



St Hugh's College Oxford

Keeping alumni in touch with the latest news and events at St Hugh's College

MAGAZINE 2015



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Editorial

This is the first edition of the St Hugh's Magazine since my appointment as Director of Development in August 2014, and I could not have joined the College at a more exciting time. Our centre piece this year focuses on the University of Oxford Dickson Poon China Centre Building at St Hugh's, which was formally opened in September 2014. I hope that you will enjoy reading about the vibrant atmosphere and exciting academic life taking place in this new space at College, and that many of you will come to visit it over the coming months.



In my first six months here, I was overwhelmed by the warm welcome which I received from staff, alumni and friends of the College. When I first started at St Hugh's, my mind was a blank canvas as to which aspects would be remembered throughout the generations. As I have met hundreds of you since then, your memories, stories and anecdotes have painted a rich picture of St Hugh's. Through this, I have been able to appreciate even more how significant the recent growth of the College has been, and how this moment fits in with its heritage.

I grew up with an interest in history and heritage, volunteering when I was 12 years old as an archaeological digger at the Roman Fort at Piercebridge. My degree, in English Literature and History of Art from UEA, showed my deepening interest, specialising in Victorian Art, Literature, social history and architecture. My first job straight out of university was as a Museum Assistant in Middlesbrough – the start of a career in museums that included the Royal Pavilion, the British Museum, where I was part of the team that built the Great Court, and the V&A. I have also worked in the HE sector, spending 6 years at the University of Westminster, where I 'discovered' and raised the funding to re-open the cinema that showed the Lumiere Brothers first moving image in 1896. Women in art history is a particular interest of mine and I was instrumental in the development of the only UK exhibition showing the work and influence of Angelica Kauffmann, one of two women founding members of the Royal Academy.

Much of this edition of the Magazine focuses on history – the past flowing into the present, with articles covering: a significant discovery from our archives of a letter to Rachel Trickett by Philip Larkin, memories from Vienna in the 1930s from Helga Harrison, and more recent events from College such as the 2015 St Hugh's Ball. As my role will increasingly focus on the strategic direction for St Hugh's fundraising over the coming years, I would like to introduce you to my new team. Thomas Kidney, a graduate of Brasenose College, is our new Regular Giving Manager and Luke Bradshaw will be focussing on fundraising for academic posts, scholarships and bursaries. Jen Stedman will continue in her role as Alumni Relations Manager.

I have every confidence that, with your continued support, St Hugh's will continue to flourish and I look forward to being an active part of this for years to come.

Sarah Carthew *Director of Development*

A Message from The Principal

As I reflect on the past twelve months at St Hugh's, it is no surprise that the opening ceremony of the University of Oxford Dickson Poon China Centre Building, on 8 September 2014, is a very prominent memory. The completion of this innovative and ambitious project signified so much more than acquiring a new building. It was a culmination of efforts from members of the College community around the globe, and so many distinguished and enlightened educational philanthropists, including Sir Dickson Poon. It is a marvellous testimony to the strength of support for a visionary, forward-thinking undertaking.

On the day of the opening, I was struck by the warmth, openness and friendship with which alumni, friends of the College, staff members, students and their families came together to celebrate the success of this campaign. Our Guest of Honour, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, spoke freely to many of those gathered, on a morning which also marked the announcement of the Duchess' pregnancy with HRH Princess Charlotte.

Later on, in his formal speech, the Duke acknowledged the uniqueness of this achievement in its multi-faceted benefit to academics, students and visitors alike, and the wider international impact of the Centre for the study of China at the University of Oxford. In a rapidly-changing world in which China holds a significant influence, the Duke emphasised what a brilliant opportunity it is for St Hugh's to put itself at the heart of learning from, and research about, this powerful country.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the many aspects of our new building – while the bricks and mortar are now set, the community itself is continually developing and growing. The same must remain true for St Hugh's, and the successful completion of a project on this level of magnitude leads almost seamlessly into posing the question, 'what is next?'.

The College has a rich heritage, in figurative as much as in physical terms, and we must now turn to a new phase of development at St Hugh's. The next period has entailed strategic thinking in all areas. In what way should we maintain

and enhance the buildings on our current site? How can we ensure that these buildings flourish, and continue to

offer our students a stimulating environment in which to live and study? A highly significant new appointment for St Hugh's has been that of Sarah Carthew as Director of Development. Sarah's experience from the British Museum and the V&A, where she discovered and led the project to develop the historic cinema on Regent Street, places her at the heart of the College's new growth phase.

Our duty lies not only with continuing our reputation as a centre for academic excellence, but also with cultivating a setting in which learning and living complement each other. Our successful China Centre campaign gives us the confidence to look to the future of our College inventively, while preserving our outstanding environment.

If we are to build on this achievement, our primary resource remains our wonderful, vibrant and welcoming academic community. Professor George Garnett, Tutorial Fellow in History, was admitted as the University's Senior Proctor in March. This ancient position, older than the role of Vice-Chancellor, will see Professor Garnett responsible for ensuring that the University runs in accordance with its Statutes, including the conduct of ceremonies.

This year, College appointed Professor Anthony Watts, Tutorial Fellow in Biochemistry, the C W Maplethorpe Fellow in Biological Sciences, as Vice-Principal. Tony's exceptional work in the development of spectroscopic methodologies has provided novel insights into membrane structure and function, for which he received the Biophysical Society Anatrache Membrane Protein Award. It is just one example of the valuable and imaginative academic work that we are so proud to be supporting at St Hugh's.

It is my hope that, as we step into the next phase for the College, our alumni will continue to draw ever closer as the tight-knit, loyal circle which helps St Hugh's to maintain its core values.

Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC, Principal



Professor George Garnett alongside the Vice-Chancellor, the Principal and University officials.



© John Cairns



The vision for the new St Hugh's College building

by David Morley, David Morley Architects

The Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building completes the second phase of David Morley Architects' plan for St Hugh's College. Its realisation has been made possible by the merging of two aspirations: to provide high quality teaching facilities and student accommodation to cater for the evolving needs of St Hugh's College and to provide a state of the art facility to house the Centre of Chinese Studies at the University of Oxford. This has allowed St Hugh's to realise the potential of its land through collaboration with the University in both academic terms and financial terms and to facilitate the kind of collaborative and multidisciplinary work so vital for the China Centre, which previously lacked any purpose-built accommodation, suitable to its needs and importance. A share of the new building, with independent access, will now provide a permanent home with the level of dynamism which befits a hub of cross-disciplinary activity, devoted to the study of, collaboration with, and welcome of visitors from one of the most significant and growing economic powers of the world.

THE MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan was commissioned in 1997 by Derek Wood QC, the then-Principal and the Governing Body, and covered the College's 14½ acre site which lies at the heart of the North Oxford Victorian Suburb Conservation Area. The College buildings consist of six purpose built blocks, the first built on the current site in 1916 and the latest in 1999 (the Maplethorpe Building), and the Victorian houses acquired incrementally over that time. The Master Plan evolved from a historical analysis of the development of the College, considering its distinctive qualities and comparing

those to other Oxford colleges. This suggested an approach to transform the amalgam of former rear gardens into an organised sequence of garden spaces which would echo the traditional model for a college arranged around a sequence of courtyards. The expression of principal communal buildings in the College was then emphasised by siting the new academic facilities in a prominent position facing the existing library. Together, the new academic facilities and library define the north and south edges of a Middle Garden forming a 'hub' to the College around which the Master Plan revolves. The Maplethorpe Building and the row of mature beech trees define the west and east edges of the Middle Garden. This arrangement has preserved the historical garden in front of the Main Building and has also defined a new garden, more residential in character, to the west of the Maplethorpe Building. This work was completed as part of the first phase in 1999. The new Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building, conceived originally as an accommodation building, developed as the China Centre following Sir Andrew Dilnot's and Professor Andrew Goudie's concept.

THE BUILDING

The new building provides 5,500 square metres of floor space in four and five storey blocks arranged around a central sunken courtyard garden which brings light into a basement storey. This configuration allows the development potential of the site to be maximised whilst keeping the building mass in line with its surroundings. The exterior is articulated as a series of three linked pavilions which relate to the scale of the adjacent Victorian houses. The configuration of floors maximises efficiency of construction



The Bodleian KB Chen Library

© Clive Nichols for David Morley Architects



materials by providing three storeys of student residential accommodation (63 rooms) in bookends at the east and west sides within the space of two storeys of academic office accommodation on the longer elevations facing north and south.

The design of the external envelope of the building has been developed to offer high environmental performance and to minimise CO₂ emissions. The building fabric is highly insulated. The orientation, building massing and window design have been designed to reduce the heating and cooling energy demands of the building. Energy is supplied by a Central Heat and Power Unit which simultaneously provides a low carbon solution for hot water and electrical generation. Solar panels on the building's roof generate a portion of the electricity for the building. The exterior material treatment of the building matches the look and feel of the Maplethorpe Building and continues the theme of exposed concrete with recycled blast furnace aggregate (giving it a colour similar to Oxford stone) and natural oak timber.

INTERNAL SPACES

The layout of the building seeks to build on the benefits of the collaboration between St Hugh's College and the China Centre. The central atrium encourages a mingling of occupants and exchanging of ideas as students and academics circulate via the glazed lift, the helical staircase and the link bridges to the lecture theatres, the library, the teaching spaces in the China Centre and the shared accommodation. At the top of this staircase, the lift emerges into a glazed rotunda which gives access to the roof terrace garden, opening up new views of the College grounds, north Oxford and glimpses to the countryside beyond. A glazed rooflight above the lift shaft also helps to bring natural light down to illuminate the stair and atrium.

The lecture theatre seats 100 people and can be divided into two separate 50-person lecture theatres with a movable wall. The space is acoustically treated with timber panelling and lighting is provided by a pattern of square light fittings in the circular concrete coffers. The glass screens which flank the auditorium and the upholstery of the folding seats extend the permeation of the colour red in a variety of hues throughout the building.

The atrium faces out to the Sir Quo Wei Lee Courtyard, which provides a new garden space for the College at the centre of the building. It is situated a level down from

external ground level, bringing natural daylight into the Bodleian Library and providing further opportunities for informal teaching and events. The garden follows an oriental theme with clusters of bamboo, one of which is encircled by a red bench, and paving following the most auspicious alignment defined by Feng Shui guidance. A corten steel artwork forms the main focal point on one side of the garden while on the other side is the four-storey glazed wall of the atrium.

The Bodleian KB Chen Library houses the Bodleian's collection of books on the study of China. It is located in the basement alongside the external courtyard and provides a variety of flexible modern learning spaces, from the simple reading desks alongside the glazed wall to the courtyard, illuminated by natural daylight, to the more secluded study carrels which can be booked out for long periods by research students.

At ground floor level, the Wordsworth Tea Room provides a further flexible space for use by students and academics. In day-to-day use, it is the College café, with a combination of informal lounge seating, and tables and chairs for eating and socialising. For events, it can be reconfigured as a more traditional Oxford college dining hall for up to 200 people. The room opens onto the Middle Garden via large sliding glass doors and a patio with tables and chairs to allow enjoyment of the garden.

On the levels above, a suite of seminar rooms face out towards the College library with generous fully glazed bay windows reinforcing the connection with the garden setting below. This also gives a nod towards the architectural language of bay windows found in the Howard Piper Library and in many other St Hugh's College buildings.

The building uses a traditional palette of materials in a contemporary way. The base materials of concrete and oak are complemented with articulations of deep red, referencing the high quality red lacquer of ancient Chinese craftsmanship. A further reference to the Chinese influences within the detail of the building can be found in the combination of circles and squares, echoing the geometry of an ancient Chinese coin. This can be found in a number of areas throughout the building, from the helical stair wrapping around the square glazed lift shaft to the square luminaires inside circular concrete coffers.



Sir Quo-Wei Lee

An enduring relationship with St Hugh's

by Wendy Li and Joanna Lee (Law, 1999)

At the heart of the new China Centre building lies the Sir Quo Wei Lee Courtyard. It is a touching recollection of his long-term relationship with the College, remembered here by his daughter Wendy Li and granddaughter Joanna Lee, herself an alumna of St Hugh's.

Joanna Lee: My grandfather never went to university. His working career started right after attending secondary school at St Joseph's College in Hong Kong. However, he had always told me the importance of having a quality tertiary education. He had a firm belief in giving talented students an opportunity to study in an excellent university and therefore founded the Ho, Leung, Ho, Lee scholarship.

The first time Grandpa told me about St Hugh's and Oxford was when I was 9 or 10. It was the summer of 1997 when he brought me to visit St Hugh's and its gardens. I still remember that warm August day when we walked around the lawn outside the Main Building. He recounted his first visit to the College and took me to have a peek in the Law Library. It was on that summer day that I fell in love with St Hugh's and hoped to be able to study there.

Grandpa encouraged me to always search for the right answers and gain an in-depth knowledge of any subject in which I was interested. He emphasised that there is no end to knowledge (学无止境) and that one of the qualities which Oxford encourages its students to have is persistence for the truth and intellectual engagement.

The University of
Oxford Dickson Poon
China Centre Building.



(L to R) Hon Sir Denys Roberts, Mrs Helen Lee, Sir Quo-Wei and Ann Smart.

