

# BIRTHDAY WEEKEND



12 - 14 SEPTEMBER 2014



750  
YEARS

SUSTAINING  
EXCELLENCE



MERTON  
COLLEGE  
OXFORD



## WORD FROM THE WARDEN



After years of planning, we are incredibly proud to open Merton's doors to Mertonians and their guests to give them the opportunity to participate in and enjoy the intellectual activity for which the College is renowned.

The 750th Birthday weekend is filled with talks and workshops across all academic fields, as well as with exhibitions and tours. You will be able to glimpse aspects of the College that are not usually on display.

I sincerely hope that you will very much enjoy the elements of the Birthday Weekend which you have chosen to attend and that the weekend will be a unique memory for you in this landmark year in the history of Merton College.

Sir Martin Taylor FRS

## BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

12 - 14 SEPTEMBER



4 - Weekend Timetable

6 - Map

8 - Friday 12 September

*Welcome Dinner and Concert in the Chapel*

10 - Saturday 13 September

*Daytime lectures; the Foundation Service; and the 750th Birthday Party and Dinner*

14 - Sunday 14 September

*Daytime lectures and the Family Garden Party*

18 - Other weekend activities

20 - Important Information

*For all visitors and for Mertonians staying in College accommodation over the weekend*

22 - Forthcoming events





# WEEKEND TIMETABLE

## FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

6pm	
	6.15-7pm PRE DINNER DRINKS, CHESTNUT LAWN MARQUEE
7pm	
8pm	7.15-9.15pm DINNER IN HALL
9pm	
10pm	9.30-10.20pm CONCERT IN CHAPEL

## SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER - DAYTIME

8am		
9am	8-10.15am REGISTRATION, ANTE-CHAPEL	8.30-9.30am BREAKFAST IN HALL (for those who are staying in College)
10am	10.15-11.15am SATURDAY AM LECTURES	
11am		
12 midday	11.45am-12.45pm SATURDAY AM LECTURES	
1pm		12 noon-2pm LUNCH, FELLOWS' GARDEN MARQUEE
2pm		2-2.25pm ORGAN RECITAL
3pm	2.30-3.30pm SATURDAY PM LECTURES	
4pm	3.45-4.45pm SATURDAY PM LECTURES	
5pm		
6pm	5.45-7pm FOUNDATION SERVICE with Lord Harries of Pentregarth (seating from 5.15pm)	

## SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER - EVENING

7pm	7-8pm <b>BIRTHDAY PARTY*</b> : PRE DINNER DRINKS, CHESTNUT LAWN MARQUEE	
8pm		
9pm	8-10.30pm <b>BIRTHDAY PARTY*</b> : DINNER, FELLOWS' GARDEN MARQUEE	9.30pm <b>BIRTHDAY PARTY*</b> : DRINKS FOR NON-DINERS, CHESTNUT LAWN MARQUEE
10pm		
11pm		
Midnight	10.30pm-1am <b>BIRTHDAY PARTY*</b> : DANCING AND FIREWORKS (at 10.30pm)	

