

# EXON

THE EXETER COLLEGE MAGAZINE ISSUE 12 AUTUMN 2009  
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## EXETER EVOLVES

NEW LOOKS FOR THE BAR AND BOATHOUSE  
EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AT EXETER HOUSE

## A PERMANENT LEGACY

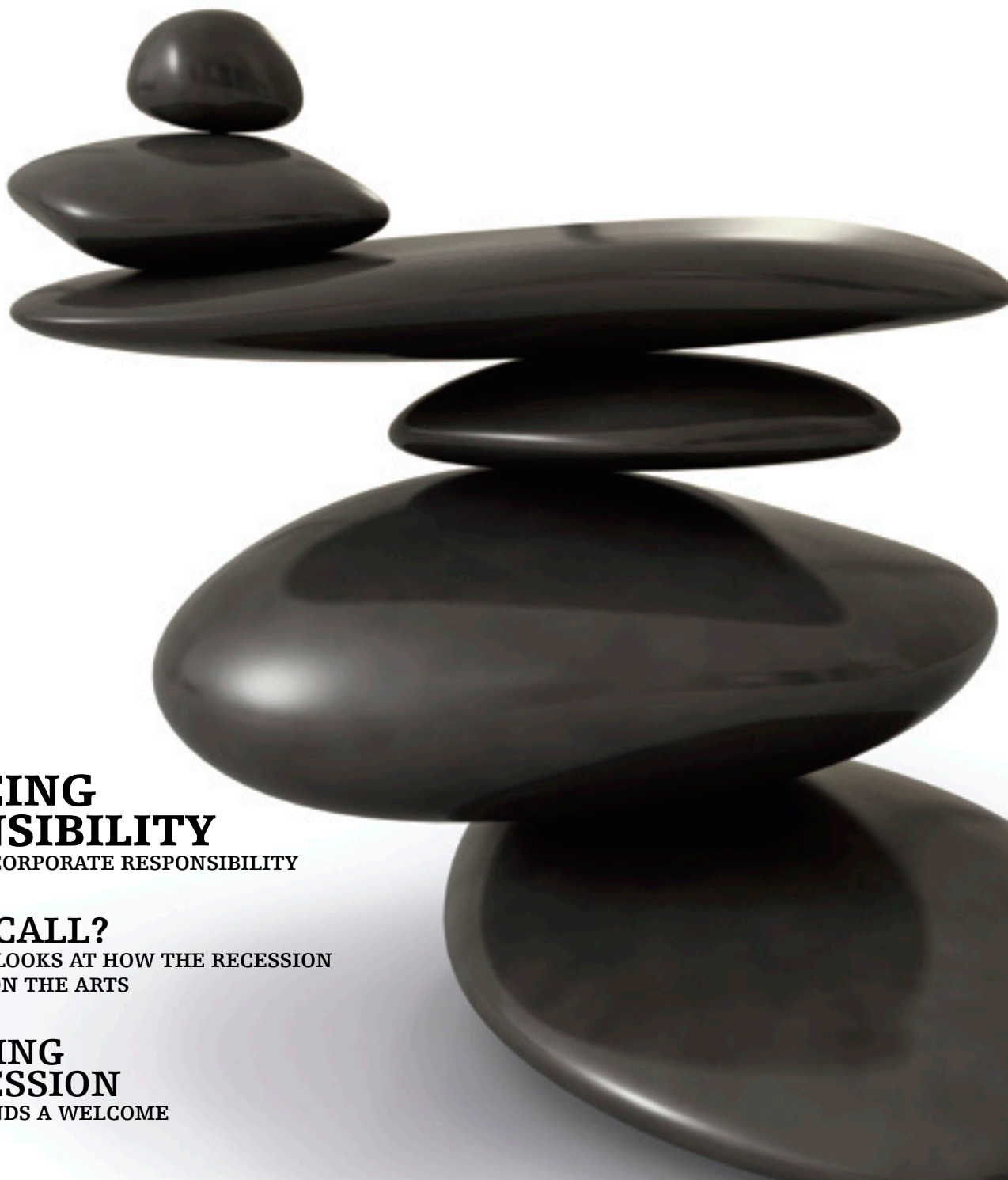
THE RECTOR'S PORTRAIT IS INSTALLED IN HALL

## A VISIT FROM ATTENBOROUGH

SIR DAVID ANSWERS EXETER'S QUESTIONS

## 30 YEARS OF EXONIAN WOMEN

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## CURTAIN CALL?

IMOGEN STUBBS LOOKS AT HOW THE RECESSION PUTS PRESSURE ON THE ARTS

## GRADUATING IN A RECESSION

JOHN GAPPER FINDS A WELCOME SILVER LINING

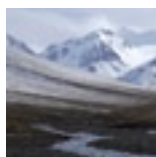
PLUS: EXETER GETS A GORMLEY, TRAVEL SCHOLARS, EXVAC MAKING A DIFFERENCE, AND MORE...

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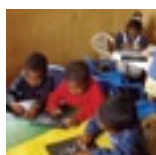
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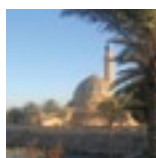
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**W**elcome to the 2009 edition of Exon. We hope you will enjoy all it has to offer.

Our theme for 2009 is public service. We have several articles by or about members of the Exeter community who are working to improve the world around them. Imogen Stubbs (1979, English) examines the contribution of the arts to society, while David Webb (1983, Mathematics) asks to what extent we can hold companies to a concept of corporate responsibility. In contrast to this broad-scale view, the description by Michael Amherst (2003, English) of founding his own charity shows how one young person can make a real difference.

Of course, the world has seen changes and upheavals in the past year which, as we came to shape this edition of Exon, we could not ignore. With the challenging economic climate paramount in the minds of many, John Gapper (1978, PPE), now Chief Business Commentator of the *Financial Times*, examines the roots of the current situation. Meanwhile, David Schulte (1968, Jurisprudence) gives us an insider's view of Barack Obama's campaign, and the implications for the US of his election.

Our thanks go to all the students, Fellows and Old Members who have contributed, and especially to our student intern, Victoria Elliott (2007, Educational Studies). The experience and expertise contributed by Exonians old and new and exhibited in this year's Exon are a fascinating testimony to the richness and diversity of our ever-growing Exeter community.

Floreat Exon. 🍷

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# Rector's Letter

BY FRANCES CAIRNCROSS, RECTOR

**T**he College you will read about in these pages is no ordinary educational establishment. I realise that whenever I walk through the front quad, and reflect on the amazing fact that this scholarly community, in the centre of one of the world's loveliest cities, is on a site that it has inhabited for nearly 700 years. The young people who arrive each October come to the very site to which Stapeldon Hall moved in 1315, having abandoned its first site on the far side of what is now Radcliffe Square. And quite a few of them come to study the same subject as the 12 original Fellows of the College: philosophy.

Pause for a moment, and reflect on this astonishing fact. Here is an institution that has been doing much the same thing, in much the same spot, for almost three-quarters of a millennium. My seven-year tenure as Rector will be a mere one percent of the lifetime of the College. How many other institutions on the planet have such durability, such stability, such continuity of purpose? No wonder an Oxford college has such a powerful grip on those who experience it, and leaves such an indelible mark.

With the approach of our 700th anniversary, we have an opportunity to pause and think about the justification and the future purpose of a college, to ensure that Exeter is not just a charming relic of the medieval past, but has a purpose and a mission for the future. How are we to carry forward the collegiate ideal into the 21st century? The pages of Exon offer some hints.

They speak, first and foremost, of continuity. In June this year, I had the thrill of walking with Philip Pullman and his wife through the front quad and out into Brasenose Lane, on the way to the Sheldonian where he would be awarded Oxford University's highest honour – an honorary degree. As we walked, we reflected on the transformation in the fortunes of the youngster who had once been an undergraduate in rooms overlooking Turl Street. That is one sort of continuity. Another was the presence at this summer's Gaudy of Raymond Lloyd, who came up in 1935 to read



Engineering. A third was the recent retirement dinner for Sybil Pitts, who first worked for the College in 1971, was a scout for many years and has finally left at the age of 74. Both her daughter, Carol, and her grandson, David, work for the College and we are lucky to have them.

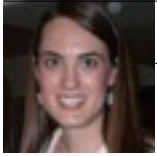
**“Exeter is not just a charming relic of the medieval past, but has a purpose and a mission for the future.”**

But continuity is not enough. The collegiate ideal also calls for a rich and deep array of educational experiences. Inevitably, in these pages, the non-academic have more prominence than is the case in the day-to-day life of the College. However, the academic side continues to thrive. Our Fellow in Physics published a widely admired book called *Antimatter* (just in time to put straight the non-science in *Angels and Demons*).

As every Old Member will remember, Exeter is much more than a scholarly community spanning the generations. It is a place where people make music, play sport, write, act and row. Above all, it is a place where people sit up half the night debating the meaning of life, the state of the world and the future of humanity. In the course of all that, they make friendships that last a lifetime.

All this is the collegiate ideal we hope to renew and strengthen in the Campaign we launch in September 2009. Every year, when groups of students graduate, I explain to them the social contract that has made their education possible. It was financed to a considerable extent by those who went before them, and cared passionately about the education of the young. Now, I tell them, it's your turn to make available those opportunities to the next generation of students – who will one day in their turn help generations yet unborn. Surely that continuity of generosity is the most extraordinary aspect of this wonderful College.

# The Rector Unveiled



The Rector's portrait is revealed at a celebratory dinner in Hall.

BY REBECCA FIELDS, JUNIOR DEAN (2007, MEDIEVAL LITERATURE)



THE RECTOR'S SCOTTISH HOME PROVIDES A BACKDROP FOR HER NEW PORTRAIT.

Mark Roscoe, a prestigious artist and portrait painter based in the Rector's native Scotland, was commissioned in July 2007 to paint a portrait of Rector Frances Cairncross. Roscoe has painted other Oxford Heads

of House, public figures, and even royalty (Prince Tunku Abdullah of Malaysia and his family). The artist relies on first impressions in painting his subjects, and for the Rector's portrait he used a combination of photographs and life sittings.

**"It's a strange sensation to look down the Hall and see yourself."**

The portrait was unveiled on 15 October 2009, when undergraduate and graduate students, staff and Fellows, former Rector Marilyn Butler and alumnus Philip Pullman attended a celebratory dinner in Hall. Professor Richard Vaughan-Jones, Sub-Rector, spoke of the good company the portrait joins, including Rector Butler, who in 1993 was the first female Head of House

among the formerly all-male colleges. Then the curtain was lifted, and a smile lit the Rector's face as she viewed it for the first time.

