



THE MARTLET

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

ISSUE 16 | 2024



775
YEARS OF UNIV

Contents

College

From the Master 05 Baroness Amos LG CH PC	Fellows' news 06 New appointments	College news 08 Dr Michael Nicholson Prize, CEO Sleepout and incident exercise
My view of Univ 10 Dr Aneurin Ellis-Evans, George Cawkwell Tutorial Fellow in Ancient History	Dates for your diary 11	Event highlights 12 2023-24
Development news 16 775 Years of Univ and Giving Day 2024	An update on Univ North 24	

Features



Poetry, plaques and process

Pireeni Sundaralingam (1986, Experimental Psychology), Univ's Poet Laureate



From alchemy to anatomy

Elizabeth Fleetwood, Assistant Librarian

University College, Oxford, OX1 4BH
facebook.com/universitycollegeoxford
twitter.com/univoxford
instagram.com/univcollegeoxford

Registered charity no. 1141259

©University College, Oxford, 2024

Produced by B&M Design & Advertising:
bm-group.co.uk

A large print version of this magazine is available on request.

The opinions expressed in *The Martlet* are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of University College. All content correct at the time of going to print.

If you would like to share your view, please email: communications@univ.ox.ac.uk or write to us at the above address.

“

Acts of storytelling lay down foundational parts of Univ's identity, as a community of interconnecting lives, loves, and losses.”

Pireeni Sundaralingam (1986, Experimental Psychology)

“

The most important thing Univ gave me is a great network of life-long friends. The next most important is intellectual curiosity.”

Alison Wright (1986, PPE)

Features



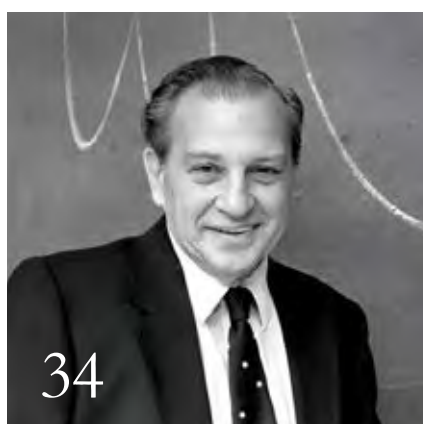
26

The secret of my success
Univ entrepreneurs



32

A forest scientist from a concrete jungle
Dr Tin Hang (Henry) Hung 洪天恒



34

A Univ Conversation
with Rudy Marcus

Endnotes



31

66 days, 17 hours, 39 minutes
Jim Ronaldson, Univ’s Boatman



36

Sports and societies

“

We are in a race for new technologies, medical treatments, and sustainable solutions to bring hope to this world.”

Dr Tin Hang (Henry) Hung 洪天恒 (2017, DPhil Plant Sciences), Radcliffe Scholar

Announcements	40
Publications	44
In memoriam	46
Fitzbillies’ recipe	51
A recipe for the perfect carrot cake	



From the Master

We are midway through Univ's 775th anniversary year and the response from our alumni, students, academic colleagues, staff and friends has been overwhelmingly positive and heartwarming. Throughout the year and in this issue of *The Martlet*, we celebrate Univ's people and the significant contribution they have made in all areas of life here in the UK and globally. It is through Univ's people that our commitment to achieving greater diversity in our College community is being realised with philanthropic support to the Student Support Fund, travel grants, undergraduate and graduate scholarships, Opportunity Oxford, the Beacon Programme, junior research fellowships, support to refugee programmes and Africa Oxford (AfOx). We reflect our values through the actions we take and the causes we support.

Members of the Development team and I had the privilege of visiting alumni in Hong Kong and Singapore at the start of the year, and we were joined by the Senior Tutor for our visit to the US in April. As always, I was struck by the fond memories of Univ, friendships made which continue to this day and the difference that studying at Univ has made in so many lives. Time and time again, we heard about the important role that fellows played through challenging their students to expand their horizons, to be intellectually curious, the support they gave when needed and the sense of "family" created as a result of interactions with staff in the lodge, housekeeping, buttery and academic office; memories of cricket and football matches as well as other sports being played, sometimes at a very high level. This year's Summer VIIIs was particularly special as

“
It is through Univ's people that our commitment to achieving greater diversity in our College community is being realised.”

we welcomed back Old Members who had been part of the Boat Club fifty years ago! It was a wonderful reunion. And memories of music at Univ with the prominent role of the Chapel Choir, Martlet Ensemble and community choir. The talent of our student community at Univ continues. My thanks to everyone who attended our events and to the Old Members who sponsored and hosted events during our visits.

It has been a busy Trinity term with the Giving Day, which brought different parts of our community together and raised in excess of £201,000 for the Student Support Fund, Music at Univ, the Boat Club and Area of Greatest Need; The Garden Play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, performed in the Master's Garden by the Univ Players; the HLA Hart Memorial lecture this year given by Professor Anita L Allen from the University of Pennsylvania and, of course, our finalists preparing for their exams.

In September our celebrations continue with our 775 Festival on 28 September showcasing the breadth of interests of our academic community as well as offering the opportunity to engage in other areas of College life.

It's not every year that a College celebrates 775 years, and it was a particular pleasure to have our achievement recognised in this year's Creweian Oration during Encaenia, the annual ceremony when the University awards honorary degrees.



Valerie Amos

Fellows' news

New appointments

You can read more Fellows' news in the *University College Record* and on the College website.

Visiting Fellows



Professor Anita L. Allen, Henry R Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania, has been

appointed the HLA Hart-JH Mance Visiting Fellow in Philosophy, Law and Politics at Oxford for 2024. Professor Allen delivered the 38th HLA Hart Memorial Lecture: "Unconditional Love, Some Implications for the Law" on 16 May in Univ Chapel.



Professor Jonathan Schneer is the 2024 Overbrook Visiting Fellow. Professor Schneer taught modern British history at Georgia Tech, where he is emeritus. He

is the author of nine books, most recently *Nine Days in May: The General Strike of 1926*, which Oxford University Press will publish to coincide with the centenary.

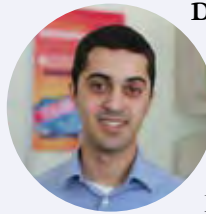
Emeritus Fellows



Professor Bill Roscoe FEng (1975, Mathematics) has been elected an Emeritus Fellow of the College.

Professor Roscoe became a College Lecturer at Univ in 1979 and a Tutorial Fellow in 1983. In 2007 he became a Senior Research Fellow at Univ and in 1993-7 he was Senior Tutor of Univ.

Tutorial Fellows



Dr Amro Awad, Weir Tutorial Fellow in Engineering Science, joins us from the ECE Department of NC State

University where he was an associate professor. His research interests include secure hardware architectures, memory systems, and system-level integration of emerging technologies.



Dr Beau Mount, Sir Peter Strawson Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy. Dr Mount was previously a Lecturer in Logic at King's College London. Dr Mount's

research covers a variety of issues in philosophy of mathematics and logic, metaphysics and formal epistemology.

Junior Research Fellows



Dr Jack Andrews, Stevenson Junior Research Fellow in Medical Sciences (Psychology) is a Wellcome Early-Career

Fellow specialising in Developmental Science and Mental Health. Dr Andrews' work focuses on peer influence effects on adolescent mental health, and the design and evaluation of universal school-based interventions for mental health.



Dr Mobeen Hussain, Beacon Junior Research Fellow in Postcolonial and Race Studies, is an early career historian of the British Empire focusing

on race, gender, medicine, and the colonial legacies of consumption, material cultures and economic exploitation. Dr Hussain is preparing a monograph on gender, race and skin-lightening in colonial India. She is also working on a co-authored monograph about Trinity College Dublin's colonial legacies.



Dr Lyn Kouadio's, Beacon Junior Research Fellow in Postcolonial and Race Studies, research at Univ examines the Rassemblement

Démocratique Africain, a Black African Francophone anti-colonial movement. This research explores colonial archives in broader repatriation and reparations debates in international politics and justice.

Stipendiary Lecturers



Dr Alix Hibble,
Stipendiary Lecturer in Academic Skills, works as an independent researcher in education research, studying the factors that support academic attainment.



Dr Judy Sayers (2019),
Stipendiary Lecturer in Biochemistry, specialises in Cell and Developmental Biology, focusing on the regeneration of the cardiac conduction system.



Dr Anton Jäger's,
Departmental Lecturer in the History of Political Thought and Political Theory, main area of study is the interrelation between capitalism and democracy.



Dr Mahsa Shirmohammadi,
Stipendiary Lecturer in Computer Science, researches verification, probabilistic models, infinite-state systems and automata theory.



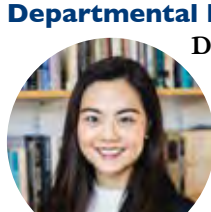
Dr Rebecca Lewis,
Stipendiary Lecturer in Statistics, is the Florence Nightingale Bicentenary Research Fellow in the Department of Statistics at Oxford.



Dr Leah Veronese-Clucas, Stipendiary Lecturer in English, teaches early modern literature (1550-1660), Shakespeare and English epic.



Amine M'Charrak,
Stipendiary Lecturer in Computer Science, teaches Machine Learning and Mathematics and researches causal inference and discovery.



Departmental Lecturers

Dr Yuna Han,
Departmental Lecturer in International Relations, researches the politics of international law.



Other Appointments

Felice Nassar, Fellow and Director of Development, Communications and Alumni Relations joined Univ in September from St Anne's College, Oxford where she was Deputy Development Director.

Research Associates



Dr Alba González-Lanchas,
Research Associate in Earth Science (Paleoclimatology and Geochemistry), is a micropaleontologist of calcareous nannofossils.



Dr Alexandre Johnston's,
Research Associate in Classics, research focuses on the literature and religion of archaic and classical Greece.



Dr Daniel Rowe,
Research Associate in History, is a Departmental Lecturer in US History at Oxford and a Fellow of the Rothermere American Institute.



Dr Marko von der Leyen
(2017, Physics), Research Associate in Physics, is a researcher in the Norreys Lab working on the interaction of intense and short laser pulses with plasma (ionised matter).

College news

Dr Michael Nicholson Prize, CEO Sleepout and incident exercise



Dr Michael Nicholson Prize

Dr Michael (Mike) Nicholson, Tutorial Fellow in Russian from 1987 to 2011 and one of the world's leading experts on Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, was well-known at Univ and fondly remembered by many for his wide-ranging and energetic contributions to the life of the College.

In recognition of Mike's enormous contribution to so many areas of College life, the Dr Michael Nicholson Prize has

been established in his memory.

This annual prize, which will be subject to competitive application, will support financially the best proposals brought forward by undergraduate and graduate students for new and one-off activities which will contribute to and enhance the life of the whole College community at Univ.

Proposals might be musical, sporting,

artistic, socially enterprising, or indeed of some entirely novel nature. The key quality of the prize-winning entries will be that they bring an innovative and imaginative approach to the task, and that they benefit the whole Univ community. We hope that in designing and implementing their schemes, prize-winners will benefit from considerable personal and professional development.



CEO Sleepout

Members of the Oxford colleges and the University headed to Univ's sports ground on Abingdon Road for the CEO Sleepout Oxford on 12 October. Angela Unsworth MBE, Domestic Bursar, and Martha Cass, Senior Philanthropy Manager, were among those who flew the flag for the College. The event raised

£75k for the Oxfordshire Homeless Movement charity, which the College supports both in its charitable giving and in its inclusive recruitment policy, which offers employment opportunities for ex-offenders and previously homeless people.

Members of the University and colleges as well as people involved in the

business and commercial sector across Oxfordshire attended, including Professor Irene Tracey, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alexander Betts, University Local and Global Engagement Officer, and Heads of House.



Major incident exercise

On the evening of 12 December, Univ held a live exercise involving a simulated emergency response to a major incident involving a fire in the College. This is the first time an exercise of this scale has taken place at an Oxford college. The University of Oxford Risk and Resilience Team and the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service were involved, and Oxford University Security Services and the other Oxford colleges were also made aware of the exercise. Other colleges participated, acting as role players in the incident. St Anne's, Worcester and Queen's staff acted as injured residents and observed the exercise to gain insight into how to manage such an incident in their own colleges.

The simulation saw a mock fire in a staircase in one of the College's Grade-1-listed buildings, with cosmetic smoke and "live" casualties positioned in the building to create a realistic rescue situation. As part of the staged incident there were a number of fire appliances located along the High Street outside the College and hoses run from hydrants, with fire service personnel in breathing apparatus travelling back and forth between the College and the appliances.



My view of Univ



As a recent arrival at Univ, I spent a good deal of last academic year stumbling across new and delightful corners of the College. I had probably peeked into the Master's garden once or twice before the day I took this photo, but in Michaelmas and Hilary terms it had usually been too cold, wet, or dark to spend any time there. On this early April day, however, the spring sun had finally arrived and I was looking for a quiet place to catch up with a friend I hadn't seen in a while. We sat and admired the magnolia, its flowering period nearly over, the brisk wind whipping away ever more blossoms to reveal the green shoots of its future foliage one by one. My friend had just secured a permanent academic post after a long and winding route to job security, a journey I myself had only just completed. A bad writer would at this point make a thuddingly obvious metaphor out of this scene of change, renewal, and new beginnings which nature had laid on for us. Instead, we watched the blossoms fall, drank our coffees, and gossiped.

