



# Postmaster & The Merton Record

2018



MERTON COLLEGE  
OXFORD





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Merton College  
Oxford  
OX1 4JD

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

#### Edited by

Claire Spence-Parsons, Duncan Barker, James Vickers,  
Timothy Foot (2011), and Philippa Logan.

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# FROM THE WARDEN

After eight remarkable years this is the last time I write to you as Warden of Merton. It has been an honour and my absolute privilege to have served as head of this most outstanding College. Through those years we have celebrated significant milestones – our 750th anniversary, topping the Norrington Table numerous times, upgrades to our buildings and facilities, the reintroduction of Biochemistry – and we have lost some of our most beloved Fellows. In the face of both joys and sadnesses we have prevailed; our Merton Community is strong.

In the last year I have travelled to say my goodbyes to Mertonians in far-flung corners of the globe. Beginning in January this year with my trip to Hong Kong and Tokyo where Sharon and I had an audience with the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Japan. It was a delightful occasion and the Crown Prince was wearing his Merton tie; once a Mertonian, always a Mertonian! In San Francisco we enjoyed an incredibly pleasant and intimate dinner party at the McCafferys' house. The dinner party marked the first of my farewell speeches, and what a lovely venue to make it in.

Some of these goodbyes have been immensely moving. My PA, Lisa Lawrence, and Domestic Bursar, Tim Lightfoot, arranged a Retirement Party in June and invited a great mix

of my family – my brothers, my children and grandchildren – as well as many heads of house, and there was a huge representation by the Fellowship. It was a marvellous event and a tribute to the vision of Tim and Lisa. I loved every minute. Later in the month we enjoyed the Merton Weekend, a well-organised, lovely, and happy event. Three highlights were the incredibly thoughtful speech from Sir Brian Leveson (1967) who elicited some great detail about me from the Royal Society, a wonderful citation prepared by MC3 and read by Nick Allard (1974), and the Caribbean-themed Garden Party. The food, the music, the marquee – one could wax lyrical because everyone enjoyed them.

But before I bid *you* my farewell let us look back on the year just gone. Leonie Woodland (2016) captained a team comprising Edward Thomas (2014), Alexander Peplow (2013), and Akira Wiberg (2002) to the grand finale of *University Challenge*. After a hotly contested final they missed out on victory to St John's, Cambridge, but amassed an astonishing 1,025 points along the way. It was my pleasure to host them for a celebratory champagne reception and dinner in Hall to mark their fantastic achievement.

Sir Andrew Wiles (1971) was named the first Regius Professor of Mathematics at Oxford – a truly historic moment for the



College and wider University. My Sub-Warden Professor Judith Armitage has been named as President of the Microbiology Society, Supernumerary Fellow Professor Kathy Willis was named Principal of St Edmund Hall, and Professor Ulrike Tillman named Acting Vice-President of the Royal Society, among many other awards to Fellows. As always the College is incredibly proud of their accomplishments. Our students have excelled again, celebrating Mooting wins at the International Roman Law Moots, and the 'Cuppers' Mooting Competition 2018, and prizes aplenty. Our commitment to research enabled us to help an at-risk Syrian scientist, Dr Ziad Soufi, to come to Merton to continue his work in the field of molecular plant pathology.

Research is truly at the heart of the College, and in February many years of discussion, drafting of Bylaws, and effort from a number of Fellows and representatives of the College came to fruition during a signing ceremony as Peter J. Braam (1987) signed the *Braam Family Bequest*, a major pledge to Merton and the wider University that will support a visionary programme to drive research in Human Wellbeing. The ceremony itself was warm and joyous, and we had the pleasure of hosting Peter, his wife Maggie, and their two sons, Adrian and Sebastian. This historic bequest will have a revolutionary impact on Merton and place the College at the forefront of research to improve the human situation. Perhaps this can be best explained by Peter's own words at the Ceremony:

My final message tonight is a request, that the College continues this marvellous mission in the spirit of academic freedom and excellence. And that we pause for a moment to see the utter relevance of using research, regardless of which academic disciplines are used, to approach problems ... to improve countless lives on the planet.

But this year has not been without its sad news. In 2018 we lost two members of the College, Professor Michael Gelder (Queen's, 1947), an extremely kind person to whom the Oxford Psychiatry department owes a great deal, and of Sir Roger Bannister (Exeter, 1947; Merton, 1951), world famous for breaking the four-minute mile, and extremely well regarded for his medical research. One of my best memories of Roger

was when he came to a dinner in Hall at which Sir Paul Nurse (the then-President of the Royal Society) was the principal guest. We did not yet have our lift and so Roger struggled up all of the stairs in order to speak with Paul, and sat there discussing research for a full 30 minutes! Michael and Roger will be greatly missed by all who knew them.

Someone recently asked if I had a 'fondest memory of Merton'. With so many positive experiences it is hard to pick out a single moment, but one did come to mind: the 2014 Merton Conversation at the Royal Society in London facilitated by Lord May of Oxford featuring Stephen Fry and Professor Brian Cox OBE. The room was electric, abuzz with excitement as Stephen and Brian gave entertaining statements before launching into an engaging conversation; the audience was wowed by them both. The event really typified Mertonians and their thirst for knowledge, and there was a particular resonance for me in going back to my Royal Society world amidst a year of 750th celebrations.

I am so proud to have been part of the 750th year at Merton. The effort that went into the sheer number of events, the execution of those events, and the phenomenal £30 million that we raised were sensational. I really gave my heart and soul to the 750th, as I'm sure many Mertonians did, and it was momentous.

Whilst I reflect on those years with pride, astonishment and joy, I can look happily forward to creating new memories and the future with my wife, Sharon. We are excited to spend more time travelling around to see our scattered family who have settled in Charlbury, Wimbledon, Atlanta, Berlin, and to our house in Grenada. Moreover, I am eagerly anticipating the resumption of my research in Mathematics.

And so, it is with a full heart that I leave, and with immense gratitude to the Fellows, students, staff and alumni for all of their kindness and support over eight wonderful years.

**Sir Martin Taylor FRS**





# JCR NEWS

Seeing as this is the last thing I will write in my capacity as the head of the JCR, I had hoped that my words would leave some sort of impression. Rather than just update on the past year, I have tried to embed this within some sort of metaphor. I hope it sums up the ethos and synergy present in our current Common Room, and that it does so vaguely successfully. The best metaphor I could think of was a clock. Let me explain why.

When you think about it, much like clockwork, the JCR is the sum total of so many smaller things, all of which must work in harmony to make our Common Room tick. At the centre of it all, the beating heart of the JCR, are the times when we all congregate together. In true Merton JCR fashion, our Entz Reps, Esther Borsi and Paul de Jong (both 2016), relentlessly put on event after event to keep us all (phenomenally) entertained. To their names we can credit 10 BOPs, a cocktail night, a wine and cheese night, garden parties, drinks receptions ... the list goes on.

Bringing people together doesn't just bring fun, it also reinforces our sense of community and wellbeing. Recognising this, our Welfare Reps, Malak Khalil and Joseph Shailer (both 2016), have upgraded and further popularised our weekly Welfare Tea, with a now VAST array of food and drink. We've

also developed the genius of last year's Committee and pursued the 'CathARTsis' event: a combination of welfare and painting which is incredibly therapeutic. That's not to say we've abandoned the personal side of welfare: Malak and Joe hold weekly drop-in sessions complete with a 'biscuit of the week', and provide provisions to cater for sexual health, sanitary products and more. Merton JCR still takes pride in its Welfare.

Another highlight of the year was our Annual Arts Week, headed by Arts Rep Ellen Sharman (2017). A non-stop week of creativity and talent, we were treated to Mertonbury (our own version of Glastonbury), a poetry workshop and even a special outdoor, Pollock-inspired version of the aforementioned CathARTsis. Ellen, long disappointed by the ageing canvases hung lop-sided on the JCR walls, ran a competition for JCR members to have their own pieces put up. It is safe to say we have a far more 'aesthetic' JCR now.

One of the largest projects for the year was a complete rethink of how the JCR operated behind the scenes. Much like a clock, we have tidied up, modernised or even completely replaced all of our inner 'machinery'. While it would be a bore if I included every nut, bolt, screw and spring here, I am proud to report that we have upgraded the status of Access (equality





JCR: Merton matriculands 2017. This photograph has been reproduced by kind permission of Gilman & Soame and can be ordered by visiting [www.gsimagebank.co.uk/merton](http://www.gsimagebank.co.uk/merton) with the login token: merton2018

issues related to coming to Merton/Oxford from schools) and Equality (equality issues within the JCR itself) to the Executive Committee. This will ensure that they get the attention and focus they deserve. And we have introduced Committee positions dedicated to addressing issues concerning students with disabilities, international students and BME students. We even managed (finally) to become fully and technically compliant with the law. Happy days!

A report wouldn't be complete without mention of sport or music, with many positive performances throughout the year, including the semi-finals of Rugby Cuppers. Merton cricketer Matthew Naylor (2015) was part of the Blues team that won Varsity. Torpids and Summer Eights had their ups and downs, with an overall positive outcome: the VI Boat finally bumped for the first time in roughly a decade. Our Kodály Choir and Fidelio Orchestra continue to perform termly, along with many JCR members treating us all with solo performances over lunchtimes. Two of them, Athena Hawksley-Walker and Tom Fetherstonhaugh (both 2016), were invited to perform on BBC Radio 3, and both did so wonderfully.

Before I conclude, and since we're on the subject of the BBC, our magnificent *University Challenge* team was captained by the JCR's Leonie Woodland (2016). They made it all the way

to the final. It's a pleasure to work and socialise alongside such talent and it really does demonstrate the calibre of people within Merton and its JCR.

This year we have two important farewells to bid. The first to Catherine Haines, the College Nurse, who has cared for countless JCR members through the intensity of a Merton JCR life. The second is the Warden, Sir Martin Taylor, who has been a fantastic face of the College, and someone to whom many JCR members can look up and aspire. Lastly, I say an enormous thank you to the JCR Exec and Committee. None of what I talk about above would be possible without them.

One last thing. Stephen Fry said 'Education is the sum of what students teach each other in between lectures and seminars.' I might (to the horror of my tutors) agree. By now my clock metaphor has become rather convoluted, but I chose it because of this: Merton JCR is great not only because of the events, the welfare, the food and the art, but because of the diversity and the quality of the people in it. One of whom, Emily Capstick (2017), will be succeeding me. She will be fantastic, and I wish her all the best for the year ahead.

**Jules Desai (2016)**  
JCR President 2017-18





# MCR NEWS

Once, not so long ago (the trusted Timothy Foot (2011) tells me), the Middle Common Room at Merton was called the Emerson Room. A single item in the Merton@750 archive alludes to this room: 'Minutes of One Meeting of Postmasters held in the Emerson Room on Friday, November 13, 1964'. On that unlucky night, it transpires, the walls of the room heard motions to update 'the Sconce Rules', which disciplined conduct in Hall. Here is a sample:

6. That mentioning a lady by name be no longer a sconceable offence.

DEFEATED, OVERWHELMINGLY.

[...]

7. That the offence of 'mentioning a lady by name' be amended to 'mentioning a living lady by name'.

CARRIED, OVERWHELMINGLY.

Let's not wonder what it was about living ladies that made them unmentionable in Merton's Hall in 1964. Casting old meeting minutes aside, let's return to the room itself. According to an obituary supplied by the Benedictine monastery, Ampleforth, a Father Bede Emerson came up to Merton in 1956. Here, Emerson 'made friends, and made a mark when he [...] persuaded the College authorities to furnish and set aside a room where [postgraduates and

other men living out] could leave their belongings, and make coffee'. His 'idea proved to be a great success, and by common acclaim the room was called "The Emerson Room".' This room was, the obituary confirms, 'the direct ancestor of the present Middle Common Room'.

Now we come to the present MCR, where we neither do sconces, nor hold back from calling our members by name. In this room, we convene our own Ordinary General Meetings, which gave rise recently to several hotly debated motions, to a fast-paced Environmental Working Group initiated by Laura Hankins (2013), and to the position of Women's Officer, in which Kitty Gurnos-Davies (2015) served with unparalleled determination from the role's inauguration until early Trinity 2018.

No longer envisaged as somewhere for graduates to leave belongings, our MCR members use the space daily. There is a cuddly toy (or two) tucked into the beams, plants adorning the windows, new music speakers brought in by Social Secretary Christiaan Eijssbouts (2017), and a bookshelf which, as Welfare Officer Konstantin Beyer (2016) says, 'probably will not last 750 years', but which many of us fully intend to outlive. Our Arts and Craft events, spearheaded by Alexandra Fergen (2017), and helped along by our Welfare team and our





Members of the MCR 2017 © Valerian Chen

Admiral of the Fleet, Ryan Burke (2013), have also bequeathed to us lime-tree cheeseboards (for viewing only – our sudden development of woodworking skills preceded our awareness of food-safe varnish by a few crucial hours).

We still do make a lot of coffee in the MCR, but we also do a lot else. Exchanges with other colleges, May Day breakfasts, Second Desserts on the evenings of Guest Nights and President's Black Tie Dinners. We run colloquia, and thanks to our industrious outgoing President Lily McElwee (2016) we also have an Alumni Speakers Series. We have run nine culinary Tastings and, as of Trinity 2017, have started holding Brinners (Breakfast at Dinner), an innovation by Federica Lazzarini (2017).

To breathe in the fresh English air, we step outside for BBQs, social football or tennis, picnics, hiking trips, theatre excursions, and an Open Air Movie Night. Further afield, the annual exchange with our sister college at Peterhouse, Cambridge, is always an unalloyed highlight of the social calendar. No event on this extremely full calendar would be complete, it must be said, without Sam Gormley (2010), longest-serving and most omnipresent executive committee member in recent memory, who plays an integral role in greeting new MCR members as they arrive.

We are indebted to Ruth Ramsden-Karelse (2017) and Women's Officer, Molly Crozier (2017), for renewing our participation in the Tri-College Equality Network with Corpus Christi and Oriel. Along with discussions resonating across college committees, this collaboration should spur on greater and more sustained action on equality and diversity by MCR members, as well as providing a basis for our MCR to introduce additional officers to represent and support minority groups within our Common Room.

A final reckoning with our 'direct ancestor', the Emerson Room. What I take away from the digression on which Tim's tip led me is this: conversations held in the MCR undergo transformations over the course of 50 years. This fact, when backed up with action, has strengthened and will strengthen the MCR community, to which many generations of Mertonians maintain an emotional connection. Thank you to College for their ongoing support of our Common Room, to the committee members who have inspired the whole MCR with their care, dynamism and zest this past year, and to all MCR members who have returned that momentum with interest. The MCR has been CARRIED, OVERWHELMINGLY, by you.

**Amy Steinepreis (2015)**  
MCR President 2018-19



# Merton Sport







The Oxford Lancers celebrate their Varsity win

## American Football

American football is a contact sport most easily comparable to a cross between rugby union and rugby league. At its core, the sport works as follows. Eleven players on 'offense' must attempt to move the ball into the opponent's 'end zone', while the 11 players on 'defense' must attempt to stop them. It is played by players of all sizes, from 23 stone behemoths at the professional level, to 9 stone amateurs who have played the game for a couple of months at most (more representative of the average Oxford player). Part of the appeal of the sport is that there truly is a position for people of every body type.

Oxford has had a history of competing in American football for a surprisingly long time. For many years, the University competed in a joint team with Oxford Brookes, known as the Oxford Cavaliers. Due to a league rules change that banned joint teams, the Oxford Cavaliers was forced to split into two separate teams. This resulted in the formation of the University's current team, the Oxford Lancers. Since the team's inception in 2011, Merton has been represented on the team in each season by at least one player, and has had more than five players represent the University in the sport throughout this seven-year period. In particular, Merton has had a strong history of providing the team with players who play the 'defensive back' position. The primary goal of a defensive back is to prevent the offensive players from catching the ball. For this reason, they are usually fast players who can change direction quickly to enable them to stay close to the opponent they are covering.

Due to the College rugby system, it can be hard to maintain an adequately sized squad as, unsurprisingly, the two sports have an overlapping playerbase. This contributed to the Lancers' slow start, where they lost the first four varsity matches played against the Cambridge Pythons. However, in recent years recruitment has improved dramatically and the team can now boast a 2-1 record in the last three varsity games played. These two wins were decisive victories, ending in scores of 49-0 in 2016 and 48-6 in 2018. The team has also recently begun an annual tour. Last year the team travelled to Dublin to play against University College Dublin in a friendly over the Easter break. This summer the team will be travelling to Belgium for a similar game against a local team.

To conclude, the Oxford Lancers is a rapidly improving mixed team that is constantly looking for new players. Merton as a college has maintained a strong link with the club, even winning the 'plate' (runners-up cup) one year in the team's annual no-contact Cuppers competition. I strongly hope that Merton students can continue to represent the University in this somewhat niche sport, and I encourage anyone who thinks they might be interested in trying something new to give it a go.

**Tom Mattinson (2012)**  
Oxford Lancers SS





The Hockey team at the alumni match, Hilary 2018

## Hockey

Merton-Mansfield Hockey Club experienced another enjoyable year of hockey. The year started with changes in personnel as some long-serving players left Oxford and an influx of first years joined from both Mansfield and Merton.

Success in the league and promotion to Division I last year came in contrast to a series of defeats in Michaelmas against Worcester, Teddy Hall and St Hilda's, which unfortunately saw the M&Ms condemned to relegation.

The Men's Cuppers tournament began in Hilary term, but the M&Ms involvement was short lived, and brought to a cruel end by Lincoln. In a tight affair the game was eventually lost 2-1 after a Jadon Buckeridge (Mansfield, 2016) equaliser had taken the game to a golden goal extra time.

The Mixed Cuppers tournament due to be played in Trinity failed to materialise with Men's Cuppers fixtures overrunning. A friendly summer league was set up and it was testament to the dedication of the team that we continued to play hockey on Sunday afternoons in some sweltering Oxford weather while many had exams and various other commitments.

The highlight of the season came with an inaugural alumni hockey match at St Edward's School in fifth week of Hilary term. The game was well attended by both alumni and current players with the alumni coming away with a 4-2 victory thanks to a Matthew Dodd (Mansfield, 2010) hat-trick. It was an enjoyable afternoon, followed by a meal in Oxford, and it is hoped this fixture can be repeated next year.

Overall, it has been a great year of hockey, and it was especially pleasing to have large attendances at both training and matches – a reflection of the commitment and team spirit shown by all involved.

Looking to next year, the majority of players will remain in Oxford, so an established M&Ms team will be hoping to mount a promotion challenge and return to the heights of Division I college hockey.

**Daniel Scotson (Mansfield, 2016)**

Merton-Mansfield Hockey Captain 2017-18





## Tennis

Merton tennis club enjoyed a relatively successful season this year, with strong performances in the league making up for slightly disappointing Cuppers campaigns. Due to an increasing interest in the sport, a new 2nd team was introduced for the first time. This team played competitively in the league and gave a larger number of people the opportunity to play. Throughout Michaelmas and Hilary terms, training sessions were held which enabled us to maintain and improve upon our skills, although the weather was not always on our side!

In Trinity term, we began our quest competing in the league, with plenty of sunshine meaning that all our matches were able to go ahead. Due to successes in the previous season, the Merton 1st team managed to remain in the top division for the league and started off in the best possible way with a 12-0 win against Teddy Hall. We managed a further win over University College, followed by a few losses to teams from larger colleges such as St John's and Balliol who managed to outplay us. However, the two victories meant we secured our place in the top division for the upcoming year, which puts us in a very strong position in the overall ranking of college tennis. Special mentions must be given to Amy Steinepreis (2015), Ricardo Wölker (2018), Lucas Eigel (2015), Kwok-Ho Cheung (2012) and James Kempton (2011) for their dedication to the Merton tennis team this year. The Merton 2nd team was placed in the sixth division, and managed to retain a respectable second place, and we have high hopes of being promoted in 2018-19.

After receiving a bye in the first round of Cuppers, we were hoping to improve on our strong fourth position from last year. However, it was not to be. Although we managed to beat Teddy Hall in the league, they were a force to be reckoned with in Cuppers, in which only doubles matches are played. Unfortunately, after a strong performance from the Merton team, we had to settle with a defeat, which meant that we were unable to proceed to the next round. I would like to thank Amy, Ricardo, Kwok, James and Ryan Burke (2013) for their strong performances. We had further disappointment in the Women's Cuppers, in which we were knocked out in the second round due to lack of available players.

Overall, the Mertonians have enjoyed a successful season of tennis this year, in both rain and sunshine. We hope to continue with more victories next year and win back our strong position in Cuppers, as well as continuing to play competitively in the league. There are lots of opportunities for new players and I hope that even more people enjoy playing and winning on the Merton courts! As Captain, I would like to thank those who have played for their support this year and I would also like to thank the groundskeeper James Lisle for the equipment, facilities and match teas provided. With only a few of our players graduating this year, hopefully next year should bring further success for the team.

**Jenny Dingwall (2015)**

Tennis Co-Captain 2017-18





## Men's Rowing

The 2017-18 season has seen Merton's men's side reaffirm itself on the river as a force to be reckoned with.

Starting the year with a large intake of novice rowers, several talented new coxes and a varied group of returning rowers, it quickly became apparent that we had the potential for a successful year. The arrival of a new men's coach and the opening of a brand new erg room in the Sports Pavilion gave us the impetus to train hard both on and off the water. Although our Christ Church Regatta novices, despite some exciting and hard-fought races, did not get as far as they had hoped, the development squad obtained promising results at a number of smaller races on the Isis.

The squad continued to progress week after week despite the cold mornings and sometimes challenging river conditions. The arrival of a gorgeous *Fillippi F42* shell, the *Joanna Howard*, and a brand new coaching launch – acquired through generous donations from our American friends

and alumni – gave the squad an extra edge going into the final stages of preparation for Torpids. The shell was named for Joanna (1987) who Captained the Women's First Eight in 1989, the first year they won blades. Unfortunately, cold weather caused several race days to be cancelled. Still, M1 kept its place in Division 2 despite a very strong Exeter coming up from behind; M2 bumped in less than 20 strokes on day 1 and would surely have got blades had it been able to race; and M3 also swiftly bumped on day 1 after achieving the fastest finish time at Rowing On.

In preparation for Summer Eights, a group of men's rowers travelled to Amsterdam for an Easter training camp. Spending a week rowing on the beautiful Amstel River, cycling through the city centre, and sleeping on a cosy sailing ship wasn't only incredibly fun, but it also had an immediate effect on the quality of rowing in the squad. Coming back to a newly refurbished *Harry Quick* shell at the start of Trinity term, M2 was able to make the most





The *Joanna Howard* shell is used during Summer Eights

of its training on the Isis, while M1 continued to perfect its technique at Godstow. With three men's crews entered for Summer Eights, including an M3 containing several recent alumni, our hopes for success were high ...

Unfortunately, the first day took away the possibility of blades for either crew: M3 was caught in the Gut by a strong Corpus M2, M1 saw its competitors bumping out and had to creatively manoeuvre its way to a row over, and M2 suffered a spectacular crash under Donny Bridge, sending shockwaves around social media. Nevertheless, Merton showed its resilience and determination from here onwards. On every one of the following days, both M1 and M2 bumped before the green banks, finishing in the middle of the second and fourth divisions respectively. Meanwhile, M3 vigorously defended its place at the top of the last division, claiming a bump on day 2. With a net score of +3, it is safe to say that it was a successful Summer Eights for MCBC.

Over the course of the year, the Boat Club also achieved notable results further downstream of the Isis stretch, participating in a number of external regattas. Last summer, a Merton delegation won BR points at both Henley Town & Visitors' Regatta and at Maidenhead Regatta. In Michaelmas, a men's four competed in Cambridge's Fairbairn Cup, clocking the fastest time among all Oxford colleges. Last but not least, a men's eight participated in the Head of the River Race on the Tideway, where it overtook five crews and finished 119th, our highest place in recent history.

Overall, this year's achievements are testament to the depth and enthusiasm we currently have in MCBC's men's squad. With Dylan Gutt (2017) and Mantas Abazorius (2013) taking over as Captains next year, we can be certain that the Boat Club will continue to go from strength to strength!

**Samuel Picard (2015)**  
Men's Rowing Captain 2017-18





W2 by the Boathouse

## Women's Rowing

The strength of the Merton women's squad continues to grow year on year. Michaelmas saw a lucky windfall of keen novice rowers who have proved very enthusiastic members of the Boat Club. Through their hard work, and the support of senior rowers and our coach, who committed themselves to running a demanding novice training programme, the women's novice boat finished fourth in Christ Church Regatta, continuing a solid run after last year's victory. With this behind them, it looked to be an exciting year for women's rowing, with the development squad making progress on the water at Godstow. At the end of the term, four of the dev squad made the trip to Cambridge to compete in the Fairbairn Cup, a long 3.4km race down the Cam.

It was testament to the commitment of the squad and the invaluable help of committee members that we were able to make it through a tough Hilary term, during which bad weather and illness cancelled weeks' worth of outings.

Come Torpids, however, W1 and W2 were looking impressive, putting in some very decent performances during Hilary term's Isis Winter League races. Indeed, so much so that the local rumour mills put W1 on 'blades watch' for Torpids. Sadly, it was not to be, as bitter cold, wind and snow cancelled racing on the second and third days of racing, leaving the crew heartily disappointed. An unfortunate race left W2 with one bump on the first day, but W1 were at least proud to come away with bumps on Queen's and Wadham II.

On such a trajectory, it was fantastic to be able to keep up the momentum among the squad on the first training camp that Merton has seen in a number of years. Travelling to Amsterdam, eight rowers and a cox were worked hard with three outings a day for five days on the gorgeous Amstel River. Such an opportunity to row together, with fresh coaching in a new environment, meant the crew developed well together ahead of the Eights campaign.





W1 train on the river

Trinity rowing saw W1 return to Godstow and, alongside the gleaming new launch, dedicate themselves to five outings a week. Another run of illness saw the crew cycle through rowers at an alarming rate, finally finding a crew the weekend before Summer Eights began. The infamous four-year spoons streak loomed large over the crew, but they were quietly confident having made great improvements in technique all term. Impressive commitment from all ensured that W1 did indeed break with tradition, finishing the week on -3 (rather than -4) thanks to a lucky escape on the second day as St Anthony's took a course into the bank in the Gut. If that wasn't enough cause for celebration, W2 put in an even stronger show. Having struggled to put together a crew for outings all term, they rowed remarkably well to bump Green Templeton III, Somerville III and Pembroke IV.

It has been a pleasure to see Merton women's rowing continue to progress and we look forward to another

exciting season next year. Thanks should definitely go to the whole MCBC committee for their work and especially to our coach, Ian Smith. Matilde Soares da Silva (2017) has proven an exceptionally committed member of the squad and, as the incoming Captain, I'm sure she'll do great things for the women's side.

**Paris Jagers (2016)**

Women's Rowing Captain 2017-18





MMRFC Old Boys 2018 © Heads Up Rugby

## Rugby

Much like their distribution from the set piece, the 2017-18 MMRFC season has been anything but predictable. Very much a new-look team this year, due to the departure of much of the senior leadership group from the previous season, the M&Ms had it all to do to prove their worth on the sporting stage.

The months of October to December were dark times for the boys in maroon and white, failing to record a victory in the run-up to Christmas. Captain Alex Villiers-Smith's (Mansfield, 2016) Churchillian request of 'Give us the tools and we will finish the job' prompted installation of floodlights on the MMRFC training ground – a tactic that would hopefully reverse our fortunes in the New Year.

Fresh from the Christmas vacation, the boys were ready to do battle once more and recorded bumper victories against Oriel, St Hilda's and the MMRFC Old Boys. Foundations in place, the next and final confrontation of the season was against arch rivals Pembroke RFC in the Cuppers Bowl semi-final. With Captain Villiers-Smith sunbathing in Tenerife, young Henry Sasse (Mansfield, 2016) took over the captaincy at Iffley Road. A nasty leg injury for Andy 'Stevo' Stevens (Mansfield, 2015) in the first minute of play arrested our forward momentum, forcing us to drop to 14 men. Three tries in the second half, two from the captain and another from Hugo Ryan (Mansfield, 2015), were unfortunately not enough to reduce the deficit but, as usual, the MMRFC 'never say die' attitude rung true across the Iffley turf.

Although the M&Ms may find it difficult to crawl over the finish line on some occasions, crawling from pub to pub on the famous Trinity term social did not appear to be an issue. Inspired by the M&Ms three core values of 'champagne rugby', 'sustainable banter' and 'big socials', the affair really is the jewel in the Merton-Mansfield sporting crown. M&M's old timer Chris Baird (Mansfield, 2014) was appointed judge of the kangaroo court, dispensing liquid punishment to players for their felonies throughout the season, including Dafydd Foster Davies (2016) who was found guilty of 'grievous ankle harm' through unwarranted side-stepping.

The 15-a-side season over, the M&M's mixed touch season was just beginning. A fantastic performance at the Iffley Road stadium progressed the M&Ms to the Cuppers semi-final. Pre-season training for next year has already begun. With the rugby season now completely at an end, the new M&M's Captain, Vice-Captain and President – Callum Schafer (Mansfield, 2017), Wick Willet (2017) and Eddie Watson-Miller (Mansfield, 2015) respectively – are already drawing up plans to guide MMRFC to even greater heights next year, and we hope to employ the talents of prospective blues Joshua Navarajasegaran (2016) and Tobi Clarke (2017). On behalf of all the departing M&Ms, we wish the club and players the very best of luck going into next season. Forever Standing.

**George Prescott (2014)**

MMRFC President 2017-18





## Badminton

In the past year the Merton College Badminton Society has played competitively in University tournaments and held weekly training sessions in which members could practise for upcoming matches or just enjoy taking a break from their studies to play some badminton. We competed in the mixed league and men's league tournaments and the Men's Cuppers tournament, setting an ambitious task for our small team. We played many tough matches and although we struggled in the mixed league, we found our mettle in the men's league and enjoyed success against Lady Margaret Hall, St Hilda's and the St Anne's/Wolfson team. In Men's Cuppers we were knocked out by Brasenose in the top-16 round, denying us a place in the quarter-finals.

In 2018-19 the society will be in the capable hands of its President Matthew Davies (2015) and the newly elected Captain Sean Guggiari (2015), a familiar face to anyone who has played badminton at Merton in the last few years. I am sure the club will go from strength to strength under their care.

**Ewan McCulloch (2014)**  
Badminton Captain 2016-18



## Water Polo

For the first time in many years, Merton managed to recruit enough players to compete in water polo Cuppers. Eleven of the 13 players had no previous experience of water polo but many had a strong swimming background. The team quickly picked up the basics of the game with a little coaching from their Captain, Eleanor Chafer (2016), who plays for the University women's team.

Merton played well as a team in the Cuppers tournament with some great individual performances, particularly from Rob Lentz (2017) who stepped in at the last minute to fill the position of goalkeeper. Unfortunately, the College was eliminated in the quarter-final round against a more experienced team comprising players from Univ and Exeter College. All the players enjoyed taking part and we certainly had the most poolside supporters! Hopefully this year was the first of many times that Merton will take part in water polo Cuppers.

**Eleanor Chafer (2016)**  
Water Polo Captain 2017-18





## Sports Overview

I will be blunt. The past year has not held our finest hours as sportspeople. I could attempt to see the glass as half full and not half empty, but unfortunately I knocked it over and there is merely a puddle on my desk. After such successes on the cricket field last season, and with the addition of Uni 2nds player Lewis Fry (2017) to the squad, the team was in an ebullient mood come Trinity. What proceeded was less a case of going one step further in Cuppers and winning that trophy than a succession of depressing defeats, ultimately leading to a second round exit and relegation from Division 1. There is some comfort to this; we no longer have to suffer the Balliol groundsman's insistence on playing 40 overs in league matches, and there is not much disparity in quality between divisions so we can expect the same mediocre standard again next year. As incoming Captain, however, I am already making preparation for a triumphant Cup run with winter training and team bonding events aplenty already anticipated.

Football was less depressing. For one, we had a sufficient squad for two teams, rather than battling to field one, and indeed

it was in our 2nds that we saw most success. A Cuppers run of brilliance took the Merton-Mansfield team to a packed Iffley Stadium for the final. That it was packed with fans of the opposition (Worcester) is an indictment on our College's apathy when it comes to support, something I will address as MCR Sports Rep next year. Anyway, such gripes aside, the encounter was an enthralling one. The M&Ms took an early lead as Kempton (2011) flicked on to David Steiner (Mansfield, 2017), and being 'What a man', he precisely slotted the ball through Worcester's defence for Josh Navarajasegaran (2016) to finish with composure. The team held this lead in a dogged display until the 75th minute when Worcester pressure finally undid us. Two lucky goals over a 10-minute period meant a 2-1 loss for your heroes. I can speak for my teammates in saying that it was an unforgettable occasion – to walk on to the pitch with your names read over the tannoy and to line up and sing Merton's grace (I might be exaggerating there) was surreal and superb. This is not to say that the 1sts underperformed. They were mightily lead by Casper Schilbe (Mansfield, 2016) over the season and finished a commendable fourth place in Division 2.





To the next of the primary sports of British culture – rugby. Here, I wish I could be more positive, but again I can't. The M&Ms finished bottom of Division 4 in Michaelmas term. And I'll say nothing more of that. In Hilary, things fared better, and the team reached the semi-final of the Bowl. Not exactly something for the record books, but a trip to Iffley is always fun.

While at the College level we have underperformed this year, that belies our possession of some truly exceptional sportspeople who, although we wish it were so, cannot single-handedly carry their team, or indeed, cannot play for they are practising their exploits at a deservedly higher level. So to the likes of Matt Naylor (2015) (Uni 1sts football and cricket, including 202 in the four-day Varsity Match), Josh Navarajasegaran (Uni 2nds rugby), Mark van Loon (2011) (ranked 159 internationally at croquet) and Laura Clark (2013) (Uni motorsport) – congratulations!

James Kempton (2011)

## Blues and Half Blues

*New full blues and half blues in 2017-18*

Hugo Brewer (2015)	Boxing
Lewis Hart (2017)	TaeKwon-Do
Tamara Davenne (2014)	Cycling
Giulio Lovisotto (2017)	Volleyball
Matthew Naylor (2015)	Football
Oliver Paulin (2015)	Cross Country
Ricardo Parolin Schnekenberg (2016)	Clay Pigeon
	Shooting
Alexander Roberts (2014)	Squash

## Haigh Ties

*Awarded in June 2018*

Mantas Abazorius (2013)  
Hugo Brewer (2015)  
James Chalaby (2016)  
Laura Clark (2013)  
Henry Clements (2015)  
Amelia Coen (2015)  
Katherine Davies (2015)  
Jenny Dingwall (2015)  
Sinead Duffy (2015)  
Thomas Fordwoh (2014)  
Alison Gooda (2015)  
Harry Gosling (2014)  
Oliver Howe (2015)  
Paris Jagers (2016)  
Venla Karppinen (2016)  
James Kempton (2011)  
Matthew Naylor (2015)  
Julie Osgood (2015)  
Oliver Paulin (2015)  
Phoebe Pexton (2015)  
Samuel Picard (2015)  
George Prescott (2014)  
Milo Reynolds (2016)  
Josephine Smith (2015)  
Georgina Whitaker (2015)  
Jacob White (2014)

*With thanks to Timothy Foot (2011) for composing the results table*



# Clubs & Societies





# Merton Floats

The Merton Floats returned to action this year after a long hiatus. We have had three busy and successful terms, culminating in a triumphant production of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* in 5th week of Trinity. The current committee is made up of Miranda Mackay (2015) as President, Sebastian Dows-Miller (2016) as Treasurer and Harry Clements (2015) as Secretary.

The Merton Floats currently acts in two main areas: as a funding body, and as a production company. On the funding side of things, we had a lot of work to do before we could begin accepting applications. We spent much of our first two terms restructuring the constitution and rewriting our funding contracts, in which area we are grateful for the advice and support of a generous Merton law student. After dragging the society into the 21st century by setting up such outlandish innovations as online banking, we were finally ready to take applications. So far, we have made three offers and turned an overall profit on funding student shows, namely *Like a Virgin*, *Hereafter* and *Brave New World*. It's notable, though coincidental, that two of these were new student writing, and the third a new student adaptation. In the last few weeks of term we also moved into the world of student film. We have offered £200 to the student web-series *Dorian*, a contemporary adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Grey* in six episodes, which is being produced by another Merton student, Olivia Webster (2016). This is an exciting departure for the Floats, and we hope to continue funding films as well as plays into the future.

We rounded off this excellent year with our equally successful garden play. Preliminary discussions with College began in late Hilary, and after just over three months of preparation, we opened on Fellows' Lawn under threateningly stormy skies on 25 May. *Love's Labour's Lost* was adapted and directed by Miranda and produced by Olivia, with Sebastian as Technical Director; our cast was a mixture of Merton and non-Merton students. We set the play in an imaginary Oxbridge college at the turn of the 20th century, just as the first female students were being admitted to the University. Besides being a natural fit for the text, this concept could



*Love's Labour's Lost*, June 2018

not have been more perfect for our setting; the trees of Fellows' Garden became our set, and the College itself our backdrop. Great fun was had by everyone involved and the production overall was a huge success, receiving warm reviews and excellent feedback from audience members.

*'The best student show I've seen in Oxford'*

*'The cast collaborates as a well-oiled machine, spinning from scene to scene in bursts of energy interspersed with glimpses of real sensitivity'*

*'a stunning and somewhat haunting celebration of wit and cynicism'*

To cap it all, we turned a healthy 215% profit on the production, which the Floats will be able to reinvest in Merton-based and University-based student drama in terms and years to come. It's been a great year for the Floats, and we're excited to see where the new committee takes it!

**Miranda Mackay (2015)**  
Merton Floats President 2017-18





## Bodley Club

This year, the Bodley Club has continued to broaden its horizons, upholding its constitutional mandate of hosting 'fabulously interesting' speakers from all disciplines. In Michaelmas, we were delighted to welcome Professor Sergi Pardos-Prado (Fellow) to speak on Catalan independence – a particularly topical discussion in light of the referendum in October 2017.

Hilary term was busy with five events, including our Annual Dinner which was a splendid evening, the highlight being an after-dinner speech by Professor Steven Gunn (1979, Acting Warden-elect) on 'Everyday life and accidental death in 16th century Oxfordshire'. In January, Professor David Nutt (Lincoln, 1981) gave a fascinating talk entitled 'Time for a new Enlightenment in science?', a well-attended event that was followed by lively discussion on the pros and cons of drug legalisation. January also saw Minoo Dinshaw, one of the most promising biographers of his generation, deliver a talk on his 2016 debut, *Outlandish Knight: The Byzantine Life of Steven Runciman*. I am grateful to Frederick Money (2013) for organising this event.

In February, we hosted The Hon Mr Justice Cooke (St Edmund, 1967), who delivered a talk entitled 'Trying to do justice', speaking about his career as a High Court Judge, and Tim Marshall, bestselling author of *Prisoners of Geography*, who gave a talk on his latest book, *Worth Dying For: The Power of Politics and Flags*. In the final week of Trinity, we hosted a Summer Garden Party – a wonderful occasion with which to finish the year.

This year also saw a major change in the Club's committee. Graduating this year are Natalie Nguyen (ex-President, 2015) and Alice Walker (ex-Treasurer, 2015), to whom I am immensely grateful for their long-standing commitment. I am also indebted to Emma Ball (Treasurer, 2017) and Victor Ajuwon (Secretary, 2015) for their continued dedication to the smooth running of the Club, as well as to Fra' John Eidinow (Fellow, 1986) – the Senior Member – and to all who have attended this year.

**Adam Carter (2016)**  
Bodley Club President 2018-19





Gian Piero Milani (2017) speaks about Antinous, the lover of Emperor Hadrian

## Chalcenterics

This has been another successful year for the Chalcenterics. We have enjoyed a range of talks and social activities.

There were seven speakers throughout the year: Professor Rhiannon Ash (St Hugh's, 1993), a tutor in Classics at Merton; Dr Anna Clark, who completed her DPhil at Merton and is now a tutor at Christ Church; Joshua Baldwin (2009), an ex-Mertonian who studied Classical Archaeology and Ancient History and is now Lead Games Designer at Coldwood; Gian Piero Milani (2017), one of our DPhil students in Classical Archaeology; Dr Jonathan Prag (Corpus Christi, 1994), an Ancient History tutor at Merton; Professor David Kovacs, an Emeritus Professor from the University of Virginia in America; and Dr Guy Westwood (Balliol, 2004), who was a tutor in Ancient Greek at the College before becoming a lecturer at Birmingham University. Topics ranged from poisons and poisoners in ancient Rome (Rhiannon Ash) to translating history into modern media (Joshua Baldwin) to excavating

the ancient site of Halaesa in Sicily (Jonathan Prag). All talks were well attended, with audiences of between 17 and 35. I was pleased to see that, as well as Mertonians, many students and academics from other colleges supported our society by attending the talks. I would like to thank the speakers for giving up their time to share with us their interesting and detailed work and research. All the talks were brilliant, and it is because of each of these speakers that the society has continued to thrive.

In terms of social events, the Subject Tea started the year, where we welcomed those who were joining Merton's Classics department with tea, cakes and biscuits. This was followed by lunch at St Aldates Tavern later in Michaelmas, which was an opportunity for undergraduates to socialise and to discuss work in a more relaxed environment. It was a lovely afternoon, and so we organised another pub lunch in Trinity. However, the main event of the year was our annual Black Tie Dinner in Hilary, which was attended by 30 people. The evening consisted of a drinks reception in the New Common Room, dining in the Savile Room and socialising in the College Bar afterwards. The Hall staff, as always, provided delicious food, and the atmosphere was friendly and lively. Finally, in Trinity, we held our annual garden party on the Chestnut Lawn. Fortunately, the weather remained dry and sunny, and we enjoyed prosecco and picnic food to celebrate the end of the year.

I am very grateful to everyone who has attended this year's events, and I hope that you have enjoyed them as much as I have valued being President of this society and working with Merton's Classics department. We are extremely lucky to have such a welcoming Classics community with caring, friendly and dedicated students and tutors. Unfortunately, we say goodbye this year to our finalist, Amelia Elwin (2014), but we wish her all the very best in the future. We look forward to welcoming the new students to Merton in October. I am sure that my successor, Milo Reynolds (2016), will do an excellent job of supporting the freshers, and that the Chalcenterics will thrive under him next year. I wish him every success.

**Tamsin Morton (2015)**  
Chalcenterics President 2017-18



$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$
$$P(A) = P(A|B)P(B) + P(A|B^c)P(B^c)$$

## Mathematics Society

It's been a great year for the College's Mathematical Society. I am delighted to be taking over the role of President from Francesca Lovell-Read (2015), who has done an outstanding job over the past year – she will certainly be a tough act to follow!

Following recent tradition, our second-years continued to hold weekly help sessions throughout Michaelmas and Hilary terms – these are essentially a forum for first-year Maths students to ask questions and receive guidance with their problem sheets (and, failing that, to be duly compensated with snacks and gossip). As in previous years, the sessions were met with enthusiasm, although I suspect that attendance was motivated more by the promise of Jaffa Cakes than anything else.

At the end of Hilary term, we had our annual subject dinner, which was, as usual, a huge success. This year, our speaker was one of our very own distinguished Fellows, Professor Minhyong Kim, who impressed the audience with a speech involving Erdős numbers, networks and an entertaining story about his fraudulent water bill. Following this, a very tense vote was held in which I emerged victorious as the new President of the Mathematics Society – commiserations to my extremely worthy opponent, who was, in fact, a single red grape sourced from the cheese platter. Between this and the events of last year's election, which saw Francesca competing for the title against a bread roll (all in the interests of democracy, of course), a tradition has emerged for the newly elected President to mark their victory by eating their defeated opposition. To avoid setting a dangerous precedent

for cannibalism, I suggest we don't continue this practice, going forward.

This year's Mathematical Society Garden Party, taking place during Trinity term, was well attended by a mixture of undergraduate and postgraduate mathematicians. To everyone's relief, we were gifted with sunshine and clear skies on the day. This was the perfect opportunity for students to unwind (or perhaps procrastinate) with cupcakes and excellent company, before being inevitably thrust into exam season. True to form, there was some high-tier mathematical conversation, with puzzles aplenty.

I'd like to sincerely congratulate the mathematicians who are graduating this year, having been such an integral part of the Merton community during their time here. I wish them every success in all their future endeavours and I have no doubt that they will continue to flourish as they venture out into new and exciting pastures. They will be sorely missed!

But this is not just a time for farewells – this coming October, we will be welcoming a new cohort into our mathematical family. I know that our community will make them feel truly at home, and I hope that their time here is both enjoyable and rewarding. Best of luck to our new arrivals and to our returning members! I'm confident that the Mathematical Society will continue to thrive in the coming year.

**Zershaaneh Qureshi (2016)**

Mathematical Society President 2018-19





Halsbury Christmas drinks, Michaelmas 2017

## Halsbury Society

The past year has been another fantastic one for the Halsbury Society, with a number of exciting events, as well as a whole host of academic and mootting successes on the part of the Merton law students.

We began the year with our Welcome Tea for the incoming fresher lawyers to get to know the rest of the members of the society. Moreover, during Hilary term we were fortunate enough to have Lord Justice Beatson (Brasenose, 1967) visit us and deliver a lecture on the independence of the judiciary in the 21st century. Both interesting and educational, it was followed by an equally enjoyable subject dinner. The society was also grateful to have a further two subject dinners sponsored by Slaughter and May and Sullivan & Cromwell in Trinity term.

Throughout the year we have had a number of Merton mootting victories. The New Year saw finalists Ioana Burtea (2015) and Ed Langley (2015) reach the finals of the Times 2TG Moot. They participated before a bench composed of Lord Hughes and Lord Carnwath of the Supreme Court, just missing first place. Halsbury is also delighted with the successful participation of Merton students in the Oxford University international teams. Second-year undergraduate Valerie Chee (2016) took eighth place in the list of best

Oralists in the 2018 International Rounds of the 11th annual Price Media Law Moot Court Competition. Likewise, Andrew Dixon (2016) and Niamh Herrett (2016) formed part of the 11th International Roman Law Moot Court Competition, in which Oxford took first place. But to top it all off, the Merton Cuppers mootting team were winners of the inter-collegiate mootting competition. Ameer Ismail (2016) and Andrew Dixon (2016) expertly represented the College from the quarter-finals onwards, with Niamh Herrett (2016), Liam McKenna (2017) and Stephanie Bruce-Smith (2017) representing the College in the earlier rounds. Unsurprisingly, the Halsbury Society is incredibly proud of all the mootting success.

Special mention should also be given to Isadora Janssen (2017) who received the Norton Rose Fulbright Prize for best Merton performance in Mods, as well as Niamh Herrett who received the Allen & Overy Second Year Law Prize at Merton College.

It's been a great pleasure to serve as the Halsbury Society President this year, and I wish the best of luck to the next committee, with Sam Gibbs (2017) as their President. They have already ended Trinity term with a splendid garden party.

**Niamh Herrett (2016)**  
Halsbury Society President 2017-18





President Miranda Gleaves (centre) and guests at the annual History Society Dinner

## History Society

Merton College History Society has had a wonderful last three terms, with five speaker events over the course of the year, and a History Formal Hall every term. We kicked off Michaelmas with the traditional Freshers' Tea, this year hosted in the JCR to give all the new history students a chance to get to know the older years and the graduate mentors. We were also very lucky to have a fascinating talk from Timothy Walker (University College, 1977), former Director of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum, entitled 'The first 100 years of the Botanic Garden'. It was very well received, and it was so interesting to learn more about such a historically significant institution right on Merton's doorstep.

Hilary term saw a very well attended talk from Dr Nicholas Cole (University College, 1997) on 'History in the Information Age', which covered not only how new computer programs will help the study of history in the future, but also how current research into the American Constitution is being aided by programming. We also enjoyed the annual History Society Dinner, a memorable black-tie occasion which saw entertaining speeches from Steven Gunn (1979), Matthew Grimley (1989) and myself. Much prosecco was drunk – within reason – and a post-dinner wine and cheese reception in the JCR went down very well.

Trinity term was particularly busy, with talks from Dr Alan Strathern (Trinity, 1993), Steven Gunn, and Mairi MacDonald (formerly of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust), discussing cultural interaction, accidental death in early modern England, and the Gunpowder Plot respectively. We also hosted a History Garden Party in the sunshine on Chestnut Lawn at the end of term. This was a wonderful opportunity for the outgoing third-years to say goodbye, and for the freshers and second-years, who have got to know each other rather better over the course of the year, to escape the library for an afternoon.

The Secretary Elena Grant (2016), the Treasurer Jake Harrison Woods (2016) and I have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and it has been an honour to run the Merton College History Society for 2017-18. We are excited to see what the committee for 2018-19 achieve and are delighted to introduce the new President, Emma Ball (2017), the new Secretary, Jack Phillips (2017), and the new Treasurer, Jessica Sheridan (2017).

**Miranda K. Gleaves (2016)**  
History Society President 2017-18





Members of the Tinbergen Society with Nobel Laureate Professor Sir John Gurdon

## Tinbergen Society

My inaugural act as President was to rename the Biology Society the Tinbergen Society, on the 30th anniversary of the death of former Fellow Niko Tinbergen, the 'founding father of ethology'. The Society has gone from strength to strength this year, organising a range of socials and talks, promoting a friendly atmosphere where students can ask for advice as well as cohesion between undergraduate and postgraduate biologists.

Michaelmas term involved welcoming the biology and biochemistry freshers at the Welcome Tea, with older students keen to share their experience over tea and biscuits. Later in the term, the Society visited Otmoor RSPB for a birdwatching trip; birdwatching seems to have become quite the recurring theme in our socials, which is understandable given the research interests of many of our Fellows and postgraduates. The trip was a great success (despite Tim, our director of studies, again failing to spot a bittern as it sailed by in front of us) and concluded with dinner in the local pub, the Abingdon Arms. We also enjoyed a talk from our visiting Biodiversity Fellow Caleb Ofori, whose current research revolves around amphibian conservation in West Africa.

The undisputed highlight of the year was the Hilary term black-tie dinner and accompanying lecture, which this year was given by behavioural ecologist Professor Nick Davies. For the first time this annual lecture was opened up to the public, rather than just members of the Tinbergen Society – it was encouraging to see the interest generated by the talk, which quickly saw the TS Eliot Theatre sold out. Professor

Davies gave an informative and entertaining talk on cuckoos and their hosts, which was followed by a drinks reception in the New Common Room and dinner in the Senior Common Room. It was fascinating to hear about Professor Davies' experiences birdwatching around Oxford during his graduate years, while we ate an ingenious meal of quails' eggs laid out in the form of a cuckoo's nest by the chef.

Trinity term began with another talk in the TS Eliot Theatre, this time given by Nobel Laureate Professor Sir John Gurdon (Christ Church, 1952), known for his pioneering work on cloning and nuclear transfer. Aside from continuous computer malfunctions the lecture was superb, and was again delivered to a packed theatre.

Professor Tim Guilford's annual barbeque provided an excellent distraction from exams for the first years, punctuated both with light comic relief in the form of food once again being dropped (and the unfortunate individual having to eat it off the floor) and deep chat lasting long into the night. It was good to catch up with our esteemed Director of Studies after his sabbatical year, and to hear about his unfortunate paragliding adventures.

Serving as the President of the Tinbergen Society has been an extremely rewarding experience this year and I hope that my successor finds it as enjoyable as I have.

**Thomas Miller (2016)**

Tinbergen Society President 2017-18





# Music Society

This past academic year has been an exciting time for the Merton College Music Society, with many students, both Mertonians and not, getting involved with the College's music-making.

Michaelmas term saw a number of excellent lunchtime recitals in the TS Eliot Theatre, including the Freshers' Concert, which demonstrated the diverse musical talent of Merton's new student intake. Hilary term brought with it not only a copious amount of ice and snow (making the Chapel too cold for Fidelio Orchestra to play in at one point), but also the Oxford & Durham Jazz Off – an event that Oxford clearly won – and the MCMS Showcase Concert, giving students from all years a chance to perform in front of the Warden.

Trinity began with a bang as Tom Fetherstonhaugh (2016) and Athena Hawksley-Walker (2016), performed Beethoven's Violin Sonatas Nos. 5 and 7 live on Radio 3. Furthermore Fidelio Orchestra were given a chance to show off their skills in the College Chapel, playing a selection of movements from Beethoven's Septet in E-Flat Major. MCMS's involvement with Oxford's a cappella groups continued, with the TS Eliot hosting The Oxford Commas for their annual Trinity Term Concert – an occasion whose smooth running I owe to the brilliant efforts of my Co-President, Lucy Gibbs (2017). I think most who attended would agree that the combined talent of both Kodaly Choir and Merton Chapel Choir was displayed fully in this year's Merton Big Sing; the performance of such choral classics as 'I was glad' and 'Jerusalem' providing a fitting end to the musical events of the term.

Next year, we very much looking forward to expanding our horizons, while continuing the tradition of lunchtime recitals, with plans to independently organise a selection of larger-scale musical events. Lucy and I would like to thank Ben Nicholas and all the other musicians for their continued involvement and support, and we excitedly await the new talent arriving in October.

**Will Thomson (2017)**  
MCMS Co-President 2017-18





## Neave Society

The academic year 2017-18 has been an excellent one for the Neave Society. After seeing the previous year's committee at the College's Freshers' Fair, many came to the first few events in Michaelmas, developing a taste for the relaxed debating atmosphere that is ever present at our meetings.

One feature introduced this year that we are particularly proud of is the input that we have taken from our members as to what topics we discuss; numerous of the debates we ultimately held were suggested by friends of ours via Facebook Messenger. We feel that this encourages high quality debate as members are discussing topics they are interested in and so will have greater knowledge on the subject, as well as appealing to a wider portion of College as they may shape the choice of debate to their own wishes.

This year in Trinity term we held two fewer events than usual. This was because it was around the time of the local council elections and, as a political discussion organisation, we encouraged our members to attend a debate held in the College JCR for the candidates and to otherwise educate themselves to cast their votes wisely.

We look forward to next term. Many topics have arisen that are ripe for discussion and the contribution of further voices will be exciting.

**Lewis Hart (2017)**

Neave Society President 2017-18

### A record of this year's motions and outcomes follows.

**'This House would take down statues of immoral historical characters'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

**'This House would decriminalise marijuana'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

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

The Neave Society voted against the motion

**'This House believes that Russia is a threat to Western democracy'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

**'This House believes that capitalism is more dangerous than communism'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

**'This House believes extremists should be "No Platformed"'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

**'This House would abolish tuition fees'**

The Neave Society voted in favour of the motion

**'This House believes that cats are better than dogs'**

The Neave Society voted against the motion

**'This House believes that we should legalise the genetic selection of embryos'**

The Neave Society voted against the motion





## Poetry Society

This year Merton continued its reign as one of Oxford's most poetic colleges. On a wider University level, Mertonians were prominent this year in the Oxford University Poetry Society, working on the committee, featuring in its termly publication *Ash* (which I enjoyed editing this year, and which I am delighted to be passing on to fellow Mertonian Sammy Moriarty (2016) next year), and being prizewinners in its competitions: Alexander Peplow (2013) was the winner of the annual Jon Stallworthy Poetry Prize for postgraduate students, and two out of the three shortlisted poets were from Merton MCR. This connection between Merton and OUPS was celebrated to great acclaim this year, when in both Hilary and Trinity terms Merton College Poetry Society hosted a large-scale performance event in the TS Eliot Theatre, attracting an audience from across the University and the city. The event, called 'What we should have said', travels across the UK, and features interconnected, semi-improvised poetry performances from eminent visiting poets led by actor and performance artist Stuart Silver. In Hilary, a pianist interwove music throughout the readings. Both terms, the evening was a unique experience and a great success, and MCPS was proud to have hosted it on our own turf.

Consistently throughout the year, Alex Peplow and I have maintained our more casual MCPS evenings, to give members of the College an opportunity to enjoy, discuss and showcase poetry (including their own) in a relaxed and friendly environment. We have had so many fun and hilarious evenings: our event for Merton Arts Week in the MCR was a highlight, as was our recent Juvenilia Night, during which we read poems that we had dredged up from our childhood and adolescent notebooks. These evenings offer an opportunity to make friends across the divides of subject and year group. Some of our most regular attendees are scientists, and we often celebrate this through the themes that we choose: this year, for example, we have had poetry evenings tailored to the topics of 'Birds' and 'Science'. Our discussions around the poems we choose to share are often interdisciplinary, frequently enlightening, and always enjoyable. Next year, we hope to recruit more committee members, and to continue incorporating new events into our routine.

**Molly Clark (2014)**

Poetry Society Co-President 2017-18





Four of the democratically elected RBS presidents in one place  
© Mantas Abazorius (2013)

## Roger Bacon Society

The highlight of the Roger Bacon calendar is the annual society dinner, and this year was no exception. Students, tutors and alumni of the College came together to enjoy great conversation, a menu packed with the very best that the Merton kitchens have to offer, and fine wines flowing throughout.

The dinner is particularly important to the Society as it is the stage for the announcement of the results of the RBS annual presidential election. The election is traditionally fought on the basis of vicious meme warfare, and this year was no different, despite there being only one candidate, Matthew Davies (2015). Hostilities started in the week leading up to the dinner when Davies launched a slanderous video attack on himself, filled with cruel insinuations that he bears similarities to the Prime Minister, Darth Vader and a Physics and Philosophy student. Undeterred, Davies uploaded

a response video to his own attack, offering unrealistic promises and comparing himself to Professor Schekochihin; both, of course, are tried and tested methods of winning Roger Bacon Society elections. In the end, it emerged that Davies had done enough to win the Presidency, securing an impressive 25% of the popular vote.

In celebration of his fine victory, Davies delivered a 'call-and-response' style acceptance speech which was predictably lost on most of his audience. Unconfirmed student reports state that Professor Binney was heard to exclaim after the dinner: 'I didn't really understand Matt's speech [groan], but I still thought it was great banter! [cheer].'

**David Hosking (2014)**

Roger Bacon Society President 2017-18



# Interdisciplinary Groups





# Ockham Lectures

The Ockham lectures have gone from strength to strength over the past year. In Michaelmas, we welcomed Dr Peter Braam (1987), Wyliot Fellow and former JRF. Dr Braam works with Cambridge University on the SKA telescope Science Data Processor. His talk contained an overview of the computing requirements of the telescope, and detailed the challenges that will be faced by the instrument over its 50-year expected lifetime, in an age where computational advances are made on much shorter timescales.

In Hilary, we were honoured to host the Warden-elect, Professor Irene Tracey (1985). Professor Tracey gave a hugely enjoyable talk describing the landmark advances in our understanding of the brain, highlighting the role of the University of Oxford in developing the modern field of neuroscience. She explained how physicists have been at the forefront of this development (this went down well with her audience), through their work in developing magnetic resonance imaging techniques to probe the brain.

In Trinity, we welcomed Professor Slava Rychkov, of the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques to speak on the subject of 'Conformal bootstrap: are things big always made of things elementary?' In this fascinating talk, Professor Rychkov explained that typical physical theories attempt to reduce physical systems to elementary parts, but that there are other ways to think about things. He described a different class of theory that has found realisation in describing critical phenomena, in which there exist an infinite number of equally elementary parts whose mutual existence is forced by the requirement of self-consistency.

**David Hosking (2014)**  
Ockham Lectures



Professor Matthew Higgins, Professor Sir John Gurdon and members of the Tinbergen Society © Laura Hankins (2016)

## Biomedical and Life Sciences

This year the Biomedical and Life Sciences research group enjoyed three very different events. A highlight was the visit of Professor John Gurdon, who won the Nobel Prize in 2012 for his pioneering work on nuclear transplantation and cloning. A packed TS Eliot Theatre enjoyed hearing an overview of Professor Gurdon's work and its consequences for future medical advances.

A second event was a visit from Dr Claire Kilbride to talk about her work for Médecins Sans Frontières. Claire inspired the audience with stories of her remarkable time as a doctor in a field hospital in South Sudan.

Finally, for something very different, the life sciences comedy event allowed members of College to test out their skills at science-related stand-up. An unusual analysis of the nutritional background to dog food packaging brought down the house and won first prize.

**Dr Matthew Higgins**  
Biomedical and Life Sciences Research Group





## History of the Book

Markus Späth presents 'Emblems of corporate identity? University seals from medieval Oxford', Hilary 2018

The History of the Book Group met twice this year. Both well-attended talks also included pop-up exhibitions and the traditional glass of wine.

A Hispanic theme was chosen for the Michaelmas term meeting in order to mark Jonathan Thacker's new appointment as King Alfonso XIII Professor of Spanish Studies held at Exeter College. Jonathan has been a supporter of the History of the Book Group (and has spoken twice) since its inception. Professor David Hook (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at Oxford) spoke on 29 November 2017 about the printing and the reception of Juan de Mariana's *Historiae de rebus Hispaniae* [*History of Spain*]. Juan de Mariana (1536-1624) was a Spanish theologian and historian whose publications included the first comprehensive history of Spain. This work had a complicated printing history, as it was revised and brought up to date by the author several times between 1592 and 1621. Merton's copy of the first (1592) edition provides an

excellent example of the material evidence of typographical correction on the title page, where a large Roman numeral XXV was mistakenly printed instead of XX (giving the extent of the work as 25 books instead of the correct 20). Rather than printing a new title page, which would have been expensive, the printer corrected this error, first by overprinting the 'V' with a typographical decorative piece of about the same size and then expunging it leaving a shadowy mark followed by a full stop. The volume was available for attendees to examine along with other works by Mariana in the College Library.

On 28 February 2018 a cross-section of the College gathered in the Breakfast Room to hear Visiting Research Fellow Dr Markus Späth speak on the theme 'Emblems of corporate identity? University seals from medieval Oxford'. The seals in question are made of beeswax and are attached to many medieval documents as part of a system of authentication. A historian of medieval art who has published on corporate



seals, Dr Späth had spent weeks of his time in Oxford looking at the seals at Merton and other colleges. Merton was the first Oxford college to adopt a common seal, enabling the Warden and Fellows to act as a legal corporate body. The design is rather surprisingly unlike that used for other corporate bodies that could have served as models, such as Merton Priory. The Merton seal depicts a figure of Christ holding a number of tonsured figures in a napkin-like fabric, and the reverse of the seal shows the head of John the Baptist. (See the article by Roger Highfield and Julian Reid in *The Treasures of Merton College*.)

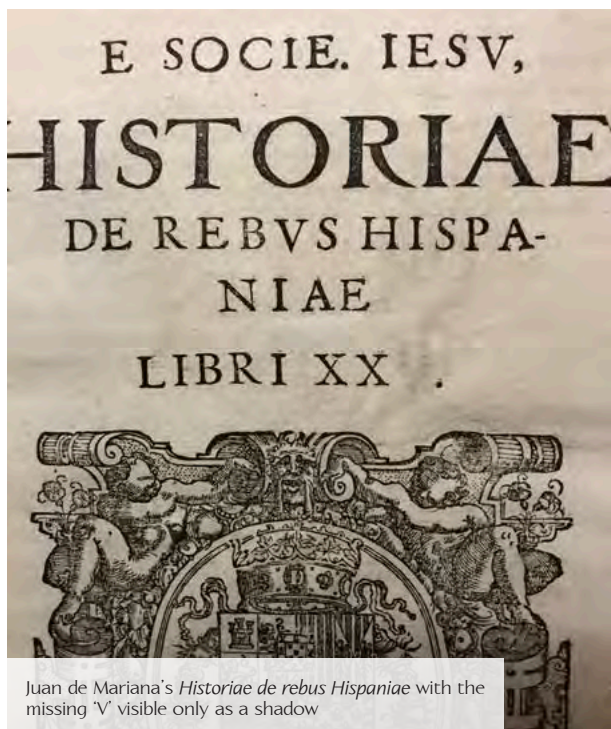
As far as one can tell from surviving evidence, other early Oxford colleges, such as Balliol and University College, were not quite so quick to adopt a common seal. Merton's distinctive seal design continued to be used by the College for a period of some 50 years. New College on the other hand (founded 1379) had three different, elaborate, seal

designs within the span of a decade, perhaps reflecting the ambitious involvement of their founder William Wykeham. Dr Späth concluded with the observation that adding the College seal to a document was in itself a 'corporate' act, since three Fellows were needed to open the three locks on the box in which the seal matrix was kept.

Attendees at the meeting were able to view examples of the early Merton seal as well as different forms of medieval documents provided by Archivist Julian Reid.

To read more about Dr Späth's discoveries in the Merton Archives, see page 96 in this issue.

**Dr Julia Walworth**  
Fellow Librarian



Juan de Mariana's *Historiae de rebus Hispaniae* with the missing 'V' visible only as a shadow



Lady Taylor takes a look at an indenture at Dr Späth's presentation



# Departments







## The Chapel

This has been an exciting year in the life of the Chapel. The Revd Dr Jarred Mercer (Queen's, 2010) joined us as full-time Associate Chaplain and Career Development Researcher at the beginning of the year, strengthening our team, so that it now consists of two chaplains who work with our Verger, Chapel Administrator, Reed Rubin Organist and Director of Music, and of course our wonderful choir and organ scholars and a dedicated group of student Chapel officers. The expansion of the Chapel team has helped to bring new growth and energy to the Chapel community. One of the main roles of the new Associate Chaplain is catechesis, which he carries out both with students and members of the Girls' Choir. This year we have seen four baptisms and seven confirmations, enabling the Chapel to enrich the spiritual lives of those of all faiths and none.

The Chapel has always stood as an integrated aspect of the life of the College, and this year particular efforts in new initiatives have seen the Chapel become even more of a central part of the social fabric of the entire College community. There have been countryside walks and a rock

climbing outing to give students the opportunity to form deeper community while going beyond the College walls and getting much needed exercise, and a trip to Westminster Abbey for a behind-the-scenes tour. New regular activities and special events have also been a key part of Chapel life this year, including 'Theology on Tap', a gathering of people in a local pub to discuss key questions of faith and society, and our weekly book group 'Books with cake'. Last year we started a lecture series called 'Merton Conversations in Faith and Culture', which brings in expert speakers to discuss some of life's biggest issues and questions and what perspectives faith might have to offer them. This year we have hosted Timothy Radcliffe (St John's, 1969), award-winning and best-selling author and former master of the Dominican Order, and Christina Beardsley, a trans woman who is also a priest in the Church of England. These are popular events that draw in people from within and outside the College.

Returning to personnel, in Trinity Term we said farewell to our Chapel Administrator, Deborah Thimbleby, who developed the role in a number of new directions during her time with us. In her place, we are pleased to welcome Sarah Cotterill (Magdalen, 2002) to the team. As will be reported elsewhere, 2018 sees the tenth anniversary of the Choral Foundation. Ben Nicholas' involvement has been instrumental in the remarkable development of the College Choir over the past decade, and he has also been the driving force behind the setting of the Girls' Choir. These and his other contributions to Merton were recognised by College in Trinity Term when he was elected to a Bodley Fellowship.

The term-time Chapel schedule has continued with four sung services each week alongside daily Morning Prayer and regular celebrations of the Eucharist. It would not be possible to maintain this level of liturgical activity without the help of our team of student Chapel officers. I'm grateful to all of them, and give special mention to the finalists among this year's team, Victor Ajuwon (2015), Jack Beckwith (2015) and Tom Lousada (2015), and three graduates who are stepping down, Alice Love Twelves (2014), Jordan Maly-Preuss (2016) and Katie Schulz (2015). Naomi Gardom (2014) has served with great distinction in the new role of Chaplaincy Assistant, assisting with the liturgies, in planning services, and in the catechesis for girl choristers. She leaves us this





summer to join the Root Group at St Albans Cathedral. Alex Little (2015), our Senior Organ Scholar, has reached the end of his undergraduate career, having contributed much to the life of the Chapel over the past two years. We are delighted that he will be returning to Merton as a graduate student, and to take up a new post as Assistant Organist.

Once again this year, it has been a great pleasure to welcome a variety of preachers on Sunday evenings. This year's episcopal visitors have included the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson (New College, 1973), Bishop of Whitby; the Rt Revd Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle; the Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Revd Bernard Longley; the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield; and the Rt Revd Dr Stephen Platten, Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Dioceses of London, Newcastle and Southwark. The Bishop of Newcastle and Bishop Platten both baptised and confirmed while they were with us, Bishop Christine gaining the distinction of being the first woman bishop to preside and preach in the College Chapel. We have also enjoyed visits by the Revd Dr Helen Orchard, Team Vicar of St Matthew's, Wimbledon; the Revd Prebendary Dr Brian Leathard, Rector of St Luke's with Christ Church, Chelsea; the Chancellor of the Diocese of Oxford, the Revd Alexander McGregor; former High Court Judge, The Hon Sir Jeremy Cooke; the Revd Dr Will Lamb (Balliol, 1988), Vicar of the University Church; the Revd Canon Sarah Foot, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History; and the Revd Joel Knight, Assistant Curate of St Ebbe's, Oxford. Our Fellow Librarian, Dr Julia Walworth, gave the address at the Postmasters' Evensong in Michaelmas Term; and Jasvir Singh OBE, the Founding Chair of City Sikhs, gave an address at Evensong in Hilary, thereby becoming the first member of the Sikh community to address a congregation in the Chapel which, on this occasion, was joined by a large group from the local Sikh community.

The College Chapel has two patrons: the Blessed Virgin Mary and St John the Baptist. In 2014, as part of the College's 750th anniversary celebrations, a statue of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, by Peter Eugene Ball, was installed in the Ante-Chapel. This year, thanks again to the generosity of John Booth (1976, Wyliot Fellow), a 19th century Russian icon of John the Baptist was installed near the font, and dedicated at the end of Evensong on 23 June, the eve of the feast of the Birth of John the Baptist.

We are enormously fortunate that our services are well supported by members of College, local residents and visitors to the city. From next term, thanks to a generous gift by Professor Cheyney and Dr Sandy Ryan, we will be able to extend our reach even further by using new webcasting equipment to broadcast services via the College website. Do listen in or, better still, come to join us in the Chapel.

## Patronage

The Revd Canon Alison Hardy, Rector of All Saints', Stand, and Area Dean of Radcliffe and Prestwich (Diocese of Manchester) has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of Embleton with Rennington and Rock, and Area Dean of Alnwick (Newcastle).

## Welfare and Student Support

The increase in demand for welfare support, particularly in the area of mental health, is being experienced not only in Oxford, but in higher education institutions across the country and, indeed, globally. At Merton, part of our response to this in the past year has been to appoint a third Junior Dean for Welfare. The Junior Deans are graduate students employed by the College to be a first point of contact for welfare advice and to liaise with members of the JCR, MCR and SCR.



They are also on-call 24/7 to respond to emergency welfare situations. In addition, they coordinate the College's peer support training and activities to support health and wellbeing in the community. They and I work very closely with our College Nurse. Catherine Haines has served the College for eight years, and has become an integral member of the team, supporting significant numbers of students. She retires at the end of September. The College is in her debt for all that she has contributed. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

This has also been a busy year for the College's Student Support Committee, for which Frances Raimo, our Student Support Administrator, provides administrative support as well as advice to potential applicants. The funds we administer are used for a variety of purposes: to assist with financial

hardship; to enable graduates to attend academic conferences; for travel (including the Sir Gerry Grimstone Travel Awards), sport, music and drama; to support modern linguists on their year abroad; and as Doctoral Completion Bursaries (including those funded by the Simms family) when no other sources of funding are available. Student Support Funds are also used to pay for private counselling. Given the lengthening NHS waiting lists for psychological and psychiatric treatment, it is more important than ever that we can support our students in this way. Total funds awarded in 2017-18 amounted to just under £184,000. We greatly appreciate the generosity of all who contribute to make such support possible.

**The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones**  
Chaplain

## Baptisms and Confirmations

Adrian Burbie (2017) and Robert Dows-Miller (father of Sebastian Dows-Miller, 2016) were baptised and confirmed by the Bishop of Newcastle on 11 February 2018

Tom Lousada (2015) (2015), Dr Matthew Thomson (Fellow) and Charlotte Baker (girl chorister) were confirmed by the Bishop of Newcastle on 11 February 2018

James He, son of Prof Yang-Hui He (College Lecturer) and Elizabeth Hunter (2000), was baptised on 17 February 2018 according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church

Anna Charbel Issa, daughter of Dr Peter Charbel Issa (2009) and Britta Charbel Issa, was baptised on 27 March 2018

Robert Lentz (2017) and Michael Brook (2016) were baptised and confirmed by Bishop Stephen Platten on 20 May 2018

Laurelin Engel-Liddell, daughter of Megan Engel (2013) and Mitchell Liddell, was baptised on 15 July 2018 according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church

## Funerals, Services of Thanksgiving and the Burial of Ashes

The funeral of Professor Michael Baker (Emeritus Fellow) was held on 11 September 2017; his ashes were buried in the Grove Meadow

The ashes of Maureen Ponting (Catering Assistant) were buried in the Grove Meadow on 10 October 2017

The funeral of Professor Michael Gelder (Emeritus Fellow) was held on 23 April 2018

## Ordinations

Samuel Carter (2002) was ordained priest by the Bishop of Lewes on 19 May 2018 at All Saints', Eastbourne. He is serving his title in the parish of All Souls', Eastbourne (Chichester)

## Weddings

Charles Scudder (1971) to Dr Mary Olson on 1 October 2017

Jordan Maly-Preuss (2016) to Aaron Hanson on 15 December 2017

Stephanie Jones (2009) to Alexander Cadoux-Hudson on 12 May 2018

Valerian Chen (2016) to Alexandra Hall on 23 June 2018

Felix Weitkämper (2015) to Kai Lin Sun (2015) on 6 July 2018

Leah Stead (College Verger) to Jack Collins on 4 August 2018

The dedication and blessing of the marriage of Xianshu Wu (2017) to Kenan Wang on 1 September 2018

Alice Love Twelves (2014) to Samuel Maginnis on 8 September 2018

## Memorial Services

A memorial evensong for Dr Roger Highfield (Emeritus Fellow) was held on 21 October 2017

A memorial service for Professor Michael Baker (Emeritus Fellow) was held on 10 February 2018





## The Choir

2018 saw the tenth anniversary of the Choral Foundation, which was marked by two very special events. On 5 May we welcomed back singers, organ scholars, benefactors and Friends of the Choir to participate in Evensong and to attend a dinner in Hall: the sound of the College Choir and alumni in Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens* was a remarkable testament to a decade of Merton College Choir, as was the convivial dinner that followed. It was particularly good to welcome back Suzie Clark, Merton's former Music Tutor, who flew over especially from the USA. We were sorry that Reed Rubin (1957) could not be with us, but his message of support was much appreciated.

On 15 June, choir alumni joined the College Choir and the College Girls' Choir for a performance of Elgar's *The Apostles* in the Sheldonian Theatre; the concert made possible through generous donations from David Ure (1965) and a number of other benefactors, to whom we are most grateful. An outstanding team of soloists – including Sophie Bevan, Ashley Riches and Marcus Farnsworth – and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra completed the line-up. At a reception before the concert, the Warden presented to the Fellow Librarian, Dr Julia Walworth, a bound copy of the *Merton Choirbook*. Made possible through the generosity of the Reverend Dr Nicholas Fisher, the 50 or so compositions commissioned in 2014 for the 750th anniversary have now been bound in one volume. Not only is the book a work of art in itself, but it is also a suitable reminder of the extraordinary scale of this project. The choir continues to sing compositions from the *Choirbook* in Chapel services and concerts, and it is particularly gratifying to see how many choirs across the world have taken various pieces into their repertoires.

The first concert of the academic year was given in Rushall, in the Vale of Pewsey, when we visited one of the College's livings. We received superb hospitality from Suzie Jones, and the occasion provided a good opportunity for the older members of the choir to bond with the freshers. On 21 October, the choir appeared in the Oxford Lieder Festival, giving a late-night concert of motets by Bach, Schutz, Brahms and Mahler. Members of the College Choir took their turn in supporting the University by singing at the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors in September, and in November the College Choir joined forces with the Choir of The Queen's College for a concert to celebrate 15 years since the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra became the University's Orchestra in Residence.