\* BIRTHDAY PARTY NOT INCLUDED WITH SATURDAY DAYTIME TICKET

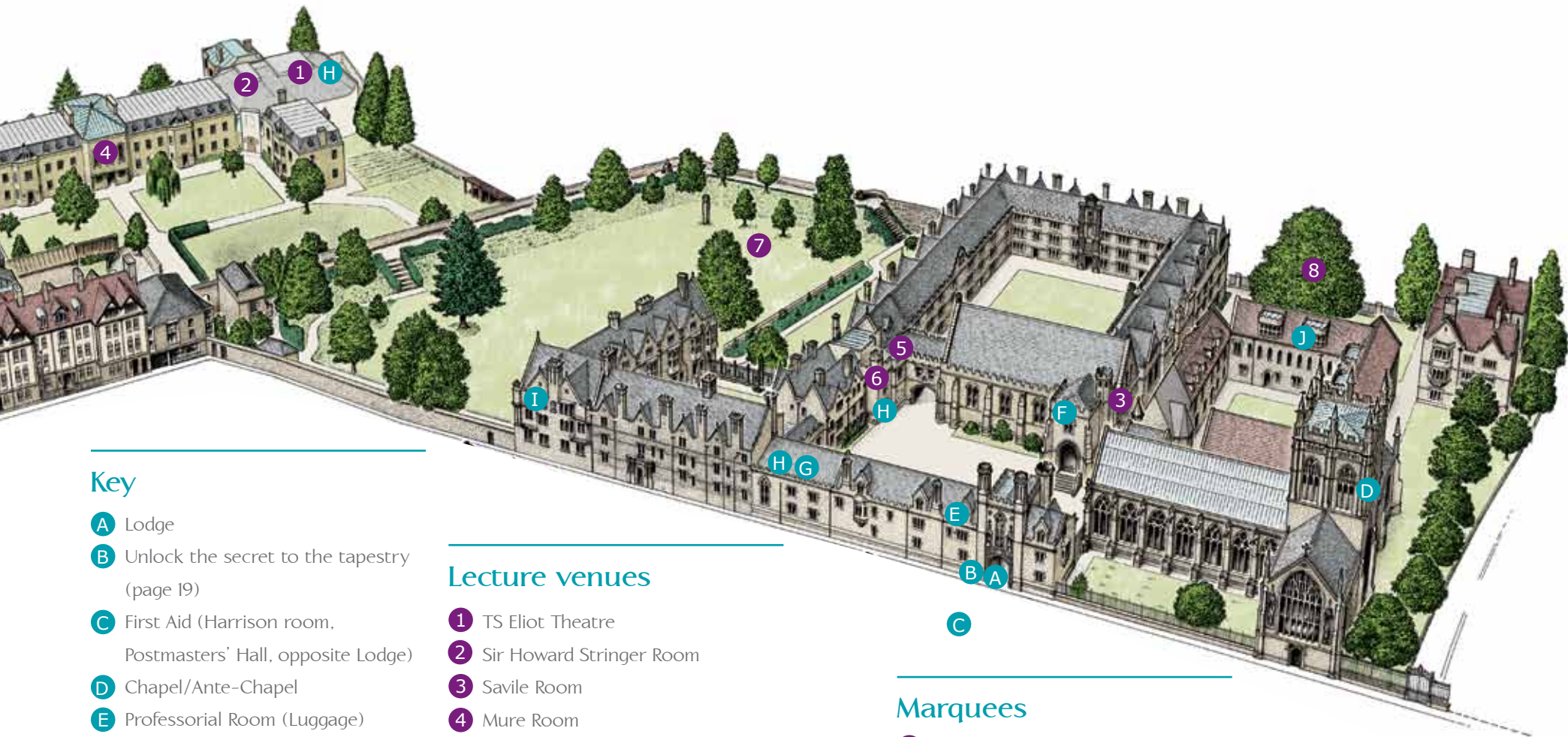
## SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

8am		8-9.30am BREAKFAST IN HALL (for those who are staying in College)	
9am	8.30-9.45am REGISTRATION, TS ELIOT THEATRE		9.15-9.45am MERTON SOCIETY AGM, TS ELIOT THEATRE
10am		9.30-11am <b>FAMILY BREAKFAST IN HALL*</b>	
11am	10.15-11.15am SUNDAY AM LECTURES		10-11.30am SUNG EUCHARIST (seating from 9.45am)
12 midday	11.45am-12.45pm SUNDAY AM LECTURES		
1pm	12.45-2.15pm BUFFET LUNCH IN HALL		
2pm	2.30-3pm ORGAN RECITAL		
3pm		2.30-5pm <b>AFTERNOON FAMILY GARDEN PARTY*</b> for Mertonians and their families	
4pm			

\* FAMILY EVENTS NOT INCLUDED WITH SUNDAY DAYTIME TICKET



# MAP OF MERTON



## Key

- A Lodge
- B Unlock the secret to the tapestry (page 19)
- C First Aid (Harrison room, Postmasters' Hall, opposite Lodge)
- D Chapel/Ante-Chapel
- E Professorial Room (Luggage)
- F Hall
- G Bar
- H Toilets
- I Merton@750 project room in the JCR (page 18)
- J Upper Library and exhibition