Wendy Li: Sir Quo-Wei Lee, my late father, was a staunch believer in the empowering influence of education, not just for the individual, but on society as a whole. That was probably the reason why, despite his numerous public service appointments in Hong Kong, his main focus remained on education, especially at the tertiary level. Besides having served as Chairman of the Board of Education and the Education Commission, he assisted in the establishment of many of the universities in Hong Kong and served for over 15 years as Chairman of the Council of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Hang Seng School of Commerce (now Hang Seng Management College).

My late father came to know more about St Hugh's College in 1981, when he was approached through an intermediary to support the College's Development Fund for the refurbishment of the graduate accommodation houses on Woodstock Road. He was, of course, deeply impressed by the established tradition of St Hugh's as an outstanding women's college and its academic excellence. In addition, he highly valued the direct entry arrangement which gave qualified Hong Kong students a better opportunity to study at St Hugh's. This meant that applicants, after having obtained the requisite A-Level passes in July, were interviewed by a selection committee in Hong Kong in August. This committee comprised the Hon Sir Denys Roberts (then Chief Justice), the Hon Alex Wu, Ann Smart, and my father. The successful candidates were admitted to commence study at St Hugh's in October of the same year.

To make this a reality, my father rallied three other senior colleagues from Hang Seng Bank, S.H. Ho, Ho Tim, and K.K. Leung, and each responded with a generous donation. The houses which they sponsored were named after them, and thus the Ho, Leung, Ho and Lee Studentship scheme was established in 1982. While a maximum of four



*Sir Quo-Wei Lee
Courtyard, Dickson
Poon Building.*

studentships were available, it was not often that the full quota was met. The selection committee maintained an exceptionally high standard, and by 1989, only 20 places had been offered, and 15 taken up by Hong Kong students.

It had always been my father's wish that the establishment of a strong Hong Kong alumni base would help develop an even closer relationship with St Hugh's. He derived a lot of gratification from his close association with St Hugh's and was, needless to say, particularly honoured to have been made an Honorary Fellow of the College in 1991. The Ho, Leung, Ho and Lee scheme was transformed from a studentship to a scholarship scheme in 1989, and awards continued to be made well into the 2000s. To date, 30 students from Hong Kong have benefitted from the scheme.

Several of the Ho, Leung, Ho and Lee scholars contributed to the China Centre appeal. A new seminar room in the building was named for them.



Wendy Li at the opening of the Dickson Poon China Centre Building.



A New Space for Chinese Art in Oxford

by Shelagh Vainker, Associate Professor of Chinese Art and Curator of Chinese Art, Fellow at St Hugh's

Robe for a Daoist priest, silk with silk and gold thread embroidery, Qing dynasty (1644-1911). Ht. 153.5cm, w. 174 cm. Given by Barden N. and Flavia M. Gale (née Morrison, Modern Languages, 1966).



The Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building is innovative in its concept of housing academics from a wide range of disciplines within a single, area-focussed centre; it is also distinctive in combining University and College use within a single building and outstanding in having a design that incorporates a suite of generously proportioned display cases for works of art.

The cases, all full-height, are situated in the China Centre entrance and in the adjacent atrium – where a single vitrine occupies a whole wall – and on the floor below by the lecture theatre. They are filled with silk, gold, jade, porcelain and lacquer of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, all given or lent by supporters of the China Centre and St Hugh's. The most vibrant are the silks, and in particular the 19th-century Daoist priest's robe displayed

in the China Centre entrance (above). This floor-length vestment is designed to be viewed when the wearer is standing with arms outstretched and his back turned to the worshippers, thus providing an impressive ritual spectacle and a generous field for the ornament of suns, moons, auspicious motifs and divinatory Trigrams, all embroidered in coloured silks and gold threads on a shiny silk satin ground. The robe was presented to St Hugh's by Flavia and Barden Gale.

Displayed opposite the robe is a group of seventeen gold belt plaques worked with designs of blossoms, magpies, ducks and lotus that function as homonyms for happiness, prosperity and success. They date from around the 16th century and are on loan from the Mengdiexuan Collection, one of the most comprehensive assemblages of ancient Chinese gold in private hands. Lacquer, jade, porcelain and works on paper have also been lent by collectors in Hong Kong, with the ceramics comprising a group that represents every reign period and most of the decorative techniques current in the Qing dynasty (1644-1911) (right). Elsewhere in the building, in corridors where the light levels are lower, numerous calligraphy and landscape scrolls hang on the walls, and the Song historians are privileged to see 11th-century texts in 18th-century brushwork each time they step out of the office (illustrated over page).

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Court robe, silk with gold threads, Qing dynasty (1644-1911). Ht 152 cm, w. 165 cm. Donated by Barden N. and Flavia M. Gale (née Morrison, Modern Languages, 1966).



Above: Porcelain baluster vase with underglaze blue decoration, Qing dynasty, mark of Chenghua (r.1465-87) but Kangxi (r.1662-1722) period. Ht. 44.0 cm. On loan from the T.L. and Barbara Yang, Trevor and Dominica Yang Collection.

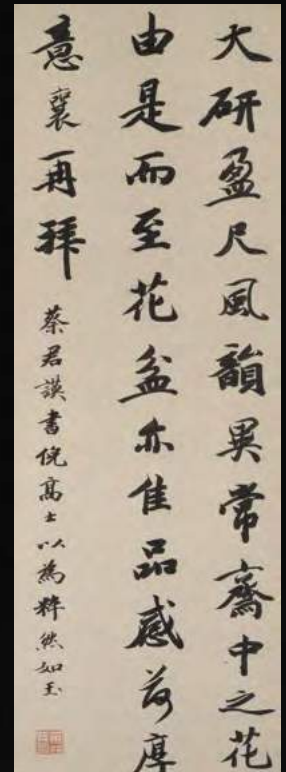
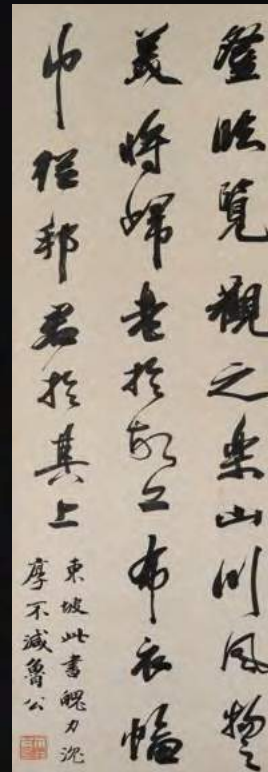


Left: Lacquer box carved with decoration of phoenix among peonies, Qing dynasty (1644-1911). D. 19.0 cm. Lent by Christopher Mok.

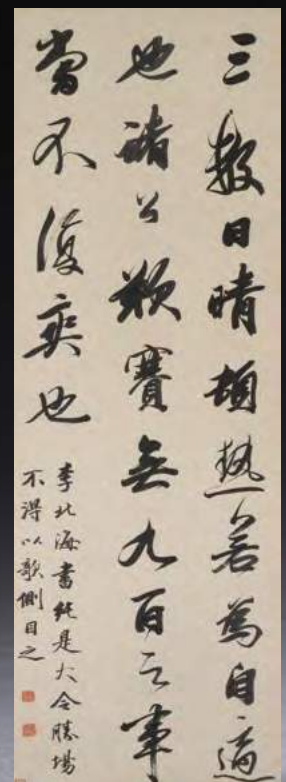
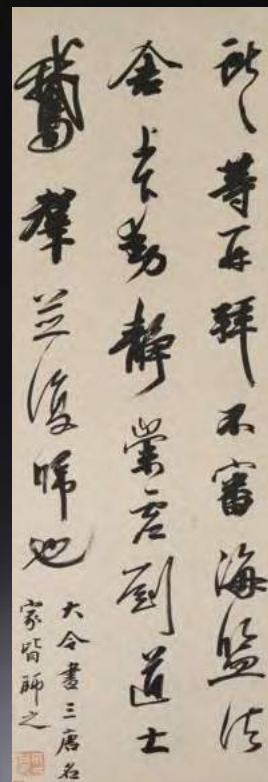


Above: Group of seventeen gold belt plaques, AD 1500-1700. Max. l. 9.3 cm. On loan from the Mengdiexuan Collection.

Right: Lui Shou-Kwaw (1919-1975) Lotus 1964. Ink and colours on paper Ht. 179.5 cm.



Above & below: Calligraphy by Wang Menglou (1730-1802), ink on paper, ht. 173 cm. On loan from the T.L. and Barbara Yang, Trevor and Dominica Yang Collection.



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Fine Chinese objects have, of course, been owned and displayed by the University since the 17th century: the collection Elias Ashmole acquired from the Tradescants and presented to Oxford in 1683 included textiles, stone sculptures and ceramics, while John Selden's 1620s map of the Ming empire is one of the treasures of the Bodleian (seldenmap.bodleian.ox.ac.uk). The Bodleian and the Ashmolean have both recently undergone major redevelopments that have provided new spaces for and prompted new thinking about the display of precious artefacts. In the Ashmolean, the Chinese collections are presented for the widest possible audience, and chiefly according to the connections they demonstrate with other cultures. Through the new University Engagement Programme and Ashmolean Faculty Fellows' scheme, the museum's holdings are increasingly incorporated into university teaching, both in the galleries

and the study rooms. The works of art in the China Centre will necessarily be viewed by fewer people but are already ensuring an awareness of material culture and visual arts among all who visit, study or teach there. This aspect of the China Centre's reach is set to extend with the creation of a new post in Chinese Archaeology, which is moreover associated with the College. The Peter Moores Associate Professorship in Chinese Archaeology includes lecturing each year at Compton Verney, the 18th-century house and park now run as a museum by the Peter Moores Foundation, and also advising on their very fine collection of early Chinese bronzes. Dr Anke Hein, currently of Ludwigs-Maximilian Universität München, will take up the Associate Professorship in January 2016 and become a Fellow of St Hugh's.



Right: Jade fish, Qing dynasty (1644-1911). Ht. 20.0 cm. Lent by Edwin Mok.



The University of Oxford

Dickson Poon China Centre Building

by Professor Rana Mitter, Deutsche Bank Director of the University of Oxford China Centre

In Michaelmas Term of 2014, the China Centre began an intellectual and cultural adventure shared between one of the globe's greatest universities and the wider world of Chinese society and culture. During the first few weeks, we met policymakers, media figures, and above all, thinkers: scholars who are rethinking what China has meant over three thousand years, and what it will mean for decades to come. Students, faculty and visiting scholars sit at the heart of a conversation that has just started in Europe's largest and finest centre for the study of China, housed in the magnificent Dickson Poon Building.



Sir Dickson Poon CBE, educational philanthropist and businessman, after whom the building is named, and the Principal.

One of China's best-known television hosts, Yang Rui of CCTV's *Dialogue*, opened our term with a talk on the geopolitics of East Asia. In a lively question and answer session he fielded questions from students and faculty about a political and media environment in China that is very different from that in the west. Meanwhile, from the other direction, we welcomed Orville Schell, former dean of the School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, now Arthur Ross Director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations at Asia Society in New York. Most recently Professor Schell accompanied former US president Jimmy

Carter to China, just one of a number of trips he has taken to act as an expert guide for top US leaders. At Oxford, he spoke to us about the need to reset the often tense relationship between the US and China.

Chinese history was in the spotlight in November as we hosted a workshop on 'New Approaches to Twentieth-Century History: China and Britain'. Keynote speaker was distinguished historian Lu Fang-shang, and the cream of Britain's young historians of China attended from institutions around the UK including Cambridge, London, Edinburgh and Leicester.

We were honoured by the visit in January to the Centre of Barbara Woodward CMG OBE, the new British Ambassador to China, prior to her taking up her post. During her visit, the Ambassador was briefed by a group of the Centre's social scientists working on fields from China's geopolitical behaviour to social change in the countryside to the changing media landscape. Later in the term, we hosted visits from other FCO officials and their Chinese guests, including delegations working on banking and on minority issues in China. We are pleased to be broadening and deepening our involvement with those who work on China outside the academy, as we place the Centre's expertise at the service of the public sphere.

The China Centre has become a focus for students to start their own groups researching China. One such group is

CHEW (China Health and Environmental Workshops), a graduate student driven seminar that meets at the Centre to debate issues to do with China's environmental situation, one of the most important issues of today. Future student-run events will include a major graduate student conference on Chinese studies.

We were particularly delighted by the week-long residency of two of the world's most prominent social scientists of China. Professor Jean Oi (戴慕珍), William Haas Professor in Chinese Politics at Stanford University, spoke on 'The Costs of Political Connections: Corporate Restructuring and Tax Payment in China'. Professor Andrew G. Walder (Denise O'Leary & Kent Thiry Professor, School of Humanities and Sciences at Stanford University) addressed the topic of 'Rebellion and Repression in China, 1966-1971'. Professors Oi and Walder took time to interact with students and academic staff over the course of their visit, taking advantage of their longer stay to make deeper connections than a one-day seminar can usually achieve. We hope that this will mark the first of many residencies by major scholars of China from around the world.

