

St Hugh's College Oxford

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

MAGAZINE 2017



Inside this issue

- » Dame Helen Ghosh on the National Trust, Balliol and her time at St Hugh's
- » 25 Years of the Oxford BabyLab
- » 16 days with the Queen's sculptor
- » The Fly in the Ointment: Cancer Research and the Fruit Fly
- » A Personal Memoir of Working with Barbara Castle
- » Jungle Medicine



Contents

Message from the Principal 1

FEATURES

Interview with Dame Helen Ghosh	2
The Fly in the Ointment	4
Oxford BabyLab	6
Interview with Professor Rhodri Lewis	10
Working with Barbara Castle	14

COLLEGE AND ALUMNI NEWS

My DPhil in 50 words	18
Interview with Sol Pomerantz	20
An interview with Professor Erin Saupe	23
Are colleges useful? An engineering perspective	24
Sustainability in the city of Thousand Oaks	26
Alumni Garden Party	28

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Another year of firsts	30
St Hugh's Events	32
2016 Festival of Anniversaries	36

GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH

16 days with the Queen's sculptor	42
Jungle Medicine	44
Christine North at St Hugh's	46
North American reunion	48

Events for Your Diary Inside back cover

Editorial

Our Fellows, undergraduates and research students all have remarkable achievements to report to you in this edition of the St Hugh's Magazine, from across the breadth of every subject and specialism.

As the new Communications Manager here at St Hugh's I, together with the Development Office, strive to keep all of our alumni – all over the world – informed about life here at the College, from our upcoming events and the chances to reconnect with old friends, to academic achievements and success.

I've only had the privilege of being here at St Hugh's for a short time – I arrived in June 2017 – but already I can see why people form a lifelong connection with the College.

There are exciting times ahead for St Hugh's, as we build on some of the successes you can read about within.

Stay in touch, and write to me if you have news you would like to share in next year's publications.

Benjamin Jones *Editor*



Credits

© St Hugh's College 2017

Cover photograph: The Principal and Fellows of St Hugh's College following the appointment of Mr Weber Lo and Mrs Brenda Lo, and Mr Eddy Tang and Mrs Emily Tang to the Elizabeth Wordsworth Fellowship.



Message from the Principal

In the following pages you will find some fascinating accounts from our Fellows, students and alumni about the last year at St Hugh's. We have selected some of the highlights from our Fellows' research, from what the study of the fruit fly can tell us about how illness impairs the mechanism for communication between human cells, to a celebration of 25 years of the pioneering Oxford BabyLab. We also consider a new and strikingly unfamiliar account of Hamlet and present a personal memoir by Baron Norman Warner of working with Barbara Castle (PPE, 1932).



There are interviews with Dame Helen Ghosh (Modern History, 1973) about the National Trust and her appointment as Master of Balliol; with Professor Erin Saupe on conservation paleobiology; with Dr Solomon Pomerantz on the earliest human settlement of Madagascar, and his field work all over the world, from Afghanistan to Kenya. One of the features I particularly enjoyed last year was the 'My

DPhil in 50 Words' section. It returns this year and in it you can read about the fascinating research being undertaken by twelve of our doctoral students, in subjects as varied as chimpanzee culture, electric cars, and the popular music of the late eighteenth century. No doubt we will be writing more about their achievements in years to come.

The diversity of this material is at the heart of the question Professor Antoine Jerusalem poses in his article: 'Are colleges useful?' What can be gained by working with academics in disparate and seemingly unrelated disciplines? The answer, of course, is a great deal.

The College as an interdisciplinary community seeks to draw in people from many seemingly disparate academic

pursuits, uniting them in scholarly purpose. Similarly, many other cultural and social activities bind us all together – even decades after our students leave our serene grounds to forge their lives and careers.

This *Magazine* is just one way in which we can strengthen those links, but its pages are limited and of course there is a vast amount that is not as widely known as it ought to be. If you have something you would like our wider community to know about, whether it is the publication of a book, a marriage, or the birth of a child, write to us and we will be delighted to share your news in next year's edition of the *Chronicle* or on the College website.

The College continues to flourish, with the work of many of our students being recognised in the receipt of University prizes and awards along with international recognition, not least the work of Gonzalo Linares Matas (Archaeology and Anthropology, 2014). Gonzalo received the prestigious international prize for the best undergraduate dissertation from the Prehistoric Society. His subject was 'The Earliest Palaeolithic Bone Toolkit in Eurasia'. The award is given for a dissertation that 'has made the greatest contribution to the study of prehistory in any part of the world'. We are enormously proud of his work and the work of so many of our Fellows and students that contribute to the vibrant academic community of St Hugh's.

We are also working hard to ensure that the College provides the very best environment and facilities to allow that work to prosper and ensure the very best student experience at Oxford. To that end much of our time as a College community has gone into developing plans for a major project to further enhance our stunning grounds. We will be excited to share the details with you all in the months ahead.

The Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC FRSE



From St Hugh's to Master of Balliol

An interview with Dame Helen Ghosh DCB

by Benjamin Jones, Communications Manager

After five years at the National Trust Dame Helen Ghosh (Modern History, 1973) is leaving to become the new Master of Balliol College. In this interview she reflects on her time at St Hugh's, the legacy of a pioneering generation that enabled women to come to Oxford, her career in the Civil Service and the Third Sector, and what she would like to achieve at Balliol.



What are your ambitions for Balliol?

When I saw the advert for the Balliol position it attracted me for a number of reasons. In the five years I've been at the National Trust, I've achieved most of the things I wanted to achieve and I was beginning to feel it was time to hand on to someone else. The idea of playing a part in the higher education world, particularly at the moment, with Brexit and all the issues about access and equality in education, was very tempting. Balliol, given its mix of tradition and radical thinking and its history of public service, struck me as a college where I could feel at home; it's done very good things in recent years in terms of access and reaching out to state-school students, for example. I'd love to help build on those foundations for the future.

If it isn't too early to think about it, what would you like your legacy to be for your time at Balliol?

I hope that I can help to maintain and enhance Balliol's reputation for excellence, whether that's in scholarship or teaching among the Tutorial and Professorial Fellows, or among the achievements of the students, graduates and undergraduates. I'd

also want to lead a happy community: I'm very well aware that there are so many stresses on students these days, at school and then at university. Creating an environment for the students where they feel secure, where they get the support they need, and in which they can excel, is very important to me. And of course for any college, given the overall financial strains on higher education, I'll be aiming to leave one that's got strong, firm finances.

Balliol was the first Oxford college since the reformation to have a Catholic Fellow, the first all-male college to elect a female Tutorial Fellow, and of course St Hugh's was founded as a women's college. Do you think it is particularly significant that you will be the first female Master of Balliol College?

There are currently a number of women at the head of Oxford colleges and that's marvellous. I've had lots of very supportive messages from female Heads of House, welcoming me to their community. The news of my appointment got more coverage than I was expecting – Balliol is a college that lots of people have heard of and therefore it struck a chord. But I've worked in two sectors where women have for a long time enjoyed a significant level of equality, in the public sector and now in the Third Sector. So I've never been particularly conscious of my gender in my professional life, or that it's a disadvantage to be a woman. I know that I've been lucky and that's still very different from a number of the professions that female graduates of St Hugh's will have entered. It never struck me, until I saw the headlines, that it was a particularly interesting feature of the appointment!

One's degree subject doesn't necessarily relate to one's career these days, but studying history must have been a very good grounding for all that you have gone on to do, not least at the National Trust?

I think it's a marvellous grounding for any career. It's about two things: being able to look at evidence, sift it, and reach conclusions, and it also helps you understand how change happens in the world. Why does society move in one direction rather than another? That understanding is very useful in any organisation if you're trying to change things, whether its culture or how it operates day to day. You can learn from historical examples that change most often comes not from a single cause, but from a pick-and-mix of individual vision and leadership, new



technology, a change in the public mood, or government action.

What will you miss about the National Trust?

The trips and the people. I probably spend two or three days a week out of the office. Often I have to pinch myself and ask, 'Am I being paid to

do this?' when I'm walking across a wonderful piece of countryside or getting a behind-the-scenes tour of one of our historic houses. And I love talking to people who are specialists and passionate about what they do, staff or volunteers. I learn so much every day, whether it's about the life cycle of the fritillary butterfly or the way 18th century stuccadori created the ceilings at Clandon Park.

Do you have a favourite National Trust property?

That's a bit like asking if I have a favourite child! But I have let slip that my favourite National Trust house is Hardwick Hall, in Derbyshire. That's for two reasons. It has lots of emotional associations for me because when on family holidays when our children were small, we often used to stop there on our way to Scotland. It's also the awe-inspiring creation of a single, powerful woman, Bess of Hardwick, a renaissance palace of glass and plasterwork. I also love the White Horse at Uffington, a magical place.

You've held numerous posts in the Civil Service. In which one do you think you were able to make the most positive impact?

When I was working in the Government Office for London. I was in charge of Government spending on regeneration projects in a number of very deprived East London boroughs, including Hackney, Tower Hamlets, and Newham. Having spent many years working in remote Whitehall, it was the first time that I had a real sense that the decisions I made could have a direct impact on people's lives. Government spending could improve a school or build a medical centre, or, perhaps more importantly, provide education and training to people who'd previously missed out. Working with the communities there made me realise the vital contribution that central government can make, if it works in the right way with local people. From a personal point of view, too, it was great development

because I met so many different kinds of people who I'd never had the opportunity to meet before, and I loved it.

What prompted you to specialise in 6th century Italian history for your Masters?

I was inspired, when choosing the period of world history to study in my first year, by the work of Peter Brown, who was then at All Souls. He'd recently written a wonderful book called *The World of Late Antiquity*, which I'd read when studying barbarian migrations in the late Roman world for our History Prelims. And then to my delight I found myself going to him for tutorials. I remember perching on his sofa, reading out my essay, while half of my brain was thinking, 'So this is what university is about – sitting here being taught by Peter Brown!' I then went on to do the St Augustine of Hippo special subject, which in turn inspired me to go on and do 6th century work for my Masters. I was looking at the question of whether and to what extent the culture of the Roman intelligentsia in that period remained essentially classical or was becoming in some way mediaeval. It was a transitional moment, perhaps rather as we are experiencing now as we move from pre-digital culture to post-digital culture.

What are your fondest memories of your time at St Hugh's?

The friends I made, the beautiful gardens, and the sense of a secure home to come back to. My year – matriculating in 1973 – was the last when women could only apply to the five all-female colleges. At the time, I must say I resented that and spent some time thinking, 'Why can't I be at one of these historic colleges? This isn't the real Oxford experience.' But over time I came very much to value the sense of connection with the pioneering generation who had fought to get an Oxford education for women. I looked at the faces of Clara Evelyn Mordan and Elizabeth Wordsworth and the other women on the walls of the Mordan Hall and felt proud of them as feminists. So when I applied to Balliol, I wondered whether I was betraying that tradition. What has been very cheering is the reaction of people like Dame Elish and other St Hugh's friends who, far from thinking it's a betrayal, think it's great that a St Hugh's alumna should storm that particular citadel! I hope that Elizabeth Wordsworth would be proud, given all the opposition she and her colleagues got from narrow-minded men in the University in her day.

The Fly in the Ointment

by Clive Wilson, Professor of Cell and Developmental Genetics
and Tutorial Fellow in Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Almost weekly we hear news of the latest cancer breakthrough or advance in Alzheimer's research. Yet there are still many fundamental areas of human biology involved in disease which we know virtually nothing about, because investigating them in humans or other mammals presents huge challenges. My research group studies the ways in which cells communicate with each other and how this communication breaks down in disease. And, surprisingly, we have turned to the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, to get answers to these questions.



Why fruit flies? Despite first impressions, they share remarkable similarities with humans. For example, about 70% of the genes known to cause human disease are also present in flies. In many cases the human gene can do the same job as the fly gene when it's transferred to flies. Because of these similarities, fly 'models' of cancer, diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, to name but a few, have been developed to study these

diseases. In addition, manipulating the functions of genes by so-called 'genetic approaches' is far easier to do in flies than just about any other multicellular animal. So if we want to work out the genes involved in a biological process or a disease or we want to produce animals in which key structures in the cell are fluorescently marked, so we can follow these structures in living animals or tissues, researchers often turn to flies to solve the problem.

For many years, my group has worked on the control of growth and how this is disrupted in cancer. Two decades ago, we identified a form of cell-cell communication in flies that drives growth and involves molecules that look like insulin. Work from researchers all over the world, including those in my lab, showed that this 'signalling pathway' plays a fundamental role in tumour growth; drugs that block this pathway have since proved effective in the treatment of certain cancers.

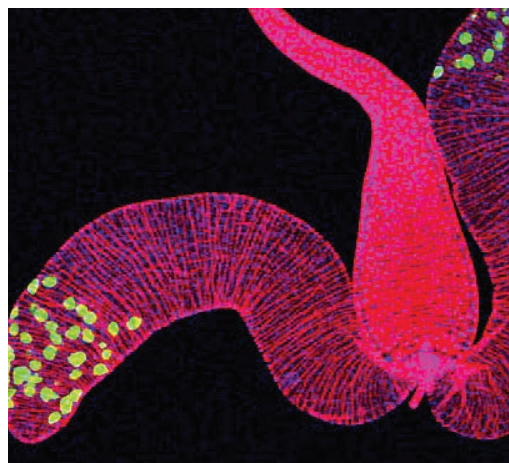
Our current work was initiated eight years ago, when Prof Dame Kay Davies, a mouse geneticist and at the time, the Head of our Department (Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics), had a chance meeting with Prof Freddie Hamdy, Chair of Surgery here in Oxford, in which he asked whether she knew anyone who might be interested in investigating prostate cancer in flies.