Dr Aneurin Ellis-Evans, George Cawkwell Tutorial Fellow in Ancient History

Dates for your diary

**Music for a
Midsummer's
Evening**
THURSDAY 25 JULY



**Univ 775 Festival in
College**
SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER



**Master's Univ 775
Alumni Drinks in Dublin**
THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER



**Univ North
Hard Hat Tour**
TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER

**Univ 775 Online Talks
Professor Trevor Sharp**
THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER

**Univ North
Hard Hat Tour**
THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER



**Univ 775
London Dinner**
SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER

**Univ North
Hard Hat Tour**
TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER



Advent Carols
SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER

**Univ North
Hard Hat Tour**
TUESDAY 7 JANUARY

Please check
the website for
updates:
bit.ly/univ0169

Event highlights

A number of events took place in 2023-24, connecting Old Members and friends around the world. Here are some of the highlights. Follow the links to read reports, view photographs or listen to podcasts.

February 2023

Univ Seminar

The Univ Seminar, “Culture Wars: Who Owns History”, took place on 2 February in the House of Commons and online. Baroness Amos, Master of Univ, hosted the discussion with panellists Afua Hirsch, Dr Casely-Hayford and Professor Ben Jackson. Read a report by Andy Baker (1984, PPE), view photographs and listen to the podcast at: bit.ly/Univ1377

March 2023

16th Annual Football Day

The Univ Old Members football tournament returned to the Univ Sports Ground on 11 March. Peter Chambers (1989, Maths) kindly provided a match report: bit.ly/Univ1415

2020 Leavers' Dinner

The Class of 2020 finally celebrated their leavers' event on 25 March – an event that had previously been postponed due to the pandemic. Guests enjoyed afternoon tea, preprandial drinks, dinner and brunch the following morning.

Schrecker Dinner

The Schrecker Dinner took place on 9 March for current students and academics of the College. These annual dinners were a gift from the late Tom Schrecker (1952, History), Foundation Fellow. Mary Orsak (2022, MPhil Slavonic Studies) wrote a report on the event: bit.ly/Univ1445

The College was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Mr Schrecker in May 2024. A full tribute recognising his exceptional benefaction to the College will be included in this year's *Record*. Our thoughts are with his friends and family.

April 2023

New York and Boston Receptions

Old Members and friends attended receptions hosted by the Master in New York on 13 April and Boston on 15 April. We are grateful to Bruns Grayson (1974, PPE) for kindly supporting the Boston event: bit.ly/Univ1452



May 2023

Univ in the Arts – Breakfast at Dishoom

Shamil Thakrar (1990, PPE), co-founder of Dishoom led a cultural tour of his celebrated restaurants on 3 May: bit.ly/Univ1459

Baroness Amos, Shamil Thakrar and Amanda Brookfield at Univ in the Arts – Breakfast at Dishoom



William of Durham Club Luncheon

This annual celebration, which recognises members of Univ who have pledged a legacy to the College, and those considering this special form of giving, took place on 13 May and included a talk from Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982, Classics) and a performance from Univ's Community Choir. Greg Birdseye (1965, Physics) kindly provided a report: bit.ly/Univ1463



Summer Eights

Members of the College, their families, friends and supporters, gathered to cheer on UCBC at Summer Eights on 27 May at the Univ Boathouse: bit.ly/Univ1750

Choir Reunion

Former choir members were invited to join the current choir and congregation for Choral Evensong on 21 May: bit.ly/Univ1467

June 2023

Leander Lunch

A group of Univ Boat Club Old Members gathered at Leander Club, Henley-on-Thames, on 3 June with active members of the Club as their guests. Ron Jordan (1963, History), who kindly organised the day, provided a wonderful report: bit.ly/Univ1476



Rhodes 120th Anniversary Drinks Reception

As part of the 120th anniversary of the Rhodes Trust celebrations, The Master invited Univ Rhodes Scholars past and present and their guests to a reception on Thursday 29 June in the Master's Lodgings. Dr Colin Michie (1980, Medicine) has kindly written a report: bit.ly/Univ1497

Event highlights

September 2023

Anniversary Luncheon

The Classes of 1953, 1963 and 1973 celebrated their golden, diamond and platinum reunions on 8 September. Peter Gibbs (1963, PPE) kindly wrote a report: bit.ly/Univ1542

Meeting Minds

Events took place at Univ on 23 and 24 September as part of the University's Alumni Weekend and included talks on the College's Oscar Wilde collection, the history of the College History, reading at random and naturally inspired routes to CO₂ removal. You can view the talks here: bit.ly/Univ1552

October 2023

Armando Iannucci at the Shakespeare Society

Writer and director Armando Iannucci (1982, English) returned to College on 17 October for a conversation with Professor Joe Moshenska, Beaverbrook and Bouverie Tutorial Fellow in English.

Watch the video: bit.ly/univ1595



1997-2000 Gaudy

A Gaudy for those who matriculated between 1997 and 2000 took place on 23 September. The Toast was given by Farimah Darbyshire (1999, Law). Alston Zecha (1997, Mod Lang) kindly provided a report: bit.ly/Univ1569



November 2023

Univ in the Arts

On 28 November, Univ in the Arts presented "Cricket, Comedy and Current Affairs" at Lord's Cricket Ground. The evening brought together ubiquitous comedian, writer and cricket statistician Andy Zaltzman (1993, Classics) and writer, translator and the captain of Harold Pinter's cricket team Shomit Dutta (1989, Classics). bit.ly/Univ1623

December 2023

Advent Carols

All Old Members, students, staff, friends and families were invited to attend a service for Advent in the College Chapel on 2 December, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Hall.

January 2024

Singapore and Hong Kong Receptions

In January, Baroness Amos and members of the Development team met Old Members and friends, current students and their parents in Singapore and Hong Kong: bit.ly/Univ1612 and bit.ly/Univ1618



March 2024

Univ Football Day

The 17th Annual Football Day was given (more than) a touch of celebrity, as the Master arranged for two football legends to join us: Chris Hughton and Garth Crooks OBE. Students, Old Members, friends and families were invited to take part in the day, held at Univ's Sports Ground. We are grateful to Old Members for subsidising prices for students, staff and spectators – and to Peter Chambers (1989, Maths) for helping to organise the day and for the splendid match report: bit.ly/Univ1619

Univ 775 Online Talks

Professor Tamsin Mather, Supernumerary Fellow in Earth Sciences, presented the first of our Univ 775 Online Talks on 11 March on Icelandic volcanism: bit.ly/Univ1620

Tom Schrecker Dinner

The College held the final Tom Schrecker Dinner in March, attended by current students and Fellows of the College.

2001-2004 Gaudy

The classes of 2001-2004 gathered for a Gaudy on 16 March. Dr Sophia Dawkins (2004, PPE) has written a wonderful report: bit.ly/Univ1621

April 2024

Women and Word

Univ in the Arts presented “Women and Word”, a private view and conversation with artist Daisy Harcourt (1990, Fine Art) and Dr Laura Varnam, Lecturer in Old and Middle English Literature, on 18 April at the Town House, in London. We are grateful to Matilda Warner (2016, English) for her account of the event: bit.ly/Univ1622

Development News

775 Years of Univ and Giving Day 2024

Univ in numbers

 £15,000+

Raised through the Boat Club campaign



The College's 775th anniversary celebrations began in January with our Boat Club appeal, in which Grace Lane, our Philanthropy Manager, worked with UCBC to raise essential funds for our crews. Through a telethon, a social media campaign and a mailing campaign, more than £15,000 was raised for the Club to be used for equipment and training.

In the New Year, the Master, Development Director and Deputy Development Director travelled to Asia for the first Univ trip since 2019. On this special visit to Hong Kong and Singapore, College representatives reunited with familiar faces and got to meet many new ones at events in both cities. We would like to thank everyone who met with us, and who expressed such an amazing engagement with Univ.

In April, the Master, Development Director, Deputy Development Director and Senior Tutor met Old Members and friends of the College in the USA. In New York, alumni of Univ and the wider university joined the Master for a conversation with Emma Tucker (1986, PPE), Editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, at the University of Oxford North American Office, on the role of journalism in the political world. In Washington DC, Old Members and friends joined us for a special evening at the British Ambassador's Residence. At this Univ Gala in the USA, the Master and the British Ambassador to the USA, Dame Karen Pierce, received members of the College for dinner. Dr Andrew Bell (1993, History), Senior Tutor, gave a comprehensive overview of academic activities in the College, and the Master gave a speech about the future goals of the College. The evening was filled with pride for Univ and support of the College in its upcoming plans.

In this special anniversary year, we have been holding a series of new events, including our 775 Online Talks series hosted by the Master, in which Univ academics showcase their research. So far, Professor Tamsin Mather and Dr Natalya Benkhaled-Vince have presented their fascinating research, on Icelandic volcanism and student protests in 1960s Algeria, respectively.

Another new element of the year has been Univ's first online Giving Day, which took place over 36 hours, from 30 April to 1 May. In this exciting initiative over 351 donors raised an incredible £201,000+, and for this we could not be more grateful. Over the two days, we held events for staff and students around the College, including an Ergometer rowing challenge, a welfare run, a maypole dance, a music marathon and a haiku writing session. The community spirit showcased at this event was truly remarkable, and we thank everyone who supported this initiative.

We are excited for you to join us for the rest of this 775th anniversary and hope to see you on 28 September for the 775 Festival in College.

Isabel Sebode, Alumni and Donor Relations Officer

Giving Day 2024 feedback

Here are a few of the messages we received from the Univ community during the 775 Giving Day:

“What I owe to Univ is incalculable and I want others to benefit as much as I have. My whole career has been in education, and I know well how vital sensitive support and guidance is to help students survive and succeed. I was very pleased to see it as one of the Giving Day priorities.”

Dr Seán Lang (1979, History)

“Univ is such a wonderful place. It's where I found my feet! I'd love to help students who would most welcome it, whether in terms of financial bursary or pastoral support.”

Angela Neenan (1994, English)

“Sweet memories of May Day night on the Cherwell, punts, bonfires, champagne, the hedonism and aesthetic delights of Oxford at the end of the 1960s.”

Clive Tempest (1965, English)

“What a fabulous fundraising initiative. Well done to all involved.”

Dr Mark Urquhart (1989, PPE)



£100,000

Raised through matched funding for the 775 Giving Day



£201,000+

Total raised through the 775 Giving Day



965+

Impressions on the “Marty Martlet” post on Instagram



“Univ enriched my musical life immensely, giving me many performance opportunities, and the chance to hear world-class musicians. The College helped towards my instrumental studies, and I was a regular inhabitant of the practice room. But above all, it’s the warm community which binds me to Univ.”

Kate Bailey (1980, Music)

“I have great memories of fun and friendship on the River. I hope that Univ men and women will continue to have the same opportunities for at least another 775 years.”

Ronald Jordan (1963, History)

We would also like to say a sincere thank you to all the donors who generously gave to the Matched Funding in advance of Giving Day, allowing us to match pound for pound and dollar for dollar every donation that came in on the day. Without their support, Univ’s 775 Giving Day would not have been the great success that it was. It is our people who make the Univ community so exceptional, and we appreciate your support. Thank you!

Giving Day 2024 in pictures



Poetry, plaques and process

Dialoguing with place and past

There is a tradition of erecting plaques as a way of keeping our histories alive. Yet plaques – in their ponderous solidity, their concrete immutability (their “set-in-stoneness”) – are rarely designed in a way that allows for dynamic exchange with the ever-changing contexts of history, society, community. Might it be possible, instead, to design something more akin to a conversational process, something that celebrates the dialogue between history and ourselves, rather than history’s monolithic monologue?

As a cognitive scientist, poet and interdisciplinary artist, I’m intrigued by the ways in which storytelling, memories and histories intersect. Neurological processes such as state-dependent learning mean that our physical spaces often dictate the type of memories we encode, and ultimately the nature of the histories we tell; they bear down on the types of conversations we end up having with the past. In an era of texts, tweets and fast dopamine hits, I’m curious to see how the act of reading aloud poems at specific sites may help us pause and pay attention, to reflect and perhaps even open up new questions. What happens when particular poems, each bearing their own distinct ideas and images, are juxtaposed against a particular historical site? Can poems help us bring a fresh perspective to certain places? Conversely, can specific locations help us rethink classic poems? Can we playfully pit architecture, local histories and poetry against each other, creating a type of socio-architectural consonance, one that rejigs the way we pattern our stories across time and across space?

I’m delighted that our College Poetry Tour has become an interdisciplinary project, one that has grown and flourished thanks to the generous input of our College Archivist, our College Librarians and core members of Univ’s Percy Bysshe Shelley Poetry Society. Our inaugural tour brought together College members from every section of our College community, from 19 to 90 years of age, reading in four languages, gathering to remap and reimagine our College landscape.

Standing in the Fellows’ Garden (the former site of the laboratory in which Robert Hooke first isolated and named the cell), we read poems that explored shifts in perspective, with Matt Lin (2021, Classics and English) reading John Ashbery’s *Portrait in a Convex Mirror* and my own reading of Antony Dunn’s *Ichneumon Wasp*, exploring Darwin’s struggles with his spiritual beliefs as he worked on the theory of natural selection. Standing by the walls of Radcliffe Quad, we contemplated the fossilized shells embedded in the slabs of Headington limestone and read aloud poems of the sea (Tennyson’s *Break, Break, Break* and Masfield’s *Sea-Fever*: Rufus Jones (2022, History)) along with Auden’s *In Praise of Limestone*, a poem in which the poet argues for the close interconnections between landscape and the type of national character it creates.