Faculty and students continue to work in the superb new classrooms in the Dickson Poon Building and classes on China range from the most ancient philosophy to the most cutting edge social sciences. This year, the prestigious Master's courses on contemporary China, taught from the Centre, found themselves heavily oversubscribed as their popularity rises year on year. Meanwhile, the KB Chen China Library, housed in the basement of the Dickson Poon Building, reports that the number of readers per term has doubled in comparison with the same time last year in the old location, a sign that its excellent facilities and calm atmosphere are drawing in students not previously engaging with the study of China.

The building up of the human side of the Centre continues to develop. This term we made two major appointments. A new Associate Professor in the Anthropology of China, Matthew Erie, will join the group in autumn 2014 (replacing Prof Frank Pieke, who departed in 2011). An exciting development was the appointment of Dr Anke Hein to the new Peter Moores Associate Professorship of Chinese Archaeology, with a Fellowship at St Hugh's College. This new post, made possible in large part by the generosity of the Peter Moores foundation, shows the possibilities for opening up new fields of study that are facilitated by the Centre.

Elsewhere, the Centre's academics have been disseminating their research through the media. Recently, I have been in China filming *The Longest War: China's World War II*, a television documentary for the History Channel based on my recent book *Forgotten Ally*, which has been broadcast in summer 2015 to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War in Asia.



DICKSON POON
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
CHINA CENTRE BUILDING

潘迪生牛津大學中國中心



Wordsworth Tea Room

by Tara Mcsweeney, Head Chef of the Wordsworth Tea Room



The Wordsworth Tea Room opened as part of the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building in October 2014, and has been building up a loyal group of regular customers since then. The room has also quickly become an important social space in the College for members of the Senior, Middle and Junior Common Rooms to mingle, study and relax. It contains the donor board listing the names of all alumni who generously supported the project. Tara Mcsweeney, the St Hugh's chef who took on responsibility for the Tea Room from the start, told us a little more about this exciting project. During term, the Wordsworth Tea Room is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm, to students, staff, alumni and members of the public.

How is the Wordsworth Tea Room different from the College's Dining Hall?

When I was asked to move from the main Dining Hall, I instantly knew this would be a new and exciting project, because there is no team of chefs working together. It's on a much smaller scale, so I'm the only chef here, but it means I get a new, beautiful kitchen to myself. I have loved the more intimate atmosphere and working closely with the other members of staff here!

Who usually visits the Wordsworth Tea Room?

At the start, we had mainly the graduate students who live in the China Centre Building, but this has now extended to staff members and JCR students. The Finance Office staff visit us most weeks, and we are very busy at lunch, especially out of regular term times. We have also hosted events like the Chinese New Year celebrations.

What kind of cuisine is available at the Wordsworth Tea Room?

We started out with Chinese dishes only, but we have now diversified our range considerably. I am French-trained, so I'm enjoying this opportunity! I cook in small batches of 30-100 portions, which means I can try different recipes.

Will you tell me a bit more about the ingredients you use, and how the Wordsworth Tea Room has been received?

Most of our ingredients are sourced locally from Osney, and we always seek out fresh, organic produce. Our hot drinks, all of which are Fairtrade and Organic, have been an attraction for many of our patrons, who will now regularly come here for their afternoon tea or coffee. We have had some fantastic feedback so far, and I've been pleasantly surprised by how much we have improved in this short space of time.

Who makes up the team at the Wordsworth Tea Room?

There are five of us in total. Antonio, who is new to the College; Giuseppe, who moved across with me from the Dining Hall; Manny, our new pastry chef whose chocolate brownie is a daily feature on the menu and incredibly popular; and a kitchen porter. We all look forward to welcoming more of our alumni to the Wordsworth Tea Room in coming months!

Accommodation

by Laure Bonfils (Engineering Science DPhil, 2013)



An important addition for St Hugh's are the 63 high quality en-suite bedrooms we are able to offer to graduate students, and, out of term, to our bed and breakfast guests. Each room has shared kitchen facilities and we have one self-contained studio. The building is split into two wings: The Andrew Dilnot Wing and The Wolfson Foundation Wing. There are

two lifts in the building accessing all levels. On the ground floor of the building is the Wordsworth Tea Room, which is open 9.30am - 4.30pm during term time for anyone wishing to purchase additional breakfast, lunch or snacks. Laure Bonfils tells us what it is like to live there.

Tell me a bit about yourself. What did you do before coming to Oxford, and what do you study here at the moment?

I am a second year DPhil student in Engineering Science. I'm in the Solid Mechanics Group of my Department and I am working on the characterisation of the high strain rate deformation behaviour of Titanium alloys at near-transus temperature in collaboration with Rolls-Royce (my research sponsor).

Before coming to Oxford, I did my undergraduate studies in Physics and Chemistry (I did what is called in France a "Prépa Maths sup - Maths spé") in Paris. Then I did a Master of Engineering in Paris followed by a Master of Science in Chicago.

Apart from studying for your degree, what do you do in your spare time?

I am part of the Oxford University Women's Lightweight Rowing Club and I am the MCR Sports Rep.

What do you enjoy the most about being at St Hugh's?

I like the quiet atmosphere when you are inside the college with the different floral gardens as well as the fact that the MCR is in a separate house with its own garden.



© Gailford Try



David Morley, Architect of the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building, showing visitors one of the new study bedrooms.

In your time here as a graduate student, where have you lived, and how did you find it?

Last summer, waiting for the Dickson Poon Building to be completed, I lived in other parts of St Hugh's: 89 Banbury Road and in one of the undergraduate accommodation buildings (Wolfson). I found both of them quite old and damaged. The last one had a very limited (in terms of both space and equipment) kitchen. As a graduate student, I wouldn't have liked living in one of them for a whole year.

You moved into the University of Oxford Dickson Poon China Centre Building shortly after it was completed. How does the accommodation here compare to other parts of College?

The Dickson Poon Building is much more modern, functional and adapted to graduate students (big kitchen fully equipped and en-suite rooms).

Tell me a bit more about the atmosphere of the building – it must be quite different given the mix of student accommodation, with China Centre and public spaces?

I find the building very convivial and well designed. The big kitchens allow the students living in the same corridor to gather and spend some quality time all together. The mix of student accommodation with the China Centre Library, office spaces and the Wordsworth Tea Room brings a nice atmosphere making the area around the building lively most of the day.

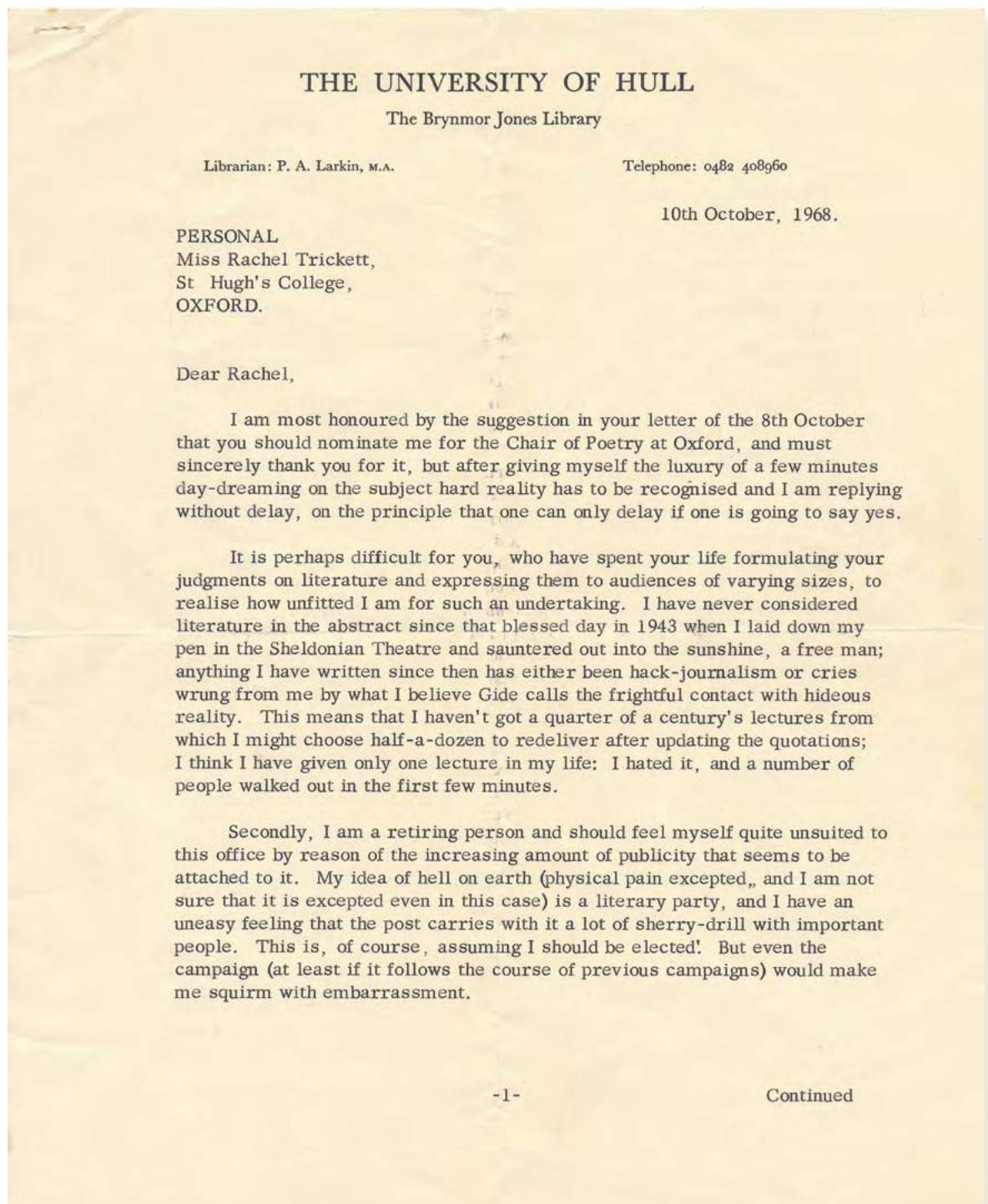
For September we are running a special offer to Alumni. Normally £96 per night, you can enjoy St Hugh's and all that Oxford has to offer for £60 per night staying in the China Centre Building. For bookings please contact our Accommodation Manager, Magdalena Robinson, on 01865 274907 or email accommodation.manager@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk



Larkin letter discovered

by Professor Peter D McDonald, Tutorial Fellow in English at St Hugh's

College recently discovered a rare and important document in its safe: Philip Larkin's letter to Rachel Trickett, dated 10 October 1968, declining to be nominated for the Oxford Professorship of Poetry. The letter is significant because, as a recent find, it has never been published and it contains, unusually for Larkin, a fulsome justification of his refusal to accept this important nomination. It was especially newsworthy in a year that saw the appointment of a new Oxford Professor of Poetry, Simon Armitage.



Published with permission from the Society of Authors

His subsequent letter, blocking Charles Monteith's attempt to nominate him again in 1973, is relatively brief and much more dutiful (see Thwaite's *Selected Letters*). Five years earlier, he was writing to someone he knew well and with whom he had much in common. Trickett (1923-1999) was a year younger than Larkin (1922-1985), both studied English at Oxford during the war—Larkin from 1940 to 1943, Trickett from 1942 to 1945—and both had connections to Hull. Trickett taught there in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and Larkin took up the University Librarianship in 1955.

Larkin gives three reasons for his refusal, the third of which is the most curious. It is really a self-cancelling meta-reason: 'perhaps if one says no one should say it not only quickly but with the minimum of self-justification'. While it is true that he did give his other two reasons 'quickly'—he allowed himself 'a few minutes day-dreaming' before replying to Trickett's letter of 8 October—he did not do so with 'the minimum of self-justification'. He explained, first, that he was 'unfitted'

for lecturing because he 'hated it' and because he was neither an academic nor a poet-theoretician. This is broadly true, though his prose wasn't just 'hack-journalism'. A more 'abstract' Larkinesque poetics can be distilled from collections like *Required Writing* (1983). Think only of his claim that modernist poets indulge in 'irresponsible exploitations of technique in contradiction of human life as we know it' (297). Debatable though it is, this generalised observation sheds light on his idea of his own poems as 'cries wrung from me by what I believe Gide calls the frightful contact with hideous reality'. His second reason, which says more about his social than his poetic persona, seems once again witty and self-deprecating, but as Andrew Motion's 1994 biography shows, his vision of 'hell on earth'—'a literary party' with 'a lot of sherry-drill with important people'—was clearly heartfelt.

'The Trickett letter provides an illuminating context for (among others) 'Vers de Société' and 'Poem about Oxford' not as testaments to Larkin's attitudes but as poems.' Discuss.

-2-

Thirdly - but perhaps if one says no one should say it not only quickly but with the minimum of self-justification. I hope I have said enough, at any rate, to make my refusal sound reasonable. It only remains for me to say again how deeply honoured I am that you should think of me in this connection, and how gratifying I find your assurances that such a proposal would find support, even though I find this hard to believe.

It seems a long time since you were in Hull: it would be so nice to see you if you ever come this way.

