



MERTON  
COLLEGE  
OXFORD

# Newsletter

2015

MAKING THE  
MOST OF  
THE OXFORD  
CAREERS SERVICE

AT HOME AT  
MERTON:  
A NEW EVENT  
FOR 2015

WHERE'S WALTER?  
HELP US MAP  
MERTON AROUND  
THE WORLD



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## NEWSLETTER

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



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# FROM THE WARDEN



The Warden listens to Bill Bryson speaking at the final Anniversary Campaign Dinner in London in December 2014.

Photograph: John Cairns

When I last wrote for the Newsletter, we were in the midst of our 750th Anniversary. And what a year it was! This time last year, I had yet to learn the wonderful news that the 750th Anniversary *Sustaining Excellence* Campaign had exceeded its £30 million target on the eve of the Birthday Weekend in September, or to hear an impressed Bill Bryson intone "Oh wow!" on entering the Middle Temple Hall for the final 750th Celebration Dinner in December.

My own 'wow' moments came time and time again throughout the year and were invariably prompted by the generosity of Mertonians, past and present, who not only gave to the Campaign but also gave their time and their physical support at our Celebrations. From the sheer numbers who joined us at the Birthday Weekend to the warm welcomes from Mertonians from all four corners of the globe, the College community pulled out all the stops. In this edition of the Merton Newsletter, we have included a special pull-out section to commemorate the 750th Anniversary Celebrations, and I hope you will join with us in remembering what was a truly fantastic year.

Quite aside from 750th Celebrations, I continue to be thrilled by Mertonian excellence. Since the last Newsletter, we have – once again – topped the Norrington Table, as well as celebrated several new honours. To name but a few: our College Chaplain The Revd Dr Simon Jones was appointed Canon of Christ Church Cathedral; Merton Tutor in Pre-Clinical Medicine Professor David Paterson was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand; and Senior Tutor in History Dr Steven Gunn gave the 2015 Ford Lectures. I also know that the Boat Club narrowly missed out on a Bumps Supper following a very successful Torpids and we are keeping our fingers crossed for Eights this term.

So much for the year that was. Many of you may be thinking "What next?". 2015 gives us the opportunity to reset ourselves, and to re-examine our plans for the College as it enters into the next stage of its history. We had, of course, started crucial strategic planning before 2014 – thinking about the 'big questions' of the future direction for the College, from the make-up of the student body and where future funding would come from, to how the College buildings might evolve. We are now focusing on this with fresh eyes and the wisdom we have gained in our busy 750th year.

At this time, I am reminded of Janus, the double-headed god who resides in the Fellows' Garden here at Merton. We may be looking back over a successful Anniversary Year, but we are more importantly looking forward to future Merton successes. We hope that you will continue to give your wholehearted support as Merton College continues into the next leg of its long journey which starts now, in our 751st year.

Professor Sir Martin Taylor



## NEWS IN PICTURES



### 1. PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Merton graduate student Vinesh Rajpaul (2013), currently reading for a DPhil in Astrophysics, for his double photography win. *We will remember them* (pictured) was part of the portfolio that won him the *Nikon UK Citizen Photographer of the Year* at the *UK Picture Editors' Guild Awards* in February 2015. He was also runner-up in the Icon category of the *Wanderlust* magazine and *Independent* newspaper's annual *Travel Photo of the Year* in January 2015. Vinesh hopes to publish a collection of photos of Oxford colleges and student life.

Photograph: Vinesh Rajpaul

### 2. CHECKMATE

Merton undergraduate Gordon Scott (2013) was part of the Oxford team who fought back for a draw in the 133rd Varsity Chess Match on Saturday 7 March 2015. Gordon, a second-year PPE student, was awarded the best game prize.

Photograph: John Upham



### 3. PARTIAL ECLIPSE

Despite an overcast sky for the partial solar eclipse on 20 March this year, @MertonPhysics ran back to College to set up a telescope on the Chestnut Lawn to catch a good glimpse.

Photograph: @MertonPhysics

### 4. NEW TREE ON THE CHESTNUT LAWN

The Warden and Head Gardener Lucille Savin oversaw the planting of a new oak tree on Chestnut Lawn at 11am on 20 January to replace the chestnut tree that was felled in April 2013. The tree was donated to the College in memory of Nigel Veitch (1984).

Photograph: Michael Furse



## 5. MERTON HISTORIANS ENJOY THEIR ANNUAL READING PARTY

Merton's final-year historians and their tutors enjoyed their reading party in Cornwall at the end of March 2015 – an annual tradition.

This year, they combined visits to Tintagel, Padstow, and the home of former Merton tutor Philip Waller on Bodmin Moor. Discussion covered subjects ranging from the Roman Empire to civil rights, via medieval women and Charles I, as well as the latest volume by prolific Mertonian Jeremy Black (1978).

Photograph: Jeong-Hyun Muscolino



## 6. MERTONIAN'S FAMILY ARCHIVE IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY

The recently catalogued Braun Family Archive at the Bodleian Library includes the personal papers and writings of classicist Thomas Braun (1935-2008), Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History at Merton from 1963. It was donated to the library by Christopher Braun, Thomas's brother, along with a grant towards its upkeep.

The main part of the archive, which spans more than 200 years of family history in Germany and England, is now available to readers at the Bodleian Library. Find out more online at [blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/archivesandmanuscripts](https://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/archivesandmanuscripts).

Photograph: The Friedmann-Brauns c.1931. The Bodleian Library, (MS Braun)



## 7. MERTON IN WASHINGTON

We were so proud to hear that two of Merton's law undergraduates – Laura King (2013) and Tinny Chan (2013) – made up two fifths of the Oxford team representing the UK at the Jessup Cup in Washington DC in April.

The competition is the world's largest moot court competition, and the team achieved Oxford's best results yet, coming third out of 600 international teams. Moreover, both Laura (right) and Tinny (second right) were ranked within the top 100 individuals, with Tinny bagging fourth place. Well done!

Photograph: Tinny Chan / Laura King

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



## COLLEGE NEWS

### FELLOWS' PRIZES, AWARDS AND ELECTIONS

**Congratulations to all our Fellows for their successes over the past 12 months:**

**Dr Miguel Walsh**, Special Fellow, was awarded the 2014 Ramanujan Prize for young mathematicians from developing countries.

Six Fellows — **Jonathan Thacker**, Tutor in Spanish; **Radek Erban**, Tutor in Mathematics; **Daniel Grimley**, Tutor in Music; **Alex Schekochihin**, Tutor in Physics; **Alan Barr**, Tutor in Physics; and **Julian Knight**, Supernumerary Fellow — each had the title of Professor conferred upon them, following the Recognition of Distinction Awards made by the University of Oxford in October 2014.

**Professor David Paterson**, Associate Head of the Medical Sciences Division (Education) and Professor in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in November 2014. The Royal Society awards Honorary Fellowships to researchers outside New Zealand with the aim of encouraging liaison between scientists of different nations.

Three Fellows — Fellow in Politics **Dr Sergi Pardos-Prado**; Tutor in Ancient History **Dr Jonathan Prag**; and Tutor in Management Studies **Dr Kate Blackmon** — were recognised for excellence in teaching in the 2013-14 Oxford Learning Institute Teaching Awards ceremony in November 2014.

The meeting of the German Physical Society (*Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft*) in Berlin in March 2015 saw Merton Supernumerary Fellow and Physics Lecturer **Professor Andrea Cavalleri** presented with the Max Born Medal and Prize for his pioneering work on ultra-fast studies of materials. The prize is presented for 'outstanding contributions to physics', and goes to physicists based in Germany, the UK or Ireland in alternate years.

## THE TAPESTRY CODE IS CRACKED!

**A Merton Mathematics student unravels the mystifying Merton code.**

"I was really interested in cryptography at school and it's actually one of the influences that pushed me towards studying maths at university!" explains undergraduate Alice Miller (2012), who recently solved the mystery of the Merton tapestry. "I used to get a team together every year for the National Cipher Challenge, and this puzzle reminded me of a solo version of that."

Currently studying Mathematics and Philosophy at Merton, Alice solved the tapestry's code in February to reveal a quote from Professor Sir Andrew Wiles, Professorial Fellow in Mathematics here at Merton and world famous for proving Fermat's Last Theorem. Fittingly, the message revealed talks about what it is like to make a breakthrough in mathematics, one to which Alice relates.

"I'm a mathematician, so I'm used to the feeling of everything suddenly sliding into place when you're working through a problem. Actually, the feeling of 'illumination' that Sir Andrew describes in the encrypted message is a pretty good way to sum it up!"



The original artwork by Terese Agnew – *Illumination* – was commissioned by David Harvey (1957) for Merton's 750th Anniversary. It has been on display in the Lodge since May 2014, with the secret to its code residing safely in the Library all the while.

You can view the code online, along with its translation, on the College website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/tapestry](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/tapestry).