The portrait hangs between the two main entrances in Hall. The Rector's home in Scotland serves as the backdrop, where greenery peeks through windows and light floods the canvas as the Rector sits in a red suit and black academic gown. "I like it," the Rector said, "but it's a strange sensation to look down the Hall and see yourself – especially wearing my gown in the wilds of Scotland."

The pleasantly bright composition stands out amongst the more sombre backgrounds of other portraits around the Hall – surely a sign of the distinguished traditions on which Exeter thrives and the bright future which lies ahead. ♥

## A FOND FAREWELL TO BRIAN STEWART



A student reflects on the colourful personality and inspiring tutelage of retiring Fellow in Pure Mathematics, Dr Brian Stewart.

BY VINESH SOLANKI (2003, MATHEMATICS)

After 44 years as Lecturer and Fellow in Pure Mathematics at Exeter College, Dr Brian Stewart retired in June. A recent encounter with Brian (front quad, myself reposing and pondering on a bench, Brian in transit) engendered the characteristic witticism: "You're looking very cheerful. What's wrong?" Somewhat taken aback, I could only respond with a platitudinous laugh. I recall other meetings (typically both of us in transit) that have been more functional, with Brian ascertaining the reasons for my mathematical frustrations, and responding by surreptitiously placing a useful textbook in my pigeonhole.

I can reflect, in this manner, on the way in which my relationship with Brian has changed over the six years I have been a student at Exeter. Petrified at my first tutorial, I was put at ease by Brian's disposing of rigorous bland pedagogy for an informal examination of problems

with problems, and informing his students how to see the wood for the trees in branches of abstract algebra. Brian's tutelage has encompassed the great and the good in embryo (take Iain Lumsden, who went on to become boss of Standard Life) and has inspired other more prosaic individuals, such as me, to pursue research in pure mathematics. All within the confines of a room equipped with ancient artefacts (including a giant plant and an origami hat, both with their peculiar histories).

One should also mention Brian's role as Finance and Estates Bursar (1988–2000, 2001–2004), steering the College through such financial calamities as the collapse of Barings bank. Noted amongst undergraduates for his dry sense of humour and entertaining annual dinners at his house and, above all, highly respected as a tutor and lecturer, Brian will be missed. ♥



AFTER 44 YEARS AT EXETER, BRIAN STEWART RETIRED IN JUNE 2009.

**"Brian's tutelage has encompassed the great and the good in embryo."**



# An Interview with Professor Raymond Dwek, FRS

Professor Raymond Dwek, the College's Professorial Fellow in Biochemistry, retires from Exeter this autumn after 33 years. Kevin Maloy talked to him about the Monsanto Fellowship, and setting up Oxford's first spin-out company, OxfordGlycoSystems.

BY KEVIN MALOY, FORMER MONSANTO FELLOW OF EXETER

**KM: What is the history of the relationship between Monsanto and Oxford?**

**RD:** While working in the Biochemistry Department, I was encouraged by Professor Rodney Porter to study the structure of antibodies. We discovered that one of the surfaces of the antibody molecule was covered by carbohydrates (sugars); we developed technology to separate and analyse these sugars and found that antibodies in people with certain diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, had different patterns of sugars. This was the beginning of "glycobiology", the study of the roles of sugars in biological processes. Monsanto, one of the leading biotechnology companies in the US, was keen to support new technologies in the life sciences and in 1985 provided funding to support our work. This was the first industrial grant ever received by the University and became a model for interactions between academia and industry.

**KM: And how did your relationship with Monsanto lead to the creation of the Monsanto Fellowship?**

**RD:** The funds from Monsanto supported the work in my lab, and scientists from Monsanto visited Oxford to discuss our progress. Exeter's Governing Body was supportive of a role for industry in science: the then Rector, Lord Crowther-Hunt, as well as many Exeter Fellows, were very hospitable to the visitors, particularly towards Richard Mahoney, the President of Monsanto. Mr Mahoney developed a great affection for Exeter; he often visited and would stay in the College lodgings (while his body guards slumped it in the Randolph!). Mr Mahoney decided to create a Monsanto Fellowship as a gift to Exeter, to cover my teaching so that I could concentrate on research. Dr Jane Mellor was elected as the first Monsanto Fellow and became the first woman to join Exeter's Governing Body.

**KM: Tell me about the creation of OxfordGlycoSystems.**

**RD:** As the field of glycobiology grew, many industrial and academic institutions became interested in purchasing the technology for the automated release and analysis of carbohydrates. Monsanto had acquired the pharmaceutical company GD Searle, and provided funding for some of their scientists to join my group to help prepare the technology for commercialisation. The main challenge then was in managing the relationships with the different parties and ensuring that there would be no conflicts of interest. I was able to convince the University that it was a good idea and, in 1988, OxfordGlycoSystems (OGS) was launched, the first ever spin-out company in which the University had a shareholding.

**KM: How did the creation of OGS contribute to science at the University?**

**RD:** OGS rapidly expanded and within a few years most major drug companies had purchased OGS instruments and were using sugar analyses as an important 'quality control' indicator of their protein drugs. This strengthened the links between the University and Monsanto/Searle, who then funded the Glycobiology Institute in the Department of Biochemistry, which opened in 1991. OGS moved into drug development, rather than instrumentation, and was re-named OxfordGlycoSciences. Building on work in the Glycobiology Institute, OGS developed a compound which has been successfully employed for treatment of Gaucher's disease, as well as blood and bone disease. Eventually OGS was floated on the stock market. It continued to interact with the University in many ways, including provision of research grants, before being taken over by Celltech UCB in 2003.



PROFESSOR DWEK RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS AT EXETER.

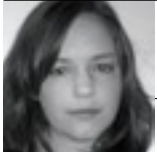
**KM: Tell me about the work you have been doing at the Ben-Gurion University in Israel.**

**RD:** I've been involved in building a National Institute for Biotechnology, which is helping in the development of the Negev and also brings Palestinian and Israeli researchers together under the slogan "Technology for peace". My other project involves water, hopefully improving the water supply to Gaza.

**KM: What are your plans for the future?**

**RD:** The University has asked me to stay on as director of the Glycobiology Institute, to continue to oversee the research there. I have two main interests: firstly the development of an AIDS vaccine by attempting to induce immune responses against the sugars that coat the surface of the AIDS virus; secondly, the development of a new class of anti-viral drugs based on nanoparticles. I hope to see these projects in clinical development in the next few years. I also support the research in a Biochemistry Institute in Bucharest. My colleagues there are working towards new treatments for melanoma and hepatitis. And I'm an Institute Professor in the Scripps Research Institute in California and will spend a few months there each year, so I have plenty to keep me busy. ♥

# Boys of the Empire: Masculinity and Decolonisation



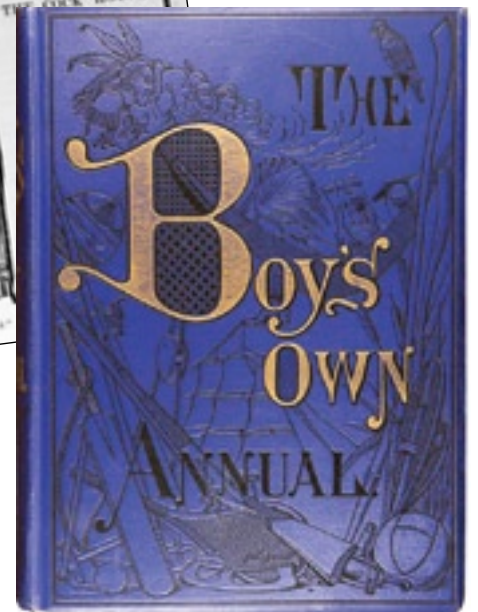
An undergraduate discusses the presentation of masculine ideals in imperial literature for boys. She highlights the influence of decolonisation on changing conceptions of masculinity in British culture.

BY EMILY WILLIAMS (2006, HISTORY)

From the mid-19th century, imperialism featured heavily in children's fiction. The British Empire provided the perfect setting for the adventurous heroes of popular fiction. Magazines such as *Chums*, *Boy's Realm*, *Boys of the Empire*, and *The Boy's Own Paper*, which aimed to provide moral ideals and encourage the spread of Christian values, were steeped in the imperial ethos. The aim of most juvenile literature was to entertain and instruct, but also to spread useful knowledge, to provide acceptable role models and to inculcate approved value systems. This type of magazine therefore had a key social role, and as a historical source is revealing about the ideals that a specific part of society believed should be upheld.

Several historians have studied children's literature of the 19th century when the British Empire was at its zenith, concluding that imperialism formed a key part of the construction of masculine identity, but thus far little attention has been given to the question of how this changed when Britain's imperial power began to wane. However, this is a question worth pursuing, as popular attitudes towards decolonisation have been hotly debated by historians. Some have argued that the fact that it never became a controversial political issue in Britain suggests that the majority of the British population were indifferent to the loss of empire. Others have looked away from the political sphere to assess the impact of decolonisation, arguing that dramatic shifts are evident in the social and cultural sphere.

In my thesis I have followed the latter approach. Focusing on *The Boy's Own Paper* between the years 1930 and 1960, I have considered the importance of empire to the magazine, paying particular attention to the way in which empire influenced the creation of a masculine paradigm.



Gender identities are crucial to understanding the way in which any society conceives of itself. Studying attitudes to decolonisation in this way can be much more revealing than simply considering the high political debates. By considering the role of empire in the creation of a masculine ideal in all aspects of the magazine, including fiction, careers advice, morality and even the illustrations, I have concluded that in the mid-20th century the models of masculinity presented to children were still closely linked to the expansive imperialism of the late 19th century. Consequently, far from being a peripheral question for the majority of the British population, decolonisation had a dramatic effect on British culture, as it forced a complete reimagining of masculine ideals. ♡

"Magazines aimed to provide moral ideals and encourage the spread of Christian values."



# A Day in the Life of Kate Goswell



**Sixteen hour days are not unheard of for Catering Manager, Kate Goswell, although sometimes they do include ice cream and wine-tasting.**

BY VICTORIA ELLIOTT (2007, EDUCATIONAL STUDIES)

**A** little known fact about Kate Goswell: her dogs are the best fed canines in Oxfordshire. Half way through our interview a head pops around the door, delivering a large silver foil packet containing leftovers that would otherwise be thrown away. Kate laughs and explains that she has the staff well-trained by now, before proceeding to talk me through a typically eventful day.

