techniques, procedures and instrumentation, were absolutely novel because he thought his own thoughts and proceeded by himself, according to the rigorous rules of logic and scientific inquiry.

A rich and exuberant publication history burst from his activities, starting with the first practical flight theory papers in 1968 and going on to include the books *Animal Flight* (1972), *Bird Flight Performance* (1989) and *Modelling the Flying Bird* (2008). In later years he increasingly focused his efforts on his flight software package, which grew from a small custom Basic program to a rather versatile application with graphical interface. As well as biologists, engineers wanting to know how birds manage to achieve the things they do with apparent economy of effort and energy expenditure used the program, and both groups learned from it, which gave Pennycuik particular pleasure.

He was appointed research professor in zoology at the University of Bristol in 1993, and senior research fellow in 1997. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1990, and was made honorary companion of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1994. In 1996 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Lund University.

In 1992 he married Sandy Winterson. She and his son, Adam, survive him.

### Geoffrey Spedding

*This obituary was first published in The Guardian on 24 February 2020. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*  
© Guardian News & Media Ltd 2020

---

1952


**Anthony 'Tony' Cowper Bailey** was staff writer at *The New Yorker* magazine for more than 35 years, and the author of noteworthy books about the lives and works of master painters JMW Turner, John Constable, Johannes Vermeer and Rembrandt. He died on 13 May 2020 at the age of 87 in Harwich, Essex, of Covid-19. He had been living on nearby Mersea Island, Colchester.

Anthony Bailey was born in Portsmouth, England on 5 January 1933. As a boy during the Second World War, he was evacuated to the United States and lived in Dayton, Ohio with American industrialists and art collectors Otto and Eloise Spaeth and their family from 1940 to 1944. At the end of the war, he returned to England, at the age of 11. After his secondary school years, he went on to study history at Merton College, Oxford, and completed National Service as an officer with the British Army in the Royal West African Frontier Force, Ghana.

Anthony came up to Merton in 1952 to read History. While at Oxford he was literary editor of the *Cherwell* and *Isis* student publications. *Isis* was originally a literary magazine, re-inventing itself as a student newspaper in 1953. He also contributed to *Clarion*, a magazine edited by his friend at Merton, Jeremy Isaacs, who recalls some 'rather striking poems'.

At Merton, he met some of his greatest friends and literary colleagues, including former Reuters correspondent, Rhodes Scholar Cyril James Fox and American author John Updike, who attended the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art.

In 1955, Anthony returned to the USA, where he began his career as a writer, and met his wife, Margot Speight, an artist and writer, who was also from England.

That same year Tony Bailey joined the staff of *The New Yorker*. His body of work includes many articles and 24 published books. Some of them describe adventurous walks in Wales and on the Isle of Wight, as well as along the Iron Curtain, the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and the Cote d'Azur. He was a passionate sailor, and other books recounted voyages that he took along the Eastern Seaboard of the USA and down the River Severn, the longest river in Great Britain, in a coracle. His account of a walk along the Boyne with the Irish poet Seamus Heaney was one in a series of articles written for *The New Yorker*, published later as a book: *Acts of Union: Reports on Ireland 1973-79*.

Tony's autobiographies include *America, Lost & Found* and *England, First & Last*.

Between 1960 and 1970, Tony and his wife lived in the seaport town of Stonington, Connecticut. While there, he wrote *In the Village*, a book that describes life in a small American village and the sense of community that village life fosters.

He moved to Greenwich in London in the 1970s, where he was involved with the Greenwich Historical Society and the Turner Society.

Tony is survived by his wife Margot and their four daughters: Liz Bailey-Connor, Annie Bailey, Katie Bailey and Rachel Bailey, and his sister, Bridget Sojourner. He also leaves nine grandchildren.

### Annie Bailey

---

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Robert Hardy** on 12 October 2019. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---

1953



**Edmund Simon Aubray Ions** died on 30 April 2020 in St Gallen, Switzerland, aged 90.

Edmund and I first met in Fellows 2.4 in October 1953 which we shared during our first year at Merton. After leaving school in Newcastle, Edmund spent the next five years in the army, training at Sandhurst and then serving as an officer in Korea and in the Canal Zone in Egypt. He never envisaged a long-term career in the army and in 1953 he resigned his commission and applied to Merton to read PPE. At Merton he was President of the JCR and captained the College soccer XI. From the start he was an active member of the Oxford Union and was elected President in Michaelmas 1956, a term made memorable by debates on the occupation of Hungary and the Suez Crisis. In his last year at Merton he studied for a BLitt in Politics. It says something about Edmund's standing in the University that he was described by Robert Levens, the Merton Principal of Postmasters, as 'one of the outstanding Oxford men of his generation'.

From Oxford Edmund was awarded a two-year Harkness Commonwealth Fellowship which sparked his long-term study of American political history. He returned to Oxford in 1960 for further postgraduate work at Nuffield, producing a dissertation on American machine politics prevalent in large US cities. After temporary stints teaching at Keele and Aberdeen universities he was appointed to a permanent position at York University, where he was a member of the Politics Department of the Institute of Social Studies. The university was in fact established in 1963 and Edmund was one of the founding 'aboriginals'! In the same year he married Veronica Gillespie (Somerville, 1955) and they had a son and a daughter.

Edmund remained at York for 20 years, eventually as Reader, teaching American politics throughout his time there and extending both his research and teaching in foreign relations and conflict resolution. In addition to a number of scholarly books on American political history, he wrote his military memoir *A Call to Arms* (1972). Under his pen name, Edmund Aubrey, he used his research into the assassination of President Kennedy in his book *Sherlock Holmes in Dallas* – a persuasive alternative account of what happened.

During his time at York he was successively Visiting Fellow at Harvard and Columbia universities and in 1978-79 a Fulbright Senior Fellow at Harvard. In the early 1970s he was also working part-time in London on the editorial staff of *The Economist*. On retiring from York Edmund returned to Oxford where he did some teaching and examining.

In 2005 Edmund remarried and moved to St Gallen in Switzerland with his wife Hannelore. Until his deteriorating health made it difficult, he continued to make regular visits to the UK to see his son, Alexander, and daughter Rosamund, and his many friends. Thanks to the internet he was able to keep abreast of world affairs and his friends were recipients of his often-trenchant views. In his last years he had wonderful loving support from Hannelore.

My wife Jackie, who was training to be an occupational therapist in Oxford, first met Edmund about the same time that I did, and we went to parties and holidayed together. We kept in touch throughout his life and saw him regularly after his retirement, the last time being a visit to St Gallen when he was no longer able to travel. He was a very good friend and we will both miss him and his emails.

#### **Michael Jenkins (1953)**

---

It is with sadness but fond memory his family announces the passing of Dr **Alexander Gustave Keller** on 17 March 2020, aged 88, of natural causes. He earned his MLitt at Merton, 1956-58. A noted lecturer, linguist, author and editor, he was as wise as he was compassionate, as quick with a witticism as with an embrace. Alex had a brilliant mind and a beautiful soul.

Alex was born in Hendon on 14 March 1932 to Arthur and Charlotte Keller. Both were Jewish immigrants, who had by chance converged in Ireland – Arthur from Germany and Charlotte from the Polish territory now part of Ukraine. During the war, he was evacuated to a variety of different places, from Harrogate, to the Lake District, to Crickieth in Wales. It was during the final years of the war that his bar mitzvah took place, and he joined Habonim, of which he remained an ardent member for the rest of his life. This time also saw the loss of his mother. With the end of the war in 1945, he was sent to Clifton College. He partook in an extracurricular car mechanics course, and would later describe it as the most useful thing he learnt at school.

He earned a first-class degree in Classics from Peterhouse, Cambridge, before moving to Merton, where he studied Byzantium. He would talk about his close connection with the History of Science Museum, and studying under the infamous Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Claude Jenkins. His fondest memories were of the ‘fascinating’ people he met. His grandson also went to Merton, and Alex attended Merton’s 750th Anniversary celebration in 2014.

After Merton, he fulfilled a childhood dream by joining the Israeli army. It was there he met his wife, Hannah – who outranked him. He courted her undeterred, and they were married in Tel Aviv in 1959. He aimed to continue his studies at the Hebrew University, but history of science was not offered at doctorate level in Jerusalem. Thus, with a new family, he returned to Peterhouse to earn his PhD. By the time he finished, he had been offered a position as lecturer in the history of science by the University of Leicester.

An illustrious academic career followed. He published many works on the history of science. His speciality was Renaissance engineering, such as *A Theatre of Machines* (1964), an anthology and commentary of historical diagrams. He was an authority on many periods, such as the 20th-century nuclear era, authoring *The Infancy of Atomic Physics: Hercules in his Cradle* (1983). His most expansive publishing achievement was the translation of the massive 16th-century manuscript *The Twenty-One Books of Engineering and Machines of Juanelo Turriano, 1500-1585* (1996) – a feat that earned him an award from the Spanish Government.

Alex spoke Hebrew, Aramaic, Spanish, Italian and French, and could read Latin and Ancient Greek.

He was a prominent figure of the history of science community, including as editor of the International Committee for the History of Technology’s journal *ICON* until 2009. A colleague at the University of Leicester wrote: ‘Since hearing of his passing, colleagues in this international community have been quick to praise his friendliness, good humour and commitment to international collaborations as well as his scholarly contributions.’

At home, he enjoyed being patriarch of a large Jewish family. His recitations at Passover, including of *Chad Gadya* – in the original Aramaic – were legendary. He represented the Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation on the city’s Council of Faiths. He was a Councillor of Thurnby and Bushby, was well known to the area’s walkers, and even served as a tree warden.

Alex had the aura of a great wizard, a mythic sage with a knowledge and wisdom that spanned ages. He inspired his students, friends and families to remain curious and to uncover the beauties and ironies of life that can be hidden in what we know about yesterday, and what we observe today. While we are sad to say goodbye, it is with fondness that we remember the life he lived. He is survived by his wife Hannah, his three children, and his seven grandchildren.

### Robert Stemmons (2014)

---

There had to come a time in Australia’s development when its academia, steeped in the British scholastic tradition, would have to confront the reality of history and literature on their own doorstep. Manning Clark was a pioneer of academic specialisation in Australian history and **Gerald ‘Gerry’ Wilkes** did the same for Australian literature, becoming Australia’s first Professor of Australian Literature at Sydney University in 1962.

Where the ordinary Australian, asked to give an account of Australian literature, would have likely trotted out Henry



Lawson and Banjo Paterson, Wilkes brought to attention the works of Henry Handel, the pen name used by Ethel Florence Lindesay Richardson, Katharine Susannah Prichard, Joseph Furphy, Patrick White, Judith Wright and R D Fitzgerald.

Later appointed Challis Professor of English Literature (in 1966), Wilkes enjoyed a 30-year career in the post, writing prolifically on British and Australian literature and contributing to an international understanding of the Australian idiom.

Gerald Alfred Wilkes was born on 27 September 1927, son of a poultry farmer, Thomas Wilkes, and Annie, both immigrants from England. He grew up in Greenacre in Sydney's south-west and attended Canterbury Boys' High, where he won an exhibition for tertiary study. He enrolled at Sydney University to study Arts, with the ambition of becoming a secondary school teacher. Graduating with honours in the BA and in the MA that followed, he won the University Medal and found a place in the university's English Department.

In August 1953, Wilkes married Marie Pauley, who had been a fellow student. He also won an ANU travelling scholarship to Merton College, Oxford. Wilkes wrote his doctoral thesis on late-16th-century poetry, one of his main subjects being Sir Philip Sidney's friend, Fulke Greville.

Returning to Australia in 1956, Wilkes and his wife settled in Eastwood in Sydney's north-west, where they had three children. Wilkes re-joined the staff of Sydney University and undertook significant administrative roles. He was also active in the Australian Academy of the Humanities, including as president in 1983-85.

Wilkes was a master of the formal university lecture. He is remembered by students and aspiring academics as providing a model of intelligent explication and judicious evaluation. His academic colleagues recall, too, his dry wit and his helpfulness in times of difficulty, while he inspired loyalty among administrative staff.

Over his career, Wilkes witnessed the heydays of various critical trends, including ructions that divided the department in the 1960s. But as he wrote soon after his retirement,

he believed 'the corpus of writing we call literature is a figuration of experience that in its range and depth far exceeds [a critic's] own', so that the latter's aim should be 'to bring out the singularity, even the uniqueness' of a text; these ideas had been expressed at length in his *Studying Literature* (1985).

In the 1950s there was little scholarship offered on Australian writers and many 19th-century texts had never been reprinted. Wilkes changed all that and was instrumental in introducing a Major in Australian literature to Sydney University. Wilkes also served as editor of the literary magazine *Southerly* in 1963-87. While publishing a significant range of literary criticism, *Southerly* also featured early work by writers such as Les Murray, Jennifer Maiden, Frank Moorhouse, Marion Halligan, Kate Grenville, Michael Wilding, Robert Adamson and Vicki Viidikas.

Wilkes produced the volume on R D Fitzgerald (1981) for Oxford University Press' series *Australian Writers and Their Work* and edited a collection of essays on Patrick White (1970). Among earlier writers, he revived the work of Charles Harpur, Henry Kendall and Adam Lindsay Gordon in *The Colonial Poets* (1974), and he produced editions of early poet Charles Tompson and novelist Catherine Helen Spence.