Drosophila melanogaster: 'a human in fruit fly clothing'.

To cut a long story short, I liked the idea, and working with a Urology surgeon, Dr Aaron Leiblich, who undertook a Doctorate in my lab, we discovered some cells in a male organ called the accessory gland that share remarkable similarities with the human seminal fluid-producing prostate. We are currently using these cells to study several aspects of prostate biology in flies, some of which have triggered collaborations directly focused on looking for parallels in prostate cancer. For example, we believe we have discovered the biological basis for why certain gene mutations are associated with a form of late-stage prostate cancer that is inevitably lethal in men. We are now testing how to block this in flies with a view to extending these studies to patients in the long term.

However, an even more surprising finding has provided the catalyst for a new programme of research in our group with relevance to almost all major human diseases. In the past, when researchers studied cell-cell communication, they focused on chemicals or specific proteins (the products of genes) that are secreted from one cell and detected by another, activating a signalling pathway inside the latter. But more recently, it has become clear that most cells can secrete multiple signals simultaneously by packaging them in a structure surrounded by fatty molecules. This fatty coat stops the packages from breaking down outside the cell. However, if these structures meet the right target cell, they fuse with it and activate a whole set of signals at the same time,



The paired accessory glands of the male fly with green fluorescent prostate cells

potentially completely changing the behaviour of that cell.

These packages, called exosomes, are suggested to have remarkable powers. For example, they appear to be released from cancer cells into the blood, fuse with normal cells elsewhere in the body and then reprogramme those cells so that

they signal back to the tumour and attract tumour cells to this new site. This process of 'metastasis' is responsible for most cancer deaths. If it could be stopped by blocking exosome production, cancer therapies would be transformed. Exosomes have also been implicated in neurodegenerative disorders and other diseases where secretion is defective, like diabetes, so understanding how this new type of communication is controlled and how it targets specific cells has become a priority worldwide.

While we were trying to work out how prostate cells in flies affect fertility, we discovered that these cells are 'professional' exosome secretors. With the genetic tools available to us, we have visualised the formation of exosomes inside cells and their subsequent secretion for the first time in any living tissue. This has allowed us to show that cells can make exosomes in multiple ways. Working with a long-term collaborator, Prof Deborah Goberdhan, in our Department, and oncologist, Prof Adrian Harris at the John Radcliffe Hospital (also a Professorial Fellow at St Hugh's), we have found that cancer cells use these different mechanisms to adapt to treatments by anti-cancer drugs and to become more aggressive. Remarkably, 'prostate' exosomes from male flies seem to be able to reprogramme the brain of a mated female, so she rejects the advances of competing males. We anticipate that our future studies will tell us more about the functions of human prostate exosomes and how they might promote cancer when they are inappropriately secreted by tumour cells into a man's blood.

With funding from medical charities like Cancer Research UK and the Wellcome Trust, as well as Government-funded agencies like the Medical

Research Council and BBSRC, we are expanding our studies, often collaboratively with clinicians. We are not only interested in the roles of exosomes in a range of major diseases, but also want to work out how they might be used to deliver drugs or biological molecules to patients. Clinical research into exosomes is growing rapidly each year – it's exciting for everyone in my group that the fundamental advances we are making have the potential to impact on so many areas of medicine.

So how does this integrate with my medical and biomedical sciences teaching? Well, several St. Hugh's undergraduates have undertaken a research project in my lab and contributed to key recent publications. The medicine-focused cell biology and histology teaching I provide has informed the emergence of new ideas in the lab. Communicating the science behind our research interests has allowed me to introduce students to some of the most exciting developments in modern biomedicine. My long-term colleague, Professor John Morris, who has continued teaching at St. Hugh's in retirement, has worked closely with us on some of the cell imaging that underpins our work. I have also built up a wide range of other collaborators through my teaching and research contacts in the Medical School. And of course, I have accumulated a large collection of fruit fly memorabilia from students as parting gifts when they move on to new challenges outside Oxford!

Do I enjoy the unusual blend of fly genetics, medical teaching, and pastoral and administrative activities? Few academics will disagree that balancing the demands of internationally competitive research with those required to contribute to world-class undergraduate courses (Oxford Anatomy and Physiology, and the Oxford Medical Course are both ranked number 1 in the QS World University and Times Higher Education World University Rankings respectively) is becoming ever more challenging. But that challenge is entirely offset by the remarkably talented group of colleagues and students whom I get to work with, and the opportunities in my lab and in College to support several of those individuals as they develop their careers. As St Hugh's seeks to expand its links with medical research, the possibilities for yet more exciting synergies can only expand.

Our website:

<https://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk/research/wilson-group>



Oxford BabyLab

25 years of investigating babies' learning, language and thought

by Irina Lepadatu, Lab Manager for the pioneering Oxford BabyLab.

Language use is an essential part of our everyday life that we usually take for granted, despite being a highly complex system. Babies start learning language as soon as they are born, but how do they actually assimilate all of that information so quickly?

An answer to this question has been sought by researchers at the Oxford University BabyLab, founded in 1992 by Professor Kim Plunkett, Tutorial Fellow in Experimental Psychology at St Hugh's College and Professor of Cognitive Science. At the BabyLab we investigate language and cognitive development during infancy, with a focus on trying to understand what babies know about language even before they are able to talk. In order to do that we use two main techniques: eye tracking and electroencephalography (measuring the electrical activity of the brain).

The eye tracking technology enables us to know exactly where the babies are looking by recording their eye movements. In a typical eye tracking study, toddlers would be shown pictures on a screen and would hear different words played over a loudspeaker. For example, the babies would see a picture of a dog and a picture of a cat and at the same time hear the word 'dog'. If the babies consistently look at the dog more than the cat, this would suggest that what they hear influences what they look at and that they understand what is being said.

Infant categorisation

One of our main research interests is infant categorisation. From a very early age, infants are able to recognise similarities and dissimilarities between familiar and new things. In other words, they can form categories when a number of objects are perceived as being similar in appearance, function or property. This allows infants to, for example, group dogs together, rather than think about every dog they encounter as a separate type of animal, and distinguish cats from dogs, which they can already do at 4 months. One recent study conducted at the BabyLab with 10-month-olds showed that infants are more likely to form categories if the new items are presented in pairs, as they can compare them

directly. When seeing one item at a time, the babies would have to remember the previous item they have seen which increases the memory demand.

Another BabyLab study with 12-month-olds found that associating a word with objects that look alike facilitates the process of category formation as it provides additional information. This has important implications for understanding how infants bridge the gap between word learning and categorisation. By using a word learning game, we showed that infants learn words for entire categories of objects, rather than a one-to-one relationship between a word and a single object.

Colour word learning and visual development

Among the word learning tasks, colour words are some of the most difficult for children to learn due to their abstract properties. Using a parental word-learning survey and an eye tracking paradigm we investigated when the process of colour term acquisition begins. Both methods have shown that colour word learning occurs as young as 18 months, at a much earlier stage than has been previously shown. Nevertheless, these studies focused on typical examples of the colours in questions and not a full adult-like understanding of colour terms.

The work of the BabyLab also includes looking at visual development, specifically visual closure in infancy. Visual closure is the ability to recognise a partially occluded or incomplete object. There is limited information on how this skill develops in infants, despite the fact that it is a key skill in learning to read. For one of our studies with 16- and 19-month-olds we used Ishihara-style plates (a colour perception test for red-green colour deficiencies) to examine the feasibility of colour vision testing in infants, while also examining their visual closure abilities. The Ishihara-style plates that we used were only grey and orange, and therefore clearly visible to everyone. These plates showed objects that infants are usually familiar with at that age (e.g. 'cat', 'tree'). When named, both age groups looked at the correct object, which leads us to believe that with colours added to the plates this could be a viable colour vision test for infants as young as 16 months.



Attention in infancy

Another area we are actively focusing on is attention in infancy. The ability to switch our attention is crucial in our everyday life when we need to disengage our attention from a no longer relevant item or task to a new, more relevant, one. After running a study with 18- and 24-month-olds, we found that 24-month-old toddlers can refocus their attention to a new item by selectively inhibiting their attention to the old item (in the same way that adults do). As a consequence, subsequent attention to a word semantically related to the old item is impaired. 18-month-old toddlers showed no semantic inhibition, which proves that this type of attention-switching emerges by the end of the second year and can be predicted by the vocabulary size.

Attention is also highly relevant for spoken word recognition. One of the questions we tried to answer at the BabyLab was 'do adults and infants look at objects that have names which sound similar to words they hear?' Our findings show that, when instructed to look at an item that was not among the objects presented (e.g. 'cat'), adults prefer looking at items that rhyme with the spoken word (e.g. 'hat'). However, this is not the case when the rhyme item

is presented together with an object that starts with the same sound as the spoken word (e.g. 'cup'). 30-month-old toddlers show no preference for either type of phonologically related objects when the 'rhyme' and 'onset' items are presented together. These findings demonstrate the intricate relationship between language and attention: the way language is organised in our brain can determine how we attend to the visual world.

Sleep and memory

In addition to language development, we are also interested in the impact of sleep on infant mental development which we test in our sleep laboratory using electroencephalography (EEG). EEG is a non-invasive and painless procedure that allows us to measure the infants' brain activity by placing small electrodes on their scalp. In a recent study, we looked at the benefits of daytime naps for memory consolidation in 3-month-old infants. The study found that babies who nap after learning something new (in this case a cartoon character) have better recall of what they saw before they slept, as opposed to the babies that stayed awake. In addition, the babies who napped and appeared to be quicker





in becoming familiar with the cartoon had more sleep spindles (spikes of brain activity thought to be associated with memory consolidation). These results also reflect an association between sleep spindles and some aspects of early general cognitive abilities (e.g. early general intelligence).

We are constantly working on new and exciting projects that will hopefully bring more light to the

field of language and cognitive development. Of course, this would not be possible without the generous help of the 'junior scientists' and their devoted parents. If you would like to find out more about our research or register your interest in taking part in research at the Oxford University BabyLab please visit our website: www.psy.ox.ac.uk/research/oxford-babylab.



St Hugh's College is supporting the work of Oxford University BabyLab through the generous support of Yvonne Winkler. The College's Winkler Career Development Fellow in Experimental Psychology for 2017-18 is Ms Jelena Sućević, whose research focuses on understanding the mechanisms of semantic organisation, particularly the acquisition of new semantic information in infants and adults.

References

- Althaus, N., & Plunkett, K. (2015). Categorization in infancy: labelling induces a persisting focus on commonalities. *Developmental Science*, 19(5), 770-780. doi:10.1111/desc.12358
- Chow, J., Davies, A. M., Fuentes, L. J., & Plunkett, K. (2016). Backward Semantic Inhibition in Toddlers. *Psychological Science*, 27(10), 1312-1320. DOI: 10.1177/0956797616659766
- Clark, E. V. (2009). *First language acquisition*. Cambridge University Press.
- Forbes, S. H., & Plunkett, K. (2017). Early Colour Word Learning in British Infants. *Proceedings CogSci*, 367-372.
- Horváth, K., Hannon, B., Ujma, P. P., Gombos, F., & Plunkett, K. (2017). Memory in 3-month-old infants benefits from a short nap. *Developmental Science*. doi:10.1111/desc.12587

Professor Rhodri Lewis on his new book, 'Hamlet and the Vision of Darkness'

by Benjamin Jones, Communications Manager



In this interview Professor Rhodri Lewis, Tutorial Fellow in English, discusses his new book, 'Hamlet and the Vision of Darkness', which offers a strikingly unfamiliar

account of Hamlet's action and significance. Professor Lewis' interests include early modern literary and intellectual history, and textual criticism.

Why did you specialise in Hamlet in particular?

I'd thought that I was going to write a book about Shakespeare's interactions with early modern ideas of psychology and cognition, and most likely about his dissatisfaction with them as an account of the way human beings think and feel. But as I researched the topic in greater detail, I found myself returning again and again to *Hamlet*.

What's more, I found that some of the things I was saying demanded that I fundamentally

recalibrate my understanding not only of the play's action, but of what its action might be said to mean. Although it's probably true that more intellectual and critical energy has been wasted on *Hamlet* than on any other literary work (those whom the academic gods would destroy are first afflicted with novel interpretations of key Shakespearean texts), it was thus an easy decision to narrow my focus. Whether that decision was wise remains to be seen!

You write in the book that Hamlet 'can be read as a profound meditation on the nature of human individuality without relying on conceptual frameworks drawn from the eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-

I found that some of the things I was saying demanded that I fundamentally recalibrate my understanding

first centuries.' How do you think Hamlet has been misunderstood?

There have been two main ways of reading *Hamlet* over the centuries. The first, which owes its origins to the Romantics but which has evolved into any number of post-Romantic (Freudian etc.) forms, is to treat *Hamlet* as a vehicle for Hamlet. Here, the title character is an epoch-making figure through whom Shakespeare dramatizes the struggle of the modern subject to find a path through the suffocating thickets of moral, personal, and political existence. The second approach to *Hamlet* is much younger, and treats the play as a drama of politics: specifically, the politics of power and of royal succession as they were understood in late Elizabethan and early Jacobean England. On this account, the Romantic and post-Romantic insistence on Hamlet's inner life is a distortion of, and a distraction from, what Shakespeare was really getting at.