The tour was an exercise in both reimagining and remembrance. We stood by the foot of the Old Library and read poems of poets who have been censored, and by doing so, paid tribute to Univ’s continued safeguarding of our access to knowledge (excerpts from Anna Akhmatova’s *Burnt Notebooks*: Elizabeth

Adams, Head Librarian; excerpts from Enhuadana’s Sumerian poem *Exaltation of Inana* on being silenced, Baris Ozdemir, (2022, Middle Eastern Studies)). We stood in the Chapel and read aloud the words of Univ’s young students who had left College to go to war (Ivor Sorley and CS Lewis to World War I, Stephen Spender to World War II) with particularly memorable readings by former Spender scholar Max Thomas (2022, First Year Law with Senior Status), and Myfanwy Taylor-Bean (2021, English), the latter reading Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s poem written on the loss of her two sons, *Mother and Poet*: “One of them shot by the sea in the east/And one of them shot in the west by the sea.”

We walked through Univ and wove new stories into the mythology of College: President of the Shelley Society, Dylan Squires (2020, Engineering), talked about his feelings of dislocation on first coming to Univ from the north of England and read Imtiaz Dharker’s poem *Living Space*, while Old Member and award-winning poet Jenny Wong (1998, English) read her searing poem *Arrival*, exploring the homesickness felt by international students arriving to face Univ’s cold quads and its distinctive culinary landscape.

Centuries-old institutions like Univ illuminate how the stories of the past are not static but can grow and become ever more complex as they intersect and interact with the lives and ideas that follow. The Poetry Tour gave us an opportunity to be in conversation with specific moments in Univ’s past, interposing fresh twists to these stories. We stood in Helen’s Court, by the former rooms of a young international student and read lines from



the poem that Maya Angelou would write, many years later, for his presidential inauguration, lines that we interleaved with Allen Ginsberg's poem written years before (they begin: "America, I've given you all..."). We stood by the marble figure depicting Shelley's body in death and read the lines that Mary Shelley placed in the mouth of Dr Frankenstein, expressing horror at the sight of the body lying on the slab before him. We stood outside the former rooms of CS Lewis and read the feverishly atheistic poems he'd written there as an undergraduate, long before he became a noted champion of Anglicanism. We read wayfaring poems by Tolkien, playfully claiming him for Univ's history (our College Archivist notes that early in his career, Tolkien was a peripatetic tutor and taught the occasional Univ student; Merton's Fellows were graciously amused to hear that we included Tolkien in our

tour and several have already signed up for Univ's 2024 poetry tour in Michaelmas term).

A poem's original meaning refracts when we place it in landscape. Standing beneath the portraits in Hall, we read aloud the cautionary words of our very own Shelley, decrying the oppression of corrupt governments (*England in 1819* and *The Masque of Anarchy*) and vilifying the hubris of statesmen (*Ozymandias*), which, in turn, paired rather delightfully with the tongue-in-cheek limerick of self-congratulation written by Clement Atlee (Old Member and former Prime Minister). Our Archivist tracked down not only the Atlee poem but also (OM) Christian Cole's *Zulu Wars* with its critique of colonialism calling down to us from another century.

The rhythms of the Poetry Tour transformed from site to site as each participant stepped forward with their

“Poetry is the art of making the familiar, unfamiliar”

Percy Bysshe Shelley

unique choice of poems: Elizabeth Adams shared a little-known war poem by Edward Stanley Robinson, taken from the Univ archives while College Archivist, Dr Robin Darwall-Smith, unearthed a variety of treasures, including a poem written by former Univ student Leonard Digges in 1623 that was incorporated into the First Folio of Shakespeare. Shane Pledge, Univ’s Accommodation Manager, encapsulated the camaraderie of the tour, and our College community at large, with his choice of Muhammed Ali’s poem *Friendship* to launch us on our way whilst “Max” Z Ren (2023, English) chose an extract from Eliot’s *Little Gidding* – on paradoxes and the cyclical nature of existence – to round off our tour in Logic Lane (“Every phrase and every sentence is an end and a beginning”), perfectly capturing the aesthetics of the tour.

As College Poet Laureate, each of the projects that I’ll be pursuing at Univ over the next few years are explorations of memory and place-making. I’m excited that in creating the frame of the Univ Poetry Tour, so many members of Univ’s community could join me in this first “experiment”, an investigation that will hopefully deepen with each new version of this annual tour, a Univ poetry map, and a downloadable audio tour available at our Lodge. Furthermore, the interdisciplinary nature of the project is set to expand even further, thanks to the work of Dr Maxime Le Calve, a keen supporter from the Department of Anthropology/Humboldt University, who has been experimenting, in turn, with visual ways to elaborate the nature of the tour.

Our inaugural College Poetry Tour not only highlights the way that poetry has played a major role in Univ’s past and present but also allows us to see Univ’s landscape with fresh eyes. The Poetry Tour gives us a first-hand experience of how acts of storytelling lay down foundational parts of Univ’s identity, as a community of interconnecting lives, loves, and losses, and as an incubator for acts of imagination that set the world on fire.

Pireeni Sundaralingam (1986, Experimental Psychology), Univ’s Poet Laureate

Illustrations by Dr Maxime Le Calve



The 2024 College Poetry Tour takes place on Friday 1 November, Michaelmas Term, and Old Members are most welcome to participate (or to suggest poems for the tour); further details, including a list of the readers and readings included in the 2023 Poetry Tour, and audio-clips, can be found on the Univ website: bit.ly/Univ1628

FROM ALCHEMY TO ANATOMY

Exhibiting Univ's scientific revolution

The Univ Library team was delighted to present our exhibition, *From Alchemy to Anatomy*, at this year's St Cuthbert's Dinner festivities. The exhibition laid out thirteen of the most historically significant and visually stunning items from our History of Science collection of early printed books. This collection was repatriated to the College last March after an absence of more than 60 years, during which time it was on long-term loan to Oxford's History of Science Museum. We were glad to show off these books for the first time in a generation and thrilled that all who visited were as excited by the treasures as we are.

The day before the dinner, we exhibited these wonderful books exclusively for University College members. More than 140 visitors engaged with the exhibition over the two showings. Here we take a look under the microscope at some of the highlights for those unable to make it in person.



Alchemy in Reverse

The alchemical element of our exhibition comes from Robert Boyle's *Degradation of Gold*. Boyle, a chemist and natural philosopher, rented a house next door to Univ (currently the site of the Shelley Memorial) and, in 1655, donated £10 towards the erection of the hammer beam roof in our Hall.

This book dates from 1678, a time when Boyle was known to be dabbling in controversial subjects such as alchemy. While alchemists were mostly interested in turning base metals such as lead into noble metals like gold, in this text Boyle outlines an experiment in which gold was transformed into a base metal.



Wild Swimming in the 18th century

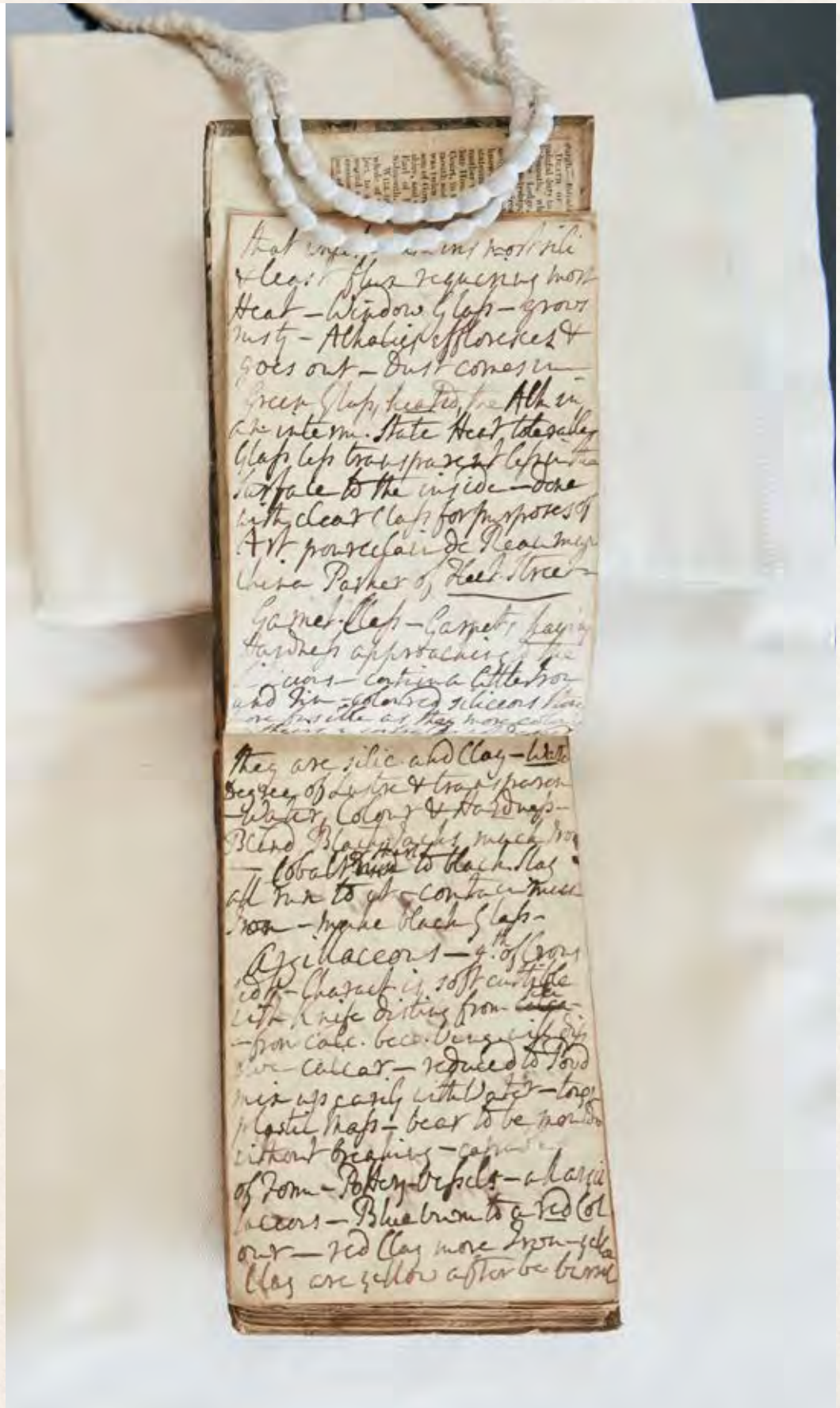
One of the most popular items on display was this early espousal for a current craze. The health benefit of cold-water swimming is a hot topic at present, but in this early 18th century treatise author John Floyer claims that the benefits were known to the Romans, Greeks and ancient Egyptians, and that this knowledge had been lost to the Brits over time.

The volume covers not only what we call wild swimming, but also cold baths, infant baptism, and drinking spring or river water. These can, apparently, cure everything from rheumatism and seizures to hysteria and over-eating.

A Univ Icon's Lecture Notes

This unassuming notebook filled with spidery handwriting is an exciting piece of Univ history. These are lecture notes on chemistry, mineralogy and geology, written by William Scott (later 1st Baron Stowell), possibly jotted while he was an undergraduate at Corpus Christi in the 1760s. Scott was a tutor and Fellow in Law at Univ, although he's perhaps best known in our community as one of the pair of marble statues that reside in the upper floor of the Old Library. He's the chap on the right.

This wee notebook has a varied provenance history. After his death in 1836, Scott's daughter presented the notes to William Buckland, the preeminent geologist who named the *Megalosaurus* fossil and identified it as the first non-avian dinosaur genus. After this, it fell into the possession of Joseph Frank Payne, a historian of medicine. Annotations indicate there may have been more private owners before the manuscript found its way into Univ's collections.





Anatomy revealed

The jewel in the crown of our History of Science collection is this extraordinary pop-up anatomy book from 1619, by Johann Remmelin. Made up of several magnificently detailed illustrations, visitors to the exhibition marvelled at the book's meticulously assembled moving parts. The engraved anatomical illustrations have been printed, cut, and pasted to allow the reader to peel away the layers revealing human anatomy in three dimensions, as if seen by a medic undertaking a dissection.

At times there was a queue to see the pop-up parts in action, with some guests walking more than one lap of the exhibition to ensure they could see our anatomical Adam in all his glory. The Library team certainly enjoyed revealing the many layers of intricately crafted illustration.

This book benefitted from extensive conservation work last year. Paper conservators mended and reinforced the hinges of the moving flaps, which are prone to damage during usage. This work will allow us to exhibit and demonstrate the Remmelin for years to come. Since its return to College, the Library team has been undertaking a condition survey of this collection, to strategise and manage future conservation work for these fascinating books.

Featured books

Robert Boyle, *Of a degradation of gold made by an anti-elixir: a strange chymical narrative* (London, 1678). R.15.22(1).

John Floyer and Edward Baynard, *[Psychrolousia]: or, the history of cold-bathing, both ancient and modern* (London, 1722). R.15.16.

Lecture notes of William Scott, 1st Baron Stowell (Oxford, [c.1760s]). University College MS 1.

Johann Remmelin, *Catoptrum microcosmicum* ([Augsburg], 1619). D.105.43.

