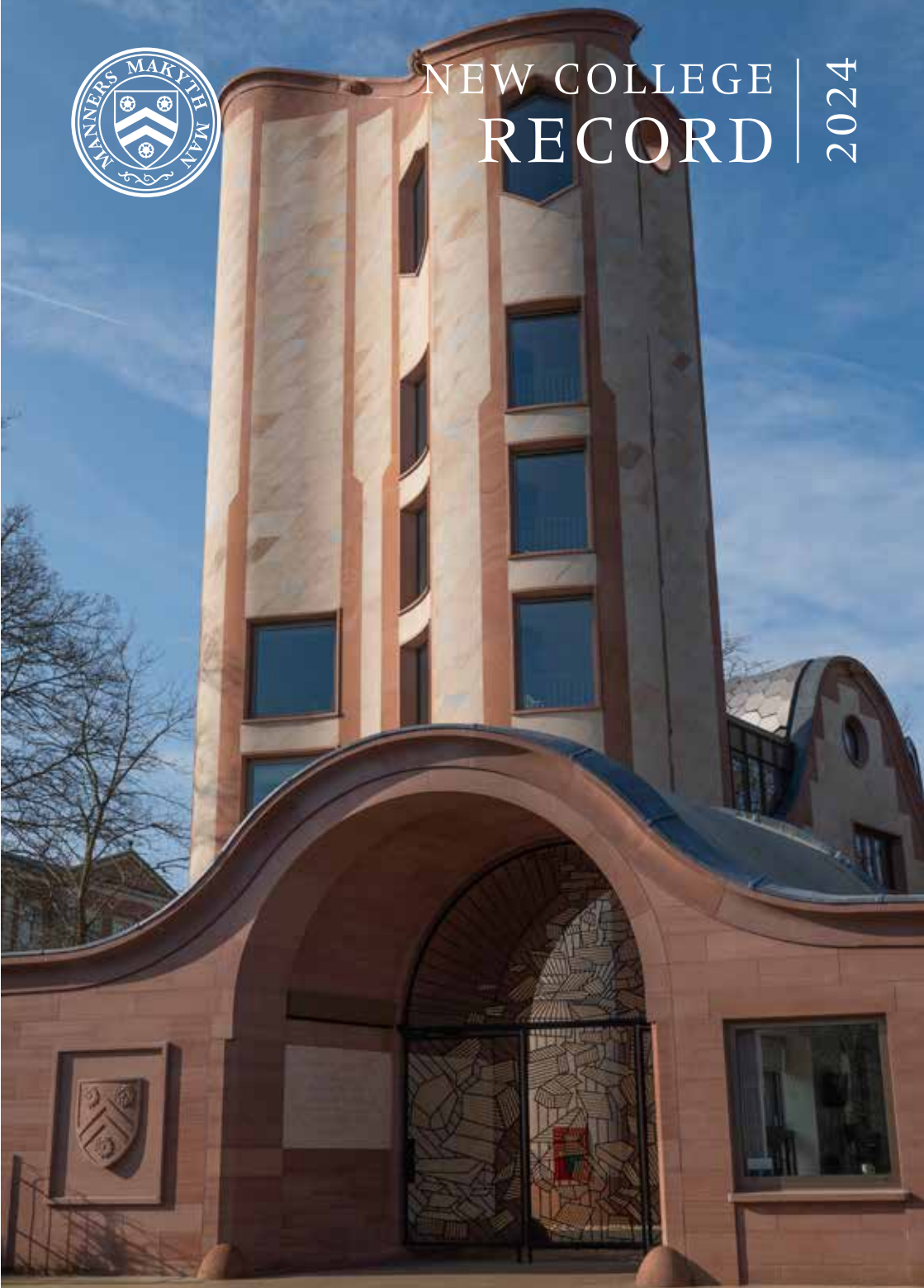




NEW COLLEGE RECORD | 2024



Front cover

The entrance to the Gradel Quadrangles, featuring the gates designed by the Irish Sculptor, Eva Rothschild, who won the competition for the project; behind you can see the tower housing the Gradel Institute of Charity. The plaque on the left outside the gates is shown below. The window to the Porters' Lodge can be seen on the right-hand side of the *picture*.

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Vice-Chancellor, Professor Irene Tracey, and Chris Gradel unveiling the Gradel Quadrangles' plaque on the day of the Grand Opening, 13 April 2024.



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NEW COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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Editorial

Without any doubt at all New College's major event in 2024 was the Grand Opening of the Gradel Quadrangles. Again and again in these pages you will find that day in April last year popping up; I urge you in particular to read our three differing takes on the same event, by the Warden, the Home Bursar and the Director of Development; and anyone who has even a passing interest in word puzzles in learned languages might enjoy the piece on the Staircase to Nowhere and its Greek inscription.

All the usual sections are here as well, each amply reflecting the rich and varied life which we enjoy in this place. This year I commend to you especially a far-ranging Features section which will take you from New Mexico to the plains of Thessaly, from the Western Isles of Scotland to Japan by way of Holland and Denmark, and from the stalls of our own Chapel to the mediaeval cathedrals of France: so far does New College's influence extend!

As always it is a pleasure to record my gratitude to all those whose efforts of whatever kind ease the smooth production of this annual publication, and in particular, of course to the Assistant Editor, Nathalie Wilks, the volume's most significant *sine qua non*.

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You can also update our records and give information for the *Record* using the email address above.



Lunch in the Hall after the Grand Opening of the Gradel Quadrangles © John Cairns

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The Warden at the Grand Opening on 13 April 2024 © John Cairns

From the Warden



The buildings on the front cover of this Record were central to the year 2024.

The ‘proof of the pudding’ is always in the eating. New College Pudding makes sadly few appearances on our menus nowadays: I am probably in a decided minority in thinking that! Our great collegiate pudding in the last year, however, has been the Gradel Quadrangles. Completed and occupied, they have now proven themselves to those for whom they were designed. When I ask the students in occupation I am

met with a uniformly enthusiastic response: these are very contented – even excited – customers. They seem to relish the collegiate spirit of the buildings. For this is an easy place in which to build community. The spaciousness but also the individuality of the rooms demanded by the curvaceous design are quite unlike those in other Oxford newbuilds. The kitchens provide a sense of living in ‘houses’ though these bear little resemblance to their predecessors in Cowley lets. The study area, generously donated by the American Friends of New College, is well used, and provides a welcome resource.



The Warden addressing the audience at the Grand Opening © John Cairns

Our Grand Opening on 13 April 2024 was slightly grand, in that it involved a Festal Matins in Chapel, followed by assembly in the Great Quad, and then a procession to the new site led by a quartet brass band playing Susato's *Dansyre*, followed by Chris Gradel, the principal donor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Lord Mayor, fellows, staff and guests, with the choir bringing up the rear. In my remarks I paid tribute to David Kohn, the architect, and thanked him for creating 'an authentic sense of place', where we can experience a relationship with the physical environment, not just pass through it or by it. That relationship is very Wykehamical: it starts with William of Wykeham's splendid effigy carved by Fergus Wessel, who has contributed to so much of our contemporary stonework. It continues with his series of gargoyles and grotesques echoing those on the medieval college buildings. Everyone has a favourite: the pangolin seems to top the polls. Another echo, this time of the Garden Quadrangle, is of the great gates given to us by the Duke of Chandos in 1710, a major donor in that phase of our expansion: Eva Rothschild's spectacular entrance gates at the Lodge are black and gold: 'the pictorial elements are not explicit but are integrated by colour and line, creating a sense of multiple and conflicting perspectives', as she describes them. Then, on the way down to the Concert Hall, you find the very moving early continental statue of the Blessed Virgin, donated by Jane Gorlin, recalling that our Foundation is 'the College of St Mary of Winchester', and that we are only commonly known as New College. The Hall itself now has its final designation (it is The New Space). An eclectic programme of content is fast gaining momentum: ranging from lieder to guitar, from Edvard Grieg to Thea Musgrave.

The New Space is also in hot demand for lectures, conferences and large meetings. Two large abstract paintings, given to the college in 2014 by James Willoughby, by Thornton Willis, now hang in the lobby. Adjoining our ever popular music practice room, the New Space confirms our pre-eminent role in



Porter, Steve Dyer, holding the college flag during the Grand Opening. © John Cairns

Oxford college music – academically, performatively and appreciatively. My thanks go out to all who contributed to the Gradel Quadrangles from its inception through to its final delivery, and especially to the many donors who have made it feasible for us to undertake this dramatic expansion to our historic compound.



After such a frenzy of building (and still with some finition to come and some snagging to resolve), it may seem decidedly premature to ask the question ‘what next?’. I do not believe it is; and we are very grateful indeed that the American Friends of New College do not either, and have generously funded a feasibility study into ‘what to do with the Library’. What we need to do is to extend it: we are at a

serious disadvantage compared to many other colleges who have completed new libraries or library extensions. This is the big age of the growth in usage of libraries by students, confounding all expectations of 20 years ago. Above all, we have a massive deficiency of reading spaces compared to demand, as well as absolutely no disabled access. But we also lack any kind of exhibition space, which is an absence almost criminal granted that we possess one of the University’s best collections of rare documents, books and incunabula. These have to be manually carried to a lecture room if you want to exhibit them and we can only do this for a few hours before returning them to the store – a massively inconvenient process as well as a sad waste of our assets. At this point our architects for this project – Purcell – are evaluating a number of options which respect the existing library buildings by Sir Hubert Worthington, which, it must be remembered, are a First World War Memorial. The plan is to have by the end of the year something which would be City Planner tested, and then to consider the funding options. The current most likely option for expansion would be to the north between the existing Library and the Holywell Cottages.

In this milestone year, it seemed apt that we should celebrate in the Michaelmas term, the 700th anniversary of the birth of our Founder, for which the evidence is more suggestive than definitive, but it did seem unseemly and churlish to let it pass. We were delighted to welcome our Visitor, the new Lord Bishop of Winchester, The Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen to preach at a special commemoration Evensong, reflecting on the life and heritage of his predecessor and on the strong ties between his Diocese and our college. The clergy and choir rose to the demands

of this 'state occasion' magnificently: the music included, memorably, Howells' *New College Service*.

Meanwhile the ordinary life of the college - academic, sporting, cultural - continued to exhibit far from ordinary excellence. And within the fellowship we were very pleased to admit Thomas Murphy as Career Development Fellow in Modern Languages.

Finally, my profound thanks go to Professor René Bañares-Alcántara who was Sub-Warden from 2023 to 2024, and performed the role with conspicuous diligence, good humour, unfailing courtesy and definitive tact - and now and then provided a useful Mexican proverb with which to illustrate a particular situation.

The Warden

NEW COLLEGE NOTES



The Bursar writes...



This year I want to share with Old Members (aka Alumni as 'stakeholders') information about college finances, as we have been working on how to present such to Governing Body Fellows - and indeed to other 'stakeholders' such as college employees and our students. I am most grateful to the College Accountant, Alan Blowers, and GB Fellow, Jonathan Black, as well as to Emeritus Fellow, Giles Spackman, for their work on making the college finances more understandable.

The Annual Report & Accounts as lodged at the college website and in the public domain at the Charity Commission have to follow the Charities' SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) format - which makes the accounts incomprehensible to normal folk! Internally we rely on our Management Accounts to present useful financial information to GB; they divide college activities into cost centres (too many!) and profit centres (too few!).

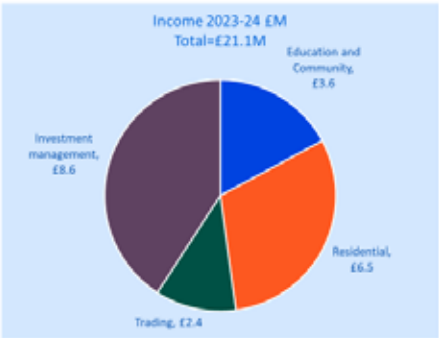
Put simply New College is a £21m business by way of annual income - with the Endowment contributing c.£8.5m, residential activity (student rents + conferences) amounting to about £6.5m, tuition fees bringing in some £3.5m, and 'trading' (tourist charges, filming fees, etc.) giving us around £2.5m. Spending is just under £20m - on education/chapel/library c.£8m (all those 'cost centres'), on overheads over £5.5m (utilities alone at £1.5m, insurances at almost £400k), on the residential activity c.£5m, and on 'trading' some £0.75m.

Of the spend some 55% is on payroll; and the deficits on such as 'education' (over £4m after crediting tuition fees) are offset by the yield from Endowment (taking a cautious 3.25% as our annual 'draw-down' or 'spend-rate so that the value of the permanent endowment is preserved). It is, of course, entirely proper that the Endowment is used to subsidise our key charitable objective of 'education' in terms of financing the costly tutorial system - and also for the funding of the Chapel/Choir as our second charitable objective. In addition, it finances the hefty cost of the upkeep of our 'heritage' buildings.

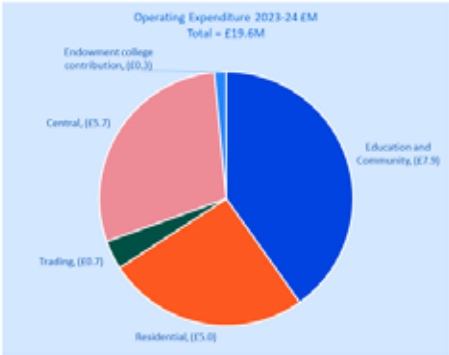
The surplus between income and spend is diverted to the paying off of the loan from the Endowment as a contribution to the building of the Gradel Quads - and also various other loans over the past twenty-five years or so: for instance, for the Kitchens/Buttery refurb and also for staircase upgrading (fire alarms/detection, central-heating, en suite showers, etc.). We hope to clear the Quads debt to Endowment by c.2045, but we face

remorseless increases in costs that risk eroding our ability to sustain the hoped-for £1-1.5m annual transfer to Endowment - and hence we have to pray for periodic uplifts to Endowment capital from bringing through the tortuous planning regime the gaining of planning permission for houses on college farmland (after some 15 years at Aylesbury in 2005 we achieved over £55m; after 20+ years at Banbury and at Buckingham during the 2020s we brought in over £40m; and at present under active negotiation we hope for £XXm again at Banbury with £Ym at Upper Heyford - exact figures in my next report!). We also rely on the Home Bursar to ‘sweat’ the residential assets by maximising conference trade income, while we welcome ‘tourist footfall’ as well as the occasional filming contract (almost £500k for the former in 23/24; and during 2025 you will see several film and TV productions ‘starring’ the medieval quad!).

In 2023/24, New College’s income was £21 M, about 60% (or £12 M) of which was from operations (ie, education, residential, estates etc)



In 2023/24, operational expenditure was just under £20M



The net income and expenses from each activity in 23/24 results in a break-even overall result



Jonathan Black kindly contributes here some of the graphical material we are using to present to our GB colleagues in digestible format the dozen densely detailed pages of the Management Accounts... (N.B. The above numbers and the ones in these slides do not include New College School with its £3m turnover, but its numbers are considered in the SORP Accounts at the College and Charity Commission websites.)

Next year I hope to share with readers our 5-year financial projections and the assumptions lying behind them - spoiler alert: we think we will still be 'a going concern' by 2029 as we reach 650 years since our Foundation!

David Palfreyman – Bursar

The Home Bursar writes...



2024 and the opening of Gradel Quadrangles...at last, yes!

The final 21 of the 94 students moved into their bedrooms during January and February, and at long last the Gradel Quadrangles were fully occupied. The past years have all been worth it, and the feedback from those lucky enough to have lived there during the last academic year, and from the present inhabitants, is all extremely positive.

We celebrated the Quads in some style in April, with the opening event attended by the Vice-Chancellor, the Lord Mayor, members of the Governing Body, the Professional Team and, most importantly, Chris Gradel and his family. It was a moment of both celebration and reflection as the commemorative stone was unveiled.

As we turned our minds to maximising the opportunity that the Quads present, we were pleased to welcome a new summer school partner who took full residence of the site for 6 weeks in mid-summer, including making use of the School classrooms and canteen areas, a first for the college and possible only thanks to our new facilities. The summer school was quickly followed by a number of large conferences and events, all of which remarked on the great facilities the college now possesses.



Members of Governing Body process into Gradel Quadrangles - © John Cairns

As ever, I extend my thanks to all those who played a part in the delivery of this iconic set of buildings, a challenge met and conquered.

At the start of the year a group of Home Bursars and HR Managers visited HMP Bullingdon (a Category B Prison just outside Oxford), to meet with the Governor, her team and current offenders to discuss the incredible challenge that ex-offenders face once they are released – a topical point given the recent press interest in prison capacity and the government's early release scheme. It was both an informative and transformative visit, and helped dispel many misconceptions that are easily held about the prison system. New College is one of a number of colleges which, further to the visit, are working with the Prison and third-sector partners to try to make real interventions in what is too often a circular process, simply because the basics of employment or accommodation are out of reach.

Turning back to maximising opportunities, in July a group from the Home Bursary travelled to New York to meet potential summer school partners in Yale, and to re-engage with SUNY Geneseo, a New York State Liberal Arts College which until a decade ago held an annual summer course at New College. I am pleased to say that they will be returning in 2025, and we very much look forward to welcoming them home.

The tourism trade continues to abound with ever more eager visitors coming through the New College Lane gate. Whilst everyone is welcome, we are aware that 70,000 visitors a year can have an effect on the daily life of the college, and so plans are being put in place to help manage and maximise this important income stream for the future.

As in previous years the college staff have continued to do their bit for deserving charities, the most notable of which in 2024 was an 11-strong contingent climbing Yr Wyddfa in October in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. An early start saw the group head for base camp (the car park) at 7:30 am, lace up their boots, have a final comfort break and commence the pre-walk warm-up with vigour and a small dollop of trepidation. The morning was beautiful, and the clear skies offered magnificent views across the National Park with the highest peak waiting ahead. Energy was high as the group ascended the Miners' Track, and, allowing for regular breaks along the way, they were soon at the intersection of the Miners' and Pyg Tracks, the latter being the route home. After nearly 3 hours they reached the final rest point before the dash to the summit, where they were greeted by unbroken views of mist, fog and a very British queue lining up to touch the stone marker indicating that they had reached their destination. Ceremonial flag flying, hot beverages and sandwiches were shared before the descent began. At shortly before 4pm and now sodden by a good dousing of Welsh rain, they returned to base camp and a round



A slightly damp team basking in some rare sunshine at the foot of Yr Wyddfa

of hot chocolates. The group raised in excess of £5,000 and is now busily making plans to take on the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge in 2025.

I remain deeply thankful to college Staff across all our departments. The Gradel Quadrangles have presented us with many opportunities, but buildings of that size and complexity need servicing, maintaining and controlling and the different teams across college have adapted well to this new part of college life. We are busier than ever, but continue to meet new demands head-on and with real enthusiasm.

In 2024 we were sorry to say goodbye to Gerald Rouse in the Maintenance Department, to scouts Carol Uhimwen and Carolyn Whiting, and to Jamie Bell who served as Chapel Verger for 30 years. I extend my very best wishes for the future to each of them.

Gez Wells - Home Bursar

The Chaplain writes...



The chapel has always been a place where we honour the college's past as a place of godliness and the studies of good learning, and renew our understanding of those values for the future. The regular round of evensong continues five or six nights a week, keeping alive the Founder's wish that the chapel should be a place where, in Cranmer's words, 'we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at God's hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to

hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.' But this enduring, centuries-old tradition is punctuated by services from other traditions adapted to our context. The twice-termly compline services are very popular with students, and there are regular shorter vespers service, usually sung on alternate Thursdays by the choristers, giving our youngest singers a chance to perform short solos and learn vital musical skills.

The ambitious termly Cantata Vespers services offer a chance to hear a full cantata by J. S. Bach in a liturgy similar to what would have been heard in Leipzig when Bach was Thomaskantor, with Lutheran hymns and German organ preludes. The liturgical performance of Bach's *St John Passion* is in a similar tradition, with a sermon at the end of Part 1, this year delivered by Dr Marietta van der Tol in one of her last appearances as a Junior Research Fellow and Licenced Lay Minister attached to the chapel. The round of feast days that draws in the whole college community is also a blend of these ancient liturgical traditions with newer, New College twists, such as the procession to the Cloisters for Candlemas, the procession to the Mound for Ascension Day, and the College Commemoration Service that replicates the first fellows' ceremony to take possession of the college buildings in 1386. This year the new and the old met at the College Commemoration Service as we heard a sermon on the Founder from the Rt Rev'd Philip Mounstephen, 98th Bishop of Winchester, on his first visit as Visitor of New College.

Old members and former clerks and choristers are warmly welcome to chapel services. Currently only the main Christmas carol services and the *St John Passion* are ticketed; there is no need to book ahead unless you are bringing a group of ten or more. The chapel is accessible via low ramps; if you or a guest are coming in a wheelchair it is helpful if you alert us but not necessary. If you are unable to travel to Oxford Sunday services and special events are livestreamed on the New College Choir YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/@newcollegechoir>

The chapel also serves as a place where we can mark significant moments in our ongoing story as a college family. In 2024 we looked to the future with a service of Choral Matins to mark the formal opening of Gradel Quadrangles in April. We looked to the past in memorials for three distinguished members of our community who were also close contemporaries: Professor John Gerard Garvin Ledingham DM FRCP (19 October 1929–13 June 2023), Sir David James Lumsden (19 March 1928–25 February 2023), and Uwe Kitzynger CBE (12 April 1928–16 May 2023). Professor Ledingham matriculated at New College in 1950, was a Tutorial Fellow and later an Honorary Fellow and the University's first Professor of Clinical Medicine, who taught most of the university's medical students, many of whom came to his memorial in March. Honorary Fellow Sir David Lumsden was the Organist of New College 1959–1976, and was fittingly remembered at a memorial evensong in May. The choir sang William Byrd's *Great Service* and Kenneth Leighton's *Drop, drop slow tears*, from *Crucifixus pro nobis*, Op. 38, commissioned by New College in 1961. Sir David and his wife Sheila, Lady Lumsden (22 August 1930–8 August 2022) were interred together in the cloisters that same day, within view of the house in New College Lane where their children had grown up. The final memorial in June was for one of the college's most distinguished old members, Uwe Kitzynger, founding President of Templeton (now Green Templeton) College, Dean of INSEAD, and patron of Asylum Welcome in recognition of his own experiences as a refugee from Nazi Germany in 1939.

This year we have also been exploring new ways the chapel can support the wider life of the arts in college, building on our growing collaboration with Oxford Festival of the Arts. The Director of the festival, Dr Michelle Castelletti, is a New College postgraduate, completing a doctorate (her second!) in Medieval History. From April to August we enjoyed an exhibition of works by the sculptor Johannes von Stumm, who uses traditional materials and pioneering 3D imaging and printing technology to produce 'empty' forms that are especially well-suited to the play of light and shadow in New College's ancient cloisters. In a smaller but significant project we have also commissioned a new set of nativity figures for the chapel, designed and thrown by potter and lay clerk Lucy Ballard and funded by donations from old members whose children were baptised in the chapel. The set includes a midwife, and Lucy and her husband Fergus Mclusky, a former academical clerk, have kindly donated the striking figure of the angel who presides over the scene. The figures were dedicated at a service in early December, marking a fitting beginning to the round of Christmas services that are the highlight of the year.

Erica Longfellow - Dean of Divinity



Johannes von Stumm cloisters exhibition © Erica Longfellow



The choir in Chapel, Graveland Church. Opening of the Graveland Quadrangles, 13th April 2024 © John Cairns

The Organist writes...



New College Choir continues to thrive, attracting choristers, clerks both academical and lay, and organists of the highest quality to its ranks. These talented and hard-working people, who perform a huge variety of music from at least five centuries with unfailing musicianship, must take the lion's share of the credit for the choir's success. Writing this piece for *the Record* always reminds me of my good fortune, but never more so than this, my tenth year as Organist.

The calendar year was framed by two performances of Benjamin Britten's evergreen *A Ceremony of Carols* – one in January in chapel, and another in December in the parish church at Islip. Exactly the same piece, yet also quite different: each new cohort of choristers, while obviously largely the same from one year to the next, brings something different to our work; a slightly different accent, if you like, and always with strengths in the top year that have hitherto been latent, not quite visible – it is perhaps only with the departure of their senior brethren that they blossom fully. No doubt the Garden Fellow could find an appropriate horticultural and/or classical aphorism to illustrate this eternal truth of working with children; the same is true, in fact, of the undergraduate clerks in the choir, who form their own cohorts of year and voice, intermixed with more experienced lay clerks, rising to maturity just in time for their graduation. Fortunately, they can be tempted back on occasion – plans are afoot for a rather overdue reunion of the Choir Association later this year.

Between Hilary and Trinity terms we spent a few very productive days recording. Our disc of Latin sacred music by John Sheppard, made in 2019, was the first in a series of recordings of English music of the mid-sixteenth century for Linn Records. The second, poised as I write to roll off the production line for release in June, features the work of William Mundy (born around 1529), including his extraordinary votive antiphon *Vox patris caelestis*, one of the great monuments of English Renaissance art – seriously monumental, indeed, at around 20 minutes in length. This music is taxing but deeply rewarding to sing, and worth reclaiming from the adult professional choirs whose exclusive property it has tended to become. I think our reading of *Vox patris* holds its ground against those of The Sixteen and The Tallis Scholars; and this music was, of course, written for performance by choirs with trebles – *triplex* is the name given to the top line, and it was undoubtedly sung by children.

A highlight of Trinity term was the memorial service for Sir David Lumsden, which featured Byrd's '*Great Service*', the performance of which was pioneered by New College and Magdalen College Choirs under David and Bernard Rose – some readers will remember performances in 1963 and 1970. We also sang a movement of Kenneth Leighton's *Crucifixus pro nobis*, written for New College Choir and David in 1961, and *Faire is the heaven*, also written for the choir when its composer, William Harris, was Organist in the 1920s.

We had one of the quietest summers on record: no tour, and we had already made a recording. (Following the pattern set by the No 11 bus, however, next year looks set to be positively jam-packed with touring; more of that in a future issue.) The early autumn, by contrast, was busier than usual, with a concert for Martin Randall's *The Divine Office* festival, and a fascinating afternoon and evening spent in a nearby chapel (and associated make-up and catering facilities) in filming sessions for a drama – to be released, we believe, on a well-known streaming service. Thence to Michaelmas Term, from which two services featuring evergreen pieces of music stand out in the memory: the *Requiem Mass* by Gabriel Fauré on All Souls' Day, and Bach's cantata *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*. The latter was, as usual, presented in our bespoke Cantata Vespers liturgy, alongside congregational hymns 'preluded' by a full-scale organ piece then sung in robust unaccompanied unison, and choral pieces taken from collections found in the library of the Thomasschule in Bach's time or related publications. Thus, in a small and relatively informal way, we hope to add something to the research environment, in a field that is increasingly interested in the experience of music for performer and listener. You can, of course, be part of this! Old members, always welcome in chapel, may also wish to keep up with the choir's work via our regular livestreamed services: www.youtube.com/@NewCollegeChoir

Robert Quinney - Organist

The Librarian writes . . .



2024 has been a most productive and rewarding year for the library as we achieved much developmental work to enhance and expand our service offering and outstanding collections. We aim above all to be both responsive and proactive in terms of our readers' needs. Around 31,000 items in total were used by readers, a high figure for a library our size, and we acquired 392 books to fulfil purchase recommendations from readers (the largest number ever) out of a total of over 1,900 books added to stock. Our biennial library survey in Hilary Term revealed positive feedback from the 35% of college's students (biggest uptake yet) who responded. There is high satisfaction with the library, and especially with its staff, with 74% of respondents 'strongly' agreeing that staff are helpful (up from 70% and 62% in the two previous surveys). This is encouraging, and indicative of the lengths we seek to go to assisting our readers. Comments, indicative of a range, were particularly heartening:

It's such a friendly, homely place. I truly feel so comfortable in there! I struggle to study at home, and so I am in the library almost every day - I don't think I would still be on the course without it!

Thank you so much for all the time and effort you put into supporting New College students - my friends and I talk all the time about how thoughtful you are for student needs!

Just really appreciate the speed at which Library staff resolve concerns - particularly book orders!

Thank you for your help and for creating and maintaining a really welcoming space. The library is a very big factor when I think about why I love New College.

Our student welfare initiatives are very well-received, this year's surprise Christmas book loans service especially so, with the highest take-up we have had. As expected, results also revealed that students still primarily value core, 'traditional' library services of silent study space, printing/scanning/copying, and academic collections. Areas identified for improvement resulted in the library's defining 12 key

actions, which we have successfully addressed. Service improvements over the year included an increase to opening hours implemented in October (with the library's now opening at 7 am each day); a new loaning service for chargers and adapters; a replacement of the unpopular yellow lighting in the library with improved quality, white, and softer LED lighting (more energy-efficient too); a well-devised treasure-hunt for new students; better library inductions across the first two weeks of the academic year; a well-received offering to new undergraduates of notebooks illustrated with images from one of five volumes from our manuscript and rare book treasures; and a Freshers' week exhibition which saw a 12% increase in visitor numbers over 2023. Most notably, after two years' preparatory work, we launched a new online archives catalogue to open up our archival collections. These days catalogues available only in printed format are increasingly considered unfit for purpose, and often languish unused; online catalogues are required and expected, by students and researchers alike. We expect our catalogue will considerably facilitate research, while lunchtime walking history tours of college buildings continued to help ensure the visibility of our archives holdings.

Our exhibitions programme remained popular, reaching 1,323 visitors in college – the highest onsite total ever. It included treasures and other exhibitions for the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, for Benefactors' Day, to support a Green Templeton College lecture on New College archaeologists Sir Leonard Woolley and Sir Max Mallowan, for our Hong Kong Summer School students, for the New College Society, for the Open Day for Parents and Guardians of First Year Students, of medieval manuscripts for a group of visiting librarians from the US, of Wycliffite and related manuscripts and books in connection with Wycliffe Hall, of archival documents relating to William of Wykeham to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Founder's birth, of library manuscripts for the Oxford University Society of Bibliophiles, as well as four large-scale exhibitions. *Muses in the Library and Archives of New College* (in July) was our well-attended contribution to the Oxford Festival of the Arts, *Mythical and Monstrous: Fantastical Creatures at New College Library* (June) was a fabulous display of largely medieval manuscripts, and the most recent in our series of subject-themed library exhibitions were *Medicine & Anatomy* (February), and *Sacred: Christian Theology in New College Library* (November), the latter taking place aptly in our wonderful college chapel, attracting visitors from far afield.

Within the library, an exhibition drawing from our Seton-Watson collection of rare and ephemeral printed materials relating to early 20th-century Central and Eastern European history and politics was a notable



Coronation of the Virgin
 Flemish Book of Hours (possibly Utrecht), c. 1525–1550
 New College Library, Oxford, MS 323, f. 118v

16th-century manuscript Book of Hours (Use of Rome) donated to the library in 1693 by London merchant Henry Howell, son of Thomas Howell, bishop of Bristol 1644–46

© Courtesy of the Warden and Scholars of New College, Oxford
 Photograph by Colin Dunn

reach of our social media platforms, Facebook, Instagram (now with over 1,500 followers), and X (over 2,000 followers, with posts garnering 210,000 impressions over the year). Our *Curators' Choice* video series enjoyed its most popular year to date, with over 12,000 views, and we published two more issues (containing 19 scholarly articles) of the college's well-regarded scholarly e-journal, *New College Notes*, which is being accessed more and more.