The choir's Christmas concerts included a carol service for alumni, sung at Christ Church, Chelsea, thanks to the kindness of the churchwarden, Greg Lim (2006), and two Carols by Candlelight concerts in the College Chapel, which featured both Choirs. A huge snowfall before the second of the concerts added to the Christmas spirit, even if it did mean that many of the audience sadly could not travel in to Oxford for the concert! Luckily, transport routes cleared in time for us to travel to London on 12 December to give a concert at the Temple Church as part of the Temple Winter Festival. This concert was made possible by the Morris-Venables Charitable Foundation, and we were very grateful to Robert Venables QC (1966) and Gary Morris for hosting the choir and College alumni at a reception in the Round Church afterwards.

Further concerts have been given in Cheltenham College Chapel (in aid of the Holst Birthplace Museum), Rugby





Fellow Librarian Dr Julia Walworth is presented with a bound copy of the *Merton Choirbook* by the Warden

School (conducted by Christopher Robinson), Jesus College, Cambridge, Blythburgh Church, Suffolk and Norwich Cathedral (where both the senior organ scholar Alex Little (2015) and I were choristers).

For the ninth Passiontide at Merton festival, generously supported by a number of individuals and Penningtons Manches and Savills, we welcomed back The Marian Consort for a programme that included the world premiere of Gabriel Jackson's *Stabat Mater*. Written for eight voices and a children's choir, it was apt that the premiere included a significant role for our girl choristers. They rose to the challenge superbly and enjoyed learning the demanding vocal line. James Lancelot, formerly organist of Durham Cathedral, gave an organ recital, and the festival closed with a performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor*.

As media outreach becomes ever more important, we are delighted to announce that Michaelmas 2018 will see us webcasting on an occasional basis from the Chapel. This equipment has been given by Dr Sandy and Professor Cheyney Ryan in honour of the Warden, Lady Taylor and the Chaplain, and will enable us to have regular contact with alumni and supporters across the world. Our ongoing relationship with Delphian Records has seen an increased number of listeners to the choir on Spotify and Apple Music, particularly for the most recent release *A Merton Christmas*.

The autumn will see the release of a disc of music by Richard Allain, and in April 2019 the recording of Gabriel Jackson's *The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ* will be released. Recorded in June 2018, this major undertaking was made possible by a number of Friends of the Choir, to whom we are most grateful. All the choir's recordings and recordings of the Dobson Organ are available through our online shop at: [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-choir/recordings](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-choir/recordings)

The Girls' Choir began the academic year with a residential weekend at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, where there was time for rehearsal and recreational activities before visiting Cirencester to sing at the Parish Church. The singing of the choir, now at the end of its second year, has continued to develop at a great pace, and the Chapel team look forward to this year's residential trip to Durham Cathedral, and the College livings at Embleton and Ponteland. David Harvey's (1957) continued generosity has enabled this choir to thrive.

Services in the Chapel remain the heart of our work and it has been a pleasure to welcome a number of choirs to sing with us as we continue our outreach work through our Choral Open Day and other events. Choirs from The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, Canford School and The Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum sang with the College Choir in joint Evensongs; singers from Dorcan Academy, Swindon, joined the Girls' Choir for a choral workshop. As ever, I welcome enquiries from potential organ and choral scholars, and potential girl choristers (aged 9 at admission), and I am happy to meet them at any point in the year.

Our two organ scholars Alex Little and Tom Fetherstonhaugh (2016) have provided brilliant organ playing in the Chapel services, and have assisted with the choirs with great expertise. Professor Daniel Grimley, our Music Tutor, continues to offer invaluable support and advice, and the Revd Dr Jarred Mercer (Queen's, 2010) has fulfilled spiritual and pastoral roles with both choirs. The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones, as ever, provides tremendous leadership and wisdom for all that happens in the Chapel. On behalf of all the singers, our huge thanks to this great team.

**Ben Nicholas**

Organist and Director of Music





## Development and Alumni Relations

Over the past year, hardly a fortnight seems to have passed without a significant gathering of Merton alumni and friends in some part of the world. It is testament to Mertonians' warmth, curiosity and connectedness that they will come together regularly for events ranging from the purely social to the highly formal and to meet friends and hear speakers on diverse and thought-provoking subjects.

Our programme in Oxford included Gaudies for alumni who joined the College from 1997 to 2001 and from 2006 to 2008 (the second of these events replete with an atmospheric covering of March snow over Front Quad during dinner!), a 50th anniversary lunch for 1967 matriculands, and a Freshers' Parents' Lunch for over 200 guests. We held a special Reunion Evensong and Dinner to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Choral Foundation organised in conjunction with the Chapel, and the first-ever Merton History Day, curated by Professor Steven Gunn (1979). Lastly, we were honoured to see many of our Benefactors join us for a special dinner in the historic surroundings of the Divinity School before the Choir's electrifying performance of Elgar's *The Apostles* in the Sheldonian Theatre on the final Friday of Trinity term.

All these individual Oxford events were as nothing compared with the pace and conviviality of the Merton Weekend in June at which members of Merton Society bade a final



Guests at the annual I264 Reception at the Merton Society Weekend

farewell to the Warden and Lady Taylor. We are grateful to all our speakers for the weekend, but particularly the Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson (1967) and Sir Howard Stringer (1961) who, as the immediate past and current Presidents of the Society, thanked the Taylors for their warmth and generosity of spirit to alumni on behalf of Mertonians worldwide.

Further afield, the Merton Lawyers' Association held its annual gathering at Clifford Chance, kindly facilitated by Hilary Evenett (1982), and heard from the Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP. The Merton Society organised the annual London Drinks in October, the Carol Service at St Luke's Church in Chelsea and the London Dinner in February in the glorious surroundings of Stationers' Hall, specially secured for us by the current Clerk of the Stationers' Company, William Alden (1973).

Our overseas activities began with Merton in Manhattan featuring a talk from Matthew Rycroft (1986), held in the inspiring galleries of Sotheby's in New York courtesy of Bernd Delahaye (2001). In January the Warden, Lady Taylor and I undertook a series of visits to Mertonians in Asia, taking in Singapore, Tokyo and Hong Kong, with dinners and other gatherings in each location. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who made these events such a success, in particularly Polly and Tom Willett (1986), Julian



Marland (1980), and Alison Beale and Mayumi Azuma of the University of Oxford Japan Office. The year abroad would not be complete without the annual MC3 Reunion, which took place on the West Coast in San Francisco in April, alongside the University's North America Reunion Weekend. Many individuals travelled long distances to join us and we were pleased that the Merton Dinner, generously hosted by Margaret and Michael McCaffery (1975) in their beautiful home, numbered almost 50 guests.

Our fundraising has continued to focus on securing support for Graduate Scholarships and Tutorial Fellowships at Merton and we are in the early stages of appeals based around History and Physics in memory of Roger Highfield and Michael Baker respectively. In addition, we are formulating a special appeal relating to Mathematics at Merton. We are extremely grateful to those who have already made significant pledges or donations in respect of these key appeals and hope that others may be willing to join them over the course of the next year. In addition, there have been some wonderful donations in support of the Chapel and the Choral Foundation in its 10th anniversary year. These include the dedication of an icon of St John the Baptist, gifted to the College by John Booth (1976); the installation this summer of webcasting equipment, generously supported by Professor Cheyney and Dr Sandy Ryan; the gift of a presentation copy of the *Merton Choirbook* from the Revd Nick Fisher; and an exceptionally generous grant from the Reed Foundation in the US, courtesy of Jane and Reed Rubin (1957), which will enable the Choir to extend its activities over the next couple of years. Lastly, regular donations from alumni to the Merton Fund through our direct mail appeals and the annual telethon continue to have a huge impact on the life of the College.

In June 2018 we held our biennial meeting of the Founder's Society, the group of Mertonians and friends who have elected to make provision for the College in their wills. A few months earlier, we celebrated the establishment of the Braam Bequest and welcomed Dr Peter Braam (1987), former Junior Research Fellow at Merton, and his family to College to mark this occasion. Dr Braam and his family have planned an extraordinary legacy gift that will create a series of early-career research fellowships for researchers into human wellbeing based at Merton and across the University.

The past year has been a particularly interesting one to navigate from the perspective of communications, particularly with the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in May 2018. Nonetheless, we have worked closely on this with the University and are confident that we continue to process data for alumni in accordance with the new regulation. *Merton Messenger*, our email newsletter, has been circulated twice a term and we have been heartened by the feedback on various stories that have been featured, including our special Christmas animation created by recent graduate Ella Barron (2014). A bumper edition of *Postmaster* appeared in October last year and we hope that this 2018 edition will be as voluminous. In the autumn we undertook our first alumni survey in a number of years, asking for feedback on our communications, events and fundraising activities. We were impressed that the survey had a response rate of 26% and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete this.

As ever, there have been a few changes within the Development Office team over the past year as we said goodbye to some long-standing colleagues and welcomed new ones. Peter O'Connor (St Peter's, 2009) left in late November 2017 to take up a new position at Imperial College London, working with their alumni in Asia. Elina Cotterill left at the same time to join the Oxford Alumni Office and now has responsibility for ensuring that all alumni of the University receive communications efficiently. Sarah Jones (2011) departed in January for Lady Margaret Hall where she continues her work in regular giving within a wider remit. Lastly, Bethany Pedder (Queen's, 2010) left Merton in August this year for a new role at the University of Manchester and we are recruiting her successor at the time of writing. Consequently, we have welcomed three new colleagues to the team: Milos Martinov (Pembroke, 2007) as Deputy Development Director, James Vickers as Development Operations and Data Manager, and James Bennett as Development Officer. With all of this change, I am delighted that Chelsea Chisholm and Claire Spence-Parsons continue to be at the heart of the Development Office's work, looking after our events programme and communications so effectively.

**Dr Duncan Barker**  
Fellow and Development Director





Jasdeep Dhillon carefully restores an edition of *Philosophical Transactions*

## The Library

### *The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society Project*

This year a special library conservation project was funded by MC3 to mark the Wardenship of Sir Martin Taylor.

*Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* is not just any academic periodical – it is the world's first and longest-running scientific journal. Launched in 1665, it continues to this day as a premiere platform for the dissemination of advances in many fields. From its early years it was apparent that *Phil Trans* (as it is often called) was an essential publication for every learned library, and it has occupied a correspondingly important place in Merton's Library. In the 17th century the College purchased several early volumes (starting with 1667) from the matriculation fee paid by Gentleman Commoner Thomas Chester of Knole in Almondsbury (d. 1704). From this point onwards, *Phil Trans* was one of the few publications acquired with regularity from Library funds. Even in the 18th century, when the College Library was not very dynamic, *Phil Trans* continued to arrive steadily via the Oxford bookseller Hanwell and Parker, as entries in its 1798 sales ledger demonstrate.

*Philosophical Transactions* include some of the first publications of the discoveries and observations of

major figures such as Isaac Newton, Robert Hooke and Edmund Halley. The motto of the Royal Society, '*Nullius in verba*' (usually translated as 'Take nobody's word for it'), emphasises the importance of studying evidence rather than relying on authority. The engraved illustrations that accompanied every issue enabled authors to communicate evidence more effectively and readers to see for themselves.

The *Phil Trans* volumes at Merton show signs of heavy use. It is not surprising that the bindings of the earliest volumes (containing some of the most iconic articles and engravings) had become so fragile that they could no longer be consulted without risk of damage to the text block. Another concentration of volumes in poor condition comes in the 1790s – the period when the books in the Library were unchained and when Fellows exercised their new privilege of being able to borrow books and periodicals, perhaps not looking after them as carefully as they might have. Folding engraved plates were particularly vulnerable, as it was easy to tear them or to refold them incorrectly.

In the course of the past academic year, two conservators from the Oxford Conservation Consortium, Maria Kalligerou and Jasdeep Dhillon spent some 315 hours on the *Phil Trans*





Dr Julia Walworth leads a tour of the medieval Upper Library

conservation project. Working in a wintry Upper Library, they carefully cleaned and assessed all the volumes up to 1800. Some were then taken to the studio for repairs to bindings, and torn and detached illustrations were carefully repaired.

Examples of the completed work from the *Phil Trans* project with 'before' photos are featured in this year's spring-summer 2018 Upper Library exhibition. Some of the stunning engravings are also displayed, including the first panoramic view of the ruins of Palmyra to reach a western audience (1695) and Caroline Herschel's depictions of a new comet (1787). The exhibition inspired a hands-on display during the 2018 Merton Weekend at which Mertonians and their families could examine examples of the materials used by the book conservators for the repairs, such as the web-like handmade mulberry paper from Japan or the tough aerolinen, originally used in early airplane manufacture and now used to strengthen the spines of bound volumes.

Thanks to the Royal Society, current Merton students can consult current and historic issues of *Philosophical Transactions* online and, thanks to MC3, they can also consult the original volumes to encounter famous articles, diagrams and illustrations in the same way as Mertonians of the 17th century.

One wonders whether the artist Max Beerbohm ever perused any of the volumes of *Philosophical Transactions* during his student years at Merton in the 1890s. He certainly studied the expressive possibilities of the physiognomies and customary attitudes of his tutors. This year, with the generous support of Nicholas Davie-Thornhill (1955), the College was able to acquire three pen-sketches of Fellows of Merton, made when Max was a student. They are executed with panache and slightly wicked humour. For example, a depiction of an elongated and somewhat anxious-looking G R Scott is captioned, 'The Poetry of Motion as exemplified by Mr Scott.' Scott tutored Max for Classical Moderations and is reported to have complained of him that, 'The impudent fellow even shows up essays to me with caricatures of myself scrawled in the margin.'

The Resource Description Project Librarian, Cathy Lewis, concentrated this year on creating detailed online records of publications by and about T S Eliot in the Frank Brenchley Collection. Now easily searchable in Oxford's online library catalogue, the collection has already seen an increase in usage. At an earlier stage is a new project to create online, searchable descriptions of Merton's medieval manuscripts based on Professor Rodney Thomson's 2009 printed catalogue. And to improve the facilities for study in the Library, the Deputy Librarian Harriet Campbell Longley is coordinating a project to refurbish the computer room in the Old Warden's Lodgings.

2018 brought many changes in the Library staffing. Assistant Librarian Dr Petra Hofmann took up the position of College Librarian at St John's, Oxford and has been succeeded by Harriet Campbell Longley who joined Merton from the Natural History Museum, London. Senior Library Assistant Emma Sillett took up the position of Reader Services Librarian at Christ Church and was succeeded by Verity Parkinson (2008) who returned to Merton from a position at the Inner Temple Library. Library Assistant Lucy Norman took up a position at Bradfield College and was succeeded by Rosslyn Johnston who joined following a traineeship at Trinity College, Cambridge. The new team are looking forward to welcoming incoming and returning Mertonians in Michaelmas term.

**Dr Julia Walworth**  
Fellow Librarian





## Donations to the Library and Archives 2017-18

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

- Three drawings by Max Beerbohm of Fellows of Merton College, dating from his undergraduate days. Purchased through the support of Nicholas Davie-Thornhill (1955)
- The Noel Odell Spitsbergen Collection – material relating to the 1921 and 1923 expeditions. Presented by Peter Odell
- Eight antiquarian books, including the 1797 edition of Thomas Bridges' *Burlesque Translation of Homer* with engraved plates and several in contemporary bindings. Presented by Richard Thomas (1956)
- Twelve volumes of sources for English Common Law with introductions by David Seipp (Merton, 1977). Presented by David Seipp
- Additional material for the Sandy Irvine Collection. Presented by Julie Summers.

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

The family of Michael Baker (1930-2017; Emeritus Fellow), Friends of the British Overseas Territories, Christ Church College Library, Development Office (Merton College), Gerstenberg Verlag, Vikaran Khanna (2010), Henrike Lähnemann, Liverpool University Press, Dick Lloyd (1954), Anna Marmodoro, Richard McCabe (Fellow), Tim Part (2000), Josephine Quinn, John and Rose Randle, Paul Saenger, Ruggero Sciuto (2012), Zillah Stone, Edgar Vincent, Julia Walworth (Fellow Librarian), Graham Williams (1957), Oliver Noble Wood, and the Diocese of Würzburg.



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

Allen, RH (1967) *Kisses Sweeter Than Wine* (PublishNation, 2017)

\_\_\_\_ *Copper Kettle* (PublishNation, 2017)

\_\_\_\_ *The Magic Clarinet* (PublishNation, 2017)

\_\_\_\_ *On a Carousel* (PublishNation, 2018)

\_\_\_\_ *Ballad of a Thin Man* (PublishNation, 2018)

Amos, J (Peter J Braam JRF 2011-2015) (contributor) in I Abdullah and I Rashid (eds), *Understanding West Africa's Ebola Epidemic: Towards a Political Economy* (Zed Books: London, 2017)

Ash, R (Fellow) (ed.) Tacitus, *Annals*. Book XV (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

Bott, A (1953) *A History of the Churches of Puttenham, Seale, Wanborough & the Sands*

Davies, OF (1958) *Shakespeare's Fathers and Daughters* (Bloomsbury, 2017)

Eidinow, J (1986; Fellow) (contributor) in A Leamonth, C Ford and J Clark (eds), *Williams, Mortimer and Sunnucks: Executors, Administrators and Probate* (Sweet & Maxwell: London, 2018)

Emde Boas, E van (Fellow) *Language and Character in Euripides' Electra* (Oxford University Press, 2017)

Temmerman, K de, and E van Emde Boas (Fellow) (eds), *Characterization in Ancient Greek Literature: Studies in Ancient Greek Narrative*, vol. 4 (Brill: Leiden, 2018)

Feingold, E (2007) *Colonial Justice and Decolonization in the High Court of Tanzania, 1920-1971* (Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke, 2018)

Grimmett, G (1968) *Probability on Graphs: Random Processes on Graphs and Lattices* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

Gunn, S (1979, Fellow) *The English People at War in the Age of Henry VIII* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Hare, J (1996) *Basingstoke: A Medieval Town, c.1000-c.1600* (Institute of Historical Research: London, 2017)

Hartford, J (Lecturer in French) (contributor) in M Marten and K Neumann (eds), *Saints and Cultural Trans-/Mission* (Academia Verlag: Sankt Augustin, 2013)

Higgins, C (2009) *Asylum by Boat: Origins of Australia's Refugee Policy* (UNSW Press: Sydney, 2017)

Howes, D (1979), and C Classen, *Ways of Sensing: Understanding the Senses in Society* (Routledge: London and New York, 2014)

Kauffmann, CM (1950) *Eve's Apple to the Last Supper: Picturing Food in the Bible* (Boydell Press: Woodbridge, 2017)

Ladwig, W (Merton 2005) *The Forgotten Front: Patron-Client Relationships in Counterinsurgency* (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Tsingarida, A, and IS Lemos (Fellow) *Constructing Social Identities in Early Iron Age and Archaic Greece* (CReA-Patrimoine: Brussels, 2017)

Lourie, S (1992) *Seahorses: A Life-Size Guide to Every Species* (Ivy Press: Lewes, 2016)

MacLachlan, I (Fellow) (ed) *Jacques Derrida: Critical Thought* (Routledge: London, 2018)

\_\_\_\_ (contributor) in T Allen (ed), *Time and Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

Herring, A, and D Paterson (Fellow), *Levick's Introduction to Cardiovascular Physiology* (CRC Press: Boca Raton, 2018)

Budelmann, F, and T Phillips (JRF 2013-16, Supernumerary Fellow) (eds), *Textual Events: Performance & the Lyric in Early Greece* (Oxford University Press, [2018])

\_\_\_\_ and A D'Angour (eds), *Music, Text, & Culture in Ancient Greece* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Prag, J (Fellow) (contributor) in D Jew, R Osborne & M Scott (eds), *M.I. Finley* (Cambridge University Press, 2016)

Raeburn, M (1959) *Joseph Glasco: The Fifteenth American* (Cacklegoose Press: London, 2015)

Charles-Edwards, T, and Reid, J (College Archivist), *Corpus Christi College Oxford: A History* (Oxford University Press, 2017)

Shue, H (Emeritus Fellow) (contributor) in S Lazar and H Frowe (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Ethics of War* (Oxford University Press: New York, 2018)

Späth, M (VRF), *Verflechtung von Erinnerung: Bildproduktion und Geschichtsschreibung im Kloster San Clemente a Casauria während des 12. Jahrhunderts* (Akademie Verlag GmbH: Berlin, 2007)

Gomes, A, and A Stephenson (2006) (eds), *Kant and the Philosophy of Mind: Perception, Reason, and the Self* (Oxford University Press, 2017)

Shue, V, and P Thornton (Fellow) (eds), *To Govern China: Evolving Practices of Power* (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Wedgwood, R (Fellow 2002-11), *The Value of Rationality* (Oxford University Press, 2017)

Weingarten, M (1956) (translator), *Nahmanides, Inyan haSakanah* (Copley: Tsefat, 2017)

Whitworth, M (Fellow) (ed.), V Woolf, *Night and Day* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

We would also like to thank those who anonymously returned missing books to the library – we always welcome such returns!





## The Archives

The archival year, which for reporting purposes runs from August to July, began with the very pleasant task of taking receipt of the generous gift of the papers of Noel Odell relating to the 1921 and 1923 Spitsbergen expeditions. Although Odell himself was educated at Imperial College, London, the Oxford University Spitsbergen Expedition mounted in 1923 – one of several in the 1920s – has become associated in particular with Merton on account of the presence of three Mertonians: (Frederick) George Binney (1919), who took part in three expeditions (1921, 1923 and 1924), Geoffrey Milling (1920) and Sandy Irvine (1921). Even at the time of the 1923 expedition, Odell was already involved

with plans for an expedition to Mount Everest the following year. It was Odell who recognised Irvine's abilities and determination and invited him to join the expedition with which Irvine has subsequently become associated. Odell's papers include correspondence relating to fundraising and sponsorship, schedules of kit and food rations, photographs, and a notebook of Odell's scientific observations from both expeditions. This collection has come to Merton through the generosity of Noel Odell's grandson, Peter Odell, and we are delighted to be able to give it a home beside the diaries and other papers associated with the explorations of Sandy Irvine.



Mention should also be made of the donation of the spoon of a trophy rowing blade from the 1904 Torpid, which made five bumps against Brasenose, Magdalen, Corpus, Hertford and Keble. The blade was awarded to James Paterson (1902) who rowed at number four, and passed in turn to his nephew Raymond (1944). Raymond Paterson died in 2017 and the blade has kindly been donated by his widow. Other donations to the Archives over the past year are listed at the end of the Librarian's Report.

In September, regular Library and Archives staff were joined once again by two Merton students, Abbey Ellis (2013) and Esther Borsi (2016), to assist with a number of ongoing projects. Work continued on the cleaning and listing of records in the Muniment Room, which have featured in previous reports. Additional work included relabelling part of the John Roberts collection and transcribing the contents of paper catalogues of personal papers onto computer, making them more easily searchable. We are grateful to Abbey and Esther for their contribution to the Archives and Library, as well as their commitment and good humour.

During Hilary term we enjoyed the agreeable company of Dr Markus Späth, Visiting Research Fellow from the University of Cologne, who is studying medieval institutional seals, especially those of universities and colleges. Dr Späth's research involved the production of many examples of medieval charters from the Archives, but his organisation and preparation meant that we always had good notice of what he would be looking at on any given day, so that we could have them ready in advance. His research highlighted the large number of fine seal impressions from a wide range of institutions in the College Archives, together with the high quality of the medieval metalworker's art that produced them. It was possible to display only a tiny group of the documents at a talk that he gave to the History of the Book Group on 28 February. Dr Späth's research also provided an opportunity for the conservation cleaning of a number of the seals and the re-packaging of them and their associated documents. A fuller account of Dr Späth's Visiting Fellowship can be found elsewhere in this edition of *Postmaster*.

Besides assisting scholars who have established experience of archives, one of the pleasures of working in a college archive

is that of introducing younger generations to the processes of research and the wide range of records that make it possible. In the 2013 edition of *Postmaster* I referred to a visit by history pupils from Robert Smyth Academy, Market Harborough, which arose from Michael Wood's television series *The Story of England*, focused on the Leicestershire town of Kibworth. This summer witnessed the seventh such visit by a dozen history students from Year 12 (perhaps better known to some older members as the 'Lower Sixth') from the academy, together with two of their teachers. The group spent the first part of the morning visiting the Conservation Studio in Holywell, seeing a variety of conservation techniques used on a range of books and documents, before continuing on to Merton to look at a selection of documents, from the 13th to 18th centuries, relating to the College's Leicestershire estates. Rather than simply listening to someone else talking about the documents, the students divided into pairs and spent time looking closely at each document and, depending on what it was, querying its format, purpose, language, etc. It is always wonderful to see that 'light bulb' moment when what was previously a series of unintelligible squiggles has evidently resolved itself into something like recognisable handwriting, so that the students can start to recognise personal and place names, decode dates, and so start to realise the potential of those documents as evidence of the past.

From closer to home, the Archives also hosted in June a visit by a dozen or so MBA students from the Saïd Business School undertaking a 'history of business' module, together with their tutor Chris McKenna from Brasenose. The visit included a presentation on archives in general and institutional archives in particular, what should be preserved (for example, for legal compliance, business continuity or institutional history), and how to locate institutional archives for the purposes of research. This was followed by questions and answers, and an exhibition of a selection of records from the Blackwell archive, to give a flavour of the sorts of records that might be available to a researcher. This was the third such visit by students from the Business School and it is hoped that, like the Robert Smyth Academy visit, this will become a regular event.

**Julian Reid**  
Archivist





## Domestic Bursary

In my last report for *Postmaster* I reflected upon the size and scale of the domestic organisation, remarking that the College employs nearly 150 permanent and casual staff across 17 different departments. I also mentioned some of the organisational changes that had taken place and how these were intended to enhance the role played by domestic staff in support of College activities.

Although many of these changes have taken place 'under the bonnet', they are nonetheless fundamental to creating a professional, cohesive and service-focused organisation. In our efforts to support the wide array of College activities, ensuring that each department has the right structure has become an ongoing piece of work. Notable areas that have undergone a change process in the past year include



catering, with the positions of Head Steward, SCR Butler and Hall Steward now working closely in organising all food services, and IT Operations, whose working arrangements have been revised with positive results by a new staffing structure and a move of offices into the Finlay Building.

Working in an environment that is heavily people-dependent, we face a growing challenge to attract and retain high-calibre employees at all levels. Merton is operating in an increasingly competitive marketplace, with 37 other colleges, the University, and countless commercial employers contributing to record low levels of unemployment. With the political uncertainties posed by Brexit there has been a noticeable reduction in the numbers of European candidates now looking for work in Oxford and as a result an increasingly diminishing pool of labour.

Merton enjoys an enviable academic reputation, and we are working hard to ensure that the College is equally well regarded as an employer. We actively monitor the local marketplace to ensure that the College remains competitive in terms of its staff pay and benefits and have taken a significant step forward by increasing the holiday provision in line with other members of the collegiate University.

As an employer of more than 250 people, Merton publicly reported for the first time in April this year the gender pay gap of its staff. Although calculating the various figures was not without its challenges, this exercise has been valuable in enabling the College to appreciate how staff pay rates compare, and to take some reassurance from knowing that staff are paid fairly and equally, regardless of gender.

Training and development activities are an important part of fulfilling staff potential, as is the opportunity for progression. We recognise that training is an area in which we can and will do more, and it has been pleasing to see the progress of members of staff in Catering, the Bar, IT Operations, Housekeeping, and Maintenance.

We have also invested in various ways to improve interdepartmental communication. Representatives from each of the non-academic departments attend a weekly operations meeting, which provides an opportunity to

discuss and share information about forthcoming projects and activities. Beyond this, the end of term meeting provides a great opportunity to share information with a wider cross section of staff. The format and content of these sessions has been developed to become much more interactive. Staff are actively invited to submit questions for a Q&A session and suggestions are welcomed. It is pleasing to see an increase in attendance at these meetings and to hear how staff enjoy learning about other departments and how they contribute to College life.

Another area in which great progress is being made is in the social side of College life. Earlier in the year a staff social committee was formed to help organise events throughout the year. Activities such as a quiz night, bingo competition and staff bar on the last Thursday of every month have all proved popular and have raised money for Sobell House Hospice, the chosen staff charity for the year. With arrangements for the staff summer party well underway, the social side of working at Merton helps to engender a greater sense of community.

My *Postmaster* report has been very much about recognising the significant value of College staff and the contribution that they make on a daily basis to the successful operation of the College. In trying to quantify this you might be surprised to know that Merton's staff produce and serve approximately 144,000 meals per year; clean more than 40,000 rooms; organise in excess of 1,400 events and conferences; meet, greet and assist thousands of College members, suppliers and visitors from around the world; and provide a network to some 5,000 people connecting 8,000 different devices each week. On behalf of the College, we thank you.

**Tim Lightfoot**

Fellow and Domestic Bursar





## Academic Office

Novelist Caryl Phillips, Professor Alison Donnell and filmmaker Isaac Julien at the screening and panel discussion of *I Am Not Your Negro*

At the start of each academic year I run an induction session for the undergraduate freshers. We discuss, among other things, the transition from studying at school to studying at university, and sometimes at this point I'll observe that the very things that are likely to have contributed to a student getting a place at Merton could well turn out to be the things that make it most difficult for that student to adjust to studying here.

At school you can read every book suggested by your teacher, attain complete mastery of the material on the syllabus, and feel on sure and certain ground about any aspect of a topic that might come up in an exam. At Oxford,

as you will know from your own time here, we learn – as William Deresiewicz writes – that the leading edge of discovery is always a blur, always a grope. We proceed by doubt, by trial and error, by resisting the impulse to lunge after certainty.

And the shift that this entails, from embracing certainty to tolerating doubt, from seeking perfection as a sign of merit to recognising that being wrong can be of even greater merit, can be a tough one to make, especially when one's sense of self-worth has until that point been bound up with getting full marks in every test. We're back to Beckett's 'Try again. Fail again. Fail better.'



We then move on, during the induction session, to talk about key skills for the new undergraduates to cultivate: take ownership of your degree; learn to focus, without distraction, on the task at hand; rise to the challenge of your discipline and relish the struggles and the discomfort and the doubt that this brings; recognise that feedback is not the same as criticism; and maintain balance and perspective by setting aside some downtime each day, and each week, to do the things that nourish and energise you – be it making music, hanging out with friends, borrowing a College kayak for a paddle on the Thames.

Often, in my own work, I catch myself falling into the same mindset that I caution our freshers against – but one of the great joys and benefits of an Oxford year is that the marked rhythms of term-time and vacation provide regular pause points at which we can take stock and regain some perspective. And looking back now on 2017-18, it is very good to be reminded of all that has been going on here in the Academic Office.

As usual, the vital work undertaken by Andrew Miller, our Schools Liaison and Access Officer, is set out in its own report. As Andrew notes, it has been terrific to have been able to introduce some new initiatives this past year, such as the Pre-Law Residential and the Maths Mentoring programme, both of which have benefited from extensive input from Tutors and current students (and occasioned my learning far more about Euclid and Euler than I had ever anticipated!). More generally we have tweaked our approach to managing access and outreach: we now have two Tutors, Professor Rhiannon Ash (Classics) and Professor Matt Higgins (Biochemistry), who have taken on roles as Access Advisers, and we've resurrected the Schools Liaison and Access Committee as a means of bringing together the constituent parts of the College – Fellows, undergraduates, graduates, and staff – to ensure an increasingly joined-up approach to the development and implementation of our programme of activities.

It has been a pleasure for the team to support Dr Bassel Tarbush, currently Merton's Equality Adviser as well as our Tutor in Economics, in organising the College's various equality-related public events this year. In October we co-hosted with the Stuart Hall Foundation the screening of

Raoul Peck's documentary film *I Am Not Your Negro*, narrated by Samuel L Jackson, about the life of American writer and activist James Baldwin; this was followed by a panel discussion with the artist and filmmaker Isaac Julien and the writer Caryl Phillips. In March the annual Equality Conversation, which brought together Shaista Aziz, Dr Asma Mustafa and Farheen Ahmed, took as its title 'Beyond the headlines: Muslim women on identities, opportunities and structural challenges in Britain today', and June saw us co-host a public lecture by Professor Hakim Adi on 'The "Empire Windrush" and Black British History', marking the 70th anniversary of the arrival at Tilbury Docks of the *Empire Windrush*.

Other matters of note over the past academic year include our record-breaking June Open Days, superbly organised by our Admissions Officer Sarah Hagger, which saw more than 3,000 visitors to the College over the two days; the much-needed refurbishment and redecoration of the Academic Office in staircase 4; the Bake Sale which this year raised £581 for Homeless Oxfordshire; and the training undertaken by the team in key areas of compliance such as safeguarding, right to work and GDPR, as well as our participation in a workshop on Trans Awareness delivered by Gendered Intelligence.

Reflecting on the past 12 months serves to underscore for me the richness and variety of our work here in the Academic Office as we seek to provide sterling support to our Fellows, lecturers, on-course students, potential applicants and alumni, and to do so with a rigour, a generosity and an alertness to new approaches that, to my mind, chimes with the ethos that characterises the College community as a whole. For all this and more, credit must go to the whole team: Katy, Julie, Sarah, Bonnie, Andrew, Anne, Chris and Frances.

**Dr Rachel Buxton**  
Senior Tutor





## Schools Liaison and Access

This has been an exciting year for outreach at Merton, with several major new initiatives, a website update, and record numbers attending our summer Open Days – on top of our usual school visits, HE fairs, residential events and individual tours.

With valuable input from our tutors, we have been revamping the subject pages of the College website to make them more detailed, up to date and engaging. The website is one of our key recruitment tools as many prospective applicants visit our subject pages for information about the courses we offer and the tutors who will be teaching them. We will continue to develop the site, and already have our student ambassadors working on some new videos to launch in the coming months.

Our annual Open Days are another opportunity to reach large numbers of prospective students and give them a taste of life at Merton. This year saw a record 3,039 visitors come

through our doors on just two days in June to participate in our programme of talks, subject meetings, and tours led by current students. As usual, excellent feedback was received on the enthusiasm and approachability of our student helpers.

This year we decided to try something different, and used the Open Days as the basis for two new initiatives: a Maths Mentoring programme, and a Law Essay Prize competition. The Maths Mentoring programme is a pilot scheme we are trialling this year to give high-achieving state school mathematicians the opportunity to take part in an academic programme to extend and strengthen their advanced Maths skills. The aim is to equip them with the tools that they need, both to succeed in Oxford University's admissions tests in mathematics and physics and to make an effective transition to University-level study.

The scheme includes three inbound visits to Merton where they have the chance to work with tutors and get a taste



of University-level study, visit the Mathematical Institute and Physics department, and are provided with online reading material and problem sets. Key to the scheme's success is sustained interactive engagement over the summer with current Merton undergraduates who are paired up with the participants as mentors to assist them with the online material. The three visits to Merton include two residentials that are attached to the Open Days in June and September, so the participants also get a chance to explore Oxford and other colleges while they are here.

This year we also inaugurated a Pre-Law Residential programme. This was an essay competition open to all UK students, and we were delighted to receive more than 60 entries. The authors of the top 15 essays were invited to attend an Open Day with overnight accommodation, and to stay on for a focused Law study day at Merton.

Alongside these new activities, I have had a busy schedule of school visits – both inbound and outbound – from schools in our link regions and beyond. We have held and supported 56 different outreach events in College, including day-long visits from schools, shorter tours and talks, and intercollegiate events as well as supporting department and student-led outreach work. We have provided an insight into College life for students attending events organised by the Faculty of Law and the Mathematical Institute and Departments of Statistics, Computer Science and Physics, and have continued our support for the student-led Target Schools programme by providing lunch in Hall, a tour of College and a Q&A session with our student ambassadors for Year 12 state-school students who shadow an undergraduate for the day. And we also work with a number of Merton alumni who are now teachers.

Over the past year we have maintained our strong support for the intercollegiate Pathways programme, which we firmly believe delivers excellent value and impact. I am co-coordinator (alongside my Corpus Christi colleague) for Pathways Y11 – we organised and delivered the Year 11 programme in the summer and will do the same in the Michaelmas term. Alongside this, we hosted the Modern Foreign Languages portion of the Year 12 programme, and elements of the Year 10 programme.

Outside Oxford, I took part in 21 outbound events in a wide range of schools in our link regions and beyond, delivering talks and workshops to young people, their teachers and families. In Dorset we continued our valuable collaboration with Downing College, Cambridge, and due to demand we increased our number of Oxford and Cambridge Information Days. We partnered with Robinson College, Cambridge to run a similar event in Wiltshire, and with Keble College, Oxford for an event in Birmingham, in addition to organising a similar hub event ourselves in Poole. These much larger events, which typically bring together a number of schools from the region for a half-day of talks and activities, provide an opportunity for the Merton Fellowship to be involved in outreach efficiently. Having tutor participation, as well as participation from current students, is something that those attending these events appreciate tremendously.

In addition to working directly with schools, we work with a small number of external partners. This past year this has included providing a venue for a graduation ceremony for the organisation CoachBright, which was working with students in the Wiltshire area, and working closely with Study Higher and Villiers Park on several schemes to support academic students in the Swindon area. Along with other colleges in Oxford and Cambridge, Merton also provides financial and in-kind support to Target Oxbridge, which is targeted at British students of black heritage. We have also been a partner in the Higgs Hunter Project alongside the Institute for Research in Schools and the Department of Physics.

Our programme of outreach work this year could not have been delivered without the help of the tutors, College staff and student ambassadors, all of whom give generously of their time to support the events. JCR Access Rep Olivia Webster (2016) has expertly coordinated a team of 31 ambassadors who led tours of College and took part in outbound visits to schools across our link regions. I would like to thank everyone involved in outreach at Merton for their help with this rewarding and valuable work, and I would also like to thank the schools and teachers with whom we work for their engagement with and input into our various programmes of activities.

**Andrew Miller**  
Schools Liaison and Access Officer



# Hail to New Fellows



**Dr Evert van Emde Boas**  
Leventis Research Fellow in Ancient Greek

I studied Classics in Amsterdam (MA) and in Oxford (MSt Magdalen; DPhil Corpus Christi). After finishing my DPhil I spent a few years in various teaching positions at Dutch universities before returning to Oxford for postdoctoral work, first at Magdalen and, since October 2017, at Merton.

At Merton I am responsible for a considerable part of the College's teaching in Greek language and literature. I love talking with students about the intricate details of Ancient Greek syntax as much as about larger questions in Greek literature; it is a privilege to do both with Merton's brilliant Classicists.

My own research interests lie on the intersection of language and literature. I apply modern linguistic theory to Greek texts in order to say something about their interpretation. For example, linguistic approaches to (im)politeness can help us clarify the interactions between characters in Homer's epic poems or Greek tragedies. In *Language and Character in Euripides' Electra* (OUP, 2017) I applied such methodology to Euripides' tragedy; at Merton I am working on a new book that will consider a wider range of texts, focusing on how language and style are used to characterise speakers. I am also interested in cognitive approaches, and am part of some exciting collaborative projects in this relatively young field of research.

The Leventis Research Fellowship, with its ideal balance between teaching and research, is a wonderful position to have, and Merton is an inspiring place to have it. I have found the College both welcoming and extremely well run. I look forward tremendously to my remaining three years here.





## Dr Joshua Allan Firth

### Junior Research Fellow in Zoology

I joined Merton College in October 2017 after completing both my DPhil and a short Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Department of Zoology, Oxford, where I developed my interest in consequences of social behaviour within animal societies.

I use a population of wild birds in Wytham Woods, Oxford, which offers the potential to investigate sociality in a uniquely intricate way due to two overlapping aspects. Firstly, this bird population has been intensively studied, and some of the individuals we monitor can be traced back more than 50 generations. The system now comprises millions of radio-frequency identification (RFID) tracking records detailing the movements of thousands of interacting individuals over the past ten years. I use this extensive dataset to quantify how social networks are shaped by biological processes (such as environmental factors or individuals' traits), as well as how social behaviour influences various aspects of life. Secondly, this unique system offers a rare opportunity to experimentally manipulate social relationships and directly test the consequences of social bonds. Using a range of experiments, I examine how social connections affect the flow of new information through the society, the adoption of new behaviours, and social resilience of the system. I am also interested in foraging and mating decisions, quantitative genetics and human behaviour.

The academic freedom that a JRF position at Merton provides, along with highly influential zoologist alumni (such as Nikolaas Tinbergen), makes me particularly excited and grateful to be part of the College. I look forward to developing my research, meeting the wide range of zoology alumni, and taking up my role on the Sports Committee from August 2018.



## Professor Dr Madhavi Krishnan

### Associate Professor in Physical and Theoretical Chemistry, Tutor in Chemistry

I was brought up in Madras, India, and then attended graduate school at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. My trajectory has since taken me to Germany (TU Dresden) and Switzerland (ETH Zurich), followed by a brief stint as a visiting scholar in Cambridge, MA (Harvard University); to the University of Zurich where I was an Assistant Professor, until joining Merton, and the Physical and Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory at Oxford in June.

I am interested in understanding and measuring interactions in molecular-scale matter in the fluid phase. Life is governed by the subtle interplay of molecules, large and small, attracting and repelling each other in a crowded aqueous milieu. Imperative to understanding this complexity is knowledge of the properties and interactions of the individual entities involved. Yet we know surprisingly little about the underlying phenomena, in large part because experimentation and direct measurement in the regime of the single molecule are extremely challenging. My laboratory recently invented a way to spatially trap and measure the properties and interactions of a single molecule in the fluid phase with very high precision. Our approach constitutes a paradigm shift in the context of a century-old interest in trapping nature's building blocks, and has opened up entirely new avenues to both high-precision fundamental measurement and technologically relevant ultrasensitive detection of molecular properties and states in the fluid phase.

Stepping back from peering down at molecules under a microscope, and into the green and pleasant calm of a timeless summer garden, I am delighted that our path to discovery has led us to Oxford.





## Dr Carlas Sierd Smith

Junior Research Fellow in Engineering & Biology

My research transcends the classic boundaries between biology and engineering to visualise single molecules in living cells. For this purpose, I combine advanced control strategies, algorithm development and computational microscopy technology.

The single molecules that I focus on are messenger ribonucleic acids (mRNAs). All cells use a large set of mRNAs that provide the essential link between genomic information in the DNA and proteins that comprise the molecular machines that are the basis of every living organism. At the University of Massachusetts, I developed a framework for optimal image analysis to detect and localise single molecules, and performed single-molecule experiments in three dimensions. Currently, I am imaging single molecules at the University of Oxford in the living brain using newly designed adaptive microscopes that I have built especially for this purpose.



## Dr Matthew Thomson

Fitzjames Research Fellow in Music

I joined Merton in October 2017 as a Fitzjames Research Fellow in Music. Previously, I completed my DPhil thesis at St Peter's College before moving to New College as a Stipendiary Lecturer.

My research focuses on the music of the 13th century, specifically the polyphonic motet. Much of my work has focused on the inter-generic connections between motets and the songs of the trouvères, a group of poet-musicians in Northern France. Musical reuse and quotation permeate both these repertoires and therefore form the source of a number of branches of my research. My doctoral work focused on the way that quotation is performed and perceived in this repertory, using the wider cultural context of motets to think about the approaches musicians may have taken to repurposing pre-existent material. In my current project, I'm looking more specifically at issues of musical language. These motets contain a wide variety of approaches to musical construction, many of which play with the levels of consonance or dissonance that could be created and the amount of melodic repetition that could be used. Crucially, composers also play with the way that pre-existent materials could be incorporated into new pieces. It is this re-use that is providing my way in to thinking about how motets are built musically, how they form new materials around pre-existing ones.

Merton is proving the perfect place to carry out my research and teaching. It is, of course, justly famous for the strength of its musical tradition, which provides a fruitful and collaborative community. This support and the College's beautiful surroundings and conviviality make it a great place to be.





## Dr Mark Williams

Fitzjames Research Fellow in Medieval English Literature

I joined Merton in October 2017 teaching the earliest English literature, that of the Anglo-Saxons, which students study in their first year. In second year, students move on to the period 1350-1550 and look at writers such as Chaucer, Langland, Gower and Malory. I also teach a first-year paper on the English language, in which we look at how words change their meanings, how language conveys power, at theories of metaphor and of literary language.

My background is unusual in that my own training is not squarely in English. I read Classics and English at LMH from 1998 to 2001, followed by an MPhil and DPhil in medieval Celtic Studies at Jesus. I am a specialist in the Celtic languages (Welsh, Irish, Cornish, Breton, Manx and Scottish Gaelic) and their associated literatures. I have published two monographs in this area. The first, *Fiery Shapes: Celestial Portents and Astrology in Ireland and Wales 700-1700* (OUP, 2010), looked at astrological and cosmological material in the literature of the Celtic countries. My second book, *Ireland's Immortals: A History of the Gods of Irish Myth* (Princeton UP, 2016), is a wide-ranging history of the native Irish pantheon from the Iron Age to the present day. It wends its way from archaeology to medieval Irish sagas and then on to poetry, prose, and drama in English, as well as visual art and classical music.

Sadly, my stay at Merton will be a brief one: I have recently been appointed to an Associate Professorship in Global Medieval Literature in the English Faculty, with a fellowship at Teddy Hall, and will be leaving Merton in December.



## Dr Hatice Yıldız

Junior Research Fellow in History

I am a historian of gender and labour, specialised in British India and the Ottoman Empire in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. I received my PhD degree from Queens' College, University of Cambridge, in April 2018. My thesis examined gendered employment strategies, division of labour, wage hierarchies and class politics in the silk factories of Bursa and cotton mills of Bombay between 1850 and 1910. Placing two regions with seemingly disparate histories within the same analytical framework highlighted parallels in labour and gender politics in the heyday of industrial capitalism.

During the past five years I have conducted research in archives spanning three countries and seven cities: Istanbul, Bursa, Cambridge, London, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata. I have presented elements of my work at workshops and conferences in Cambridge, Oxford, Hull and Paris. I have also provided supervisions and taught classes in global and world history, on various topics from the Indian Rebellion to the economy of the Middle East in the 19th century.

My fellowship project at Merton explores gendered means of participation in upper-middle class professions including medicine and law. I am specifically interested in the notions of skill, time and collective identity as crafted by Indian and Ottoman female physicians in the early 20th century. I am also working on a monograph project that is an extended version of my doctoral thesis.



# Features

A photograph of three men in formal tuxedos seated at a dinner table. The man on the left is looking towards the camera. The man in the middle is looking down with his hand near his face. The man on the right is in the foreground, looking down. A lit candle is visible on the left side of the table. The background is dark and ornate.

Farewell to the  
Warden



Warden Sir Martin Taylor will be stepping down in September 2018 after eight years as head of Merton College. To mark his retirement we invited some Mertonians who have worked with him at the start and the end of his tenure to share their memories.

*This speech was given by The Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson (1967) as part of the Black-tie Dinner at The Merton Weekend.*

I thought that after six years as President of the Merton Society, you would all have had enough of me but I could not possibly resist the very great honour that you have done by asking that I mark the retirement of a truly remarkable Warden, Sir Martin Taylor, PhD, Hon DSc, FRS. He has been at the helm here at Merton since 2010 and has demonstrated fantastic stewardship of the College. This has led it to the top of the Norrington Tables and thus the best college in what world rankings put as the best university in the world. Not only has he led the College through academic success, both at a college and individual level, but he has seen it thrive in other contests including in rounds up to the finals of *University Challenge*. No one will forget the year-long celebrations through 2014 for the 750th anniversary of the founding of the College in 1264. Not bad for a boy from Leicester and even more impressive for a Manchester United fan which, I suppose, represents a serious blot on otherwise immaculate judgement. It is not surprising that his interest in football is not identified in *Who's Who*, which lists his recreations as fly fishing and hill walking.

Martin started at Wyggeston Boys' School, now Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College, and I can do no better than start with the opening words of their website. Be Extraordinary. And those words are followed by the following:

At WQE we have a simple but passionate view of what good education should be. We believe it is about finding the best, the extraordinary, in everyone, and we provide the environment, all the support, skills and encouragement our students need to get the best grades they possibly can.

The school is entitled to recognise that this is exactly what Martin has done. A first class honours degree in Maths here in Oxford. True it is that this was at Pembroke but he can't help that as he was young at the time. Then he was a resident

assistant at KCL, a lecturer at QMC, followed by another error, namely four years as a Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge. In 1986, 34 years of age, a chair at UMIST, later the University of Manchester, and in 1996, now 44, the exceptionally prestigious election as a Fellow of the Royal Society where, I know, he is held in almost reverential awe having served for five years as Vice-President and Physical Secretary, chairing the Scientific Century Committee and the Vision for Science and Maths Education Committee. His contribution was recognised with a knighthood in 2009. Neither did his research suffer. He has written a racy thriller *Elliptic Functions and Rings of Integers* to be followed by the further best sellers: *L-Functions and Arithmetic*; *Algebraic Number Theory*; and who will forget the pathos in *Group Rings and Class Groups*?

So it was that the Merton Fellows recognised a true star and in 2010 Martin became our 50th Warden. Of course, he was coming from Manchester and I am told that the other Fellows had real difficulties getting him to understand the dynamics of the College. Panic set in but, in the end, brilliant as all the Fellows are, they hit on a solution. When seeking to explain the thinking of one of their number, he would be told, this one is the Ryan Giggs of the College, that one the Wayne Rooney and the one whom nobody could understand because he was so brilliant, the David Beckham. Martin immediately understood how his colleagues ticked and from that moment all was well. History does not relate whether he was described as the Alex Ferguson of the College.

What Merton identified, however, does reveal a dark side to Martin and my researches have now revealed the truth. Academic honesty requires me to tell all, for what may well be the first and indeed the last time. I have recounted that Martin was the Physical Secretary at the Royal Society which is based in a magnificent building in Carlton House Terrace where he resided for several nights a week over four years. Evening entertainment was essential and here is where the sordid truth must be told. Martin spent the time searching out TV football and if Manchester United were playing (as, in those days, they frequently were), the destination was



a bar with a TV, usually The Two Chairmen in Haymarket, now closed doubtless because Martin stopped going when he arrived at Merton. Martin had to secure the best seat in the house and those who were with him had to keep the pint pot topped up, especially if the team were not winning or, even worse, losing. Occasionally, Martin's force of personality dragged others from the Royal Society to join the cause, however lacking was their interest in football. If the match was not on the TV at The Two Chairmen, the party was frogmarched to The Sports Bar also in Haymarket where there were multiple screens. The result is that when the Society bought Chicheley Hall, it was proposed that the bar be called The Two Chairmen. In the event, a more egalitarian view prevailed and the bar is referred to as The Chairman. Such was Martin's influence!

Martin and I met in 2010 and, from the very start, hit it off, although my attempts to move his interest from Manchester United to Liverpool have been unsuccessful. What I saw him bring to Merton was unbounded enthusiasm, never flagging energy, mathematically clear thinking and a brilliant understanding of education, of the needs of students, of the importance of research and needs of the Fellows and a great understanding of what had to be done to secure the wellbeing of everyone within the Merton community – undergraduates, graduates, research fellows, Fellows and staff. Everyone.

But what gives the clue to Martin's success has been laid bare in an account he gave in 2013 when he was asked to be Physical Secretary of the Royal Society while still a professor in Manchester. It would involve an enormous amount of work and a lot of time in London. He was asked about the downside of giving up half his life. He said this:

I'm a married man and whenever I make a decision I make it in conjunction with my wife. My wife thought this was just a wonderful opportunity and almost pushed me out of the door to Stockport railway station to catch a train down to Carlton House Terrace. So I think as a family we thought it was definitely a good thing.

If you don't know Sharon, you might wonder about her encouragement and the reasons for pushing Martin out of



Sir Martin and his PA, Lisa Lawrence

the house, but, of course, we do know her and I have no doubt that she thought that Merton was equally a 'good thing' for him to do. Her support of Martin then and her support of him throughout his tenure at Merton has been truly inspirational. She has been by his side every step of the way. We did not know that we were getting two for the price of one, but we certainly were. So in addition to our debt to Martin, we also owe a very substantial debt to Sharon.

So there it is. Martin has discharged the stewardship of this College with very great distinction but, as the College moves seamlessly onto the next phase of its history, he will not be forgotten. The portrait on the wall will be a constant reminder of our 50th Warden and our 750th year. We can only thank him and wish him and Sharon all the very best for a healthy happy retirement both here in Oxford and in Grenada. I ask you all to rise and drink to the health of a couple whom I am proud to call my friends, Martin and Sharon Taylor.

**The Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson (1967)**  
Former President of the Merton Society



When a scientist is selected as Warden of a college, it is sometimes assumed that the college rank and file would not find personal intercommunication either easy or rewarding. Scientific knowledge can be intimidating.

There is a story that a chemistry graduate student once sat next to a distinguished chemistry don on the Merton High Table. The don asked the student if the study of chemistry had been useful in his career. He replied that it had helped him rise through the ranks to the top of the corporation, ICI. The don was unimpressed. He had never heard of ICI.

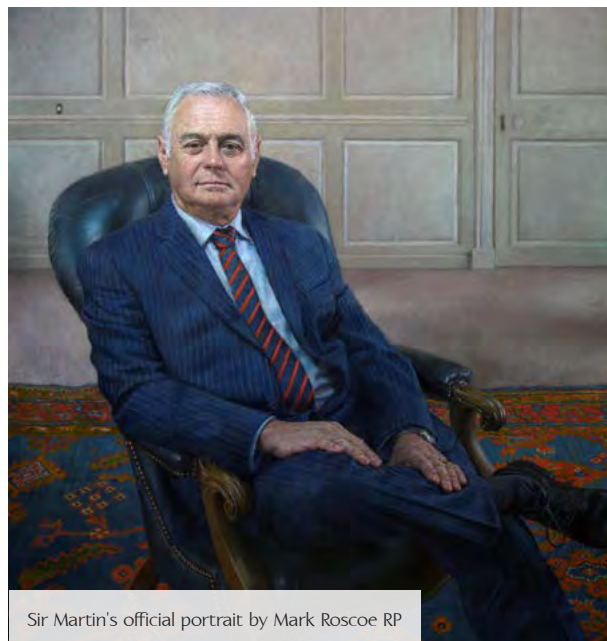
Since I entered Merton in 1961 there have been five Wardens. Three were essentially historians while two were scientists. The academic field is set to be equalised. While the Acting Warden is a historian, our Warden Elect, Professor Irene Tracey is a scientist. It turns out that skilful and brilliant communication is the invaluable common denominator.

Few academics could ever match Sir Martin as a congenial and all-inclusive communicator. He and his endearing partner, Sharon, gave the 750th Centenary celebrations panache as well as importance. They created a warm and positive atmosphere at the College. Sir Martin's list of academic stepping stones to Warden of Merton is remarkable – including Pembroke College, King's College London, Queen Mary College, London, Trinity College, Cambridge, Manchester University, not to mention the University of Bordeaux, itself perfect training for high table dining. Sir Martin won the London Mathematical Society Whitehead Prize in 1982, the Adams Prize in 1983, and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1996 and knighted in the 2009 New Year Honours. His list of publications continues to grow exponentially to well over one hundred.

Despite all his academic honours, he has been unable to cheer Manchester United to the European Cup. There are in retirement, however, fresh fields to conquer; his enthusiasm for fly fishing could be a perfect cornerstone to an extraordinary career. Friends, family and alumni will watch with breathless anticipation.

#### **Sir Howard Stringer (1961)**

President of the Merton Society



Sir Martin's official portrait by Mark Roscoe RP

During Sir Martin's tenure as Merton's Warden, he spent a considerable amount of time interacting with members of his constituency in the Americas, generally under the auspices of MC3 – the Merton College Charitable Corporation. MC3 had been organized during the tenure of John Roberts. Its membership and level of activity really took off with Jessica Rawson and the campaign organized to mark the then-upcoming 750th anniversary of the founding of the College. Change always carries with it the possibility of trauma and this was particularly so when the incumbent was such a formidable figure. My wife, Susan, and I greatly admired Jessica as an academic, a teacher, a leader of Merton and Oxford, and a dear friend. When we learned that China was to be replaced with Mathematics, we wondered whether MC3 and personal relationships with the College and its leadership would continue to flourish.

Our worries vanished immediately: Martin and Sharon, whom we met in Philadelphia when they attended their first MC3 annual meeting and reunion in 2010, proved to be charming, gregarious and insatiably curious about the College's alumni





The Warden and Lady Taylor join John Kirby (1962) and his wife Susan for a hike through the redwoods in Muir Woods, California, April 2018

and their countries of residence. They made a special point of learning as much as possible about each venue in the few days we were together in a new American city: New York, Brooklyn or Washington, DC; Philadelphia, San Francisco or Boston. They visited museums, historical sites, theater and restaurants. They not only accepted the MC3 tradition of action-packed days but inspired our annual meeting committee to new heights of imagination and planning. Their delight was palpable as the alumni's bonds to the College grew stronger.

Personally, Susan and I began to plan an early arrival in the city where we were meeting so we could pack in a few extra experiences with Martin and Sharon. Prior to our meeting in Washington, DC in 2016, we toured national monuments. In April of this year the four of us took a driving tour of San Francisco, walked among the redwoods in Muir Woods and dined at a delicious Chinatown restaurant. Martin and Susan enjoyed their Scotch. Martin shared his very discerning choices among single malts with Susan to their mutual delight.

We learned that Martin's family had roots in Trinidad and that he had a home on nearby Granada. We were unable to figure out how to arrange an MC3 gathering in the Caribbean, but we were able to persuade Martin and Sharon to leave their Grenada home a few days early and visit us in our home in Jamaica on the way to a Merton/Oxford

meeting in New York. We relaxed by the sea and were fed well on real Jamaican food by our lovely staff. Together we went to a neighborhood Jamaican spot where we enjoyed lobster plucked from the sea.

When our teenage granddaughter announced her desire to see where her grandfather went to College we mentioned this to Martin and he and Sharon rolled out the red carpet, from dinner at the high table to the famous Taylor backyard pig roast for the second years. We exchanged other home visits in Connecticut and in the Warden's lodging.

I am compelled to report one of Martin's failures. Despite his guided tour of the Royal Society for Susan and me, and his efforts to introduce us to Merton's other famed mathematicians, we are still woefully ignorant. Fortunately, we will not drag down Merton's standing in the Norrington Table.

As Martin and Sharon enter their retirement in Headington, we will treasure these many shared memories of our times with them; we look forward to many future visits in Oxford and the Americas.

**John J Kirby (1962)**  
MC3 President





Sir Martin fly-fishing, July 2018 © Dr Matt Hosty

I had the pleasure of being Martin's final Sub-Warden. By then he had the job of Warden and its termly rhythms down to a tee, and was able to train me reasonably rapidly! The role of Sub-Warden is odd as it is only (thankfully) two years, therefore you spend the first year finding your feet and grasping the range of the job, then have a year knowing roughly what you are doing before handing over the baton. Martin provided gentle but efficient training, rapidly bringing me up to speed on problems and concerns not always evident to Governing Body and discussing pragmatic ways through some tricky decisions. As anyone who knows Martin knows, he dislikes conflict and will always try to resolve difficult issues before they develop. In discussions he is able to appreciate all sides and tries to bring everyone with him, so that decisions are, if not universally agreed upon, at least respected. He had not only to tread a path through the maze that reflected the desires of College members, but to balance those with the ever-increasing pressures from other colleges and the University.

What you see as Sub-Warden is the breadth of the job of Warden. In GB we see him dealing with academic matters and aspects directly involving College and Oxford, but perhaps the aspect least seen (other than the delights of Conference of Colleges, which is probably better not discussed in print) is Warden's Progress. I had the pleasure of accompanying Martin on his last Progress around our estates in Lincolnshire. Watching a man who is famous for algebraic number theory discuss grain storage, the problems of black grass and eel worms along with possible ways to

diversify was a joy to behold (I now find myself looking for black grass in fields of wheat). One minute he was climbing into the biggest bits of farm machinery I have ever seen to discuss precision fertilisation, the next he was standing in the bleak coastal landscape just south of Cleethorpes with the wind blowing (while the rest of the country languished in temperatures in the high 20s), equally engaged in discussions about the methods for bringing electricity from the offshore wind farms through our land. On top of all that, it was the World Cup, and while England were playing Colombia he was having to have (a very good) dinner in a Cleethorpes bistro with a number of College Fellows with a limited shared interest in football! He did, however, find a kindred spirit in the owner who was watching the match on his smartphone and developed a system of silent signal to keep Martin up to date, before we had a brisk walk back to the hotel for the penalty highlights on iPlayer!

There was a chance to see Martin fully relax. On our last day we visited a delightful, varied estate in the Lincolnshire Wolds. On a beautiful day the tenants had provided a perfect picnic next to a trout lake. Not only was there this idyllic picnic, but the tenants also produced a rod and flies. The Warden's eyes really did completely light up. He might know about black grass and solar farms, but he is clearly never happier than when casting for trout, and he caught two. I hope his retirement will include many such peaceful hours on trout streams.

**Professor Judith Armitage**  
Sub-Warden, Professor of Biochemistry





Sir Martin and Lady Taylor at the Merton Society Dinner

One small change in Merton's habits seems to me symbolic of Martin's wardenship: every big dinner now concludes with a round of applause for the staff who served it. This chimes with Martin's regular references to the communal values of Walter de Merton's foundation, to the idea, now celebrated in affectionate undergraduate mimicry, that we should live together, study together, eat together and so on. But it also fits the way Martin and Sharon have worked to make the College a welcoming place for all those who are part of it, not just students and staff of all kinds, but also alumni and friends.

Working closely with Martin as his first Sub-Warden, I was touched to see how he grew to love the College where I have spent so long, though I did find there were times when a historian can explain things to a mathematician only by means of footballing metaphors. Those first two years were hectic, featuring the appointment of a new finance bursar, a new senior tutor and the first research fellow in global wellbeing supported by Peter Braam's endowment, together with reforms to the College statutes and planning for the 750th celebrations and the strategic review. Yet Martin led us with patience, good sense and kindness, as he has done ever since, through major events like those of the 750th, through complex projects like the construction of the access lift for the Hall, SCR and Savile Room, through minor ups and downs of all sorts.

As I briefly take the tiller of the College's affairs as Acting Warden until Irene Tracey can join us, I am grateful to Martin not only for all he has done but for the example he has set.

#### **Professor Steven Gunn**

Former Sub-Warden 2010–2012, Professor of History, and Acting Warden 2018–19

Many of my peers and I often expressed an awareness that we would look back at our time at Merton as some of the greatest times in our lives. Even at the time, we knew that one day we would be nostalgic for the opportunities Merton gave us, being surrounded by academics of the highest quality, dining in the grandest of halls and truly living life to the full. Most of all we would be nostalgic for the Merton family, because Merton is so much more than buildings and beautiful quads. It is the people that surround and support you during the good and bad, the Porters and the Hall Staff, the Fellows and the Barman, the smiley ladies of the Bursary, but holding it all together, was the Warden.

And like so many of the familiar faces, Porters, Hall Staff and of course Dave the Barman who have moved on or retired since my year group's days, it is with a heavy heart that we also wish farewell to Sir Martin and Lady Taylor. It truly is the end of an era.

When Martin first arrived, the MCR Committee were unsure what to expect. I think it was Wolf Rittershofer (2009), the then MCR Treasurer, who suggested we invite the Warden to a drinks reception that was planned. To our delight and slight shock, he appeared that evening in the MCR with a whole load of mathematicians and physicists in tow. (Wolf, who was usually tight-fisted with the drinks cabinet keys and MCR budget, was quickly and easily convinced that we should break out a few more bottles of wine.)

The Committee soon discovered that Sir Martin Taylor was the ideal type of Warden – friendly and extremely approachable and unafraid of sharing his frank opinion with you. I recall an MCR Garden Party during which Martin told me that 'this party wasn't as good as the previous!'

Martin was also there for us in the hard times. If any of us had issues with our supervisors or were struggling in some way or another, he would be there with caring and practical suggestions. He really was, in our eyes, the perfect Warden.

And let us not forget the wonderful Lady Taylor, who has also been an integral part of the Merton family these past eight years, always with a welcoming smile on her face. Amber Hood-Highcock (2009) and I, who were both MCR





The Taylors at the wedding of the Cadoux-Hudsons

750th celebration representatives in 2013-14, have many happy memories of sitting around drinking tea, with endless laughter, in the Warden's Lodgings with Sharon, planning the children's activities for the 750th Garden Party. From a Tolkien treasure hunt to every sort of make-and-do activity, Sharon was always bubbling with a vast array of ideas and never shied away from getting involved.

When I came to the end of my term as MCR President, I sometimes thought I would quickly be forgotten as the new students and staff, who never knew me, arrived. This is true to an extent, but I came to realise that it didn't matter because for those who *were* there those few years at Merton and the people that they encountered would be immortal in their memories. And so for those who went to Merton in the last eight years, in their memories Sir Martin Taylor shall forever be *their* Warden, and in their eyes the greatest Warden of all!

**Stephanie Cadoux-Hudson (née Jones)**  
MCR President 2011-12

For many Americans, the word 'Warden' at first conjures up images of a sheriff managing a prison somewhere deep in the California desert land. Thankfully, upon arriving at Merton in October 2016, I soon learned this preconception couldn't be further from the truth. Beginning from his Freshers' Week address to graduates in Hall, Sir Martin offered all incoming graduates a warm welcome to the Merton community. From Graduate Progress meetings to the College Admissions Ceremony in Chapel to the annual Graduate Drinks & Canapés to friendly passing smiles each day in College, Sir Martin is a regular reminder that this community truly is among the most caring and cohesive in Oxford.

As MCR President, getting to know and work closely with Sir Martin over the past year has been a true honor. At each meeting – all of which finished on time with goals accomplished, Sir Martin-style – I was inspired by his positivity, efficiency and wisdom. I can attest that Merton is a smooth-sailing ship in 2018 thanks to our Warden's hard work and leadership.

In many ways, Merton isn't a hard sell for graduates: with a generous amount of centrally located accommodation, affordable provision, beautiful MCR and vibrant social scene, Merton comes out on top on just about every metric of the graduate experience. The past year has taught me that we have Sir Martin to thank for prioritising improvements to the graduate experience during his tenure, and for keeping a continuous eye on the size and comfort of Merton's graduate body.

Merton without Sir Martin will take getting used to, and I truly look forward to his and Lady Taylor's continued visits to the College. As Sir Martin himself reminds each new batch of graduates: once a Mertonian, always a Mertonian. Thanks for the life lessons, example, and for making Merton home for so many of us.

**Lily McElwee (2016)**  
MCR President 2017-18





Current Warden Sir Martin Taylor, Warden-elect Professor Irene Tracey, Former Warden Professor Dame Jessica Rawson and Acting Warden-elect Professor Steven Gunn

For over 750 years, Merton has been recruiting as its Warden some of the most distinguished, successful and talented academics. In that time Merton has been recruiting some of the most distinguished, successful and talented academics as its Fellows. One might think that it would be all too easy for such a Warden to become so engrossed in such an accomplished academic community that they might neglect their College's fresh-faced and eager undergraduates.

As proud as I am of the sense of spirit the JCR possesses, it's fair to say we can sometimes be tricky customers. Sir Martin has never failed to be aware or accommodating of our problems, and has always done as much as he can to keep as many of the powers sitting around the table happy. His relationship with the JCR goes beyond all the 'behind-the-scenes' of the College's inner clockwork. The Taylors have maintained a warmth towards us all which truly embodies Merton's spirit; welcoming us into their home for chilli nights, hog roasts, drinks receptions and more. During the final of *University Challenge* the TS Eliot Theatre's projector had broken down. Naturally Sir Martin and Lady Taylor had 100 of us pile into their home to watch. The show must go on, of course, and this act of kindness neatly sums up Sir Martin's time as Warden.

Sir Martin sees and admires every undergraduate as the young intellectuals they are. He is keenly aware that we are capable of great things. The JCR will miss Sir Martin and Lady Taylor and we wish them all the best for the future.

**Jules Desai (2016)**  
JCR President 2017-18

Sir Martin Taylor joined Merton in 2010, just four years before the 750th Anniversary of the College's foundation. Sir Martin was, from the first, hugely aware, indeed slightly in awe of, the responsibility and the privileged role for which he had been selected: the 50th Warden of Merton with oversight of the College's 750th Anniversary celebrations and fundraising campaign. He had, of course, no cause to be concerned, as his previous position as Vice-President and Physical Secretary of the Royal Society during its 350th anniversary in 2009 had well prepared him for Merton's historic moment. There was another reason that he had no cause to be concerned. Succeeding Professor Dame Jessica Rawson as Warden meant that the College was up to speed with both its campaign targets and its planning for the celebrations themselves.

Martin threw himself with equal enthusiasm into the celebrations and the fundraising, playing an active role in all the relevant Committee meetings. He was keen for the College to present a rich and varied programme of events throughout 2014, attracting interest from the whole Merton family across the world. Indeed it was his friendship with Professor Brian Cox, and through Brian to Stephen Fry, that launched the planning for the Merton Conversations, enabling us to attract high-level Mertonian speakers who are leaders in their field and to mount six conversations around the world on topics including the challenges of global finance (Hong Kong), the global media revolution (New York) and the real science behind CSI (London).

He was passionate about attracting the very best students from the widest possible range of backgrounds to Merton – lack of family money should never be a constraint. Thus, he was hugely supportive of the College's goals within the Campaign to raise £7 million for both undergraduate bursaries and graduate scholarships. When meeting Mertonians to discuss such projects, he used his own unique means to connect with them. I shall never forget the meeting with the Warden, when a lengthy and competitive conversation regarding the merits of Manchester United and Manchester City football teams led to a £1 million gift for undergraduate student support, even if I did have to steer the conversation away from football towards bursaries at one point to ensure we stayed on track!





Cutting into a Merton College cake to celebrate the 750th anniversary

Sir Martin and Lady Taylor were interested in the concerns, needs and happiness of the whole Merton family– from students in College, to Fellows, staff and Mertonians. He could walk into the Hall and address every member of the servery or every scout by their name. He was passionate about saying ‘Thank you’, either to the staff after another superb dinner, or by signing Christmas cards to the many Mertonians who had given their support to the College in some way.

He will be remembered as a very kind Warden. En route to a University Campaign Dinner I managed to leave my iPhone on a train into Paddington. We were in plenty of time for the dinner, but, instead of just permitting me to go back to the station to attempt finding my phone, Martin entered into the spirit of the situation and suggested sending my iPhone a text message, which was answered by the Network Rail staff member who had just found it and then handed it in to Lost Property. Back we both went to Paddington to retrieve the lost iPhone and we were still on schedule for the dinner!

Sir Martin and Lady Taylor will be much missed by the many Mertonians with whom they have engaged around the world. I join with them in wishing Martin and Sharon every happiness for the next exciting stage of their lives – one that I can highly recommend!

**Christine Taylor**

Fellow and Director of Development 2006–17

I shall always remember my first impression of the Warden and suspect that many others will have had similar experiences. I first met Sir Martin during my interview at Merton. He was warm, encouraging and extremely welcoming. Later, during a tour of the College with the Fellow Librarian, we ran into him again. Even though he was running late for an appointment, he was similarly charming, congratulating Julia on a recent achievement and asking me how everything was going with genuine interest.

Since joining Merton, I have come to learn that Martin is equally engaging with everyone, and this is one of the great qualities that he brought to the Wardenship. He is ably supported in this by Sharon, Lady Taylor, whose enthusiasm, curiosity and sheer interest in everyone is a pleasure to behold. They are quick to celebrate successes, enthusiastic in encouraging new opportunities and sympathetic in offering wise counsel.

I have met numerous Mertonians with the Warden and Lady Taylor and it strikes me how easily they greet old friends and readily make new ones. It has been a real privilege to have been welcomed into the Merton family by Martin and Sharon, and I hope they will remain involved in the life of the College for many years to come.

**Dr Duncan Barker**

Fellow and Director of Development





## View from the Top: Nick Starr CBE

Nick Starr and Nick Hytner with Tower Bridge from which the new Bridge Theatre takes its name

*Our series of interviews with Mertonians at the top of their profession continues with Nick Starr CBE (1977), co-founder and CEO of the London Theatre Company. Nick has had a long career in theatre, and was the Executive Director of the National Theatre for thirteen years during which he was responsible for trebling the theatre's income, extending its touring and commercial production activities and leading the theatre to 'undreamed of levels of creative and commercial success' (John Makinson, former NT chairman). He tells us about landmark productions, architecture, and 'Two Nicks'.*

Nick, you studied English Language and Literature: what made you fall in love with the written – and spoken – word? A charismatic head of English arrived at my school and shook things up. All of a sudden we were reading DH Lawrence and being shown how to analyse Freudian imagery in *Lord of the Flies*. I was on the science side but switched to arts for my A-levels.

**Was a role in theatre the next logical step? Or was there more of a process?**

I'd got involved in drama at school. A group of boys (it was a single-sex grammar school) who were two years ahead of me had discovered the theatre of the absurd, and were

putting on Genet and Beckett. It seemed impossibly cool. I graduated from operating the lighting to directing the lower sixth school play.

**Were you involved in any drama productions during your time at Merton?**

I was the President of Merton Floats. We did a very four-square production of *As You Like It* in the Fellows Garden which I, allegedly, produced.

**You've primarily worked in London, although you have also worked extensively on touring productions. Were you ever tempted by relocating to Broadway?**

I have a healthy respect but also wariness of Broadway. For all the traffic of productions between London and Broadway, it is a quite different culture there. The stakes are higher too: success is the explicit goal, but often what is most significant can only be seen out of the corner of one's eye. The lack of a state-subsidised theatre sector is of course at the bottom of this.

**Your 13 years at the National Theatre saw the theatre achieve incredible commercial success, move into cinema screening and touring, undertake refurbishments, and**



establish the Travelex partnership (which made seats at the theatre more affordable and accessible). Which of your achievements at the NT would you say you are most proud of?

I think NTLive will probably be the most significant innovation of our time there. But the thing I'm proudest of is organisational: it was an institution that felt slow on its feet and at risk of irrelevance; we made it quicker and more engaged in what's going on.

**You co-founded the London Theatre Company in 2015 with Nicholas Hytner. 'Nick and Nick' have been referred to as Theatre's powerhouse double act – why do you think you work so well together?**

We have different and complementary skills, obviously; but it's the similarities in temperament that are the reason it works. A liking for thinking aloud and taking an idea for a walk; a tendency to forget our bad ideas quickly; a liking for gossip; impatience.

**Is there a stand-out production that has been your most challenging, or one that you would count as your greatest achievement?**

*War Horse* is the one I've spent most time with. It wasn't an obvious hit at the outset but it became very successful, partly because of our decision to produce it ourselves in the West End and round the world. It has also made a lot of money for the writers, directors and designers, none of whom previously had any kind of commercial career. It's often overlooked how important it is for people in the theatre to get paid.

Earlier in my time at the NT there were the premieres of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* and Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, landmarks of the 20th century theatre. I was in no sense responsible for these but it was a big thrill to have been there at the time.

**The Bridge Theatre opening in October 2017 must have been a particular highlight for you. Can you tell us a little about overseeing the build, and what the space means for the future of theatre in the capital?**

The Bridge is the eighth project I've done with architect Steve Tompkins. We had to do it quickly, on a tight budget, and make it comfortable, flexible and distinctive. It's the first

new commercial theatre of scale to be built in London for 40 years. The heritage theatres of the West End enshrine the aesthetic practice and class structure of their time. This was our chance to ask, what kind of theatre do artists and audiences want now?

**You have achieved so much already, but you've been described as tenacious and ambitious. What is next for you, and for the London Theatre Company?**

We've just signed to do another new theatre, on the model of The Bridge. We're hoping to build a third one. We have a pipeline of new plays that is beginning to deliver (hence the need for new theatres). Our investors expect us to reach scale relatively quickly and to generate valuable intellectual property. It's a good discipline and a reminder to keep focused.

**What would you say are the greatest challenges for theatre in the next decade?**

I've become rather allergic to pompous pronouncements about what the theatre should or shouldn't be. There are things we can try to do, such as to be more representative of London's incredibly diverse population on our stages and in our audiences. And there are things that feel impossible for us to tackle, such as the widening disparity in affluence between London and the rest of the country. I try to stay engaged and supportive of the emergent because as property gets more expensive it gets harder for new theatre-makers to start up, and we're in a business that needs regular disruption from the bottom.

**What influence did your time at Merton have on your career?**

The quick answer is that it introduced me to our chairman, John Booth (1976), and one of our lead investors, Guy Weston (1978). The fuller answer is that it taught a way of thinking and a means of approach to great literature that has been of lifelong stimulation.