## COLLEGE CHAPLAIN SIMON JONES APPOINTED CANON OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Congratulations were the order of the day on Saturday 31 January when, at a special service of Evensong, The Revd Dr Simon Jones was appointed Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral in recognition of his distinguished service to the diocese.

Simon will continue his current role as Chaplain and head of the College's Welfare team, whilst acting as an ambassador for the Cathedral and becoming a member of the College of Canons. The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, offered up his best wishes to the new canons.

"We are delighted to welcome six new canons to the life and work of the Cathedral. Each brings distinctive

gifts and qualities that will enrich our collegiality, and will strengthen the mission and ministry of the diocese. We greatly look forward to their installation, and to all that their presence will bring to us in our community, city and counties."



# REMEMBERING TOLKIEN IN OXFORD



John Garth, Dr Stuart Lee and Leslie Megahey discuss their memories of JRR Tolkien at The Tolkien Symposium in November 2014.

Gathered together in the darkened TS Eliot Theatre, scholars and enthusiasts convened on 18 November for The Tolkien Symposium to remember and enthuse about JRR Tolkien, a figure that looms large in the popular consciousness of 1950s and 1960s Oxford.

Dr Stuart Lee, lecturer at the Faculty of English and affiliated to Merton, introduced the remastered edition of the 1968 BBC documentary *Tolkien in Oxford* filmed at Merton. The highest point was yet to come. The film's director Leslie Megahey had brought with him some unseen rushes — footage of Tolkien's unselfconscious musings on his work that didn't make the final edit. It felt like the man himself was in the room, chatting informally about his much-loved Middle-earth and his own studies in early English linguistics and Norse mythology. Tolkien's enthusiastic answers and Baggins-esque manner brought his characters into stark relief. Those

who were present recognised what a privilege it was to have witnessed the first airing of this rare footage and the mood was electric.

Dr Lee — who recently edited the *Blackwells/Wiley Companion to JRR Tolkien*, and is co-editing a second edition of *The Keys of Middle-Earth*, as well as working on *Tolkien in Oxford* — is currently trying to identify Mertonians who would be willing to share their memories or anecdotes of Professor Tolkien.

Do you have a Tolkien story of interest, either as a fellow academic or as a student who was tutored or lectured by him? If so and you would be willing to share this with Dr Lee then please contact him, either at [stuart.lee@ell.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stuart.lee@ell.ox.ac.uk), or in writing c/o ITS, 13 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6NN.

Search for 'The Tolkien Symposium' at [podcasts.ox.ac.uk](http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk) to listen to the talks online.



## COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW SENIOR TUTOR

A warm welcome to **Dr Rachel Buxton** (above), who joined Merton on 27 April. Rachel first arrived in Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar in 1998 from South Australia to read for an MSt and then a DPhil in English at Hertford College. She was acting Senior Tutor at Merton in 2009-10 before joining Lincoln College as Domestic Bursar.



We were sad to say goodbye to **Dr Catherine Paxton** (above), Rachel's predecessor, who has left to become the Director of Student Welfare and Support Services for the University. Catherine was appointed as Merton's first full-time Senior Tutor in 2003, spending five years at Merton before departing to work at Wellington Square in the University's Administration Services. After a year in Boston, MA with her family, she returned to Merton for her second term as Senior Tutor in September 2011.

Many thanks to **Dr Trudy Watt**, who, having stepped into the Senior Tutor position, was able to cover the role in the interim period between Catherine and Rachel.

## COLLEGE NEWS



Dr Tony Hansen on the Great Wall of China.  
Photograph: Tony Hansen

## WHERE'S WALTER DE MERTON? HELP US MAP MERTON AROUND THE WORLD

Last year, Old Mertonian Dr Tony Hansen (1969) sent us a series of videos of himself in far-flung places reading out the first line of the Merton Grace with a small addition:

*oculi omnium in te respiciunt, Domine, tu das escam illis tempore opportuno. scholares Mertonenses, saluto uos ab extremis Australis.*

[*Scholars of Merton, I salute you from the South Pole.*]

Tony's work takes him all around the world, from Antarctica to the 'centre of Persia' in Isfahan.

His videos got us thinking about all the wonderful parts of the world that must house Mertonians – whether as home, or for work or research. Historically Mertonians have made their mark globally (see *From the Library & Archive* on page 14 for one example), but what about today's Mertonians?

**This is your call to action! Do you live, work or conduct research abroad? If so, we'd like you to add to Tony's videos and help us create a map of the Merton diaspora.**

**All you need to do is record yourself reciting the first line of the Merton Grace with Tony's addition (don't forget to change the location accordingly!). Send it to us at [oculi.omnium@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oculi.omnium@merton.ox.ac.uk) or upload it to YouTube and share it with us via Facebook or Twitter @MertonCollege. We'll add the videos to our map on the College website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/oculi-omnium](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/oculi-omnium).**

## MERTONIAN LEADING THE WAY FOR WOMEN IN PHYSICS



Photograph: John Cairns

Merton DPhil student Jena Meinecke (2011) has been making strides in the field of Atomic and Laser Physics. Her work creating tabletop supernovae with high-energy lasers has been chosen as one of the Top Ten Breakthroughs of 2014 by *Physics World* and she has recently been appointed to a prestigious Junior Research Fellowship at Christ Church.

She has also been leading the way for women in physics. As Founder and former President of the Oxford Women in Physics Society, Jena strives to 'promote the education and career development of women in physics' by creating a more supportive culture.

Jena's two passions – physics and outreach – have been keeping her busy for the past year; filming with the Discovery Channel, working with Getty Images to break down stereotypes of women in the

laboratory, and pioneering a new mentoring programme for women physicists. She was instrumental in founding the first UK-wide Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP UK) with Professor Daniela Bortoletto, which took place in March 2015 and attracted several influential names in physics including Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell. One attendee even remarked, "Until now I have never had a female role model in physics".

"Passion for your work is essential," says Jena. "My research provides me with the right balance of experimentation and theoretical examination to keep me excited for each new day. Furthermore, I believe everyone in physics, especially minorities such as women, should be encouraged to pursue their dreams. The journey to understand our universe is a team effort – whether it's in the laboratory or an office."

## BLACKWELL ARCHIVE ON DISPLAY

In March this year – to coincide with the opening of the new Blackwell Room in the Weston Library at the Bodleian Libraries – the Library team installed two exhibitions of material from the Blackwell Archive given to Merton by Honorary Fellow Mr Julian Blackwell in 2003 (who also endowed the Christine Blackwell Classical Fellowship currently held by Dr Rhiannon Ash). The Blackwell Archive provides a unique insight into the literary tastes and intellectual pursuits of Georgian Oxford. Included in the display are also some of the 36 volumes that were given annually to the Merton Library by Julian's father Basil Blackwell (1907) on his birthday.



# A BUSY YEAR FOR GLOBAL DIRECTIONS



HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal addresses the Global Directions group on Saudi Arabian foreign policy with Dr Julia Amos.

The Global Directions research group has been busy throughout the past year under the watchful eyes of Merton's Peter J Braam Junior Research Fellow in Global Wellbeing, Dr Julia Amos.

Founded in 2005, Global Directions is a cross-disciplinary group made up of Fellows and graduate students at Merton working on some of the most pressing international topics of our time. Over the past 12 months and as part of a rich and diverse programme of events, the group has held a General Election debate to discuss whether we are 'Sleepwalking Out of Europe?' with local candidates; hosted HRH Prince

Turki Al-Faisal in a discussion about Saudi Arabian foreign policy; and convened a panel on 'Social and Scientific Perspectives on Ebola'.

In March, the group also arranged the Fourth Annual International Maritime Security Conference, tackling questions of piracy and the governance of security measures in international waters and in June will be running two panels – one on Climate Change and the other on Boko Haram (see page 12).

Some past Global Directions lectures and talks are available to listen to online at [podcasts.ox.ac.uk](http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk). Search for 'Global Directions'.

## CELEBRATING STUART HALL, 1932-2014

Merton DPhil student Jason Allen (2011) was one of a panel who met in the TS Eliot Theatre on 29 November to celebrate the life of Professor Stuart Hall (1951) who sadly passed away in February 2014. Professor Hall was the 'godfather of multiculturalism', a leading light of cultural studies and founder of the *New Left Review*.

Jason was joined by Professor Elleke Boehmer, Professor of World Literature in English at Oxford; Dr Jane Garnett, Fellow and Tutor in Modern History at Wadham College; and Professor Michael Keith, Supernumerary Fellow at Merton and Director of the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society



Merton DPhil student Jason Allen introduces the panel to celebrate the life of Stuart Hall.

to examine Stuart Hall's life and legacy. The afternoon of celebrations also included a screening of John Akomfrah's 2013 documentary, *The Stuart Hall Project*, and a live stream of footage from the memorial service in London.

## MERTONIANS ON SCREEN

It's been impossible to escape Mertonians on screen, both TV and film, this past year (see *Merton on Film* on page 15 for some of the College's own appearances). Here's a quick round up of some of the appearances we noticed.



Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys (right) and John Simm on the set of *Code of a Killer*. Photograph: ITV

Honorary Fellow **Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys FRS (1968)** and his pioneering work on genetic fingerprinting were recently the subject of the two-part ITV drama *Code of a Killer* (see page 15 for more). Professor Jeffreys was also recently awarded the Royal Society's Copley Medal.

Mertonian **Kirsten Claiden-Yardley (2003)** 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, advising the production team on matters of historical accuracy.

Research by Merton Tutor in History **Dr Steven Gunn (1979)** was featured in *Hidden Killers of the Tudor Home*, a BBC documentary in which Dr Suzannah Lipscomb looked at fatal accidents in Tudor England. Dr Gunn is also this Newsletter's *Featured Fellow* on page 11.

*The Epic of Everest*, an extraordinary film record of the legendary Everest expedition of 1924 led by George Mallory and Mertonian **Andrew 'Sandy' Irvine (1921)** was restored by the BFI National Archive and had its television premiere on BBC Four in February.

**We are always keen to hear about Mertonian achievements out in the wider world. Send your stories to [publications@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publications@merton.ox.ac.uk)**

## COLLEGE NEWS



M1 at the Merton Boathouse. Photograph: Laura King

## NEWS FROM THE RIVER

Congratulations to the Merton M1 who performed their best in Torpids since 1999, bumping four times and establishing their Division II position for next year's Torpids.

In other news, the Boat Club is launching an exciting and ambitious crowd-funding campaign to raise money for new boats for the 1st VIII. It is anticipated that these will be bought when crucial work to the Boathouse is completed.

The current Boathouse hasn't been properly updated since it was built in 1949, and many of the boats are hazardedly cramped into a tiny space, shortening their lifespan. The renovated Boathouse will provide more space for racking and maintenance, and also an upgraded bathroom.

Thanks to the generous support of former rowers, £50,521 has been raised towards this vital work, but we still have £150,000 to raise. The Boat Club needs your support, so please make a gift to help our crews on the Isis by emailing Peter O'Connor, Annual Fund Officer at [peter.oconnor@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:peter.oconnor@merton.ox.ac.uk)



M2 on the start line at Torpids. Photograph: Jaime Valdemoros

## MERTONIAN PILGRIMS IN LINCOLN

The Cathedral and City of Lincoln proved to be a very welcoming destination for 11 Mertonian pilgrims at the end of Hilary Term. We stayed for three nights at the Old Bishop's Palace (now a hotel), which nestles at the foot of the Cathedral with stunning views out over the city.

Much of our time was spent in the beautiful Gothic cathedral itself, soaking in the artistry of the building or attending services. The life of the Cathedral Chapter is very active and we were made to feel very welcome; we soon felt part of the community that has existed in the cathedral for ten centuries.

We were also taken on a 'Heineken tour' of parts of the cathedral other tours cannot reach. This took us up 338 steps in the tower, via the bell chamber complete with resident peregrine falcons, and into the roof spaces, where we got an idea of the complex processes involved in building such a structure.



The rest of our time was divided between delicious meals, browsing Lincoln's well-stocked second-hand bookshops, and catching up on sleep after the ravages of term. It was a delightful escape!

*Naomi Gardom (2014, History)*

SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE  
MERTON STUDENT PRIZES AND AWARDS

**Every year, we are astounded by how many undergraduates and graduates from Merton are awarded prizes for their work. We are delighted to announce the following.**

Zoology DPhil student **Herizo Andrianandrasana (2012)** was awarded the 2014 Tusk Trust Conservation Award for his work integrating local people into conservation management in Madagascar.

DPhil candidate **Samantha de Silva (2010)** was 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, as well as the Dermot Pierse Prize in Ophthalmology from the RSM and the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress Founder's Cup in 2014.

First-year undergraduate **Theophilus**

**Kwek (2013)** was awarded the 2014 Martin Starkie Prize by the Oxford Poetry Society for his poem 'Ultimate and penultimate things'.

DPhil student **Arthur Learoyd (2009)** was awarded the Deirdre and Paul Malone Thesis Prize in International Relations for his thesis on the concept of 'semi-sovereignty' in the law of nations.

Chemistry DPhil student **Anna Rydzik (2009)** was awarded a commendation for her thesis on the enzyme  $\gamma$ -butyrobetaine hydroxylase (BBOX), a catalyst in the production of carnitine in the human body.

**Daniel Schwennicke (2012)**, a second-year undergraduate, was awarded the 2014 Chancellor's Latin Prizes for both prose and verse compositions.

Music student **Peter Shepherd (2013)** was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

## FEATURED FELLOW

## RUMOURS OF WAR:

## THE ENGLISH PEOPLE AT WAR IN THE AGE OF HENRY VIII



**Merton's Fellow and Tutor in History Dr Steven Gunn (1979) gave this year's James Ford Lectures in British History in Hilary Term. He tells us about taking part in the lectures and his research on the English at war under Henry VIII.**

The Ford Lectures, funded by a bequest from the Revd James Ford, were first given in 1896. That first lecturer was a Mertonian, S.R. Gardiner, and he was followed by many more prestigious names: Maurice Powicke, Michael Wallace-Hadrill, Rodney Hilton, Donald Bullough, Conrad Russell, Paul Slack, James Campbell and Rees Davies. It was with some trepidation that I stood up in the Examination Schools at 5 pm on Friday 30 January to follow in their footsteps.

The lectures are intended both to advance historical understanding – they are usually published as a book by Oxford University Press – and to engage the interest of the general public. I thought it best to take a fairly large subject and one to which people could relate their own experience. Henry VIII fought many wars, against the French, against the Scots, against the Gaelic lords of Ireland, against rebels in his own realms, even against his traditional allies in the Netherlands.

But how much did they really affect his subjects? And what role did Henry's reign play in the wider transformation

of England's military capabilities over the century from 1475, when his grandfather Edward IV invaded France in the afterglow of the Hundred Years War, to the 1570s, when his daughter Elizabeth sought to shape a trained militia and a powerful navy to defend England in a Europe increasingly polarised by religion?

In crisis years like 1513, when Henry invaded France and the Scots attacked the North, it seems that as many as one adult man in ten went on campaign. In 1545, when a French invasion fleet anchored off the coast and the Mary Rose sank trying to repel it, perhaps one in five stood ready to fight. Meanwhile news about war spread widely, cheap printed literature discussed the prospects for war and people prayed for 'peace in our time' even before the Prayer Book of 1549 fixed the phrase in the English imagination.

Communities struggled to buy and maintain the up-to-date weapons and armour Henry insisted they should provide for their men, to fortify the coasts and keep up the chains of beacons that warned of invasion. Often they confiscated church resources or introduced local taxation or forced labour to meet these demands, but they also developed new mechanisms of local government which would help them cope with the challenges of poverty and plague.

Contemporaries complained that noblemen and gentlemen were giving up the knightly ways of their forebears, turning to law, accountancy and soft living. Even those who did wish to fight found their tenants were now reluctant to follow them. But many gentlemen still valued their martial honour and found a satisfying place in the new structures of the lord lieutenancy or the increasingly permanent English army in Ireland.

War also had an effect on the country's economy. Heavy taxation and disrupted trade threatened recession, but arms traders, fortification builders, privateers and those who raided the Scots for their livestock, often with names familiar to followers of North Eastern football – Robson, Milburn, Charlton – did well.

Many of Henry's subjects owned weapons and knew how to use them, as we can tell from their wills and from coroners' inquests into accidents with bows, guns and swords. Exhortations to manly valour egged soldiers on to fight, but as in most wars before penicillin, more died of disease than from enemy action.

Engagement in war vitally shaped Henry's relationship with his subjects and their sense of Englishness, Welshness or Englishness in Ireland. But the scale of his wars both inspired and daunted his successors.

It was a pleasure to see many Mertonians in the audience, both past and present students and Fellows; and as the lectures have been added as podcasts to the University website, they will be as public as the 21st century can make them. Perhaps S.R. Gardiner, no mean publisher, would have welcomed the opportunity to present his work to a wider audience. And Henry VIII, much concerned with his place in history, would doubtless have appreciated the publicity.

**Dr Gunn aims to revise his lectures for publication by OUP in the near future. The Ford Lectures are available to listen to online now at [www.history.ox.ac.uk/faculty/events](http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/faculty/events)**

Photograph: Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam





## A MERTON CONVERSATION ON...

# BOKO HARAM

**Welcome to our newest feature: an idea borrowed from the half-dozen Merton Conversations that took place throughout the 750th Anniversary Year. The aim of this feature is to bring together some expert voices on a particular topic in current affairs. Each has been given a word limit and free rein to tell us their views and research on the topic in question.**

To launch our mini Merton Conversation, we've asked the members of Trinity Term's Global Directions panel on Boko Haram to talk to us about the impact of the terrorist group.

