



ANNIVERSARY BALL SELLS OUT IN MINUTES

We have been overwhelmed by the positive response to next year's calendar of special Anniversary Events. When booking opened at midday on Wednesday 27th November, the unprecedented levels of traffic to the

College website caused it to crash and, once booking had resumed, some events sold out within half an hour.

There are still tickets available for the Birthday Weekend lectures, Birthday

Party and Merton Conversations, but numbers are limited. We recommend that you book soon to avoid disappointment. If you are interested in an event that has sold out, please [register on our waiting list here](#). 🍷



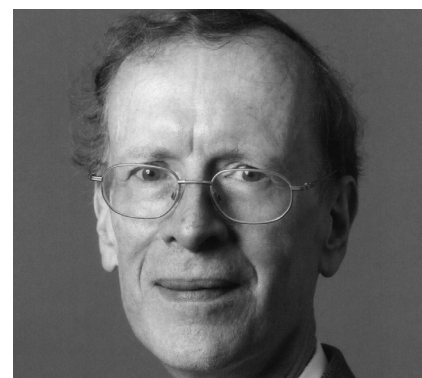
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Four of Merton's eight new Fellows



Daisy Syme-Taylor (2012)



Merton bell ringers

WELCOME TO NEW FELLOWS

The College was pleased to welcome eight new Fellows to its Governing Body this Michaelmas Term: Mertonian Mr Andrew Mackie (1984) MA, Director of Legal Services & General Counsel; Professor [Simon Saunders](#) BA (M Math Camb; PhD Lond), Tutor in Philosophy; Dr [Sergi Pardos Prado](#) (PhD EUI), Fellow in Politics; Mr [Bassel Tarbush](#) MPhil, Tutor in Economics; Mr [Guy Westwood](#) MA MSt; Fitzjames Fellow in Ancient Greek; and three new Junior Research Fellows: Dr [Tom Phillips](#) BA MSt DPhil (Classics); Mr [Nick Ryder](#) MSci Bristol (Physics) and Ms [Abigail Adams](#) BA MPhil (Economics). 🍷

[MEET MERTON'S FELLOWS](#)

MERTON STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS NEWDIGATE PRIZE

Merton Classics student, [Daisy Syme-Taylor](#) (2012), has been awarded this year's Newdigate Prize for Poetry for her piece on the theme of the Higgs boson, named Edgelands. She joins an illustrious group of previous winners who include John Ruskin, Oscar Wilde and Andrew Motion. 🍷

[READ EDGELANDS](#)

PROFESSOR FRANCES PLATT RECEIVES ROYAL SOCIETY WOLFSON RESEARCH MERIT AWARD

Supernumerary Fellow Professor [Frances Platt](#) has been appointed as one of 2013's esteemed Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award holders. The scheme recognises outstanding scientists, with the aim of keeping them in the UK. Professor Platt received the award for her work on the understanding and treatment of lysosomal disorders, symptoms of which can include developmental delay, movement disorders, seizures, dementia, deafness and blindness. 🍷

[READ MORE](#)

RECORD PEAL OF MERTON BELLS FOR NEW YEAR

At 1pm on 1st January 2014, Merton's Bells will ring a peal of 7,500 changes to herald the start of the College's 750th Anniversary Celebrations. This peal

will be the longest ever attempted on the College's 300-year-old bells, and will take approximately five hours. If you would like to listen to some of the peal, then a walk around Christchurch Meadow could be a lovely way to spend part of New Year's Day! 🍷

MERTON CHOIRBOOK COMPOSERS RECOGNISED AT THE BRITISH COMPOSER AWARDS

Merton Choirbook composers dominated the competition for Best Liturgical Composition at the British Composer Awards 2013. We are delighted that one of the commissions from the *Merton Choirbook*, *O Oriens* by [Cecilia McDowall](#), was shortlisted. Our congratulations go to [Matthew Martin](#), who won the category, and [Gabriel Jackson](#), who was also shortlisted, and who have both contributed Antiphons for Merton's Collection. British Composer Award Winner Matthew Martin's setting was performed live on BBC Radio 3 on 20th November, as part of the broadcast of Merton's Evensong in the Chapel, to mark the centenary of Benjamin Britten's birth.