The richness of our collections is exceptional, even by Oxford standards, and helps us put on a good show. One of our principal responsibilities is to continue to build on our collections, and to create needed special collections of the future. We acknowledge with grateful

success. In addition, we staged various small 'pop-up' themed displays of library and archives materials for show-and-tell and similar activities – as well as two inaugural showcase events. One was on our beautiful Books of Hours in February, in collaboration with TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities), the other in March on our early printed legal books for a 'Legal-Literary Imagining' workshop organised by the university's Centre for Early Modern Studies. 2024 also saw the library provide online exhibitions for the very first time. *English Literature Through the Ages* was launched on our website at the beginning of the year, followed by *Geometry and Astronomy* just before the close of 2024. These complement the growing



*Manuscript prayer book in Arabic and Ottoman Turkish, 1809–1810
New College Library, Oxford, MS 383, ff. 1v–2r
Described in full in ‘MS 383 and Margoliouth’, New College Notes 22 (2024), no. 6*

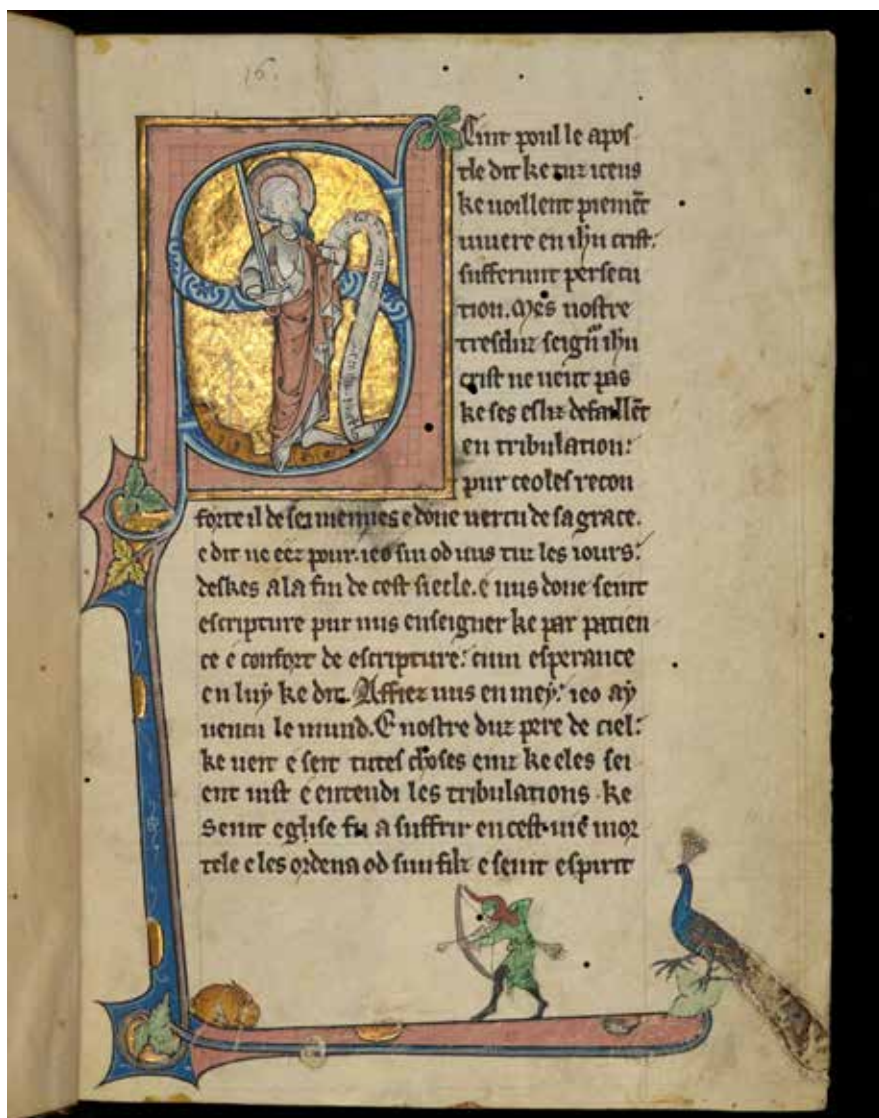
thanks the 60 generous donors who have given books or funds to the library this year. Special collections work featured heavily in this year’s activities. We fetched 478 rare books and manuscripts from our stores and into the library for use, assisting 88 unique visitors (slightly up on last year). We have been fortunate to acquire three more splendid manuscripts for our collections (each written up in *New College Notes*). These are the autograph copy of the murder mystery novel *When the Wind Blows* (1949) by our alumnus ‘Cyril Hare’ (Alfred Alexander Gordon Clark), a holograph manuscript volume of largely unpublished literary material, mostly penned in 1785 by New College botanist Charles Abbot as a dedicatory gift to the college’s Warden, John Ogländer, and a beautiful, portable manuscript prayer book in Arabic and Ottoman-Turkish of 1809–1810. This we acquired in 2024 to mark the return to the college of Arabic as an undergraduate subject, this acquisition marking the pinnacle of the library’s building up largely from scratch a working modern collection

of materials to support our new students. Notable archival acquisitions included papers relating to alumni Duff Cooper, 1st Viscount Norwich and to Sir Harry Kottingham Newton. Other notable printed acquisitions included three 16th- and early 17th-century volumes by one of college's foremost theologians, Thomas Stapleton, very rare 17th- and 18th-century imprints by other alumni, and notable copies of late 18th-century to 21st-century books by a range of New College writers, including Francis Mundy, William Somerville, Ned Warren, James Laver, and contemporary bestselling novelists. The need for additional collections storage space is becoming increasingly urgent though: staff carried out two major book moves, including one involving one of our offsite storage areas, in order to create space needed for new acquisitions.

Colleagues also worked hard to implement and embed Alma, the university libraries' core library management system, and we were the second college to complete a stocktake on the new system. Alongside in-house low-scale scanning of images from our archives, we also refocused resources to make faster headway with our major digitisation programme, an expensive and intensive process, resulting this year in the full digitisation of eight more of the library's glorious manuscripts, along with some important and historic library and archives catalogues and inventories. We require high-quality colour digital surrogates (for access and preservation purposes) of all 383 manuscript volumes from the library's celebrated holdings, and much remains to be done. This, along with the financial means to build our collections even more successfully, and of course the much-needed library extension, remains our hope for the future. It continues to be a pleasure to serve our readers, and to work with a talented and enthusiastic team of colleagues. I shall leave the final word to one of our students, this time a postgraduate, responding to 2024's library survey:

I am hugely proud of being a New College alumna and current student, and a major part of that is because of the library, the helpful, friendly, and incredibly knowledgeable staff.

Christopher Skelton-Foord – Librarian



Showing a historiated initial S and St Paul with sword and scroll – in the lower margin an archer, with a peacock behind him, shoots at a crouched rabbit

From an illuminated manuscript digitised in its entirety this year; probably once owned by King Henry V's maternal grandmother, Joan (1347–1419), wife of Humphrey de Bohun, 7th earl of Hereford, it was donated to the library in 1588 by College Fellow, Thomas Martin

Anglo-Norman Apocalypse (1300–1310)
 New College Library, Oxford, MS 65, f. 1r

Donors Giving Collection Items and Financial Gifts to the Library 2024

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New Chamber Opera



The first part of 2024 saw one of New Chamber Opera's repetiteur scholars, Luke Mitchell, who is a connoisseur of early music and early opera, and a harpsichordist to boot, present Purcell's *King Arthur: Scenes from a Life*. The show used most of the music from Purcell's famous opera, with the tunes including 'Fairest Isle', 'Your Hay is Mown', 'Round thy Coasts', and the Frost Scene. NCO has history with the work: a New College creative team of Julian Ovenden, Jon Bausor, and Matthew Halls

staged the work in a spectacular production in 1998, so it seemed not too soon to present a new version in 2024.

The visit to the college of Joyce DiDonato, the Humanitas Visiting Professor in Voice and Classical Music for 2024, was one of those memorable heart-stopping events which occur only once in a while. A multi-Grammy Award winner and 2018 Olivier Award winner for outstanding Achievement in Opera, she has been proclaimed as 'perhaps the most potent female singer of her generation' by *The New Yorker*. With a voice that is 'nothing less than 24-carat gold', Joyce has towered over the industry as a performer, a producer, and a fierce advocate for the arts. She also proved to be a generous masterclass giver; it was a never to be forgotten afternoon for the participants and audience alike.

Trinity Term finished with a masterclass from Professor Justin Vickers, from the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts at Illinois State University, who was the College's Visiting Fellow for the term. Distinguished Professor of Music and an American lyric tenor, Justin is also a Britten specialist, which was the subject of the masterclass, the first to be held in the New Space. As usual, the academic year finished with an oratorio concert, this year a setting of William Congreve's *Judgement of Paris* libretto, written for a music competition in London in 1701. One-time organist of New College, John Weldon won the competition, much to the London theatre world's disgust.

At the start of July, we returned to the Warden's Garden, for a staging of one of Haydn's best-known operas, *La vera costanza*, starring Joseph Doody as Count Errico; Aine Smith as Rosina; Lara Marie Müller as Baroness Irene; Kate Semmens as Lisetta; David Horton as Marquis Ernesto; Robert Forrest as Masino; and Thomas Nießer as Villotto, and with Steven Devine conducting, and Luke Mitchell and Marcus McDevitt as repetiteurs. The opera was first performed at Eszterhaza on 27 April 1779, and was revived there in April 1785 when Haydn had to re-create



much of the opera from memory after the score was destroyed in a fire that burnt down the Eszterhaza theatre. The opera seemed none the worse for its dramatic history, and the opening storm scene was as ludicrous as it must have been in the original show.

The Studio's Recital Series has continued with Theo Peters in charge; the repertory offered has continued to expand, with a welcome increase in the number of groups booking slots. Administration of the series has now been taken over by Patrick Maxwell.

Michael Burden – Dean, Professor in Opera Studies

New College School



The last time I wrote, we were in ‘historic’ mode, having just moved into our new building as part of the Gradel Quadrangles project; the school roll was at its highest in six-and-a-half centuries; and we had just founded (and become the home of) OCCO: the Oxford Children’s Chamber Orchestra. Things might seem relatively quiet this year in comparison, which in some ways is a blessing, though I suspect a ‘quiet’ NCS is still rather busier than many other schools, as you are about to see.

The ‘ritual year’ here at NCS is pretty much established now, with day-to-day high-level teaching and learning punctuated by many different special events. Our SHTEAM Festival – STEM with the Arts and Humanities put back in (we are people too) – has become quite unrivalled in terms of its scope and the number of activities. Each year we take a theme and approach it in an interdisciplinary way, tailoring our lessons across the school to speak to that theme, while also hosting workshops and visiting speakers. Last year’s theme was ‘Water’, so we had dozens of lessons, workshops and talks – from Reception to Year 8 – looking at water from many different perspectives. Our Holloway Lecture on ‘Seafarers throughout History’, the centrepiece of the week, was given by Dr Dominic Sandbrook, historian and co-presenter of the world-famous ‘Rest is History’ podcast. Next year’s theme is ‘Space’ and we already have some exciting speakers lined up.

Our ritual year has also extended to include some more special Chapel Services to bring our terms to a natural end, with the whole community coming together with music and readings. We have always had our carol services, of course, but we then took the carol service format, took out Christmas, and inserted more suitable music and readings for a ‘Spring service’ at the end of Hilary. This service ushered in our annual ‘College Day’, when NCS boys get to spend a bit more time over the road, looking at the archives, enjoying the gardens, going up the tower, and



enjoying lunch in hall. Last Trinity, for the first time, we took our End-of-Term Chapel format one step further by having a 'Year's End' service in the final week of the academic year: including favourite hymns from the boys' time here, and appropriate reminiscent readings to send off our Year 8s to their senior schools.



Another innovation last year was the extension of World Book Day to include an NCS Literature Festival. So, alongside the traditional dressing up as book characters, we had a poetry competition and time to 'drop everything and read'. NCS boys generally do not need much encouragement to read, and our annual 'Reading in Interesting Places' competition incentivises them to take their books with them wherever they happen to be travelling, but it

is no bad thing to keep literature clearly on the agenda, when there are many other ICT-based pressures around. As the academic year came to a close, another rather unusual event came along: our mock election. To help teach the children about how democracies work (or are meant to work), we hosted this election with three of my colleagues taking the lead of three fictional political parties: 'Tomorrow', 'Improve' and 'Progress'. Hustings in assembly, and adverts around school, were followed by a 'real' election to become the new MP for the Savile Road constituency.

In terms of drama, our older boys once again trod the boards in Chapel, during their exceptional performance of Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 1*, followed later in the year by play-reading of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Cloisters. We have rejigged the traditional Year 6 French play, to turn it into a French cabaret entertainment: a bit of French food, with some appropriate skits, poems and music. Years 3 and 4 staged the very first performances of Isobel Rose's new musical adaptation of *Pinocchio*, including a nose that stretched the whole length of the new auditorium. Then, of course, our pre-prep boys began their dramatic lives in the annual nativity and summer entertainments, both brilliantly written by Rosemary Cox.

The musical life of the school continues in its rich, varied and busy way. The Organist will outline the activities of the choristers elsewhere, but here I would like to pay tribute to their excellent year.

Not only did they perform brilliantly day-in, day-out in the stalls, they were magnificent in their performances outside of their term-time schedule: Haydn's *Creation* at King's College, Cambridge; Christmas at St John's, Smith Square; Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* in the University Church; Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*; the *St John Passion*; at the official opening of the Gradel Quadrangles; and in a recording of works by William Mundy. School music continues



in its successful way, too, with enormous numbers of 1:1 music lessons per week, several ensembles, and oversubscribed pre-prep, junior and senior recitals. Our chamber choir took part in some truly memorable performances, including Purcell's *Fairy-Queen*, some Bach and Haydn at Christmas, and towards the end of an organ transcription of Mahler's *Symphony no. 3* in Merton College chapel. It is quite difficult to walk down a corridor at NCS without hearing some music from somewhere, and that is exactly how I want it.

We have also been keen to get the boys out and about beyond Savile Road, which last year included our Year 8 leavers' trip to Sicily, Year 7 heading to the Peak District, Year 6 to France, Year 5 to the Isle of Wight, and Year 4 to Liddington for a couple of nights to develop their independence and teamwork. Closer to home, there have been trips to the Oxfordshire Book Awards, the Botanic Gardens, Beating the Bounds around Oxford, the Ashmolean, Wendover Woods, Combe Mill, and local primary schools as part of our 'Language Ambassadors' scheme. These latter trips were part of our partnership work, which continues apace, including providing staffing for a choir at a local primary school, hosting inter-school debating events, and critical thinking workshops in our new auditorium. Then, of course, we have had dozens of sports fixtures: football in Michaelmas, hockey in Hilary, cricket and athletics in Trinity; plus the rich and varied extra-curricular 'Enrichment Activities' programme, our Year 8 TED Talks, taking part in the Young Geographer of the Year Competition. And so on, and so on. At the end of last year, following a visit from the *Good Schools Guide*, NCS was designated 'world-class'. This sat happily alongside our last ISI report with its liberal use of words like 'exceptional', 'outstanding' and 'excellent'.

Such external validation comes only as a result of the incredible hard work put in by my colleagues and children at the school. Schools like NCS thrive because they attract talented teachers, and because they invest in things that go beyond the day-to-day, whether that be music, sport, drama, or anything that sparks an interest in young minds. Schools cannot and must not be just exam factories, with narrowing curricula, constant teaching to the test, and an obsession with standardised data or league tables. That way lies misery for all involved, and the risk of stultified generations who have not had their interests and love for learning ignited and nurtured. It is a great pleasure to lead an institution like NCS where we get to work on what really matters, and that is why generations of NCS children grow up interested, interesting and happy. It is not something that can be taken for granted; and it is something we should all be proud of.



Matt Jenkinson - Headmaster



New College Society



It is a pleasure to report that the New College Society (NCS) continues to thrive, offering former and current students of the college a unique forum within the university where they can sustain existing relationships beyond graduation and develop new ones amongst Old Members and between Old Members and the student body. It differs from conventional alumni organisations in that it also nurtures strong ties with the current JCR and MCR. For a modest one-

off charge when they join the college, current students become lifelong members of an organisation that strengthens their bonds with the alumni community and their college. This is reflected in our mission which is not to promote fund-raising but rather ‘friend-raising’.

Much of the work of the NCS revolves around the activities of the **alumni networks** which connect Old Members and current students with a shared interest in specific professions. These networks enable students to develop a deeper understanding of individual sectors and potential career paths. Network highlights in 2024 were as follows:

- The **City & Professional Network**, under the interim leadership of the NCS President, enjoyed a fascinating event in November at the London offices of Evercore, a leading investment bank. The speakers were Ian Hart (1984), Chairman of UK Global Banking, UBS and, until recently, Director-General of the Takeover Panel, and Chris Jillings (1984), Deputy Director-General of the Takeover Panel. The event attracted 63 participants, including 13 students, and was deemed a great success.
- The **Entrepreneurs Network**, under the joint leadership of Al Hearn (2001) and Chi Okafor (2020), held an exciting ‘pitch event’ in July, where Old Members looking for both financial and commercial support for early-stage businesses presented their business models. The network is known as the ‘Narwhals’, a reference to the sea unicorn and members’ ambition to create innovative technology companies that might achieve ‘unicorn’ billion-dollar valuations. The Narwhals are working hard to expand their membership with a focus on increasing their appeal to women.
- Newly formed in 2024, the **Health Sector Network** is headed by Tarun Gupta (1998), Chief Medical Officer at Legal & General. The purpose of this network is to facilitate connections between Old Members across medicine and biomedicine (including members of the New

College Haldane Society for medics) as well as life sciences and others interested in healthcare. The inaugural meeting was held in October at the Athenaeum Club in London, where the guest speaker, Paul Schreier, former Chief Operating Officer of the Wellcome Trust, addressed 60 attendees about the challenges of deploying vaccines during the coronavirus pandemic.

- The **Media Network**, run by Charlotte Mikkelsen, staged an event on the topic of generative AI which was well received. This was characterized by a lively panel discussion between three experts in the field with extensive experience of AI applications in film and television. The 2025 event will consist of a fireside chat on 20 March 2025 with the Head of Ofcom, Dame Melanie Dawes (1984).
- Leadership of the **Government and Public Service Network** was transferred from Stephanie Gledhill (2003) to Patrick Moody (1985), a senior Foreign & Commonwealth official and former Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. A meeting has been set for 6 February 2025, focussing on careers in Government with a range of civil servant panel members.
- As announced last year, a **Third Sector Network** will be a particular focus of the NCS in future due to the establishment of the **Gradel Institute for Charity** (GIC). Caroline Kay (1979), former JCR President with a long career in the sector, has assumed responsibility for this network. An event is scheduled for Monday 3 March 2025 with Peter Frumkin, Academic Director of the GIC at New College and Visiting Fellow, as speaker.

Anybody wishing to join a network or interested in participating in an event should register their name by emailing the Development Office at oldmembers@new.ox.ac.uk.

An important way in which the Society strengthens its links with the student body is the annual Careers Forum, during which Old Members offer advice and insights to undergraduates and recent graduates on career choices. The virtual format for this event, developed during the pandemic, has worked well, allowing students to have more focussed discussions with Old Members from sectors that particularly interest them. Last year some 60 alumni held 215 separate conversations with the student body. It is pleasing to report that feedback comments were overwhelmingly positive. Students are especially grateful to Old Members for devoting the time to sharing their experience and advice.

In keeping with our mission to develop friendships across the alumni community, the Society continued to support an active programme of social events in 2024. Highlights included:

- The **LGBTQIA+ Lunch** in April was enjoyed by all in the Lodgings with thanks to the excellent guest speaker, David Isaac, CBE, Provost of Worcester College.
- The **London Lecture** in May when 108 Old Members and 34 guests attended a stimulating and provocative talk by Professor Sir Dieter Helm, CBE, on Sustainable Economics.
- **NCS Cloister Party** in June which was as popular as ever with some 150 participants enjoying delicious food and drinks with friends in the beautiful setting.
- **Young Old Members Drinks Reception** in October which took the form of drinks and an informal dinner at a fashionable Italian restaurant in Covent Garden.
- **The Weekend Visit to Berlin** in November, which, judging from the wealth of favourable feedback, was undoubtedly a triumph. Particular thanks go to Neil MacGregor OM (1964), former Director of the British Museum and Founding Director of the Humboldt Forum in Berlin, for his brilliant lecture about interesting architectural and historical sites in central Berlin and the accompanying specially recorded guided walk. This was followed by a gala dinner at The Soho House, where the 120 tour guests were joined by 12 local Old Members. The weekend programme included various optional activities, including supper in a Bierkeller and visits to the DDR Museum and the German Resistance Museum.

In addition to the network events described above, the 2025 schedule includes a London Lecture (May) by Polly Waite, New College Tutorial Fellow in Psychology.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to record its deep gratitude to the Warden for his unfailing support and to all the members of the Development Office on whose diligence and organisational skills the success of much of the Society's work depends.

Charles Irving-Swift (1973) - Honorary Secretary

Development Office



The Warden and Home Bursar have written extensively elsewhere in the Record about the grand opening of the Gradel Quadrangles, but for me the highlight of the celebratory events of the weekend of 13 and 14 April 2024 was being able to walk along the corridors of the new buildings and into the recital hall to show supporters of the project the physical manifestation of their generosity.

The college owes a huge debt of gratitude to Chris and Mimi Gradel for their extraordinary philanthropic support for the project. But the buildings would not have been possible without the generosity of numerous other Old Members and Friends, many of whose names are inscribed in stone just inside the magnificent entrance gates, or appear on plaques outside individual flats, wings, common rooms, bedrooms or on recital hall seats. Touchingly, some commemorate lost family or friends and we are most grateful to those who donated to preserve the memory of others.

The addition of twenty new gargoyles and grotesques to the buildings was funded by a 'sponsor a gargoyle' scheme and, whilst no plaques adorn these, the commemorative gargoyles brochure recognises individual donors and their respective carvings. The brochure includes two reflective essays on the theme of the series, being mainly representations of animal, insect, reptile, avian and marine lifeforms, the survival of which are threatened. The authors were the prize-winners from a competition judged by the Warden, Professor Ashleigh Griffin and Professor Jeremy Thomas. At the time of their writing Jack Douglas was in Year 6 at New College School, and Oscar Cobb was a first year biologist at New College.

We are particularly grateful to the American Friends of New College, the US-based charity which supports the college in so many ways and is run by a dedicated group of Old Members, for committing to fund the student common room in the main building. Gifts from members of the Board and others resident in the US are recognised on a glass plaque in the room.

Of course, there is nothing new in seeing names dedicated to particular buildings or items around the college. Some recognise influential figures in the life of the college and its development, such as Warham House, which celebrated onetime Archbishop of Canterbury and Old Member William Warham and has now been rebuilt as the

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO THE MANY OTHER
DONORS TO THE GRADEL QUADRANGLES

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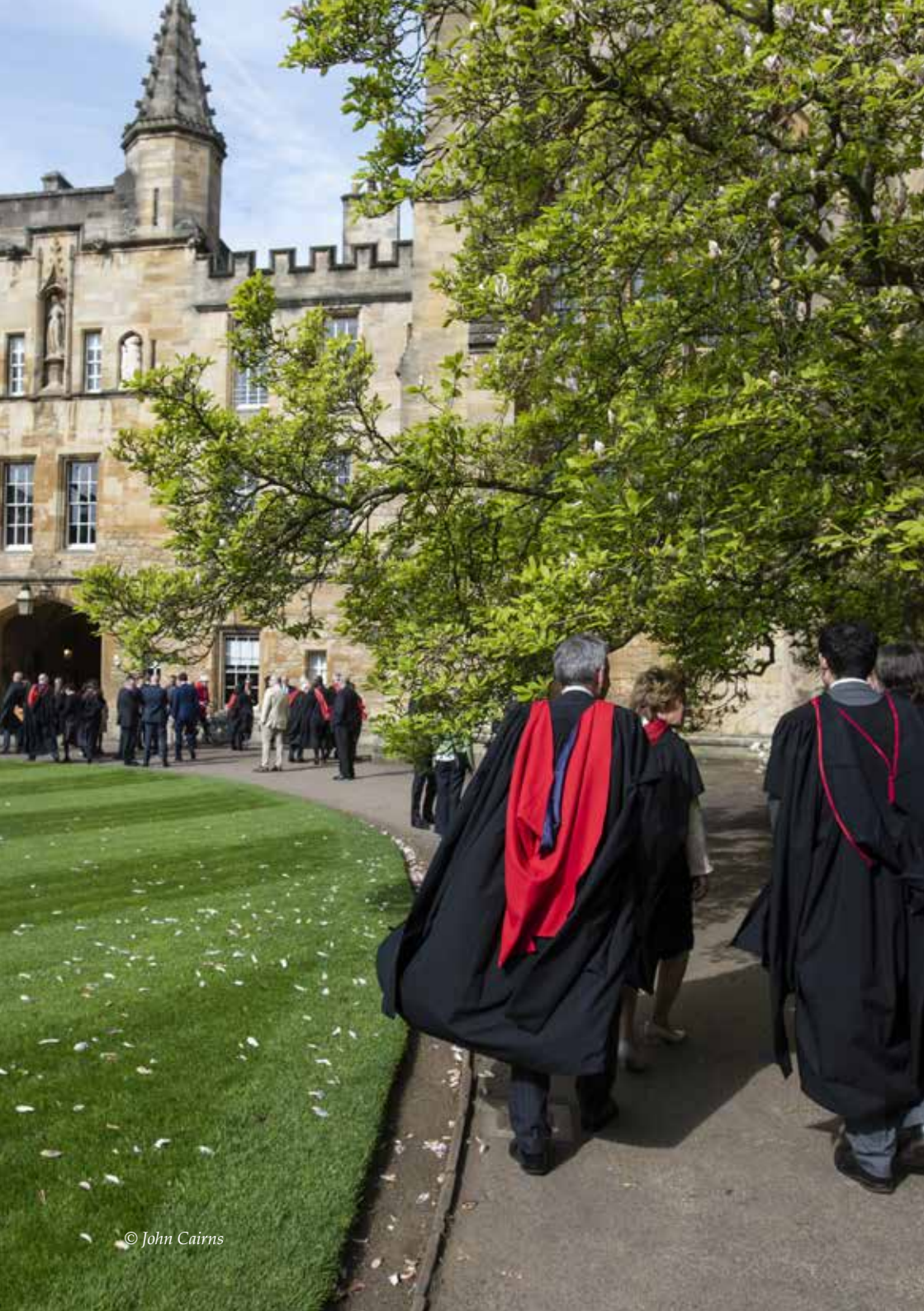
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THE HON J B STEPHENS (1968)
DR N STEVENSON (1974)
MR BENJAMIN STURGES (1996)
MR A R J THOMSON (1980)
THE HON D B D TURNER, II (1991)
MR C I WATSON (1976)
MR P O WICKENS (1934)
 & MRS PEGGY WICKENS
MR P J N LINTHWAITE (1977)

tower house in the Gradel Quadrangles and imaginatively renamed New Warham House; or Robinson Tower which commemorates Alfred Robinson, former Bursar of the college who oversaw the transformation of the Holywell Street building in the 1890s.

In more recent times, major additions to the college estate include David Robert's Sacher Building in the 1960s, made possible by the generosity of the Sacher family, and the Weston Buildings in the mid and late 1990s, now home to the Middle Common Room and our graduate students, thanks to the support of the late Gary Weston.

Over the years, many other gifts to the college have been celebrated with pew lamp plaques, bookplates for new Library purchases, or simply recorded on the Donor Wall in the Monks passage and in each annual edition of the *New College Record*. In all cases, however large or small, the college's aim is to acknowledge the hugely significant role that our collective donors play in its life and, hopefully, to encourage and inspire future generations, through seeing the munificence of those that have come before them, to give back in time according to their means.

Mark Curtis - Fellow & Director of Development



SCR News

Mr Humphrey Battcock CBE, Mrs Joan Benham, Mr Bermard Taylor CVO, CBE and Dr Alexander Ross are joining the distinguished list of Wykeham Fellows.

Thirty-eight new members joined the SCR. They include:

Amelie Berz is a DPhil in Law candidate at Worcester College, University of Oxford and has joined New College as a Stipendiary Lecturer. Her research examines the tort of negligence in the use of AI and the impact of deploying high-performing intelligent agents on the standard of care. She is interested in the intersection of private law theory and AI, drawing on concepts from the behavioural sciences, as well as in comparative private law. Before starting her DPhil, Amelie studied Law and Philosophy in Heidelberg, Geneva, and Oxford.

Rosa Bonifacii has joined New College as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Biology. Rosa is an evolutionary ecologist whose research focuses on the evolution of altruism in eusocial insects, investigating how traits like kinship and environmental pressures have shaped the evolution of social behaviours. During her PhD at the University of Exeter, she studied *Microstigmus rosae*, a newly discovered species of Ecuadorian silk wasp, which exhibits fascinating social plasticity. In her current role as postdoctoral researcher, she uses phylogenetic methods to explore broad-scale questions about how eusocial behaviour has evolved in ants, bees, wasps, and other social insects.

Jacob Chatterjee joined New College in October 2024 as the Weston Junior Research Fellow in History. He completed his BA in Ancient & Modern History at Christ Church, his MSt in Intellectual History at Lincoln College, and his DPhil in Early Modern History at Balliol College. His DPhil thesis uncovered the ways in which the crisis of the Civil War, 1642–1651, shaped philosophical ideas of happiness in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century England. He has published articles on a wide variety of subjects, from debates about toleration in the 1660s to discussions of commercial society in the 1700s.

David Clifford joined New College in September 2024 as Senior Research Fellow at the Gradel Institute of Charity. He studied Geography as an undergraduate at St Catherine's College, before studying for an

MSc in Social Statistics and a PhD in Demography at the University of Southampton. David has longstanding and wide-ranging experience of analysing quantitative data, from both regulatory administrative sources and surveys, on charities. Alongside his research with the Gradel Institute, he is also Associate Professor in the Department of Social Statistics and Demography in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Southampton.

Marlene Danner is a Stipendiary Lecturer teaching German language to undergraduates at New College, St Hugh's, St Anne's, Lady Margaret Hall and Worcester Colleges. She studied Comparative Literature and Teacher Training for Russian and German in Vienna, and held teaching positions at Emory University, the University of Kent and King's College, London.

Tessa Devereaux is the Herbert Nicholas Junior Research Fellow in Politics. She completed her PhD at Cornell University in 2024. Her research interests include civil war, gender and rebel governance. Her book manuscript examines how rebel groups reshape local gender relations during conflict as a strategy of social control. Her research has been supported by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Emerging Scholar award, a USIP-Minerva Peace and Security Scholarship and the International Studies Association (ISA) Dissertation Completion Fellowship. She holds a BA in Politics from the University of Cambridge and a MSc in African Studies from the University of Oxford.

Kendall Gardner is a Marshall Scholar from the United States and a third-year Politics DPhil candidate at the University of Oxford. She was a Stipendiary Lecturer at New College for Michaelmas Term, teaching prelims Theory of Politics. Her doctoral research is in political theory, focusing on the relationship between climate-related land loss and liberalism. Specifically, she employs a critical methodology to challenge liberal theories of property and sovereignty through a 'destabilised' land variable. Kendall is a member of the Just Climate Transitions Network based at the University of Potsdam. In 2021 she obtained her MSc in Political Thought at SOAS, University of London. Previously, she resided in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she graduated from Tulane University with degrees in Political Science and Legal Studies. Before returning to academia, she spent a year as an immigration paralegal, aiding clients in New Orleans on family-based, humanitarian, and asylum cases.