Since 2009, over 5,000 civilians have been murdered by Boko Haram, which affiliates itself with Islamic State. In addition, more than 2,000 women and girls have been kidnapped by the organisation. According to Amnesty International and Reuters, those who have escaped report witnessing a range of atrocities, from children forced to stone to death those accused of adultery, to gang-rapes and mass executions.

The global response to the terrorist group's actions has been intense, with protests marching on the Nigerian parliament in Abuja and students and public figures around the world — including US first lady Michelle Obama and Malala Yousafzai — carrying posters offline, and tweeting and signing online petitions under the #BringBackOurGirls hashtag.



Top: Protesters in Abuja, Nigeria in April 2015 mark one year since the kidnapping of the Chibok girls by Boko Haram. Photograph: epa / STR

Bottom: Nigerians gather around a newspaper stand to read the election results on 31 March. Photograph: epa / Tife Owolabi



**Jessica Lam (2010)** is a Merton DPhil candidate in Chemistry. She has been very active working for the rights and opportunities of women in developing countries, particularly through her charity OWAY which seeks to fund their education at Oxford. She talks about global and local movements to protect the right to education in the face of Boko Haram.

Boko Haram has to date captured 2,000 women and girls, forcing many into sex-slavery or to become fighters. Last year, the militants kidnapped 276 girls from a boarding school in Chibok, using terror to deny education to girls.

Yet both the national and the international movements to protect and rescue the girls have only grown stronger. Protesters marched on the Nigerian parliament not long after the girls' disappearance, students and communities around the world have held demonstrations, and global public figures have helped catalyse a social media movement under the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls. This has since become a global movement under #UpForSchools, which its instigators hope will become the world's largest petition for the universal right to education.

On the national level, Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari has pledged, 'as a direct counterbalance to Boko Haram's twisted ideology', to 'educate ever more young girls'. Similarly, the government's Safe Schools Initiative has enabled 40 of the escaped girls to return to school. However, the political situation surrounding the girls' rescue is complicated, as the other contributors to this Conversation point out.

Despite the complications of both Nigerian and international politics, what is still clear is, as former World Bank Vice President Obiageli Ezekwesili said, 'Whatever we choose to do, we can accomplish. Let us bring back our girls.'



**Zhuoyan Zhang** currently works in Nigeria, as a management consultant. Her focus area includes agriculture, infrastructure and public policy. She is also part of the World Economic Forum's Global Shaper Community. She tells us about the role of the Boko Haram threat in Nigeria's recent elections.

Time after time, the Nigerian public has been shocked by Boko Haram's brutal attacks on innocent citizens, and frustrated by the low effectiveness of Goodluck Jonathan's People's Democratic Party (PDP). Boko Haram has not only been a major threat to the country, but has highly constrained the social-economic development of the northern region of Nigeria.

Because of this, Nigerians chose in March to put their faith in a leader with a strong military background to protect their homeland. The election – which saw the victory of Muhammadu Buhari and the All Progressive Congress (APC) – was significant as both the most competitive election and the first peaceful power transition between ruling parties since Nigeria embraced democracy.

Indeed, APC's manifesto focused on 'national security', 'governance' and 'urgently increasing the capacity and capability of the military'. However, the incoming administration faces a huge challenge in a difficult economic environment, as declining government revenue (over 75% of which came from crude oil in 2014) driven by the oil price crisis will limit military spend.

Meanwhile, with Boko Haram's recent alignment with ISIS, Nigeria faces a secondary issue – the emergence of global terrorism. The government also needs to develop a robust foreign policy to engage with international stakeholders.

Tackling Boko Haram needs a holistic view. The new leadership gives us hope that it can stand firmly with its people at this critical juncture of Nigeria's history.



**Funmi Ogunlusi** is a Nigerian national and holds an MSc in African Studies from the University of Oxford. Before attending St Antony's College, she graduated from the University of York with a BA in Politics and International Relations. She now works in public relations.

Ever since the admirable #BringBackOurGirls campaign, the first thing people ask about when I mention my Nigerian nationality is Boko Haram. They often also ask if I think the girls will be found.

I was initially sceptical – as many were. By the time the #BringBackOurGirls campaign went viral, the nearly 300 girls kidnapped from the North-Eastern Nigerian village of Chibok had been missing for almost a month. This led many, including myself, to the sad conclusion that a variety of horrifying fates could have befallen these girls, different scenarios which drastically reduced all hopes of successful rescue.

Yet before handing over the reins of power to the incoming Buhari government, Goodluck Jonathan's government made great strides in returning many young women who were violently stolen from their families over the course of Boko Haram's reign of terror. It cannot be fully verified how many of the returned girls are the Chibok students. Still, our girls have been brought back.

What next? From coping with the trauma of rape and resultant swollen bellies, to struggling to reintegrate into their communities and dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder, we have to start thinking about what support these young women are receiving. They have experienced atrocities that most will never see in a lifetime. They might be back but they are not as they were before they left. The next challenge we face is ensuring that they can begin to rebuild their lives, as the battle against extremism in North-Eastern Nigeria continues.



## FROM THE LIBRARY &amp; ARCHIVE

## A NEW PICTURE OF JOHN COLERIDGE PATTESON (1827-71)

**The College has recently acquired a portrait of Merton Fellow, missionary and Bishop of Melanesia, John Coleridge Patteson (1827-71) with the help of John Booth (1976) and Beth Williamson (1988). Fellow Librarian Dr Julia Walworth tells more about this interesting figure, whose death in mysterious circumstances in Melanesia on 20 September 1871 is still commemorated by the Church of England.**

Many Mertonians may recall the striking marble memorial to John Coleridge Patteson in the College Chapel, depicting in carved relief his dead body lying in a canoe surmounted by a portrait bust and graceful tropical plants. The memorial commemorates both a fascinating man and his intriguing demise which reformed 19th-century imperial attitudes in the Pacific Islands.

Patteson — related on his mother's side to the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge — was educated at Eton and Balliol, travelling in Europe for several years before becoming a Fellow of Merton in 1852. He was a gifted linguist, and following ordination in 1853, Patteson looked set to pursue a life as a country vicar until he met George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand, in the summer of 1854.

Patteson departed for New Zealand in March 1855 to take on the role of missionary chaplain to Melanesia — a region in the South Pacific that includes the modern countries of Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. It was not easy work, but Patteson had energy and optimism: he believed in education and in working with indigenous cultures, rather than imposing alien ideas on the local people. In 1861 Patteson was consecrated as the first bishop of Melanesia.

On a visit to Nukapu in 1871, Patteson went ashore alone. His companions, waiting in a boat offshore, were attacked by arrows, and shortly thereafter Patteson's body was floated out to them in a canoe.

The news of Patteson's death caused a national sensation in England. It was believed to be linked to the nefarious



*John Coleridge Patteson (1827-1871) by George Richmond, 1854. Photograph: The Oxford Conservation Consortium*

practices of European sugar planters abducting local people to make up their workforce. Within a year, parliament passed the Pacific Islanders' Protection Act.

Thanks to the generosity of John Booth, who presented the portrait to the College, and the foresight of Beth Williamson, who first put us in

contact with the dealer, the College now has an image of Patteson as he must have looked while at Merton. It was drawn by George Richmond RA in 1854, just before Patteson left England, and remained in the family until recently. Patteson's lively expression communicates some of his intelligence and charismatic energy.



# MERTON ON FILM

Merton's medieval quads, appealing gardens and the quiet and picturesque nature of Merton Street make the College a very attractive place to film crews. As a result, Merton has recently seen a spate of filming activity, so here's a brief guide to some of the College's more recent appearances on film and TV...

## *EastEnders* (BBC, April 2014)

Very few Oxbridge Colleges have appeared in UK soap operas, but in April last year, events in *EastEnders* were briefly taken out of the Square and relocated to Oxford when Denise visited her daughter, Libby. One scene has Libby having a heart-to-heart with her mother in her new office in The Americas Room (Fitzjames 2). This takes place just days before the murder of Lucy Beale, a series of events that started in Oxford last year and culminated in a week-long live show in February 2015.

The 30-year-old soap is currently under the watchful eye of its Mertonian producer, Dominic Treadwell-Collins (1996), who has been lauded for bringing the show back to life.



## *Morse, Lewis and Endeavour* (ITV, 1987 - ongoing)

Talking of long-standing British institutions on TV, no list would be complete without mention of that bastion of the Thames Valley CID, *Inspector Morse*.

If *Inspector Morse, Lewis and Endeavour* are to be believed, Merton passes for quite a few different colleges in a city which must have the country's highest death rate! These include Chaucer (where in Lewis's *Your Sudden Death Question* a weekend quiz results in a dead body in a fountain), Beaufort and Lonsdale Colleges. Lonsdale is actually Morse's old college, and Merton therefore features quite prominently in the 'pilot' episode of *Endeavour*. The entrance to the Old Warden's Lodgings has also stood in for court buildings, and the oh-so-familiar Merton chime can infamously be heard all across the city, from Cowley to Jericho and beyond.