**What is your best advice for Mertonians starting out on their careers?**

The theatre is a profession with practically no career structure. We've recruited graduates on temperament as much as qualifications. Energy and enterprise are the clear markers of success.





# Mertonians in... Biomedical Research

Tackling Tumors with Space Station Research - NASA, International Space Station (flickr CC BY-NC 2.0)





**Dr Andrew Allen**  
(1984)

*Dr Andrew Allen is CEO of Gritstone Oncology, a next-generation immune-oncology company.*

They call it 'going to the dark side' – leaving the National Health Service and moving into the biopharmaceutical industry. Something I had never contemplated while a student, happily learning anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, then their clinical cousins, medicine and surgery. I plunged into clinical medicine with enthusiasm, but on my ten-year journey as a physician through countless hospital wards, and despite the best efforts of experts I respected, I watched people die as a single genetic defect overwhelmed their lungs (cystic fibrosis), or a single malignant cell proliferated and overwhelmed (cancer). Biology, when it went wrong, was frustratingly indifferent to our worthy efforts.

While completing a PhD in Immunology, I forged a close collaboration with Biogen, one of the original US biotechnology companies. This opened my eyes to a world where smart teams in small, focused companies worked thoughtfully and in a focused manner to bring novel therapeutics to patients, within small companies. I lined up a post-PhD job with Biogen, which promptly evaporated as unexpected toxicity sank the program I was to work on, and ricocheted into McKinsey & Company, suddenly finding myself advising biopharmaceutical companies on their R&D strategies, newly empowered by rapid advances in DNA sequencing that had turned the human genome into *terra nova* for drug hunters. I moved to the US in 2001, and began to focus on cancer therapeutics, but couldn't fully participate in this exciting endeavor from a perch within McKinsey, and so I left to join the biopharmaceutical industry.

I was now a cancer drug developer – first at Abbott; then at Chiron (acquired by Novartis) in the biotech mecca, San Francisco; then Pharmion (acquired by Celgene). I learned a

huge amount about business from the CEO, and so he and I plus two other colleagues founded a new company, Clovis Oncology, in 2009. As Chief Medical Officer, my role was to find new drugs and develop them. We grew rapidly and listed publicly on NASDAQ in 2011. After a couple of false starts, Clovis began working in a new area that ultimately led to an approved product, rucaparib, now approved in many countries for the treatment of ovarian cancer. Clovis went from start-up to approved drug in seven years.

It was time to break out, and an alluring new prospect had arisen – cancer immunotherapy. The basis for a new company presented itself when a team from New York published data revealing the hitherto elusive nature of the actual tumor proteins that were recognized by the immune system. I visited the team, recruited them as co-founders of the company, and launched Gritstone Oncology in September 2015 with around \$100 million of venture capital. We have since built a machine learning model capable of predicting tumor antigens from DNA and RNA sequence data, developed a potent vaccine platform to deliver these antigens to cancer patients, and built and staffed a biomanufacturing facility to allow us to make these patient-specific products, personalized to each patient's cancer. Gritstone now has approximately 100 employees spread over three locations in the US.

My role is a wonderfully energizing, challenging and rewarding occupation. I miss direct patient contact on a daily basis, for sure, but I feel very close to the front lines as we receive daily calls and messages from desperate families seeking a new option for their loved one whose cancer is progressing despite all available therapies. Harnessing our team's expertise, enthusiasm, determination and team spirit in service of this goal is a deeply enriching mission which I fully embrace every day.





**Dr David Gregory**  
(1988)

*Dr David Gregory is a Data Scientist in High Performance Computing for DNA Electronics. Since leaving Merton he has enjoyed a varied career encompassing science, systems management, and visual effects.*

My entry into biomedical research started conventionally enough. I obtained a DPhil in Protein Engineering from the Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, followed by a commercially funded postdoc in anti-cancer drug design at the Institute of Cancer Research, which involved the use of computer-aided molecular graphics. After this and having become a little disillusioned with commercial research, I met a friend of my father who specialised in creating corporate videos using computer graphics. I decided that this was what I wanted to be involved in and was lucky enough to obtain a position in visual effects (VFX) at the post-production company Mill Film in London. While I was there, we were the facility chosen to create the VFX for the film *Gladiator*, for which we won the Best Visual Effects Oscar in 2000.

After this, I dabbled in biomedical research again, working briefly for a start-up, Inpharmatica, specialising in drug target predication and design. However, my previous immersion in film VFX had not been satisfied and I soon left there to work at Jim Henson's Creature Shop (home of The Muppets), helping to set-up a new digital visual effects department.

I stayed in the film industry for several years, working on various feature films. 2008 was a year of mass redundancies in VFX and I was caught up in it, but by this time I had decided to move on and returned to biomedical research as Computational Biology Research Facilitator at UCL. I supported researchers using the new central high-performance computing (HPC) service and established the Computational Biology community at UCL. This was on the

culsp on the big-data explosion in genomics/bioinformatics. The post was funded for two years, after which I moved to the Department of Computer Science, to provide HPC services to the Division of Biosciences. In 2017, I left UCL to join a start-up, DNA Electronics, which specialises in medical device development using rapid DNA-sequencing, as the high-performance computing and big-data specialist. I have been able to maintain my link with UCL Computer Science as we are collaborating in the use of HPC.

As you can see, I have spent a significant part of my time outside biomedical research as in it, but whether in research or not, what characterises the roles I have held is that they involve big-data analysis. It is here that I find the rewards of these roles, problem-solving the technical challenges that face the user in achieving their goal (whether in academic or commercial environments).

What does the future hold? There has been an explosion in big-data that has influenced many fields apart from genomics/bioinformatics. Social media is an obvious example (even if its influence there has, in some respects, not been entirely positive). Consequently, this has expanded my horizons and I am excited by the technical challenges to be tackled outside biomedical research as much as by the new ones that have arisen within. For now, those in medical device development keep me occupied, but who knows where I might end up; it's happened before!





**Dr Naomi Pollock**  
(2003)

*Dr Naomi Pollock is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham. She completed a DPhil in Clinical Laboratory Sciences at Merton.*

Until I was 17 my dream in life was to train as a vet, with a vague notion that I might eventually use that training to go into biomedical research. However, after watching a vet prescribe worming powder for the 50th time, I realised that I was much more interested in the science than in cats. I decided to skip the animals and go straight for the lab.

I had a mixed experience studying biochemistry at Merton – I loved the ideas, but struggled with the workload alongside my new-found passion for rowing. I was lucky to find a mentor in Rich Callaghan, erstwhile Fellow of Merton, who was willing to give me a chance at a scientific career. He took me on as a summer student, a technician and ultimately as a DPhil student working on chemotherapeutic resistance in cancer and age-related macular degeneration. Through this, I discovered my real calling: fiddling about with membrane proteins. Like rowing, this requires tenacity, endurance and a high pain threshold!

After seven years in Oxford, I went north to Manchester to work on cystic fibrosis research for my first postdoctoral job. This opened my eyes to the reality of rare diseases: though by definition each one affects fewer than 1 in 2,000 people, rare diseases as a whole affect around 350 million people worldwide. That poses a tricky research problem: how do you prioritise research across a diverse set of uncommon diseases? Of course it's much too big a question for any one person to answer. My small contribution is to gain as much experience as possible with techniques that will advance membrane protein research. Recently that has taken me to the West Midlands – the universities of Birmingham and

Warwick – where I have focused more on methodological developments than on any particular disease.

Being a postdoc is a tricky time, but with the right boss it can be absolutely brilliant. You have a liberating combination of few teaching and formal administrative responsibilities, and the skills and experience to be a valuable collaborator. For me that has translated to a lot of overseas adventures: in the last year I've spent two weeks in India and a month in Australia and have a two-month visit to Boston coming up in the autumn.

However, a succession of temporary contracts can be wearing and can make it hard to formulate, much less follow, a career plan. It can also be hard to balance this with an emotionally and physically healthy lifestyle. Moreover, progressing out of this stage to a permanent job is fiercely competitive. However, every time I consider packing in research for a more stable or lucrative career, I realise that I'm too attached to the idea that I have the opportunity, even in the smallest way, to use my career to improve other people's health. The sacrifices I make are pretty minute compared to the challenges of living with a chronic heritable disease like cystic fibrosis.

In the last few years I have been able to work closely with scientists in the pharmaceutical industry. This has reminded me of where we're really trying to get to with biomedical science: providing therapies, and even cures, for anyone afflicted by disease. Alongside this, I've started to see how to draw together my technical expertise with my own ambitions and interest in membrane proteins and rare diseases. Hopefully within the next few years, I'll be in a position to lead my own research in the rare disease field, whether that be in academia or in industry.





**Dr Julia Steinberg  
(2010)**

*Dr Julia Steinberg is a Research Fellow at Cancer Council NSW. She completed a DPhil in Genomic Medicine and Statistics at Merton.*

During Michaelmas of the fourth year of my MMath (Oxford), I was staring at my laptop, trying to decide on what to do with my life. I was utterly terrified. It seemed impossible to choose a path without limiting my future opportunities. I loved Oxford, thrived on intellectual challenges and wanted to make a difference, so on a whim, I decided to apply to the DPhil in Genomic Medicine and Statistics.

This turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life. My DPhil came at a time when emerging technologies in genetics and genomics galvanised the field, offering unprecedented opportunities to gain insights into human health and disease. Being fascinated by the human brain, I happily immersed myself into the world of neuropsychiatric genetics.

Three years later, with the DPhil nearing its end, I was again at a crossroads. I appreciated the opportunities a career in research provided — a never-ending supply of captivating questions, brilliant colleagues, and heart-stopping exhilaration when you succeed. Yet I also recognised the challenges: scarce academic job opportunities, short-term contracts, funding difficulties, a publish-or-perish culture, and finding the fortitude to persist when the majority of experiments will ultimately fail. Still, I knew I would never forgive myself for not trying. After meticulously researching, I found a great project with an absolutely amazing group leader at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge.

The Sanger is one of the top genetics institutions worldwide. This was immediately evident in the fast pace of work and the

high calibre of the researchers; the inevitable juxtaposition of the increased confidence that comes with success and the seemingly boundless quality of one's colleagues has ensured that my imposter syndrome needs occasional reining in to this day. While at the Sanger, I led a large-scale project using cutting-edge genomics data from osteoarthritis patients to improve our understanding of the disease aetiology.

My life in Cambridge would have been perfect, but for one aspect: my partner was 16,000km away. After his degree at Merton, he had returned to Sydney. For our careers, we both made the right decision, but it did not make our personal lives any easier. So I mapped out the research direction I wanted to pursue after Cambridge, and when a corresponding research fellow position in Sydney came up, I pounced. Several interviews, some negotiation, and almost a year later, I moved to Australia.

Now I work in an 80-strong academic research division focused on better screening, diagnosis and treatment for cancer. I love being able to see the immediate usefulness of my research, from uncovering risk factors, to testing how patients with high genetic risk can be identified in the clinic, and identifying trends in cervical cancer incidence around the globe (work that was recently discussed at a WHO working group – I actually whooped!). With higher seniority, I am involved in more projects. I am increasingly advising others rather than analysing data myself, and have to devise projects and secure funding.

Research can be incredibly stressful, and moving so often has had its challenges. But for me it is worth it. The work is absorbing; I still learn or discover something new often enough to keep me hooked. At its best, research is like a Netflix binge that saves lives.





**Dr Rupert Vessey**  
(1983)

*Dr Rupert Vessey is President of Research and Early Development at Celgene. He studied preclinical Medicine at Merton.*

My interest in biotechnology started when I was in the sixth form at Magdalen College School. We were fortunate to have a wonderful Biology teacher, Dr Tim King, and I remember him explaining to us how human insulin had been produced for diabetic patients by cloning the gene into a bacterial plasmid and then expressing and purifying the protein from cultures of *E. coli* bacteria. I was struck by the power of recombinant DNA technology and decided to apply to study physiological sciences and medicine, with the aim of applying science to healthcare. Dennis Parsons was the tutor at Merton at that time and was good enough to offer me a place.

After qualifying and some time as a junior doctor, I came back to Oxford for a DPhil in molecular immunology at the Institute of Molecular Medicine under the guidance of Professor John Bell. With nine years of Oxford training in my back pocket I was well placed to take up position in pharmaceutical research and joined Glaxo Wellcome in 1997. My first projects were fascinating and firmly embedded in the power of molecular biology that got me interested in the first place. A recombinant vaccine for herpes simplex and a brand-new technology known as DNA vaccination, in this case for hepatitis B. Sadly, as is so often the case in my industry, neither of these became products but they provided a tremendous learning experience in the field of drug discovery and early development.

A couple of years later I was recruited by Merck Research Labs in Pennsylvania and I decided to emigrate, recognising the immense investment in biotechnology research in the US. This proved to be a good decision as I have been lucky enough to have a succession of amazing opportunities and

have worked with extraordinarily gifted scientists who make a major difference to human health. Highlights have included running a genetics and informatics center in Seattle and leading a drug discovery research center in Boston. I have been involved in a long list of new medicines for conditions ranging from asthma to hepatitis C to blood cancers, and it has been a great privilege to work in this field.

Currently I lead research and early development for a biotechnology company called Celgene, a leader in the field of haematology and which has developed new medicines for a condition called myeloma. When I was a student, myeloma patients lived for about a year after diagnosis; now the average is closer to ten and there are patients who have achieved decades of healthy living. One patient taking our therapies has run more than 100 marathons! Work starts in the laboratory with the identification of 'drug targets' or key points of intervention that we believe can interrupt a disease process. Then we design compounds, antibodies or even cellular therapies that can block or activate that drug target. After perfecting the molecule, we test it in increasingly large patient populations until we have enough information to get the drug approved for use and reimbursed by healthcare systems around the world.

Discovering and developing new medicines is extraordinarily difficult and expensive and most of the ideas fail because of the sheer complexity of human disease biology. Nonetheless the biotechnology industry has revolutionised the treatment of so many diseases in the 20 years that I have been involved: rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, blood cancer, HIV and hepatitis C – just to name some of the conditions that were devastating when I was a student but are now well controlled or even cured.





## Professor Irene Tracey (1985)

*Professor Irene Tracey is Head of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences and holds the Nuffield Chair in Anaesthetic Science. Irene is Merton's Warden-elect and will take up post in 2019.*

The first thing to say is I love my job. It's a real privilege to be an academic and to work daily on intellectually demanding problems with bright students and fantastic colleagues drawn from a global community.

As a child, I was always curious about how things worked and, as the youngest of six, I was probably a bit of a pain – I remember my siblings and parents complaining about never-ending questions. Nonetheless, they were passionate about a good education and instilled the importance of learning, of following your dreams and of not being constrained by circumstances. Sadly, my amazing parents are now passed.

I'm a local lass and went to a comprehensive school in Kidlington. Being a girl and good at sciences, despite equally loving the humanities, I was encouraged down the science route. Going to some Oxford labs on South Parks for a day of work experience was a revelation – these people working in universities were 'doing science'; a career option I didn't know existed. That made my mind up and I came to Merton to study Biochemistry in 1985 with Dr Eric Newsholme as my inspirational tutor and then the brilliant Professor Sir George Radda as my DPhil supervisor until 1993.

George gave an undergraduate lecture on the application of magnetic resonance methods to biological problems – a field he forged – and I was hooked. The fact that it involved an actual, living person seems commonplace now, but thirty years ago it was really unusual to get biological information from living things. I have stayed in the field ever since and

it's been a fantastic journey seeing these methods provide unprecedented insights into many aspects of human biology and disease.

Two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University in Boston gave me the chance to develop as an independent scientist and to work with the team at the forefront of developing novel neuroimaging approaches to study the human brain. This firmly positioned me within the now enormous and popular field of neuroscience. I realised then I wanted an academic career in science, and more specifically focus on unravelling the mystery of pain in both its acute and chronic forms: I just had to work out how to do it.

Fortuitously, back in Oxford an idea was being hatched (by Sir George Radda among others) to set up a centre for functional magnetic resonance imaging of the brain (fMRI). Funding was not secure, but I accepted the offer to return and help create fMRI where I would focus my research towards pain. My time in the USA was incredibly instructive and I encourage all my students and postdoctoral fellows to go abroad if they can. At the time, research in the UK was kept more within academia compared to the USA where translation to the clinic was fast, but that has changed dramatically now. We certainly tried to inculcate at fMRI a high-energy and 'can-do' culture.

Interestingly, at that stage of fMRI's evolution, we had to give a lot of our time and energy for the greater good, in terms of creating an imaging centre from scratch, rather than exclusively focusing on our own research. For me, that has been one of its greatest rewards.

A hallmark of my life as a scientist has been the joy and pride I get from creating physical and cultural environments that



enable scientists and clinicians to develop their independent research for the benefit of society. Don't get me wrong, I still get an equal buzz when my own works throws up a discovery. Nothing quite compares. As scientists, you get to live in the world of the future, today. No two days are the same; you've got to love change, novelty, obsessive attention to detail – unstoppable curiosity is a given.

In addition, as a scientist and academic, there are considerable administrative duties. So, alongside our research and teaching, we have to raise money, manage tricky personnel issues, select and retain the best talent, design and build new research laboratories, and communicate what we're doing with taxpayers' money. There is also good citizenship work with charities, and serving on national and international panels or advisory boards to govern fiscally and set the UK's and global scientific agenda. It's a job with many facets.

The teaching and examining side of life as an academic, though demanding, is also a privilege. We get to teach the best students in the world who have a thirst for knowledge and want to be stretched and challenged. They are frighteningly smart so it keeps you young and on your toes. The downsides? There's a lot of rejection – peer review of grants and papers, for example. You have to develop an ability to cope with the knocks and embrace the criticism to improve and learn. We are (rightly) judged to be as good as the last paper we've published. Another problem is that we need more women in leadership roles. I have been a passionate advocate for women and their promotion in the spheres where I have an influence, and I remain optimistic it is changing for the better. I see more women now on national and international panels, whereas a few years ago we sat lonesome in a sea of men.

Being a scientist and academic has been fantastic for having a life outside work. You have terrific flexibility and control over when and how you get the job done. This flexibility can be deployed to get you through challenging years raising a family or other caring duties. My husband and I have raised three children while keeping our academic careers intact.

It's probably clear that another aspect of my career is a willingness to be challenged and take a risk. Life offers such amazing opportunities that are difficult to predict, but the trick is to recognise them when presented. That's why I'll be returning in September 2019, with pride and vigour, as Merton's next Warden.





Merton Cities:  
Washington, DC





Ellen, Alex, and baby Hannah Pearl

*Although Merton is a beloved place for those who study, live and work here, Mertonians have settled in many far-flung places across the globe. Postmaster talked to Dr Ellen Feingold (2007), Curator of the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, for an insider's view of the best-kept secrets of Washington, DC.*

### Where is the best place to eat and drink?

My two favourite restaurants are Tail Up Goat in Adams Morgan and The Red Hen in Bloomingdale. Tail Up Goat always has something new that is both creative and seasonal, and The Red Hen has unfailingly delicious homemade pasta. Both also have a fantastic wine list!

### What is the best way to spend a morning?

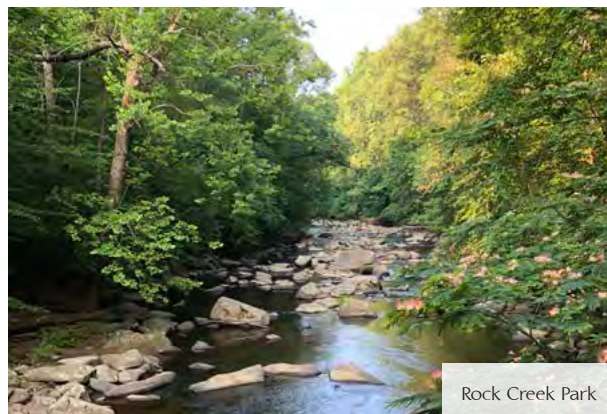
A spin around the Asia Trail and a long stop at the panda enclosures at the National Zoo. They are amazing! Afterwards, I suggest heading across the street to Duke's Counter for a full English breakfast or some truffle mac and cheese.

### ...an afternoon?

On a hike in Rock Creek Park, or perusing books at Politics and Prose. The bookshop has a fantastic travel section and a great café. The Little Red Fox Café is also a few doors down and has delicious Chai lattes and baked goods.

### ...an evening?

A walk around Bishop's Garden at the National Cathedral and then down the hill to the Georgetown waterfront.



Rock Creek Park

### What is Washington, DC's best-kept secret?

Hillwood House Museum and Estate. It is tucked away behind Rock Creek Park and belonged to the heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post. It has fantastic gardens, beautiful orchid greenhouses, and a jaw-dropping collection of Russian art amassed by Ms Post while her husband served as American Ambassador to the Soviet Union in the late 1930s.

### What is the one place you must visit?

*The Value of Money* exhibition inside the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. It features more than 400 monetary objects from the world's largest numismatic collection. The artefacts span more than 3,500 years of human history and represent every inhabited continent. Full disclosure – I am the curator of this gallery, but it is often referred to by others as a hidden gem!

### What is the best view in Washington, DC?

The Jefferson Memorial and Tidal Basin when the cherry blossoms are in bloom in the spring.

### What do you love most about living in Washington, DC?

Washington, DC, is a great home for a historian. There are countless museums, exhibitions and historical sites to visit, and a regular calendar of engaging talks and seminars through local universities and organisations.





Going South





Left: Chinstrap penguins on Nelson Island  
Above: A leopard seal sounds off on the Antarctic Peninsula

Where cash is slightly less useful than toilet paper, and your credit card won't get you an Amazon delivery, what you bring is what you have. 2.5 litres of water per person per day, boil-in-the-bag military wet rations, Australian-built pyramid tents coupled with low standards of personal hygiene, and complete submission to the weather, and you're on your way to preparing for seven weeks of camping in Antarctica.

I felt some apprehension about surviving on military wet rations, so before my departure I systematically, and then frantically, acquired everything I thought I needed: instant miso soup, marinated tofu, and ingredients for S'mores (graham crackers, marshmallows, and of course, chocolate). After learning that we would have a bread-maker I added extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar, which soon became prized possessions.

After members of the Royal Navy helped us carry 33 water 'jerrys' and the rest of our gear to our campsite, that was it. The *HMS Protector* sailed off and three members of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and I were left on an uninhabited island off the Antarctic Peninsula. Our only contact with the rest of the world would be through a shared text-only email account reliant on satellite internet, a radio and a satellite phone for emergencies or very expensive calls home.

As I sat on a jagged rock in front of my new home, listening to the waves lapping on the shore interspersed with the calls of giant petrels nesting next to the Weddell seals on the rocky slope below, it was hard to believe I was actually there. I couldn't comprehend how, as I watched pieces of the ice shelf cave and crash into the ocean day after day, my friends in Oxford were experiencing the same seconds.





A chinstrap penguin dances across the sand on Nelson Island

Living by a triple-booked schedule seemed to belong to a different plane of existence.

On Nelson Island, life was primarily dictated by the weather. We had a few glorious sunny days and a couple of breath-taking post-snow days, but mostly, it rained. Due to the lack of reliable forecasts, it seemed like storms always happened when we were least expecting them, leaving me wondering if I had secured my camera somewhere where it wouldn't get drenched as I listened to the onslaught of wind and rain ripping at our tent. During our first week we were hit by a snowstorm with 50 knot winds, leaving us tent-bound for 36 hours. As the storm raged our field guide delivered hot packets of military wet rations to our tent. My tent mate and I attempted to untie the partially frozen rope that sealed our tent flap and then, after receiving the packets, retie it without letting too much snow blow into the tent, as the wind tried to rip the fabric out of our hands. Despite everything, life on Nelson Island soon began to feel normal.

Every morning, I got out of my sleeping bag, put on the same clothes I had been wearing since arriving, and went to my preferred patch of beach to brush my teeth, sometimes seeing a penguin swim by.

Without a steady stream of famous people frequenting Nelson Island to give seminars, or a pidge to receive invitations to black tie dinners, I had to keep myself entertained, and do so without the internet. We didn't have Google, but we did have Rothera – the biggest British base in Antarctica 725km away. Each evening they would check up on us during a 10-minute chat on the radio. I started a tradition where we would ask them questions each day that we would have otherwise Googled. Within a day, we would receive an email from them with the answer. I only asked the most pressing questions, such as 'Which country produces most chocolate?', while struggling with the reality that my chocolate supply was a non-renewable resource.





Sunset on Nelson Island. All photos © Jessica Phillips (2016)

As time went on, the amount of time I dedicated to thinking about food only increased. Something that significantly improved my quality of life was a field cookbook from BAS, passed down since 1998, which included a recipe for making pizza requiring only a camp stove and some pots. I do not know how I can describe the happiness I felt when hearing we'd be having pizza for dinner. Later on, I even used a recipe in that book to make croissants for the first time in my life.

The main reason I was on this remote outpost was to do science, studying penguins as part of my DPhil in Zoology supervised by Professor Tim Guilford. We were collaborating with Dr Phil Trathan at the British Antarctic Survey to understand the flexibility of chinstrap penguins' foraging behaviour as climate change and the expanding krill fishery alters the availability and distribution of krill, their primary foodstuff. This involved capturing penguins, attaching global positioning system (GPS) sensors, depth recorders and cameras, and then recapturing the same animals some days

later to analyze their foraging behavior based on the data collected using the various instruments.

I really don't know where all the clean penguins you see in documentaries come from. I quickly discovered the reality of being a penguin biologist is wading through rivers of guano. This is reflected in the only dress code that was enforced at our campsite: to prevent the inclusion of guano in our diet, no work clothes were permitted at dinner.

When I came back, I was baffled by the presence of restaurants. Places you can go to where you could give someone some pieces of paper and they would give you warm food that didn't come in a bag. What a concept!

**Jessica A Phillips (2016)**





Merton's *University Challenge* team  
with host Jeremy Paxman © BBC

## University Challenge

2017 saw a Merton team appear on *University Challenge* for the first time in six years – and the first to reach the final in almost 40. The five of us – Leonie Woodland, (2016, Captain), Alexander Peelow (2013), Caleb Rich (2014, reserve), Edward Thomas (2014) and Akira Wiberg (2002) – had all watched the programme from a young age and, buoyed by shouting out answers at the TV, we wanted to get on the other side of the screen. This was not a straightforward task: apart from Leonie, all of us had attempted to get on the programme before. After some preliminary sorting tests run by the IRO, Anna Gatrell (2015), for the dozens of people in the JCR and MCR who had applied, we ended up with the highest scores, and decided that, having the best mark of us all, Leonie ought to be Captain. After sending off an initial written test, we sat in the College bar and made a list of all human knowledge, and split it between us.

The interview – the hurdle at which most of the 130 teams that apply fall – was in early January, when we met with producers and question-writers and took yet another test. Then, in February, Leonie received a call telling her that we'd got onto the show, to our delight. With four weeks before our first recording, we started practising as a team, initially by reading out questions from the *University Challenge* books and then

by playing against old episodes on YouTube (where you can also see all of our matches). We scored ourselves very strictly, only giving ourselves points for bonuses if we'd got the starter, and still quite frequently beat both teams, which gave us some confidence. We also went to the buzzer practices of the University Quiz Society, where we met a number of people who'd been on *University Challenge* before – including last year's winning Captain for Balliol, Joey Goldman.

Filming takes place over three weekends, in February, March and April, with the recording done at Media City in Salford, many months before being broadcast. They usually record at least four matches per day, which tends to make Jeremy Paxman rather grumpy (*not that that needs a special effort!*) Our first-round match was filmed on a Monday evening, and we were up and back in the same day. The recording passes quickly, taking about 35–40 minutes to record an episode; what you see on the programme is almost exactly what is recorded, all in one go. It went very well – we won, and our practices had paid off, for the team from King's College, London were clearly very knowledgeable but were slower on the buzzer. Afterwards, we were told that we'd achieved the highest score in the first round (285). We returned to Oxford very pleased with our performance, and surprised that it had gone as well



as it had – it's quite difficult to work out how you compare to other teams in the competition, especially in the first round.

Our second filming session happened during the Easter vacation, where we played Oxford Brookes in our second round on the Saturday evening. This was the highest scoring match that *University Challenge* had seen for quite some time and Brookes put up the highest score against us of any team we played (255-175). Having got into the quarter-finals, we were now the best-performing Merton team since the one that won the competition in 1980 so, whatever happened, we still had that achievement. You have to win two out of three quarter-finals to progress to the semi-finals, which meant that we were guaranteed at least two more matches. Our first quarter-final perhaps indicated that we had become a too relaxed at this prospect: within the first five minutes, Fitzwilliam, Cambridge had a lead of 65 to our -5. After pulling ourselves together, however, we came back to win 270-125.

We then had to keep learning facts for the rest of the vacation, with the last weekend of filming at the very start of Trinity term. We played Edinburgh, and won, propelling us into the semi-finals. Those were filmed the next morning – St John's, Cambridge vs Edinburgh first, followed by us against Newcastle. Probably the most exciting behind-the-scenes event happened in this episode, where things went smoothly until the final part of the music bonuses, which had gone to Newcastle. Instead of just telling them to identify the composer, Jeremy Paxman said 'and finally this piece, by Aaron Copland', thus giving them the answer. This caused a long interruption in filming while the producers decided what to do about it; eventually, they had a replacement bonus part, but there was a moment at which it looked like they might lose the points they'd already got – which prompted outrage from the audience. We won (215-110), but were all quite weary by the end! We had little time to celebrate getting into the final, though, for there was immediately a rehearsal for the award ceremony, followed by only enough time to get changed and grab a sandwich for lunch.

In the final, we got the first couple of starters, and things were looking quite good. St John's then got a couple of starters very quickly and we started panicking slightly, and it started to unravel. Trying too hard to get in before the other

team, we made a few buzzes before it was clear what the question was looking for. The St John's team didn't give us any slack with Rosie McKeown picking up a very impressive seven starter questions. Despite us trying to mount a late comeback, all too soon it was over – we'd lost with 100-145. St John's won a well-deserved victory, and were given the trophy by Judith Weir, the current Master of the Queen's Music – a piece of information that had won us a starter question in the first round, seemingly so long before.

Afterwards, there was a drinks and nibbles reception for the finalists and their guests. While we were disappointed to have lost in the final, we were very pleased to have made it so far and also quite relieved that it was over. We had a lot of fun chatting to Jeremy Paxman (who isn't *really* so fierce), and Roger Tilling, who announces the names of the contestants when they buzz, making us wish we had longer surnames.

We then had to return to normal life. We weren't allowed to tell anyone that we were even on the programme until July, and the final wasn't shown until about a year after it was filmed, so it was a very long time to keep quiet. We watched all the matches with members of the College in the JCR TV room and the TS Eliot Theatre, where it was amazing to have so many people cheering us on. Watching ourselves on television was an extremely strange experience, and oddly tense, even though we knew the outcome. The oddest occasion, though, was the final, as the projector stopped working a few minutes before the broadcast began. The Warden came to our rescue, kindly inviting all the people in the audience to watch it in the Warden's Lodgings, where we split across two rooms, there was a great atmosphere for it created by people from all parts of the College.

Afterwards, each of us are occasionally recognised by people in the street – including at the University Open Days – which is certainly an odd experience, to which none of us have really worked out a response, other than a baffled smile. It was a unique and exciting part of our university careers, and we hope that future Merton teams will do well – and, even, one day, go one better than us.

Leonie Woodland (2016) and Alexander Peplow (2013)





Mike Jeffs with Pat Goodwin (Scout) and Sir John Badenoch (Fellow) in 1994

# 40 Years at Merton

Mike Jeffs, MRICS is the College Surveyor and has been at Merton for 40 years! *Postmaster* caught up with him to discuss his tenure in College.

**So, Mike, how did you come to be at Merton?**  
 After leaving school I worked at auctioneers and surveyors, McCartneys, in my home town of Ludlow for ten years, studying part time at technical college and doing a postal course with College Estate Management, London. I then worked as a building inspector for South Shropshire District Council, when I obtained further Municipal Engineers Building Control qualifications. The office received a weekly delivery of *Opportunities*, which advertised jobs from every discipline of the local authorities nationwide and in November 1978 the job of Clerk of Works/Building Control Office working with the Estates Bursar was advertised at Merton. Initially I ignored it since I did not understand why an Oxford college job was advertised in the magazine, but curiosity got the better of me!

I was invited for interview by Robert Hodgson, the then Estates Bursar. Arriving suited and booted, complete with a briefcase packed with examples of my drawings, I quickly realised that this was indeed back to the private sector and not a local authority. Mr Hodgson, Finance Bursar Dr Phillip Watson and Domestic Bursar Colonel Barney Henderson, in their academic robes, interviewed me – a bit daunting for a lad from the rural borders of Wales and England! Nonetheless the job was soon mine. I subsequently discovered Mr

Hodgson had high regard for the local building inspector in his parish who had recommended the local authority route!

**For those of us a little less familiar with the work of a College Surveyor, can you give us an example of a day in your office life?**

On the estates there are numerous farm tenants farming in most counties stretching from Surrey in the south to the Humber in North Lincolnshire. Due to changes in farming practice and mechanisation, cottages on these farms now have a mixture of farm and private tenants. I work in conjunction with the Estates Bursar to oversee improvements and building matters on these properties. The College has acquired new land holdings in recent years and I oversee alterations, conversions and extensions to bungalows, coach houses and outbuildings. And I also work on the College student accommodation, as well as the College's commercial properties in the city centre.

An 'average day' has changed considerably. In the early years computers for personal use were not available, record drawings were done in pencil on cartridge paper or ink on linen or tracing paper using a T square and set square. Nowadays I use AutoCAD for drawings, email and Microsoft Office – so not quite the dinosaur envisaged by my colleagues.

**What has changed at Merton since you started?**  
 A most significant change was the admission of women



in 1980; prior to that all students at Merton were male. A radical change came about when the College changed to a two-Bursar system, which coincided with the retirement of the then Domestic Bursar. The new Finance/Domestic Bursar position was established working in conjunction with the Estates Bursar. Cliff Webb became the first joint Finance/Domestic Bursar (1988–2012). Low-level general maintenance then came over to Estates and a new team was formed in 1985 comprising plumber, carpenter and painter. We moved from our original offices on the ground floor of Fellows 1 and 2 to the Finlay Building when it was built in the old Postmaster's Hall yard.

As part of ongoing progress and improvement, a new University telephone system and computer network have been installed in my time. Originally there was a booking system in the Lodge for daily reporting. The College now has a computerised logging system so that we can keep record of and manage all maintenance, safety, and utility services.

### Did you expect to spend so long here?

At the interview I was told by the Estates Bursar that College expected me to stay 30 years, so I may have overstayed my welcome! During that time I have served four Wardens, two Estates Bursars, four Domestic Bursars and three Finance Bursars.

### Which major projects have you been involved in?

Mr Hodgson was Estates Bursar for 42 years and directed a programme of stone restoration and improvements to the immediate College buildings. He bought sufficient Clipsham limestone blocks to ensure a supply of stone of the correct colour and quality to complete the necessary work. Beginning with the College Chapel (1978–81), we also restored Merton Street frontage – including Lodge Tower (1983–84), Hall Tower (1986–87), and rebuilt the four stone formers in Mob Quadrangle (1990–94). We brought the College into the 21st century by providing bath and shower rooms in the 1980s, and I have subsequently revisited to change them to en-suite shower rooms – it's a bit like painting the Forth Bridge.

We have revamped the main Lodge entrance, re-graded the paving to Front Quadrangle (so as to be DDA-compliant),



Mike and Ron Crawley oversee the stone restoration above Merton entrance in 1983

formed a new ramp and steps to the Lategate, re-paved the Mob Quadrangle and Grove Building frontage with York paving. And we have built new student accommodation by adding an attic storey to Rose Lane 1–4 and three new accommodation blocks in what were the gardens to 1–7 Holywell Street.

### What has surprised you most about working here?

The sheer number of characters in the academic community and domestic staff. My favourite has to be Pat Goodwin, Caretaker at Holywell Street, who resided at No. 1, was very funny and a true friend to everyone he met and looked after. MP Edward Vaizey's (1986) article in *Postmaster* 1988 encapsulates all that Pat was about: 'a vivacious man with a permanent smile and a constant chuckle ... Pat is an institution, a remarkable man who has devoted himself to undergraduates in his care.' A book could be written about other colourful Merton characters!

### Are you particularly proud of a major project you've been part of during your time at Merton?

Redesigning, and refurbishment of the main Lodge and entrance. And generally improving the infrastructure, services and fabric of the College and annexes using the small team of various skilled and loyal contractors over the last 40 years.





*Geometria speculativa*, Thomas Bradwardine  
© Dorieo, Wikimedia Commons (Flickr CC BY-SA 4.0)

## Merton College: a powerhouse for logic

Since its foundation, Merton College has been an important centre for the study of logic. In medieval times, logic (then called 'dialectic') was duly cultivated at Merton as one of the trivium of the classic liberal arts, i.e. the key subjects in the curriculum.<sup>1</sup> This is attested to by the sizeable collection of manuscripts on logic that the library then kept: texts on logic by Aristotle, Avicenna etc. were well represented, as well as various commentaries on them.<sup>2</sup> Leading Mertonian luminaries of the 14th century were also skilled logicians. Notable among them was Thomas Bradwardine, the brilliant theologian and mathematician. In the 1320s, he wrote *Insolubilia*, a treatise about paradoxes.<sup>3</sup>

One example of an insoluble proposition is: 'This proposition is not true.' Call that  $P$ . Then it seems that  $P$  is true if and

only if  $P$  is false. Bradwardine's intriguing solution went via a theory of signification: for  $Q$  to be true,  $Q$  must signify (or designate) only something that is the case. We will not get into fine details, but because he also accepted that ' $Q$  signifies  $S$ ' and ' $S$  implies  $T$ ' jointly imply ' $Q$  signifies  $T$ ', it follows that  $P$  signifies its truth and its falsity. Simultaneous truth and falsity cannot be the case, so  $P$  is outright false. Bradwardine's account of truth is disputable, but in critical originality, he surpassed most logicians before him.<sup>4</sup>

This tradition of excellence is far from over: for proof, we need only turn to the Chair of Mathematical Logic attached to Merton since 1972. The Chair was created partly on the initiative of John Lucas, philosopher and Fellow of Merton. Lucas himself is an expert in mathematical philosophy. He



has written more than 10 papers on Gödel's incompleteness theorem (it states that for any formal consistent system of arithmetic  $A$ , some statement cannot be proven true or false in  $A$ ), and its implications for the thesis that minds are not automated machines.<sup>5</sup>

Archives show that by 1972 a Readership of Mathematical Logic had already existed, and Robin Oliver Gandy from Wolfson College continued to hold it. Therefore, the Merton professorship was a new creation, not an expansion of that readership.<sup>6</sup> The professorship initially belonged to the Department of Philosophy, but later moved to the Mathematical Institute.

Four people have occupied this position: Dana Scott (1972–81), Angus Macintyre (1985–99), Boris Zilber (1999–2016), and Ehud Hrushovski (2016–present).

Scott is renowned for his work on the semantics of programming languages — in plain English, what the strings of symbols in programs might mean, as opposed to just formal rules. One of his major contributions to programming semantics is domain theory, the study of partial orderings that help represent incomplete computations. Scott also contributed to modal logic (introducing operators such as possibility or belief into logic) and set-theoretic axioms, with great success.

Macintyre worked on model theory, as applied to fields, algebraic number theory and exponentiation. This is harder to explain to the non-specialist.

For a glimpse of the lives and work of Professor Zilber and Professor Hrushovski you can read an interview which they kindly granted me on the College website: [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/maths-at-merton](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/maths-at-merton)

Mathematical logic will undoubtedly continue to flourish at Merton College. It is an exciting field, and much lies in store for future researchers.

**Ton Yeh (2017)**

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2. Precise details can be found in Thompson, RM, and NG Wilson, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Medieval Manuscripts of Merton College, Oxford* (Cambridge: Published for Merton College, Oxford, by D S Brewer, 2009).
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4. Spade, PV (1981) 'Insolubilia and Bradwardine's theory of signification', *Medioevo. Rivista di storia della filosofia medievale* 7, p.116.
5. Lucas, JR, (1961), 'Minds, machines and Gödel', *Philosophy* 36, no. 137, pp.112–127.
6. I am grateful to Julian Reid, Archivist, for this information.

## Join us for the Merton Mathematics Reunion

This will be the first Merton Mathematics Reunion in the College's 754-year-long history – 400 years after Sir Henry Savile established his mathematical professorships at Merton. The day is open to all Merton mathematics graduates, students, Fellows and lecturers, and will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a selection of mathematical talks, discuss the past, present and future of the subject at Merton, lunch, and more.

**10am–5pm Saturday 24 November 2018**





## Gardens Matter

Rosebrock Garden behind Postmaster's Hall © Claire Spence-Parsons

When I visited Tokyo about 15 years ago I discovered just how wrong my preconceptions of the city were. I had imagined a vast urban sprawl overwhelmed by cars and their exhausts. Instead I found a city in which trees, shrubs and other plants were everywhere. Shopkeepers in side streets (alleys, actually, because they were too narrow for cars) put out potted plants and shrubs every morning. Waste land was colonised by plants. Main thoroughfares were lined by trees. Trunk roads had azalea hedges down the sides and along the central reservation. I learned later that plants, in particular suitably selected trees, go a long way to mitigate the pollution that traffic causes in our major cities. Contrast London's Oxford Street with the leafy streets in many of the London residential areas. The trees reduce noise pollution and act as natural air conditioning.

A city without open spaces and trees, shrubs and other plants is a terrible place to live. Those confined to city living need places of quiet to help them retain their sanity so it hardly needs saying that I love gardens of all kinds. I greatly missed having one when I moved to a flat ten years ago. I now once again have a house with a garden and, as a bonus, my very own gardener whose grandiose schemes are gradually being realised. I sometimes think that she would like to recreate Merton's gardens around our house. For those who do not know, Gwyneth is one of the team of gardeners who took Merton to a Gold Medal in Britain in Bloom in 2015. She is the one holding the cup (for the best academic garden) on the College website. I frequently enjoy walking through Merton Gardens, one of the luxuries of living in Oxford. The gardens have changed since I matriculated in 1960; most recently





Gwyn (second from left) and the gardeners with their Oxford in Bloom trophy

the last of the lime trees that formed such a magnificent walk in Fellows' Garden succumbed to disease and had to be removed, a truly sad passing of an age. But it is encouraging to learn that Merton's tree scape is constantly renewed and not allowed to wither away.

Over the years I have seen changes at Merton that sadden me. Locked doors, pervasive CCTV cameras, symptoms of a world that is ever more security conscious. However, there are numerous heartening things: Merton's academic record, surveys affirming that its students are among the happiest. These are no mean feats. For those reasons I am particularly proud to be an alumnus of the College. Another of Merton's strengths is its continued maintenance and development of its gardens. There are of course the show pieces such as Fellows' Garden, but next time you visit take a tour behind Grove Building and see the carefully tended area of trees, shrubs and wild flowers. Or go see the courtyard behind Postmaster's Hall where you will find a wonderful place to sit and enjoy being alive. Among other plants you will find a couple of banana trees that have to be wrapped in fleece every autumn to protect them from English winters.

These days you can take a virtual tour of the main gardens courtesy of Streetview on Google Maps. It is a few years out of date but you will be able to see that the mulberry tree by the sundial is full of health. Indeed it is healthier now than

it was 50 years ago, each year producing a substantial crop of mulberries. As you tour round Fellows' Garden, notice the figs on the tree on the left of the path to Rose Lane – I guess the CCTV ensures that they stay on the tree and do not migrate to some student's stomach!

For those of us who have left formal academic study long in the past, there are few better things in Oxford on a hot summer's day than to walk away from the noisy, dusty heat of the High, down Logic Lane, along the distressed cobbles of Merton Street, through the Lodge and Front Quad (note the flowers, shrubs and potted plants), across Stubbins (look up at the walls to see the Boat Club's claims to fame), past the JCR and into Fellows' Garden. It is a great place to read while lying on the grass under the shade of a tree.

Merton's gardens remain places for quiet thought, fresh air and beauty; places to recharge mental batteries before returning to the demands of academic study. Oxford has become a very busy place full of noise, hustle and bustle, which makes any oasis of tranquillity all the more important. And so, in their own way, Merton's gardens greatly enrich the lives of those fortunate enough to enjoy them, contributing to both happiness and academic success. They create an environment that can relieve the stresses of study and omnipresent deadlines.

I hope that the current students will be able to look back in 50 years' time and appreciate how the gardens contributed, in some small way, to their Oxford life. Some may take away ideas for their own future gardens, but few will realise that these gardens are exceptional and that those moments of tranquillity are rare. Gardens matter and we should never underrate their contribution to our lives. It is easy to take them for granted and in doing so risk losing them. I sincerely hope that Merton's gardens will continue to be treasured and offer a place to escape from the stresses of life.

If you visit Merton, take an hour to discover the peace and beauty that surround you. If you are lucky, you might find a gardener with the time to show you round some of the more obscure places.

**Francis Glassborow (1960)**





# Monastic Treasures in Merton College Archives

One would hardly expect to find precious art works from medieval English monasteries in Merton College Archives. However, Merton's historical collections hold a large number of extraordinarily well preserved impressions of monastic seals. Due to Merton's early foundation in 1264, numerous of the College's pre-Reformation title deeds were directly issued by abbeys and priories or at least confirmed by them in sealed documents (Fig. 1). The seals, impressed with a matrix in warmed wax, were not merely tools of legal authentication, but also precious works of art. In the Middle Ages goldsmiths engraved the image representing its personal or institutional owner as well as a surrounding legend generally naming him into the matrix, mostly made of metal. Particularly in England from 1200 onwards, monastic institutions commissioned lavishly designed seal matrices. They bear outstanding artistic features such as the two completely impressed sides, which make them remarkable from a European perspective.<sup>i</sup>

Although a harsh iconoclasm in the aftermath of the Reformation destroyed almost all treasures from English monastic houses, many seal impressions survived because they were considered tools of authentication of valid legal transactions. Therefore they are rare examples of the formerly rich visual culture of religious communities. Since the 19th century, scholars in the Humanities have been drawn to this rich source, but focused mostly on the important seal collections in London such as in the National Archives, the British Library and the Metropolitan Archives.<sup>ii</sup>

However, although many Oxford and Cambridge colleges such

as Merton are among the most persistent institutions from medieval England and therefore often hold many impressions of monastic seals, researchers have hardly addressed them. In the course of my Visiting Research Fellowship at Merton on the imagery of medieval seals, many of them came to light, and many are in excellent condition due to the continuous safe storage. Two of probably the most precious monastic seals from medieval England, those of the Benedictine cathedral priories of Canterbury and Ely, are a case in point.

No later than 1232–33, the monks of Christ Church Priory in Canterbury commissioned lavishly designed and engraved matrices to impress their new third common seal (Figs 2 and 3), which was outstanding in many regards.<sup>iii</sup> At that time, no monastic seal in the British Isles was 96 millimetres in diameter, with both sides completely impressed like a coin. Due to the precious character of this seal, all its known early impressions predating 1270 are little more than sorry fragments. However, recent research in the Merton Archives has revealed three further early specimens in pale red wax, of which one is in excellent condition, apart from some damage around the edge.<sup>iv</sup> This impression is attached by green woollen cords to the monks' confirmation of an archiepiscopal charter of 26 May 1268 (Fig. 1). With the coin-like design of its seal, this very old community could bring two of its many outstanding patron saints into a balanced visual representation.

On the side dedicated to the representation of the Saviour is the old patron saint from the Cathedral's Anglo-Saxon origins (Fig. 2). Within a multi-partite sacred building, designed by



Fig. 1: Folded confirmation charter of the monks of Canterbury Cathedral Priory with their third common seal (reverse), 26 May 1268, MCR: 963.



Fig. 2: Third common seal of Canterbury Cathedral Priory, obverse, impression



Fig. 3: Third common seal of Canterbury Cathedral Priory, obverse – detail: Christ and the two saintly Archbishops, impression see Fig. 2.



Fig. 4: Third common seal of Christ Church Canterbury, reverse – detail: Martyrdom of St Thomas Becket, impression see Fig. 2.





Fig. 5: Folded confirmation charter of the monks of Ely Cathedral Priory with their Second common seal (obverse), January 1269, MCR: 2455.



the seal engraver in most recent forms of Early English Gothic architecture, a bust of the blessing Christ with a cruciform halo is situated in the gable over the central portal. However, the representation of Christ is faded compared with four heads facing out of deep windows in the lateral towers (Fig. 3). Among them are two bearded and mitred archbishops in the lower recesses, who are identified by tiny inscriptions on the reveals as St Dunstan and St Elphege, two of Canterbury's saintly archbishops from the Anglo-Saxon past (Fig. 3).

The three-dimensionality of the seal's imagery impressed in a piece of wax barely seven millimetres thick is amazing. It bears witness to the extraordinary artistic skills of the matrix-maker, who found even more sophisticated solutions for the seal's reverse (Figs 1 and 4). This side is dedicated to

Fig. 6: Second common seal of Ely Cathedral Priory, reverse, impression see Fig. 5.



Fig. 7: Second common seal of Ely Cathedral Priory, circumscription, impression see Fig. 5.

the representation of Thomas Becket as one of the most outstanding saints in the later Middle Ages. Although he was never the Cathedral's patron saint, he had a particular connection to this church. While Archbishop of Canterbury during the 1160s, Becket came into sharp opposition to King Henry II; the king's words led to Becket's assassination in the Cathedral on 29 December 1170.

This outrageous event is shown under the openings of the central double porch of an Early Gothic style church (Fig. 5). Though clearly showing another perspective of the church than that on the obverse, the deep recess of the double porch physically situates the scene within the wax corpus and therefore is a reminder of the martyrdom in the Cathedral. The degree of spatiality is emphasised by



the accuracy of architectural detail such as the multiply moulded central pier (*trumeau*) dividing the double porch. This evidence makes it most likely that the monks adopted this seal only after the relics of the saintly Archbishop were finally buried in the newly erected Cathedral choir in 1220.

Situating saintly figures relating to the institution's own past into an architectural setting was a key strategy to design seal imagery for traditional monastic houses in 13th century England. This strategy can also be found in the composition of the coin-like second common seal of Ely Cathedral Priory (Figs 5-7).<sup>v</sup> The oldest known specimen of this seal can be found among the Merton College Records, which is a perfect impression in dark green wax attached to the Cathedral monks' confirmation of a charter by Bishop Hugh II of Ely in relation to Walter de Merton's College foundation dating from January 1269.<sup>vi</sup> Regarding the history of tradition of Ely's records, it is most likely that this impression was taken from the newly engraved matrices.

Here the architectural setting on both sides of the coin-like seal is almost identical, presenting three large open arches crowned by elaborate canopies in the most recent form of English Gothic architecture, the Decorated Style. One side is dedicated to St Etheldreda as the Anglo-Saxon queen who founded the first religious house, a royal nunnery, on the site of the later Cathedral (Fig. 5). Etheldreda is situated under the central trefoil arch accompanied by two successive husbands as witnesses of her sanctity. An almost identical setting is provided for Ely's second patron saint Peter (Fig. 6). The Apostle relates to Ely's re-foundation as an abbey of Benedictine monks in the 960s during the great revival of Anglo-Saxon monasticism after the Viking raids as he is accompanied by Bishop Aethelwold to his right and King Edgar of Wessex to his left.

The common responsibility of both patron saints for the fortune of the 13th century Cathedral Priory is highlighted by a most spectacular phenomenon in the sealing culture of medieval Europe. A circumscription of capital letters just four millimetres high runs around the rim of the seal, reading in translation: 'Peter and Etheldreda have jointly decided to cover the secrets of Ely under the cover of the soft wax' (Fig. 8).<sup>vii</sup> The term 'secrets' (*secreta*) in the context of a medieval

corporation meant the entirety of its privileges. Therefore the seal constituted a medium that not only represented this privileged status, but also incorporated it in the wax corpus of every impression.

The outstandingly well preserved examples from Canterbury and Ely underline the importance of college archives such as the Merton College Records as essential treasures for material evidence for further research on the visual culture of monastic houses. Only through continuous and undisturbed storage can perfect examples bear witness to the highest level of artistic perfection applied to authenticate legal documents in the Middle Ages.

### Markus Späth

Visiting Research Fellow, Trinity term 2018

i Recently on these coin-like monastic seals: Späth 2015. For the most up-to-date overview on seals in the British Isles, see New, E A. *Seals and Sealing Practices* (British Records Association: London, 2010).

ii All were successively catalogued in De Gray Birch, W. *Catalogue of seals in the department of manuscripts in the British Museum, Volumes 1-6* (London, 1887-1910); Ellis, R. *Catalogue of seals in the Public Record Office, Monastic Seals, Vol. 1* (Stationary Office Books: London, 1986); and McEwan, J A. *Seals in medieval London 1050-1300. A catalogue* (London Record Society: Suffolk, 2016).

iii Birch no 1873-78; Ellis 1986, M16. Späth 2015, pp. 162-5

iv MCR: 963. The two other examples are attached to another copy of this confirmation (MCR: 952) and an earlier confirming charter dating from 1243 (MCR: 958).

v Birch no 1523-24. Späth 2015, pp. 167-9.

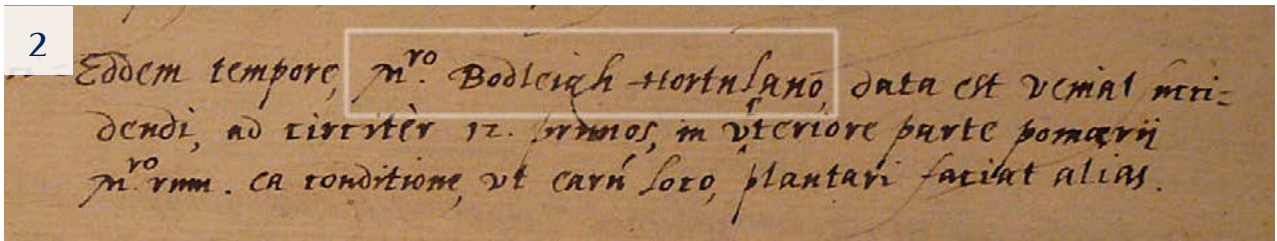
vi MCR: 2455. So far scholars have identified an example in the London Metropolitan Archives (25122/1511) from 1301 as the oldest, but presumed the making of the matrices for stylistic reasons to the 1280s.

vii The Latin original reads: + PETRVS ET EDELDREDA MOLLIS SVB TEGMINE CERE ELY SECRETA CELARE SIMVL STATVERE.



# Lost, Little Known and Unbuilt Merton (15)

## The Garden (2) Summer



By 1465, the College had acquired the eight halls and tenements lying between St Alban Hall and the city wall to the south-east. This large area was to form the 'Fellows' Garden'. Ralph Agas's drawing of 1578 is the earliest known view. But Robert Whittlesey's view of 1728 shows more, illustrating why it was sometimes known as the 'Orchard' (Plate 1). Certainly in 1572, when Thomas Bodley was Garden Master (*hortulano*), he was authorised to cut down 12 plum trees, on condition that he replaced them (*loco plantari faciat alias*) (Plate 2). Another Fellow, John Earle, later tutor of Charles II as Prince of Wales, Dean of Westminster and Bishop of Salisbury, wrote a Latin *Poem* of 128 lines in 1620, extolling the beauties of Merton Garden. In spite of his later preferments, he was to be buried in Merton Chapel where there remains his memorial, which has an inscription of 29 lines.

In the Garden, particularly described, are 'enclosure walls laded with innumerable berries'. Of this tradition, one venerable specimen survives – the great mulberry tree (Plate 3). An edict of James I in 1608 (the same year as Sir Henry Savile began the building of Fellows' Quadrangle) promulgated the planting of mulberry trees with a view to the rearing of silkworms. Unfortunately, silkworms only thrive on *Morus alba*, which has qualities that are *not*, regrettably, found in Merton's *Morus nigra*. In his *Poem*, Bishop Earle describes too, a wide, open, sanded, bowling alley. He wrote that 'undergraduates here, throw aside their gowns to exercise their skill in this wholesome sport, with much laughter, and whoops of congratulations when someone knocks his opponent's ball out of the way'. He continues 'You next enter the garden and walk along windy paths, strewn with sand under overhanging





boughs. One route through cavernous shade seems to be continuous; the other, more suitable for brisk disputants terminates in a dead end. There are numerous seats against the tree trunks, where you may sit with the birds flitting overhead, and be protected against light showers, if not hail storms. No barren laurel, useless myrtle or box grow here, but apples, pears and damsons' (Plates 4 and 5).

As early as 1597, Francis Bacon in his *Essay on Gardens*, eschewing the mannered formal garden, had recommended a mount 'of some pretty height ... to look abroad into the fields' as a desirable requirement for a garden. Even earlier, between 1529 and 1530, New College, with its splendid, unaltered stretch of the medieval city wall as a boundary, had constructed its mount (or mound). Writing in the 1660s, Anthony Wood found that the city wall at Merton was 'patched, propped up with buttresses and low. Yet before, the ground was raised up to it and the top with the battlements broken down, was almost as high again as 'tis now'. Further, 'at the south-east corner ... where Merton 'mount' now is, stood a large tower (if not two) defending both the east side and south side of the wall. But this I find was long ago ruined.' On the site of the former 'mount', there are now placed some carved stones from the original pinnacles of the Tower. Some other such fragments were presented to the University of Virginia at Charlottesville in the USA and the newly founded Wolfson

College in Oxford (1966). Seated, somewhat curiously above the fragments at the south-east corner of Merton Garden, is the effigy of a griffin. It was given to the College by Bogdan Meduza Cwilog (1941) of the Polish Air Force, who was working here during the Second World War on a DPhil in Physics, which he completed in 1945. The griffin is intended to represent the national eagle of Poland, chained because Poland had been occupied by enemy troops in 1939 (Plate 6).

Alan Bott, 1953,  
*Bodley Fellow*

Plate 1: View of the College, by Robert Whittlesey, 1728. The Garden is largely 'orchard' but with eight flower beds below the city wall.

Plate 2: College *Register*, 1572 recording authorisation for works by Thomas Bodley, Garden Master.

Plate 3: The mulberry tree with Professor H W Garrod, Fellow 1901-60, by Sir Muirhead Bone.

Plate 4: Herbaceous border in summer. In the foreground is the former kitchen mortar, now serving as a bird bath.

Plate 5: *Musella lasiocarpa* in a tub in St Alban's Quad.

Plate 6: Griffin, 1941, placed on stones from former pinnacles of the Tower.





Braam Bequest



On 15 February 2018, Dr Peter Braam (1987) signed a confirmation of the establishment of the Peter Braam Bequest, which will enable a major new programme of research focusing on Human Wellbeing. The bequest will significantly change the way that research is conducted at Merton and the wider University, with an ultimate goal of helping the most disadvantaged people on the planet to better circumstances.

*Postmaster spoke to Peter about his hopes for the bequest.*

**Peter, can you tell us a little about your career and your relationship with Merton?**

After high school I studied mathematics in Holland, and it came as a huge surprise to me that four years later I could go to Oxford to do a DPhil, with Sir Michael Atiyah. I first came to Merton 1987 as a Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics after my DPhil. From 1991 to 1997 I was a University Lecturer and Fellow at St Catherine's. After that I drifted off into computer science and start-up companies in the USA. But around 2010, I started to come back to Oxford increasingly, and during the last 5 years I've been primarily assisting the SKA telescope project at Cambridge. Merton became my Oxford home again. Almost none of it was really planned, it just happened through reaching out to the right people at the right time, but I think I've had one of the most rewarding careers I could image.

**The plans for your bequest have been ten years in the making. What inspired you to make these plans in addition to the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) that you have already funded at the College?**

It was a long journey. I approached and made fairly sizeable donations to several charities. Along the way I learned that charities are extremely varied. Some are brokers to distribute funds effectively and develop a programme of hundreds of local charities – this was how AIDS was contained around Saigon. Also, I learned that establishing relationships with them can be difficult – people leave for other jobs or don't return phone calls, even when mention was made of significant donations.

**For those less familiar with the work of Dr Julia Amos and Dr Kate Orkin, both of whom have now held your JRF in Global Wellbeing, can you tell us a little about the impact they have had?**

Julia worked on several programmes, combining 'on-the-ground' work with academic research. She brought a

Royal Navy admiral to Merton and discussed how to solve the Somalia piracy problem. She said that a side effect, to restore the capability to engage in fishing near the Somalian coast, may have had the biggest impact, but of course we like to boast that the Royal Navy used the Merton Situation Room to solve the piracy problem! She went on to guide Sierra Leone to recover from the Ebola epidemic, and says that helping to restore the suspended school system was perhaps the most significant contribution she made.

Kate is exploring the frontiers of economic solutions, for example working with a cutting-edge US charity on measuring the effect of recipient selection procedures and guiding recipients towards smart choices. I learned later from a talk by the late Hans Rosling (check him out on TED) that economic solutions drive, and in fact do not trail, educational, health and cultural progress. Following her JRF, Kate has now established her programme in the Blavatnik School of Government in Oxford for another five years, funded by other philanthropists.

Together, Dr Amos and Dr Orkin have created essential programs affecting hundreds of thousands or perhaps millions of people. This is in the first seven years of the endowed JRF, which cost less than \$2 million (£1.5 million) (and will exist in perpetuity.) Hence, life changing help has been created for less than \$20 per affected person. I think this demonstrates how effective top-calibre academic involvement in philanthropic efforts can be.

**You mentioned in your speech at the signing ceremony a disappointment that you could not make a direct contribution yourself to human wellbeing. Why is this such a strong passion of yours?**

I was brought up in a moderately strict Christian environment, and I grew up with a strong sense of what is right and what





Dr Broom giving a speech during his signing ceremony, February 2018

is wrong. So perhaps I would say it is not a passion but a strong sense of ethical duty that is driving my initiatives. It is extremely rewarding for me to see that the execution of this by Merton and its body of Fellows is much better than anything I could have achieved myself.

**What are the rules around the programme funded by your bequest? Will it be open to all applicants regardless of specialism? Will there be a board overseeing how the funds are spent? Will all the beneficiaries be based at Merton?**

The programme will be managed by a Board that Merton appoints. A Board may likely prescribe particular areas of focus to be followed at a particular time. Applicants from disciplines applicable to the focus area and of the right calibre will likely be considered by the College. The reason behind this is that we concluded that Human Wellbeing is comprised of a broad area of challenges, not particularly tied to any subject.

It is difficult to predict how far the investments will grow because that depends on how long I live, how markets perform, and what money I may use for other purposes. It's not unlikely that the programme will fund enough scholars that these need to be spread over several colleges. The

Board and Governing Body will make these decisions and arrangements. For me it was important to leave decision-making to an organisation that I trust, and that **organisation** is Merton College.

**There are already major foundations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. Were you tempted to invest in one of those or other, more traditional charitable causes? What was it about the opportunity afforded by Merton and Oxford that you thought would be a better fit?**

After going through the frustrations that I mentioned earlier, I kept looking and I learned from one of Bill Gates' TED lectures that a focus on solving problems is extremely important. He mentioned malaria as a case where he expected that the solution would be hard to find, but that the funding to use the solution would be found fairly easily. Lots of major problems are very difficult to solve, and thinking power plays a big role. I have tremendous respect for other charities, but I also feel that the intellectual power offered by the University of Oxford is possibly unequalled. The colleges have a tremendous ability, grown over the better part of a millennium, to manage diverse disciplines, with a focus on finding solutions to difficult problems. I made the first arrangements with Dame Jessica Rawson, Warden





Wardens past, present and future with Peter, Maggie, Adrian and Sebastian

of Merton until 2010. I hope this makes it clear why this was an easy choice! Perhaps primarily due to my ongoing relationship with the academic community, a more selfish reason to work with Merton is that I can remain so close to the action and enjoy it.

Many very rich people can easily create and run a charity and manage it on an ongoing basis; Gates, Simons, Clinton's charities jump out as ground-breaking examples. I feel establishing that would be very challenging for me to do and to guarantee perpetuity of the programme would be hard. The efforts made by Merton to manage this create a near-perfect solution.

#### How does your family feel about your plans?

I hope to set an example for my two sons (9 and 11 years old). My wife believes deeply that helping others is the right thing to do, and she is contributing to the bequest as well.

#### Why do you think that philanthropy is so important? Is it primarily about giving back, or are you keen to set a good example for others?

We live in an age where 99% of wealth is concentrated in 1% of the population – that cannot be what one calls a fair distribution of wealth. A considerable degree of good luck

often plays a role in creating wealth, as does the help from a large group of other people. I believe it is no less than a moral duty to give an appropriate part of moneys earned back to the world, and I am really thrilled to see how many people do that, and I'm even more thrilled when people act as volunteers for charities.

#### Do you foresee a change in how people invest their money? Is philanthropic investment in intellectual efforts to solve problems the way forward?

My experience is that philanthropists like me live vicariously through their money. You will see many different directions, between supporting elite academic success, and direct purchases of medicines in low-income regions in the world. All of these are important, and I think time will tell if the focus of gifting is changing.

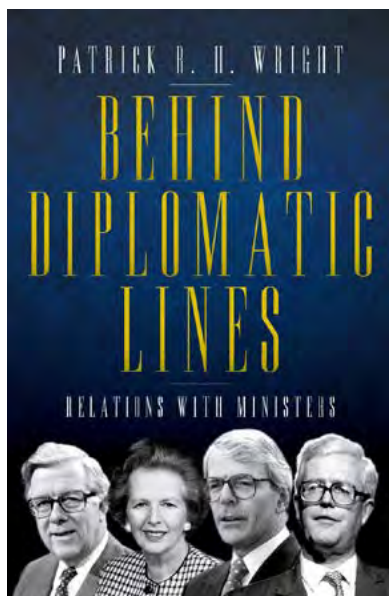
Merton has made a serious commitment to support this programme, and I'm absolutely delighted about it. Apart from running the Board governing the bequest, they have made Human Wellbeing a new focus area in the College and are applying their sizeable collective brainpower to guide this in the right direction. I am very grateful to have them governing my donations, and I sincerely hope that it will help Merton as a college in the University.



# Book Reviews







## Behind Diplomatic Lines: Relations with Ministers

Patrick R H Wright (1951)  
(Biteback, 2018)

Patrick Wright is the most stellar in a list of Mertonians who have risen to senior posts in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Now Lord Wright of Richmond, Patrick went up in 1951 to read Greats and entered the Foreign Office on graduating in 1955. He is a member of what the FCO call 'the Camel Corps' as he was sent to learn Arabic and spent much of his diplomatic career in Arab capitals so vital to British financial institutions, the oil business and to arms sales. He also spent time in Washington where the FCO sends its best and brightest to try and keep alive the so-called 'special relationship'. No American uses the term but it is a cherished belief in London where the alternative to being in bed with America is being a partner in Europe which the political-diplomatic establishment has never quite got right.

Long after retirement, Patrick Wright has published his diaries from his time as head of the FCO from 1986 to 1991. He was wise to wait until now as his diaries contain explosive revelations about the second half of Margaret Thatcher's premiership, including her enforced resignation.

In his first meeting with Mrs Thatcher after becoming Permanent Under-Secretary (PUS) at the FCO, Wright had to listen to her support for a 'pre-1910 South Africa with a white mini-state partitioned from their neighbouring black states. When I argued that this would be seen as an extension of apartheid and homelands

policy, she barked: "Do you have no concern for our strategic interests?" At the time, Ronald Reagan's America was imposing tough sanctions on South Africa and even sending an African-American diplomat to be US Ambassador in Pretoria. Independent black trade unions in South Africa in the 1980s got support from German, Swedish and Dutch diplomats in South Africa but Thatcher was seen as a *passionaria* for apartheid and Lord Wright's diaries reveal this to be the case. As a result, Britain's contribution to ending apartheid was nugatory.

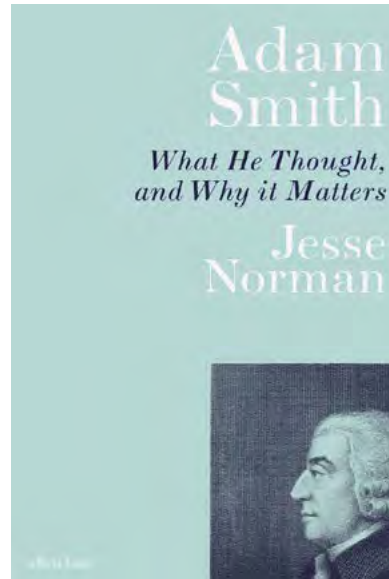
Wright also reveals Thatcher's deep dislike of European cooperation, noting in September 1989, 'Margaret Thatcher has also been showing signs of her Germanophobia ... and seems obsessed by a feeling that German speakers are going to dominate the community. Any talk of German reunification is anathema to her.' When Douglas Hurd became Foreign Secretary in the dying days of the Thatcher premiership, he told Wright in February 1990 that 'Cabinet now consists of three items; parliamentary affairs; home affairs; and xenophobia.' A few months ago Mrs Thatcher 'had blurted out: "I hate Europe."' Here we see the beginning of the long turn of the Conservative Party against Europe which has culminated in Brexit. Wright himself shows very little interest in Europe in these diaries, instead they highlight the mind-numbing meetings and endless small decisions about accommodation, decorations, and what to do with Charles Powell, Thatcher's foreign affairs aide.



I had the pleasure of serving eight years as a parliamentary private secretary and minister at the FCO. Like every top diplomat I worked with, Wright was fascinated by elected politicians but had very little idea of what makes them tick. The quality of advice and excellence of support the FCO gives its ministers is second to none. I enjoyed every minute and would recommend a foreign service career to any Mertonian interested in the world outside Britain and who wants to be challenged and stretched in a career. For anyone who has come to know how much the FCO does achieve on very limited resources, these revealing memoirs contain many fascinating details of Whitehall struggles that continue today.

Merton can be proud of having produced Patrick Wright as one of the best career diplomats Britain has had in recent years. His diaries are a joy to read. His son-in-law Simon Macdonald is PUS at today's FCO. He will have to preside over the massive loss of Britain's geopolitical influence once no UK minister nor official sits with a voice, vote and veto-taking decisions with fellow Europeans over the future of our region of the world. At some stage this folly – 1930s appeasement or Suez to the power of 20 – will be rectified. I kept a daily diary of my time as MP and minister and I hope Sir Simon and his successors are also keeping diaries as revealing as Patrick Wright. And that they do not wait nearly two decades before publishing them.

**Denis MacShane (1966)**



## Adam Smith: What He Thought, and Why it Matters

Jesse Norman (1981)  
(Allen Lane, 2018)

Adam Smith was one of the leading lights of the Scottish Enlightenment. Considered to be the father of economics, his work has had a profound influence on academic thought, government policies and public consciousness. Nevertheless, in recent decades, a caricatured image of Smith has become predominant in intellectual and popular discourse. He is routinely portrayed by individuals from both the right and left as the originator of neoliberal ideology, which elevates economic considerations above all others, advocates a bare minimum of intervention by the state, and views unfettered free markets as the panacea for wealth creation.

In this illuminating book, Norman challenges what he calls the 'vast mythology' around this important thinker, convincingly showing that the stereotyped image of Smith prevailing today is, at best, highly exaggerated and, at worst, completely false. Through a detailed analysis of his life, his thought and its impact, Norman aims to discover the real Adam Smith and explores how a holistic view of the man and his *oeuvre* might help us to innovatively tackle modern social problems and reinvigorate capitalism in the 21st century.

Norman places the thinker within Smith's broader social context, describing how his character and thought were shaped by the transformations of Scotland in the 1700s, his work and family life, and his close friendship with the philosopher David Hume. Contrary to popular belief, Smith was a polymath, whose



primary intellectual goal was to develop an all-encompassing 'science of man'. His work delved into rhetoric, jurisprudence, literature, languages, philosophy and even astronomy. Unfortunately, Smith ordered most of his unpublished manuscripts to be burned prior to his death, so we know very little about the substance of his thought on many subjects.

His first published work, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, gives us important clues about the foundations of Smith's philosophy. In it, he counters key philosophers, who argued that moral behaviour in humans comes from religion, an innate 'moral sense', or from powerful sovereign influences. Smith saw morality as emerging from everyday interactions among people, out of the desire 'not only to be loved, but to be lovely; or to be that thing which is the natural and proper object of love'. The ability of people to put themselves in each other's shoes, and to critically assess their own behaviour through an internal 'impartial spectator', is at the root of moral behaviours which over time coalesce into moral norms. Smith developed this sociological view of morality through empirical observation, historical case studies and inductive reasoning. He placed individual human beings, and their interactions with each other, at the heart of his ontology and epistemology.

Norman applies these insights about the foundations of Smith's thought to his views on economics and politics, which were elaborated in *The Wealth of Nations*. In doing so, he undermines

a variety of myths about the thinker, for instance, that modern economists' theoretical view of individuals as rational and self-interested utility maximisers is far from the nuanced and holistic picture of human beings that Smith developed. Smith did appreciate the power of people's 'self-love' to create and cultivate successful markets. However, he did not reduce people to their self-interest, and was aware of the pathologies that attend purely egotistical behaviour. Norman also shows that Smith was not anti-government; in fact he appreciated the potential of 'easy taxes' and light regulation to improve the functioning of markets, but was equally conscious of the importance of government in providing infrastructure and laws, intervening when markets underperform, and limiting exploitation of the poor by the rich. Norman thus paints a portrait of the real Adam Smith.

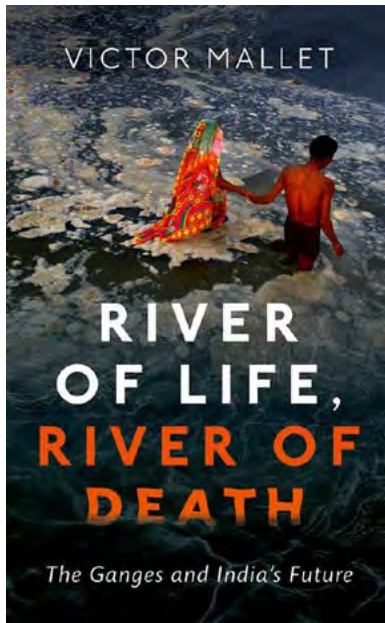
Finally, Norman considers how Smith's thought could be brought to bear on contemporary issues, applying Smith's insights to the financial crash of 2008 to provide a bracing analysis of how the specificities of certain asset markets enabled a global economic crisis. Norman also draws on Smith's work on the effects of information asymmetry. Smith was concerned about the ability of producers to dupe consumers by limiting the information available to them. In the present day, this problem is compounded by the internet. Norman crafts a characteristically Smithian response to this, arguing in favour of algorithms and artificial intelligence that would

help consumers to make the best choices for themselves online.

Jesse Norman has succeeded in writing an interesting and eminently readable book. He provides a comprehensive account of Smith's life and work, while also reflecting on how a holistic view of this philosopher's thought could help us to solve modern problems and breathe new life into politics, economics and society at large. Norman gives us much food for thought, and his book makes a productive contribution to intellectual and popular discourse in our increasingly divisive era.

**Milos Martinov (Pembroke, 2007)**  
Deputy Director of Development





## River of Life, River of Death: The Ganges and India's Future

Victor Mallet (1978)  
(OUP, 2017)

'The waters are befouled by sewage and poisoned by pesticides, industrial waste, carcinogenic heavy metals and bacterial genes that make lethal infections resistant to modern antibiotics' – *River of Life, River of Death* could be perceived as an obituary for the once-magnificent Ganges. Author and journalist Victor Mallet draws on his four years in India with the *Financial Times*, bringing attention to the consequences of centuries-old abuse of a river on which some 700 million Indians depend.

Mallet goes on to argue though that all is not lost. He cites the Thames, discussing how the now clean river used to be an open sewer. He asks why the Ganges couldn't start a similar, yet admittedly long, road to recovery. A heart-breaking counter to this is the lack of evidence that India's politicians are prepared to commit to what would be a lengthy and costly business, detailing the industries, such as the tanneries and industrial plants at Kanpur, that continue to dump untreated chemicals in the river.

The book gives a fascinating narrative of the religious sentiments behind the 'Ganga' with a stunning description of its journey from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal, where along the way its spiritual influence meets industrial demand. Nowhere is this tussle between the ethereal and the material more evident than in Varanasi. This ancient city on the banks of the Ganges is where faithful Hindus come to die, the ultimate *tirtha*, or crossing point, between this world and the next. It is also a stretch of river that

has come to be known for its bloated carcasses, untreated sewage and other urban flotsam.