On Ascension Day, the College Catering Manager began with some detective work. Attendees at the Choral Matins tower service are entitled to a free breakfast in Hall – but to get in they have to produce their order of service leaflet. In 2008, people ingeniously divided the leaflets into quarters and scraps to get past the door, but this year Kate was watching out for that trick! Despite preparing for a hundred-strong crowd (about triple the size of a normal Trinity Term breakfast) she did get the chance to pop out and listen to the singing at the top of the tower. “It’s a nice start to the day,” she says.

After lunch Kate and her team got on with the preparation work for Graduate High Table, in order to get things going promptly at 7.15pm. Graduate High Table always means a lot of work for Kate – not least due to the challenge of getting everyone to sign on in time!

Luckily, the meal went smoothly. The nightmare scenario for the catering team is when the washing-up staff call in sick: for most jobs getting cover is relatively easy, but if the indispensable pot-washer is ill, Kate has to ring round. It’s not unknown for her to end up doing the dishes herself, although she and the Assistant Catering Manager, Lesley O’Donovan, manage to share out the late nights and difficult jobs.

A day like this goes on late: Kate was finally outside College waiting for a taxi home at 11.30pm, having arrived over 16 hours earlier.

Not all days are like that of course. The day before, Kate and Lesley were at a wine-tasting at New College, although “it was a case of swilling it round and



KATE GOSWELL MANAGES ALL FORMS OF CATERING, BOTH FOR COLLEGE AND FOR CONFERENCES.

spitting it out – we had a big dinner that night!” Kate buys the wine for student dinners and for conferences, as well as being ultimately responsible for the College bar, and this year she oversaw the introduction of ice-cream sales into Exeter (including her personal favourite, Greek yoghurt and honey flavour).

She’s an extremely busy woman: not only does she plan the daily menus during term, but in the vacations she has conferences, summer schools and weddings a-plenty on her plate. “By the end of ninth week, without wanting to offend anyone, I’m really pleased to see the back of the students and Fellows – but in the week before nought week, I’m always longing to see them back!”

Cheerfully she concludes, “It’s nice; I never have a chance to get bored.”

**“It’s not unknown for her to end up doing the dishes.”**



WHAT KATE SPAT OUT AT NEW COLLEGE – WHICH “TASTED OF LYCHEES, PEACHES AND PINEAPPLE” AND “CONVERTED ME INSTANTLY TO THIS STYLE OF RIESLING”.

# Monuments and Politics in America



Six weeks to discover North America and only a page to describe it in: our Travel Scholar takes us through her hectic itinerary.

BY URSULA HACKETT (2006, PPE)

Last summer I travelled through or visited 21 American states and four Canadian provinces over 46 days. I visited 10 cities, met 16 alumni (and was introduced to 11 children and 14 pets). I was taken out to dinner 16 times; went on four hikes and rode three different bikes, each in a different time zone.

How did I manage to do this? Through Exeter's North American Travel Scholarship, which allows one student per year to travel across the United States and Canada, hosted by Exeter's alumni. I have had a trip of a lifetime. Exeter's alumni were very generous: after I had submitted my plans I was overwhelmed with offers of hospitality from locations right across North America.

Such an exciting and ambitious trip resists précis, but I'll give it a go. On my first ever foray outside Europe I have seen the Statue of Liberty, Niagara Falls, the White House, the United Nations, Mt St Helens, Harvard, Alcatraz, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Empire State Building, Little Bighorn Battlefield, and many more monuments of national importance. The trip was a series of exciting and memorable experiences, many facilitated by generous alumni, that do not appear in guidebooks for the casual tourist: I took a three-day train ride through the Canadian wilderness, went wine-tasting in Oregon, tried bison tongue in Colorado, had a guided tour around New York's old tenements and watched hawks over Devil's Lake. I paddled in the Pacific, took lunch at a Torontoan yacht club, hiked in the Beartooth Mountains and by Montnoma Waterfall, watched a Sky Sox baseball game and cycled along Vancouver's sea wall.

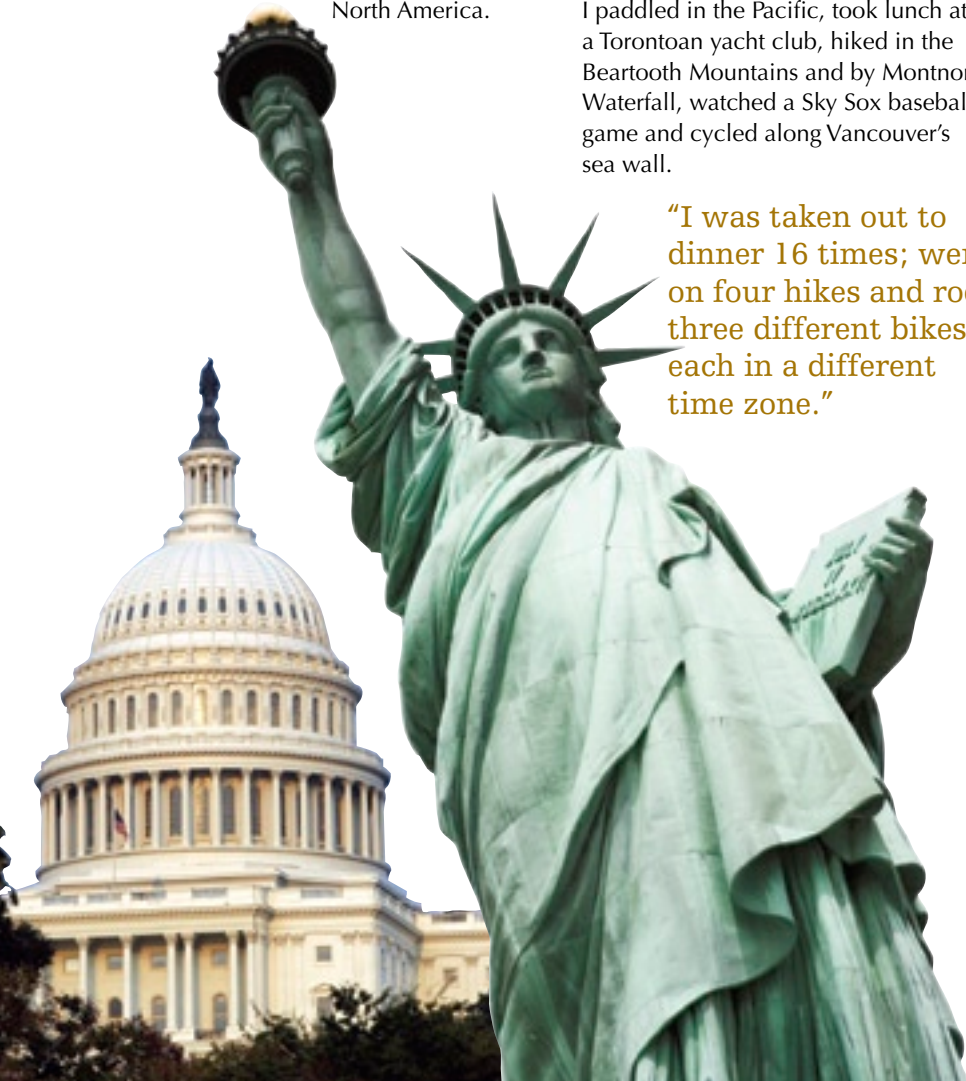
**"I was taken out to dinner 16 times; went on four hikes and rode three different bikes, each in a different time zone."**

There were moments of humour, such as watching the Democratic Convention with Republican hosts, and listening to the Republican Convention with Democrat hosts. The many, very stimulating, discussions with alumni of all political affiliations provided me with plenty to consider on the long plane journeys. I spent time with canvassers at the Democrat headquarters in Colorado and I interned at the San Francisco Bike Coalition. In Montana, I gave a talk on Exeter College to potential Rhodes scholarship students at Rocky Mountain College, and then went in the following day to talk about Philosophy at Oxford.

Last year was a particularly important one for American politics. As a politics student it was fantastic to be travelling around the US in the final weeks before the National Conventions, during the Conventions themselves, and just as the Presidential, Senatorial and House candidates turned towards the swing states to step up their campaigns before the autumn. It was fascinating to see the Democratic field campaign, which became so important to the election. I loved walking through the streets of Denver as it buzzed with National Convention fever, encountering the media and security personnel, enjoying fringe events and spotting delegates, including famous legislators.

I found it quite a challenge to write this article because there is just too much to include. It is difficult to make it more than a list but, as anyone who is unguarded enough to ask me how I got on in the summer learns, each item, and every single one of the 2,000 photos I snapped, carries a story. ♥

With thanks to Jim and Karen Prust; Dr Herb Werlin and Myrna Seidman; Prof David Hicks and Maxine Hicks; Hannah Gray; Diane Reis; Derek and Norma Jenkin; John and Elaine Perry; Rachel and John Launchbury; Bill Rivers and Rita Rodriguez; Scott and Jody Nycum; Lee and Sue Mickus; Henry Burton; Victoria and John Cech.







# Rethinking East Asia



**Bewildering variety and surprising discoveries leave our East Asia Travel Scholar ready to revisit his cultural preconceptions.**

BY MEHMET NOYAN (2005, PHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY)

**T**he driving force behind my application to Oxford four years ago was the urge to explore a new culture. I had crossed the Atlantic to go to university, and it was with the same hope of enriching my understanding of different cultures that I applied for the Travel Scholarship and embarked on my trip.

From Russia I had expected grey hardness, a utilitarian atmosphere, and a lot of “nyet.” To a certain extent that was true, but to my surprise, it was juxtaposed with 1950s America. Almost all of the young professionals I met were clean-cut and straight-laced. They didn’t drink or smoke. Hopeful for the future, they enjoyed going to the park for a barbeque and a hike. With all the hubbub about Ossetia and Iran, it is a side of the country the media never shows; I had no idea it existed.

The strongest impression I had had of Australia was “laid-back”. But when I spent three days at St Paul’s College at the University of Sydney, I met some of the most competent students I have ever encountered. Intensity and passion typical of the United States were honed and focused by an analytical streak and an ability to measure context more often associated with the UK. It was a synthesis I hadn’t encountered before.

Another revelation came from examining different styles of government. India left me utterly bewildered. It is a massively busy country, humming with people of different religions and backgrounds going in different directions. However, they never seemed to clash. It is vital for India’s political system to reflect this balance between disparate groups. In Mumbai, I met Ajit Gulabchand, chairman of the Hindustan Construction Corporation, and was overwhelmed by his fierce pride in the country’s ability to function as a democratic institution, despite staggering diversity.

