



MERTON MATHS STUDENT UNRAVELS THE MYSTERY OF THE MERTON TAPESTRY

At last, the mystery of the tapestry that hangs in the Porters' Lodge has been solved. Alice Miller (2012), a current Merton undergraduate studying Mathematics and Philosophy, has managed to unravel the threads of the code woven into Terese Agnew's original artwork *Illumination*, revealing a quote

from the Mertonian mathematician Professor Sir Andrew Wiles.

While it was clear that the dots and dashes contained within the tapestry's colourful medieval-esque border were Morse Code, the code went deeper than one layer, so Terese and the tapestry's commissioner, David Harvey

(1957) kindly provided a series of clues to grease the wheels.

We were delighted to receive an email weeks later with the simple subject header 'Tapestry code' and the correct translation. Alice Miller had cracked it! 🍷

[FIND OUT HOW ALICE DID IT](#)



COLLEGE NEWS:
MERTON@750: A GLIMPSE
INTO THE PAST

[Page 2](#)



OLD MERTONIAN NEWS:
MERTONIANS AWARDED
NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

[Page 5](#)



EVENTS NEWS:
NEW 'MERTON@HOME'
WEEKEND

[Page 6](#)



Trevor Phillips



One of Vinesh Rajpaul's winning photographs 'We will remember them' © Vinesh Rajpaul



Capturing Merton memories for the Merton@750 project © John Cairns

THE VALUE OF EQUALITY

On Thursday 19 February, the TS Eliot Theatre played host to Trevor Phillips OBE, former chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, who introduced the 2nd Annual Merton Equality Conversation on *The Value of Equality*. The panellists were: Mindy Chen-Wishart, Tutor in Law; Elizabeth Milne (2012), Merton JCR Equalities Representative; and Hope Levy-Shepherd from OUSU's Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality.

The Conversation also prompted further discussions on social media, with audience members taking to Twitter to talk about some of the issues raised. 🍷

[LISTEN ONLINE](#)

DOUBLE PHOTOGRAPHY WIN FOR MERTON GRADUATE STUDENT VINESH RAJPAUL (2013)

Graduate student Vinesh Rajpaul (2013), currently reading for a DPhil in Astrophysics, has recently achieved success in two major photographic competitions.

Vinesh was named the *Nikon UK Citizen Photographer of the Year 2014* at the UK Picture Editors' Guild Awards ceremony in London on 5 February, for a portfolio that included three pictures of Merton. At the end of January he was also runner-up in the 'Icon' category of the *Wanderlust* magazine and *Independent* newspaper's annual Travel Photo of the Year competition with his image of Bo-Kaap houses in Cape Town, South Africa. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)

MERTON@750: A GLIMPSE INTO OUR PAST

After a successful year collecting and sharing stories of Merton, the pioneering Merton@750 project – the first of its kind in an Oxford college – has drawn to a close.

Mertonians from all walks of life have been sending in stories and items from their personal collections to add to the project's online Merton@750 Collection. The project has also recorded College events such as the Time Ceremony and the College's Ascension Day service on the Chapel roof.

The Merton@750 Collection is still available online and open to new contributions. 🍷

[EXPLORE THE COLLECTION](#)

MERTON LAW STUDENTS TO REPRESENT UK IN WASHINGTON DC

A team of five Oxford University law students, including two Mertonians – Laura King (2013) and Tinny Chan (2013) – have made it through to represent the UK at the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington DC in April.

The Jessup is the world's largest moot court competition, with participants from over 500 law schools in more than 80 countries simulating a fictional dispute between countries before the United Nations' International Court of Justice. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)

THE 17TH ANNUAL OCKHAM LECTURE

On Thursday 3 March, Merton hosted the 17th Annual Ockham Lecture, with Professor Yuri Manin, Professor Emeritus at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics, giving a lecture based on Zipf's Law and the Kolmogorov complexity.

Named after one of the greatest historic names tied to Merton, the Ockham Lectures aim to bring together Mertonian physicists and promote intellectual curiosity based on William of Ockham's philosophical principle of intellectual discipline. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)



MERTON COLLEGE
OXFORD

Merton College
Oxford
OX1 4JD

Telephone +44 (0)1865 276310
www.merton.ox.ac.uk

Edited by
Catherine Farfan, Christine Taylor, Helen Kingsley, Leah McLaren and Philippa Logan

COLLEGE NEWS



Samantha de Silva receives her award © Matt Writtle

MERTON GRADUATE STUDENT NAMED RSM WESLEYAN TRAINEE OF THE YEAR 2014

Merton DPhil candidate Samantha de Silva (2010) has been named as the Royal Society of Medicine's Wesleyan Young Trainee of the Year 2014 for her research into gene therapy for patients with end-stage retinal degenerations.