## Lecture venues

- 1 TS Eliot Theatre
- 2 Sir Howard Stringer Room
- 3 Savile Room
- 4 Mure Room
- 5 Breakfast Room
- 6 Fitzjames I

## Marquees

- 7 Fellows' Lawn  
*Saturday Lunch, Birthday Party  
Dinner, Garden Party refreshments*
- 8 Chestnut Lawn  
*Pre-dinner drink receptions on  
Friday & Saturday*



# FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

## Welcome and registration

Welcome packs for those staying overnight in College will be available for collection from the Lodge.

## Pre-dinner drinks reception

The pre-dinner drinks reception will be held in the marquee on the Chestnut Lawn between 6.15-7pm.

## Dinner

On Friday night, Dinner will be held in Hall, between 7.15-9.15pm. A table plan will be available and on display.

## Menu

*Shellfish Bisque*

*Butternut & Almond Bisque with Sage and Parmesan (v)*

*Venison with Pears, Chestnuts and Sarawak Pepper Sauce*

*Open Seaweed Vol au Vent with Abalone, Paris Mushrooms and Vegetables (v)*

*Passionfruit Meringue Tart*

*Coffee and chocolate*

### Wine

*Reuilly 'La Raie', Domaine Claude Lafond, 2012*

*Château Patache d'Aux, Medoc, 2009*



Photo by John Cairns



Photo by John Cairns



## After dinner

The Concert in the Chapel commences at 9.30pm. Music, from *The Merton Choirbook* and Fauré's *Requiem*, will be performed by the Choir of Merton College.

The College Bar will be open until 11pm (last orders 10.30pm).







# SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

## Welcome and registration

Registration will take place in the Ante-Chapel between 8-10.15am. For latecomers, registration will be in the Lodge after 10.15am.

## Refreshments

Refreshments will be available between 8.30-10.30am in the TS Eliot Theatre foyer; and between 10.30am-5pm in the Hall.

## Meals

Breakfast for those staying overnight will be served between 8.30-9.30am in Hall.

Lunch will be served in the marquee in Fellows' Garden between 12 noon-2pm.

## Foundation Service

The Foundation Service commences at 5.45pm and will finish at 7pm. It is recommended you take your seats from 5.15pm.

The music at the Foundation Service will include the first performances of Jonathan Dove's *Te Deum* and Robert Saxton's *Vexilla Regis*, both commissioned as part of *The Merton Choirbook*.

## Lecture Tickets

If you have changed your mind and would like to attend one or more lectures, limited tickets are still available for most. To pick up one of these remaining tickets please see a member of staff located at the tickets table in the Registration area.