Thanks to all who made this such a special exhibition. If you would like more information about Univ's History of Science collection, please contact the Library: library@univ.ox.ac.uk

Elizabeth Fleetwood, Assistant Librarian

An update on Univ North



Activity onsite is moving at pace. We're delighted to share that our cross laminated timber (CLT) framing for Water Court West is up. It's been quite remarkable how quickly this has happened. We asked Scott Walker, Univ's Project Manager, what this means for the Univ North scheme:

"It's been great to see these above ground structures take shape. When you visit the site, perhaps on the next Univ North Hard Hat Tour, you'll be able to see the completed cross laminated timber structure of Water Court West, which will soon be having brick work put up around the frame. Some of the windows and doors are being installed as we speak, and the waterproofing layer for the roof is due to be installed this week. The plasterboarding and first fix for the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP)

installation is also underway. In addition, we expect the CLT frame for Water Court East to be completed in June, with the external brickwork following on.

"One of our aims for the project is for our buildings to operate with a reduced carbon footprint. Instead of installing new gas connections we are installing a new electric substation and equipment to power and heat the new buildings, and the substation base has been concreted in readiness.

"Our new nursery building is also progressing well, the roof is on, and the roof insulation and covering is underway. The underfloor heating has been installed, screeded and the plasterboarding has commenced. The MEP installation has also begun.

"It's really exciting for us to see these developments, and work should begin on Woodstock Pavilion in the near future. Our building contractor, SDC, recently held a second 'Meet the Builder' event for local neighbours and we look forward to sharing more information about the progress on site in the coming months."

For more information about Univ North, please visit bit.ly/univnorthox

In April, SDC Builders produced a photographic record of the Univ North development progress so far, which can be viewed via the QR code:





Top left: Univ North hard hat tour



Opposite, top right and middle left: The cross laminated timber (CLT) structure of Water Court West. Using wood for the main structure of the building is a much less energy-intensive method of construction and emits far less carbon than steel or concrete.



Right and bottom left: SDC and Univ organised a “Name the Crane” competition with local nurseries. The winning entry by Zoe Ryan was “Sparkle.”



Bottom right: To enhance the area directly facing the Fairfield Residential Home at our Univ North development, a local artist, Layla Cope, teamed up with residents and staff at Fairfield to create a beautiful mural on the temporary hoarding.



THE SECRET OF MY. SUCCESS

PART FOUR: UNIV ENTREPRENEURS

Our entrepreneurs series showcases inspiring stories from established and emerging Univ entrepreneurs, where we ask them about their journeys, the challenges they have faced and where they find their inspiration.



Fitzbillies

- 🌐 fitzbillies.com
- ✕ twitter.com/fitzbillies
- 📘 facebook.com/fitzbillies
- 📷 instagram.com/fitzbillies

ALISON WRIGHT

Owner of Fitzbillies

Alison Wright (1986, PPE) is the owner of Fitzbillies, the beloved Cambridge bakery famous for its ultra-sticky Chelsea buns, which Alison saved from closure in 2011. To celebrate the 100th birthday of the bakery in 2020, Alison wrote a book (with her husband, food writer Tim Hayward), *Fitzbillies: Stories and Recipes from a 100-year-old Cambridge Bakery* (Quadrille, 2019). They opened a third branch of Fitzbillies in King's Parade, Cambridge, last year.



Could you tell us a little about the history of Fitzbillies?

Fitzbillies first opened its doors on 4 October 1920, just in time for the start of the autumn term. The founders, Ernest & Arthur Mason used their demob money from the First World War to fit out the shop with the beautiful art nouveau façade it retains to this day. With its location amongst the colleges and departments of the University, it soon became a favourite of town and gown alike, famous for its sponge cakes, sausage rolls, and of course, the ultra-sticky Chelsea buns.

What inspired you to rescue it and what were you doing before?

I grew up in Cambridge, so I knew Fitzbillies as a child. I cycled past it on my way to school and my 18th and 21st birthday cakes came from there. I hadn't been back for years, but when in February 2011, quite by chance, I saw a tweet from Stephen Fry lamenting its closure, I was seized with the desire to act. I was 20 years into a successful career in advertising and marketing, rising to be Marketing Director of Prudential, but I'd always loved baking, beyond the normal "home baker" level, attending lots of courses and making wedding cakes for friends.

I immediately leapt into action. Plenty of people would have liked the space so we had to go through a lengthy proposal process, which ended with a presentation to the Bursar of Pembroke. I think he was won over by the combination of a rigorous business plan with lots of spreadsheets and a particularly delicious Bakewell tart.

How has Fitzbillies changed over the years? What is your favourite thing on the Fitzbillies menu?

Running a business with as much history and love as ours is all about what you keep and what you change – finding the balance between respecting tradition and staying up-to-date. When we first took on Fitzbillies, we sat down with a list of everything the bakery had made before it closed and split it into three columns: keep, improve, drop – some things sadly had to go. My personal favourite is the timeless classic: a cream tea with sultana scones, raspberry jam, and clotted cream.

In recent years, we've focused on meeting a wider range of dietary requirements, without compromising on deliciousness. One of our most recent launches is an amazing lemon polenta cake that is suitable for vegans and those avoiding gluten (and you definitely wouldn't know it).

How has the company changed since the pandemic?

We were fortunate to bounce back quickly after the pandemic. We've grown our bricks-and-mortar business, and our online business has also taken off with hampers and gift boxes full of buns, macarons, brownies, and cream teas being delivered across the UK.

Who do you collaborate with, and how do they inspire you?

It's a true family business and I collaborate with my husband Tim and increasingly our daughter Liberty. Tim is a food writer, so he's great on market trends and recipe development. Liberty is studying Design Engineering at Imperial, she's a great baker herself and a tireless visitor to many of the finest bakeries in London. During the vacation, she helps with anything from process improvement in the bakery to the ecommerce business and 3D printing cutters. And she can be relied upon for an honest opinion on product quality.

What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?

I most love hearing customers' stories of Fitzbillies. Cambridge Alumni Weekend is one of my favourite times of the year as we get visits from loyal customers of all vintages.

What are you currently working on?

Currently, we are looking for a new home for our production bakery. We'd like somewhere customers could come to buy the product or have a meal and see the bakers at work. It's fascinating to watch and reminds everyone that it's an artisan process – our buns and cakes are made with love and attention.

How do you think Univ shaped you?

The most important thing it gave me is a great network of life-long friends. The next most important is intellectual curiosity – as a business owner you have to rapidly diagnose problems and learn new things all the time.

What is your most treasured memory of Univ and Oxford?

Winning blades in Summer Eights in my final year. I'd never been good at any sport and the camaraderie and sense of achievement were amazing.

“

I'm passionate about education and will continue to grow the business and keep improving the product to deliver great timetables and outstanding education outcomes for students.”



CATHERINE ELLIOT-JONES

Executive Officer of Griddle

Catherine Elliot-Jones (1979, Physiological Sciences) is the Executive Officer of Griddle, a pioneering, cloud-based school timetabling solution. Her diverse education and career experience led Catherine to co-founding Griddle in partnership with Compass Education and Deakin University.

Catherine's time at Univ developed a love of learning and curiosity. It was this foundation which served her well in her career and life and unearthed the opportunity to launch Griddle. After Univ, Catherine spent time as a researcher before starting a family, becoming a teacher, and eventually finding her way into education technology. Having seen the power of a good timetable and wanting to make that a reality for all schools, Catherine co-founded Edval Timetables, an Australian school timetable company. Alongside her business partners, Catherine built the business from the ground up, spearheading product enhancements and leading them to commercial success over the next decade.

Opportunity came knocking in 2019 when Compass Education, Australia's leading school management system, collaborated with Catherine to build the world's best timetabling package that would complement its suite of school management

tools. For two years, the team brought their vision to life and in 2021 Griddle launched their first pilot programme across a number of government secondary schools. The software is now used in schools across Australia, UK and Ireland to streamline school scheduling.

For schools, Griddle provides the first multi-user, fully cloud-based timetabling solution that supports student-centric scheduling. Its world-class engine seamlessly generates timetables that accommodate the most complex scenarios such as split room usage and curriculum pathways. The user-friendly platform empowers users at all levels of timetabling expertise to achieve optimal schedules that enhance learning and wellbeing outcomes.

From building the foundations of curiosity at Univ, to a diverse career path, Griddle is the culmination of a lifetime spent learning and growing, Catherine explains, “the greatest outcome from my time at Univ was undoubtedly being empowered to be curious and find a solution to a challenge. This foundation has served me well during my career, and in launching Griddle.

“I'm passionate about education and will continue to grow the business and keep improving the product to deliver great timetables and outstanding education outcomes for students. I can't wait to see what the future holds for Griddle.”

griddle.education

[linkedin.com/in/catherine-elliott-jonesgaic/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/catherine-elliott-jonesgaic/)



“

Reflecting on my time at Univ, I've come to appreciate the transformative power of challenging conventional norms.”

DR PRADEEPKUMAR SACITHARAN

Founder and CEO of Donsfield

Dr Pradeepkumar Sacitharan (2017, DPhil in Molecular and Cellular Medicine) is the founder and CEO of Donsfield, a global trade and development company. After Oxford, Pradeep embarked on a unique academic journey. Instead of pursuing a traditional post-doctoral position, he applied for several short-term postdoctoral fellowships – Fulbright Research Scholar at Harvard University, EMBO Fellowship at Sorbonne University, and the Daniel Turnberg Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Within two years of completing his DPhil, Pradeep became an Assistant Professor in China and held a joint position as Vice President of Business Development for a Biotech company. His remarkable achievements include being the first to win the European, American, and British Young Scientist Awards all in the same year. However, during the pandemic, Pradeep faced challenges in securing positions like those he held earlier in his career. Consequently, he ventured into entrepreneurship, establishing his own business (Donsfield) which expanded internationally.

Despite encountering failures in various business ventures, including E-commerce, AI, Biotech start-ups, Internet, and Mobile Apps, Pradeep leveraged his network and resilience to pivot towards trading commodities. He advocates for an unconventional approach to business, urging students at Univ to explore overlooked historical fields for entrepreneurial opportunities. Pradeep emphasizes the profitability and fulfilment found in simple, foundational ideas rather than chasing fleeting trends.

“Reflecting on my time at Univ, I've come to appreciate the transformative power of challenging conventional norms. Simply put, the process and journey to Univ made me question how systems, careers, and success itself are defined. Hence, I strive to meld Oxford thinking with what I term a ‘dropout mentality’ – a mindset characterized by resilience in the face of failure. I always ask myself, ‘How do I not compete, think globally and historically, and still build businesses and systems in impactful ways?’ These principles have guided my journey since leaving Oxford.”





UNIV 775 FESTIVAL

Saturday, 28 September 2024

All members of Univ, friends and family are invited to join our festival of events, which will be held in College on Saturday, 28 September to celebrate 775 years of Univ and Univ's people.

Look out for updates on our website:
bit.ly/Univ775Fest
or follow us on social media.

We look forward to you joining us and to celebrating 775 years of Univ with you.

66 DAYS
17 HOURS
39 MINUTES



Univ's Boatman Jim Ronaldson sets a new World Record

Jim Ronaldson, Univ's Boatman, completed a row across the Atlantic Ocean in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge (a.k.a. "The World's Toughest Row") at 2.40am on 17 February after a gruelling 66 days, 17 hours and 39 minutes. Jim and his rowing partner Ian Davies (as team Never2Late) became the oldest pair to ever row the 3,000 miles from La Gomera to Antigua, setting a new world record. They raised over £25,000 for Myeloma UK, which supports individuals and families affected by myeloma, and Papyrus, which is dedicated to the prevention of young suicide and the promotion of positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.



You can read an interview with Jim here: bit.ly/Univ1627

A FOREST SCIENTIST...



TIN HANG HUNG
HONG KONG & OXFORD
2018.09.20

...FROM A CONCRETE JUNGLE

I come from Hong Kong. If you haven't been to Hong Kong, you would probably think of a concrete jungle with little nature. It wouldn't surprise me if you thought of it that way, because, to quote, "wild, dreary, bleak, and apparently barren... large bare masses of rocks unscreened by foliage... trees can scarcely be said to exist" were the words spoken by Richard Brinsley Hinds, the naturalist of HMS Sulphur when he visited Hong Kong in 1841. That was my impression of Hong Kong too – at least until university years, when I learned that Hong Kong is thought to be named after the fragrance tree (Heung tree). Hong Kong, Heung Gong, port of fragrance. It was historically ubiquitous and made Hong Kong popular even in the Arabic world, but now they are at the brink of extinction because of illegal poaching. I couldn't help but ponder, if one day these trees disappeared completely, what would Hong Kong even mean?

I realised the intimacy between our humanity and nature, and extended that empathy towards the world's most trafficked wild species – rosewoods, as I pursued my doctorate at Univ. The world's illegal wildlife trade is valued at up to 20 billion US dollars per year and rosewoods alone account for more than its 30% (more than all animal products added together). I particularly studied rosewoods in Southeast Asia, which still experienced extreme poverty in some regions – where household annual income was less than USD 2,000. On the other hand, rosewoods were valued up to USD 100,000 per cubic metre in China. When I

visited Cambodia in 2018, I asked one of the government officials why they don't have more severe punishments to stop the poaching. They answered, "It's useless. No matter how severe the punishment is, they will still do that for the money to feed their family, they'd rather go to jail". Poachers would even kill the forest rangers with guns – rosewood becomes "bloodwood".

The Alliance of Bioersity International and CIAT, my collaborator, saw an optimistic way out. They wanted to empower the local people by engaging them in collecting seeds and growing them to sell, thus establishing a sustainable supply chain of seedlings for restoration, but at the same time generating income to alleviate their poverty.