Both critical traditions have strengths and weaknesses. But it occurred to me that they need not be mutually exclusionary; indeed, I was convinced that as politics and a kind of inwardness are both such obvious parts of the play, any interpretation of it should really be able to take account of them both. The question was to determine how exactly this could be done. The answer came from an unexpectedly obvious source: renaissance humanism, in particular the humanist moral philosophy centred on Cicero's *De Officiis* ('Of Duties'). This was the

body of doctrine through which humanist authors and educators offered a model for civic virtue and the

good governance of human affairs – at the three interlocking levels of the individual, the family, and the state. Perhaps a bit arcane to our ears, but these ideas were central to the ways in which people thought and wrote in the long sixteenth century. In the book, I argue that although Shakespeare was as deeply familiar with this worldview as many of his peers, he uses *Hamlet* to depict it at a corrosively inadequate account of human affairs.

You argue that the language of hunting, fowling, falconry, and fishing in Hamlet has been all but ignored. What is the significance of this language, and why is it important to draw attention to it?

"This spectacular book teaches us to read *Hamlet* as a searing critique of the humanist verities that Shakespeare and his audience had mastered at school—principles and practices that had guided generations. Rhodri Lewis's reading of *Hamlet* revises both our intellectual and our literary histories of late Renaissance England."

—ANTHONY GRAFTON, Princeton University

"Rhodri Lewis provides us with a brilliantly revisionary account of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*—the character, the play, and the place of both in modern culture. Lewis's *Hamlet* is an individual reflecting on his own emerging individuality, and Lewis excavates (through meticulous and often arresting scholarship) the philosophical, social, and imaginative origins and history of that individual. This is a book not just for Shakespeareans but for anyone concerned with how literature teaches us both how to be and not to be."

—SETH LERER, University of California, San Diego

"Rhodri Lewis comprehensively resituates *Hamlet* within the discursive parameters of late sixteenth-century humanism while making a significant contribution to recent reassessments of humanism's unintended consequences. Particularly noteworthy and arresting is his account of the many ways *Hamlet* stages, only to dismantle, received Roman ideals about persona, 'character', and identity in public as well as private life."

—LYNN ENTERLINE, Vanderbilt University

"An absorbing and provocative book with a timely and important argument."

—RAPHAEL LYNE, University of Cambridge

HAMLET AND THE VISION OF DARKNESS LEWIS

HAMLET

AND THE VISION OF DARKNESS

RHODRI LEWIS

PRINCETON
press.princeton.edu



PRINCETON

It's a good question with a complicated answer. In the humanist moral philosophy I mentioned above, one of the governing metaphors is that human life is, or should be, like a well-managed stage play. Self-knowledge is discovering the parts to which you are best suited, and self-expression is learning to play them well; the play itself is written (opinions differed) by nature or by God. Within this world, the notion of an 'inner' self is incomprehensible, as your true identity

only emerges, finding and performing a role that is pre-scripted. Shakespeare finds this deeply Roman vision of human living at once compelling and unsatisfactory – largely, I argue, because he takes the

view that there is no natural or divine playwright, and that the various pre-scripted roles of humanist moral philosophy therefore have only convention to recommend them.

In place of the well-ordered stage-play world propounded by Cicero and his innumerable humanist followers, Shakespeare draws from a different

Shakespeare draws from a different inventive well in making sense of the 'performed' self

inventive well in making sense of the 'performed' self: the language and assumptions of hunting, falconry,

fishing, and fowling. He was intimately familiar with most of these from his Warwickshire youth, and if one biographical tale is to be believed, had been an enthusiastic poacher. When hunting, to play a role



is not to perform one's true self, but is deliberately to disguise and to camouflage one's identity; to hide one's vulnerability or appetitive intent with a view to deceiving others. This is a perfect fit for Shakespeare's *Elsinore*, where the dynamics of human existence are untamed by moral order. Hamlet, Claudius, Polonius, and Laertes all employ the language of hunting to express what they take to be their nobility, agency, right, and ability to move others. Shakespeare's ironic masterstroke is that such hunting language in itself explodes that which its exponents seek to assert. Whatever an individual might strive to believe, he or she always and only exists as a participant in a form of hunting – one in which he or she, like everyone else, functions both as predator and as prey. Sooner or later, what Shakespeare elsewhere calls the 'world's great snare' is bound to entrap them.

What drew your attention to this language?

Two odd moments in the play. First, Hamlet's stated intention to 'unkennel' his uncle's guilt by staging an adaptation of the *Murder of Gonzago*. Unkennelling is a hunting term of art (it involves forcing a fox out of its hole with terriers or smoke or spades before chasing or beating it to death), and is almost never used outside hunting literature. Second, Hamlet's reference to the 'enseamed' bed that his mother shares with his uncle. Obviously, this is supposed to suggest grossness. But enseaming is a term of art from falconry, and describes the process in which a falcon, after being fattened up and kept indoors for the period of its summer moult, is purged of 'greasiness and foulness' (its 'enseam') through a special diet and regimen. I won't spell out how the metaphor works here (it far exceeds the canons of good taste), and it might suffice to say i) that the royal bed of Denmark had formerly been shared by Gertrude and Old Hamlet, and ii) that young Hamlet is cognisant of this fact.

Now, I knew that these bits of language had never been adequately explained in the commentary on the play, and was also aware that in the revenge tragedies composed by the Roman playwright Seneca (an acknowledged source for *Hamlet*)

hunting is pervasive and used to structure much of the dramatic – and thematic – development. So I decided to go looking for other examples. Once I did, they came thick and fast; the task now became one of staring at this new body of evidence until I could see a pattern emerge. As it happens, doing so was more straightforward for the chapter on hunting than it was for other parts of the book: it was soon apparent that Shakespeare uses hunting to represent the ways in which the play's different characters relate to one another, and in which they think about their own existences.

You write about Shakespeare rejecting or being dissatisfied with the humanist conventions of his time. How does he challenge these conventions in *Hamlet*?

The broad answer is that Shakespeare saw with unflinching clarity that many of the traditions and conventions through which the early moderns sought to make sense of their lives were a sham. They claimed the authority of nature or divinity, but were in reality a form of bluffing – one that served the short-term ends or desires of certain groups and individuals perfectly well, but that fundamentally distorted the actuality of human existence. This was as true of conventionally written and performed drama as it was of philosophy, history, politics, rhetoric, or theology. But Shakespeare is far too intelligent a writer to have been content with taking a pop at convention of one sort or another.

He also exposes the limitations and vulnerabilities of the counter-cultural attempts to overturn humanist orthodoxy, be they Machiavellian,

neo-Stoic, Christian-providentialist, or in thrall to the verbose individualism of the French essayist, Michel de Montaigne.

Ultimately, I argue that what makes *Hamlet* distinctive is not the typically Shakespearean insistence that vice and folly are an essential feature of being alive, but that it comprises Shakespeare's first full attempt to use his dramatic art as a medium through which to represent the discord and elemental privation that arise from the failure, or stubborn refusal, to acknowledge the human condition as it really is. To

...my *Hamlet* maps the experience
of living in the darkened space
between two moral and discursive
worlds...

borrow a line from Matthew Arnold, my *Hamlet* maps the experience of living in the darkened space between two moral and discursive worlds: one dead, the other powerless to be born. One a ghost, the other as yet confined to fantasy.

What inheritance does modern English have from *Hamlet*?

Shakespeare could turn a phrase. Many of these have a home in *Hamlet* and have stuck. The funny thing is that many of the most memorable Shakespeareanisms ('neither a borrower nor a lender be'; 'to thine own self be true'; 'brevity is the soul of wit') are much older pieces of commonplace wisdom (what we might think of as proverbs). Shakespeare merely preserves and transmits them more effectively than sixteenth-century dictionaries of quotations – of which there were many. At the same time, it goes

without saying that Shakespeare no more wrote a dictionary of quotations than did

...many of the most memorable Shakespeareanisms ... are much older pieces of commonplace wisdom

Milton or Sterne or Joyce or Nabokov. Instead, he made proverbial phraseology do some literary heavy lifting: those who employ it are generally revealed to be uninterested in the substance of they're saying, and to like the sound of their own voices. Polonius is the usual culprit, but Hamlet, Laertes, Claudius, Gertrude, Ophelia, and Horatio do their fair share too. All of which is to say that, while it can be entertaining to discover some of the places in which phrases from *Hamlet* have turned up, and while the range of these places confirms Shakespeare's prominence as a source of cultural capital, the linguistic inheritance of the play is radically distinct from the play itself. For Shakespeare, recourse to proverbial wisdom (or cant of any sort) is generally a substitute for thought, not the pithy encapsulation of it. It's a lesson that we'd do well to remember today.

How long did it take you to write the book? When did you start conceptualising it?

I first began thinking about a book on Shakespeare in early 2011, when writing up seminar papers on *Hamlet*'s memory, and on the projective imagination

in *Antony and Cleopatra*. I then spent a year or so preparing something on Shakespeare and early modern psychology, before deciding in summer 2012 that it was going to be *Hamlet* alone. I began writing in earnest in summer 2013, and submitted a completed draft of the manuscript to my publisher, Princeton University Press, in March 2016.

What type of audience is the book aimed at?

You have to write the book you want to write, and figure out its audience afterwards. That said, and like it or not, most people reading *Hamlet and the Vision of Darkness* are going to be studying *Hamlet* – whether professionally as scholars or critics or theatre directors, or as a part of their education at school or university. It's true that this body of readers is massively larger than it was 50 or 100 years ago (what happened to the educated general reader?

She took a job at a university), but I also hope to attract at least some of the broader public with an interest in a work

that they know extremely well, and about which they might have been inclined to believe that everything had been said; to this end, it helps that Princeton UP have priced the book very reasonably. In thinking about a wider readership, I've published three pieces of journalism in the past year (two in the *Times Literary Supplement* and one in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*) that give a fair idea of what I try to do in the book. It's hard to say for sure, but they seem to have gone down well.

What do you appreciate or like most about being at St Hugh's?

From the support given to Fellows' research to the undergraduates' approach to their studies, the college nurtures a culture that is intellectually serious – and rigorous – without giving in to the temptations of pretension or self-regard. Comparisons may be odious, but this is not true of all Oxbridge colleges. It's something that we should hold on to, and of which we should be extremely proud.

***Hamlet and the Vision of Darkness* is published by Princeton University Press**



Battling Barbara

A personal memoir of working with Barbara Castle

Baron Norman Warner writes a personal memoir of his time working as Principal Private Secretary to Barbara Castle (Politics, Philosophy and Economics, 1932).

It is a sobering thought that if Barbara Castle had been alive today she might have been a leading Brexiteer. Back in June 1975, a year after I became her Principal Private Secretary, she had campaigned vigorously for a 'No' vote in the referendum to stay in the Common Market – what the EU was called then. When challenged in a debate by Jeremy Thorpe as to whether she would resign as a Minister if the country voted 'Yes,' she responded with typicalchutzpah, 'No, because my country will need me more than ever.' A line that David Cameron might have found useful.

Barbara's riposte to Thorpe was straight out of the Castle playbook of not yielding to political opponents, especially men. This was still the case even in the twilight of her political career. Her great campaigns and achievements were behind her – establishing the first Ministry of Overseas Development, trades union reform, equal pay for women, starting Britain's motorway programme, compulsory car seatbelts. But the flame of political battle was still burning, particularly if there was a Tory in her crosshairs. Barbara was still close to Harold Wilson and she had several more battles she wanted to fight, especially the abolition of NHS paybeds and introducing a new pension scheme after Dick Crossman had failed to do so.

Although a tough politician in a man's world, Barbara was not averse to a bit of flirting and feminine wiles. She was always well-groomed, especially her red hair. Her Private Office understood that the weekly hair appointment was sacrosanct. She even had a Plan B with 'Lucy' her stylish wig, although this could have a downside. When she and I went to the burnt-out ruin of a Nottingham old people's home, with the TV cameras rolling, 'Lucy' got caught on a stray wire.

Diversionsary tactics are required by Private Secretaries in these situations while the Minister makes adjustments.

History tends to portray Barbara as a campaigning political firebrand – the Red Queen. What is too often forgotten is that she was an extremely competent and hard-working Minister who did her boxes, could delegate well, and manage a huge

Department. In the mid-1970s the Department of Health and Social Security was the biggest department in Whitehall in terms of budget and people, with responsibility for the NHS, all social security benefits, and social services. In her two years she put in place a new pension scheme; started the work on child benefit to be paid to the mother; handled the first major child abuse scandal (Maria Colwell) leading to the appointment of the first Chief Social Work Officer; as well as handling several medical strikes and framing legislation to abolish most NHS paybeds. All this was done with the same number of junior Ministers as Jeremy Hunt has today in the Department of Health.

With three medical strikes – GPs, junior doctors and hospital consultants – one after the other, Jeremy Hunt's problems with junior doctors look rather trivial. The negotiations with the BMA over paybeds were like something from a Le Carré novel, with the Prime Minister and his own legal adviser, Lord Goodman, running a parallel negotiation with the doctors and me acting for Barbara as an intermediary between these parallel universes. Barbara and I would sneak off secretly to Arnold Goodman's Portland Place flat and over cucumber sandwiches try to plot the next steps in already complex negotiations in which no-one trusted anyone, even when on the same side.

These NHS dramas were played out against a backdrop of the OPEC oil price hikes and a UK economy in dire straits, with ultimately the IMF being called in and a public expenditure crisis. Barbara played her full part in the major Cabinet battles over how to deal with the crises. One day when her verbatim notes fell out of her returned Cabinet folder I realised she was keeping a diary but deemed it best to keep this to myself.