10.15 – 11.15AM	ROOM
Artur Ekert - <i>The Ultimate Physical Limits of Privacy</i>	TS Eliot Lecture Theatre
Adam Hart-Davis - <i>Heroes Welcome</i>	Savile Room
Mark Haddon and John Mitchinson - <i>Getting it down right</i>	Mure Room
Pippa Shirley - <i>From ox-eyes to caudle cups – Merton's silver explained!</i> Two sessions: 10.15 and 10.45am	Breakfast Room
College Architectural tour	Fitzjames I
11.45AM – 12.45PM	ROOM
Richard McCabe - <i>Shakespeare's Fall Guys</i>	TS Eliot Lecture Theatre
Sir Howard Stringer - <i>The Challenges of a Global Media Career in the 20th and 21st Centuries</i>	Savile Room
Daniel Grimley talks to Jonathan Dove and Robert Saxton - <i>Merton Resounding: New Sounds for Merton College Choir</i>	Fitzjames I
Janina Dill - <i>The Twenty-first Century Belligerent's Trilemma</i>	Sir Howard Stringer Room
College Garden tour	Leaving from Lodge
2 – 3PM	ROOM
Ashmolean Tour (arrive at 1.45pm)	Check in at the Ashmolean Information Desk
2.30 – 3.30PM	ROOM
Tim Guilford - <i>Mysteries of bird navigation</i>	TS Eliot Lecture Theatre
Emily Guerry - <i>Medieval kings and forgotten paintings: Recent discoveries at Westminster Abbey and the Sainte-Chapelle</i>	Savile Room
Kathy Willis - <i>Where can we damage? Biodiversity conservation and challenges for the future</i>	Mure Room
Cressida Ryan - <i>How is Merton tackling the issue of access to elite universities?</i>	Sir Howard Stringer Room
Library Open House	Upper Library
3.45 – 4.45PM	ROOM
Sir Andrew Wiles - <i>The story of equations</i>	TS Eliot Lecture Theatre
Julie Summers - <i>Everest Needs You, Mr Irvine</i>	Savile Room
Pippa Shirley - <i>From ox-eyes to caudle cups – Merton's silver explained!</i> Two sessions: 3.45 and 4.15pm	Breakfast Room
Cressida Ryan - <i>How is Merton tackling the issue of access to elite universities?</i>	Sir Howard Stringer Room
Kieran Clarke - <i>A novel metabolic state: How a dietary ketone ester improves performance</i>	Mure Room
Library Open House	Upper Library



# SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

## Drinks Receptions

Saturday night's drinks receptions will both be held in the marquee on Chestnut Lawn.

Pre-dinner drinks will be held between 7-8pm. The reception for non-diners will be between 9.30-10.30pm.

## Birthday Party Dinner

The Birthday Party Dinner will be served in the marquee in Fellows' Garden. A table plan is available and will be on display.

## Menu

*Smoked Salmon, Beetroot and Vodka Crème Fraîche*  
*Goat's Cheese Bruschetta with Chargrilled Pepper Salad (v)*

*Breast of Guinea Fowl with Thyme and Roasted Garlic Jus*  
*Served with: Rosemary Layered Potatoes, Leeks, Soya Beans, Peas and Butternut Squash Purée*  
*Roasted Aubergine Stuffed with Moroccan Spiced Tagine (v)*

*Summer Pudding and Cream*

*Coffee and Mints*

### Wine

*Chablis, Alain Bretin, 2002*  
*Tyrrell's Old Winery Pinot Noir, 2001*



Photo by John Cairns



Photo by Des Dubber



Photo by Des Dubber



Merton's 750th Anniversary Ball, photo by Des Dubber

## Birthday Party

After dinner, the fun continues!

To mark Merton's 750th Anniversary there will be a firework display at 10.30pm. The Fellows' Garden is recommended for prime viewing of the spectacular display.

Dancing in the marquee on Fellows' Lawn will follow the fireworks, with music performed live by Soul Beat. A disco will close the evening. For those wishing a quieter room, the College Bar will be open.

Alcoholic and soft drinks will be served in both the marquee and the College Bar throughout the evening. Time will be called at 12.30am when final drinks can be ordered. Bars and the disco will close at 1am.





# SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

## Welcome and registration

Registration will take place in the foyer of the TS Eliot Theatre between 8.30-9.45am. For latecomers, registration will be in the Lodge after 9.45am.

## Refreshments

On Sunday refreshments will be served in the foyer of the TS Eliot Theatre throughout the morning.

## Meals in Hall

Breakfast for those staying overnight will be served 8-9.30am. The Family Breakfast will served between 9.30-11am. Lunch will be served from 12.45-2.15pm.

## Merton Society AGM

The Merton Society will meet at 9.15am in the TS Eliot Theatre for the AGM. As always, all Mertonians are welcome to attend with their guests, though only Mertonians may vote.

## Sung Eucharist

Eucharist is at 10am (seating from 9.45am) at which the College Choir will sing Mozart's *Coronation Mass* (with orchestra).

## Lecture Tickets

If you have changed your mind and would like to attend one or more lectures, limited tickets are still available for most. To pick up one of these remaining tickets please see a member of staff located at the tickets table in the Registration area.