A major focus of Wilkes' research was Australian poet Christopher Brennan (1870-1932), on whom he published from the early 1950s up till 2008, including a *Selected Poems* in 1973. He related Brennan's writing to the European tradition in which he was steeped. Aware that Australian writers of the 19th and early 20th centuries drew on a variety of traditions, Wilkes challenged the common belief that Australian literature of this period was dominated by a nationalist orientation. Such was the argument of his *Australian Literature: A Conspectus* (1969) and *The Stockyard and the Croquet Lawn: Literary Evidence for Australia's Cultural Development* (1981).

In his work on British literature, Wilkes pursued his interest in Fulke Greville, producing editions of Greville's poetry in 1965 and then of his poetry and drama in 2008. He published on John Milton too, with *The Thesis of Paradise Lost* (1961). Wilkes was co-editor of the *Challis Shakespeare* (editions of

the plays geared to Australian readers) and edited the plays of Shakespeare's contemporary Ben Jonson, for Oxford University Press.

Wilkes was energetic in creating avenues for publishing literary criticism, such as the *Sydney Studies in Literature* series of books. The journal *Sydney Studies in English* strengthened links with secondary schools, often featuring articles on HSC set texts. For many years Wilkes was involved in setting the syllabus and examinations for HSC English.

Wilkes's knowledge of Renaissance language made him aware that some uses lost to British English survived in Australian idiom. His *Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms* first appeared in 1978 and, unlike similar books, offered actual evidence for uses, with sources encompassing early printed texts through to current newspapers and radio/TV programmes. In the *Times Literary Supplement*, idiom expert Eric Partridge called it 'a book not only to be consulted by the learned for its quiet, unobtrusive scholarship but also to be read with delight by the general intelligent public'. Wilkes had an exchange with Gough Whitlam over the 'Darwin stubby'. The fifth edition came out in 2008 as *Stunned Mullets & Two-Pot Screemers*; Wilkes's related monograph, *Exploring Australian English*, appeared in 1986.

Gerry Wilkes died on 15 May 2020. He was predeceased by his wife, in January 2004, and his elder sister, Florence, who died in 1977. He is survived by his three children Joanne, David and Geoffrey.

### Joanne Wilkes and Malcolm Brown

*This obituary was first published in The Sydney Morning Herald on 8 June 2020. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*

---

## 1955

That the teaching of modern German history is now one of the jewels in the crown of the University of Oxford is in no small part due to Professor **Anthony (Tony) Nicholls** of St Antony's College.

When he arrived as an undergraduate at Merton College in the 1950s, many academics dismissed efforts to understand what had happened in Germany since the fall of the Third Reich. In 1958, the year Nicholls graduated, the dons – swayed by the theories of AJP Taylor – voted to deny Theodor Heuss, the president of the Federal Republic, an honorary degree on the grounds that although he may not have been a Nazi, the West German state had failed to shake off its Nazi past. The University's decision was an embarrassment to the British government, which was keen to court the West German state to boost trade with Europe.

For Nicholls, the suspicion – widely propagated in Oxford and Fleet Street – that West Germany was probably an embryonic neo-Nazi Fourth Reich, was as untrue as it was contrary to British interests, which he believed lay not just in cordial relations with West Germany but also in accession to the European Economic Community. He was convinced that the Federal Republic was a genuine democracy. Together with Alan Bullock (whose pupil Nicholls had been) he worked the academic circuit to forward the view that German history was as important to the UK as British or American history.

Anthony James Nicholls was born in Carshalton, Surrey, in 1934. His father, Ernest, worked in the banking section of Thomas Cook, and his mother, Coleen (née Moore), was a homemaker. He attended Sutton County Grammar School, then spent his National Service training as a pilot in Canada. His elder brother, Ivo, had been a pilot in the war, and it was talking with him about fighting the Nazis that sparked Nicholls' interest in German history. That interest deepened under the supervision of the historian John Roberts at Merton, the college to which he won an exhibition in 1955.

He was made a research fellow of St Antony's College in 1961. In its unusual and eccentric surroundings, Nicholls found an academic home. He was made a fellow in 1968.

Founded in 1950, St Antony's was led at the time by Sir William Deakin, one of Churchill's researchers and an officer in the Special Operations Executive in the Second World War. Deakin gave Nicholls the backing he needed, aided by another highly influential college fellow, Sir John Wheeler-

Bennett (who was widely believed to have been an MI6 agent in the Weimar Republic, spying on its army, the Reichswehr).

Sir Raymond Carr, Deakin's successor as warden, was equally supportive of Nicholls' German projects. Perhaps the most impactful of these was a programme sponsored by Volkswagen inviting some of the most famous German academics to spend a term or more at St Antony's and give talks about their studies. They included Karl Dietrich Bracher, Wolfgang Mommsen and Gerhard Ritter.

Nicholls' most celebrated and controversial guest was Fritz Fischer. His thesis that Germany started the First World War to set up an empire in Europe ran counter to the accepted view that the war was either an accident or all powers were equally to blame. It echoed Taylor's line that Germany wanted war to gain 'mastery in Europe', but this was a German voice making the claim, not a British one.

Frau Fischer became a college character in her own right. She had been a leading member of the Nazi League of German Maidens and been received by Hitler at Berchtesgaden. More than once the phrase, 'As I said to Hitler,' caused a frisson round the dinner table. The VW Beetle donated by Volkswagen for use by the German professors was written off when she drove the wrong way round a North Oxford roundabout.

Nicholls worked with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation to organise lectures by leading West German politicians. When Helmut Kohl first visited Oxford in 1981, while still the leader of the German opposition, he outlined his dream for German unification in front of a stunned audience. Kohl's first wife sat outside the room knitting – she had evidently heard this more than once. Most who heard him thought that he was a fantasist; one or two of the Germans there regarded his words as dangerous and provocative revanchism.

Some of the UK's most distinguished university teachers were Nicholls' students, notably Professor Sir Richard Evans, who not only became the Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge but also Britain's leading historian of the Third Reich and the doughty defender of the American author Deborah Lipstadt in her successful legal fight against David Irving.

In 1993 Nicholls was awarded the German Order of Merit (first class) for his contribution to British-German relations. He was the author of several key books on modern German history, including a history of the Weimar Republic (*Weimar and the Rise of Hitler*) that ran to four editions and is still in print.

Nicholls was married to Dr Christine Nicholls (née Metcalfe), one of the first four female students at St Antony's, and the first to lend credence to a prophecy grumbled by the dons in the senior common room that they would wed the younger fellows. She also became a distinguished historian and editor of the *Dictionary of National Biography*. They had three children: Alexander; Caroline, a BBC Radio 4 newsreader; and Isabel. His last 17 years were overshadowed by the severe brain damage suffered by Isabel, for whom he was carer.

Except for watching the occasional football match on television, study was Nicholls's sole hobby. It was only the second day of his honeymoon in Munich when he announced to Christine that he simply had to go to the archives.

Anthony Nicholls, historian, was born on 2 February 1934. He died from the effects of Alzheimer's disease on 26 January 2020, aged 85.

*This obituary was first published in The Times on 28 February 2020. It is reproduced with permission of News Licensing.*

---

My father, the Reverend **Richard Price**, who has died aged 85, was a strong advocate of church unity, having spent his formative years at city parishes in Manchester and Leeds witnessing the divisions in his local communities. He never aspired to anything more than being a parish priest and supporting others through the strength of his own unshakeable faith. His service was recognised in 1986 when he was made a canon of Chester Cathedral.

Born at East Keswick, near Leeds, Richard was the third of four children of Stanley Price, secretary of the Yorkshire Council for Further Education, who established colleges throughout the county, and Kitty (née Thornton), a health visitor and midwife. During the Second World War, aged nine, Richard was

evacuated to Buckden House, in Wharfedale. He retained an affection for the Yorkshire Dales and eventually retired there.

In 1948 the family moved south to Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, and Richard became a pupil at Watford Grammar School. While a teenager he became a gifted pianist, and continued to play throughout his life.

During Richard's National Service in the RAF he studied Russian, later taking his first degree at Merton College, Oxford, in modern languages (including Spanish). After this he found his true vocation in the church and was ordained in 1961. A year later he married Mary Briggs, a farmer's daughter and childhood friend from East Keswick.

His first posts were as curate at All Saints and Martyrs in Langley, north Manchester (1961-62), St Peter's with St Margaret's, Bramley (1963-66) and All Hallows' (1966-74), both in Leeds. On the night of the FA Cup Final replay between Chelsea and Leeds in April 1970, All Hallows' caught fire due to a wiring fault and was completely destroyed. It was a traumatic event for the community, and Richard took on the challenge of building a new church.

After a period at Christchurch, Birkenhead (1975-78), Richard spent two terms as rural dean at St Michael and All Angels, Mottram (1979-88). While there he established links with the Methodist, Catholic and other clergy and together they set up a weekly matins service so that the congregations could also get to know each other.

The culmination of his career was at St Mary's, Nantwich (1989-99), as a senior member of the Chester diocesan clergy. He then retired to Cowling, near Skipton, and immediately became immersed in the life of the church and was instrumental in the provision of a new village hall for the community.

In retirement, Richard was able to indulge his passion for walking in the Dales once again; it was an area that was permanently mapped out in his mind.

Richard was kind, patient and a true gentleman. With a great love for other people, a twinkle in his eye and an unassuming character, he was well appreciated by all who knew him.

He is survived by Mary, their children Elizabeth, Rosemary, Andrew and me, four grandchildren, and his sister, Helen.

**David Price**

*This obituary was first published in The Guardian on 20 May 2020. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*

© Guardian News & Media Ltd 2020

---

## 1956

**Peter George Dickens** passed away peacefully at home on 1 October 2019, aged 87.

Peter Dickens was born in Sheffield on 30 September 1932, the younger son of former elementary school teacher Mabel and retired army captain Ernest. From the city's King Edward VII grammar school, after two years of National Service, Peter went up to Queen's in 1952 to read Chemistry as a Hastings Scholar. At Oxford, he played cricket for the county and was on the Queen's soccer team. Peter was awarded a top first in 1956 and that year married his wife Mary, a happy union that produced three children.

Peter moved to Merton College for his DPhil, which he completed in 1959 under the supervision of Jack Linnett with a thesis entitled 'Problems in interactive forces and energy transfer and some studies of atomic reactions'. The same year, he was appointed Junior Research Fellow at New College and was an official Fellow of the college from 1962 until his retirement in 1997, serving as Domestic Bursar in 1960-61 and as Sub-Warden in 1971-72. Peter took up golf in his thirties, played off a two handicap at the height of his game and was treasurer to the University Golf Club for several decades, becoming an honorary life member of Southfield Golf Club. Important University business was conducted every Friday afternoon; everyone knew this would be on the golf course.

Peter was a classical music and film buff, an atheist and socialist, whose wide-ranging interests included literature, history, mathematics, physics, philosophy, genetics, religion, comedy series and TV dramas. When they retired, he and Mary settled in North Cornwall, where Peter played a lot



of golf, captained the St Enodoc Seniors, continued to read voraciously and to 'wrestle with scientific problems of immense difficulty'. In 2014, Peter and Mary returned to Oxford, where Peter was widowed the following year and lived until his death. He is survived by two children, two grandchildren and his older brother.

In 1959 the theoretical and physical chemist Hinshelwood, the all-powerful Professor of both Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, had devolved the running of the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory to Freddie Brewer who, as Mayor of Oxford, was more interested in politics. No doubt encouraged by Linnett, Brewer saw Peter and said: 'I understand you are a good man on the cricket field – there is an inorganic job going if you want it.'

Peter was a good, rigorous and caring tutor and supervisor to the many students he taught over his long career. He regarded his research students as his equals, often even sharing his office with them – unthinkable today. Peter was not very hands on in research apart from glassblowing which he could do with ease even though he had difficulty with photocopiers. He published over 100 peer-reviewed papers. His students remember there were no shortcuts to publishing – the work had to be unassailable. Peter's approach to solving problems was that he always wanted to get to the bottom of things and found many interesting but sometimes blind alleys to explore, which could feature distracting discussions about the motions of the cars on fairground waltzers and why  $1/\cos\theta$  cannot be integrated analytically. Examining Part II vivas, Peter always had a smile on his face when asking questions – questions that were often devastating.

One pupil, Stanley Whittingham, read Chemistry at New College from 1960 to 1964, doing his Part II and DPhil with Peter, and began the first work in Oxford on sodium tungsten bronzes. News of Whittingham's Nobel Prize for the first functional lithium battery came only days after Peter's death. In his Nobel lecture, Whittingham described Peter as one of the people who played a key role in his scientific life.

Peter was a very generous person. His summer parties with plenty of wine and Mary sometimes having to rustle up pasta at a moment's notice are fondly remembered.

Whenever Peter was asked about his research interests, he could always reply: 'Oh, they're as pure as the driven snow.' His research was a purely curiosity-driven search for knowledge with little thought to applications. Yet Peter's research provided the essential foundation for others to explore more commercial applications which led to smart windows, photochromic displays and the lithium battery. The lithium battery of course has changed the world: where would we be without our mobile phones?

**Alison Dickens and Steve Davies**

*This obituary was originally published in the 2019 New College Record. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*

---

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Cedric Evans** on 13 March 2020. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---



**Alexander 'Sandy' Ferguson** came up to Merton from Glasgow Academy in 1956 and read Greats. He always spoke with great affection of his time at Merton where he was well known for his witty conversation and dry sense of humour.