Samantha's work in this area has now gained her a trio of awards, this latest being preceded by the Dermot Pierse prize in Ophthalmology from the Royal Society of Medicine and the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress Founder's Cup in 2014. 🏆

[READ MORE](#)



Professor Artur Ekert in 'Reality Lost' by Karol Jalochofski

PROFESSOR ARTUR EKERT EXPLORES *REALITY LOST* ON FILM

Mertonian quantum physicist and cryptographer Professor Artur Ekert has appeared in the "different documentary" *Reality Lost* (2013) by journalist and film-maker Karol Jalochofski.

The film features eight leading researchers, including Professor Ekert, talking about quantum theory in locations ranging from dense jungles to busy eateries. It attempts to answer the question of what quantum theory can tell us about reality. 🏆

[WATCH AN EXCERPT ONLINE](#)



Timothy Coleman © Graeme Robertson, courtesy NYCCB

TIMOTHY COLEMAN (2009) CHOSEN AS NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIRS FELLOW

Mertonian and current Chapel Administrator, Timothy Coleman (2009) has been selected for the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain Fellowship programme.

Timothy spent three years as a member of the Merton College Choir whilst an undergraduate, and is one of the eight Fellowship holders who will form the core of the 24-strong National Youth Chamber Choir. From September they will be perfecting their abilities in a unique year-long development programme that aims to produce a new generation of choral leaders. 🏆

[READ MORE](#)

UNIVERSITY NEWS

THE SEARCH FOR THE NEXT OXFORD PROFESSOR OF POETRY

The University will begin the hunt for the next Professor of Poetry in May.

Appointed every four years, past Professors of Poetry have included W.H. Auden, Robert Graves, Seamus Heaney, Paul Muldoon and Christopher Ricks.

Voting will be open to all members of Convocation between 22 May and 17 June, including all former students of the University who have been admitted to a degree. 🏆

[FIND OUT HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

BODLEIAN CATALOGUES MERTON FELLOW'S FAMILY ARCHIVE

The Bodleian Library has just completed cataloguing the extensive Braun Family Archive, which includes personal papers once belonging to Thomas Braun, a longstanding Merton Classics Tutor and Emeritus Fellow.

The Braun Family Archive is currently available to readers at the Bodleian Library. 🏆

[READ MORE](#)



The Friedmann-Brauns, c. 1931 from the Braun Family Archive (Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Braun)

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

“Without the support that I received from the Law tutors at Merton, my career would not have developed in the same way.”

Ben Perry (1992)



© John Cairns

INVESTING IN UNDERGRADUATE TALENT

We have been making great strides in securing the endowment to fund the College half of the Oxford-Merton Undergraduate Bursaries for the best and brightest Merton students. 62 Merton students are benefiting from your support this year – students who would otherwise struggle with the £9,000 a year fees introduced in 2012 – and we are enormously grateful for the £2.4 million raised to date.

There still remains a further £164,000 to be raised, however. All gifts are matched by money from the University's Moritz-Heyman challenge, which helps to leverage even more support for undergraduates. 🍷

[DONATE NOW](#)

FUNDING LAW AT MERTON

Fundraising for a Law Fellowship at Merton is going well and we have raised just over half of the £850,000 needed to secure this important post.

It has been wonderful to meet with so many Mertonians who have a passion for the subject and want to see Law thrive at Merton for years to come. It has also been great to hear what a positive impact the Law Tutors at Merton have had on some of you.

We are still fundraising for this post and it would be fantastic to complete the Fellowship this year. We cannot do it without your support. 🍷

[READ MORE & DONATE NOW](#)

ROWING ON: RENOVATING THE COLLEGE BOATHOUSE

We are continuing to raise vital funds to help extend and renovate the College Boathouse, with over £47,000 towards our £200,000 target raised so far by Mertonians and Friends of the Boat Club. This important work will be the first major renovation of the Boathouse in decades and will significantly increase storage for crucial rowing equipment.