But we needed a plan. Simply planting more trees wouldn't be enough because climate change is muddling how trees adapt to the future environment. I incorporated climate models and genomic data to achieve a three-objective holistic plan: first, I could map out the diversity of these trees across their range; second, I predicted regions with higher vulnerability so that they should be prioritised; third, I developed an online app to find suitable seed sources to match a future restoration site because of the shift in climate. This was not an easy job as we collected more than 800 samples of rosewood leaves, and I spent months extracting and sequencing their DNA before an even more tedious journey of computer analysis.

The collaboration bore fruit. In just three years, our collaboration established 23

new conservation units in these countries and trained more than 300 local people for forestry practices. In Cambodia, we supported communities to double their income from selling rosewood seedlings. For one of its largest nurseries, we saw over double the seedling production of 90,000 seedlings annually. But our efforts did not end here – I was named a National Geographic Explorer in 2022 to continue my research into how rosewood trees face the challenge of extreme droughts, which are increasingly frequent and severe in Southeast Asia.

I submitted my thesis and graduated from Univ in 2022, but I never imagined that it would lead to "one of the most prestigious prizes in natural history" recognised by The Linnean Society. I was simply grateful for the motivation I got from my collaborators, my mentors John MacKay and David Boshier, and people living in the Mekong. They inspired my research with their passion for the forests. We are in a race for new technologies, medical treatments, and sustainable solutions to bring hope to this world.

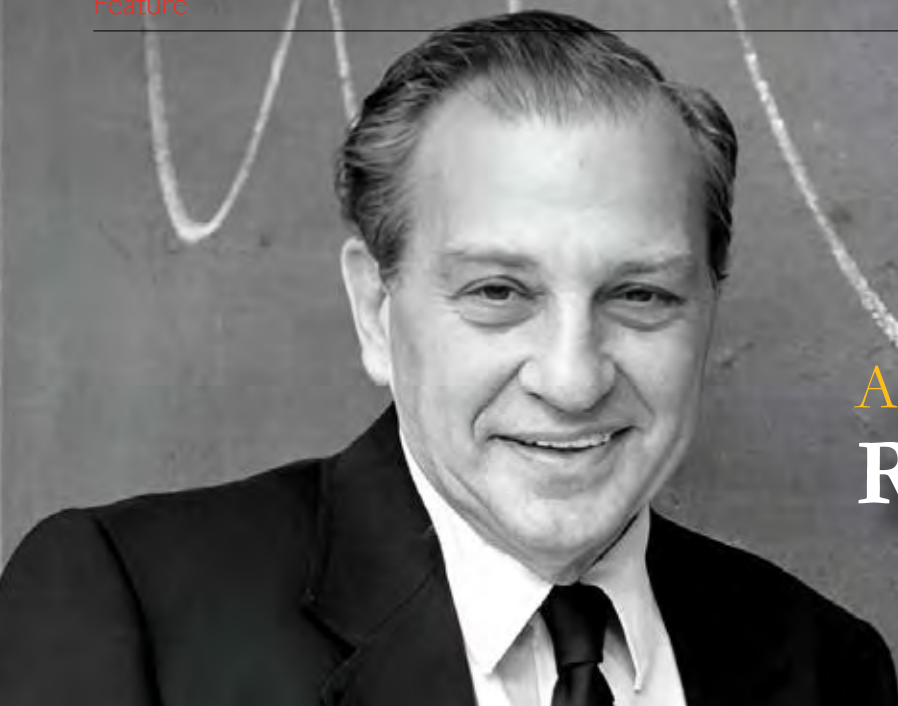
I am committed to being a forest scientist for many years to come.

Dr Tin Hang (Henry) Hung 洪天恒 (2017, DPhil Plant Sciences), Radcliffe Scholar

Dr Hung was named a National Geographic Explorer in 2022 and awarded the Irene Manton Prize by The Linnean Society in 2024 for his work on critically endangered rosewoods while he was at Univ as a Radcliffe Scholar.

“

We are in a race for new technologies, medical treatments, and sustainable solutions to bring hope to this world.”



A Univ Conversation with Rudy Marcus

Professor Rudolph (Rudy) A Marcus, Nobel Prize winner and Honorary Fellow of Univ, is the John G Kirkwood and Arthur A Noyes Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, California, USA. Professor Marcus was Visiting Professor of Theoretical Chemistry, IBM, at Univ from 1975 to 1976. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of Univ in 1995 and he received an Honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Oxford in the same year.

Professor Marcus was born on 21 July 1923 in Montréal (Québec), Canada. He received his doctorate from McGill University, Montreal, in 1946. From 1951 he worked at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. In 1964 he joined the faculty of the University of Illinois, leaving in 1978 for Caltech. A heavily published and awarded chemist and

researcher, Professor Marcus has contributed greatly to the modern field of chemistry. He established what is now known as the Marcus theory to explain electron transfer reactions and was awarded the 1992 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for this important research.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, honorary doctorates, honorary memberships, lifetime achievement awards, medals and honorary citizenships. 2012 saw the inauguration of the Rudy Marcus Chemical Sciences Laboratories at McGill University, and the Rudolph A Marcus Conference and Festival took place in Singapore in 2013.

Professor Marcus was interviewed by Professor Michael Collins, Univ Emeritus Fellow, at Caltech in February 2023. The interview was filmed by Professor Marcus's son, Professor Alan Marcus FRHistS FRSA, Chair in Creative and Cultural Practice at the University of Aberdeen.

Michael Collins: I'm taking this opportunity while I'm visiting the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena to talk to Professor Rudy Marcus, slightly ahead of his 100th birthday. Rudy, how did you come to chemistry?

Rudy Marcus: Like every other young future chemist, I had a chemistry set – it wasn't a very good set! I also had construction sets of all kinds. In retrospect, science really is something like that. You put bits and pieces together and you get sometimes a beautiful structure coming out, almost miraculously.

MC: Did you want to make a mark in chemistry?

RM: I never thought of "making a mark" at any time, maybe strangely enough, I just enjoyed trying to solve problems – and I still enjoy trying to solve problems. Of course, one always likes to make a mark, but that wasn't the motivation at all. When I lived in Canada there were no theoretical chemists, but I became very dissatisfied because I wasn't using any of the math that I had learnt at McGill. I decided to see if I could get a postdoctorate in theoretical chemistry, even

though I knew no theoretical chemistry. OK Rice¹ who was at the University of North Carolina, and a wonderful scientist, was the only one of the six who offered me a postdoc. From the very beginning, I was just in heaven; it was everything I wanted.

MC: Were you, you might say, working as a pencil and paper theoretical chemist?

RM: Yes, this was pre-computing pretty much, as far as chemistry was concerned, although we had a Marchant calculator! All of the work I was doing – and in fact – what I do personally is still pencil and paperwork.



MC: What was it that brought you to Oxford?

RM: I knew two of the Fellows at Univ, Mark Child², working in the field of semi-classical theory, and John Albery³, working in electrochemistry. I was working in both at the time, so I got to know them, and the College invited me out. It was a truly unique experience. What I liked so much about it was getting together with many other people at lunch from all sorts of fields. One was a Vice-Admiral in the Second World War, but there was just a great range of Fellows. It sounded like an ideal way of living, and I enjoyed those six months very much.

MC: Just looking at your career, what advice would you offer to a budding scientist?

RM: It depends so much on one's nature. I know how much pleasure it can be to think about problems – even going to sleep at night thinking about problems, whether one's successful at the moment or not. I think it's unparalleled.

It's gambling sometimes, it's taking a chance. It's easy to keep on doing something and more difficult to make a jump to another area. But if one can, if one is willing to gamble, it can work out very well.

MC: You're now approaching 100 and you're still an actual member of Caltech's faculty!

RM: Well, I haven't learnt to do anything else, Michael! I just enjoy so much, thinking of problems, being stuck on the problem, and not seeing where to go, and then sometimes, finally, finding a way to go and connecting things. I enjoy so much connecting different dots and learning new things. I'm enjoying doing research with a close friend, Professor Emerita Maria-Elisabeth Michel-Beyerle of the Technical University of Munich.

MC: You came to Oxford in 1995 to receive an honorary degree. Would you like to tell us a little bit about that occasion?

RM: Walking through the streets with the other honorands and the other faculty members from Oxford to receive the honorary degree was a glorious occasion. The whole family was with me, our three sons, wives, granddaughter, and my late spouse Laura. For them, it was a very special occasion, as it was for me.

MC: Would you like to share some recollections of those subsequent visits?

RM: One was a celebration of John Albery's 75th birthday. He was very good at bringing out qualities in students in electrochemistry and many of his successful students were there. I thought it was a very friendly college and such a variety of people.

Sometime later, when I came to Caltech, we had round tables where faculty from myriad areas came together to have lunch. Now, most of the people have passed away and the younger people at Caltech are busy managing large research groups and preparing grant proposals rather than being able to spend lunch in this wonderful, relaxing and regenerative way.

MC: I have you to thank for introducing me to a round table; that certainly has enhanced my visits here over many years.

RM: Well, that was to the benefit of the round table.

MC: Well, thank you!

Watch the full interview here:
bit.ly/Univ1494

Footnotes

- Oscar Kneffler Rice (1903–1978), Kenan Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill from 1975 to 1978.
- Mark Sheard Child FRS, British chemist and Emeritus Fellow of St Edmund Hall, Oxford. Mark Child was Professor of Theoretical Chemistry and a Fellow of Univ from 1994 to 2004.
- Wyndham John Albery FRS (1936–2013), former Master of Univ (1989–1997) and sometime Weir Junior Research Fellow, Fellow in Physical Chemistry, Senior Tutor of Amalgamated Clubs, Tutor for Admissions, and Dean.

Sports & societies

UCBC

After a rainy start to the year with just 20 rowable days across Michaelmas and Hilary terms



combined, Univ students were eagerly awaiting a Trinity term full of sunshine and plenty of water time. Once crews were selected, UCBC kicked the term off by sending a women*s 8+ and a men*s beginner 4+ to BUCS Regatta. It was excellent to see Univ crews compete at a national level against some of the top crews from universities across the country! The beginner 4+ performed exceptionally, progressing to the F final where they finished in third place after a huge push in the second half of the race.

Just one week later, the full UCBC senior squad made a trip across to Bedford Regatta for some sunny side-by-side racing. Our W1 crew raced well but was sadly beat out in the quarter-finals and semi-finals in each category by a very speedy crew from Emmanuel College Cambridge. M1 succeeded in their pot hunting mission and returned home each with a new piece of silverware, gained by winning the band 3 open 8+ category. Hopefully this is the first of many pieces of silverware earned by UCBC crews this season!

A few weeks and many training sessions later, we reached Eights Week – the highlight of most student rowers' Trinity terms! All of our crews had a net positive climb up the bumps charts except for W1 who successfully fought to maintain their place as the third fastest Oxford college. Our M1 accumulated three bumps across the week to move from 9th to 6th on the river, and our men*s and women*s second VIIIs bumped several first VIIIs from other colleges, finishing as the fourth and second fastest college second VIIIs on the river respectively.

There was plenty to celebrate at Eights Dinner and this year's Summer VIIIs celebrations were made all the more memorable by our 50th anniversary reunion special guests. Crews from 1973 to 1975 reconvened at Univ for the first time in 50 years to reminisce about fond rowing



memories and join our current club members in celebrating a successful week of rowing.

On the Sunday following the dinner, our alumni club, The Martlet Club, hosted their Martlet Regatta – an opportunity for alumni, staff, family, and friends to visit the boat club and go for a paddle, and for the keenest attendees, a chance to relive their

racing days! This event was very much enjoyed by all those who attended and we can't wait to welcome back more alumni in future years for all our Summer Eights events.

*Charlie Kniebe-Evans (2018, Chemistry)
UCBC President 2023-2024*

RUGBY

The 2023/24 season posed challenges for the Univ rugby team, yet we still managed to secure silverware. Despite intensive recruitment efforts, player numbers remained low, leading us to merge with Trinity and Exeter (Trexetersity). The first setback arrived sooner than expected when none of our 10 university players were available for the Cuppers competition's first round. Trexetersity faced a tough defeat against St Peter's College (7:48). However, a confident 28:21 win against Christ Church propelled us to the semifinals of the bowl competition. Poor weather complicated our journey to the final, but thankfully, our kicker Vasco Faria maintained a 100% success rate, securing a tight win (6:5) over Wadham/Pembroke.



4 May, 2024, Iffley Road: the crowd cheered for Trexetersity as they faced off against the five-college army: Catz, Somerville, Merton, Mansfield, and

Corpus Christi. With 5 points down and only 30 seconds left on the clock, our captain executed a heroic turnover to regain possession. Over the next 10 minutes of extra time, we steadily progressed 60 metres up the pitch,

ultimately scoring a try in the corner. With nerves of steel, Vasco Faria converted the try, sealing our victory and clinching the bowl trophy in a thrilling comeback.

Jakub Surga (2022, Computer Science)



NETBALL

The year started off on an amazing note, with a record first-year turnout and newly implemented training sessions. We built up our skills and started the season with a decisive win against St John's College. The rest of the season was a mixed bag in terms of results, finishing 6th in the League. However, through continued training, our team became more cohesive and determined to come back stronger than ever.