Born Alexander Colin Campbell Ferguson on 29 April 1937 in Glasgow to Alexander and Barbara Ferguson, he was always known as Sandy to differentiate him from his father.

On leaving Merton in 1960 he joined Turner & Newall as a management trainee with Ferodo in Chapel-en-le-Frith in

Derbyshire, where he was to spend the whole of his business career. Ferodo is a supplier to the automotive industry and best known to the general public for its advertisements, still seen on so many railway bridges. Sandy's quiet persuasive manner helped him rise through production control and distribution management to sales director, managing director and then to chief executive. He oversaw major overseas expansion into Germany, France, Spain, Czech Republic, South Korea and the USA, and travelled a great deal.

In 1995, a little earlier than planned, he retired due to ill health. This gave him more time to indulge his interest in trains and paddle steamers, visiting Scottish lochs and watching cricket.

Living in Derbyshire there were several visits to Chatsworth where he would always recall his first occasion, with Merton contemporary Richard Thomas, when their tour was interrupted by the arrival of US President J F Kennedy in a helicopter.

In 1968 Sandy married Jennifer Kennett from Buxton and they lived variously in Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith and finally Marple, the last for its convenient access to Manchester Airport and the West Coast Main Line at Stockport.

Sandy died on 29 May 2019 and is survived by Jennifer, their daughter Helen and their three grandsons.

#### Richard Kenyon (1956)



**Oliver Miles**, diplomat, died on 10 November 2019, aged 83.

Oliver was born on 6 March 1936 and was educated at Ampleforth, from where he won a Postmastership in

Classics. He did his National Service in the Navy, putting it to good use by learning Russian, the first of a clutch of difficult languages, the others being Turkish, Modern Greek and, above all, Arabic, which he honed at the Middle Eastern Centre for Arab Studies (MECAS) at Shemlan in the Lebanon.

After taking a First in Mods, Oliver switched to Oriental Studies in Classical Arabic and Turkish, in which he again took a First, but not before also winning the Craven Scholarship, thus marking himself out as the University's outstanding classicist that year, an achievement that could well have turned a lesser person's head. But not Oliver's. As Steward, and later President, of the JCR, and as a member of the College rugby XV, he certainly stood out, but always as someone who was quietly helpful, with a dry humour that defused disputes before they could become acrimonious. He was President of the Blessed Cuthbert Mayne Society, an indication of the firm Catholic faith that would guide him throughout his life.

He was musical, a flautist and a singer. When László Heltay, newly arrived as a political refugee from Hungary after the Budapest uprising, took hold of our run-of-the-mill college choral society and shaped it into something special, it was Oliver who drafted László's letter, in Latin, to the latter's mentor Zoltán Kodály to ask his permission to name the revamped choir after him. And years later, as a scarcely conventional British ambassador, he went on a tour to Disneyland in Florida as a member of a Luxembourg town band.

He was adventurous, visiting Moscow on a student exchange at a time when the USSR, at the height of the Cold War, was virtually off limits to western tourists. Those who did manage to get there were obliged to do as they were told, accompanied always by minders. By convincing his that he needed to go to church, Oliver managed to give them the slip and spent a Sunday with Boris Pasternak, desperate to get *Doctor Zhivago* published, after it had been banned by the Soviet authorities.

In 1960 Oliver joined the Diplomatic Service, having earlier fended off an approach by an MI6 recruiter, who used an assumed name but later turned out, as a fellow student at

MECAS, to be George Blake, subsequently unmasked and convicted as a Soviet spy. This acquaintanceship meant that Oliver could never be posted to Moscow, where Blake was ensconced after his escape from Wormwood Scrubs.

Members of the Diplomatic Service, even near-contemporaries, often know each other by repute rather than personal acquaintanceship, as the nature of their job means that they are just as likely to be serving hundreds of miles apart as in the same post or in the FCO in London, and that is how it was for Oliver and me. Our career paths never converged. He was an Arabist, and thus a member of one of the Service's elite specialist groups, in which he had a deservedly high reputation, built at first on service during the still semi-colonial era in the Gulf, in the run-up to independence in Aden, and in Jordan, whereas I veered between development assistance and East-West relations. But I knew enough about him to be sure that he was someone on whom the Service could rely to take on hard and often dangerous jobs, in which clear judgement, a cool head, leadership and physical bravery would be essential. And so it had been, in 1970s Cyprus and in what we now know as Yemen, where he was involved in a successful military incursion to prevent an Egyptian takeover of the island of Socotra, and would be in Libya, and during a brief spell in Belfast, and even in Luxembourg, where his time as ambassador coincided with Red Brigades terrorism, some of it directed at the British embassy.

A few months after Oliver's arrival in 1984 as ambassador in Tripoli someone leant out of a window in the Libyan embassy in St James's Square and shot WPC Yvonne Fletcher.

Diplomatic relations were severed and, as Oliver's son Tom has put it, 'our family was the public face of the scramble to leave Tripoli', with the world looking on as files were shredded and cypher machines dismantled, wives and children reassured and evacuated, under the morale-boosting leadership of Oliver and his wife Julia, whom he had married in 1968.

While the Luxembourg appointment may have been intended by the FCO at least in part as balm after the Libya bruising, it would also have been part of a career plan to give this Service 'flier' abundant opportunities to work directly with

ministers during their frequent visits to this small but pivotal EU capital. In her memoir *The Ambassador's Wife's Tale* Julia recounts how in February 1986 Mrs Thatcher and the Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe had come for the signing of the Single European Act. They were guests in the Residence, and over a whisky nightcap discussed whether or not to sign the Act. Mrs Thatcher was reluctant, but Oliver argued in favour and was told that it was none of his business. The argument continued the next morning in the car on the way to the ceremony. And Mrs Thatcher signed.

Another guest was Alan Clark, the Trade Minister, who in Tom's words was 'bollocked by Mrs Thatcher after somebody dobbed him in for undermining government policy on Europe'. Tom was proud to read in Clark's diaries that 'It could only have been that fucking ambassador in Luxembourg.' As Tom has said, his father was principled and honest to a fault, with unquestioning loyalty as a civil servant, 'a cause of occasional domestic friction'. And he was fearless in speaking truth to power.

After a spell as Director-General of the newly combined FCO/DTI Overseas Trade Services Directorate, Oliver's final posting, from 1993 to 1996, was Athens, where he had earlier served as Counsellor. He loved Greece, so this was a perfect way to end his career, and he went out on a high note, boosting trade and cultural relations with a notably successful 'Britain in Greece' festival, though not before, in his last month of service, he had had to intervene in a Greco-Turkish boundary dispute in some uninhabited skerries in the Aegean that was threatening to develop into armed conflict.

Oliver spent a long, active and scholarly retirement, living in North Oxford. He was deputy chairman of the Libyan British Business Council (2004-19) and president of the Society for Libyan Studies (1998-2004). Meanwhile, as his son Tom put it, his decades of civil service loyalty gave way to a wry, independent and increasingly vocal take on diplomacy. Incensed by Tony Blair's policy on Israel and Iraq, he organised the famous open letter that was signed by 52 former ambassadors, thereby hitting the headlines once again.

He became a regular media commentator on Middle Eastern affairs, notably as a familiar and expert voice on the BBC's

*Today* programme and as the author of opinion pieces in *The Guardian*, and was much in demand at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House).

He was appointed CMG in 1984 but, to the puzzlement and disappointment of his friends and family, denied advancement to the KCMG that he so deserved by a brief capricious change in honours policy by the then prime minister John Major.

Oliver died from pancreatic cancer at home, after an evening reading Pushkin, surrounded by his family. He is survived by Julia, children Joe, Tom, Hugh and Lucy, and 11 grandchildren.

**Richard Thomas (1956)**

## 1957

Long before the Hay Festival began drawing the literati to a small bucolic market town at the foot of the Black Mountains in Wales, **Richard Booth** was selling books there. From Hay Castle, a crumbling Norman pile looming over the town, the self-styled and idiosyncratic King Richard Coeur de Livre (Bookheart) reigned over what became the biggest centre in the world for second-hand books.

On April Fool's Day 1977 he declared the town's independence, printing Hay passports and issuing local banknotes. There was even a national sausage, and Goldie, his horse, was appointed prime minister. 'I bent over backwards to get publicity,' said Booth, who relished both his drink and his status as a bibliophile celebrity. Edible currency was an early innovation, printed on rice paper so that people could put their money where their mouth was.

To demonstrate his visceral hatred of the Welsh Tourist Board and all those he considered to be meddlers, Booth erected a monstrous 30ft bureaucrat to be burnt on Guy Fawkes Night. A Hay patriotic machine was built: put 10p in the slot and you could hear a rendition of the Hay national anthem as a portrait appeared of King Richard with flashing eyes. The sale of Hay-on-Wye dukedoms (£25), earldoms (£15) and baronetcies (£5) was said to exceed the number sold by James I, Charles I and David Lloyd George combined.

Weary from trying to defend an empire in decline, the British chose not to contest Hay's secession and the town became a free state – at least in the mind of its philosopher king, whose crown was created from tin foil and whose orb and sceptre were made from a discarded toilet cistern.

The arrival in 1988 of the Hay Festival, with its A-list names and corporate sponsorship, was in stark contrast to the obscure, arcane and dusty world of books that Booth inhabited and drew his wrath, even though he had helped to create the conditions in which it was to flourish. The festival, he argued, was exploiting the town's reputation as a second-hand book centre while ignoring the traders who had put it on the map. During one early festival he decorated the castle with a neon sign that read 'arts' with a flashing 'f' before it. 'If anyone objects I'll tell them it stands for fine arts,' he declared.

Yet there was a serious side to Booth. In using his quixotic energy and shrewd business sense to promote Hay and its books, he helped to revive an economy that had long been withering. 'Since the First World War Hay's population has declined from 3,000 to 1,500,' he explained at the time of his unilateral declaration of independence. 'And whereas there used to be 200 shops, now there are about 50. Central government has ignored us for too long.'

Richard George William Pitt Booth was born in Hay in 1938, the son of Philip Booth, a mechanic who served as an army officer, and his wife, Elisabeth (née Pitt). He claimed to be descended from William Pitt the Younger, and had three sisters. Richard was educated at Rugby, but left in disgrace after being caught cheating. Redeeming himself at a crammer in Guildford, Surrey, he read history at Merton College, Oxford, and, at his parents' behest, joined an accountancy firm, though only stayed for three weeks. It was not his strongest suit, as his many creditors would attest when referring to him as 'King Richard Rubbercheque'.

Inheriting the Brynmelyn estate in Wales from a wealthy uncle provided Booth with the opportunity to open his first bookstore in 1961. Over the years he employed dozens of townspeople, many of whom went on to open shops of their own. He turned the castle grounds into an 'honesty bookstore', with open-air shelves and a large red box by the



gate into which buyers were invited to deposit their payments.

Despite his privileged schooling, Booth was sceptical about education, arguing that it disadvantaged rural areas. 'If you're from a small town and only have one O-level, you'll stay in that small town,' he said, arguing that the brighter people left and never returned. 'Which is why so many Welsh towns are run by stupid people.'

The remainder of Booth's inheritance went on buying premises around the town that he filled with thousands of books that no one else wanted, including entire libraries shipped from the US. 'Even a bad book about the First World War has a buyer somewhere,' he said with a shrug.

He recalled the mayor at the time saying that his business ventures would not last six months, but he began attracting book-buying students from Bristol, Birmingham, Oxford and Aberystwyth. By the start of the 1970s the second-hand book business was successful enough for the king to have a Rolls-Royce Phantom V parked outside his castle.

In 2011, with Booth in declining health, the castle was sold to a trust and its king retired to a large house at Cusop, near Hay, where he had a fishpond divided in two: English goldfish on the right, Japanese carp on the left.

He was adamant that he never wanted children, and in his early twenties he had a vasectomy. He was generous with his affections, however, and claimed to have had an affair with Marianne Faithfull, while a mysterious Kentucky heiress once saved him from bankruptcy. An early marriage lasted a year, until his wife took her mother's advice and left. His second, in 1977, to Victoria del Rio, a Spaniard from a wealthy family in the Canary Islands whom he had known from university, was even shorter. 'She was heavily into the hippy thing, which I wanted no part of,' he said, admitting that he had realised his mistake after only a few days. Queen Victoria hit back. 'He's put me in exile because I would not join in sex orgies with women and pop stars at his castle,' she told one newspaper. 'He promised I would be a queen, but I finished up washing dishes in a café.'

His third marriage, in 1987, was to Hope Stuart (née Barrie), a photographer, who survives him. His stepdaughter, Lucia

Stuart, helped with the production of *My Kingdom of Books*, a colourful memoir published in 1999. By then a brain tumour had been removed, leaving him slightly disabled, and later he suffered a stroke.

Booth certainly looked the part of the monarch, at least of one of the minor European kingdoms. He was podgy and balding with dandruff-covered shoulders on his sagging suits; big rectangular glasses fell down his nose. Merely the mention of his name is still enough to spark an animated discussion in the town's pubs. At various times the council and the local booksellers' association felt obliged to disassociate themselves from his antics.

Claiming to be a friend of Arthur Scargill, Booth stood for the Socialist Labour Party in the 1999 Welsh Assembly elections and at the 2009 elections to the European Parliament, but attracted less than two per cent of the vote.