In early 1976 Harold Wilson dispatched Ministers around the world to promote British exports. Barbara and I set off for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran with a lone civil servant, whose main role turned out to be keeping a couple of bottles of gin in his official black briefcase and dealing with improbable gifts like a giant Arab dhow. Barbara was the first female Minister to go to Saudi Arabia and had to wear a dress that covered her from head to toe and to keep her hairdo covered. This did not please her but she had to be on her best behaviour when we met the King and Crown Prince. We lined up some potential deals before moving on to Kuwait

where we spent most of our time reassuring the Kuwaiti elite that they could still get their healthcare in London after paybeds disappeared, provided they paid the full NHS cost – another piece of instant Government policy-making. Our final destination was Tehran where we tried to negotiate another hospital deal with Prime Minister Hoveyda and avoid receiving too many opulent gifts from the Peacock Throne. Poor old Hoveyda was one of the first to be executed after the 1979 revolution toppled the Shah.

Barbara's Ministerial career came to a rapid close in the spring of 1976 when Harold Wilson announced his retirement out of the blue. She had told me she wanted to retire later in 1976 when she had her Paybeds Bill on the statute book. But her old foe from 'In Place of Strife' days, Jim Callaghan, accelerated the process. In three days in early April Barbara had to cope with the death of her Pensions Minister, Brian O'Malley, to do the annual benefits uprating statement in the Commons and handle a brutal sacking by Callaghan. Typically, she refused to pretend it was her choice to go and told him she would be on the Standing Committee on the Paybeds Bill to make sure there was no dilution of her policy.

On the day of Barbara's sacking I was moving house. I raced back to the Department to organise a farewell party and to reclaim her Ministerial car to prevent an undignified journey home on the tube. Our final official act was a tearful hug and kiss – quite improper for a politically-neutral civil servant – in the DHSS underground car park. The very-next day Barbara went to her Blackburn constituency to explain events to her constituents. She subsequently served as a Member of the European Parliament and became a member of the House of Lords, two institutions she had been less than complimentary about in earlier days. But for someone like Barbara, who lived and breathed politics, she couldn't turn her back on the opportunity to practice her trade. I saw this for a short while when I too joined the House of Lords in 1999 where Barbara introduced me.

Barbara Castle
1984



The Fangda Career Development Fellowship

The establishment of the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building has been an outstanding addition to the wide range of academic activities taking place here.

The China Centre brings together a group of senior academics from across the University with a particular interest in Chinese matters. St Hugh's is not simply a landlord to the China Centre but already has two senior academics with interests in China, namely Shelagh Vainker, Associate Professor of Chinese Art, and Dr Anke Hein, Associate Professor in Chinese Archaeology.

This year we are delighted that Fangda Partners have agreed to fund the first ever post at the University of Oxford in Chinese Commercial Law: in November 2017, Dr Mimi Zou joined St Hugh's as the Fangda Career Development Fellow in Chinese Commercial Law.

Professor Joshua Getzler, Senior Fellow in Law at St Hugh's, said: 'The new CDF is dedicated to exploring the operation of Chinese law, using primary materials in the Chinese language, and studying the Chinese legal system as an object in itself.

'The post, to be held in its inaugural appointment by the eminent young researcher Dr Mimi Zou,



Dr Mimi Zou



will go beyond the existing study of transnational and international transactions involving China. The goal would be to open up a relatively new field in Western law schools, exploring how best to understand Chinese law and links between law, politics, economy and society both within China and in transnational relations.

'Dr Zou is qualified in law and economics from Sydney University, and took her postgraduate training in Oxford. She has most recently taught in Hong Kong, and comes to us from a research fellowship at Columbia Law School. She has studied labour relations, elder law and contract in China, and will be

extending her reach into financial and corporate law. We are delighted to welcome her.'

We are delighted to welcome Dr Zou and are incredibly grateful to Fangda Partners for their forward thinking in supporting this exciting development for Oxford University and St Hugh's College.

Fangda is a leading Chinese law firm working in a wide range of commercial fields from private equity to dispute resolution. They have offices in Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen and Hong Kong and were named 'National Law Firm of the Year' in the 2016 Asialaw Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Awards.



My DPhil in 50 words

Twelve first year Doctoral students summarise their research in 50 words (or thereabouts).

Ismene Brown

DPhil Soviet Cultural Politics

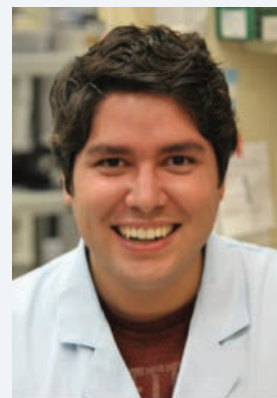
How did the only woman at the top of the USSR's political patriarchy contrive her long career among men? Why do stories obscure facts in the memorialisation of the unique Ekaterina Furtseva? I propose that Furtseva's *modus operandi* and her iconography offer unexplored evidence of the uses of gender in Soviet power culture.



Jorge Rodriguez-Gil

DPhil Biomedical Sciences

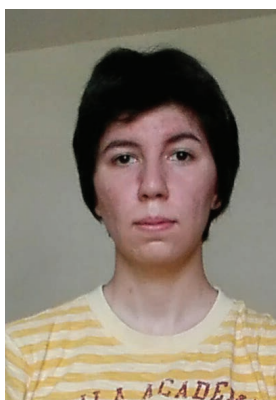
My research focuses on a fatal neurodegenerative disease known as Niemann-Pick Type C (NPC). My project looks at mapping genetic modifiers combining patient-derived clinical data and mouse genetics. This could potentially help us to better understand the pathophysiology of this disease as well as discovering novel therapeutic targets.



Vittoria Princi

DPhil History

My research explores the relation between military and civilians in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy, by examining the little-known issue of barracks and troops housing at the peak of the Napoleonic Wars in its multiple facets: administration and logistics, urban history, social interactions, economic activities, public order.



Constance Crozier

DPhil Engineering Science

Electric vehicles are going to really change how people use electricity at home – more than tripling the amount of power they draw from the grid. My DPhil focuses on predicting the impact this will have on the power system, and what can be done to avoid it.



John Walsby-Tickle

DPhil Organic Chemistry

My research involves metabolomics by coupling new chromatographic techniques with mass spectrometry. I am identifying molecular phenotypes associated with IDH mutations in glioblastoma and the effect of known enzyme inhibitors on their metabolic pathways, with the aim of the identification of new targets for pharmacological intervention.



Emily Hinson

DPhil Psychiatry

Motor rehabilitation for stroke patients is strongly based on principles of motor learning in healthy subjects, however it is not established if patients have a deficit in their learning ability. I study how individuals learn motor skills and how this process differs between healthy subjects and patients.



Georgina Prineppi*DPhil Music*

I am researching British popular music of the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. My project focuses on the interaction between the London stage and the broadside ballad, a form of street literature that lasted for over 400 years in Britain, and which proved musically and culturally influential during the Napoleonic Wars.

**Michael Yeo***DPhil History*

Why did small ports along the periphery of global trade in the nineteenth century survive, despite significant security and economic risks? My research approaches this question by charting the emergence of Sandakan, Jesselton, and other ports in northern Borneo, and the vicissitudes of their relationship with the hinterland and foreland.

**Deborah Faith Ramkhelawan***DPhil English*

Who was John Evelyn, from the perspective of his wife and daughters? My DPhil centres on the unpublished manuscript material of the Evelyn family coterie, currently held at the British Library, attending particularly to the Evelyn women and their as yet little-known contributions to seventeenth-century fine, applied, and literary arts.

**Claire Dobson***DPhil Earth Sciences*

My DPhil is focused on understanding the relationships of early fish. These fish filled the same niche that whales do now, but we know surprisingly little about them! I use CT scans of the fossil record and genetic data to work out how they evolved, and why they went extinct.

**León Romano Brandt***DPhil Engineering Science*

From aviation to electronic chips, industries increasingly seek materials whose thickness approach few nanometres. At this scale, traditional models fail to predict the behaviour of materials. For my DPhil, I am developing thermal and mechanical models for thin materials in order to improve their reliability and functionality for future applications.

**Joana Bessa***DPhil Zoology*

My DPhil is in zoology and I am researching chimpanzee culture. I have been conducting fieldwork in several chimpanzee communities in Guinea Bissau, West Africa. I am interested to see if there are differences in culture, mainly in tool use, between different neighbouring communities, and why.



Dr Solomon Pomerantz on his work in Madagascar, Afghanistan, Kenya and the UK: What can plant science tell us about anthropology?

by Benjamin Jones, Communications Manager

Dr Solomon Pomerantz, Lecturer in Archaeology and Anthropology, and Assistant Dean, completed his doctoral research in the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art Department at the University of Oxford. His interests lie at the intersection between applied plant and earth sciences, and archaeology. He also discusses his longstanding interest in Madagascar in this interview.



Your work is at the intersection of two subjects that might appear to be quite dissimilar – plant science, and archaeology. What can plant science tell us about the human past?

That's a really exciting question. My work looks at the influence that people have upon ecologies and the ways in which we've applied certain uses of plants to new environments, specifically in the human colonisation of Madagascar. Archaeological science today draws upon many parallel disciplines, such as material science, physics, chemistry, plant sciences, and others in order to answer questions about how humans evolved, behaved, and interacted with their environment in the past. These are questions that very much need to be asked not just

of one discipline, but many. We are, whether we are conscious of it or not, constantly interacting with and influencing botanical communities around us. For instance, the assemblages of plants we find in the glorious gardens here at St Hugh's, both growing intentionally and not, are a testament to the post-Columbian exchange of plants between the New and Old Worlds. Through the application of methods from plant sciences, we as archaeologists can identify botanical evidence from the archaeological record, better understand the nature of previous ecological interactions and processes, and better understand the human past.

When did the study of evidence from plants first enter archaeology?

Archaeologists have been studying charred plant remains, such as seeds or the remains of cooked material in pottery, in archaeological contexts for much longer than they've been studying phytoliths, which are what I focus on. Phytoliths are very small (generally less than 100 microns in length) and often morphologically unique siliceous bodies which form in the walls of plant cells, and were first identified by the German botanists Struve and Ehrenberg in 1835. Phytolith morphologies and taxonomy were studied extensively in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but it wasn't until the 1950s that phytoliths began to be applied to the study of past ecologies. Pioneering work by a number of US and UK-based researchers in the 1970s began to explore phytolith assemblages in archaeological contexts, and over the following thirty years the study of phytoliths has completely transformed our understanding of the domestication processes of a number of crops, such as maize, Asian rice, and bananas, and their distribution across the world. Phytoliths are also now used extensively in palaeoecological studies of past communities, in order to understand how environments are altered by, and respond to, past human influences.

What led you to an academic career in archaeology and anthropology?

I first came to Oxford to read for a BA in Archaeology & Anthropology at St Hugh's in 2005. Growing up I had a boundless curiosity about the natural world, collecting rocks and bones, dabbling in amateur taxidermy, and generally driving my parents mad. I've also always been fascinated by history and the tremendous diversity of human culture. When choosing a course to study at university Archaeology & Anthropology seemed like a perfect fit, particularly for the way archaeology uses physical evidence to understand essentially human questions. As archaeologists we draw on material culture to understand questions which are very elemental and explore what it means to be human: From where did we come from? How did we evolve? What led

us to be here? Why do we live the way we do? And, as it relates to my current research, what influences do we have on the environment around us?

How has our understanding of Madagascar's human colonisation changed in recent years? What do we know now?

Our understanding of Madagascar's human past has changed dramatically in the past decade. For instance, our understanding of the antiquity of the human population of Madagascar has recently been challenged by the discovery of stone tools in the north of the island in 2012. It had previously been thought that the human population of Madagascar was only about 2000 years old. Cultural and linguistic hallmarks seemed to point to a founding population for Madagascar presumed to be agriculturalists originating in Borneo, which was followed by later waves of migration from the coasts of East Africa and the wider Indian Ocean world. The discovery of stone tools at much earlier dates appear to indicate that the island may have had both a longer occupation, and that this earlier population may have had a very different relationship with the island's ecology. The extinction processes for much of Madagascar's megafauna in the 1st and early 2nd millennia AD will likely have to be re-examined individually and collectively in light of this discovery.

A lot of questions remain unanswered with regards to Madagascar's early human prehistory. The question of when people first arrived on the island is particularly problematic as there are very few sites which have been dated that pinpoint that occupation. The Malagasy landmass itself is very large, nearly twice the size of the UK, and climatically and geologically diverse, posing serious problems for the accessibility of sites, let alone the preservation of archaeological evidence in such tropical and sub-tropical environments. As is so often the case in archaeology, more holes need to be dug to answer these exciting questions.



What sparked your interest in Madagascar in particular?

I was having a conversation with my supervisor, Peter Mitchell, about possible subjects for an MPhil thesis at one point and it was one of these instances where I started reading one article, which led to another article, and another, and I never stopping reading about this incredible place. Madagascar is an endlessly fascinating place for anyone with an interest in geology, zoology, botany, anthropology, even colonial history.

Will you tell me about your field research projects?