Yours sincerely,

Philip



Professor Peter D McDonald
Tutorial Fellow
in English

Leverhulme Trust Grant

by Professor Elizabeth Eva Leach (*Music, 1995*), Fellow and Tutor in Music at St Hugh's



C chapelet

Professor Elizabeth Leach (*Music, 1995*), Fellow in Music at St Hugh's, has been awarded a Major Research Fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust to work on a project provisionally called 'Douce 308 and the contexts of vernacular song c. 1300'. Douce 308 is the shelfmark of a manuscript now in the Bodleian library, a luxury book made of fine parchment (animal skin) and originally copied by hand in Metz in the early years of the fourteenth century.

This large and complicated source preserves songs and literary works exclusively in French, but was copied at a linguistic meeting point between France and the Empire (that is, the German-speaking lands to the East of the Rhine). I plan to study the book as a whole, looking to understand why its particular contents have been put together, and what the other items in the book might tell us about the 516 song texts that it transmits. Because there is no musical notation musicologists have mainly ignored Douce 308, but its other ostensibly non-musical contents and its overall planning in fact give more contextualizing information for the musical repertoire than other, better-known sources. I am convinced that Douce 308 is a uniquely telling document, provided we can address it with the right kinds of questions. For us, the songs of late-medieval repertoires in Europe have become radically separated from their social contexts. I would argue that the one secure material context that a given medieval song retains is the codex in which it is copied. Through a detailed study of a single unique manuscript, I hope to show how the manuscript context can point to the social meanings, reception, and performative use of song within the culture that copied and used the manuscript.

The courtly tournament of *Chauvency*, which is followed by Douce 308's 516 song texts, is refracted through an eschatological lens in the final item in the manuscript, Huon de Méry's *Tournament of Antichrist*. While this 'end-of-days'

narrative seems different from the courtly materials that precede it, it is a work that is often copied into books with music, and suggests that music plays a large role in medieval thinking about the end of the world.

The funding from the grant also covers the complete high-quality digitization of the manuscript (currently only selected folios appear online in fairly low-quality images), which will then be freely available online. I aim to blog about my findings as I go along (<http://eeleach.wordpress.com/blog/>). In addition there are plans for a performance workshop for the debate songs in the manuscript. Ultimately I hope to write a monograph on Douce 308 that will reflect on the continuities and changes in musical culture around the year 1300.

C robardel



C i balle et danse et huc zume

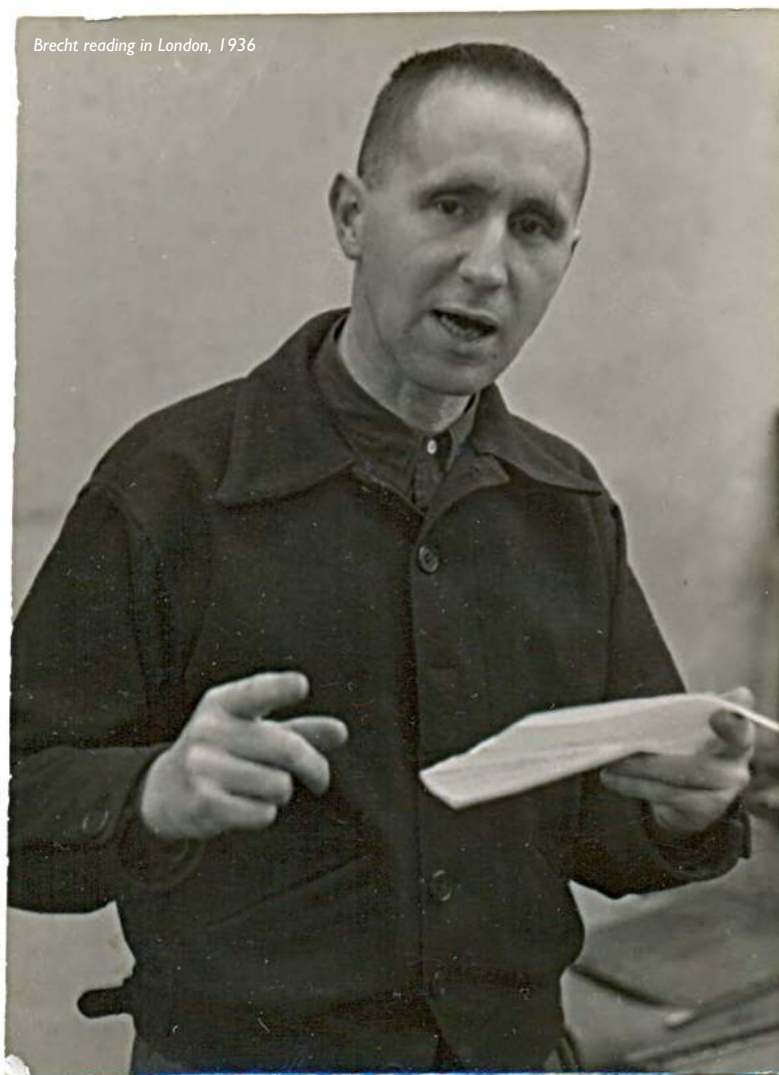


de doner ceu ke dui
pas amoi. cest soula
tant que ie soie sien

D Balettes miniature

Writing Brecht

by Dr Tom Kuhn, Faculty Lecturer in German and Fellow of St Hugh's



Brecht reading in London, 1936

*I have been the lead editor of the main English-language edition of the works of the great German dramatist Bertolt Brecht since 2002. You might think that was a relatively relaxed position. Brecht died in 1956; it would be fair to assume that all his major works have long since appeared in English; and everyone knows *The Threepenny Opera*, *Life of Galileo*, *Mother Courage*... But Brecht was extraordinarily prolific and varied in his output, and there is, perhaps shockingly, still plenty more that has never been published in English: no great plays, it is true, but hundreds of poems and several major prose and theoretical works.*

Amongst the volumes that are planned in the coming years, there is an unfinished (but still substantial) historical novel, *The Business Affairs of Mr Julius Caesar*, a collection of short prose sketches and aphorisms with a Chinese flavour, *Me-Ti*, a volume of fragmentary dramatic projects (some quite finished enough to furnish a full play), and a new *Collected Poems*. English is such an important global language, and Brecht is said to be, worldwide, the second most performed playwright after Shakespeare; besides, his work is important for many fields apart from just the theatre: modernist poetry, critical theory, film studies, cultural history.

In 2013 I was lucky enough to land a major research grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to support an international project. Specialist colleagues from around the UK, Ireland, Australia, the US and Germany are all lending a hand. As well as extending and developing the corpus of Brecht's works in English, the project proposes a parallel critical appraisal of the transmission of Brecht's writings and ideas and a historical assessment of the reception of Brecht in the English-speaking world. The aspiration is to advance our understanding of the ways in which foreign literatures in general and across the full range of genres, negotiate cultural difference.

It has been quite a whirlwind, directing such a large project. Last year saw the publication of new editions of Brecht's theoretical writings, in two companion volumes, *Brecht on Theatre* and *Brecht on Performance*, and also a teaser for the forthcoming *Collected Poems: Bertolt Brecht. Love Poems* (which I am delighted to say was shortlisted for the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation). Next year will see, as well as two further volumes of original writings, a major international conference, hosted at St Hugh's, of the International Brecht Society (end of June 2016). Alongside the academic programme there will be public cultural events. The plans include: a residency in Oxford for the director Di Trevis, who will mentor a student production of one of those unfinished dramatic projects; newly commissioned musical settings of Brecht poems, to be sung by an amazing mezzo-soprano, Lore Lixenberg; the playwrights Mark Ravenhill and Tony Kushner talking about their relationship with Brecht; film showings, a cabaret performance, an exhibition at the Bodleian, and so on.

In fact performance events and outreach activities have been a central part of the project from the beginning. As well as talking to schools and colleges and doing events at theatres in the context of productions, I and other members of the team have staged special poetry readings in Oxford, London (King's Place and Southbank), Birmingham Rep., Manchester University, and so on. The next scheduled event is at the Birmingham Literature Festival in October: a performance of poetry and other texts about Brecht's relationship with one of his long-term collaborators, Margarete Steffin, who died of TB in Moscow in 1941. Joining me for this is the Oxford poet and translator, David Constantine, who is an important contributor to the poetry side of the project.

If you are interested in the research project and all these activities, please visit the project website at <http://brecht.mml.ox.ac.uk/>.



The Google DeepMind Research Centre

by Professor Phil Blunsom, Associate Professor EPSRC, Early Career Fellow and Tutorial Fellow at St Hugh's

Professor Phil Blunsom, Associate Professor and Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science at St Hugh's, has recently become part of the Google DeepMind research centre. Prior to joining College, Professor Blunsom worked in the School of Informatics at the University of Edinburgh, which he joined after completing his PhD at the University of Melbourne. We asked Professor Blunsom to share with us how he became involved with the Google Artificial Intelligence research, and what this entails at the moment.



Last year I founded a start-up with other members of my research group with the aim of both furthering and exploiting our research on natural language understanding. Despite the early stage of our ideas, we were surprised to find many investors willing to fund our venture. In fact some wanted to go further and, after an intense period of negotiations, Google convinced us to sell up and join their DeepMind research centre in London. This decision was helped by a

generous donation from Google to fund graduate students in Oxford. The end result is that I now divide my time between managing my group of five graduate students in Oxford and a rapidly growing research group at Google DeepMind in London.

I am part of the Computational Linguistics and Machine Learning research groups in the Department of Computer Science. We build computational models of language with the dual aims of understanding and implementing natural language systems. Linguistics, Philosophy, and Computer Science have long shared common ground in their study of logical inference, but recently Computational Linguists have shifted to place more emphasis on understanding language through probabilistic inference. In this view we see language learning and production as inferring probability distributions over the meaning of utterances and their impact on the state of the world. A consequence of this practical and implementable approach to natural language processing is the proliferation of language technologies now available on the web, e.g. search engines, automatic language translation, and personal assistants.

Google DeepMind is a quasi-autonomous branch of Google that is focussed on researching and building Artificial General Intelligence. This is a very long term project made possible by the considerable resources that Google can bring to bear. As the most obvious manifestation of human intelligence, understanding language is core to work on Artificial General Intelligence. At DeepMind my group contributes our research on natural language processing to this long term goal. We are currently focussed on building algorithms that are able to read and comprehend documents such that they can answer questions and engage in short dialogues. Where we differ from previous approaches is by representing and reasoning about language in high dimensional vector spaces, rather than traditional approaches employing symbolic logics. This essentially converts language into numbers, and computers are much better at manipulating numbers than ambiguous human utterances.

For researchers in Artificial Intelligence it is currently a very exciting time, with rapid advances in the underlying technologies and wealthy companies willing to invest heavily in our research. However the biggest impediment to academic and industry research in AI in the United Kingdom is a lack of suitably qualified graduates. Much work remains to be done to inspire, and fund, students to pursue graduate research so that the UK can take a leading role in this area.

You can learn more about Google DeepMind in the following short video from Nature Publications: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNIId3qHMEQ>

The first public work from my Google DeepMind group is described in a paper we recently posted on the arXiv pre-print service: <http://arxiv.org/abs/1506.03340>



New appointment

Professor Horst Eidenmüller

Freshfields Chair for Commercial Law and Professorial Fellow at St Hugh's



I joined St Hugh's this January, coming from Germany where I held the Chair for Private Law, German, European and International Company Law at Munich University from 2003 to 2015. Prior to that, I taught at the University of Münster as a Law Professor from 1999 to

2003. Alongside my appointment at St Hugh's, I joined the Oxford Law Faculty as the Freshfields Chair for Commercial Law. I had already been affiliated with the Faculty as a Visiting Professor for Corporate Insolvency Law since 2010, and I have held other visiting positions at Cambridge (2007), Harvard (2011), NYU (2013 and 2015) and Stanford (2014). From 2008 to 2009, I was a Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin. I am a Research Associate of the European Corporate Governance Institute (since 2009) and a Member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (since 2008).

My main research areas are contract law, company and insolvency law, and alternative dispute resolution. Methodologically, I approach regulatory problems in these fields by analysing the economic effects of legal rules and scrutinising their efficiency. I also apply empirical methods to the study of commercial law issues, in particular with regard to the effects of regulatory competition. Topics that I have researched in depth include business-to-business (B2B) contracts, consumer protection tools, out-of-court and court-supervised business restructurings, European corporate and insolvency law, and negotiation management and mediation concepts. My scholarship in the latter field is informed by an extensive mediation and arbitration practice relating to (international) commercial conflicts.

In Oxford, the focus of my scholarship will shift slightly from company to commercial law, in line with the professorship that I have taken up. Further, the comparative aspect of my work will become even more important. As a result, European, international and comparative commercial law and commercial dispute resolution will figure prominently in my research projects in the years to come. That said, though, the next academic year will be devoted to finishing a book on 'European and Comparative Company, Financial Markets, and Insolvency Law' to be published by OUP. The

line between company and commercial law is, in any case, not easy to draw (the Corporate Insolvency Law course being a good example) and both disciplines benefit from an integrated perspective on the "inside" and the "outside" of a particular problem.