Today Hay-on-Wye is renowned as the used-book capital of the world. Visitors can obtain maps featuring dozens of important stops in the way of used bookstores, as well as artisanal and traditional bookbinding companies. Booth's shop was sold about ten years ago but continues to trade as Richard Booth's Bookshop, an artful blend of books, café, cinema and other facilities.

As for Booth, he had greater ambitions than Hay. He created the concept of the 'book town', which led to more than 20 others around the world, many of them members of the International Organisation of Book Towns, and in 1998 Booth promoted himself to 'Emperor of all the world's book towns'. The occasion was celebrated with jugglers, stilt walkers, buskers and mime artists, while the main procession was headed by an ambling band rather than a marching band. Funny? Yes. Silly? Definitely. But there can be no doubt that King Richard of Hay put his small Welsh town on the map.

Richard Booth, MBE, bookseller, was born on 12 September 1938. He died from multiple causes on 20 August 2019, aged 80.

*This obituary was first published in The Times on 23 August 2019. It is reproduced with permission of News Licensing.*

---

**Michael Earling Hewitt** died on 13 December 2019 in Portsmouth after a short illness. After a private cremation his life was celebrated with a wake at the Royal Naval Club, Portsmouth on 8 January 2020.

Michael was born on 28 March 1936 in the Isle of Wight. He was educated at Christ's Hospital, Horsham, Sussex, where he distinguished himself academically, at rugby and at chess. After two years' National Service in the Army, Michael went up to Merton College, Oxford in 1957. There he read Classics initially, achieving an Upper Second degree in Mods. He then switched to Modern History, in which he also achieved an Upper Second before graduating in 1961. At Merton he played hooker for the College rugby team, captaining the side in 1960. He also made a few appearances for the Oxford Greyhounds.

He then commenced his career with the Bank of England, which lasted from 1961 to 1994. Early on he obtained an external degree in economics. In the 1970s he was seconded to Bermuda for four years as economic adviser to the Government. In his career at the Bank of England he rose to the rank immediately below the main board.

He continued to play rugby for the Old Blues (the old boys of Christ's Hospital) until the late 1960s. He also played chess for the Bank of England and for Hertfordshire and became chess champion of Bermuda during his time there.

Michael married Elizabeth Batchelor in 1961 and they lived in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire and then in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. They had a son Thomas, born in 1970, and a daughter Joanna, born in 1974. The marriage was dissolved in 2000.

After he retired from the Bank of England, Michael became a project manager for the International Monetary Fund and carried out assignments in a number of countries, including Russia, the Ukraine, Egypt, Macedonia and Romania.

Latterly Michael lived in Southsea, Portsmouth. He became a social member of the Portsmouth Chess Club and Royal Naval Club where he participated in the quiz teams. His daughter,

Joanna, moved to Australia with Michael's four grandchildren and Elizabeth subsequently followed her out there. His son, Tom, runs a travel company in Borneo but, in recent years, he spent quite a lot of time with his father in Portsmouth.

**Michael's family and his friend, Richard McGregor**

---

## 1960



**Ian Donaldson** passed away on 18 March 2020.

To me, Ian was always a wonderful and remarkably gentle person; academic achievements were taken for granted, though he achieved more than most of us.

Ian was a Harmsworth Scholar at Merton from 1960 to 1963. He lived above me in the Old Warden's Lodgings and I saw him a little.

It was only when he got together with his wife Grazia, who was at Monash University in Melbourne like me, that we grew closer. Over the succeeding years we met intermittently but we enjoyed a number of wonderful dinners together at each other's places. They were always an absolute delight.

**John Crossley (1960)**

*The following is reprinted from the Australian Academy of the Humanities:*

One of the world's finest Ben Jonson scholars, Ian was an international authority in the field of early modern English literary studies and a highly influential leader and advocate of the humanities in Australia. He was elected to the Academy in 1975 and served as Vice-President from 1980

to 1982 and from 2005 to 2007. He was President of the Academy from 2007 to 2009 and Immediate Past President from 2010 to 2012.

Charles Ian Edward Donaldson was born in Melbourne on 6 May 1935. He was educated at Melbourne Grammar School; he completed his Bachelor of Arts (English Language and Literature) at the University of Melbourne in 1957, teaching briefly in the English Department at Melbourne the following year. Ian completed a second Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts at the University of Oxford, graduating in 1964. During his time at Oxford, Ian was tutorial fellow in English at Wadham College and Common University Fund Lecturer in English, before becoming Chair of the Oxford English Faculty from 1968 to 1969.

Ian returned to Australia in 1969 to take up a position as Professor of English at the Australian National University (ANU). In 1974 he was appointed Director of the ANU's newly established Humanities Research Centre (HRC). During his directorship of the HRC, Ian helped to organise more than 80 international interdisciplinary conferences, often working in collaboration with the Australian National Gallery, the National Library of Australia, the Australian Academy of the Humanities, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and other institutions throughout Australasia. Under his leadership the HRC acquired a substantial international reputation and became the model for subsequent humanities centres overseas.

He remained in this post until 1991, when he moved to the University of Edinburgh as Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature. In 1995 he was appointed Grace I Professor of English at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of King's College, becoming in 2001 the founding director of Cambridge's new Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH). In 2004 he returned to his old post at ANU as Director of the HRC, and in 2007 returned to the University of Melbourne as an honorary professorial fellow in the School of Culture and Communication. He also taught at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge; Cornell University; the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC; and the University of Melbourne.

Throughout his career, Ian produced a range of ground-breaking and comprehensive studies on the English playwright and poet Ben Jonson. His books include *The World Upside-Down: Comedy From Jonson to Fielding* (1970), *Ben Jonson: Poems* (1975), *The Rapes of Lucretia: A Myth and its Transformations* (1982), *Ben Jonson* (1985), *Jonson's Magic Houses: Essays in Interpretation* (1997) and *Ben Jonson: A Life* (2011). He was a general editor, with David Bevington and Martin Butler, of *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson*, published as a print edition in seven volumes in 2012, and as an electronic edition in 2013. These two later studies of the life and writings of Jonson are the culmination of a lifetime of work. *Ben Jonson: A Life* has been widely praised as 'exemplary' and 'definitive' for its authoritative mastery of primary and secondary sources, and Ian was praised for his deep knowledge and understanding of Jonson. *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson* includes over 500 contextual documents, 80 essays, several hundred images, details of stage performances and a cross-linked bibliography of over 7,000 items. A monumental feat in Jonson scholarship, it is also a testament to how the publication of print and online editions can lead the way in the combination of scholarly excellence and digital accessibility.

As a Fellow of the Academy, Ian led two major ARC Learned Academies' Special Projects: 'Promoting scholarly writing in the public sphere' (2005), which aimed to encourage scholars in the humanities to acquire the skills to write accessibly for non-experts; and 'The humanities in Australian life since 1968' (2009), which resulted in a significant publication entitled *Taking Stock: The Humanities in Australian Life since 1968* (2012). He chaired a number of colloquia held by the Academy including a highly successful symposium on 'Philanthropy and the humanities' (2007), and the Colloquium of Australian Tertiary Language Teachers, 'Beyond the crisis: Revitalising languages in Australian Universities' (2009). In his voluntary position as President of the Academy, Ian set up the Lalomanu Library Fund – a fund to build a library in Lolomanu, Samoa after the 2009 tsunami. In addition to being a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Ian was a Fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, elected to the two latter institutions in 1993.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Ian's wife Grazia, his children, and his friends and family here and around the globe. His passing will be felt deeply by the Fellowship and the broader humanities community, but his major commitment to advancing the humanities over some 60 years will not be forgotten.

*This Vale was first published on the Australian Academy of the Humanities website. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*



**Stephen Hazell:** 22 January 1942 to 10 October 2019.

At Merton in the early 1960s, Steve was a hard-working, quick-witted and spirited companion, someone with clear aspirations ultimately to teach English Literature at university level. We shared many enjoyments together, whether singing with the splendid college choir in a Haydn Mass for example, or simply making friends with college and university contemporaries, and meeting up with new tutors. In this regard, the good relationship Steve enjoyed with tutor Hugo Dyson was key, particularly given Hugo's passion for Shakespeare. Together with the novel, Shakespeare and the theatre were interests that shaped Steve's working life.

Success in Finals was a springboard for an application to do graduate study on drama at Rice University in Houston, Texas, where Steve, supported by a Fulbright travel grant, spent 1963–64. On his return, having also taught a summer school at Texas Southern University, Steve met and later married Lynda, travelling with her to the States in a further visit. They had two children, Kate (born 1969) and Libby (born 1970), who in later years would win awards and credits in international film production. However, Steve was now embarked on a career

in an avenue that was opening up in Britain at this time, teaching a new CNAA degree programme at Hendon College, which later would become Middlesex Polytechnic/University. At home Steve and Lynda enjoyed watching the children grow up. They took house-swap holidays with Italian families, and the marriage was a happy one. Lynda throughout was a hard-working teacher in North London comprehensive schools. In later years, as Steve rose in position, he had the opportunity to work again on laid-aside projects, and eventually gained a PhD (1976–81) from University College, London, on Angus Wilson and the modern novel. He rose in position at Middlesex to become Head of English.

However, Steve and Lynda's marriage was not without its problems, and in 1984 effectively came to an end. There was an amicable parting. Steve went to the Central School of Speech and Drama (1985–92) as Deputy Principal, and there met and subsequently married Usha, who has a Kerala Malayali background. As Deputy Principal having academic oversight Steve could deploy new skills in this drama education and training context, while deepening his knowledge of acting and directing in the contemporary theatre. *Mad Forest*, the drama staged by Central students which dealt with the last days of Ceaușescu in Romania, is an example of theatre that Steve had involvement with while at the school. Beyond this, he also had ample opportunity for networking and conference-going.

Steve had been a popular Deputy Principal at the Central, but now began to see possibilities in looking elsewhere. He was eventually appointed to a lectureship in English Literature and Drama in Singapore, at Nanyang Technological University. This was a role he was to hold, with promotions, for 14 years (1993–2007), finishing as Head of Visual and Performing Arts. At Nanyang, Steve sought to establish a bridge between Eastern and Western cultural practices, and to promote performance by his students of locally originated drama. He would sometimes attempt something more ambitious: there was a large-scale outdoor Shakespeare production, and European drama (Lorca's *Yerma*) was also attempted. He eagerly absorbed the cultures of his students, whether Chinese or Malay, constantly searching for common ground in shared endeavours. He was widely respected in Singapore as a public speaker, and on leaving was invited back more than once to address diverse groups.



This period was also one of home-building for the couple, whose children Alya (born 1989) and Rohan (born 1995) thrived in their adopted country. After 14 years, however, it was time to turn thoughts to Britain, particularly since Rohan now required British schooling in preparation for university entrance. The couple returned to settle in Essex, at Chelmsford.

Steve had one further appointment before he finally hung up his hat. He was appointed examiner (later Chief Examiner) for the London College of Music's suite of spoken performance exams (2008-19), a role which saw him make often gruelling trips with heavy schedules, to places such as India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Health began to be a serious concern; increasingly, with Steve retired, Usha was now living with the fact of his dementia. He had a serious stroke in April 2019 and succumbed to his illness on 10 October that year.

In later years, Steve had kept his intellectual interests fresh through his reading, and sometimes online news and ideas from Oxford. However, with dementia more marked he was unfortunately less and less able to bring his own Shakespeare research to fruition.

Steve was deeply fond of his children, each of whom spoke movingly at the Life Celebration of his different sides as person. Kate spoke of the loving father, but also the person who was competitive and ambitious, the 'play to win' man. Libby spoke of Steve's intellect and how he enjoyed the good things of life. Rohan mentioned his wise guidance and motivating concern; Alya spoke of Steve's open heart and hospitality, playing some of his favourite music, Tom Wait's *Come On Up to the House*.

I gave my own personal tribute, and Bruce Walter was also present, as of course were Lynda and Usha and friends.

So we joined in saying our sad farewells to Steve, on a sunny October morning last year in North London.

Each of the children has done well and three were at Oxford. Kate bypassed university to go straight into the film industry where she now has notable credits for aspects of production. Libby is in New Zealand where she is an award-winning special effects/location producer. Alya, who took a

First at Hertford College, now works in business. Rohan is a geographer from St John's now working through a family connection in Malaysia, on environmental matters.

Steve was always delighted when old Merton contemporaries were on hand and wrote warmly in the 2015 *Postmaster* of such a reunion on Hydra, Greece. All four Merton 1960 English contemporaries were together for the first time for many years: Roger Green, Steve, Bruce Walter and myself.

### Mike Hind (1960)

---

I met **Charles 'Chuck' Lister** on my first day at Merton, we having discovered ourselves billeted nearby to one another in St Alban's. His being three years older than me, a lifetime at that age, coupled with the majestic trappings of a Rhodes Scholar, placed him apart as a figure of respect, which his retiring nature only augmented. It was therefore indubitably cheering to come across him one evening, when he could only be described as cheerfully sozzled, and to be able, young as I was, to assist this fine gentleman somewhat unsteadily back to base. That allowed me access to the impish nature beneath the dignified surface, which was very much apparent many years later when we resumed our companionship.