This is an excellent book and illustrates the immense challenges we face in dealing with the human impact on our natural world. The Ganges is culturally very important to Hindus in India, but the book tells how this devotion to the Ganga has played a role in making it a virtual open cesspool along its entire length.

**James Vickers**

Development Operations and Data  
Manager





## The Story of Innovation: How Yesterday's Discoveries Lead to Tomorrow's Breakthroughs

James Trefil (1960)  
(National Geographic, 2017)

The human endeavour is one of ingenuity and creativity. Homo sapiens, not being satisfied with the world around them, have sought to find ways to better navigate it. Still not content, generations of our ancestors utilised the potential of the mind to go beyond survival, towards thriving and mastery of the environment. Sequencing the human genome, crashing the MESSENGER spacecraft into Mercury, transplanting an organ from one person to another, and powering locomotion engines with steam; each accomplishment was only made possible through discovery and through innovation. James Trefil presents a collection of breakthroughs in knowledge and world changing discoveries. Engaging and illustrative, *The Story of Innovation* engrosses the reader in some of the most important forefronts in science and technology over time.

Presenting thirty-seven stories of innovation spanning the physical and life sciences, medicine, planetary science and astronomy, and technology, the wide assortment of advances in knowledge and invention described is impressive. However, though the range of disciplines is vast and takes us back thousands of years, the strength of this book is not as simple as its breadth. Trefil's own innovation is to move beyond a mere historical record of inventions. The reader is unable to forget that behind everything contained in this book are the inventors and the innovators. We are drawn into a tale of progress, in which each invention, discovery, and advance is presented as the next stage in human achievement.

What's next? In the many 'On the Horizon' sections scattered throughout, Trefil drives us into the future. These are developments that are either underway at this moment or just out of reach. That is, until the next innovation is made. Many of these breakthroughs have the potential to revolutionise our understanding of the universe, of the nature of life, and change our very society once more. These glimpses into the future are both energising and inspiring for young visionaries and old hats alike. Although its history is as old as human-kind, it is clear that the story of innovation is far from over.

**Sam Parsons**  
(St. Cross College, 2014)



# Records

## Merton College 2017–18

### The Visitor

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable  
the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

### Warden

Sir Martin Taylor, MA, (PhD Lond), FRS

### Fellows

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Judith Patricia Armitage, MA (BSc, PhD  
Lond) FRS *Professor of Biochemistry, Sub-  
Warden*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simon Martin Hooker, MA, DPhil *Professor  
of Atomic & Laser Physics & Tutor in  
Physics, Senior Treasurer of the JCR*

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

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

Jonathan Ralph Warburg Prag, MA (PhD  
Lond) Associate *Professor of Ancient  
History & Tutor in Ancient History,  
Secretary of the Harmsworth Trust*

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

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

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

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

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

Rhiannon Ash, MA, DPhil (MA Toronto)  
*Professor of Roman Historiography &  
Christine Blackwell Fellow & Tutor in Classics*

Gail Fine, MA (BA Michigan; MA, PhD  
Harvard) *Senior Research Fellow in  
Philosophy*

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

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

Rachel Buxton, MA, MSt, DPhil (BA Hons  
Adelaide; MBA Oxford Brookes) *Senior  
Tutor/Senior Academic Registrar*

Alexander Schekochihin, MA (BSci  
MIPT; MA, PhD Princeton) *Professor of  
Theoretical Physics & Tutor in Physics,  
Steward of Common Room*

Daniel Grimley, MA, DPhil (BA, MPhil, PhD  
Camb) *Professor of Music & Douglas Algar  
Tutorial Fellow in Music*

Sir Andrew Wiles, MA, DSc (PhD Camb)  
FRS *Regius Professor of Mathematics, Royal  
Society Research Professor of Mathematics*

Minhyong Kim, MA (BS Seoul; PhD Yale)  
*Professor of Number Theory & Tutor in  
Mathematics*

Charles Alan Heathcote Alexander, BA  
(MBA Harvard) *Finance Bursar, Computer  
Officer, Wine Steward*





Ralf Bader, BA Hons, MA (MLitt, PhD St And) *Associate Professor of Philosophy & Tutor in Philosophy*

Andrew Mackie, MA *Official Fellow, Director of Legal Services & General Counsel, University of Oxford*

Simon Saunders, BA, MA (M Math Camb; PhD Lond) *Professor of the Philosophy of Science & Tutor in Philosophy*

Julian Charles Knight, MA, MBChB, DPhil, FRCP, *Professor of Genomic Medicine & Tutor in Medicine*

Sergi Pardos-Prado, MA (PhD EUI) *Associate Professor of Politics & Tutor in Politics, Principal of the Postmasters*

Bassel Tarbush, MPhil, DPhil *Tutor in Economics, Equality Adviser*

Craig MacLean, MA (BSc, PhD McGill) *Research Fellow in Biology*

Erban Radek, MA (Mgr RNDr Prague, PhD Minnesota) *Professor of Mathematics & Tutor in Mathematics*

Micah Muscolino, MA (AM PhD Harvard) *Jessica Rawson Fellow in Modern Asian History, Professor of Modern Chinese History & Tutor in History*

Eleanor-Jane Milner-Gulland, BA, MA (PhD ICL) *Tasso Leventis Professor of Biodiversity*

Susannah Katherine Orkin, MA, MPhil, DPhil (BSocSc Cape Town) *Peter J Braam Junior Research Fellow in Global Wellbeing*

William Bowers, MA, MSt (BA, PhD UCL) *Junior Research Fellow in English*

Helen Barron, (MA Camb) *Junior Research Fellow in Psychology*

John Samuel Christopher Eidinow, MA (Dip Law City Univ; Barrister Middle Temple) *Dean & Keeper of the Statutes & Bylaws*

Hugh Watkins, MD, PhD, FRP, FMedSci, FRS *Radcliffe Professor of Medicine*

Timothy John Lightfoot, MA (BSc Hons Brunel) *Domestic Bursar, Prevent Officer*

Lorna Hutson, MA, DPhil, FBA Merton *Professor of English Literature*

Ehud Hrushovski, (BA, PhD Berkeley) *Merton Professor of Mathematical Logic*

Matthew Kenneth Higgins, (BA (Hons), PhD Camb) *Associate Professor of Biochemistry Microorganisms & Tutor in Biochemistry, Research Convener*

Yegor Grebnev, DPhil (Masters Moscow State) *Junior Research Fellow in Oriental Studies*

Matthew Hosty, BA, MSt, DPhil *Junior Research Fellow in Classics*

Anthony Ashmore, MA, MPhys, PhD *Junior Research Fellow in Physics*

Duncan James Barker, MA, (PhD Durh) *Development Director*

Mark Williams, MA, MPhil, DPhil *Fitzjames Research Fellow in Medieval English Literature*

Evert van Emde Boas, MSt, DPhil (BA, MA Amsterdam) *Leventis Research Fellow in Ancient Greek*

Hatice Yildiz, DPhil (BA Yildiz, MA Koc) *Junior Research Fellow in History*

Carlas Sierd Smith, (BSc, MSc Delft; PhD Massachusetts) *Junior Research Fellow in Biology/ Engineering*

Isabel Garcia Garcia (MA Camb), *Junior Research Fellow in Physics*

Joshua Allan Firth, DPhil (BSc Sheff) *Junior Research Fellow in Zoology*

Matthew Thomson, BA, MSt, DPhil *Fitzjames Research Fellow in Music*

Madhavi Krishnan, (BTech Madras; MS, PhD Michigan) *Associate Professor in Physical & Theoretical Chemistry, Tutor in Chemistry*





## The following Fellow retired

James Jeffrey Binney, MA, DPhil (MA Camb) FRS *Professor of Physics*

## The following Fellows resigned

Jonathan William Thacker, MA (BA Lond; PhD Camb) *Professor of Spanish & Tutor in Spanish*

Emma Loftus, MPhil, D Phil (BSc Cape Town) *Junior Research Fellow in Archaeology*

## Emeritus Fellows

Courtenay Stanley Goss Phillips, MA, DSc

Robert Basil Champneys Hodgson, MA

Michael Simpson Dunnill, MA (MD Bris) FRCP, FRCPATH

John Randolph Lucas, MA, FBA

David Charles Witt, MA

Christopher John Hamilton Watson, MA, DPhil

John Carey, MA, DPhil, FBA, FRSL

Sir Robert McCredie May, Lord May of Oxford, OM, AC, MA (BSc, PhD Sydney) FRS

The Revd Mark Everitt, MA

Sir Gyorgy Karoly Radda, CBE, MA, DPhil, FRS

Dame Olwen Hufton, DBE, MA (BA, MA Harvard; PhD Lond) DLitt, FRHistS, FBA

David Bostock, BPhil, MA

Nicholas James Richardson, BPhil, MA, DPhil, FSA

John James Coulton, MA (MA, PhD Camb)

James Anthony Dominic Welsh, MA, DPhil

Michael George Bowler, MA (BSc, PhD Bris)

Henry Shue, (AB Davidson College; MA, PhD Princeton)

Vijay Ramchandra Joshi, MA

Philip John Waller, MA

Paul Francis John Chamberlain, MA (BA, MD Dublin) FRCS(C) FACOG

Guy Manning Goodwin, BM, BCh, MA, DPhil, FRCPsych, FMedSci

David Gordon Ellis Norbrook, MA, DPhil (MA Aberd)

Simon Wren-Lewis, (MA Camb; MSc Lond)

Robert Nigel Gildea, MA, DPhil, FRHistS, FBA

Boris Zilber, MA, (MSc, CandSc Novosibirsk; DSc Leningrad)

Douglas John Bamber, MA, MIH

Jane Christine Holmes Taylor, MA (BA Hons Bris)

James Jeffrey Binney, MA, DPhil (MA Camb) FRS

## Honorary Fellows

Sir John Boardman, MA (MA Camb) FBA, Hon RA, FSA

Sir Rex Edward Richards, MA, DPhil, DSc, FRS, FBA, FRSC, FRIC

Sir Christopher John Ball, MA, Hon DLitt (CNAA)

Lord Wright of Richmond, Patrick Richard Henry Wright, GCMG, MA

Sir Peter Hannay Bailey Tapsell, MA, MP

HIH Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan, Hon DCL

Sir Alec John Jeffreys, MA, DPhil (DUniv Open) FRC Path, FLS, FRS

Vassos Karageorghis, DLitt (PhD Lond) FSA, FBA

The Rt Hon Sir Jack Beatson, DCL (LLD Camb) FBA

Richard Charles Levin, LittB, Hon DCL (BA Stanford; PhD Yale)

William Peter Cooke, CBE, MA

Laszlo Istvan Heltay, MLitt (MA Budapest)

David Robert Holmes, BA Hons, MA, Hon DCL

Robert Owen Paxton, MA (PhD Harvard)



Sir Howard Stringer, MA

David Francis Kerr Finlay, OBE, CFA, CMG

Jonathan Alan Hodgkin, MA (MA, PhD Camb), FRS

The Rt Hon Sir Brian Henry Leveson, MA (LLD Liv)

Sir Howard John Davies, MA (MS Stanford)

Sir Charles Antony Richard Hoare, MA, FRS

Sir Anthony James Leggett, MA, DPhil, FRS

Sir Richard Hughes Trainor, MA, DPhil, FRHistS

The Rt Revd Nicholas Thomas Wright, MA, DPhil, DD

Sir Robert Andrew, MA, FRSA

Sir Jeremy Isaacs, MA, FRSA

Sir Ian Kershaw, DPhil, Hon DLitt, FRHistS, FBA

Martin Peter Read, CBE, DPhil

Mark John Thompson, BA, FRTS, FRSA

Adam John Hart-Davis, BA (DPhil York) FRSA

James Wyndham John Hughes-Hallett, BA, FCA

Sir Callum McCarthy, BA (PhD Stir; MS Stanford)

Guy Howard Weston, BA

Peter Warry, MA, (LLB Lond; PhD Rdg) FREng, FSA

Martha Piper, (BSc Michigan; MA Connecticut; PhD McGill) DSc (Hons), LLD (Hons)

Timothy Dewe Phillips, CBE, MA (AMP Harvard)

Christopher Martin Dobson, MA, DPhil, ScD, Hon DSc, FRS, FRSC, FMedSci

Julian Blackwell

Anastasios Leventis, CBE, OFR

Dame Jessica Mary Rawson, DBE, MA, DLitt, (MA, LittD, Camb) FBA

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, QPM

Lyndal Roper, (PhD Lond) FBA

Dana Scott, (PhD Princeton) FBA

Lord Williams of Oystermouth, PC, FBA, FRSL, FLSW

Erich Gruen, (BA Columbia; PhD Harvard)

The Rt Hon Dame Philippa Whipple, MA, DBE

Sir Gerry Grimstone, MA, MSC

Martin Ney, MA

Lady Hollick, OBE

## Bodley Fellows

Richard Bellerby Allan, MA, FCA

Alan John Bott, OBE, MA, FSA

Prosser Gifford, MA (BA, PhD Yale; LLB Harvard)

David Harvey, MA, DPhil

Reed Rubin, BA

Robert MacLaren, MB, ChB, DPhil, DipLATHE, FRCOPhth, FRCS, FMedSci

Robert Gould McKelvey, MA (BA Wesleyan)

Benjamin Nicholas, MA

Peter Phillips

Christopher Ramsey, MA, DPhil

David Ure, MA

Adrian Vickers, MA

## Supernumerary Fellows

Vincenzo Cerundolo, MA, MD, PhD, FRCPATH, FMedSci, FRS

Andrew John King, MA Status (BSc, PhD Lond) FMedSci, FPHYSIOL, FRS

Francis Platt, MA Status (BSc Lond; PhD Bath) FMedSci

Simon Draper, MBioch, DPhil

Kieran Clarke MA, (BSc Flinders, PhD Queensland)

Katherine Willis, MA (BSc S'ton; PhD Camb)

Michael Keith, BA, DPhil

Sunetra Gupta, MA (AB Princeton; PhD Lond)

Thomas Phillips, BA, MSt, DPhil

Anant Parekh, MA, DPhil, FMedSci

Nicholas Ryder, MA, DPhil (MSc Bris)

Hilary Greaves, MA (PhD Rutgers)

Andrea Cavalleri, (Laurea, PhD Pavia)

Nicole Zitzmann, MA (MSc, PhD Dundee) FSB

## Wyliot Fellows

Charles Manby, MA (MBA Insead)

John Booth, MA

Peter Braam, MA, DPhil (BSc, MSc Utrecht)

John Moussouris, MSc, DPhil (AB Harvard)

## Visiting Research Fellows

Professor Hans Othmer, University of Minnesota, Michaelmas Term 2017

Professor Robert Tampé, Goethe University, Michaelmas Term 2017

Dr Birgitta Eder, Österreichische akademie der Wissenschaften, Hilary Term 2018

Dr Markus Späth, Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen, Hilary Term 2018

Professor Michael Goldberg, Cornell University, Trinity Term 2018

Professor Paul Kovacs, University of Virginia, Trinity Term 2018

## Elections

*To a Professorial Fellowship with effect from 1 October 2018*

Professor Helen Small, MA (BA Hons Wellington; PhD Camb)

*To Junior Research Fellowships with effect from 1 October 2018*

Dr David Brantner, (BA (Hons) Camb, PhD Harvard)

Ms Lisandra Costiner, MSt (BA Harvard)



Dr Sebastian Vasquez Lopez, MSc (BSc (Hons) Newcastle)

Ms Elizabeth Stubbins Bates, BA, (LLM Harvard)

*To a Supernumerary Fellowship with effect from 1 October 2018*

Dr Susannah Katherine Orkin, MA, MPhil, DPhil (BSocSc Cape Town)

## Fellows' Honours and Appointments

**Professor Judith Armitage** was elected the next President of the Microbiology Society. She gave the annual 'Inspiration' lecture at the University of Bath, and was elected to the Council on Microbial Sciences of the American Society for Microbiology.

**Professor Andrew Cavalleri** won the 2018 Frank Isakson Prize for Optical Effects in Solids.

**Professor Vincenzo Cerundolo** was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

**Professor Robert Gildea's** book *Fighters in the Shadows: A New History of the French Resistance* (Faber & Faber, 2015; Harvard UP, 2015) won the 2017 Prix Philippe Viannay Défense de la France, which was awarded by the Fondation de la Résistance for the best book on the Resistance.

**Professor Veronique Gouverneur** gave the Dorothy Hodgkin Memorial Lecture, Somerville College, Oxford in March 2018, and chaired the 22nd International Symposium in Fluorine Chemistry, Oxford in July 2018. Veronique was also awarded the Jury Janssen Pharmaceutica Prize for Creativity in Organic Synthesis, and was elected a Member of the European Academy of Sciences (EURASC).

**Professor Sir Ian Kershaw** was awarded the Karlsmedaille/Médaille Charlemagne pour les Médias Européens 2018.

**Professor Andrew King** was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

**Professor Robert MacLaren** was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

**Professor EJ Milner-Gulland** was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. EJ was made a Trustee of WWF-UK in October 2017.

**Professor Peter Neary** was appointed Chair of the Business and Economics Panel for the 2020 Hong Kong Research Assessment Exercise.

**Mr Benjamin Nicholas** was appointed Conductor of the Oxford Bach Choir.

**Professor Béla Novák** was the keynote speaker at 2017 the International Conference on Systems Biology in Virginia, USA.

**Professor David Paterson** was awarded the 2018 Carl Ludwig Distinguished Lectureship by the American Physiological Society (APS). He was also elected Fellow of The Physiological Society.

**Professor Jennifer Payne** was appointed a Research Member of the European Corporate Governance Institute.

**Dr Jonathan Prag** was Visiting Professor at University of Messina, July 2017. He held the 2017-18 Knowledge Exchange Fellowship awarded by TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities), University of Oxford.

**Professor Jessica Rawson** gave the Luojia lecture at Wuan University on 6 June 2018.

**Professor Chris Rogers** has been appointed as the Head of 7T MRI Physics at the University of Cambridge. His group won a Magna Cum Laude and a Summa Cum Laude merit award at the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM).

**Professor Alexander Schekochihin** was appointed Simons Visiting Professor at Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen (for autumn 2018).

**Professor Alexander Scott** was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship (2017-19).

**Professor Henry Shue** gave the 23rd John Dewey Lecture in Law and Philosophy at University of Chicago Law School on 8 November 2017: 'Gambling with their

climate: future generations, negative emissions, and risk transfers'. He also delivered the James A Moffett '29 Lecture in Ethics at Princeton University on 9 November 2017, entitled 'Climate surprises: pivotal generations and risk transfer'.

**Professor Tim Softley** was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

**Professor Ulrike Tillmann** took up an appointment as Vice-President of the Royal Society.

**Dr Julia Walworth** gave the 2018 Charles Holden Lecture at the University of London Senate House.

**Sir Andrew Wiles** has been appointed by Her Majesty the Queen to be Oxford's first Regius Professor of Mathematics.

**Professor Katherine Willis** has been elected as Principal of St Edmund Hall, Oxford. She will take up the position on 1 October 2018.





# New Students 2017

## Undergraduates

### Ancient and Modern History

Ms E Sharman

### Biochemistry

Mr D Adlard, Ms A McQueen,  
Ms E R Seftel, Ms E Tasker

### Biological Sciences

Mr A Fanner Brzezina, Ms  
H Grassi, Ms N King, Mr J J  
Sweeney

### Chemistry

Mr E Alisauskas, Ms K A  
Fielding, Mr P Namnouad, Mr F  
Nightingale, Ms S N Y Owusu-  
Addo, Ms X Zhang

### Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Mr F P Hoekstra

### Classics and Modern Languages

Ms A F A Coleman

### Classics

Ms S E Bennett, Ms R Miller, Ms  
E Pope, Mr R W Willett

### Economics and Management

Mr T S Clarke, Ms O E A Disun-  
Odebo, Ms F Hu

### English

Ms E C Donachie, Ms C  
Horsfall, Ms G Shaughnessy,  
Ms V Stuart, Ms P Webber, Mr  
F S S Wilson

### English and Modern Languages

Ms E Coomber

### History

Ms E D Ball, Ms V A  
Desselberger, Mr B Hartnell-  
Booth, Mr W Howie, Mr R J  
Lentz, Mr T V C F Nightingale,  
Mr J Phillips, Ms J A Sheridan,  
Ms H K Smith, Mr H A Venters

### History and English

Ms C Buchuck-Wilsenach

### History and Modern Languages

Mr E R Turner-Fussell

### History and Politics

Ms E L Capstick

### Law (Jurisprudence)

Ms R K Bhatt, Ms S E Bruce-  
Smith, Mr A Burbie, Mr S Gibbs,  
Ms T I Janssen, Mr L McKenna

### Mathematics

Ms M M De Carvalho Barreto  
Soares Da Silva, Ms H Z  
Glattfelder, Ms A C Manning,  
Mr M Ortiz Ramirez, Ms X  
Ouyang, Mr W R Whitehouse,  
Mr R Yao

### Mathematics and Computer Science

Ms M N Craciun, Mr D Y Kim

### Mathematics and Philosophy

Mr T Yeh

### Medicine

Mr M Brugger, Ms C I Fields, Ms  
K Gadsby, Mr V Himic, Ms M L  
Tamblyn

### Modern Languages

Mr F Cheatle, Mr B S Gowers,  
Ms E Haughton, Ms B A  
McCullagh

### Music

Ms L Gibbs, Mr W Thomson

### Philosophy and Modern Languages

Ms J K E Barker

### Physics

Mr R D Chatterjee, Ms Z Dai,  
Mr O V Maatta, Mr R Mahmud,  
Mr R W McDonald, Mr D M  
Testa

### PPE

Mr S Chen, Mr D Z Gutt, Mr  
L Hart, Mr Z H Lieu, Mr C B  
Sheehan, Mr F S Tokarski, Mr  
C H Wong

### Visiting Student (Mathematics and Computer Science)

Ms A Schreuder



## Graduates

### BCL

Mr M H Abdul Rahim, Merton, Oxford, Ms T Chan, Merton College, Oxford/Hong Kong, Mr C Franceschino, Worcester College, Oxford, Miss N Koh, Queen's College, Oxford, Miss K C Ratcliffe, Merton College, Oxford, Mr C J A Stackpoole, Queensland University of Technology, Mr D J Xu, National University of Singapore

### 2nd BM

Mr R Bendix-Hickman, Merton College, Oxford, Mr T I Fordwoh, Merton College, Oxford, Mr A D C Mafi, Merton College, Oxford, Mr E D McNelis, Merton College, Oxford, Mr T J Whitehead, Merton College, Oxford

### BPhil

Mr X S Liu, New York

### Diploma in Legal Studies

Ms H Gavrilov

### DPhil

Mr M Abazorius, Merton College, Oxford, Mr K Afratis, Thessaloniki/Patras, Mr K A Beyer, Dusseldorf/Merton College, Oxford, Miss L C Chandler, Bath, Miss Z Chen, Merton College, Oxford, Miss H R Craske, Merton College, Oxford, Mr D Da Silva Candido, Federal University of Ceara, Mr L Eigel, Cologne/Tubingen/Somerville College, Oxford, Mr C Q Eijsbouts, Leiden/Utrecht/Homerton, Cambridge, Mr D H Felce, Merton College, Oxford, Ms A A H Fergen, Utrecht/Columbia/LSE, Miss M Frainier, McGill/St John's College, Cambridge, Dr L E Fry, Monash, Mr S F Gerard, ENS Chimie de Montpellier, Ms C E Groenland, Amsterdam/Cambridge, Miss K F Gurnos-Davies, Leicester/Merton College, Oxford, Mr T W Harrison, St John's College, Oxford, Dr H Hashimoto, Prague/Somerville College, Oxford, Dr R Hurford, Nottingham/UCL, Ms J K

Jolly, Manchester, Mr J Kempton, Merton College, Oxford, Ms A Krishan, Knox, Illinois, Miss F Lazzarini, Turin, Mr T H M Liao, National University of Singapore/St Peter's College, Oxford/Merton College, Oxford, Mr E H P Lock, Oriel College, Oxford/Hagen/Merton College, Oxford, Mr G P Lovisotto, Padova, Mr R C Manning, Merton College, Oxford/Courthauld Institute, Mr A J Mariani, Illinois State/Oregon, Mr D L Matheau-Raven, Nottingham, Mr T W J Mattinson, Merton College, Oxford, Ms L McElwee, Stanford/Merton College, Oxford, Mr T O McLean, Victoria, Mr G P Milani, Rome, Mr C J A Ohman, Uppsala/Merton College, Oxford, Mr A Payne, Queens' College, Cambridge/Merton College, Oxford, Mr A S Peplow, Merton College, Oxford, Ms R Ramsden-Karelse, York, Miss G P Roagna, Turin, Mr B M Schneider, Cornell/Merton College, Oxford, Miss A L Southgate, Hillsdale/Merton College, Oxford, Mr S M Turton, Witwatersand and Johannesburg/St Cross College, Oxford, Mr A C Von Boetticher, ETH/Cambridge, Mr G Wagner, Merton College, Oxford, Mr J Wei, Beijing/Birmingham, Mr R Wölker, Manchester, Mr I H Yusuf, Manchester/Oxford, Mr Y Zhang, Nankai/Cambridge, Miss C Zheng, ENSCR Rennes

### EMBA

Mr P Gul, Institute of Management Sciences, Pakistan, Mr R Sutton, South Bank

### MBA

Mr E F Buntoro, Washington, St Louis, Miss E A Petrizzi, Oregon, Mr Y H Tai, Manchester, Miss C Wang, St John's, New York, Miss Y Wang, Nanyang Technological University

### MPhil

Ms S I Berquist Knutsson, Yale, Mr D

Dyonisius, Toronto, Mr H J Gosling, Merton College, Oxford, Ms R M McCririck, Queensland, Mr T Prins, Merton College, Oxford, Mr G W Scott, Merton College, Oxford, Miss T J Van Benthem, Sofia St Kliment/Merton College, Oxford, Mr B M Zhao, Shandong/Penn State/Merton College, Oxford

### MSc

Mr K Bomba, Swarthmore/LSE, Mr E H P Fristed, Aarhus, Mr Q Huang, Tsinghua/St Anthony's College, Oxford, Mr J S Johnson, West Point/Missouri, Mr G M Nevins-Archer, NYU Tanson, Mr L Schepers, Utrecht, Mr A W L Wohns (by research), Harvard/Cambridge, Miss X Wu, China University of Political Science and Law

### MSt

Mr I Apostolou, Thessaloniki, Miss H Y Chu, UCL, Miss M A Clark, Merton College, Oxford, Miss M A Crozier, Nottingham, Miss Z M Ibbetson, King's College, London, Mr D A M Jackson, Merton College, Oxford, Miss I R O Morris, Merton College, Oxford, Mr O Ogunnaike, Harvard, Miss T W Rasmussen, Copenhagen, Miss R C Rhodes-Spencer, King's College, London, Miss J E Southon, Royal Holloway, Miss R A Sykes, Merton College, Oxford, Miss C R Thompson, Royal College of Music, Mx Y Zhuang, Chicago

### Visiting Student

Mr N Frery, Ms J Friske





# Undergraduate Leavers 2018

## Ancient and Modern History

Ms B Brand, Ms N Nguyen

## Biological Sciences

Mr V Ajuwon, Mr J Beckwith,  
Mr O Hull, Ms K L Sun

## Chemistry

Ms E Atkinson, Mr N Chekshin,  
Ms K Hopgood, Mr W Liew, Mr  
G Prescott

## Classics (Literae Humaniores) I

Ms A Elwin

## Computer Science (4)

Mr H Hristov

## Economics and Management

Mr O Howe, Mr M A Lawson,  
Mr T Lousada, Mr P A Sears

## English

Ms A Coen, Ms J Cormack, Ms  
B Hughes, Ms A C Powell

## English and Modern Languages (4)

Ms B McNulty (Spanish), Ms  
L O'Driscoll (French), Ms K  
Wingate (French)

## European and Middle Eastern Languages (4)

Mr N Trapp (Russian & Arabic)

## History

Mr H Brewer, Ms R Cawthray  
Stern, Ms S Duffy, Ms A Gatrell,  
Mr B Gilinsky, Mr M Hancock,  
Ms C Leung, Mr A Piggot, Ms  
J Smith, Mr T Thorne, Mr G  
Walker, Mr C Worthington

## History and Modern Languages (4)

Ms S Vaz Pinto Simoes Coelho  
(Russian)

## History and Politics

Ms A Valmas

## Law (Jurisprudence)

Ms I Burtea, Ms M Delahunty-  
Light, Ms Z Harrison, Ms N Hart,  
Mr E Langley, Ms A Walker

## Law with German Law (4)

Ms A J Williams

## Law with Spanish Law (4)

Mr M A Withers

## Mathematics (3)

Mr H Dagainawalla, Ms V  
Gladkova, Mr T Goodey

## Mathematics (4)

Mr S Banks, Ms E Flicos

## Mathematics and Computer Science (4)

Ms A Iorga

## Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (4)

Mr T Adkins, Mr D Hosking, Mr  
E McCulloch

## Medical Sciences

Ms H Bacon, Ms A Gooda, Ms  
G Loncarevic Whitaker, Mr C  
Short, Ms K-A Wilson

## Modern Languages (4)

Ms N Gibbs (French &  
Beginners' Russian), Ms J Paek  
(Spanish & Beginners' Russian),  
Ms O Williams (French &  
Beginners' Portuguese)

## Modern Languages and Linguistics (4)

Ms O Whittaker (Spanish)

## Music

Mr F Crowley, Mr A Little, Ms  
P Pexton

## Philosophy and Modern Languages (4)

Mr A Eperon (Italian)

## PPE

Mr T Clifford, Ms K Mitchell, Mr  
M Naylor, Mr N Ridpath, Mr D J  
Snow, Mr C Tang

## Physics (4)

Mr C Rich, Mr R Stemmons, Mr  
J A White

## Visiting Student

Ms A Schreuder (Mathematics  
and Computer Science)



# Undergraduate Results, Awards and Prizes 2017-18

All academic results, awards and prizes are correct as of 24 August 2018.

	Entry	1st	2.1	2.2	3rd	Pass
Final Honours School	74	36	36	2	0	0

	Entry	Distinction/1st	Pass/2nd
First Public Exam	80	27	48

## Awards and Promotions

The following award-holders had their awards renewed at the beginning of the academic year:

### Exhibitioner for a third year:

Mr N Chekshin (Chemistry)  
Mr H Hristov (Computer Science)  
Mr K Nizinski (Mathematics and Computer Science)  
Mr E White (Law)

### Exhibitioner for a second year:

Mr R Adair (Chemistry)  
Mr S Banks (Mathematics)

Mr H Brewer (History)  
Ms E Chafer (Law)  
Mr C Collins Rice (Chemistry)  
Mr F Crowley (Music)  
Mr A Dixon (Law)  
Mr M Ismail (Law)  
Mr A Little (Music)  
Ms M Mackay (Classics)  
Ms T Morton (Classics)  
Mr M Naylor (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics)  
Mr N Ridpath (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics)

### Postmaster for a second year:

Mr T Adkins (Physics)  
Ms E Atkinson (Chemistry)  
Mr D Hosking (Physics)  
Mr A Liew (Chemistry)  
Mr E McCulloch (Physics)  
Mr G Prescott (Chemistry)  
Mr C Rich (Physics)  
Mr T Thorne (History)  
Ms A Williams (Law with Law Studies in Europe)



## The following promotions were approved during the year:

### To Exhibitioner:

Mr J Allsopp (History)  
 Mr R Avadanutei (Chemistry)  
 Ms R Bhatt (Law)  
 Ms L Buckingham (Mathematics)  
 Mr A Burbie (Law)  
 Mr J Chalaby (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr T H Chau (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Ms V Chee (Law)  
 Mr T Clifford (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Ms J Cormack (English)  
 Mr M Cuius (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr F Dernie (Medicine)  
 Mr S Dows-Miller (Modern Languages and Linguistics)  
 Ms C Felce (Physics)  
 Mr T Featherstonhaugh (Music)  
 Ms G Fooks (Modern Languages)  
 Mr W Gruchot (Chemistry)  
 Ms Z Harrison (Law)  
 Ms A Hawksley-Walker (Music)  
 Mr L Holmes (Mathematics)  
 Ms M Husain (English and Modern Languages)  
 Ms P Jagers (Biology)  
 Ms I Janssen (Law)  
 Ms V Karpinnen (Economics and Management)  
 Ms M Khalil (English)  
 Mr A Lalouschek (History)  
 Ms E Le Maistre (Modern Languages and Linguistics)  
 Mr C McGarry (Mathematics)  
 Mr T Miller (Biology)  
 Ms K Mitchell (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr J Morford (Biology)  
 Mr S Moriarty (English)  
 Mr P Naylor (English)  
 Mr A Ovsianas (Mathematics and Computer Science)  
 Mr O Paulin (Physics)  
 Ms P Pexton (Music)  
 Mr A Prabaker (Economics and Management)  
 Mr D Price (Music)  
 Mr J Robertson (Physics)  
 Mr J Shailer (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Ms O Shiels (Chemistry)  
 Ms J Stadlmann (Mathematics)  
 Ms S Townsend (English)  
 Ms Y Wei (Chemistry)  
 Mr M Withers (Law)  
 Ms L Woodland (Physics)

### To Postmaster:

Mr V Ajuwon (Biology)  
 Mr M Bannatyne (Modern Languages)  
 Mr J Beckwith (Biology)  
 Mr H Daginawalla (Mathematics)  
 Ms J Dingwall (Mathematics)  
 Mr I El-Gaby (Medicine)  
 Ms A Ganciulescu (Computer Science)  
 Ms N Gibbs (Modern Languages)  
 Ms V Gladkova (Mathematics)  
 Mr T Goodey (Mathematics)  
 Ms N Herrett (Law)  
 Mr M Ismail (Law)  
 Ms K Jaroszewicz (Modern Languages)  
 Mr A Kenyon-Roberts (Mathematics & Computer Science)  
 Mr M Kovacs-Deak (Mathematics & Computer Science)  
 Mr M Lawson (Economics and Management)  
 Mr Z Li (Physics)  
 Mr Z Lim (Chemistry)  
 Ms G Loncarevic Whitaker (Medicine)  
 Mr T Lousada (Economics and Management)  
 Ms F Lovell-Read (Mathematics)  
 Ms N Nguyen (Ancient and Modern History)  
 Mr A Piggott (History)  
 Mr M Plummer (Physics)  
 Mr J Pruchyathamkorn (Chemistry)  
 Mr U Ristivojevic (Physics)  
 Mr P Sears (Economics and Management)  
 Mr C Short (Medicine)  
 Mr D Snow (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr D Tang (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)  
 Mr N Trapp (European and Middle Eastern Languages)  
 Ms S Vaz Pinto Simoes Coelho (History and Modern Languages)  
 Mr G Wang (Mathematics & Computer Science)  
 Ms O Williams (Modern Languages)  
 Mr C Worthington (History)

There were in all 44 Postmasters and 66 Exhibitioners at the end of the year.





## College Prizes

Members of the College who had achieved First Class in Schools or Mods, or Distinctions in Prelims, Law Moderations or the First BM, were given College book prizes in accordance with College Bylaw 87. Members of the College who had been awarded University prizes were given College book prizes in accordance with the same Bylaw. The number of prizes awarded is given in brackets.

### **Fowler Prizes for good work in Collections were awarded to:**

Georgia Acton (2)  
Daniel Adeyoku (2)  
Edvinas Alisauskas (2)  
Jack Allsopp (2)  
Richard Avadanutei (1)  
Julius-Konstantin Backhaus (1)  
Emma Ball (2)  
Jack Beckwith (1)  
Sarah Bennett (2)  
Emily Capstick (1)  
Adam Carter (1)  
Eleanor Chafer (1)  
James Chalaby (1)  
Richard Chatterjee (1)  
Tak-Huen Chau (3)  
Valerie Chee (1)  
Sunny Chen (1)  
Amalie Coleman (1)  
Clement Collins Rice (2)  
Eleanor Coomber (3)  
Maria Cracium (1)  
Minhea Cuibus (2)  
Matilde Da Silva (1)  
Maeve Dai (2)  
Francesco Dernie (2)  
Jules Desai (1)  
Alice Desquens (1)  
Andrew Dixon (1)  
Roshan Dodhia (1)  
Ibrahim El-Gaby (2)  
Andrzej Fanner-Brzezina (1)  
Thomas Fetherstonhaugh (2)  
Charlotte Fields (1)  
Dafydd Foster Davies (1)  
Katrina Gadsby (2)  
Natasha Gibbs (2)  
Baruch Gilinsky (1)

Benjamin Gowers (1)  
Hermione Grassi (2)  
Henry Grub (1)  
Wojciech Gruchot (2)  
Dylan Gutt (2)  
Zoe Harrison (3)  
Elsa Houghton (2)  
Athena Hawksley-Walker (2)  
Niamh Herrett (2)  
Vratko Himic (3)  
Catherine Horsfall (2)  
Oliver Howe (2)  
Oliver Hull (1)  
Abdikaliq Ige (2)  
Ameer Ismail (3)  
Paris Jagers (1)  
Anuja Jaiswal (1)  
Venla Karppinen (2)  
Malak Khalil (1)  
Edward Langley (1)  
Charlotte Leung (1)  
Zheng Hong Lieu (3)  
Zhong Hui Lim (2)  
Alex Little (1)  
Thomas Lousada (2)  
Oskar Maatta (1)  
Miranda Mackay (1)  
Rayhan Mahmud (1)  
Beth McCullagh (3)  
Ross McDonald (2)  
Christopher McGarry (1)  
Jack McIntyre (2)  
Bridget McNulty (1)  
Anna McQueen (1)  
Hope Middleton (1)  
Thomas Miller (1)  
Rosanna Miller (2)  
Kirsty Mitchell (2)  
Joe Moroford (1)



Tamsin Morton (2)  
 Phitawat Namnouad (2)  
 Joshua Navarajasegaran (1)  
 Patrick Naylor (1)  
 Matthew Naylor (1)  
 Natalie Nguyen (1)  
 Frank Nightingale (2)  
 Thomas Nightingale (1)  
 Martin Ortiz Ramirez (2)  
 Victoria Ouyang (1)  
 Oliver Paulin (1)  
 Phoebe Pexton (1)  
 Alexander Piggot (1)  
 Max Plummer (1)  
 Ashvin Prabaker (1)  
 Dylan Price (2)  
 Jiratheep Pruchyathamkorn (2)  
 Lucienne Pullen (1)  
 Nick Ridpath (1)  
 Uros Ristivojevic (1)  
 Jacob Robertson (2)  
 Julia Routledge (1)  
 Anne Schreuder (2)  
 Philip Sears (3)  
 Joseph Shailer (1)  
 Conor Sheehan (1)  
 Jessica Sheridan (1)  
 Olivia Shiels (1)  
 Hannah Smith (1)  
 Daniel Snow (3)  
 Julia Stadlmann (2)  
 Oliver Stratton (1)  
 Verity Stuart (2)  
 Kai Lin Sun (1)  
 Morwenna Tamblyn (1)  
 Darryl Tang (1)  
 William Thomson (1)  
 Thomas Thorne (1)  
 Nicholas Trapp (1)  
 Edward Turner-Fussell (1)  
 Alice Walker (1)  
 George Walker (1)  
 Maryam Watson (1)  
 Phoebe Webber (1)  
 Lisa Wei (1)  
 Yujing Wei (1)  
 William Whitehouse (2)  
 Olivia Whittaker (1)

Anna Williams (3)  
 Olivia Williams (2)  
 Rowan Wilson (2)  
 Michael Withers (2)  
 Leo Wong (3)  
 Leonie Woodland (2)  
 Charlie Worthington (2)  
 Issac Yao (1)  
 Ton Yeh (1)  
 Xiyu Zhang (1)  
 Julia Zlotkowska (2)

*NB: In terms where two small prizes were awarded separately due to a delay in receiving marks these have been counted as one large prize.*

#### **Other College prizes were awarded as follows:**

Miss R Bhatt, F.E. Smith Memorial Mooting Prize (runner-up)  
 Miss B Brand, Conrad Russell Prize in History  
 Mr A Eperon, Undergraduate Essay Competition (proxime)  
 Miss V Gladkova, Dominic Welsh Essay Prize  
 Mr D Gutt, Sam McNaughton Prize in Philosophy in PPE Prelims (Joint)  
 Miss N Herrett, Allen & Overy Prize for most promising second-year Law student  
 Miss N Herrett, Slaughter & May Second Year Moot Competition (winner)  
 Miss I Janssen, Norton Rose Prize for best Moderations marks of a Merton Law student  
 Mr R Lentz, Undergraduate Essay Competition (winner)  
 Mr Z Lieu, Sam McNaughton Prize in Philosophy in PPE Prelims (Joint)  
 Mr Z H Lim, Phillips Prize for best performance in Chemistry Parts IA and IB  
 Mr L McKenna, F.E. Smith Memorial Mooting Prize (winner)  
 Mr J Morford, Wilder Penfield Prize in Medicine and Biology (Joint)  
 Miss N Nguyen, Professor W.M. Edwards Prize in Classics (joint)

Mr F Nightingale, Phillips Prize for best performance in Chemistry Prelims  
 Miss J Routledge, Undergraduate Essay Competition (winner)  
 Mr C Short, Wilder Penfield Prize in Medicine & Biology (Joint)  
 Mr C Short, William Harvey Prize for Clinical Anatomy

#### **University Prizes were awarded as follows:**

Miss G Acton, Commendation for Practical Work in Physics Part A  
 Miss E Capstick, Proxime Gibbs Prize  
 Mr F Cheatile, Gibbs Prize  
 Mr F Crowley, Gibbs Prize  
 Miss J Dingwall, IMA Prize  
 Mr A Fanner Brzezina, Prelim Prize for Ecology  
 Miss H Grassi, Prelim Prize for Organisms  
 Mr A Kenyon-Roberts, Prize for Outstanding Performance in Part B  
 Mr Z Lieu, First Year Political Analysis Essay Prize  
 Mr A Liew, Organic Chemistry and Chemical Biology Part II Thesis Prize  
 Mr Z H Lim, Book Prize in Chemistry  
 Mr F Nightingale, Turbutt Prize  
 Mr J Pruchyakamthorn, Gibbs Prize for Outstanding Performance in Physical Chemistry  
 Mr J White, Met Office Academic Partnership Prize for an MPhys Project in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics  
 Miss O Williams, Philippa of Lancaster Portuguese Prize  
 Mx F Wilson, Mrs Claude Beddington Prize  
 Mx F Wilson, Gibbs Prize  
 Mr M Withers, Faculty Prize for Copyright, Trade Mark and Allied Rights  
 Mr M Withers, Littleton Chambers Prize in Labour Law  
 Mr C Worthington, Gibbs Prize





# Graduate Leavers 2017-18

## DPhil

Mr T S Allendorf (Classics), Ms H Al-Siddiqi (Medical Sciences), Ms J Binnberg (Classical Archaeology), Mrs K F Breglio (Biomedical Sciences), Mr J B Bruce (Zoology), Dr T J Cahill (Biomedical Sciences), Mr K-H Cheung (Computer Science), Mr J Domanski (Biochemistry), Mrs M C Engel (Theoretical Physics), Mr R D Fern (Theoretical Physics), Miss T A Fernandez Aguilar (Statistics), Ms F A Franchini (Clinical Medicine), Mr M R Geldof (History), Mr J B Gewirtz (History), Ms A J Hammond-Kenny (Medical Sciences), Mr H J N Hannemann (Zoology), Mr D P J Harper (Mathematics), Dr M M Hassall (Clinical Neurosciences), Ms S C Hill (Medical Sciences), Dr E J Hodson (Biomedical Sciences), Ms R Holmes Duffy (Medieval and Modern Languages), Ms C J Huang (Medical Sciences), Dr A Ianni (Biomedical Sciences), Ms S Kikkert (Clinical Neurosciences), Mr P T Kleinert (Theoretical Physics), Ms J M Kourniakti (Medieval and Modern Languages), Mr C M Lilyblad (International Development), Mr J Lim (Mathematics), Mr J P S M Lima (Experimental Psychology), Ms C A M Marshall (Plant Sciences), Mr G J McSweeney (Organic Chemistry), Ms N Morrison (Mathematics), Ms R Patel (Biochemistry), Ms M P Quinlan (Music), Mr V Rajpaul (Astrophysics), Mr I R Ramirez (Condensed Matter Physics), Ms X Shen (Interdisciplinary Biosciences), Mrs R S Springer (History), Mr C Thornton (Particle Physics), Mr S D Wilkins (Politics), Mr S R Wood (Clinical Neurosciences)

*In addition, two further DPhil students are migrating to Hertford College to take up a scholarship:*

Mr H Frost, Dr L Krone

## BPhil

Mr M Bruckner

## MBA

2016-17

Mr A Becker, Mr J E Cushnie, Mr S H Lee

## EMBA

Mr M J Brooke

## MPhil

Ms J L Maly-Preuss (Classics - Distinction), Mr J W W Ngia (Economics - Distinction)

## MSc

2016-17

Mr W W Bumpas (Social Science of the Internet), Ms D I Doering (Sociology), Mr E H P Lock (Mathematics and Foundations of Computer Science), Ms L McElwee (Social Science of the Internet), Mr C C Quang (Major Programme Management - Distinction), Mr C J Stavig (Major Programme Management - Distinction)

2017-18

Mr Q Huang (Area Studies), Mr L Schepers (Mathematical and Theoretical Physics)

## MSt

Mr I Apostolou (Classical Archaeology - Distinction), Ms H Y Chu (Classical Archaeology), Ms M A Clark (English), Ms M A Crozier (Modern Languages), Mr D A M Jackson (History), Ms I R O Morris (English - Distinction), Mr O Ogunnaike (Philosophy of Physics), Ms T W Rasmussen (Archaeology), Ms R C Rhodes-Spencer (Modern Languages), Ms J E Southon (Music), Ms C R Thompson (Music), Mx Y Zhuang (English)

## 2nd BM

Dr K Al-Hourani, Ms N S Cockrill, Mr J P O'Sullivan, Ms O Rosenior-Patten, Ms T R Shepherd, Mr D J R Shepherd

## BCL

Mr A M Abdul Rahim (Distinction), Ms T Chan (Distinction), Mr C Franceschino, Ms N Koh, Ms K C Ratcliffe, Mr C J A Stackpoole (Distinction), Mr D J Xu (Distinction)

## Diploma in Legal Studies

Ms H Gavrilov

## Visiting Student

Mr N Frery, Ms J Friske





## Graduate Results, Awards and Prizes 2017-18

All academic results, awards and prizes are correct as of 24 August 2018

	Entry	Distinction	Pass
Taught Course Results	33	9	24

### College Prizes were awarded as follows:

Ms A Fergen, Rajiv Kapur Prize for graduate research in History

Mr B Schneider, Dacre Trust Award for graduate research in History

Ms R Springer, Dacre Trust Award for graduate research in History

### University Prizes were awarded as follows:

Dr K Al-Hourani, Sidney Truelove Prize in Gastroenterology

Ms N Koh, Ralph Chiles Prize in Comparative Human Rights

Ms F Lazzerini, Chancellor's Latin Prose Prize (Proxime)

Mr C Stackpoole, Clifford Change Prize in Principles of Civil Procedure

Mr C Stackpoole, Vinerien Scholarship for Best Performance in the BCL

Mr D Xu, Peter Birks Prize in Restitution of Unjust Enrichment



# College Staff

Name	Appointment	First Appointed	Name	Appointment	First Appointed
Mr MD Jeffs	Surveyor	12/2/1979	Mr D Brown	Second Chef	2/1/2007
Miss JM Durkin	Housekeeper	2/6/1986	Mr M Furse	Senior Gardener	2/1/2007
Mr RJ Wiggins	Decorator	16/3/1987	Mrs G Norridge	Payroll/Personnel Administrator	25/6/2007
Mrs LS Walsh	Sub-Warden's Secretary	16/11/1987	Miss N Harrison	Estates Administrator	23/7/2007
Mr JS Lisle	Groundsman	17/10/1988	Mr P Macallister	Chef de Partie	22/10/2007
Mr JP McVeigh	Quadman/Storeman	15/10/1990	Mrs K Adamczyk	Housekeeping Supervisor	1/11/2007
Mrs J Gerhardi	Graduate Officer	2/1/1991	Ms ST Hague	Head of Conference & Accommodation	2/2/2009
Mrs C Hume	Chef de Partie	1/8/1996	Mr I Knight	Accommodation & Conference Porter	13/7/2009
Mrs NK Lisle	Pavilion Catering Assistant	1/10/1996	Mrs I Ochylska	Cleaner	1/12/2009
Mr JE Tomkins	Assistant Groundsman	11/8/1997	Mr I R Walker	Lodge Porter	19/7/2010
Mrs SA Allen	Hall Assistant	7/7/1998	Miss H Bednarczyk	Team Lead Lodge Porter	4/1/2011
Mrs LJ Pullen	Scout	19/10/1998	Mrs R da Silva	Cleaner	11/1/2011
Mr M Wender	Head Chef	20/9/1999	Miss G Hanson	Gardener	28/3/2011
Mrs CL Turner	Cleaner	27/3/2000	Mr S Bowdery	Senior IT Operations Officer	1/4/2011
Mrs L Rankin	Assistant Warden's Secretary	3/10/2000	Mr M Weavers	Lodge Porter	9/8/2011
Mrs N S Mahmood	Cleaner	23/4/2001	Mr T Cortes Rodrigues	Cleaner	31/10/2011
Mrs MN Harris	Bursary Clerk	16/5/2001	Mrs S Rai	Cleaner	31/10/2011
Mr DN Haines	Kitchen Porter	20/8/2001	Mrs J Rusaitiene	Cleaner	16/1/2012
Miss SL Bird	Chef de Partie	8/10/2001	Miss M Kowalska	Cleaner	30/1/2012
Miss L Reveley	Fees and Bursary Clerk	11/2/2002	Mr D Sadzewicz	Chef de Partie	20/2/2012
Mrs C Lewis	Project Librarian	7/5/2002	Mr S Cope	Web & Media Officer	3/12/2012
Mr CD Joyce	Kitchen Porter	29/7/2002	Mr B J Wolstenholme	Lodge Porter	23/9/2013
Miss L Savin	Head Gardener	7/10/2002	Ms L E Stead	Verger	23/9/2013
Mr J A Reid	Archivist	2/12/2002	Miss J I Dziadosz	Hall Steward	27/1/2014
Mr CE Shackell	Accountant	20/1/2003	Mrs S Lawino	Cleaner	10/3/2014
Miss L Lawrence	Warden's Secretary	1/9/2003	Miss M Zakuszevska	Cleaner	10/3/2014
Mr C Bridgman	Third Chef	29/9/2003	Mr W Wahid	Accounts Assistant	22/4/2014
Miss J Baker	Cleaner	2/1/2004			
Mrs H D'Arcy	Cleaner	13/4/2004			
Mrs M Skalik	Steward	10/8/2005			
Mr J Pawlowski	Lodge Porter	24/10/2005			



Name	Appointment	First Appointed	Name	Appointment	First Appointed
Miss M Lasota	SCR & Hall Assistant	1/10/2014	Ms C De Souza Lima	SCR & Hall Assistant	14/08/2017
Mrs G Pal	Cleaner	3/11/2014	Mx A Ploin	Academic Officer	30/08/2017
Mrs F Lawrence	HR Manager	2/12/2014	Ms S Cotterill	Chapel Administrator	12/09/2017
Mrs S Hoverd	Chef de Partie	23/5/2015	Mrs F Raimo	Student Support Administrator	25/09/2017
Miss S Hagger	Admissions Officer	11/8/2015	Miss P Martin Montalvo	SCR & Hall Assistant	28/09/2017
Miss N Lane	Lodge Porter	19/8/2015	Ms C Long	Executive PA	02/10/2017
Mr N Hall	Bar Manager	21/9/2015	Mrs J Cullen	Estates Secretary	30/10/2017
Miss I Siwczak	SCR & Hall Supervisor	27/10/2015	Mr E Tesfalem	Servery Assistant	16/11/2017
Mr R Jachtoma	Cleaner	1/6/2016	Mr C Pidgeon	Academic Office Assistant	11/12/2017
Ms M Krupova	Cleaner	1/6/2016	Mr P O'Keefe	Servery Assistant	27/11/2017
Mrs M Serhej	Cleaner	6/6/2016	Ms V Parkinson	Senior Library Assistant	03/01/2018
Miss H Smedley	Bursary Clerk	4/7/2016	Miss R Johnston	Library Assistant	08/01/2018
Miss B Robinson	Academic Office Assistant	5/9/2016	Mr M Martinov	Deputy Development Director	19/02/2018
Ms J Bahola	SCR & Hall Assistant	7/11/2016	Ms H Campbell Longley	Senior Library Assistant	26/02/2018
Mrs S Camino Carrera	Cleaner	1/12/2016	Mr J Vickers	Development Operations & Data Manager	05/03/2018
Ms A Gal	Cleaner	1/12/2016	Mr J Bennett	Development Officer	28/03/2018
Miss T Cooper	Lodge Porter	19/12/2016	Miss M Dziadosz	SCR & Hall Assistant	03/04/2018
Miss C Chisholm	Alumni Relations Officer	9/1/2017	Miss A Nowakowska	SCR & Hall Assistant	06/04/2018
Dr K Fifield	Academic Registrar	1/3/2017	Mrs A Ostoja -Starzewska	Butler	16/04/2018
Miss S Boal	HR Assistant	13/3/2017	Miss A Keate	HR Officer	01/05/2018
Ms M Clarke	Housekeeping Supervisor	20/3/2017	Miss J Twardowska	Housekeeping Supervisor	01/05/2018
Mrs C Spence -Parsons	Alumni Communications Officer	22/3/2017	Mr M Carroll	Chef de Partie	08/05/2018
Miss R Raftery	Conference & Events Coordinator	27/3/2017	Mr I Kozadinos	IT Operations Officer	08/05/2018
Mr J Hensel	SCR & Hall Supervisor	29/3/2017	Mr M Carroll	Chef de Partie	08/05/2018
Mrs S Moore	Conference & Events Manager	19/4/2017	Mr A Jeffs	Maintenance Technician	25/06/2018
Mr K Watts	Maintenance Manager	3/7/2017			
Mr A Miller	Schools Liaison & Access Officer	17/7/2017			
Miss J Wingrove	Demi Chef de Partie	31/07/2017			



# Publications

## Fellows' Publications 2017-18

Jones, CW, and **JP Armitage** (2017) 'Essential role of the cytoplasmic chemoreceptor TlpT in the *de novo* formation of chemosensory complexes in *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*', *J Bacteriol* doi: 10.1128/JB.00366-17

Mauriello, EMF, *et al.* and **JP Armitage** (2018) 'Cellular targeting and segregation of bacterial chemosensory systems', *FEMS Micro Revs* 42(4): 462-76

Pandey, R, **JP Armitage** and GH Wadhams (2017) 'Use of transcriptomic data for extending a model of the AppA/PpsR system in *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*', *BMC Sys Biol* 11(146) doi: 10.1186/s12918-017-0489

**Ash, R** (ed.) (2018), *Tacitus: Annals. Book XV* (CUP)

**Ash, R** (2018) 'Paradoxography and marvels in post-Domitianic literature: "An extraordinary affair, even in the hearing!", in A König and C Whitton (eds), *Roman Literature under Nerva, Trajan and Hadrian: Literary Interactions, AD 96-138* (Cambridge University Press), pp 126-45

**Bott, A** (2017) *A History of the Churches of Puttenham, Seale, Wanborough & The Sands* (Friends of Puttenham Church)

**Chen-Wishart, M** (2018) *Contract Law*, 6th edn (OUP)

**Chen-Wishart, M**, A Loke and S Vogenauer (2018) (eds) *Studies in the Contract Laws of Asia Vol II: Formation and Parties* (OUP)

**Chen-Wishart, M** (2017) 'Contractual remedies: beyond enforcing contractual duties', *George Wash Law Rev* 85(6): 1617-24

**Chen-Wishart, M** (2017) 'Invalidity of contract in English and Chinese law', in C Lei and L Di Matteo (eds), *Perspectives on Chinese Contract Law* (CUP), pp 239-78

**Chen-Wishart, M** (2017) 'Specific performance and change of mind', in G Virgo and S Worthington (eds), *Commercial Remedies: Unravelling Controversies* (CUP), pp 98-126

**Davies, ER** (2017) *Computer Vision: Principles, Algorithms, Applications, Learning*, 5th edn (Elsevier)

**Davies, HJ**, and M Zhivitskaya, (2018) 'Three lines of defence: a robust organising framework or just lines in the sand', *Global Policy* 9(51): 34-42

**Draper, SJ**, and MK Higgins (2018) 'A new site of attack for a malaria vaccine', *Nat Med* 24(4): 382-3

**Draper, SJ, et al.** (2018) 'Malaria vaccines: recent advances and new horizons', *Cell Host Microbe* 24(1): 43-56

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# Mertonians



## The Merton Society

The Merton Society provides alumni with opportunities to connect with their College and to meet Mertonians by organising a broad range of events such as formal dinners, concerts, lectures and weekends in College as well as informal drinks. It has been another active year on this front and, as your Chairman, I've had the pleasure of staying close to the amazing Merton community, meeting more Mertonians and learning from some of Merton's leading academics.

Our main event this year was the Merton Weekend, which took place in gorgeous summer weather. It was great

Mertonians and their families celebrate at the Merton Society Garden Party in June © Bertie Beor-Roberts (2014) (bertiebr.com)

to see so many of you attending this year, with many activities arranged over the two days. Alumni were offered tours of the garden, the Chapel tower and the Upper Library. On the Sunday morning there was a mathematical theme to two lectures from Merton academics. I would like to thank Professors Alex Scott and Ulrike Tillmann FRS for joining us to share insights from their academic work in a way that could be (more or less) understood by this non-mathematician. We held a well-attended AGM for the Society and I am pleased to report that we have attracted some younger alumni to the Council. As the Warden is



shortly retiring we celebrated his tenure with a brilliant speech from our retired President Sir Brian Leveson (1967) at the formal dinner on the Saturday evening in Hall. On the Sunday, reflecting Sir Martin's ancestry, we held a Caribbean-themed garden party and barbecue; our President Sir Howard Stringer (1961) and the Warden giving speeches. The Society presented Sir Martin and Lady Taylor with the leaving gift of a hammock for their garden. We wish them the very best for their retirement.

The speaker at our London dinner in February was Sir Howard who gave us a witty after-dinner speech on the tutorial system. Please try to join us at the next London Dinner on 1 March 2019 at Lambeth Palace.

We would not be able to put on these events without the continuing support of the Development Office, who do a wonderful job, for which I owe a big thank you. I would also like to thank the Warden, the Governing Body and all the College staff for welcoming us to the College and looking after us so well.

The Society's Committee has provided support, ideas and proposals to me during the year, which is much appreciated.

Finally, please do get in touch with me via the Development Office if you have ideas and suggestions for any events, or any comments you wish to make.

I look forward to seeing many of you at events at the College and elsewhere in the coming year.

**Mark Davison (1978)**

## Merton Society Council 2017-18

**President:** Sir Howard Stringer (1961)

**Vice Presidents:** RB Allan (1959), AM Vickers (1958), Professor Dame Jessica Rawson, J Roberts

**Chairman:** MPH Davison (1978)

**Secretary:** GG Backler (1973)

**Past Presidents:** The Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson (1967), Sir Michael Jenkins OBE (1953), Sir Jeremy Isaacs (1951), Sir Robert Scott (1963), Lord Wright of Richmond GCMC (1951), WP Cooke CBE (1952)

**Elected Council Members:** NW Allard (1974), JDS Booth (1976), AJ Bott OBE (1953), DE Clark (1984), M Cowan (née Raine) (1983), TJ Foot (2011), AJ Haggerty (2007), LA Hurrell (née Davis) (2005), the Revd Canon Dr S Jones (Chaplain), GBS Lim (2006), R Miller (2008), S Pardos-Prado (Fellow), RB Peberdy (1975), M Pretzler (1996), A Salvage (2008), DJO Schaffer (1986), AL Smith (1991), NJD Weller (1982)

The Merton College Compassionate Fund exists to assist members of the College and their dependents who find themselves in financial difficulty. Grants are normally made to assist Mertonians at times of unforeseen financial hardship (which may be the result of unemployment, illness, bereavement, or other changes in personal circumstances). For further information, please contact the Chaplain, Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones ([simon.jones@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:simon.jones@merton.ox.ac.uk)).





## MC3: Merton College Charitable Corporation

North American alumni gather to celebrate the MC3 annual weekend in April

MC3 visited San Francisco in April 2018 for our annual weekend meeting, which was scheduled to coincide with the biannual Oxford University North American alumni gathering. Traditionally, when our meetings have overlapped, we largely had a separate schedule. Merton graduates have shown themselves to be interested in a full program of social and cultural events that have made the MC3 get-togethers unique among the constituent University colleges. This time we went all in with the Oxford program for the weekend. It was a good decision. The University did itself proud with a diverse set of lectures, conversations and break-out groups and an interesting dinner on Friday night at the historic Ferry Building on the waterfront. Lord Patten, the Chancellor (Balliol, 1962), was in excellent form. His remarks were sobering and ended with a recommendation that we read Stefan Zweig's 1942 memoir *The World of Yesterday*. He did not have to underline the contemporary relevance.

On Saturday night, we were memorably entertained by Margaret and Michael McCaffery (1975). The setting was spectacular; the dinner, delicious; and the McCaffreys were gracious hosts. The event served as the setting for MC3's farewell to Sir Martin and Lady Taylor as he prepared to step down as Warden. He thanked the McCaffreys and MC3 for the friendship and support during his term of office. We first welcomed him in Philadelphia and were bidding him goodbye with gratitude on the west coast. He was informed that MC3

was funding the conservation of Merton Library's set of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* in his honor. He was also presented with a resolution of the Board of MC3 which was authored by Nick Allard and read in part:

Resolved, that the Board of Directors of the Merton College Charitable Corporation expresses its appreciation and deep gratitude to Sir Martin and Lady Taylor for their extraordinary service leading Merton College 2010-2018. Sir Martin's Wardenship encompassed years of stunning success for Merton as a center of scholarship and education. It is a time when our College has been described by him proudly and justifiably as 'the best of the best'.

Sir Martin oversaw the worldwide celebrations of Merton's 750-year history of collegiate excellence. He led Merton to the forefront of 21st century higher education with his unwavering dedication to quality, access, opportunity, intellectual discipline, community and personal collegiality. His background as an esteemed professor of pure mathematics and a leader of the Royal Society, his numerous prestigious prizes, awards and honorary degrees, and his knighthood in 2009 for services to science including his work for the London Mathematical Society and the International Review of Mathematics, brought him to Merton at the peak of his distinguished career. While at





Merton he continued to be sought out for public service including the chairmanship of the Royal Society Advisory Council on Mathematics Education.

The Taylor Wardenship has been marked by the complementary partnership of Sir Martin and Lady Taylor. Sharon engaged tirelessly and cheerfully with the entire extended Merton family.

We were pleased to hear from Professor Steven Gunn who will be the Acting Warden 2018-19. We also learned a little about the second extraordinary woman in Merton's history, Professor Irene Tracey, who will assume the Wardenship in 2019.

MC3's first event of the academic year was the Merton in Manhattan gathering in October 2018 where over 50 of us were addressed by Matthew Rycroft CBE (1986), the UK's

Ambassador to the United Nations. During the balance of the year various small social gatherings of Mertonians took place in Boston, Washington, DC and New York. The Development Committee met three times. In 2017 MC3 raised almost half a million dollars for Merton projects and sent over \$300,000 to the College. The balance was added to the general and scholarship endowments. As of March, the endowment totaled \$3 million.

We were pleased with another very successful year as Merton's arm in the Americas. More recent graduates are becoming increasingly active in the organization and we are looking forward to active participation in Merton's march to the end of its eighth century.

John J Kirby (1962)





## 2018 Oxford Town and Gown

The 2018 Oxford Town & Gown 10k saw one of the largest turnouts of Merton-affiliated runners in recent years, with 42 making it across the finishing line.

Team Merton gathered as usual for our pre-race photograph in front of the Cricket Pavilion in University Parks, many of us kitted out in the brand new distinctive and stylish on-brand running vests, with a smattering of other designs and shades from previous years adding variety.

Once these formalities were completed, we dispersed to find our starting positions on South Parks Road. This year the race organisers had arranged staggered starts – as our times were measured through the use of electronic chips, this made no difference to placings – so there were race marshals holding placards with expected finish times for us to choose from. I opted for sub-50 minutes – a little over-optimistically as it turned out – and did a bit of half-hearted pre-race stretching while chatting to a couple of our undergraduates.

As in previous years, in the preceding 48 hours before the race the weather had transitioned rapidly from early spring chill to late spring heat, but this time I was prepared and had opted for shorts and no thermal top. Soon my cohort were beckoned forward and we were underway.

On paper this race looks easier than some I've run that have words such as 'hilly' or 'rugged' in their name; the Town & Gown is nearly all on-road, flat (other than Longwall Street's speedbumps) and well marshalled. In practice I always find it tough – maybe it's the sudden sunshine after months of cold and damp, or maybe it's actually the lack of

hills – neither a battle to the summit nor the reward of flying down the other side. Still, I felt I was making reasonably steady progress, and rather enjoying myself as we entered University Parks for the final 2km or so.

Psychologically this is the hardest part – you can hear the race commentator urging people on as they make their final sprint to the finish, there are crowds of spectators telling you that it's not far now and you're almost there, but you know there's still over a fifth of the race to run.

Around the 9km mark a group of Fellows – Professors Alan Barr and Simon Hooker (Exeter, 1983) and Dr Ralf Bader (St Edmund Hall, 2002) – cruised by, looking remarkably fresh given how far we had all run. I managed to put in a sprint at the finish, but still failed to break 50 minutes, finishing with a chip time of 51m 10s.

Congratulations to our first finisher, Zoology postgraduate Ryan Burke (2013) who came in with a time of 38m 8s, and of course to everyone who took part representing Merton. After taking on board plenty of water, and some stretching, we wended our way back to College where a delicious brunch awaited all competitors.

A huge thank you to Chelsea in the Development Office who acted as de facto team manager, and to everyone who supported us runners. Now the aches and pains have subsided, I'm looking forward to doing it all again next year – only a little bit faster!

**Simon Cope**  
Web and Media Officer



# Merton Golf Society

The year began as usual with an autumn meeting at Frilford Heath on the Friday preceding the Gaudy. Thirteen Mertonians joined by three guests played a Stableford competition in the morning over the Red course. The Red championship course was in very fine order, having been extensively updated in recent years to remove many trees and much gorse to get back to the original design. Several bunkers have also been moved and others added, which both improves the visual appeal of some holes and, of course, toughens the challenge. The greens remain some of the best in England and played progressively quicker as the early morning dew dried. It was therefore a demanding test and only four cards were returned with 30 (or more) points. Andrew Trotter (1972) and Chris Mercer (1969) were jointly in third place, with Fraser Dillingham (1983) securing the runners-up half-pint tankard with a score of 31. The clear winner, however, with 34 points was Michael Goold (1964) which was a fine score playing off a handicap of 19. It was good to see many old faces and also to welcome some newer ones, with the year of 1972 now well represented and with historians still outnumbering the others.

Simon Constantine (1977) kindly picked up the task of organising the spring meeting and eight members braved the melting snow at Newbury & Crookham towards the end of March. The course had been closed for the first three days of the week and straying from the fairways often ended in very wet and muddy areas; putting was also challenging with five temporary greens and others that had been recently top-dressed with sand. Nevertheless the day was dry and some good golf was played with Tony Lowman (1965) at his first meeting romping home with a splendid 38 points, playing off 20. He was then promptly signed up and persuaded to play for the College at the Inter-Collegiate event in April. Simon was the runner-up with 31 points playing off 10. Commiserations to Richard Allan (1959), the only player to hit the green on the par 3 nearest the pin hole, who then unfortunately failed to write his name on the card and forfeited his prize.

Merton was able to field a full team of ten for the Inter-Collegiate event at Frilford Heath in mid-April and the support of members for this is very much appreciated. Seven



colleges put out a full team and ten more had at least the minimum of six players. Jesus entered for the first time; in all, 19 colleges were represented and it is hoped that for the 22nd year of the event in 2019 there will be further colleges playing. In total, 151 players teed off and the organisers are confident that up to 176 players could be accommodated with the current two-tee start on both the Red and Blue courses.

Merton had slipped out of the top three places in each of the past three years but finally things came together once again and the team came a creditable joint third. The winners (and the only college now to win on four occasions) were University College with a total for their six scoring players of 203 points. Christ Church finished second on 199 points with Merton, St Edmund Hall and Worcester sharing third with 194 points. Individually, Simon Constantine led the way with 35 points, followed by Bill Ford (1975) on 34, with Nick Silk (1960) on 33, Martin Knight (1971) on 32, Patrick Wolrige-Gordon (1985) on 31 and Tony Lowman taking the last team scoring spot with 29. Patrick also won a tankard for hitting the longest drive on the Red course, which was – I think – a first for a Mertonian.

The prize-giving followed a splendid dinner at Corpus Christi where the Hennessy Trophy was presented to the winners.

Thanks go to Chelsea Chisholm in the Development Office for her support for the Golf Society and we look forward to the next season and to welcoming new players who are able to join us.

**Bill Ford (1975)**





Dr Robin Whelan (2006) speaking at the Merton History Day in April 2018

## Merton History Day

Mertonian historians of many generations gathered on Saturday 28 April for the inaugural Merton History Day. Our aim was to celebrate the study of History at the College in memory of Dr Roger Highfield (Magdalen, 1940), tutor from 1951 to 1989, who died last year. The day began and ended with lectures. Professors Lyndal Roper and Senia Paseta, who both came to Merton as Junior Research Fellows, discussed the commemorations of Martin Luther and the Reformation in 2017 and the relationship between nationalism and citizenship in Ireland from the Easter Rising to the Free State. Professor Robert Gildea (1971) and Dr Robin Whelan (2006), undergraduates in the 1970s and 2000s respectively and subsequently a tutor and a College lecturer here, spoke about the ongoing legacies of the British and French empires and the effects of Christianity on the political and cultural values of bureaucrats in late Imperial Rome. These

short lectures provoked lively discussion at coffee, lunch and tea over topics as varied as cultures of national memory and the similarities of life in the Roman and British civil service.

The middle part of the day gave alumni ranging from Roger's first pupils to those who have left Merton in the last five years the chance to meet current undergraduate and postgraduate students. Seven doctoral students, some supported by College graduate scholarships, presented posters outlining their projects. Alumni who worked their way round the Mure Room methodically could journey from pastoral care in 12th century England to German news magazines of the 1960s. En route they might encounter medieval German political ideas, cultural life in 18th century Devon and the role of family ties in 18th century English politics, technological change and living standards in 19th century Britain and America, and naval





Undergraduate students discuss their research with alumni

power and collective security in the era of the First World War.

Meanwhile a team of undergraduates had taken up position behind tables in the foyer of the TS Eliot Theatre and the adjacent Howard Stringer Room to meet a rotating cast of their forerunners, curious to know not only whether History was still the same as when they had studied it, but how else student life might have changed. Regular blasts on a whistle sought to impose some discipline on the rotation, lest the sheer enthusiasm of some first years or the fascination of some finalists' thesis topics – from Russian holy fools and Tudor ballads to Confederate veterans, Victorian prostitution and interwar financial diplomacy – detain any alumnus too long.

Many of those who attended have told us how much they enjoyed the day. 'I thought the variety and scope of the four lectures really stimulating' wrote one; another 'The undergraduates were charming, interesting and great fun'; a third, of the graduate posters, 'The subject matter was fascinating and the people interesting.' The course of historical change was neatly charted by two further comments: 'Lunch has improved enormously since my time at Merton' (1960s) and 'Usual high standards of Merton catering' (1970s). We must certainly aim to repeat the exercise soon. Meanwhile, discussions are underway about endowing a graduate scholarship in History in tribute to Roger Highfield.

**Professor Steven Gunn (1979)**

## Merton in Manhattan

On 3 October 2017, approximately 40 Mertonians and guests met at the global headquarters of auction house Sotheby's on York Avenue to join Merton and MC3 for the seventh annual Merton in Manhattan event, courtesy of the hospitality of myself and my colleagues at Sotheby's. The evening kicked off with a private tour of an exhibition of works by American artist Robert Indiana (1928–2018) from the collection of Herbert Lust. The tour was led by Sotheby's contemporary art specialist Nicholas Cinque, who presented various highlights of Indiana's groundbreaking visual lexicon of signs, text and numbers on canvas and paper.

After attendees had an opportunity to explore and enjoy the art on display a little further, Matthew Rycroft CBE (1986) gave a fascinating talk about his career and his extensive work with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, particularly with respect to the United Nations in New York. As the then-serving UK's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN (Matthew has since been appointed Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Development), Matthew provided topical insights into his role and the direction and work of the Mission. He vividly explained the responsibility, as well as the opportunities and challenges, that come with engaging and negotiating with every other country or organisation that belongs to or observes the UN. Matthew's remarks were followed by a very lively and informative Q&A session with the audience, which touched upon almost all the 'hot topics' in current domestic and foreign political affairs.

After the discussion, Mertonians were able to enjoy canapés and a drink, mingling to discuss the talk further and network in an art-filled environment.

**Bernd Delahaye (2001)**



# 1967 Reunion





Back row (from left): Mr Timothy Grice, Professor Christopher Hill, Mr Clive Richardson, Professor Jonathan Hodgkin (Honorary Fellow), Mr John Wroe, the Revd David Jeans, Professor Fergus Macbeth, Mr Michael Macdonald, Mr Peter Richmond, Mr Ronald Scott, Mr Richard Harris, Mr Geoffrey House, Mr Martin Sands, Mr Martin Happs, Dr Michael Prest, Dr Courtenay Phillips (Emeritus Fellow), Professor Hugh Miall, Mr Nigel Middlemiss.

Front row (from left): Mr Edmund Ranallo, Mr Michael Zollo, Dr David Giachardi, Mr Brendan Harris, Dr Bernard Hurley, Mr John Walsh, Mr Stuart Jack, Sir Martin Taylor (Warden), the Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson, Mr Rory Khilkoff-Boulding, Mr Keith Wade, Mr Timothy George, Professor Dominic Welsh (Emeritus Fellow).





# News of Old Members

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## Up to 1948

Year Representative: **Michael Millard**

Tel: 02476 414776 Email: millard172@tiscali.co.uk

**Nick Jaco** (1938) writes with the rather sad comment that he had to miss the last Gaudy because of a surgical appointment; and the appointment was then cancelled at the last moment. He now has a great-grandson, but contact is limited because the boy lives in the Rockies. Anyway Nick is fairly active; enough for a recent holiday in Costa Rica. **Ron Charlwood** (1944) has also (at last, he says) a great-grandchild; his first.

I had a sad note from Rob Fletcher telling me of the death of his father **Trevor Fletcher** (1940). Rob adds that his father valued and appreciated still having a connection with his colleagues. The son of **Patrick Yu** (1946) tells me that Patrick's wife Lucia died last October. Patrick seems well occupied with Chinese reading and writing, playing the piano, listening to music and playing card games with family members. He also corresponds occasionally with **Lionel Lewis** (1946). Lionel writes that he is still in touch with **John Rhodes** (1946) and **Geoff Kidson** (1946); the only news of himself is that his wife died recently. Sometime last year I had an interesting communication with Lionel; arranging for him to receive a photograph of a Merton oar on which both our names appear (so does that of **Guy Harris** (1948)).

**James Midwood** (1947) writes light heartedly that he has been made an honorary member of his local Probus club

which brought home to him the fact that he has been retired for more years than his working career. But sadly his wife Tessa died suddenly at the end of February and he now has to get used to living on his own. However his four children live locally and have all been a great help. **Ian Bucklow** (1942) writes a long and interesting letter. But 18 months ago his wife died and although he is fairly active I sense that his house has become sadly empty. However Ian has spent some time flying a helicopter (which is aerodynamically unstable) and also had an hour flying a Tiger Moth.