I feel very fortunate to have been appointed to a fellowship at St Hugh's. For one, I share a lot of common interests with my co-fellows in Law (Glen, Joshua and Mike). It is also because of the 'light touch' atmosphere of the College that, I believe, weighs less heavily on the shoulders of a newcomer, giving him or her space to breathe and, hopefully, flourish. Last but not least, the College is a very welcoming and friendly place, making everybody feel immediately at home. My wife Kathrin and our two little kids Luise and Felix are extremely grateful for the support we received from Elish, Vicki and all other fellows and staff when Felix had an accident upon his arrival in Oxford, losing almost all his front teeth (elevating him to 'warrior status', as Peter Mitchell aptly described it). One could not hope for a warmer, more empathetic and supportive reaction.

St Hugh's is also a great place for the former long-distance track runner that I was in the 1980s and the senior hobby athlete I now am, being located in the vicinity of great training routes in North Oxford (plus there is the College gym with a decent treadmill). Things look less promising with respect to mountains – I was born in the Alps and still work as a mountain guide from time to time. The Peak District and the Highlands are not quite in the backyard. So there may be a temptation to visit St. Johann in Tirol at least for a weekend to feel the rocks or smell the snow, when bouldering in Iffley or the Brookes climbing wall don't appeal too much. That should not happen often though. It is a great pleasure to be here with you!

Hearts and Minds appeal

Writer Jane Robinson has been commissioned to write a major social history, *Hearts and Minds*, to mark the centenary of Votes for Women in 2018. This book – her tenth – will be based on first-hand accounts of those involved, including tens of thousands of women (and men) who were not suffragettes but suffragists. They campaigned without violence, and in 1913 accomplished an astonishing six-week march from all points around the UK to London. Titled ladies marched with colliery girls; academics with housewives; grandfathers with schoolgirls: it was the greatest mass-demonstration the country had ever seen. Yet now, it's all but forgotten. Was anyone in your family a suffragette or a suffragist? If so, Jane would be delighted to hear from you on jane@jane-robinson.com or c/o David Higham Associates, 7th Floor, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1F 8GQ.



Tackling Ebola

by Luke Kane (Biological Sciences, 2002)

Intro



Full Circle

In the summer before my interview at St Hugh's, I was introduced to the Ebola virus in a popular science book called *Virus X: Tracking the New Killer Plagues*. I remember trying to impress Dr John Iles with my thoughts on virus evolution and virulence in the human host but somehow ended up in a less exciting, rambling monologue on the human kidney.

I've now gone full circle back to the Ebola Virus. After an exciting degree in Biological Sciences (ask me anything about Indonesian sea-urchins), and five long years at medical school, I am writing this from a tent in Sierra Leone about to start a night-shift caring for patients suffering from this overwhelming virus.

Moyamba Ebola Treatment Centre

My place of work, the Moyamba Ebola Treatment Centre, located four-hours' drive from Freetown, is a joint venture between numerous international NGOs. It is a vast white-tented complex built by The Corps of Royal Engineers and funded through DFID (Department for International Development). We live in a basecamp of tents on cleared rainforest - land donated by one of the local chiefs. I enjoy sending lots of dramatic emails home from my "small jungle tent" but actually the facilities are very comfortable with three hot meals per day and warm showers. Outrageous luxuries in a country that has been ravaged by war and poverty.

Ebola

Ebola is a rare, viral haemorrhagic fever. Discovered in 1976, it causes sporadic outbreaks across Central and Eastern Africa but these are usually limited in scale. The current outbreak is of unprecedented size. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have borne the brunt of case numbers; needless to say, health infrastructure in this region is severely lacking and the international response very late in terms of mobilisation.

One of the many cruel facts about Ebola is that health workers are one of the first groups to be exposed which then further weakens efforts to treat and contain the virus. All of the Sierra Leonean staff in the centre know colleagues that died of Ebola. They also work, tirelessly, with the knowledge that if they are infected they will stay in Sierra Leone whilst expatriate staff would be evacuated to Europe. I am not one for hyperbole, but the stories you hear about their family, friends and co-workers are horrific and devastating; I can't begin to fathom how they continue to work and care for patients with Ebola when they have seen what the virus is capable of.

Dr Luke Kane and Ms Esther Moody – "I am about to enter the 'Red Zone' for a ward round up."



The Patients

Sadly, we often see family groups coming to the centre together. Often someone arrives alone, then the rest of their sick family follow. Traditional burial practices, incredibly important in West Africa, prove to be a highly efficient mode for Ebola to spread. Often we have several family members all in one ward. Sometimes, only one survives having watched everyone else pass away.

There is no specific treatment for Ebola. What we do is give fluids intravenously, start aggressive antibiotic treatment of superimposed bacterial infections and treat malaria. Ebola is painful and distressing; painkillers and muscle relaxants can help, as can simple interventions like wiping the blood out of someone's mouth and holding their hand in their last few hours.

Dr Luke Kane and nursing colleagues.

People do survive Ebola. Today I am starting my shift with a young medical student who is working as a nurse whilst his degree is on an Ebola-hiatus. He was left for dead on an Ebola ward; his viral load was very high and he had numerous haemorrhagic symptoms - both poor prognostic signs. He survived; but many in his family did not.

My Colleagues

Despite the personal horrors experienced by the patients on the ward right now, I am looking forward to my shift. I work with an exhilarating group of Sierra Leonean nurses, clinical officers and hygiene specialists. Every single shift, I am inspired by their compassion, humility and joie de vivre despite the apocalyptic turmoil of the past year.

One of the nurses told me yesterday that she had started the formal adoption process of two 'Ebola orphans' whose mother we admitted a few weeks ago. I am humbled by my colleagues. To add to the demands of their work, many are stigmatised by their families and villages. In defiance of this, they are passionate and optimistic about the future of Sierra Leone. My copy of the Oxford Clinical Handbook of Tropical Medicine has been devoured by the nurses; they are desperate for knowledge and are hoping to be part of the post-Ebola reconstruction of Sierra Leone's health system.

How to Help

If you would like to donate a new or second-hand copy of 'Where There is No Doctor: A Village Health Care Handbook for Africa' or any other medical textbook then please email me at lukejpokane@gmail.com. I am organising a shipment to Moyamba, Sierra Leone, where they will be distributed to my inspirational colleagues.

A recent breakthrough came to light in the results of a trial investigating the effects of an Ebola vaccine in Guinea during this outbreak. The vaccine was 100% effective when administered immediately after contact with an infected person, and gives renewed hope in the fight against Ebola.



At Least We Lived

by Emma Oxford (Modern Languages, 1970)

Published by Branksome Books www.atleastwelived.com

I was the first in my family to attend university when I went up to St Hugh's in 1970 to read Modern Languages. (I still remember the green herringbone tweed midi-skirt that I wore the day my father proudly deposited me and my trunk – I had made the skirt myself, a money-saving habit that I kept up throughout my student days). I didn't know it then, but it strikes me now that I am a member of a transitional generation of women who made it to university: very few of our mothers had attended college or pursued a career after marriage; at Oxford in the early 1970s only one out of every five undergraduates was female. But in 1974, the year that I graduated, the first five men's colleges opened their gates to women and the ratios began to change dramatically.



A generation later, my two daughters have collected their degrees from top American colleges where female students are in a clear majority. But each generation faces its own challenges.

I realised that when I began to research *At Least We Lived*, the story of World War II China and my parents' wartime romance there. Working on the book I discovered how my mother, Audrey Watson,

who was born nearly a century ago, had overcome the limitations on women of her generation. The lack of a college education never prevented her from being an intrepid traveller, a fine writer, an avid reader and an astute observer of society.

I've had broader opportunities in the transitional generation, but of course many challenges – of which writing a book has been one of the most exhilarating. After Oxford I went into public service on the fast track of the British civil service, where I soon reached a level that was only 9% female. I had married my Oxford boyfriend, Mike Elliott, a Worcester College lawyer, and in 1986 we both had the chance to work in America. Eventually the US became our home. My career swerved off the fast track as we raised our two daughters and moved around with Mike's work. Despite the obvious frustrations, I have enjoyed stitching together a life of interesting part-time jobs with family and travel. When our daughters were in their teens we had a shot at an adventure on the other side of the world: a posting to Hong Kong. Although I had studied European languages at St. Hugh's, Asia is the continent of my earliest memories – I grew up in Malaysia – and the former British colony of Hong Kong has special significance for my family.

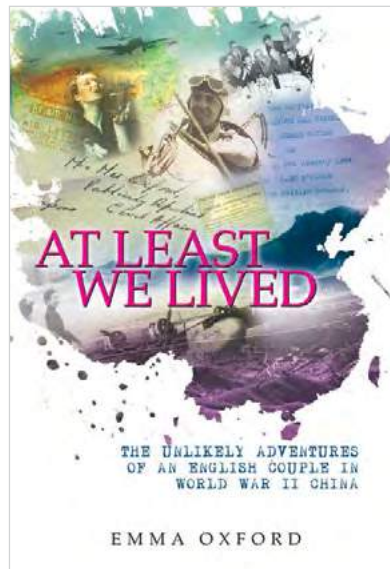
My father, Max Oxford, a pilot and wartime intelligence officer in the RAF, had settled there before the outbreak of World War II. When Japan attacked the colony in December 1941 (on the same fateful day as Pearl Harbor) Max was caught up in the battle, and narrowly escaped with his life when the British surrendered Hong Kong to the Japanese on Christmas Day. After my father made a hair-raising escape into China, he served in the war capital, Chongqing. It was in that remote Sichuan city high up the Yangtze River that he met my mother, Audrey Watson, a spirited young redhead with experience in Churchill's secret service, the SOE, who had travelled from England at the height of the war to work for a senior British diplomat. Max and Audrey first laid eyes on each other at a tea party given by China's first lady, Mme. Chiang Kai-shek, in late 1943. Barely six weeks later Max proposed, and my parents married in a simple but joyful

ceremony where a cosmopolitan crowd of diplomats, journalists and spies caused 'the death of another lot of champagne', as the wife of the British Ambassador commented ruefully.

When my parents were still alive, they would occasionally talk about their early lives, but I knew none of the details at the time I moved to Hong Kong. Now I was in the right place at the right time to explore the past. I unearthed a treasure trove of letters and journals that had survived the war and my parents' peregrinations around the world, and these are at the heart of the book. Soon after the conflict was over Max brought his new wife back to Hong Kong, where

they lived for six halcyon years. As a colonial wife (Max was Deputy Director of Civil Aviation), Audrey (like millions of other women who had done vital jobs in the war years) gave up paid work to concentrate on being 'a good wife'. She herself saw this as her most important job, though she also privately questioned whether being an 'adjunct' to her husband was enough.

In *At Least We Lived* I've tried to evoke that distant time of my parents – a world of receiving urgent news by telegram and the merely important by letter; a world of taking six-month long 'home leaves'; a world of dressing for dinner even when eating at home alone. The pace of our lives is so different, yet the human emotions that Max and Audrey's writing reveals are timeless: the heartbreak of loss, the search for identity and security in an uncertain world, and above all, the importance of love and friendship. I hope that their experiences are a guide of sorts for their granddaughters' generation in navigating today's complex world.



Head of Music Partnerships, Songkick

by Adam McIsaac (MBA, 2011)

Songkick, which is a London-based concert listings service, has been in the process of merging with artist-led ticketing site Crowdsurge. The aim of this merger has been to allow musicians more control over their live music sales. Adam spoke to us about his role at Songkick, which has a community of around 10 million users.



What does your job entail?

As the Head of Music Partnerships, I'm charged with the task of growing Songkick's ticketing business to help make it easier for music fans to discover and attend the shows they love.

I am also responsible for building and maintaining relationships with various stakeholders across the live music industry including international promoters, such as AEG/Goldenvoice and Live Nation, or managers and booking agents who represent some of the world's biggest superstars.

What is the most satisfying part of your job?

The most satisfying part of my job is working directly with Songkick's incredible product managers, developers and designers to ensure our products and services are constantly improving to make people's lives better. We're all passionate music fans at Songkick so we know how important it is to get tickets to your favourite artists' show - be it in London, Los Angeles or Tokyo.

Furthermore, I get to go to a lot of concerts so it's pretty rewarding to watch an artist perform when we know we've helped them connect with their fans!

How has St Hugh's helped you in your career?

I was fortunate to learn from my many classmates and college mates about their home countries and how doing business can differ slightly from one country to another. This international exposure has helped me take a global perspective with our business and has pushed me to learn more about the live music industry across the globe.

Do you have any memories of College you would like to share?

I remember travelling from St Hugh's down to the Jericho Tavern to see some live music. Closer to home, I fondly recall getting into trouble at the College balls and bops, and playing basketball on the St Hugh's courts on a nice spring day.

Awards



Henry Chan receiving his Elizabeth Wordsworth Fellowship at St Hugh's.

On 26 May Mr Henry Chan, accompanied by his wife Mrs Joanna Chan, received the Elizabeth Wordsworth Fellowship presented by the Principal at a ceremony attended by Fellows, staff and Friends. The award was made in recognition of his outstanding support for the China Centre, naming the China Centre library after his late father, Mr KB Chen.

In the Queen's New Year Honours, David Verrey CBE, who is an Honorary Fellow of St Hugh's, was knighted for services to arts and philanthropy as chair of the Art Fund.