## *The Quiet Ones* (Hammer Films, April 2014)

Now for something a little different...

In the spring of 2014, Hammer Films released a new horror movie set in Oxford in the 1970s, with Merton as its backdrop. *The Quiet Ones* is based on a real parapsychological experiment which actually took place in Toronto, Canada – the Philip Experiment undertaken under Dr ARG Owen in 1972. The fictional Professor Coupland (Jared Harris) and his group of students conduct a series of experiments on a disturbed young girl and supernatural chaos ensues.

## *Michael Wood's Story of England* (BBC, September 2010)

Although a popular location, Merton rarely seems to appear as itself, so here's a slightly older series – *Michael Wood's Story of England*. This six-part BBC series tells the story of one place – Kibworth in Leicestershire – throughout the whole of English history.

As it happens, Kibworth was one of Merton's very first parcels of land, acquired in 1270 as a result of the revolution led by Simon de Montfort in 1264. The College holds village records dating back 750 years which make up some of the longest and most complete records of English village life and the core of the documentary. They include items as noteworthy as the first letter from an English peasant – the butcher John Pychard to the Warden of Merton in 1447 – and a remarkably complete survey of the village's population from the 13th century.

## *Testament of Youth* (BBC Films, October 2014)

Vera Brittain's seminal memoir of the First World War, *Testament of Youth*, deals with questions of youthful patriotism, the impact of the war on women, loss and disillusionment. Notably, Vera's fiancé – the poet Roland Leighton – was awarded a Classical Postmastership at Merton and appears on the Merton war memorial under the Fitzjames Arch.

This isn't Merton's only connection to the celebrated volume however: it also provided the setting for some of the Oxford scenes in last year's film adaptation. Somewhat counterintuitively perhaps, Merton stands in for Vera's *alma mater* Somerville. Fellows' Quad is patrolled by imposing female dons in long Edwardian skirts in 1914, before St Albans Quad fills up with the accoutrements of a First World War hospital as Somerville is taken over for the war effort.

## *Code of a Killer* (ITV, April 2015)

The most recent on this list, ITV's *Code of a Killer* features one of our outstanding Mertonians, rather than Merton itself – Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys (1968).

Set in the mid-1980s, it tells the true story of Professor Jeffreys' work on DNA fingerprinting at the University of Leicester and its first use in a criminal investigation, revolutionising forensics. John Simm stars as Professor Jeffreys, but keep an eye out for the real Professor Jeffreys making a cameo appearance.

Top: A lecture scene from the *The Quiet Ones*.  
Photograph: Hammer Films  
Left: Shaun Evans as a young Inspector Morse in Merton's Front Quad. Photograph: Leah McLaren

Have you seen Merton on film anywhere else? If you think we've missed anything out, let us know at [publications@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publications@merton.ox.ac.uk)

## HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

# 'GOOD LAD': THE JOURNEY TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

Mertonians have recently been leading the way in opening up discussions on consent and gender parity, from the Merton Equality Conversations (see page 26 for an interview with Trevor Phillips, this year's introductory speaker), to the recent introduction of JCR Consent Workshops during Freshers' Week.

As some of these initiatives recently attracted the attention of the national press, we decided to get an inside view of what's been going on. We spoke to Dave Llewellyn – one-time Deputy Principal of Postmasters – about his involvement as a founder of the 'Good Lad' initiative.

When asked about where Good Lad ([www.goodladworkshop.com](http://www.goodladworkshop.com)) came from, Dave refers back to his time as 'DPOP Dave' at Merton. As he and his contemporaries talked about calls for male action in questions of sexual violence and consent, they knew they were being asked to engage with a crucially important topic in gender equality. They nonetheless found it difficult to understand their role in tackling some of the disturbing trends.

"We would be confronted with all these terrible things that men were doing and we would immediately think 'That's not us – we're nice guys'. And that was it. We were turned off. This didn't apply to us anymore, even though it actually really did. And we were all Junior Deans, or in similar positions across the University, so we had the reason and the space to discuss this. It made us realise that most young men just don't."



David Llewellyn. Photograph: Greg Funnell



Good Lads in Oxford on International Women's Day, March 2015. Photograph: David Llewellyn

The more they discussed, the clearer it became that there is a need for non-judgemental space to express and encourage 'positive masculinity'. The Good Lad workshops take the line that most young men are 'good guys' and provide groups of young men with the space to talk about behaviour in an open setting for an hour at a time. No answers are provided, but the workshops provide a space for the participants to discuss subjects including, crucially, the way participants' behaviour changes in certain group situations and how to challenge this behaviour in an effective manner.

The workshops focus on cultures, rather than the legal issue of consent, and as such have been a successful and complementary addition to the Oxford University Student Union workshops offered by college JCRs (see page 17). Dave is very clear that the sessions are non-compulsory and non-disciplinary. The idea is not to paint young men as

perpetrators who are at risk of breaking the law, but to open up conversations about what being a 'Good Lad' means.

"Essentially there are two ways to make a decision about how to behave. We either abide by minimum standards – 'You should not do such and such; it is a crime' – or we choose to do the best thing. That means that you start to think about how to take positive action rather than, for example, doing nothing in a group situation."



Good Lad was born in January 2013, but it was around the beginning of Michaelmas Term in 2014 that the organisation first started hitting the headlines, alongside OUSU's Consent Workshops. Articles appeared in national papers including *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph* debating everything from the concept, the perceived need, and the terms of reference for such workshops to the role of young men in confronting issues of gender.

Dave points out that there was a lot of surprise expressed that young men are even talking about these subjects. But, as Dave says, Good Lad works on the assumption that more men need to be involved, and it became obvious as they embarked on the workshops that they were both welcomed and applicable to real life. With the support of the University, the colleges and the young men themselves, the reaction, according to Dave, has been 'fantastic'.

Right: OUSU Vice President and Women's Officer Anna Bradshaw leads a JCR Consent Workshop.  
Photograph: The Oxford Student

Below: A Good Lad event organised with Tony Porter from 'A Call to Men' this year.  
Photograph: David Llewellyn

Bottom: A Good Lad workshop in progress at Merton  
Photograph: David Sillitoe for Guardian News & Media Ltd



## THE OUSU JCR CONSENT WORKSHOPS

Instigated by OUSU and taken up by every JCR in the University, Consent Workshops appeared for the first time in Oxford during Freshers' Week 2014, and the Merton JCR voted in Hilary Term 2014 to hold a Consent Workshop for first-year students.

Merton's workshops — which were run as an opt-out, open door addition to the regular Welfare afternoon for all first-year students — were run by Hamish Forbes, the Gender Equalities Representative on the Merton JCR, with the help of the JCR's two Welfare Reps and two other peer-support trained students. The workshop dealt with the legal aspects of consent, focusing on open facilitated discussion. Of the 80-90 students to whom the workshops were offered, 74 took part, and 72 of these fed back that the workshops were helpful.

Hamish thinks the success of the workshops may rest in part on the substantial press coverage they had in the weeks leading up to Freshers' Week, but also points out that being under the OUSU umbrella meant that all the workshops were consistent and there was support for the facilitators if they needed it.





## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE OXFORD CAREERS SERVICE

**What's out there for our alumni who are looking for advice on tackling the working world? Whether you have new ambitions, are returning to work after a career break or are just curious to raise your head above the parapet, the University's Careers Service can help.**

**Hugh Nicholson-Lailey – who is the main careers adviser for Merton based at the University's Careers Service – spoke to his colleague Dr Michael Moss – the University's first alumni-dedicated careers adviser – to find out more.**

Since moving to Oxford from a senior scientific post within Procter & Gamble in Brussels, Dr Michael Moss has been offering more than 20 Skype-calls per week to alumni all over the world. At least 30 Mertonians have consulted him with some impressive results.

So who is Michael seeing and for what sort of advice? There is no stock answer where Oxonians are concerned, but he does see a lot of people in their late 20s and early 30s who have already made their mark but want a change. Some of them are lawyers, consultants and bankers. It prompts Michael to note how much Oxford students are still targeted by these types of employers, even to the point of promotional leaflets getting into fresher packs. "Another big segment is alumni a year or so out of Oxford, who have been travelling, completed a long internship, or have found their first job did not meet their high expectations."

Michael has 54 patents to his name and is an inventor, a marathon runner with four daughters, and a wine and olive oil producer at a smallholding he owns in Italy. He says all of this by way of confirming his belief in work-life integration. "That's not the same as work-life balance," he adds. "There's just life, and work is part of it..."

So what are the most common categories of advice he gives to Oxonians? "Obviously every conversation is unique but there are three general categories: alumni who are confused about what to do; those making a lot of applications, but not getting many interviews – in which case we work on the documents; and



those attending a lot of interviews, but not getting offers – in which case we work on the interview preparation."