I've done a fair bit of field work. And it's probably the one element of archaeological research that appeals most, particularly to budding archaeologists and anthropologists. I've conducted field work in the UK, Kenya, Afghanistan and quite a bit in Madagascar. No two field projects are the same, particularly in the developing world. In a nutshell, what one has to do as a field archaeologist is to predict, based upon resources available, where one might identify sites which would contain evidence of previous human activity, and to peel back the layers of sedimentation in order to reveal this evidence. It can often be as much of an analytical challenge as a logistical one.

I dug at the site of Silchester, the large Iron Age, then Roman centre known as Calleva Atrebatum, which recently was closed as an archaeological project. The site bore fascinating evidence attesting to both the pre-Roman, Iron Age oppidum, the subsequent incorporation of the region into the Roman Empire in the 1st century AD, and the emergence of a syncretic Romano-British culture. The site was used as a training site for Oxford undergraduates but that training has now moved to another site in Dorchester.

I did my undergraduate fieldwork in Balkh, outside Mazar-i-Sharif, in the north of Afghanistan in 2007 at a time when that part of Afghanistan was actually pretty stable. I was interested at the time in the threats to vulnerable archaeology and material culture in regions beset by conflict and with little professional archaeological oversight. Afghanistan is a fascinating place, and the archaeology in the far north is just incredible. Much has changed since then, but as we've seen over the past few years in Iraq and Syria, these questions are still very much relevant.

And Kenya?

I conducted fieldwork there as well, assisting a former DPhil student at St Hugh's, Mike Causey, on a game reserve in Laikipia Province. We were looking at the time at whether or not you could observe, using geographic information systems (GIS), activities that had impacts on landscapes by pastoralist communities. The project was trying to understand human-ecological interactions before the colonial period and trying to address some rather pernicious colonial and post-colonial narratives concerning the use of land by pastoralist communities, some of which actually have parallels with what we've seen in colonial and post-colonial Madagascar as well. Often one would find colonial agronomic agencies and forestry commissions looking at new environments in sub-Saharan Africa and trying to project an often Euro-centric geographic and ecological perspective of how landscapes are meant to behave and be managed onto new environments and new communities. These perspectives often undermined indigenous communities' lifeways, for instance the herding of goats and cattle in arid mosaic savannah regions of East Africa, or the seasonal burning of grasslands in the Highlands of Madagascar. It is perhaps no coincidence that these same narratives about indigenous 'misuse of landscapes' were also used to justify seizing land from local communities and using it for other purposes. It can be quite fraught, trying to unpick these questions using archaeological methods, but it is a responsibility that we have as archaeologists working in the developing world to engage with the colonial legacy and to try to understand what role that played in creating the social and political contexts we see there today.



Do you get frustrated if there is a big gap in what we know?

After the discovery in 2012, the story's definitely not finished. Evidence for the human colonization of Madagascar is still very dislocated between regions, and the evidence is of very different natures. One must rely upon a high degree of interdisciplinary collaboration and inference, moving between not just archaeological, but ecological, genetic, and linguistic evidence fluidly. When it comes to understanding the past from an ecological perspective, many disciplines interweave and it can be quite challenging unpicking that and actually trying to draw meaningful conclusions from this evidence, especially on a large scale. We often see in Madagascar situations in which you find localised ecologies or geographic regions which don't seem to fit in with the patterns you see elsewhere on the island. One of the problems you start encountering as you start going further and further back is you might find evidence in one part of the island which suggests one type of interaction between humans and the local environment, and evidence in another part of the island which suggests another distinct type of interaction. Whether or not you can actually tie those two together and say something meaningful about the whole island or simply one ecology? That's a real challenge.

Have you enjoyed your time at the College?

Absolutely. I think looking back on my time at St Hugh's one of the things I've found most remarkable about it is the way it brings incredibly bright and curious people from such a tremendous range of backgrounds into one place. I think one of the things that makes this place so remarkable is its ability to create genuine personal and intellectual connections between people who in any other world wouldn't ever meet.

Interview with Professor Erin Saupe

by Benjamin Jones, Communications Manager

Professor Erin Saupe, a Tutor in Palaeobiology, works to investigate interactions between life and environments over geological time scales. In this interview she discusses her work on paleogeography and extinction, evolutionary history and how the fossil record can aid conservation efforts today.



How would you summarise your research interests?

I am interested in determining the forces that drive speciation and extinction throughout Earth history. I am also interested in elucidating the processes behind large-scale ecological patterns, such as the latitudinal diversity gradient and body size trends across space and through time. These research agendas, of course, will take many lifetimes to fulfil! I have mostly focused on the molluscan (snails and clams) fossil record

in the Western Atlantic during the Neogene. This period in time, from about 23 to 2.5 million years ago, provides an excellent window into what might happen to species at the end of this century, and this is because it was the most recent time in Earth history when temperatures were sustained at levels that are expected at the end of this century.

What first prompted your interest in palaeobiology?

I loved paleontology ever since I was a child. But, I didn't think I would pursue paleontology as a career until I took an introductory geology class in the first semester of my undergraduate degree. I was hooked almost immediately and fell back in love with the fossils that had fascinated me as a child. To me, being a paleontologist is like being a detective: I get to figure out what happened in the past and why. I enjoy the sense of discovery intrinsic to this type of research and the ability to contribute to human knowledge regarding past Earth and life processes. Once I decided to pursue a career in the geological sciences, I majored in Natural Science, after which I obtained my MSc and PhD from the University of Kansas. Before joining the faculty at Oxford, I was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale University through the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies program.

What are you working on at the moment?

I am working on a number of different projects right now, including examining the role that paleogeography plays in regulating extinction rate during climatic transitions; determining the factors that control body size across latitudinal gradients in the pelagic ocean; and using ecological modeling to understand the historical biogeography and evolutionary history of numerous bird groups.

What is meant by 'conservation palaeobiology'?

Conservation paleobiology is aimed at using the fossil record to better protect and conserve present-day biodiversity. The fossil record provides our only direct means of studying past life, including any past extinctions that have occurred and how species respond to climatic changes. We know today that global change is accelerating the loss of species on a scale that may rival some of the largest mass extinction events of the last 540 million years, with largely unknown consequences. By studying the fossil record, we can potentially provide more accurate models of these consequences, which can then be used to predict and remediate future biodiversity loss.

What factors make species prone to extinction? How does this vary over time?

This question drives most of my research. The factors that make species most prone to extinction likely vary depending on the organism and extinction trigger. With that said, my research has shown that geographic range size is one of the more robust factors determining extinction risk. Species with larger geographic ranges seem to be buffered from extinction, whereas those with smaller geographic ranges are more prone to elimination. This makes intuitive sense, because if you are distributed in many places, any particular disaster is unlikely to affect the entirety of your home range.

How much of your work concerns historic/ancient biodiversity, and how much of it is concerned with modern extinction?

It's both! I would say 50/50.

The phrase 'medically important spider' caught my eye in your list of selected publications. You've written on how climate change will affect the distribution of a specific type of venomous spider in North America. How much can we expect global warming to result in animal relocation and adaptation, rather than extinction?

An excellent question, and one that is currently being studied by many biologists! What we are finding is that it is a bit of both. Some species will go extinct, but other species will be able to adapt or migrate to stay within suitable conditions.

The continents have shifted and changed shape throughout Earth history. The hypothesis that I am testing is that continental configuration may play a role in regulating how much extinction occurs when climate transitions from warm to cold (or vice versa). The idea is that some continental configurations may trap species more easily and prevent them from dispersing to suitable habitats as the climate changes, which would cause higher rates of extinction.

Are colleges useful? *an engineering perspective*

by Professor Antoine Jerusalem, Fellow in Engineering Science

Professor Antoine Jerusalem writes on the benefits of working and researching in a college with academics in every discipline.



The two pillars of modern academic life are teaching and research. There is little doubt that offering individual tutorials and a dedicated follow-up to a student in a supportive environment provided by colleges is beneficial. The answer to our question is thus, without doubt, yes for teaching.

The answer is not as straightforward in the case of research. Certainly, other disciplines than Engineering benefit directly from the College and colleagues in

other disciplines would certainly agree with a loud 'yes'. However, Engineering requires laboratories, modern equipment, a strict regulation of Health & Safety, collaborations with other scientific departments (themselves bound by the same rules), and a need to centralise expensive investments. All of this sits beyond the remit of what colleges can and should provide.

The vast majority of the most successful universities in the world do not follow such a collegial system and are doing as well, if not better. Yes, top US universities harbour fraternities and sororities, and even if a parallel between those organisations and our colleges can certainly be drawn, their structure, history, and aim are entirely different. We can thus certainly conclude that colleges are not necessary.

But necessary and useful are two different things. Let's take a step back and focus on my own experience. My field is Computational Mechanics of Materials; I study the deformation of materials by use of computer models. This requires a good knowledge of Materials Science, Mechanical Engineering, and a good layer of computational expertise. My main projects (and most of my funding) are focussing more particularly on the brain and its tiny constituents, the neurons, and aim at unravelling the role of neuronal mechanical deformation in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Neurogenesis, Neuromodulation, among others.

Let's go back to my field, Computational Mechanics of Materials. Clearly Materials Science, Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science are not enough.

'For to hold converse with those of other ages and to travel, are almost the same thing. It is useful to know something of the manners of different nations, that we may be enabled to form a more correct judgment regarding our own, and be prevented from thinking that everything contrary to our customs is ridiculous and irrational...'
Discourse on Method, René Descartes.

To this list, I now need to add Biophysics, Medical Sciences and Neurosciences. Because I develop new models, I also need to interact closely with my colleagues in Mathematics.

Oxford naturally provides the needed multidisciplinary environment for such vision. But one could argue that any scientific university would too. So are Materials Science, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Biophysics, Medical Sciences, Neurosciences and Mathematics enough? Let's take the example of TBI. In order to be relevant to the medical community, my work not only needs to predict how external impacts physically damage the neurons and the brain, but ideally, it also needs to predict what cognitive deficits should be expected, guide the design of new drugs able to counteract any post-TBI neurodegeneration, and even help A&E to decide what is the best course of action for a given type of TBI. The latter in particular requires access to patient data for better predictability. This means that I can't just dive into data without understanding the ethics associated with them. And now I need to add Social Sciences to my list of needed collaborations.

I could continue like this for a few paragraphs.

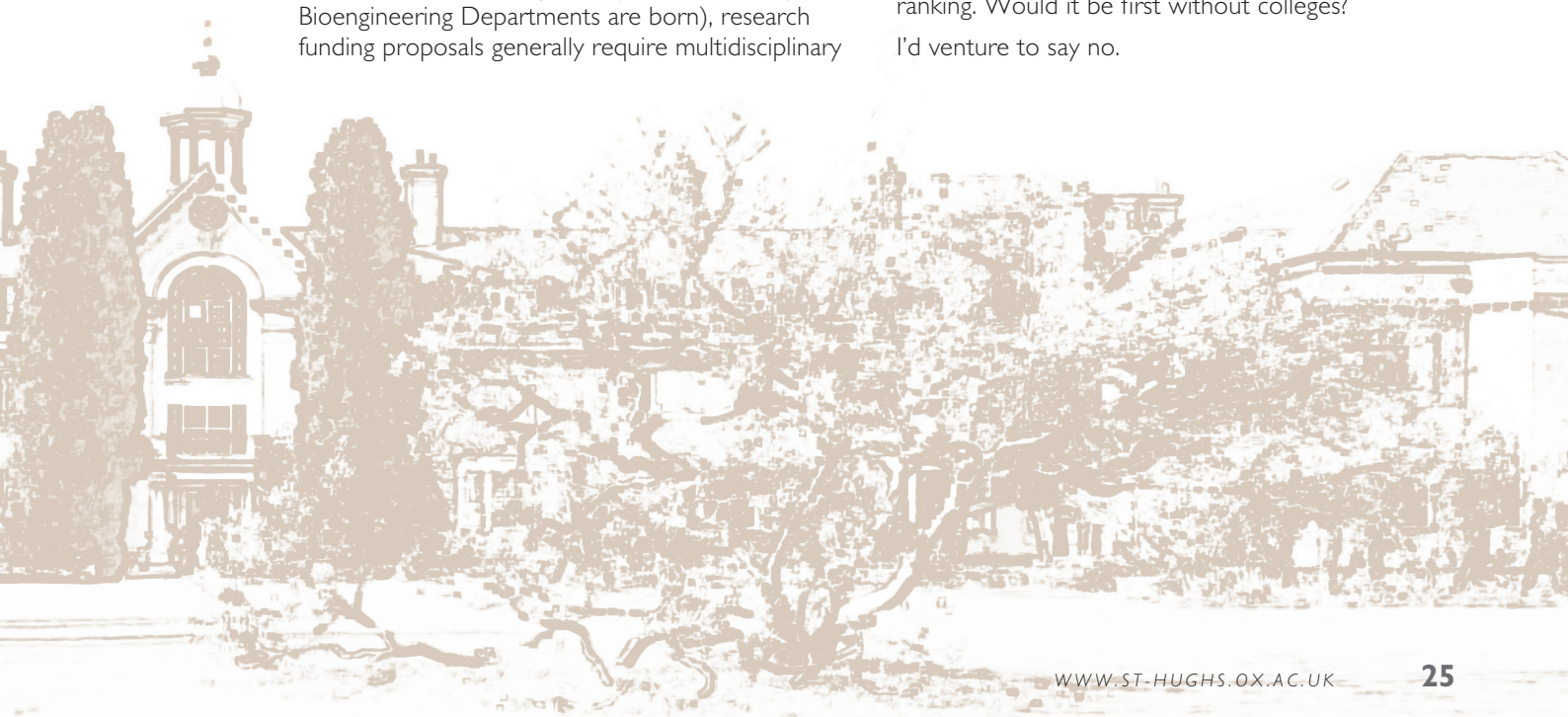
It is quite clear that working alone in my departmental office without reaching out to the academics that Oxford has to offer is not an option. Universities worldwide work actively (and often struggle) to facilitate such effort. Interdisciplinary centres are created, entire virtual departments are created around existing ones (this is how many Bioengineering Departments are born), research funding proposals generally require multidisciplinary

participations, etc. But at the end of the road, most of these efforts aim at ensuring that people from different disciplines essentially bump into each other and get to know what approaches from one field can be used for another. In one word, 'networking'. Interestingly enough, this is exactly what colleges offer. A common place where linguists, philosophers, mathematicians, engineers, surgeons, etc. meet at lunch, dinner, seminars, or while keeping an eye on their kids jumping in a bouncy castle at the summer garden party of St Hugh's. My projects involve many researchers that I either met in the College, or was introduced to by College Fellows. Some of my ideas are born from conversations with people of different backgrounds.