Bang Huynh joined New College in 2024 as the Oglander Fellow. He read Natural Sciences (Chemistry) at Peterhouse, Cambridge from 2013 to 2017 before staying on to pursue a PhD in understanding the symmetry and

topology properties of electronic wavefunctions. He then moved to the University of Nottingham from 2021 to 2024 to investigate symmetry aspects of density-functional theory and chemistry in strong magnetic fields, and to develop novel quantum-computing techniques for drug discovery. His main research interest revolves around the systematic exploration of symmetry to develop accurate and insightful electronic-structure methods for a diverse range of complex chemical systems.

Dana McGibbon is a Non-Stipendiary Lecturer in Tort law. She was previously a Law student at New College, having graduated with a BA in 2021 and BCL in 2022. Dana was called to the Bar in Michaelmas 2024, and is currently undertaking pupillage at 39 Essex Chambers in London.

Thomas Metcalf joined New College as the Sir Christopher Cox Junior Research Fellow. Tom researches the relationships between visual art and music, with his work at New College focussed on musical responses to photography and vice versa. Tom received his DPhil at Worcester College in October 2021, taught musicology across various colleges, and was a Junior Teaching Fellow at the Ashmolean Museum. In 2022 he was the Junior Anniversary Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (Edinburgh University). Following this, he worked in the third sector as Trusts and Foundations Manager for Liverpool Philharmonic.

Alp Müyesser joined New College as the G H Hardy Junior Research Fellow in Mathematics in October 2024. After completing a BSc in Mathematics at Carnegie Mellon University (USA), he moved to Freie Universität Berlin for his Master's studies. Afterwards, he wrote his PhD thesis at University College London; in this he used tools from probabilistic combinatorics to solve many long-standing open problems in group theory, including B Gordon's 1961 conjecture that all large non-abelian groups are sequenceable. In 2024 he was awarded the London Mathematical Society's Cecil King Scholarship.

Carlo Palazzi joined the SCR as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Mathematics for first-year Engineering Science. Carlo is an EPSRC-funded DPhil student in Engineering Science, working across OPSIS and OXGATE - the Oxford Green Ammonia Technology group. Under the supervision of Professor René Bañares-Alcántara and Professor Jim Hall his research has involved modelling green ammonia production and transport systems for shipping. He is now developing models to evaluate the role of green ammonia alongside other hydrogen derivatives in

decarbonizing energy systems accounting for long-term storage and uncertainty. Carlo has a background in Physics, having performed analysis for the Hyper-Kamiokande neutrino experiment. He holds an MSc in Physics (distinction) from King's College, London. He has previously worked as a data analyst and insights lead at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Antony Psarras is a Todd-Bird Junior Research Fellow in Clinical Medicine and an Academic Clinical Lecturer in Rheumatology at the University of Oxford and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. He qualified in Medicine from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece) in 2014 and then followed postgraduate studies (MSc) in Immunology at Imperial College, London. He successfully completed a PhD in 2018 investigating type I interferon regulation in the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus. After completing Internal Medicine Training at King's College Hospital in London in 2022, he moved to Oxford to the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology (NDORMS), supported by the NIHR Academic Clinical Lectureship scheme. His main clinical and research interest lies in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and immune regulation of rheumatic diseases. His research is currently focusing on immune cell metabolism and complex immunological networks in preclinical autoimmunity and established SLE.

Tommy Pitcher is a Stipendiary Lecturer in Physical Chemistry at New College. He received his MChem degree from Somerville College, Oxford, and is now finalising his DPhil degree in Physical and Theoretical Chemistry (Keble College). His research pertains to avian magnetoreception, specifically the investigation of cryptochrome proteins by electron paramagnetic resonance; this work was completed in the group of Professor Christiane Timmel. His other teaching posts include Retained Lecturer at Corpus Christi, Exeter, and Somerville Colleges, focusing on Mathematics in Chemistry.

Charlotte Spence joined New College and the University of Oxford as a Departmental Lecturer in Ancient History. Before Oxford she recently completed her PhD, entitled 'Conceptions of the Dead and Divine in Ancient Curse Tablets', at the University of Exeter. The fruits of this research are forthcoming in monograph form with Bloomsbury Academic. Charlotte has publications on the development of curse tablets in the Roman world and the Punic and Roman curse tablets from Carthage. At New College she teaches a broad range of historical periods including both Greek and Roman History.

Philine van Overbeeke is a Research Fellow at the Gradel Institute of Charity, New College. She specialises in the non-profit sector and volunteer management. Philine holds a BSc in Business Administration, an MSc in Global Business & Sustainability, and a PhD in Management from the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University. Her research explores volunteer value creation, focusing on how differences between volunteers and paid staff impact management and governance. She places special emphasis on third-party volunteering, including Service Learning, Corporate Volunteering, and Volunteer Tourism. Philine strongly values bridging academia and practice by sharing insights to enhance impact and collaboration.

SCR Appointments, Honours and Publications...

(The following refers to 2024 unless otherwise stated)

Shai Agmon, (2024) ‘The Moral Limits of What, exactly’ in *Economics & Philosophy*, 1-23; awarded the DPIR’s inaugural prize for the best doctoral thesis in Political Theory entitled ‘Liberal Democracy, Competition and the Institutional Limits of Markets’; Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Political Philosophy at UCL from next academic year.`

Natalia Ares, awarded the Leverhulme prize for work on experimental Quantum Physics.

Christophe Barnabé, *Survivance du charme. Le poème et l'idée de guérison: Jaccottet, Hughes, Gamoneda, Celan*, (MétisPresses, 2024).

Michael Burden, ‘New Chamber Opera: An Afterword’ in *Music in Twentieth-Century Oxford: New Directions*, ed. Susan Wollenberg and Robin Darwall-Smith (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2023), 173-76; ‘Francesco Vanneschi’ in *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*, ed. Raffaele Romanelli, XCVIII (Rome: Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, 2023); ‘When Mr Paradies Provided the Songs: the London Opera Arias of Fitzwilliam Museum, MU.MUS.108’, *Fontes Artis Musicae*, 70/3 (2023), 197-222; ‘*Orione, ossia Diana vendicata and Zanaida*’ in *The Operas of J C Bach*, ed. Jason Grant (Los Altos: The Packard Humanities Institute, 2023), 61-84; Marc-Antoine Charpentier: *Acteon*; Leonard Bernstein: *Trouble in Tahiti*; Pepusch: *The Death of Dido*; Paisiello: *La Frascatana*; Menotti: *The Telephone*; Alessandro Stradella, *Il Trespolo tutore, Opera Omnia* (Pisa: ETS, 2024); ‘Competing with Handel: Porpora’s ‘Third Style’ of composition in London’, *Händel-Jahrbuch* 70 (Kassel: Bärenreiter, 2024), 103-118; Purcell: *King Arthur: Scenes from a Life*; Haydn: *La vera costanza*; Advisory Board: *The Night Side of Music: Towards a New Historiography of Musicking in Europe, 1500-1800*, Universität Basel.

Jaimee Comstock-Skipp, ‘From the Khan to the Sultan: the Abū'l-Khairid *Shāhnāma* in the Topkapı (H.1488) and manuscript production and presentation under ‘Abdullāh bin Iskandar Khan’; *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Cultures of the Islamic World* (Volume 40, 2023 [released 2024]): 273-314; The Samarqand *Shāhnāma* in Cambridge’s Ancient India and Iran

Trust: Echoes from Khurasan and Whispers of Bukhara'; *The Central Asian Manuscript Heritage in Cambridge University's Collections, Part Two*, The Cultural Legacy of Uzbekistan series vol. LXXIII (Tashkent: Silk Road Media, 2024); 'ШОҲНОМАИ ТУРКӢ ДАР ИНСТИТУТИ ХОВАРШИНОСИИ ВА МЕРОСИ ХАТТИИ АКАДЕМИЯИ УЛУМИ ҶУМҲУРИИ ТОҶИКИСТОН ВА ДАСТНАВИСҶОИ ХАТӢ АЗ ХУРОСОН ДАР ОХИРИ ҚАРНИ 16-УМ (The Turkic *Shāhnāma* manuscript in the Center of Written Heritage at the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, and manuscripts from Khurasan in the late 16th century)'; 'Amending the Origins of 'The Bukhara School': Shibani (Abulkhairid) Arts of the Book in the 16th Century' in *A Life Devoted to Science: Collection of Articles Dedicated to the Memory of Mamadwafo Baqoev (1931-1972)*, edited by Shamsiddin Muhammadiev, et al., 233-242, 278-296 (Dushanbe: Donish, 2024).

Joseph Conlon, *Origins: The Cosmos in Verse* (Oneworld Publications, November 2024); University Assessor, March 2023 - March 2024.

Richard Dawkins, *The Genetic Book of the Dead: A Darwinian Reverie* (Head of Zeus, London 2024)

Paul Deb, 'Is It From Your Life? Did This Really Happen?': Amit Chaudhuri's Acknowledgement of the Autobiographical' in *Life Writing, Representation, and Identity: Global Perspectives*, ed. M. Chaturvedi (Abingdon: Routledge, 2024), 93-106.

Barry Ginat, IAU thesis prize in 2024 (for 'Gravitational Waves and Non-Linear Phenomena in Gravitational Astrophysics' submitted in 2023)

Ashleigh Griffin, A Mutlu, E J Vanderpool, K P Rumbaugh, S P Diggle, A S Griffin (2024) 'Exploiting cooperative pathogen behaviour for enhanced antibiotic potency: a Trojan Horse approach' in *Microbiology* 170 (4), 001454; J Howe, C K Cornwallis, A S Griffin (2024) 'Conflict-reducing innovations in development enable increased multicellular complexity' in *Proceedings of the Royal Society, B*. 291, 20232466; Cornwallis C K & Griffin A S (2024). 'A Guided Tour of Phylogenetic Comparative Methods for Studying Trait Evolution' in *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics*, 55, 181-204; dos Santos M, Downing PA, Griffin AS, Cornwallis CK & West SA (2024). 'Altruism and natural selection in a variable environment' in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 121(38); Griffin A S (2024) From the dining room table to the Galapagos [Review of 'One step sideways, three steps forwards' by Rosemary Grant] *Bioscience* 328; V L Pike, E J Stevens, A S Griffin, K C King (2023) 'Within- and between-host dynamics of producer

and non-producer pathogens' in *Parasitology* 150, 805-812; M Ghoul, S B Andersen, R L Marvig, H K Johansen, L Jelsbak, S Molin, G Perron, A S Griffin (2023) 'Long-term evolution of antibiotic tolerance in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* lung infections in *Evolution Letters* 7, 389-400; J Howe, J Rink, B Wang, A S Griffin (2022) 'Multicellularity in animals: the potential for within-organism conflict' in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 119 (32), e2120457119; European Research Council: Consolidator Grant Panel Chair - Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution (LS8).

Mark Griffith, ed. *The Battle of Maldon: A New Critical Edition* (Liverpool University Press, 2024).

Marco Grossi, 'Should Theories of Logical Validity Self-Apply?' in *Erkenntnis* (2024).

Volker Halbach, *The Road to Paradox: A Guide to Syntax, Truth and Modality* with G E Leigh, (Cambridge University Press, 2024) (the front cover is from the College's copy of Peter Apian's *Astronomicum Caesareum*)

Dieter Helm, 'Environment', chapter 7 in Seldon A, Egerton T, eds. *The Conservative Effect, 2010-2024: 14 Wasted Years?* (Cambridge University Press; 2024)

Cameron Hepburn, Vidal F, van der Marel E R, Kerr R W, McElroy C, Schroeder N, Mitchell C, Rosetto G, Chen T T, Bailey R M, Hepburn C and Redgwell C, 2024 'Designing a circular carbon and plastics economy for a sustainable future' in *Nature*, 626(7997), pp.45-57.

Masud Husain, 'A mountain of small things' in *Brain* 147:739 (2024); 'Why we need a revolution in clinical research' in *Brain* 147:2897-2898 (2024); Attaallah B, Petitot P, Zambellas R, Toniolo S, Maio M R, Ganse-Dumrath A, Irani S R, Manohar S G, Husain M 'The role of the human hippocampus in decision-making under uncertainty' in *Nature Human Behaviour* 8:1366-82 (2024); Lockwood P L, Cutler J, Drew D, Abdurahman A, Jeyaretna D S, Apps M A J, Husain M, Manohar S G 'Human ventromedial prefrontal cortex is necessary for prosocial motivation' in *Nature Human Behaviour* 8:1403-16 (2024); Costello H, Husain M, Roiser J P 'Apathy and Motivation: Biological Basis and Drug Treatment' in *Annual Review of Pharmacology and Toxicology* 64:313-338 (2024).

Ann Jefferson, *Angles of Approach. Selected Essays* (Cambridge: Legenda, MHRA, 2024).

Polly Jones, *Gulag Fiction. Labour Camp Literature from Stalin to Putin* (Bloomsbury, 2024).

Catriona Kelly, *Russian Food from 1800: Empire at Table* (Bloomsbury Russian Shorts, London, 2024); 'The Motherland and the Fight with Fascism: War Film and War Cult under Brezhnev' in *Russian Review*, July 2024; 'Re-Visions of the Leader: Lenin Biopics in the Post-Stalin Era' in *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* (2024).

Karen Leeder, Durs Grünbein, *Psyche Running: Selected Poems 2005-2022*, ed. and trans. by Karen Leeder (Calcutta, London, New York: Seagull Books, 2024); Michael Krüger, *In a Cabin, in the Woods*, trans. by Karen Leeder (Calcutta, London, New York, Seagull Books, 2024); 'Brücken-schlagen – Building Bridges' award by Goethe Institute and the Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen; Awarded Toledo-JUNIVERS residency LCB, Berlin July 2024; Election to Gremium of Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach (2024); Karen Leeder's translation of Ulrike Almut Sandig's *Monsters Like Us* 2022 longlisted for Dublin Literature Award 2024; Karen Leeder's translation of Ulrike Almut Sandig, *Shining Sheep* (2023) shortlisted for American Literature in Translation (ALTA) Award for Poetry 2024.

Luke Lewis, commission for the Komuna Collective – *Gardening Tips*, for string quartet and electronics – was performed twice as part of an Oxford Cultural Programme project reviving the music of composer Steve Martland. Alongside this he conducted performances of Martland's 1993 piece *Danceworks* whose score he had edited; commissioned by the Three Choirs Festival to write a work – *ODreamland*, for piano, percussion, and electronics – for the GBSR Duo; works commissioned by Sinfonia Cymru and also Ensemble Renard for 2025, the former in connection with an education project in collaboration with Music Theatre Wales and New College that sees his composition from 2021 *The Echoes Return Slow* (originally written for London Sinfonietta) performed in Treorchy, Wales, where the archive recordings that went into the piece were originally recorded; appointed Departmental Lecturer in Music at the Faculty of Music and College Lecturer at St. John's, Oxford.

Christ Lintott, awarded an honorary fellowship at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Joseph Mason, awarded the Roland Jackson Award for outstanding work in music analysis at the American Musicological Society for his

journal article ‘*Trouver et partir: The meaning of structure in trouvère song*’, *Early Music History* 40 (2022): 207–51.

Milena Melfi, *Redefining Ancient Epirus*, M. Melfi and M. Stamatopoulou (eds), (Brepols, Turnhout 2024); appointed Stanley J. Seeger Visiting Research Fellow in Hellenic Studies at Princeton University (2024).

David Palfreyman, elected Member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Bahrain (2024)

Robert Parker, *Religion in Roman Phrygia: from Polytheism to Christianity* (University of California Press, 2023).

Meindert Peters, *Habituation in German Modernism: Embodied Cognition in Literature and Thought* (Camden House, 2024).

George Ratcliffe, N. Sprent *et al.* (2025) ‘Metabolic modeling reveals distinct roles of sugars and carboxylic acids in stomatal opening as well as unexpected carbon fluxes’ in *The Plant Cell* 37, koae252.

Rachel Reeves, elected Chancellor of the Exchequer (July 2024).

Barbara Rossi, Dobric, J, Gluhovic, N, Fric, N, Ruan, X, Bock, M, Rossi, B. (2024). ‘Buckling strengths of cold-formed built-up cruciform section columns under axial compression’ in *Thin-Walled Structures*, 200, Art. No. ARTN 111879; Ferraz, G., Karabulut, B., Rossi, B (2024) ‘Fatigue resistance and reliability assessment of hot dip galvanised plates with welded transversal stiffeners’ in *Engineering Failure Analysis*, Art. No. 108577; Karabulut, B, Ruan, X, MacDonald, S, Dobrić, J, Rossi, B (2024) ‘Fatigue of wire arc additively manufactured components made of unalloyed S355 steel’ in *International Journal Of Fatigue*, Art. No. 108317; Lauwens, K, with Rossi, B. (2024) ‘Stainless steel I-section beams subjected to combined torsion and bending: Experimental results’ in *Journal of Constructional Steel Research*, 212, Art. No. ARTN 108230.

Christian Sahner, ‘What is Islamic History: Muslims, Non-Muslims and the History of Everyone Else,’ in *English Historical Review* 138 (2023), 379-409; *The Definitive Zoroastrian Critique of Islam: Chapters 11-12 of the Škand Gumānīg-Wizār by Mardānfarrox son of Ohrmazddād, Translated Texts for Historians* vol. 83, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2023).

Christiane Timmel, elected a Fellow of the International Society of Magnetic Resonance (ISMAR); awarded the International EPR (ESR) Society Medal in Chemistry for 2024 at the 45th International EPR Symposium.

Jennifer Thorp, *The Gentleman Dancing-Master: Mr Isaac and the English Royal Court from Charles II to Queen Anne* (Clemson University Press, 2024), (partially financed by a Ludwig Fund grant and launched at a New College event earlier this year).

Richard Whittington, President-Elect of the Strategic Management Society (December 2024).

Timothy Williamson, *Overfitting and Heuristics in Philosophy* (New York: OUP, 2024).

Andrei Zorin, *The Emergence of a Hero A Tale of Romantic Love in Russia around 1800* (OUP 18 May 2023); Gamow Prize awarded by the Russian American Scientific Association (2023) and Erskine Fellowship in The University of Canterbury, New Zealand (2023).

MCR Report

This year started off with our customary, yet ever-impressive, social calendar, filled with exchanges, bar nights, and cultural celebrations. Most importantly, the rumours are true: the MCR now has its very own (albeit shared) space at college: the North Undercroft. The room has been adorned with brand new Scandinavian style furniture, catering to both leisure and study. There is hope for even more embellishment of the room, with a masterpiece of modern indulgence – a coffee machine. Hilary Term ended with yet another successful exchange with our sister college at Cambridge. Continuing a long-held tradition, the MCR welcomed 20 students from King's College during a two-day extravaganza that ranged from learning about the connection between the two college's histories, meeting with the Warden, evensong, and guest night. As the day progressed, the connection between the students grew, ending the night with a bustling second dessert (and some impromptu karaoke). The MCR's visit to King's was equally delightful, although not without some hiccups in dwelling arrangements.

Trinity was kicked off by yet another full social calendar, with new and exciting themed bar nights. 'Whiskey and Write' was a favourite, enabling members to combine work with pleasure. The grand launch of the MCR Salon, generously hosted at the Warden's Lodgings, provided a fabulous opportunity to bring together the diverse and impressive work of our members. The cosy atmosphere was perfect for presentations on topics ranging from education to public health, followed by more casual socialising and exchanges between students. Moreover, with the coming of good weather, the new Weston MCR Garden flourished, bringing us a variety of fresh veggies and fruits, harvested by our environmental reps! Maximising the much-anticipated daylight, the term finished off with a lively garden party, full of mingling, food, and live music.

In Michaelmas, we welcomed our new vibrant group of Freshers. As per usual, the Freshers' fortnight was positively hectic, yet unforgettable. Whilst maintaining our traditional activities with the game of '*Où est le Poulet?*', a trip up the Muniment Tower, intercollegiate exchanges, paint and sip events and Warden tour, we were able to add on a sports day barbecue owing to the rare spell of good weather. The overwhelming engagement from the Freshers transferred to the filling of previous positions, as well as brand-new offices. Honouring the ever-growing graduate demand for cheese selections at second desserts and wine tastings, the MCR elected a Wine and Cheese Rep. With the hard work from our social secretaries and brand-new officers, the term saw an unprecedentedly full social calendar,

with an array of exchanges, bops, the MCR Salon, themed bar nights and new events. Taking advantage of The New Space at our new Gradel Quadrangles, the MCR joined with the JCR to hold an enchanting Jazz Night. The concert was followed by an MCR afterparty, which saw the Spoom transformed into an electrifying atmosphere, completed by the serving of a sophisticated blend of gin and dry vermouth, elegantly stirred to perfection, and garnished with a crisp olive (a soft drink was also on offer). The term ended with the celebration of Oxmas traditions, including a joyful Christmas bop, where we danced the night away to celebratory tunes, did some Christmas tree decorating, and came together at our Christmas dinner with a wonderful performance from the New Men. 2024 was full of excitement, creating increasing opportunities for engagement and striving to foster a community for all. The new year has a lot of excitement ahead, with plans for bar refurbishments, charity dinners, and more!

Miriam Yakobashvili - MCR President

JCR Report

As a Common Room, we have inherited a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and respect for members of our extended community. This is embodied in the extensive support we have received, and continue to receive, from our generous alumni, without whom the new Gradel Quadrangles, our third-year accommodation, could not have been built. Our 2024 began with students moving into the exciting new quad at the beginning of Hilary Term, with the official opening ceremony taking place in Trinity, bringing together both old and current members in a celebration of generosity and growth. Current third years are enjoying their new space and have grown to cherish their cozy community, while staying well within walking distance from the main college site.

The remainder of Hilary Term was equally successful: we hosted our inaugural darts tournament in the bar, a resounding success that will hopefully be replicated next year, and launched the exciting new New College drink in the college bar - the New College Seven, a pitcher mixed with just the right amounts of orange juice and gin to keep us dancing all night long at our annual Valentine's Day black-tie bop, held this year at the Varsity Club.

As the days started growing longer, we found ourselves starting Trinity Term far from our beloved Oxford, as we visited our 'archrivals'

from Cambridge and kicked the ball around with students from our sister college, King's, for Sports' Day. We are looking forward to hosting the King's College students in Oxford next year, in hopefully less capricious weather conditions!

The rest of Trinity passed quickly, despite our packed social calendar and the rare sighting of the Northern Lights, much to everyone's delight. Our annual boat party, themed 'Hollywood Renaissance' this year, took place once again on the Dixie Queen in London, adorning the Thames with lavish gowns and glittery elegance, and was swiftly followed by Arts' Week and jazz performances in the college bar. The term also saw excellent sporting results: our Men's Rugby team won Cuppers once again, and the Boat Club boasted the largest men's side on the Isis during Summer Eights, with 5 men's boats and 3 women's boats, and both First boats working their way up into the first division. We also hosted the Greek Play, Euripides' *Trojan Women*, in the Cloisters, and rounded off the academic term with Mint Julep Day and the annual Garden Party, with plenty of Pimm's and pizza to go around.

When students came back for Michaelmas Term, they were greeted by new sofas in the JCR, as part of renovations which include a new TV and repainting of the room at the end of term. Our First Years settled into college quickly during Freshers' Week, thanks to our incredible Freshers' Team putting on time-honoured events, such as the Freshers' bop (with Freshers fashioning their best granny costumes, donning grey wigs and canes), and new events such as an inter-collegiate bar crawl. College was then covered in a blanket of snow, appropriate for the many Oxmas celebrations taking place towards the end of term: the New Men concert in the Cloisters, Chapel Christmas tree decorating and carol singing, and traditional Christmas pantomime following formal in Hall.

We recognise the commitment we maintain towards those outside the college, and have been diligently working towards improving our impact on the wider community. This year we launched and handed out reusable plastic food containers to all JCR members, in an effort to reduce single-use plastic, and have continued to support Oxford's homeless through our 'Curry Runners' scheme, distributing leftover hall food and other necessities tri-weekly.

I am incredibly proud of everything that we have achieved as a Common Room over the past year, and as we enter the new year, I hope that we will be able to continue promoting our values of excellence, respect, and well-being within our community. And with the New College Commemoration Ball taking place next year, it will definitely be one to remember!

Maria Sticlea - JCR President



Arts Report

2024 has seen the arts thrive in New College, and this was made possible by the enthusiastic involvement and support from many members of the JCR. The staples of New College's arts programme have persisted: students can borrow from the JCR Arts Store to furnish their rooms for the term, and pottery brunch—which is just like normal brunch, except you can opt to paint a piece of crockery for firing in a kiln—attracts all those students who missed out on a Hockney from the Arts Store, but reckon they can make something better anyway. This year has also seen the continued success of Wine and Painting nights. These offer JCR members an opportunity to take a break from their hectic academic schedules by spending an evening, well, drinking wine and painting.

Arts in college reached its climax during the summer with the annual New College Arts Week. Led by the expertise of Arts Officers, Oliver Grant and Alexander Andrews, the committee organised a week of events spanning the breadth of creative forms which New College has to offer. This included performances of the Arts Week play, *All in the Timing*, a lino-printing session, and a night of live jazz in the bar. The week culminated with a launch party for the New College Arts Anthology in the Warden's Garden. This year the theme chosen was 'Flowers for the Bees', which elicited a range of wonderful submissions from New College members across the generations, and was ably curated by Megan Kelleher. Perhaps the best-attended event was 'New College Takes On The Bullingdon', a night of electronic music for New College Students hosted at The Bullingdon on Cowley Road. The entertainment began with exhibitions of students' own electronic compositions, before a succession of DJs from the JCR brought the house down.

The JCR has continued to give financial contributions to creative projects in the wider University which involve New College students. In particular many plays have received funding after passing motions at JCR meetings. Dramatic highlights of the year include Theo Joly in the two-hander, *Bucket List*, playing first at the Burton Taylor Studio before going up to the Edinburgh Fringe. The new auditorium in the Gradel Quadrangles also saw a piece of new writing, *The Public Intellectual*, starring Danny Doyle Vidaurre and Ally Mitchell, while Ella Craddock took the stage in Michaelmas Term's biggest theatrical event, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at the Oxford Playhouse.

With the new academic year, Alexander and Oliver's time as Arts Officers came to an end. Sincere thanks go to them for all their hard work. The new Arts Officers hope to continue in their stead by keeping

up the regular, well-attended Arts programme, while at the same time looking for new and exciting ways to engage the whole student body. The role of Band Room Officer has also changed hands, and will now be taken up by Sheen Bendon, physicist-cum-jazz-extraordinaire, who aims to bring some much-needed TLC to one of the college's less grand venues.

Our first major challenge came with the celebration of Oxmas at the end of Michaelmas Term. New College's annual College pantomime took place on the Thursday of 8th Week. This year we based the panto on the movie *Elf*, with the gleaming skyscrapers of New York switched out for the dreaming spires of New College. Jacob Newby took the leading role as Buddy the Elf, and other standout performances came from Morwenna Wood as the Dean, and Harry Aldridge, Maria Sticlea, and Raph Maurin, who all played themselves. The show was masterfully directed and narrated by Freddie Sugarman, my other half in Arts Officer role.

We are very much looking forward to 2025. The priorities are to start work on the next Arts Week, while continuing the rest of our termly events. We are especially excited to form the committee for Arts Week, since this allows any member of the undergraduate community, particularly First Years, to make their mark on New College's creative scene.

Joseph Rodgers - JCR Arts Officer

Sports

2024 has been another spectacular year for sport here at New College. Not only have we welcomed the creation of new sports societies, such as the New College Badminton Society, but our existing teams have also continued to experience success on the pitch, on the courts, and on the river. The cohort of 2024 was quick to get involved and we were thrilled to see an enthusiasm amongst the year group for sporting participation. Sport continues to be a key part of New College life, and we have no doubt that 2025 will be another year of strong performance and widespread participation.

The men's rugby team went from strength to strength in 2024. As a few integral members from the previous season had left, it was vital for NCRFC to rebuild the squad for the upcoming Cuppers run. A brutal early defeat in the league by St Edmund Hall ignited the team's desire for victory – prompting bi-weekly training sessions, fitness

sessions, and even compulsory pasta dinners in the run up to Cuppers matches. At the beginning of Trinity Term the atmosphere was electric. After dispatching St Hugh's in the quarters and St Peter's in the semis, NCRFC were into a second final in three years. Having won only twice before in the past 100 years, this was an historic opportunity for the boys, with many of the more experienced players going for their second Cuppers victory. After a team brunch, a strong combined Magdalen/Hilda's team were met with full force on Iffley road, and Vice-Captain, Freddie Hawkins, lifted the trophy for the club for the second time in three years. Meanwhile, the men's football team also were looking for success in Cuppers. With a large cohort of new players, hopes were set high for the season ahead. The participation of all members of the club for both the 1s and 2s was exemplary, and despite an early Cuppers exit, the team culture is thriving and looking good for the next couple of seasons.

New College Netball Club also welcomed a large number of new Freshers. Testament to the hospitable nature of New College sport, we were pleased to see many girls who had very little experience wanting to get involved and take up a sporting pastime for both its social and physical benefits. Despite a few minor injuries, we managed to put out a strong performance in the women's league in all three terms. An unlucky draw meant we had less success than we hoped in the Cuppers tournament; still we have no doubt that this year we will come out fighting, hoping for a victory once again.

These short summaries provide insight into only some of what has been on offer this year, with basketball, bouldering, mixed lacrosse, women's rugby, skiing, spikeball, hockey, girls' football, tennis, and badminton societies also operating at a college-wide level. We continue, too, to have many students playing across a wide range of university teams, indicative of the talent we have here in college.

A highlight of the sporting calendar is always our annual Sports Day against King's College Cambridge. We would like to thank King's for hosting us, and we look forward to welcoming them to Oxford in Trinity Term this year.

We look forward to another year of success, engagement, and encouragement in sports from the New College student body. We hope to maintain high levels of attendance and support for our teams, and have no doubt that the enthusiasm we have witnessed in 2024 will continue for yet another year.

Tess Ruddell and Paul Apostolides - JCR Sports Representatives

Badminton

Following a disappointingly dormant 23/24 Season for New College Badminton, mutterings began to be heard around college: 'NCBaC is gonesville', 'I fear Badminton has left for good', and the like. Then there was light, that light coming from a notification across each year's WhatsApp group chat. Vivek Aggala - a cherished member of New's new team - was spreading the news about the new beginning of New College Badminton Club, an announcement headlined with a pilot session at Iffley's main courts. At this session, and the others which were held throughout the term, many students have shown great promise for forming the foundation of a winning college team. As the official beginning of the 24/25 season draws nearer, there is abundant interest from budding Freshers, and those with a wish to put NC on the BaC map. Cuppers try-outs are in the making, and will reveal the future shuttlecock-smashing stars of OX1; I look forward to it with great interest. While their prowess on court is yet to be realised in competition, I nonetheless would like to commend Vivek Aggala and Dev Patel for their amazing work for the club so far.

Christopher Howe - Badminton Captain

Basketball

2024 was a great year of development for the recently formed New College basketball team, created in Trinity 2023. The team, joint with Brasenose College, participated in the College League where we performed well enough to make it through to the knockout stage of Cuppers. Unfortunately a strong LMH side knocked us out in the first round, despite the team putting up a good fight. However, the start of the new academic year brought some hope with a group of enthusiastic and committed Freshers. Michaelmas saw only one League game against Teddy Hall, which resulted in a narrow one-point loss, but the strong turn-out and high energy show promise for the future. We look forward to the rest of the season, hopefully some good weather, which will allow us to use the Weston court more, and a good run at Cuppers in Trinity.