The College and the Friends of Merton College Boat Club would also like to welcome back all former rowers and their guests for our special Boat Club Dinner on Saturday 30 May in College, to celebrate the success of Summer Eights. Why not join us there? 🍷

[DONATE NOW &](#)

[SIGN UP FOR THE BOAT CLUB DINNER](#)



© John Cairns

CAREERS & MENTORING: CONNECTING MERTONIANS

The Development Office is starting to work more closely with the Oxford University Careers Service to help Mertonians – past and present – connect with each other. The Careers Service offers support to all University alumni at any stage in their career.

In particular, the Oxford Careers Network (OCN) is a database of former Oxford University undergraduates and postgraduates who have volunteered to share their experiences of employment, further study and gap year activities. If you are in a position to offer careers advice, mentoring or internships, the University Careers Service would like to hear from you. 🍷

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FAREWELLS

The Development team have been sad to say goodbye to Helen Morley, Alumni Communications Officer, and Theo Lester, 750th Anniversary Events Assistant. We will also be saying farewell to Lauren Kendall, Campaign Officer, who will be leaving at the end of April 2015. The team has since been joined by Catherine Farfan as Alumni Communications Officer. Some of you may already know her from her work on the Merton@750 project in 2014. 🍷

[FIND OUT ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM AND THE WORK THEY DO](#)

OLD MERTONIAN NEWS



Kirsten Claiden-Yardley © Dr Adair Richards/Representing Re-Formation Project

MERTONIAN BRINGS WOLF HALL TO LIFE

Mertonian Kirsten Claiden-Yardley (2003) has played a key role in recreating the world of Wolf Hall in the BBC's recent six-part dramatisation of Hilary Mantel's novel.

Kirsten, who read History as an undergraduate at Merton and has since returned to undertake her DPhil, worked as a production researcher prior to the start of filming, tackling topics ranging from the broad context of Tudor government to the etiquette of dining and greetings at the royal court, as well as providing advice for the Art and Costume departments. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)



Martin Glenn

MARTIN GLENN (1978) APPOINTED AS FA CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Martin Glenn (1978) – the current CEO of United Biscuits and a Mertonian – has been appointed Chief Executive of the Football Association, replacing General Secretary Alex Horne. He will begin his new job at Wembley on 18 May this year. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)



Rebecca Jeffree, recipient of the British Empire Medal in the 2015 New Year's Honours. Photo by Justin Merry

MERTONIANS ABOUND IN THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST

Five Mertonians have been named in this year's New Year's Honours list, including **Rebecca Jeffree (2001)**, who has received the British Empire Medal for services to gender equality in the workplace. Other Mertonians honoured are:

- **Peter Truesdale (1976)**, former leader of Lambeth Council, awarded an OBE for public and political services.
- **David Cook (1981)**, second parliamentary counsel in the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, made a Companion of the Order of the Bath for services to the preparation of legislation.
- **Fiona Murray (1987)**, Associate Dean of Innovation at MIT Sloan School of Management and recently appointed Member of the Council for Science and Technology, awarded a CBE for services to entrepreneurship and innovation.
- **Alan Davey (1983)**, former Arts Council England Chief Executive and now Controller of BBC Radio 3, awarded a CBE for services to the arts. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)



Sir Martin Gilbert in 1966 © Gillman and Soame

THE RT HON SIR MARTIN GILBERT CBE, 1936–2015

It was with great sadness that the College learned of the death of Honorary Fellow, Sir Martin Gilbert earlier this year. As well as being known as Winston Churchill's official biographer, he produced more than 80 books on subjects ranging from the Holocaust to the Indian Raj and Appeasement. A tireless campaigner for political prisoners in the Soviet Union, he later served as a member of the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq War and as an advisor to successive British governments. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)



Ben Hopkins

CHARLES DARWIN AWARD FOR FORMER MERTON STUDENT, BEN HOPKINS (2011)

Recent Merton graduate Ben Hopkins (2011) has been awarded the Zoological Society of London's Charles Darwin Award and Marsh Prize for his research on the reproductive biology of fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*). The prize, which recognises outstanding work in zoology, is awarded for the best undergraduate research in the UK. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)



“On clear days and nights I can hear the bells [...] the strongest of them all, our Merton College.”

‘Merton Bells in summer’,
Merton@750 Collection

[HEAR THE MERTON CHIME](#)

BRINGING MERTONIANS BACK TO COLLEGE: PLANS FOR A NEW STYLE ‘MERTON@HOME’ WEEKEND REVEALED

Following the successful 750th Anniversary celebrations, we are relaunching the Merton Society Weekend with a new feel to appeal to all tastes and ages.