He took his three-year Jurisprudence degree in just two years, during which time he achieved not only a First but also, in 1961, the start of his lifelong happy marriage to Sara. They stayed on in Oxford to enable him to take his Bachelor of Civil Law degree, whereupon he promptly proceeded to get another First. Returning to the USA he earned a graduate law degree at George Washington University and then clerked at the Supreme Court of the USA for Justice John Marshall Harlan II, who has been described as one of the most influential Supreme Court justices in the 20th century. Leaving the Supreme Court, he was an Associate Professor of Law at Yale for two years before going into private practice, being given the responsibility in 1988 of establishing the London subsidiary of his US parent corporation.

Though he had given up his position as managing partner of the London office by the time I caught up with him in

2006 via my role as Year Representative, I was delighted to discover that he was still overseeing the UK operation on behalf of its holding company, which entailed his visiting several times a year. From then on until not long before he died we used to meet regularly to put the world to rights, and I remain indebted to him for introducing me to the series of books aimed towards understanding philosophy using the medium of jokes (*vide* 'impish' above). Happily for my education these gatherings always involved lunch, and as a practising bon viveur Chuck introduced me to many splendid London watering holes which hitherto had only been viewed by me with awe from afar. One of these occasions, greatly enhanced by having Sandy and Sara join us, afforded me the opportunity of sharing with him the most expensive bottle of wine I have ever drunk. Thank you, Chuck.

Chuck will probably be remembered by most of his colleagues and friends as an altogether exceptional advocate, but for me he will always be remembered for just what he was: a truly, truly nice man.

#### Keith Pickering (1960)

---

**Julian Perry Robinson** passed away on 22 April 2020.

For my part, Julian quietly established himself as *una clase aparte* within a few days of arriving at Merton, when he appeared in the College 1960 matriculation photograph as the only freshman sporting a bow tie, as opposed to the many sub fusc and standard ones on display. There he was, back row, establishing a persona that would stay with him both at Merton and for the rest of his life: quiet, confident, impeccably well-mannered, rather diffident. A colleague noted he displayed an impressive set of hockey skills and later he was to arm himself with an HRG car – the perfect motoring weapon for a man of his disposition. Otherwise, he maintained a moderately low profile.

Only once did the even tenor of his ways drift marginally off course, but then only in the manner befitting. He was very friendly with John Dingeman (1960) and Nigel Stenhouse (1960), both sadly no longer with us, and the three of

them created somewhat of a furore when they arranged an unauthorised picnic on behalf of Merton's L'Ancien Régime dining club in the grounds of Bletchley Park. This was well before its clandestine role in the Second World War had been made known to the public, which probably accounted for why they fell so out of favour with the authorities, but in the end all was resolved amicably.

I can boast of sharing one distinction with Julian: he and I were the first Oxford chemists to tackle Part II theses outside the laboratory. Julian's dissertation became the cornerstone of his life's work, as its rather formidable title implies: 'Some aspects of chemical warfare: an investigation into the influence of the Second World War on the development of chemistry, with particular reference to the war gases'.

After Merton he underwent training in patent law, which afforded him insight into how to trace the covert manufacture of chemical and biological weapons via the informed analysis of public records. This led him in turn to determine to devote the rest of his life to the non-proliferation of chemical and bacteriological weapons, a path upon which he set out towards the end of the 1960s, when he joined SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) as a research scholar, while at the same time beginning his lifelong collaboration with Matthew Meselson of Harvard. Their many years spent together in the persistent pursuit of the suppression of chemical and biological weapons led to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Treaty, for which it was later proposed to nominate them for the Nobel Peace Prize. Both demurred, Julian for the splendid reason that it would be 'an awful distraction' from his main work. They counter-proposed that consideration be given to the treaty regime itself, and in 2013 the prize was duly awarded to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Being patently devoid of hubris I hope Julian would nevertheless be happy to learn that I speak for all his fellow 1960 Merton chemists when I say it was both a pleasure and a privilege to have known him, no matter how briefly, well before he made his mark so meaningfully on the world stage.

#### Keith Pickering (1960)

---

**Nigel Malcolm William Stenhouse** passed away suddenly on 16 October 2017.

I knew Nigel only briefly when we were up, though in later life as Year Representative I was very grateful for his cheerful and consistent correspondence. I am therefore indebted to The Chelsea Society's warm obituary of him, happily in the public domain, from which I draw upon freely below to cover Nigel's life after leaving Oxford

Nigel read Modern History at Merton and, as befitted him, became a member of the College's L'Ancien Régime dining club. A friend from those undergraduate days, Maria Perry, said: 'He was rather an aesthete and belonged to a group who arranged picnics.' Those taking part included the future Professor Julian Perry Robinson, founder of the Harvard-Sussex peace project (who sadly died earlier this year); John Dingeman, a lover of Bugatti cars; and the Hon. Christopher Lennox-Boyd, the renowned collector and antiquarian scholar. Like his friend Lennox-Boyd, Nigel would go on to collect art, becoming an authority on English watercolours, buying and selling works on the European and English markets.

Following the news of Nigel's death The Chelsea Society recorded the sudden passing of its former Vice-Chairman, Nigel Stenhouse, a lawyer with a specialist interest in planning law, a subject on which he lectured. He had previously been an adviser to the London County Council. Damian Greenish, former Chairman of The Chelsea Society said: 'I was deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of Nigel Stenhouse. He had been a member of Council since 1989 and was the Vice-Chairman for some 20 years. I was always grateful for his support and guidance during my period of office as Chairman. His love of Chelsea (particularly its connections with the river), and his knowledge of the Society and its history, were wide and deep; he will be sorely missed.'

I last met Nigel in 2010 for a lively conversation when we of the 1960 Merton intake were celebrating our Golden Anniversary lunch – he being instantly recognisable and not having appeared to have aged at all when compared to all the old buffers around him. As an undergraduate he had always been

better turned out than most of us, a man in my view born to wear a pinstripe suit, so I was delighted to see him thus accoutred on the day, and have a splendid photograph to prove it, along with absolutely the appropriate show handkerchief to set off the Nigel as I knew him: debonair, that's the word.

**Keith Pickering (1960)**

---

## 1961

My father **John Peterson** sadly died on 18 December 2019, aged 77 years.

Born in 1942, John was educated at St George's School, Harpenden and Shrewsbury School. He followed in his father's footsteps when he went up to Merton, to read Maths. (And rowing and drinking. Or so I have been told.)

Upon graduating, John became a maths teacher, and with his interest in the wider world and his sense of adventure soon found himself teaching in a government school in Kisoro, Uganda. In Uganda he met my mother Anne who was a pharmacist with Voluntary Service Overseas. They travelled home together in 1968 and settled in London where John began working in computing for ICL. John and Anne were married in 1972 and moved to Leeds where my brother and I were born, then Edinburgh, before settling in Norfolk in 1979. John joined the School of Computing Studies at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and was employed to manage its IT services at a time when there were only two computers in Norwich! That quickly changed and John kept up with all developments with his natural curiosity and intellectual abilities.

Archaeology was always one of John's many interests and in 1993 he was awarded his PhD at UEA, on 'Computer-aided investigation of ancient cadastres'. A cadastre is a grid laid out by the Romans for administrative purposes, no evidence of which had been found in the UK before John's pioneering research. His exceptional and brilliant work combined computing and mathematics in 'computational archaeology' to prove their existence. John continued his research over almost 30 years, presenting his cases with great conviction, and supporting his arguments with detailed evidence. John

made a valuable contribution to his field and his work has been published in prestigious academic journals. He presented papers at conferences at home and abroad and was a member of several European research groups. Locally, he belonged to the Norfolk Archaeological and Historical Research Group (NAHRG) and edited its yearly *Annual*.

John was a skilled model engineer and built working steam locomotives for which he won prizes at exhibitions and International Model Locomotive Efficiency Competitions. He even built models in Uganda with a treadle-powered lathe. He was a member of the Norwich and District Society of Model Engineers for which he was both Treasurer and Chair and spent many summer Sundays hauling trolleys full of happy passengers around the track (for which he had designed and built the points) at Eaton Park in Norwich.

John's strong sense of fairness and the importance of helping others led him into local politics and he was a Liberal Democrat councillor on South Norfolk District Council for 20 years before standing down in 2007. John served as the Cabinet member responsible for Planning and the Environment.

In 2011 John was made an Honorary Alderman in recognition of his services. He was also a school governor and a member of the parish council. John remained throughout an active member and was treasurer of South Norfolk Liberal Democrats.

John was a keen gardener, initially designing and planting a beautiful garden with many different trees and shrubs, a Japanese water garden, orchard and large vegetable plot; and then happily growing interesting vegetables and trying to keep the trees and shrubs in check. Always unassuming, John was quietly pleased when visitors complimented him on the beauty of his oasis.

John loved music and sang tenor with the UEA choir for 40 years, was a reasonably accomplished piano player, and liked Mozart, Bach and Beethoven, among others.

John's was a rich and fulfilling life. He was always busy, right up until he fell ill with cancer just ten months before he died. He had a lively, enquiring mind and accomplished much, and found joy in many things in life. He was a kind

and constant father to me and my brother, a loving loyal husband, and a cheerful grandfather. He is remembered by us and the many who knew him with great affection and respect, and is much missed.

Jo Drake

---

## 1962

*Tim Archer passed away on 14 September 2019. The below is a eulogy given at his Memorial Service at the Church of St Botolph without Bishopsgate, London, on 29 October 2019.*

The only person I know who would be surprised that a memorial service for our friend Tim Archer might generate a full house would have been Tim himself. For Tim self-deprecation was an art form. I think living in Essex for so many years reflected a lack of pretension that appealed to him. Although on occasion he would call it South Cambridgeshire.

His close college friend, Martyn Hurst, who has thus known him for more than 50 years, remembers skiing with him. Tim appeared on the nursery slope lift clad in a loose anorak, cavalry twills, leather boots and yes, wooden skis. Terrified skiers noticed that he didn't do turns, so they retreated to the sides of the piste in an act of self-preservation. He would finish his run in a flourish of snow, skis and poles into the middle of the lift queue or into the restaurant at the foot of the mountain.

As some of you may know, Tim read Geography at Oxford. Perhaps as a result he didn't see himself as an eminent scholar, and he frequently made fun of his degree choice. It didn't help that he was farmed out to a college on the other side of the University, because Merton didn't have a geography tutor.

After final exams Tim went to say goodbye to his distant tutor. The man didn't remember him, which makes him probably the only person Tim ever interacted with who didn't remember him. Tim went on to become a senior partner in a prestigious law firm in London, but he first made an attempt to join



Unilever. He took one of those ghastly psyche evaluations. The next day Tim got a corporate letter suggesting that he might better consider becoming a missionary. So much for Unilever. So much for psyche evaluations.

Two years ago, my wife and I invited Tim and his wife Gill to stay with us at a winter holiday rental in Barbados. As usual, they arrived laden with bottles of wine to share with us. Tim was already in a vulnerable state, with his pulmonary disease advancing. Even so, being close to the sea and a swimming pool he boldly staggered each day to both. One afternoon he passed out. His eyes were closed as we lifted him onto the sofa. For a moment, I thought the rum punch and I had killed him, but he was brave and tough. Our wives, both doctors, got him into an ambulance and he rallied. Immediately he began to profusely thank everyone who had helped him, the doctor, the nurses, the ambulance driver, the medical team, the traffic cop and several passersby. That was so typical of him.

Tim was always mindful of others. When a friend fell on hard times, or had HR issues, it was Tim who provided practical and moral support. Martyn suggests that if you wanted to describe him simply you would say 'He truly was a lovely man'.

In recent years Tim modestly told me that he had played for his school cricket 1st XI at just 14 and was a Junior County player. This explains his enthusiasm for the England fast bowler Jofra Archer who he admits was not a relative. He played scrum half for the College rugby team every year he was at Merton. He was voted President of the JCR in 1964. After he graduated he was his year's representative for alumni news and fundraising and he raised money enthusiastically like the Merton missionary he was.

Many of us at about the same age as Tim now read the obituary page in the newspaper before the sports page. It is axiomatic that old age comes at a bad time. Friends like Tim are also companions, advisers and role models, and thus they are irreplaceable. Fortunately we are now less self-conscious about reflecting on the value of such friendship.

We can say without embarrassment that we loved Tim. His loss to Gill, Caroline, Richard and the rest of the Archer

family is of course paramount and profound. He was so devoted to all of them. I hope there is comfort knowing that Tim will be sorely missed by everyone at the memorial service and by so many friends in the United States as well as England. All of us are united by love for this 'lovely man', this irreplaceable colleague, this very special friend.

**Sir Howard Stringer (1962)**

---



**John Joseph Kirby, Jr** died on 2 October 2019, a little shy of his 80th birthday later that month.

John had been battling myelodysplastic syndrome, a blood cancer, with grace, courage and the loving tireless support of his wife Susan Cullman and children. Despite difficult circumstances he continued to engage with his family, many friends and interests including his beloved Merton. John even somehow managed to attend and speak at the Merton Washington, DC, April 2019 reunion. During the reunion, many months before the outbreak of Covid-19, he was an early adaptor and prescient exemplar of masking and the social distancing which has become so prevalent. Although John was cancer free for almost a year he ultimately succumbed to complications linked to a failure of his immune system.