India’s working, if somewhat dysfunctional, democracy led me into an overly harsh judgment of my next destination, Singapore. Tiny and rich,

TAJ MAHAL, INDIA




homogenous and quiet, it seemed to be India’s polar opposite. It seemed almost sterile, which I attributed to Singapore’s government, with its somewhat authoritarian reputation. I was surprised that a country with the size and economic breadth of India functions as a democracy when Singapore does not. But just as the diversity of India necessitates a democratic government, Singapore’s homogeneity and small size enables it to function within a more restrictive framework. An alumnus who works for the government in Singapore told me that it was probably the only government in the world whose constituency was more conservative than itself. A friend whom I visited begged me to consider that in 50 years Singapore has been transformed from a backwater to a nation which makes the US look almost third-world.

Each country’s government fits its context. For me to criticise Singapore for not being as “open” a society as my own is misguided. Singaporeans judge by different standards; poverty is almost non-existent, and almost everyone has a roof over their heads, with more than enough to eat. It is the trade-off they

**“It is the trade-off they have made in order to shorten the climb to prosperity.”**

have made in order to shorten the climb to prosperity; for me to judge it from the top of that climb was a mistake.

This realisation showed me Wittgenstein’s ruler in action: although I had wanted to understand other cultures, the Travel Scholarship experience showed me that to do so, first we need a better understanding of our own prejudices. 

**With thanks to James Astill, Gayatri Bedi, Sumant Dhamija, Mahima Puri, Ajit Gulabchand, Richard Heald, Mike Coleman, Diana Ng, Yuhei Okada, Yi Xin Ong, John and Marianne Ridley, John Stuart, Chris Chantler, Stuart Partis, Michael and Audrey Kent, Simon Lewis, Chris Simpson, Grsel Alici, Justice Murray Tobias, Geoff and Melanie Lovell, Robert Bilger, Don Melrose, Mike Ajao, Patrick Weller, Peter Mann, Elliot Fung, Allan Lammin, Mark Swift, Phillip Pon, Judge Aarif Barma, Rafael Gil-Tienda, and Alex Wang.**

# Livelihoods and Landscapes



The Richard Sandbrook Scholar returns from India with an insight into how climate change is affecting the lives of the country's poorest citizens.

BY ELSPETH ROBERTSON (2005, EARTH SCIENCES)



As one of the two 2008 recipients of the Richard Sandbrook Scholarship, I spent six weeks as an intern for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in the India Country Office, New Delhi. IUCN's mission is "to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature, and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable." The India branch was set up only two years ago and has only two employees, providing a unique chance to be integrated fully into the office team.

The internship was based in the Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group, whose aim is delivering an approach to conservation that simultaneously improves both a region's socio-economic and its environmental situation. I worked as Programmes Assistant for the Indian component of IUCN's Landscapes and Livelihoods Strategy (LLS), which aims to reduce poverty among the forest-dependent rural poor by expanding their economic opportunities, while sustaining and enhancing natural resources. My research for this project focused on adaptation to climate change.

Climate change is likely to exacerbate current threats to India's diverse landscapes, affecting natural and social systems and altering the productivity, diversity and functions of ecosystems. Throughout the internship, I worked on a proposal to integrate adaptation measures into the LLS programme, considering landscape alteration due to climate change, and how this will affect the local communities. It was particularly interesting to explore the impacts of climate change in a way that my Earth Sciences degree has not addressed.

The internship began at full tilt. During my very first week, I represented IUCN at an international conference, "Renewable Energy India Expo 2008". The conference focussed on new developments in renewable energy and discussed how these technologies can help India's energy crisis. Despite unprecedented economic growth, 53% of the Indian population, almost all of them the rural poor, have no access to electricity. Supplying electricity to rural areas is vital to promote industrial and economic growth, and thus alleviate poverty. However, this process is slow; India, like the rest of the world, is unable to maximize the potential of renewable energies, because of a lack of investment, research and political will.

**"Conservation is about protecting livelihoods as well as nature."**

Though rich in natural heritage, India is one of the most poverty stricken countries in Asia. The rural poor are nearly all dependent on natural resources such as forests and coastal environments. So conservation is about protecting livelihoods as well as nature. Even without the pressure of climate change, India's natural heritage is under huge strain from poor governance problems and increased demand from economic growth.

In conjunction with the WWF, IUCN is establishing a global Climate Change

Adaptation Centre, to exchange information about adaptation methods for development-orientated conservation projects. I helped to arrange and host a consultation with key Indian conservation figures, summarised the discussions and sent a report to the Geneva headquarters of the IUCN. It was exciting to be involved fully in an important new project which will, I hope, be both beneficial and influential.

Living at a "homestay" provided an amazing opportunity to be immersed into Indian culture. I tasted a whole range of home-cooked Indian food and chatted into the night with my host, discussing Indian religious beliefs, festivals and culture. At weekends, I explored Delhi's nooks and crannies, expertly advised by work colleagues and my homestay family. I visited mosques, forts, temples and tombs, all reached via the notoriously erratic auto-rickshaws. The packed markets were paradise for the shoe-string shopper!



India is such a rich, diverse country and I have only scraped its surface. Through my time with the IUCN, I have gained great insight into conservation. My experience will definitely aid my future career decisions. This was a fantastic, invaluable opportunity made possible only by the generosity of the benefactors, to whom I am extremely grateful. ♥



# USAFA to Oxford



**From 5am starts and screaming cadets to pigeon post and Cuppers, Oxford, after a military academy, proves a novel experience for the Alberta Bart Holaday Scholar.**

**BY IAN HELMS (2008, ENGINEERING SCIENCE)**

Each year a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) is awarded the Alberta Bart Holaday Scholarship. The scholarship covers two years of study at Exeter College. At the conclusion of my first full year here at Oxford University, I've developed a fuller appreciation of the differences between the Oxford and US university systems, and more specifically the inherent advantages and challenges in each.

In order properly to frame the comparison, I'd like to relate briefly my unorthodox undergraduate experience in the United States. Every year roughly 4,000 graduates from the three primary US service academies, as well as those from the United States Coast Guard Academy and United States Merchant Marine Academy, leave four years of highly regimented and supervised education to enter regimented and supervised duty to the United States government. Though the details are rather mundane, suffice it to say that a 5am wake-up fairly consistently followed a midnight bedtime (with rigorous activity throughout the day). One of my younger brothers often offered dubious consolation by noting that he had "no idea what before nine in the morning even looked like".

My engineering education at the USAFA was a model of the same military rigidity. Except for the design project with which the fourth year culminated, every engineering class followed a similar cycle of lecture, homework, experiment, exam throughout my four years. Though sometimes a tedious cycle, overall I found this manner of instruction fitted my learning methods quite comfortably. What could I expect to find at Exeter College?

Fortunately, the culture shock I was warned to expect in the UK did not materialise during my first few days walking around Oxford. Growing up in a military family, I was fairly used not only to moving frequently, but to a variety of diverse locations. Additionally, having lived in Panama and travelled to

Japan, the adjustment to another English-speaking country was fairly mundane, although the jet-lag was not! I must say, however, that Oxford, and Europe more generally, still impress me daily with the vibrant history seemingly present on every street corner.

**"My engineering education at the USAFA was a model of military rigidity."**

Academically speaking, however, the adjustment has been both amusing and instructive. Approximately five minutes into our first meeting my supervisor, Professor Li He of the Engineering Science Department, told me I could not continue to call him "sir" for the rest of my tenure at Oxford. Juxtaposing thoughts of a screaming 22 year-old fourth-year cadet admonishing me to do exactly the opposite four years previously brought the sudden change in my cultural environment into sharp relief. Overall, the educational method here at Oxford (at least in my

department) is just as dissimilar as the professor-student interactions. Seeking an MSc by Research in Engineering Science, my instruction typically comes in weekly half-hour discussions to check on my progress and address any issues I have.

Just as in my experience as an undergraduate, athletic opportunities abound here at Oxford (although the difference is that they are optional activities here, rather than compulsory). I was surprised to learn that the University had an American Football Club, and seized the opportunity to compete. I have fleshed out my athletic résumé with performances in support of the Oxford University Athletic Club, and by representing Exeter in Cuppers Swimming and Cuppers Rugby.

All in all, my first year here at Exeter has been educational and enjoyable. I want to thank Mr Holaday (1968, PPE) and Exeter College for this wonderful opportunity, I'm sure the coming year will be just as valuable as this one has been. ♥



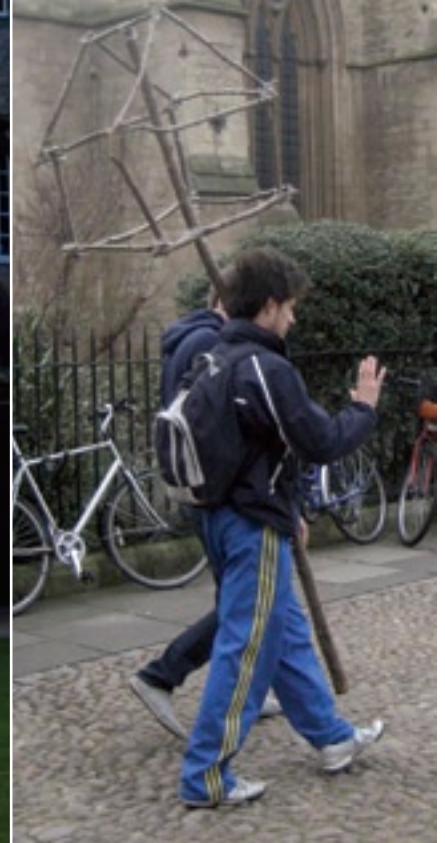
THE CHAPEL AT THE USAFA,  
A CELEBRATED LANDMARK  
OF COLORADO.

# A Culture of Sculpture at College



An Exonian celebrates the influx of art into the College.

BY MARTIN GROSVENOR (2006, ENGLISH)



LIZZI PORTER'S SCULPTURE DEMONSTRATES THE IMPERMANENCE OF 'HOME'.

**“The sculpture asks the viewer to consider the implications of migration.”**

Prize-winning artists may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Exeter; however, the recent omnipresence of sculpture may have changed all that. The College buildings and the quad have welcomed works by the Turner prize-winning artist Antony Gormley, as well as our very own Fine Art student Lizzi Porter (2006, Fine Art).

In February, the sculptor Antony Gormley visited Exeter to unveil one of his sculptures, donated to the College by an anonymous benefactor. Although the iron figure, which stands on the roof of College facing over Broad Street, may not be as colossal as the Angel of the North (his most famous work) it definitely makes a dramatic addition to the central Oxford skyline.