So how does he advise those who are confused about what to do? "The most important tool is networking, and we've found that the social media platform LinkedIn is the most powerful way to expand one's personal network in a targeted way. There are 134,000 Oxonian profiles on LinkedIn, 1,300 in Hong Kong and 248 at the BBC. 4,400 are in the marketing sector, 12,000 studied history and 7,100 claim to have the skill of 'change management'. You can search on all of these vectors, connect with individuals and conduct information interviews."

Do Oxonians present any unique problems? "Highly intelligent people can get a long way doing the wrong thing brilliantly so a few tips and tricks can make all of the difference. We can



sometimes decide to think less and trust our intuition more. And sometimes when changing career we need to talk less about our past successes as they happened, but translate them into the new context and the new language of the organisation we are trying to enter, so that their relevance to the recruiter is more immediate and obvious, as it needs to be with an average of six seconds spent on a CV."

Anyone can contact Dr Michael Moss for careers advice using the CareersConnect portal or by emailing [alumni@careers.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@careers.ox.ac.uk). Merton also has a dedicated alumni LinkedIn group – simply search 'Merton College Alumni' at [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) to join.

Left: Hugh Nicholson-Lailey  
Right: Michael Moss

"I approached the Careers Service towards the end of last year for the first time since I left Oxford when I was thinking through possible next steps careers-wise. I was also reflecting on feedback I had received from some job interviews throughout the year.

I found the service easy to access: the staff got back to me quickly and registration was not difficult. I had a half-hour interview coaching session with one of the advisors, which had something of an Oxford tutorial about it (it took me a few minutes to warm up!) but which challenged me to think through some of the things I had said, as well as providing new some insights into how to approach interviews generally."

Peter Cousins (2000)

## GIVING BACK: THE OXFORD CAREERS NETWORK

You can also share your experiences of employment and further study with current students through the Oxford Careers Network on CareerConnect. This provides members with behind-the-scenes information about a company or occupation.

If you are happy to handle additional questions from students (and other alumni) looking into their career options, you can volunteer as an alumni mentor so that students can contact you directly. However, you can choose to post anonymously if you want and, of course, the Careers Service is committed not to divulge any personal details to third parties.

You can also contact [alumni@careers.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@careers.ox.ac.uk) with any questions or to receive a monthly alumni careers newsletter.



Recently graduated Mertonians return to Merton to provide Careers advice. Photograph: Laura Burns

“A privilege to be invited back to @MertonCollege this weekend to talk to undergrads about my journalism career”

@LauraBurnsTV, Laura Burns (2002)

On 16 May, the JCR Careers Rep Abbey Ellis ran a ‘Careers Café’ for Merton students to meet alumni who have been in the world of work for a year. At an informal drop-in session, recently graduated volunteers came back to Oxford and spent a few hours chatting with Merton students about life after university.

“I used the Career Service last year and was very happy to talk to them. They explained to me several options for my future, what jobs there are, in what fields, and how I get in contact with people and companies. This helped me in forming a better understanding of the fields and possibilities open to me. I would definitely recommend the service.”

Andreas Walker (2007)



## CAREERCONNECT: THE OXFORD CAREERS SERVICE PORTAL

The University provides an online space for alumni and current students to connect: the CareerConnect portal located at [www.careers.ox.ac.uk/our-services/careerconnect](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/our-services/careerconnect)

The CareerConnect portal allows Oxonians to access 1,500 vacancies, 1,300 potential alumni mentors in the Oxford Careers Network and book 30-minute Skype appointments with Dr Moss. Alumni can attend many of the fairs and events in CareerConnect as well as the alumni-specific events.

After many months of preparation the University has also just launched an online networking platform solely for Oxford alumni, allowing them to search for jobs, mentors and fellow alumni. It's called the Oxford Alumni Community and is located at [oxfordalumnicomunity.org](http://oxfordalumnicomunity.org). Registering is quick and easy as you can use your LinkedIn sign-on and import information from your LinkedIn profile.

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## WHAT NEXT AFTER THE 750TH CAMPAIGN?



How do you follow a 750th Anniversary year? A year that featured the largest and most exciting display of events ever seen in an Oxford college in living memory, and a wonderful and successful Campaign to raise £30 million for *Sustaining Excellence*: to protect the tutorial system, support our superb students, and enhance and resource our beautiful, ancient site.

Do not worry – this is not a call for answers – but it is the question that has shaped our hard work so far this year as we finish up our remaining Campaign priorities, and reassess everything that the Anniversary Campaign has achieved to date. Publicly launched in 2011, with £15.75 million up front, the £30 million target was ambitious but was what we knew we needed in order to secure the College's most immediate priorities.

This money has enabled us to do just that, which is why we are carefully looking at the College's strategic vision for the next five years, and planning ahead for what the economy or changing politics might cast in our direction. The College is working on this process to inform our future priorities for Development. However we do still have some outstanding Campaign priorities for which we are looking for your help. We have outlined them for you on these two pages.

So as 2015 gathers speed we are continuing the good work with the same College spirit that marked the 750th Birthday: we continue to run a suite of high profile and excellent events; we are working to ensure that we sustain Merton's ongoing excellence by pursuing the important outstanding projects; and we are planning the next moves. All that has been achieved in our 750th Anniversary Year allows us to be bolder and more ambitious with our core aims – to advance education, learning and research – than ever before. We invite you to continue to travel with us every step of our path into the future.

*Christine Taylor, Fellow and Development Director*



## KEEPING MCBC AFLOAT

Following a successful Torpids this year – the best since 1999 for the M1 boat (see page 10) – we are still looking for crucial funds to upgrade the Boathouse for our crews. The Boat Club still needs £150,000 to put towards this important renovation work, and your support has helped us raise £50,521 so far. Your gifts can make a big difference.

## THE REACH OXFORD SCHOLARSHIP



Created in 1990 by the Oxford University Student Union, the Reach Oxford Scholarship gives highly capable students from low income countries the opportunity to study at Oxford; it has been embraced by a number of colleges across the University.

The scholars are selected on the basis of academic ability, financial need and social commitment. Candidates must also show that for financial or political reasons, or due to lack of facilities, they cannot acquire an education in their own country. Applicants must be offered a place at Oxford before being eligible for a Reach Scholarship, and the Scholarship covers University fees, college fees, a grant for living expenses, and one return air fare per year.

At Merton, the JCR contributes 50% of the living costs, while the University remits part of the tuition fees and the College contributes all the remaining costs. In Hilary Term 2014, the JCR voted to include a donation to the Scholarship in every student's end-of-term battels, and currently every Merton undergraduate agrees to give £3 a term. Through this and other fundraising endeavours, the JCR has managed to raise almost £12,000 of its £17,000 target to date. The College continues to raise £50,000 towards its share of the Scholarship.

*Daniel Schwennicke, JCR President*





Katie Ratcliffe, first-year law undergraduate and winner of the Criminal Law Moderations prize.  
Photograph: Gemma Woodbridge

## THE LAW FELLOWSHIP

Law at Merton is a key subject hub at undergraduate and graduate levels. Our two Fellows in Law — Mindy Chen-Wishart (Reader in Contract Law) and Professor Jennifer Payne (Corporate Finance Law) — continue to lead our students to great success.

Merton achieved stellar results in the 2014-15 final examinations, and recently first-year undergraduate Katie Ratcliffe (2014) became the second Mertonian in a row to be awarded the prize for the best Law Moderations paper in the subject of Criminal Law. Earlier this year, two Merton students represented us at the Jessup Cup, the world's most prestigious moot contest, in Washington DC (see page 5), and our graduate students in Law continue to hone their work to make a real difference globally.

Beyond Merton, Mertonians continue to hold some of the most prestigious positions within law around the globe. Senior QCs, judges, partners of leading law firms, and law deans and professors can all be counted amongst our community of Mertonian lawyers. The tutorial system at Merton is vital for fostering the next generation of expert legal minds.

However, in line with our 750th Anniversary Campaign target to strengthen and secure the tutorial system, we are still in need of £409,000 to finish endowing the College side of one of the existing Law Fellowships, as the University continues to reduce funding in teaching posts. The *Sustaining Excellence* Campaign succeeded in endowing a crucial number of Fellowships, and in raising £440,779 towards securing this vital position. However, we still need an additional £409,221 to reach the £850,000 target to endow this Fellowship into the future.

Please support Law today.

"I am very conscious that, without the support that I received from Mindy and the other Law tutors at Merton during my time here, my legal career would not have developed in the same way. I am therefore making a donation to the Law Fellowship as a way of saying thank you."  
*Ben Perry (1992)*

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

This summer we are seeing the graduation of the first grateful beneficiaries of the College's support for undergraduate tuition fees, which has been especially appreciated in light of their increase in 2012.

Without the ongoing support of many Mertonians whose generosity has

bolstered this specific fund — unlocking the University's Moritz-Heyman fund — Merton would not be able to afford the College's share of these undergraduate bursaries. We are especially grateful for the generous benefactions of Sir Howard Stringer (1961) and Ian Taylor (1975) of £1 million each, and of other generous donors, which have been

instrumental in supporting the £2.39 million already raised.