John Kirby led an extraordinary, almost impossibly kaleidoscopic long life of achievement and service. All of the biographical details likely were not fully appreciated by many people outside his immediate family. Even those who justifiably felt they knew him well often were not completely aware of the complex gem of a human being he was beyond the sparkling facets of his life that they touched. Yet we are more fortunate than those six blind men in the well-known

ancient story who encountered an elephant at a crossroad. In that old parable they were so close that each could only sense the different part of the elephant that they happened to feel. They were unable to comprehend the entire nature of the enormous animal without listening to each other's experiences. Our reflections and shared, poignant and often hilarious stories by John Kirby's classmates and children since his passing afford us a greater appreciation of his rich life. In a sense we are getting to know and see all of John even better at a distance. On a personal note, it is a privilege and heavy responsibility to attempt here to encapsulate on behalf of so many others the highlights of what we all should remember and can celebrate. For me, on top of everything else, more than being my long-time law partner, mentor, friend and fellow Mertonian, John was a big brother I never had. Albeit a warmly respected older brother with whom a frank discussion of each other's imperfections was possible and not rare, and who never quite got out of the habit of acting as if I was the junior law associate I once was long ago.

John was born in Washington, DC, the eldest of five children, to John Sr, a lawyer with the federal government, and Rose, a homemaker. John spent his childhood in Falls Church, Virginia, attending Gonzaga College High School before heading to Fordham University in New York City. He was proud to note that Fordham awarded him a full scholarship including room and board. There he distinguished himself with exceptional academic achievement, notable leadership initiatives including winning election as student government president, and considerable epic hijinks. John graduated in 1961 with scholarship offers from 11 law schools and chose to return home to the University of Virginia. After his first year he was selected as a Rhodes Scholar and spent two years at Merton before returning to Virginia to finish his J.D. Upon graduation John became the youngest law professor in the history of his alma mater since its founding by Thomas Jefferson.

John had a storied legal career including exceptional public service. Working on voting rights issues at the United States Department of Justice in the tumultuous 1960s as a 21-year-old aide to Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Doar, John uncovered and documented insidious discriminatory techniques in so-called literacy aptitude tests that had been used to disenfranchise African Americans. This work helped

form the basis of the historic breakthrough Voting Rights Act of 1965 and earned John commendations from Attorney General Robert F Kennedy. Later, as Special Assistant to then Assistant Attorney General John Doar, he personally escorted African American children into newly desegregated schools, surrounded by federal marshals in circumstances of great physical peril. On one occasion, John asked a small black child he was escorting what desegregation meant to him. John was moved beyond measure when the young boy told him he hoped that at last he would be able to eat a hamburger at the popular Bob's Big Boy fast food chain restaurant just like other children. After leaving Justice, John was called back to serve as Deputy Director of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest created in the aftermath of the infamous killings of four students at Kent State.

In private practice John Kirby soared. His clients ranged from the video game maker Nintendo to Pepsi and America Online. John argued before the United States Supreme Court, served as chairman of the historic Wall Street law firm Mudge, Rose, Guthrie, Alexander & Ferdon, and headed the New York litigation department of Latham & Watkins where this writer first met him. His successful defense of Nintendo in a copy infringement suit concerning Nintendo's Donkey Kong arcade game was, as he noted, a career highlight for his own children as well as video game fans around the world. John represented Nintendo for many years, and the company honored him by naming its popular video game character 'Kirby' (which John was a bit self-conscious about because the pinkish character was rather rotund). Nintendo also gave John a sailboat aptly named the Donkey Kong which he captained with great pleasure on outings with his family in the waters by his homes in Westhampton Beach, New York and later Shippan Point, Connecticut.

In his spare time, John served on the boards of directors of Georgetown University, Fordham University, the Legal Aid Society of New York, the Fund for Modern Courts, and for many years as President of the Merton College Charitable Corporation (MC3). In that role he was a talented administrative leader and friend to all Mertonians. He and his wife Susan made all Mertonians feel welcome and embraced, including those participating at their first event. The Kirby-Cullman Sunday morning brunches at their beautiful triplex

penthouse Park Avenue home during reunions in New York City were always well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. As one of his fellow trustees said, 'They will always be remembered as the genial heart of the organization [MC3].' Upon John's death Acting Warden of the College, Stephen Gunn, described John as a 'loyal friend to the College and to many generations of North American Mertonians'. Gunn ordered the College flag flown at half-staff in his honor. A few days later during her historic installation observations, Merton's 51st Warden Professor Irene Tracey, who had earlier opportunities to get to know the Kirby-Cullmans, embraced and expanded upon these remarks. During John's beautiful memorial program held in Fordham's Rose Hill Campus Duane Library on 15 November 2019, after tributes by leading academics, dignitaries, judges and family, Merton's 50th Warden Sir Martin Taylor offered a warm and heartfelt concluding remembrance on behalf of the College, his wife Lady Taylor and himself.



From left: Nick Allard (1974), John Kirby and Bob McKelvey (1959) at the MC3 AGM in 2015. Photo: David Hamer (1974)

John's passions extended to voracious reading, often of an entire book at one sitting, vigorous travel including hiking expeditions with Susan at the most dramatic and scenic locations around the world, the cultural offerings and best restaurants in the leading cities on the planet, enjoying family and friends at their home in Jamaica's Tryall community, and especially attending performances, sporting events, and sharing milestones of each and all his children and grandchildren.

Thinking of the powerful words of fictional Sergeant Lewis, as he bent over and kissed the forehead of his recently departed boss Inspector Morse, we say: Goodbye John Kirby.

**Nick Allard (1974)**

Bodley Fellow



**Dr Clive Edmund Nockolds** died on 20 November 2018 at Springwood in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales after a battle with dementia, leaving his wife Mary, who he met in Oxford, his daughter Jessica and sons Edmund and Thomas.

Clive came to Merton in 1962 on a scholarship from the University of Western Australia to study for his DPhil in X-ray crystallography at Dorothy Hodgkin's world-renowned unit on South Parks Road. It was during his time there that Hodgkin won the Nobel Prize in 1964 for her work on protein structures. Clive was working on the Vitamin B12 family and it astonishes us these days to think of the effort in analysing layer upon layer of shadowy X-ray plates with only primitive computing resources to build up three-dimensional pictures of these complex molecules.

Together with fellow Merton postgraduate alumni, nuclear physicist the late John Simpson (1962), historian Malcolm Kitch (1959) and chemist me (1959), Clive made up the full-time core of residents at the house in Sunningwell village that we rented for a year or more. The liveliness of this household, to which Clive added his down-to-earth good nature and acerbic wit, was described in the obituary to John Simpson in *Postmaster* 2017. My friendship with Clive was paralleled by our respective wives-to-be sharing a house just off the Iffley Road around the same time. We beat Clive and Mary by a few months to the altar.

Unsurprisingly for an Australian Clive was keen on cricket and played a game or two for the College. He kept a bat in his lab and I had perfected an indoor cricket ball of countless rubber bands stretched ever tighter over some core in an expanding sphere. With somewhat unpredictable movement off the seam shots were not always quite as intended but all was

well until an intended straight drive was caught somewhere in the region of extra cover by an intricate molecular skeletal model made of wire heterocyclic rings fielding on top of a cupboard. With this elaborate conformation of benzene rings, pyridines and pyrroles tumbling to the ground, and protein crystallography set back a year or two, we decided to relocate net practice to the more conventional facilities at the College ground in Mansfield Road, then so conveniently close to our respective labs.



John Simpson (1962) and Clive at Clive's wedding  
Photo: Martin Hawkins (1959)

After completing his DPhil in 1966 and by this time married, Clive returned to Australia. He continued to work on protein crystallography for a few years at the University of Sydney but in 1971 he changed wavelengths and joined the Electron Microscope Unit (EMU), which had recently taken possession of a new scanning electron microscope. He spent the rest of his academic career there before retiring as Acting Director of the unit in 2001.

His colleagues at the EMU paid tribute to Clive at his funeral in late 2018 and published the following obituary in 2019.

#### **Martin Hawkins (1959)**

*The following obituary was first published in the Australian Microscopy & Microanalysis Newsletter, Issue 142, June 2019. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors.*

Dr Clive Edmund Nockolds (15 May 1940 – 20 November 2018) was farewelled by his family and a large number of friends and colleagues at the Leura Memorial Gardens last November.

#### *Julie Cairney writes:*

Clive joined the EMU in September 1971 as the second assistant electron microscopist, bringing the total number of academic staff in the unit to four. Although the number of academics stayed at four for the next 25 years, there were a few changes. Dr Drummond retired in September 1973 and Dr David Cockayne was appointed as the new director in June 1974. Clive was the Acting Director of the Centre in 2000, after David Cockayne moved to Oxford, and before the appointment of Simon Ringer in 2001. He retired later that year, after 30 years of dedicated service.

He was instrumental in setting up societies for X-ray microanalysis both in Australia and internationally. In 1994, the leadership of the Australian Microbeam Analysis Society (AMAS), the Chinese Microbeam Analysis Society, EMAS, JSPS-141 Committee (Microbeam Analysis) and the MAS (Microanalysis Society) agreed to form the International Union of Microbeam Analysis Societies. Clive Nockolds agreed to host the first IUMAS meeting as part of the AMAS/ASEM joint meeting, already planned at the University of Sydney in 1996.

#### *Maret Vesik writes:*

As Clive's colleagues at the University of Sydney Electron Microscopy Unit for some 30 years, we had some great times together, not only professionally but also socially (family picnics, bushwalks, weekend camps and a memorable week on a houseboat with five kids and drenching rain). Together with David Cockayne we enjoyed the numerous challenges in developing the unit's teaching and training programmes as well as concentrating on our own very different research interests. When Clive joined the unit in 1971 I was suddenly involved in finding out how to prepare biological specimens for SEM – critical point drying, freeze drying, coating with gold – and making sure that our fragile specimens did not collapse in the vacuum! What a change from cutting thin sections!



*Guy Cox writes:*

Clive won a Winthrop-Hackett scholarship from the University of Western Australia to study for a DPhil at Oxford University. He was accepted into Dorothy Hodgkin's lab, which was in the academic stratosphere. Dorothy was the first person in the world to establish the structure of a protein, and by this time was already a Nobel prize-winner. She just moved on to more and more difficult proteins. Clive was there, based in Merton College, from 1962 to 1966. It is funny to think that I could easily have met him back then since I was a good friend of Dorothy's youngest son, Tobias (Toby), and was often at the Hodgkin house on Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament business. After gaining his doctorate, Clive returned to Australia, taking with him his new bride Mary. He took up a postdoc position, still in protein crystallography, with Professor Hans Freeman at the University of Sydney. One skill he learned there, which proved very useful in his later career, was programming the primitive mini-computers of the time.

In 1971 Clive joined the Electron Microscope Unit to run its new scanning electron microscope (SEM). This was a major change of direction for him, but it also marked a very major change of direction for the unit. Given Clive's background, it is not surprising that he was interested in the chemical analytical abilities of the SEM, and that first instrument, the JEOL JSM U3, was fully equipped for analysis as well as imaging. The unit had hitherto been exclusively biomedical, but now it was open to a much wider range of users, particularly earth scientists, but also anthropologists and archaeologists. I have had many tributes from users of the unit about how Clive went above and beyond in supporting their research, and I think it is fair to say that he often put that above his own research career.

Clive's interest in analysis led him into helping found AMAS – the Australian Microbeam Analysis Society. This is now part of the Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Society, and holds its biennial meetings in the years between the biennial AMAS meetings. But this was just the beginning: he then became a major player in the setting up of IUMAS, the International Union of Microbeam Analysis Societies, and chaired the first meeting in 1996. This was quite a coup for

Australia given that the other members were the European, American, Japanese and Chinese societies.

Clive was a very hands-on innovator in SEM techniques, and in collaboration with colleagues Ken Moran (and sometimes me) and our technical team of Alan Phillips (mechanical) and Eric Dobson (electronic) made many technical advances. I will just mention one. Specimens for the SEM often need to be coated with metal to make them electrically conductive. Clive realised that chromium gave a much finer-grained (and therefore higher resolution) coating than the metals (gold and silver) then in current use. He designed a magnetron sputter coater to do the job, and eventually Eric and Alan left the unit and set up a company, Microvac, to manufacture it. Unfortunately, they didn't patent it and in due course the big companies muscled in.

When David Cockayne, our second director, left for a chair at Oxford, Clive became Acting Director in 2001. He was looking for retirement, and retired once Simon Ringer became the new director. Clive's 30 years of service marked a crucial stage in the development of our facility. It now is larger than he could have imagined, but he set the stage for what followed.

---

## 1965



**Dr John Frederick Iles:** born on 22 December 1946, died on 8 June 2019.

John came up to Merton in 1965 to read Zoology, graduating with first-class honours in 1968. With an MRC research grant he moved to the Physiology Department for his DPhil on invertebrate nervous systems. He was elected to

a Senior Scholarship at Merton in 1969, then to a Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) at St John's from 1970 to 1973. He was a JRF at Corpus Christi College between 1973 and 1979 during the tenure of an IBM research fellowship and then a Beit Memorial Fellowship. In 1979 he was appointed to a University Lectureship in the Zoology Department and to a tutorial fellowship at St Hugh's where he was to remain until his retirement in 2014.

His research took him from cockroach nervous systems via cats to human beings, and he was particularly interested in the control of muscular movement via both the spinal cord and the brain together with associated reflexes. He tutored not only biologists but also medical students, and lectured in both the Zoology and the Physiology departments.