The *Merton Choirbook* is a collection of some 50 new compositions, all written for the 750th anniversary of Merton College, which will be performed throughout 2014. [Click here for a performance schedule.](#) 🍷

[READ MORE](#)

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PUBLICATIONS PRAISED

TWO MERTON FELLOWS RECEIVE PRAISE FOR RECENTLY PUBLISHED WORKS

Merton Professor of English Literature **David Norbrook** (pictured above left), along with his co-editor Professor Reid Barbour, has been awarded an Honourable Mention by the Modern Language Association of America for their work, *Translation of Lucretius*, volume 1 of *The Works of Lucy Hutchinson*. 🏆

[READ MORE](#)

The College is also pleased to report that 'Beyond the Quantum Horizon', a paper on the key issues in science today, co-authored by Merton Professor **Artur Ekert** and David Deutsch, was selected for inclusion in the anthology *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2013*. 🏆

[READ MORE](#)

Professor Ekert is one of the speakers during the Birthday Weekend in September, which you can now book tickets for. 🏆

[BOOK FOR THE BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 2014](#)

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

This autumn Merton College launched its new website, which contains a new intranet resource for staff and NetCommunity, which enables alumni to get in touch with one another. Merton's dedicated Web and Media Officer, **Simon Cope**, spent months working closely with expert web developers, Olamalu, and designers, Franks & Franks, to put together this dynamic new site. As well as reflecting Merton's new visual identity, it should be an interesting and constantly updated resource for friends of the College. If you have any feedback, ideas, or news stories that you would like to be added to the website, please contact simon.cope@merton.ox.ac.uk. 🏆

[EXPLORE MERTON'S NEW WEBSITE](#)



From top left, clockwise: Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (original photo: Policy Exchange); Professor Lyndal Roper (photo courtesy of Professor Roper); Baron Williams of Oystermouth (original photo: National Assembly For Wales); and Professor Dana Scott (original photo: Andrej Bauer, used under CC-BY-SA 2.5 SA licence).

NEW HONORARY FELLOWS ANNOUNCED

Governing Body elected four new Honorary Fellows at the end of Trinity Term 2013.

The College is very proud to welcome the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, **Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe** QPM (1988), University of Oxford Regius Professor of Modern History, **Lyndal Roper** FBA, emeritus Hillman University Professor of Computer Science and previous winner of the A.M. Turing Award, Professor **Dana Scott** FBA, and the College's former Visitor, the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, **Baron Williams of Oystermouth** PC FBA FRSL FLSW. 🏆

[READ MORE](#)

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

“One of the highest participation rates in Oxford college fundraising”

MERTONIAN GENEROSITY RESULTS IN RECORD-BREAKING ANNUAL FUND YEAR

Donations to the Annual Fund last year (1st August 2012 – 31st July 2013) exceeded £1 million for the first time in the College's history. More than 1,970 (or 34%) of Mertonians made a gift. This is a record for Merton, and one of the highest participation rates in Oxford college fundraising.

This is wonderful news and demonstrates the remarkable breadth of Mertonian support, which is essential in enabling Merton to remain a centre of excellence in a world-class university. We are enormously grateful to all our donors.

For more details about *Sustaining Excellence*, and to find out how you can get involved, please see our [Campaign pages](#).

We need to raise a further £3.4 million before the end of 2014, to reach our *Sustaining Excellence* campaign goal of £30 million. 🍀

[MAKE A GIFT](#)



this September Telethon's student callers

MERTON CALLING: SEPTEMBER TELETHON RAISES £500,000

This year's Annual Fund got off to a flying start with the September Telethon, which raised a record £238,725 for the College. Almost two-thirds of Mertonians who were contacted chose to participate in the Annual Fund. Their generosity will be matched by another Mertonian, raising a total of almost £500,000 towards Merton's 750th Anniversary Campaign, *Sustaining Excellence*.