In the 17th century, René Descartes was a philosopher, a mathematician and a scientist, and I dare say, brilliant in all of them. This multidisciplinary profile was at the time more the rule than the exception. Modern scientists, on the other hand, have to learn to focus on minute contributions in their field, on major ones for the most brilliant, but realistically very rarely in more than one field.

St Hugh's College helped me meet the mathematicians and the philosophers that I needed to complement my science. But also the neurosurgeon, the physicist, the historian, etc. Are colleges needed? Maybe not, but they are certainly useful. Oxford is the number one university in the world according to the Times Higher Education ranking. Would it be first without colleges?

I'd venture to say no.



Sustainability in the city of Thousand Oaks

by Helen Cox

Helen Cox (Physics, 1975) writes on leaving academia to take up an important post working on sustainability for the city of Thousand Oaks, California.



Nine months ago I took a leap of faith and left the security afforded by a tenured professorship at California State University, where I had been for the past sixteen years, for a position in local government. Most of my faculty colleagues were stunned that I would give up a senior academic position in one of the few remaining professions with a guaranteed pension, for the humdrum world of

trash service, water pipes and street improvements. But for me it was a chance to re-invent myself at age 58 and see if I could put my many years of education and experience to beneficial use in the city in which I have resided for the past thirty-five years. My responsibilities as Sustainability Division Manager centre on reducing the energy, climate, water and waste footprints of municipal operations with parallel objectives for the city as a whole. Since I have been in the position for little less than a year I have yet to discover to what extent my well-intentioned efforts materialise into reality, but I am already enjoying some small successes, and most importantly, it's fun!

One of the most enjoyable benefits of working for the city is that PhDs engender respect and one's technical expertise is valued and accepted gracefully. Although not all of my Oxford physics has found a way into my work, much of it has, from the laws of thermodynamics to electric transformers, inductors and reactive power. And what a great foundation the degree laid for its content, but also for its emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving (or more accurately – being thrown in at the deep end!).

Here are some of the questions I've been asked to consider in the past few months. Each of these of course, leads to so many more: Could the city opt out of utility-supplied electricity and buy and

sell its own while providing competitive rates and remaining solvent? Should it buy its own streetlights or continue to pay monthly utility charges? Can we implement a system of remote cameras or sensors embedded in drains to transmit information that informs our maintenance schedule for drain cleaning? How can we eliminate all rubbish from entering the stormwater system? Can we collect and slurry food waste and feed it to our wastewater treatment plant's biodigester without upsetting the critical conditions for sustaining existing bacteria? To what extent can we use monthly customer water meter data to detect long-term meter degradation and 'unbilled' water using machine learning algorithms? Can we utilize pump station data and water meter readings to detect leaks in the water infrastructure? Does it make more sense to deploy a distributed network of solar PV on city facilities or a single large scale remote installation? What do we do when China rejects our recyclables and sends them back? How do we support and deploy a smart electric transportation network? How do we align the environmentally-driven necessity for water conservation with the revenue requirements as a water purveyor?

I was recently part of an Advisory Working Group investigating the feasibility of Community Choice Energy for the region. This program allows local governments to opt out of investor-owned utility-supplied electricity generation, replacing it with their own purchased power – attractive for entities wanting greater control over power procurement. In the nine months I worked with this team I delved into transmission and distribution infrastructure, regulatory bodies such as the California Public Utilities Commission, how power is bought and sold by the grid operator, costs of renewables at utility scales, modelling of customer loads, grid stability challenges, tariff structures and so much more. With my technical background I was able to dig deeply into the consultants' model, challenge assumptions, press for sensitivity studies and be assured that the study was scientifically sound. Based on the results, it seems unlikely that we will move ahead with the program but in reaching this conclusion at least I know that it will be an informed decision and I couldn't have asked for a better education on the equivalent of Britain's National Grid.

I'm a bit of a data nerd! I didn't realize it until recently (well, actually about 10 years ago, when I discovered the US Energy Information Administration website

which is loaded with the country's energy use and generation data, sliced and diced in every possible way). Data, as you know by the success of Google, is power. Smart cities can gather and use this in all kinds of ways. We already use the GPS locations from Sat Nav to help us navigate. How about using these same data to help cities move vehicles around more efficiently? Add in data from bicyclists' and pedestrians' mobile phones, calculate everyone's speed and direction, allow the traffic lights to 'talk' to each other, and use an algorithm based on moving internet packets around the net to set traffic signals.

This is something academics can talk about but cities can actually do!

I do miss teaching, so instead of teaching students I offer workshops to residents on 'going solar'. They learn how to navigate the terminology, purchase and installation, and then they take action. It is so rewarding to witness the concrete outcome of one's efforts. Not all problems have a technical solution of course (though those are my favourite!). Human challenges are far more difficult. My motto is 'Do the right thing, not the popular one'. My challenge will come if the City Council disagrees!





Alumni Garden Party *and the Principal's Barbecue*



The Principal's Barbecue, June 2017



This year's alumni Garden Party was a real success – gathering together graduates from our entire alumni family across the generations for a day of catching up with old friends and reconnecting with College. It was a pleasure for the entire College to host our alumni for the day.



The Garden Party, June 2017





Another year of firsts for St Hugh's College

Bruce M. Lawrence, Jr., Executive Director of International Advancement, reports on a string of successes by St Hugh's alumni over the last year.

From its very beginning, St Hugh's College alumnae have been responsible for numerous first-time achievements for women in Oxford. Our alumnae include the first women to obtain First-Class degrees in English, History, Jurisprudence, and Physics, and the first female Professor, Senior Proctor, and President of the Oxford Union. These achievements extend outside of Oxford to include the first woman to cross the English Channel in a glider and the first female mathematician elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Society.



Recent alumni achievements include the first woman and youngest person to row solo across the Indian Ocean and also the Pacific Ocean from Japan to Alaska, the first world record holder for the longest unsupported polar journey in history and the first person to complete a market assessment for commercial lunar services. Last year we celebrated our first alumna to become Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

And this year is no different. We launched our first international St Hugh's Alumni Association in North America, we announced our new Career Development Fellowship in Chinese Commercial Law – the first position of its kind – and our alumna Dame Helen Ghosh was selected to become the first female Master of Balliol College, Oxford.

For the second year in a row the University of Oxford has been ranked the #1 university in the world according to The Times Higher Education World University Rankings. As the third largest college in Oxford, St Hugh's College contributes to that success more than ever. We continue to strive for excellence in teaching and research while continuing to attract the best academics and students from around the world. And our alumni, academics and students have enjoyed remarkable successes in countless fields over the past year.

This next year looks to be equally exciting as we prepare to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first women being given the right to vote with the announcement of the new Emily Wilding Davidson Career Development Fellowship.

Alumni and academic achievements this year

Ursula Owen OBE (Psychological Sciences, 1956) features in BBC Documentary



A recent BBC documentary following the founding and subsequent history of feminist publisher Virago Press features St Hugh's alumna Ursula Owen OBE, one of the

Press's founding directors. In the last 40 years, Virago has been responsible for rediscovering, reprinting and publishing a vast collection of feminist thinkers and writers, from George Eliot, Willa Cather, Maya Angelou and Elaine Showalter, to another of our alumnae Mary Renault (born Eileen Mary Challans), who read English in 1928.

Rebecca Front (English, 1982) joins Poldark cast



After finishing a remarkable few years including recent performances in the BBC's *War & Peace* and *Dr Who*, Channel 4's *Humans*, ITV's *Doctor Thorne* and the blockbuster hit *Transformers: The Last Knight*, St Hugh's alumna

and BAFTA award-winning actress Rebecca Front produced and starred in the BBC's drama series *Queers*, which marked the 50th anniversary of the Sexual Offences Act, and is due to join the cast of the incredibly successful BBC drama *Poldark*.

Suzy Klein (Music, 1993) joins BBC Radio 3 Essential Classics presenting team

Sony award-winning music broadcaster Suzy Klein is now taking us through the morning with the best in classical music, having joined Rob Cowan on the presenting team for BBC Radio 3's *Essential Classics*.

Juliet Nicolson (English, 1973) publishes *A House Full of Daughters*

Juliet, granddaughter of Vita Sackville-West, has written of her father, Nigel Nicolson, and on her formidable ancestry of strong, complicated women in a wonderful new book entitled *A House Full of Daughters* (2016).

Amal Clooney (Law, 1996) meets with Pope Francis, and speaks at the UN

Leading international human rights lawyer, Amal Alamuddin Clooney, who represents Nobel Peace Prize nominee Nadia Murad and other Yazidi victims of the Islamic State, gave a powerful speech at the United Nations in March urging officials to allow an investigation into crimes by the militant group. Last year, she and her husband George met with Pope Francis at the Vatican to discuss the plight of migrants trying to reach Europe.

Professor Dinah Birch (English, 1971) receives CBE at Buckingham Palace

The University of Liverpool's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact, Professor Dinah Birch, received a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) from the Duke of Cambridge at a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace in November 2016. Professor Birch received the honour for services to higher education, literary scholarship and cultural life.

Lindsay Croisdale-Appleby (Modern History, 1992) appointed Director-General EU Exit



Former Director Europe from 2015 to 2017 and British Ambassador to Colombia from 2013 to 2015, Lindsay Croisdale-Appleby was appointed Director-General EU Exit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in July 2017.

Rowan Pelling (English, 1987) launches new magazine

Former Man Booker Prize judge and columnist for the *Daily Telegraph*, Rowan Dorothy Pelling, is a British journalist, broadcaster, writer and stand-up comedian who achieved note as the editor (or 'editrice', to use her term) of the monthly literary/

erotic magazine, the *Erotic Review*. In 2017 Pelling launched a new magazine, *The Amorist*, branded as 'for devotees of love & passion'.

Lord O'Shaughnessy (PPE, 1995) appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health

Lord O'Shaughnessy was appointed a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and a Government Whip (Lord in Waiting) in December 2016.

Bijan Sheibani (English, 1997) directs new play at the National Theatre

Bijan Sheibani's vibrant production of *Barber Shop Chronicles* plays at the National Theatre from 29 November 2017. Inua Ellams' *Barber Shop Chronicles* received its world premiere in June. The co-production between Fuel Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse moved to Leeds in July. The piece is set in barber shops in Africa and the UK.

Jane Elizabeth Margaret Sinclair (Modern History, 1975)

Jane Elizabeth Margaret Sinclair became Rector of St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey, in September 2017. She has been a Canon of Westminster Abbey since 2014.

Joanna Trollope OBE (English, 1962) releases a new book, *City of Friends*.

City of Friends is Joanna Trollope's twentieth novel.

Baroness Mary Warnock, Honorary Fellow of St Hugh's, awarded the highest honour in the 2017 New Year's Honours List.

The patron of the Progress Educational Trust, Baroness Warnock was made a Companion of Honour 'for services to charity and children with special educational needs.' She served as Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy at St Hugh's from 1949 to 1966, returning to the College as Senior Research Fellow from 1976 to 1984, before becoming an Honorary Fellow in 1985. She has written extensively on ethics, existentialism and philosophy of mind.



St Hugh's Events 2016-2017

by the St Hugh's College Development Office

The tenth annual Alumni Weekend in Oxford, held in September 2016, saw alumni from 29 countries returning to the University for a series of intellectual and practical sessions, as well as formal dinners. St Hugh's College welcomed back a record-breaking crowd of some 200 alumni over the course of the three days of the Gaudy weekend, which included a private tour of the Ashmolean, the Reunion Dinner and Jubilee Lunch.



2016 Gaudy

During October, we celebrated a Festival of Anniversaries, one of the College's largest events in recent history. In a week filled with more than 40 performances, exhibitions, talks, seminars, dinners, presentations and other activities, St Hugh's College welcomed more than 700 people for celebrations of a momentous year.



Dr Collin Raymond, Former St Hugh's Ptarmigan Career Development Fellow in Economics, returns to College with his mother to celebrate Thanksgiving at the Principal's Lodgings and give an academic lecture entitled 'Lies, Damn Lies, and Economics' in November 2016.

In early November, the St Hugh's Law Society welcomed The Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP, former corporate lawyer and Secretary of State for Education, to deliver a lecture on the Westminster legislative process and Brexit. Later in November, the Principal hosted a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for our North American students, staff and academics at her residence.