**David Hopkinson** (1944) like many of our age has had a birthday party (92). He has observed that our Chaplain has become a Canon of Chichester Cathedral, and hopes to make comparisons. And he would like to know what happened to the old chapel organ. **John Rhodes** (1946) has had parties to celebrate his 90th. He is very happy at the home in Kibworth Beauchamp and is well looked after. In spite of poor sight in one eye and macular degeneration in the other he rejoices that he can still read. **Michael Hinton** (1945) also lives in a home for retired clergy. He declares that the care is good, the company congenial and the surroundings delightful. Stella Woods, daughter of **Michael Woods** (1944), reports that he celebrated his 91st birthday by visiting Oxford. He was quite excited to show her where his room was in Merton.

**Lawrence Lyle** (1941) writes to explain that he and his wife are partially sighted and he can no longer read a book (though the quality of his writing to me puts many fully sighted people to shame). But his son died of cancer last September, leaving an irreparable loss in the family. He is in touch with his brother-in-law, **Roger Medill** (1952).

**Guy Harris** (1948) continues to be in touch with **David Tristram** (1947) whose wife is Guy's cousin. Guy and Mary plan to lunch with Elizabeth and me later this year. Rudolf Klein has attended no lunches, made no speeches and has written his last academic article: medical appointments continue. He describes my task as year representative as self-liquidating, even in an age of ever-increasing life expectancy. The late **Professor H W Garrod** (1948), in his essay on growing old says: "it is good, I feel, even in these bad impossible times to live to be seventy if only to be aware how much kindness mankind still keeps" (*Genius Loci*, Clarendon Press, 1950).



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## 1949, 1950, 1951

*There is currently no Year Representative for years 1949-1951. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interesting in becoming the Year Rep for this year.*

In the meantime, we did hear from some Mertonians from 1949, 1950 and 1951, with the following news.

**Ian Skeet** (1949) checked in with the Development Office but didn't have much to report. It is always good to hear from Mertonians in any case, Ian, and no news can often be good news – right?

**Alan Brownjohn** (1950) sent a letter with news that he is 'determinedly accumulating new poems for a next volume of poetry and slowly working on a new novel (the last was *Enjoyment*, published in November 2016). His *Collected Poems* volume is available in the Faber Finds series. Alan is mainly in touch with Michael Kauffman and appreciating his latest book (see below). They both occasionally see **Taddy Effendowicz** (1950) and **Donald Matthew** (1950).

**Michael Kauffmann** (1950) has had his very last book published: *Eve's Apple to the Last Supper: Picturing Food in the Bible* (2017). And **Patrick Wright**, Lord Wright of Richmond GCMG (1951), has published a new book in 2018 entitled *Behind Diplomatic Lines*, a review of which appears in the Book Reviews section.

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## 1952, 1953 & 1954

**Year Representative: Dick Lloyd**

Tel: 01548 531068 Email: [dicknaudrey@lloyd77.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:dicknaudrey@lloyd77.eclipse.co.uk)

I have had quite a good postbag this year. The fact that so many of you still take the trouble to write makes my task worthwhile, so thank you all very much.

**Alan Bott** (1953) and his wife have been cruising between Zanzibar (with its ghastly slave-trading history), Tanzania,

Mozambique and Madagascar where they have seen baobab trees, lemurs, chameleons and many different species of exotic bird, while he writes articles for *Postmaster* on Merton Gardens. He must derive inspiration from what he sees on his travels.

**Adrian Esdaile** (1954) bravely reports that he has been diagnosed with fast-growing lymphoma. Treatment started in April, is going well, and is due to continue for a total of six months, and I am sure that we all wish him all the best for his recovery. Before this bombshell he received his MA from the University of Buckingham. He applied for a course on the History of Art, was accepted and after attending lectures for six months, did a dissertation on the stained glass at Guildford Cathedral for another six months, for which he received an MA from the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Anthony Sheldon.

**John Garrard** (1954) has suffered a most unfortunate and unusual accident. He was 'throwing out the garbage' (presumably at a recycling centre) when the lid of an industrial dumper slammed on his head and he suffered a traumatic brain injury, but, after 16 days in hospital, is slowly recovering. In the 2013 edition of *Postmaster*, I reviewed a book written by John and his wife, Carol, entitled: *The Life and Fate of Vasily Grossman*, the renowned Soviet war correspondent, whose works were suppressed by the Communist Party, because Grossman told the truth about the heroic defence of Moscow from the Nazi invaders, that it was the patriotic common Russian soldier and not the apparatchiks of the Communist Party who secured the victory. Now John and Carol have succeeded in getting the documents and research materials relating to Grossman and his family deposited in the Houghton Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at Harvard University. These can now be read online. For anyone interested either in the Second World War or Soviet Communism, this book is a must (Pen & Sword Books; ISBN 178159001-X).

**Gerard Green** (1954), whose father was Chaplain at Merton, refers to other Merton family connections, his brother Humphrey, a Classics Postmaster in 1942-43 and 1946-49, who was, together with his sisters Alison and Elizabeth, born at Grove House in Magpie Lane, which connects Merton Street with The High. Alison married another Mertonian, George



Lillingstone (1946). His sister Elizabeth died recently, which has left him as the sole survivor of this very Mertonian family. My old friend Gilchrist was, to my knowledge, the only undergraduate ever to drive a car up Magpie Lane, and over the pavement into the High – probably a 1932 Austin 7 was one of the very few vehicles narrow enough for such a feat! Gerard and his wife, Ann, have recently become great-grandparents – what an achievement. He still keeps in touch with **John Rogers Edwards**.

**Reg Hall** (1954) is still in good health as his continuing travelogue testifies. A cruise down the Mississippi in March/April last year was preceded by a few days in New Orleans, which was founded by the French, ceded to Spain, returned briefly to the French before becoming part of the USA. The locals were very welcoming and friendly. He reported that there were still signs of Hurricane Katrina's destruction and flooding is frequent because of inadequate drainage which cannot cope with the changes of direction by the river. He and his wife then spent the summer in the UK, managing to fit in a cruise around the Iberian Peninsula.

**Mike Jordan** (1954) visited the USA in September 2017 to attend an exhibition celebrating the life and work of Reynolds Price (1955) at Duke University in North Carolina, where Reynolds had studied as an undergraduate and returned there to teach English Literature and Creative Writing for over 50 years until shortly before his death in 2011. During this time he became one of the most renowned American writers of his generation. The Duke University Exhibit, based on his papers, extensive collection of books, paintings, sculptures and objets d'art, contained numerous references to his Oxford experiences. Among these was a talk he gave entitled 'England in the 1950s', in which he recalled his shock and horror at the state of the primitive plumbing in Mob Quad. Other talks contain frequent references to his tutors and literary mentors whom he had met in Oxford, including Lord David Cecil, Neville Coghill and Hugo Dyson. Mike was asked to identify some of the people appearing in the vast number of photographs taken by Reynolds, and was able to identify **John Garrard**, **Peter Heap** (1956), **Henry Mayr-Harting** (1954) and **Tony Nuthall** (1955). Mike concludes his contribution with some acerbic comments on the political state of the modern world, highlighting extremism and lack

of pragmatic approach. I have to say that I find myself in broad agreement with him. We lack true leadership.

**David Law** (1952), who resides in a remote corner of the North-East, sadly reports that his movements have become much restricted following the loss of his driving licence after diagnosis with OSA, obstructive sleep apnoea. I had never heard of this affliction and David kindly clarified it, as a throat restriction during sleep, which can cause drowsiness during the day. David had the misfortune to have a motor accident after years of clean driving, and was taken to hospital, where the condition was diagnosed. Treatment did not cure it, so they took his licence away. I recall David's inspiring leadership of the Rugby XV in 1954.

**Henry Mayr-Harting** (1954) continues to lecture on mediaeval subjects, including one at the Victoria & Albert Museum on Ottoman Art and Politics, at the VEA in Norwich on miracles associated with Thomas à Becket's Shrine (attended by **Gerard Green** who resides there), and repeated at Eton College. He also researched some mediaeval manuscripts in Bamberg (Germany) and gave a talk on one of them at the university there.

**Ted Mullins** (1954), despite his severely restricted eyesight, has finished a new book on his career as journalist and filmmaker entitled: *In Search of Art: Adventures and Discoveries*, which is to be published in the autumn by Unicorn Press. It includes a chapter about when he worked in Syria, at Palmyra, with an eminent Syrian archaeologist, who met a most unfortunate and cruel end by being beheaded by Isis in 2015 and having his head stuck on top of a Roman column, before it was blown up 'In the Name of Allah', and, adds Ted, he was a most sincere practising Muslim. How utterly barbaric.

**Robin Purdue** (1954) has no news, but is still running his hotel barge in France with splendid French assistants. He says that business has increased this year and Brexit is never mentioned by either his passengers or crew and poses the question: 'Is it all a storm in a teacup?', to which I would reply that, if so, the storm has certainly overflowed the teacup.

**Mike Rines** (1954) has seen restrictions in his activity, due to the lack of mobility of his wife Ann, owing to a number of



bravely borne afflictions. However, they still indulge in river cruises and took one last year on the Douro in Portugal, ending up in Oporto, a magnificent city, visiting several wineries en route and consuming a surfeit of port wine, as well as travelling through some of the deepest locks in Europe. He continues to lecture on the decay of the English language, and keeps active by walking and cycling. One of his sons, Nick, who lives near, is involved in all sorts of digital marketing which he is quite unable to understand. I think that the majority of our generation find that one of the banes of modern life is trying to keep up with constant updates on the computer and its gobbledygook diji-talk!

**John Shore** (1953) comments ruefully that, of the four chemists in his year of 1953, only he and **George Tusa** (1953) survive and that he is the sole survivor of the coxless four who won the Visitors' Cup at the Henley Regatta in 1956. (I would like to add to that by saying that, of the victorious Merton Rugby XV of 1956/7, to my knowledge only **Mike Rines**, **George Tusa**, **Pete Westwood** and **Dick Lloyd** are still alive, but, if anyone else from that splendid team is still around, who lost only one game to Keble by one point, and that from a disputed drop goal, please let me know!)

**David Watson** (1954) tells that he and his wife, Pam, continue to be frustrated by the judicial system in their prison visiting. He nostalgically recalls that the highlight of a return visit to Merton is walking around the old city wall, enjoying the gardens and looking out across Christ Church Meadows. Not many of us would disagree with that.

**Pete Westwood** (1954) is reasonably fit despite severe macular deterioration which means that he can no longer see to read, so spends much time in reflecting on his life. Fortunately he wrote a very interesting account of his career as a District Officer in Fiji in the 1950s and '60s for 15 years, before his eyesight deteriorated. The book was beautifully printed in hardback as a limited edition for his close friends and family, and I count myself very fortunate to have been given a copy. He now writes, reflectively, that he was much advised against this choice of career, but it provided him with a most unforgettable and interesting experience, in which he got on very well with the Fijians, but took exception to the Europeans who frequently sought preferential treatment

which he was unprepared to grant. At the end of his career he eloped with a very attractive Indian girl, Vimala Pillai, to Australia, because her father was implacably opposed to her marrying a white Englishman. On return to UK with his now-pregnant wife, he had to find another career, and at age 36 he purchased a lot of books on Law and qualified as a solicitor in 1975. He spent 25 years in High Court litigation, not as satisfying as a D.O. but nevertheless he prospered and got on well with the judges, one of whom once gave him a wink during a trial and caused the whole court to swing round to see whom he was winking at. Pete made many non-British friends, one of whom was a Pakistani named Saeed Qureshi, who spent a year at Merton and became a very senior civil servant in his own country, Chief Minister of Sind and Mrs Bhutto's Financial Adviser, but he admits that she never took his advice! He speaks plainly about Pakistan's problems with religious fundamentalism and corruption. Pete never fails to write in a humorous and entertaining vein.

This leaves me to add my own contribution, which, unlike so many of yours, is pretty dull! I do not know quite what brought it on, but in September, after the horrendous summer dealing with the rat problem in our old cottage, I got terrible sciatica, just as we left for a week's rest at a very nice hotel in Torremolinos in Andalucia, near where I have a very dear school friend living. Apart from visiting him (his wife kindly organised a taxi for us) we did nothing, as we were so exhausted. We have stayed there before, some eight years ago, when we did a lot of sightseeing in a hired car, including a visit to Gibraltar, so we did not miss it. The sciatica has persisted, and, after trying two osteopaths, I finally found an excellent physiotherapist, who is busy re-aligning my crooked torso by superb massage and further treatment called the Bowen technique, in which there is not a single part of my ancient body which is not pummelled or bent by her experienced magic hands, so I am a lot better, but cannot walk any distance without pain, so it has to be exercise biking and swimming which keeps me fit. She helped me get a Blue Badge, so that I can now park with impunity on yellow lines anywhere, which is a great boon, and my driving is totally unimpaired (the day before typing this, I did a 260-mile round trip to see an ailing cousin). So I count myself very lucky. I am now involved in another writing project, but, as I am not sure whether the book will be published, I prefer not to say any more about it yet.



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## 1955

### Year Representative: John Mitchell OBE

Email: [johncmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:johncmitchell@gmail.com)

I started this year by going to Sydney for the last Test and to stay with **John Adams** afterwards. Naturally, as an Australian citizen these days, he was in ebullient form. I was his guest at the Primary Club champagne breakfast in the SCG pavilion on the first day, which set things off deceptively well ... After the Test, Jo, his wife, and John looked after me splendidly; I had a great Mertonian time.

**Rex Jamieson**, who now lives in a retirement community in the Bay area of Portola Valley, since his last letter has been on two Smithsonian-sponsored tours, one of Ireland, which he describes as 'wonderful' and which induced him and his wife, Jody, to take another, this time to Patagonia, but including Cape Horn, the glaciers of Tierra del Fuego, the Torres del Paine in Chile's National Park and Santiago: the scenery throughout was magnificent. He was looking forward to dining in San Francisco this Spring with other OU alumni and greeting Sir Martin and Lady Taylor, among other Mertonians.

It was tremendous to receive a big 'catch-up' from **John Cooke**. Through his late sister-in-law, the artist Judith Scott, he has become deeply involved in art and disability issues, in the course of which he has built a studio for artists with disabilities near their home in the mountains of Bali. Although no longer involved in the Bali Children's Project, the educational not-for-profit they started some 25 years ago, he watches its growth with pleasure and 'no little pride'. Justifiably so! Sadly, Lyme disease has stopped his skiing when in California, indeed seriously affects his mobility. But the extra time at his disposal has meant more reading. Interestingly, he does not have a TV in the house, even though he had a career producing TV wildlife documentaries with Oxford Scientific Films. He looks back 'with delight and nostalgia on those halcyon Merton days ... always returns when passing through Oxford', which he does regularly, en route between family in Abingdon and France for the summer. John has recently placed chapters

from 'Sublime Lunacy' (his 'Anecdotalage') and other writings on his Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/johncooke](https://www.facebook.com/johncooke)).

It was also great to get a letter from **Michael Grills**, who sent messages that were both amusingly sympathetic to the task of your correspondent and self-deprecating to a degree. Also, he observed that 'we all remain grateful for the experience and friendships Merton gave us, often shaping what followed'. He had been in contact with **Peter Wyles** before he died, keeps quite close contact with **David Marsh** and less frequently with **Michael Cooke**. For the last 50 years he has enjoyed a happy family life in York, participating in and contributing to a variety of interesting and social activities. He had joined a medium-sized firm of solicitors before serving full-time in the district judiciary. He reflects in his retirement 'that I have been undeservedly fortunate – except on the golf course ...'. His erroneous conclusion was that he had little to report, 'but that only a lawyer could take so long in saying it!'

**Dermot Killingley** keeps busy; November saw the publication of a book called *The Upanisads: A Complete Guide*, to which he had contributed nine chapters. He is now writing chapters on modern Indian thought for two other books. He also managed to squeeze in a lecture (in English) at Lisbon University. He enjoys 'the kindness' of his daughter in Hull and his grandchildren. Formidable!

**Mike Gazzard** also claimed to have little to report this year, so instead gives us the benefit of his research. He says that, in *Postmasters* since 2013, we have had reports from 15 of the 60 or so original 1955ers. Of these, five were from the remaining few of the nine who wrestled with Greek and Latin texts and philosophical paradoxes of the ancient 'Lit. Hum.' He and his colleagues were outnumbered by the 18 aspiring to science subjects and 33 in the Humanities. He expected that the 2017 numbers would be very different. [I don't know – JCM]. He concludes, spiritedly, 'We few, we happy few, we band of brothers ... my best wishes to each of them!'

Possibly the fittest of us in 1955, **Lionel Jebb**, and Corinna have had various medical problems that have restricted their visits outside Shropshire. However, they did manage a Saga cruise in the Mediterranean, boarding the ship in Gibraltar rather than the planned Dover, but that is another story.



about which I could not possibly comment. 2019 will be an unusually significant year for the Jebbs, as it will then be 100 years since Eglantyne Jebb co-founded Save the Children. Meanwhile Lionel still helps with paperwork for the farm and works at getting fit again for the great celebration next year.

**Mike Thornton** has been researching, as ever, on one occasion about potholes, which are a major news item in the *Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser* and a problem throughout Surrey. The problem is not new! A document in the National Archives at Kew records that, in March 1350, Edward III issued an order to four of his servants 'to find by inquisition in the county of Surrey those who are bound to repair the bridges, causeways and highways there as the king hears that a very large number of same are in a very dangerous state'. Plus ça change ... Mike does, of course, continue to pursue historical research, of which his wife has observed that 'it keeps him off the streets'. He concludes with a memory of the late **David Gilchrist** (1954): Mike was woken in his room in Grove, 'at some ungodly hour', by a rumbling noise which turned out to be him rolling a beer barrel (empty) from top to bottom of the stairs'. He much appreciated Dick Lloyd's obit. His Merton contacts are down to **Tony Taylor** and **Alan Wilcox**. **Tony Nicholls** has gone off his radar – can anyone help? Mike's email has changed to [mdthornton@virginmedia.com](mailto:mdthornton@virginmedia.com)

Me, I get slower and my golf handicap has gone north. I remain fascinated by the extraordinary changes in societies and their political preferences. And, I still have fun!

Very best wishes to you all,  
Aye.

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## 1956

**Year Representative: Richard Kenyon**

Tel: 01926 859620 Email: [delaroche37@gmail.com](mailto:delaroche37@gmail.com)

Nearly every year, the first two replies to my request for news have been from **Jay Keyser** in the USA and **Saeed Qureshi**

in Pakistan. Both are well but this year they were relegated to ninth and tenth by their UK-based contemporaries. We realise that we have all reached our ninth decade, but that has not suppressed our appetites for publishing nor for international travel. Much is happening on the home front too, where a quarter of those contacted have confirmed, for GPDR purposes, their continued wish to hear from the College. What about the rest, I wonder! Although Jay's mobility has diminished, it has stabilised and he copes with the routines of daily living. It has not prevented him from writing 'The Sister Arts and the Easter Egg: a theory of what happened to metrical poetry, music and painting at the turn of the 20th century'. He thinks it is the most interesting topic he has ever worked on.

To celebrate their golden wedding **Christopher Ball** has written a sonnet sequence of 144 poems on marriage under his 'poet-pseudonym' John Ellinger. Copies are available from him or, hopefully soon, from Oxford bookshops. He recalls that when he and Wendy married while he was still an undergraduate, Warden Muir was much displeased.

I attended an Arts Society lecture on Basingstoke recently. Rupert Willoughby, no relation to the late **Richard Willoughby**, pointed out that Walter de Merton would find it difficult to recognise his birthplace from its present condition alongside the wall built to retain vast quantities of concrete poured in the post-war redevelopment. **John Isherwood** and other volunteers, three by happy coincidence Mertonians, have been much absorbed in writing, to academic standards, a history of the town. There, c. 1245, Walter founded (or re-founded) a hospital, which after his death became a rest home for sick fellows of the College. Armed with this gem, but ever short of funding for their research and publications, they wrote to the Warden to ask if the College might assist. The result was a generous donation and a delightful foreword by Professor **Stephen Gunn** (1979) to Dr John Hare's (1986) *Basingstoke: A Medieval Town* (University of London, 2017). In contrast, Magdalen, with equally strong links to the town, declined. One up to Merton!

John and **Richard Thomas** and their wives, Anne and Catherine, plan to attend the service at St Paul's marking



the 200th anniversary of the Order of St Michael and St George, to which they both belong. That will be a sort of very private mini Gaudy! Richard also counselled me to avoid Russians bearing Novichok!

There is plenty of room for books at **Michael Edwards'** and Alison's home, but they resist the temptation to downsize. They too are among the travellers, having attended their usual two-week literary/theatre conference, which in 2017 was held in Gdansk, and holidayed in the Greek Islands.

Also travelling were **Ian Hodson** and Edith who visited Vienna, The Hague, the Outer Hebrides, Galloway, the Isle of Man, Norfolk (twice), and Blackpool Illuminations. They go to the Isle of Man to travel on the trams, but this year 'the tram horses got flu and an electric tram they were on caught fire'. Ian is a member of the local practice's Patient Participation Group, and also acts as a tutorial specimen for medical students.

It is hard to believe that **George Radda** is making his final retirement from biomedical research, this time from his work in Singapore. In 2016 he was granted Honorary Citizenship, the Government's highest honour. Since then the Hungarian honours system caught up and awarded him the Commander's Cross Order of Merit of Hungary. In 2018, to his surprise, the Hungarian government also gave him the Corvin-lanc Award which only 12 people from Hungary may hold at any one time. It forms the basis of a council representing the arts, sciences and learning, to advise the Prime Minister on major issues of Hungarian culture. On his next visit to Budapest, George hopes to meet **Laszlo Heltay** (1957). The biggest news for George was the election of **Irene Tracey** (1985) as the next Warden. She had been an undergraduate pupil, a DPhil student and postdoctoral fellow of his and their careers involved close association. Back at home, George and his wife took the opportunity to move to a splendid apartment in a Richmond Retirement Village in Witney.

Unexpectedly and rather late in the day, **Mike Renton** became a grandfather when his daughter Sophie and son-in-law adopted one-year-old twins. Getting down on the floor to play with them and, especially, getting up again are

significant challenges. Mike has now completed over 1,000 sessions leading the old, and often frail, of Bath in singsongs. He staggers round the golf course two or three times a week with a pull trolley and an increasingly unimpressive handicap (these modern balls don't go as far). He feels no weaker but says that the evidence is undeniable.

**Brian Roberts-Wray**, who continues his activities with Wells Cathedral, gave interesting reminiscences of **Peter Wyles** (1955) (see *In Memoriam*).

In April 2018, after 50 years' fellowship of the British Computer Society, your correspondent was made a complimentary life fellow. Having just retired from his IFA business he and Jan hope to increase their already frequent overseas visits. Last year they cruised the Baltic, flew to the USA, Chile, Argentina and Brazil, and then in February, while visiting their son and his family in New Zealand, were photographed with Legolas, Aragorn, Gandalf, Gimli and Frodo in Rivendell, or rather on the site of the film set. In 2019 they plan to go a little further north to Hobbiton.

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## 1957

**Year Representative: Graham Byrne Hill**

Tel: 01428 724699 Email: g.byrnehill@gold.ac.uk

**Tony Wood** writes that 'A year ago we decided to downsize and to move closer to at least one of our sons and their families. Hence, we moved from Cornwall to Okehampton, just under the edge of Dartmoor and close to our youngest grandchildren, where we can help with childminding and transport with the three youngest, aged 12, 10 and 8. We left, with considerable regret and heart searching, our five-bedroomed terrace house and moved into a two-bedroomed bungalow. It has a pleasant garden and we have built on a large garden room, so we are well placed for our advancing years. What urged the move on was that Jane injured her back badly in a fall and is considerably restricted in terms of walking, standing and travel. I am still involved in local history and in our parish church. Reading, gardening and bird watching are now our main relaxations.'



**Michael Leach** writes: 'Year 2017 seemed relatively busy again. We enjoyed our scuba-diving holiday in the Maldives in February/March. The coral is noticeably bleached, which also adversely affects the marine life. Added to which the resort doctor detected a heart murmur to do with Margo's heart. This meant much of the rest of the year was taken up with tests, together with heart ops in Jan 2018. We had a four-day holiday in Amsterdam in April, when we saw many of the usual sights including the tulips at the Keukenhof Gardens. I continue to enjoy Spurs football with two season tickets which this season were at Wembley while the Spurs ground is being redeveloped to almost double the size. On the political front, I am still assisting with the maintenance of Grant Shapps' database – Member of Parliament for Welwyn Hatfield.'

**Erich Gruen** continues to be active in the profession of Classics and ancient history, although he 'retired' officially 11 years ago. 'I am still writing, lecturing and participating in conferences in various parts of the world. I published one book and four articles in 2016, eight more articles in 2017, and two others (so far) in 2018. I was fortunate to deliver a lecture in the TS Eliot Auditorium at Merton two years ago and catch up with many old friends. I am, however, reminded of the passage of time when I realise that ten of my former graduate students who became successful in the profession are now themselves retired! A scary thought.'

**David Harvey** comments that he is approaching 80, but healthy! 'Still reliving Cuppers victory by paddling in my outdoor pool.'

As a historian I am fascinated by the live history playing out close by in Westminster, as well as deeply involved in the fringes of the ongoing Brexit discussions. Eight of our grandchildren who are of school age live within a quarter-hour drive. Four further grandchildren are at university. The future is very much to play for, as is the quality of public life.

## 1958

**Year Representatives: Bryan Lewis**

Email: kb.lewis@tazam.com

and **Peter Parsons**

Email: pjparsons@gmail.com

The passing or imminence of the 80-years-old milestone has been a recurring comment from a number of correspondents.

**David Waterhouse** says, ruefully and tongue in cheek, that 'at the age of 80 I am looking at options for my future'.

**Peter Norman** says: 'Kate and I have been preoccupied by a downsizing move after 24 years from a large and spacious barn conversion to a modest Ludlow Victorian terrace house but it feels as though the strains of the move have added 10 years to one's age.' **Adrian Vickers** wrote as he was about to go to the 80th birthday party of **Paul Cheeseright** with whom he shared digs in Abingdon Road nearly 60 years ago. 'I reflect happily on the fact that none of the friendships in my life have endured longer than those I made at Merton.' Digs (do undergraduates still have digs or do they rent and house-share?) in Abingdon Road was where **Bryan Lewis** shared with **Tony Semlyen** (d. 2001), **David Roscoe** and **David Forsyth** (1959). He recalls that he cycled into College for breakfast one morning an hour early, having misread his watch. Wiling away time in the garden he was pounced on by **Professor Neville Coghill** (Fellow 1957-66) who wanted to point out one of the short-lived resident peacocks. With its tail feathers unfurled he observed that it was 'Just like Queen Elizabeth's ruff'. Am I right in believing that the peacock/peahen 'residency' was brought to an end because residents in Merton Street complained about the screeching?

**David Lowes Watson** emailed from Tennessee (he emigrated to the USA in the mid-60s) to say that he has planned his annual visit to family to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee Lunch and Merton Weekend, saying of his fellow octogenarians 'it will be wondrous to behold such a body still breathing!' **Jim Gunton** has at last retired from his Chair



as Waldschmitt Professor of Physics at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. Retirement was marked with a two-day symposium at Santa Fe, NM and a one-day symposium with external speakers to celebrate his career. 'Peggy and I are likely to sell up and move to a retirement home in the suburbs of Philadelphia to be closer to our children.' They had dinner several months ago with **Kris Kristofferson** and his wife Lisa when they performed at a local casino. 'Kris is still beloved by young and old, had a large turn-out for his performance and still writes original music.' Never to be accused of being mealy-mouthed, Jim sends his good wishes, adding 'We are simply trying to survive our shallow, impulsive, narcissistic and, might I say, potentially dangerous president.'

**Alan Furse** wonders about the fate of the Merton Church Society. 'In the late 50s and early 60s when I was a member, later secretary and then president, the Church Society was considered to be the oldest college society in the University. Although not directly connected with OICCU the Church Society had members in common with it. I have often ruefully recalled that in my presidential paper I called for the Anglican Church to have a central 'council' to advise on policy and, in particular to clarify and regulate the liturgy. Much later, over the decades, there appeared Synodical Government and, eventually, the Alternative Service Book. I am not for a moment suggesting that I was in any way responsible for these things but one does have to be very careful what one wishes for!'

**David Greene** is now in his 18th year as volunteer guide at the Royal Gunpowder Mills in Waltham Abbey which, for three and a half centuries, was an explosives factory before becoming the site of a development laboratory belonging to the MoD. Most customers seem more interested in the history rather than the science. **Oliver Ford Davies** writes 'I am sure readers are sick of my theatrical doings [not so! BL], but here goes. Last year Arden Shakespeare published my book on *Shakespeare's Fathers and Daughters*. This year I return to the RSC to play Nestor in *Troilus and Cressida*, a part I last played 37 years ago. Will I have got worse?' *Who's Who in Shakespeare* says that in Homer, Nestor was 'renowned for his wisdom, justice and eloquence'. In *T&C*, Thersites, the foul-mouthed and scurrilous Greek, describes Nestor as 'a stale old mouse-eaten cheese', however!

**Richard Salkeld** continues to emulate the Flying Dutchman it seems, never for long ashore. He entitles his contribution 'Navigation for Art's sake'. His latest voyages have encompassed Menorca (including a visit to Tremonta/Mistral at Mahon where Richelieu's chef invented Mahonaise = mayonnaise), the east coast of Spain where visits took in the Picasso and Miro Galleries and Gaudi's Sagrada Familia Cathedral, Salvador Dali's crazy museum and the bay where the legendary gastronomy restaurant El Bulli (now closed) was located. Flamingos and white horses were to be seen in the Camargue. Alas, though, 'we failed to meet Brigitte Bardot at St Tropez or to break the bank at Monte Carlo but its Oceanographic Musée had interesting details of the far-sighted works of Prince Albert I at the turn of the century on pollution of the seas.'

Sadly, not all our contemporaries are in good health. Sue, wife of **Ceri Peach**, had to report that Ceri is in a care home because his dementia had reached a stage where he could no longer be cared for at home. Alas, dementia is no respecter of age or intellect it seems.

**Peter Parsons** has done well to gather a good number of us with wives and partners for a Diamond Jubilee lunch to coincide with the Merton Weekend in June, an occasion no doubt for nostalgia, reminiscence and laughter.

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## 1959

**Year Representatives: David Shipp**

Email: david@shipp.org

and **Roger Gould**

Email: jrbgould@btoopenworld.com

**Richard Allan** wrote: 'Diana and I are about to head to Muck (Inner Hebrides) for a Peat Marwick old artided derks' reunion, so this is by way of saying that little has changed in our lives in the past year. I still attend the odd College finance committee meeting, but have handed over the reins on the benefactions committee. Toynbee Hall redevelopment



finances are still challenging, but Chance to Shine cricket support goes from strength to strength.'

**Graham Boulton** wrote for the first time in many years about his busy and varied life. 'My wife Jean died almost exactly two years ago, so I live on my own with my two dogs. I keep relatively healthy, typically walking between 55 and 65 miles per week, obviously mostly taking the dogs for their three times a day walks. I have two grandchildren, Matthew (12) and Louise (9), who unfortunately live 200 miles away. However they, my son Andrew and his wife Katharine come and stay with me four or five times a year. My daughter Michelle has no children. Although she lives 25 miles away, she works at a school less than a mile away and so comes to me for lunch every weekday. I retired from full-time work at the start of 2000. Since then I did work part time as the local Town Council's treasurer for two years until they had a reorganisation. My full-time work had started in BNS's research department and finished in plant, safety and quality management, working for ICI, then Exxon and finally a privately owned plastics recycling company.

'I have been involved in a number of charitable organisations over the years, including teaching swimming with a local swimming club; this was mainly to young children, but we did have a number of retired ladies who wanted to learn to swim and achieving success with these was very rewarding. I did take and pass professional lifeguard examinations, but never used the qualifications for reward. I was also treasurer for both this swimming club and a competitive offshoot. With others, I also taught safe-cycling out of hours at local schools until the County Council decided that this instruction should be given by teachers during school time. At our peak and for several years, we were teaching about 200 young children at four local schools. Many children came to us several years in a row and from an early age; again the County Council decided that they could only come once and only in their final year at junior school.

I have also been treasurer of a local Partners Against Crime group. This consists of members of a number of local Neighbourhood Watch groups working with the local police, mainly to reduce people's fear of the effects of crime. This group is now effectively defunct due partly to cuts in police

budgets and partly to the ease of electronic communication from the police to the general public.

Aside from crosswords and mathematical puzzles in newspapers, I currently try to keep my brain active with a small part-time auditing job and by acting as In-Memoriam Secretary for the British Heart Foundation. I act as independent auditor for three local community councils and have also prepared and run training sessions for councillors in risk assessment, the latter being a requirement for local government. As In-Memoriam Secretary, I acknowledge donations made in lieu of flowers at funerals. I also collect and exchange BHF collecting boxes from several local places, counting the money and banking funds. Typically I write about 150 letters per year and bank about £10,000. The auditing job is a paid one, the BHF work purely charitable. I am also currently in my second stint as Secretary of Monmouth Probus, where professional and business men meet once a week, with a member or guest speaker talking on a range of topics. Mostly, they provide the basic material, photos etc., and I prepare the PowerPoint presentation for them to accompany their talks. It has been interesting, during the last few weeks, setting up the policy and record keeping to ensure that Monmouth Probus stay within the new data protection regulations.'

**Antony Ellman** wrote: 'I've been busy completing a book on the future of Tanzanian agriculture in an era of climate change, running a scholarship fund for tropical agriculturalists, playing lots of concerts with my wind band and trying to keep my bees healthy and happy. In the last nine months, Constance and I have had two cycling trips in Normandy, one visit to Cape Town and one to Barcelona to play with grandchildren and a memorable holiday last August to St Petersburg and the Baltic States by plane, train and bus.

'The visit to Cape Town was at the time when the city was experiencing severe water shortages and there were threats of having to cut off the supply. As the plane approached Cape Town airport, they announced this and said: "Our advice to you is drink wine not water and shower with a friend!" It was also the time when Cyril Ramaphosa replaced Jacob Zuma as President of South Africa. My son, who works in Cape Town with Médecins Sans Frontières, sent me this upbeat limerick:



The country of Whites and of Xhosa  
Had a manager named Ramaphosa.  
They had to accept  
He was far from inept  
As the good times came closer and closer.'

**Hume Hargreave** wrote: 'Though it is 15 years since I retired from full-time practice and three years since I organised a second retirement at age 75 from the trusts for various families and charities which had insisted that I could not give them up when I first retired, life does not seem to get any less busy.

Having moved to the NW in 2015, Mary Ann and I took on the renovation, and introduction to the 21st century, of an old stone house in the Lune Valley, south of Kirkby Lonsdale. Those of our Merton friends who saw it before work started, or while it was in progress, were ostensibly encouraging, but privately, we suspect, aghast. As the house was listed, we engaged an appropriately experienced architect to get us planning and listed building consent – not an easy task as 'conservation teams' in these parts are staffed with recently qualified folk who stick rigidly to the rules, or rather their interpretation of the rules. However we got our consents. There were frustrations such as an insistence that we replaced single-glazed leaded lights with exact replicas that had to be obtained from suppliers in the Cotswolds and were on four months delivery, but we have been able to create a modern living space with underfloor heating in the middle of the house where it could not be seen from the road. Rather than put the work out to tender, get quotations that included contingencies for all manner of 'unknowns', and retain the architects to manage a building contract, we decided to engage a local builder whose men were used to working on old listed buildings, and employ him (and local plumbers and electricians) on a 'day work' basis. Mary Ann, having had experience of building hospitals when she worked for the Nuffield Trust, volunteered to act as clerk of works. After some hiccups, she and the men established an excellent *modus operandi*, with decisions made as the work went along – and occasional walls fell down (full of round river stones!). We were amazed to find one of the oldest walls had a timber frame lined not with wattles but with reeds that had been individually tacked in place. However long must that have taken?

'The job took two years, with an interval of some months following Storm Desmond while the builder repaired water-damaged houses up and down the valley. While work was in progress, we lived in the back parts, with most of our belongings in boxes, and piles of furniture in rooms that were not being worked on. The builder's men finally departed at the end of November, since when we have moved into the front of the house, unpacked boxes and found things we had forgotten we had, and have made regular deliveries to salerooms and trips to charity shops and the local tip. We had a builder's party in January for all the trades, at which shoulders of pork were demolished and a lot of lager drunk – a success because the men said that they rarely saw the finished job and were able to appreciate the result of all their efforts. And in April we had a 'Thank Goodness It Is All Over' party for all our friends whose hospitality we have not been able to return for the past three years.

'Would we do it again? Probably not, but if anyone would like some informal advice about projects of this sort, there is a lot we can tell them. We look forward to showing Merton friends the finished article whenever they happen to be passing up or down the M6 – 10 minutes from Junction 35.'

**Martin Hawkins** reports that he is well and reasonably fit, and 'totally overstretched on the community front with roles in this, that and the other local trusts. Added to this is considerable time and effort (literally digging in difficult places) spent as part of a steering group to bring Gigabit fibre optic broadband to our local community whose main wish in this life is to see BT Out of Reach burn in hell. With the help of the brilliant team of network engineers known in these parts as BARN (Broadband for the Rural North) we have connected our first properties and demonstrated that big society works in reality. I still get to climb the odd mountain but I cannot do it often enough to stay in the shape required to join my younger, fitter and far more experienced colleagues in the more exciting things. Nevertheless we did get in one sublime weekend in the Lakes in perfect winter conditions when we climbed out of Nethermost Cove on to Helvellyn on névé as good as an early Alpine morning. Our globally dispersed daughters and their families also see to a good proportion of our time, involving us in the last year in activities as diverse as baby-



sitting in Dar es Salaam and stalking lions on foot in the Matusadona. Of the two, driving in downtown Dar every morning to the French School was far more hazardous. Truly hoping to stay active and long may retirement seem like a distant dream.'

**Peter Hayward** confirms that he is alive and in good health (as far as he can tell anyway!). He is encouraging about a 60th anniversary celebration, and says that our cohesive group of 1959 Historians are already planning something.

**John Latham** wrote: 'All is well in the Latham household, and we are having a quiet year as my son George (18) is doing his A levels! Not much else to report as we batten down the hatches for Brexit.'

**David Marler** sent us a 'blow by blow' mariner's tale of a sailing trip from Gillingham to La Rochelle and back under the heading 'La Rochelle or Bust'. He wrote: 'For too long the impressive towers guarding the entrance to the Vieux Port at La Rochelle had mocked me from the cover of my North Biscay pilot. One year we got no further than Dover where we waited in vain for strong sou'westerlies whistling round Dungeness, that formidable tidal gateway, to die away. Another year we got as far as Treguier and Lezardrieux before time ran out. This year, however, we got there – 33 days aboard, 1,302 miles logged, 46 night hours and the Lord knows how many engine hours. It was too little to do justice to the delights of South Brittany, but we had made our main objective, which is always satisfying.' [The full story has been sent to all those of our year who are in email contact and could be sent to any others who request it.]

**Joe McDonald** wrote: 'I had retired from my final teaching post as Vice-Principal at a Sixth Form College in Scunthorpe way back in 2006 and had got into the usual round of my fellow Mertonians: a little Latin teaching, some gentle learning of German, choral activity, grandchildren to encourage and admire, plenty of exercise, not too much wine. Then a phone call came from Scunthorpe to take me back those 12 years. One of my pleasantest jobs as Vice-Principal had been to recruit international students, normally very smart Chinese, as a bright sprinkling in our very large A-level cohort. On the way I had sent many of these to Oxford and the very

best to Merton. The phone call asked if I would go back to Hong Kong and Guangzhou in October of this year, both to enjoy an anniversary celebration with many Chinese alumni and to talk to the prospective generation of Chinese students about applications to Oxford. Much has changed and improved in the way Oxford recruits international students and so, with the help of the excellent Schools Liaison Officer at Merton and renewed autodidactic work with some simple Chinese language, I look forward to my Michaelmas meetings in well-known South China haunts with some enthusiasm. Watch this space in 2019.'

**Ian McReath** has sent 'A few notes from the far side of Earth during May' which we have sent to those colleagues on email. Despite the rigours of advancing age, Ian says his brain still works reasonably well. Also the sense of humour hasn't been lost, a major advantage for putting up with today's Brazil. Some things, however, are too serious to retain a wide grin for a long time. Here is a flavour of his report.

'Brazil continues to go through a very confused political situation. Many of the pre-candidates for the presidency or state governorships do not have clean pasts. The country is rather polarised between "us" and "them". Sounds like a song by Pink Floyd. People who live on the donations of *mortadela* (a sausage made from a mix of minced meats, usually very cheap) sandwiches earn the equivalent of about US\$10 per day to wave red flags, gesticulate, shout slogans for the ex-president and against "them", and sometimes, to beat up a few of "them". For those who use polo neck sweaters, go around using metal frying pans as percussion instruments, and eat *coxinhas de frango* (a fried savoury made from minced chicken coated with breadcrumbs), "they" are the flag wavers who should be thumped if no one is looking.

'The problem is that both groups have potentially successful candidates for the forthcoming Presidential elections. Practically the only place that one finds a balanced discussion is during the evening edition of the TV Cultura News, where a panel of well qualified people from all walks of professional life give their opinions, which usually do not have an "us" and "them" bias. Usually their opinions on the political situation give little hope for even subtle changes.



'As far as corrupt politicians/millionaire/billionaire lawyer combinations are concerned, for the unqualified amateur it is often difficult to know exactly where the fine line lies between legitimate defence and formation of a gang to obstruct justice. One really has to believe that everyone is innocent until proven guilty, but it is hard to accept this thesis in the case of many of the wooden-faced politicians with tens of investigations in progress against them.

'Soon the World Cup will distract the attention of most, except corrupt politicians and their lawyers, the big drug peddlers, and the small thieves. Some Brazilians are still suffering from Germany 7 – Brazil 1 during the last Cup.'

**Peter Moyes** wrote: 'My news not good. Recently had heart attack and on kidney dialysis. Best wishes to all. Merton really did improve my life.'

We heard from College that **David Ontjes** died in May 2017 and an obituary appears in the *In Memoriam* section.

**Bill Woods** wrote: 'We are all fit and well and visit each other regularly. The two grandchildren are growing at a phenomenal rate and do all sorts of things with modern gadgets that I do not understand – which I suspect is the experience of many grandparents. So far as the outside world is concerned, one disadvantage of retirement is that you have the time to read about all sorts of things and think about them, which sadly has led me to the conclusion that there are few, if any, aspects of the way things are run in both the public and private sectors which do not need radical improvement!'

As for the two of us; at the time this was drafted, we had spent most of the past two days together – David singing in and Roger listening to *The Dream of Gerontius* and both of us, and our wives, on a May bank holiday OUS walk around our home territory of Saddleworth. Otherwise:

**Roger Gould** has seen no great changes in the past year, but had the interesting experience of receiving Royal Maundy from the Queen in St George's Chapel, Windsor in March. You'll be relieved to know that extreme poverty is no longer a factor in the nomination of recipients! Nor is it the privilege of the few as the monarch's age determines

the number of recipients – 92 men and 92 women this year. Nevertheless, it was a delightful and memorable ceremony.

**David Shipp** continues to keep fit with a long walk every Wednesday and visits to the gym. The next long-distance walk on the agenda is the South Downs Way. He and his wife persevere with their efforts to learn German to keep up with their two half-German grandchildren, now 4 and 1. They enjoyed a visit to Leipzig in February, and heard the *St John Passion* in Bach's church, the Thomaskirche, and Mendelssohn's *Scottish Symphony* at the Gewandhaus. Leipzig was pivotal in the 1989 'Peaceful Revolution' which led to German reunification, and there is a fascinating 'Stasi museum' about life in the DDR.

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## 1960

**Year Representative: Keith Pickering**

Tel: 020 8998 2614 Email: oldpick@aol.com

**Keith Aspinall, John Hartnett, Philip Hawkes** (via his amanuensis, Patricia), **Paul Jennings, Chuck Lister, Richard Mulgan, Tim Phillips, Nick Silk, Christopher Taylor and Jonathan Wright** all report that they are in good order but with nothing especial to note for *Postmaster*.

**Stuart Blume** now has seven grandchildren, the latest being part Italian and part Dutch. Following the publication of his vaccination book he has started on a wholly new piece of research, which though in its early stages will involve numerous trips to Central Europe and is in collaboration with a psychiatrist; hopefully more of that next year.

**Gerald Cadogan** continues his archaeological work which entails his visiting Crete at least twice a year and following up with the appropriate excavation reports.

**Geoffrey Copland** has had another busy year. He continues to be Vice-Chair of Trinity College London (TCL examines particularly in music and English language), Vice-Chair of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and is now Chair of International Students House. He is Chair of the



Thomas Wall Trust, which gives grants to needy students and small charities, and is a trustee of various other education-related charities. Though these keep him busy he notes ruefully that there is no physics in any of them.

He would like to record his especial sadness upon learning of the death of **Professor Michael Baker**, who was not only his undergraduate tutor but also his DPhil supervisor and co-author of some research papers. Michael was a major figure in Geoffrey's life, it being Michael's belief that a boy from a small country grammar school with no Oxbridge tradition should be given the opportunity to study physics. That not only equipped Geoffrey for his professional career but also opened up a completely new cultural world.



John and Sara Crossley celebrate his 80th birthday

**John Crossley** continues to work and when not working, is travelling. His latest book, *Guy of Saint-Denis: Tractatus de tonis*, edited and translated by Constant J Mews, Carol J Williams, John N Crossley and Catherine Jeffreys, came out late last year. Earlier, after an Oxford reunion with his undergraduate contemporaries at St John's, he attended a meeting on Jean de Murs, a 14th century mathematician, astronomer and music theorist. This has resulted in a nearly complete, somewhat large (20,000 word), paper on his 'Musica speculative', put together along with John's colleagues back at Monash. At the Encaenia lunch he had the pleasure of sitting next to the Warden (of Merton) – a lively mathematician whom he had previously not met – and after that on to a delightful conference in Poitiers on 'Urban

monasticism' in the Middle Ages, where he gave a paper entitled 'Dancing in the streets, singing in the choir.' Then his wife Sara and he met in Paris to head off for a wonderful week in Aix-en-Provence, followed in September with a journey to the Philippines and a week's holiday in Kyoto. In January this year he took up an Asian Study grant in the National Library of Australia for his work in the Philippines, which was a marvellous and privileged time affording him, inter alia, all-hours access to the Library's incredible resources.

**George Darroch** is in fine form and enjoying his new life at the coast.

**John Davies** has had a relatively quiet publication year (just one review), but has otherwise been active academically, with lectures in Vienna in March, in Dresden and Rome in November, and (by courtesy of the Mommsen Gesellschaft) a weekend also in November moderating in English a postgraduate workshop in Wittenberg on a theme that he had been able to select himself. The last-named was fascinating, not just academically (though he had a splendid bunch of students: six German, one Greek, one Italian), but also because it was the peak of the quincentenary commemorations of Martin Luther's church-door manifesto, with the town *en fête* and crowded with visitors and pilgrims.

Somehow he also managed to fit in four trips with his wife: first a fortnight's standard itinerary coach-group tour round Iran, fascinating; then a very sobering weekend in Ypres with the Armourers and Brasiers (her Livery Company); a less sober week in Vienna at the Epigraphical Congress, and finally a week's coach-group tour of sites and monuments in Thrace – not the standard face of Greece at all; and they will be in York later in the year for the Early Railways Conference.

It was a pleasure to have been able to invite the family and his oldest friend and his wife to an 80th birthday lunch in London in September. In sum, he is in reasonable working order, and long may it continue.

**Ian Donaldson** is still in Melbourne, continuing as an honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne. Presently he is not travelling but instead is writing about someone who did, the German artist and explorer Ludwig



Becker, who in 1860 accompanied the doomed expedition of Burke and Wills from Melbourne in the south to the Gulf of Carpentaria in the north, and – like most of his companions – perished in the attempt.

**Leslie Epstein** is still plugging away at Boston University Creative Writing, which over the years has become perhaps the finest in the country. When he arrived there 40 years ago, 25 writers were applying for 13 spots in fiction. Now they have 550 applying for ten spots; very gratifying.

Rotator cuff damage has curtailed Leslie's tennis but he is still able to type and has written two book reviews for the *Wall Street Journal* and *Weekly Standard*. Leslie has made it clear that he is a Roosevelt Democrat who thinks Trump unspeakable and a threat to American democracy, yet he seems somehow to have become the darling of the right. To their credit, neither publication took out a single left-wing word.

He is returning to where he was at Merton: something of a playwright, or trying to be. His dramatisation of *King of the Jews*, a big success in Boston 11 years ago, will have been read early in March at the National Yiddish Theatre (where else?). Look for his name in lights. But above all, Go Cubs!

**Peter Fattorini** has added to his stent collection, the only boring aspect of this being that its predecessor's malfunction meant he had to cancel a trip to the Galapagos in December, with celebrity guest Richard Dawkins. Expletive deleted.

Peter is in regular contact with **David Fletcher**, this news coming as a relief to **Keith Pickering** who was unable for the first time to elicit a response from David to this year's annual *Postmaster* email, but is happy to learn indirectly that all is well with David.

**Bruce Gilbert** is in fine fettle and wishes to pass on his good wishes to all Mertonians, especially the class of 60, and to assure friends that there is always a welcome waiting for them in York.

**Francis Glassborow** notes that after an overly long 2017 he and his fiancée, Gwyneth, have finally got a builder who starts work on 19 March and is scheduled to take 20 weeks,

which they hope will actually be 19 (well, one can always hope), as they are marrying on 28 July.

**Stephen Hazell** is in good form and negotiated a painless luncheon gathering with **Keith Pickering** in late November.

**Arthur Hephher** has had an uneventful year, managing to break only one wrist while in competition with some pre-Christmas ice.

**Alan Heppenstall** continues to slide towards complete retirement, but is not quite there yet, expecting to continue tour guiding during the coming summer, this being likely to be linked with cruise liners calling at the ports of Liverpool and Newcastle. In correspondence with **Keith Pickering** the two of them realised belatedly that they had attended schools almost within shouting distance for several years back in their youth in Newcastle, but had never unearthed this during their time at Merton together.

**Michael Hind** has been active. The spring of 2017 saw him on a long weekend in Livarot on an organised group visit, followed by an unaccompanied trip based round Vannes in southern Brittany, enjoying the new TGV extension. He then spent six weeks with a group of second-year Chinese undergraduates teaching writing skills on a nominally part-time basis. They progressed rapidly in a short time and at the end of the course celebrated their achievement with the Director of Keele Language Centre.

In the autumn he had great fun reading 'up-to-date and exuberant' versions of *Bawdy Plays from Bygone Days*, developed out of medieval French secular drama by his friend Bill Tydeman, a University College graduate some five years his (Michael's) senior, who used to hold a personal chair at Bangor as Head of English.

Last October, performing with a local Theatre and Arts Guild company, he undertook a series of bit parts in a well-produced and sharply-edited version of *Henry V*, played to village audiences in a mediaeval church. The Guild also put on a Christmas entertainment, which included a reading of 'A forgetful parish choir', one of the stories in *Life's Little Ironies* (Thomas Hardy); some moving Christmas at wartime



readings and a hilarious impromptu performance of an extract from the Bampton Mummers plays by randomly selected performers culled from members of the audience.

He visited **Jasper Holmes** and Kate (in Wiltshire) before Christmas, and **Stephen Hazell** and Usha, earlier this year in London. A brief holiday in Boston USA is planned as well as catching up with friends and relations as the summer and autumn of 2018 march on.

**Jasper Holmes** is recovering steadily from a stroke he suffered some time ago and, though weak, continues to enjoy walking slowly, good company and good wine to match.

**Alan Keat**, along with **Richard Thompson**, braved the Great Wen to meet up with **Keith Pickering** for lunch: a clash of three really great minds.

**Roger Laughton** is keeping well and maintaining his allotment with Nick Woodward. Otherwise, his one remaining extramural commitment is as a guide once a month for visitors to St Bride's Church off Fleet Street, the people's favourite there being the charnel house in the crypt ... dem bones.

**Keith Pickering** would like to thank all his correspondents who so patiently responded to his annual approach for news of their wellbeing. He himself has added to his fascinating collection of metal implants by having a new hip installed in late 2017, but is now fully recovered to do battle on the golf course and in the gymnasium.

**David Price** has had the double pleasure of returning from an incident-free gastronomic tour to India to learn that at long last his daughter, following some skilled surgery, is now on the path towards making a full recovery from what could have been a seriously threatening sports injury. Otherwise he is discovering the downsides of being an executor, his experience enabling **Keith Pickering** to quote one of his few Bardic offerings, 'How quickly nature falls into revolt when gold becomes her object.'

**Glynne Stackhouse**, despite now being 77, though not believing it, is pretty well generally speaking, and continues

his musical involvements, as chairman of the local chamber music society, and as a board member of Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies. He continues to play when called upon to do so – he is down to perform at five weddings later in the year – but he no longer has a regular Sunday commitment. And like most of his contemporaries, he delights in his grandchildren (a boy and two girls) as they grow up. He remains thrilled with the downsizing decision taken last year and after the 250-yard move is still revelling in the new house, noting as he writes that he can see trees, flowers, grass and passers-by in their traffic-free estate. Life continues to be good!

**Richard Thompson**, as noted above, braved the trip to London to add intellectual weight to the company when meeting with **Alan Keat** and **Keith Pickering**. He had just returned from a wonderful stay in Turkey in and around Gallipoli, organised entirely by his son, to visit the battlegrounds in which Richard's father had fought during the First World War; a very emotional experience. Otherwise, he continues to spend time at their house in France, which happily isolates him from today's electronic communications pressure.

**Michael Thorn** feels his only achievement of note is to have sustained his status as one of the remaining sane in the Trump lunatic asylum.

**Jim Trefil** is still chugging along as Clarence J Robinson Professor of Physics at George Mason University (and would wish to note that Mason was a pal of Washington and Jefferson and played a big role in the Bill of Rights). Currently he is working on a sequel to *Exoplanets* (published in 2017), basically an attempt to figure out what kind of life might flourish on the various kinds of worlds out there. Last year he published *The Story of Innovation* with National Geographic.

**Bruce Walter** has been travelling from his Athens base, visiting Bologna, Ferrara and a return to Ravenna in December, and Morocco again in February, making good use of Airbnb and maintaining his translation work to keep the grey cells from withering. Though things being what they are in Greece (the Economist Intelligence Unit is forecasting Greece's exit from the eurozone and its population predicted to decline from its 2018 level of 11.5 million to 8.5 million by



2050, should present trends continue), he has had perforce to descend from the heights of translating the National Archaeological Museum's guide to working on cookery books and the wines of Greece. Plans are afoot for Keith and Sandy Pickering to join him for dinner in September. Watch this space.

**Philip Webb** has finished indexing and scanning *The Railway Magazine* for the years 1929 to 1940, a fascinating account of Britain long ago, when industry thrived and technology was still leading the World. He plans to help fellow Mertonian **Bernard Robinson** (1957) with his essay on the Lord's Prayer, offering a pagan's opinions about the three versions of the Greek text. He continues to thank the gods that he found his way to Canada and to Toronto, where the new street cars are now arriving at an accelerated rate.

**Mike Williams**, now well past the magic 80 barrier, continues to enjoy life with his much younger 77-year-old wife, Rosemary.

**Brian Winston** is still fully engaged at Lincoln University and was appointed Visiting Professor at the Digital Cultures Research Centre at the University of the West of England. His job, as outlined, is to tell them there is nothing new under the heavens. Otherwise, for academic reasons, he spends too much time flying, whereas all is but as nothing when compared with the two-year-old genius (of course) that his daughter and son-in-law have introduced into his life.

**John Wood** retired from the chairmanship of Wymondham Music Festival several years ago, but still supports their events in town in June/July every year (lowbrow end of the spectrum generally preferred). He stopped playing the saxophone after a minor heart operation in 2015, but has since been enticed back, initially for a couple of church services, but was later seduced into joining a wind band, now playing concerts which suit his busker core, and leading to his deciding to add a tenor sax to the alto he bought himself as a 60th birthday present. Son Matthew, accordion and percussion, maintains the family tradition by playing in an Americana band, Brother Pit. John is chair of the trust which looks after the arts centre in a beautiful 14th century chapel in Wymondham, their efforts being presently directed

towards a £1 million Heritage Lottery Fund application to restore and develop it as a heritage centre. He continues to chair Wymondham's Literary Festival, which is back again this year after a year off because the two artistic leaders (poet and novelist) needed time to catch up on their writing.

Otherwise, he does his best to sustain his role as paterfamilias of the Wood clan, currently 15 strong in the vicinity and accompanied by adjacent in-laws swelling the tribe.

**Nick Woodward** divided his time between his small allotment in Kew and his rather larger French hideaway down by the Gironde.

**Editor Claire Spence-Parsons** mistakenly printed an image of John Crossley and his wife in last year's edition of *Postmaster* with a caption 'John Crossley and his wife, Margaret'. Claire would like to apologise to *Sara*, and to John for this error, and thank Sara, John and Keith for their good humour and understanding on the matter. Claire Spence-Parsons

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## 1961

**Year Representative: Bob Machin**

Email: bobmachin125@gmail.com

Greetings but no news from **Michael Coe**, **Brian Drury**, **Richard Emeny**, **Richard England**, **Gwyn Pritchard** and **Peter Corke**.

News at last from **Peter Finlay**. After leaving Merton, Peter took a degree in divinity at Edinburgh and has since had a varied

career with the Church of Scotland. After a stint in Castlemilk, Glasgow, he went to Zambia. Then back to Torridon in Wester Ross, followed by the Ferguslie Park housing scheme in Paisley. After a short spell in Libya, it was back to Scotland; first to the Isle of Skye and then an inner-city parish in Glasgow's East End. He and Marjorie brought up their son Hamish on the ninth floor of a tower block, with all the other 'up and outs' as their neighbours described themselves. They've now retired to the Isle of Arran where Peter can put his travelling days



behind him – necessarily so, because his crumbling vertebrae can't cope with the local roads.

**David Judge** reports that he has spent his working life as a solicitor in Malvern. He joined the family firm of Whatley Weston & Fox, married the boss's daughter and became a senior partner in 1982. He met Angela at Oxford. They have a son who is a solicitor in Taunton and a daughter married to a solicitor in Edinburgh. They have lived on their 30-acre estate for 50 years and their garden has been open under the National Garden Scheme for two decades. Summer is taken up with gardening and fishing; winter is the time to go out shooting with no less than eight Labradors. From 1979 to 1999 David was clerk to the Malvern Hills Conservators ('Trust' since 2017), which manages some 3,000 acres. During this time it became a charity in 1984 and in 1995 obtained the fifth Act of Parliament relating to the hills.

**Abdul Mamoojee** still lives in Lakehead, Canada and is involved with the university retirees' association. In 2017 he became the pensioners representative on the University Pension Board and already describes his relationship with various lawyers, actuaries and auditors as 'vexatious'. He and his wife continue to avoid Canada's brutal winters by spending December to April in Cape Town where his younger daughter and her children (aged 3-9) live. There are also occasional trips to Florida where his elder daughter lives. No grandchildren there and the discouraging prospect of a dog. Abdul is a cat-person and has fond memories of Duns Scotus at Merton in the 1960s. I had forgotten him but do remember Monty the poodle and the stentorian commands addressed to him by Dr Barton.

**Alan Slomson's** stint as Secretary to the Thoresby Society has come to an end and he has joined the Board of the Headingley Development Trust – the UK's first local investment fund. Investors can expect a 2% return (better than a bank account). The aim is to fund a range of community services and provide houses to rent at below the market rate. He was pleased to see **John and Anne Peterson** at Frank Kelsall's 75th birthday party. Though retired, John is still involved with computer applications to archaeology. He also recently met **Peter Morrish**, whose *History of Libraries in Leeds* will shortly be published by the Thoresby Society.

Many will remember Peter as assistant librarian at Merton in the 1960s. He recognised Alan as the perpetrator of a recurrent plague of paper frogs in the Bradley Room.

**Peter Cope** looks forward to autumn 2018. At the end of September his wife Melia retires from her East Radnor parishes. She leaves in triumph, having just negotiated the removal of most of the pews in her largest church – a feat that few clergy manage. Retiring to Ludlow should keep them clear of any repercussions.

**Anthony Parmiter** writes from semi-retirement in Stow-on-the-Wold while still designing and delivering seminars/workshops on financial management. Otherwise, he plays real tennis and entertains two grandchildren.

**Peter Richmond** continues to participate in long-distance walks with Tony Ridge et al. – Anglesey Coast in 2016/17, South Downs Way in prospect for 2018/19 – but admits to getting a lift on the support vehicle for the more strenuous sections.

**Wallace Kaufman** writes that although *The Hunt for FOXP5* (a novel co-authored with David Deamer) did not reach the best-sellers list, it has raised several ethical and scientific issues that are now part of the genomics revolution. When not gazing out from his retreat in the wilds of Oregon, he provides conflict mediation services and continues to write poetry and non-fiction. Still working on a biography of the explorer Wilhelm Steller and a memoir on his surroundings for the past seven years.

**John Sandercock** writes from Switzerland that his company is now 80% owned by the employees, and has had its most successful year yet. Last September, he and Jenny moved to a very large garage with house attached in an adjacent village. His collection of classic cars is now under one roof with plenty of space to work on them.

In September 2017 **David and Sheila Rattenbury** continued their globe trotting with a holiday in Hawaii, including a dramatic two-hour helicopter ride over Kīlauea to view molten lava from a safe altitude. But in November they began transferring substantial sums of money to their



oncologist. David first, with the removal of an early-stage melanoma, followed by Sheila losing a large chunk of her colon from a fast-growing stage three cancer. We all wish them a safe outcome.

**Macdonald (Mac) Jackson** writes that formerly his daughter Anna was known as 'Macdonald's daughter' but now he has become 'Anna Jackson's father'. Her seventh collection of poems, *Pasture and Flock: New & Selected Poems* (Auckland University Press), was published this year. Mac himself is still academically active. Among his most recent publications are three chapters in *The New Oxford Shakespeare: Authorship Companion* (OUP, 2017) and contributions to *The Cambridge Guide to the Worlds of Shakespeare* (CUP, 2016) and *The Oxford Handbook of Shakespearean Tragedy* (OUP, 2016).

Though **Mark Rose** is officially retired from UC Santa Barbara he still teaches a popular course on Shakespeare each winter. His recently published *Authors in Court: Scenes from the Theater of Copyright* (Harvard University Press) has led to a second career as an expert witness in copyright matters, principally in the film industry. He and his wife Ann Bermingham (a British art historian) live in California but spend several months each year in a New York apartment. They both come regularly to London and Mark is scheduled to give a talk at the Stationers' Company in November.

**Mike and Mary Dearden** celebrated Thanksgiving for a second time with Mary's family and learned how to fry left-over turkey (KFT?). January and February were spent in Florida. Returning to a cold snap in March was a shock but they had to return for their annual lunch date with **Derek and Carole Fry** (postponed from Christmas because of snow.) In July and August they plan a trip to the Arctic with Jan Mayen on their itinerary. I look forward to hearing about this. Jan Mayen is a 124 square mile island dominated by a volcano. There's no harbour and the gravel landing strip has no 'instrument landing capabilities'.

The highlight of 2018 for **Tony and Judy Ridge** was a holiday in Colombia in February. Tony insisted on visiting El Choco, accessible only by a 12-seater plane (the pilot weighed the passengers as well as the luggage!). The airport was just a bush landing strip. Their eco-hotel was a group of thatched

huts around a communal hall and the food, though delicious, was exclusively tuna.

**Frank Kelsall** has little to report, apart from his 75th birthday party in Hebden Bridge, attended by several of the year of 1961. This year was exceptional in that he attended three dinners in London Livery Halls. One was the Merton Dinner where **Howard Stringer** reminisced about the historians' reading parties at Salcombe. Perhaps he could be persuaded to write about these so-called academic holidays for *Postmaster*?

**Peter Steele** continues to enjoy the retirement activities reported in previous issues, his health marred only by the usual pains associated with the ageing process.

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## 1962

**Year Representative: Tim Archer**

Tel: 01371 810473 Email: timjarcher@btinternet.com

In 2017 **Martin Hall** was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy at Royal Holloway, University of London for his thesis on 'The historical, biographical and intellectual context of John of Garland's "De triumphis Ecclesie": a new critical edition'.

Professor **Daniel Hodson** looks forward to retirement from paid employment at 75 when he stands down in 2019 from the Chairmanship of the international emerging market broker Berry Palmer & Lyle Holdings. He remains as Chairman of the City for Britain, Vice Chairman of Gresham College, a member of the Court of the Mercers' Company, a Governor of Sutton Hospital in Charterhouse and as a trustee of the Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust.

**David Jenkins** organised a one-hour part of a health conference (two days) at the Vatican that focused on plant protein foods for human and environmental health. He reports that otherwise his life remains entwined in the perpetual and futile struggle to raise funds for research!

**John Keane** continues living in Yateley in North Hampshire, enjoying a basic level of golf and grandchildren who live



nearby. He and his wife regularly attend the Merton Society Weekend in June where his fellow 1962 Mertonians always provide one of the larger contingents. His wife has become a Friend of the Choir and this results in further opportunities to visit the College. Oxford is only an hour away by train so he likes any excuse to visit, such as to enjoy the atmosphere on the Saturday of Eights week.

**Paddy Millard** reports that having retired from setting up and running the charity Tax Help for Older People in 2011, he continued to work for them part time as the Regional Co-ordinator for the South West. Unfortunately, by then he had already taken on some consultancy work with its original sponsor, the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group, with a special interest in pensions and pensioners. This he continues at a relaxed pace mainly from his desk in the broom cupboard at home, with just the occasional jaunt up to the Great Wen for odd meetings with HMRC, DWP, FCA etc. and his colleagues at the Chartered Institute of Taxation. He keeps his eye in with excursions around his area as a volunteer with Tax Help to sort out older people's 'struggles with HMRC and the tax system – usually ancient widows'. He is currently involved in a pilot scheme distributing a factsheet from his booklet *A guide to taxation at bereavement* (see [www.taxvol.org.uk](http://www.taxvol.org.uk)) through Scottish registry offices.

As many of you will know, **James Wroe** very sadly died in the spring. **Daniel Hodson**, **Charles Webb**, **Martyn Hurst** and **Andrew Morton** attended James' funeral, burial and wake in Devon. There was a full church and Daniel gave a marvellous eulogy incorporating several of James' magnificent and moving poems. James was one of the most popular members of our year and he will be greatly missed. There is a full obituary in the *In Memoriam* section of *Postmaster*.

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## 1963

*There is currently no Year Representative for 1963. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interesting in becoming the Year Rep for this year.*

In the meantime, we did hear from the following Mertonians from 1963.



Guy English rows for the Royal Marines Crew

**Guy English** wrote that it is 'perhaps of more interest to MCBC than to the academic side of the College, but while participating in the World Pilot Gig Championships, now in the rather select "Vintage" category, I was hired as a mercenary to row stroke for a Royal Marines crew. They liked my precise bladework dating from 1964; I appreciated their raw untamed power! Didn't win.' Sterling effort nonetheless, Guy!

**John Allen** reports good news of a recent election. 'I was recently elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA) which was a nice ten-year birthday present for the website that I operate on Sussex parish churches ([www.sussexparishchurches.org](http://www.sussexparishchurches.org)).'

**Roger Garfitt** has started a CD label, *Re-stringing the Lyre*, to 'champion the ancient partnership between poetry and music'. The first CD is *In All My Holy Mountain: A Celebration in Poetry & Jazz of the Life and Work of Mary Webb*, which Roger performs with the composer Nikki Iles and the John Williams Octet. Welcomed by John Fordham, the jazz critic of *The Guardian*, as 'an imaginative and illuminating addition to the genre', it can be ordered from [www.jazzcds.co.uk](http://www.jazzcds.co.uk).

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## 1964

**Year Representative: Richard Burns**

Tel: 07703 439226 Email: [rburns1946@gmail.com](mailto:rburns1946@gmail.com)

Given that we are now in our 70s and probably slowing down a bit, it's perhaps not surprising that news of activity



is rather sparse this year. A prime example of this is **Keith Cartwright**, who describes himself as 'still fly fishing around the world (and in Herefordshire) and pottering on with a medico-legal portfolio before total retirement'. **Tony Webster** is still spending a lot of his time in Normandy, but he had a week at a Bach festival in Thuringia where he met 'a Mertonian of an earlier vintage' [**Sir Christopher Ball** (1956)] who had also been taught by Hugo Dyson and who left Tony open-mouthed with his accounts of multiple marathons largely run in his 70s (is this an example we should all follow? Probably not). Tony's other highlight has been running a rest and feed stop in the small Cumbrian town of Alston for the 1,500 cyclists participating in the Audax ride from London to Edinburgh and back.

**Bob Bradshaw's** main news is of a trip to the Antipodes, where in Auckland he coincided with the Volvo Ocean Race and saw some outstanding ballet at the Wellington Festival – far better than the production of *Carmen* he attended at the Sydney Opera House. He is 'defying age' by buying a new (to him) yacht.

Another defying age, albeit it in a different way, is **David Rogers**, who has embarked on a part-time Oxford DPhil (at Kellogg) in the History Faculty, on a topic which relates to the interaction of three intellectual members of the British Raj with Indian culture in the latter years of Empire. David hopes 'he will still be around at the end of the scheduled eight years'.

**Paul Mahoney** retired as the UK judge from the European Court of Human Rights in September 2016 but has kept working in a variety of part-time quasi-judicial appointments. Despite, in his words, 'the fact that the two main labels attached to my professional career have been "Europe" and "human rights" (neither of which is that appreciated in certain circles these days)', Paul was awarded a KCMG in the New Year's Honours List, making him the second knight in our year group, the first of course being **Sir Peter Scott**.

Others of us continue to work away as they have always done. In the US, Duke historian **Peter Wood** has recently had a journal article published entitled 'Missing the boat: ancient dug-out canoes in the Mississippi-Missouri

watershed', while back in the UK **Dick Stokes' Penguin Book of English Song** has come out in paperback, as has his translation of Renard's *Histoires Naturelles*. Lastly, **Nick Price**, who retired as Professor of Biochemistry at Glasgow University in 2008 after a career in academia, undertook a two-year Theology course and was licensed as a lay preacher in the (Anglican) Scottish Episcopal Church in 2012. This role has provided him with many fulfilling experiences in preaching, leading services, pastoral work and even appearing on *Songs of Praise*. He and his wife Margaret (Somerville, 1963) have five grandchildren who give them great joy, and they have also enjoyed overseas travel, including to nearly the top of the world (Spitzbergen) and the bottom (New Zealand). They ask (as so many of us do) 'How did we ever find time to work?'

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## 1965

**Year Representative: Peter Robinson**

Tel: 07823 388014 Email: peteredwinrobinson@gmail.com

**Paul Everson** writes to say that he continues to research and publish, as he always has, and especially in cooperation with his long-time research colleague, Professor David Stocker. The most significant event for that work this year is that (courtesy of the Master and Fellows) David and he are going to have a period of residence through this long vacation at St John's College in Cambridge, as Associate Students of the college, in order to further their current research programme for the volume on Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire in the British Academy's *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture* series. They have previously published the volumes on Lincolnshire (1999) and Nottinghamshire (2015).

**Bill McGrew** wrote to me in November 2016 with an update of his news. Unfortunately, I omitted to include his report in *Postmaster* 2017, so, with apologies to him for the delay, his report follows. Having retired from his Professorship at Cambridge (evolutionary Primatology) in 2011, and from his Cambridge college (Corpus Christi) in September 2016, Bill has moved on to the next phase of 'retirement'. His wife Agnes and he have moved to Fife, where they have bought



a house some eight miles from St Andrews. In 2017, he took up an Honorary Professorship at the University there, in the School of Psychology and Neuroscience. This has taken him 'full circle, back to psychology, and back to Scotland'. Bill reported that the 11 years in Cambridge were good, but he had been itching to migrate back north.

**Peter Robinson** enjoyed a family wedding in New York last September, followed by side trips to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington DC, and culminating in a lunch with Jonathan Zamet and his wife Patricia in Brooklyn just before returning. There was another family trip, this time to Arequipa, Peru, at Eastertime this year, with enjoyment unspoilt by the altitude and any impairment of lung function. Peter and his wife Roxana are looking forward to a trip to the Dordogne in August, having not visited France since their trip to Gascony in 2012.

**Alan Smith** writes to say that his life continues in a pleasantly uneventful way. Long may that continue! He sees **Anthony Wright** several times a year. He is usually in Italy twice a year, visiting friends in Friuli, the Veneto and Lombardy. Simon Jenkins' book on *England's Thousand Best Churches* gets good use as does his nearly-complete set of Shell Guides to England and Wales. He still enjoys driving on country roads but is less enthusiastic about motorways, especially congested ones. He finds the Oxford and Cambridge Club a delightful oasis of calm on visits to London, and does not know what he should do without it.

**Jonathan Zamet** writes that, after a wait of over six months, he is delighted to have received a Merton College tie via the mail order catalogue of a clothing store in Charleston, South Carolina. He spotted it among their selection of regimental and school ties, which normally prove to be of very high quality.

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## 1966

**Year Representative: David Holmes**

Email: dholmes20@blueyonder.co.uk

**David Holmes** has been appointed to the Board of BPP University, continuing as its Academic Council chairman, and continues to chair Oxford Mutual Ltd (a discretionary insurance mutual wholly owned by the University of Oxford).

**Ian Kershaw's latest book**, *Roller-Coaster: Europe, 1950-2017*, will be published by Penguin (Allen Lane) in September 2018.

**Denis MacShane** is working on his third book on Brexit. Having coined the term in 2012, the former Europe Minister in the Tony Blair government went on to write a book in January 2015 called *Brexit: How Britain Will Leave Europe* (IB Tauris). It set out all the reasons that would produce a Leave vote if a referendum was called. 'I was like a Cassandra in 2015 and early 2016, going from ministers to shadow ministers, all my friends in the FCO, think tank seminars, saying Brexit would happen unless a massive campaign was launched to reverse the steady growth of anti-European feelings and propaganda this century. No one would believe me and gently patted me on the back and said, "Don't worry, the cabinet secretary has it all organised, the British people will not be so mad as to vote themselves out of Europe".' MacShane wrote a short book for the Brexit campaign and then another book produced after the June 2017 election which argued there are many forms of Brexit, from the political to full trade amputation. Now he is working on another book tentatively titled *From Here to Brexiternity* which argues that Brexit will weigh on British politics, government and business for years and years to come.

**Stuart Sleeman** has just been reappointed as a Deputy Circuit Judge for the third time. (He retired as a full-time judge in May 2012.) He continues as the Chair of the Bar's Disciplinary Tribunal until April 2019, and continues sitting on the Jesuit Safeguarding Commission. He writes that, in truth, he is afraid of becoming redundant/useless (a sentiment I suspect shared by many).

**Melvyn Stokes** is still teaching at UCL and has another grant from the Arts & Humanities Research Council for a project called '*Remembering 1960s British Cinema-going*'. For the past year he has been travelling around the country sharing the memories collected in an earlier project. Highlights were 'immersive 60s cinema' events – re-creations involving



student actors of what it was like to 'go to the pics' in the 60s – in Wakefield and London.

**Robert Venables QC** has accepted an invitation to become a member of the Vice-Chancellor's Circle, which recognises individuals, foundations and corporate benefactors who have provided generous support to the collegiate University.

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## 1967

**Year Representative: Rory Khilkoff-Boulding**

Tel: 01435 830859 Email: rory@kbc-law.com

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## 1968

**Year Representative: Ian McBrayne**

Tel: 020 8504 2491

Email: ian@mcbrayne.idps.co.uk

My initial request for news this year produced only a few responses. I began to worry that as we become, in the words of **Scirard Lancelyn Green**, 'a little less young' we might be running out of news. Or maybe everyone was saving it for the 50th anniversary lunch for which we will, unbelievably, be eligible in October. But happily the mildest of reminders produced the usual hatful of updates. Good to know that our year is still alive and kicking. Scirard himself reported a trip to Sweden for 90th, 80th and 70th birthdays, but was happily too young to join the ranks. At home, a fire in a listed building was spotted early enough for the structural damage to be repaired in about two weeks, although cleaning up the smoke residue took two months. Their property has been chosen as the venue for a traditional longbow shoot this autumn. Scirard's return to ice dance after 30 years included a week in Celerina and another in Berchtesgaden. This year's choral fare seems to be about life and death, with five *Requiems* and a *Creation* at the time of writing.