Hilary term saw the netball team

continue to persist in matches, despite the rain meaning our weekly matches were reduced to three. We joined with Trinity College to create an unstoppable force and win most of the matches we played, finishing 3rd in the League – a huge improvement. With our budget increased, the team also gathered for an exciting first social with New College football, and by the end of the night, everyone certainly seemed to have bonded. We encourage anyone – new to netball or not – to come and join!

Shilpi Nanda (2022, History and Modern Languages) and Viola Alishab (2022, English)





FOOTBALL

Our men's Univ JCR Teams have had a mixed experience this term. The regular league and cuppers have been a challenge for the first team, but we have had some promising moments as a new group of freshers have done an impressive job replacing a core group of outgoing finalists. Notably, our first team won the Old Boys' Tournament at the end of Hilary 2024 thanks to a narrow 1-0 win in the final against Keble/Univ WCR team, thanks to a penalty dispatched by yours truly. It was a full circle moment as a few players from the old cohort of last year propelled our team to victory, with a sumptuous trophy presentation by Garth Crooks OBE and Chris Hughton. In the 5-a-side Futsal Cuppers tournament we managed to top our group with 6 wins out of 7 but unfortunately fell to a very strong Jesus side at the last 16 knockout stage. Next year we look to build our squad with a new group of freshers and drive for promotion!



Tim Auth (2022, PPE)

Music at Univ

At the time of writing, many of us are working hard on academic work. Giles Underwood (our Director of Music) always reminds us as choir members of how helpful it is to make music to clear our minds after a long day's work. We are delighted to see how music has become an integral part of the College, including undergraduates, postgraduates, staff, alumni and benefactors.

Music takes place in various forms in the College. We are privileged to have the Chapel Choir, which provides high-quality weekly Choral Evensong and numerous recitals. In addition, the Fidelio Orchestra (a collaboration with Merton College) provides non-audition opportunities for both instrumentalists and conductors. Finally, the College Music Society (UCMS) provides additional informal performance opportunities, ensuring that anyone who wishes to perform, whether professional or amateur, can do so.

We strive to bring a diverse range of music to the community. A highlight for us was the visit of Bruce Adolphe, a Resident Lecturer from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York. Many members of the College enjoyed his workshop on musical imagination and creative vision. The Voices for Peace concert followed, in which the Chapel Choir was honoured to join the professional singers of the Martlet Voices and solo cellist Richard Tunnicliffe in performing Bruce's commission. With his careful choice of choral harmony and the intense accompaniment of the solo cellist, his work helped many of us to resonate with the catastrophic aftermath of war through the poem *Lot's Wives* written by our very own Poet Laureate Pireeni Sundaralingam. Overall, his novel approach to music has inspired many of us in the College.

UCMS has recently expanded its committee to facilitate more musical opportunities around the College and to improve communications for musical events.



We have since organised more innovative events and developed our social media. Two weeks ago, at the time of writing, UCMS successfully hosted its inaugural Gig Night, welcoming six university bands to perform in the College bar. The Gig Night is not only for young bands who need more performance experience, but also for the College entertainment experience. We also provide subsidised opportunities for student members to gain greater musical exposure, including a trip to the Royal Opera House at the end of term to see a production of *Swan Lake*. Please follow us on @univ_music_ if you would like to explore UCMS.

There are also other members of the College involved in university-wide music, including university orchestras (OUPhil, OOU, OUSinf), singing groups (e.g. the Oxford Gargoyles, Intermezzo) and opera production groups (e.g. the Gilbert and Sullivan Society). To meet the demand

for rehearsal space, we took part in the College's Giving Day on 30 April and 1 May to raise money to build an additional, fully soundproof music room for bespoke rehearsals and performances. A handful of members of the College, including Giles, played the Hall piano non-stop for 7.75 hours as part of the Giving Day. Thanks to the generous donations of 69 donors and matching funds from Old Members, we raised over £22,000 for the new space.

Thanks to the leadership of Giles and the other community leaders, the hard work many of us have put into delivering high-quality performances and, most importantly, your enthusiasm for music, the College finally has a vibrant music scene again since COVID-19. Let us, therefore, look forward to seeing where the music takes us.

*Samuel Lam (2022, DPhil Mathematics),
UCMS Secretary*

Announcements

If you have news you would like to submit for the next issue, please email communications@univ.ox.ac.uk

1950s

The Lecture “Letters from the Life of Julia Margaret Cameron”, celebrating **Colin Ford CBE’s** (1952, English) contribution to the field of photographic history, was held on the occasion of his 90th birthday at the Bodleian Library in May.

Nick Schlee (1952, English) has a six week exhibition of his river paintings at the River and Rowing Museum in Henley from 13 June to 31 July 2024. His exhibition of oil paintings and drawings, *Dazzling Water* took place in Edinburgh in September 2023 and in the same month he exhibited a retrospective of works from the 1950s to the present day, *Early and Late*, also in Edinburgh.

1960s

Alastair Lack (1964, History) gave tours about literature and Oxford at the 2023 and 2024 Oxford Literary Festival.

Professor Arthur Schafer (1964, Philosophy), Founding Director of the Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics at the University of Manitoba, gave a lecture: “Medical Assistance in Dying: Is Canada Going Too Far, Too Fast?” to the Faculty of Law and the Uehiro Centre for Applied Ethics on 17 May 2023 in Oxford.

Christopher Edge (1968, Law) has been elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, and was installed as Master on 11 October 2023.

John Kelsey (1969, PPE) has been promoted to Professor (Teaching) in the Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction at University College London (UCL) from 1 October 2023.

Henry Marsh CBE, FRCS (1969, PPE), author of *And Finally: Matters of Life and*

Death, took part in a conversation about Ukraine and people’s day-to-day ordeal in a time of conflict at the Hay Festival 2023.

1970s

Professor Richard Guy (1973, Chemistry) of the Department of Life Sciences has been awarded the 2023 Prix d’Honneur by the Académie Nationale de Pharmacie.

His Honour Judge David Hodge KC (1974, Law) is this year’s President of the Council of HM Circuit Judges. He is the senior Business and Property Court Specialist Civil Circuit Judge in the North-West of England. He also serves as the Chancellor of the Dioceses of Blackburn and Oxford, presiding over the Consistory Courts of both Dioceses of the Church of England.

Keith Inight (1976, Maths) was awarded a PhD in Physics by the University of Warwick with a thesis titled “Observational Studies of Galactic Cataclysmic Variables.”

Professor Colin Reid (1976, Law) is now Emeritus Professor of Environmental Law at the University of Dundee.

Jonathan Lane (1977, Biochemistry) was awarded first prize in the prestigious Orfeo Català Choral Composition competition in Spain for his new setting of the Marian hymn, *Ave Maris Stella*. The European premiere was held at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona in March 2024.

The 37th HLA Hart Memorial Lecture on 25 May 2023, “The Crisis of Judicial Review”, was given by **Professor Jeremy Waldron** (1978, Law) of New York University Law School.

Professor Sir Simon Wessely (1978, Medicine), Honorary Fellow, interviewed Anna Lembke, Professor of Psychiatry at Stanford, at IAI Live on 7 August 2023.

1980s

Professor Trish Greenhalgh OBE (1980, Medicine), Professor of Primary Health Care at Oxford, commented in *The Guardian* on the safety of remote GP appointments.

Janet Rogan (1981, History) has taken up the position of CEO of the Royal African Society (RAS), based in London, which has a partnership with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982, Classics) has been elected a member of The International Commission for the History of Universities (ICHU) and the International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS).

Pandemonium, **Armando Iannucci’s** (1982, English) play about the actions of the government during the coronavirus crisis, opened on 1 December 2023 at Soho Theatre, directed by Patrick Marber.

Professor Annalise Acorn (1986, Law) retired after 35 years of service to the University of Alberta. Professor Acorn is a former Hart Visiting Fellow.

Dr Roz Savage MBE (1986, Jurisprudence), author, speaker and ocean rower, was selected as the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate for the new South Cotswolds seat.

Luke Harding (1987, English) was a guest of the Oxford Media Society in October, speaking at an event at Univ.

Shomit Dutta (1989, Classics) was interviewed about his new play *Stumped* for breakingcharacter.com ahead of its run at the Hampstead Theatre in June and July 2023. The play imagines Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter teaming up for a game of cricket.

Images (clockwise from top left): Alex Benn (photo by Oliver Frank Chamarrin), Nandini Das (photograph by Fran Monks), Susie Wilson (photo by Nelly Naylor) and Steph Vizard





1990s

Daisy Harcourt's (1990, Fine Art) portraits of female writers and literary characters featured in the exhibition *Women & Word* at Weald Contemporary in October 2023 and Townhouse Spitalfields in Spring 2024.

Simon Kirchin (1992, PPE) is leaving the University of Kent after 20 years having recently stood down as Dean of Humanities. He will be taking up the post of Professor of Applied Ethics at the University of Leeds from January 2024.

A recording of Radio 4's flagship topical comedy show the *News Quiz* took place at the Hay Festival on 25 May, hosted by **Andy Zaltzman** (1993, Classics).

Carellin Brooks' (1993, English) newest book of poetry, *Learned*, which concerns the narrator's time at Oxford and in London, has been longlisted for the Relit Award, a Canadian national award for best small press book of the year.

Professor Charlotte Deane MBE (1993, Chemistry) has been named the new Executive Chair of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Elizabeth Garner (1994, English) interviewed Frances Hardinge about her new book, *Unraveller* at the 2023 Oxford Literary Festival.

Susie Wilson (1994, English) won the 2024 Disabled Poets Prize in the Unpublished Pamphlet category for *Nowhere Near As Safe As A Snake In Bed*, her sequence of melanoma poems.

Professor Nandini Das (1997, English) won the British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding for *Courting India*. Professor Das presented "Shakespeare's Rival", an alternative history of Elizabethan theatre, on BBC Radio 3 in November.

Venetia Hyslop (1997, Law) has been appointed as a Recorder on the South-Eastern circuit, sitting in the family court.

Dr Menaka Guruswamy (1998, Law) was named the 2023 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law.

Elizabeth Stone (1998, Law) was appointed Head of Winchester College, from September 2023. She is Winchester College's first female head teacher.

Fran Dashwood (formerly Heeks) (1999, Psychology) has taken up a new role as Head of ODA Evidence at Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on loan from FCDO.

2000s

Uran Ferizi (2003, MMaths) became the new Albanian Ambassador to London in February.

Skye McAlpine (2003, Classics) was interviewed in an event titled *A Table Full of Love: Recipes to Comfort, Seduce, Celebrate and Everything Else in Between* on 29 March at the 2023 Oxford Literary Festival.

Alexander Cook (2003, Law), a barrister at 4 Stone Buildings, was appointed King's Counsel in March 2023.

Emily Lim (2005, Classics), Director of the National Theatre's Public Acts programme, was recently interviewed by Dr Lucy Jackson (2004, Classics) about her latest production at the National Theatre, *The Odyssey*.

Lucy Fisher (2007, Classics) is the new Whitehall editor for the *Financial Times* and host of the FT's Political Fix podcast.

Hodder & Stoughton has pre-empted *In Her Defence*, a courtroom drama novel about a trial centred on false memory, and one other novel from debut author **Philippa Malicka** (2007, English).

Comedian **Ivo Graham** (2008, Modern Languages) read extracts from his student diary on the BBC Radio 4 comedy series *My Teenage Diary* on 31 August.

After five-star reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe, **James Carroll** (2009, English) is taking his sketch show *Ed* to London for a limited run at the Canal Cafe Theatre 22-24 July.



Steph Vizard (2009, English) won the HarperCollins 2022 Banjo Prize for fiction and her novel *The Love Contract* was published in September 2023.

2010s

Catriona Bourne (2011, Music) played flute and harp in the Elgar Room at the Albert Hall as part of Menaka PP Bora's exciting evening of conversation, dance and music, and recently played in the Trinity Laban Final Recital at the Old Naval College.

Abi Karas (2012, BA Russian and Linguistics, DPhil Russian) was awarded the SHERA (The Society of Historians of East European, Eurasian, and Russian Art and Architecture) 2022 Emerging Scholar Prize.

Dame Emma Kirkby joined **Frederick Waxman's** (2014, Experimental Psychology) company Figure in a new production of Pergolesi's iconic masterpiece, *Stabat Mater*, performed by women of multiple generations at Stone's Nest, Covent Garden in March. The company also performed Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Opera Holland Park last summer.

Dr Ellen B Brewster (2016, MSt English Literature 1700-1830) and **James Mitchell** (2016, BCL Law) married on 27 May 2023 in London. The couple met at Univ.

Wequity, founded by **Gabriel Levie** (2016, PPE), recently unveiled AI solutions automating ESG (Environmental, Social,



Governance) data extraction, analysis and reporting and secured €1.1m funding to boost expansion.

Charlotte Bunney's (2017, Classics) artwork was auctioned as part of an online silent auction to fund the University's second-ever student feature film, *Breakwater*, which is currently in its pre-production stage.

Alex Benn (2018, Law), a barrister at Red Lion Chambers and a lecturer at Univ since 2019, was photographed for Oliver Frank Chanarin's first solo project, *A Perfect Sentence*, which aims to showcase the range of modern Britain.

Rebecca "R.F." Kuang's (2019, MSc Contemporary Chinese Studies) novel *Babel*, or *The Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution* won the Nebula Award for Best Book of the Year in 2023. She was recognised in the 2023 Time100 Next list.

Keir Mather (2020, Public Policy) became the youngest MP in the Commons when elected Selby and Ainsty's new Labour MP in the July 2023 by-elections, after overturning a 20,137 majority in the North Yorkshire constituency.