Lizzi Porter's sculpture, which could be seen in the centre of the front quad, was a very different structure: a construction of silver birch, wire and olive wood in contrast to Gormley's cast iron. As the fragile framework of a birdhouse, Lizzi's sculpture questions the enforced exodus of the College pigeons – courtesy of HawkForce. The sculpture asks the viewer to consider the implications of migration and what it means to be a refugee and forced from your home. The skeletal frame reflects the “impermanence of shelter, of safety [and] the fragility of the place we call home”. Lizzi will be graduating this year and has been awarded the prestigious Red Mansion Art Prize, which will involve an artistic exchange to China and an exhibition in Beijing. 🏰



# Exeter Gets a Gormley



Art comes to Exeter College, with the unveiling of Antony Gormley's impressive new sculpture.

BY SONIA KRYLOVA (2007, PPE)

Antony Gormley's work can be seen on Crosby beach in Merseyside, on buildings in the Southbank and in galleries around the world. Now one of his sculptures is gracing the roof of Exeter College. Oxford's Lord Mayor unveiled the seven-foot statue in the artist's presence on Sunday 15 February, as a crowd of observers on Broad Street cheered to welcome this addition to the Oxford skyline. The Rector and the artist's friends, together with students from Exeter, watched the unveiling from the roof.

Talking to students about the larger-than-life-sized iron cast, Mr Gormley praised the College, saying, "What's great is that this work sits in the edge between this and the wider world. It's a good thing for academic life to look beyond its immediate scholastic horizons. I think it's a great gesture by Exeter to recognise this".

The sculpture, which looks on to the corner of Broad Street and Turl Street, is clearly visible from outside College and has attracted a significant amount of interest from the public. The sculpture is one of the 17 casts taken from the artist's body, part of a series entitled "Another Time". Its installation has been possible thanks to a gift from an anonymous donor, who is believed to be a great fan of the artist's work. The colour of the sculpture is expected to change over time as rust settles on the surface, but Antony Gormley is not concerned about his work's exposure to the elements. "Hopefully, my work will not only withstand the test of time, but embrace it," he said.

**"This work sits in the edge between this and the wider world."**

GORMLEY'S SCULPTURE FROM HIS 'ANOTHER TIME' SERIES HAS BECOME A MUCH-LOVED PART OF THE OXFORD SKYLINE.



# Devon Schools Reforge Historic Links



BY ALICE WILBY, SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER

The College's relationship with the West Country is long-standing. Founded by the Bishop of Exeter in 1314, the College has welcomed many students from Devon and Cornwall ever since. Although we now have students from across the country and the world, we maintain our historic links as part of our outreach initiatives. As the College's Schools' Liaison Officer, part of my role is to encourage students from the area to apply to the University.

Our main link in Devon is with our namesake Exeter college, a college of continuing and further education. Through it we organise biannual Oxbridge Conferences, to which all schools in Devon are invited, and a College open day for sixth form students from the area. In addition, I regularly visit schools in Devon and Dorset to give talks about making an application. In the last few years we have also introduced activities for younger students from the region; several groups of 14- and 15-year-olds have visited Exeter College to get a taste of student life, and of where high aspirations could take them.

Plans in the pipeline include a subject study day to give Year 11



students a taster of life in Oxford, and an e-mentoring scheme, matching up Exeter's undergraduates with prospective applicants for encouragement and advice.

The College's work so far seems to be paying off, with six students from Devon offered places to begin as undergraduates in 2009. They hope to join the 10 students from the county already studying at Exeter. ♡

## UNDERCROFT OVERHAUL



BY JENNIFER TAYLOR, BAR OFFICER 2008-09  
(2007, PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES)

It may shock some Old Members to learn that the current Bar Officer is a female, but this is not the only change afoot in the Undercroft. After many years of looking a little tired, the College bar has had a revamp. This was more than a small cosmetic procedure – this was an entire facelift! The work was carried out over the Long Vacation in time for the new intake in Michaelmas 2008 and involved a brand new layout and decor.

From a bartender's point of view, the new bar has more space, better

**“This was more than a small cosmetic procedure – this was an entire facelift!”**

equipment and is a much nicer place to work. The customers also benefit from a more aesthetically pleasing space: a far cry from previous complaints that it was too dark and dingy. The bar is also expanding its empire: not only does it sell toasted sandwiches and stay open in the afternoons, but it also does a brisk summer trade in ice cream. ♡



## TURL STREET ARTS FESTIVAL 2009

BY JENNIFER PAYNE, TSAF 2009 CHAIR  
(2007, MUSIC)

In fifth week of Hilary Term, Exeter College joined forces with Jesus and Lincoln for the annual Turl Street Arts Festival. The week began on 13 February with the successful *My Bloody Valentine* launch ball at the Oxford Union, featuring performances from Exeter's Tom Hyatt and Sam Falle.

A huge spectrum of events followed, including a jazz parade through Turl Street led by the Ken Colyer Trust Band, daily lunchtime recitals, and short films projected from Exeter on to Jesus College's bike shed late at night. The highlights of the week were undoubtedly a production of *Grease!* in Lincoln College and a fantastic concert of Mozart's *Requiem* in Exeter College Chapel, conducted by Alistair Reid, Exeter's Organ Scholar. Thanks go to the TSAF Committee and event organisers, whose hard work made the week such a success. ♡



# Paris Match? Exeter Choir at La Sainte-Chapelle



An itinerary packed with cultural and historical highlights is topped off by a sell-out finale for the College Choir in Paris.

BY REBECCA REES (2008, ENGLISH)



THE CHOIR SINGS AT NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL.

*“The concert became a real celebration of our College Chapel’s rich history.”*

Very early in the morning on Friday of Hilary ninth week, Exeter College Choir set off for Paris, and within a couple of hours of arriving in this beautiful city, we had already sung our first concert, at Le Madeleine. The following day, after a morning exploring Montmartre, guided by a friend of the Rector, we sang a diverse programme of sacred and secular music in the Anglican church of St Michael, which merited an encore performance of “Let’s do it!”

Singing for the International Mass at Notre Dame on Sunday morning was a real privilege: as well as contributing to worship in this world-renowned Cathedral, we were able to hear Olivier Latry play the organ. With no more engagements until Monday evening, we then had time to explore Paris’s many musically-significant sights, including

Durufié’s church near the Sorbonne and Debussy’s grave at Montparnasse. A lucky few of us even got to sit in the Organ Loft during Mass in Saint-Sulpice and watch the international organist, Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, improvise.

But the zenith of our trip was undoubtedly our concert at La Sainte-Chapelle on Monday evening, for which tickets sold out. There was a beautiful symmetry to singing in the year of the 150th anniversary of Exeter Chapel’s consecration in the building which inspired George Gilbert Scott’s design. Included in our programme was music by Hubert Parry, a former Exeter Organ Scholar. We were all exceptionally proud of the performance, and the concert became a real celebration of our College Chapel’s rich history. ♣

## REFLECTIONS ON THE CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY

BY HELEN ORCHARD, CHAPLAIN

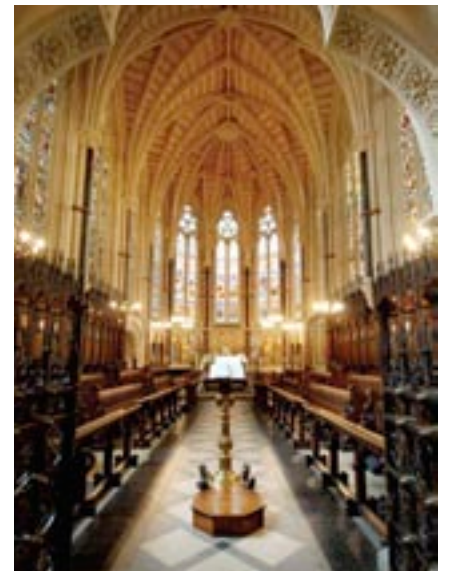
Perhaps it was because we had borne two years of dirt, dust and disruption during the Chapel’s renovation that we felt the need to celebrate the 150th year of its consecration with such gusto. After all, when your College has the most beautiful Chapel in Oxford, it is very tempting to create opportunities to show it off. A series of anniversary services during 2009 highlighted the different ways in which the Chapel has become a special place to many Exonians.

Commemorating the musical, sacramental and historical legacy of the place was important, as was recognising people who have served within its walls. It would have been nice to have invited all former Chaplains to preach at Evensong, but the timetable permitted only one per term. We welcomed

Graham Shaw (1978–85) in Hilary and Alwyn Pettersen (1985–92) in Trinity, with Mark Birch (2003–06) returning in Michaelmas 09.

Meeting former Chaplains is a fascinating experience: you may think that Choral Evensong changes very little from decade to decade, but each incumbent has their own style and definite ideas about how things should be done. Each also came laden with a fascinating clutch of stories about the antics of the students (and Fellows!) of their day. We now know who was an aficionado of Green Butter and which individual owned an outspoken parrot named The Archdeacon.

Such reminiscences were augmented by those of the Old Members who travelled back to hear “their” Chaplain preach. It is always a joy to meet Old



Members and hear their recollections, but it was particularly nice to see former students re-connecting with their Chaplain. The success of these events means that those who have not yet returned to preach have not escaped: further invitations will be forthcoming, so watch the website for details. ♣

# Applause for David Attenborough



An enraptured audience at Exeter College heard one of Britain's best-loved voices, as one student describes.

BY TIMOTHY HELE (2007, CHEMISTRY)

**S**ir David Attenborough spoke at Exeter to a packed audience after Formal Hall in May. Extra onlookers were hastily accommodated in the Benefactors' Gallery after we finished dessert.

**"The world, it is true, is in your hands."**

He was one of the most eloquent orators I have heard. His topics were wide-ranging, from his views on animal testing (testing on humans, when possible, is better) to the way that solitary sloths find a mate (they are drawn by the stench of their shared middens). He told the story of the rhino that charged his Land Rover, put its horn through



DAVID ATTENBOROUGH THINKS OF QUESTIONS FOR CHARLES DARWIN.

the back, shredded the tyres and "dismantled the vehicle from the outside". They had to wait for help from passing traffic (in the African savannah, it was a long wait).

What would he have asked Charles Darwin, someone inquired? "Why the leaves of trees have different shapes." His outlook, however, was bleak: "I cannot see how the natural world will be anything but declining in variety and extent."

The last question came from the Rector and concerned his advice for us. Concluding a long response, he finished: "The world, it is true, is in your hands. It is up to you to save it."

He received the longest ovation of anyone I have seen at Exeter. ♥

# Pullman Inspires Potential Exonians



Phillip Pullman (1965, English) gives a seminar at Exeter College. A teacher, and Old Member, describes the impact of the visit on her pupils.