Taking place on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June, ‘Merton@Home’ will offer something slightly different alongside the usual Merton Society Weekend. The events will include a Hog Roast at the Pavilion followed by a Bop, as well as punting and the opportunity to join a scratch choir under the guidance of Alex L’Estrange (1990).

Alistair Haggerty (2007), Year Representative and Merton Society Council member, explains:

“We decided that it might be a good idea to host an alternative event in the summer which would cater for a different audience, in addition to the events on offer at the usual Merton Society Weekend. We are especially looking forward to the Hog Roast and Bop, with songs from various decades being played.”

The ‘Merton@Home’ event is expected to be a celebration of, and a nostalgic return to, life at Merton, giving alumni the chance to revisit some of the aspects of College life that made Merton ‘home’ while they were here. It will include a variety of ‘new style’ alumni events, to be run alongside the more traditional elements of the original Merton Society Weekend.

More information on Merton@Home will follow soon. 🍷

SACRED PAINTINGS: A LONDON LECTURE

This year’s London Lecture will be given by Merton Junior Research Fellow in the History of Art, Dr Emily Guerry, on the subject of *Sacred Paintings in the Loire Valley*. Dr Guerry has been surveying the Saint Maurille murals – the largest and best-preserved Gothic paintings in the Loire Valley – which were uncovered in the choir of Angers Cathedral in 1980 in a remarkably well-preserved state.

The 12th Merton Society London Lecture will take place in the South Kensington Campus of Imperial College London on Wednesday 13 May at 7pm. 🍷

[BOOK NOW](#)



Dr Emily Guerry

SIR GERRY GRIMSTONE (1968) TO ADDRESS THE MERTON IN THE CITY ASSOCIATION

The Sixth Meeting of The Merton in the City Association will be addressed by Sir Gerry Grimstone (1968) on the subject of *Chairing the City – hero or villain?*

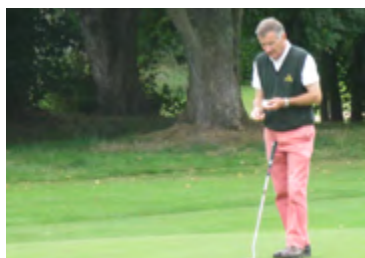
Sir Gerry has been the Chairman of Standard Life since 2007, and a director since 2003. He is also Chairman of TheCityUK, an independent non-executive of Deloitte LLP, the lead non-executive of the Defence Board of the Ministry of Defence and the Board adviser to Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.

The meeting will be held at FTI Consulting in London – with thanks to Richard Baxter (1983) – on Wednesday 3 June 2015. 🍷

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR: TRINITY TERM AND SUMMER 2015



APRIL

8 April | Merton Golfing Society Spring Meeting
Venue: The Newbury and Crookham Golf Club

[MORE INFO](#)

10 – 12 April | MC3 AGM and Weekend in Brooklyn | Venue: various

[MORE INFO](#)

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

[MORE INFO](#)

24 – 26 April | Oxford University Alumni Weekend in Vienna

[MORE INFO](#)

24 April | Merton College Dinner at the European Alumni Weekend
Venue: Plachutta Wollzeile, Vienna

[MORE INFO](#)

MAY

1 May | College Choir concert | Venue: Merton College Chapel

[MORE INFO](#)

10 May | Oxford 'Town & Gown' 10k race for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign
with brunch in College to follow for members of the Merton Team

[MORE INFO](#)

13 May | Merton Society London Lecture | Speaker: Dr Emily Guerry
Venue: Imperial College Business School

[MORE INFO](#)

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

[MORE INFO](#)

JUNE

3 June | Merton in the City Association Meeting
Speaker: Sir Gerry Grimstone (1968) | Venue: FTI Consulting, Aldersgate, London

[MORE INFO](#)

27 – 28 June | Merton@Home | Venue: Merton College

[MORE INFO](#)

SEPTEMBER

18 – 20 September | Oxford University Alumni Weekend in Oxford

[MORE INFO](#)

25 September | Merton Golfing Society Autumn Meeting
Venue: Frilford Heath Golf Club

[MORE INFO](#)

26 September | Gaudy for the years 1992 to 1996 | Venue: Merton College

[MORE INFO](#)