10 – 11.30AM	ROOM
Sung Eucharist (seating from 9.45am)	Chapel
10.15 – 11.15AM	ROOM
Simon Draper - <i>Towards the development of a Malaria vaccine</i>	TS Eliot Lecture Theatre
Robert McLaren - <i>Developing new treatments for blindness using gene therapy, stem cells and the bionic eye</i>	Sir Howard Stringer Room
Julia Amos - <i>Narratives of peace and conflict: Reconceptualising widespread communal violence</i>	Fitzjames I
Alan Giles and Michael Jary - <i>Consuming Passions</i>	Savile Room
Library open house	Upper Library
11.45AM – 12.45PM	ROOM
Science Workshop with Neil Downie	Mure Room
Kinda Al-Hourani - <i>Adventures in Antiviral Defences</i>	Sir Howard Stringer Room
Jason Allen - <i>The Theatre of Derek Walcott and Aimé Césaire and the Forging of a Caribbean Modernism</i>	Fitzjames I
Alan Barr and Alexander Karlberg - <i>A Universe of Particles</i>	TS Eliot Lecture Theatre
Botanic garden tour	Leaving from the Botanic Garden Ticket Office
Cayenna Ponchione - <i>Off the conductor's podium: tracking the creative process in orchestral performance</i>	Savile Room
Library open house	Upper Library

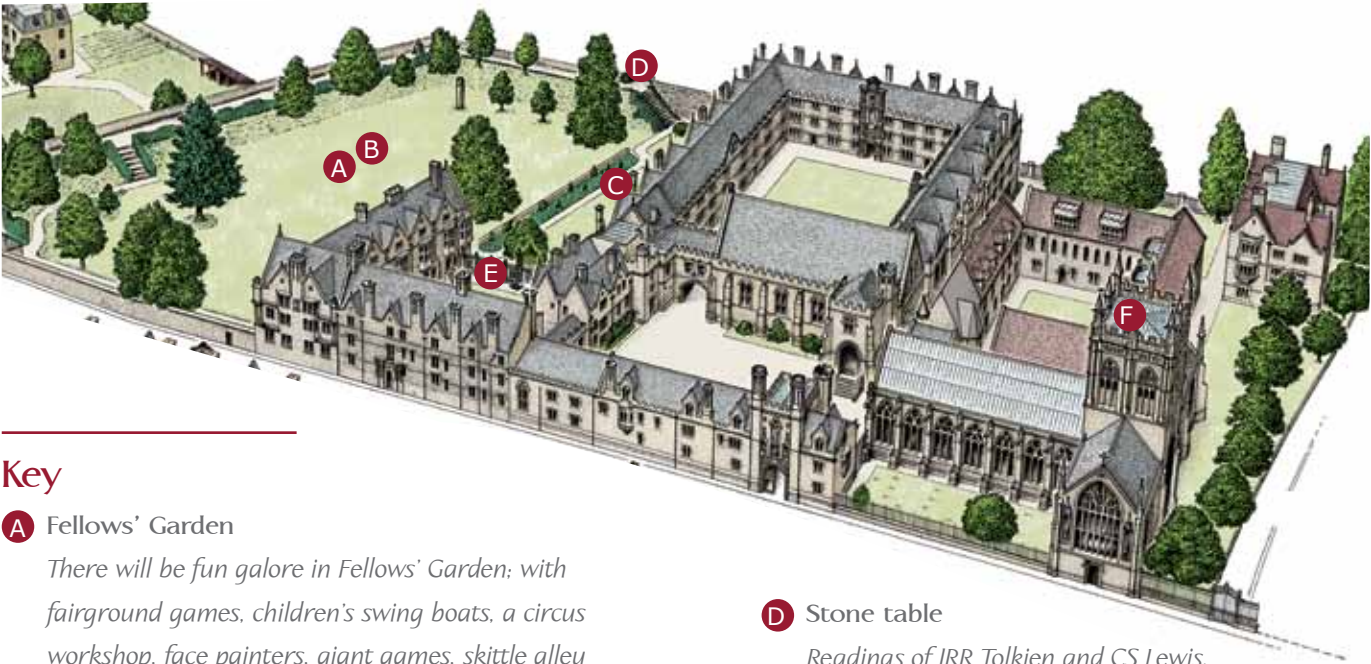




# FAMILY GARDEN PARTY

2.30-5pm, Merton Gardens

Timings will be on display on the day.