Several people reported continuing activity in the world of work. **Alan Taylor** is still in full-time work in Hong Kong. His family is well, and he is still very much enjoying outdoor

activities such as hiking, of which Hong Kong has lots to offer. **Simon Orebi Gann** was surprised to realise that, despite an incredibly busy year, the only news he had to offer was that he had acquired another non-executive directorship, of the company handling settlement for the water industry, allowing competition of supply.

**Tim Cole** is still working part-time as a medical statistician, and will have clocked up 49 years of funding by the Medical Research Council when his current grant ends. He and his wife Angie continue to bring up their granddaughter (13). She is very sporty, necessitating lots of spectating from chilly touchlines. Another with news of a granddaughter, his second, is **Nicholas Richardson**: Audrey Catherine was born to son Andrew and his wife Jemma on 2 August 2017. Nicholas describes her as 'a large and (usually) very cheerful baby'. All of us with young grandchildren know the significance of the word in brackets!

Tim finds himself with a new neighbour in his London block of flats, Merton Society President **Sir Howard Stringer** (1961), whom he first met at Oundle School in the early 1960s, where Howard was a prefect and Tim a lowly fag. Tim comments on the excellence of Howard's after-dinner speech at the Merton Society Dinner in February. It seems that Tim has also managed to track down our long-lost contemporary **Orhan Bilgin** as a professor of Turkish Language and Literature at 29 May University in Istanbul. There are several in our year who would be pleased to be in touch with Orhan again, and hopefully we can discover more news of him for next year's *Postmaster*.

**Danny Lawrence** and **Alastair Northedge** both confirm the retirement they trailed in last year's news. Danny is leaving full-time work in the USA this June and returning to the UK during the summer, while Alastair has left his professorship at Université de Paris I. But in neither case is retirement quite what it seems. Alastair finds that he is still working as hard as ever, to pass the doctoral students who haven't defended their theses yet, as well as returning to Iraq to help launch a new project among the pollution and the oil wells of Basra. He says it is a good site to study, being the last city from the beginning of Islam still not built over. Danny has committed to what he expects to be 'very



gentle, part-time employment' as an assessment specialist for Cambridge University, which he sees as a way to wind down to real retirement.

With retirement now a little way behind him, **Alastair Henderson** reports that he and his wife have become 'part of the great South African diaspora' by migrating to Australia to be near their children.

**Nick Bicât** told us last year that he was composing music for a large-scale public event on Greenham Common. He now reports that the performance last September went extremely well, with an audience of around 5,000 over two days. He found it moving to experience the goodwill and dedication of the hundreds of volunteer participants, committed to celebrating the complex history of their common through war and peace. In December, Nick was again invited to Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park to speak and perform some of his music at the Shakespeare reading retreat, focused this time on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This year he is immersing himself in composing a dramatic cantata he has been commissioned to produce about the Siege of Constantinople in 626; it will be performed in 2020. You can catch other performances of Nick's work before that: his *Requiem* at St George's, Bristol in November and *Perpetua* at St Stephen's, Walbrook in the City of London next January.

Another engaged in music, in a somewhat different vein, is **James Miller**. 'Trying to play the saxophone less badly' takes up quite a lot of time, including with a community band in Hereford run by the son of ex-Oxford philosopher Peter Strawson. James, who says that he is himself continuing to get around reasonably well on crutches following his spinal cord injury, is also chairing a local charity, the Music Pool, whose mission is to try to transform lives, particularly of disadvantaged and handicapped people of all ages, through music. Finding the requisite funds is a nightmare, as public sector sources have dried up. He also continues as a governor of Hereford Sixth Form College, another organisation for which diminishing funding is a major issue.

Staying with the arts, **George Daly's** retirement in Brittany continues to be very enjoyable, with lots of drama (in the

best sense). In the last year he has been involved in a French-English version of three of the *Canterbury Tales*, a pantomime version of *Ali Baba* and a French play, *Le Diner*. He has also written an eco-musical for primary schools with friends. At the time of writing, he was in rehearsal for a French-English version of *Twelfth Night*. George continues to be involved with the African Prisons Project, which is developing in an intriguing way; if others are interested in this, he would be delighted to hear from you and the College or I can provide his email address. He reports attending four weddings and two funerals recently, commenting ominously that 'as age creeps up no doubt the balance will shift'. Meanwhile, he and his wife are off to Malta with **Peter Bibby** and wife Anne.

**Chris Simmons** seems to have been co-opted as Hexham Abbey's minder of old books, 'because I am old enough to recognise a *Book of Common Prayer* when I see one'. The abbey has a cupboard in which reading-desk copies of these dating from 1796 to about 1974 lay unregarded. A copy dated 1936 contains the prescribed service for the anniversary of the accession of King Edward VIII, the only service, Chris suggests, in the entire history of the Prayer Book never to be used. This has led to a couple of mini-lectures and a short contribution to *Hexham Abbey Revealed*, published last summer. Chris is now tracing the past ownership of a 1612 Geneva 'Breeches' Bible given to the abbey in 1954. He reports that he and Dorothy are in good health; the garden, 'rather backward after the long winter', will hopefully have recovered by now.

**Steve Drinkwater** continues his very active retirement. Last year he led walking holidays on the Dorset coast, in the Cotswolds and on the West Highland Way from north of Glasgow to Fort William. Additionally, he spent time walking the Dales Way and in the Dolomites (avoiding the hordes of motorcyclists and mountain bikers) and helped with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions for young people from Pembrokeshire.

Another who has been getting active is **Martin Wainwright**, who is in training to scull from Godstow to London in September to raise money for Holy Cross Hospital in Haslemere where a young cousin, very badly injured in a cycling accident, is a patient. Anyone who would like to reward this high level of physical endeavour with financial



support for a woodland walkway at the hospital can find details at [gogetfunding.com/rowing-down-the-river](http://gogetfunding.com/rowing-down-the-river). When not sculling, Martin enjoys 'grandchild-centred retirement bliss' in Thrupp, on the canal north of Oxford, which he recalls as 'the scene of one of those blissful student days in summer when a group of us meandered here and over to the ruined manor house at Hampton Gay where I fell asleep in the grass'. Back in the waking world, his yoga teacher has just awarded him some gift vouchers for Lululemon in Bicester Village. He adds: 'I don't think they stock cord trousers and check shirts which are my usual yoga gear, but maybe that is why she awarded me the vouchers.'

It was also good to hear from **Gary Stevens**, though he offered no news. During the year I, **Ian McBrayne**, have lunched regularly with **Paul Engeham** and **Barry Blackburn**, as well as seeing Barry at meetings of the Port of London Study Group, to which we both belong. The three of us, together with Simon Orebi Gann, who joins us sometimes for lunch, and **Adrian Berry** and friends from other colleges, are planning our own private celebration of the 50th anniversary, as well as hopefully enjoying the College's offering.

An anecdote received from **Roger Mintey** seems a fitting way to end this round-up. Roger is still studying psycho-acoustics, continues as a trustee of his local museum and watches and supports Sussex County Cricket Club. He read with interest **Philip Waller's** tribute to the late **Roger Highfield** in *Postmaster* 2017. In 1971 he shared Fellows 3 with Dr Highfield, who was tutoring a distinguished group of 11 final-year historical scholars, seven of whom achieved Firsts. Dr Highfield was 'painfully aware that Roger was neither a distinguished scholar nor a historian' so decided to provide him with advice more suitable for run-of-the-mill Mertonians. His first piece of advice was always to make use of odd periods of five or ten minutes and not to wait for long clear periods of time in which to work. His second maxim was to start all intellectual projects of whatever nature as soon as possible 'so as to get the brain cells pointing in the right direction'. Roger says that he has always followed these two principles, referring to them as Highfield's First and Second Laws, and continues to pass them on to the various people he is currently teaching or advising. Excellent principles too, as one would expect, given their source.

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## 1969

*There is currently no Year Representative for 1969. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interesting in becoming the Year Rep for this year.*

In the meantime, we did hear from some 1969 Mertonians.

**Tony Millns** reports that he is coming to the end of his maximum permitted term as a Governor of London Metropolitan University this summer, after nine years as Chair of Governance including having the (unprecedented?) task of appointing a whole new Board in 2009-10 when HEFCE, the funding council and regulator, required the previous Board and Audit Committee to resign. Having retired as CEO of English UK after 15 years, he is now working as a non-executive director with a Chinese company setting up a number of educational initiatives in China and Britain based on a 'fusion curriculum' including teaching Mandarin and the Chinese approach to maths. He still lives near Cambridge, though he and his wife Jill are enjoying spending more time at their house in Spain. The prospect of Brexit, he says, makes them feel like going there permanently.



The perspective provided by a good education ...

**Tony Hansen** has been equally busy. 'A couple of weeks ago, we were honored by a dinner near San Francisco for the Warden, Lady Taylor, and local Mertonians. It was hosted most graciously by Michael and Margaret McCaffery.





I weaseled my way into place to say Grace before dinner; however, since the majority of attendees were 'Silicon Valley Capitalists', they (alas) had perhaps not benefited from a classical English public school education: i.e. they had not been obliged to learn Latin for years and years. Consequently, they probably couldn't tell that my Latin was *slightly adapted* to meet the situation. Or, they had never paid much attention when the 'correct' version was said in Hall. Most likely only the Warden could tell that something was different: and he was (naturally) gracious enough to not condemn me to be burned at the stake – as his predecessor 500 years earlier probably would have. I gave a copy of the offending text to Duncan Barker: hopefully he, too, will refrain from martyring me.



In other news: slightly over a year ago, I took one of my environmental measuring instruments to a location just about at the half-way point of the Silk Road – Tashkurgan, 10,000' altitude – where China has a border with Afghanistan (a relic of the 'Great Game' of geopolitics in the 1880s, in which Mertonians were definitely involved). I include a picture (no. 2 in the attached sequence). Best regards from This Edge of the World, Tony.'

And finally more good news, this time from **Michael Collins**. 'This summer I am based in Mosta, Malta, away from the busy tourist coast and near the Victoria Lines, a venue for walks across the north of the island.

'The launch of my book *St George and the Dragons* at the annual dinner of the Warwickshire branch of the Royal Society of St George on 21 April was well received and over 50 copies were sold.

'A message of best wishes for the dinner, not the book, was received from HM The Queen, the patron of the RSSG.

'On 19 April an article based on the final chapter of the book appeared in the Comment section of *The Church Times*. On Sunday 22 April I addressed the annual parade of the Coventry Scouts attended by some 400.

'Later in the year I'll be giving a lecture on St George in aid of the St Paul's Pro-Cathedral Restoration Fund. We need at least



700,000 more euros to save the tower and spire, outstanding features of the Valletta skyline, from collapse and other works to be carried out. I am honoured to play my part.'

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## 1970

**Year Representative: Nick Skinner**

Tel: 01903 767072 Email: nhskinner@sky.com

Many thanks as always to you all for supporting this news bulletin – a good and welcome crop of responses this year. Most of our contemporaries are now retired or semi-retired, but one who reports he is still working is **Professor Peter Moizer**, Executive Dean at Leeds University Business School.

**Roger Everett** reports that he has taken up working towards some mountaineering qualifications, has completed the summer and winter Mountain Leader awards (which are tough, not designed for pensioners!) and is now working towards the Mountaineering Instructor Award. He writes that 'It gives me an opportunity to pass on some of my 50+ years of experience to some very enthusiastic young people, and perhaps mitigates just a little all the time I spent climbing rather than on scholarly activities while at Merton!'

**Alan Chance** sends his best wishes to all fellow alumni and writes that he is now semi-retired with three pretty undemanding roles: still chairman of his old ad agency, supervising a farm shop near Chichester, and running the finances for a social enterprise set up by his son – Giveacar – which has now raised £3 million for charities all over the UK.

**Hugh Davies** reports that he is now living back in Oxford after 30 years or so in London (and not missing it). 'Retired from paediatrics now but continuing an interest in Research Ethics, teaching for the UK Health Research Authority. Met up with **Stephen Goss**, who has recently retired as well, and also seen **Rob Mather**, the third physiological sciences undergraduate of 1970 who was a GP here in North Oxford. Strange!'

**Les Hewitt** continues to keep active. As age creeps forward, he is 'running a little less and hill walking & cycling a little

more!' He follows local non-league football team Warrington Town, going to all but a couple of games home and away.

**Andrew Neighbour** writes from the southwestern corner of the USA. 'Well settled in Santa Fe, New Mexico after retiring from UCLA, where I served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Research until 2005. I had a commercial photography and web development business up until three years ago. Now, retired again, and dabbling in independent filmmaking to keep those neurons firing. Health issues keep me from traveling at the moment: but a trip to Old Blighty and the ancestral home on the Isle of Arran in the Firth of Clyde are at the top of my bucket list. Best wishes to those who may remember me.'

More news from across the Pond comes from **Tony Woodruff**, who lives on the west coast of Canada. 'Peggy and I now have 10 grandchildren, and a house on the sea in the small town of Sechelt, BC, where I catch Dungeness crabs and grow vegetables.' Tony is a director of a Canadian charity and acts as the link between the fundraising in Canada, and the actual work in Uganda. He has supplied this very interesting description of a typical day.

'My friends, John Ochieng and Joseph Tumushime, and I left Kampala, heading for a meeting with government officials in the northern Ugandan town of Pakwach soon after first light. We wove our way through the morning "jam" of trucks, *boda bodas* (motorcycle taxis), cars and vendors, heading north out of the city. After an hour of chaos we were on the open road past lush green shambas of *matoke* (bananas), maize, beans, papayas, mangoes and all the other wonders of Ugandan agriculture. After crossing the Nile on a kind of steel raft with two large diesel engines, serenaded by quarrelling hippos, we stopped for lunch at the Paraa Lodge in Murchison Falls National Park.

'Our meeting was at 3.15pm in Pakwach, and all was well until we turned a corner and found a large family of elephants on the track out of the park. Nothing to do but turn off the engine and wait (mosquitoes and elephants are the most dangerous animals in the park). We got to Pakwach at 4pm, met more colleagues and the local politicians and administrators. This is a new region for our water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program, which we teach to poor



farmers to help prevent diseases like typhoid, cholera, dysentery and severe diarrhoea. We had a great meeting and Joseph was invited to sit on the district water and sanitation coordinating committee, which was the goal of our trip.

'We left and dashed west on the main road, crossing the Nile again, by bridge, for a meeting at the Africa Water Solutions regional office in the town of Nebbi. We met old friends and new faces, and after brief speeches left to head back to the Paraa Lodge. This was a race against the setting sun. The sun won easily. As we turned off the main road to head the 30 kms south on a track across the park, it set. In 20 minutes it was pitch black. John knew the winding path well, but it was complicated by heavy April rains which had flooded sections. We had to drive slowly across ponds, hoping not to get stuck, searching for the track on the other side. We were also afraid of suddenly confronting elephants. We speculated about getting stuck in mud – who would drive and who would get out and join hunting lions, leopards and hyenas and push?

'Fortunately, we made it to Paraa after a tense slow drive, grabbed dinner and crashed into bed.

'For the past seven years, I have been a volunteer doing due diligence for a group of Canadian donors ([www.waterschool.com](http://www.waterschool.com)) who fund WASH programs in Uganda. This is my day at the office. I love it, and have learned so much from my brilliant Ugandan colleagues.'

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## 1971

**Year Representative:** Allin Cottrell

Email: [cottrell@wfu.edu](mailto:cottrell@wfu.edu)

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## 1972

**Year Representative:** Mark Signy

Tel: 07710 349949 Email: [marksigny@aol.com](mailto:marksigny@aol.com)

Not many of you have written this year, disappointingly: I always look first at the years around us in the magazine, and we ought to do our bit. Please send lots of stuff whenever you have it to Claire or me by mail or email (or any other means: haven't yet had a Facebook or Twitter contribution ...) So thanks to those who have.

**Alan Giles** writes: 'Well here's a bit of news that will surprise you! Somehow I have been gonged: specifically, awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours list for 'services to business and the UK economy'. As Andy Dunn remarked upon reading that citation: 'So it's your fault then.' In fact it's largely because of my NED role at the Competition & Markets Authority, where – including the predecessor body the Office of Fair Trading – I have spent 11 years. My mates in the pub regard it as the least that society could do for me for supporting such an appalling football team ...'

Of course, we all recall Alan's immense detailed knowledge of Christer Lofqvist's speedway exploits and Rick Wakeman's singing, which also deserve a gong in anyone's books ...

**Mark Anness** says: 'Much of my time is still taken up with the Christian charity I'm involved with as a trustee. Myra's Wells ([myraswells.org](http://myraswells.org)) drills boreholes in villages in Burkina Faso. After water testing, we fit a hand pump. In January I was able to spend a week there looking round some of the wells and potential sites. This being my first trip there, it was challenging to see the conditions and quite emotional to see pumps in the 'flesh'. Photos don't tell the full story! The other highlight was cycling from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean across the length of the Pyrenees just on the French side of the border in August. The challenge was from Hendaye to Cebère – about 430 miles and about 11,000 metres of climb in under 100 hours. I made it with about 27 minutes to spare. 1972 seems a long time ago now! Where have the years gone?'

**Mark Signy** (I know, no one's interested, but send in more stuff if you want to avoid it ...) is slowly winding down his NHS practice and is stopping doing angioplasty/stenting this summer, but will continue to do some outpatients and cath lab stuff and a bit of private work: of course, referrals are always welcome ... (I don't think that counts as advertising does it?)



Perhaps the lack of correspondence is because everyone is saving it up for personal presentation at the Gaudy in September. For those who haven't seen, our Alumni Relations Officer, Chelsea Chisholm, kindly writes that 'it is on Saturday 15 September. It coincides with the Oxford Alumni Weekend, so some of you may wish to make a weekend of it. I plan on sending invitations in early summer (likely mid-July)'. I hope everyone is coming. As on previous occasions some of us will plan to meet up from mid-afternoon for a 'warm up'. Hope to see everyone then or later that evening.

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## 1973

**Year Representative: Gary Backler**

Tel: 07939 074462 Email: ggbackler@hotmail.co.uk

It was sad and shocking to hear of the death of **David Griffiths** in October 2017. David and I came up for interview at the same time in 1972. His calm presence and sheer human decency made the whole experience survivable. **Ned Holt** has written a fuller appreciation of Dave in the *In Memoriam* section.

**Graham Andrews** reports that the six members of the 1973 Maths & Medics group continue in good form and to meet up regularly. The highlight this year was a dinner held in the Old Parsonage Hotel in Oxford in September with everyone and their wives present. Otherwise, the news is as last year.

**Rob Lewis** keeps busy with his renewed interest in mathematics and is more than half way towards a PhD.

**David Melville** continues to work as a general surgeon at St George's Hospital in Merton, though he is now in his last few months before retirement.

**John Myatt** is still gassing people as a consultant in anaesthetics at Royal Bournemouth General.

**Bill Souster** continues to work in the City as a consultant with weekends spent at his home in South Wales. **Roger Urwin** is Global Head of Investment Content at Towers Watson, but also spends time on two outside director roles

at MSCI and the CFA. Graham himself is working on various projects, mainly in the oil and gas and mining industries.

**Paul Blustein** is finishing work on his sixth book, on China and the trading system, and is living in Kamakura, Japan, with his wife Yoshie Sakai and two of his four children. After a Skype chat last October with his daughter and son-in-law, he rushed out to a Shinto shrine to buy his daughter an amulet called an anzan omamori, which is for safe delivery of a baby – and it worked! Or at least it didn't hurt. Paul's first grandchild, a boy, was born in April 2018.

**Phil Hudson** writes that after redundancy from Barclays, followed by three solid years of IT project management consultancy, he was able to take a break for a few months – and catch up with some other 1973 Mertonians, **Gary Backler** and **John Ramsden**, as well as a chance meeting with **Andy Dunn** (1972) in a Manchester theatre. He reports that it was good to rediscover shared memories and also catch up with more recent news. The sabbatical was so appealing that following his youngest son's recent 18th birthday, he has now decided to liquidate his company and fully retire. The aim is to have time to travel to some new (for him) territories and to re-learn bridge, as well as do some voluntary work. He's also aiming to catch up with some more ex-Mertonians ... so watch out!

**Denis Thorn** has retired from his role at Ernst & Young, after realising that he was the oldest partner there. Now he just does a little consulting, and finds he is surprisingly busy with that. Otherwise he reports not much change – still living in Melbourne, married to Julia and with three children who have all made great starts to their careers.

**Gary Backler** continues to work on occasional consultancy assignments for the rail industry, as well as promoting the interests of Friends of the River Crane Environment in the many planning issues that are ongoing in west London. Nowadays he has to keep up the yoga so that he can still bend into and out of his seat at Brentford FC.

Thanks to everybody who took the trouble to contact me over the past year. I look forward to receiving news of 1973 Mertonians at any time, so please do keep in touch.



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## 1974

### Year Representative: Mike Hawkins

909 Corn Tassel Trail, Martinsville, VA 24112, USA  
Tel: 001 252 4318 Email: shawkins908@comcast.net

Depending on the timing of the publication of this year's edition of *Postmaster*, we may already have had the opportunity to catch up on news at our Gaudy. If not, I look forward to meeting many of you then, perhaps gleanings more material for the 2019 edition.

**John Davies** writes that after 40 years of fairly hard labour, he has retired from his law firm. His most demanding client is now the dog wishing to be taken for a walk. He may seek to get involved in some new venture, but certainly not just yet.

**Philip Endean** and **Ed Humphries** have both taken the time to make contact this year but have no particular news to offer.

Continuing in his many roles at the University of Liverpool, **Graham Kemp** tells me that 'I'm now Head of the Department of Musculoskeletal Biology in the rather uninvitingly named Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease.'

It sounds very much as though **Peter Lutzeier** has settled well into retirement. He writes 'My book project after retirement was completed with the publication of the third volume of my dictionary of German words with opposite meanings ('antagonyms'). It was published in February by de Gruyter (Berlin/New York) and is the world's first dictionary of this kind in any language. I still do the odd consultancy in higher education, and have started to help in the prison chaplaincy of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Otherwise our 1703 Queen Anne Grade II\* listed house with 13 acres in Much Marcle, Herefordshire keeps us busy and I offer some of our produce at the co-operative country market in Ledbury every Friday.'

I was delighted to hear from **John Sykes** for the first time. He writes that he 'has now been in Cologne for over 35 years, has dual British-German nationality and no plans either to move or ever to retire', as he enjoys his work writing travel books, translating, and guiding visitors around Cologne

Cathedral. The city being a rail hub, he had the pleasure recently of welcoming two Merton historians of the 1974 vintage as they passed through: **David Brock** and his wife en route to Dresden, and **Chris Sharpe**, who was on his way from Beijing via Moscow to London.

**Jeremy Warren** wrote to me in 2017 with news that could not be included in last year's *Postmaster*. He now tells me that 'In September last year I received my DLitt degree from Oxford University. I am now the Ashmolean Museum's Honorary Curator of Sculpture. I have started a major project for the National Trust, as its Sculpture Research Curator, to survey and research circa 6,000 sculptures in the National Trust's collections.' The aim is to improve the online and published information on the collection. He continues, 'I have been elected a Corresponding Member of the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno in Florence. Founded in 1563, it is the oldest academy in Italy.' Jeremy has also been appointed a member of the Acceptance-in-Lieu Panel, which advises the Government on cases arising under the scheme enabling UK taxpayers to transfer important works of art and heritage objects into public ownership while paying Inheritance Tax or other taxes.

If you read and enjoy this update but haven't thought to contribute, I normally send out a request for news by email in April or May. If you didn't receive the reminder this year it may be because the College does not have your email address or my message to you was returned to me as undeliverable. No matter, please send me your news at any time: it doesn't need to wait until next spring.

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## 1975

### Year Representative: Robert Peberdy

Tel: 01865 798107 Email: r.peberdy.123@btinternet.com

In 2017 a significant event occurred in the collective experience of 1975 Mertonians: the first known death of a former undergraduate from our year. Very sadly, the classicist (and rugby player) **Mark Gater** died on 31 August (from cancer). An obituary appears in the *In Memoriam* section, and we offer condolences to his family.



As usual, other 1975 Mertonians have remained quietly active in diverse ways around the world. In deepest Nottinghamshire, cardiac surgeon **Arif Ahsan** has turned part-time. The NHS, astonishingly, has relieved him of management and call responsibilities, and has granted him three days a week of operating and teaching. He has recently visited Halong Bay in Vietnam, and Angkor Wat and Pol Pot 'killing fields' in Cambodia. Over in Chicago, Illinois, **Simon Babbs** has ascended to the PhD programme in philosophy at Loyola University. **Glenn Bacal** and his wife Amy returned from Arizona to Merton in October 2017 for the memorial service for Dr **Roger Highfield** (1948), a visit that also evoked memories of the late Dr **John Roberts** (1953) and the late Sir **Martin Gilbert** (1962). They 'loved every minute' in Oxford, and were especially pleased to see **Philip Waller** (1971, 'such a wonderful person'). Back in June 2017 Glenn visited Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas, the site of President J F Kennedy's assassination in 1963. He found the Plaza to be much smaller than he expected, and the distance from the Book Depository window to the motorcade more compact. It proved a 'chilling' experience.

**Clive Bennett**, based in Lisbon, continues to travel widely as chief executive of a global auditing and accounting network. He reports that Portugal is now 'booming', attracting a large inflow of immigrants. He loves Portugal's climate, food and wine. The only dark cloud in his life is Brexit, which he finds 'so disheartening'. **John Cloughton**, despite being 'retired' in Birmingham, participates in the governance of six schools. He also recently organised an 'outreach' event in Birmingham for Oxford University, but was frustrated by the poor assistance from the main college involved. Recent work on Herodotus has stirred memories of the late **Tom Braun** (1959), whose death resulting from a car accident occurred ten years ago. **Alan Dolton** has undertaken more overseas expeditions. In August 2017 he went to Denmark to run in the European Masters Athletics Championships, and in October ventured to New Mexico, to visit family who live at altitude at the southern end of the Rocky Mountains. He is also interested in the Kennedy assassination, and recommends *Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK* by Gerald Posner (1993). **Ian Doolittle** has published an essay on Edward Gibbon's Magdalen College tutor Thomas Winchester, who famously 'well remembered that he had a salary to receive, and only

forgot that he had a duty to perform'. It can be found in *Blackstone and His Critics*, edited by Anthony Page and Wilfrid Prest (Hart Publishing, 2018). During breaks from golfing and sailing, **William Ford** has visited Malta, Spain (Granada and Las Alpujarras) and Morocco. In the last year **Steven Gardiner's** musical transcriptions into braille have included Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 ('The Italian'). He often finds himself thinking of his former Merton tutor Dr **Edward Olleson** – who died five years ago – especially when a slip results in a foully dissonant chord; out comes an Ollesonian exclamation: 'Oh, for heaven's sake, that's a *filthy noise*!'

The latest publications by **Dorian Gerhold**, DLitt, have included *Thomas Cromwell and his Family in Putney and Wandsworth* (Wandsworth Historical Society, Wandsworth Paper no. 31). It exposes numerous errors in the hitherto standard accounts by John Phillips, published in the 1880s, and argues that Cromwell's early advancement was built on the economic, social and legal success achieved by his father Walter Cromwell. In September 2017 fellow historian **John Harrison** could be spotted in Rome, leading and educating sixth-form art historians from Eton College. They explored Renaissance and Baroque churches as well as the Vatican Museums and Galleria Borghese. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, physicist **Nick Hitchon** and his colleagues have been encouraged to record their lectures to facilitate 'flipped' teaching, whereby students watch lectures on their own and then undertake 'homework' in class. Now that so much of his teaching is available on recordings, the Professor suspects that nobody will notice if he steals away into retirement.

In autumn 2018 **Gordon Jeanes** completed 20 years' service as vicar of St Anne's parish, Wandsworth. His church community thrives, with activities for all ages and extensive pastoral provision (e.g. Sunday school, marriage preparation courses). While visiting Oxford one day, his academic activities received serendipitous acknowledgement: at the Bodleian he happened to meet a fellow clergyman who turned out to be familiar with his writings on the Reformation. Way up in Cheshire **Chris Mann** as usual took the Dame's part in Congleton Pantomime's 2018 production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. He later appeared in *The Ghost Train* (1923) by the late Arnold Ridley (famous as Private Godfrey in *Dad's Army*). He has also been summoned



from retirement to undertake part-time teaching back at Staffordshire University. The highlight of **Ed Martley's** recent activities was playing golf at Royal Birkdale (NW England), just a few weeks after the 2017 Open Championship was held there. The course was established in 1894 and is regarded as one of the best in the world. Professor **Nicholas Mays** of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine continues to research and evaluate health and social-care programmes and policies. Recent publications have included contributions on healthcare systems to the seventh edition of the textbook *Sociology as Applied to Health and Medicine*, edited by Graham Scambler (Macmillan International, 2018). In March 2018 **Ed Myers** lectured in Paris about his 'new idea for trying to compare the mass of the proton and anti-proton ... by precision spectroscopy on the diatomic anti-hydrogen molecular ion and the ordinary diatomic hydrogen ion'. The learned scholars at the Sorbonne deemed the idea 'futuristic, but not ridiculously so'. Back in Florida, Professor Myers and his wife Lisa joined a march for gun control, but suspect that nothing will be achieved because legislators are more fearful of their conservative 'base' and the National Rifle Association than of a few thousand protestors.

Professor **Stephen Oppenheimer** of Baltimore, Maryland, has published the second part of his research on cardiac sympathetic neuroregulation. He is intrigued by the increasing number of neuroscientists among Merton's fellowship, and continues to be amazed by the turn of political events in the USA. Thinking of the USA, **Robert Peberdy** recommends *Not In Your Lifetime: The Assassination of JFK* by Anthony Summers (2013 edition). In 2018 **Crispin Poyser** slipped into 'semi-retirement', transferring from senior management in the House of Commons administration to work on a new (25th) edition of *Parliamentary Practice* by Erskine May (originally published in 1844). The great tome is to become available online for the first time. **Malcolm Price** was transported to China in 2017 to run a course for Chinese teaching assistants at an international school in Tianjin. Dr **David Salter** is establishing a twinning partnership between a Church of England primary school in Plymouth and a Coptic Orthodox Church school in Upper Egypt, developing work described in *Postmaster* articles in 2014 and 2017. Staff and children at both schools are delighted with their new 'exotic' friends. **Neil Smith**, who has long been a Fellow of the Cybernetics Society,

has now also been appointed as a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, a status that recognises 'significant impact' in the field. Tragically, his wife Nesta died on 21 March 2018.

2018 has seen considerable change for **Ian Taylor**. After 30 years of building Vitrol into the world's largest oil-trader, he has reduced his leadership role to that of Group Chairman. This will enable him to devote more time to the Royal Opera House, for which he has become the Chairman of Trustees, and to his Harris Tweed Mill (acquired ten years ago) and his family's charitable foundation, which among other things assists Oxbridge applicants from low-income backgrounds. Bishop **Tom Wright** (JRF 1975-78) delivered the 2018 Gifford Lectures at Aberdeen University on 'Discerning the dawn: history, eschatology and new creation', and has published the blockbuster *Paul: A Biography* (SPCK Publishing, 2018). When he was a Canon of Westminster Abbey (2000-03), his colleagues included a Canon Robert Wright. It is rumoured that they were nicknamed 'Wright-A' and 'Wright-B'.



Professor Chris Wickham lecturing at Padua University, 10 November 2017 © Veronica West-Harling

On 9-10 November 2017, Padua University held an 'international meeting' entitled 'Padua Meets Oxford', attended by a delegation of Oxford University dons, professors



and other representatives. Its 'heavy hitters' included the Mertonian Professor of Modern History **Robert Gildea** (1971, on loan to Worcester College), and the intense programme culminated with the conferral of an honorary degree on Professor **Chris Wickham** (Lecturer in Medieval History 1975–76). The honor and lectured in Italian on 'The mule and the boat: a new approach to the Mediterranean economy in the 11th century'. This latest news roused memories of Dr Wickham's kindness over 40 years ago. In Michaelmas term 1975 he arranged for first-year Merton historians studying Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* to see the College's medieval manuscript of the work (in the Old Library, superintended by **John Burgass**). A few weeks later, when I returned to Oxford for Hilary term 1976, I bumped into Dr Wickham in the Bodleian Library and he invited me to tea. We adjourned to the Queen's Lane Coffee House, where we discussed inter alia the interpretation of early medieval English history that underlies *Anglo-Saxon England* by F M Stenton. When I came up to Oxford, I expected to find it full of scholars eager to discuss intellectual topics. The memorable tea with Dr Wickham was one of the few instances when reality matched my naïve, romantic imaginings.

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## 1976

**Year Representative: John Gardner**

Tel: 07817 619083 Email: j.gardner@zen.co.uk

Thanks to all who took the trouble to get in touch to say 'Hello, no real developments, still happy'. And to those who mentioned retirement hobbies, the favourites being bread making, levitation, lion taming and telling tall stories.

Others have news. **David Humphrey**, until recently Standard Bank's Head of Power and Infrastructure Finance, now runs his own consultancy, JD Africa Partnerships, from Johannesburg. Also writing from Africa, **Shepherd Nyaruwata** studied tourism at the University of Strathclyde after leaving Merton, got married (four grown-up children now) and became a director of the Zimbabwe Tourist Development Corporation and Chief Executive of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa. In addition to writing and

consulting, since 2009 he has been a lecturer in tourism at the University of Zimbabwe.

**Mike Taylor**'s research on fossil vertebrates also covers their collectors, giving a wider audience for his articles. For example, if you want to know why naval officers can't be seen in public carrying fossils, see his piece in *BBC History Magazine*, May 2018. Serial regulator **Antony Townsend**, recently elected to the executive committee of the Ombudsman Association, hopes that the Leamington Spa Scout and Guide Group annual accounts 2017/18 will balance with him as Treasurer.

Congratulations to wills and trusts expert **Timothy Matthews** in Nova Scotia, now a Fellow of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and to **Richard Dendy** of Warwick University, who has not been awarded an honour but has had one named after him. The PPCF Dendy Europe-Asia Pacific Award is awarded by the Institute of Physics in recognition of Richard's contribution to plasma physics (PPCF being the monthly publication *Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion*).

After 17 years leading antibody research at Los Alamos National Laboratory, **Andrew Bradbury** has joined Specifica, one of the biotech start-ups he founded a few years ago, as Chief Scientific Officer. **Rob Hain**, who runs investment boutique City Financial, has been busy this year with Sound Diplomacy, which organises music events for cities, and as Chairman of the company behind Chika's healthy snack foods. **Dan Rickman**, data architect at BAE Systems, is again cycling for charity. This year it's the 100-mile Prudential Ride for Starfish Greathearts (for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in South Africa). Dan is no longer a prolific blogger: writing has given way to running an academic Jewish studies book group.

The boat people have been on the move again. **Laurence Ormerod** and wife Gill made three trips to Sweden last winter and spent six weeks in and around the Hebrides. A keen runner, sailing gives Laurence itchy feet. So before setting off he did the 'Lake District in a Day' 50-mile 'jog' in October. **Charles Manby** and wife Nicky's 2017 round-the-world sailing trip hit a bump in the road in November when the rigging failed on the way to Vanuatu. It's an ill wind, so they spent the summer



in New Zealand and were last seen heading for Indonesia and Thailand. Also in NZ, **Robert Hannah** is assessing Rutherford Discovery Fellowships for the Royal Society of New Zealand, which keeps him in touch with up-and-coming academic research since he left Waikato University.

Recently retired after 30 years at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, **Carlos Picon** has been elected *Curator Emeritus*. He has joined Colnaghi & Co, the world's oldest commercial art gallery, as Director of its new gallery in New York. Someone who fancied a more radical career change was **David Douglas**, who returned to London last year from Hong Kong after a life in banking and finance to become a chemistry teacher at a comprehensive school in Hackney. One of the first to retrain with Now Teach, he recommends it to anyone wanting a challenging late-career switch. Another keeping busy is **John Booth**, who is now Chairman of The Prince's Trust. He also chairs The Bridge Theatre in London, with five Mertonians now involved, others being **Nick Starr** (1977), **Guy Weston** (1978), **Jake Irwin** (1994), and **Andrew Leveson** (2001).

In addition to organising (ever faster) walks as a walk leader for Age UK, **Jeremy Horton** has been burning up the miles running (Rugeley Runners), skiing (Trois Vallées/ Portes du Soleil), sailing (the Solent) and climbing (Ben Nevis). Someone else trending at *#oldmenyomping*, **Rod Roberts-Dear** has arranged an eight-day trek in the Alps in September for a group including **Neil Craggs**, **Nicholas Cranfield** (1974) and **John Gardner**. They aim to limp back in time for the Gaudy on 15 September, and hope to see you there. They'll be the ones sitting down.

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## 1977

**Year Representative:** Edmund Wright

Tel: 01628 488065 Email: edmund.wright.07@gmail.com

We begin on a sad note this year by marking the death

of **Kevin Turner** last January. A commemoration by **Adam McMahon**, **Simon Saville**, **Bill Finch** and **Mike Colledge** appears in the *In Memoriam* section.

**David Seipp**, Professor of Law at Boston University, has donated to the College Library reprints with his introductions of the books by which lawyers found early reports of law cases in early modern England: the *Abridgements* of Statham, Fitzherbert, Brooke, Hughes and Rolle, as well as Ashe's *Promptuarie* and Bracton's *Treatise*. His 2015 Youard Lecture in Legal History to the Oxford Law Faculty, 'When lawyers lie: forging an English Constitution in 1399', is available online at [podcasts.ox.ac.uk/when-lawyers-lie-forging-english-constitution-1399](http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/when-lawyers-lie-forging-english-constitution-1399)

And finally, **Ashley Knowles** has sent in some 'unashamed advertising.' So, in his words: 'Ashley is better known to *Guardian* readers as "Boatman", one of Britain's most challenging and innovative compilers of cryptic crosswords and the author of *Boatman – The First 50*, a collection of his fiendish and inimitable crosswords, telling the story behind the creation of each puzzle. The book is available online and from bookshops, ISBN 9780995608207, or get in touch at [boatmancryptics.co.uk](http://boatmancryptics.co.uk) to request a signed copy or to see details of special events, including classes for aspiring crossword setters and advanced solvers.'

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## 1978

*There is currently no Year Representative for 1978. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interesting in becoming the Year Rep for this year.*

We did hear from two 1978 Mertonians this year, with the following news.

**Victor Mallet's** book on the fate of the Ganges and India's future was published worldwide by Oxford University Press. It's called *River of Life, River of Death: The Ganges and India's Future* and more details and images can be found via [victormallet.org](http://victormallet.org). There is also a review of the book in the Book Reviews section of *Postmaster*. Victor says 'It's my second book – the first was about the industrial revolution and financial crisis in south-east Asia and called *The Trouble with Tigers: The Rise and Fall of South-East Asia* (HarperCollins). I'm currently the Asia news editor of the *Financial Times*.'



And **Ivor Alex** says that whilst he doesn't have any Nobel or Pulitzer Prize news to share he has 'just spent three years in Miami setting up an office for my executive search firm Norman Alex. In June I returned to Monaco where I spent 17 years building up the company before moving to Miami. My company is specialised in executive search and corporate finance within the financial services sector. We also have offices in London, Geneva, Paris and Luxembourg.'

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## 1979

**Year Representative:** Noel Privett

Email: noelprivett@yahoo.co.uk

In last year's *Postmaster* I wrote: 'If the decline in contributions for 1979 continues at the current rate, it'll just be me next time and if that happens, I promise I'll do it through the medium of limerick in 2018.' Alas, nine worthies have chosen to confound me.

Three are retired, one is semi-retired, four are still working and one is happy doing nothing, although we can't tell if it's his job or lack of job that delights him.

First, the retirees.

After retiring from front-line lawyering in 2015, **Jamie Barr** is continuing to run his professional training business in Hong Kong, which focuses on training and coaching lawyers in Asia. However, with his family's centre of gravity having moved back to England over the last couple of years, after 17 years in Hong Kong, he threw in the towel in December and resumed tax residency in the UK. He says, 'Despite the obvious disadvantage this brings' (but it's not obvious to me) 'the clear plusses include rekindling long-standing friendships, the London theatre, the Merton choir and spring blossom.' To keep his mind off the weather, he has also become a lecturer at the University of Law in London.

**Jim Peters** reports that retirement – he's now in his fourth year – continues to provide unexpected pleasures. 'Looking at the garden and drinking tea, wondering what to eat for dinner at breakfast while drinking tea are just a couple of

life's gems,' he says. But despite such a packed schedule, Jim has found time to take himself into central London and attend Japanese language classes for a couple of years. 'Never having studied a language before, I thought I'd go for an easy one,' he muses. 'I don't know why a language with two alphabets of 49 characters as well as a couple of thousand Chinese characters didn't ring early alarm bells.' He goes on to say that 'undaunted by my snail-like progress I am going to Tokyo for three months later this year to do a full-time language course.' He says his family are fully supportive or that maybe they are just fed up seeing him around the house. And speaking of Jim's family, he says that they are OK and doing their bit to push up carbon emissions as they continue their university studies in a variety of cities – Madrid, Malaga, Leiden and Puerto Rico.

Our third retiree, **Mike Ryan**, says that after 34 years as a chemistry teacher, he has decided that it is time to hang up his lab coat for the last time. I wasn't sure if he was giving up work or had just decided to become a little slovenly, but then I read the rest of his note: 'I will miss many nice things and some less nice ones too. I reckon that missing the good bits will be the same whenever I go, so I may as well start missing the bad ones as soon as possible. I intend to carry on with my work for the exam board and maybe consider occasional cover work if it falls on a convenient day.' I still think that makes him a retiree. In fact, the next bit of his report seems to confirm this. He says that Lesley and he are all set for a fair bit of travel. After a few trips, they have discovered a love of cruising. Well, that sounds like retirement to me. I digress.

He goes on to say that he hopes they will be able to go for longer and more exotic trips in the coming years. 'At the other end of the scale,' he adds, 'we have bought a camper van, although this is still waiting to be put to good use.' There are loads of other things Mike is looking forward to, so he expects that like most retired people he will soon be wondering how he fitted everything in around the job. Finally, Mike reports that his two sons are in stable, but perhaps not yet too exciting, employment. The elder one spent a couple of years with his girlfriend in Australia and New Zealand while the younger one is 'in banking but has a passion for all things theatrical.'



Our one retiree-lite is **Schuyler Foerster**, who says that semi-retirement for him means keeping just as busy, without as much income, but a lot more fun as well. He spent spring last year as a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar at Masaryk University in Brno, Czechia, and returned there this spring to teach a two-week course. Other things keeping him busy include 'some research gigs, part-time teaching at Colorado College, and a lot of pro bono civic work. Watching the continued erosion of liberal political institutions on both sides of the Atlantic with alarm, but encouraged by signs of life in trying to hold governments accountable. And hoping the *special relationship* survives this *unconventional* (he said kindly) period.'

The ones still working ... First, **Geoff Bones** moved house last year, from their home near Cambridge where they raised their children to 'a place out in the wilds of Suffolk' (I come to Bury St Edmunds. Not to praise him?). Geoff says that they managed to bring with them all the matter that had accreted and adhered to their lives over the previous 20 years and says that they are now 'working on an aggressive plan that will see it unpacked completely by the end of 2029.'

He goes on to say that 'our immediate focus, though, is on furnishing the house with a bathroom that has the full complement of wall tiles, flooring and ceiling, and we feel we are close to achieving this very soon, perhaps even this year. Much depends on how long we 'stand confused over the choice of an attractive floor covering'.

Geoff is lucky in being able to work mainly from home. He still visits Cambridge every now and then, mainly to catch up with colleagues, and also because his bike enjoys being let out on Suffolk's glorious roads. He admits that he gets a lot more done on the days he stays at home.

Geoff's younger son has remained in Cambridge, but his older son and his wife moved at the same time as he did from London to Norfolk. 'They have announced the very happy news that they're expecting their first child,' says Geoff, 'elevating us to the ranks of grandparents-in-waiting. The waiting is due to end in September. You can all look forward with anticipation to my update next year, bursting with tales of nappy ointment and gripe water.'

**Armand D'Angour** concentrated in 2016-17 on the earliest substantial papyrus with ancient Greek notation, in pursuit of his research into ancient Greek music, representing a passage from Euripides' tragedy *Orestes* (produced in 408 BC). This turned out to be what he calls the Rosetta Stone of the project – the material with which he finally 'cracked the secret' (as *History Today* wrote) of ancient Greek music. Armand says that the resulting musical realisation finally shows that the idiom of ancient Greek music underlies that of Western Europe, thus pushing back the demonstrable origins of our musical tradition by around 1,500 years. Armand co-organised a concert presentation of the music in the Ashmolean Museum in July 2017, which became the subject of a 15-minute video posted online that December which has been viewed over 100,000 times since. He was subsequently interviewed, and presented more music, on BBC Radio 3's *Early Music Show* in January this year, and a book co-edited with Tom Phillips (St Hugh's, 2003, currently Merton JRF) – *Music, Text, & Culture in Ancient Greece* – came out in April 2018. 'I continue to work on this exciting research,' he says, 'but my focus has shifted to the publication and filming of an equally exciting project, my revisionist story of the young Socrates based on overlooked historical sources: *Socrates in Love: The Making of a Philosopher*.' This will be published by Bloomsbury in April 2019.

**John Girkin** continues to work as a professor in the Department of Physics at Durham University. 'When not at work,' he says, 'my time is either spent keeping our large garden in order or singing for a number of local choirs.'

**Roger Pearse** is still working as a freelance computer programmer. For the last year he has been working in Milton Keynes and is still dreaming of a round-the-world trip.

Which brings us to **David Chaloner**. Has he retired? Is he still working? Is he between jobs? Who knows – who cares? Because the very jolly news from David is that he is 'currently very happy doing nowt!'

As for me, I'm not retired – not even semi-retired – but I'd like to be, happy doing David's nowt. What is great fun, though, is Hugh and Romola, my magnificent grandchildren, who will both be two this year.



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## 1980

*There is currently no Year Representative for 1980. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested in volunteering.*

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## 1981

**Year Representative: Graham Dwyer**

Tel: +63 999 999 4961 Email: [gdwyer@surfshop.net.ph](mailto:gdwyer@surfshop.net.ph)

I am always delighted to hear from Mertonians from the 1981 Matriculation year, and thank everyone that contacted me this year. Even so, drumming up enthusiasm for updates can be an uphill task. So this year I offered the twin incentives of a challenge to name as many students on the Matriculation photograph as possible with the promise of sharing the results and providing a high-quality scan of the 1984 JCR group photo (which is notable for including **Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan**) to those who replied.

**Toby Thurston** came up with a fairly comprehensive list of the 1981 group (undergraduates at least), while **Ivan Viehoff** astounded by being able to put names to a good many of them! Kudos to you, Ivan, and thanks again, Toby! And so on with the updates.

First, some sad news from Liane Roe, who reported that her husband, **John Roe**, passed away on 9 March after a heroic fight against cancer. John completed his DPhil in Mathematics (1981-84) and was also a Junior Research Fellow (1984-86) at Merton. At the Pennsylvania State University, John was a professor of mathematics for 20 years, serving as Department Head for five.

As his obituary in a Pennsylvania publication stated, 'John reflected with honesty and grace about his cancer journey, which began with diagnosis and extensive treatment at the age of 54.' Please turn to page 211 the *In Memoriam* section to learn more.



Michael Guyote looking very 'Top Gun' in his US Air Force days

I heard from many first-time contributors this year, including **Michael Guyote**, who reports that he retired from MITRE Corporation (well, we are all getting towards that age!), a federally funded research and development centre, in 2015. He had earlier retired from a 20-year career in the US Air Force and had worked at Boeing as a Technical Fellow and Deputy Chief Engineer for the Sea-Based X-Band Radar system used for missile defence. 'Looking back, the work at Merton (supervisor was David Witt) was instrumental in all of the wonderful things I was privileged to do following my return to the States,' he writes. He is now keeping busy doing private research, maths tutoring, and giving pipe organ concerts (like me, he used to practise on the old Merton organ).



**David Llewellyn Dodds** reports that he spent the first third of 2018 guest-editing a sort of online *Festschrift* at the blog *A Pilgrim in Narnia* to welcome the publication of *The Inklings and King Arthur* (edited by Sørina Higgins).

**Tira Wannamethee** reports that he went back in January to being a student attending a senior executive leadership course at the Capital Market Academy in Thailand. Tira says that one aspect of the course requirement is that they are divided into eight groups and each group has to plan and host one themed evening party for the whole class and the combined groups also have to organise one major charity fundraising event.

'Having previously been on leadership courses in the US and Hong Kong, this is certainly not your typical senior leadership curriculum,' he writes. 'I never realized that senior executives would be good at organizing parties which are actually fun to go to – a bit like having to organize an Oxford ball perhaps?'

It was great to also hear from **Matthew Martin**, who is running non-profit Development Finance International, which is pushing for policies and finance to fight inequality across the world. He reports that in December a mutual friend put him back in touch with my old tutorial partner **Nicki Paxman**, arts producer at the BBC. 'leading to a fantastic lunch of reminiscing and discovering that 33 years after leaving Merton we still have just as much in common,' he writes.

Talking of Nicki, she has the enviable job of touring the world producing the BBC World Service Radio show, *The Arts Hour on Tour*. A few of the places she has been over the last 19 months include Jerusalem, New Orleans, Mexico City, Mumbai, Addis Ababa, and my neck of the woods, Manila (alas we were not able to connect) as well as a few European places.

'In every city, we put on a live stage show with a couple of bands, comedy, poets and discussion of hot local issues with filmmakers, artists and writers,' she writes. 'Meanwhile, at home my son is about to do GCSEs, but doesn't really seem worried enough about them!'



Meanwhile, **Catherine Rendon** reports she is in Costa Rica and has been exploring the national parks with some friends. 'We saw the elusive quetzal and other wonderful birds in the cloud forests, as well as leatherback turtles laying eggs on the Atlantic coast,' she writes.

Back to **Toby Thurston**: he has moved out of London to Goring-on-Thames and reports that his eldest finishes his Second BM this summer (St John's), and will become a junior doctor from August. His middle one has one more year of MEng at Keble, while his youngest is 'threatening' to apply to Cambridge.

There was an appeal from **David Clapp**, who writes tersely: 'Still in Budapest most of the time. Children have fled the nest. Wondering what to do next. Please send ideas.' I have to say, I know how you feel, David!

In another update, I am happy to report that a new book by **Jesse Norman** MP, *Adam Smith: What He Thought, and Why It Matters*, was published by Penguin in July. [See the Book Reviews section for a review of Jesse's book.] Meanwhile that same month, his fellow classicist **Paul Duggan** was invited to give a conference paper on evolutionary psychology at COV&R's 2018 Annual Meeting: 'Religion, politics, & violence "after" truth', at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

Elsewhere **Don Markwell** has been appointed Warden of St Paul's College, University of Sydney.





Valya Dufau-Joel on her ill-fated skiing trip

Always good also to hear from **Valya Dufau-Joel** (née **Hopewell**), still living in France. I am sorry to report that she broke her wrist in the Alps at the start of April – luckily towards the end of the skiing season. Here's hoping you have made a speedy recovery.



The Two Grahams - Dwyer and Tebb - bake in the sun, Makiti, Philippines

And last, a personal update. On his way to some intensive birdwatching in the more remote parts of the Philippines, **Graham Tebb** visited me in Manila in March – the first

time we had seen each other since College. It was a great opportunity to reminisce, catch up, enjoy some good food, hear about his life in Vienna and even practise some works for two harpsichords, just as in the old days. Anyone else is welcome to call in and say hello in my Southeast Asian outpost here if passing through.

## 1982

**Year Representative:** Nick Weller

Tel: 01403 269883 Email: [nickweller7@aol.com](mailto:nickweller7@aol.com)

Thank you very much to everyone who's been in touch. It was good to hear that news from alumni was the first thing that was read in *Postmaster*. 'The children are growing up, I'm growing older' sums up what many have been pondering, although the year has brought other challenges ('GDPR – oh what a joy').

**Susanna Curtis** hoped to have a more peaceful year in 2018, but it hasn't worked out that way. Susanna received a grant to do research, but the project has turned into a full-blown production for February 2019. Susanna was away for most of May 2018 – in Weimar, Leipzig, Berlin and Gießen – and had three projects running concurrently in June. She had a fantastic time in Vienna at an International Hospital Clowns' Congress earlier in 2018, attended by 400 clowns from 50 countries. Also memories of the past have surfaced, as Susanna was interviewed for a television programme about her 1983 Interrail trip with Rupert Evenett and James Thickett. Susanna's elder son, Oscar, is loving Leipzig University and loving law. Her younger son, Milo, still has school exams to do next year.

**Sara Hall** is contemplating what life will be like when her son Alex has taken his A levels ('I shall be so glad when they're all done!') and goes to university. Sara's daughter, Kate, is enjoying life at Southampton University. Sara is looking forward to going out with her family to Tenerife in September, to see her husband Kevin's nephew get married on the beach there.



**Tony Halse** was expecting to retire soon, having spent all his working life in financial technology of one form or another, and the last 17 years at Citi, ending up running the Markets tech department in Australia for the institutional trading that Citi performs. Tony plans to spend a lot of time with his son Timothy as he recovers from the effects of brain surgery. Tony's daughter, Caroline, has become as ardent a follower of Aussie Rules football as her father and is a keen attendee at the Sydney Swans' home games at the Sydney Cricket Ground. After he retires, Tony is hoping to spend more time on his woodwork projects and also improving his bridge. Tony first learnt to play bridge at Merton, playing with Simon Noonan, who was very good even then: 'I may almost be up to his level now!'

**Michael Jary** has become non-executive chair of Itad, the UK's largest independent adviser to international development agencies. Itad measures the effectiveness of clients such as DFID, the World Bank, the UN and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to ensure that the resources invested in international development have the greatest possible impact on people's lives.

Michael has also become a non-executive director of Barclays Bank UK plc, the ring-fenced retail bank that was launched in April 2018. Michael is, however, stepping down as the chair of Fairtrade Foundation: 'More people are buying Fairtrade products and getting behind its principles than ever before. I've been really proud to have supported this wonderful charity while it has achieved so much in delivering a better deal for farmers and producers around the world.'

**Peter Kessler** has been pursuing his interest in comics and graphic novels. Peter is Chair of the Lakes International Comic Art Festival. Peter has also been promoting the academic study of comics by setting up a research programme at Oxford under the banner of TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities), called the Oxford Comics Network. The Network had its first weekend symposium a couple of terms ago and has also been inviting speakers regularly from other universities.

**Virginia Knight** is still living in Bath. She has been doing some freelance work, sorting out the website of a local business,

and has been looking for permanent work. Virginia has done a lot of choral singing and her recent performances have included the Three Choirs Festival and Proms in the Royal Albert Hall.

Virginia is also involved in a concert with **Sally Mears** (1980). This summer, Virginia has been to the Lord's Test against Pakistan and plans to go with her family to the Southampton Test against India. Virginia's daughter Naomi is enjoying being at Caius College, Cambridge, reading Russian and Italian. Her sons, Alban and Magnus, are both still at school, Alban taking his GCSEs this summer. Virginia's whole family will be going to south-west France at the end of July.

**Richard Ryder** was very proud to walk his daughter, Alice, down the aisle and give his speech at her wedding in the Victorian Music Hall splendour of Hoxton Hall. Richard was pleased that a fantastic time was had by all, even though he had to excuse himself from the serious partying.

**Mark Shuttleworth's** book, *Studying Scientific Metaphor in Translation*, was published in 2017. Mark's family have all been busy. Mark's daughter Maria is in her second year of her Korean degree and will be going to Seoul next year. His son, Andrei, is taking GCSEs this year and his daughter Alex is enjoying her gymnastics, piano and violin playing. Mark's wife, Tanya, has been occupied organising events.

**Laura Thompson's** book on the Bywaters and Thompson murder case, *Rex v Edith Thompson: A Tale of Two Murders*, was published in March 2018.

**Chris Villiers** is still working full-time as a GP in Brentwood where he is now senior partner. His practice continues to host medical students from Bart's and the London medical school, and will be hosting first-year students from the new medical school in Chelmsford this autumn. Chris is still cycling regularly and has completed his first 100-mile ride of 2018.

I continue to write training material and exam questions. I'm hoping to see more cricket this year, including my first-ever trip to the One-Day Cup Final at Lord's. I was pleased to be able to go to Roger Highfield's memorial service and appreciated Philip Waller's excellent tribute.



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## 1983

**Year Representative: Meriel Cowan**

Tel: 01865 762458 Email: meriel.raine@gmail.com

Thank you very much everybody who wrote to say hello, including those who didn't have any news, I do appreciate it. It is always great to hear from you, particularly from other parts of the world.

**Ian Andrews** has now been at Linklaters global law firm for 20 years, but writes that he is 'still enjoying all the opportunity to work abroad it affords me. I do try to spend as much time as possible in our house in Greece, where I can be an entirely different person. Courtesy of Brexit I have now become a Greek citizen; Lily became one automatically as she was still under 18 when I applied; William was over 18 and so has to undergo a language test (which he will enjoy but is putting off as he is currently concentrating on German); Helen has to be resident there for five years to qualify!' Ian's children are otherwise investigating the Teutonic side of the family character with William spending his third year of his Oxford course (History & German) at Freiburg University in the Black Forest, which as a town he finds remarkably similar to Oxford but as a course (History & Philosophy) remarkably different; and Lily working as a ski instructor in the Arlberg mountains in Austria, which 'she has enjoyed so much she may not bother taking up her place at Leeds University at all'. Ian caught up with **Andrew and Pippa Baker** at a dinner in London to mark the retirement of Jack Beatson, their Law tutor.

The high point this year for **Fraser Dillingham**, if not for English cricket, was attending the first two Ashes Tests in Brisbane and Adelaide last November/December. 'Watching the Ashes in Australia had been an ambition for some time and I thoroughly enjoyed myself – and will be going for longer next time!' His trip to Adelaide was particularly memorable as he was able to see **Karen Reynolds** (1984) and **Jon Gleadle** (1982) who both work at Flinders University. Karen had been at our last Gaudy but Fraser had not seen Jon since 1986 so there was plenty to catch up on. Back in Oxford, Fraser

stayed in Merton after the Inter-collegiate Alumni Golf match: 'lovely room overlooking the Meadows and had a lovely walk around the College gardens on Saturday once the weather had finally turned. I'm also back in a couple of weeks for the inaugural Merton History Day in honour of Roger Highfield who recently died.' He reminded me that the Acting Warden this year is Steve Gunn who was a JRF when we were undergraduates.

**Chris Edwards** continues to run the United World College of South East Asia in Singapore. 'I am coming to the end of my fourth year here, but I am now married to the patient and entirely wonderful Rachel (with whom I'm just about to spend Easter weekend in Phnom Penh). Rachel confuses people by not being Asian.' Chris is coming to the end of his final year on the International Board of the United World College movement, and has had the privilege of roaming widely visiting campuses from Armenia to Swaziland and Norway to Hong Kong.

Oxford is home to **Sarah** (née **Crofts**) and **Michael Everett**, though Sarah reports that 'Michael spends half the week in London for work. He enjoys Canary Wharf, the docklands, KPMG and living in the metropolis. When not in London he likes to fit in a quick espresso in one of Oxford's cafes'. Sarah is a self-confessed news junkie. Apart from that, she writes that she is a chorister at St Barnabas, Jericho, together with Honor (12), and recently after a decade's long dip from journalism, wrote for the *Catholic Herald*. Her daughter Belinda (14) is a rap devotee who enjoys being a squaddie in the CCF.

After negotiating her divorce in 2017, **Frances Harris** is staying settled in Cambridge for the time being. Her older son has booked his wedding for 2019, while her younger is looking for his first job, as a school-leaver later this year. She writes that she will be moving soon from full-time NHS employment into freelance, via a short sabbatical of travel and study, and hopes to travel widely in latter part of 2018 'to make up for years chained to the NHS desk / domestic routine!' (I can sympathise with this). Frances says she looks forward to being in touch with friends from university days, and she is on LinkedIn if anyone would like to contact her. She is still trying to play the clarinet and sew, both enjoyable ways to relax.



It was a pleasure to hear from **Mark Houlst**, who was delighted to hear about the new Warden, Professor Irene Tracey, and remembered that they both played in the same Merton mixed-hockey team. He comments that it is 'kind of humbling when you see all the things she's done'. I am sure a lot of us would echo this sentiment! **Bridget** (1982) and **Michael Jager** are attending the San Francisco Alumni Event (a relatively short distance from where they live in San Diego), and are looking forward to meeting the Warden at the Farewell Dinner.

**Clive Marsland** retired last September after 32 years in university life. Since then he has travelled to Tasmania, Victoria, Chicago and New York, but now his rather wild Hampshire garden awaits.

**Dan Seymour** lives in Weston, Connecticut. 'Its main claim to fame is that Keith Richards lives here. Perhaps that's it only claim to fame.' (Actually, Dan, that isn't true, I googled it and lots of famous people lived there including Robert Redford and Bette Davis.) It is now Dan's tenth year at Paloma Partners and he reports that it has been a fascinating viewpoint from which to watch the ups and downs of the markets since 2008. Dan's son, Jamie, turns 16 this year and he's finding it hard to believe he will be driving. 'I haven't been travelling nearly as much this year as last. I was in China and Hong Kong several times in the second half of 2017 but this year I am happily working primarily from the office.'

**Rupert Vessey** continues as President of Research and Early Development at Celgene. 'We have been supporting translational research in Oxford and that has been going well.' Rupert's wife Laura still works for Merck. His oldest girl Katelyn move to Kalamazoo and works for the HR company Sykes, while his middle daughter Sarah graduated from Rutgers with honours and works for Novo Nordisk in the HR department. 'My middle son Jonathan is now a US Marine! The youngest one, Daniel, moved to the Hun School of Princeton and was named male athlete of the season for his basketball exploits. I hope there will be more to come on that front now he is entering high school.'

**Simon Cowan** and I continue to be based in Oxford. When I sit in my GP consulting room and reassure a succession

of undergraduates that it is quite common to sleep very badly before exams and feel very anxious, it is illuminating to think that absolutely nothing has changed in this regard since we were in the same position 30-odd years ago (except that there is a University counselling service, and I write more medical certificates detailing anxiety than were written then). Simon carries on teaching them and seems to do a good job, although he is currently on sabbatical. Our son Alex is still at Imperial, Richard is spending a year at the University of Sydney from July as part of his Bristol Aeronautical Engineering course, and Charlie, our youngest, starts at University College London in September, A levels permitting. I hope to do more gardening and less washing.

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## 1984

**Year Representative: David Clark**

Email: david.clark@merton.oxon.org

Thanks, as ever, to those who responded to my annual request for items for this update. It's always good to hear from you, even if it's just to say that there's nothing much to report. However, there is some news from a few folk, so please read on.

**David Smith** wrote to say that his introduction to Comenius, titled *John Amos Comenius: A Visionary Reformer of Schools*, has been published in English as well as in Ukrainian and Russian translations during the past year. He also has a book titled *On Christian Teaching: Practising Faith in the Classroom* that will have been published by Eerdmans by the time you read this. His youngest child is in her third year at Calvin College (where David teaches) but has also been studying in Japan. His oldest child is doing a Master's in social work administration at the University of Michigan and his middle daughter is about to move to Texas to continue her quest for a viable career in ballet costume design.

**Mark Rhys-Jones** continues to enjoy his role as partner in Foot Anstey to which he moved two years ago. His family continues to grow up at an alarming rate with his eldest son, Elis, now studying Economics at Bristol University and



middle son, Iwan, also planning on studying Economics. Mark writes that he enjoyed meeting up last summer with **Alex Raws** and **Elaine Kendall**.

**Andrew Allen** has been busy building the immuno-oncology company, Gritstone Oncology, named after the rocks cresting the horizons in the Peak District upon which he used to climb. Now with around 90 employees, distributed between three sites in California and Cambridge, MA, the company has raised around \$160 million to date, and will enter clinical trials in mid-2018 with its personalized cancer immunotherapy. Andrew also sits on the board of directors of several biotechnology companies. He lives in San Francisco and still takes his young daughters rock climbing, enjoying the indulgence of his wife Vinkey.

For my part, I was glad to meet Professor **Veronique Gouverneur** – the successor to **Laurence Harwood** (who was our Organic Chemistry tutor at Merton) – during her visit last year to give a lecture to the chemists at Charles River in Harlow (where I work). I was able to dig out my Part II Thesis as proof of my Mertonian credentials!

It was also great fun to be reunited with **Andrew Davis** after a gap of about 29 years. We caught up over a curry last summer in Brentwood while he was working in London.

I've also met up with **Alex Santocki** (now Alex Lyndley) a couple of times. In addition, my wife, Barbara, and I have visited **Michael Chapman** and **Carolyn** (née **Fenwick**, 1986) in their new home in Gloucestershire.

Finally, for no particular reason, I've been writing limericks recently and thought this one might resonate with a few of you:

There was an old graduate of Merton  
Whose future had gone for a Burton:  
'I'd like to retire  
Before I expire,  
But now it's not looking so certain!'

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## 1985

**Year Representative: Ben Prynn**

Email: ben\_prynn@yahoo.co.uk

After spending 13 years in the voluntary sector, **Alasdair Mackenzie** is now a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers, where he specialises in representing asylum seekers and other migrants. He has participated in some of the most significant cases in refugee and human rights law over the last few years. He married his partner Sonia, a solicitor, in 2016 and they live in Archway, North London with their two cats. Their two children have now finished university.

**Cornelius Kavanagh** reports that his small architects practice in Reading (Hives Architects) takes up most of his energy. He recently finished the Phyllis Court Grandstand at the Henley Regatta course but most projects are more traditional. He still bowls occasional legspin for the local Stonor village team alongside his brother Bruno and son Oliver – a pupil barrister (like his mother Jeni) who stood for Labour in the Henley constituency. Cornelius and Jeni have been married for 25 years and their daughter Madi is off to art school so they are celebrating post-parenthood by building a pool in the garden.

**Mark Medish** remains president of The Messina Group, a strategic advisory firm based in Washington, DC. Two children are at college: Nikolai (21) at the University of Chicago, and Kira (19) at Harvard. His youngest Max (13) just finished Form I at St Albans School in DC. Mark and his wife and care for their eldest son Vadim (24) at home. He was severely stricken with a rare neuro-immunological disorder called paraneoplastic syndrome as a freshman at Harvard five years ago.

**John Mitnick** has been nominated by President Trump to be the General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on 15 February 2018 and assumed office on 26 February.

**Madeleine Barrows** (née **Fontana**) had a mini reunion when **Christine Biggs** (née **Winzor**) travelled to England for a week



from her husband's current posting in Iran, and got in contact. **Diana Altegoer** joined them and they also met up with **Tony Trowles** and **Sonia Johnson**. Madeleine reports that it felt no time at all had passed since they had last seen each other and it was wonderful to be together again. Since then life has changed for Madeleine quite a bit as she left the Academy of Social Sciences after 11 years and became the first CEO of the British Academy of Management, the learned society for the management research and scholarship community. She has found it a warm and welcoming community full of activity. It's a whirlwind of a job which she is thoroughly enjoying. Her husband has retired and can put supper on the table for her at the end of a long commute from Portsmouth to London. Their four daughters are beginning to fly the nest, so she was able to take up this amazing opportunity.

After about 25 years at international law firms in London, **Elizabeth Uwaifo** has set up a law firm, Radix Legal & Consulting, to provide legal support to corporate and financial institutions in the structuring and documentation of their business transactions. Further information about the firm is available at [www.radixlc.com](http://www.radixlc.com)

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## 1986

**Year Representatives: Simon Male (undergraduates)**

Tel: 001 845 548 7825 Email: [simon\\_male@yahoo.com](mailto:simon_male@yahoo.com)

and **Julee Kaye (graduates)**

Tel: 001 604 224 8852 Email: [juleejak@shaw.ca](mailto:juleejak@shaw.ca)

**Editor: We mistakenly omitted Simon Male's 2017 report from *Postmaster*. Belatedly here is his report, with apologies to Simon and to those 1986 Mertonians.**

**Ed Field** is chasing three kids daily; living in London driving a beaten-up Saab and investing in infrastructure, primarily telecoms and renewable energy. **Jeremy Cooper** left his role at Ipswich Buses in December 2016, initially to work as a commercial planning consultant, but he has now been appointed Managing Director of Go-Ahead Group bus subsidiary Go East Anglia. He continues to run Invicta Wind Orchestra in Kent, to whose day-long sessions wind-playing

Mertonians would be most welcome, has recorded a CD of the wind music of local composer Richard Hubbert alongside his three children.

**Tom Willett** and **Kenneth Tan** both live in Singapore. Tom heads mergers & acquisitions for Standard Chartered Bank, and Ken, after careers in the armed forces and investment banking, is now a gentleman farmer, growing spices in Shandong, China. **Victoria Coleman** enjoys reminiscing about her days at Merton while listening to 'Sledgehammer' by Peter Gabriel, but unfortunately **Danya Jeffrey** (living in Bristol) remembers very little about her Merton days at all. **Sarah Fretwell** is enjoying life in Winchester, and **Nancy Dawrant** is living in Surrey with her son Jake (6), and teaches secondary school maths after leaving a financial career in the City in 1999. She swims, runs and hikes, and is doing the 100k South East Challenge Walk at the end of August.

**Seb Munden** married Elisabeth in Merton Chapel in 1990 and, after a very long time working for Unilever in different countries and in head office (someone has to), returned to London. He was recently appointed head of Unilever's UK & Ireland division, which has been a lot of fun so far. **Brian Sher** is a partner and EU/UK competition lawyer at recently formed CMS UK, his eldest daughter is applying to Oxford to read chemistry, and he has just formed a cover band. Requests anyone?

**Ed Vaizey** was sacked from his job as telecoms, digital and culture minister by the Prime Minister in July 2016. He is very proud to have been the longest-serving culture minister, and still sits on the board of the National Youth Theatre, and on the Documentary Society, an organisation that supports the making of long-form documentaries. He was made a Cultural Fellow at King's College London, advises New York based M&A advisory firm called LionTree, works with the British Esports Association promoting esports, and chairs a project called Creative Fuse North East, funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council and supported by the five north-east universities. He was returned to Parliament, representing Wantage, at the snap 2017 election, winning 54% of the vote. He is also thrilled that **Dominic Minghella** named the Sheriff of Nottingham character after him in the Robin Hood television series. He is in touch with, and in awe



of the success of many Mertonians: **Peter Wilson** (1987), **Jules Davenport**, **Alex Chisholm**, **John Eidinow**, **Tom Willett**, **Mark Hubbard**, **Ed Field**, and **Charlie Phipps**.

Dominic Minghella's son, Dante, has graduated from Edinburgh and embarked, despite Dominic's sternest advice, upon a career as a screenwriter. Daughter Louisa is about to start at Birkbeck reading philosophy and is also writing and directing, and taking her new play to Edinburgh for August. Two more kids, Giorgio and Rosa, are at school in Dulwich. Dominic and his wife Sarah bought a crumbling renaissance palazzo in the *centro storico* of Amelia, Umbria, and have begun the mildly terrifying journey of restoring it. He is also running a new drama series, *Nightfall*, for A+E Studios in the US, which sees him mostly in Prague and LA.

**Juliet Davenport** is CEO of Good Energy Group PLC, which limits what she can say about her professional activities, but she was recently in Merton Garden. **Paul Flatters** wishes he had more hair. **Matthew Rycroft** is busy representing the UK at the UN in New York, and **Andy Williamson** is immersed in music in Devon. His old Oxford band, The Honkin' Hep Cats, is reconvening for the Bunkfest in Wallingford on Saturday 2 September 2018, and he hopes they can remember the tunes. Ian Glover works for a credit reference agency in Nottingham and Wigan, knows a lot about data protection, and would be surprised to learn that many people in America would find the Midlands extremely exotic. He also enjoyed his trip of a lifetime to the US Masters in Augusta in April.

**Jon Chapman** still lives in Oxford and is up for a beer (and a game of pool, Jon?) if anyone is in town, and **Dan Radice** is now running a sales and negotiation training business in London after 20 years working at Diageo.

*And 2018 news...*

It has been a milestone year for many in our year, and 50 not out deserves a round of applause.

After a career as a financial lawyer, the last 15 years of which was at Goldman Sachs, **Jonathan Thomas** decided to reward himself by going back to university to take an Immigration Law LLM at Queen Mary and is now the

Migration Researcher at the Social Market Foundation think tank in Westminster. As his eldest child is now at Oxford, where migration research is a strength, Jonathan is spending more time in Oxford than at any time since his Merton days.

**Nancy Dawrant** completed the Isle of Wight Ultra Challenge (106km right around the island) over the May Bank Holiday weekend, and despite walking it all came 26th out of the women among 744 runners, joggers and walkers! She was 'dead chuffed.'

**Soni Zuberi Shah** lives in Harrow with her husband Zig and two sons. Since Merton, she has worked for the International Union for Conservation of Nature in Switzerland and Pakistan, the World Wildlife Fund in Cambridge, the BBC Science Department as a producer, opened an art gallery in London, and now works in PR and communications.

**Fiona Murray** is doing her best to keep her English accent while living in Boston and working as Professor of Entrepreneurship and Associate Dean of Innovation at the MIT Sloan School of Management. She celebrated her birthday with a rather serious but fun meeting with **Alex Chisholm** (Permanent Secretary, Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy) who was visiting the US with a group of BEIS and Department for International Trade colleagues. Her day ended with a family visit to a Boston Celtics basketball game, showing that she has truly adopted US culture!

**Alison Main** and her husband Zig are thriving in Cincinnati. Their older son, Caleb, is completing his third year studying Electrical Engineering at Case Western Reserve University and their younger son, Ethan, is looking forward to studying Chemical Engineering at Purdue University in the autumn. Zig teaches Maths, Physics, Engineering and Drama, and Procter & Gamble keeps Alison gainfully employed improving the health of the world's consumers.

Joanne, Olivia and **Dominic Meiklejohn** are firmly settled in Kent, after seven years in the USA and the Pacific. Dominic works for the Department for International Trade. Occasionally, his thoughts turn to more relaxed, tropical days. After stints with Microsoft in Seattle and a period in



Boston, **John Shaw** is back living in Oxford with his writer wife and three teenage kids, running product management for UK cybersecurity company Sophos.

Your year rep **Simon Male** is very grateful that he had the time to compile this during a temporary break from working life and Asian stock markets (the subject for his talk at Merton in Manhattan in October 2016). Simon lives outside New York City with his wife Louise and son William, has too many bikes, loves doing anything outdoors, and is sad that it seems to be very hard to make a living as a photographer.



1986 MCR

This year finds **Ricardo Bianconi** putting the finishing touches on his translation into Portuguese of a 17th century book on geometry: *Euclides Danicus* by Georg Mohr. He is also already halfway through two more books (one in Portuguese and one in English) with lots of work in the queue for the next couple of years!

For almost 20 years, **Eric Olsen** has been working on environmental and social 'sustainability' with a focus on climate change and how the private sector can work with communities, NGOs and government to create the solutions we need. His organisation – Business for Social Responsibility – is working with Governor Brown's office and global NGO partners in the We Mean Business coalition to mobilise support for action on climate at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September. Eric's wife and life partner Susan Freiwald has just been named Dean of the Law School at the University of San Francisco, and they

have one daughter in college (Elena) and one finishing high school (Naomi).

Eric enjoyed re-connecting with Merton and Oxford this April when Oxford staged its North America reunion here in San Francisco for the first time. Highlights included a farewell dinner for Sir Martin Taylor at **Mike McCaffery's** (1975) house in Silicon Valley, breakfast with the Rhodes House Warden, a preview of the upcoming Tolkien exhibition at the Bodleian, and excellent talks/sessions featuring Vice-Chancellor Louise Richardson, LA Mayor Eric Garcetti (Queen's, 1993) and LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman (Wolfson, 1990), and an excellent presentation on 'Truth and trust in the era of social media' from Phil Howard of the Oxford Internet Institute.

The quality of conversation at all these events reminded Eric why he is eternally grateful for his time at Merton and Oxford, and also how much work we still have to do to share the wealth with others. Eric invites any of the old MCR to get in touch if they are travelling through the San Francisco bay area.