BY FIONNUALA KENNEDY (1998, ENGLISH)

**R**eturning to Exeter can tend to dredge up feelings of crippling nostalgia and lost youth. However, returning with two of my own, eager-eyed students in tow, full of ambition and seeing Oxford in its splendour for the first time, made for a very special day indeed.

20 June 2009 saw the Saskatchewan Room packed with alumni like me, who have become teachers, along with their most promising pupils, as well as representatives from our Devon schools. To be receiving a lecture in the room where I learned most of what I know (or don't) about modernist literature could have been a discomfiting experience, but Pullman spoke with warmth, generosity and humour. His interest in young people was quite clear and he made them feel extremely welcome on

what could have been an intimidating day. Added to this was the tour around College (the view from the Fellows' garden making its usual impact), the Q&A session with the friendly helpers from Lincoln and Mansfield, and the relaxed tea and cake at the Rector's Lodgings. My two came away inspired and encouraged that Oxford was not the place they had been led to believe – exclusive, scary and tough – but instead exciting and, perhaps, even fun; a message summarised by Pullman's plea for them to "play around, to find patterns".

For them, it was a day to remember and another good reason to do lots of reading this summer; for me, another excellent reason to stroll down a very happy memory lane once again. ♥

## A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF OUR COLLEGE

BY NATASHA FAGELMAN (2008, LITERAE HUMANIORES)

The Philip Pullman seminar was not only a chance to meet one of the literary world's heroes, but also an opportunity for current Exonians to show our visitors what an amazing college Exeter is. I found it fantastic to see the awe on people's faces as they walked into the Hall and the Chapel. I talked to several Oxford hopefuls, but also to many who were only just realising that Oxford, and Exeter in particular, might be the place for them. I hope that we'll be seeing at least some of them again! ♥





# Exeter College Sport

Another exciting year for Exeter with achievements in a wide range of sports. Team members tell us of their progress.



## Rowing



**BY JESSICA HOULGRAVE, ECBC PRESIDENT 2009-10 (2007, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT)**

The year began with an excellent term of novice rowing in which ECBC, sponsored by Parthenon, fielded seven boats into the annual Christchurch regatta. The Men's Novice A boat narrowly lost to a tough St Peter's crew in the final, and the Women's Novice A boat made the last 16.

Persistent rain throughout Hilary Term meant the Isis was largely unrowable, but nevertheless, all crews trained furiously both on and off the water in the build up to Torpids. The women's side of the boat club was the most successful on the river with each boat rising five places on the river and winning blades, putting Exeter's women firmly in the first division. The men's third boat managed to bump their way into a fixed division, the second boat finished fourth highest second boat, while the men's firsts

fought hard and finished the week down one. A week later, Exeter was the only college to enter two boats into the Women's Head of the River race, giving the girls their first taste of rowing on the tideway, an experience re-lived a few weeks later when 19 of Exeter's finest women rowed 140km from Wallingford to Putney.

Trinity was a term of intense training for all of Exeter's six eights, and beautiful weather in Eights week meant the event was a highlight of the term for all concerned. The men's second boat bumped their way into the third division while the first boat bumped Keble. The women's first boat went down one, but the second boat fared better and once again went up four places to win blades.

The women went on to compete at Henley Women's Regatta while some of Exeter's best men competed at Henley Royal together with Balliol College. ECBC looks forward to another great year on the water. ♣

## Rugby



**BY SAMUEL HITCHINGS (2007, LITERAE HUMANIORES)**

Last year was one of mixed fortunes for Exeter rugby, but promised great things for the future. At our training in Freshers' week, the first years demonstrated exceptional quality in droves, and it was unfortunate that several were forced to miss many matches because of clashes with their science labs. Despite this setback, with most of last year's team still present we played with confidence and spirit. In the first round of matches, we showed ourselves generally equal to the competition. It was most satisfying to see that in the crunch game against Turl Street rivals Lincoln, to determine who would stay in the third division, the boys stepped up their game and won a thrilling encounter 15-11. The second round was unfortunately less successful, the highlight being an agonisingly close 15-10 defeat at Worcester. We will therefore start in

Division Four in October, although swift promotion looks likely. Our Cuppers campaign was inhibited by the loss of players to Torpids and Rugby League Varsity, and we eventually lost in the Bowl to Merton/Mansfield, who would go on to reach the final of that competition. However, we finished the season in style with an epic Old Boys match, which the alumni only just won, 47-43.

Quentin MacFarlane, who unfortunately played his last season for Exeter, and Charles Rowe, who fortunately has two more to go, both represented Oxford at the Rugby League Varsity Match and always played superbly for Exeter. Special mention must also be made of reliable departing veterans Joe Haley and Oli Gordon. With so few leaving and those who were first-year scientists able to commit to rugby in the coming season, great and exciting things must be expected of ECRFC for 2009-10. ♣





THE EXETER NAKED CALENDER IS PRODUCED EVERY YEAR TO RAISE FUNDS FOR EXVAC, AN EXETER COLLEGE CHARITY (SEE P26 FOR THIS YEAR'S EXVAC REPORT).



## Bar Sports



BY CRAIG BRUCE (2006, JURISPRUDENCE)

After losing the University league last year by a single point, the Exeter Bar Sports first darts team entered Cuppers with renewed determination. Captained by Craig Bruce, Exeter put in a strong performance throughout the tournament, notably coming back from 5–2 down to win 5–7 against Mansfield in the early stages of the competition. The team made it to a tense final against Pembroke to win 7–5. Entering the Michaelmas 2008 league with the same team, now veterans of the first division, Exeter put in a consistent performance, losing only two games, to win conclusively against Wadham.

A mention must go to Will Moir, who hit the bullseye while squatting, much to everyone's amazement. The team hopes to defend its Cuppers title captained by Joe Knox. The second team was completely rebuilt at the start of Michaelmas, yet managed a successful year, remaining in the second division.

Exeter's year in pool has not been so victorious. Exeter I, which had lost several players, failed to stay in the top division, although the foundations for a good team have been laid for the future. Exeter III was also relegated. However, both Exeter II and Exeter IV remained in their respective divisions. This has been a year to take stock, and from which progress can be made. ♣



## SPORT BLUES LIST

COMPILED BY SARAH LIVERMORE AND ALEXANDER HENDERSON-RUSSELL

**EXETER BLUES LIST** (Full Blue unless indicated)

**Matt Baker** (2005, Life Sciences Interface)

**Thomas Bloomfield** (2008, Chemistry)

**Jenny Brown** (2006, Physiological Sciences)

**Julian de Hoog** (2005, Computer Science)

**Hannah Graff** (2007, Medical Anthropology)

**Jessica Houlgrave** (2007, Economics & Management)

**Charles Rowe** (2007, Chemistry)

**Mehmet Noyan** (2005, Physics & Philosophy)

**Gareth Shellard** (2008, Physiological Sciences)

**Alexandra Sethia** (2006, Economics & Management)

**Landis Stankieveh** (2008, PPE)

**Fencing**

**Swimming**

**Squash**

**Ice Hockey** (Half Blue)

**Swimming** (Half Blue)

**Oxford University Yachting Team**

**Rugby League**

**Lacrosse**

**Lacrosse** (Half Blue)

**Mixed Lacrosse** (Half Blue)

**Ice Hockey** (Varsity Man of the Match)



## Badminton



BY ADAM SHARPE  
(2008, CHEMISTRY)

As the sporting year draws to a close for the College badminton team, Exeter once again holds a strong position in the University league – a great achievement, considering that this is only the second full year in which the club has been able to have organised, regular practices.

The year started with weekly practices at Magdalen College School's excellent sports hall, with strong attendance both from freshers and the older years.

Unfortunately in Hilary Term we were unable to book these facilities – the dearth of badminton courts available in Oxford meant that we could practice only once a fortnight at Tingewick Hall. Attendance inevitably dropped, with busy weekend schedules and the cycle up Headington hill being significant contributions! Our strong league performance, the highlight of which was a victory over Jesus College, is testament to the sheer quality of players that the College has in its ranks.

In Trinity Term, we thankfully were able to regain a regular slot at Magdalen College School and now each session generally attracts between eight and 12 players. They rotate around our two courts to ensure that everybody gets a fair chance to play; and the constantly changing pairings ensure that every game is unpredictable and the evening is exciting right up until the very last minute of play. With the College's generous support, we hope to keep this arrangement through next year and beyond, when we hope to gain another talented group of freshers, and to move upwards through the leagues with more strong performances. ♣



## Football



BY STEPHEN LANG (2007, HISTORY)

Exeter College football has had a strong year.

After losing several key players to graduation in the summer, confidence was restored at the pre-season try-outs where over 40 new players attempted to stake a place in the first team. The large numbers came partly as a result of our arrangement for the first men coming up at St Hilda's College to play for Exeter teams. This has proved an extremely beneficial initiative, particularly with our best newcomer, Rishi Stocker, coming from our new ally college.

Once again we entered three full teams into the inter-collegiate league five-a-side Cuppers during Trinity Term 2008, when our first team finished overall runners-up.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Haymans Fisheries over the summer break, we were able to acquire excellent new kit and equipment, and started the 11-a-side leagues in October with

excitement and optimism. The first team began with a breathtaking 5-4 win over Lincoln College, and a string of wins before Christmas left them top of JCR Division One for much of Michaelmas, going into the mid-season break in second place, vying for promotion.

In Hilary the 19-strong squad came into play as injuries and workloads began to build up. Our eventual player-of-the-season, Spencer Crawley, broke his leg in a hard-fought victory over promotion rivals Keble, but other matches began to go against us, as we lost 6-0 and 4-1 in one week.

The first team eventually finished the league in a disappointing fifth place, but the size and age of our squad promises much for a promotion push in 2009-10.

One particular highlight was the Old Boys match; 16 alumni returned to play the current first team, proving that football remains one of the most social, popular and successful sports within Exeter College. ♣

# Meet Sandra Robertson



**The University's Chief Investment Officer gives us an insight into her role managing Oxford's Endowment Fund of £900m, and explains how the University is facing up to the challenges of the current economic climate.**

BY SANDRA ROBERTSON AND VICTORIA ELLIOTT (2007, EDUCATIONAL STUDIES)

## 1. What does your role involve?

Oxford University Endowment Management is responsible for advising on asset allocation and implementation for two portfolios: the Oxford Endowment Fund which is open to all colleges and trusts in the collegiate University (for those trusts set up to exist in perpetuity and to look for an annual income to fund a chair or bursary, for example); and the Capital Fund, designed for investments where access to the capital and income is required over two to five years. We invest globally across all asset classes, relying on external managers. We generate investment themes and ideas, and find talent to implement these.