On 12 June our alumna, Judith Portrait, was awarded an OBE for charitable services in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Judith (Classics, 1965) is a City solicitor specialising in charity law and practice. She was for many years a partner of a large law firm, and in 1995 founded Portrait Solicitors. She is a trustee of many of the Sainsbury Family charities including the Gatsby Charitable Foundation trust.



At a ceremony on 20 June, the University recognised the work of Ms Irene and Mr Victor Chu and Mr Trevor and Mrs Dominica Yang by inviting them to become Distinguished Friends of Oxford in a ceremony conducted by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamilton. Although Mr Chu was unable to attend, the audience heard how the voluntary work of the nominees had made a significant difference to the success of the China Centre campaign and St Hugh's.



Looking ahead, in September Mr Vincent and Mrs Cecilia Cheng, who are also important donors to the China Centre through the Verdant Foundation, will be admitted to the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors.

This is one of the highest honours the University can award and we hope it will be a day that Mr and Mrs Cheng remember for years to come; it will be a proud day for St Hugh's. The donation from the Verdant Foundation named the lecture theatre after Mr Cheng's father and, importantly, marked the completion of the capital campaign for the building. As a further recognition of the importance of their support and our warm relationship, Mrs Cecilia Cheng is to become an Elizabeth Wordsworth Fellow, joining Mr Cheng who was made a Wordsworth Fellow in May 2014.



News

1940

Mrs Ruth Bidgood (nee Jones, English)

Ruth writes: 'I continue to write poems and local history. My son Martin and I have recently collaborated on a piece of research which is shortly to appear as an article in *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary*. A new collection of poems has been accepted by Cinnamon Press (North Wales) for publication next year.'

1954

Mrs Jennifer Wiggins (nee Pulley, Zoology)

Jennifer writes: 'I continue to live on Long Island, New York with Colin. After 27 years as a docent, I am now a Trustee on the Board of the Planting Fields Foundation which preserves and interprets the Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay, New York.'

1960

Dr Gillian Sutherland (nee Thomas, Modern History)

Gillian writes: 'Cambridge University Press is due to publish my book, *In Search of the New Woman: Middle Class Women and Work in Britain 1870-1914* in Feb/March 2015. Some of the material used comes from St Hugh's Archives.'

1968

Mrs Julia Boyd (nee Seiber, Modern History)



Julia writes: 'Cambridge Szeged Society ran its annual programme of concerts and after 3 years, achieved a choral tour from Cambridge to Hungary – with more to follow; possibly Nature Tours, too. The return visit by Szeged children's folk musicians happens this March. The Mentis Maskent Trio



made their annual visit – and will be back in late June to delight the Folk Club and other venues.



The Hungarian Embroidery Exhibition (from my collection) ran at the Museum of Cambridge throughout October. 2014 saw 2 Hungarian

visits, one to a Freiburg concert; 2015 will see Swiss and maybe Austrian too.'

1970

Mrs Jane Howard Griffiths (nee Howard, English)

Jane writes: 'In July, we gained a new granddaughter, Grace Elizabeth Mazarine Halsey. "Grandpa" David Griffiths was at St John's 1970-74. Parents Susanna and Jim met in Oxford and were married at the Cotswold Lodge, Banbury Rd. I am still doing supply work for Retirement Security Ltd, and took part in a promotional film in June for the charity Self Management UK. On a sadder note, many will have been shocked and saddened by the passing of June Bruton (English, 1969). Visited several art exhibitions with her, and her grasp of the subject – plus many other areas of knowledge – was phenomenal.'

1973

Ms Alyson Leslie (English)

Alison writes: 'Most of my 2014 was spent on the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry, looking at decades of historical abuse. The 1,200 mile weekly commute continues into 2015. In the past year I have also reviewed two gang-related fatalities in north London and am still working part-time at University of Dundee where my team has just won the 2015 Stephen Fry

Award for our work on a process for identifying preventable factors in all child deaths in a population.'

1976

Reverend Jacqueline Embrey (nee Robb, Mathematics)

Jackie writes: 'On 1 September, 2015, I took up the post of Moderator of the United Reformed Church's Mersey Synod, which covers our churches in Merseyside, the Wirral, Cheshire and West Lancashire. My husband and I have moved to Liverpool and we're enjoying exploring a new area.'

1978

Mrs Elizabeth Ann Saunders (nee Harrison, Geography)

Ann writes: 'I am engaged in a fascinating role as HR Director for Crown Agents (International Development) alongside voluntary role as Trustee for MAF International, an NGO which supports a range of NGOs and missions in accessing places which are very isolated – so all emerging economies. Celebrated 30 years of marriage to Tim (St Edmund Hall, Geography), a church minister; this year at St Hugh's, where we had our wedding reception too. Two of our daughters went through Oxford and the third is enjoying her time at the LSE – two geographers and a medic.'

1979

Professor Joanne Conaghan (Law)

Joanne writes: 'In August 2013, I left the University of Kent where I had worked for many years to assume a position at the University of Bristol. In August 2014, I became Head of the Law School there. In addition, in late 2013, I published a monograph on Law and Gender as part of the prestigious OUP Clarendon Law series while in October 2014, I finished serving my term as Deputy-Chair of the Law sub-panel for REF2014.'

1985

Dr Annie Southern (nee Goslyn, English)

Annie writes: 'I have just had published my book *Careering Teens: Guiding Teenagers' Career Development* (2014).'

1986

Reverend Joanna Baxter Fielding (nee Baxter, Theology)

Joanna writes: 'I have been living in New Zealand for the last 10 years where I am currently priest in charge of 3 congregations on the Otago Peninsula. I had a break from parish work last year, returning to Oxford from April – September 2014, with husband David's sabbatical. I am looking forward to meeting up with old friends, and hope for some opportunities to extend chaplaincy skills in new contexts, and do lots of bass and treble viol playing. If you would like to meet up, please contact me at joanna.fielding@hotmail.com.'

1987

Mr Andrew Webb (Zoology)

Andrew writes: 'I am now Chief Commercial Officer at Countrywide Farms in Evesham, after 25 years finally putting my Zoology degree to some use.'

1990

Mrs Naomi Askins (PPE)

Naomi writes: 'I got married in August 2013 to Andy Horney, a landscape gardener. The wedding took place at

St Gregory's Catholic Church in South Shields, followed by a reception in my parents' garden in Cleadon Village. We live in Edinburgh, where I am director of a digital and design agency called Hookson.

Here is a photograph from my wedding. This is me shown with two fellow St Hugh's alumni – Sam Varriale (nee Fildes) and Andrea McCartney. We all matriculated in 1990 – me in PPE and the others in English.'

Mr Harris Irfan (Physics)

Harris writes: 'In 2014, I published a book called *Heaven's Bankers: Inside the Hidden World of Islamic Finance*. It was published by Constable & Robinson/Little Brown in the UK and rest of the world, except the US and Canada where it was published by Overlook. The book has received critical acclaim in the Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, the Literary Review, The Independent, The Telegraph, The Islamic Globe and The Huffington Post. I have also spoken about the book and its themes on Radio 4 (Start the Week), Radio 5 Live (Richard Bacon), BBC Asian Network, World Finance, Sky News (Murnaghan), CNN and BBC World Service. On 18 February 2015, I spoke at the Oxford Union on the subject "Our Banking System is Broken".'

1991

Mr Jean-Benoit Louveaux (Mathematics & Philosophy)

Jean-Benoit writes: 'Together with my Australian wife Diane Maller, we are very pleased to announce the birth of our twin son and daughter, William Xavier Louveaux and Aurelia Eve Louveaux, born on 26th August, 2014.

We were married in Australia in January 2012 and currently live in London. We both work as lawyers, which makes for some interesting arguments! Since graduating from Oxford in Mathematics and Philosophy, I converted to Law, qualified as a Barrister and have been specialising in Asylum Law since 2005. We plan to relocate to Australia in the near future.'

1992

Mr Gavin Llewellyn (Law)

Gavin writes: 'I was appointed President of the Intellectual Property Commission of the Union Internationale des Avocats (International Association of Lawyers) at the UIA's Annual Congress in Florence, Italy in November 2014. I am a senior associate in Stone King LLP's corporate and commercial team specialising in intellectual property. I speak regularly on IP law at UIA conferences which promotes professional excellence among the world's lawyers. The UIA comprises over 2,000 lawyers from more than 110 countries. The IP Commission arranges seminars at the Annual Congress and during the year, sometimes in conjunction with other Commissions with an interest in IP.'

1996

Mrs Rosanne Walker (nee Allen, Educational Studies)

Rosie writes: 'Samuel James Charles Walker was born on August 23rd to Dr John Walker and Mrs Rosanne Walker (née Allen) and baptised in St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst.'

1998

Dr Elizabeth Wharton (Mathematics)

Elizabeth writes: 'I have a daughter, Elsie Juniper Rose, born on the 1st September 2014.'

2000

Mr Julian Aldridge (Earth Sciences)



Julian writes: 'My daughter is Emily May Aldridge, born on the 12th February 2014, weighing 7lb 1 oz.

My wife is Lyndsay Aldridge.'

Dr Wojciech Jajdelski (Polish Studies)

Wojciech writes: 'I was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates (Scottish Bar) on 11 July 2014.'

Mrs Louise Jones (nee Clemenson, English)

Louise writes: 'I married Capt. Gareth Jones on 22nd February 2014, in South Cerney, Gloucestershire. We welcomed our first baby, Charlotte Ellen Jones, on 27th January 2015.'

2001

The Honourable James True (Classics)

James writes: 'Illustrious alumni Heba Ayoub (2001) and James True (2000) were married in the Southwark Registry Office in Camberwell, South London on 25th October 2014, much to the delight of all present. They were joined on honeymoon in Egypt by both sets of parents, before celebrating again with a party on an island on the Nile.'

2002

Mrs Sarah Spikings (nee Dixon, Mathematics)



Sarah writes: 'I married Andrew Spikings on Boumemouth beach on 14th June 2014. Among the bridesmaids were Katie Grayling

(Mathematics, 2002) and Charlotte Jupp (Mathematics, 2002). Several other St Hugh's alumni were among the guests enjoying ice cream in the sunshine.'

2003

Mrs Rebecca Risbridger (nee Ramsbottom, English)



Rebecca writes: 'I married Ben Risbridger on 9 September 2014. We had a wonderful wedding day and it was followed

by a honeymoon in the beautiful Italian Lakes. We are now living in Farnborough, Hampshire. I am working as a librarian in the House of Lords. Ben works as a principal engineer for Alexander Dennis in Guildford. I can still be contacted at becca_ramsbottom@hotmail.com.'

2004

Mrs Katherine Brownstein (nee Bennett, Law)



Katherine writes: 'Leo and I would like to announce the birth of a baby girl, Nava Yael, born on 22 November 2014, a sister for Amelie and Coby.'

2005

Miss Delyth Jewell (English)



Delyth writes: 'I was awarded 'Overall Researcher of the Year 2014' in the Parliamentary Researcher of the Year Awards. I was also awarded 'Cross-bench and Other Parties' Researcher of the Year 2014' and attach a photo of the awards ceremony, which took place in March 2014 in the Speaker's House (House of Commons). I am currently Head of Research for Plaid Cymru in Westminster.'

Dr Jason Sarfo-Annin (Medicine)

Jason writes: 'I will be marrying Sarah Clarke (Matriculated at St. Hugh's in 2007) on the 26th of September 2015. I have been awarded the Fulbright – Nursten Postgraduate Award in Medical Studies by the US-UK Fulbright Commission for 2015-16. I will be studying a Master of Public Health Degree at Harvard University. (<http://www.fulbright.org.uk/fulbright-awards/exchanges-to-the-usa/postgraduates/nursten-postgraduate-award-in-medical-studies>)'

2006

Miss Charlie Maydon (Law)

Charlie writes: 'I am now a solicitor in the Private Client department at Macfarlanes LLP and I am engaged to be married in the summer.'

2008

Mr Rakesh Kariholoo (MBA)



Rakesh writes: 'North Delta College is an e-learning campus dedicated to higher Mathematics. I started the project in November 2014, and our concept aims at using the best of Internet Technology to support English-speaking students worldwide by providing affordable, down to earth and thought provoking lessons. Our goal is to facilitate the transition between College and University as, as teachers we noticed the main learning obstacles are at that level. We invite everyone to visit the website at: www.northdeltacollege.com and leave us some feedback. Those who want to join in this new venture are most welcome.'

2009

Miss Zhana Gamova (MBA)

Zhana writes: 'My son Alexander was born on 2nd December 2013.'

2010

Mr Matthew Bailie (Archaeology and Anthropology)

Matthew writes: 'My wife (Helena Baillie, nee James) and I got married on Saturday 16th August 2014.

Also, we welcomed our third child, Joseph Ewart Baillie, on Sunday 31st August 2014, and he weighed in at 8lb 11oz.'

Mr Edmund Owen (Archaeology and Anthropology)

Edmund writes: 'In September 2013, after travelling around France, I went to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to start my Officer training course. Commissioning on 8th August 2014, I invited several good friends from St Hugh's to our Commissioning Ball (Gemma Robson – Archaeology and Anthropology, Joe Severs – Medicine).