Thomas Boardman - Basketball Captain

Boat Club

2024 has been yet another strong year for NCBC. Unfortunately, the flooding that gripped Oxfordshire did not relent in time for Torpids

(nor in fact for the Women's Head of the River). NCBC continued to train hard nonetheless. Two trips to Dorney and a visit to Gloucester Rowing Club provided some water time and much-needed outlets from the endless ergs. Spirits remained high and both squads saw significant improvements. We ran the NCBC Indoor Torpids (nicknamed the 'Indoorpids'), a very fun day involving hundreds of competitors.

The end of term arrived with no abatement to NCBC's activities. For the second consecutive year two purple-clad VIIIs flew down the course at the Men's Head of the River Race (despite a broken footplate in M1). We watched our very own Rahul Marchand close the gap on Cambridge from the cox seat of the Lightweight Men's Boat Race. Our Easter Camp took NCBC to Reading Rowing Club, where we erged, rowed, and lifted our way towards Trinity Term.

Through Trinity Term we enjoyed fantastic Isis Summer League results, a win in the Band 2 Open Eights at Chiswick Regatta, and our annual Sports Day trip to King's College, Cambridge. With our 3 fixed-division crews, an unprecedented 5 crews successfully rowing on, and learn-to-row eights on the bank, NCBC was the largest club on the river at Summer VIIIs 2024. We saw strong results across the board, with special mentions to our First Women's VIII as the Division I sandwich boat, and our First Men's VIII who narrowly missed out on blades but regardless went +4 to cement their spot in 10th place. The Pimms was flowing, our partnership with a vendor of alcohol slushies proved popular, and at Summer VIIIs Dinner we celebrated a successful season.

The annual period of Committee handover, summer pints, and Henley planning soon followed. Our Development 4+ at Henley Women's Regatta, with 16 spots for 48 crews, had a fantastic row, but failed to qualify. Our men picked up a win with Pembroke at Oriel Regatta, a friendship proving fruitful when we sent a composite 8+ to enter the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta, accompanied by NCBC's own 4+ entered in the Prince Albert Challenge Cup. In highly competitive events neither qualified; we are very proud nonetheless. NCBC past and present came together at the Bistro at The Boathouse on the Saturday of HRR. With sunshine and Prosecco in abundance, it was a very special occasion.

In September NCBC allied with St Catherine's College and St Edmund Hall to send Eamon, Ruslan, Sam and myself to compete at the Chengdu International Rowing Regatta. Against the likes of Otago NZ, Harvard, Yale, Imperial, and many more, we placed 2nd in the B Final, a very pleasing result. Thanks to the generosity of the organisers, we also enjoyed an array of cultural activities, pandas, and delicious local cuisine.

October brought a new season, a new 24-strong Committee, and the launch of our 1912 Society and campaign to raise a dedicated endowment fund for NCBC. With 100 keen novices joining us each Michaelmas, this will doubtless be crucial to NCBC's future as we grow. Flooding returned for the Michaelmas Novice Regatta (and remains in Hilary), but with a strong coaching team and plenty of club spirit we have high hopes for Torpids 2025.

The coming months hold a lot of excitement. NCBC has been involved in shaping the future of the governance of Oxford College Rowing, which I hope will materialise later this year. Closer to home, we eagerly await the arrival of our new eights and blades, Summer VIIIs, and the return of sunshine.

NCBC flourished in 2024, despite challenges - weather, funding, growing numbers despite limited resources, and increasing competition as the club climbs the bunglines. I have no doubt in NCBC's ability to adapt to these, to generate unique experiences for so many, and remain a large part of college life.

Charlie Orton - NCBC President 2023-2025

Bouldering

Founded in Michaelmas Term 2024, the New College Bouldering Society (NCBS) has already made significant strides in establishing itself as an exciting addition to the vibrant sports scene at New College. Bouldering, a branch of indoor rock climbing that emphasises short, challenging routes without the use of ropes or harnesses, has rocketed in popularity in recent years, and has proven to be an engaging and accessible activity for students of all experience levels.

Our inaugural term focused on introducing students to the sport while bringing together experienced climbers to foster a welcoming and supportive community. To ensure accessibility, we organised a free taster session at Gallery Bouldering, a new climbing gym in Oxford that opened earlier in 2024. We provided entry, climbing shoes, liquid chalk, and a safe and encouraging environment for complete beginners. The event was a resounding success, with many attendees discovering a new-found passion for climbing and joining the society.

Looking ahead to 2025, NCBS plans to build on this promising start by organising regular social climbs and exploring opportunities for inter-collegiate bouldering events.

As NCBS concludes its first term, we are thrilled to have built a foundation for what we hope will become a well-established, thriving

society at New College. The enthusiasm shown by members this term promises a bright future for the society as we continue to grow and expand our activities.

Gabriel Pang - Bouldering Captain

Cricket

NCCC enjoyed a successful 2024 season with big wins over several strong colleges. Impressive wins in the league came against St Hugh's, Jesus and Oriel, while sub-optimal pitches (rank green tops) led to our downfall against Merton/Mansfield and Magdalen. In Cuppers we got off to a flying start, with our first-round victory against Catz being the undisputed highlight of the year. After smashing 250-odd off 20 overs, we skittled a decent Catz line-up for under 100. Unfortunately, with 4 key players unavailable, we were not able to progress into the quarter finals after a spirited defeat to a very strong John's team. The year saw the return of a few NCCC household names, as well as some fresh faces who brought zeal and determination. As always William Marriage was immaculate with the new ball, backed up ably by Ed Ledgard and Zach Roberts. In the spin department we had Marcus McDevitt, Vivek Aggala and Tom (the bomb) Gardner, who bowled the spell of the season, taking 3-for nothing against Hugh's, decimating their top order and coming within inches of a hat-trick. Alexander Andrews was tidy behind the stumps and opened up the batting with the steadfast Prajwal Pandey. Max Woodford and Robert Brettle landed a few important lower-order blows and Zach Resatar, a baseball man by trade, adapted brilliantly, taking to both fielding and sledging like a duck to water, and will be sorely missed in the 2025 season. A huge thank-you from all the boys goes to the Weston groundsmen and to Alexander for organising the season so well. With very few members leaving us there is no doubt in my mind that the 2025 season will be a special one!

Max Woodford - Cricket Captain

Football 1st XI

Returning to college football in January following an intensive training regimen over the winter vacation (Christmas Day pint chops) members of NCAFC were met with the sad sight of their beloved Weston fortress half submerged. Despite Matthew Rolfe's eagerness to display his water



First XI after the game against the old boys in Michaelmas Term

polo prowess, no football matches were played until the end of week 3, by which time the great flood of Oxford's football pitches had subsided. However, with the anticipation of the Plate quarter-final rising, the club did not remain idle. Continuing our tradition of recruiting exchange students to bolster our ranks mid-season, the club signed American division 3 galactico William Luik from Washington and Lee University. Luik's impact was immediate, scoring a hat-trick in NCAFC's memorable 6-1 win over St. John's in the Plate quarter-final. In the semi-final, NCAFC faced a familiar foe in a somewhat capable LMH side. In a cagey game NCAFC fell behind 1-0 but clawed back level after Josh Adeyemi and veteran striker Lewis Fisher combined to make it 1-1. A nail-biting period of extra time saw NCAFC walk away 3-1 winners, advancing to the final of the Plate. Unfortunately in the final we went on to face a star-studded St. Catz team, who really should have been challenging for Cuppers, but owing to an unlucky draw in the first round had spent the season slicing through their half of the Plate draw. The first half of the final was close, with Catz edging a 1-0 lead from a corner. However, a second half collapse ensued, and Catz walked away 5-0 winners in what was a day to forget for all those who bleed NCAFC. The loss topped off what was a disappointing season, with our relegation from

the top college league and lack of silverware leaving players and our 3 fans alike asking questions about the future trajectory of the club.

Arriving back in October, the club wasted no time in recruiting Freshers to bolster our increasingly thin squad. Fin Adams and Alec Mitchell-Thomson immediately slotted into the starting XI and added some much-needed finishing and creativity in attack. George Campbell-Ferguson cemented himself in mid-field with his aggression and relentless work rate, whether on the pitch or at socials. Nippy striker Rory Hayes proved to be too hot to handle off the bench, most notably scoring a hat-trick against the old boys, which saw NCAFC walk away 3-0 winners. Further bolstered by the arrival of Master's student and first-choice Blues goalkeeper, Chris Gregory, we walked into our first Cuppers game against familiar foe, LMH, full of confidence. Our expectations were met, winning 3-0 in a comfortable display, and we were through to the second round of Cuppers for the first time since 2019. Drawing division 1 rivals, Pembroke, in the second round, NCAFC ran riot, leaving 6-1 winners thanks to a hat-trick from Alec and a tantalising strike from outside the box from hockey captain Max Woodford. Despite some disappointing league results, a Cuppers quarter-final against a beatable St. John's side has left the team optimistic, and I cannot wait to see where our Cuppers run takes us in Hilary Term.

Hari Bassi - Football First XI Captain

Football 2nd XI

An early exit from Cuppers in Michaelmas 2023 meant that the focus for the New 2s looking forward to Hilary 2024 turned to enjoying our football on a game-by-game basis and closing out the league in a respectable position.

Our away game against Jesus 2s, voted by the club as the highlight of the season, showcased just how much a single ninety-minute game could see periods of dominance for both teams, as at times we were able to produce some of the best football we had played all season and at other times we were pinned back and forced to keep ourselves in the game. We started strongly, as we had done on many other occasions earlier in the season, with Jack Morrin opening the scoring from a corner before a shot-cross from Marcus McDevitt found its way past the keeper and into the top corner. Our team was controlling the game well at this point, with some delightful little combinations between the front three and our mid-field of Paul Apostolides, Joshua Adeyemi, and Jiho Ro behind them. The balance of the game shifted after a Jesus goal just before half-time marked

the start of a period in which our back line, consisting of Theo Peters, Will Brown, myself, and Joe Mahoney, came under more sustained pressure, resulting in them drawing level before pulling ahead through a penalty. However, there proved to be another twist in store as the introduction of Alfie Massey and former captain Tom Burkill, returning from injury, prompted a final push as the game entered injury time. A cross came in from the left-hand side, cushioned down by Tom's head before the ball was fired into the roof of the net to secure a draw from behind.

A convincing 12-1 win in a friendly against Teddy Hall 3s in the Uni parks made a fitting end to the season as a number of our senior players made their final appearances for the club: Tom Burkill and Lewis Fisher both scored braces while Andras Polydak continued his reliable defensive record. At the same time, Hari Reilly-Singh netted a hat-trick to propel himself to top scorer for the team. I would also like to take this moment to thank Joshua Adeyemi for his captaincy over the course of the season: I found his ability to maintain composure and remain positive at all times particularly inspiring.

The 2024/25 season began with renewed energy and enthusiasm, bolstered by a good intake of Freshers. The season kicked off away at Trinity, where a high-scoring game saw us come away with a 7-3 win. Performances from our new members were highly encouraging: Kaveer Ali made a goal-stopping sliding tackle in the first half; George Campbell-Ferguson and Benjamin Dakshy were industrious in the middle of the park; while Fin Adams was able to finish clinically when it mattered. Our dominant form carried into our away game against Jesus, where we were able to tighten up defensively somewhat for a final score of 7-2, thanks to a prolific performance from Fresher Alec Mitchell-Thomson.

Our opening game of Cuppers, a tournament in which we have not enjoyed great success in recent years, against Balliol 2s provided more of a challenge. Goals from Fin Adams and Theo Peters gave us a two-nil lead going into the second half. However, after conceding early in the second half it looked like history might repeat itself and we could once again give up our early advantage. However, everyone rallied together to fend off their every-man-forward offensive onslaught to take us through to the round of 16, where we will face St Peter's Bravehearts.

As Michaelmas Term came to a close, we found our form slumping somewhat with losses to Worcester and St Anne's. However, with six points we remain at time of writing in a respectable 5th place out of eight, with confidence in our ability to compete for a higher position in the league and to challenge in Cuppers.

Matthew Rolfe - 2nd XI Football Captain

Women's Football

The New College Women's Football team, joint with Jesus College, has progressed tremendously throughout the year. To start 2024 in Hilary, we made it to the quarter-finals of Cuppers. We kept our feet warm with some futsal in Trinity term, eagerly anticipating our summer tour to Lisbon. We lost to the Lisbon Casual Ladies, an amateur women's side, though we certainly grew as a team, especially staying 10 to a room in a hostel!

This Michaelmas we hit the ground running, with a greater sense of camaraderie and cohesion than ever. We went from strength to strength, with an unprecedented number of new sign-ups, and consistent turn-up to training easily doubled. On this basis we arranged to bring in a coach for the first time. Sachin, acting on a volunteer basis, has really helped to mould us into a more disciplined and formidable front. Special mentions to Ellen Davies on the right wing, and Hannah Brown in goal (for the first time, and unbelievably so), not to mention the girls from Jesus College, namely the co-captain Beatrice, scoring a hat-trick to set the tone in our first Cuppers match, and striker Vivi Rogers, coolly tapping it in match after match.

We continue to train for the Cuppers quarter-finals, which will occur in Hilary 2025 and we anticipate a very fine show.

Rose McGowan - Women's Football Captain

Netball

NCNC has had another great year in 2024. Whilst the mixed team chose not to compete, the girls' Netball team brought the same enthusiasm they had in 2023 into 2024. Unfortunately the year started out with some



The Netball team

injuries; still the strength and versatility of our squad meant that we had many girls willing and able to step up and take part. Testament to this was the team's victory in Cambridge against King's College Netball team during the annual college Sports Day. Furthermore, whilst we were both talented and skilled enough to repeat the Cuppers tournament win of 2022, a series of tough matches and an unlucky injury meant that we were unable to bring back home the Cuppers trophy this year. Hopefully 2025 will see it return to its rightful owners! The club has hugely benefitted during Michelmas from an influx of Freshers eager to play. NCNC training sessions have allowed us to come together as a club, and it has been great to see the improvements of players who are newer to the game. As a club, we look forward to another year of successes and socials!

Tess Russell - Netball Captain

Rugby

NCRFC's 2023-24 season began with a bang in the traditional Old Boys' game. In a fiercely contested match, the younger squad narrowly beat a strong Old Boys team — a good omen for the season ahead. With Freshers and postgrads recruited, the team was bolstered with talent and keen to prove themselves. After a somewhat disappointing exit from Cuppers in 2023, we looked to go all the way, smashing Pembroke-Wadham out of the tournament with an impressive 41-0 score line. Success followed in the League, where we won 5 of our 6 matches over the course of Michaelmas and Hilary.

The boys returned in Trinity eager to continue their form in the Cuppers run. Facing LMH/Hugh's in the quarter-finals NCRFC emerged victorious in a hard-fought game, winning 33-14. We moved onto the semi-finals, facing a strong St Peter's side. From the first minute, the team was on fire with Freddie Hawkins melting their prop into touch to win back possession immediately. The brown and white army marched on, leading 12-0 at half time. The second half saw two unconventional tries scored by NCRFC – a charge down and a chip and chase increased NCRFC's lead. The game ended 33-5, with NCRFC cruising into the final.

After two mid-week training sessions, it is safe to say that NCRFC had its eyes on the prize. Following a warm-up and team run-through, the players were greeted by Old Boys and fans alike who had come from near and far to support their team. One rousing speech later, the 23-man squad was certainly riled up. Charging out of the sheds, NCRFC took their starting positions on the fabled turf of Iffley Road. After a series



The Rugby Team

of well-executed phases, NCRFC punched a hole through Hildalen's defence, taking Matt Wall over the line to make the score 5-0. Patrick Mayhew's quick feet and electric acceleration, produced a line-break, and Alfie Massey's support line brought him the second try of the game. 12-0. A lull in the NCRFC onslaught ate up the majority of the rest of the first half, until Freddie Hawkins powered over the line taking the ball and three Hildalen players with him. With the score now standing at 17-0, NCRFC kept their foot on the pedal, and Jack Botham dotted down our fourth try, grinning from ear to ear.

Unsurprisingly, the management team did not have much to say at half-time. Ideas and comments from Hawkins, Mayhew, Stacey and Albright set a new goal for the boys in brown – pile on the points. Pumped up and rehydrated, we were ready for the second half. The second half kicked off in similar fashion to the first – enormous tackles from our centre partnership, Noah Miller and Jack Sander, put pressure back on Hildalen. Silky footwork from Adam O' Neill saw him dance around the opposition's number 8 for yet another try. Patrick Mayhew added the extras, increasing the score to 29-0. Alexander Sokolov – lock by name, fullback by nature – once again gathered a high ball, and Alex Albright added to his tally of clean exits, sending the ball whence it came. A well-executed training-ground move from the backs saw Fresher, Max

Woodford, cut through the opposition's defence for our 6th try of the game. Patrick Mayhew took it upon himself to score our final try from a quick tap-and-go. Final score – 41-5.

The whistle blew; the crowd roared; the cup was lifted.

The 2023-24 season was one to remember, marked by both the success and great comradery of the team. A victory in Touch Rugby Cuppers was the cherry-on-top. This was indeed a season of which we could be particularly proud!

Cameron Tilley - RCRFC's Captain

Spikeball

Spikeball is a somewhat esoteric sport coming out of America - the place where all bizarre sports are born. Nonetheless, it is an incredibly fun game which is not too taxing, and it is easy to pick up. New College Spikeball (NCSpikeball) was founded in Trinity 2024, the first club of its kind in the University. At first the club consisted of a group of friends and struggled to accrue additional members owing to the coincidence of the club's founding with exam season. This year, however, because of a successful Fresher advertising campaign (which consisted mostly of me pestering them), participation in the club has rocketed. Dozens of Freshers have tried Spikeball. Most were confused at first - probably thinking this is the most 'Oxfordy' Oxford thing they have got themselves into - but it did not take long for them to fall in love with the game. We have maintained weekly sessions at the Sports Ground, drawing confused looks from the groundsman who must be wondering why on earth a group of students is running around a trampoline laughing, often hysterically. There are plans in the works for a within-college Spikeball tournament in a later term, and there are grander plans to develop Spikeball clubs in other colleges so as gradually to form a Cuppers' tournament. Many people play Spikeball in other colleges, but it appears no other college is as organised as New College ... or maybe they are not as sporty.

Tom Stocker - Spikeball Captain

Tennis

The 2024 New College tennis season kicked off with a first-round Cuppers match against Teddy Hall. A strong showing by the Albright brothers saw the women's blues first pair taken to the limit of their capabilities, but unfortunately it was not to be for New College against the eventual

finalists of the competition. Despite the Cuppers run being cut short, New College tennis was thriving last summer thanks to the incredible work of the groundsmen in producing the best grass courts in the University. Players would come from far and wide to play on the New College courts, which had gained a reputation of excellence across the University; however, it was particularly amazing to see New College students, beginners and seasoned players alike, enjoying some casual tennis in the sunshine every afternoon. I am looking forward to a great season this summer, and hopefully a slightly more fruitful Cuppers run!

Paul Apostolides - Tennis Captain

FEATURES



The Visitor's Commemoration Sermon 20 October 2024

+May I speak in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

If you ever find yourself in Winchester and are looking for a place for a convivial pint, and possibly a meal too, then I do recommend the Wykeham Arms. It is a very fine pub. And as soon as you enter it, somewhere or other, amidst the pints, the pies and the punters, your eyes will not fail to light upon William of Wykeham's famous motto, 'Manners makyth man'.

The Wykeham Arms is strategically situated. It lies at the centre of what you might call the nexus of Winchester College, Winchester Cathedral, and Wolvesey, the Bishop of Winchester's official residence, a nexus which William of Wykeham did much to create. So it's fitting that both William of Wykeham's arms and his motto lie, in the form of that pub, at the very heart of that nexus - a nexus of which, we might say, New College, as a Wykehamist foundation, is a very significant outpost. (Although of course I do appreciate it's not usual to call Oxford colleges outposts of anywhere.)

Today we honour William of Wykeham on the 700th Anniversary of his birth, and we could do him no better service, in doing so, than by reflecting on the meaning of his famous motto: 'Manners makyth man'. What was it that he meant us to take from those words? In answering that question I'm indebted to Dr Mark Griffith's excellent paper on the subject, though I promise that this sermon would pass any plagiarism checker.

But what does that motto mean - and indeed what *doesn't* it mean? It's not simply about what we today would call 'good manners': how you should conduct yourself in Hall; how you should eat your peas and other crucial issues such as that.

To find out what it does mean, let's start with our source: with William himself. What do we know about him? He was a great builder and administrator. He was a man of very significant practical abilities and indeed it was those very abilities which led him to rise to such a prominent position in the England of his time, as Chancellor to both Edward III and Richard II. But there was more to William than his practical abilities, and, as will become clear in this sermon, I do not believe that simply taking a practical, functional, instrumentalist view of things will do. Nor, with



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Sue Mounstephen, the Warden, the Bishop of Winchester and the Dean of Divinity

such a motto - which William of Wykeham did not inherit, but coined (or at least adapted) for his own use - did he think it would do either. It's not simply what you *do* that makes you. There's more to it than that.

One sense of the motto's meaning relates to William's humble Hampshire origins: it's 'worth rather than birth' that makes a man, it suggests. It was certainly 'worth not birth' that was the making of William. And the fact that the motto is in simple, colloquial English, and not in French or in Latin, compounds that sense of the ordinary and the everyday, rather than the courtly. For both those reasons there was therefore something rather subversive about it. But profound and indeed radical as that is, especially in the highly hierarchical terms of William's age, there's more to the motto than that.

We need to look deeper into William: not just at *what* he did, but *why* he did it. The great monuments of his life are, first of all, in Winchester Cathedral: he built the great nave - the longest Gothic nave in Europe - where his chantry chapel still stands. That chantry was supposedly saved from the vandalism of William Waller's soldiers in the Civil War by the action of Nathaniel Fiennes, a colonel in the Parliamentary army, who stood with sword drawn, defying his own troops, because William of

Wykeham was amongst his ancestors: in that incident birth, as well as worth, did in fact count for something. But I digress: William's building of the great, long nave was above all about enhancing the worship of almighty God. That's why he did it.

And he founded both Winchester College, and this great college too (as the first of five great Winchester foundations in this University) with a specific purpose too: as William himself had risen from humble, Hampshire origins, thanks to the support of wealthy patrons, so he wanted to do likewise, raising up a new generation of men (for they were all men), as priests and administrators, devoted to the service of both almighty God and wider society after the great losses of the Black Death. Worship and service, then, were at the very heart of Wykeham's legacy.

And that legacy - with its clear moral and spiritual purpose - suggests that William's motto 'Manners makyth man' is not about behaviour (at least not simply so), but about *character*, indeed about virtue. And his great endeavours, not least the founding of this college, bear significant witness to his valuing of virtue; of character.

New College was, therefore, to be a school of character and of virtue. Indeed, I hope and trust it still is. Just as there was much more to William of Wykeham than his gifts in administration, so we should stand against reductionist views of education: it is so much more than that: so much more than training and preparation for employment. It is manners, properly understood as character, as virtue, that make us truly human, that make us our better selves: neither training; nor employment; nor even a degree can do that. And if education turns out to be about less than the formation of character, of our full humanity, then I doubt it deserves the name of education at all.

But we should be in no doubt that, when William of Wykeham talked about manners as an expression of character and virtue, he was doing so from a distinctively Christian perspective: of course he did - he was Bishop of Winchester after all!

And he shared that perspective with someone else, several centuries later - someone who indeed (along with William Waller) shared his initials. On Sunday, 28 October 1787 William Wilberforce wrote in his diary: '*God Almighty has set before me two great objects, the suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners*'. And again, by 'the Reformation of Manners', Wilberforce meant so much more than the way you eat your peas. He meant a root and branch reform of behaviour, of morality, of virtue, of character - and indeed of faith.

And just a few years later, Jane Austen, who died just a few yards from The Wykeham Arms, and is buried in William's great nave, put these words in the mouth of Edmund Bertram in *Mansfield Park*: '*The manners I*

speak of, might, rather, be called conduct, perhaps the result of good principles; the effect in short of those doctrines which it is [the clergy's] duty to teach and recommend.'

The great Jane closes the loop for us: in the end Christian behaviour, Christian character, must be all of a piece with Christian belief: the one an expression of the other. And I've no doubt that was entirely of a piece with the way William of Wykeham saw things too.

There is in that a rich view of what it means to be properly human: on the basis of what we believe we become morally responsible for who we are and for the way in which we behave. Manners indeed makyth man and make us our better, our proper selves.

And yet I think we can take the argument even further than that. So let us turn briefly to our two readings. In Genesis we hear about men and women being made, wonderfully, in the image of God: an image tragically marred and spoilt by the Fall. But in Galatians we read that *when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.*

And, reflecting that thought, in the hymn we will sing tonight John Henry Newman writes, *O loving wisdom of our God! / When all was sin and shame, / a second Adam to the fight / and to the rescue came.* And in the words of Luther's great hymn, whose tune we will hear in the organ voluntary at the end of this service, Jesus is *der rechte Mann*, 'the proper man', the new Adam: he is humanity as it should be, and the one in whom our humanity is restored.

Manners indeed makyth man, and enable us, through the formation of character and virtue, to enter into our proper humanity. But there is a sense too in which we need to reverse the formula. If Jesus Christ is 'the proper man', humanity as it is meant to be, it is he, and he alone, who can make us what we are truly meant to be. He, the man, makyth manners in us. He, the man, humanity as it should be, makes us the human beings we are truly meant to be, if we will but let him. Virtue and character are gifts of his grace, if we will but humbly receive them from him.

It was as an undergraduate that I found that out, kneeling down and finally giving in to him on the cold lino floor of the house I lived in. I've no idea what William of Wykeham's experience was, except they had no lino in his day; but I hope and pray that many today might still in this place encounter Jesus Christ as the one who can make each one of us all that we were ever meant to be. Amen.

+ Philip Mounstephen - Bishop of Winchester

Rudolf Peierls's Atomic Bomb and New College

The Oscar-winning blockbuster Christopher Nolan movie, *Oppenheimer*, drew attention to the remarkable story of the intense race to develop the atomic bomb during World War II. The brilliant team of scientists and engineers that Oppenheimer assembled in Los Alamos, New Mexico, from 1943-45 was comprised of Americans, British, and Canadians, as well as other recently-naturalized citizens who had emigrated from European countries engulfed in the horrors of the build-up to the war, especially from Germany, Italy, Hungary, and Poland. (The émigrés from France headed to Cambridge, and subsequently supported the war effort from Montreal – General Groves did not trust them to come to Los Alamos!). One of the leading British scientists at Los Alamos was the German-born Rudolf Peierls (Fig. 1), later elevated to Sir Rudolf Peierls, who became the Wykeham Professor of Physics at New College, 1963-1974. He could subsequently be seen in New College's Hall as an Emeritus Fellow in the 1980s (when I was there).

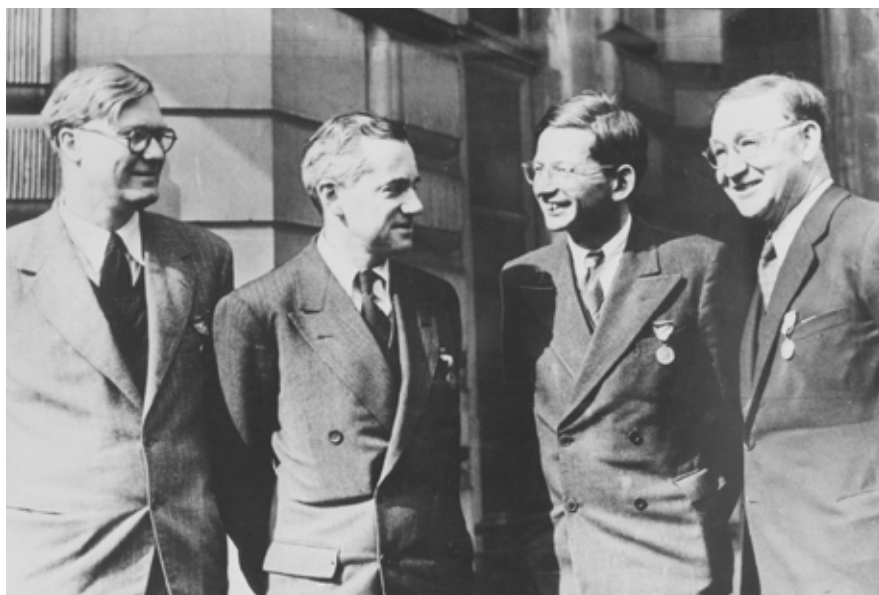


Fig. 1. Rudolf Peierls, second from right, with (left to right) William Penney, Otto Frisch, and John Cockcroft, on being awarded the U. S. Medal of Freedom in 1946.

I had an opportunity to meet with Warden Young on December 13, 2023, at the American Friends of New College dinner that was sponsored by Chris (1974) and Barbara Wall at the Sulgrave Club in Washington DC. I have spent my nuclear science research career at the USA's Los Alamos National Laboratory since leaving New College, and in more recent years have studied and written on the early history of nuclear fission¹. The Warden suggested to me that readers of the *New College Record* might be interested in a short summary of Peierls' wartime work.

The *Oppenheimer* movie was watched with a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm in Los Alamos last summer, for Oppenheimer remains an icon and an inspiration for today's laboratory workforce. Also, quite a few of the movie's 'extras' came from the lab's science ranks! All films take some artistic licence as they tell their story, and indeed most – including Nolan's film – do not claim to tell history. Most of us Los Alamos scientists enjoyed the movie tremendously, but complained (with good humour) about two historical errors. One was that Oppenheimer went to consult Arthur Compton, not Einstein, regarding some of the Los Alamos calculations. The other was the grave underrepresentation of the British contribution.

Not only did Nolan stay largely silent on Britain's Los Alamos contribution, but he added insult to injury by briefly focusing on just one British scientist, the spy Klaus Fuchs (who fled from Germany to Britain in 1933); Nolan 'gave' Peierls' job to Fuchs! Peierls was the Theoretical Division's group leader and leading researcher on the implosion 'hydrodynamics' method, whereas the talented and treasonous Fuchs worked under Peierls' supervision. But Nolan referred to Fuchs as the leader who replaced Teller and was silent on Peierls. Although I loved the film, when I walked out of the movie theatre I said to my friends 'Wow, Nolan really screwed the Brits'!

In fact, Britain had sent twenty-five of their top scientists to Los Alamos. Also, it was early British research work from 1939-1943, led by Rudolf Peierls, Otto Frisch, James Chadwick, and G P Thompson, that had established the feasibility of a bomb. This secret work was shared with the US and played an essential role in motivating the US creation of the Manhattan Project.

British 1939-1942 work on the uranium critical mass and feasibility of an atomic bomb

Otto Frisch had come to Birmingham University in the summer of 1939 and began to work with Peierls on whether a 'super bomb' could be constructed with the ²³⁵U isotope supporting a chain reaction. At

1 M B Chadwick, 'Nuclear Science for the Manhattan Project and Comparison to Today's ENDF Data', *Nuclear Technology* v. 207, S1, iii (2021); *Nuclear Technology* v. 207, S1, S24 (2021).

that time both Frisch and Peierls were not yet British citizens and were classed as enemy aliens; they were allowed to work on nuclear physics as it was thought to be less sensitive compared to radar! In 1940 they documented their optimistic findings in the now-famous Frisch and Peierls² memorandum³, which changed the world.