Rachel Ojo (2020, PPE) was one of four UK youth delegates who spoke to decision-makers at the COP 28 climate change conference in the Middle East in November/December 2023.

Honourable Mentions

Chancellor's Court of Benefactors

Dr David Frederick (1983, Politics), Foundation Fellow, has been welcomed into the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors, an honour conferred on those who have been outstandingly generous towards the University of Oxford. Read more at: bit.ly/Univ1597

2024 King's Birthday Honours

Richard Fuller (1981, PPE) was awarded a CBE for Political and Public Service.

Armando Iannucci (1982, English) was awarded a CBE for services to film and television.

Alexander "Xa" Sturgis (1982, History) was awarded a CBE for services to Culture.

Jean-Christophe Grey CBE (1994, History) was awarded an LVO as former Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales.

Read more at: bit.ly/Univ1626

2024 New Year Honours

Andrew Stott (1977, Geography) was awarded an MBE for services to nature and climate.

Colin Whorlow (1983, Mathematics) was awarded an OBE for services to national security.

John Mark Yallop (1978, Chemistry) was awarded a CBE for services to the financial sector and to charity.

Read more at: bit.ly/Univ1625

2023 King's Birthday Honours

William Shawcross CVO (1965, PPE) was knighted in the King's 2023 Birthday Honours for public service.

Read the stories in full on the College website at: bit.ly/ufm130

Publications



Dr Graeme Baber (1987, Medicine) published two new monographs, including *An Introduction to Banking Law in Four English-Language Jurisdictions* (Nova Science Publishers, July 2023).

Joshua Barley (2008, Classics) compiled and translated an anthology of Greek folk songs or Dimotika Tragoudia, *Greek Folk Songs* (Aiora Press, 2022).

Peter Beresford (1964, Modern History) published *The Future of Social Care: From Problem to Rights-Based Sustainable Solution* (with Colin Slasberg) (Edward Elgar Publishing, July 2023).

Dr Chris Birkett's (1979, PPE) book, *Bill Clinton at the Church of Baseball*, was published in the US in November (Mercer University Press, 2023).

Daniel Blank (2009, English) published *Shakespeare and University Drama in Early Modern England* (Oxford University Press, 2023).

Katherine Brabon's (2012, Art) latest novel, *Body Friend* was published in September (Ultimo Press, 2023).

The Hon. Andrew Butler KC (1987, Classics) published *Building Safety Act 2022: A guide for property lawyers* (The Law Society, March 2024).

Dr Anne Carter (2009, Law), a lecturer at Adelaide Law School, published *Facts in Public Law Adjudication* (Bloomsbury, October 2023).

Dr Jennifer Charlson (née Inskeep, 1987, Engineering Science) published *Lessons from Grenfell Tower: The New Building Safety Regime* (Routledge, 2023).

John Crompton (1981, PPE), Univ Foundation Fellow, published *Public Net Worth: Accounting – Government – Democracy* (Palgrave Macmillan, February 2024).

Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (1982, Classics) published *Music in Twentieth-Century Oxford* in January. The book includes a chapter on the University College Musical Society (Boydell & Brewer, 2023).

Professor Nandini Das (1997, English) published *Courting India*, an account of the first English embassy to the Mughal court of Emperor Jahangir (Bloomsbury, March 2023).

Dr Geri Della Rocca de Candal (2006, History) published *Printing and Misprinting: A Companion to Mistakes and In-House Corrections in Renaissance Europe (1450–1650)* (OUP, April 2023).

Dr R David Edelman (2009, IR) published *Rethinking Cyber Warfare* (OUP, May 2024), which hit #1 on Amazon's bestseller list in all categories.

The lifelong creative partnership of artists Sue Gill and **John Fox MBE** (1959, PPE and Education) is celebrated in their new book, *Eighty-something*.

Ashley Goodall (1991, Music) published *The Problem With Change: The Essential Nature of Human Performance* (Penguin, May 2024), a timely exploration of the complexity of organisational transformation.

Otamere Guobadia's (2012, Law) debut collection *Unutterable Visions, Perishable Breath* embodies poetic sequences and fragmented poetry as queer forms (Broken Sleep Books, November 2023).

Dr Matteo Iannizzotto (1997, Economics) published *Macroeconomic Policy Since the Financial Crisis* (Agenda Publishing, 2023).

Dr Miles Kellerman (2017, International Relations) has a new publication, *Into the ether or the state? Legibility theory and the cryptocurrency markets* (CUP, February 2024).

Rebecca "R.F." Kuang's (2019, Oriental Studies) satirical thriller, *Yellowface*, was published in May 2023 (The Borough Press).

Dr Michael Malone-Lee (1964, Classics) published *Cardinal Bessarion (1403–1472): Most Latin of Greeks, Most Greek of Latins* (Routledge, 2024).



Professor Dr Robin Meyer (2007, Classics) published *Iranian Syntax in Classical Armenian* (OUP, December 2023).

Fanny Mills (1983, History) published a memoir *Unravelled: A Family Lost and Found Again*: “a powerful family drama of love and loss set in the colliding worlds of Jewish émigrés and the British nobility” (Unicorn Press, 2023).

ROA Munson (2017, PPE) is co-author of the *Universal Healthcare National Inquiry*, published on 4 October by London South Bank University.

Charles Nevin’s (1970, Law) latest short story collection, *So Last Century*, was published in March 2023. *Sometimes in Bath*, his previous story collection, is still available. See charlesnevin.co.uk

Howard Palmer KC (1973, Law) published *The Law of Property Damage* (Bloomsbury Professional, 2023).

Retracing the Iron Curtain: A 3,000-Mile Journey Through the End and Afterlife of the Cold War by **Dr Timothy Phillips** (1996, History and Modern Languages) was published in March 2023.

John Pike (1973, PPE) published *Vietnam and the Cold War 1945-1954* through Pen & Sword Books (April 2024). Further books are due in 2023-4.

A Child’s Goodbye, the latest book by **Alison Pindar** (1991, English), writing as Ali Mercer, was published in March 2023 (Bookouture, 2023).

Dr Corrina Readioff’s (2014, English) first book, *Epigraphs in the English Novel 1750–1850: Seducing the Reader* (EUP, 2023) has been selected for inclusion in a new Open Access scheme, OpenUP.

Jesse Simon (2008, History) published his second book, *Plattenbau Berlin: A Photographic Survey of Postwar Residential Architecture* (Prestel Verlag, 2022).

Professor Dr Martin Stadler (1997, Oriental Studies) edited *The Oxford Handbook of the Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead* together with Rita Lucarelli (Berkeley) (OUP, 2023).

Pireeni Sundaralingam (1986, Experimental Psychology) was featured in *Out of Sri Lanka*, the first anthology of Tamil, Sinhala and English poetry from Sri Lanka and its diasporas (Bloodaxe, 2023).

John Taylor (1958, Modern Languages) published research on the men and women in his part of south London who stood out against the War of 1914–1918. His two volumes can be viewed online.

Frank Thurmond (1990, English), a Lecturer in English at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, published *Lottie Deno: A Novel* (Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, February 2024).

Steph Vizard’s (2009, English) debut novel *The Love Contract* was published in September 2023, an award-winning modern rom-com for all fans of fake dating, enemies-to-lovers stories.

Chris von Csefalvay (2005, Law) published *Computational Modeling of Infectious Disease*, on 14 February 2023.

Alexandra Wilson (2013, PPE) published her debut novel *The Witness*, a moving, twisty legal thriller (Little, Brown Book Group, June 2024).

Dr Evan Wilson (2011, History), Associate Professor at the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, published *The Horrible Peace: British Veterans and the End of the Napoleonic Wars* (UMP, 2023).

Dr Jennifer Wong (1998, English) published two poetry anthologies and a monograph, including: *Where Else: An International Hong Kong Anthology* (Verve Poetry Press, 2023).

In memoriam

Former Fellows

Professor Patrick Baird (1970, Physics), Emeritus Fellow in Physics, died on 12 November 2023 aged 74.

Professor Herman Bell, Junior Research Fellow, died on 7 February 2023 aged 89.

Dr Glenn Black, Junior Research Fellow, died on 12 January 2024 aged 80.

Professor Nicholas Crafts CBE FBA, Economics Fellow, died on 6 October 2023 aged 74.

General Sir Frank Kitson DL MC KCB GBE, Defence Fellow, died on 2 January 2024 aged 97.

Foundation Fellows

Tom Schrecker (1952, History) died on 6 May 2024 aged 92.

Honorary Fellows

Professor David Hawkins (1958, Classics) died on 17 December 2023 aged 83.

Former Lecturers

Dr Barbara Levick, Stipendiary Lecturer in Ancient History, died on 6 December 2023 aged 92.

1930s

Canon Mervyn Hughes (1934, Theology) died in February 1998 aged 84.

Martin Clegg (1936, Law) died on 4 October 1995 aged 77.

James Francis Leslie Bayley (1937, Plant Sciences) died on 1 November 2006 aged 88.

Ronald Holmes (1937, History) died in May 2005 aged 86.

James William Reddyhoff (1937, Chemistry) died on 15 October 2012 aged 94.

Eric Derk Crichton MRCOG (1938, Medicine) died on 14 March 2022 aged 101.

Dr Arthur Michael Newsam Gardner FRCS (1938, Medicine) died in November 2018 aged 99.

John Ramsden (1938, Classics) died in May 1984 aged 64.

Clifford Harcourt Wilson (1938, Classics) died in November 2003 aged 84.

Father Jerome (Robert) Dudley (1939, Classics) died on 3 May 2019 aged 98.

Aaron Leslie (Arnold) Klausner (1939, Law) died in December 2001 aged 81.

Lt Col. Charles Clayton Wardle (1939, Modern Languages) died on 11 August 2020 aged 100.

1940s

We were informed of the death of Michael Hugh Patrick McCarthy (1941, Modern Languages) in June 2023.

Neville Smith (1942, Chemistry) died in 1956.

Frank Pilling Thompson (1942, PPE) died in 2019 aged 93.

Wing Commander Edmund John Millward (1944, Geography) died in April 1990 aged 63.

Martin Monier-Williams (1944, Law) died on 8 December 2023 aged 98.

Dr Michael John Abbott Davies (1945, Medicine) died on 1 March 2014 aged 86.

Gabriel Kodwe Benson (1947, English).

Alan Frederick Peters (1947, PPE) died on 1 January 2018 aged 92.

David Owen Savill (1947, FSP) died on 1 February 2021 aged 96.

Henry Blagden (1948, PPE) died on 31 May 2023 aged 95.

Dr Bill (William Lowry) Howard (1948, Chemistry) died in October 2020 aged 97.

Basil Bertram Phillips (1948, FSP) died on 14 September 2019 aged 95.

His Honour Judge David Alan Phillips (1948, Law) died on 19 June 2023 aged 96.

John Thomas Samuel Coates (1949, Maths) died in September 1982 aged 55.

Anthony Leon Greenburgh (1949, Medicine) died on 7 April 2023 aged 91.

William Bernard Parkhouse (1949, History) died in February 1979 aged 49.

Roger Whitburn Rail (1949, Plant Sciences) died in 1970 aged 47.

Gerald Wallis (1949, Philosophy) died on 21 September 2009 aged 84.

1950s

Peter Bourne (1950, History) died in March 2002 aged 71.

Revd Geoffrey Hugh Colman (1950, PPE) died in 2017 aged 86.

Frederick Mark Holiday (1950, PPE) died in July 2021 aged 90.

John de Courcy Hughes (1950, Geography) died in November 2006 aged 75.

Christopher Mackintosh (1950, PPE) died on 14 January 2024 aged 92.

Dr William George Murrell (1950, Biology) died in October 2006 aged 86.

John Goodsir Norquay (1950, Modern Languages) died on 18 November 2007 aged 84.

Michael Selborne Whitehouse (1950, Medicine) died on 4 February 2023 aged 91.

Anthony Michael Ian Beck OBE (1951, PPE) died on 23 January 2023 aged 91.



Clockwise from top left: Tom Schreckner; Seán Haldane; John Boylan; Rawdon Dairymple

In memoriam

Beverley Croft Dodd (1951, FSP) died on 22 October 1985 aged 62.

Maurice Henry George (1951, Modern Languages) died on 10 January 2021 aged 89.

Gérard Jannick (1951, PPE) died on 5 August 2008 aged 77.

Cyril Rhys Lewis (1951, Education) died on 18 August 1995 aged 69.

Lesley Vernon Stell (1951, History) died on 14 November 2023 aged 92.

Rawdon Dalrymple AO (1952, PPE) died on 29 September 2023 aged 92.

John Doncaster (1952, English) died on 18 November 2023 aged 91.

Professor David Jenkins FRSE MRCVS (1952, Zoology) died on 1 November 2022 aged 96.

David Francis Johnson (1952, Geography) died on 4 January 2023 aged 90.

Elliott Harris Levitas (1952, Law) died on 16 December 2022 aged 91.

Roger Michael Phillips (1952, Classics) died on 1 May 2002 aged 68.

Arthur Weir (1952, Law) died on 1 or 2 June 2024 aged 91.

John Gardner (1953, Chemistry) died in July 2023 aged 88.

Michael Scaife (1953, History) died on 30 March 2024 aged 88.

Ian Fotheringham (1954, PPE) died on 11 November 2023 aged 95.

Carl Ganz (1954, Oriental Studies) died on 16 October 2023 aged 90.