He made a leading contribution to St Hugh's throughout his time there, holding posts of Senior Tutor, Acting Senior Bursar, Vice-Principal for Development, Vice-Principal and Acting Principal. The college garden was a particular passion and he held the post of Custos Hortulorum for many years, taking the opportunity to plant many trees he had grown from seed. The college orchard has been dedicated to him, and a Catalpa tree has been planted in St Hugh's garden in his memory. He also contributed to the management of the college's wine cellar.

He served as Senior Proctor (1992-93) and played a leading role in the setting up of University ID cards and in shaping the regulations limiting excessive celebrations outside the Examination Schools.

His activities outside his academic life included woodwork (not only furniture but a harpsichord and a clavichord), bee-keeping, music and cooking. He was renowned for his dinner parties. He spent many family holidays in France and Spain but travelled further afield as the years went on, including to Africa (Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe for the wildlife), India, the USA, Japan and New Zealand.

In 1971 he married Susan, a fellow Zoology undergraduate from St Hugh's. They would have been married for 50 years in 2021. He is survived by her, their three children Nicholas Matthew and Sophie, and four grandchildren.

Tragically his retirement was cut short when he was diagnosed as suffering from Lewy body dementia soon after he retired, and he died aged just 72 from complications of that illness.

He was buried in a woodland grave in the Cotswolds, with the funeral service at St Hugh's on 30 June 2019 and there was a University Memorial Service at the University Church in November the same year.

## Susan Iles

---

**Tom Morris-Jones** passed away peacefully at home on 5 April 2018, aged 72, having been suffering from lymphoma.

Tom was born on 17 March 1946, the son of TH Morris of Oswestry, Shropshire, and attended Oswestry Boys' High School. He came up to Merton in 1965 where he read PPE and was also a great sportsman. He captained the College soccer team and played soccer for the University second team. He was also in the College cricket XI.

Tom became a partner in the stockbroking firm of Albert E Sharp in 1976. He married Carol Kennard in 1968; they have two daughters.

## 1967

---

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Colin Michael McGill** in 2017.

Colin was born on 30 September 1948. He went to school at Cheltenham College and then came to Merton in 1967 to study engineering. While at Oxford he gained a Blue in skiing.

After graduating, Colin spent a year in the RAF before joining the stockbroking firm of Fox-Pitt, Kelton in 1971. He became director in 1978. The following year, he married Sally Grob, with whom he had a son and a daughter.

---

## 1968

**James Hughes-Hallett**, who died on 10 October 2019 aged 70, was the first non-family chairman of John Swire & Sons, the Far Eastern trading, transport and real estate group. A man of deep cultural passions, he was also chairman of the Courtauld Institute and the Esmée Fairbairn grant-giving charity.

Hughes-Hallett spent the bulk of his career with the Swire group in Asia and Australia, culminating in his appointment in 1998 as taipan (resident director) in Hong Kong – where he was also chairman of Cathay Pacific, the airline of which Swire is the major owner.

His patience, diplomacy and penetrating intellect saw the group through a series of difficult episodes, including the aftermath of the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the impact of Hong Kong's 2003 SARS epidemic.

Those qualities also won him the trust of the Swire family as the right person to take the chair of their London holding company, John Swire & Sons, when Sir Adrian Swire retired from that role for a second time in 2005.

The Swire corporate model of arm's-length stewardship from London over a vast portfolio of operations around the world continued to prove its resilience under Hughes-Hallett's calming hand.

On his return to England he also joined the trustees of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, one of the UK's largest charitable funds, which had been created in 1961 by his great-uncle, the City financier Ian Fairbairn.

As chairman from 2013, Hughes-Hallett brought a new focus to its distribution of some £40 million a year in support of arts, environmental and social projects, particularly for the benefit of young people.

At the Courtauld Institute of Art, where he was chairman from 2012 to 2017, he presided over a period of expansion and accolades for the school's teaching and research. A generous personal benefactor, he was also a frequent attendee of

Courtauld lectures and seminars, and spoke of 'this physically beautiful place, specialist and eclectic, sometimes eccentric, sometimes iconoclastic and always inspiring'.

James Wyndham John Hughes-Hallett was born on 10 September 1949, the eldest child of Michael Hughes-Hallett and his wife Penelope, née Fairbairn. Michael was the land agent of the Cornbury Park estate in Oxfordshire, and the childhood home of James and his siblings – Lucy, who became an author and journalist, and Thomas (now Sir Thomas) who became a leading figure in medical charities – was a remote estate house in the Wychwood Forest.

A teenaged dandy in velvet jacket and high-heeled green boots, James was also a fearless horseman, riding to hounds and in point-to-points. He was educated at Eton and Merton College, Oxford, where he read English, and went on to qualify as a chartered accountant with the city firm of Dixon, Wilson, Tubbs and Gillett before joining Swires' elite management cadre, known as 'House Staff', in 1976.

Specialising on the shipping side of the business, he served in Taiwan, Japan and Hong Kong before promotion to managing director in Australia in 1989 and director of John Swire & Sons in Hong Kong in 1993.

He retired as chairman in London in 2014, to be succeeded by Sir Adrian's nephew, Barnaby Swire. In later years, he was a non-executive director of HSBC and chairman of Clarkson, the shipping services group. He was also a trustee of Dulwich Picture Gallery, deputy chairman of the Attingham Trust (which runs courses in fine arts and architectural heritage), a founder of the charity Art History in Schools, and a governor of SOAS.

Hughes-Hallett combined a roistering reputation in his expat bachelor days and a lively sense of humour with a profound fascination for Asian cultures and a lifelong appetite for learning. A discerning collector of Chinese and Japanese art, he spent his weekends during a posting to the funless city of Osaka learning from Japanese masters how to make pots, touring remote regions on his motorbike and walking to hilltop monasteries.

When cancer confined him to his London flat in recent months, he set himself to studying classical literature, beginning by comparing two translations of *The Odyssey*. His sister Lucy recalled 'a subtle-minded autodidact who sought out learning for the pleasure it gave him, and ... whose refined aesthetic taste and compendious knowledge brought him joy'.

He was appointed CMG in 2012 and held the Silver Bauhinia Star of Hong Kong. He married first, in 1991, Elizabeth Hall; the marriage was dissolved and he married secondly, in 2016, Katrina Repka, who survives him with two daughters of his first marriage, and a stepdaughter.

*This obituary was first published in The Telegraph on 24 October 2019. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors. © Telegraph Media Group Limited*

---

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of Dr **Paul King** on 20 September 2019. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---

## 1969

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of Rear Admiral **Christopher Stanford** on 10 July 2020. We hope to publish a full obituary in next year's edition. Please send any memories or anecdotes to [publications@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publications@merton.ox.ac.uk).

---

## 1974

**Glyn Davies** died on 12 August 2019.

Glyn arrived at Merton in 1974 in a very well-worn tweed jacket and flannel trousers. Although the individual items changed, these characteristic features of his appearance remained constant over the next three years and contributed to a distinctively old-fashioned and engaging

presence within the College. He had been awarded a Postmastership to read PPE but, in time, found that his intellectual interests were mainly philosophical and in later years he rather wished that he had read Greats. Even so, he valued, in particular, tutorials with JR Lucas, with whom he corresponded intermittently for many years. His preparation for these tutorials was always highly focused with no time wasted on superfluous detail.

Glyn was ever a popular and friendly presence in the College bar, generally available for conversation or a game of cards, chess or darts. His rooms were remarkable environments, in which an apparently disorganised mass of books and papers jostled for space with a microbrewery, boxes of cigars and Disque Bleu cigarettes, refreshments, which always included freshly ground coffee, and a pile of battered LPs. Mozart, Schubert and Beethoven were much the most favoured composers, played on an equally battered portable gramophone.

After Oxford, he, perhaps improbably, qualified as a chartered accountant, specialising in company taxation, and working for a while both in Hong Kong and in the City of London. Subsequently he broadened his business experience, becoming finance director of a company involved with the development of early mobile phone technology. Later still, he turned his hand to a variety of occupations, even acquiring in his late fifties an A-level in physics so that he could offer tutoring in this subject as well as in mathematics. But his work was always a background to his intellectual interests. These included a lifelong interest in astronomy and also Latin, Roman history, Italian, the history of the Venetian Republic and mathematics. He was a strong supporter of the Open University and, through that medium, acquired a BSc to add to his Oxford MA.

His favourite cities (in no particular order) were Oxford, Venice and Hong Kong, and his annual fortnight in Venice will be fondly, if haphazardly, remembered by several of his friends from Merton. In the great controversy of recent times he was unusual among his Mertonian friends in supporting Brexit, which he justified on the basis that untrammelled national sovereignty was more democratic than the institutions of the EU. He never allowed his deeply held convictions on this score to interfere with his private friendships.



In later years, and when his own health had deteriorated, he was a steadfast support to his wife, Nova, who suffers from a serious health condition, and a gentle and supportive father to their children, Eleanor and William.

His friends will remember and miss his convivial presence. He never lost his appetite for intellectual inquiry and he always made light of any difficulties that he was experiencing.

**William Hoskins (1974)**

---

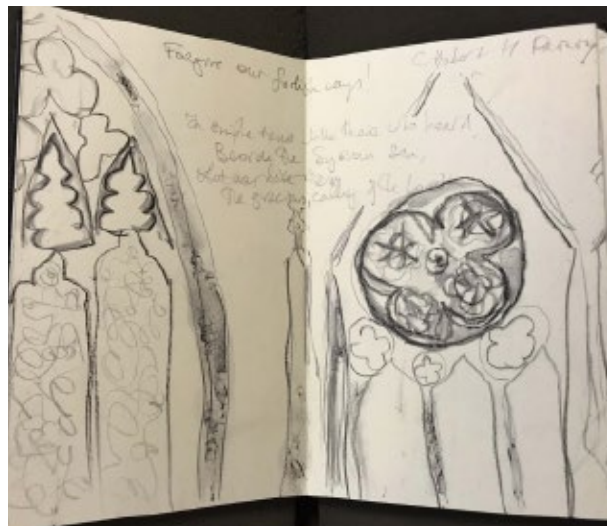
**1981**



**Maria Catherine Rendon** (known as Cathy) died in Guatemala in March 2020 after a short battle with ovarian cancer. She was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan on 13 January 1959. Her father Roberto was a physician from Guatemala and her mother Joanne a teacher and librarian from Michigan of Irish descent. Much of Cathy's childhood was spent in Guatemala with her two younger sisters and brother, where she attended the German school and so was brought up fluent in English, Spanish and German. Always a brilliant linguist, Cathy soon added French and Italian to her sheaf of languages. As a result Cathy was able to live in many countries and yet she never settled permanently in any one of them.

Cathy graduated summa cum laude from Vassar College, New York, in 1981 where she had majored in History and wrote a senior honours thesis on the Latin Americanist Charles Griffin (1902-76) based on his private papers. So when she arrived at Merton in 1981 Cathy was already a committed historian of Latin America, well equipped to undertake further work in that field. Her Moral Tutor at Merton was Dr Roger Highfield who, although primarily a

medievalist, was himself moving into more modern Hispanic studies. Cathy, with characteristic loyalty, maintained her friendship and correspondence with Roger until his death in 2017. In a letter to me Cathy noted that Roger was one of her most regular correspondents and he, in turn, appreciated her 'lively personality' and admired her writing. He once told me how useful he had found her critical assessment of the writing of Carlos Fuentes, the famous Mexican writer who had died in 2012. Cathy was exceptional in her ability to establish friendships across social and status divides.



A sketch Cathy drew of the College at her 2012 Gaudy, in a small sketchbook she donated to the College

While at Oxford Cathy completed her DPhil in 1988 under the supervision of Malcolm Deas, Director of the University's Latin American Centre. Her thesis assessed the career and significance of Manuel Estrada Cabrera who had been the President of Guatemala between 1898 and 1920. In this dissertation Cathy explored the records of the government archives in Guatemala, America and the UK to assess the role of foreign intervention (and investment) in the development of Guatemala as one of the 'banana republics'. She revised the thesis into Spanish and her book was published by Artemis Edinter in Mexico City in 2000 under the title *Minerva y la Palma: El Enigma de Don Manuel Estrada Cabrera*. It is

much cited in the work of other historians and in 2017 the publishers asked her to revise the book for a second edition, but she did not live long enough to complete this.



Crown Prince Hiro and Catherine Rendon on a summer boat trip on the Thames below Oxford in 1985. © Jonathan Madden (1971)

Cathy's academic achievements were, however, only part of her life: she was also a creative writer, a literary critic, a translator, a teacher, an artist (she provided wood and lino engravings for an edition of the poems of Azael Rodriguez published in 1997) and a poet. Cathy found it hard to focus on any one of her talents to the exclusion of the others. She lived and taught in many countries: Istanbul, Costa Rica, Marrakesh, Georgetown, Mexico City, even on a Norwegian sailing ship and in Savannah where she lived for 12 years when married to her husband Paul Work, whom she had met while working in Istanbul. But wherever she was living, Cathy made new friends and maintained old friendships. I have a box of 50 letters and cards from Cathy dating from 2003, and there will have been others that have escaped the box. Some were just postcards and others arrived in elaborately decorated envelopes which left little room for the postage

stamps. In one of her letters Cathy wrote 'friendship is one of the most important things for me' and the way she lived her life made good that claim.