Daniel Schaffer at Merton in May 2018 after giving Trust law tutorials to some very bright second-year students

**Dan Schaffer** continues to contribute to student life at Merton and at his other alma mater Bristol University. At Merton he teaches a Trusts law class and tutorials and comes up to judge the second-year law undergrads' moot competition with colleagues from his firm, Slaughter and May – including fellow partner and Mertonian, **Matthew Tobin**



(1991). Dan gave a seminar at All Souls College in November 2017 with members of the Law Faculty, having given a BCL seminar earlier in the year. At Bristol he chairs the advisory board of the Law School leading a range of projects including establishing the women lawyers network (shamelessly inspired by the Oxford Women in Law network) and he is now working on a BAME initiative.

Dan and his wife Marianne are virtually back to holidaying à deux as the three boys become increasingly independent. Antoine (22) has spent his third year of university working as an intern at Acne Studios and then Ami fashion houses. Vincent's (19) gap year ends this summer when he starts at Yale in August. And Louis (17) is in the lower sixth at City of London Boys' School doing three languages and maths Pre-U, captains the First XI, and is head of House.

Dan is in contact with **David Wright** (TV journalist in New York) and **Ben Alpers** (Professor at Oklahoma University) – both of whom provided Vincent with advice on choosing Yale over another university closer to home (which he may yet come to for postgrad)! Dan saw another former 59 Holywell Street resident recently – Dr **Larry (Lazza) Matthews**.

Dan also keeps in touch with fellow BCL grad **Lionel Hogg** who very kindly referred an able young associate to him to hire as he was moving from Brisbane to London. Dan still keeps ultra-fit doing endurance bike events.

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## 1987

**Year Representative: Simon Male**

Tel: 001 845 548 7825 Email: [simon\\_male@yahoo.com](mailto:simon_male@yahoo.com)

After several years in New York as Deputy British Ambassador to the United Nations, **Peter Wilson** and his family have moved to The Hague, where Peter is now the UK Ambassador to the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons.

**Edward George** lives in New York, and works as lawyer specialising in the finance and production of Broadway shows. *'The Band's Visit'* is one of his current shows.

**Fiona Harris** lives and works in Cheltenham as a Maths teacher. She has two kids, Pollyanna and Charlie, and enjoys travelling in the extensive school holidays. Pollyanna is looking to apply to Oxford next year for Biology.

**Jim Egan** lives in Blackheath, south-east London, and is father to four children aged 11-15. He has been at the BBC for more than a decade and is currently Chief Executive of BBC World News. His job offers the opportunity to meet up with Mertonians around the world, including **Simon Male** in New York, **George Scott** (by chance) in Sydney and, later this year, **David Timblick** in Hong Kong.

**Toby Landau** has been a barrister and arbitrator at Essex Court Chambers in London since 1993, specialising in international law, and dividing his time between homes in London and Lahore, where his wife is from. Last year he became the first Q.C. ever to be admitted as a full member of the Singapore Bar, and he has also set up Essex Court Chambers Duxton, together with four other local lawyers. This the first Chambers in Singapore based on the English barristers' model.

**Andrew Castell** enjoyed some domestic rivalry with his wife, an alumna of St. John's Cambridge, during this year's University Challenge finals. He monitors his small company investments from his home in Edinburgh.

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## 1988

**Year Representative: Tim Gardener**

Tel: 02380 275831 Email: [ts93142@hotmail.com](mailto:ts93142@hotmail.com)

Last year **Lee Revers** was promoted to Director of the Master of Biotechnology (MBiotech) Program at the University of Toronto; and in September of 2017, the company of which he was a cofounder, Molecular Templates (MTEM) was listed on the NASDAQ. He is also currently a consultant with AMGEN.

On 4 November, after three years training, **Alexandra Hewitt** (née **Round**) was admitted to the office of Reader in the Church of England and licensed as a Lay Minister in the Diocese of



Oxford. The service at Christ Church was very memorable and included following the bishop *dancing* down the aisle to the singing of a choir of 100 Zimbabwean Mothers' Union members. Alexandra is serving at St Mary the Virgin, Wheatley, where she has been Director of Music since 2004. The day job is still working for what is now the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme, providing enrichment for students and professional development for teachers of Core Mathematics and A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, as well as some piano, organ and recorder teaching.



Alexandra Hewitt becomes Lay Minister in the Diocese of Oxford

**Lewis Ayres** is in the final months of a three-year term as Head of the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham. He is looking forward to a long break with family in California this summer, followed by a year's research leave finishing a book during 2018-19. He continues to be available if anyone can connect him with a wealthy patron seeking new academics whose research would thrive in a sunny early retirement.

Always a ready correspondent, **Toby Nicholson** writes: 'Nothing new really, although this year being the 30th anniversary of matriculation is quite painful. Still have hope of organising a drink or two in Oxford for a few folks.'

## 1989

**Year Representative: Matthew Grimley**  
Email [matthew.grimley@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.grimley@merton.ox.ac.uk)

This has been a slightly slower news year than some, but I'm grateful to those who have written to me with their updates.

**Dan Seymour** has a new job as Director of Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response at UN Women, the UN's gender equality body. **Steve Walton** is still Pastor of Christ Church, Dusseldorf, and travelled to Jerusalem to attend the GAFCON Conference. **Marcus Plested** and his wife Mariamni are still in Milwaukee, where Marcus is a professor of theology at Marquette University. The latest addition to their family is their daughter Beatrix, born in November 2016.

**Philippa Hopkins** was appointed a QC in February; several Mertonians, including **Lucy Wyles**, **Duncan Richards**, **Caroline Jackson**, **Helen Lawler** and former law tutor **Jack Beatson** (Brasenose 1967) celebrated her elevation with a party at her chambers. Philippa's three sons are 17, 14 and 6; her husband **Eddie Howells** (1992) is about to start a new job as lecturer in theology at Roehampton University.

## 1990

**Year Representative: Christine Barrie**

Tel: 01223 501598 Email: [christine.barrie@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.barrie@btinternet.com)

and **Claire Webster**

Tel: 07786 315551 Email: [claire@xargla.org](mailto:claire@xargla.org)

**Zaid Al-Qassab** continues to work as Chief Brand and Marketing Officer of BT Group, which owns the BT, EE, Plusnet and Openreach businesses. He's recently become a member of the Advertising Standards Authority Council, so is now the arbiter of truth and decency in UK advertising

**Claudia Drake** (1991) is the Communications & Development Officer of Guildford County School, which is a fast-growing academy school that last year achieved 'outstanding' Ofsted status. If anyone would like to support state-funded education with their skills or money, she'd welcome the help. Time flies, and they now have two teenage children.



**Matt Vickers** has been appointed Chief Executive and Chief Ombudsman of Ombudsman Services (the UK's energy and telecommunications ombudsman). This has taken him and his family back to Merseyside.

**Philip Wilson** continues to be busy as a freelance theatre director. Recent shows have included *The Star*, a new play by Michael Wynne, at Liverpool Playhouse; Terence Rattigan's *After the Dance* and a Jeeves and Wooster comedy, *Perfect Nonsense*, at Theatre by the Lake in Keswick; and the British premiere of Ken Ludwig's farce, *A Fox on the Fairway*, at Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch. In addition, his adaptations of Philip Pullman's *Grimm Tales* have been published by Nick Hern Books. He has a new website, for those interested in following his work: [www.philipwilsondirector.com](http://www.philipwilsondirector.com)

**Jayne Joyce** is probably Merton's only International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (though happy to be corrected). She divides her time between working for Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support (formerly Oxford Baby Cafes Group) where she leads on safeguarding and training/supervising volunteers, and volunteering for La Leche League Oxfordshire. It's an odd use for a history degree, but she loves supporting new families and seeing generations of babies she has supported growing up all over Oxfordshire.

**Dominic Joyce** (1986) continues to work at the Mathematical Institute: [www.maths.ox.ac.uk/people/dominic.joyce](http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/people/dominic.joyce) and they enjoy seeing old friends who return to visit Oxford. Their eldest, Tilly, is heading for St John's Cambridge in the autumn (physical NatSci), if she makes her offer, and her younger sisters are in years 10 and 5.

Après Merton, **Howard Harding** taught English for a bit – including in Portugal and Spain, then did an MA in International Relations and European Studies. This was followed by working for the European Commission Delegation in Prague from 1999 to 2005 on pre-accession funds from Brussels to the Czech Republic. Since then, he's been a consultant on EU funds, mostly in the Western Balkans (Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia). He lives in Prague, is married and has a son who is now 11.

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## 1991

**Year Representative: Anna Smith**

c/o The Development Office, Merton College, Merton Street, Oxford, OX1 4JD

Email: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)

It's a pleasure to share some feedback from 1991-ers who have been in touch this year with updates.

**Alexander L'Estrange** is still enjoying the dream job as a composer and arranger, writing music from home with cats and chickens and a view of a river. 'I compose predominantly for choirs, children and TV; if any contemporaries have children of a CBeebies-watching age, then they might look out for a show called *Magic Hands*, with my music and two young L'Estranges singing the "feem toon".

Those youngsters (Toby and Harry) are now having a great time as choristers at St John's, Cambridge, and my amazing wife Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (Hertford College, 1990-93) is making waves not just as London's hottest session singer for film (e.g. the new *Mary Poppins* movie), TV and video game but also as a conductor and composer. Our joint large-scale choral work *Freedom! The Power of Song* has its première this November (3/11/18) in Winchester Cathedral, and 2017's folk-inspired Christmas cantata *Wassail! Carols of comfort and joy* won the Music Teacher award for "best classical music education initiative", which was very exciting. Although we live in Hertfordshire still, we're often in Cambridge being proud of our boys, and we've recently enjoyed bumping into the likes of **Sam Barrett** (1992) and **Frank Garcia** (1990). If anyone reading this is in Cambridge and would like to hook up, Evensong at St John's (in university term) is at 6.30 every night except Monday and Wednesday, and is simply stunning.'

**Matt Cherry** has moved roles this year and is currently working at the Payment Systems Regulator, as interim head of the policy team.

**Matt Tobin** continues to work at Slaughter and May and is hugely occupied with his four kids.



**Paul (Mac) McLoughlin** still lives in Vancouver, is still trying to get Canadian citizenship, and still relying on my old Mertonian buddies (**Paul Miller**, **Mark Peplow**, **Martin Rist**, **Jon Mainwaring** (1989), **Ben Curthoys** (1993) and **Ian Hamilton** (1992)) to support him through life's hurdles and challenges – 'far more effective than therapy, less boring than meditation and they accept payment in beer which is a win'.

**Nikki Welch** reports 'I am still living in the Netherlands, working as Head of Science at the British School. I have four daughters who keep me busy. They consider themselves Dutch and we all enjoy life here. We have embraced all things Dutch: ice-skating, hockey and camping!'

As for me, I'm Education Manager at Cambridge Assessment International Education, writing, commissioning and leading training, school improvement support and resources for schools around the world. We were joined last year by **Neil Musk** as our Director of Operations, and it's been great to catch up with him around the office, especially as we've now moved into our rather swish new HQ.

In my 'other life', I'm a Labour member of Cambridge City Council, where I'm Executive Councillor for Streets and Open Spaces. It's an amazing privilege to serve your local community in this way. Recent highlights have included leading the City's Votel00 celebrations (and the installation of a Blue Plaque for Millicent Garrett Fawcett), seeing our wildflower meadow project giving pleasure to residents and visitors across the city, and being able to scrap child funeral fees at our cemeteries. I also had the privilege to be part of the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programme and a Fabian Women's Mentoring project, both of which have introduced me to so many amazing women in public life. Though genuinely the greatest privilege is helping to solve the day-to-day issues for residents, which don't make the papers but which, hopefully, make a difference to people's quality of life.

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## 1992

**Year Representatives:** **Andrew Davison**

Tel: 07971 597998 Email: apd3l@cam.ac.uk

and **Steve Maxwell**

Tel: 001 510 4425 Email: stevemaxwell99@gmail.com

**Kelyn Bacon Darwin** continues to enjoy a mix of barristering, judging and schlepping her kids around London; Pete is still happily Googling alongside managing team BD. The family menagerie has recently expanded further with the addition of three rats, hopefully none of which are Animagi in disguise. Any offers of holiday rat-sitting from Old Mertonians living in North London will be gratefully received.

**Damian Crowther** moved from the University of Cambridge to work as Director, R&D, for AstraZeneca Neuroscience in January 2015. He is now working mostly on therapies for dementia. His two oldest children are graduating from university this year (London); the youngest is a year from GCSEs.

**Andrew Davison** is back in Cambridge, after a year in Princeton. In work, his main development is taking on the MPhil in the Faculty of Divinity. He has been reappointed to the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue for England, and is serving on the medical and biological sciences panel of the commission that will advise the bishops of the Church of England on its 'teaching document' on human sexuality.

**Mark Denning** is busy demolishing and rebuilding his house this summer.

**James Handscombe** is still Principal of Harris Westminster Sixth Form and is as determined as ever to populate Oxbridge (and Merton in particular) with students from groups that have been traditionally underrepresented. Progress so far has been good but the goal of proportionally correct representation still seems quite far off. As a spin-off from his day job he has edited a collection of assemblies (*As I Stand Here This Morning*) and writes articles for the *TES*.

**Hector Macdonald** published *Truth: How the Many Sides to Every Story Shape Our Reality* (Bantam Press), a guide to how truth is used and abused in politics, business, the media and everyday life. He also completed his first Ironman 70.3.



**Simon Thomas** is teaching in Lyon, and looking to spend more time doing that in English rather than French. The weather is generally good, and the South of France is close at hand for summer holidays. His school has just come top of the list for state school exam results in the city of Villeurbanne.

**Paul-Simon Whitney** is still enjoying life in Sussex and the Alps with Diana and Torsten. Work in the NHS remains a challenge and he is keeping busy outside, rowing with Ardently BC. Having coached Ditchling CC under 8/9s for the past two years, this summer he is planning to resurrect his own cricketing career with their men's team.

**Eleanor Dickey** (JRF) is now Professor of Classics at the University of Reading. After leaving Merton she lived in Canada and the US before returning to the UK in 2007 to marry her long-standing partner Philomen Probert (of Wolfson College, Oxford). They live in Oxford, and Eleanor has recently become a UK citizen.

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## 1993

**Year Representative: Joanna Cooke**

Email: [jvicooke@hotmail.com](mailto:jvicooke@hotmail.com)

Entries for class of 1993 are sparse this year. Sparse but still high quality. **Jamshid Derakhshan** continues to work at St Hilda's College where he is Deputy Dean of Degrees now. He reports that 'We have had a daughter called Delsa who is nine months old', and he has also made some breakthroughs in maths, including 'solving a problem that I had worked on for ten years'. Full marks for perseverance and dedication.

**Jim Freeman** sent his update from San Sebastián where he was spending most of his time 'standing in the Atlantic watching my son Joe surf'. Said son Joe is now eight. That was Jim's update.

**Charley Smith** (née Haines) delivered the big news of the year. After 20 years teaching in schools (12 of those years in senior leadership), she has left teaching. She is now helping her husband Mark run the family business while also working as a career mentor at Worcester University for

teachers in their first five years. For those of us who were mentored by Charley at Merton we can only feel sorry for those teachers – I'm thinking of you, Clive.

My highlight of the year was when **Jamie Inman**, his partner Kate and their two children (Maddox and Luther) moved to live very near us. We never actually see Jamie but knowing he is nearby is surprisingly reassuring.

Wish to feature next year? Keen to share your news? Please email me at [jvicooke@hotmail.com](mailto:jvicooke@hotmail.com). I accept updates from class of 1993 24/7, 365.

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## 1994

*There is currently no Year Representative for 1994. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interesting in becoming the Year Rep for this year.*

We heard from one 1994 Mertonian this year.

**Anthony Costella's** update is that he has moved company again as of May 2017. He says 'I'm now the global head of consumer and market insights for Heineken – basically I run market research on the beer and cider market across the globe. It's a tough job, and one that I've been working towards for many years!'

'I'm still working in Amsterdam, living just down the road in The Hague with wife Julie and daughters Caitlin and Meghan.' Sounds like a very tough job indeed, Anthony.

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## 1995

*There is currently no Year Representative for 1995. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interesting in becoming the Year Rep for this year.*

We received the following news from 1995 Mertonians in 2018.

**Julia Kenny** reports that she is 'still married to Dave, two children Georgina (8) and Jack (5), finally completed my



postgraduate medical training and am now Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology at Evelina London Children's Hospital (part of St Thomas'). Working hard and playing hard as ever.'

And **Helen Bray** (née **Wain**) says that 'Nick (Catz, 2000) and I are still living in rural Worcestershire with our sons Toby (8) and Noah (6) and I am entering my 15th year working for West Mercia Police. I'm currently on temporary promotion to Chief Inspector, a position which I hope to make permanent after a selection process later in the year. Outside work, not much has changed over the last year: we still do a lot of camping, cycling and Lego building. This year we are hoping to complete the #EverestAnywhere challenge, climbing the height of Everest over 12 months. After a poor start we're hoping summer in the Lake District will help us to clock up some metres.'

## 1996

**Year Representative:** Maria Pretzler

Email: m.pretzler@swansea.ac.uk Tel: +44 7910 747115

This year saw many 1996 Mertonians reach their 40th birthday (while some of us think we should be so lucky!). A number of people used this as an opportunity to get together, sometimes after years, to celebrate and to catch up: a reminder that for many of us, our time at Merton has led to lasting friendships.

**Lucy Allais** has, for some years, been based jointly at Wits (Johannesburg) and at UCSD (University of California at San Diego) where she is the Henry E. Allison Chair in the History of Philosophy. In 2015 she published *Manifest Reality: Kant's Idealism and His Realism*, which is being released in paperback this year.

Last but not least, **Smita Rossetti** (née **Choraria**) has been living in Morocco for the past few years where she is Deputy Head of Mission, Rabat, for the Foreign Office. She is enjoying the beautiful country and having many adventures. She married Matteo, a Balliol classicist, more than ten years ago, and they have two children: Mira (4) and Maxen (1).

## 1997

**Year Representatives:** Jill Davies

Email: maxandjilltse@yahoo.com

and **Catherine Sangster**

Email: catherine.sangster@gmail.com



1997 Mertonians at the Gaudy in September 2017

It was great to see so many of us back in College for the Gaudy in September and it was lovely to be part of the retirement celebrations for the fantastic Dave Hedges and to give him a well-deserved standing ovation! Happy retirement, Dave!

**Helen Barugh** writes that she and Matthew had a little girl named Anna in January and that she is very much enjoying maternity leave.

**Michael Lovatt** (professionally known as Michael Wharley) is working in London as an advertising and portrait photographer. He was admitted to Fellowship of the British Institute of Professional Photography, for his charity portrait project 'The Attitudes', which was also exhibited at The Globe Theatre in 2017, and was announced as the 2018 BIIP Photographer of the Year for a series commissioned for English Touring Theatre's production of Conor McPherson's *The Weir*. His studio has even welcomed the occasional acting Mertonian over the years.



**Angelique Corthals** is assistant professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. Her two research areas are biomedical research (special focus on the aetiology of autoimmune and infectious diseases) and biological/forensic anthropology. Photos and video from the Corthals Lab can be viewed at [www.aspcorthals.net](http://www.aspcorthals.net).

After 14 years in China, **Tom Miller** now lives just off the Cowley Road, where he does his best to avoid crackheads and Brookes students. He occasionally bumps into **Krishnan Narayanan** in Bollywood Dhoom, Singapore's finest nocturnal establishment, as well as other Mertonians in equally glamorous locations. Like, er, Peckham.



Jill Davies with Dave Hedges, who retired in 2017 after 30 years at Merton

## 1998

**Year Representative: Alex Edmans**

Email: [aedmans@london.edu](mailto:aedmans@london.edu)

**Pamela Noakes** (née **Shorney**) is now Purpose Director at Virgin Management Limited, and has been helping Virgin

businesses from spaceships to banking play a meaningful role in people's lives and re-think their environmental impact.

**Stuart Norman** and his wife Karen (LMH, 2001) are expecting their second child in August, and Charlotte is already two. Stuart has recently moved to E.ON UK's residential solar and storage team, and is heading up development of new inverters, batteries and other solar products for domestic customers.

**Christopher Ward** has been appointed Generalmusikdirektor (chief conductor) in Aachen, Germany after Kapellmeister posts over the past decade at Bayerische Staatsoper, Saarländisches Staatstheater and Kassel Staatstheater. He also made recent appearances at Staatsoper Hamburg and Prague National Theatre, as well as a forthcoming Schreker CD with Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie. Pamela and Christopher attended the September 2017 Gaudy along with **Andrew** and **Claire Clark**, **Alex Edmans**, **Mark Eminson**, **Emma Evans**, **Chris Harvey**, **Claire Jolly** (née **Barber**), **Raulin Le Miere**, **Alex Polley**, **Claire Wicks** (née **Broad**) and **Jon Worth**. A recording of Alex's speech at the Gaudy dinner, reminiscing over times at Merton, is at [bit.ly/mertongaudy](http://bit.ly/mertongaudy).

## 1999

**Year Representative: Andrew Tustian**

Email: [andrewtustian@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewtustian@hotmail.com)

**Thomas Ableman** reports that his intercity coach travel start-up, sn-ap, is going from strength to strength, having raised £5.4 million in the last funding round. It is now live for travel to London from Bristol, Cardiff, Nottingham and Leicester. This sounds *uber* exciting and *uplifting* to me!

**Sophie Law** has been inspired by her experience with Bonhams as a Russian art specialist to make some art of her own. *Olga's Egg* is a novel about Fabergé eggs. The novel is set in today's glamorous world of Russian art with glimpses into the lives of the last Romanovs as their world crumbled in the wake of the Russian Revolution. Fabergé is publishing the book, which will be launched in the first week of October 2018. For more information, go to [sophielawconsultancy.com](http://sophielawconsultancy.com)





**Serena White** (née Eade) continues to reside in Sydney, Australia, where she works as a patent attorney. In February 2018, Serena, her husband **Paul** (1995) and son Dominic became Australian citizens, joining youngest son Callum as dual nationals. She has yet to learn how to throw a boomerang.

## 2000

**Year Representative: Alex Perry**

Email: alexpperry@gmail.com

## 2001

*There is currently no Year Representative for 2001. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interesting in becoming the Year Rep for this year.*

In the meantime, we did hear from some Mertonians from 2001. **Hinesh Rajani** says 'I've recently finished almost three wonderful years at the British Embassy in Amman, where I ran our stability-focused aid programmes. Jordan was a fantastic posting, and I had the privilege to explore its many natural and historical sites (as well as running several half marathons in the region). I was also lucky enough to host

**Nina Fenton** and her husband Jens, and **James Squires** and his wife Tracey. I'll be Head of Programmes in Cairo until early 2019 should any readers be passing through.'

Louise Bothwell reports that '**Paul Boswell** and I have had a busy year as we welcomed our identical twin boys, Alexander and Luke, into the world on 14 November 2017. We are taking it in turns to juggle and experience the joys of shared parental leave!' Wonderful news – congratulations to you both!

In other happy news, **Jennifer Dueck** reports that she and William Cronon have become engaged and that their wedding will take place in September 2018.

**Stephan Littger's** debut feature film *Her Composition* (2015), was a Discovery Award Nominee at Raindance 2016, and was just released to critical acclaim on VOD also in the UK. [www.amazon.co.uk/Her-Composition-Joslyn-Jensen/dp/B07C949CKW](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Her-Composition-Joslyn-Jensen/dp/B07C949CKW)

**Bernd Delahaye** writes that after practising M&A law at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in New York for five years following his graduation from Harvard Law School's LLM program, he joined Sotheby's, the auction house, in New York as Vice President & Associate General Counsel in February 2017. As a transactional attorney covering global private sales, he is involved in negotiating the purchase and sale of precious works of art from all time periods and collecting categories – a pastime which, given the objects and the usually very interesting cast of characters involved, hardly ever makes for a dull moment. Thus, don't hesitate to let him know if you're in an acquisitive mood or have a collection to sell!

On a private note, on 30 March 2018 Bernd married his soulmate Julia von Türk at City Hall in New York. As luck has it, Julia, a native New Yorker of German-Dutch descent (like Bernd), 'feels equally at home on both sides of the pond, allowing us to combine the best of both worlds in our daily life'. Julia recently began her career as a lawyer at Latham & Watkins in New York. The religious ceremony took place at The Brick Presbyterian Church in New York on 30 June, followed by a wedding party on 7 July at a charming country estate in the southern Netherlands, just across the border from Bernd's German hometown Geilenkirchen.



It seems to have been a marvellous time for births, marriages, and celebrations for the 2001 contingent. We wish them all hearty congratulations and best wishes!

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## 2002

**Year Representative: Ben Zurawel**

Email: ben.zurawel@gmail.com

In the meantime we have heard from the following Mertonians.

**Susan Bunting** is 'still involved in Classics at the University of Melbourne, in a group that translates Homer and discusses what we have translated. Prior to this I was involved in translating a papyrus roll from Herculaneum, Philodemus' *On the Gods*. I am also writing a work of fiction and poetry. A volume of my poetry will soon be published. I never stop thinking about my time at Merton. It was so welcoming.'

**Carlos Xabel Lastra Anadon** states that 'it has been quite the year for us! Our son Noah Shalts-Lastra was born in October 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts, where we live. As of 1 June I defended my dissertation for a PhD in Government and Social Policy at Harvard. Dora, Noah and myself will be moving to Palo Alto for a one-year postdoc at Stanford and after that I will be taking up an assistant professor job at IE University in Madrid, Spain.' Congratulations to Carlos and family!

**Vincent Kooij** reports that after his time at Merton he graduated cum laude from Leiden University in 2003. 'Although my interests in physics were strong I ended up in business life, meanwhile moving to Bonaire in the Dutch Caribbean where I spent nine years. 'During my time on Bonaire I accepted a consultancy job to commission and recover the island's nearly bankrupted, brand new power plant. The plant was the world's largest hybrid wind diesel power plant at the time, delivering 75% wind penetration. After a share transfer to a New York based firm, in 2014 I decided to move on and refocus on my interest in physics, and went back to university. So right now I am pursuing a physics PhD at Leiden University. Although the work is experimental, it is of fundamental nature and can have profound implications

for nuclear fusion power as well as fundamental questions in cosmology. I've just started my last year so I can start considering which challenge to take up next!

And finally **Madeleine Brook** reports: 'Nothing terribly exciting here, I have now moved to Freiburg, but continue to work in the German Department at Stuttgart University.'

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## 2003

**Year Representative: Simon Beard**

Email: sjb316@cam.ac.uk

I am hopeful that no news is good news as far as 2003 Mertonians are concerned, as there seems sadly little to include this year. Nevertheless, I am delighted to report that **Francis Grady** and his wife Eleanor had a baby in February: Helen Kathleen Louise Grady. Many congratulations to all three of them.

Congratulations are also due to **Ani Setchi**, whose work has been accepted for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

**Rami Choudhury** and **Rebecca Molyneux** both have new jobs. Molly now works for the charity CBM in Cambridge, which focuses on international disability work, and has visited Nigeria six times this year. She says that the scale of everything there is so hard to comprehend. Rami has moved to coding for Upside Travel in Washington DC, who use machine learning algorithms to improve people's experiences of business travel. In both cases, changing jobs means their workplace is no longer miles away from home, which, as someone with a six-hour round-trip commute, is something I can really sympathise with!

**Susannah Street** and **Patrick Butlin** married in the summer of 2015. Patrick teaches philosophy at King's College, London, and Susannah continues to work as a clerk in the House of Lords.

**Naomi Pollock**, **Brian Melican** and **Andrew Godfrey** all report nothing to report – but thanks for getting in touch.



My own year has had its ups and downs, especially as I spent a good chunk of it recovering from heart surgery to repair an aortic aneurism at the end of 2017. Like many early-career researchers, far too much of my time seems to be spent dealing with paper submissions, rejections, resubmissions and so on, though I have had quite a lot of fun as an AHRC BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinker and also gave my first set of lectures to Cambridge undergraduates last autumn. It is getting to the stage where I am no longer sure whether this makes me feel grown up, or just old!

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## 2004

**Year Representatives:** Nicola Davis, Gavin Freeguard and Natasha Zitcer

Email: merton2004@gmail.com

Another year of exciting professional and personal developments to report for the class of 2004.

**Teresa King** (née **Marsay**) and husband Bill welcomed their daughter Gabriella Megan on 19 October 2017 – a little sister for Harry. They are living in Worcester, enjoying life as a family of four.

Also welcoming a new addition are **Tom Ravenscroft** and **Charlotte** (née **Gardiner**, 2003). Alexander Matthew arrived on 1 February to join Tom, Charlotte and big brother Josh at home in Epping.

**Tash Beth** (née **Zitcer**) married Ian on 23 July 2017, with many Mertonians joining the celebrations. They are living in Finchley and very much enjoying their house now that it is no longer full of builders. Tash is still working at the Department for Education and looking forward to starting a new project shortly, mostly so that people stop shouting at her about school funding.

**Amy Taylor** is getting married in July at River Cottage in her home county of Devon.

**Nicola Davis** is beavering away as a science and health reporter at *The Guardian* as well as writing features for *The*

*Observer*, and cropping up on BBC radio. Outside of the office, she's enjoying bucolic life in Hertfordshire, studying the Japanese art of temari, practising her Danish, and looking forward to being a bridesmaid at Amy's wedding in July.

**Aaron Borbora** is writing his LLM dissertation on medical negligence and will commence pathology training in August. He has also been appointed as a magistrate on the Merseyside Bench.

**Stewart Pringle** was awarded the 2017 Papatango New Writing Prize for his debut full-length play *Trestle*, and appointed Dramaturg of the National Theatre.

**Mikhail Kizilov** is based in the Crimea, and in February 2018 he became a principal researcher of a project focusing on the relations between the Jews and Russian Old Believers. He has also started writing a biography of Ayn Rand – an American writer and philosopher of Russian-Jewish origin.

**Matthew Paradis** had been posted to the High Commission of Canada in the United Kingdom as Second Secretary (Migration). His desk has a nice view of the Garfunkel's Restaurant near Trafalgar Square, and he can often be found strolling from one end of the city to the other. From this summer, he will be responsible for coordinating the promotion of Canada's immigration programmes to residents of the UK, Ireland and the Nordic countries.

**Igor Sill** reports that the Sill Family Vineyard is gradually recovering from the Atlas Peak fires. He is extremely grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support from all his Merton friends. On a more positive note, the vineyard has won multiple awards this year, including the CWSA 2018 Wine of the Year Award.

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## 2005

**Year Representative:** Emma Bullimore

Email: emmabullimore@gmail.com



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## 2006

**Year Representatives: James Dobias (undergraduates)**

Email: james.dobias88@gmail.com

and **Gregory Lim (graduates)**

Email: gbslim@gmail.com

This year saw many of us return to Merton for our first Gaudy. Braving the sub-zero temperatures, we had a wonderful afternoon of catching up with old friends and hearing from the Warden on recent developments, before settling down for a dinner in Hall where **Leo Romanenko** masterfully delivered the alumni speech.

The glamorous life of being McKinsey consultants has spread Mertonians far across the globe, with **Harriet Keane** living and working in New York and **Mark Manson** in Melbourne.

**Phil Aherne** should be getting a book published this year based on his PhD, titled: *The Coleridge Legacy: Samuel Taylor Coleridge's Intellectual Legacy in Britain and America, 1834-1934*. The book purposefully ignores the poetry for which Coleridge is best known and instead situates Coleridge in the transatlantic intellectual landscape of the 19th century, arguing that he was central to shaping the intellectual vocation of the age.

Seamus Perry (Professor of English Literature at Balliol) has praised Phil for 'a tremendous work of synthesis ... generously demonstrating the breadth and diversity of the later Coleridge's presence in a century of Anglophone intellectual life'. Fittingly, from September Phil will take up a position as English teacher at Highgate School, the chapel of which was where Coleridge was originally buried, and Highgate being the place where Coleridge lived for the last third of his life.

**Dani Quinn** is Head of Maths at Michaela Community School, a Free School in Wembley, London, whose innovative teaching methods (focusing on self-discipline) are the subject of the recent book: *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Teachers: The Michaela Way*.

As for me, **James Dobias**, I continue as a solicitor at Slaughtier and May, with a current focus on corporate crime.

**Tim Bowen** reports that his daughter, Margot Elizabeth, was born on 29 December 2016.

**Chris O'Neill** is currently a PhD candidate at Wolfson College, Cambridge University. He is still based in Poland, and his various other activities include lobster fishing in the Gulf of Maine for the fall seasons, and teaching export skills to small and medium enterprises in Kosovo. His daughter, Meggie (24), will marry in June, and his son, Timothy (16), is in high school. His wife, Teresa, is deputy director of Poland's National Agricultural Support Centre.

**Andy Stephenson** and his partner, Nora Kreft, report that their son, Emanuel Joseph Kreft, was born at 00:13 on 23 April 2018 in Berlin, Germany. His son is named after Immanuel Kant, Andy's favourite philosopher, who was born Emanuel Kant, but whose birthday was 22 April, so he missed having the same birthday by just 13 minutes!

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## 2007

**Year Representative: Alistair Haggerty**

Tel: 07809 357351 Email: alistairjhaggerty@gmail.com

Thank you to all who responded to my request for updates: it was fantastic to hear from you and to find out a little about what you have been doing in the last year.

We had our first Gaudy in March, which was extremely well attended. One of those at the Gaudy was **Christian Jorgensen**, who has recently completed his PhD and is now in the USA doing a postdoc at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He would be delighted to meet up with other Mertonians who find themselves in and around Washington DC.

**Bill Hellier** is also currently living on the other side of the Atlantic. He told me that, in defiance of his usual preference for doing as little as possible, he was keen to provide an



update for *Postmaster*. Since February 2016 he has been living in the USA, on an assignment with work (curiously, he did not say what this work entailed). He met an American girl when she was in London in 2012 and, after they became tired of flying back and forth, he managed to settle more permanently in America. He was in Brooklyn for a year and now lives just across the water in Jersey City, which he says is, despite the stereotypes, perfectly inhabitable! He is always happy to hear from any Mertonians who are in the Big Apple.

Completing a trio of US-based Mertonians is **Ellen Feingold**. She is living in DC with her husband Alex and their daughter Hannah Pearl, who recently celebrated her first birthday. Ellen tells me that Hannah is a joyful and clever little person – which is to be expected, considering who her parents are! In addition, Ellen's book, *Colonial Justice and Decolonization in the High Court of Tanzania, 1920-1971*, was published this year as part of the Cambridge Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies Series. It is based on her doctoral research and would not have been possible without the generous support of the John Roberts Fund and Merton College.

Currently based closer to home is **Janina Dill**. She has had an eventful few years, which began when she was a departmental lecturer at Somerville College in 2013. After a long day of admissions interviews she met a physicist in the dining hall who, as she recalls, managed to be dazzling while explaining an admissions question: something about how many times someone has to cut a cube of cheese to achieve a desired result. They have since got married and initially settled in East Oxford. At that time, as an assistant professor at the LSE, Janina was commuting to London. However, since last October, she has been back in Oxford as an associate professor at the Department of Politics and International Relations and a professorial fellow at Nuffield College. In fact, she started this job exactly ten years to the day since she first came to Oxford.

As for me, I am still working in Bristol as a barrister specialising in crime, regulatory offences and inquests, but am now living in Bath. I am getting married in September to Rachael, who is also a lawyer but, unlike me, is a graduate of the other place and spends her days dealing with commercial property rather than schlepping around the criminal courts.

## 2008

**Year Representative: Alice Salvage**

Email: [alice.salvage@gmail.com](mailto:alice.salvage@gmail.com)

March 2018 saw the Class of 2008 celebrating our first Gaudy. Despite the intrinsic proof that we must be getting old enough for these milestones, it felt like no time at all since we were all last in the bar. College was beautifully blanketed in snow, leading to much frolicking and many fond memories of building snowmen in Fellows' Garden. It was lovely to see so many of you there; I look forward to catching up more at other events over the next few years.

**Rosie Birchall** and **Niall Allsopp** are now cohabiting in Peckham, at the same address as **Prakash Parameshwar**, where they are soon to be joined by our esteemed Year Rep, **Alice Salvage**. Rosie and Prakash are both working at the Treasury. They have not yet succeeded in bringing it down from the inside. Rosie has contributed 'successfully' (if one can call it that) to the Brexit negotiation; Prakash's responsibilities (his contemporaries may be interested to learn) include 'the cashless society' and 'the digital economy'. Both are living a full social life; Rosie has been volunteering for causes including women's education and reproductive rights. Niall, meanwhile, is presently a Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at the University of Exeter, and working on a book entitled *Poetry and Sovereignty in the English Revolution*, forthcoming soon (he hopes).

**Verity Parkinson** started a 12-month post as Senior Library Assistant at Merton in January, and is really enjoying it, although being back in College and surrounded by undergraduates makes her feel ancient.

Since leaving Merton she has obtained an MA in Library and Information Studies from UCL, and has worked in various London law libraries; after getting the Merton job, she moved from London to Reading. She lives with **Rob Day**; they've been together for nine years now. She adds: 'I enjoyed seeing lots of familiar faces at the Gaudy, although was too socially inept to do a very good job of socialising; hopefully I'll do better in a decade or so when the next time rolls around.'



**Katie Tiller** has a 'small' update to report – she's engaged! She and Joe Bryan (2011, for an MA), are getting married in February 2019.

**Jurei Yada** reports that she has been working on the Group of 20's (G20's) sustainable energy agenda for the past few years, supporting countries' efforts to cooperate internationally on clean energy issues. She hopes to catch up with our cohort at some point – she was sad to miss the Gaudy in March!

**Blake Emmett** has recently qualified as a Pilot and First Officer for British Airways.

As for myself, after leaving Merton I gained my MA in American Studies from Columbia University, with a specialisation in mid-century film history. I then worked for an independent film producer and financier for three years, before returning to the UK at the end of 2016. After continuing to work in independent film for a while (with the added benefit of working from home, in the company of my dogs), I gave in to the fact that we are enjoying a golden age of television, and joined the BBC earlier this year, where I currently work in Commercial Affairs for the Documentary and Science Units. By the time you read this I will have moved from Sussex to join Rosie, Niall and Prakash in Peckham.

On the graduate side, **Rohit Khetan** moved back to India after completing his MBA, where he is working with a retail software company (Ginesys) to help build its brand and market share. He is currently based in Bengaluru, and, he writes, 'on the family front we are lucky to be blessed with a sweet daughter who is now seven.'

**Masa Kotosaka** reports that, after his MSc in Management Research (2008-09) and DPhil in Management Studies (2009-13), he returned to Japan, published two books, and gained two children and a tenured faculty position. He is currently teaching management as an associate professor at Keio University and also acting as an external board member of four start-up companies, two of which have gone public. He misses the days at Merton and looks forward to catching up with many of you again soon. He invites you to get in touch if you are visiting Tokyo!

**Jonathan Waterlow** is excited to be publishing a book that developed from his History DPhil at Merton. It's called *It's Only a Joke. Comrade! Humour, Trust and Everyday Life Under Stalin*, and came out in June. Drawing on diaries, interviews, memoirs and hundreds of previously secret documents, the book uncovers how Soviet citizens joked, coped and struggled to adapt in Stalin's brave new world. It asks what it really means to live under a dictatorship: How do people make sense of their lives? How do they talk about it? And whom can they trust to do so? Moving beyond ideas of resistance, doublethink, speaking Bolshevik, or Stalin's cult of personality to explain Soviet life, the book reveals how ordinary people found their way and even found themselves in a life lived along the fault-lines between rhetoric and reality. There's a full description and some very nice early reviews on the book's website ([onlyajokecomrade.com](http://onlyajokecomrade.com)).

Many thanks to those of you who reached out with updates or to welcome me into my new role as Year Rep. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or feedback.

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## 2009

**Year Representative: Dr Stephanie Cadoux-Hudson (née Jones)**

Email: [scadouxhudson@gmail.com](mailto:scadouxhudson@gmail.com)



The newlywed Cadoux-Hudsons  
© Urien Morgan ([www.umphotography.co.uk](http://www.umphotography.co.uk))



Well, first things first: as you may have noticed from the change of email address, your year rep has become a married woman. On 12 May, in the Chapel of Merton College, I was wedded to Mr Alexander Cadoux-Hudson. In a way it was just like a mini-Gaudy, with a large gaggle of our 2009 year group, the Warden and Lady Taylor, and of course the Revd Simon Jones joining in the celebrations. I remain living in Oxford and working as a Principal Research Scientist in Biocontrols at Syngenta.

Speaking of Gaudies, on sending out this year's year-rep email I was greeted with numerous responses of 'When is our Gaudy!?' It seems our year is very keen for a reunion and I can confirm that we will be seeing each other in September 2019.

In other news, **Lukas Wallrich** has started a PhD in Social Psychology at Goldsmiths, London. In light of rising populism and polarisation, he is looking at how contact between different ethnic groups affects pro-social and civic actions, first among university students and then in youth work contexts.

**Michael Uy** this year became the Allston Burr Resident Dean of Dunster House at Harvard College. Michael has also been awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award by the Harvard Foundation. Congratulations, Michael!

**Max Kleiman-Weiner** has just defended his PhD in Cognitive Science from MIT and will be staying in the other Cambridge to continue researching social intelligence at Harvard. Since Merton, Max has also co-founded a company (Diffeeo) that is building artificially intelligent agents that collaborate with people.

Following in the footsteps of Clement Attlee, **Daniel Tidey** has decided to train to become a social worker. He will be returning to higher education in September 2018 for two years of study.

And finally, on a lighter note, **Vanessa Johnen** has moved to Munich but has also been enjoying numerous sailing trips to Croatia.

Till next year! Stephanie

## 2010

**Year Representative: Martin Schmidbaur**

Tel: 0044 7909823632 Email: martin.schmidbaur@gmail.com

It's 2018, and we're into the second edition of what will hopefully become a long-term, quasi-academic and at least mildly entertaining sociological study of the Merton 2010 graduation cohort. Starting off with the most important and romantic happenings of the year gone by, we have had some personal news, weddings and engagements to celebrate.

By the time you read this, **Hannah Polonsky** will have welcomed a baby daughter into this world. Congratulations, Hannah!



Elizabeth and Wesley Wilson, with best man Jan Engelhart

**Wesley Wilson** married fellow Mertonian Liz Traynor (2012) in February in Gloucestershire. At his wedding, he found himself flanked by best man **Jan Engelhart** as well as **William Bennett**, both of whom were apparently allowed to publicly address the assembled wedding guests. The newlyweds are living in the US and planning to stay there as Wesley considers attending law school.

**Luke Hughes** married Anna in July in Durham.

By the time you read this, **Lukas Gelezauskas** will be married to his fiancée Julija. They are living in Lithuania, but Lukas travels back to London fairly regularly.





Danielle Ward and her husband Alec

**Danielle Ward** (née **King**) and her partner Alec celebrated their wedding in May this year. Danielle works as an environmental project manager in Hampshire, but the couple are planning to move to Suffolk next year.

**Jonny Carver** celebrated his engagement to fiancée Nicola. They bought a flat in London where Jonny now pretends to support Fulham FC (his heart still beats Sunderland), and they are planning to get married in March next year.

**Andrew O'Flaherty** also got onto the property ladder in London, where he still works in equities research. **Matt Constable** is also in London, working as a software engineer.

Being the exemplary alumni they are, **Jess Furness** and **Catriona Hull** were spotted at the Merton History Day back in the spring. After some time in China learning Mandarin, Catriona is now back in London working at an educational consultancy. She still sings in a choir with **Will Bennett**. Jess is working as a recruiter, travelling Europe in search of top talent for data analytics firm Palantir.

Speaking of tech companies and data science talent, **Laurie McClymont** completed his PhD in physics from UCL before moving to Amsterdam to work for booking.com.

Staying true to her interest in sustainability, **Laura Burnett** (née **Simmons**) started a new role as community manager for Provenance, a London-based start-up using blockchain

to help retailers keep track of their supply chain, so you know where your products come from. Both aspiring members of London's Clapham intelligentsia, she occasionally sees **Alex Woolley** in South London for 'deep chats'.

Laura's former College wife **Sara Wehlin** is continuing her PhD in the US. She published a paper on light-drive chloride oxidation (exploring new kinds of sun-powered fuel sources) and hopes to graduate next year. She's by no means the only US-based Merton chemist being published in what we're assured are credible academic journals. As part of the seminal duo 'Geeson & Cummins', **Michael Geeson** has been published for his work on synthetic phosphates at MIT. Doing his part for a cleaner planet.

2018 also marked the return to the stage of **Jack Coward**, better known as Day One, who is back releasing his own music after two years of soul-searching. You can stream his latest tracks on 'Choon'.

While based in the City, **Chas Lake** travels to South Africa regularly for his work in management consultancy – and he recommends it as a travel destination. He goes back to Oxford once a year for Old Boys' Football and stays in touch with some of his former Holywell housemates.

**Kendall Crean** has made a career of chasing glory in the Premier League. After starting out at Manchester United, she now works in strategy at Arsenal FC.

**Charlotte Robinson** is living in Sheffield, completing her MA in ethnomusicology and hoping to continue research into music and dance. Charlotte's academic interests bleed into her social life – she's interested in gender-free dance traditions like ceilidh and contra, and founded a dance team called the Sheffield Steel Rapper to keep alive the intriguing tradition of sword-dancing from the north-eastern pit villages. She can be found at various folk dance festivals across the UK.

**David Harper** completed his PhD and moved to Edinburgh for work, where he now lives with his wife Hester.

After settling into life as a doctor in Brighton for a few years, **Freya Edwards** is 'taking a step back' and heading off on



some sort of gap year. She is planning on keeping her mind busy with a combination of knitting and travelling. She might also re-watch *Pitch Perfect*.

**Oscar Hayward**, former JCR presidential candidate, lives in Bloomsbury in London. As an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell, he works on competition law and has developed a peculiar interest in herbicides. He has turned in his badge and truncheon two years ago, but reports that he has still been busy chasing local bike thieves. On foot.

After a history degree, **Max Jones** also joined the Merton law brigade. He can be found frequenting the after-work watering holes of Fleet Street.

Against all better instincts, **Sarah-Jane Legge** decided to pursue another degree (in law), while working as an apprentice solicitor in the French department of a law firm.

Speaking of second degrees, **Molly Willcock** topped up her music degree with a BSc in midwifery from King's College in London, and started working as a midwife at St Mary's Hospital.

**Ruth Mitchell** finished her foundation years as a junior doctor in Manchester and will stay there to start work as a paediatrician. Before that, she will have spent some time volunteering to teach medical students in Gulu, Uganda.

**Marie Winther Sall** works for a pharmaceutical company in Copenhagen, where she has lived for the last three years despite doing her fair share of travelling. In her day-to-day, she oversees clinical trials, where she says her in-depth knowledge about the Norman Conquest comes in particularly handy. She's also thinking about getting a dog.

As for me – yours truly – I am back on Terra Brexita after a three-month interlude in Paris earlier this year, where I spent some time working with start-ups and (trying my best at) learning French.

Turning to the graduates, **Adam Volanakis** moved to Boston to start at Harvard Medical School. His most recent publications tackle scientific problems from both sides –

uncovering new mechanisms in gene expression and mRNA export as well as improving the efficiency of searching for scientific literature. Relatedly, he also co-founded a slick new website for browsing biomedical literature: [finder.scride.org](http://finder.scride.org)

At the time of writing, **Emmanuele D'Ossualdo** and his wife Anna were eagerly awaiting the birth of a baby boy. In academic news, Emmanuele has been awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship at Imperial College London, starting in September 2018 to work on formal verification of concurrent systems.

**Alkiviadis Ginalis** also received a Marie Curie Fellowship at the University of Bremen in Germany, before taking up a position as a researcher at the Roman-Germanic Central Museum in Mainz. As an underwater archaeologist, he is currently based in Vienna. He specialises in Mediterranean shipwreck and harbour studies of the late antique and medieval periods – ancient Aegean port networks, to be precise. He was married in 2016.

**Jaron Murphy** is a course leader in journalism at Southampton, where he started in 2016 after completing a DPhil in English literature and working as an editorial manager in the newspaper industry. He remains tied to Merton in various ways: he has recently published essays in the *Journal of the T S Eliot Society* and his daughter Emily Maeve was christened in the College Chapel by the Revd Simon Jones.

**Julia Steinberg** lives in Sydney, and got engaged during a recent visit to Merton. She works in biomedical research; you can read all about it on page 78.

Last November, **Pauline Souleau** and **Henry Hope** published a collection of essays, *Performing Medieval Text* (Cambridge, Legenda 2017), which gathers together the results of a two-day interdisciplinary conference that was funded by Merton in 2013. The volume is a fitting way to mark Pauline's and Henry's departure from the academic world, as they begin to explore new paths this autumn.

With apologies to anyone I may have missed and huge thanks to everyone who sent in their news – it has once again been a genuine pleasure compiling this update for a fascinating group of people. It wouldn't be half as entertaining without



your contributions and updates, and I'm already looking forward to hearing what you've been up to next year!

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## 2011

*There is currently no Year Representative for 2011. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interesting in becoming the Year Rep for this year.*

In the meantime we have heard from the following Mertonians from 2011.

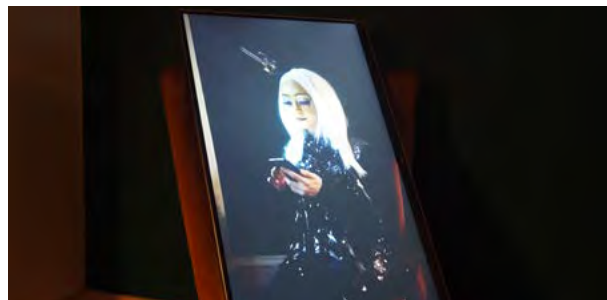
**Jeanette Smith** has just moved back to London from New Zealand and is now working for a prop tech start-up in London. **Daniel Bregman** is still living in Clapham Junction, is in his third year of teaching mathematics at a South London secondary school, and has recently been given responsibility for Oxbridge admissions. A rather apt role, we're sure you'll agree!



Watchtower: Cultura-Plasmic Inc

In other news **CULTURA-PLASMIC INC.** (FKA Katee Woods) reports that 'I graduated from the University in 2011 with an MSt in Musicology (awarded Distinction) and I'm currently working as an artist in Glasgow under the pseudonym Cultura-Plasmic Inc.

'In February I was invited to take part in Cryptic's winter residency at Cove Park to develop *Watchtower*, an art installation combining sound, moving image and sculpture that critiques online mass surveillance and its effects on behaviour in creating a, what I term, culture of predictability. *Watchtower* was first produced in 2017 whilst I was artist-in-residence at The Auxiliary, an experimental project space for sound artists, supported by Arts Council England.



Work in progress: Cultura-Plasmic Inc

I have also been granted a partial bursary that enables me to take part in a three-week residency in July at artist-led space Can Serrat, Spain. I will be developing a new work that looks at digital dependence, the attention economy, online consumption and infobesity. I was selected as one of 22 artists for this opportunity with 214 artists from around the world applying.'

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## 2012

**Year Representative: Dr Stephanie Cadoux-Hudson (née Jones)**

Email: [scadouxhudson@gmail.com](mailto:scadouxhudson@gmail.com)

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## 2013

*There is currently no Year Representative for 2013. Please contact [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk) if you are interesting in becoming the Year Rep for this year.*



We have heard from the following 2013 Mertonians.

**Hamish Forbes** reports that from September 2018 he will be living and studying in Paris as he pursues an MA in Environmental Policy at Sciences Po. **Peter Shepherd** didn't have much in the way of news this year, but watched the University Challenge final in May which he thought was 'nail-bitingly close, the number of times Merton buzzed in early and incorrectly my heart sank to somewhere between my knees. Particularly the Wagner question. Alex and Ed were good friends of mine at Merton!' I'm sure we all shared his keen interest in the finale.

And finally **Vinesh Rajpaul** says: 'After finishing my DPhil last year, I was elected to a Research Fellowship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Separately, I was also elected by the Royal Astronomical Society to a Norman Lockyer Fellowship. I took up these fellowships in Cambridge in October 2017, and remain affiliated with Oxford as a visiting researcher. On a personal level: my wife Victoria (who is a current DPhil student in Oxford) and I are expecting our first child in August.'



# In Memoriam

## Emeritus Fellows



**Professor Michael Gelder FRCP FRCPsych FMedSci (1929–2018)**, Emeritus Fellow of Merton College, former Sub-Warden and WA Handley Professor of Psychiatry, and co-author of the *Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry*, has died aged 89.

As a young clinical researcher at the Institute of Psychiatry in London in the 1960s, Michael Gelder was only too aware of the need for better treatments of the ‘neuroses’. Management of these conditions was limited to dependence-producing anxiolytic medications and lengthy psychoanalytic psychotherapies, neither of which were particularly effective. Around this time psychologists had begun to apply learning theory to clinical anxiety disorders that were conceived as a manifestation of faulty learning or, more specifically, the failure to ‘extinguish’ anxiety that was contextually inappropriate or excessive. However, it was not until Gelder’s work that these ideas influenced mainstream psychiatry. Gelder, with his characteristic intellect and scientific rigour developed effective clinical methods to lessen anxiety by desensitisation, in which gradual exposure to the feared stimulus was coupled with physical relaxation. This resulted in his seminal 1966 publication with Isaac Marks, which described the first controlled trial of this form of therapy in patients with severe agoraphobia.

A few years later, Gelder’s rapidly growing reputation as someone able to carry out highly original and clinically important research across disciplinary boundaries led him to be recruited to the Foundation Chair in Psychiatry at the University of Oxford. Arriving at the Warneford Hospital in 1969, Gelder’s task was to establish from scratch, and with limited resources, a world-class psychiatric research department, as well as organising and conducting undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and sharing in the clinical work of the hospital.

These goals were formidable but Oxford had chosen well. Early work on agoraphobia used home-based methods to enhance the effectiveness of the behaviour therapy he had developed at the Institute of Psychiatry. Although this was a major advance in the treatment of a disabling condition, Gelder was quick to realise the limitations of a purely behavioural approach and encouraged exploration of the value of adding cognitive strategies, which focus on modifying thoughts, attention and memory. The Oxford Centre that he led was distinguished by an unusually close interplay between psychological theories, experimental studies and clinical innovation – a particularly productive approach. New and highly effective forms of cognitive-behaviour therapy were developed there and have been widely adopted in clinical practice, are recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, and provide better long-term outcomes than alternative approaches such as antidepressant medication. They have benefited enormous numbers of people worldwide.

Over the years, Gelder attracted to the Oxford Department a veritable *Who’s Who* of innovators in cognitive behaviour therapy, each of whom benefited from his encouragement, lucidity of thought, brilliance in grant writing, openness to new approaches, strong belief in the value of combining experimental and clinical science, and his commitment to rigorous evaluation of new treatments.

In addition to his personal interest in psychological treatments, together with David Grahame-Smith, Nuffield Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, Gelder developed a research unit for the equally new field of psychopharmacology. At the time an almost unique example of cross-departmental collaboration



in the Oxford Medical School. The unit's work on the mechanisms whereby treatments like ECT, anxiolytics and antidepressants actually work has fundamentally shaped our understanding of the biology underlying psychiatric disorder.

Michael Gelder was born in 1929 in Ilkley, the only child of Philip, a wool merchant, and Alice, the daughter of a general practitioner. The family soon moved to Bradford where Gelder attended the local grammar school. Gelder had a long-standing desire to study medicine but his parents discouraged this ambition, arguing that he should join his father in the family business. However, Gelder persisted, taking science A-levels at evening classes and then winning a scholarship to Queen's College, Oxford where he took first class honours in Physiology. A further scholarship to University College Hospital allowed him to complete his medical training which was followed by National Service as a Medical Officer at the British Army of the Rhine Headquarters from 1956 to 1958. Through his medical training and early clinical work, Gelder became intrigued by the pervasive role of psychological factors in medical practice and this led him to embark upon his training in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital, during which he won the prestigious Gaskell Gold Medal of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He then worked as a Medical Research Council Research Fellow at the Institute of Psychiatry.

Gelder led the Oxford Department of Psychiatry until his retirement in 1996. He was notable for 'leading from the front', attending all departmental academic meetings as well as carrying a significant clinical and teaching load. His unparalleled clarity of expression and encyclopaedic knowledge made him an inspirational teacher; this was captured particularly in the *Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry*, which he co-authored with Dennis Gath and Richard Mayou. Translated into six languages, this became the standard textbook for psychiatric trainees. Another of Gelder's priorities was to foster the talented young clinicians and scientists who strove to join his department. Many went on to be leaders in the psychiatric and research communities.

Although Gelder served on major research committees of the Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust, he had no interest in the personal accumulation of power, and

was self-deprecating and modest. Invariably dressed in a grey suit and tie – even when walking his Alsatian dogs – he nevertheless had a formality of manner that, coupled with his intense drive for clinical and scientific excellence and formidable intellect, could make him a somewhat forbidding figure. However, patients spoke of his approachability and kindness and the respectful way in which he listened and responded to their difficulties.

This side of Gelder's nature was, of course, well known to his family. His daughter Fiona remarked that, as a father, 'He was kind, fair and unfailingly supportive of us all – in school life, marriage and work decisions.' She is a GP, Colin is a chest physician and Nicola runs her own business. Gelder met his wife, Mandy, when he was a medical student at UCH and she was a nurse. Gelder regarded persuading her to marry him as his greatest achievement and he was devoted to her throughout their nearly 64 years of marriage, showering her with flowers on anniversaries and Valentine's Days.

In retirement Gelder was able to find more time to indulge his love of travel. He had a wide circle of devoted friends who would have been astonished to learn of the trepidation he had been liable to engender in junior colleagues. When he gained an Italian son-in-law, he joined Italian classes and at the wedding gave a speech in both English and fluent Italian. He continued to play real tennis at Merton College, until arthritis supervened. He was an affectionate and attentive grandfather to his eight grandchildren, one of whom, to his delight, recently qualified in medicine.

*This obituary was first published on the University of Oxford Department of Psychiatry website. It is reproduced by permission of the Department.*

[www.psych.ox.ac.uk/news/professor-michael-gelder-1929-2018](http://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/news/professor-michael-gelder-1929-2018)



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## Former Fellows



James Wroe wrote:

*When some one dies,  
elements of him survive  
in the recall of friends.  
The plenitude of being,  
when alive, extends  
beyond his mortal boundaries.*

His God-given gift of poetry epitomised the man and his view of himself: spiritual and with deep belief, visionary, scholarly, thoughtful, tender, the quintessential English gentleman, devoted friend and proud Mertonian, with wit in boundless measure.

His close but itinerant family moved many times during his unusual childhood, but gave him three of his abiding passions: his reverence for the sanctity and importance of family life, his roaming nature and his deep appreciation of the wonders and mysteries of the physical world, culled perhaps most significantly in the vicinity of Dartmoor and his teenage years at King Edward VI Grammar, Totnes.

The young James burst onto the Merton scene in 1962 and was soon at the centre of College life, immaculately suited, charming, replete with bow tie and monocle (popping out occasionally in feigned surprise), bon mot at the ready. Merton friends abounded, many for life – a group not without reason called The Renegades – and more attention was paid to extracurricular life than academic duties.

Nonetheless James grew into a distinguished scholar, with a strong classical streak, developed over a lifetime of reading

and learning, as his poetry demonstrates. Perhaps that is why he chose the intellectual challenges of publishing as a career, first joining Michael Heseltine's Haymarket Press – a brush with Conservative politics which was a prelude to a highly successful period later as Chairman of the Chichester Conservative Association. Striking out on his own he then founded the medical magazines *Hospital Doctor* and subsequently *Practical Diabetes*. It was typical of James' renaissance talents that he immediately immersed himself in and soon became an important and highly respected part of the specialised world of diabetes.

The sale of his publishing businesses to Wiley gave him the wherewithal both to continue working and to indulge his many other diverse passions and interests for the rest of his life, in West Sussex, the West Country and France. He was a talented guitarist, but his greatest glory was in the natural world – except perhaps electricity, an element he never even began to understand even at its most basic. As he wrote of a midsummer evening in Sussex:

*But this night, the blessed  
Eve of St John, the stars are  
dancing, like damselflies on a  
deep blue Summer pool and  
foxes are barking for joy in the  
starlit kingdom of hills;*

He adored adding to the beauty of his surroundings with his devotion to trees, not least at Lorgues in the Var where he planted mimosa and olives, sometimes battling with contrary elements which regularly filled the family pool with mud. Of local vines....

*... they're sea anemones,  
fixed at the foot, but free to snatch  
with writhing tentacles a catch.*

He also loved the diversity and absurdities of other cultures, from which he was careful to distinguish himself. A Merton Renegade visiting Lorgues turned and saw an unmistakeable figure in mustard cords, tweed jacket, bow tie and panama hat approaching, pulled along by two dachshunds. It could only have been James, speaking French with an impeccable



English accent, and increasing volume to ensure Johnny Foreigner's better understood.

Above all, James had an abiding love and devotion to and pride in his family:

*In my son's infant face I recognise  
My past and future soul. His simple glance  
Makes clear Time's holy purpose; in his eyes  
The years grown gentle yield a second chance ....*

And finally he wrote of Sian, his rock, his dear life's companion, who looked after him in his terrible slow decline of recent years:

*Can the imagined angels' heaven be  
More holy than the heaven of your eyes,  
Or the calm spirit of eternity  
Compare with this, our mortal ecstasy?*

And his verdict on own life?

*When I come to the pearly gates and see  
the final peage on life's autoroute,  
my last assessor maybe will be me.  
Trying myself, how could I attribute  
to chance the verdict of eternity?*

Merton friends will surely await him on the other side, in his own slightly adapted words:

*Dear James, old friend from Merton days, I grieve  
For a fine man's death, pray for your soul.  
And think of Merton friends long dead, of Tim and  
Steve  
And Martin, all your friendships here made whole.  
May the first words be that you hear in Heaven:  
"Ah, James, I think you know — Martin, Tim and  
Stephen!"*

Daniel Hodson (1962)

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*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **John Black** on 7 October 2017. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

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**Professor John Roe** died on 9 March 2018, after a heroic fight against cancer.

A mathematician, teacher, rock climber, theologian, eco activist and follower of Jesus, John was born on 6 October 1959. Fascinated by mathematics from an early age, he was educated at Rugby School and the University of Cambridge, where he earned his degree in mathematics and played guitar in a Christian rock band. John completed his DPhil in Mathematics (1981–84) at Merton and was also a Junior Research Fellow (1984–86). His doctoral research was conducted under Professor Sir Michael Atiyah.

As a visiting researcher in Berkeley, California, John met Liane Stevens, whom he married in December 1986. John taught mathematics at Jesus College, Oxford, until 1998, when his family, now including two children, moved to the United States. There, at the Pennsylvania State University, John served as a professor of mathematics for 20 years, and as department head for five.

John's deep faith and study of Scripture motivated him to follow the example of Jesus by promoting equitable treatment of those without privilege and by welcoming marginalised individuals, including his younger child, who identified as transgender. Meanwhile, his passion for the outdoors and rock climbing inspired his advocacy for the environment and sustainability. Although John was the author of more than 50 academic publications, including



several books, his most recent and cherished project was the undergraduate textbook *Mathematics for Sustainability*, published by Springer in May 2018.

John was devoted to his family: Liane, his wife of 31 years; his older child Nathan; his mother Judy Roe; his brother and sister-in-law Tim and Lindi Roe; and members of his extended family. He was preceded in death by his beloved younger child Eli (Miriam) Roe and father, Michael Roe.

John reflected with honesty and grace about his cancer journey, which began with diagnosis and extensive treatment at the age of 54. I would highly recommend you to look up John's blogs about faith and sustainability, maths, rock climbing, cancer, and transgender individuals on his website ([sites.psu.edu/johnroe/](http://sites.psu.edu/johnroe/)).

**Graham Dwyer**

(with thanks to Liane Roe and *Centre Daily Times*, State College Pennsylvania)

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## Honorary Fellows



**Sir Roger Bannister** died on 3 March 2018, aged 88. Roger was a distinguished neurologist and Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, but will be universally remembered as the first man to break the four-minute mile.

Running a mile in less than four minutes had been deemed impossible. As Roger himself later recalled: 'The four-minute mile had become rather like an Everest – a challenge to the human spirit'. It was at the Iffley Road track in Oxford on 6 May 1954 that Roger made history. Commentator, Norris McWhirter, announced: 'Number 41, RG Bannister ... with a

time which is a new meeting and track record and which, subject to ratification, will be a new English native, British national, British all-comers, European, British Empire and world record. The time is three ...'

Roger's achievement was testimony to his powers of self-belief and determination. He was later to remark of the race: 'The physical overdraft came only from greater willpower. Those last few seconds seemed never-ending.' That evening he climbed Harrow Hill with his pacemakers, Chris Chataway and Chris Brasher, whom he later made godfathers to his first son. The three men looked down on a glittering London, and Brasher later remembered: 'We didn't have anything to say to each other. We all knew that the world was at our feet and that we could do anything we wanted in life.'

In the event, Roger held his world record for only 46 days before it was broken by the Australian John Landy. The two men were due to face one another at the Empire Games at Vancouver in August, and both knew that this battle would mean more to Roger than the four-minute mile and more to Landy than the world record. As Roger wrote: 'The world seemed almost too small for us both, and we must meet to settle the score. The race would settle our rivalry.' 40 million people watched on television as it became one of the most exciting duels of all time with Roger overtaking Landy on the last lap. In looking round, Landy had lost a valuable fraction of a second – and Roger grabbed his chance and overtook him at 3 minutes 58.8 seconds. Roger went on to win the European Championships before disappearing from the athletics scene to practise medicine.

Roger Gilbert Bannister was born at Harrow on 23 March 1929 to Alice and Ralph Bannister. In his memoirs Roger recalled that by the age of nine he had already learnt that his best defence against bullies 'was to be so fleet of foot that bullies thought it too bothersome to pursue me'. On the outbreak of war the family moved to Bath where Roger was sent to the City of Bath Boys' School. Taunted for being a swot, he became a somewhat solitary character. Sport became his way of commanding respect among his peers, and he won his first race – a three-mile junior cross-country – aged 13. He went on to the University College School in London, where he continued with his running despite the



lack of facilities there. He used to climb over fences to find fields large enough to run in, and once crashed into some concrete blocks at night, ending up in hospital.

On arriving at Exeter College, in 1946 to read Medicine, Roger immediately took up track events, winning his first mile (and with it his Blue) for Oxford against Cambridge at the age of 18. Subsequently he became president of the Athletics Club, taking on the task of raising the money to level the track at Iffley Road where he would later make history. After taking his BA in Physiology in 1950, he remained at Oxford to work for a BSc, later enrolling for clinical studies at St Mary's Hospital in London – he was chosen by the dean, Lord Moran (best known as Winston Churchill's personal physician), to receive one of the entrance scholarships.

Roger represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games at Helsinki in 1952. On arriving there, he was dismayed to learn that a new semi-final had been introduced. His training programme was unsuited to the new schedule, and he came fourth in the final. He said later that, had he won the gold, he would have retired. Instead, his focus changed and he became intent on breaking the four-minute mile. After the Olympics, Roger came under fierce criticism for his training methods. He had avoided competition, and his preparation was described as 'unenterprising' and 'perfunctory'. This was, however, deliberate because of what he called the 'tremendous nervous strain' that he suffered during races. He was also attacked for not having a trainer. Instead, he carried out his own scientific experiments into breathing. He realised that if he could eliminate unnecessary movements, he would increase his oxygen uptake, thereby maximising his running potential.

Roger was essentially a self-made athlete who never allowed sport to take over his life. After retiring at 25, he threw himself into his medical career. Concerned that his superiors might have difficulty believing that a world-record-holder could be a serious doctor he thus resolved to work even harder to prove the sceptics wrong. From 1955 to 1957 he served as a house physician and house surgeon at St Mary's, as well as spells at the Hammersmith and Brompton Hospitals in London; at the Brompton, under the cardiologist Paul Wood, Roger published his first clinical research showing that patients with mitral valve blocking had dilated lower heart chambers.

In 1957 he passed his MRCP exams and won the William Hyde Award for research relating physical education to medicine. In March that year he began National Service with the Royal Army Medical Corps. Posted to Aden, he investigated deaths among young soldiers, proving that they could not be expected to undergo strenuous exercise until they had acclimatised – otherwise they would be susceptible to potentially fatal infections. He continued to work on this at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London after his return to Britain, publishing his work in two *Lancet* papers.

Roger often participated in his own research into heat and hydration, sitting naked in a hot chamber for up to six hours after intravenous injection of increasing doses of bacterial pyrogens (substances that produce fever). His colleagues remembered him as 'extremely conscientious' and 'obsessionally precise', a doctor who took an interest in all his patients. In 1962-63 he spent a year doing research work at Harvard, on his return he was appointed consultant neurologist at the Western Ophthalmic Hospital and St Mary's in London, remaining there for the rest of his career.

Roger always retained an interest in the world of sport. He would insist on the benefits of physical exercise to society as a whole. He donated half of the royalties of his book *The First Four Minutes* (1955) to the Amateur Athletic Association, suggesting (but not insisting) that they might build a training area in Harrow. This gesture was particularly generous, as he had little money at the time. He would later be president of the National Fitness Panel (1956-59), and in 1967 began to serve on a Ministry of Health advisory committee on drug dependence. In 1971 he was made chairman of the first executive Sports Council. The following year he launched the 'Sports for all' campaign, with a £350 million programme for all types of sports centres over the next decade. In 1973 the Sports Council had made a 'major breakthrough in the campaign to end the use of drugs' as a new test was heralded that could detect the amount of anabolic steroids in an athlete's body. The next year, wishing to devote more time to his medical work, he gave up his chairmanship after achieving record public spending of £80 million on sports facilities over 1973-74.

In 1985 Roger was appointed Master of Pembroke College, where he served until 1993 and is remembered as 'unfailingly



courteous'. He oversaw an expansion of undergraduate accommodation, while a dedicated building for graduates was named after him. Although officially retired, he continued working as honorary consultant physician at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London (now the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery). In the academic arena, he took over the editorship of *Brain's Clinical Neurology* in 1969, and also edited from 1983, with Christopher Mathias, *Autonomic Failure*. He wrote more than 100 papers on neurological matters, disorders of the autonomic nervous system, cardiovascular physiology, the physiology of exercise and heat illness.

In 1975 Roger damaged his right ankle in a car accident, after a car crossed the central barrier of a motorway and collided with his. He was told that he should never run again. Within a few years, however, he was running in Hyde Park, unable to resist the temptation despite being in considerable pain.

Roger was appointed CBE in 1955, knighted in 1975 and became a Companion of Honour in 2017. In 2005 he received a lifetime achievement award from the American Academy of Neurology. Latterly he suffered from Parkinson's disease, and in 2014 he published a memoir, *Twin Tracks*, which Nicholas Shakespeare in *The Daily Telegraph* described as 'intimate, discreet and modestly quite proud of itself'.

Roger married, in 1955, Moyra Elver, an artist and the daughter of Per Jacobsson, chairman of the International Monetary Fund. He once observed that his marriage was 'the most important thing I did'. The couple had two sons and two daughters.

A man of integrity and humility, Roger accepted that he would be remembered principally for his record-breaking achievement in 1954. But although proud of that milestone, he regarded it as an interruption of his career in medicine; it was, he said, 'the shadow of my being, not the substance'.

*This obituary was first published on The Telegraph website. It is reproduced by permission of its editors.*

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Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **The Rt Hon Sir Peter Tapsell** (1950), shortly before going to press. A full obituary will be published in next year's edition. In the meantime, obituaries have appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, and *The Telegraph*, and are available to read on the websites of those publications.

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## 1940

**Michael S Gerrard** passed away 5 on May 2015 in his home in Ashland, at the age of 93. After a long career trying to convince high school students that studying Shakespeare was rewarding, Michael retired to Ashland where his scholarship was a bit more appreciated by the Elderhostel students attending the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He is survived by Molly, his wife of 65 years; his son, three daughters, his son-in-law, three grandchildren, and his grandson-in law.

*This obituary was produced by permission of the editors of Ashland Daily Tidings.*

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How appropriate it was that **the Revd Father Benedict Green** (1942) should die on 3 September, the feast of St Gregory the Great, a man who combined scholarship with pastoral concern, and who was, above all, monastic. Benedict's qualities as academic, teacher and friend all flourished when in 1960 he joined the monastic Community of the Resurrection.

Humphrey Christian Green (to give him his baptismal names) was born in Oxford in 1924, the eldest of four children of the Revd F W Green, Fellow of Merton College, and subsequently Canon and Vice-Dean of Norwich Cathedral, and his wife, Marjorie Gosling, who had grown up in Bermuda.

He was educated at the Dragon School, Oxford, whence he won a King's Scholarship to Eton, and then returned to Oxford as a Senior Postmaster (Scholar) at his father's



college, Merton, in 1942. After Mods, he interrupted his studies to serve as a sub-lieutenant in the RNVR from 1942 to 1946 in the Far East.

On returning to Oxford, he completed Greats, and then read theology and went on to Cuddesdon. Ordained in 1951, he served under the pioneering parish priest Gordon Phillips in Northolt. In 1956, he moved to be a lecturer in the New Testament at King's College, London, acting also as Sub-Warden of the college's Vincent Square Hostel.

Already in his student days, his contemporaries recall his acute and fine mind, knowing him as a dedicated, if somewhat reclusive, scholar, someone who, it was said, never knew what it was to waste time. Deeply versed especially in New Testament scholarship, as also in liturgical studies, he went on to lecture in both fields, first at King's College, London, then at Mirfield, and in the University of Leeds. He contributed significant articles and monographs over the years.

He long worked on a new commentary on St Matthew's Gospel, a self-imposed task of filial devotion, updating his father's own earlier commentary in the Clarendon series. But his major work on this subject became his monumental *Matthew, Poet of the Beatitudes*, finally published in 2001.

When he joined the Community of the Resurrection, with whose Catholic Anglicanism he felt so very much at home, he found a society notable for its scholars and widespread ecumenical relations. He specially valued the community's monastic link with the Benedictine Abbey of St Matthias in Trier.

He spent ten years, 1965 to 1975, as Vice-Principal, and the following ten years as Principal, of Mirfield's theological college, where pastoral gifts came to the fore. He will be remembered with affection not only by former students and their wives, but also by many others for whom he was a valued spiritual director.

He was a much-loved guide and confessor to the nuns of St Mary's Abbey, West Malling, for whom he not only composed their fine eucharistic liturgy but was also instrumental in

commending the innovative young architects Maguire and Murray to design the nuns' new chapel.

Benedict's 46-year stability in the Community nourished his wide interests. Yet he was an essentially private person, with a distinctive stance, voice and manner – a voice that became blurred over the years as he struggled with increasing Parkinson's, bravely borne. His wit could be sharp, but this concealed a great warmth and generosity that earned him many devoted friends, whom he loved to visit.

At Benedict's funeral in the great monastic church in Mirfield, Father Peter Allen CR ended his words: 'As we pray for the glorious completion of Benedict's pilgrimage, we can surely recognise in the words of his beloved Matthew that here was "a scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven and is like the master of a household who brings out his treasure what is new and what is old".'

**The Very Revd Victor de Waal and Esther de Waal**

*This obituary was first published on the Church Times website in 2007. It is reproduced with the permission of its editors. [www.churchtimes.co.uk](http://www.churchtimes.co.uk)*

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## 1942

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Dr John Barnes** on 19 October 2017. We have not been able to trace John's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)

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## 1943

**Tony Benson** died on 20 May 2015.

John Anthony Benson was born in 1925 in New Brighton and after a brief spell in Kent studied at Hutton Grammar after which he was granted a place at Merton reading Mathematics in 1943, funded by the RAF. Following graduation he was stationed in Ceylon with the RAF until 1947.



After returning to England, Tony was offered a place to continue his studies in mathematics at Merton. However, he decided to read Veterinary Medicine at the Royal Veterinary College in Liverpool. Qualifying in 1952, he entered practice in Pontefract looking after colliery ponies. He then moved into general practice in 1953 as a partner in Appleby-in-Westmoreland dealing mainly with large animals, and stayed there until 1966.

Tony then joined the Ministry of Agriculture (now DEFRA) as a Veterinary Investigation Officer in Aberystwyth where he began further studies towards a Diploma in Bacteriology with the London School of Hygiene. After a succession of promotions all over the country he became Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer running the veterinary investigation centres across the country until retirement in 1986. He also tutored and became an examiner for Cambridge Veterinary College.