In 1939 Peierls had derived an expression for computing the critical mass, but had not put any numbers into it because reliable data were not then available. It was ready-made for them in early 1940! Using Peierls' critical mass formula, together with estimates for fission probabilities, Frisch and Peierls calculated a uranium critical mass that was surprisingly (and erroneously) small, 0.6 kg (the correct value we now know is 46 kg for a sphere of pure ²³⁵U). The mistake in Frisch and Peierls' first estimate of the critical mass was not surprising, given how little was known of the basic fission physics in 1939. James Chadwick realized that the Frisch-Peierls fission cross-section estimate (of 10 barns) was likely too high, and quickly established a programme of research at Liverpool's Cyclotron Laboratory, with Frisch, to measure these cross sections. This led the MAUD (Military Application of Uranium Detonation) Committee, in the summer of 1941, to provide an updated assessment of the critical mass in the range 9 kg ('most likely') to 43 kg ('pessimistic'). This range proved to be pretty good, with MAUD's pessimistic value being close to the true value of 46 kg. But the fact that the first estimate of the amount of ²³⁵U needed was erroneously low helped propel the bomb project forward. If it had been erroneously high, the scientific community might have given up.

Together with Harvard President, James Conant, the United States had sent two senior scientists, Urey and Pegasus (both Columbia University) to England in October 1941 to learn about the uranium work there; Chadwick told these US visitors that 'if pure ²³⁵U could be made available, there was a 99% chance of being able to produce an explosive reaction'. The parallel U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) studies chaired by Arthur Compton came to the same conclusion: 'This seems to be as sure as any untried prediction based upon theory and experiment can be.' Conant later wrote that the US government's growing seriousness regarding the potential for an atomic bomb was influenced by both physicists in England who 'had concluded that the construction of a bomb made out of uranium 235 was entirely feasible' as well as E O Lawrence's 1941 proposal to use the newly discovered plutonium.

2 O Frisch and R Peierls, 'On the Construction of a Superbomb,' 1940, Bodleian Library, Oxford.

3 B Cameron Reed, 'Revisiting the Frisch-Peierls Memorandum', *The European Physical Journal*, J. H 49:6 (2024).

British scientists move to Los Alamos

Following the August 19, 1943, Quebec agreement titled ‘Articles of Agreement governing collaboration between the authorities of the USA and UK in the matter of Tube Alloys’ (Tube Alloys being the British code word for the bomb project), the British learned for the first time about the secret Los Alamos site in New Mexico where there were already hundreds of scientists working under Oppenheimer. The ‘British Mission’ scientists moved to Los Alamos, beginning in December 1943. Newcomers to Los Alamos first checked-in at a discreet location in Santa Fe, their arrival being recorded by Dorothy McKibbin on a card. Peierls’ ‘McKibbin card’ is shown in Fig. 2; it is evident that he first visited in April, arrived properly in June and his family joined him in July, 1944.

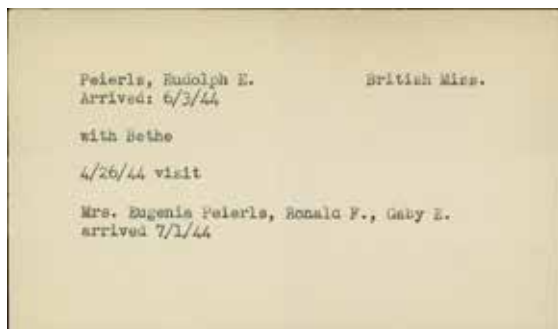


Fig. 2. Peierls’ ‘McKibbin card’ records his arrival in Los Alamos. His first name, Rudolph, is mis-spelled.

James Chadwick, Britain’s senior nuclear scientist, led the British Mission in Los Alamos (Fig. 3); Peierls deputized for him and was known as much for his hydrodynamics expertise as for his nuclear physics. Frisch became the leader of the Gadget Division’s criticality group

and made numerous nuclear physics contributions, especially the development of the ‘Dragon’ nuclear machine for creating brief critical reactions – the first fast-neutron chain reactions in history. Peierls tells the nice story that Frisch was equally renowned for his talents on the piano, and that at one musical evening in Los Alamos the remark was overheard: ‘This guy is wasting his time doing Physics!’⁴.

Hydrodynamics

Although it was the British research breakthroughs in nuclear science and fission physics that jump-started the atom bomb project, what the USA really needed was the British expertise in ‘shock physics’ and hydrodynamics. British researchers Peierls, Penney, Tuck, Fuchs, and Skyrme had already developed specialized expertise in this research area because of its importance in conventional explosive ordinance work in the war effort. These same skills were needed for the design of

4 R Peierls, *Atomic Histories*, Springer Verlag, New York, p.133. (1997).



Fig. 3. A typical view from Los Alamos, looking to the east towards the Sangre de Cristo mountains above Santa Fe.

the plutonium implosion bomb that was tested in the Trinity test, on July 16, 1945 (dramatically portrayed in the Nolan movie).

In June 1944 the Theoretical Division Leader Hans Bethe transferred Edward Teller from the T-1 leadership role to focus instead on thermonuclear concepts, the so-called ‘Super’ hydrogen bomb. Teller said, ‘Bethe saw Peierls as ready-made for the task he had in mind for me. Peierls could tackle the calculations of implosion. So Peierls, with the help of a small group, diligently began the Herculean labour.’ John von Neumann and Peierls together invented computational methods for solving the Lagrangian hydrodynamics problem. Bethe said that ‘Peierls was, in my opinion, the most effective Group Leader in the Theoretical Division.... He directed the entire difficult work on implosion dynamics, contributing a very great fraction of it himself.’⁵

Christy-Peierls Patent for the Trinity Plutonium Implosion

It is a testament to the value of the diversity of nationalities represented at Los Alamos that the discovery-patent for the first atomic bomb’s plutonium core implosion is authored by two foreign-born scientists: Christy and Peierls! Robert Christy was born in Canada, and become a naturalized US citizen working with Oppenheimer at Berkeley; whereas

5 H Bethe, letter to Carroll L Wilson, AEC, July 18, 1949. See A Carr, ‘Documents Pertaining to the British Mission’, Los Alamos National Laboratory report LA-UR-09-05504 (2009).

Peierls was from Germany and Britain. Peierls is listed as a Subject of the King of Great Britain. The authors were paid one dollar for transferring their rights and title of this invention to the US Government, as was the tradition. The patent remains classified but unclassified extracts are shown in Ref.⁶

Frisch and Peierls' 1940 memorandum not only correctly concluded that an atom bomb would be feasible, but it also presented a formula for estimating the bomb's explosive yield. Both Peierls and Frisch witnessed the Trinity test, the first nuclear explosion experiment in 1945.

Epilogue

Peierls wrote a July 1945 summary of British contributions to the war effort (see Ref.⁷ with accompanying comments). Like Oppenheimer, after the war he strove for nuclear disarmament and for better relations between the Soviet Union and the West, engaging with the Pugwash movement. Peierls continued his research at the University of Birmingham, building a renowned Theoretical Physics group that included Robin Stinchcombe, my superb Physics tutor at New College. He took up the Wykeham Professorship of Physics at New College in 1963.

Sabine Lee's article in the Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society gives a nice overview of Peierls' career. My own recollections of him are from his visits to Oxford's Department of Nuclear Physics in the 1980s, when we graduate students would gather around him during tea-time, eagerly listening to all he had to say.

Mark B Chadwick (1983) - Deputy Director,
Los Alamos National Laboratory Science, Technology and Engineering

Acknowledgement: I am pleased to thank Cameron Reed for useful discussions.

6 T A Chadwick and M B Chadwick, 'Who Invented the Trinity Nuclear Test's Christy Gadget? Patents and Evidence from the Archives', *Nuclear Technology*, v. 207, S356 (2021).

7 R Moore, 'Woolwich, Bruceton, Los Alamos: Munroe Jets and the Trinity Gadget', *Nuclear Technology*, v. 207, S1, S374 (2021).

Travelling as an archaeologist in Thessaly: 1912 and now

The region of Thessaly, located at the heart of the Greek peninsula, is not an area that features prominently in most modern guidebooks. For example, the cities of Volos and Kalambaka will usually be mentioned in passing (the latter because of its vicinity to the famous Meteora monasteries), but other urban centres such as Karditsa, Larisa, and Trikala only rarely feature. Overall, most guidebooks give the impression that Thessaly is perhaps not one of the more attractive or note-worthy regions of Greece.

However, this impression is very misleading. Combining the extensive plains of Larisa and Karditsa with the surrounding mountain ranges – Mount Olympus, Mount Kissavos, the Pelion peninsula, Mount Othrys, and the impressive peaks of the Pindos – Thessaly not only provides stunning natural vistas, but is also home to a rich archaeological landscape, with numerous sites reaching back as far as the Neolithic. And although Thessalian archaeology has long been a comparatively little studied field of scholarship, our knowledge of this archaeological landscape now increases steadily from year to year, especially through the dedicated work of the local archaeological services.



Friedrich Stählin (Ö Institute of Classical Archaeology of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg)

In summer 2024, a group of archaeologists from the University of Oxford (including two members of New College) had the opportunity to join the Ephorate of Antiquities of Karditsa for the first season of the *Kedros-Anavra Archaeological Landscape Project* (KAALP).¹ This project aims to map surface remains at four previously unrecorded sites in southwestern Thessaly, using a combination of traditional survey methods, GNSS-RTK mapping, and drone photography. As a largely non-invasive survey, the *Kedros-Anavra Archaeological Landscape Project* stands in the tradition of and builds on early 20th-century topographical research, especially the work of Friedrich Stählin (1874–1936), a German

¹ Carried out under the auspices of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Karditsa, the *Kedros-Anavra Archaeological Landscape Project* is directed by Christos Karagiannopoulos. The project's 2024 fieldwork season was organised jointly by Christos Karagiannopoulos and Anna Magdalena Blomley, and was generously funded by the Ludwig Fund and the Faculty of Classics' Thomas Whitcombe Greene Fund.

schoolteacher and archaeologist who travelled extensively in Thessaly during the first decades of the 20th century.

During the 2024 fieldwork season we often wondered how different the Thessaly Stählin encountered was from the landscape we find ourselves in during our work at Kedros and Anavra. While Stählin's publications focus decidedly on antiquity rather than on his contemporary surroundings, we can catch glimpses of early 20th-century Thessaly in his travel notebooks.² As well as archaeological information, these notebooks include comments on practicalities of travel. One example is a list written in 1912, in which Stählin reminds himself of what to pack for his next Thessalian adventure.



The 2024 fieldwork team of the Kedros-Anavra Archaeological Landscape Project (KAALP).

² Stählin's travel diaries, which I am currently studying, were recently donated to the Institute of Classical Archaeology of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. I would like to thank Dr Georg Gerleigner for inviting me to study this material and the Institute of Classical Archaeology of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg for allowing me to access both this archival material and various relevant objects in the Institute's collection. I am furthermore very grateful to Dr Georg Gerleigner and Fabian Gapp for their help in identifying various objects from Stählin's collection and in the preliminary study of the Stählin archive. In addition, I would like to thank the John Fell Fund for funding my research in Erlangen and Prof. Maria Stamatopoulou for her help and support in this project.



Looking across the Thessalian plain from the foothills of the Pindus towards Mount Olympus and Mount Ossa.

Reading this list, it is striking how much of Stählin's advice still rings true for archaeologists working in the region today. For example, Stählin noted that the camera had to be light and easy to deploy – advice with which anybody hiking to reach archaeological sites in the foothills of the Pindos is still bound to agree. Similarly, Stählin's advice on fieldwork clothing has endured well. He reminded himself of the uncanny ability of Thessaly's thorny vegetation to make its way even into the best-laced boots and recommends wearing clothing with numerous pockets. We have certainly encountered the former and would second the latter, although today our pockets are usually filled with GPS, phone, and assorted drone equipment rather than with maps, notebooks, and reading glasses.

In other aspects, Stählin's 'packing list' shows how different our fieldwork experience is today. We no longer feel the need to travel with a supply of cocoa (although a large quantity of English Breakfast Tea never goes amiss) and instead of packing traditional survey equipment we now travel with a drone and a GNSS station. Fortunately, we are no longer restricted to taking just two outfits ('a sturdy suit for the rides and the survey, and a better one for the cities') and have never felt the need to change into shirts with upturned collars when visiting cities.

Another key difference between Stählin's work and our own is of course our means of transport. While we are usually able to take a car reliably to the starting points of our archaeological hikes, Stählin's attempt to travel by car across western Thessaly in December 1912 did not go entirely to plan. Owing to the quality of the roads, unexpected rainfall almost left him and his hired car marooned in the village of Sophades. However, he was able to journey across the Thessalian plain by train, while today several lines in Thessaly are no longer in operation and trains are overall not as frequent as they were in 1912.

To sum up, travelling in Thessaly as an archaeologist in 1912 must have been a very different experience from working in the region in 2024, and of course the details mentioned above represent only a few minor (and rather superficial) examples. Nevertheless, there are some aspects in which our experience in the field is more similar to Stählin's than we would perhaps have expected. For example, we are still able to share the sense of excitement of being able to put unrecorded archaeological sites on the map and, like Stählin before us, we rely heavily on the help and support of our local colleagues and the rural communities we have the pleasure of working with during our fieldwork. Like Stählin's travels of discovery in 1912, the *Kedros-Anavra Archaeological Landscape Project* would not be possible without its supporters in the field and at home, and we would therefore like to express our gratitude to the Ephorate of Antiquities of Karditsa, New College, the Faculty of Classics, and particularly our friends in the villages of Anavra, Kedros, and Thrapsimi.

Anna Magdalena Blomley - formally Esmée Fairbairn JRF

The Staircase to Nowhere and its Greek Inscription

Deep in the bowels of the new Gradel buildings is the so-called basement hub, a circular area from which doors, corridors and stairways go off in all directions to different parts of the development. One notable feature here, added more for the sake of symmetry of design than for any other reason, is the ‘Staircase to Nowhere’, a set of seven or so steps which do no more than go up to a small semi-circular area on which some natural light is shed from a window far above. Quite early on in the design stage it was decided that this anomalous space should have some type of decoration, and when a brain-teasing or riddling inscription, ideally in an ancient language, was decided upon, I was asked to see what I could come up with.

Initially I tried to do something in Latin, but after a couple of attempts that got me, appropriately enough, nowhere, I decided to have a go in Greek. Almost immediately things fell into place; my very first attempt was accepted, and the result, as beautifully carved by Fergus Wessel of Stoneletters, is what can now be seen in situ.

So, what does it actually say? Well, the whole design depends on the horizontal word ΟΥΔΑΜΟΥ (i.e. nowhere) which names the semi-circular space at the top of the steps. From this, cascading down to ground level, come seven vertical words, so that the whole eventually looks something like this:

Ο	Υ	Δ	Α	Μ	Ο	Υ
Υ	Μ	Ε	Ν	Α	Π	Π
Δ	Α	Ι	Ε	Τ	Ο	Ε
Α	Σ		Ρ	Η	Υ	Ρ
Μ			Ω	Ν		Ω
Ω			Τ			Ι
Σ			Α			Ο
			Ν			Ν

In short, the horizontal word at the top names the space, and the vertical words (ΟΥΔΑΜΩΣ ΥΜΑΣ ΔΕΙ ΑΝΕΡΩΤΑΝ ΜΑΘΗΝ ΟΠΟΥ ΥΠΕΡΩΙΟΝ) offer timely advice about a question which shouldn’t be asked; and, if anyone does, the answer is the word at the top!



More than this I do not want to say. A riddle ceases to be a riddle when its answer is known, and I have already given away more of the game than I ever intended, leaving the curious no more than a few Greek words to construe.

I did not have to wait long for the proof that my brain-teaser was a success. At the grand opening ceremony on 13 April 2024 I stood incognito by the staircase, listening to the reactions of those who tried to make sense of it. It was not long before I heard two pretty venerable looking gentlemen, completely baffled, wonder whether ‘the chap who wrote this really knows any Greek at all’!

Stephen Anderson

(First published in the New College Notes - Issue 21 in 2024)

From New College to the Roof

Twelve years ago, almost to the day, I was in the muggy back room of a Devon pub, and I was willing the beer-infused carpet to swallow me up. A few months earlier I had begun a five-year thatching apprenticeship, and this was my first time at a meeting of the Devon Master Thatchers' Association. My own thatching Master had just introduced me to the county's assembled straw-men.

'This is my new apprentice, Tom,' he'd said, 'he's an Oxford graduate.'

There followed a silence in which I could hear the shifting of bums on varnished wood, and detect a slow swivelling of heads in my direction. As I searched in vain for the appropriate *bon mot*, I longed for the embrace of that beery carpet. Then the chairman, a fourth-generation thatcher from a Dartmoor village who had been helping his father on the roof for as long as he could climb a ladder, cleared his throat and declared, 'in that case, I'd say he's a bit too damned intelligent to be a thatcher!' And the room collapsed into laughter.



Tom on roof in Torcross, Devon © John Hersey.

I am not sure how many people with an Oxford degree go back to the bottom and learn a trade, but it is safe to say we are in the minority. I am the only one I know of who has become a thatcher. After reading English at New College, I did a stint with a publishing house in London. But five years was long enough to realise that life behind a desk was not for me, so I left first for Scotland, then Devon, a static caravan and an apprentice wage of £60 a day. It was an abrupt left-hand turn, an act of professional self-sabotage which some of my London friends viewed with bemusement, and others with envy.

The rewards of my unusual career path are many. There is a freedom and a simplicity to working with your hands. I do not mean this in a disparaging sense. From day one I became acutely aware of the many things I did *not* know: how to tie a wagoner's hitch, sharpen a billhook, erect a scaffold tower. There are many joys to working in the countryside, unobtainable to the desk-bound: the winter sunrises, the long shafts of light in the barn on a summer afternoon, the glow of exhaustion as I wind back through empty lanes after a long day on a roof.

Then there is the immediate reward that comes with building work of any sort: you have a tangible output to your labour. When I finish a repair or a re-thatch I can look up from the lane and see that I have made the house better. As I drive home I pass other roofs I have worked on, gently weathering into their surroundings. I am leaving behind what the Reverend Gethyn Owen in Ronald Blyth's *Akenfeld* termed a 'signature, not just on the field but on life'.

Perhaps above all I enjoy the daily connection my job gives me to the past. When I am working on an historic building, I am aware of being just the latest link in a long chain of craftsmen. One of the oldest buildings I have worked on is a fifteenth century longhouse on Dartmoor. The building is made of very little other than granite, wood, and reed. Inside, it has the hushed stillness of a church. And it is as cool as one. I was thatching the roof during a July heatwave, and refreshed myself by

regularly sticking my head under the outside tap in the farmyard. One afternoon the owner invited me in for a glass of squash. I noticed that she was able to leave a pat of butter and a block of cheddar on the worktop in the pantry, unrefrigerated.

I had been keeping a journal since my very first day on the roof. I had the feeling



The old cobbler's shop in Devon

that the things I was learning and the people I was encountering were both unusual and, for the most part, unrecorded. As my apprenticeship progressed, the idea of writing something about thatching began to take shape in my mind. I learned that there are thatching traditions in the Netherlands, Denmark and even Japan, and I became curious to know what it was like to work as a thatcher in these different places. What, if anything, did I have in common with a thatcher in Rotterdam or Kobe? I decided to find out, and I turned my experiences into a book, *On the Roof: A Thatcher's Journey*.



Tom thatching on South Uist, Scotland © John Hersey

each year, and established a reed importing industry that extends from Austria to Inner Mongolia. In Denmark I met a Syrian refugee, Essam Al-Sheikh, who has become one of a vanishingly small number of people to master the supremely obscure craft of thatching with seagrass.

I finished my journey in Japan, where thatching of some sort has probably been practised for around five millennia. The exceptional continuity of this tradition is seen in the temples at Ise Jingu, Shinto's holiest site. Dating back to the 3rd century BCE, the thatch and wood structures are rebuilt from scratch every 20 years, in a ceremony known as the *Shikinen Sengu*. This is in accordance with the Shinto idea of *tokowaka*, which is usually translated as 'everlasting youth'. The shrines are both new and ancient — they can be viewed as either twenty or 800 years old.

I spent most of my time in Japan working with a thatcher called Saori Ohno. Ohno lives and works in Shiga Prefecture,

What I found was even more remarkable than I had anticipated. In The Western Isles of Scotland I worked with the son of a lobster fisherman, a Trump supporter and YouTube addict, who has single handedly saved the ancient tradition of thatching with marram grass. I came across the Dutch thatching 'miracle', which has seen the construction of thousands of new thatched houses



Saori Ohno finishing thatching of ridge, Japan

a sleepy rural hinterland northeast of Kyoto. Ohno was one of the first women to become a master thatcher in Japan. She started thatching at almost exactly the same time as me, and like me had studied at university beforehand. She had her own moment of embarrassment as she launched herself into her new career, too—or rather, a period of around a year in which she was too ashamed to tell her academic parents that she had decided to become a thatcher. She persevered, and it was worth it. Not only has Ohno found a career that suits her creative, contemplative nature, she has blazed a trail that many others have followed. In England, I can count the female thatchers I know of on one hand. But in Japan, around a third of new apprentices coming into the trade today are women.



Saori shearing eaves

I spent my weeks with Ohno repairing a farmhouse in the mountains. We were thatching with water reed – *yoshi* in Japanese – cut from beds along the shore of Lake Biwa, fifty kilometres away. The roof frame was built from cypress wood lashed together with palm rope. The thatch was fixed in place with lengths of

bamboo and rice straw cord. Even the scaffolding was wooden. It was the most traditional thatching environment I had ever worked in: with the exception of Ohno's portable Bluetooth speaker broadcasting a selection of modern jazz, there was nothing on the roof that would not have been there two hundred years ago. This stands in contrast to thatching in England, where many of the materials are now imported from overseas, and the use of power tools like cordless drills and hedge trimmers is commonplace.

Fitting the ridge is the last thing you do when working on a roof. It is a capping that protects the main 'coat' of thatch beneath, and can be made of wheat, as it is in England, marram grass in the Hebrides, or clay tiles in Holland. The ridge on the Japanese farmhouse was made of strips of cedar bark held in place with a bamboo frame. Like all good designs it is both functional and decorative: it shields the top of the reed thatch from the worst storms the Japanese climate can throw at it, and it gives the roof shape, height, poise.

On my penultimate day working with Ohno, we were laying the cedar bark strips. 'With this job, once we start, we have to finish', she had warned, and we worked past sunset and on into the moonrise. We thatched quickly, quietly, without much need for words. As we laid the final strips of bark, the mountainsides around us were already lost in darkness, and the sound of the river seemed to fill the valley. We picked our way carefully down the roof to ground level, and I had to pause for a moment to take it all in. My publishing life had never felt further away. Nor had my thatching initiation in the backroom of that Devon pub.



Boat load of marram grass in Kirkibost (low-lying island west of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides)

Tom Allan (2002)

On The Roof: A Thatcher's Journey (Profile Books) is available now in hardback profilebooks.com/work/on-the-roof

You can follow Tom on Instagram @thewriterontheroof

Misericords: A Mediaeval Art

Examples from England and the Continent

In the 12th century church rules required that canons and monks remain standing in the choir stalls during the sixteen hours of daily offices. This was hard, especially for the sick or aged. It is thought that monks at Hirsau in Baden-Württemberg were the first to circumvent the rule by introducing a small shelf attached to the underside of the raised seat, providing a discreet support for celebrants who would appear to be standing but were in fact benefitting from the support of the shelflet. In time, not without authoritarian protest, this practice became tacitly accepted by the church authorities. The word *misericordia* (pity, or in this case, indulgence) was adapted. In England misericords are distinctly recognised; in common conversation in France, the general word *stalles* is used. The bare board under the shelflet cried out for embellishment and misericord carvings resulted. Furthermore the shelflet needed robust support as provided by this New College stalwart:



Not until the Council of Trent in the 1550s were the common people allowed to see the altar. Until then, the choir itself was off limits, so misericords were only visible to the canons and monks who sat in the choir. When the misericords were in use as ‘seats’ they would not have been visible at all. It follows that, although considerable research and speculation has been undertaken into the symbolism and iconography of misericords, they were not visible for general instruction as were murals in e.g. the Puisaye churches in Burgundy, Kempley in Gloucestershire, and many others. Stone carvings in many cathedrals and churches in England and on the continent were didactic; those in Belleville in the Beaujolais are particularly severe.

Elaborate soaring choir stalls were commissioned by clerical or lay authorities (for example the municipal council of Nantwich at the end of the 14th century) to add distinction and prestige to their establishments. The stalls in important cathedrals were created by wonderfully skilled craftsmen, a few with famous reputations, but the misericords could not be admired in open display; they were hidden. Only rarely are the carvers of misericords named, notably of the wonderful carvings in Amiens cathedral, in Belgium, and in some English cathedrals.

The majority, both in England (there are few elsewhere in the UK) and on the continent, were carved between the 12th and 16th centuries. In St. Nicholas, Blakeney they were carefully restored in the 19th century, in Ludlow there is a handsome new misericord of Elizabeth II on horseback. The quality of carving does not reflect their dating but rather the location. The master craftsmen in cathedrals and other prestigious locations perhaps invited apprentices to apply their skills to the misericords; in other cases they were carved by local artisans, particularly in rural areas.

English misericords have ‘supporters’, carvings on either side of the main feature, whereas continental misericords do not. Sometimes these are simply decorative. At New College there is an interesting example of a complete misericord narrative: the left-hand supporter shows a hooded figure exorcising an evil spirit, on the right is a figure self-flagellating, while the main feature is a multi-headed hydra embodying the many facets of sinfulness.



New College: Sinfulness

The monks and canons who occupied the choir stalls represented a separate social class, though were often of lowly birth. While there were some strict religious orders, canons and monks led normal lives and were often married. Many owned 'livings' providing comfortable income: the canons of Rouen benefitted from holdings in Normandy; in Lincoln, cathedral choir stalls record the living of the occupant¹. The frequent misbehaviour of monks, for example in Chester, reflect the world of Chaucer: daily life was rough and unruly. Michael Camille² cites Jean Gerson [1336-1429], Chancellor of the University of Paris), 'Priests and clerks....drive about the town....and arouse the laughter of their fellows and bystanders in infamous performances with indecent gestures and verses scurrilous and unchaste'. In New College there is a sword fight:



New College, Fighting



Amiens cathedral, Pharaoh's daughter finds the infant Moses

There is little evidence, with a few notable exceptions (e.g. Auxerre), that the religious authorities had much influence over the carvers' choice of subjects. Old Testament stories occur frequently; in Champeaux, the tribulations of Job are recorded in considerable

¹ e.g. <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/church/st-andrew-ashby-peurorum>

² Michael Camille, "Image on the Edge", Reaktion Book 2021 p.95

detail. Perhaps the finest French misericords are in Amiens, richly detailed and intricately carved portrayals of the lives of Joseph, Jacob and others from the Old Testament. Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac features in several cathedrals, for example at Worcester.

In Ripon Jonah is first tossed overboard, then disgorged by the whale in two separate misericords; in Walcourt in Belgium he is about to be swallowed by the whale. Both Rouen and Ripon record Samson making off with the gates of Gaza. Auxerre cathedral unusually shows New Testament scenes, as does the church of Saint Sulpice-de-Favières. New Testament misericords are relatively uncommon in England.



Ripon Samson carrying off the gates of Gaza Rouen



Many English designs are floral, often elaborately so (the church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Salle in Norfolk has some good examples). Many reflect daily life; others draw on the Bestiary or Physiologus which provide a rich source for iconographic speculation. There are 'green men', monsters, unicorns, elephants (with an obligatory *howdah*), dragons, serpents, and hybrid figures of all kinds, many derived from images in the rich manuscripts of the times. The 12th century saint Bernard de Clairvaux asked, 'What is the point of those unclean apes, fierce lions, monstrous centaurs, half-men ... and hunters blowing their horns?' His protest seems to have had little effect.

French misericords, such as at Pont Sainte Marie or Bourg-en-Bresse, often feature characterful faces, possibly representing the carver's friends or relations, or local clerical or municipal dignitaries.

Misericords in most locations present an informative picture of mediaeval life and offer valuable representations of clothing, occupations, tools, sports, musical and other facets of the ordinary lives of the times.



*Collège de Notre Dame, Les Andelys,
Woodworking*



New College, Acrobats

There are several medical examples: a devilish dentist in Ely, concerned nurses in Rouen, a fake doctor in Beverley.

Marital ructions feature occasionally in misericords, for example in Carlisle, Ripon, Stratford-upon-Avon, Aarschott, Rouen, Beauvais (Musée de Cluny, Paris), and others:



Carlisle cathedral, Husband in trouble



Musée de Cluny, Disposing of the Lover

.....and there are musicians in France, England, Holland and Belgium displaying many examples of mediaeval instruments.

Two examples of symbolism occur regularly both in England and on the continent. One is 'The Pelican in her Piety': the pelican's body and its distinctive beak are never represented in their natural form, presumably because no carver had ever seen one. The narrative is that the pelican draws blood from her own breast with which to succour her starving chicks. I suspect the reddish tip of the pelican's beak is the origin of the myth.

Another common symbol is the mermaid, or *sirène*: she is the seducer and beguiler of men. As a symbol of vanity, she holds a mirror and a comb:



Cartmel Priory, Mermaid bouffante

Misericords represent a significant art form. Francis Bond³ wrote, 'They are a record of just what stately historians omit and what is of real interest; not the way of courts, politicians, campaigns and generals, but the simple everyday life of ordinary folk'. Jean Adhemar, Editor in Chief of the *Gazette des Beaux Arts*, and Curator at the Bibliothèque Nationale noted, 'Iconographic

significance is not the only reason to study misericords. We should also recognise the sheer beauty and originality of these unique carvings'. Both the Musée de Cluny in Paris, and the V&A in London include misericords in their collections. The late Elaine C Block at the Centre for Medieval Art, Princeton University, created an online catalogue of European misericords and wrote extensively about them. Whereas in England many churches and cathedrals produce guides to their misericords, research in France is academic and local, and public information is scarce; indeed the first comprehensive guide covering some 400 French misericords was produced in English in 1975 by an American couple, Dorothy and Henry Kraus, and it was only translated into French in 1986. At Rouen Professor Block co-authored a detailed guide to the misericords of the cathedral.

I have taken over 2,000 photographs covering 38 Continental and 34 English locations. Access to view and photograph misericords varies greatly and is not always straightforward. In French and English cathedrals it is usually necessary to contact the cathedral office to obtain permission to enter the choir. In French towns and villages, one often needs to approach the *mairie* to gain entry to otherwise locked churches. Many places in England granted generous access, New College especially so. In Ludlow and Stratford-upon-Avon the misericords are beautifully maintained and are on open display. In our travels we have discovered some beautiful places and made some very good friends.

Text and photographs by *Miles Dodd* - Cambridge

3 *Woodcarvings in English Churches*, OUP 1910

OBITUARIES



David Douglas ALLEN (1967) was born on 15 May 1948 in Abingdon. He attended New College School and Abingdon School before going up to New College, Oxford to read Zoology. After graduating David trained as a teacher and taught Biology at Cranleigh School, Ipswich School and St Mary's School for Girls in Colchester. Additionally, he assisted with sports, primarily hockey, although he also enjoyed squash and tennis. He was very active in the musical life of these schools, forming a wind band at St Mary's, and participating in the musical evenings that the school organised. He had a good tenor voice, and played the oboe to concert standard.

David took early retirement in the 1990s to change career and start a small market garden business. He was passionate about dogs, Golden Retrievers in particular, and together with his wife, Shelagh, whom he married in 1982, filled their home with at least two, and usually more! They enjoyed showing their dogs at Championship Shows, and at Crufts; but above all, they were to be enjoyed as dogs, and they all spent many happy hours walking over the Malvern Hills on their holidays.