In December, we experienced yet another first as St Hugh's held a reception at the House of Commons to celebrate the launch of the new Career Development Fellowship in Chinese Commercial Law, generously sponsored by Chinese law firm Fangda Partners. This is the first position of its kind, experimenting in promoting a new and promising field of research. It has been developed to further the study of commercial law, exploring how best to understand Chinese law and



2016 Gaudy



Burns Night 2017



Burns Night 2017

Right: Dame Elish Angiolini with Elizabeth Wordsworth Fellows Eddy and Emily Tang.

Far right: Elizabeth Wordsworth Fellows Weber and Brenda Lo with Dame Elish Angiolini, followed by Eddy and Emily Tang.



Henry and Joanna Chan admitted to the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors.

Courtesy of John Cairns



the links between law, politics, economy and society, both within China and in transnational relations. The first holder of this unique post was appointed in 2017.

The College hosted two Burns Night dinners this January followed by two incredible celebrations for Chinese New Year, and Governing Body recognized one of the College's great supporters, Edwin Mok, as a Distinguished Friend of St Hugh's for his continued friendship towards and support of the College. We were delighted to welcome Mr Rimsky Yuen, SC JP, Secretary for Justice, Hong Kong Government, to St Hugh's. He spoke at the St Hugh's Mok Lecture on Chinese Law, entitled 'The Development of Common Law in Hong Kong – Past, Present and Future'. The lecture was followed by a drinks reception, and then the Law Dinner in

the Wordsworth Room, attended by the College Principal; the Rt Hon Lord Patten, Chancellor of the University; Distinguished Friend of the College, Mr Edwin Mok; and a number of senior and Honorary Fellows of the College.

In May 2017, we organised a day event to celebrate the life of Virginia Woolf, who had visited the College some 90 years earlier on 19 May 1927. Speakers included the granddaughter of Vita Sackville-West and St Hugh's alumna, author Juliet Nicolson, as well as world renowned actress Dame Eileen Atkins and art historians Frances Spalding, Christopher Woodward and Alex Harris.

In September 2017, we were pleased to welcome four new Elizabeth Wordsworth Fellows, Weber and Brenda Lo, and Eddy and Emily Tang.

US events, 2016-2017

We were very excited to officially launch our St Hugh's College North American Alumni Association which has already established five regional chapters in the U.S. including New York, Washington DC, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. We began the launch with holiday gatherings for St Hugh's alumni at The Sulgrave Club in Washington, DC hosted by alumna Margaret Hanson Costan (Theology, 1972) and in New York City's Tribeca neighbourhood hosted by alumna Sarah Street (Geography, 1981).

The Principal was the honoured guest at The Oxford & Cambridge Society of New England's 10th Annual Ancient Universities Burns Night in Boston, Massachusetts where she delivered the 'The Immortal Memory' address to a core of Oxbridge alumni including former St Hugh's students and parents. While in the Boston area, she visited the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University and met with local St Hugh's alumni at a dinner hosted by alumna Claire Calleweart (Zoology, 1989) and her husband Michael, both of whom were honoured last year as Distinguished Friends of St Hugh's.



Michael and Claire Calleweart, Distinguished Friends of the College.



Professor Matt Husband, Fellow in Psycholinguistics, speaks with an alumnus at the Palo Alto, California event in April 2017.



Professor Louise Richardson, Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford, addresses alumni and friends at the Oxford in North America event in Palo Alto, California in April 2017.



St Hugh's staff and alumni at the Vice Chancellor's Reception in Los Angeles, April 2017.

L-R: Peter Polydor (MBA, 2015), Bruce Lawrence, Annamarie Atiba (Radiation Biology, 2009), Prof Matt Husband and Dr Tom Sanders.

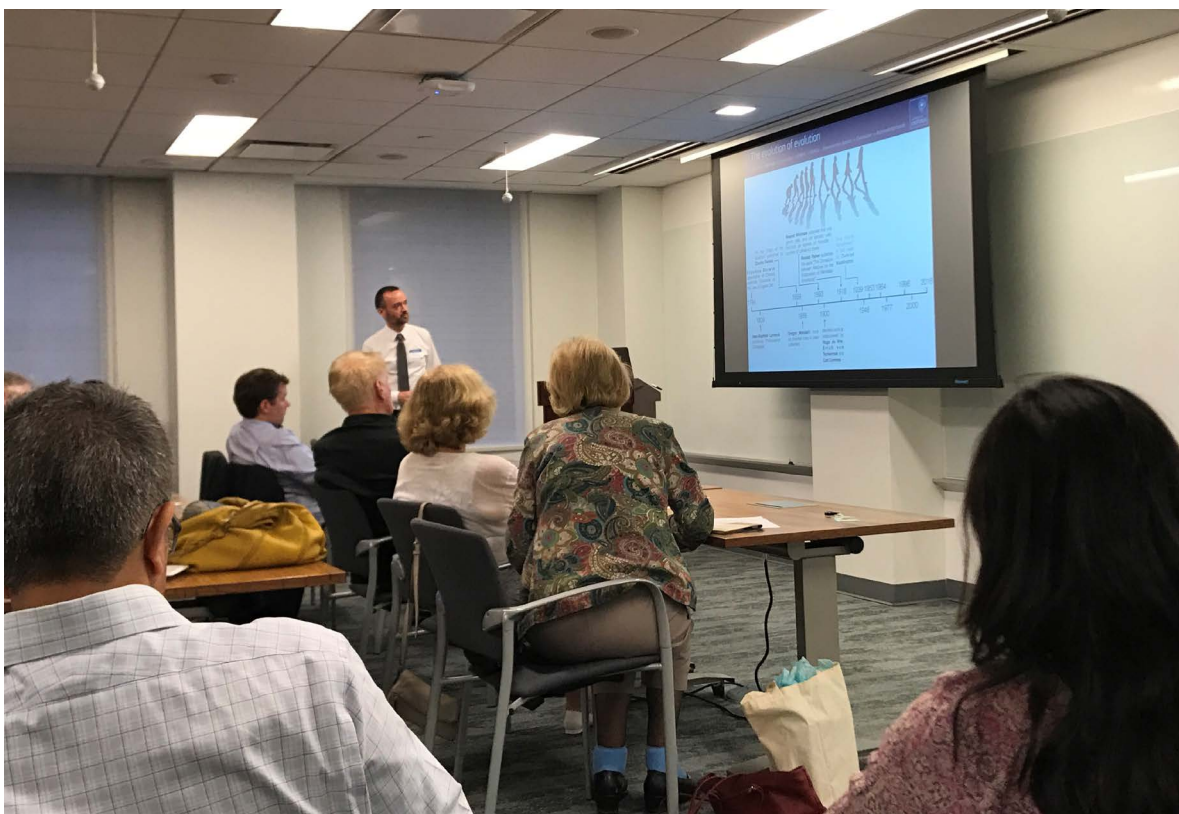
Later in the year, two of our academics, Dr Tom Sanders, Fellow in Mathematics, and Professor Matt Husband, Fellow in Psycholinguistics, joined Dr Louise Richardson, Vice Chancellor of the University, on a visit to the West Coast where they hosted

dinners for St Hugh's alumni in the Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay areas. Additionally, our alumni celebrated the Vice Chancellor's visit to New York city with a St Hugh's alumni gathering hosted by alumnus Neill Coleman (Modern History, 1993), Chair of the North American Alumni Association.

In August, we returned to Washington, DC where Professor Stuart Conway, Fellow in Organic Chemistry, gave a talk to the Oxford University Society of DC hosted by Catherine Lincoln (Modern History, 1995) on 'Fighting Cancer: Epigenetic Targets for Oncology' followed by an exclusive dinner for St Hugh's alumni.

We all remain incredibly humbled by the generosity of our alumni in North America and around the world who continue to support the College in fulfilling our historic mission to provide excellence in research, scholarship and teaching to the global community.

Our alumni events in 2017 were a resounding success, and we look forward to seeing many of you again at future St Hugh's events in North America. Please be sure to keep an eye out for more news about the 2018 Alumni Weekend in North America, and we hope to see you all in San Francisco.



Professor Stuart Conway addressing members of the Oxford University Society of DC, 23 August 2017.
Courtesy of Glenn Osten Anderson.



2016 Festival of Anniversaries

The Development team organised a special series of celebratory events in October 2016. The Festival of Anniversaries celebrated a significant year for St Hugh's, and saw a wide variety of events taking place that drew attention to our buildings and our history, to our research and to world events. We celebrated the College's 130th year, the Alumni Association's 90th, the Library's 80th, Kenyon's 50th, and 30 years since men could join the College.

More than 700 people joined us over the week.

As well as celebrating key dates for the College from its history, the Festival was very much a community-minded endeavour and featured stalls from the North Parade Farmers' Market, treasure hunts, talks, tours, performances and exhibitions (including from the Oxford Art Society, which also celebrated its 125th Anniversary last year).

Guests also enjoyed a formal dinner and musical performance.



Sarah Carthew, Director of Development, said: 'The Festival was a wonderful celebration of every strand of St Hugh's, pulling together our history and heritage with our cutting-edge research and events for the entire local community.'



Alumnus Alex Hibbert (Biological Sciences, 2004) speaks about polar exploration.



Author Silvia Brieu discusses 'Women in Myanmar politics and public life'.



Recreation of a ward at St Hugh's when it was designated a head hospital during World War II.



Philippa Bilton presents the Principal with a handmade banner celebrating Emily Wilding Davison and St Hugh's College's impact on the Suffrage movement.



Ensemble Peregrina performance supported by Flavia and Barden Gale.



Gaudy Dinner and Jubilee lunch

We celebrated the Oxford Alumni Weekend by welcoming our alumni back to College for the Gaudy Dinner and Jubilee Lunch. We kicked off the 2017 Oxford Alumni Weekend with a pre-Gaudy viewing of one of the University's hidden treasures, the Griffith Institute, where we saw some real highlights of their archive including Howard Carter's journals. On Saturday afternoon, members of the St Hugh's 1975 1st VIII enjoyed afternoon tea in College to celebrate the mounting of their commemorative blade in the foyer of the Main Building.





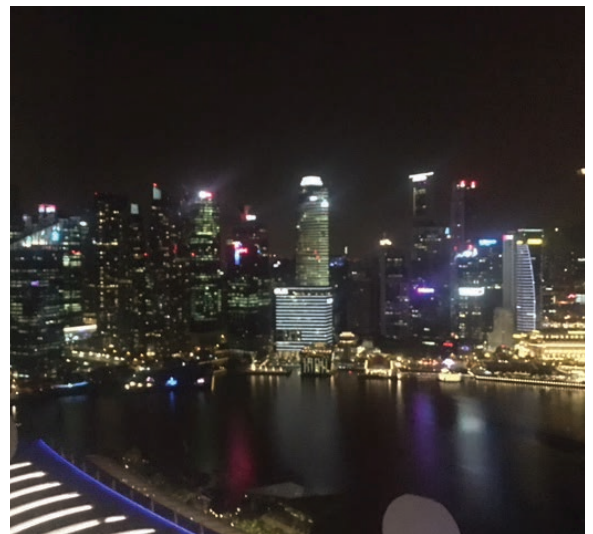
Oxford's Asia Reunion 2017



Copyright: Lionel Lin 2017

In March, we joined the Vice Chancellor in Hong Kong where we gathered with our alumni before heading to the University's Asia Reunion in Singapore. From scientific insights to a gala black-tie dinner, Oxford's research and traditions were shared and enjoyed during an action-packed three days in Singapore during which more than 500 alumni, guests and University staff took part in the stimulating and prestigious activities at iconic locations in the city state as part of the largest Alumni Weekend ever in Asia.

Highlights included viewing Shakespeare's First Folio, dinner in the spectacular Flower Dome, learning about the University's latest research, listening to the Keble College Chapel Choir, brunch at the British High Commissioner's residence, watching Dark Blue alumni crews row against their Cambridge counterparts, and an alumni dinner hosted by Dame Elish.





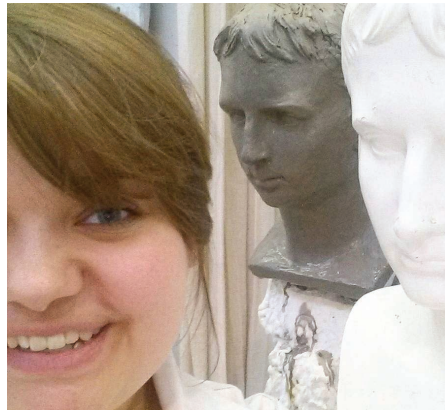
16 days with the Queen's Sculptor

by Emily Pullen

Emily Pullen reports back on a fascinating 16 days spent with the Queen's Sculptor, Alexander Stoddart, working on immense pieces of work. She was supported by a St Hugh's Travel Grant, awards which help with the costs of a vacation course or project.

Between the 29th June and 17th July, I was absorbed into the studio of Alexander (Sandy) Stoddart, the Queen's sculptor in Ordinary, Scotland. Over the course of the internship I spent 16 days working with Sandy in his studio within the University of the West of Scotland's Paisley Campus, as well as visiting the central cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. After discussing with Dame Elish the struggles I was having in my second year studying Fine Art at the Ruskin, I am extremely thankful that she, and St Hugh's, have helped support and organise this incredibly special experience.

Over the duration of my stay Sandy was under huge pressure to finish an American-commissioned statue of an 8.5ft tall Joan of Arc for Longwood University,



as clay, plaster, rubber, plasticine and bronze, as well as practical skills using clay tools, welding to create armatures, how to transpose measurements from a macquette to a sculpture, how to make an architectural façade to position statues in space, as

well as multiple casting processes. Moreover, towards the end half of my internship Sandy set me the task of replicating a cast of a 2,000+ year old bust of Augustus Caesar. This was an immense challenge for me as a sculptor only just learning how to sculpt with clay, yet Sandy was encouraged by my frustration. He explained that this illustrated I was studying this sculptural form with eyes which tried to dissect, and understand, each curve and

shadow (even if my hands could not quite replicate them!).