Didn't receive a call? It's never too late to get in touch; please email Peter O'Connor, Merton's Annual Fund Officer, who will be more than happy to speak to you. For more information on how to make a gift, email peter.oconnor@merton.ox.ac.uk or visit our [making a gift](#) page. 🍀

[READ MORE](#)



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT FUND BOOSTED BY £1 MILLION GIFT

Ian Taylor (1975, PPE), Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Vitol, has generously pledged £1 million to the College's Undergraduate Student Support Fund, which helps pay for the Merton-Oxford Bursaries, for full-time UK and EU students who have qualifying household incomes.

This gift was inspired by the Moritz-Heyman gift of £25 million to endow scholarships for Oxford University undergraduates with the lowest household incomes. This very generous Taylor gift will count at 100% towards leveraging the next tranche of Moritz-Heyman Funds. 🍀



NEW NETCOMMUNITY BRINGS MERTONIANS TOGETHER

20% of Mertonians have now signed up to the College's NetCommunity, which was launched on 1st November. As well as providing a quick way of updating your details online, the NetCommunity will allow users to choose their preferred method of contact, e.g. soft copies of our Newsletter can be emailed rather than mailed, saving on printing costs. We shall also be developing NetCommunity to enable alumni and students to connect, for instance, if alumni are willing to provide internship opportunities or career advice. 🍀

[REGISTER FOR THE NETCOMMUNITY](#)

You will need your Alumni number (in the format 8-*****) to register. You can find this at the top of any email from the University's Alumni Office, on your Oxford Alumni Card, on your Oxford Today address sheet, or by [contacting the University Alumni Office](#).

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



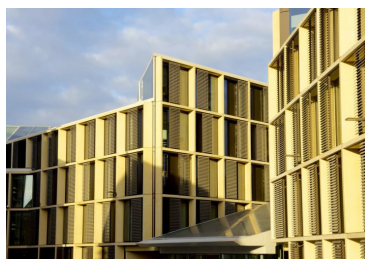
ROSE LANE V – NAMING OPPORTUNITY

Do you have fond memories of undergraduate years spent at Rose Lane V? Why not support the refurbishment of this old 1960s accommodation block into a beautiful energy-efficient 21st-century building by sponsoring and naming one of its 17 single and double rooms? The refurbishment will help increase the capacity and accommodation income for conferences and College events.

If you are interested in sponsoring a room, please contact Christine Taylor, Director of Development, by email on Christine.taylor@merton.ox.ac.uk or on +44(0)1865 276316. 🍷

[CLICK HERE TO SEE PHOTOS OF THE TRANSFORMATION.](#)

UNIVERSITY NEWS



the new Andrew Wiles Building

SIR ANDREW WILES HONoured WITH BUILDING

The Mathematical Institute's new Andrew Wiles Building, named after one of the world's most distinguished mathematicians, Professor Sir Andrew Wiles, KBE, FRS, was formally opened on 3rd October. Mertonian and Professorial Fellow of Mathematics, Sir **Andrew Wiles**, has made huge contributions to number theory, becoming famous for proving Fermat's Last Theorem.

The Andrew Wiles Building, situated between Woodstock Road and Walton Street, provides workspace for more than 500 mathematical researchers and support staff, including faculty, research fellows and postgraduate students, and is a centre for the academic life of about 900 undergraduates. 🍷

[PHOTOS](#) | [TIMELAPSE OF CONSTRUCTION](#)



Professor Dame Jessica Rawson

OXFORD CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF CO-EDUCATION

In 2014 five Oxford colleges will celebrate 40 years of co-education, commemorating the impact that women have made on collegiate and university life. As part of this anniversary, Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, St Catherine's and Wadham colleges will not only applaud the achievements of alumnae in all spheres of life, but also offer insights into some of the challenges that remain for women, both personal and professional.