David Nairn Geekie (1954, History) died on 23 January aged 90.

Maurice Hynett (1954, Maths) died in 2024 aged 87.

Robert L Lasky (1954, Law) died on 16 September 2020 aged 91.

Robert Hugh McDiarmid Nisbet (1954, FSP) died on 27 October 2013 aged 86.

Paul Simmons (1954, Chemistry) died on 21 October 2023 aged 88.

Nicholas Evelyn Sebastian Snow (1954, History) died in January 2003 aged 69.

Stephen (Julian Siegmund) Walker (1954, Philosophy) died on 20 May 2022 aged 87.

Donald Blagden (1955, Geography) died on 24 January 2021 aged 86.

David Sydney King (1955, PPE) died in 1963 aged 29.

Allan James Knock (1955, Classics) died in 1959 aged 55.

John Arthur Newman (1955, Classics) died on 19 April 2023 aged 86.

We were informed of the death of Michael Wigan (1955, Maths) in March 2024.

Howard Rees Williams (1955, PPE) died on 16 January 2013 aged 81.

Professor Ronald Stamper (1955, Maths) died on 1 January 2024 aged 89.

John Howard Cobb (1956, History) died on 5 September 2022 aged 87.

Professor Frank Murray Edmund Greenwood (1956, History) died on 15 December 2000 aged 65.

Denis Stephen du Toit (1957, FSP) died on 26 August 1996 aged 69.

Robert Neville Thomas KC (1957, Law) died on 24 January 2023 aged 86.

Quentin Lawrence Gray (1958, Law) died on 30 April 2005 aged 66.

Patrick Hanks (1958, English) died on 1 February 2024 aged 83.

Lloyd Higgs (1958, Physics) died on 20 July 2020 aged 83.

Professor Ashley Beresford Price (1958, Medicine) died in 2023 aged 84.

Harold Rotman (1958, Physiology) died on 22 February 2023 aged 88.

Roger Harding (1959, Earth Sciences) died on 26 January 2024 aged 85.

Martin Hill (1959, Maths) died on 6 February 2024 aged 82.

Dr David Ernest Jeal (1959, Medicine) died on 13 September 2016 aged 76.

Father Derek Powney (1959, Physics) died on 22 April 2024 aged 83.

1960s

John Antony Bush (1960, Law) died on 8 October 2023 aged 82.

Dr John Compton (1961, History) died on 7 March 2024 aged 80.

Robert Craft (1961, Law) died on 15 March 2024 aged 84.

Seán William O'Reilly Haldane (1961, English) died on 27 March 2023 aged 80.

Derek Michael Stark (1961, Physics) died on 13 April 2023 aged 80.

Richard Stewart (1961, PPE), died on 3 November 2023 aged 83.

Julian Towler (1961, Medicine) died on 8 March 2024 aged 81.

Philip Bushill-Matthews (1962, English) died on 10 December 2023 aged 80.

We were informed of the death of Roy Enfield (1963, Philosophy) in 2024.

Tim Odoire (1963, Jurisprudence) died on 22 September 2023 aged 78.



Dr Alastair James Stewart Walker (1963, Philosophy) died on 22 February 2018 aged 80.

John Roger Garratt (1964, Modern Languages) died on 15 February 2023 aged 77.

James Harold Pipkin (1964, Law) died on 13 December 2022 aged 83.

David Stephen Totterdell (1964, Chemistry) died on 30 July 2023 aged 77.

Dr John Bransby Zachary FRCR (1964, Medicine/Physics).

David Cameron Kirk (1965, History) died on 11 June 2023 aged 75.

Archibald Mooketsa Mogwe MBE (1965, DSP) died on 25 February 2021 aged 99.

Trevor Sidwell (1965, History) died on 9 August 2023 aged 76.

Martin Easteal (1967, PPE) died on 18 March 2024 aged 76.

We were informed of the death of David Rigby (1967, Maths) in 2024.

Edwin Philip Brandon (1968, Philosophy) died on 25 March 2023 aged 76.

Professor Christopher Bulstrode CBE (1968, Zoology) died on 7 December 2023 aged 72.

Hugh Dawes (1969, History) died on 7 February 2024 aged 75.



Jan Perold (1969, Biochemistry) died in October 2023 aged 79.

1970s

Thomas Ferdinand Martin Böcking (1970, PPE) died on 20 February 2023 aged 80.

Raymond Fitzpatrick (1970, Human Sciences) died on 4 April 2024 aged 73.

Michael John Birkin (1971, Chemistry) died in 2019 aged 66.

Anthony Charles Dutoy (1971, Law) died on 9 June 2023 aged 70.

Larry Grisham (1971, Physics) died on 4 May 2020.

Dr Daniel Richard Mainz (1971, PPE) died on 15 November 2022 aged 69.

Tim Shawcross (1971, English) died on 27 August 2022 aged 69.

Alan Brown (1974, English) died in October 2023 aged 68.

Revd Christopher W Pearson (1975, Psychology) died on 29 August 2023 aged 66.

Jonathan Harrop (1977, Jurisprudence) died on 6 October 2023 aged 65.

John Edward Boylan (1978, Maths) died on 7 July 2023 aged 63.



1980s

Richard Charles Phillips (1988, English) died on 26 March 2018 aged 48.

1990s

Thomas Grass (1992, History) died on 9 February 2024 aged 49.

Francesca Nandy (1996, English) died on 29 February 2024 aged 46.

2020s

Oliver Newport (2021) died on 23 March 2024 aged 21.

Members of staff

Robert "Bob" Maskell, former Head Porter, died on 16 April 2024 aged 68.



1249
SOCIETY

The 1249 Society is changing

At Univ, we like to make an impact.

The 1249 Society is no exception and, through the generous benefaction of its members, has made a substantial impact on numerous College initiatives enabling Univ to provide a well-rounded education experience for our students. We are incredibly fortunate to have an ever-growing community of 1249 Society members who choose to make gifts to the College regularly with more than 200 Univites as members.

Committing to a regular gift is vital to the College as it provides us with a sustainable income, allowing us to plan effectively for the future. Regular gifts often add up to equal some of the larger gifts we receive and are therefore extremely important. For example, a UK-based donor giving £20 per month with gift aid for 10 years, adds up to £3,000. To this end we are changing the way we operate the 1249 Society and would like to offer membership to any donor who commits to a regular gift, whether

it be monthly, quarterly, or annually. In recognition of the Society, we ask for a minimum regular donation of £12.49. We want to make it easier for our Old Members and friends to be part of this dedicated group of loyal regular donors and are therefore no longer applying financial thresholds to your donations.

In recognition of your continued support, members of the 1249 Society will receive a range of exclusive benefits including members-only drinks receptions and a copy of *Univ Futures* magazine, detailing the impact of members' support.

We hope you will welcome this change and continue to assist us in our goal of providing the academic excellence and supportive community that Univ is known for.

If you would like to join the 1249 Society, please contact Grace Lane in the Alumni and Development Office: Grace.Lane@univ.ox.ac.uk or +44 (0)1865 276 799.

Fitzbillies' carrot cake recipe

Alison Wright (1986, PPE), the owner of Fitzbillies, the 100-year-old cake shop, café and bakery in Cambridge – interviewed on page 27 – has kindly shared with us her recipe for the perfect carrot cake.



Fitzbillies: Stories & Recipes from a 100-Year-Old Bakery, Tim Hayward & Alison Wright (Quadrille Publishing Ltd., 2019)

Ingredients

For the cake

- 450 g Carrots
- 150 g Walnuts
- 140 g Raisins
- 4 Eggs
- 250 g Corn or sunflower oil
- 200 g Caster sugar
- 200g Soft brown sugar
- 2 tsp Vanilla extract
- 280 g Plain flour
- 2 tsp Baking powder
- 2 tsp Bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tsp Salt
- 2 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 tbspcocoa powder

For the icing

- 750 g Icing sugar
- 300 g Cream cheese
- 75 g Salted butter
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract



“My personal favourite is our carrot cake. It’s just so moist and not too sweet. I’d like to think it counts as one of my five a day.”

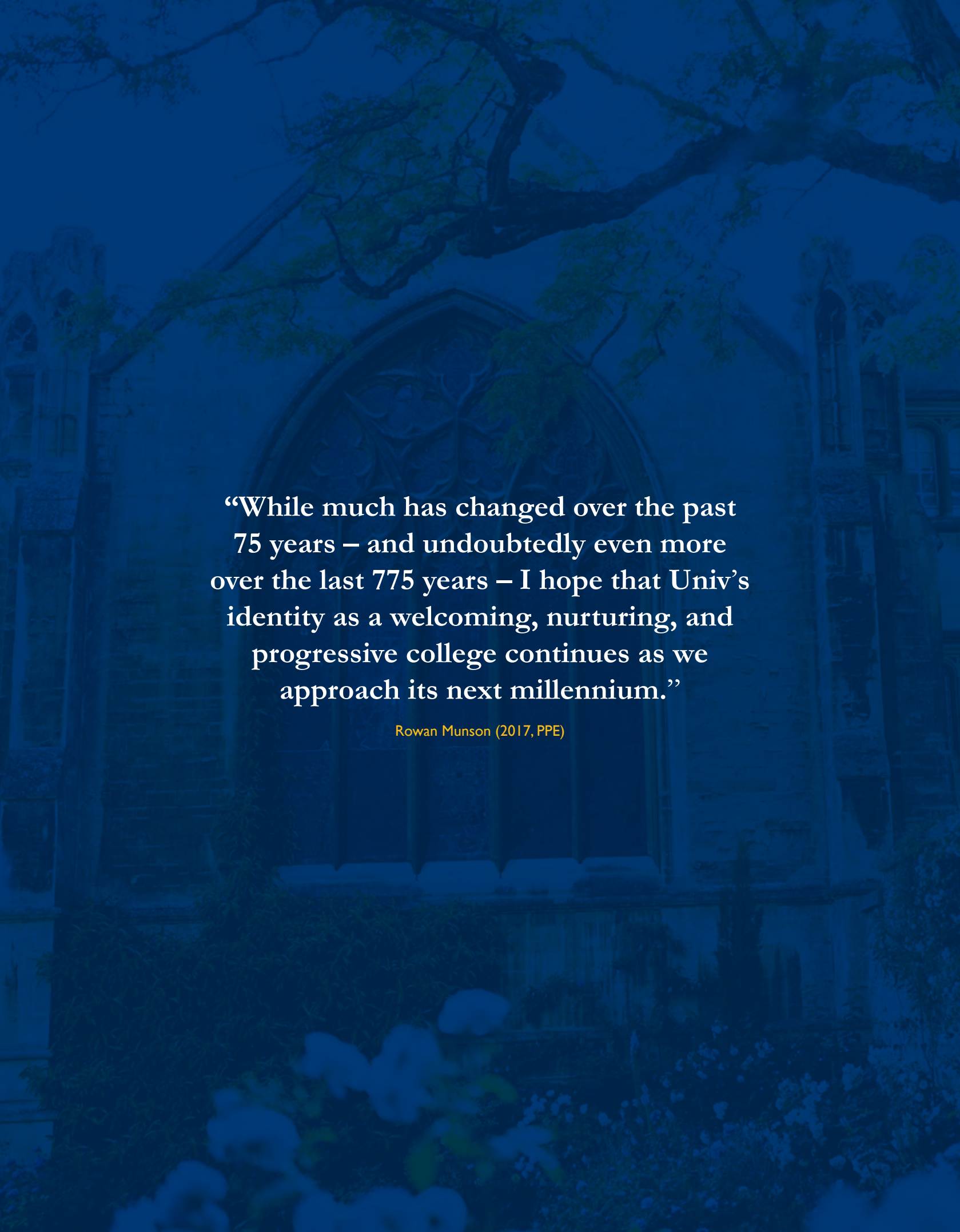
Method

1. Pre-heat the oven to 165 degrees centigrade (fan). Grease and line the bases of three 8 inch (20 cm) sandwich tins.
2. Grate the carrots. Chop the walnuts and mix them up with the raisins.
3. Beat together the eggs, vanilla, caster and brown sugar and oil.
4. Add all the dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, cocoa powder, cinnamon and salt) to the egg mixture and mix to combine.
5. Add the raisins, carrots and walnuts mixture and mix to combine.
6. Divide the mixture into the three tins. You can weigh each tin to check you have roughly the same amount in each and will get even layers.
7. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes until the tops spring back when gently pressed with the fingertips. If the cakes aren’t baking evenly rotate them in the oven after 20 minutes or so.
8. Allow to cool completely in the pans. This cake gets even better

overnight or after a few days so ideally make it the day before, so it is completely cool before you attempt to ice it.

To make the cream cheese icing:

9. Put the cream cheese and icing sugar in the bowl on a mixer and beat slowly until smooth.
10. Soften the butter until it just melts (in a pan or in the microwave). You really do not want it too hot. If it gets too hot leave it to one side to cool almost to setting point. Slowly mix this into the butter and sugar mix.
11. If the icing is firm enough you can get to work on icing your cake immediately. Otherwise put the icing in the fridge to firm up for half an hour or so.
12. We top our carrot cake with chopped glazed orange peel and pumpkin seeds. Or sometimes we pipe little carrots on the top of each slice.



**“While much has changed over the past
75 years – and undoubtedly even more
over the last 775 years – I hope that Univ’s
identity as a welcoming, nurturing, and
progressive college continues as we
approach its next millennium.”**

Rowan Munson (2017, PPE)