However, there is still a need to raise a further £207,999 to cover Merton's share of these bursaries (£2.57 million in total) for the immediate future and to provide this essential Undergraduate Support package.

"Because I received a bursary, I have been able to buy a laptop and, together with the book grant, this has meant that I can access the information I need for my studies. This freedom has given me more time to study as well as enjoy university life."  
*Anonymous bursary recipient*

To find out more about how to donate to Merton, please visit the College website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/support-merton](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/support-merton), or contact Peter O'Connor, Annual Fund Officer at [peter.oconnor@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:peter.oconnor@merton.ox.ac.uk).



## EVENTS NEWS



Booking is currently open for the Merton@Home event. Visit the College website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/athome](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/athome) to find out more and book your tickets. Events over the weekend will include dinner in Hall, a Bop at the Sports Pavilion and the chance to climb the Chapel Tower.

Some of these stories were taken from the Merton@750 Anniversary Collection. You can browse other stories online at [share.merton.ox.ac.uk](http://share.merton.ox.ac.uk)

"It was possible to borrow a key from the Porters' Lodge, and go onto the roof of the chapel, something I enjoyed doing very much. There was one occasion when I borrowed the key, went and unlocked the necessary door or doors on the way to the chapel roof. I then deliberately left them unlocked, and handed the key back, and later that night I went up there with a girl I really fancied. We lay on the roof at midnight and looked at the stars."

*Peter Kessler (1982)*



# At Home at Merton

**This year for the first time, the Merton Society will be hosting the new and updated Merton@Home weekend on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June. The weekend is a revamped and refreshed version of the annual Merton Society Weekend, with new events added to the weekend's repertoire, including punting, a choral workshop and a Bop at the Sports Pavilion.**

**To celebrate the launch of Merton@Home, we asked some Mertonians to share their memories of what made Merton 'home' for them...**



"Having been an undergraduate at another Oxford college, I moved to Merton for my DPhil. Towards the end of my fourth year, I was able to arrange a few months' accommodation in Rose Lane while I finished writing my thesis. I remember that summer particularly fondly: writing in my room during the day, and then wandering through the Fellows' Garden to dinner in the SCR in the evening.

"One day, a friend in the MCR had decided to throw a Regency-themed garden party for her birthday, so I dutifully donned a cravat, tailcoat, and top hat, and the party proceeded with gusto. It seemed expedient to go straight to dinner, so a group of us – somewhat hesitantly – ascended to the SCR. Surprisingly, our unconventional attire drew few comments from the assembled Fellows, apart from one, I think, who remarked how fitting we looked in our wood-panelled surroundings."

*Greg Lim (2006 & member of the Merton Society Council)*



"In my second year there was a dinner for Postmasters – I think for Shrove Tuesday. After dinner, we repaired to the Senior Common Room (or some equivalent) for dessert. I was confronted with an entire pineapple, complete with the green vegetation on top, and I was sitting to the left of whoever was at the top of the table. Hence I was on notice to perform with adequate aplomb to the situation, and I did not know what to do with this thing! I'd actually never eaten a pineapple like that before; I'd only ever seen pineapple in tins. In my gut I knew I didn't really like it. But I'd been given this enormous object, with a knife and fork.

"I was in a real panic, until someone explained that it had been sliced, and you had to take one slice, and pass it on, do it layer by layer by layer. That was a real test. In later life I knew not to be thrown by circumstances putting impossible challenges in front of you."

*David Giachardi (1967)*

"There was something reassuringly familiar about many aspects of Merton to the extent that, by my third year, parts of the College almost felt like rooms in a home. This was especially true of the College bar, with its sparse long tables and benches and distinctive aroma. Moreover, Dave Hedges, the barman, was a fountain of obscure knowledge and wisdom, and several hours were spent discussing politics with him over a couple of pints of Guinness.

"In my first year, his assistant was a gentleman called Tony, who moonlighted as a blues guitarist. Along with a group of friends, I would frequently go to see him play at the Half Moon pub on St. Clement's Street, where he would be accompanied by assorted musicians



from around Oxford, and which would inevitably culminate in a lock-in until three o'clock in the morning."

*Alistair Haggerty (2007 & member of the Merton Society Council)*



## EVENTS NEWS

# Forthcoming Events



## OXFORD ALUMNI EVENTS

### 'MEETING MINDS': OXFORD UNIVERSITY ALUMNI WEEKEND

18 – 20 SEPTEMBER

The University hosts an Alumni Weekend every September for an inspiring programme of discussion and debate led by some of Oxford's brightest minds.

The programme will be made available this month. To join the Alumni Weekend mailing list, register for an alumni account at [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk) or email [alumniweekend@alumni.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumniweekend@alumni.ox.ac.uk)

## MERTON GOLF SOCIETY MEETING

25 SEPTEMBER

Join us for the Merton Golf Society's Autumn meeting at Frilford Heath Golf Course and a few rounds of golf, followed by dinner in College.

## GAUDY

26 SEPTEMBER

For Mertonians who matriculated in 1992 to 1996.

These reunion events are always incredibly popular: watch out for the information which will be sent out in the summer and sign up to ensure your place at the dinner and stay overnight.

## '50 YEARS ON' LUNCH

10 OCTOBER

Invitations have already been sent to Mertonians from 1965.

Start sourcing your photos and memorabilia to bring back to this '50 Years On' reunion for Mertonians who matriculated in 1965.

## LONDON DRINKS PARTY

27 OCTOBER

London-based Mertonians gather informally to welcome new Merton graduates to the capital and are on hand to given them all the latest tips!

This event will be held at Davy's Wine Bar in Holborn. Booking will open on the College website nearer the time.

## MERTON IN MANHATTAN

OCTOBER (TBC)

A special autumn feature of the MC3 annual calendar, Mertonians working in Manhattan or based in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey gather mid-week to hear a topical speaker and network over canapés.

## MERTON@HOME

27 – 28 JUNE

Join us for a glorious weekend of summer fun, Oxford-style: punting, singing and dancing the weekend away. The programme for the weekend will include a scratch choir workshop under the guidance of Alexander L'Estrange (1991), a Bop at the Sports Pavilion, punting, lectures and a formal dinner in Hall.

Find out more about the events on offer and book now at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/athome](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/athome)

## 'CHORAL CLASSICS' PERFORMED BY THE CHOIRS OF MERTON COLLEGE AND JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

7 JULY

Jesus College Choir, Cambridge join the Choir of Merton College in Merton Chapel to perform masterpieces from the choral repertoire, including Tallis's 40-part *Spem in alium*, in aid of the Muze Trust for Music Education in Zambia.

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



## MERTON ORGAN FESTIVAL 2015

Join us for a range of concerts on the impressive Dobson organ in Merton College Chapel. Book your tickets for the Festival now at [www.musicatoxford.com](http://www.musicatoxford.com)

### 10 JUNE

Paul Jacobs performs Brahms, Mendelssohn, Reger and Bach.

### 19 SEPTEMBER

Merton's Director of Music Benjamin Nicholas performs Guilman, Bach, Franck and Lanquett as part of the Oxford University Alumni Weekend.

### 10 OCTOBER

Robert Quinney performs Dupré, Bach, Schumann, Alain and Nielsen.

### 14 NOVEMBER

Matthew Martin performs Gowers, Bach and Whitlock.

This year's speaker will be Mark Thompson (1976). We are also delighted to be hosted by the Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations, Peter Wilson (1987), who addressed the gathering last year.

## ALL SOULS' REQUIEM

1 NOVEMBER

The College Choir will sing Mozart's *Requiem* at the College's Service of Remembrance for all recently departed Mertonians and loved ones.

## ADVENT CAROL SERVICES

28 AND 29 NOVEMBER

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

## MERTON LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING

NOVEMBER (TBC)

All Mertonians working in law or who have studied law will be invited to the next meeting of the Association. The speaker this autumn will be Dominic Grieve QC MP.

## LONDON DINNER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER (TBC)

The annual Merton Society London Dinner, hosted by its President The Rt Hon. Sir Brian Leveson (1967), will take place at a venue in Central London. Further details will be made available online nearer the time.

All Mertonians and their partners are very welcome to attend. The Society

particularly encourages younger Mertonians to join them by offering a subsidised ticket price.

## LONDON CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

11 DECEMBER

The College Choir will sing at St Luke's Church in Chelsea.

To find out more or to book College events, please visit [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/events) or contact Helen Kingsley, Alumni Relations Manager, at [helen.kingsley@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:helen.kingsley@merton.ox.ac.uk) or on 01865 286298



# 60 seconds with...

## TREVOR PHILLIPS OBE

Broadcaster, writer and former politician, Trevor Phillips OBE is also the Deputy Chair of the Board of the National Equality Standard and the former chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. He gave the introductory talk at the Second Annual Merton Equality Conversation in February 2015 on 'The Value of Equality: Towards a Fairer Oxford'. We talked to him after the Conversation about striving for equality, diversity in Oxford, and left-handedness.