Politically, 1974 was a year of great change. The admission of women to five all-male colleges heralded a rapid and radical transformation in the wider university. Twenty years later, Professor Dame **Jessica Rawson** was one of the first women to become Head of a former all-male College, when she became Warden of Merton. Today in 2013, Oxford boasts numerous distinguished alumnae and there are nine female Heads of House. 🍷

[CO-EDUCATION ANNIVERSARY EVENTS](#)



'MEETING MINDS' AROUND THE WORLD

This autumn, Oxford University Alumni Office launched its newly branded 'Meeting Minds' worldwide events calendar. You can sign up to the 'Meeting Minds' mailing list and find out more about events planned in Hong Kong, New York, Vienna and Oxford next year, on their new website. 🍷

[MEETING MINDS WEBSITE](#)

OLD MERTONIAN NEWS



MERTONIANS HONOURED IN QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Congratulations are due to the three Mertonians who were awarded honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June. We are proud to announce that **Michael Sackett** (1955) was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the Citizens' Advice Bureau; **Nick Starr** (1977) was awarded a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Theatre; and **Peter Wilson** (1987) was awarded Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for services to strengthening British foreign policy in Asia. 🏰



Professor Sir Rick Trainor (1971)

SIR RICK TRAINOR TO BECOME RECTOR OF EXETER COLLEGE, OXFORD

Professor Sir **Rick Trainor** (1971), Principal and President of King's College London since 2004, was pre-elected to the Rectorship of Exeter College, Oxford, on 10th October. He will succeed the current Rector, Frances Cairncross CBE FRSE, on 1st October 2014, taking office in Exeter's 700th anniversary year.

During his time at King's, Professor Trainor has overseen significant change, including considerable expansion of King's postgraduate and international student numbers, major developments in biomedicine and law (two primary subject areas at Exeter College) and continuing enhancement of King's world-ranking as a leading university. He was President of Universities UK, which represents the heads of all UK universities, between 2007 and 2009. 🏰

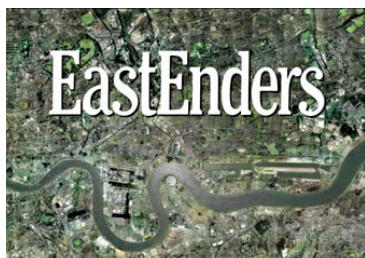


Sir Howard Stringer (1961)

SIR HOWARD STRINGER APPOINTED CHAIR OF BOARD AT SAÏD BUSINESS SCHOOL

Honorary Fellow, Sir **Howard Stringer** (1961), the former Chairman and CEO of Sony, was appointed Chair of the School Board at the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School in October. He will fulfil a term of three years, replacing Sir Hector Sants, the first Chair of the School Board, who is stepping down. Professor Peter Tufano, Dean of Saïd Business School, commented: "Sir Howard's unique experience of leading in a global and challenging industry will be invaluable in helping us achieve our aim to be a world-class business school community, embedded in a world-class university, tackling world-scale problems."

Merton is also delighted to report that Sir Howard was admitted into the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors in September, for his most generous gifts to Merton College and most recently to its Undergraduate Student Support Fund. These gifts help ensure that the best students can attend Merton, regardless of financial means. 🏰



MERTON MEETS ALBERT SQUARE: MERTONIAN DOMINIC TREADWELL-COLLINS TAKES EASTENDERS' EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ROLE

Former *EastEnders*' story producer, **Dominic Treadwell-Collins** (1996), returned to the show after three years working for the production company Lovely Day, to become the soap's executive producer in August. He commented, "[I] am excited about the challenge of taking the helm of Britain's greatest drama... [and] am looking forward to taking this iconic and essential show into 2014 and beyond, as we look to *EastEnders*' 30th anniversary in 2015."