Everywhere she went, Cathy made new friends who would be added to her bulging address book and they, in their turn, would become the recipient of messages, introductions and gifts. She was an immensely generous person: generous with her time, with her possessions, with her concern and with her love. It was in Oxford that she honed her scholarship and formed many lasting friendships, and towards the end of her life she reflected that 'my time in the UK was the best in my life'. Cathy was a life-enhancer and a very important friend to the very many people who knew and loved her. Her living legacy is well expressed in the words of the poet Thomas Campbell (one of the founders of London University) that 'To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die.'

Caroline M. Barron

## 1987

**Emmanuel Q Fernando**, who passed away on 27 November 2018 at the age of 64, was a scholar, academic and lawyer. He is distinguished as the second Filipino to earn a DPhil in the Philosophy of Law, awarded in 1992.

Emmanuel, or Toto, as he was known to his friends, was born on 24 June 1954, the third of five children to former Supreme Court Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando and Attorney Emma Quisumbing-Fernando. Growing up, he was noted for his prodigious mathematical acumen and outstanding athletic skills, representing his alma mater in softball and baseball competitions while setting batting records along the way. While still at university, he also won a silver medal in the javelin event at the *Palarong Pambansa*, the Filipino National Games.

Emmanuel graduated with a BA in Philosophy from the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) in 1975, and an MA from the same institution in 1980. He taught philosophy, mathematics and physics for more than 40 years there, attaining the rank of full professor. He was Chair of the

Department of Philosophy from 2004 to 2005. During his early years as an instructor, he was known for teaching courses in mathematical logic. Later on at UPD, his interests and research shifted towards topics in philosophy of law, social and political philosophy, and ethics. His academic inclinations led him to view the world through the eyes of logical clarity. He taught his students that structured, nuanced and careful reasoning could dissolve both conceptual and practical problems that plague modern society.

He was inspired to follow in the footsteps of his father (who earned his Master of Law as the first Filipino Sterling Fellow at Yale University in 1948) by pursuing his own scholarly ambitions abroad. As a British Council Scholar in 1980-81, he pursued further studies in mathematical logic at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, and then proceeded to enrol as a DPhil student at Merton. He cited John Lucas as a mentor from whom he 'learned immensely regarding general philosophy and thesis writing', and Professor Joseph Raz of whom he wrote he 'owed a tremendous debt of gratitude' as his adviser 'from whom [he] gained whatever skills and expertise [he enjoyed] in the Philosophy of Law'. His dissertation, titled 'A model of adjudication', was successfully defended in 1992. He graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Law in 1994 and passed the Philippine Bar Examinations a year later.

Emmanuel fondly recalled his years at Oxford as some of the happiest of his life. He balanced his time there playing tennis, training in powerlifting, and playing guard for the Merton basketball team. He was a regular tennis doubles partner of the Crown Prince, now Emperor Naruhito of Japan. Prince Hiro and he matriculated the same year. It was the simple pleasures of Oxford that Emmanuel treasured most dearly. He would recount taking morning walks alone by the Bodleian, reading on a quiet bench in the College gardens in the afternoon, and sharing supper with friends at a local pub in the evening. The tranquil charm of the city and the intimate company of like-minded scholars provided him with the perfect environment to satisfy his introspective disposition and intellectual curiosities. He is remembered as a spirited and cordial fellow by his peers.

That Oxford never left his heart was reflected in his substantial contributions to academe and Philippine jurisprudence

throughout his career. As an educator, he fervently championed training students in the analytic tradition of philosophy despite the strong hold that the continental tradition had taken in tertiary institutions throughout the Philippines. As a legal professional, he served as Vice-Chairman of the Department of Jurisprudence and Legal Philosophy of the Philippine Judicial Academy and practised as a partner of the Quisumbing, Fernando & Javellana Law Office. He was also a professorial lecturer at the UP College of Law. As a prolific writer, he contributed several articles to academic journals and had a newspaper column, *Philosophy Matters*. He also published a number of textbooks, including *A Course in Legal Theory, Vol. 1 (Natural Law Theories)* and *Vol. 2 (Legal Positivism)*, *Environmental Ethics and Law*, and *Business Law and Ethics*.

On the morning of his death, Emmanuel set out for his daily jog and decided to rest upon returning home. He fell asleep and never woke up; his passing was quiet and peaceful, much as he had lived most of his life. He passed away in the house in which he grew up, in the room where his parents stayed, on the bed where his father slept. On a table by the bedside were pictures of his childhood. On another were pictures of his family. And on the wall directly behind him hung a portrait of his father.

A few years before his passing, Emmanuel was asked how he would summarise almost 50 years of philosophical study in a single sentence. Instead of characteristically sharing some strictly academic maxim as was expected of him, he quoted a line from *Hamlet*: 'There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.' It was a surprising and rare glimpse of his literary and spiritual sides that were cultivated in his teenage years and always remained. The passage is engraved on his tomb where he lies at rest beside his brother, Enrique Jr.

He is remembered by his family and friends as a loving father, an exemplary son, and a devoted brother and uncle. He is survived by his two children Miren Sofia and Emmanuel Juan Jose, his mother, now 97 years of age, and siblings Estela Anna, Emma Maria and Enrico.

**Enrique Benjamin R Fernando III**

*Eckhart Tolle, Emmanuel's friend at Cambridge, shared some of his memories with Postmaster.*

Despite the 40 or so years that have since passed, I have fond and vivid memories of the times Toto and I spent together when we were both pursuing postgraduate studies at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

Our shared interest in spirituality and meditation led to many stimulating conversations on the nature of consciousness, Buddhism, Advaita Vedanta as well as the teachings of Jesus. I enjoyed listening to his accounts of various aspects of life in the Philippines and I answered, as best I could, some of his questions concerning life in England and Cambridge in particular. As his first English winter approached, he came to my room one day to show me a scarf he had just acquired. 'What's the best way of wearing a scarf?' he asked. I was happy to advise him on the matter, and then urged him to also get a pair of gloves!

It was always a pleasure to be in the company of such a good-natured, compassionate as well as erudite and keenly intelligent human being. I am thankful for having known him.

Dear Toto, rest in peace.

## 1988



Jason with his family in 2015

**Jason George Grinham Victory:** born 16 May 1964, died 15 May 2020.

Jason came to Merton in 1988 as a Senior Scholar to do clinical medicine after completing his BA and DPhil at Keble. Jason's DPhil was on 'Ion channels and the myocardium: interactions between general anaesthetics and calcium channel blockers'.

After qualifying he trained in cardiology in Bristol before switching to general practice in 1997. Jason married Jackie in 1998. ('Jackie's a cardiac nurse,' he told me with typical Jason humour. 'Our eyes met over a lifeless body we were resuscitating.') Jason had no close family so, during his time at Merton when other students went home to their families, he went to do maintenance on his late mother's house in Devon which he was managing as a holiday let. So marrying Jackie was the start of a much happier time in his life.





MCR trip to the Peak District, spring 1991. From left: Jason Victory, Dave Harvey (then boyfriend, now husband of Alison Rich [1989]), Irene Tracey (1985), Bernard Hogan-Howe (1988) and Mark Newman (1985)

After Jason's vocational GP training year, Jason and Jackie took time out to travel for nine months, visiting Vietnam, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Peru. Trekking in the Andes, Patagonia and several national parks of New Zealand were a particular highlight. Jason returned to Bristol, before joining Bradgate Surgery in Bristol as a GP partner in 2002.

During his 12 years as a GP, Jason was one of three specialist cardiac doctors to set up and lead an award-winning, multidisciplinary community heart failure service in North Bristol. Jason's switch from cardiology to general practice was a decision he made 'to be around more' for his growing family. Jason and Jackie have three daughters: Jemima (17), Poppy (15) and Florence (13). Jason was a great father who inspired gentleness, fun and hard work. His love of literature, music, walking, *Marvel* and *Star Wars* films live on in the Victory family! In Bristol Jason became a committed Christian and active member of Horfield Parish Church.

In 2014, at the age of 49, Jason was diagnosed with metastatic small bowel carcinoma. He took medical retirement from his job. The cancer responded to chemotherapy and Jason threw himself into researching dietary and lifestyle ways to improve his prognosis. Jason chose to eat a vegan diet, inspiring his two elder daughters to follow suit, and he became a great cook. He took up Nordic walking and in

2016 completed a coast-to-coast walk, raising money for The Harbour, a Bristol counselling service for people with life-limiting illness and their families. Jason walked the West Highland Way in 2017 with his daughters, having just received the news the cancer was advancing again.

In November 2019 Jason became paraplegic but he remained positive and full of hope. His faith, family and friends kept him going, enjoying home-cooked vegan food, watching films, following current affairs, and playing chess with Florence. Jason lived with the cancer for six years and five months, his strength and bravery were colossal, particularly in the last two years.

Jason's kindness and sense of fun made him wonderful company. Bernard Hogan-Howe remembers 'a good friend who was funny, kind, loyal and courageous. He always tried to do the right thing and was honourable in a world that often is not.' To his GP colleagues he was 'a very caring doctor who put others before himself'.

Lucy Binney (née Buckingham, 1985) and Jackie Victory

## 1991



**Mikko Kaasalainen**, Professor of Mathematics at Tampere University, Finland, died on 12 April 2020 at the age of 55 after a long battle with cancer.

Mikko was fascinated by astronomy from childhood, and was given his first telescope at the age of six. As an undergraduate reading theoretical physics at the University of Helsinki, Mikko naturally gravitated to the Helsinki Observatory. His master's thesis established a new methodology for reconstructing the shape of asteroids based on their

observed brightness. Mikko came to Oxford for his DPhil studies in theoretical physics with Professor James Binney. At Merton, Mikko continued his work on shape reconstruction, completing his thesis, 'On the construction of invariant tori and integrable Hamiltonians', in 1994.

After postdoctoral posts in Denmark and France, Mikko returned to the Helsinki Observatory, and thereafter led major research projects in inverse mathematics. Mikko played an important part in establishing the Finnish Centre of Excellence of Inverse Modelling and Imaging in 2006. As vice-director, he helped develop Finland into a world leader in inverse mathematics. These were also personally very happy and fulfilling years: in 2000, he married Sanna (now Director of the Department of Navigation and Positioning at the Finnish Geospatial Research Institute, National Land Survey of Finland). Their son Otto was born in 2005, completing the family. Mikko took up his professorship at the Tampere University of Technology (now part of Tampere University) in 2009, where he was a caring and inspiring colleague.

The techniques that Mikko developed in his MSc and DPhil theses have been fundamental in reconstructing the shape of thousands of asteroids. Asteroids remained a key focus of his subsequent research, with major outputs including his paper in *Nature* ('Acceleration of the rotation of asteroid 1867 Apollo by radiation torques', *Nature* 446 (2007), 420–2). However, asteroids were only one focus: Mikko's academic work was characterised by his commitment to applying mathematics in multidisciplinary contexts. Inverse mathematics applies mathematics to better theorise and interpret indirect measurements. Its many applications include fields such as medical imaging and environmental and climate research, as well as geophysics and space research. In particular, Mikko worked with his wife, Professor Sanna Kaasalainen, and other colleagues to develop new forest measurement technologies. This led to a laser scanning method that allows the creation of much more detailed models of trees growing in a forest, which will help improve the accuracy of global forest biomass estimates in years to come. Internationally, Mikko contributed to the European Space Agency's Rosetta project, and was a member of the International Astronomical Union. In 1999 an asteroid was named in his honour, 16007 Kaasalainen.

Mikko hugely enjoyed his time at Merton: his many happy memories of Oxford included punting trips with friends and living in Holywell Street. Mikko's wide interests included history, literature and music, particularly that of JS Bach. He had an enormous enjoyment of life (with a special place for a good gin and tonic). Sanna and Otto were the centre of his life. Mikko described his own life as fortunate and happy, and particularly fortunate in always realising his happiness. His family, friends and colleagues miss him deeply.

*This obituary draws upon one written by Mikko's close colleagues at the University of Tampere, used with their kind permission.*

**Elina Screen**



## Alumni Events 2020-21

Further details of all events are available from the Development Office ([development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)). We add events to the schedule throughout the year and regularly update the Merton website with information as it becomes available: [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/events)

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are unlikely to hold in-person events until at least 2021. Details of any online events organised in 2020 will be sent out by email. If you are not receiving emails from the College, please get in touch with the Development Office to update your contact information.

We have outlined a provisional events schedule for 2021. Please note that these dates are amendable and subject to change due to government and University regulations.



## 2021: Provisional Schedule of Events

### January

- 9 Merton 2020 Celebrations (40 Years of Merton Women): First Decade Alumnae Lunch  
Location: Merton

### February

- TBC Merton in the City  
Location: London

### March

- 20 Gaudy for the years 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 & 1991  
Merton Society Council Meeting  
Year Representatives' Meeting  
Location: Merton
- 26-28 Passiontide 2021  
Location: Chapel

### April

- TBC MC3 and University North America Reunion  
Location: TBC

### May

- 9 Town & Gown 10k  
Location: Oxford & Merton College
- 15 Merton 2020 Celebrations (40 Years of Merton Women): Study Day and Garden Reception  
Location: Merton
- TBC Merton Society London Lecture  
Location: TBC
- 29 Boat Club Summer Eights Dinner  
Location: Merton

### June

- 26-27 Merton Society Weekend (details TBC)  
Location: Merton





MERTON  
COLLEGE  
OXFORD