My own role is varied. Last year was hectic: setting up the company, obtaining authorisation from the Financial Services Authority, recruiting a team and adding robust infrastructure to support the portfolios. All this during one of the most turbulent years in financial markets within living memory.

## 2. What is unique about working in Oxford University?

Many of our activities are abroad and one of the great benefits is that everyone has heard of the University! We have found the alumni of Oxford supportive and generous with their time and having access to some of the leading academics, on issues varying from risk metrics to the environment, is a privilege.

## 3. What challenges has the global economic situation brought and how is Oxford placed to meet those challenges?

Diversification helped us last year as we moved the portfolio away from its initial starting point of 74% in index tracking funds, mainly UK. We sold equities and made investments into other asset areas. The Oxford Endowment Fund was down 12% for the calendar year to 31 December 2008 versus the FTSE All Share return of -30%.

Investors still face headwinds. Politics is playing a larger part in financial markets and, for the first time, the recession is in the financial sector. The next couple of years will be challenging.

**“Politics is playing a larger part in financial markets and, for the first time, the recession is in the financial sector.”**

In 2009 we remain liquid and defensive; we are being opportunistic and have bought some assets from distressed sellers. We have allocated some capital to experienced distressed credit managers and are slowly building up our inflation protection. We continue to diversify towards regions likely to grow. High levels of liquidity ensure we can fund commitments and take advantage of investment opportunities. ▀

# Thinking Ahead



**In its second year, the unprecedented fundraising campaign, “Oxford Thinking” is gaining momentum. Exeter's Campaign Gifts Officer explains.**

BY HEIDI KURTZ, CAMPAIGN GIFTS OFFICER

**W**ith a minimum target of £1.25bn, the fundraising campaign launched by the University of Oxford in May 2008, under the title of “Oxford Thinking: The Campaign for the University of Oxford”, is the most ambitious yet. To date, the University has raised £713m, so there is still quite a way to go – and the early stages have had to cope with chill financial winds.

However, the Campaign has a wonderfully broad menu of priorities, including ways to support students, posts and buildings. They are designed, like the Campaign itself, to be “inclusive of all aspects of the University, bringing

together the academic priorities of colleges and departments alike”. Any gift made in support of any college, department, post or project across the Collegiate University is a gift to the Campaign. All the money raised, whether at college, department or University level, is considered equally as an important contribution and will be counted towards the Campaign. The overall goal is to raise Oxford's profile, and to ensure its future success as a world-class institution.

“Oxford Thinking” provides a wonderful opportunity for donors to support the University at a level and

in an area of their choosing, and to be recognised appropriately for their generosity. Oxford has received outstanding philanthropic support throughout its history, from the legacy of the first founders, to the donors of the 21st century, all making the University what it is today. A short walk through the heart of Oxford, or a visit to any of the 38 Colleges or six Permanent Private Halls, will demonstrate the truth of this. The “Oxford Thinking” Campaign is designed to make sure that this legacy of past philanthropists is sustained for future generations. ▀



# Oxford Changes



**A tough time to take the helm: Oxford bids farewell to Dr John Hood and welcomes Professor Andrew Hamilton as the new Vice Chancellor.**

**BY FRANCES CAIRNCROSS, RECTOR**

One of the oldest academic jokes goes like this:

Question: "How many Oxford dons does it take to change a light bulb?"

Answer: "Change? Change? Who said anything about change?"

Yet the University has changed a great deal under the vice-chancellorship of Dr John Hood, and will change more when he leaves, and his successor arrives. Dr Hood began with a much publicised row over his attempts to reform governance, subsequently dropped. However, the reforms he undertook have put the University's finances on a sounder footing than they have been for a long time. He has also made some admirable appointments. And a major fundraising campaign has begun.

This year sees the arrival of Professor Andrew Hamilton as the next Vice Chancellor. He will be the first person in that post to have been neither a student nor an academic at Oxford. He took his first degree at Exeter University, and a doctorate at Cambridge. For the past five years, he has been provost – second-in-command – at Yale University, a role previously held by Professor Alison Richard. The two remained good friends after she returned to Britain to become Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University in 2003.

Professor Hamilton is a distinguished chemist who insists that he will continue his research work at Oxford. In 1999, he received a prestigious award from the American Chemical Society for his research in organic and biological chemistry, and in 2004 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. So he is a serious academic. But he has also been in charge of the day-to-day running of Yale.

At Yale, Professor Hamilton's achievements have included measures to revamp the tenure process and to expand the sciences. Under his watch, Yale has acquired a vast new campus devoted to scientific research, and a new collections campus dedicated to the storage and preservation of Yale's arts, library and natural history collections.



He also re-established the Yale School of Engineering and Applied Science, and developed a new interdisciplinary programme of teaching and research in the humanities.

But he arrives at a tough time. The Higher Education Funding Council's grant to the University was skewed towards the sciences, leaving Oxford's humanities division painfully short of funds, in spite of its stellar performance in the national Research Assessment Exercise. There is a shortfall of up to £8,000 per student per year between what it costs to teach undergraduates and what the University receives from the funding council. The cap on student fees, negotiated five years ago, is now up for revision, but at a time when many families are under severe financial pressure. It is not an easy moment to be taking on the helm of Britain's top university. 🏰

**PROFESSOR ANDREW HAMILTON BEGINS HIS TERM AS VICE CHANCELLOR OF OXFORD IN 2009.**

**"The University has changed a great deal under the vice-chancellorship of Dr John Hood."**

# Expedition to the Tien Shan Mountains

With help from donors and the College, a group of intrepid students ventured to new heights on the unclimbed peaks of Kyrgyzstan.

BY BEN SUTTON (2005, EARTH SCIENCES)



THE BREATHTAKING TIEN SHAN MOUNTAINS CONTAIN MANY UNCLIMBED PEAKS FOR THE INTREPID EXPLORER.

**I**n August 2008 five Oxford students and a Kyrgyz cook embarked on an expedition to the Tien Shan mountain range in Kyrgyzstan. The objective was to make the first documented successful ascent to the top of mountains in the southeast of the country, along the border with China.

After 18 months of planning, fundraising, and training, we still did not really know what to expect upon reaching our destination valley. When we arrived in the capital, Bishkek, our logistics contact informed us that the spring flood had washed away the road to our planned base camp in the Borkoldoy range. Luckily, Kyrgyzstan is home to hundreds of unclimbed peaks and after a brief run-in with some Russian hunters we were able to find an unvisited valley in the Kokshaal-too range, where we set up base camp at an altitude of just over 3,600 metres.

The four weeks of climbing passed without any mishaps and only the odd bout of sickness and bad weather. We made eight first ascents, several located directly on the Chinese border: the highest was 4,818 metres above sea level.

**“Our drunken-yet-talented Russian driver managed to drive down a river to the road.”**

We left base camp just as the food ran out, and the deteriorating weather meant that our truck got stuck in boggy ground just ten metres into the two-day journey back to Bishkek. Six hours of digging set us on the home straight and our drunken-yet-talented Russian driver managed to drive down a river to the road while we all closed our eyes and held on tight.

The expedition was a great success, and an opportunity that wouldn't have been possible without a great deal of support from numerous donors including a College travel grant and donations from Old Members. 🏆





# Fantasy or Nightmare?



**As St Hilda's opened its doors to men, a post-graduate student returning to Oxford finds himself pleasantly surprised to be a beneficiary of this historic change.**

**BY RAKESH ANKIT (2005, HISTORY AND POLITICS)**

In 657 AD Lady Hilda admitted men to her Benedictine abbey, mentoring five future bishops and two saints. St Hilda's College has now followed in its patron's footsteps: the first male Fellows arrived in 2006–07 and students in October 2008.

The change followed thorough debate. The College faced pressing academic concerns as its distinctiveness limited recruitment of tutors, particularly in science subjects. Some felt that the idea of a women's institution had run its course and that the college ought to reflect intellectual and socio-cultural change. Others argued that admitting men would undermine the *raison d'être* of the College, and raised concerns about denying opportunity to women from conservative backgrounds and overseas countries. Some argued that women thrive better in a single-sex environment. Other voices sought to mitigate the change by suggesting that if academic imperatives necessitated "going mixed", the mixing should be limited to senior members. The student body was involved to an unusual degree in the decision-making: open meetings and questionnaires sought student opinions, and a student vote preceded every Governing Body vote.

I was at Exeter back in the days when St Hilda's decided to go mixed, little expecting to be a beneficiary. As a mere male, my excitement at returning to Oxford was tempered by apprehension when I was placed at St Hilda's. However, the college has met the new challenge with aplomb, maintaining its traditions of embracing diversity and encouraging excellence. Potentially difficult, the transition has been seamless. New students, both male and female, are happy to be part of college life.

St Hilda's tradition of excellence in women's education now extends opportunities to men: it has repeated history to make history. ♥

## PITT RIVERS MADE OVER

**BY VICTORIA ELLIOTT (2007, EDUCATIONAL STUDIES)**

The Pitt Rivers Museum re-opened in May after a year-long £1.5m refurbishment programme. The 1960s temporary display area has been removed, restoring the original entrance view across the courtyard to the totem pole, an education area has been created, and cases have been re-spaced to allow wheelchair access.

The building work was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and necessitated the removal and storage of over 5,000 objects. Five curators handled the delicate job of packing –

more hazardous than it sounds. Many of the ethnographic artefacts in the Pitt Rivers are poisonous, whether on purpose, or because of the pesticides and preservatives used by the Victorians to protect them!

The day it re-opened, I rushed to find my favourites: the shrunken heads, the "secret slug" wart cure. I had worried that updating the Pitt Rivers would spoil its unique personality, but, as one of the project curators said, "The displays are just like they were – only better!" ♥



MATTHEW DISPLAYS HIS FENCING ABILITY.

## BLUES FENCING



**BY MATTHEW BAKER (2005, LIFE SCIENCES INTERFACE)**

I came to Oxford having fenced for about 10 years, two of them at the Senior level for Australia. However, some of the closest, most tense and most enjoyable matches have been my Varsity matches for Oxford.

Fencing is a wonderful sport, but it rarely attracts spectators because of its complexity and lack of publicity. However, each of my three Varsity matches for the Blues had audiences of over 100: a fantastic environment in which to fence. The only match of the three held at Oxford during my captaincy was incredible. To be able to fence underneath the portraits in Exam Schools, with your friends and colleagues cheering for you, is an experience not available in any other university, or in any other fencing competition. It also helped that we finally won that year – the first time in 10 years that Oxford won both the Men's and the Women's Varsity Match.