David always maintained a great affection for Abingdon School, especially its Music Department, and decided that he wanted to endow a harp scholarship, so that he could see it develop before his death. Funds were made available over five years, to enable a teacher to be recruited, three practice harps and a concert harp to be purchased, and interested pupils to be found. He was so pleased to be able to see this enterprise flourish in his lifetime.

Sadly, David developed Alzheimer's in 2019. He died, suddenly at home, on 26 August 2024.

Shelagh Allen

Richard Hugh BAKER (1956) was born on 22 October 1935 and died on 11 August 2024. After childhood in Burma and the United States, he sailed through Marlborough, did National Service in Germany and ended up in New College with a scholarship in Classics. He had fond memories of his college days: extra-curricular activities left little time for serious study, but his excellent tutors gave him a deep appreciation of Philosophy and Classics. He remained passionate about Homer and Horace all his life. He met his lifelong friend John Meakin on his first day at Oxford, and the following summer they travelled to see the sites of Ancient Greece. It was also while at Oxford that he met and fell in love with his future wife, Patricia.

After Oxford Richard served as an officer in the Cameroons for the 1961 UN Plebiscite. He joined the Diplomatic Service in 1962, and in 1963 he and Patricia were married. His first posting was Addis Ababa, where the first two of their four children were born. With his charm and flair for

learning languages he threw himself into the cultural and political life of his postings which took him to Warsaw, Paris and Ottawa.

Richard took early retirement in 1989 to follow all kinds of pursuits, notably art, writing and tensegrity structures. Much of his time was devoted to pottery and etching. He made a ceramic Monkey Salt, with a monkey glazed in gold which was inspired by the New College one (c.1500). Retirement also meant more time for music. Richard and Patricia shared a love of opera and one of the highlights of their year was the annual performance of the New College Opera. Richard was diagnosed with dementia in 2019. It was tough, but all tried to keep him as happy as possible. He died at the age of 89 and is survived by Patricia, his four children and four grandchildren.

The Baker Family

Paul Edward BOYCE (1957) was born on 29 June 1936 and died peacefully on 11 July 2024. He grew up in East Kent, beneath the Battle of Britain. He then undertook National Service at RAF Sennen Chain Home Radar Station, Cornwall. At New College he read Modern Languages, captained the Association Football Club in 1959-60 and met Caroline. After graduation he taught in Toulon, married Caroline in 1963 and taught for two years at Harrow Grammar School, before serving for thirty-three at The Judd School in Tonbridge, Kent.

At The Judd he taught French to thousands of boys. He was Head of Modern Languages and of Sixth Form for many years, helping many secure places at university, and was Second Deputy Head at the time of his retirement. Beyond the classroom he was a CCF Squadron Leader, led rock climbing and adventurous training trips, driving army trucks packed with usually rain-soaked cadets to Wales, was Master-in-Charge of School Cricket for ten years and led innumerable school trips overseas, including pupil exchanges to France, Cross Country to the USA and skiing to Italy.

South Tonbridge residents until 1987, where they were active in the town's twinning activities with Le Puy in the Auvergne, Paul and Caroline then lived in Goudhurst until 2000. For many years Caroline was an occupational therapist and then a special education teacher. Upon retirement they moved to the Dollar area of Clackmannanshire in Scotland, where they enjoyed a long and happy retirement, including many trips to Nepal, Latin America, Antarctica, Australasia and South East Asia.

During his life Paul was not only an outstanding linguist, but also a talented runner, excellent mechanic, engineer and carpenter. Above all, he was a beloved husband, a much-loved father of Jo and Tim and an adored grandfather and great-grandfather.

Tim Boyce

Sir Geoffrey Howes CHIPPERFIELD, KCB (1952) was born in Cardiff on 20 April 1933 and died on 30 January 2024. In 1939 he was evacuated to Canada, to a remote village called Jarrow, Alberta. He attributed his later educational achievements to the extraordinary teaching of the young man who educated all the village children of all ages in one room.

On his return in 1946 he went to Cranleigh School and in 1952 went up to New College to read Law under the tutelage of Jack Butterworth. After gaining a First in Jurisprudence, he was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1955, but chose not to practise, but rather to embark on a career in public service. The following year he entered HM Civil Service and had a varied career culminating first in the post of Permanent Secretary at the Department of Energy, and finally as Chief Executive of the Property Services Agency. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) in 1985, and subsequently promoted to Knight Companion (KCB) in the 1992 Birthday Honours.

After leaving the Civil Service, Geoffrey carried out several projects on behalf of the government, including a major review of the Royal Fine Art Commission. He was Deputy Chairman of South West Water, and was Pro-Chancellor of the University of Kent from 1999 to 2005. He was a longstanding Secretary to the Foundation for Science and Technology, and amongst other things, he led the change for women to have full membership of the Oxford and Cambridge Club.

He was always proud of his Welsh roots and of his time at New College and was a committed public servant and European. He was devoted to his wife Gillian, whom he married in 1959, to his sons Giles and Oliver, and to his granddaughter Olivia.

Oliver Chipperfield

Patrick John Anson COLDSTREAM, CBE (1954) was born on 15 July 1934 and died on 28 January 2024. He resisted becoming an officer in the Marines, and took up his exhibition in Classics at New College in 1954. Rejected by the Civil Service, he worked first as university liaison officer at the National Association of Boys Clubs and later in the investigation of the prison service. He then joined the *Financial Times*, enjoying writing on the new 'science' of management – and interviewing the Beatles!

After a short time in investment banking, Patrick began to question the aim of business being simply 'to increase earnings per share', proposing rather that it was in shareholders' interest to work for a more settled, prosperous society. With colleagues at Charles Fulton he helped develop Project Fullemploy, offering training and support, and so widening the possibilities of work for many otherwise excluded. This

idea later developed into what is now accepted as modern corporate social responsibility.

This vision was helpful in developing relations between universities and business. Patrick, through the Report of the Council for Industry and Higher Education (*Towards a Partnership*, 1987), offered a picture of a well-educated society as the context for a sophisticated business sector. This idea later attracted church leaders also as they struggled to divert resources into the poorer parishes of the country, and Patrick was asked to chair an enquiry into the causes and possible solutions of unemployment. His final appointment was as Chairman of the *Church Times*, owner of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*.

Patrick's interests never moved far from the aims of business, the church, and those he considered less privileged than himself. He was a truly modest man, loved poetry, music and his family, and in a quiet way changed aspects of our society for the better.

Bene't Coldstream (son)

John David DAVIS (1957) was born on 31 March 1937 and died on 12 February 2024. John was a scholar whose intellectual brilliance may not have been immediately obvious: he always spoke quietly, and never rushed to easy answers. But underneath this calm exterior lay a powerful brain that enabled him to excel effortlessly in his degree in Mathematics at Oxford, still leaving him time to become probably the most proficient punter on the Cherwell.

John next completed a second degree, in Psychology – in which he went on to forge an eminently successful career. A Fulbright Scholarship enabled him to gain a PhD at the University of Indiana; and on returning to England, he worked as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Clinical Consultant in conjunction with the NHS at the Universities of Sheffield and then Warwick. His innovative work in Psychotherapy was widely recognised: he was awarded a Fellowship of the British Psychological Society, and a Lifetime Achievement Award of the NHS in 2020.

John leaves behind his wife Marcia, two sons, six grandchildren, and one great-grandson, all with their own memories of a multi-talented man who lived life to the full: a wine-lover with a great cellar that he generously shared; a sun-worshipper who hiked over difficult terrain, testing the resilience of his companions; an accomplished chess and piano player; a brilliant solver of *The Times* crossword and Fiendish Sudoku before breakfast; a risk-taker whose swimming exploits and car-driving verged on the irresponsible; a horticulturist with a lifelong passion for wild flowers and alpenes; an adventurer who travelled worldwide, not

least to Guatemala only months before he died; a brave man who persisted courageously against increasing medical odds.

John was an exceptional man whom it was a privilege to know.

Beverley Southgate (1957) with help from Marcia Davis

Lord (Rodney) ELTON (1950), 2nd Baron Elton of Headington, was born on 2 March 1930. When the Thatcher government set up an inquiry into discipline in schools in 1988, Elton, who was put in charge, could easily have been used as a caricature of the sort of teacher who might have been battered by teenage thugs: he was an Old Etonian, tall and thin, and, blinking behind owlish glasses, was possessed of a clipped voice and a mane of prematurely grey hair. He did however have the advantage of having taught in two state schools and having lectured at a College of Education.

He and a team of teachers assiduously toured schools, took evidence and duly came up with a detailed report and 138 recommendations which proved a sad damp squib for both government and unions. There were to be no thumbscrews, no return to the cane: instead teachers and schools should try harder, parents should sign written undertakings of their children's behaviour, local authorities should provide better surroundings, detentions could be used and teachers who could not keep order should be eased out. They found that indiscipline was not generally a problem, and that 'violence was not as frequent as we supposed when we started.'

Such unshowiness marked Elton's career in government and during 47 years in the House of Lords. He was the son of a Norwegian mother, Dedi Hartmann and Godfrey Elton, a Labour-supporting Oxford History don who was a friend of Ramsay MacDonald, rewarded with a hereditary peerage after the formation of the National Government and their expulsion from the party. Rodney Elton was educated at Eton and read History at New College. After National Service as an officer in Midlands regiments, he became a farmer in Leicestershire and taught for ten years. He contested Loughborough twice unsuccessfully as a Conservative in the elections of 1966 and 1970 and succeeded his father as second Baron in 1973.

After the 1979 election swept the Conservatives to power, Elton became first a junior Northern Ireland minister in charge of education, provoking predictable Unionist outrage when he suggested schools might give pupils the day off for the Pope's visit. There followed a series of brief ministerial appointments: a year at the Department of Health and Social Security, then two years as a junior Home Office minister followed by promotion to Minister of State in the same department – he was close to Willie Whitelaw, the Home Secretary – and finally a year at the Department

of the Environment. There Elton was given the difficult task of steering the highly contentious legislation abolishing the Greater London Council and the Metropolitan boroughs through the Upper House. It was regarded as a mark of his skill and charm that abolition was passed by their lordships with limited obstruction.

More picturesque was Elton's role in arranging the listing of rare telephone boxes: one was at London Zoo next to the Parrot House and Elton duly put in an appearance, with one of the elephants to make – of course – a trunk call! As a stunt it had its shortcomings: the elephant tore his suit and the box was out of order.

Shortly thereafter, Elton stood down as a minister but his life as an active member of the House of Lords did not end until he finally retired in 2020. He took an active part in debates and could be seen sketching his colleagues, or composing limericks about them as they spoke. Painting was a keen hobby.

He himself saw the Lords' shortcomings as its membership expanded exponentially and its cost duly increased. In a debate in 2016 he spoke in favour of his bill to reduce the number of peers and hold elections every five years, telling them: 'If we do nothing a growing disillusion with not just us – we are expendable – or with the Westminster model, which is amendable, but with Parliamentary democracy itself is at risk.' The bill received a second reading but got no further. In 2006, Elton had stood to be Speaker of the Lords but was defeated by Baroness Hayman.

A committed churchman, leader of a prayer group within the House of Lords, Elton could be outspoken in defence of his faith, calling unavailingly for anti-blasphemy legislation to be tightened up after Martin Scorsese's film *The Last Temptation of Christ* was shown on Channel 4 in 1995. He also opposed that easing of Sunday trading laws. He was married twice, in 1958 to Anne Tilney, with whom he had three daughters: Annabel, Janie and Lucy and a son, Edward and after the marriage was dissolved in 1979, he married Susan Gurney, who was a Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth II. He died on 19 August 2023 aged 93.

Stephen Bates (1972)

After the obituary initially published in The Guardian.

Robert Peter FICHTER (1961) of Boston, Massachusetts, died peacefully on 13 August 2024 at his home. He was taken by dementia and complications from a recent stroke. Born in Dover, New Jersey, on 1 April 1938, Robert was a graduate of The Lawrenceville School, Harvard College, Harvard University, Haileybury School, and New College, where

he read for a BLitt in English. While an undergraduate he was editor of *The Harvard Advocate*, a student literary magazine founded in 1873.

His professional life was a journey from academia to municipal government and then to the banking industry, from which he retired early to pursue twin passions, the study of foreign languages and ballroom dancing. He continued with both right to the last days of his life. Even as his dementia grew more serious, he never ceased to be interested in the world around him, in politics, cultural and social change, technology, travel, and the well-being of his daughter, granddaughter, sister, and a few close friends.

Robert was gifted with a love of and facility for all forms of language, and was the author of several publications as well as of innumerable letters, notes, and messages - many written with his uniquely wry sense of humour - to friends, colleagues, family members, and people he met once.

His longest and most abiding love was for railroads, particularly for United Kingdom steam trains and the historic railroads of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Not only did he ride and photograph trains all over the world, he was also a hobbyist who built his own layouts and collected a wide variety of model engines.

Robert remained devoted to New College throughout his life, and was active in efforts to engage American alumni more meaningfully with the activities and evolution of the college.

Kate Fichter (daughter)

Martin Edward GRIFFITHS (1975) was born on 29 December 1941 and died peacefully at home on 27 December 2023 after a full life. His love for nature and especially birds took him to Newcastle to study Biology. There he became President of the Exploration Society and organised an expedition to Iceland. Highly experienced in travel, he had driven to Nepal, hitched a lift deep into the Amazon on a little plane carrying coca leaves, and worked for a year in the Australian outback. Later he hitchhiked from Spain to Kenya via the Sahara Desert, and then toured around many countries in southern Africa. With his smile he could communicate with everyone, no matter what their language. Very sporty, too, he took part in his last triathlon aged 68, and continued to participate in park-runs well into his seventies.

Martin gained a DPhil in Experimental Psychology at New College, specialising in gold and greenfinch feeding behaviour. He had a love of teaching and, alongside his environmental consultancy, enjoyed lecturing at the University of Kent. He took immense pride in the achievements of his students, helping them gain applied field experience in the Amazon rainforest and at Rybachy Biological Station.

Here he also supported research into wingbeat frequencies, editing papers and a book.

Martin's bird research took him to Senegal and Morocco, where he also checked in with some of his former students, with many of whom he remained in regular contact. He did a lot of research locally in East Kent, and helped secure a European grant to rebuild the bird observatory in Sandwich Bay, as well as creating a wetland reserve where he was a warden for many years. Here he spent much of his time, often alongside family, establishing and managing the reserve.

Martin is greatly missed by his wife, five daughters and ten grandchildren.

Achsa Griffiths (widow)

Arthur Westley Michael HEAD, MBE (Mil) (1964) was born in Horley, Surrey on 8 February 1943. Educated at Forest School in Snaresbrook, north east London, he went on to RMA Sandhurst in 1961. He joined the Corps in 1963, but spent the following three years at New College reading Modern History.

After several postings abroad, in 1973 he was responsible for security planning during the building of a new British HQ in Hong Kong, and in 1974 played an intelligence role during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. From 1978 to 1980 he was a staff officer at Rheindahlen in Germany, working on matters relating to SOXMIS. Service in Düsseldorf and Belize followed, and his final posting was to Cyprus, as Head of Service Intelligence (Middle East).

In 1987 Michael retired from the Corps, settling near Colchester, and for 13 years worked for the financial services company Sun Life of Canada. He was appointed MBE in the 1985 New Year's Honours list. He retired from his second career in 2004 and moved to Thiviers, France in the Dordogne. Here his hobbies included field hockey, running, tennis and cricket. Latterly he loved spending time with family, reading, theatre, photography, the great outdoors and international travel. He was also active in SSAFA France, acting as a caseworker from 2010 onwards. SSAFA was always greatly appreciative of his help.

On the lighter side, Michael was known for his mischievous sense of humour, genuine interest in people, attending social gatherings and generally living life to the full. He passed away on 1 August 2024 in hospital in Périgueux, France after being admitted suffering from heat exhaustion. His wife Maureen predeceased him in 1996. He is survived by their children Rachel, James and Amy, and by 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

James Head

John HENDERSON (1960), was born on 31 December 1941 and died on 1 April 2024. Educated at St Paul's School, he read Physics at New College, where he also rowed in the First VIII and occasionally attended lectures. One of the world's first professional computer programmers, he was involved in the first computer graphics relating to a general election, the famous 1974 'swingometer'; he also wrote the Algol compiler.

John was a Justice of the Peace and regularly chaired the bench on the Hampshire circuit. He taught Computer Science at King's College, London where he was a Senior Research Fellow; he was the author of *Software Portability* (1988).

Never happier than when back in Oxford at a Carol Service or for the summer New Chamber Opera production in the Warden's Garden, John taught his children to punt on day trips to Oxford, a skill later put to use by James, who attended St Catherine's before defecting to Cambridge where the punts have two wrong ends!

John was a much-loved husband, father, stepfather and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Charlotte, children James, Robert and Jane, stepdaughter Emma, and by his grandchildren.

James Henderson

David Arthur HUMPHREYS (1949) was born on 27 October 1929 and died on 8 June 2024. He was a student from age 11 at St Olave's & St Saviour's Grammar School, Orpington, Kent and a lifetime member of the Old Olavian Society. He was also a wartime evacuee, firstly to Addington, Kent, next to Offham, also in Kent and later to Torquay.

Eventually David gained access to Oxford, and having secured a BA and MA in Physics at New College, at least in part under the tutelage of the then Official Fellow in Physics, Arthur Hafford Cooke, he commenced a career in Research, moving then into Teaching and Lecturing in Further Education: his first job as a Scientific Officer with the British Ceramic Research Association led him into a part-time teaching post at a college in Stoke-on-Trent (where he met his wife to be, Sybil, who died in 2010) and then to a full time career in education at the Technical College of Monmouthshire. He then moved to North Staffordshire College of Technology in 1958, and in 1965 was appointed Head of the School of Physics at Leicester College of Technology.

In 1969 David became Vice-Principal of Croydon Technical College, and in 1971 moved to Stockport as Principal of Stockport College of Technology (as it was then), retiring from that post in 1989. By then he had been awarded, in 1986, the OBE for services to Further Education, and throughout his life was Chair, Member, Advocate and

Instigator of several Associations, Committees and Steering Groups in the world of FE.

Always practical, a tireless supporter of people in need across the world with regular donations to charities and of resolute Christian belief, David was a much-loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and will be greatly missed by both his family and many friends and acquaintances.

Adrian Humphreys (son)

Anthony David LOEHNIS (1956) was born on 12 March 1936 to Commander Sir Clive Loehnis and his wife Rosemary; he died on 20 December 2023. After Eton and National Service he went up to New College to read PPE, graduating with a First and topping the Foreign Office entrance exams. He always recalled his Oxford days with ‘infinite pleasure and nostalgia’. A Knox Scholarship then took him to Harvard, where he famously challenged Henry Kissinger during a seminar on Defence Policy. His intellectual gifts set the stage for a life marked by professional excellence and a reputation as one of the cleverest men of his generation.

Anthony’s career began in the Diplomatic Service, focusing on Russia. In 1965 he married Jennifer Anderson and in 1968 joined J Henry Schroder Wagg & Co, working as advisor to Gordon Richardson, later Governor of the Bank of England. In 1980 he was tempted away to serve as Executive Director of the Bank in charge of the Overseas Department; here he combined his interest in foreign affairs with his banking expertise, thereby playing an important part in the Thatcher years.

Anthony then transitioned to S G Warburg as a Vice-Chairman, later embarking on a plural career with many directorships. His contributions extended to the philanthropic sector, including serving as Chairman of the Centre for Economic Policy Research, the Baring Foundation, the Ditchley Foundation, the Public Works Loan Board, the Redundant Churches Fund.

Anthony and Jenny raised three sons, Dominic, Alexander, and Barnaby. Known affectionately as ‘Puff’ to his family, he had an immense zest for life. His humility, indefatigable spirit, and elegance were hallmarks of his character, and his memory will continue to inspire those who knew him. His contribution to New College has been marked by a generous gift from his great friend and alumnus of Christ Church, Peter S Paine Jr.

Jennifer Loehnis

Julian Patrick (Bryan) LOVELL, OBE (1960) was born in Bath on 10 February 1942, and died at home in Hertford on 20 September 2024. His father, Bernard, was a scientist who founded the Jodrell Bank Observatory,

Cheshire, his mother, Joyce, a teacher and writer. After attending The King's School, Macclesfield, Bryan went to New College in 1960, gaining an MA and a BSc in Geology. He was President of the JCR and played cricket for the college. He did his PhD at Harvard, returning to a lectureship in geology at Edinburgh University. He became energy spokesman for the Scottish Liberal Party, and their Parliamentary candidate for Edinburgh South in May 1979.

In 1981 Bryan joined BP as Chief Sedimentologist, before being posted to Dublin as Exploration, then General, Manager. He was awarded an OBE in June 1989 for 'Services to British commercial interests in Ireland and to Anglo-Irish relations'. Appointed Exploration Manager Middle East, and finally Head of Recruitment, he devised the BP Challenge Programme, which remains its core new-employee development and training programme. He was one of the first in the oil industry to address climate change. He became President of the Geological Society in 2010 and the Society became the first such organisation to promote the geological case for concern about human-induced climate change. Bryan's book, *Challenged by Carbon: The Oil Industry and Climate change*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2009. After retiring from BP, he took up a senior research fellowship at Cambridge University.

Bryan is survived by his wife, Carol, their children James, David and Heather, and seven grandchildren. Bryan and Carol celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in June 2024. Despite Multiple Sclerosis, Bryan maintained his love of cricket, rocks, gardening, racing, and poetry. Bryan's enthusiastic and passionate zest for life will live long in the memory of his friends and family.

Carol Lovell and children

John Finlay MALCOLM (1962) was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, on 25 July 1931 and passed away peacefully on 10 September 2023, at his home in Davis, California, at the age of 92. He retired in 1994 from the Philosophy Department at the University of California, Davis, where he was central to its programme in Ancient Philosophy. He is remembered for his brilliance, his love of classical scholarship, his old-school, exacting professorial standards, his generosity, and his highly unconventional sense of humour. He was an avid traveller and skier, with a special fondness for beautiful classic automobiles. He also played classical music on his keyboard. In addition to being an historian of Philosophy, he also extensively investigated his family history in Scotland, Ireland and Canada, tracing it as far back as 1602. His students and colleagues would agree that he was one of a kind.

Professor Malcolm received his BA and MA from Queen's University in Kingston. His PhD was from Princeton, under Gregory Vlastos. After

holding his initial teaching position at Huron College for three years, he read for a BPhil in Philosophy at New College, Oxford under G E L Owen for the next three. He then taught for two years at the University of Alberta before moving to Davis in 1965. His main areas of interest were the metaphysical doctrines of Plato and Aristotle. He published numerous scholarly articles, his major work being a book published in 1992, *Plato on the Self-Predication of Forms: Early and Middle Dialogues* (Oxford University Press). He was a regular participant in a reading group on Ancient Greek Philosophy meeting at Stanford, Berkeley, and Davis. His scholarship went beyond Philosophy. Fluent in Ancient Greek and Latin, he also studied Russian and Sanskrit. Shortly before his death, he was studying a text on the Hebrew language.

George Matthey

Bernard Geoffrey MOORE, The Rev'd, (1944) was born in Barrow-in-Furness on 27 May 1927. After attending Burnley Grammar, he followed his older brother Ken to New College where he initially studied History before switching to Jurisprudence. He undertook National Service in Trieste and went on to be ordained in the Church of England.

Geoff spent his whole ministry in the Blackburn Diocese, first establishing a new church at St Michael and All Angels in Blackpool, followed by time at St Barnabas in Morecambe and St Wilfred's, Standish, during which time he became Canon of Blackburn Cathedral and Rural Dean. After four years as Vicar of Christ Church, Charnock Richard, in 1992 Geoff retired with his wife, Ann, to Exeter where he volunteered at the Cathedral and enjoyed lectures at the University. There followed an exciting period working for the Diocese of Gibraltar in parishes including Lisbon, Helsinki and Venice before a final retirement to Windermere in 2016.

In his spare time Geoff enjoyed golf and playing for the Diocesan cricket team. He was a devotee of Burnley FC. In later years he thoroughly enjoyed once again spending time at New College when Sarah, his daughter, was an undergraduate, from 1988-1991, and subsequently as an enthusiastic attendee at Warden's lunches and Family Days. He remained a loyal supporter of the college all his life.

Geoff was greatly respected for his work by the church community and is remembered fondly by all for his warmth and humour. He enjoyed good health all his life but passed away on 8 January 2024 from complications after a fall. He is survived by his wife Ann, four children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sarah Edwards (1988) daughter

Philip Ansell OSMOND (1947) died, following a short illness, in Harrow on 10 December 2023, having embarked with optimism on his 100th year. To the end, nigh on, he enjoyed good health, read widely, took fine wine – usually French or German – and welcomed friends and family to his house in which he lived independently. Never was his concern for others diminished by weariness; he embraced changing times and mores in agile fashion to the end.

Philip was born in Fulham on 19 October 1924, by happy coincidence the date of the passing of St Frideswide, patron saint of Oxford. He spent his childhood in East Sheen together with his younger brother and sister. From Feltonfleet School he won a scholarship in 1938 to Aldenham near Elstree where he attended all three performances of that year's school production of *HMS Pinafore*, reinforcing his love of singing and fostering a life-long love of opera. Following National Service, including duty in India from 1945 to 1947, he went up to New College to read Modern Languages; his appreciation of Goethe, Schiller, Racine and Molière in particular became indelible.

Shortly after graduation and his first marriage to Anson at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, he was recruited for his entire career to the British Security Services (MI5). With Joan, his second wife, he was posted to Malaya and Ceylon. He married Erica in 1989, nursing her eventually into her old age, ever self-effacing. When independent again, he continued – well into his 90s – to travel in Europe and beyond; on trains whenever he could. More parochially, he journeyed off to Devon and was active in the Exmoor Society, reliving childhood holidays.

Philip is survived by four of his five children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, blood and step. He loved them all.

Peter Lawson

Jeremy William PARSONS (1966) was born in Devon on 6 May 1948 and died there on 13 December 2024. His ashes were scattered on his beloved Dartmoor by Pam and their sons, Pete and Tom.

During childhood the family moved to Hertfordshire, where Jeremy attended Apsley Grammar School; subsequently he much enjoyed PPE at New College. With three friends in 1968-9 he took advantage of the University's response to its housing crisis, Oxford finally matching most other British universities. Traditional rules restricting student accommodation to rooms with resident private landlords were abandoned. This was a small move, perhaps, but consistent with Jeremy's developing more complex notions of personal freedom.

Before university Jeremy had travelled abroad, but neither extensively nor far. At New College, however, he met Peter Harris, who had recently gone overland to central Asia. Peter briefed him on the practicalities of a safe but inexpensive trip, which Jeremy undertook a few years later. A vegetarian by then, he continued with similar travels in Africa and the Americas. Although definitely not 'New Age', he had a preference for informal and alternative principles which guided his making himself free.

A parallel view informed Jeremy's approach to study and physical health; the former he valued not for generating a higher income, but for the expansion of mental capacities in various directions, whilst his marathons, and other means of physical endurance were similarly not competitive activities. He was 'pushing himself' whilst simultaneously enjoying the experience. That approach also guided his choice of career. During the early years after Finals funding for his travels included teaching English as a second language. From early middle age he worked full time in British trading standards, something both beneficial to the public and also personally enjoyable. He remained throughout a humorous and intelligent companion - and a great friend.

Peter Groom, Bob Niven and Alan Ware (all 1966)

Richard RAWLENCE (1957) was born on 20 July 1937 in Croydon. During the war years, he and his three sisters were evacuated to the home of their grandfather, Felix Yockney, in Oxford. He excelled in Modern Languages at Winchester, and then read Law at New College. By his own account, he enjoyed sports and social occasions at Oxford even more than his studies! His lawyerly skills of persuasion were evidently well-developed when he was injured during National Service and persuaded the authorities to release him early rather than retain him for administrative duties. Ever the sportsman, he put his period of convalescence to good use, building a sailing-dinghy that was still in service on family holidays twenty years later.

Richard enjoyed a further year at Harvard Business School before marrying Petra in Düsseldorf in 1966. His father, Alma, was already a practising solicitor in Croydon, and when Richard joined him they named the family firm Rawlence and Son. The firm grew again when they were joined by Richard's sister Emily and his cousin Edridge. Richard subsequently specialised in family law and road transport law.

Richard's love of languages and travel led him to co-found the Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats (AIJA, the 'young lawyers') and to lead its programme of conferences around the world, later moving on to the Association Européenne des Avocats (AEA). It may be only our family that knew the AEA as the 'former young lawyers'!

Richard retired to Cowden in Kent to be closer to woodland, but continued to apply his professional skills as Treasurer to the local church of St Mary Magdalene. He died on 3 December 2023, predeceased by Petra, and is survived by his four daughters - two of whom followed him to New College - and seven grandchildren.

Sacha Rawlence (daughter)

Jim Edward Taylor REEVE (1979) was born on 13 January 1960 and died on 27 February 2024. He had a happy childhood growing up at Marsh, a village in Buckinghamshire. He was strong both academically and as an all-rounder, and became Head Boy first at Ashfold Prep School, and subsequently also at Radley. In Autumn 1979 he matriculated at New College, and took his degree in French, having also studied some German and Spanish in his first year. He retained tremendous affection for New College throughout his life.

Jim was an outstanding sportsman, excelling at cricket, as a batsman, captaining the Radley side and playing for England Schools, then also for the college, and later the Hetairoi. He loved attending Lords, having been a full member of the MCC from 1978. He won a Blue for Fives, was strong at tennis and squash, and was an enthusiastic member of Vincent's Club. He was a member of Royal Wimbledon GC, several golfing societies, and ran the New College Golf Society for a number of years. He also had a lifelong interest in horse racing.

He qualified at the Bar at Gray's Inn, but was always destined for the world of film and TV. From the mid-1980s he worked in various roles across production, financing, and investment, and for the last 10 years devoted his energies to Great Point Media, which he co-founded and ran with great success. He accumulated over 120 credits as a producer and executive producer, winning several awards, including an Emmy, and was recently remembered at the Welsh Baftas.

Jim loved his family, Laura, Freddie and Alice, and was a dear and generous friend to many over his 64 years, bringing joy and laughter to those around him. His premature departure is a great sadness, and he will be deeply missed.

Nick Gregory (1979), Andrew Pinkess (1979), Laura Reeve (wife)

Neil Archibald Primrose, 7th Earl of ROSEBERY (1949), was born on 11 February 1929 and died on 30 June 2024 - peacefully, in the company of his family, and (as throughout his life) on his own terms. A grandson of the 5th Earl, Queen Victoria's last Liberal Prime Minister, he was the only child of strong-minded parents, his father a sportsman, soldier and landowner,

and his mother a musician, racing driver, and prime mover behind the founding of the Edinburgh International Festival.

Neil had a rather lonely childhood, but it laid a foundation of self-reliance and self-direction that marked the rest of his life. Instead of a nursery with 'suitable' toys, he had an ex-Army Nissen hut filled with electrical components with which he performed hair-raising experiments. Evacuated to the US at the beginning of the War, he gained a strong sense of life beyond the traditional pursuits of a titled family – and a taste for Spam, turkey, and ice cream that never left him.