Whilst learning on the job, I also spent a lot of time discussing and debating with Sandy about the state of the contemporary art world in contrast to classical, traditional art and what it represents. Each topic would twist and writhe under Sandy's scrutiny; every conversation returning to rich stories of classical culture, or even the lack of it in current society. It was a fantastic challenge to try to counter Sandy's points and to try to defend parts of contemporary art, but also enlightening as these discussions helped me work through some of my own challenges that I have faced studying Fine Art, and how an artist is meant to fit into the world today. Equally, I learnt a huge amount from travelling around Glasgow and Edinburgh. I visited multiple galleries, museums and exhibitions including: the Kelvingrove Art gallery and museum, Glasgow Contemporary art gallery, Edinburgh National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, and the Edinburgh Contemporary art gallery. A key show I managed to visit was a brilliant exhibition of Caravaggio's paintings and the works of his contemporaries, which was a fantastic contrast to 'True to Life: Realist painting in the 1930's-40's'. To complement these exhibitions, I also booked into a life drawing class in Edinburgh's National Gallery to put some of the techniques and shapes I had been observing over the past weeks into live-practice.

This experience has undoubtedly changed and developed my approach to viewing art. Whether considering traditional 'cultured' art, or a collection



Virginia. This meant from day one, just a few hours after flying into Glasgow airport, I was set to work building up layers of clay on the lower leg of this monumental figure. I was taught a tremendous number of skills through intense tuition, as well as observation. This ranged from working with and discussing properties of specific materials such

of abstracted sculptural figures made from wire and bin-bags which I created in my first year, my understanding of how these objects exist within space and time has greatly deepened. These developments and shifts will certainly affect my practical and conceptual approach to creating sculpture and analysing artworks. I also intend to continue discussions with Sandy concerning the ontology of art which I feel we only just scraped

the surface of! For this reason, I am also planning to further explore what we have discussed in my dissertation.

Ultimately the time I spent with Sandy Stoddart has unlocked many of the stresses and pressures I felt in my second year, as well as academically enriching and artistically rejuvenating me. I am incredibly grateful for all the help and support St Hugh's has provided!





Jungle Medicine

by Claire Girdler and Siva Nagarajah

Siva Nagarajah (Graduate Entry Medicine, 2013) and Claire Girdler, of St Peter's College, report back on their medical expedition to Peru.



It's the heat that hits you first. Then the sight of colonial squares, and balustrades intermingling with foliage. This was Iquitos, Northern Peru – very much a city on the edge, reachable only by boat or plane, it was already remote. But not as remote as the vast, dense jungle that lay beyond its main promenade, from which you could see the swirling waters of the Amazon Basin with crafts

navigating it. In the midst of all this were two senior nurses from Tennessee, a 12-year-old visiting his grandma (also on board), four locals and us. What were we doing?

The charity, DB Peru, works with the indigenous people of the Peruvian Amazon, improving their restricted access to healthcare. Together with volunteers from all walks of life and various medical or non-medical backgrounds, they cover around twenty-eight villages in remote areas of the Napo River region; representing more than six-thousand people, sixty percent of those being children. The local medical experts are traditional shamans and a few technicos who tend to the sick or injured with limited resources and a mix of traditional and modern medicine. The closest clinic, in Mazan, is half an hour down the river on a speedboat – so likely a half-day journey for the locals who are paddling.

Travelling by boat we would leave each morning with a plan of which villages we would be visiting that day. The river was our road and the resources in the villages limited, so the boat was loaded up with medical supplies, a generator, fans and all the food and drink we would need for our day on the



go. Some days we carried out appointments with new patients: assessing a possible stroke, supplying a sling and exercises for a relocated dislocated shoulder, taking a full history from a man with frequent faints, supplying painkillers for a 5-year-old girl dying of a brain tumour. We also assisted with a research project looking at HPV and cervical cancer in the region. This included providing education sessions as well as obtaining smear samples and explaining results.

We spent our free time taking a dip in the river, fishing for piranha and taking early morning hikes through the jungle. Perhaps the most memorable night was one spent with the shamans. Approximately forty-five percent of the Peruvian population is considered indigenous and many continue to carry out medical practices utilized by their ancestors. By a crackling fire beneath a tent there lay a table with bottles and various exotic plants sprawled out across it. We learnt of local customs, the rituals involved in becoming a healer

and got to handle a variety of fauna and flora associated with medicinal properties. This was a dying art, precious knowledge which was now at risk of being lost with the creeping modernisation that saw youngsters fleeing to the cities. Having spent many a day searching for books on such a topic in Oxford, it was amusing that the first recommendation came from a shaman nine-thousand miles away! He had previously worked with the respected American botanist James A. Duke and we now possess a copy of his bestseller 'The Green Pharmacy'.

In our final days here as a 'column of fire' descended on the river, the sun was indeed setting over the Napo. But we knew we would see dawn here again someday.

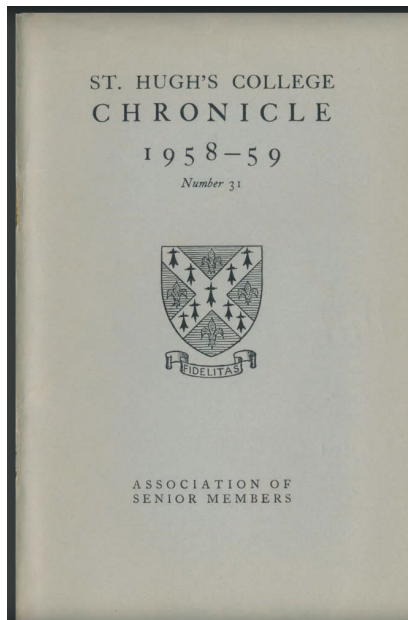
Siva is organising a return trip within the next two years, with the aim of collecting specimens for analysis in Oxford.



My time at St Hugh's

has been a profound and positive influence throughout my life

by Christine North (Modern Languages, 1958)



In the late 1950s and early 60s life at St Hugh's was completely different, almost unrecognisable compared with today. I well remember heating so rudimentary that it had to be boosted with coal fires, a hod of coal being left outside our doors twice a week, and I, from a family of miners, showing fellow students how to make and light their fires; food so inadequate that I was found to have the beginnings of scurvy in my second year; the 10.30pm curfew, with one exeat per weekend, and then only until 11.15pm, with the

result that I left St Hugh's with a considerable knowledge of the first half of a great many plays and films; gentlemen being allowed to visit for only two hours in the afternoon, when of course nothing naughty could possibly take place, and much more. Incidentally, the 'man-hours' rule was so strictly enforced that my father and brother had great difficulty, in being allowed into College to see me one morning during term-time.

However, in the restricted confines of this article, I shall concentrate on one or two of the hazards of being a woman, and a Northerner, amidst the dreaming spires 58 years ago. I came up (on the down train as they say in Yorkshire) from an ordinary state High School in Doncaster. The last High School girl to be given a place at Oxford or Cambridge was Dame Margaret (Madge) Adam, a contemporary of my mother, who later became a Fellow in Astronomy at St Hugh's and President of the Royal Astronomical Society. A hard act to follow. I was as green as grass and quite overwhelmed, as well as enthusiastic, about what I saw in Oxford.

As a scholar, I was seldom taught in College, but was sent for solo tutorials to many learned authorities on French Language and Literature; for this I was grateful, but it could be rather a mixed blessing.

In my second year I attended a University seminar on Montaigne, where I was the only woman amongst a large group of men. They all seemed to be conversing in a sort of 'in language' incomprehensible to me, and I had absolutely no idea what the

discussions were about. In third week I summoned up the courage to ask, in my best Doncaster English: 'Why are we studying Montaigne?' Absolute silence. Then the tutor said, very kindly (some may say patronisingly): 'Oh, Miss Renshaw, what a charming accent. Do say that again.' My question was never answered.

Again in my second year, I went to Christ Church for my Mediaeval Literature tutorials. As I went up the staircase I would hear gales of male laughter coming from my tutor's room. I would knock on the door, the laughter would abruptly cease, and a file of silent men would edge past me down the stairs. One particular week, my tutor was sitting, as usual, facing the window with his back towards me, but this time, as soon as I had finished reading, he got up and began to walk round and round the large Chesterfield in the middle of the room. 'Miss Renshaw, Why are you here?' I muttered something about getting a good education. 'Miss Renshaw, do you hope to marry?' 'Yes.' 'And have children?' 'Yes.' 'Then do you not think, Miss Renshaw, that your place were better given to one of those young men on whom you will then doubtless depend?' I was extremely upset, yet there was very little I could do about it. There was no anti-discrimination or equal opportunities legislation in place, and I have to say I came across quite a few similar cases of this kind of prejudice, one example being the refusal by certain Fellows to allow women to attend their lectures.

The rules concerning sexual behaviour we felt to be particularly unjust. If a female undergraduate became pregnant, and of course in those days contraceptives were not available to unmarried people, she would be sent down with no possibility of returning to finish her degree. Her male partner would be rusticated for a term, and then go back to his college, presumably with his street cred much enhanced.

I hope this very short account gives some idea of how it was for my generation, and how, to some extent, it had to be. The women's colleges were poor, the battle for women's rights to education and full recognition in society was still being fought; furthermore we were still minors, with our college required to take parental responsibility for us. Yet despite all the difficulties, and they are of course only part of the story, Oxford has been a profound and positive influence in my life, and I would not have had it otherwise.





Oxford University and St Hugh's College North America reunion College dinner – *save the date!*

The University of Oxford is hosting the 2018 Alumni Weekend in North America in San Francisco on 6 and 7 April, and St Hugh's will be there.

Keep an eye on the website of the North American Office for more information.

Dame Elish will host a College dinner for alumni, friends and guests on the Saturday evening and we

will have the first annual meeting of the St Hugh's North American Alumni Association on Sunday 8 April. More details on those College-specific events will be available soon.

Previous events have been exceptional and we've received some very good feedback. We encourage you to come along.

Here are some photos from previous years.



Events for Your Diary

Forthcoming events

Unless otherwise indicated, further details and booking information for all of the events listed below will be circulated in the new year. To register your interest in any of these events, please email development.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk.

27 January 2018

Burns Night

Join us for our annual Burns Night supper and ceilidh in College for alumni and guests, hosted by the Principal.

4 March 2018

Alumni Association Lunch and General Meeting

The Alumni Association will be holding their annual lunch in College, to which all St Hugh's alumni and current graduate students, and their guests, are cordially invited. After lunch, Professor Elizabeth Eva Leach FBA, Fellow and Tutor in Music at St Hugh's, will speak about aspects of her research. This event provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends old and new. A General Meeting of the Alumni Association will also take place on the same date to consider revisions to their constitution.

16-18 March 2018

Oxford European Alumni Weekend in Rome

Join us for 'Meeting Minds in Rome', the University's European Alumni Weekend. Immerse yourself in stimulating academic sessions, social events and exclusive tours. Booking is now open and further details are available at <https://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/Rome2018>.

In addition to the main programme, St Hugh's alumni and friends are warmly invited to a private tour at Palazzo Colonna, followed by a drinks reception hosted by the Principal in the stunning surroundings of Princess Isabelle's Apartment, on the evening of Friday 16 March. Further details and booking information are available on the Events page on the College website.

6-8 April 2018

Oxford North American Alumni Weekend in San Francisco

For the first time since its inception, the Oxford Alumni Weekend in North America is moving to the West Coast. Join us for this important alumni gathering within one of the largest and most vibrant Oxonian communities in the world. Enjoy a Friday night drinks reception overlooking San Francisco and a spectacular Gala Dinner at the historic Ferry Building followed by a full day academic programme including Oxford academic and alumni speakers on Saturday. Additionally, this year will feature a Careers Fair to coincide with the Saturday programme featuring companies from across the Bay Area and Silicon Valley. For booking and further information on the University programme, please visit <https://www.oxfordna.org/events-homepage>.

The Principal will host a College dinner for alumni, friends and guests on Saturday evening and we will have the inaugural meeting of our newly established St Hugh's College North American Alumni Association on Sunday 8 April.

More details on the College's events will be available in due course.

26 April 2018

London Breakfast Event: Brexit

Owen Tudor, Head of European Union and International Relations at the TUC, will give a briefing on Brexit, where we are now and what it means for business and employees.

23 June 2018

Garden Party

Alumni are welcome to bring friends and family of all ages for this fun-filled afternoon in the College grounds, which will include the third annual St Hugh's Dog Show.

14-16 September 2018

Oxford Alumni Weekend

Information on the 12th 'Meeting Minds: Alumni Weekend in Oxford' will be available at https://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/alumni_home in due course.

St Hugh's will be hosting the annual **Gaudy Dinner** on the Saturday evening, to which all alumni are welcome. Priority years will be announced in the new year.

Our **Jubilee Lunch** for alumnae who matriculated in 1948, 1958 and 1968 will follow on the Sunday.

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

For further information, please email development.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)1865 613839.



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.

The Development Office, St Hugh's College, St Margaret's Road, Oxford OX2 6LE

Tel: +44 (0)1865 613839 Fax: +44 (0)1865 274912 Email: development.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk



Reg. Charity No: 1139717