You can find recordings of the 2015 Equality Conversation, along with other lectures and talks given at Merton, at [www.soundcloud.com/mertoncollege](http://www.soundcloud.com/mertoncollege)



**You gave an incredibly thought-provoking contribution at this year's Equality Conversation, and you have a lot of experience in working towards equality. On that note, what would you say the phrase 'equal society' means?**

In its best version, it means a society in which an individual's destiny does not depend on their origins; where our life-chances rest on our talents, ambition and application; and where we are all equally free to think and say what we wish.

In its worst version, it can mean the Soviet-style nightmare in which we are all equally oppressed, equally poor and equally miserable. People should be free to offend, but also be free, within the law, to express their hurt and anger.

**How does data shape debates on equality?**

Not nearly enough! Debates about diversity and equality are too frequently based on anecdote and emotion, rather than on evidence and insight. Given that the divisions on gender, sexuality, and even more so on religion and race are so potent and deeply felt, we could well do with an injection of scientific method – and sheer common sense to this debate.

**What do you think makes Oxford's applicant pool less diverse than the UK more broadly?**

I think that there is an assumption that any diversity deficit at Oxford arises from a deficiency in the potential applicants that needs to be corrected

– they do not fully grasp Oxford's virtues, they don't believe they can win a place, or they need to be brought up to Oxford's academic standards. But is that true?

First, universities overall attract more minority candidates than non-minority candidates. But some are more diverse than others. All universities attract skewed samples for a variety of reasons – their range of subjects, their overall ethos, and their geography for example; and that may provide a clue to Oxford's lack of diversity. To paraphrase the analysis of all too many failed relationships – it's not them, it's you.

Second, some universities to which entry is similarly competitive are far more ethnically diverse than Oxbridge – notably UCL, LSE and my own *alma mater*, Imperial, each of which enjoys a minority population at least twice as high as either Oxford or Cambridge.

Third, the single largest pool of successful Oxbridge candidates comes from a group of schools which are more ethnically diverse than the average UK school – the independent sector. So might the problem just be that students do not fully understand what is on offer at each institution, and that they just don't fancy what Oxford has to offer?

In short, shouldn't Oxford be considering the possibility that if it wants to be more diverse, it doesn't need to change the candidates to make them attractive to the university; instead, it needs to

change itself to make Oxford more attractive to the candidates?

**You must have picked up lots of insightful anecdotes and stories about the quest for equality. Are there any in particular you'd like to share?**

Yes. Equality isn't just a matter of goodwill. More often than not, disadvantage is the consequence of history, culture, habit and inertia. That's why we need positive, systematic effort to monitor and to tackle identity-based inequality; and why it's as much a business issue as it is a social justice question.

The following story from the *New York Times* more or less says it all.

"In 2012, when YouTube, a Google subsidiary, created a mobile app that allowed people to upload videos from their phones, it noticed something odd. About 10 per cent of the videos being uploaded were upside down. When designers looked into the problem, they found something unexpected: left-handed people picked up their phones differently from right-handed people, leading to upside-down videos.

The issue here was one of ignorance – the engineers and designers who created the YouTube app were all right-handed, and none had considered that some people may pick up their phones differently. It's a small example, but a telling one." (*New York Times*, 26 September 2014)



# FAQs

## THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ANSWERS SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

If, for any reason, you did not receive your certificate or your current certificate is lost or damaged, then degree certificates can be obtained by completing the Degree Certificate Order Form which can be found on the Alumni Information page on the Merton website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/alumni-information](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/alumni-information). This form should be submitted to the Examination Schools.

To attend a degree ceremony, you need to complete the Degree Day Procedure Form, which can also be found on the Alumni Information page on the Merton website. This should be returned to the College's Events Coordinator by email or by post. If you have any questions about your degree ceremony, please contact [eventscoord@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:eventscoord@merton.ox.ac.uk) or 01865 276336.

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

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

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

### Can I stay at the College?

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

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

Full details on how to give to the College can be accessed via the Supporting Merton page on the website at [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/support-merton](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/support-merton). If you wish to discuss your donation requirements directly

with the Development Office please contact Christine Taylor, Director of Development, at [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk).

### Can I get married in the Chapel?

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

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

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

### When is my next Gaudy?

Gaudies up to 2017 are as follows:

#### 2015 Autumn

1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996

#### 2016 Spring

1982, 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986

#### 2016 Autumn

Up to and including 1961

#### 2017 Spring

1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971

#### 2017 Autumn

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002

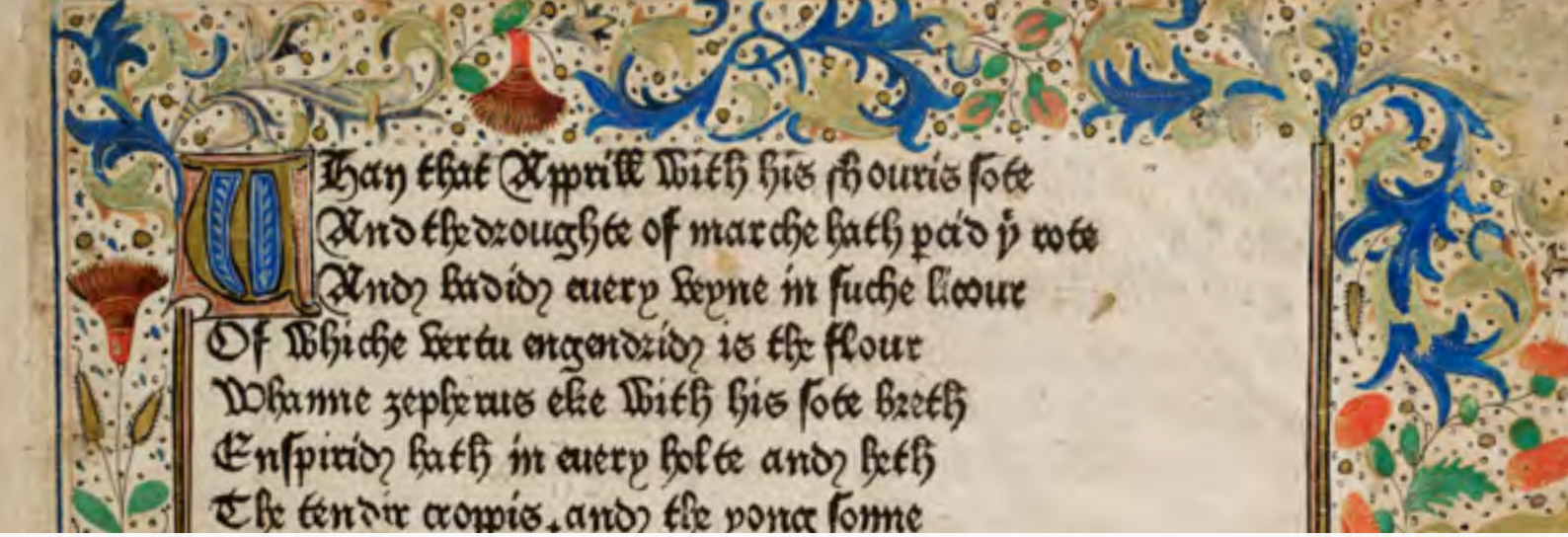


Development Office: Front row (left to right): Catherine Farfan, Alumni Communications Officer; Christine Taylor, Director of Development; Helen Kingsley, Alumni Relations Manager. Back row (left to right): Peter O'Connor, Annual Fund Officer; Elina Harjula, Information & Research Officer.

The Development Team have been sad to say goodbye to Helen Morley, Communications Officer; Lauren Kendall, Campaign Officer; Leah McLaren, Development Assistant; and Theo Lester, Anniversary Events Assistant. Catherine Farfan has joined the team as Alumni Communications Officer.

Contact us: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) / +44 (0)1865 276316





**U**han that Aprill With his shouris fote  
And the droughthe of marche hath paid þ rote  
And hadid every keyne in suche licour  
Of Whiche vertu engendrid is the flour  
Whanne zepherus eke With his fote bresth  
Enspirid hath in every holte and heth  
The tendre crows and the yonge sonne


# HOW WILL YOU MAKE YOUR MARK?



Over the centuries generations of Mertonians have benefited from opportunities provided by generous legacies. What is more, a legacy is a gift that everyone can make and it gives a genuine opportunity to make a huge impact.

The Merton Founder's Society recognises the long-term commitment of those Mertonians who intend to leave a gift to the College in their Will.

To find out more about how to leave a legacy and join the Society, please contact Christine Taylor on 01865 276316 or email [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)



**T**hat nyght Was come in to that hosterpe  
Wel myne & twenty in a compaigne  
Of sondry folk þe aventure þe falle  
In feleship as pilgrymys Were they alle  
That towarde Cauntirbury Wolde ryde  
The chambrys and the stablis Were wyde  
And wel were they esid atte beste