After schooling at Stowe and National Service with the REME, Neil came up to New College in 1948, following in the steps of his uncle, also Neil Primrose (1901). He read Physics with great enjoyment, but his two overriding passions at Oxford were for theatrical lighting design (both for OUDS and for visiting professional performances) and for Deirdre Reid, a stage designer studying at the Ruskin School. They met, as she says, 'on a backstage ladder in the Oxford Playhouse', he proposed during an Edinburgh Fringe production, and they married in 1955. Deirdre, Dowager Countess of Rosebery, survives her husband, as do their five children, twelve grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

The couple settled in London, where Neil established a successful film lighting company, and himself designed lighting for major art exhibitions: Diaghilev's stage designs, Epstein's sculptures, the Stratford Shakespeare Exhibition, the Observer Film Exhibition, and the Louis Osman exhibition in Goldsmith's Hall. His particular skill was in shaping light to take the place of expensive décor, bringing a welcome hint of enchantment to an often grim post-war Britain.

He was given charge of his father's Scottish estates at the time of his marriage, and ten years later moved his family permanently to the ancestral seat, Dalmeny House near Edinburgh. Neil's approach to estate management was typically energetic, unconventional, and hands-on; he would never ask an employee to do something that he would not do himself, and was far more often seen driving a digger or striding into the woods, chainsaw in hand, than sitting in meetings. His connection to a landscape that he believed the most beautiful in the world was not that of a romantic or hobby-farmer, but was driven by his scientific background and vision for the future. He designed grain-dryers, installed windfarms, created a biomass heating system, built sea-defences and roads, dug drains, and planted over five million trees: while others talked, he acted.

When the 6th Earl died in 1974, the new Lord Rosebery found himself unwillingly in the middle of a major public controversy: Mentmore, the spectacular house and art collection built up by his great-grandfather, Baron Meyer de Rothschild, now became his – along with a

tax bill of 75% of its total value. He proposed to the Labour government that the house and its contents be transferred to the nation (Sir Roy Strong, Director of the V&A, was very keen to keep them together as one of the world's great public collections) but Ministers vacillated for three years. Eventually the contents were auctioned off in the 'Sale of the Century', with the government paying more for the six items it acquired than it would have had to pay for the whole.

Neil returned to Scotland and the life he loved, centred on his family and estate. Into his 90s he would be found outdoors every morning at eight, meeting his band of workers to discuss the plans for the day. His last project was among his greatest, the restoration of Barnbogle Castle, his grandfather's splendid study tower on the shores of the Forth, which is now open for events and entertaining.

All this time, he retained strong friendships and fond memories from his Oxford years. Visiting New College with his daughter Jane in the late 1970s, he told her how he had circumvented the ban on undergraduate cars by buying a Bedford lorry, which he parked in the quad knowing that the porters would assume it belonged to the ever-present builders. He also showed her the particular window to climb in when the gates were locked for the night. 'What a pity,' he said, 'that girls aren't admitted to New College. You would so enjoy it.' But, three years later, they were. Jane matriculated with the first intake of women – and she *did* enjoy it, very much.

Michael Kaplan (1981), husband of Jane Primrose (1979)

John Keith ROBERTSON (1957) was born on 19 November 1935 and passed away on 28 September 2023 at the age of 87 years. He attended New College to study PPE from 1957 to 1960. John played lacrosse for Oxford University and his team was sent to the USA, for which he received a Half Blue. He always kept his lacrosse stick in his hall stand as a reminder of this special time. The friends he made during his students days remained close for the rest of his life and he often enjoyed annual New College reunions during the summer for concerts and picnics.

During John's time at Oxford, he met Sarah Till from Eynsham. They married in 1961 and had three daughters; first twins Emma and Katy, and later Caroline. He later became a devoted grandfather to eight grandchildren.

John worked as an international sales manager for British Steel in the North East of England for twenty years, and then became an independent antiques dealer, holding monthly fairs in London which gave him enormous pleasure. He was also a churchwarden at Brinkley church for over forty years, and helped to raise money for the parish. He

loved village life and was very much part of Brinkley events. He was also a keen gardener and antique restorer in his spare time.

Katy Taylor (daughter)

Jess SEARCH (1988) was born on 15 May 1969, in Waterlooville, near Portsmouth, to Phil and Henrietta Search. She grew up in Sevenoaks and attended Tonbridge Grammar School before earning a bachelor's degree in PPE at New College, Oxford. She added a master's degree from Cass (now Bayes) Business School in 2008.

Jess was a central figure in independent film for nearly thirty years - 'a force to be reckoned with, she was an industry trailblazer who built and fostered movements, created systemic and societal change, fostered vital spaces, emboldened communities, and fiercely supported films and film-makers in equal measure' said Charlotte Cook, co-founder and executive producer at Field of Vision.

Jess began her career as a Commissioning Editor at Channel 4, running the independent film and video department before co-founding Doc Society in 2004, with a mission to unleash the transformational power of documentary film to address the intertwined issues of climate change and democracies in crisis. She was a co-founder of Shooting People in 1998, creating one of the earliest online networking communities, which has been connecting creatives in independent film ever since.

Jess had a reputation as a fearless executive producer and brilliant cultural strategist, helping to propel hundreds of films into the world. Joanna Natasegara, an Oscar-winning producer said: 'She believed documentaries could change the world, and she spent much of her life lifting up others and proving her thesis.'

Tabitha Jackson, former director of the Sundance Film Festival reflected that '... beyond individual films her strategic laser focus and abundant kinetic energy evangelized and galvanized a collective that could turn a moment into a movement and a challenge into an opportunity for transformation.'

It was perhaps inevitable that Jess sought out new allies and became part of communities well beyond the media industry. She was inspired by technologists, philosophers, social entrepreneurs and campaigners and was a regular moderator at Skoll World Forum, at the TED conferences amongst others. She served on the board of Kickstarter. She was the Trustee of leading think tank IPPR, as well as a Trustee of MSI Reproductive Choices and former chair of the MSI United States' board - building on a family tradition of service in gender rights that her mother Henrietta Search had championed.

‘Jess was a builder,’ said Laura Poitras, director of the Oscar-winning ‘Citizenfour’ (2014), about Edward J Snowden; ‘a builder of communities, infrastructures (material and immaterial), and imaginations.’

To the very end Jess loved margaritas, dancing, poetry, lurchers and video games. Married to the film-maker Beadie Finzi, one of her Doc Society co-founders, she lived on the Margate seafront in the brutalist Arlington Tower, where she lobbied the council on behalf of vulnerable residents.

Jess died of brain cancer on 31 July 2023 aged 54. Her wife Beadie survives her with their two children, Ella and Ben Wilson, and a brindle lurcher called Sarge.

Mungo Wilson (1988) and Beadie Finzi

Andrew John Francis STEBBINGS (1970) was born on 24 May 1951 in London. He went to Harrow and came up to New College to read Jurisprudence in 1970. He won an Oar in the Second VIII, after bumping no fewer than five boats and also very nearly, to their embarrassment, the College First VIII. He followed his father into the law as a solicitor, with the firm Payne Hicks Beach, and subsequently formed a successful breakaway company called Pemberton Greenish where he worked until his retirement.

Andrew married Jane Emmerson (whose father was also at New College) in September 1975 and together they had four boys - and now five grandchildren. He was always a keen sailor, covering over 7,000 miles, and living in Somerset after retirement, he became a knowledgeable beekeeper.

In 1991 Andrew set up the John Lyon Charity, transforming the lives of many young people living in the Edgware area. He spent over eight years working with the Charity Commission and local government to convert a 400-year-old trust linked to Harrow School into one helping young people instead of maintaining roads, something which he regarded as the responsibility of government. His hard work overcame the many legal obstacles which even included the need for an Act of Parliament to free up the funds for direct charitable benefit.

Diagnosed with cancer in 2010, he fought bravely on, and even went on two significant bike rides, each of several thousand miles, demonstrating his determination. Despite the medical challenges, he always managed to keep a smile on his face, a fine sense of humour and a distinctive twinkle in his eyes. Andrew died on 9 June 2023, sadly missed by all who knew him.

Angus Gribbon (1970)

David SURATGAR (1956) was born in London in 1938, the only child of a Persian father, Professor Lotfali Suratgar, subsequently Poet Laureate of Iran, and a Yorkshire-born mother, Professor Edith Suratgar (née Hepburn). His parents had met at university in London and later helped to establish English literature departments at the Universities of Tehran and Shiraz.

David spent his early childhood between Iran and England, returning permanently during the Second World War to settle in Wakefield, Yorkshire, where he was educated at Silcoates School. He later came up to New College to read Law and then earned a Master of International Affairs degree at Columbia University in New York. The cultural switch was significant for David. He often shared how, late at night, he was seen climbing over a wall to get into Columbia, only to be informed by curious onlookers that, unlike Oxford, the Ivy League school never locked its gates.

In Oxford, David met Barbara Lita Low who was brought up in Africa and was training as a nurse at the Radcliffe. She followed him to the US where, after graduating from Columbia, he joined the legal department of the UN Secretariat and subsequently worked for the law firm Sullivan and Cromwell. In the mid-1960s he joined the Legal Department of the World Bank in Washington DC. In New York he had also lectured at NYU Law School, an academic diversion he kept up in Washington, teaching International Transactions at Georgetown University Law School.

When David joined the World Bank as legal counsel, he was one of only six lawyers at the Bank. Shortly thereafter Robert McNamara, President Kennedy's Secretary of Defense, became President of the Bank, bringing with him the conviction that the needs of the developing world were not insoluble. For David, then in his twenties and tasked with negotiating the funding of infrastructure projects in Africa and elsewhere, it was an exciting time to be at the Bank.

In 1973, David returned to Britain. He set up home in Oxford and joined the merchant bank Morgan Grenfell where he enjoyed a niche position bringing to project finance his legal knowledge, an understanding of banking and an awareness of the cultural components necessary to ensure successful transactions. In 1979 he advised the Bank of England on post-revolutionary Iranian banking issues. He remained with Morgan Grenfell for 26 years, rising to become director of project finance and international advisory services, and then group director. He retired in 1997 as deputy chairman of what was then Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

David's true loves, however, were his books and the arts. On his return to Oxford he worked to support various local campaigns for New College, the Bodleian Library, and the Oxford Playhouse. He was later

a founder and director of Garsington Opera. After moving to Burford David became involved in the local festival helping to raise funds for local initiatives and organising speakers.

New College and Oxford, as well as the friends he made there, were constants in his life. From his home in Burford, he continued to enjoy the opportunity to attend evensong in college, where the music always gave him joy and peace.

David had two children: Roxanne, an engineering consultant, and Karim, now a lawyer like his father at the World Bank Group. Barbara died in 1990, and four years later, David married a family friend, Cita Smalley of New Mexico. She survives him along with his children.

Karim and Roxanne Suratgar

Nathaniel Thomas Allen TWISLETON-WYKEHAM-FIENNES (1939), 21st Baron Saye and Sele was born on 22 September 1920. Despite a close connection with Winchester College (he was a descendant of William of Wykeham's family), he was educated at Eton and came up to New College to read History in 1939. Here he attended tutorials with Isaiah Berlin and proved himself a gifted cricketer, both a skilful wicket-keeper and a classically elegant batsman who played for Oxfordshire. Cricket was to remain a passion throughout his life, and he was the oldest, and for a time the longest-serving member of the MCC.

Both education and sporting career were cut short by the Second World War, in which, with the 8th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, he saw service in France landing on D-Day+6, Belgium, Holland and Germany. In April 1945 he and his battalion were the first troops to reach Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where almost 50,000 prisoners died.

After the war Fiennes (as he was later to become officially, by deed poll in 1965) remained in the army, not resigning his commission until 1950, when he left with the honorary rank of Major. A career in chartered surveying followed, and after qualifying he partnered with an old friend, George Laws, to set up Laws and Fiennes, a firm which acted as land agents for no fewer than three Oxford colleges (Trinity, Lincoln and Brasenose) as well as for Winchester College, where he was to hold a fellowship from 1967 until 1983.

In 1968, on his father's death, he succeeded to the Barony of Saye and Sele and inherited the family home, the moated Broughton Castle near Banbury in Oxfordshire. With his wife Mariette, whom he had married in 1958, he devoted much of the rest of his life to the upkeep and restoration of this fine building, described by Pevsner as 'the finest and most complete medieval house in the county'.

A modest man, a devotee of the poetry of Tennyson, Hardy and Housman, and a lover of Beethoven, Trollope and the language of the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, Nathaniel Fiennes died on 24 January 2024, aged 103 and is survived by his wife and three of their five children.

After The Times obituary

Kenneth (George) WAKELY (1961) was born on 7 January 1939 and died on 13 March 2023. His commitment to the institution of New College, and its role in his life, was long-term and unswerving. The story of his coming to Oxford was a fondly-told one: having been on commission in the Army to the Middle East, George went up to Oxford to study Russian and French against the wishes of his military superiors. Much of his time at the college was spent on the cricket and football fields, and his cricketing prowess, and memories of Oxford matches, remained an important point of contact and friendship throughout his life, not least in his involvement with the annual cricket fixture at the beautiful Hampshire village of Linkenholt: George was a key member of the 1960s college team, and again in 1997 when the game made a memorable return to Oxford.

After graduation and leaving the Army, George pursued a varied career in human resources, always maintaining his commitment to the cricketing life both as Captain of Yateley Cricket Club, and through his New College connections. It is no surprise that it was to the college gardens, where he had sat for the football and cricket club photos of the early 1960s teams, that he returned in his eighty-fourth and final year. George's passing is acutely felt by his many contemporaries at New College who experienced his camaraderie, company and comedy.

Patrick Maxwell (grandson)

Philip Wedgwood WALLACE (1968) was born on 26 November 1949 and died on 16 November 2023. Educated at Barton Peveril Grammar School, Eastleigh, he enjoyed more than the fruits of a sound education, meeting while he was there Lynne who became his wife of fifty years. He went up to New College in 1968 to read PPE where his tutors recorded 'Wallace is an enthusiastic and serious man'. New College remained an important part of his life thereafter. Phil and Lynne were assiduous supporters of our events to the end. Phil was a Trustee of the Development Fund for many years and a generous supporter of the college.

Phil joined Pete Marwick Mitchell (aka KPMG) after going down, becoming a specialist in corporate recovery. He rose effortlessly

through the ranks to become a partner in 1986, and was elected to the Board in 2001. After his retirement he continued working as an expert witness, and in a number of non-executive director roles.

Phil was an indefatigable toiler for the causes he felt to be worthwhile. The college was lucky that one of these was the Harpur Trust, the Bedford Charity, where he served as our nominated Trustee from 2009 to the very end of his life. As Murray Stewart, former Chair of the Trust writes: ‘His approach was a careful mix of sharp insight and persuasive manner, helping his colleagues understand issues that could be technically complex. He also had a healthy scepticism of comfortable consensus, and could be relied on to challenge anything that seemed out of date’.

The same applied to anything which did not seem quite right. I well remember a visit he made to New College to ask about our experience with architects which gave him the evidence he needed to change the direction of a major Bedford School project into a much more positive direction. In this, as well as his other activities, he showed a remorseless attention to detail which always improved the big picture.

When the diagnosis of his brain tumour struck, he tackled it in the same way – examining the causes, seeking the best possible consultants and then applying his enormous reserve of positivity in dealing with it for over a year, much supported by his family life and all the time at his beloved home at Aspley Guise in Bedfordshire, where he eventually died in peace. In the meantime, he had continued playing bridge, golf at Woburn, and attending Harpur Trust meetings.

His son Ian writes: ‘Dad had a lifelong love of Oxford and of New College in particular, and I fondly remember returning to Oxford for picnics and punting in my childhood. The foundation he built at college set him up for a hugely fulfilling life both professionally and personally, and all of us – his wife, three sons and eight grandchildren – were the beneficiaries of his generous nature and great company. He is much missed but very fondly remembered’.

Phil’s jovial and sunny disposition combined with his forensic rigour and sense of duty made him loved and respected by all he lived or worked with.

Warden

Peter James WHITE (1951) was born on 14 September 1931 in Leigh, Lancashire, the only child of Maria and Walter, who had both left school at twelve. Through ability and hard work he gained a place at Bolton School and then at Oxford.

Peter read for the new degree in Biochemistry, particularly enjoying Sir Hans Krebs' teaching. He joined the Microbiology Unit for his DPhil, researching the role of sulphonamides and penicillins in inhibiting bacterial growth, with D D Woods as supervisor. Following a postdoc at Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, USA, he returned to Guinness' Twyford Laboratories in London, devising purification procedures and assays for enzymes responsible for the synthesis of lysine. In 1966 he joined Professor J R Quayle and his lifelong friend, Professor John Guest, at the Microbiology Department in the University of Sheffield. Peter spent the rest of his career there, broadening his research on the chemistry of cell wall polymers across a variety of Gram-positive bacteria. In 1972/73 he enjoyed a sabbatical at Princeton with Professor Charles Gilvarg, whose interests closely matched his, returning in 1999/2000.

A much-appreciated university teacher, Peter conveyed his love and knowledge of science in lectures with clarity, patience and a dry wit. He gave generously of his time to both undergraduates and postgraduates. In retirement, he wrote a textbook, *Data Handling in Biomedical Science*, with the same approach of building students' confidence and scientific understanding.

Peter died after a short illness on 8 October 2024, still wanting to hear the cricket score. Other abiding loves were classical music, literature and the mountains. In all aspects of life he placed a huge value on kindness. He is survived by his dearly loved wife Ruth, four children and five grandchildren. At ninety-three, Peter was one of the longest-lived members of the family. It was a very good life.

Rebecca Kmentt (daughter)

Philip Sandeman ZIEGLER (1949), the prolific historian and biographer who has died of cancer aged 93 was never less than scrupulously fair – but also honest – about the shortcomings of his subjects, who included some of the most prominent men and occasionally women of modern British history. Lord Mountbatten's personal vanity, deviousness and ambition, Edward VIII's meanness and superficiality, even Edward Heath's charmlessness were all remorselessly revealed in books which have shaped the men's reputations for posterity. 'The biographer's first responsibility is to the truth and to the reader', he said in 2011; 'If he is not prepared in the last resort to hurt and offend people for whom he feels nothing except goodwill then he should not be writing a biography.'

If Ziegler's patrician status and urbane charm helped to smooth his path to selection for such monumental biographies, his industry and the punctiliousness of his research meant that they come close to definitive.

He said: 'Ideally the biographer should know everything about his subject and then discard 99% of his information, keeping only the essential. Of course one can never hope to discover anything approaching everything, but one can find out a great deal.'

Ziegler was born on Christmas Eve 1929 to Major Louis Ziegler and his wife Dora, who were then living at Ringwood in the New Forest. They encouraged their son's reading and writing activities rather than sport. He was educated at Eton and then read Jurisprudence at New College, graduating with a First. After National Service with the Royal Artillery, he entered the Foreign Office, serving as a diplomat in Laos, Paris and Pretoria.

In 1966 with his wife Sarah and two small children he was posted to Bogota, Colombia as head of Chancery at the British Embassy. It was there the following year that he and his wife returning home following an embassy reception found armed robbers rifling the house. Sarah was killed in the mêlée and he was badly wounded.

The tragedy persuaded him to leave the diplomatic service and take a job with his late wife's publisher father William Collins, then the head of one of the largest publishing houses in the country. Ziegler rose in the company, becoming editorial director in charge of its non-fiction list in 1972 and editor-in-chief of the company seven years later. He had already published two books, a biography of the Duchess of Dino, mistress of the wily French diplomat Talleyrand, in 1962 and one of the Georgian Prime Minister Henry Addington in 1965. A book about the Black Death followed though that was to be his only venture into pre-modern history.

In 1980 Ziegler became a full-time writer and a regular and eclectic stream of books followed: biographies of William IV, the Victorian prime minister Lord Melbourne, the 1920s' society beauty Lady Diana Cooper, Harold Wilson, the minor poet Osbert Sitwell, the publisher Rupert Hart-Davis and the actor Laurence Olivier, as well as Heath, Mountbatten and Edward VIII and a short biography of George VI. There were also histories of Barings Bank, the battle of Omdurman, London in the Second World War, 20th Century social history, the Rhodes Trust in Oxford and Brooks's gentlemen's club. Not forgetting *Elizabeth's Britain 1926-86* and a book of photographic portraits of the Queen.

All were assiduously researched. Given access to the Royal Archives, Ziegler ploughed through 25,000 letters of Edward VIII, revealing the shallowness of the king who abdicated and, allegedly to her displeasure, the Queen Mother's relentless hostility towards him. His verdict that Edward was well-meaning and no monarch could have been more anxious to relieve the sufferings of his subjects though 'few can have done less to achieve their aim,' was suitably waspish.

The biography of Mountbatten was followed by three volumes of the admiral's diaries. The biography of Ted Heath, the Incredible Sulk, was both official and comprehensive, but struggled to find the man's elusive charm: he was according to the author dire, ungracious and unsympathetic.

Of the Olivier biography, he told an interviewer at the Cheltenham literary festival in 2013: 'In the course of my alarmingly long biographical career I have written about an inordinate number of Prime ministers, Kings and the like, and I suddenly decided in old age that I would indulge myself and do myself an actor.' What he found, to his alarm, was that there was very little substance beneath the parts the great actor played.

Ziegler died on 22 February 2023. Following the death of his first wife he had married secondly Clare Charrington, a social worker and bereavement councillor in 1971. She died in 2017. He is survived by the two children of his first marriage, Sophie and Colin and by the son of his second, Toby.

Stephen Bates (1972)

After the obituary initially published in The Guardian.

We also very much regret to report the death of the following Old Members:

Dr M C O Bax, FRCP (1952), 24 March 2024

Professor A Bilsborough (1965), 27 August 2024

***Professor R Brown (1953)**, 6 December 2024

***Sir R H Carnegie AC (1954)**, 14 July 2024

Mr F Davey (1951), 23 January 2024

***Mr M D Deas, OBE (1959)**, 29 July 2024

Mr P Dolan (1950), 9 March 2024

Mr R Edwards (1958), 28 September 2022

***Mr J N Elam, CMG (1958)**, 24 November 2024

Dr C G Fane (1963), 12 November 2023

***Dr D C T Frewer (1951)**, 22 March 2024

Dr C Godber (1957), 5 September 2024

Mr S H Johnston (1955), 14 September 2024

Professor J R MacDonald (1948), 30 March 2024

Professor N J Mayhew (1976), 17 August 2024

***The Hon I A R Mosley (1969)**, 31 January 2024

***Dr M H Mosley (1975)**, 5 June 2024

Mr N W Paine (1956), 31 August 2024

Dr M G Penington (1980), 18 July 2024

Mr R M P Quilliam (1964), 22 August 2023

Mr R E S Robinson (1956), 23 September 2024

***Mr A de V Russell-Roberts, CBE (1962)**, 14 January 2024

Mr C G S Saunders (1944), February 2024

Mr T M White (1950), 9 February 2024

Mr A G Woodward (1951), 27 August 2023

Mr K T Worrell (1959), 20 December 2024

**We hope to print an obituary in the 2025 issue*

Any Old Member willing to offer an obituary of any of those named is asked to write to the Editor.



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The College is most grateful to the many Old Members and Friends who donated to the college during 2024.

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1949

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dec'd

Dr W J Mowbray, KC

1950

Mr J B Bell

Mr R A C Byatt, CMG

Mr P Dolan, dec'd

The Rev'd R H Watkins

1951

Mr L F Aldridge

Dr D C T Frewer, dec'd

Mr R G Searle-Barnes

Sir William Utting, CB

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Mr C F Foster

Mr D D Green

Dr M I S Keir, FRCP

Mr J W Snashall

Sir Anthony Vineall

Mr T M Farmiloe

Sir John Sainty, KCB

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OBE, FRSA

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Mr P J Hinton-Green

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Sir Brian Unwin, KCB

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of Chiswick, GCMG, CH

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Mr E M Thomas

Mr D J Wilson

1957

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Dr J D Davis, dec'd

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Mr A J Hastings

Mr D Howorth

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Mr B R Meadows

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Mr C J W Owen

Mr J D Parker

Mr D R K Seddon

Dr B C Southgate

Dr A B Stone

Mr P M Vincent

Mr J J des C Virden, dec'd

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Willoughby de Broke, DL

1958

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KCVO, CMG

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The Rev'd J B Potter

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 Mr B R Salter
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 Mr K T Worrell, dec'd

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 Professor Sir M S
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 Mr B J J Peck
 Professor G Post
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 Mr M R Streatfeild, dec'd
 Mr M J Terry

1962

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 His Honour Judge Boney, KC
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 HonFIA
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 Mr G S Thomas
 Dr W G Twisleton- Wykeham-
 Fiennes
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 Dr A J Warren, MBE
 Mr J B Werner
 Mr D C Willis

1965

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 Mr B L Glicksman, CB
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 MACR
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 FRHistS
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 DL
 Dr B P Labatt
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FRCPC
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Mr C R S Williams
Mr N J Wilson

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Mr J M Garvin
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Professor J P Keating, FRS
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Mr S P F Macklow- Smith
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Mr M P Taylor
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Mr N J Tombs

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Professor L J Vale
Ms C E Wesley
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Mr D P Wyatt
Mrs S E K Wyatt
Mr R Zebaida

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Commander Mark Louis
Gorenflo, USN (Ret)
Dr A C Hesford, DRCOG,
DFFP, DPD, MRCGP
Mr J M Hornby
Mr D J Laszlo
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Mr M J Pointon
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Dr P R Sudbury
Dr P F Tokarczyk

1984

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Dr K A Armstrong
Mr J A W Astor
Ms C V Barlen
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Captain M D Beeston
Mr A D R Cotton
Dame Melanie Dawes, DCB
(née Brogan)
Mr J S Dobson
Dr S J Dowell
Dr R J C Easton
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Mr I K Hart
Mr B D J Kent
Ms S J Lampert
Mr P J Martin
Ms K R McNulty
Mr M J Myers
Ms M E Padwell

Mr A S Pettitt
 Ms L E Price
 Dr C E Smith
 Mr G R L Spackman
 Dr J E Spenceley
 Dr J K Sunderland
 Mrs S J Tapley (née Day)
 Mr A G P Tusa
 Mr M W Wells

1985

Mr N Blake
 Mr D P Blunt
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 Mr M J B Calverley
 Mrs E R V Critchley (née Freeargarde)
 Mr R C Dibley
 Mrs R A Downie (née Staniforth)
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 Dr A A Helm (née Cooley)
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 Mr D S S Jowell, KC
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 Ms R E Shaw (née Bradley)
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Mr G J Outteridge
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Mr P B Wright

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Ms H M Evans
Mr J W Evers
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Dr A D Hennessy
Mr B W Hickey
Mr C J Jenkins
Mr H X Ke
Mr A J King
Mrs S L Lilleby Prabhu
Dr I R Macmullen
Mrs C K Mikkelsborg (née
Windle)
Mr R Phahey
Mr R J Voller
Mr N H Williams

1996

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Dr R K Ashdowne
Mrs K M Atsinger (née
Collman)
Ms N C Bleicher
Mr M J Childs
Mr N M R Fenton
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Mr G D Francis
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Mrs L G Harrison (née
Cameron)
Ms H J M Lambourne
Mr A R M Learmonth, KC
Dr L B Meldrum-Carter
Dr C J Miller
Mrs R P J Payne (née Brett)
Mr A N Ross
Mr B A Thompson
Ms S H Walker
Mr S J Walmsley

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Mr A J Ball
Ms T R Biswas
Professor B W Dolan, OBE
Ms E L Stacey
Dr S Frackowiak
Mr J P Fuller
Dr S Furuta
Mr O A Gin
Mr B S Gustason
Mr S C Holland
Dr L B Middleton
Mr H Morton Jack
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Ms E C Osbaldeston
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Mr D A Robinson
Mr A Takano
Mr A S Thirlwell
Dr G A Thomas
Mr F P van der Spuy
Mrs R C Ward (née Dyer)
Mr A M Wiblin

1998

Dr E F Barlow
Dr W J Behr
Mr H T Chamberlayne
Mr C G Clothier
Mr C P Fallis
Mr J J Fowles
Dr J M R Goulding
Dr T Gupta
Dr G M Kennedy
Mr H A Laing
Dr S S A Livermore
Dr H L MacMullen
Mrs C D McNelly (née Murphy)
Mr H T Nottberg
Mr M N Rosen
Mr S C Ross
Mr J D Rowland
Mr C T Singleton
Mr L V Streatfeild
Dr E S W Sum
Mr J W B Summers
Mr D I Tenner
Ms S E Trombley
Mrs D M Wallace (née Manley)
Mrs C J Wright (née Halliday)

1999

Mr M E J Archer
Mr S C R Blake
Mr S R Doherty
Mr M J Ellis
Mr W S Gresford
Dr R M Harris
Mr M J Heal
Mr E P Howard
Dr S A Howes
Mr T P Moran

Mr H S Rai
Dr D J Sheridan
Mr R D N Smalley
Mr W D J Straw, CBE
Mr J R S Whewell

2000

Mr S P Buckland
Mrs E K Commander (née Mason)
Dr J N Fullerton
Mr S M Glasper
Dr L Iyadurai
Mr A M King
Mr K J Palant
Mr J C Rangel
Mr B A Shuttleworth
Dr J E Small
Dr B Vaqas, MRCS
Miss H L Walker
Mr R W Waring

2001

Mr K Adithyan
Ms N Basson
Mr C D M Burns
Mr E A G Cooke
Mrs C Ellis (née Whitbread)
Mrs A M Filippi
Mrs A L Hewitt (née Coleman)
Miss E A Hopson-Hill
Dr J B Jacobs
Dr K E Jaques (née Halliday)
Mr O I John
Mr M D Jones
Mrs L A Jordan (née Siddall)
Miss M F Mear
Mr J I Mistry
Dr J S Palmer
Mr T C Ridgway
Mr M J Rosel
Mr H Y I Siu
Miss J E Thomson Rose
Dr H M Tobin (née Ledermann)
Mr G M White
Dr D M Williamson
Miss A S Winter
Ms R Woodworth

Ms A Zitna
Dr T G Zlosnik

2002

Ms E I Aracic
Mr P A J Brione
Mrs S L Chaggar-Kemp
Mr J W Coulson
Dr E O Dowlen
Dr R E Dugdale
Mrs A K Frieda (née Rice)
Mr E J Gleave
Mr A J Harbinson
Mr J A Houston
Mrs G C H Jennings (née Tinson)
Mrs K E R Lloyd-Jukes (née Ross)
Miss O K Macdonald
Mr P McGuire
Dr A J McLennan
Mrs C C Parkinson (née Griffin)
Mr T B Rogers
Mr S A Schrijnen
Mr A Sonic
Mr O E J Spencer
Mrs E F Stuckey (née Richards)

2003

Mr G T Doctor
Mr D W Downes
Dr S A W Evans
Dr S M Golodetz
Mr G O Jacobs
Mrs L J Jacobs (née Griffiths)
Ms K C Jones
Mrs I A Michell (née Ridley)
Mrs J M Oakey (née Armer)
Ms C I Pinder
Mr S T Szuhay
Dr G A Wellen

2004

Mrs M O Adigun (née Ogunsekan)
Mr A J Black
Mr Y Chen

Dr C J Chu-Wai-Chow
Miss A V Connor
Mr S I Daniel
Mr L Demeure
Dr H C N Jacobsen
Mr T P Kaye
Mr C E G Leeming
Miss N-N Li
Ms R Scarbrough

2005

Mr P Baxter
Ms E R Borrowdale-Cox
Mr T R H Corby
Mrs N L Corke (née Godfrey)
Mr R E Fargo
Dr A M A Hamilton
Mr J M Howard
Mr A H E Jackson
Mr S D R Liddle
Dr T J A Lorkin
Mr R Moss
Miss A L Porteous
Mr K F Wolff