I was offered a commission into the Queen's Dragoon Guards and spent some time with them in Germany and Cyprus before moving back to the UK to start my phase 2 training.

I look back on my days at St Hugh's very fondly and hope to attend the May Ball. I am also especially happy as my younger brother Thomas Owen has just been offered a place to read Archaeology and Anthropology at St Hugh's!'

Mrs Holly Burton Wilkinson (nee Burton, History)

Holly writes: 'I married Mr Ryan Wilkinson (Astrophysics MPhys, University of Liverpool, 2010-2014) at St Paul's Methodist Church, Basildon, Essex on Sunday 10th August 2014. We were very blessed to share our special day with so many family and friends, especially our good friends from St Hugh's.'

2011

Dato' Chung Han Lee (Executive MBA)

Chung Han writes: 'I married Png Tze Hua on 12th October 2013. In August

2014, I was bestowed with the "Most Distinguished Order of the Crown of Pahang – Knight Commander Award in conjunction with His Royal Highness, the Sultan of Pahang's 83rd birthday. The award comes with the Dato' title and recognises my efforts and contributions to the Malaysian's economy and to the Pahang State with his mining activities.'

2013

Mr Christopher Allen Wills (Financial Strategy)

Christopher writes: 'I have begun work on a part time PhD at Warwick Business School (WBS) researching the European Airline Industry transformation to a world becoming less reliant on fossil fuels. I have previously worked at British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and now Swiss International Air Lines (Lufthansa Group).

In association with the International Business Strategy, Sustainable Business and Global Energy Groups at WBS, I would welcome any collaboration from former Oxford colleagues who might be able to contribute with specialist knowledge.

I can be contacted here: christopher.wills@swiss.com.'

Please contact us if you would like to share your news for the next magazine. Details of how to get in touch are on the back cover of this magazine.



The May Ball

Matty Shaw's (Modern Languages, 2013) work as Ball President for the 2015 St Hugh's Ball culminated on Saturday 9th May, in a hugely successful event attended by students, staff and alumni. Before the Ball got into its stride, 110 of our younger alumni gathered in the courtyard of the China Centre. They were greeted by the Principal and her guests before they launched themselves into the festivities. A second year undergraduate reading French, Matty talks to us about his experience of organising the St Hugh's Ball.



What made you decide to run for the position of Ball President?

I would very much like to start a career in events when I graduate. In spite of having a background in theatre, this was my first big event. I went to several Oxford balls in my first year, and wanted a chance to try my hand at creating something special.

What was the best part of being Ball President, and which aspects did you find more challenging?

It probably sounds quite cliché, but the best bits were definitely on the night. It can seem like quite a thankless task until the moment itself but seeing St Hugh's lit up made the 10 months of hard work entirely worth it! I thoroughly enjoyed working with my committee and the contractors. At points, I found being in charge of people difficult as I felt like a bit of a tyrant!

Tell me about your vision for the St Hugh's Ball, and the main theme?

We established the theme quite early on, at the end of Trinity Term 2014. From having been to other balls, I knew I didn't want to do something along the same lines of focussing on a particular culture or country. However, the thing which instantly springs to everyone's minds when they think about St Hugh's is that it has the most beautiful grounds. This is how 'The Enchanted Forest' theme came to life, which I especially supported. While the St Hugh's Ball is not one of the more expensive, I wanted it to be thought through in the details, running throughout the entire site.

What were some of the highlights of the evening for those who attended the Ball?

Everyone agreed that we had some fantastic fireworks! Certainly walking through the front gates was an experience, seeing the flame throwers. We paid a lot of attention to details throughout so that the initial vision could shine through. The hidden pathway to the dodgems and the hammocks were some things that people mentioned as being especially popular. The music stages were another



highlight. The Correspondents, who have previously played at Glastonbury and Bestival were our main act. We had Karma Kid and Switch in the DJ tent, as well as a new up-and-coming Indie band called Amber Run, and several university bands and groups.

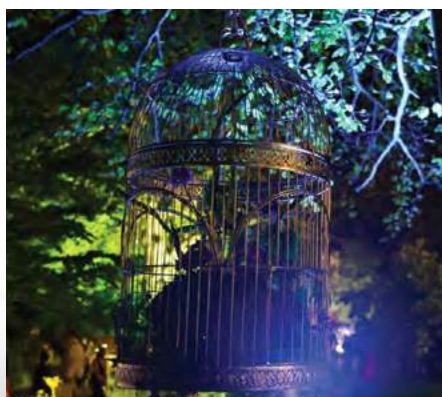
What advice would you give to future Ball Presidents?

Be very organised! Nothing can ever be done too early, because at least then you won't have a moment of real panic. You will need to remember that lots of things need to be transported into the gardens, so a detailed timetable of everything arriving and being taken into College will help. I will certainly be making a donation to the Garden Fund from the Ball Fund very soon! Every meeting you have will bring some bad news, but on the bright side, this will mean you really thrive off the good news, like discounts. More than anything, enjoy it!

The Ball in Numbers

- Open until 4.30am
- £1 from the sale of the each ticket was donated to Oxford Homeless Pathways
- 1,700 guests, out of whom 110 were alumni
- 300 members of staff
- 300 bottles of Prosecco
- 50 litres of vodka
- 10,000 portions of food
- 40,000 plastic cups
- 30 attempted fence jumpers
- Hours of meetings with the Estates Department: more than expected!

Date of next St Hugh's Ball: May 2017



© Keith Barnes

Above: Elizabeth Wordsworth Fellow, William Louey, with Jackie Lambert (née Moon, PPE, 1978), Honorary Fellow of St Hugh's.



© Keith Barnes



St Hugh's Events 2014-2015

by Kate Pritchard, Head of Communications and Marketing

It has been a busy year for our Principal, Development Office, and all our staff involved in planning and delivering our alumni events programme. Whether hosted in College, in the UK or further afield, these events play an important role in ensuring our alumni continue to feel part of the St Hugh's community.

Alumni and guests at Yishu 8, Beijing in December 2014.



December saw the Principal and Director of Development spend time in Beijing and Hong Kong meeting alumni, guests and Friends of College. In Hong Kong, the Principal hosted a drinks reception with the Acting British Consul General to Hong Kong, Mrs Karen Bell in the official Residence of the British Consulate-General. In Beijing, alumni and their guests were hosted by the Principal at Yishu 8 house in the Former Sino-French University building near to the Forbidden City, in the heart Beijing.

On their return they hosted a community event in the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building as a thank you to our neighbours for their patience during the construction of the building. Many of these guests were overwhelmed at the opportunity to 'peek beyond the St Hugh's wall' and we hope the event will help to strengthen the relationship with our local community.

Alumni, current students and parents sharing a St Hugh's Burns Night Supper in January.



In January we welcomed the Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP as our guest speaker for our alumni Burns Night Supper. After a Formal Hall dinner and speeches, our guests joined in with a lively ceilidh in Mordan Hall. Booking is now open for Burns Night Supper 2016 on Saturday 30 January 2016.

A celebration of Chinese New Year in February brought together alumni, students, fellows, and China Centre academics and staff, in the China Centre Building's Wordsworth Tea Room, to enjoy a Chinese orchestra, excellent Chinese food and even try their hand at lion dancing! This was also the month the Principal hosted a lunch for alumni in Edinburgh and the Development

team organised a special private view of the William Blake exhibition: 'Apprentice and Master' at the Ashmolean Museum.

In March we said thank you to the individuals who have helped support St Hugh's at our annual Donors' Dinner. A few days later, St Hugh's welcomed The Hon Andrew Kwok Nang Li CBE, GBM, JP, QC, former Chief Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, to deliver the biennial Dr Mok Hing Yiu Lecture.

The Dr Mok Hing Yiu Lecture is held to advance academic thinking and discussion, and to honour the Mok family who have kindly donated to support the lecture series and the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building. Our distinguished speaker, Principal and Fellows were joined by the Chancellor, the RT Hon Lord Patten of Barnes CH, and Mr Christopher and Mr Edwin Mok and their families. Guests joined College's Formal Hall Dinner after the lecture.

The 2012 Dr Mok Hing Yiu Lecture on 'Hong Kong's Destiny: China's Metropolis, Asia's World City' was given by Mr Stephen Lam, OBE, GBM, GBS, JP who was Former Chief Secretary of the Hong Kong Government.

As part of the University of Oxford Meeting Minds, Alumni Weekend in Europe during April, St Hugh's hosted a dinner in the music room of the oldest inn in Vienna. We were pleased to welcome our alumni from across Europe to Vienna, hosting the largest group in the restaurant.

During June, the Principal hosted a lunch with alumni in Abode restaurant, Exeter followed by a speech at the Oxford Society Devon branch. June also saw us bid a sad farewell to our finalists at a Leavers' Celebration Brunch, but we hope to see them at future alumni events!



The Hon Andrew Kwok Nang Li CBE, GBM, JP, QC, former Chief Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, at the Mok lecture in March.

Our fascinating academic lectures over the past few months have included:

- Professor Rhodri Lewis: 'Hamlet and Hunting'
- Dr Michael Subialka: 'Suffering Beauty, on Stage and Screen'
- Dr Nicholas Perkins: 'The Very Material Voice of Late-Medieval Love Lyrics'
- Dr Collin Raymond: 'Economics and Happiness'

Alumni and students taking part in the Lion Dancing workshop at our Chinese New Year event in February.
© Anna Bellettato.



Top right: Alumni enjoying the drinks reception in the SCR at the Donors' Dinner in March

Middle right: Dame Elish enjoying good conversation at the Donors' Dinner.

Below: Student musicians playing beautiful music for our donors.

We love offering the opportunity to showcase our academic talent to our community of alumni, Fellows and students and the new series of academic lectures for 2015/2016 will be publicised in September 2015 on our website.

For more details on our upcoming events: the Gaudy, the Jubilee Lunch, Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Literary Festival, a regional event in UAE, our Academic Lecture Series, please see our website: www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/news-events/events/

We hope to see you at one of our events very soon.



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Myanmar

by Scott Schubert (MBA, 2013)

Myanmar, officially the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is an enormous country, about the size of Germany and France combined. In addition to its sheer size, it has a rich and significant history, and an abundance of a variety of natural resources. Most importantly, the people possess the warm and gentle nature characteristic of South-East Asian hospitality. In fact, numerous hotels and guest houses claim to be able to provide you a "warmly welcome".



Fresh fruit and juice in Yangon.

Until the last few years, this amazing country has been largely shut off from the rest of the world. However, this isolation, relative to the length of its history, was only a blip. Actually, Myanmar was part of the international system. For example, the Burmah oil company, a Scottish-owned enterprise (that became part of what is now BP) was very active in the production and export of oil in the late 19th and early 20th century. Also, due to its location, situated between China and India, for centuries it has been sought after as a linkage between these two countries. Geopolitical policies of this nature endure today (I recommend Thant Myint-U's book *Where China Meets India* for an excellent account on this topic).

As the country is so large, I will focus on my experience in Yangon in these brief remarks.

During the descent to Yangon International Airport, the vegetation is similar to that of other South-East Asian countries such as Thailand and Indonesia. The smack of humidity is also of a similar intensity. The airport is very representative of Myanmar's recent opening. The terminal building is modern and is undergoing continual expansion. Then in the terminal building, there are copious amounts of foreign brands claiming to welcome all the visitors to Myanmar and stressing they are 'open for business'.

The volume of traffic and the associated traffic jams are a manifestation of the country's rapid economic expansion. The taxi drivers, at high speed weave and negotiate any small advantage they can spot whilst communicating with each other in what seems like a crude Morse code with their

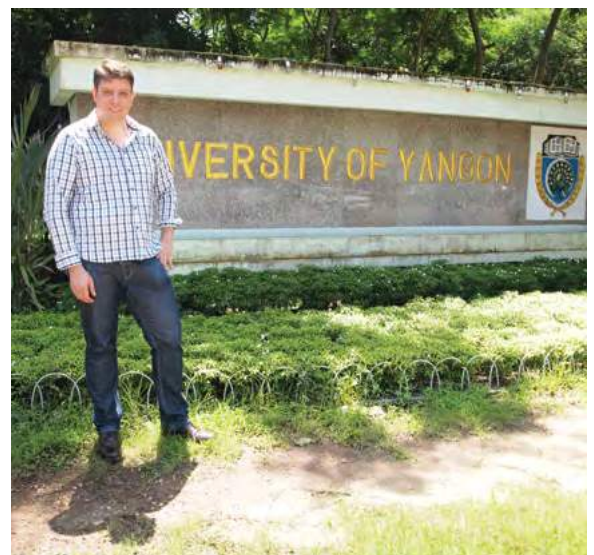


Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.

car horns. Compared to other neighbouring countries, there are very few motorbikes/scooters.

The city skyline is dominated by the Shwedagon Pagoda, with its massive golden stupa and 76 carat diamond crowning it off gloriously. This pagoda, not only due to its enormity, is particularly important as it is said to house strands of the Buddha's hair brought back by merchants to Myanmar after encountering the Buddha in India.