## Key

- A** Fellows' Garden  
*There will be fun galore in Fellows' Garden; with fairground games, children's swing boats, a circus workshop, face painters, giant games, skittle alley and music from the 'Society Jazz'. There will also be a treasure hunt - with two Tolkien trails aimed at under 7s and those children aged 7 and over. Find the yellow banner to collect your questions and start the trail. Parents welcome!*
- B** Marquee on Fellows' Lawn  
*Refreshments.*
- C** Sundial Lawn  
*Aerial and static falconry, ferret racing, nursery rhyme games for younger children.*

- D** Stone table  
*Readings of JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis.*
- E** St Alban's Quad  
*University of Oxford's Morris Dancers.*
- F** Chapel Tower  
*The Tower will be open for visits at 3 and 4pm. Visitors should be aged 13 years and above. If you are intending to climb the Tower we ask that you are in good health, that you do not suffer from claustrophobia and that you wear flat shoes. In the case of inclement weather, the Tower will be closed.*





# OTHER WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Whilst in College for the Birthday Weekend, why not make one or more of these Merton themed activities a feature of your visit?



Volunteers hard at work digitising participants' old photos, letters and memorabilia. Photo courtesy of RunCoCo

## Merton@750: An Anniversary Collection

Share your stories at the Birthday Weekend

Do you have a Merton story to tell, or a photograph or an object to share?

Merton's @750 Project Officer, Catherine Farfan de los Godos , and her band of volunteers will be in the Junior Common Room at the Birthday Weekend all day on Saturday and Sunday to talk to about your memories of Merton. They will be pleased to digitise them and add your photographs and any other memorabilia to the College's online Anniversary Collection.

To explore the Anniversary Collection online, or to make a contribution, go to [share.merton.ox.ac.uk](http://share.merton.ox.ac.uk).



Photo by Colin Dunn



## Exhibition at the Bodleian Uncommon Interests: Mertonian Treasures in the Bodleian

9 September - 2 November, in the Proscholium  
Saturday 9am-4.30pm, Sunday 11am-5pm

The links between Merton College and the Bodleian date from the Library's re-foundation in 1602 by former Merton Fellow, Sir Thomas Bodley, with the support of his friend and Warden of Merton, Sir Henry Savile. Over the succeeding centuries, the Bodleian has come to preserve many other books, manuscripts, and papers connected with Merton and with Mertonians. The College's 750th anniversary provides an occasion to enjoy fascinating items that might not otherwise be displayed together.

## COMPETITION: Calling all codebreakers!

'Illumination', pictured left and currently on display in the Porters' Lodge, is the work of Wisconsin textile artist, Terese Agnew, and was commissioned by David Harvey (1957) for the College's 750th year. Inspired by decorative borders in illuminated manuscripts, the centre of the tapestry appears to be blank, however, up close, a series of carefully embroidered dashes conceal a hidden message. **Mertonians successful in deciphering this code should email [leah.mclaren@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:leah.mclaren@merton.ox.ac.uk) with the solution before Friday 14 November.** The winner will be hand drawn from all correct entries and will win two tickets to the 750th Anniversary and Campaign Dinner in London (see page 23). If the dinner cannot be attended by the winner, an alternative prize will be offered.





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We would request that you take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the information below for your safety and enjoyment.

## Accommodation

Guests can gain access to their room from 3pm on the day of their stay and **must vacate their room by 10am on the day of their departure.**

## Luggage

Guests arriving before 3pm or staying in College when they have vacated their room may leave their luggage at their own risk in the Professorial room in Front Quad.

## Toilets and Cloakroom facilities

There are toilets situated in the marquee on Fellows’ Lawn and signposted in Front Quad. Toilets are also located in the College Bar, the TS Eliot Theatre and on the ground floor of Fitzjames staircase.