2006

Mr A J G Asher
Dr A P Clibbon
Mr T L G Coates
Mr J E Davies
Mr M W Gulliford
Dr R L Hoare
Mrs S E Laing (née Pugh)
Dr S L M Linthwaite
Mr S A Nash
Mr A C L Rose
Mr D W C Tan
Dr J M Trombello
Dr S K T Y Wagner
Miss K R Wood

2007

Miss M G Barlow
Dr K H Brodersen
Miss S C Chamberlain
Mr J Chittenden-Veal
Miss J L T Edmunds
Mr B M P Samuel
Mr A N Somji

Mr W H P Spray
Mr A J Urbelis

2008

Mr D S Arak
Dr W L Coleman
Miss H C Davidson
Mr P D Hudspith
Mrs I E J Jordan (née Lenon)
Mr I E Karadag
Mr C Lo
Miss F S O'Hagan
Miss A K M Peterson
Mr T J Roberts
Mr J M Rowan
Professor L Schaposnik
Miss K M U Sharkey
Mr S P Silvius
Mr G H J Simon
Mr J E Strang

2009

Dr J R Hitchen
Mr A F Hola-Peryer
Dr E C Law
Mr O P Longland
Mrs R F Ogilvie-Gilbert
Miss N J Parmar
Miss C M S Quadranti
Dr D M Trott
Professor J A Unwin

2010

Mr T J H Anderson
Dr B G Darnell
Mr R A Hunt
Mr S Islam
Mr C Kamara
Mr A T Magnell
Mr D Mahtani
Miss G I V Mizen
Ms I R E Paterson-Taylor
Mr M Ursachi

2011

Mr B Bloor
Dr J O Day
Mr H C E Hudson

Mr A Mallevays
Mr A Naik
Miss C R L Nixon
Dr T A Stewart
Mr D F Talbot

2012

Miss E Caddick
Mr T M Cohen
Mr J M Durbin
Mr O A Even
Dr C Floe
Mr J Glancy
Mr D R Masters
Dr A A McCunn
Ms E Sanchez Martin
Mr M Stolyarov
Dr P R Taylor
Mr A J Wills

2013

Mr R Arora
Mr A Dwornik
Ms C A Graubert
Mr A S Hundle
Mr S Purkess
Mr S Raval
Mr G Speak

2014

Mr E R X Berney
Mr N Biswas
Miss M Griffiths
Miss E J Holt
Mr C F J Larminie
Mr G T B Lewis
Ms A K Mowbray
Mr C J Nowek

2015

Miss T I A Andrews
Mr A Dumbleton
Professor Y Inaba
Mr G E Leigh
Ms A E Stoiber
Mr A J S Tawana
Dr J R Walton

2016

Dr D J Hatem
Ms T Mueller

2017

Miss E Cubitt
Mr P D L Marwood
Mr N T McKee

2018

Dr S J Delle
Mr R L A Pangalangan
Mr D P Shannon

2019

Dr N D Natividad

2020

Mr R Karaki
Mr D J Lederer

2022

Mr D B Lysenko

Fellows and Friends of the college

Dr G M V Alexander
 Mrs C Altmann
 Americans for Oxford
 Ms D Andrews
 Anonymous
 Apple Matching Gifts
 Program
 Mr P M Ashwell
 Mr W C Auckland
 Miss L Ivory
 Mr G F W Balkwill
 Mrs L Ballard
 Professor J G Basker
 Mrs J M Benham
 Ms Ann Beswick
 Dr B J Blackburn
 Mr M & Mrs C Borkan
 Mr J Borkan
 Miss N Borkan
 Dr J M Boyce
 Ms K M Boyes
 Dr Keith Brain
 Professor M Burden
 Mr H H Carter
 Mr L Chen
 Mr R Covey-Crump
 Dr D N Crosby
 Dr J K Cruickshank

Mr M E Curtis
 Mrs H Elsley
 Ms J Evans
 Fidelity Giving
 Marketplace
 Mrs H Fraser
 Mr I S Fraser
 Mr J Giddings
 Dr E Gill
 Mrs H Girdlestone
 Dr M S Griffith
 Professor J L Hart
 Mr R J Helsby
 Mr K Henry
 Dr P A Hodgetts
 Mrs J H Hunnisett
 Mr M Kessler
 Mr Kevin Klock
 Mr R Korver
 Ms C H Kruse
 Professor Dimitri Kullmann,
 FMedSci, FRS
 Mrs G D Linthwaite
 Lord Dacre Of Glanton
 Charitable Trust
 Mrs S K McGill Andrews
 Mr K Minns
 Mr T Nakai

Mrs C Nieuwenburg
 Norton Blasdel Family
 Charitable Fund
 Mrs M Nuttall
 Mr F Nyonyo
 Mr P S Paine Jr
 Mr & Mrs S Parkinson
 Professor D A Parrott
 Dr M G Parry
 Mr O F G Phillips
 Miss B Potter
 Prisanlee Trust
 Mr A Raheem Majid
 Mr C A Raine
 Professor A J Ryan, FBA
 G Savegar
 Mrs J Seccombe
 Mrs F J Staveley-Taylor
 Mr C M Steiner
 Mr & Mrs G P Stoner
 Mr N Thornbrough
 Mrs J Williams
 Professor M S Williams
 Ms M L Williams
 Worshipful Company of
 Glaziers
 Mrs J Xiu



New College Society Cloisters Lunch Party, 22 June 2024 © Development Office



Appointments, Honours and Awards

Sir Stanley Whittingham (1960), named a Knight Bachelor for his services to research in chemistry

Wilfrid Prest (1962), Member, Order of Australia (AM), 2022

Angus Gribbons (1970), Queen's Award for voluntary services, May 2023; Prison visitor, HMP Warren Hill, October 2023

Tony Sanderson (1972), elected Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (FRAS); elected Member of the Institute of Physics (MInstP), awarded the Undergraduate Certificate of Higher Education (History) from the Department of Continuing Education, Oxford University

Stephen Venables (1972), 2024 Patron's Gold Medal, Royal Geographical Society, 'for his lifetime's contribution to geographical discovery in the high mountains of the world'; 2023 Ulsan Ulju World Mountain Culture Award

Chris Hodges (1973), Member, Civil Justice Council Working Party on Litigation Funding (2024-5); Letters on behalf of Horizon Compensation Advisory Board to Lord Chancellor: 14 December 2023 and 22 October 2024

Clive Woods (1976), Member (since January 2024) and Chair (since January 2025) of Conduct Review Committee of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

David Soward (1977), psychotherapist in private practice in central Headington; on the committee of the new Oxford Chapter of OxPAN (Oxford University Pride Alumni Network)

Paul Horner (1980), Chairman, Arion Bank, March 2024

Robin Paynter Bryant (1980), appointed as non-executive director of My Community Bank; Independent non-executive Chairman of Yu Group Plc; Awarded 'AIM Company of Year 2023' by AJ Bell; Co-Principal of Boskenna Capital

Kate Moss (1981), CBE for services to Literature, Women and Charity, December 2023

Alison Etheridge (1982), OBE for services to the Mathematical Sciences, December 2024

Julian Hardyman (1982), Long Term Missionary at the Good News Hospital, Mandritsara, Madagascar (working with village church leaders), May 2023

Andrew Cotton (1984), Television Academy 2023 Emmy Award for 'Contributions to the standardisation of HDR television', Recommendation ITU-R BT.2100; National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) 2024 Emmy Award for the 'Creation and Implementation of HDR Static LUT, Single-Stream Live Production'

Tessa Buchanan (1986), PhD in Political Psychology from Cambridge University, February 2024

Rebecca Lawrence (1989), appointed as the new Chief Executive of the British Library and will take up the role from 2 January 2025.

Stephen Noble (1990), Professor of Theoretical Computer Science at the University of Leeds, November 2024

Alexandra Freeman (1992), non-political-party peer appointed by the House of Lords Appointments Commission, May 2024

David Schweitzer (1994), winner of Emmy for Outstanding Music for a Documentary for his score for *World War II: From the Frontlines*, October 2024

Rebecca Collyer (1996), Audacious winner 2023 (Audacious is the Philanthropy prize of TED), won for leading the project called ReNew2030

Brian Dolan (1997), appointed Professor, Coventry University, January 2024

Peter Jefferies (1998), OBE for services to Defence, December 2023

Kataryna Law (2000), Headteacher of Camden School for Girls, September 2021

Jake Anders (2007), Professor of Quantitative Social Science at University College London, October 2024

Roshni Mahtani (2008), OBE for services to Jewellery Design and to Philanthropy, June 2024

Georgia Mizen (2010), shortlisted as a finalist for the Women's Business Club 'Female Founder of the Year 2024'

Paul Beckett (2012), appointed Tynwald Commissioner for Administration (Tynwald Ombudsman), November 2023 by the Isle of Man parliament, Tynwald

Thomas Critchley (2015), OBE for services to Evidence-Based Policy, December 2023

Joshua Bletcher-Cohen (2016), 2024-2025 Fellow assigned to the Supreme Court of the United States

Raphael Pangalangan (2018), received the International Bar Association William Reece Smith Jr. Outstanding Young Lawyer Award for his Human Rights work

Books, Recordings and Films

Alan Stone (1957), *The Butterfly Hunter* (The Book Guild, 2024)

Roger Trigg (1960), *Faith* (Oxford University Press Very Short Introductions, July 2024)

- Wilfrid Prest (1962)**, *The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History*: second edition, (Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 2024); *The Inns of Court under Elizabeth I and the Early Stuarts, 1590-1640*: second edition (Cambridge University Press, 2023)
- Paul Cosway (1965)**, *Stacey's Egg* (children book), *Death or Dishonour, Faithless unto Death* (2024)
- John Withington (1965)**, *A History of Fireworks from Their Origins to the Present Day* (Reaktion Books, 2024)
- David Ball (1966)**, *Dans le Bois de Miss Harrington* (L'Atelier du Grand Tetras, 2024)
- Tony Dickinson (1967)**, *Pearls of Life: A Life-belt for the Spirit* (SLG Press, 2024); *Zeal for the Faith: An Introduction to Christian-Muslim Dialogue* (SLG Press, 2024)
- Tony Lewis-Jones (1977)**, *The Fire Season* (Firewater Press)
- Lucy Ash (1980)**, *The Baton and the Cross: Russia's Church from Pagans to Putin* (Icon Books, October 2024)
- Katherine Bristow (1981)**, *Saving Madonna* (Navy Street Press, 2023)
- Robert Charles (1982)**, *Cherish America: Stories of Courage, Character and Kindness* (Tower Publishing, 2024)
- Julian Hardyman (1982)**, *Jesus, Lover of my Soul: Fresh Pathways in Spiritual Passion* (IVP 2020); *Fresh Pathways in Prayer* (10ofthose 2019)
- Chris Gabriel (1991)**, *WISEgenerosity: A Guide to Purposeful and Productive Living and Giving* (Forefront Books, 2024)
- Jennie Grillo (1991)**, *Daniel After Babylon* (Oxford University Press, 2024)
- Ashley Jackson (1992)**, *Oxford's War 1939-1945* (Bodleian Library Press, 2024)
- Polly Jones (1993)**, *Gulag Fiction. Labour Camp Literature from Stalin to Putin* (Bloomsbury, 2024)
- Frederick Lauritzen (1996)**, *Rhyme and Reason: Geopolitics in a changing world. Analysis and predictions* (Venice 2024)
- Siobhan McInerney-Lankford (1996)**, *The Roles of International Law in Development*. Co-editor with Robert McCorquodale (edited volume published by OUP, 2023)
- Brian Dolan (1997)** et al., *A Clinician's Survival Guide to Leadership and Management on the Ward*, 4th Edition (Elsevier, August 2024)
- Michael Rosen (1998)**, *The Consciousness Company* (Alfabella Publishing, 2024)
- Edward Evans (1999)**, *Shakespeare's Mirrors* (Routledge, Sept 2024)
- Tom Allan (2002)**, *On The Roof: A Thatcher's Journey* (Profile Books, August 2024)
- Thomas White (2004)**, *China's Camel Country, Livestock and Nation-Building at a Pastoral Frontier* (University of Washington Press, August 2024)

Paul Beckett (2012), *Beneficial Ownership and Legal Responsibility: Concealment, Avoidance and Impunity* (Routledge, London and New York, March 2024); *An Anatomy of Tax Havens: Europe, the Caribbean and the United States of America* (De Gruyter, Berlin, October 2023)

Grace Wilentz (2015), *Harmony (Unfinished)* (The Gallery Press, October 2024)

Marcello Palazzo (2021), Première of his first opera *Mount Herzog* (Tête à Tête, September 2024)

Retirements

Tony Dickinson (1967), Anglican Chaplain at Genoa, April 2023

Paul Ferguson (1973), Bishop of Whitby, 14 July 2024

David Coy (1977), History Lecturer, July 2023

Julian Hardyman (1982), Senior Pastor Eden Baptist Church, Cambridge after 26 years at the church, January 2023

David Mather (1984), Vicar of Holy Trinity Bridlington & St John Sewerby, June 2024

James Pay (1987), Partner and Global Head of Renewables at Clifford Chance, April 2023

Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Paul Ferguson (1973) to Revd Bridget Gillespie, 1 June 2024

Tom Wilson (1995) to Yasmin Leonardos Haddad, 4 December 2021

Kate Tallon (2011) to Oisín Hennigan, 8 June 2024

Jonathan Galbraith Brown (2012) to **Emily Gidda (2012)**, 10 August 2024

Eva Sanchez Martin (2012) to Aditya Mehta, 12 October 2024

Edward Grigg (2013) to **Izabela Karasinska-Stanley (2012)**, 16 September 2023

Rebecca Ashworth (2015) to **Liam Lee (2015)**, 22 June 2024

Frederick Blake (2015) to **Emily Hampshire (2015)**, 23 November 2023

Leo Luk (2015) to Mandy Lau, 29 January 2022

Wedding Anniversaries

Silver Wedding Anniversary

Antonia Kellaway (1990) and **Jamieson Weetman**, 18 September 2024

Births

Daughters to:

Isabel (2000) née Clement and Paul Mahony (1998)	Artemis	01 April 2024
Christopher Gribble (1999)	Emma	14 October 2023
Rachel Yafai (1999) née Strange	Clara	12 April 2024
Gemma Jennings (2002) née Tinson	Eveline	01 September 2021
Natalie Whittaker (2003) née Harding	Ruby	22 March 2024
India Jordan (2008) née Lenon and Daniel Jordan (2008)	Claudia	04 September 2023
Rachel Shepherd-Hunt (2010) and Robert Hunt (2010)	Naomi	10 May 2024

Sons to:

Paul Davies (1981)	Henry-Prem	03 November 2024
Tom Wilson (1995)	Oliver	21 May 2024
Sarah-Jane Mendonça (2003) née Hogg	Benedito	22 February 2024
Anna Bone (2008)	Felix	31 January 2024
and James Ramsay (2008)	Kit	27 November 2021
Michael Baldwin (2010)	Silas	28 August 2023
Leo Luk (2015)	Mansfield	20 March 2023

Grandchildren to:

Bruce Ramsay (1981)	Felix	31 January 2024
	Kit	27 November 2021
Mike Seigel (1969)	Pippa	22 March 2024
Angus Gribbon (1970)	Angus	16 January 2024
Julian Hardyman (1982)	Elizabeth	01 May 2024
Charlotte Mulnier (1982) and Jonathan Fox (1982)	Arthur	31 January 2024

Great grandchildren

Brian Fisher (1957)	James	13 May 2023
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Scholarship and Awards

University Awards

16 prizes winners overall.

Sophie Baptista (BA Literae Humaniores), Dean Ireland Prize (*for the highest overall in the FHS of Literae Humaniores, Classics & English, Classics & Modern Languages, Classics & Oriental Studies, Ancient & Modern History and Classical Archaeology & Ancient History*); De Paravicini Prize (*for excellent performance in the Latin papers in the FHS of Literae Humaniores, Classics & English, Classics & Modern Languages and Classics & Asian & Middle Eastern Studies*)

Theodora Chatila (Economics and Management), Saïd Foundation Prize (*for the best performance in the Strategic Management Paper*)

James Danford (BA Literae Humaniores), Comparative Philology Prize (*for the best performance in the Historical Linguistics & Comparative Philology paper in Honour Moderations in Classics*)

Georgina Follows (BA Modern Languages – French and German), David Gibbs Prize (*for the best performance in Modern Languages*), *proxime accessit*

Benedikt Freese (MJur), Winter Williams Prize in International Economic Law (*for the best performance in the International Economic Law Paper*)

Megan Groombridge (BA Experimental Psychology), Prize (*for the best Practical Portfolio in the FHS of Experimental Psychology*)

Sean Hartnett (BA Philosophy and French), Mrs Claude Beddington Modern Languages Prize (*for the best performance in French*)

Perpetua Hayn Taylor (BA Modern Languages – French and Italian), David Gibbs Prize (*for the best performance in Modern Languages*); David Gibbs Prize (*for the best submitted work in a Special Subject Paper XII*); Sir Thomas Blomefield Prize (*for the best performance in French*); Paget Toynbee Prize [*shared*] (*for the best performance in Italian Paper IX*)

Kilian Meissner (BA Literae Humaniores), Harold Lister Sunderland Prize (*for excellent performance in the Greek literature papers in the FHS of Literae Humaniores, Classics & English, Classics & Modern Languages and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies*)

Benjamin Stewart (MChem Chemistry), Gibbs Runner-Up Prize (*for the second-best performance in the MChem Chemistry FHS Part IB Examination*); Shimadzu Prize (*for the best performance in Practical Chemistry in the MChem Chemistry FHS Part IB Examination*)

Ayna Taira (BA Philosophy and German), David Gibbs Prize (*for the best performance in Modern Languages Paper XIV Dissertation*), *proxime accessit*

Laura Tarbuch (MSc International Human Rights Law), Professor Christof Heyns Memorial Prize (*for the highest overall mark for the MSt International Human Rights Law*)

Maud Tregear (MChem Chemistry), Brian Bannister Prize for Organic Chemistry (*for exceptional performance in Organic Chemistry in the MChem Chemistry Part II Examination*)

Ethan Walker (BA Literae Humaniores), Hertford Prize (*for excellent performance in the Latin papers in Honour Moderations in Classics*)

College Prizes

There were 93 winners overall.

**Ben Brown Cultural Travel
Award
Patrick Maxwell**

**Karen Thornton Memorial
Prize
Chris Howe**

**Burden-Griffiths Award
Sophia Hussain
Sara Kaczmarczyk-Guarna**

**Morris Long Vacation
Travel Grant
Freddie Sugarman**

**China Travel Award
Hannah Angress Sparr
Alistair Brendon
Shaoming Chen
Emily Fraser
Meilin Hixson
Ethan Walker**

**Nick Roth Travel Award
Emil Ryd**

**Nuttall Fund Award
Sophia Hussain
Christiana Hutchings
Helena Trenner**

**Colgate Literary Prize
Sophia Hussain**

**Rowland Travel Grants
Alexander Andrews
Samuel Turkington**

**Demuth Essay Prize
Angelika Woodruff**

**Instrumental Awards
Ayala Gates
Daisy Middleton
Freddie Sugarman**

Graduate Scholars

There were 28 winners overall.

**Clarendon-New College
Awards**

Gabriel Abrahams

Lara Boudinot

Naga Sumedha Nalluru

Michele Pecorari

Joshua Selfe

Carlo Zanetti

Galant Scholarship

Juan Miguel Lopez Munive

**Margaret Bridges Music
Scholarship**

Harrison Smith

Lord Dacre Scholarship

Matthew Leech-Gerrard

**New College Marshall
Scholarship**

Samuel Brody

Kyrols Georgey

**The Reynolds Scholarship
Ciara Beale**

**Roche Scholarship
Thomas Bullemore Lasarte**

**New College Schwarzman
Scholarship
Daria Nepochatova**

**Urowski Scholarship
Michelle Codrington-Rogers**

**Yeotown Scholarship
Caleb Batley
James Somper
Juliet Turner**

Undergraduate Scholars

There were 93 undergraduate scholars overall.

Biology

Marcus Ashworth

Winchester College

Cordelia Clay

Wellington College

Biomedical Sciences

Giulia Gardumi

d'Overbroeck's

Cerys Wild

Petroc College

Cell and Systems Biology

Juliet Martin

King Charles I School

Kai Nieuwenburg

St Paul's School, London

Molecular and Cellular

Biochemistry

Noah Miller

King Edward VI Aston

Chemistry

Eamon Coates

St Paul's School, London

Inigo Field

Westminster School

Freya Mills

Emanuel School

Charlie Muston

Manchester Grammar School

Economics and

Management

Aditya Singh

Reading School

Engineering Science

Jack Botham

The Downs School

Thomas Kaprielian

St Paul's School, London

Rahul Marchand

St Paul's School, London

English Language and

Literature

Connie Higgins

St Paul's Girl's School

English and Modern

Languages

Ed Ledger

North Bristol Post 16 Centre

History

Harry Edmondson

Lancaster Royal Grammar School

Patrick Maxwell

St Edward's School, Oxford

History and Economics

Michell Palmer

Yale - NUS College

Jurisprudence

Jude Shayeb

King Edward VI Camp Hill School
for Girls

Literae Humaniores

James Danford

King's College School

Emily Fraser

Westminster School

Music

Freddie Sugarman

Greenhead College, Huddersfield

Neuroscience

Isobel Rout

City and Islington College, Angel
Campus

Amelia Veal

Barton Peveril College

Physics

Joel Adams

King James's School

Dev Patel

Harris Westminster Sixth Form

Lorenza Valensise

Highgate School

Experimental Psychology

Shannon Bacon

Shenley Brook End School

Issy Butler

Sir William Borlase's Grammar
School

Nancy Chen

Crimson Global Academy

Philosophy, Politics and

Economics

Freddie Pflanz

Kingston Grammar School

Tess Rudell

Dubai College

Maria Sticlea

International School of Bucharest

Samuel Turkington

Wellington College, Belfast

Mathematics and

Philosophy

Ted Fussell

Highgate School

Medicine – Preclinical (3yr)

Joe Davidson

The Sixth Form College,
Farnborough

Ei Lwin

Minster School, Southwell

Undergraduate Exhibitioners

There were 24 undergraduate exhibitioners overall.

Biology

Sara Kaczmarczyk-Guarna

Harris Westminster Sixth Form

Daniel Shapiro

Albuquerque Academy

Molecular and Cellular

Biochemistry

Kevin Guan

Campion School, Northampton

Economics and

Management

Lora Stamatova

St Mary's College, Voluntary

Catholic School

English Language and

Literature

Joseph Foley

King Edward VI School,

Warwickshire

Alfred Hawkins

King's College School

History

Jess Taylor

Llanidloes High School

Mathematics

Sophie Keenan

Kirk Hallam Community Academy

Medicine – Preclinical

Charlotte Scowen

King's College School

Sam Thompson

The Judd School, Tonbridge

Modern Languages

Eve Ryder

Twyford Church of England High School

Philosophy, Politics and

Economics

Jacob Newby

Ermysted's Grammar, Skipton

Felix von Moltke

Winchester College



Final Honour School Results

In 2024 graduates at New College achieved 55 Firsts, 56 Upper Seconds, 5 Lower Seconds and 2 Pass. Below are the Finalists who wish to share their results.

Molecular and Cellular

Biochemistry

Ines Momodu-Herrero First

Chemistry

Maia Hamilton 2.2

Andrew Muir First

Lily Phillips 2.2

English Language and Literature

Celia Merson 2.1

MEng Engineering

Jack Binning First

Experimental Psychology

Sofie Procter First

History

Patrick Mayhew First

Baraa Mohamed Pass

Gwendolen Otte 2.1

History and Politics

Imaan Haider First

Jurisprudence

Heidi Nicholas 2.1

Craig Nyamarebvu 2.1

Medical Sciences

Bhargava Govardhana 2.1

Abigail Vukashin First

Modern Languages

Charlotte Mitchell 2.1

Modern Languages and Linguistics

Lia Keane 2.1

Music

Amy Higgins First

Alex Lea First

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Joanna Asher 2.1

Aoife Doherty-Ayers 2.1

Lewis Fisher 2.1

Seb Lyons 2.1

Charlie Mackintosh First

Final Award Results 2023-2024

35 Postgraduate Research students overall. None gave permission to share.

Postgraduate Taught

Overall 28 Distinction, 31 Merit, 31 Pass.

Conor Barry

MBA

Daniel Lin

MSc (Statistical
Science)

Marjun Parcasio

MSc (International
Human Rights Law)

Fitz Fitzpatrick

MSt (Music)

Alexandra Lovell

PGCE

Nicholas Ruff

BCL

Max Heimowitz

MSt (Slavonic Studies)

Lauritz Morlock

MJur

Haitian Xie

MSc (Mathematical &
Theoretical Physics)

Blues and Team Colours

Alex Albright	Rugby League	Half
Onakanmi Alli	American Football	1st Team Colours
Aria Banerjee Watts	Lacrosse	Half
Aurnia Barlow	Netball	Full
Lara Boudinot	Volleyball	Full
Sam Brody	Basketball	Half
Oliver Brunt	Golf	Full
Saqlain Choudhary	Cricket	Full
David Coope	Powerlifting	Full
Matt Courtis	Modern Pentathlon	Half
Kaan Erdogan	Kendo	Half
Iona Ffrench-Adam	Cricket	Full
Iona Ffrench-Adam	Football	Full
Iona Ffrench-Adam	Rugby League	1st Team Colours
Theresa Grealy	Powerlifting	Half
Rose Grimshaw	Fencing	Full
Alfred Hawkins	American Football	Half
Grace Haworth	Equestrian	Half
Tom Kaprielian	Dancesport	2nd Team Colours
Joanna Leadley	Modern Pentathlon	Half
Kit Levenson	Rugby Football	Full
Ei Lwin	Dancesport	2nd Team Colours
Joe-Luka Mahoney	Handball	Half
Rahul Marchand	Lightweight Rowing	Half
Alfie Marriage Massey	Baseball	1st Team Colours
Alice McGonnell	Equestrian	Half
Jack Morrin	Ultimate Frisbee	2nd Team Colours

Adam O'Neill	American Football	2nd Team Colours
Lily-Mae Phillips	Rugby Football	Full
Thomas Ricketts	American Football	Half
Joseph Rogers	Korfball	Full
Aaron Rose	Golf	Full
Dominic Shaw	Touch Rugby	Half
Libby Smith	Rugby League	1st Team Colours
Samuel Thompson	Touch Rugby	Half
Tom Trigwell	Cheerleading	1st Team Colours
Corenna Twiss	Cheerleading	1st Team Colours
Lorenza Valensise	Eton Fives	Half
Harry Way	Football	Full
Tilly Woods	Orienteering	Half



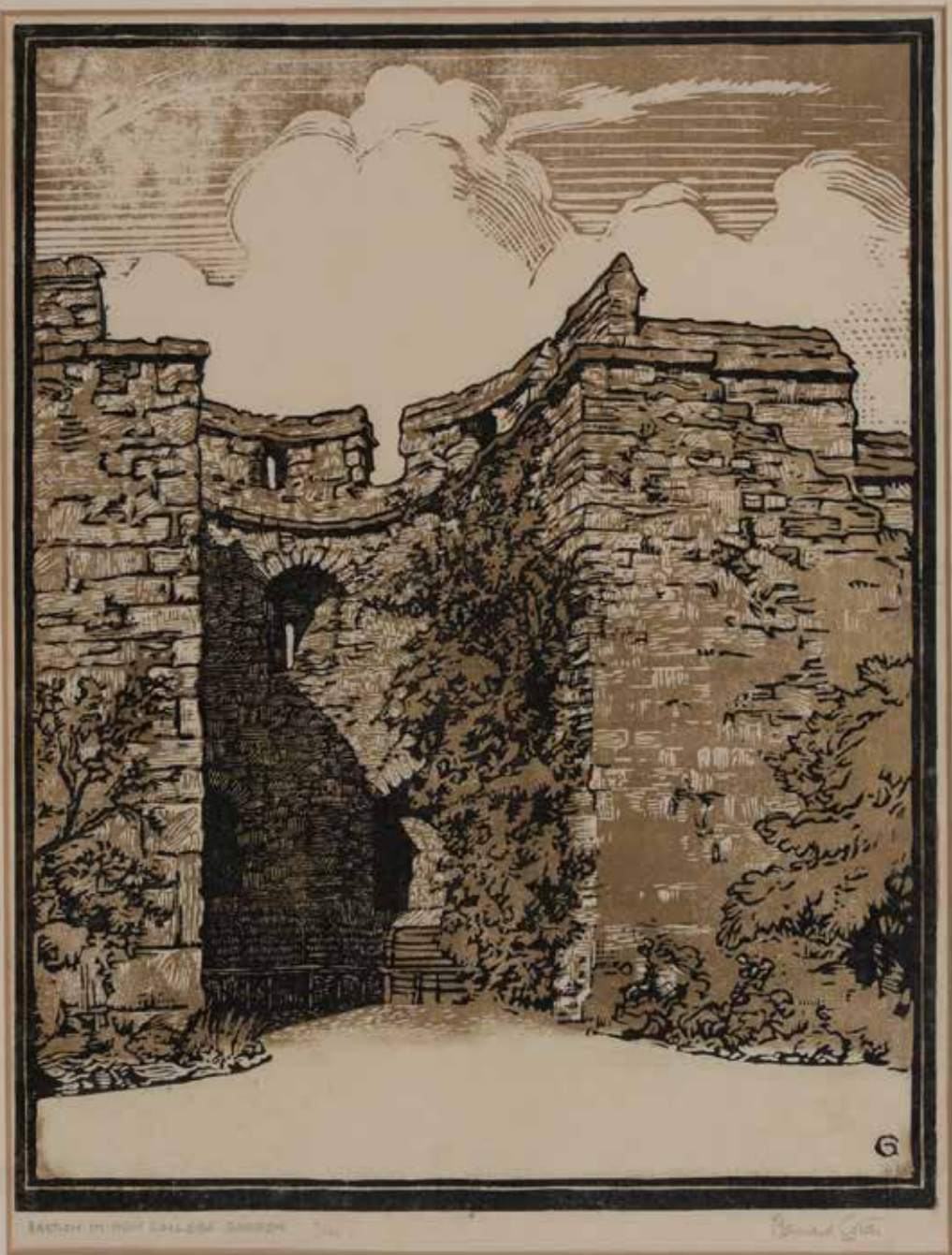
Back cover

Bernard Cecil Gotch (1876-1963) 'Bastion in New College Garden', woodcut, signed, titled and numbered 7/100. NCI: 5686

Gotch was born near Winchester, and attended Winchester School of Art, first as a student and then later in a teaching role. He exhibited regularly and held one-man shows in Lincoln's Inn and at the Fine Art Society. In 1925 he moved to Patchway on Cumnor Hill in Oxford and spent much time painting the interiors and exteriors of the colleges. So prolific was he that his work included an exhibition every eight weeks in Oriel College lecture rooms, and he regularly exhibited at the Royal Academy. In 1952, the University of Oxford made him an Honorary M.A.; a Memorial Exhibition in 1964 took place at the Bonfiglioli Gallery.

The College owns a number of works by Gotch, including the historically important view of the construction of the Memorial Library, and views of New College buildings and their environs occasionally come on the market. One recent acquisition is this rather unusual item, a striking, two-coloured, woodblock of the one of the bastions of the City Wall.

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ARCHWAY IN RUIN WALL-OLD BRIDGE

Edward G. Allen