During Dominic's time working on the show, from 2004 to 2010, he created the characters of *Ronnie and Roxy Mitchell* and *Shirley Carter*. He also worked on a number of sensitive storylines, including *Syed Masood's* struggle with his sexuality, *Ronnie's* secret daughter, *Stacey's* bipolar disorder and *Archie Mitchell's* murder. 🏰

EVENTS



The Joseph Lau Rooftop Terrace at the Asia Society in Hong Kong

WARDEN JOURNEYS EAST

The Warden, Professor Sir **Martin Taylor** FRS will be visiting Japan and Hong Kong at the beginning of Merton's 750th Anniversary year. To celebrate this, the Warden will be hosting two dinners for Mertonians based in East Asia; a [Hong Kong Dinner](#) on Monday, 13th January, and a [Tokyo Dinner](#) on Tuesday 21st January.

The highlight of the Warden's trip to East Asia will be the first in our year-long series of Merton Conversations. This [Hong Kong Merton Conversation](#), entitled 'The Challenges of Global Finance', will bring together some of the best minds in banking – Sir **Callum McCarthy** (1962), **Charles Li**, **Liu Mingkang** – for an evening of stimulating discussion moderated by the journalist Professor **Alejandro Reyes**, at the Asia Society, followed by a reception on the Joseph Lau Rooftop Terrace (pictured). 🍷

[BOOK FOR EAST ASIA EVENTS HERE](#)

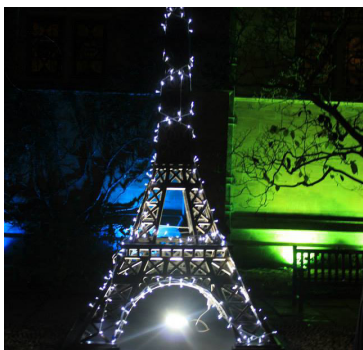


Sarah Connolly

ELGAR'S *DREAM OF GERONTIUS* AT THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE- LIMITED TICKETS LEFT!

On 1st March 2014, the Merton College Choir will join with two other choirs, an exceptional team of soloists, including mezzo soprano **Sarah Connolly** (pictured), and Oxford Philomusica, Oxford University's Orchestra in Residence, to celebrate Merton College's 750th anniversary. Tickets are selling incredibly well so, if you want to ensure your seat at this pinnacle musical event, we recommend that you book now. 🍷

[BOOK NOW](#)



The Eiffel Tower adorns Front Quad, photo by David McFarlane

PARIS MEETS OXFORD FOR MERTON'S TRIENNIAL WINTER BALL

One thousand undergraduates and graduates flocked to Merton's Winter Ball this November, to experience a night of Parisian delights, within Merton's beautiful grounds. A team of dedicated student volunteers helped transform Merton into turn-of-the-century Paris for one night only – with a 'Tour Eiffel' in Front Quad, beautiful antique fairground stalls, as well as live music, circus performers and silent film showings. A wonderful evening was had by all. 🍷

[WINTER BALL PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK](#)

[BOOK YOUR 750TH BIRTHDAY PARTY TICKETS](#)

[JOIN THE ANNIVERSARY BALL WAITING LIST](#)

ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR: HILARY 2014

13th January | Dinner for Mertonians based in Hong Kong | Venue: The China Club

[BOOK NOW](#)

15th January | Merton Conversation: The Challenges of Global Finance | Venue: The Asia Society, Hong Kong

[BOOK NOW](#)

21st January | Dinner for Mertonians based in Japan | Venue: Sens et Saveurs

[BOOK NOW](#)

28th February | Merton Conversation: China and the West – Culture and Society | Venue: The TS Eliot Theatre, Merton College

[SOLD OUT](#) | [SIGN UP FOR THE WAITING LIST](#)

1st March | Performance of Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* | Venue: Sheldonian Theatre

[BOOK NOW](#)