Coats may be left in the TS Eliot Theatre during the daytime on Saturday - the cloakroom will then be moved to the Professorial Room (Front Quad). Lost property should be taken to the Lodge.

## Special dietary requirements

Every effort has been made to ensure all special dietary needs and allergy information has been recorded. They are clearly marked on the table plans which are on display at the entrance of the Hall (Friday) and the marquee (Saturday). If, however, your needs do not appear, please let a member of staff know.



Photo by John Cairns



Photo by John Cairns



Photo by John Cairns



## Smoking Policy

Smoking is not allowed in enclosed areas, including indoors, archways and marquees. Smoking is allowed outside. We advise smokers to be considerate of all guests and dispose of used cigarettes in the ashtrays provided.

## Safety and Security

So that you may enjoy the weekend without disruption there are members of staff around the College to ensure your safety and security. If you are in need of any assistance, guests can identify members of staff as those wearing purple sashes.

## Fire Safety

In the event of an emergency, guests will be directed to the appropriate exit by members of staff. Please do not delay your exit by trying to collect belongings or locate friends and family. Do not gather at the exits, move through quickly to allow others to pass.

## Medical Information

We offer a first aid facility for all guests. Red Cross nurses will be on hand to address any medical problems that may arise during Saturday evening and throughout Sunday. Medically trained College staff will be available during other times over the weekend.

## Professional Photography

A professional photographer will be taking photographs throughout the weekend. Select photographs will be used in College publications and a small number may be found online.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### Merton Conversation: Liberty

7 October – BAFTA, London

In the heart of London, at the prestigious BAFTA headquarters, two of Britain’s top legal minds, the Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson (1967), Lord Justice of Appeal and Head of the Leveson Inquiry, and Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, will come together for an evening of exciting and lively debate, moderated by Philippa Whipple QC (1984) on the subject of liberty. A reception with canapés will follow the main event.



### Music at Merton

#### Organ Recitals

To celebrate the installation of the stunning new Dobson Organ in the College Chapel (pictured bottom left), Merton is hosting a series of distinguished organists over the course of the Anniversary year. Two organ recitals are yet to come: Organist of Magdalen College, Daniel Hyde, will perform on Saturday 11 October at 4pm and the prize-winning Sub-Organist of Christ Church, Clive Driskill-Smith will perform on Saturday 15 November.



#### A World Première

By the end of 2014, *The Merton Choirbook* will include 50 new commissions from many of today’s leading composers. On Saturday 22 November, perhaps the most significant commission receives its première – a new choral work by Harrison Birtwistle, composed to a text by Geoffrey Hill.



Photo by Colin Dunn

BOOK ONLINE – [WWW.MERTON.OX.AC.UK/750](http://WWW.MERTON.OX.AC.UK/750)

### Merton Conversation: The Real Science Behind CSI

11 November – The Royal Institution, London

In our final Merton Conversation of the year, science and its real-life applications and implications for crime-fighting are brought into the spotlight. Mertonians Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys (1968), who developed techniques for DNA fingerprinting, and Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (1988), Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, will meet to discuss ‘The Real Science Behind CSI’ in the famous Faraday Theatre. The Conversation will be moderated by best-selling crime thriller author, Michael Ridpath (1979).



### Final 750th Anniversary and Campaign Dinner

5 December – The Middle Temple Hall, London

As the Anniversary year draws to a close, we aim to bring together Mertonians and their guests for a final 750th Celebratory Dinner, which will look back at the achievements of the 750th Anniversary Campaign, *Sustaining Excellence*, and forward to Merton’s plans for the future, with speeches from guest speaker Bill Bryson OBE FRS, the Warden and Merton Society President, The Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson (1967), as well as Campaign Co-Chairman, Charles Manby (1976) We shall dine in the beautiful historic setting of Middle Temple Hall, with its unusual 16th-century oak double-hammerbeam roof.



BOOK ONLINE – [WWW.MERTON.OX.AC.UK/750](http://WWW.MERTON.OX.AC.UK/750)