Golden pagodas continue to dominate the city, with the Sule Pagoda in the downtown area, another golden pagoda situated in the middle of a roundabout in front of the independence monument. Although the footpaths, with their numerous large holes exposing the drains below, can be precarious, walking around the city centre is the best way



to gain appreciation of it. The local tea shops are a hive of activity. They are simple, with plastic stools and low tables, but this is where current affairs are discussed and business is done. The brokers wear a bag slung over their shoulder and are eager to trade. The traditional dress, the longyi, is still the favoured clothing for men and women. It is also very common for women to wear thanaka paste on each cheek, a type of traditional cosmetic. Against this back drop of tradition, foreign influences are creeping in and being welcomed. KFC recently opened its first outlet and there were queues up to two hours in the initial period.

The footpaths are lined with hawkers selling everything from fruit to sim cards, clothes and second hand books. As you walk by the residential buildings, you will notice ropes hanging down with clips on the end. As none of the buildings have elevators, this is an innovative method for deliveries to be made to rooms in the higher floors. The rope has a bell

connected to it in the room and when a delivery has arrived, the roped is tugged on, ringing the bell alerting the occupants of the delivery. This is then hoisted up and money sent back down on the return journey.

I have found it very safe to walk around the streets, however the restrictions are still felt. For example, on a recent trip, I wanted to take a picture of the Australian Embassy (I am Australian) but I was stopped by security. I am told that year by year regulations are lessening these restrictions, but it is still a reminder of the limitations of freedom that I would otherwise take for granted.

There is so much more to be said about this amazing country and as foreign visitors are gradually permitted to visit more and more places previously out of bounds, we will have the chance to explore further. Myanmar is a must visit and it has the potential to play a significant role in the changing balance of international power.

The reclining buddha in downtown Yangon. The feet contain 108 distinctive symbols.

© All photographs © Scott Schubert





University of Yangon English Language Summer School

This year, led by St Hugh's, we built on the success of the inaugural Aung San Suu Kyi Summer School, which took place in Summer 2013 and saw six pupils from Burma, accompanied by their teacher, come to College for two weeks of intensive English language tuition. Ten undergraduate and graduate students from several colleges travelled to Burma for a month in July 2014, to teach English at the University of Yangon.



The University of Yangon was previously the largest higher education institution in Burma, and used to be referred to as 'Asia's University of Oxford'. However, during the military rule, it was shut down and only accepted post-graduate students. 2014 was the first year when new undergraduate students were once again accepted at the University of Yangon. Much like the University of Mandalay, Burma's other largest university, Yangon, accepts only students who attain the top marks in the matriculation examination and it is a real pride for Burmese students to study at either of these institutions. However, unlike the educational system in the UK, Burmese undergraduates are much younger – they start their first year aged 16 or 17, as there are no A-Levels in Burma.

For 2015, the programme, funded by Ooredoo, has been expanded, with eleven students travelling to Burma for eight weeks during July and August. One of the students who travelled to the University of Yangon in 2014, Thiri (Grace) Wai, is an undergraduate from St Hugh's, reading Engineering in her third year. Grace's contribution as the Teaching Assistant for the programme was invaluable to the

project's success, and she was very happy to tell us more about this exciting initiative.

Tell me a bit about yourself. How did you end up studying at St Hugh's?

I grew up in Mandalay, where I went to an international school and studied for my iGCSEs. After this, I went to a school in central London – leaving home when I was 15. It was an interesting time as I pursued my dream of coming to Oxford.

Do you know of many other Burmese students in Oxford?

There is no one else that I know personally, although I've been told that there is another undergraduate studying English at Oxford, and I know there have been a few graduate students previously.

What was your role in the 2014 Burma English Language Summer School project?

I was the only native Burmese speaker there, so working as the Teaching Assistant often involved helping the student tutors and solving any problems that came up. One of them lost their wallet, while another got their passport wet and I was on hand to help out and make sure they were ok.

Tell me about the project, how did it look while you were there?

We stayed on campus, together with the students. However, the accommodation was separate for men and women, and the curfew times were different, too. The women's hostel curfew was 6pm, while the men's – 10pm. The women were part of the first year undergraduate hostel, which was great as it meant that food was provided for us. Often, after the curfew, the Burmese students would come for coffee, cake and a chat with the student tutors. They often talked and learned even more about each other in this way than in the short sessions provided!

The men lived in postgraduate accommodation, and I think spent most of their evenings playing football with the Burmese students. It was a great atmosphere – the Yangon University students even gave the Oxford students Burmese names.



How do you think the Yangon students felt about the programme?



They really enjoyed interacting with students from such a prestigious university as Oxford, and getting to know native English speakers. Sometimes, they commented that they would have liked to have had more classes in

the daytime rather than early in the morning and late in the afternoon. However, we had to fit in with the schedule of the university there, which is more like school – a 9am start and 3pm finish. That was very surprising for our students!

What would you say were the highlights of the programme for you?

Without a doubt, seeing Yangon University so closely linked with the University of Oxford was really significant. We were there during the rainy season, and a lot of ceremonies took place to which the Oxford students were always invited and made to feel part of.

Have you kept in touch with any of the students from the programme?

Yes, especially with the Lead Teacher Anja, and others. I am looking forward to going back for a second year as Teaching Assistant, and to seeing the programme develop and improve once again.

How would you describe the situation in education in Burma at the moment?

A lot has changed in the last few years, and many international schools have been established, some of which are linked with universities and schools in the UK, and other English-speaking countries like Australia. There are lots of Burmese students who go to Singapore, Thailand or Australia to study now.

At present, there are two main trends in education. On one hand, there is the government system, which relies upon the matriculation exam to place students in universities. Many of those involved in this rote-learning system feel they do not learn much. On the other hand, there is the private international school trend, which favours tuition in English. There have been many changes, especially in the private, monastery-led system, which uses a learner-centred approach for teaching rather than a rote-learning system.

I think the biggest difference here is in the class sizes: up to 100 pupils in a primary school class, which decreases to 30-40 at the university level.

Discretionary Fund

by Thomas Kidney,
Regular Giving and Trusts Manager

While we have a number of special and personal projects (such as the Ann Smart Fellowship in Law or the Luke-Lunn Teaching Fund for Mathematics) most of our alumni and friends make gifts



towards the Discretionary Fund. This is the College's 'area of greatest need' and gifts towards the Discretionary Fund touch every area of college life.

The Fund provides support for our undergraduates and graduates in financial need. It safeguards the tutorial system. It supports younger academics in their first teaching posts which enrich our student experience. It also helps preserve the historic and beautiful environment that our students live and work in.

The Discretionary Fund perhaps gets its own 'fortnight in the sun' during our annual telethon at Easter. Each year we ask around a dozen current students to contact alumni living and working around the world. We know that the campaign is not for everyone, however it is the most effective way to put our current students in touch with our alumni and ask for support. This past March, our team of 12 current students had over 600 conversations with alumni around the world and we have received a total of £126,000. I want to thank each and every one of those alumni who spoke to one of our students, regardless of your decision to make a gift.

Over the coming years, we would like to get more of you giving regularly and indeed giving to College. Each year 14% and 18% of College alumni make a gift which usually puts us at the Oxford average of 15% or just above it. With colleges like Exeter, Merton and Balliol achieving participation rates above 30%, we would like to keep pace with those Colleges. Similarly, we would like to increase the numbers of those of you who give regularly – monthly, quarterly and annual direct debits make a large impact.

Finally, one often overlooked area of the Regular Giving programme is legacy fundraising. We have nearly 200 alumni indicating a wish to leave a legacy to the College. Legacy gifts can have a transformative impact on College and are also a very tax-efficient way of giving. If you are interested in leaving a legacy, then please contact me in the Development Office at thomas.kidney@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk or by calling 01865 613 839.

I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible in the coming weeks, months and years.

Alumni Memories

Return to Vienna

by Helga Harrison (Modern History, 1942)

Landing in Schwechat as an alumna – a strange sensation. Of course I had been back before, but how would I see it now? I had looked at the alumni programme – a walking tour, well, I could still find my way blindfolded through the City; Ellmayer – both my brothers had learnt to dance there: I was too young then, I decided, I am too old now.

There is Sacher, crowded with tourists who are eating Sachertorte, slices that have stood ready at the back and are probably dry and tasteless by the time they arrive at the table. Demel, still a wonderland of pastries, but so crowded I doubt anyone could get a table.

There are still Fakers on Stefansplatz and white clad girls in them celebrating their confirmation; traditional, but now meant mainly for the tourists.



Pick's first day at school.



Helga Harrison with her Nanny, Pick and her little sister.

No, this time memories came back from somewhere buried, perhaps woken by the recent death of my brother – the last surviving member of my family, the last person who could share the memories of our childhood. Two years older than me, Pick shared my nursery life, and a very happy life it was too.

We lived near the Prater, the rendezvous of Nannies, I think, and there we were taken daily. Not the amusement park, but the nature park, wide tree-lined avenues, called 'Alleen', with cafés, inevitably, at regular intervals. There was a large meadow, called 'Tellerwiese' because it

was shaped like a soup plate, a wonderful place for tobogganing in winter. Winter was winter, snow would fall as it ought, and while my eldest brother – 7 years older – brought out his skis, Nanny would bring out the sled for Pick and me.

At the entrance to the Prater was a hot-dog booth – 'heisse Wuerstel'. It had something to do with Schubert for it had Schubert's head portrayed on it, and I believe it may still be there, Schubert and all. If we were lucky and had been good, we might stop there on our way. These Wuerstel in Vienna tasted better than any hot dogs anywhere, even today.

As the light faded, and we were tired, Nanny would let us sit on the sled, Pick behind me with his arms round me so I wouldn't fall off. Nanny pulled us along the avenue, hurrying now as the dusk turned to darkness. Then the lamplighters arrived, with long poles, and lit the gas lamps, and as the flame spurted up, the snow turned to silver. I must have been

2-3, not older, and yet that memory is still crystal clear.

When we got home, cold and tired, there would be hot chocolate, with cream, Schlag, if Nanny was in a good mood, and a croissant.

My children called these 'the olden days', and they were right. No one can go through a door into the past. None of our alumni, I am sure, has seen a little boy going to his first school with a satchel on his back and a slate and sponge hanging from it, as my eldest brother did.

They were secure days, too, although I also remember the workers' uprising, a near civil war, when we heard the shots from the new workers' flats. But the children were sheltered, and the shadow that was beginning to cover our lives was hidden from us.

Helga Harrison's article 'Reunions' published in *The Jewish Quarterly* (Winter 1999-2000, p. 65-72), charts her departure from Vienna and move to England. Copies are available from the Development Office (development.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk).

Events *for your diary*

Sunday 6 September

Alice and the Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Matinee performance and family-friendly tea party

Location: St Hugh's College. Time: 4.00pm - 7.00pm.

Cost: £35 (adult) and £18.50 (children) includes Alice performance by Creation Theatre

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 September

Oxford Alumni Weekend

Saturday 19 September

Gaudy

Evensong, drinks reception, dinner in the Dining Hall and a post dinner jazz band. Priority will be given to those who matriculated in the following years, although everyone is welcome to attend: up to and including 1954; Jubilee years 1945, 1955, 1965; plus 1981, 1982; 1983, 1990; 1991, 1992, 2008; 2009 and 2010

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Cost: £45

Sunday 20 September

Jubilee Lunches

A special reunion lunch for alumni who matriculated in 1945, 1955 and 1965

Location: St Hugh's College. Time: 12.00pm for 12.30pm. Free but booking required.

Friday 16 October

Literary Day for Alumni

This one-day event includes the Dorothy Hammonds Book Launch and the Literary Activism Now Symposium.

Location: St Hugh's College. Time: From 10.00am. Free but booking required.

Wednesday 28 October

Academic Lecture

Dr Damian Jenkins MBE, Lecturer in Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at St Hugh's 'Clever brain, silly brain.' Why women struggle to break the glass ceiling.

Location: St Hugh's College, China Centre Lecture Theatre. Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Cost: £10

Wednesday 18th November

St Hugh's at the Charles Dickens Museum

An intimate event at the former home of Charles Dickens with guest speaker Claire Tomalin. Claire Tomalin is a renowned biographer and expert on Dickens, who famously wrote Charles Dickens – A Life

Location: 48 Doughty Street, London, WC1N 2LX. Time: 6.30pm

Thursday 26 November

St Hugh's College Dinner in the United Arab Emirates

In the presence of HM Ambassador Philip Parham.

Location: The Residence, British Embassy, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Free but booking required.

Sunday 29 November

Carol Service

Carol service in Mordan Hall followed by supper in the Dining Hall.

Time: 6.15pm. Free but booking required.

Wednesday 2 December

Academic Lecture

Professor Adrian Moore, Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy at St Hugh's 'Immortality and Infinity'

Location: St Hugh's College. Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Cost: £10

Thursday 10 December

St Hugh's at the Varsity Match

Location: Twickenham. Kick Off: 2.30pm. Cost: Premium tickets and Blues Village £47



For up-to-date information on all our events please visit <http://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/alumni-friends/alumni-events/>

To book a place via our online shop, please visit www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/discover/shop Username: sthughscollege Password: sthughs125

For further information, please email development.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)1865 274958.



St Hugh's College
Oxford

Thank you to all who contributed to the St Hugh's College Magazine. Please contact us if you would like to share your news and stories in the next Magazine. We would be delighted to hear from you.

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