During retirement, Tony continued his interests in natural history as an active member of many societies, visiting and organising groups in the UK and abroad. In 2001 he returned briefly to DEFRA, assisting with the foot-and-mouth outbreak.

Tony is survived by his wife Pat, daughter Philippa and son John, who very much miss his forthright sense of humour.

## John Benson

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**Raymond Anthony (Tinka) Paterson** died on 11 January 2017, aged 91. Tinka was a member of the winning crew in Senior Challenge Oars and Vice-Captain of Boats at Shrewsbury School and also began his career as an artist, drawing caricatures of the masters, among other work. He went on to Merton College, Oxford. He was an operational mine-sweeping officer in the Royal Navy during the war, continuing his drawing in whatever spare time he could find and he decided to follow the family tradition by staying in the Service for a few years in peacetime, but his heart lay in drawing. In 1949, much to the amazement of his fellow officers, he joined the Guildford School of Art and exchanged his spruce uniform for a check shirt and a pair of jeans.

After two years there and a further year at the Chelsea Art School, he set up in his own studio as a portrait painter.

He started drawing portraits of children, many of them from 'the smart London set'; delicate and haunting, they recall the Holbein drawings at Windsor Castle. He declared that 'they are radically removed from portrait painting, which I feel has stalled as a medium. I am bored by the solemn worthiness of most of it. I believe in free and spontaneous line, light and free, but poignant with character study. There is a freshness in drawing that can never be overworked.'

His first one-man exhibition was launched in 1959 and subsequently he received commissions from all over the world. Tinka admitted an obsession with his work and he also emphasised its difficulty. 'A true artist can't turn out work like a baker turns out trays of buns or loaves – he's got to put his entire heart and soul into it.' Though particularly noted for his drawings of children, Tinka drew adults as well, and his drawing of Mr Mark Sykes earned particular admiration at the 66th Annual Exhibition of Portrait Painters. His other sitters included many 'denizens of that gilded territory beloved of the column writers, and known collectively as the Chelsea set'.

Tinka also received wide recognition for his drawing of landscape and his work was exhibited at the Royal Academy. He once contemplated, but rejected, an invitation to become a professional photographer, but he did admit to a degree of schizophrenia in his career, as he spent considerable time in the 1960s on the other side of the camera as a professional model. In this capacity he worked with the top photographers of the decade, including Norman Parkinson, Tony Armstrong Jones and Patrick Lichfield. Photographs of Tinka frequently appeared in the editorial pages of *Vogue*, *Tatler*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Queen*, *Harpers & Queen* and *Elle* as well as in numerous advertisements for companies such as Austin Reed, Land Rover and Air France. 'When somebody isn't posing for me, I am posing for somebody,' he remarked. 'It's most confusing.' His one regret at the time was that 'so far, more people have seen my face than my paintings.'

Though Tinka was dedicated to his work, his godson, Hugo Moss, provides an intriguing and affectionate insight into the



humorous and mischievous side of Tinka's character and reveals how he was able to make an unforgettable impact on any occasion. He tells how Tinka strode up the nave of Westminster Abbey to the communion rail at Hugo's confirmation in the nick of time, dressed in a long trench coat, having taken great care to be the very last; and how once he turned up at a fashionable party near Sevenoaks dressed from head to foot in authentic Arab attire, with long floating gown, headdress and dark glasses, which he had purchased in Lebanon. He was introduced by Hugo's mother Jane Bown to the other guests; she explained that he could speak no English and had come to drill for oil in Kent!

After several years, having found London 'barren, artistically sterile', Tinka moved his studio from Chelsea, first to Southwold in Suffolk, where he and his wife Margot, whom he had married in 1974 and on whom he leaned heavily for help and advice, found real contentment, and later on to Norwich.

**Margot Paterson**

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## 1944

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Michael Briggs** on 22 July 2017. We have not been able to trace Michael's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)

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## 1946

**Dr Gordon Kemble (Kem) Woodgate** died peacefully on 20 August 2017, aged 91.

Kem was educated at the University of Minnesota and Merton College, Oxford, coming up to Merton in 1946. He studied for his DPhil on the interferometric investigation of the hyperfine structure of atoms under the renowned physicist, Heinrich Gerhard Kuhn (1904-94), at Balliol.

Kem was Tutor in Physics at St Peter's from 1959 to 1991 - later, Emeritus Fellow - and was one of the members of the

Governing Body when St Peter's acquired full collegiate status and its Royal Charter in 1961. His appointment represented a turning point in the history of St Peter's, which had not previously had Fellows specialising in specific STEM subjects.

He gained a reputation as an enthusiastic and caring teacher, whose passions stretched well beyond physics - he was a keen violinist and bridge player, and served as a Justice of the Peace in Oxford for many years. His research interests focused on atomic structure, and he played a pioneering role in the field of atomic beam resonance.

Married to his wife Margaret for 66 years, he was a loving father to Michael, Catherine and Elizabeth and grandfather of Tom, Jonny, Will, Alice and Freddie.

This obituary was first published in *The Times* on 23 August 2017. It is reproduced with permission of its editors. [www.spc.ox.ac.uk/news/dr-kem-woodgate-1926-2017](http://www.spc.ox.ac.uk/news/dr-kem-woodgate-1926-2017)

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## 1947

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Jeffery 'Harlan' Walker** on 16 December 2017. We have not been able to trace Harlan's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)



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1948



**Paul Ledger** was born in July 1927 at the British Consulate in Sistan (now called Zabol), eastern Iran, where his father was an officer in the Indian Medical Service. At that time of year the town has an average maximum daily temperature of 41°C, with violent sandstorm winds which have led the World Health Organization to categorise it as the most polluted town on earth. Paul's early childhood then took him to the even greater heat of central India, and then to Gilgit in the frozen Karakoram mountains. These early hot and cold stimuli may have helped build the resilient physique that enabled him to excel in so many sports.

At Marlborough, Paul was head boy, played in the first cricket, rugby and hockey teams, and gained a Postmastership in Classics to Merton. During his two and a half years' National Service immediately after the war, he was commissioned in the Intelligence Corps and had wide responsibilities in northern Greece, where he described the savagery of the civil war, inflamed from across the Yugoslav and Albanian borders, as having Homeric overtones.

Paul came up in 1948 and read Greats. His calm air of reliability, together with his sporting prowess, made him a substantial figure in the College. He was elected President of the JCR, and played in the College tennis VI. But it was his brilliance at hockey which led to his captaincy first of the College and then of the University XIs, and then to his selection as centre-half for England. He passed up on the opportunity to play in the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952 in order to take up a year's postgraduate Henry Fellowship at Harvard.

On the *Queen Mary*, during the voyage to America, he first met Jenny Lloyd-Jacob, who after three years at St Anne's

was on her way to do a year's postgraduate study at Radcliffe. With their good fortune thus to be studying near to each other in Cambridge, Massachusetts, they explored the United States together, and on returning to Britain began their happy 63-year marriage. They enjoyed a fulfilling family life with their two sons, Robert (Merton, 1974) and Christopher, and daughter Catherine.

While at Harvard, Paul – with diffidence and not much sense of vocation – decided to try teaching. At Uppingham he taught English and Classics, mostly to the senior boys, intending to stay for about two years. But he became a very effective and much admired teacher, upholding and advancing the academic standards of the school, and was still there 20 years later, having been housemaster of the lovely Jacobean house, The Hall, for more than ten of them. With his liberal and progressive outlook, and in fruitful collaboration with Jenny, he took great pains to foster a family atmosphere and was invariably kind and caring towards the boys.

His reputation, and American experience, led him to be appointed as Academic Director of Stanford University in Britain, with its spectacular base at Cliveden; he ended his scholastic career with a brief period as Headmaster of Aiglon College in Switzerland.

Paul's approach to teaching was far from didactic. He was inclined to regard matters quizzically and to tease out the answers obliquely, sometimes to the puzzlement of other people until they realised that the answers had emerged. He had wide interests beyond sport and academia, from stamp collecting to wild flowers, which he pursued particularly in the family cottage near Snowdonia, where the wind-swept and rain-drenched climate, and the challenges it created for him in cultivating his bog garden, seemed to appeal to the austere side of his personality. Even at the end of his life, in January 2017, impaired by Alzheimers, Paul took great pleasure in long working visits to his own Shangri-La, most of all when in the cherished company of his family.

**David Lane** (1948)



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**The Revd Nigel Sanders** died peacefully at home on 22 March 2016.

Dad was a man of many parts. He had a rare combination of outstanding intellect, practical competence, sporting ability and business acumen. He put his intellectual ability down to his first governess, Miss Baylis, whom he credited with having laid the foundations that saw him go as a scholar to his prep school, Port Regis; to his public school, Radley, and to Merton College as a Postmaster.

Practical application always interested him more than academic achievement. Growing up, he and his brother Colin played incessantly with Meccano. He also acquired his first love of chemistry playing with Colin's chemistry set. They learned how to fill rawlplugs with gunpowder, lighting the fuse and retiring quickly before the satisfying explosion that followed.

Although gifted at English, French and Latin, Dad was, deep down inside, a scientist. He read Chemistry, and his fourth-year research project, working with one of the University professors, was sufficiently innovative to be published in *Nature*. Sadly it was published under the professor's name and Dad only rated a mention as 'having helped' with the practicals despite, he told me, having done 90% of the work. He was philosophical about it.

As a sportsman, Dad was Captain of the Merton First VIII when they rowed their way to become Head of the River in the 1951 Summer Eights at Oxford. It was the only time that this has happened in the College's history. In 1952 he rowed in the University Boat Race, in spite of poor visibility and snow – which prompted the famous remark from the commentator, John Snagge, as the two boats emerged side by side under the final bridge: 'I can't see who's winning, but it's either Oxford or Cambridge.' Oxford won. Rowing at bow, Dad was proud to have been the first man past the winning post. Dad also competed at Henley and was a member of Leander, Britain's premier rowing club.

After Oxford, Dad's career started with three years as a Royal Navy officer in place of National Service. On leaving

the Navy, he first joined British Oil and Cake Mills (now BOCM) and then became a management consultant with PA Consulting. His time at PA was not particularly fulfilling, but it taught him a lot about what to do when it came to running his own company.

He found his real business vocation with the creation of Sanders & Sidney in 1973. At the time it was the first ever outplacement consultancy in the UK. Outplacement is about helping redundant managers and directors to find new jobs, all paid for by the company that has made them redundant. The opportunity to help people at such a dark point in their lives, and to turn challenge into opportunity, was Dad all over. It is little wonder that the company went from strength to strength, finally floating on the AIM section of the Stock Exchange in 1987. But by 1989, Dad had started to feel the call of another strand in his life and he retired in order to become ordained.

During this period he was also a JP, eventually becoming Chairman of the Bench in Maidenhead. He always sought to temper justice with humanity and to look for ways to help just as much as to exact retribution at a time when not all JPs were quite so enlightened.

A life full of interests and achievements, certainly. But Dad was not really defined by either of these things. He was a man of great personal qualities – generous, kind, compassionate and patient, adventurous too. He took up windsurfing at 50 and skiing in his 60s and celebrated his 60th birthday by acquiring a Mazda RX7 turbo cabriolet sports car that brought a smile to his face every time he sat in the driver's seat.

His generosity was based on the fact that money – for itself – was entirely unimportant to both him and my mother. It was what it let you do that mattered. He shared the windfall that floating Sanders & Sidney brought him with my brother and me, and he helped us to put our children through school. He was a committed supporter of a number of charities. But he was also generous with his time. He made his knowledge and experience available to any and all who wanted it or could use it. He passionately believed that the more of you that you gave away, the more you received.



He was unfailingly kind both in word and in action. He set up the food bank at Sandford Station and liaised with the centre in Weston for its collection and distribution, and he was an active, voluntary addition to the pastoral care team there until the last few months of his life.

But in truth, what defined Dad was his faith. A faith that he shared with Mum. Indeed it was how they met as young Christian workers at Frinton CSSM, a summer mission aimed at children and families. In 1951, Dad arrived direct from an interview at ICI, complete with suit and umbrella, to be met at the station by Elisabeth Quick in a Hillman drophead. Dad was captivated and they were married three years later.

Dad had found his faith young and it was a living, breathing thing ever afterwards, defining the way he lived his life. He was actively involved in his local church. As a vicar, he had a real gift for preaching, making the complex simple and breathing life into abstract teaching. And with his irrepressible sense of humour, it was a rare sermon that went past without his congregation enjoying a smile or a laugh as one of Dad's stories illustrated the point he was making.

It was also a faith that meant that Dad was not afraid of death. He knew it was just the closing of one part of his life that was necessary in order for the next part to begin. A more glorious life with the Saviour he loved and served. His death was peaceful and painless, at home as he and my mum wanted.

Dad was truly a man of faith. A faith so strong that it touched everyone he knew and met. A faith that means that although his earthly light may have been extinguished, in the lives of us his family, in the lives of you his friends, and in the lives of everyone he touched with his love, his light still shines.

**Chris Sanders** (1974)

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1949



**Professor T Peter Hill** died on 16 July 2017 in Norwich, England at the age of 88. He was born on 28 June 1929 in St Helens, England. He read philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) at Merton College, Oxford, graduating in 1952. He then worked at the Institute of Statistics at Oxford University from 1952 to 1961 and as a lecturer in economics at Magdalen College, Oxford from 1958 to 1961. During 1957-58, funded by a Rockefeller Fellowship, he visited the Cowles Foundation at Yale University, the Survey Research Center at University of Michigan, and Stanford University. He worked in the National Accounts and Economic Growth Division at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris from 1961 to 1964. In 1964 he was appointed as Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of East Anglia. He was promoted to professor in 1967, and served as Dean of the School of Social Studies from 1971 to 1973, and as Pro-Vice-Chancellor from 1973 to 1976.

In 1980 he returned to OECD as head of the statistics division. He was instrumental in setting up the purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates programme at OECD, and in updating the 1968 version of the System of National Accounts (SNA). The 1993 SNA was a joint program involving the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the OECD, the United Nations and the World Bank. In the event, the revision was much more extensive than originally envisaged, incorporating the updating of not just the 1968 SNA but also several associated handbooks, including one on prices and volumes. Although others provided a number of chapters, Peter was responsible for nine and a half out of 21 chapters. His text made much easier reading than the 1968 version and much of it carried forward to the 2008 version of the SNA.



Peter also contributed to the design of the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) in Europe. The HICP, which was established in 1993, was used first in the Maastricht criteria that set the rules for monetary union. Since then the HICP has become one of the key indicators used by the European Central Bank for setting monetary policy in the euro area.

Mandatory retirement from OECD in 1994 was not the end of Peter's working life. In 1997 and 1998 he served as regional advisor in statistics at the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva, focusing mainly on implementation of the SNA, consumer price indexes and capital stock measurement. After 1998 he undertook a number of consulting jobs.

In addition to his involvement in the 1993 SNA, he wrote a number of reports for international organisations, and published numerous academic journal articles over a period spanning 59 years, starting in 1955 and ending in 2014.

Probably Peter's most distinctive academic contribution was in the area of services. In a series of papers he showed that the discussion over the differences between goods and services in the academic literature had become erroneously confused with a quite different distinction between tangible and intangible products. This confusion goes all the way back to Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* published in 1776.

A related topic of interest to Peter was the demarcation of the boundary between productive and non-productive services in the measurement of GDP, and the treatment of non-market services (especially health and education) in GDP. With regard to the latter, he stressed the need to focus on measuring outputs rather than inputs for non-market services. This recommendation has since become the orthodoxy in the literature.

Another topic of interest to Peter was price indexes. In addition to his role in setting up the OECD's PPP program, he wrote an authoritative report on PPPs for Eurostat in 1982. The computation of PPPs is again a topic that has since grown in importance, particularly after the World Bank took over responsibility for the International Comparisons Program (ICP) in 2000. Peter served as principal author and

editor of the World Bank's ICP 2005 Manual. He also served as editor of the international Consumer Price Index Manual published in 2004.

His international work inevitably led to considerable travel and those who knew Peter also knew his favourite restaurants in Luxembourg, Geneva, New York and Washington and were happy to share in his enthusiasm for good food and some red wine. Outside work he was a keen golfer and enjoyed walking in the Swiss Alps, but ultimately his greatest pleasure came from his family. He is survived by his wife, three sons and six grandchildren.

### Robert J Hill

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Hill, Robert J (2018), The Review of Income and Wealth, Vol 64, Issue 1, pp. 239-242.



The Society notes with sadness that **Professor F M L (Michael) Thompson**, historian of 19th and 20th century Britain, and President of the Royal Historical Society from 1988 to 1992, has died.

The author of 52 publications listed in the *Bibliography of British & Irish History*, Michael was a prolific and influential historian of landed society, property relations, agriculture, free trade and much more.

His long-standing generosity to the discipline was evident not only in his many contributions to the RHS but in roles



that included Editor of the *Economic History Review* (1968–80), President of the Economic History Society (1983–86) and Director of the Institute of Historical Research (1977–1990). His many labours, keen eye and warm wit will be much missed.

**Professor Margot Finn, President of the Royal Historical Society**

*This obituary was first published on The Royal Historical Society website. It is reproduced by permission of its author and President, Professor Finn. A fuller appreciation can be found online: Corfield, P (2018), 'Michael Thompson's Intellectual Outlook', History Workshop Journal, doi.org/10.1093/hwj/dby028*

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**Jeremy Webster** died peacefully in hospital on 18 June 2018, aged 88. Much loved husband of Ruth.

If you knew Jeremy and would like to contribute some words in next year's edition of *Postmaster* please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)

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**The Revd Dr John Wilkinson**, who died on 13 January 2018, aged 88, was a leading English scholar-priest of his generation. Although ordained in the Church of England, his name will always be associated with Jerusalem and the Anglican Church there.

He was a formative influence in the early years of St George's College, where he was a tutor and Dean. Later, he was Director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem (renamed the Kenyon Institute in 2001). In the academic world, he will be remembered most for his work on texts left behind over the centuries by Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land.

John Donald Wilkinson was born in Wimbledon, south London, the first child of the Revd Donald Wilkinson, Vice-Principal of the Bishop's College, Cheshunt, and Hilda Mary Wilkinson (née Smyth, and the daughter of a cleric). He

attended the Dragon School, in Oxford, and Haileybury College, in Hertfordshire, before National Service in Malaya (1948–50) and going to Merton College in 1951.

He trained for ordination at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and served a three-year curacy at St Dunstan's and All Saints', Stepney. He received an LTh degree from the University of Louvain, Belgium, in 1959.

After a brief period teaching at Ely Theological College in 1960, John went to Jerusalem in 1961 as a tutor at St George's College. He was then based at the diocesan offices and Guest House at St George's Cathedral. The college needed its own space, and John played a significant part in overseeing the construction of a residential building. It opened in 1962, and John himself carved the foundation stone.

The short courses that he designed and developed consisted of visits to biblical sites and holy places, and engagement with local Christians and people of other faiths. The courses still follow the pattern that he laid down, and bear his stamp to this day. In 1963, he was awarded an Honorary STD (Doctor of Sacred Theology) degree from the General Theological Seminary in New York.

In the same year, John returned to London to become General Editor for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG, soon to become USPG). He got to know Canon Sam Van Culin, later Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion, who introduced him to the developing Anglican world. In this time, he translated Egeria's *Travels to the Holy Land* (1971), for which he is now mostly remembered.

In the 1950s, John had already met his future wife Alexandra (Alix) Helen Mcfarlane, who had been digging in Jericho with Kathleen Kenyon. He and Alix were married at St Bride's, Fleet Street, London, in 1966, and celebrated at the Vintners' Hall. John was a member of the Vintners' Company for many years. Alix was an Egyptologist, who later wrote books on Egyptian jewellery and gardens. Together they became a dynamic and hospitable couple.

John became Dean of Studies at St George's College in 1969. Having missed the Six Day War of 1967, in which the Israelis



took East Jerusalem, he maintained that his absence helped him keep a neutral stance on political issues in the area. He became a Canon of St George's Cathedral (1973-75), besides refining the college courses.

In the mid-1970s, he returned to England as Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity and All Saints, South Kensington, and the Bishop of London's Director of Clergy Training.

In 1979, John became Director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, a position that he held until 1984. These were challenging years for the school, and John wasn't an archaeologist. He supported several significant archaeological projects, however, and significantly improved the library. He also worked on a revision of Egeria's *Travels* (1981), and on *Jerusalem Pilgrimage 1099-1185* (1988).

One of John's long-standing interests was the connection between synagogues and early church buildings. In 1982, he was awarded a PhD by the University of London and the Courtauld Institute of Art for a thesis, 'Interpretations of church buildings before 750'. A revised version was published in 2002 as *From Synagogue to Church: The Traditional Design: Its Beginning, Its Definition, Its End*.

Time at the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research, at Tantur near Bethlehem, was followed by a Fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, and several years in the US. At Dumbarton Oaks, John met the Head of the Institute of Manuscripts from Tbilisi, Professor Zaza Aleksidze, who invited him to Georgia.

He took up the offer in the early 1990s, while serving in London as a non-stipendiary minister at St Mary Abbots, Kensington. Becoming increasingly aware of the dire conditions in Georgia during the civil war, he was determined to help. On one occasion, after a fire at the Institute of Arts in Tbilisi, he personally oversaw the transport of a large number of books to begin rebuilding the library. In 2000, John founded the Friends of Academic Research in Georgia (FaRiG) which has supported academic projects in that country.

On his first visit to Georgia, John met Mzia Ebanoidze, with whom he later translated and annotated two books on

Georgian pilgrims to the Holy Land: Timothy Gabashvili's *Pilgrimage to Mount Athos, Constantinople and Jerusalem. 1755-1759* (2001) and Petre Konchoshvili's *Travels to Jerusalem and Mount Athos* (2014).

In 2011, John's wife, Alix, died in London, and he married Mzia (who later became Mia) in Tbilisi.

In retirement, John helped at St Cyprian's, Clarence Gate, near where he lived in Bayswater, west London, and continued writing and travelling. After two falls at home in recent years, he deteriorated slowly, and was nursed by Mia to the end.

John was not only a priest and a scholar, but a true scholar-priest, whose vocation to teach and research was part of his wider ministry. He shared his love of Jerusalem energetically and enthusiastically with others. He influenced a variety of people through the churches that he served, and through his teaching and many writings. He will be sadly missed, and remembered with great affection.

**Rev'd Dr Stephen Need**

*This obituary was first published on the Church Times website. It is reproduced with the permission of its editors. [www.churchtimes.co.uk](http://www.churchtimes.co.uk).*

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## 1950

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Richard Dodwell** on 12 July 2017. A full obituary will be published in next year's edition.

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*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Hugh 'Harry' Quick** in November 2017. We have not been able to trace Hugh's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)





**William Kelvin White** died on 10 November 2017, aged 87.

Kelvin was educated at Birkenhead School, coming up to Merton in 1950 after National Service where he served in Berlin with the Manchester Regiment, later joining the Parachute Regiment for his time in the TA.

He regarded his time at Merton as one of the defining periods of his life. He read History, retaining a love for the field throughout his life and always taking a sense of history and the context it provides for the present into his work as a diplomat. He was President of the JCR and had a wide range of friends, Gene Skolnikoff, Peter Carter and Prosser Gifford among them, and many more whom he and his wife, Sue (St Hugh's) retained as friends for life.

After Oxford he joined the Foreign Office, retiring in 1990 after two posts at ambassadorial level. Over a 35-year career, his foreign postings took him to the UN, Helsinki, Singapore, Stockholm, New Delhi, Canberra, Zambia and Indonesia. The Commissioner General Office in Singapore was an early highlight, where he acted as the FCO liaison with the three armed services planning our Defence role in the Far East. It was fascinating work but the highlight was a month in Vientiane over Christmas 1960.

He had been sent to cover for a sick colleague when a CIA-backed coup was launched and he found himself in the middle of the 'Battle of Vientiane', a three-day wonder that he remembered with huge fondness, largely for the idiosyncratic way of waging war in Laos. 'It is difficult to take seriously a country whose soldiers agree before battle to aim to miss, and meanwhile to share the capital's leading girlie joint conveniently situated in No Man's Land. Or where

a Lao officer could present himself at the shell of the burnt-out US Embassy to apologise, for he had fired the shells that set the building on fire. The Americans generously replied "Hey, these things happen in war". But he insisted it was all a sad mistake; he had in fact been aiming at the police station next door, whose Inspector had recently charged him with a traffic offence.'

But the danger was real enough; in the middle of the battle he and his Land Rover were co-opted into rescuing half a dozen CIA operatives held in hostile territory, an act of sufficient bravery to prompt a personal letter of thanks from Allen Dulles, the Director of the CIA.

After further service both at home and abroad he was back in Whitehall at the end of 1969. All his attention for the next four years was on Ireland. Northern Ireland in the 1970s was one of the UK's most thorny political problems and he regarded this appointment as probably his most professionally engaging. His role was to manage relationships with an often unpredictable Dublin administration and to represent the FCO in Whitehall policy discussions. The central nature of the role was reflected in the fact that in 2002 he was the first civilian witness called at the Saville Inquiry.

Zambia (1984-87) was his favourite foreign posting. The British retained a good deal of influence and the British High Commissioner was a central figure. That the ANC had their base in exile in Lusaka helped, and a significant part of the role involved building relationships with South Africa's future leaders. But the highlight was the work he did on HIV in Zambia and its impact on HIV/AIDS policy in the UK. At the time Whitehall's view was that AIDS could not be a major problem in the UK, a predominantly heterosexual country. His despatch, known in Whitehall as 'the Doomsday Paper', provided critical evidence to change this, and Sir Geoffrey Howe semi-seriously labelled him 'the man who invented AIDS'. In 1986 his wife Sue started to pick up stories about something known locally as 'Slim's disease' that was sweeping through clinics. Quickly realising the implications he assembled all the available evidence and put together a dispatch setting out a frightening picture of the current and projected impact. His dispatch was the first evidence seen in Whitehall of the potentially devastating effect of AIDS in a country where



homosexuality was virtually unknown. The Chief Medical Officer, Sir Donald Acheson, later wrote in his memoirs:

'One of the most dramatic events in Whitehall in connection with AIDS was the arrival in 1986 of a despatch from the British High Commissioner in Zambia. He gave unequivocal evidence that perhaps as many as one in five was already infected. With remarkable clarity of vision he predicted the dire future social and economic consequences which have subsequently come to pass in Zambia and neighbouring African countries. After an initial reaction of disbelief the question began to be asked – could this happen here?'

This had very real consequences for public health policy. Many will recall the doom-laden public service advertisements with graveyards and apocalyptic warnings on sexual behaviour. An emergency debate was held in Parliament and by November a Cabinet Committee had been set up and AIDS became a health priority. Although it gets little more than a footnote in most accounts, Kelvin's despatch achieved its aim in changing AIDS policy at a time when many leading politicians were not interested and, in doing so, undoubtedly contributed to the saving of many lives.

Kelvin retired in 1990, his last post being as Ambassador in Indonesia and, when looking back at his career he counted himself fortunate in having had, in Ireland and Zambia, not one but two opportunities to shape the debate and policy-making. His retirement was relatively quiet and relaxed. He served assiduously on the Development Committee of Merton and on the Council of Surrey University. But in 2002 he suffered a stroke ten days after giving seven hours of evidence at the Bloody Sunday Inquiry and although he largely recovered it took its toll and his physical health gradually declined. However he retained his remarkable memory, his sense of humour and his mental faculties, including his insatiable appetite for reading, remained undimmed until very near the end. He is survived by Sue, his wife of 60 years, three sons and nine grandchildren.

**Mark White**

## 1951



Psychotherapist and child psychiatrist, **Dr Simon Oakeshott**, died from respiratory failure on 17 July 2017.

Simon was born in Cambridge in 1931; his father Michael was an eminent academic and philosopher. His parents separated when he was very young and he was brought up by his mother, Joyce, and her extended family in an artistic home on the outskirts of Cambridge. During the war, the family evacuated to Snowdonia, at a time when he was recuperating from tuberculosis. He then went happily to Keswick School to board and, in 1945, to Marlborough College.

After National Service spent in Ghana, Simon went up to Merton College and read Modern Languages, focusing on French and Italian. His ambition then was to be an author, and, for a while, he was literary editor on the *Birmingham Post*. It was during a spell working as a porter at St George's Hospital in London to research a novel that he decided to study medicine. This involved his having to prepare for science O- and A-levels in evening classes but he was then accepted by St Mary's Medical School in Paddington.

After qualifying, Simon returned to Cambridge as a houseman at Addenbrookes Hospital where he met and married a fellow doctor, Eleanor Birks, and they had two sons – Peter, born in 1971, and Nicholas, born in 1972. After five years as a demonstrator at the Anatomy Department at Cambridge University, Simon decided to specialise in psychiatry. He worked at Fulbourn Hospital just outside the city for a number of years, which operated an innovative therapeutic community, and then at Hornchurch Hospital in Essex. He increasingly worked in child psychiatry and over time became somewhat dissatisfied with the standard medical treatments.



preferring talking and listening therapies. This led to further training in psychotherapy at the Tavistock Institute.

Simon then set up to practise at the home he had grown up in, working predominantly with families. Simon's deep curiosity about people and his very gentle, kind nature was greatly appreciated by his patients, who came from all walks of life. Such was his interest he continued to practise until he was 83 years old and was only forced to give up when hearing problems became too great.

Simon had a lifelong love for literature and many other enthusiasms including walking and cycling and, earlier, gliding from Duxford Airfield.

His marriage ended in 1992 and he leaves Natasha, his partner of 25 years, his two sons and five grandchildren.

Natasha Benenson and Nicholas Oakeshott

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## 1952



Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, distinguished Blake scholar, globe-trotting academic and raconteur extraordinaire, **Professor Gerald Eades (Jerry) Bentley Jr** died on 31 August 2017 at the age of 87. Jerry was born in 1930 in Chicago to Gerald Eades Bentley and Esther Greenwood Felt. He received a BA from Princeton in 1952, and a BLitt (1954) and DPhil (1956) from Merton College, writing all three of his theses on William Blake. In 1956 Jerry became an English instructor at the University of Chicago and in 1960 moved to the University of Toronto, where he remained for the rest of his career, retiring as an emeritus professor of English in 1996. He continued his research, scholarly writing and publishing until the month he died.

He married Elizabeth Budd in 1952 and they had two daughters, Sarah and Julia. Beth was an active contributor to Jerry's research, a force majeure in organizing memorable dinner parties for faculty and graduate students, and a co-conspirator in planning academic travels and whimsical adventures around the world. Jerry was a Fulbright lecturer at the Université d'Algers in Algeria in 1967–68, the University of Poona in India, 1975–76, and Fudan University in China in 1982–83. He was a visiting professor at the University of Hyderabad in India in 1988, and at the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1997. He was also a visiting resident professor at Princeton in 1992, the National Library of Australia, 1989, Rockefeller Study Center in Bellagio, Italy, 1991, Merton College, 1993, and Hatfield College, Durham University, 1996.

Jerry was the author and editor of more than 30 books and numerous articles, primarily on William Blake. Books include *Blake Records: Documents (1714–1841) Concerning the Life of William Blake (1757–1827) and His Family, incorporating Blake Records (1969), Blake Records Supplement, and Extensive Discoveries since 1988* (2004); *The Stranger from Paradise: A Biography of William Blake* (2001); *Blake Books Supplement: A Bibliography of Publications and Discoveries about William Blake, 1971–1992, Being a Continuation of Blake Books (1977)* (1995); *Blake Studies in Japan: A Bibliography of Works on William Blake Published in Japan 1893–1993* (1994); and he was editor of *William Blake's Writings*, 2 vols. (1978). His articles appeared in journals such as *Times Literary Supplement*, *Blake Quarterly* and *Notes and Queries*. Jerry's scholarly achievements were recognized through honors and awards that include the Jenkins Award for Bibliography in 1978, and election to the Royal Society of Canada in 1985. An academic travel memoir, *Boondoggles*, was published posthumously and is available from Friesen Press.

Jerry and Beth were avid book collectors and in 2006 they donated their Blake Collection to the Victoria University Library at the University of Toronto. It is the most important Blake collection in Canada and through the stewardship of the library it continues to grow. Donations in his memory may be made to the Victoria University Library where Jerry's Blake Collection lives on: [my.alumni.utoronto.ca/GEbentley](http://my.alumni.utoronto.ca/GEbentley).

Sarah Bentley



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## 1955

**David Leon Hall** died on 29 May 2016, aged 81.

David was born in London in 1934, the only child of Jack Solomons and Winnie Poole. Winnie was a talented artist and Jack the son of Jewish immigrants from Lithuania who had established a thriving shoe business in the East End of London.

On leaving school David had the privilege of doing his National Service in the Fleet Air Arm. He loved his time on the ships and often reminisced about the excellent hot chocolate he drank while waiting for the planes to come in. After National Service he wavered between taking up his place at Merton or continuing with flying, but wisely chose the former.

David's time at Oxford was exciting and he often talked fondly of the place and the friends he made there. He, David Ricks, Ed Taylor and Stuart Lynn were a distinguishable quartet at Merton, almost a band of brothers. The four friends were active in the Labour Club and would spend hours in David's rooms, debating the politics and divisions of the time well into the night. Stuart was the member of the quartet fortunate enough to own a car and that became their carriage of choice for roaming the Oxfordshire countryside (and its pubs) and driving to London for weekends: definitely against College rules at the time!

After university David went to work for International Computers and Tabulators and after that sold encyclopedias to the forces in Germany, before he finally returned to his first love, flying.

He lived in Lebanon for some time and worked as a pilot to the Kuwaiti royal family. At one point he was asked to fly troops belonging to the United Arab Republic during the Six-Day War but he told his boss that as the son of a Jew he couldn't be a part of it.

David eventually returned to England with enough money to buy his dream home where he would spend the rest of his life – Bolebroke West. He soon joined Dan Air and was one of the youngest pilots ever to make Captain.

It was in Dan Air that Dad met his wife Ann. David and Ann were married in 1972 and had many happy times together. Nadia was born the following year and Tanya arrived in 1980. David was a wonderful father and later a wonderful grandfather to Bruno and Harry.

David's passion for politics continued through his life. He eventually moved from the ardent Labour politics of his undergraduate youth to the centrist Liberal Democrats. He spent many afternoons distributing leaflets among the Tory heartland of Wealden and was threatened with having the dogs set on him on more than one occasion! None of this deterred him and he decided to stand for election to East Sussex County Council although the chances of a non-Tory win were slim. His surprise victory in 1993 caused quite an upset.

During his retirement, David discovered South Africa. He and Ann first went to Cape Town in 2003 and after that decided it was a place where they would definitely like to spend more time. They bought an apartment opposite the city's botanical gardens in 2004 and have spent their winters there ever since.

Very sadly, David fell unwell with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was gradually forced to lead a very different life from the active one that he loved. But he did so as he had lived his whole life, with grace and calm, complaining very rarely and always more concerned about how others were doing.

For all those who knew him, David was a generous, deeply kind and forgiving man with an eviscerating dry wit and an intense love for cats. He is greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

### Tanya Hall

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**Peter Frederick Wyles** was a member of Merton Boat Club and was almost the only one with a car. Proctorial regulations insisted that he have a green light permanently connected to the sidelights of the car but this proved problematical in vacation time. Because the light could not be switched off it



had to be illuminated outside Oxford, where police thought it was illegal and stopped him several times! Once the police even detained him while they contacted Oxford police to find out whether it was true that undergraduate cars had to show a green light!

Peter was born in 1934 in Coventry. After National Service in the RAF, where he was in the first ever RAF rowing squad, he came up to read law at Merton. By his own admission, he was drawn more to the social and sporting aspects of College life than to the academic grind, and having achieved a place in the University Boat Squad he came away with a lifelong love of rowing, later becoming a member of the prestigious Leander Club.

It was while doing his articles in London that he met Anne, a law student. She caught his attention by hitting him with her bracelet, which flew off her wrist and across the room as a result of an expansive and serendipitous gesture. They married in 1962, moving first to Dorking and then, already with two children in tow, on to Bratton, near Westbury, where they remained for a decade before settling in Stanton St Bernard. Over the course of 18 years, his family grew from two children to 11, culminating in 1982 with the birth of identical twins, Mary Rose and Alexandra.

Peter joined what is now Awdry Bailey & Douglas, based in St John Street, Devizes, just in time almost to appear as an extra in *Far from the Madding Crowd*, which was being filmed in the Market Place. He practised as a solicitor in the town for more than 40 years, setting up his own practice, Wyles & Co., in 1986. During that period, he enjoyed commercial and personal connections with countless businesses and individuals throughout the town and beyond, being valued for his unashamedly old-fashioned style and the virtues of patience, sympathy, courtesy, prudence and integrity that were apparent in all his dealings. He was an innovator in establishing social partnership housing and in pioneering agile working.

Educational issues were close to his heart: he was instrumental in setting up the Wiltshire Pre-School Playgroups Association and, for many years, he served as governor of St Joseph's Primary and of Devizes School. He

was clerk to the governors of Dauntsey's School for 33 years. He was an indefatigable supporter of local businesses, and was always ready with a cheerful word for everyone.

Peter never lost touch with his Midlands roots, and his sister and her family in Kenilworth. But he adored Wiltshire for its large, open skies, its blustery weather and the distinctive character of its population, which he understood and appreciated.

Peter was a parishioner at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Devizes, at St Thomas More in Marlborough, and latterly at Holy Family in Pewsey. Wherever they worshipped, his numerous family would invariably take up more than one pew. It was the vision of a row of little heads sitting between him and his wife in church, as Peter often said, that had emboldened him to propose to Anne in the 1960s. In retirement Peter, a habitually active man, got particular pleasure from his dynasty of 11 children and their spouses, and his 24 grandchildren, of whom several are already starting university; the newest, Esme, came into the world only in November. In 1989 his daughter Lucy followed his footsteps to read law at Merton, where she also rowed for the College.

Peter passed away peacefully at his home on 1 January 2018 in Stanton St Bernard where he was a prominent local citizen and, above all, paterfamilias. Peter died surrounded by his children, among whom he had celebrated Christmas with his customary high spirits, and his wife Anne; the couple marked their 55th anniversary on New Year's Eve.

It is among these close relations that Peter's absence will be most irreparably felt. But he will certainly also be missed by the innumerable people who encountered him in his various capacities as Mertonian, lawyer, advisor, parishioner, neighbour and friend, and who valued his unceasing wisdom, humour and kindness.

**Richard Kenyon (1956) and Robin Arnold (1988)**



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## 1956

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Robert Williamson**. We have not been able to trace Robert's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)

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## 1957



**James Andrew Steadman** passed away on 15 November 2017.

James attended the Dragon School, Oxford and then gained a scholarship to Winchester College, where his lifelong love of singing began. At Merton he sang with the Kodály Choir under Kodály himself. Joining the University Air Squadron fuelled his love of biplanes, and he proudly retained his 'eights' oar from rowing for the College.

James first worked for ICI and then for the Department of the Environment, researching safe storage for nuclear waste. While at ICI, James joined the local amateur dramatic society, the Stockton Masquers. During the action of one play a girl had to slap his face – a slap that led to 53 years of marriage!

James enjoyed singing with Hertford Choral Society for many years, and also the Royal Choral Society. He later joined the Hertford Dramatic and Operatic Society, where he notably performed in *Amadeus* and *Fawlty Towers*. He also became a volunteer at the National Trust's Shaw's Corner.

He is survived by his wife Pat and their son and daughter.

**Judy a'Brook (née Steadman)**

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## 1958



**Dr Ken Collins**, clinical physiologist, died on 7 October 2017.

Born in Highbury, London, Dad was educated during the war years at Wembley County Grammar School. He attended University College London (UCL) to study botany – his first, and enduring, love. There he came into contact with UCL physiologists and, one afternoon, examining fungi in the botany laboratory, realised that this was not the life for him. What he actually wanted was to be a human physiologist.

Following graduation in 1954 Dad married Adèle Fox, a nurse at the Westminster Children's Hospital, and took up a job as research assistant to Dr Joe Weiner in a Medical Research Council (MRC) unit in Oxford, then pioneering much top-class human applied physiology research. My two siblings and I were born in the city.

After the publication of many papers on heat stress, it was suggested he take the DPhil at Oxford and he joined Merton in 1960. Among many 'firsts' in these productive Oxford years were the discovery of nerve sensitisation in the skin by high concentrations of neurotransmitters, and the causation of 'hidromeiosis', previously known as heat fatigue.

In 1963 the Oxford MRC Unit moved to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and Dad relocated us to Surrey. In July 1967 he led a five-week project on board the 49,000-ton *Esso Newcastle* to study the effect of heat on the crews of oil tankers. Another 'botany lab moment' occurred following the voyage, during which he had acted – in the absence of anyone suitably qualified – as ship's doctor. It had already occurred to him that useful research facts did not always emerge from unpublished work until



the point of application had become clear. It seemed to him – and he now suspected he might have an aptitude for it – that training in clinical medicine would help.

After qualifying from Guy's in 1973, Dad returned to the LSHTM and became involved with the London-Khartoum Schistosomiasis Project, which included fieldwork in Sudan. In the late 1970s the Saudi Ministry of Health asked his group at the LSHTM for help in devising a method to treat the large number of heatstroke cases occurring at the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. This resulted in the development of a body cooling unit which was installed along the route of the Hajj and greatly diminished the incidence of deaths from heatstroke.

Always caring of older members of family and society, and with his background of human temperature regulation, hypothermia also became an important preoccupation. *Hypothermia: The Facts* (OUP) was published in 1983 and there were many subsequent visits to deliver papers and talks around the world.

Dad taught regularly for the 2nd MB BS at the London Hospital, and the MSc Applied Physiology at King's. As Director of the MRC Autonomic Group at St Pancras Hospital, he oversaw development of a 'lower body negative pressure box' for testing postural hypotension. In these years he collaborated on a series of textbooks on autonomic failure and in 1989 contributed to the WHO Working Group on the health effects of global warming.

Dad retired in 1994, after 20 years in medical research and 20 in medicine. His beloved garden, music and family were always his support and outlets. True to character, he devotedly cared for our mother during the illness of her final years, and he remained closely involved in the lives of his three children and five grandchildren. For us, as it was for him, Oxford, and Merton in particular, will always be a place of great personal significance and fond memories.

**Jo Marshall-Collins**

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## 1959

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **John Conacher** on 25 April 2018. We have not been able to trace John's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)

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**Professor David Ainsworth Ontjes**, 79, a long time professor of Medicine at UNC (University of North Carolina), lost his battle with cancer on 7 May, 2017.

He graduated with Highest Distinction from the University of Kansas as a part of their Honors program; attended Merton College as a Rhodes Scholar (First Class, Final Honors School of Physiology), and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard Medical School. He then did his internship and residency at Boston City Hospital and spent three years as a commissioned officer in the US Public Health Service doing research at the NIH.

In 1969, he joined the medical faculty at UNC School of Medicine, contributing as Professor of Medicine; Chief, Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism; Chairman, Department of Medicine; Chairman, UNC Physicians & Associates Executive Committee; and Eunice Bernhard Distinguished Professor of Medicine. He was board certified in Internal Medicine, Endocrinology & Metabolism, and Geriatrics.

David personally initiated and funded the David Ontjes Residents as Teachers Endowment which awards residents for lectures on effective teaching methods, lifelong learning and other topics related to medical education. He also initiated



the David A. Ontjes, MD Honors Opportunity Endowment at KU to fund special opportunities for the University of Kansas undergraduate Honors students.

Always a dedicated gardener, David also enjoyed sailing, wind surfing and kayaking. He often entertained his family and friends with his sly sense of humor. In recent years, David and his wife of 13 years traveled domestically and internationally with both bicycle and choral groups. They performed regularly with Voices (formerly Chapel Hill Community Chorus) as well as the Prime Time Players, a group of older adults who perform humorous musical shows in support of the local senior centers.

In addition to his wife, Joan, David leaves behind his four children and their families; Linden Ontjes of Asheville, Sarah Ontjes Lynch of Charlotte, Ethan Ontjes of Raleigh, and Jason Ontjes of Orcas Island, Washington; step-children Leslie Tsui Wellesley, MA, as well as Clark Troy of Chapel Hill; and 12 grandchildren.

Joan Ontjes

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## 1960

**John Dingeman** passed away between 10 and 13 September 2017 as a result of Hurricane Irma. John was an Anglo-American poet and Bugatti fancier, and came up to Merton College in 1960.

*This announcement was first published on the Telegraph.co.uk website. It is reproduced with permission of its Editors. If you knew John and would like to contribute an obituary for next year's edition of Postmaster please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)*

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Postmaster was sad to learn of the death of **Joyanta Mitra** on 8 February 2018. We have not been able to trace Joyantra's family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)

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## 1961



**Professor Michael Walker** was a theoretical condensed matter physicist. He did his undergraduate degree at McGill, and obtained his PhD from Merton on a Rhodes Scholarship graduating in 1965. Mike's PhD thesis was in experimental physics but, remarkably, he then successfully switched to theory. Mike was hired by the University of Toronto in 1967; he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1971, and then to Full Professor in 1976. From 1987 to 1992 he was the Department Chair. He retired in 2004.

Mike was a careful and thoughtful theoretician who focused on explaining novel experimental results. Some of his most influential work combined symmetry arguments with experimental data to obtain profound insights into magnetic and superconducting materials. Following his retirement Mike had a second career doing financial mathematics.

I am one of the many students who benefited from Mike's teaching – he had a direct and clear lecturing style; and I was also one of many who admired the clarity of thought behind his later papers on unconventional superconductivity. He will be sadly missed.

**Professor Stephen Julian**, Chair of the Department of Physics, University of Toronto

*This obituary was first published on the University of Toronto Physics website. It has been reproduced with the permission of the author and the university.*



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1963

**Professor Robert Freedman** who died on 17 October 2017 was a highly admired and loved biochemist. He was Chairman of the Biochemical Society from 1996 to 1999. He was 71, and had recently celebrated his golden wedding anniversary with his wife, Penny.

At 17, Robert won an Exhibition to Merton College to read chemistry, where we met. He was, in succession, my tutorial partner, my practical partner and my flat mate. He gained a first-class degree with ease in spite of appalling handwriting and spending a disproportionate amount of time acting. Merton Floats was one of his loves. It was there that he met Penny. He was a founding member of Merton's *University Challenge* team, and played rugby (badly, but enthusiastically) for Merton 3rd, rejoicing that he was once sent off by (Lord) Jeffrey Archer for not having socks of the correct length!

After his doctorate with Sir George Radda, he moved to UCL to work with Bob Rabin. Here he developed his interest in protein disulphide isomerase – a crucial element in determining how proteins fold and therefore how they act. At this time he was appointed biochemistry consultant to the *New Scientist*, and he made regular contributions to this.

In 1971 he joined the recently opened Biological Laboratory at the University of Kent. Under the founding director of the laboratory, Ken Stacey, he established a strong reputation for research and teaching for the nascent department. In 1989 he was awarded a Personal Chair in Biochemistry, and became Director of the Biological Laboratory. During the next five years he successfully steered the biosciences through its first research assessment in 1992. This managerial experience whetted Robert's appetite for senior management and two years later he moved became Pro-Vice-Chancellor for research. He did an outstanding job leading the University's RAE2001 submission. He was finally Deputy Vice-Chancellor before a chance meeting with Sir Howard Dalton led to his move to the University of Warwick in 2002.

One aspect of Robert's approach to science that was immediately evident was his commitment not only to do

world-class biochemistry, but also to nurture the next generation of biochemists. There was very much a family feel to his research group, with his staff and students admiring Robert, as a mentor and a friend.

In the early years in Canterbury he set about establishing a research programme which over the next 40 years would see him internationally recognised for his research. His seminal work on the enzyme protein disulphide isomerase (or PDI for short) was widely recognised as a major contribution to our understanding of how proteins are able to take up their correct three-dimensional shapes in cells. His interest in PDI continued long after he retired from his academic post at Warwick and he remained engaged with colleagues at both Kent and Warwick. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Kent in 2010. In addition to numerous highly cited research articles, his work also had impact in the field of biotechnology. He was among the first to explore cell engineering strategies to improve the efficiency with which high value biopharmaceutical products can be produced in cultured cells. This led to the development of a patented technology that was licensed to several biopharmaceutical companies, and that continues to generate a revenue stream for the university.

He had a forensic intellect, and combined this with restless enthusiasm, articulacy, boundless charm, total loyalty and reliability. Such combinations are rare, and it was no wonder that he was in frequent demand to join committees. Thus he was Chairman of the Biochemical Society (1996–99) and was catalytic in persuading the life science community to cooperate more closely. This ultimately led to the birth of the Royal Society of Biology. At his death he remained on the Audit Committee of the Biochemical Society. He served on several committees of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), including its Council, and he managed its Protein Engineering Programme for several years. He had been recently been awarded a Leverhulme Fellowship to support his research into early women biochemists.

He is survived by his wife Penny, daughters Zoe and Genny, and by siblings Naomi and Peter.

**Alan Malcolm (1963)**



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 1965


Few academics carried the title the Revd Professor with the ebullience of my friend **Richard Bonney**, who has died aged 70. A historian of ancien regime France and a priest in Leicester, he had a career that took him in unlikely directions, but to each phase he brought focus, intelligence and commitment.

He was born in Sanderstead, Surrey, to Sydney, a technician in the fur trade, and his wife, Helen (née Johnson). At Whitgift School, Croydon, Richard's interest in history was ignited by an inspirational teacher, W D Hussey, and he went on to study history at Merton in 1965, graduating with a congratulatory first in 1968. He was a lecturer in European history at Reading University from 1971 to 1984.

His first book, *Political Change in France under Richelieu and Mazarin, 1624-1661*, came out in 1978. It analysed more than 1,000 volumes of French state council records covering that period, when France was recovering from its internal divisions and fighting the Thirty Years War. Other works followed, confirming Richard as a leading historian of early modern France; his best known books were *The European Dynastic States 1494-1660* (1991) and *L'Absolutisme* (1989).

Richard became a professor at Leicester University in 1984 and was head of the history department there. During that time he became the leader of a European Social Fund project on the origins of the modern state, which established an important database and accompanying volumes on that subject. It was also Richard's initiative in 1986 to found the Society for the Study of French History, whose journal he edited for a decade and which is his enduring legacy. He continued as professor of modern history at the University

of Leicester until 2006, with a visiting professorship at Kyoto University in Japan (2002).

In 1996, Richard's ordination into the Church of England opened up a second vocation, and his Centre for Religious and Cultural Pluralism in Leicester (1997-2006) put him on the frontline of interfaith relationships. He directed Leicester University's Institute for the Study of Indo-Pakistan Relations (2001-05) and did more than most to counter simplistic 'clash of civilisations' notions between Islam and the west.

His main contacts in this sphere were at the National Defence University in Islamabad, Pakistan, where he lectured and supervised research students and where his personal book collection is now to be based.

In Leicester, many may best remember him at St Guthlac's church in Knighton, where he was curate from 2011, leading its congregation's successful efforts to become a separate parish in 2016, after which he was its priest in charge.

He is survived by his second wife, Margaret (née Camsell), by their daughters Katherine, Sarah and Christine, and a son, Alexander, from his first marriage to Clare Tillett, which ended in 1982.

#### Mark Greengrass

*This obituary was first published on The Guardian website. It is reproduced by permission of its author and the editor of its obituary collection, Robert White. A fuller appreciation can be found in the journal of the UK Society for the Study of French History, which Richard founded. Greengrass, M (2017), French History, Volume 31, Issue 4, p.407- 419.*

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**Andrew John Massey**, who read Music at Merton from 1965 to 1968, died in Vermont, USA on 2 June 2018.

After Oxford, Andrew did an MA in Contemporary Music at Nottingham University. He lectured at what eventually became Middlesex University until 1978 when he was



appointed as Assistant Conductor to Lorin Maazel at the Cleveland Orchestra in Ohio. He spent the rest of his life working as a conductor, composer and director of music in the United States. Among others, he worked with the San Francisco Symphony and New Orleans Symphony, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, Fresno Philharmonic, Oregon Mozart Players, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Racine Symphony, and the Indonesian National Symphony Orchestra in Jakarta. He also, at various times, had academic roles in Brown University and Middlebury College, Vermont.

He married Sabra in 1984 and they have a son, Sebastian, and a daughter, Robin.

Andrew and I overlapped for one year in Oxford: during his first year I was completing my time at St Anne's College where I read English and then completed a BLitt. Andrew had chosen Merton mainly because, in my second undergraduate year, I had tutorials with Hugo Dyson, Fellow and Tutor of Merton, with whom I remained friendly until his death. We both had happy memories of Merton!

**Su Reid (née Massey)**

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*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Tom Morris-Jones** on 5 April 2018. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

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**James Henry Weldon Morwood**, author and teacher, died on 10 September 2017, aged 73. James was born in 1943 in Belfast, the second son of James and Kathleen Morwood. His father was a doctor from Belfast, his mother a Californian

and graduate of UCLA. They met in New York in 1939, married there and then boarded a ship to the UK after war was declared.

Morwood spent his first years in Ulster before moving to Oxshott in Surrey after the war, attending Danes Hill preparatory school, studying Greek from the age of 11. He won a scholarship to St John's School, Leatherhead, from where he followed his brother Bryan – now a software engineer and businessman – to Peterhouse, Cambridge. On graduation he took a diploma of education at Merton.

Morwood joined Harrow in 1966. At Wadham he edited the *Wadham Gazette* and served for a year as president of the Oxford Philological Society. He retired from the college in 2006, becoming an emeritus fellow, but continued teaching enthusiastically.

Actor Richard Curtis credited James, his Classics teacher at Harrow, with being the man who inspired him to become a writer and director of comedies. 'It's no exaggeration to say that everything I do now started with James,' Curtis said.

Morwood, Curtis added, encouraged him to direct his first play, a production of *The Erpingham Camp* by Joe Orton. 'The fact that he gave me the green light to do it was, essentially, him letting me know that it was all right to push boundaries and to be funny. People used to think that if you were serious and scholastic – which I was – then you couldn't be funny as well. James was absolutely key in helping me to square that circle.'

Other pupils inspired by Morwood over the 30 years he taught at Harrow – 17 as head of Classics – were the film star Benedict Cumberbatch and Edmund Stewart, now Assistant Professor of Ancient Greek History at the University of Nottingham. As Stewart recalled: 'Morwood said to me, "When I die, Classics will long since have ceased to be taught in this country." The opposite has been the case, an outcome that has been significantly enabled by his own efforts.'

Morwood played an important role in the revival of Classics in schools with the *Oxford Latin Course*, co-authored with Maurice Balme. After Harrow, Morwood moved in 1996 to



the University of Oxford, where he became Grocyn Lecturer responsible for teaching Classics to beginners and was a Fellow and eventually Dean of Wadham College. In later years he taught Classics and English literature at Madingley Hall, the home of the Institute of Continuing Education at the University of Cambridge.

A committed traveller and an inexhaustible winer and diner, Morwood was also a prolific writer who published at least 30 books that varied between teaching texts and high scholarship. Never more engaged than when working on a commentary of a classical text, Morwood enjoyed collaborating with like-minded souls. His most recent work, *A Commentary on Vergil, Aeneid 3*, co-authored with Stephen Heyworth, Professor of Latin at Oxford, was published this year [2017].

Morwood was no ivory tower classicist and he was more than happy to fight his subject's corner in public forums, something he demonstrated in a spirited rebuff of Harry Mount's lament in *The Spectator* in 2004 that classical learning was dying in Britain's schools and universities. Morwood wrote with characteristic humour and gusto to counter what he regarded as a wrong-headed critique and took issue with Mount's dismissal of the *Cambridge Latin Course*.

'His denunciation of the *Cambridge Latin Course* as 'the evil Latin-for-idiots school textbooks' is blind to the fact that it was this very course which rescued Latin from an apparently terminal decline in the 1960s.'

Recent projects included editing with Eric Dugdale a new series for Cambridge University Press entitled *Greece and Rome: Text and Contexts*.

Warm, generous and a great gossip with a wide circle of friends, Morwood never married. He died suddenly on holiday in northern Greece during a morning swim in the sea.

*This obituary was first published on The Times website. It is reproduced by permission of the editor of the obituary collection.*



**Robert (Bob) Spearman**, an honored trial lawyer who led the legal fight to breathe life into the North Carolina Constitution's guarantee of a sound basic education for all public school students, died on 3 December 2017. The causes were dementia and Parkinson's disease. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Patricia Hinds Spearman; daughters Madolyn Marshall (Mark Salditch) of Baltimore and Dorothy Marshall of Corte Madera, California; grandchildren Zoe Salditch, Leah Salditch, Ellis Hurtado and Weston Hurtado; and sister Mary Lindsay Spearman of Chapel Hill.

Bob was born in Durham in January 1943, the son of Walter S and Mary E Dale Spearman. During his formative years in Chapel Hill, where his father was a beloved professor in the UNC School of Journalism, he attended the public schools, delivered the *Chapel Hill Weekly* for pocket money, became an Eagle Scout, and developed his lifelong love for birds and Carolina basketball. For high school his father, an ardent Democrat, sent him to the Groton School in Massachusetts because President Franklin Roosevelt had gone there. He served as co-captain of the Groton basketball team, graduated first in his class, and was awarded a Morehead Scholarship.

In the fall of 1961, Bob embarked on his near-legendary tenure as a student at UNC, where he compiled a perfect 4.0 academic average and became the first (and only) person in history to be elected president of both the student body and Phi Beta Kappa. He was a member of Chi Psi fraternity, the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Order of the Grail, and the Society of Janus. As Student Body President, he and other student leaders worked alongside Chancellor William B Aycock, UNC President William Friday and Governor Terry Sanford to oppose North Carolina's infamous 'Speaker Ban' law, which was the subject of his senior honors thesis.



After graduating with highest honors in 1965 Bob attended Merton College on a Rhodes Scholarship. At Oxford he earned First Class Honors in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and played basketball, where one of his teammates was Princeton All-America and future US Senator Bill Bradley. 'The implicit understanding', he said, 'was that if Bradley was open and I took a shot instead of passing to him, I would come out of the game.'

After graduating from the Yale Law School in 1970, Bob served as law clerk to US Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black. At the time neither knew that it would be Justice Black's last term on the Court, or that Bob would help him draft his last and most famous opinion, in the 'Pentagon Papers' case. Returning to North Carolina in 1971, he entered private law practice in Raleigh. He practised with Sanford, Cannon, Adams & McCullough and its successor firms for his entire career, retiring on 1 January 2010 from Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein.

Although he handled a wide array of antitrust cases and other complex commercial and business litigation in both state and federal court, Bob was best known for his creative and energetic representation of public school students from poor and rural counties in the landmark case known as *Leandro v. State of North Carolina*. The *Leandro* case, which was filed in 1994 and is still pending, resulted in two major State Supreme Court opinions. The first ruled that North Carolina schoolchildren have a judicially enforceable constitutional right to a sound and basic education. The second affirmed a series of later superior court decisions after trials, and held that the State had wrongfully denied this right to many State schoolchildren. Bob's Parker Poe colleagues, for whom he was a mentor and role model, are carrying on his fight.

Bob's honors as an attorney included his election to the American College of Trial Lawyers and his service as a director of the American Judicature Society. He served as a faculty member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, taught trial practice at the UNC School of Law, and was a frequent lecturer at judge's conferences and lawyer seminars. He also served as chair of the Wake County Democratic Party from 1979 to 1981, and as chair of the State Board of Elections from 1981 until 1985. He was a founder and chair of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research.

Because Bob loved birds, nothing made him more conflicted and flummoxed than a gang of red-bellied woodpeckers who relentlessly attacked the cedar siding on his and Pat's Raleigh home. After several attempted remedies proved to be useless — including placing a fake barred owl and a scarecrow on the roof — Bob essentially declared a unilateral truce and wrote a hilarious essay about the 'woodpecker war', which he distributed to friends and family. He also loved good food, good wine, good books, his family, his *alma mater*, and reunions with his Groton, Carolina, Oxford and Yale friends and classmates.

## Dorothy Marshall

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**Professor Michael (Micky) Weingarten** died on 23 February 2018. Micky was born in 1947 in London to a family of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. He was educated at the City of London School and Jews' College, London, before going up to Merton in 1965, receiving the Oxford University James Mew Prize for Rabbinical Hebrew during his time at the College. He did his clinical studies at University College Hospital, London.

Micky emigrated to Israel and began his training as a family doctor in 1973. A few weeks later, war broke out, and he found himself, a very junior hospital doctor, as the 'consultant' in internal medicine to the burns unit, for the wounded soldiers brought in from the Suez Canal. After this war, he continued his GP training in the deprived development town of Bet Shean, living on a local kibbutz. When called up to National Service, he served as doctor on the helicopter rescue unit, doing reserve duty for 20 years. During the Lebanon war, he was once in command of a helicopter that included two wounded soldiers, an Israeli and an enemy Lebanese.



On discharge he asked to work in Rosh HaAyin, one of the most disadvantaged towns in the country, home to Yemenite Jewish immigrants struggling to adapt to Western culture. He decided to give it a trial for five years; he stayed for 35. He was delighted when, in his first weeks, his new patients, all traditionally religious Jews, would come in and remind him: 'You know, doctor, you are only an emissary [of God].' Many of his patients could not afford minimal prescription charges on drugs. He protested this on a national level, but also set up a fund to ensure that his patients could receive, anonymously, the drugs they could not afford. He used to say that Rosh HaAyin had the largest concentration of Jewish Yemenites in history, and focused his research on the community, publishing *Changing Health and Changing Culture: The Yemenite Jews in Israel* (Praeger, 1992).

Micky also taught at the Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University from 1978, and was made Clinical Professor in 1999. He chaired the Department of Family Medicine, and the Department of Behavioural Sciences in turn. He was elected president of the Israel Association of Family Physicians.

He published papers in a wide spectrum of subjects, apart from his Yemenites, often the first in the field by many years; he looked at telephone consultations with patients long before mobile phones were dreamed of (*J R Coll Gen Pract*, 1982), and was also the first to research patients who stopped him to consult him in the street (*BMJ*, 1985). Latterly, he concentrated on bioethics, especially the interface between modern medical and traditional Jewish medical ethics, e.g. 'On the sanctity of life' (*Br J Gen Pract*, 2007). He also wrote about the ethics of force-feeding political prisoners on hunger strike (*Clinical Ethics*, 2017). Characteristically, Micky not only wrote about the subject but also became involved in real-life issues, including developing a relationship with a long-term Palestinian hunger-striker in an Israeli prison. At the time of his death he had been researching the subject of doubt: halakhic (Jewish legal) doubt, medical doubt and philosophical-existential doubt.

Micky was involved in the setting up of the Bar Ilan University Medical School in Safed in Galilee from the first, writing the first blueprint, and being the active part of the troika who implemented it, as Deputy Dean for Education. He moved to

live in the Old City of Safed, and helped found the grassroots Citizens' Health Forum in the Galilee.

Micky died of metastatic cancer of the prostate. He is survived by his wife, five children and 14 grandchildren. Dozens of his students came from all over the country to his family's week of mourning, so there is some hope that his vision that the medical school should not only produce doctors who are technically excellent and trained in the best of modern medicine, but also caring human beings, will be realised, at least in part.

Dr Susan Weingarten

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## 1967

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Colin McGill** in 2017. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

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## 1970

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Wayland Smalley** in October 2016. We have not been able to trace his family. If you knew him and would like to write some words for next year's edition please contact the Development Office: [development@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@merton.ox.ac.uk)

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## 1973



The sudden death of **Dr David Griffiths** at his home in North Wales came as a shock to his friends and family, as no doubt to all who knew and remembered him at Merton.



David read History and his interest lay in the 18th century, which made him an unusual student among those taking the (modern) English III paper with Philip Waller. Though he found some of the academic minutiae of his subject fell into the 'how many angels on the head of a pin' category, an enjoyment of it never left him, and his conversation and his bookshelves throughout his life reflected that.

Contemporary Mertonians, however, will probably have stronger memories of a man of constant, anarchic humour (a photograph of David and friends in St Alban's Quad, complete with a stuffed bison's head, purloined from another college, re-emerged at his funeral), a friendly presence around the College, and an outstanding rugby player. A good enough scrum-half to have played a few games for the blues in his first year, he might have played more had he been behind a pack that won more of the ball. He was a regular member of the University Greyhounds team and, for the College side, for three years his influence was massive. (Photo p.163 of Postmaster 2017. David is on the right hand end of the centre row)

After Oxford, David entered Barclays Bank through its fast-track graduate recruitment procedure. Though he regularly doubted whether the job was right for him, he managed to make impressive progress, while continuing to apply a caustic wit to his observations of the financial world. By the time he was 40, however, he needed something different, and became Financial Director for Sue Ryder Care.

Work was never going to define David. He married Katie (St Hilda's, 1973) shortly after Oxford, and they were together for many years and continued to share care for and pride in their children, Anne and William. They had met up only a week before his death. In David's late forties, his second partner, Helen, was diagnosed with a brain tumour. As a result, he moved to North Wales to care for her, but her death was a dreadful blow. He remained in their home there, involved himself in the local community and made new friends. Rugby, which he had continued to play at an unrealistically high standard beyond any reasonably expected years, never left him. He ran a hugely successful annual charity dinner for ex-players. The 2017 event had already been organised when he died, to be attended as

guest speaker by Gareth Edwards. Anne and William attended in his place, to a standing ovation.

David's funeral was attended by friends from every aspect and period of his life. A number spoke in his memory. Despite the sense of loss, a fund of memories and anecdotes made it impossible to listen without smiles and laughter.

Ned Holt (1973)

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1975



**Mark Stephen Gater**, who has died at the age of 61, was the only child of Jean and Stan. Brought up in the Potteries and educated at Wolstanton Grammar School, he came up to Merton in 1975 to study Classics, and found the experience challenging at first, considering himself a fish out of water. His room in the first year was in Grove and was probably the smallest room in the College.

After meeting a few like-minded souls in the dining hall and the bar, he eventually settled down and began to enjoy College life, playing rugby in the first year and rowing in the second Vllls team in his second year. He played the flute a little and was a big fan of progressive rock. After Schools in 1979 he gained a good second-class honours degree.

Unsure what direction to take, he failed to get a job straight after going down and lived with his parents and then in a small flat in Newcastle-under-Lyme. His first job was with Royal Doulton in its IT department where he proved himself very capable and rose through the ranks to merit a company car.

Mark had several girlfriends while at Merton, and on leaving was courting Sharon Ratcliffe, a girl he knew from



his home town who was attending the Oxford Polytechnic. They married in 1981 and had two children, Josie and Hattie, who still live in the Potteries. They began their married life in Newcastle-under-Lyme in a two-up, two-down terraced house, but moved in 1984 to Biddulph Moor (which has the claim to fame that it is the source of the River Trent).

At the end of the eighties, Mark made a career move to the Birmingham-Midshires Building Society which was based in Wolverhampton. He commuted down the M6. Again he was a bit of a star and was soon project manager of some major enterprises within the organisation. He made a promotional film with the ex-presenter of BBC's *Nationwide*, Michael Barrett.

In 1992 Mark and Sharon decided to go their separate ways, though Mark continued to play a key role in bringing up his two daughters, seeing them most weekends. He eventually moved in with Mandy Jago, a woman he had first met at Birmingham Midshires. After living in several locations they ended up in Leek, home of the Britannia Building Society which Mark joined in the mid-nineties.

This was probably the highlight of his working career as he became the programme manager of a complete overhaul of Britannia's working practices, aptly named the Really Big Programme or RBP. The programme was completed on time and on budget thanks in no small part to Mark's brilliant leadership. Until his death last year, the ex-members of the programme would meet every year and celebrate its success.

Mark took a part-time MSc course at Bath University in Sustainable Development gaining his degree (with distinction) in the noughties. He decided to take early retirement in 2012 but found that time dragged somewhat, so he took several jobs later in life to keep himself busy. He fully retired in 2015 but still did voluntary work, once representing the Green Party in local elections.

Mark had other interests outside work. He was a keen fun-runner and later took up back-packing. He was very keen on yoga and on Tai Chi. He wrote all the time and even penned a novel (unpublished) in the nineties. Some of his short stories made it into the book *SnowDust* which he self-

published in 2017. He was working on a revised version of his novel when he died of pancreatic cancer in September 2017.

**Bob Scantlebury (1975)**

1977



**Kevin Turner** died on 27 January 2018. In November of last year, Kevin and his wife Paule travelled from their home in southern France to meet with some old friends (Merton contemporaries and residents of a Charles Street student house) and with his daughter, Lisa, for a lovely weekend in London. He is pictured here just prior to our ascent into the clouds in the Shard elevator: the weather was against us.

Despite not having met together very much over the intervening years, we all quickly reconnected that weekend, in that distorted mindset where even close to the age of 60, you think of yourself as being in your early twenties. It immediately brought back the feeling of close friendship that we all had for him when we really were that age. Sadly, that weekend was to be our farewell, as Kevin passed away shortly after.

Kevin was one of eight Merton chemists in our year and he had a big effect on all of us. He was full of energy, humour and life and was very bouncy. He was dubbed the 'intellectual ping-pong ball' and nicknamed 'Tigger' – which fitted very well and was a description that he enjoyed. Kevin was not only great fun, he was very clever. He never took things at face value but was healthily analytical without preconceptions, frequently showing us alternative perspectives and challenging our thinking. It was always a pleasure to witness the cogs turning in the process. Appropriately, the University awarded him a first-class honours degree.



William describes Kevin as an 'unlikely athlete', who did very well, especially given his stature, to go from no rowing experience to Merton 1st VIII. He took up kayaking with no experience, got to a good level at slalom and earned two Half Blues. He also ran in College cross country races, but to meet him in the street you would not think of him as the sporty type. Together with William, he entered the Devizes to Westminster 200 km canoe race. That Kevin's sporting activities were very important to him was clearly illustrated in his first apartment in Rouen, which was furnished with a sail board and absolutely nothing else.

An incident in a K2 racing canoe was a special memory for William and demonstrated Kevin's ability to remain calm in a crisis. A swan landed on their canoe and forced them to bail out. As they both stood in the canal up to their chests in water, Kevin politely asked the bird if it was 'happy now?'.

After Merton and a short time working in the UK, Kevin moved to France, where he met his wife, Paule, settled and raised a family (Jonathan and Lisa). There he worked for ICI, Ifrachemie, Synthron and finally was a project manager for Michelin, in Clermont Ferrand.

Following his diagnosis in 2011, Kevin endured serial rounds of chemotherapy which he faced with typical stoicism. Even at the end of these difficult times, his nature was as always, to think and act in a very generous, thoughtful and caring way: donating his body to medical science for the benefit of others.

**Simon and Rebecca Saville, William Finch, Mike Colledge and Adam McMahon (all 1977)**

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## 1980

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of **Nigel Stenhouse** in 2017. A full obituary will appear in next year's edition.

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## 1984



My daughter-in-law, **Helen Kellie**, who has died of lung cancer aged 52, was a broadcasting executive who helped to transform the BBC into an organisation with multiple online platforms. She then moved to Australia, where she championed diversity in broadcasting and was responsible, among other things, for persuading the Eurovision Song Contest to include Australian contestants.

The daughter of James, a company director, and his wife Angela (née Paten), Helen was born in Sheffield and spent her early life in the Peak District. After Sheffield High School, she went to Merton College, Oxford, to study chemistry.

She joined the BBC in 2000 and rose through the marketing ranks. In 2008, she became the first marketing director of BBC Worldwide, the part of the BBC that sells British-made programmes around the world.

A BBC colleague told me: 'Helen did not just make speeches about change to the online world, she delivered it.' In an interview in 2011, Helen herself said: 'You need to make sure you are clear on what marketing is there to do, and that you don't go into marketing bollocks – you talk straight.'

In 2012, Michael Ebeid, the head of the partially government-funded multicultural Australian broadcaster SBS (Special Broadcasting Service) recruited Helen to help him transform the organisation. She rose rapidly to meld marketing with content in one job, a combination previously unheard of. A channel was launched for Indigenous Australians, and, in 2016, an Arabic channel. SBS now broadcasts programmes in 68 languages.



To raise the profile of SBS, Helen persuaded the Eurovision Song Contest organisers to accept Australia as a contestant. In Stockholm in 2016, Dami Im, a South Korean migrant to Australia, came second, to the consternation of many Europeans. In 2017 Australia's singer was Isaiah Firebrace, an Indigenous Australian, who came ninth. SBS and Helen were propelling Australian performers on to a world stage.

In 2014, she commissioned *Struggle Street*, a three-part documentary about life in Mount Druitt, a poor community near Sydney. A press onslaught followed the trailers. The local mayor accused her of 'poverty porn', and demanded that the programmes be cancelled. Despite these attacks, the *Struggle Street* programmes went ahead, and as they outlined the strength of the families and measures to improve their lot, criticism fizzled out. Helen commissioned a second series about other deprived Australian families, which was aired in November to critical acclaim.

In spite of her demanding jobs, Helen was a wonderful family person. She is survived by her husband, Ben Sarson, whom she married in 2004, and their children, Edie and Fred, and by her parents, Angela and James, and three brothers, Rob, Dan and Ed.

### Richard Sarson

*This obituary was first published on The Guardian website on 8 January 2018. It has been reproduced with the permission of its author and the editors.*

Two celebrations of Helen's life were held in the UK and in Australia earlier in 2018. Paying tribute to their daughter, Angela and James remarked that she developed her strength of purpose early on, quickly learning the power of argument, a dominant gene in both sides of her family, commonly known among them as 'discussion'; a characteristic which seems to have carried through to the next generation. Helen was always one to do things in her own way and was such fun to do things with, which they noticed through comments from heart-warming tributes from colleagues and friends alike. Her post with the BBC allowed her to settle in London and subsequently meet her beloved Ben, and to create their wonderful family life. This was the highlight of

her life for her parents and made them incredibly proud of their precious Helen.

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## 2000

*Postmaster* was sad to learn of the death of Neil Chakravarty in October 2017. A full obituary will be published in next year's edition.





## Forthcoming Events

Further details of forthcoming events are available from Chelsea Chisholm, Alumni Relations Officer, Development Office. We add events to the schedule throughout the year and regularly update the Merton website with information as it becomes available: [www.merton.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/events)

### 2018

#### October

- 18 MC3 Merton in Manhattan  
Speaker: Professor Richard Levin (1968, Honorary Fellow): 'The Promise of Online Education'  
Venue: University of Oxford North American Office, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York

- 20 1968 Golden Jubilee Anniversary Lunch

#### November

- 1 Merton Lawyers' Association Annual Meeting  
Speaker: Sir Christopher Greenwood QC  
Venue: tbc

- 24 Merton Mathematics Reunion Day  
Venue: TS Eliot Theatre, Merton College

- 24 & 25 Advent Carol Services  
Venue: Merton College Chapel

- 27 Oxmas Drinks  
Venue: The Counting House, London EC3

#### December

- 4-9 Merton College Choir tour of Asia  
Locations: Singapore and Hong Kong

### 2019

#### January

- 13 Epiphany Carol Service  
Sung by the College Choir and the Girls' Choir preceded by a tea party for Friends of the Choir  
Venue: Merton College Chapel

#### February

- tbc Merton in the City

#### March

- 1 Merton Society London Dinner  
Speaker: Professor Steven Gunn (1979, Acting Warden)  
Venue: Lambeth Palace, London SE1

- 16 Gaudy for the years 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981

- 22-24 University of Oxford Asia Alumni Weekend  
Location: Tokyo





## April

- tbc MC3 AGM and Reunion Weekend  
Location: tbc
- 10-13 University of Oxford North America Reunion Events  
Locations: Boston – Toronto – Washington
- 12-14 Passiontide at Merton
- 12 Inter-Collegiate Golf Tournament  
Location: Frilford Heath with dinner at University College

## May

- 4 Merton College Choir Concert: Mozart: Solemn Vespers  
Venue: Merton College Chapel
- 13 Merton Team at the Muscular Dystrophy UK Town and Gown 10K Run  
Followed by brunch in College
- tbc Merton Society London Lecture  
Speaker: Professor James Binney (Emeritus Fellow)  
Venue: Springer Nature, London NI

## June

- 1 Merton College Boat Club Dinner
- 29 Summer Garden Party  
Venue: Merton College

## September

- 20-22 University of Oxford Alumni Weekend: Meeting Minds  
Location: Oxford
- 20 Autumn Golf Meeting  
Location: tbc, followed by dinner in College
- 21 Gaudy for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011





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