Fencing combines physical speed with tactical manoeuvring and requires intense focus to win. Oxford fencing is so strong because we have clever, dedicated students and a top quality coach, Tomek Walicki, who ensures wily tactics are matched with equal fitness and speed. I have fenced for Oxford University for all of my four years here: it has been a wonderful experience. ♥



**EVERY GIFT TO COLLEGE IS ALSO COUNTED TOWARDS THE OXFORD THINKING CAMPAIGN.**

If you would like to support the College, ExVac or another specific project, please contact [katrina.hancock@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katrina.hancock@exeter.ox.ac.uk). To contact ExVac directly about a donation, you can email [exvac@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:exvac@exeter.ox.ac.uk)

# Hallelujah! The British Choral Tradition



The Bodleian holds an astounding exhibition, showcasing centuries of choral music in Britain. A member of the Exeter College Choir talks us through some of the highlights.

BY KATHARINE MOË (2008, MATHEMATICS AND PHILOSOPHY)



“Side by side with masterpieces stood ‘the worst oratorio in the world’.”

Showing an array of treasures from medieval choirbooks to Howard Goodall’s theme music for *The Vicar of Dibley*, an exhibition at the Bodleian this year celebrated centuries of choral music in Britain and anniversaries of four of the most important composers to contribute to that music: Handel, Haydn, Purcell and Mendelssohn.

Among the exhibits were Mendelssohn’s autograph score of *Elijah*, Purcell’s autograph score of *Hail, bright Cecilia* and the first edition of Haydn’s *The Creation*, as well as Handel’s reassuringly messy conducting score of *Messiah* (a work of particular significance for Oxford, where the first English performance of the work outside London was given in 1749). Also on display was the oldest surviving copy of Tallis’s *Spem in alium*, his famous 40-part motet, in an edition as large as a broadsheet newspaper. Side-by-side with these masterpieces stood George Tolhurst’s *Ruth* (1864), which enjoys continued renown as “the worst oratorio in the world”.

The exhibition’s chronological arrangement showed the development of musical notation throughout the ages,

from the square “neumes” of 11th-century plainchant to the bizarrely complex tonic sol-fa notation popular in the Victorian era.

The scores were complemented by publications relating to church music throughout the ages: an *Admonition* by two Lutheran clergymen of 1572 spoke of cathedrals where the “singing men, squeaking choristers, organ players ... live in great idleness”. It was left up to the visitor to decide whether Oxford’s chapel choirs should be similarly admonished!

The year of 2009 also marks the 150th anniversary of Exeter College’s magnificent chapel. The two celebrations came together in February, as the Turl Street Arts Festival Choir concluded the Festival with a performance in Exeter’s Chapel of major works by the anniversary composers: Handel’s *Zadok the Priest*, Purcell’s *Rejoice in the Lord a’ways*, Mendelssohn’s *Hear my prayer* and Haydn’s *The heavens are telling*, as well as Mozart’s *Requiem*. The concert was a sell-out success, and a marvellous way for Exeter to contribute to this year of celebration. ♣





# The Bell Tolls for Greyfriars Hall



The only student not to have moved to Regent's Park at the closing of Greyfriars reflects on her experience.

BY HARRIET TOLKIEN (2008, ENGLISH)

Approximately three weeks into Michaelmas term 2007, the decision to close Greyfriars Hall – owing to insufficient funding and a dwindling number of friars in the Catholic Franciscan Capuchin province in England – was announced. The friars negotiated that the student body of 40 would be transferred to Regent's Park College at the end of the academic year.

Having originally applied to a college and not a hall, I chose to apply to move to another college at the start of my second year – despite the lack of a central system for transferral. It has been challenging being the only

person from Greyfriars not to decide to move to Regent's, but I feel I turned a very difficult situation into an opportunity. Spending a year at Greyfriars expanded my horizons, for which I am very grateful, and I am privileged in that I am probably one of few people who are able to say they have experienced Oxford life at both a college and a PPH.

The whole process illustrates one of the most important things Oxford both demands and teaches: ambition to succeed and resilience in the face of obstacles. ♣



GREYFRIARS PPH CLOSED IN 2008.

## ... And a new College is Born

One year on from the unprecedented merger of Green and Templeton colleges, a student looks back at the exciting transformation into GTC.

BY VICTORIA ELLIOTT (2007, EDUCATIONAL STUDIES)

Two relatively young colleges, Green and Templeton, have just completed their first year together as the newly merged Green Templeton College. The merger, the first in Oxford's history, aimed to create a rich and diverse intellectual atmosphere to benefit graduates, in line with the University's strategy of increasing postgraduate student numbers and improving provision for them.

GTC, as it has come to be known, has striven to retain the outlook of both its constituents, placing an emphasis on its modern and international attitude. Not only does the new College have a combined coat of arms, featuring the Rod of Aesculapius for Green, and the nautilus shell for Templeton, it also has a contemporary logo featuring the Transit of Venus. It was this cosmological event in 1761 that led to the building of the Radcliffe Observatory, which along with other fine architecture of the former Green College site has become the central base of the new College.

"To be involved in the foundation of a new college is an exhilarating

experience," said Colin Bundy, Principal of GTC. "Combining the resources and traditions of two existing graduate colleges gives us a wonderful start; and we now have an opportunity to create an outstanding environment for graduate students and Fellows alike." ♣



# ExVac 2009: We Make a Difference



Student volunteers continue the tradition of Exeter College Vacation Project (ExVac), giving groups of youngsters the best time they could imagine.

BY JENNIFER TAYLOR, EXVAC PRESIDENT 2009-10 (2007, PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES)



STUDENT VOLUNTEERS EACH SPEND A WEEK WITH A GROUP OF 16 CHILDREN.



*“We are assured that our efforts resonate beyond our sight.”*

It has been a year of challenges and changes for everyone involved in ExVac. But throughout it, our aim has remained the same: to give children experiences that might otherwise be out of reach. As ExVac’s 30th anniversary approaches, the Executive Committee has altered the structure of the charity to ensure greater continuity and efficiency, and to assure ExVac’s future. However, these changes would be futile without the continuing support of Old Members, Parents and Friends of the College who give generously to the charity year upon year. We extend our thanks to you all.

There have been other changes: this year ExVac spread its wings and took participants to the Carrotty Wood Outdoor Activity Centre in Tonbridge for the first time. Children on both holidays enjoyed a fun-filled week of activities, encompassing visits to historical sites such as Hever Castle, where the water maze was the pick of the day, and the excitement of Chessington World of Adventures and Legoland. A pottery workshop provided a more peaceful occupation and the chance to craft a personal memento of the trip.

The new location enabled us to conduct some activities on site, including climbing, an assault course and swimming. A soft play area aptly named ‘Wear ‘Em Out’ provided a welcome respite for the leaders! Several “near misses” with a parrot performer during lunchtime at London Zoo, and a last night celebration, with party food, music and games, topped off the week.

The children found some of these activities and experiences completely novel. It is extremely gratifying when an otherwise shy child changes

completely in front of your eyes, having discovered that they are a talented artist or a champion climber. We quickly learned that each child is unique; even simple conversations revealed unknown quirks and characteristics that became our most enduring memories.

I had thought that it would be simple to change a child’s behaviour and attitude in the course of a week, but after two years with ExVac I realise how naïve I was! The holidays are primarily to provide time away from whatever problems, social or financial, exist in the children’s home lives; these problems are often complex and require considerable support from the local authorities. Fortunately we can contribute to this: information we gather can be used by Social Services to enable more effective assistance for the child and his or her family. Although we may not see great changes within a week, we are assured that our efforts resonate beyond our sight.

Simon Brown, Service Manager at Witney’s Early Years & Family Support Centre epitomised why we do it: “It makes a difference to these children’s lives.”

*Thank you – your donations make the work of ExVac possible.*

## HISTORY OF EXVAC

- Exeter College Vacation Project (ExVac) is a charity offering two, week-long holidays for children from Oxford who live in difficult social or financial circumstances.

- Set up as a society of Oxford University in 1982, ExVac is run by students from Exeter College and endorsed by Oxfordshire Social Services Department. The free holidays are completely reliant on donations.

- A group of 16 children aged 7-11 with eight student leaders go each week. This 2:1 ratio allows the children to enjoy new experiences safely, to learn to interact with new friends and to cope away from home.

- ExVac’s costs this year totalled £16,000, approximately £500 per child. This is a 30% increase on the cost in 2008.

- Not only are ExVac very grateful for monetary donations, but non-monetary donations from companies are also welcome, which can be used during the holidays, or for fundraising events such as prizes for a raffle.



# Telethon 2009: You Make a Difference



The annual telethon provides hope for a 'trembling finalist' and plenty of support for the College.

BY DAISY JOHNSON (2006, ENGLISH)

"Hello, I'm calling from Exeter College as part of our annual telethon campaign...".  
Cheerily, the response I invariably received on delivering this introduction was not impatience or disgruntlement, but one of warm recognition. Although I embarked upon this year's campaign as a telethon "veteran", having called Old Members from the Rector's dining room last spring, I never ceased to be surprised by the powerful sense of personal connection that persists among Exonians old and new. As I was making discoveries about the lives of Old Members, they were diligently enquiring about my own. The same is true of the parents that I spoke to during the campaign. As a peer of their own sons and daughters, I was offered pastoral care by proxy. Was the food ok? Did I have any friends?

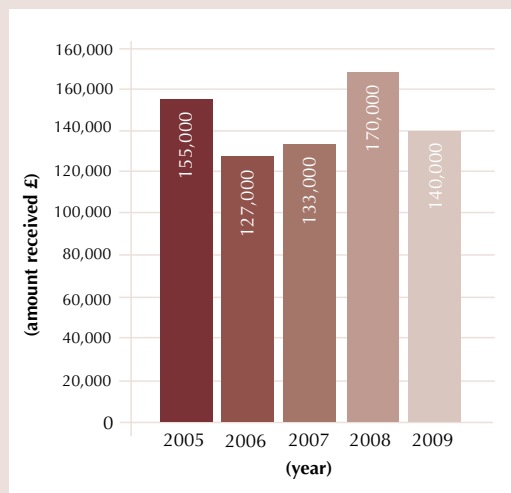
Their concern did not go unappreciated. As a current finalist, I admit that this year there was a subtext to my questions about "Life after Exeter". "What are you doing now?" was also "What shall I do now?!". Whether this was apparent from the panic in my voice or whether Old Members and parents alike remember all too well the terror of emerging into the wide world, I was touched by the encouragement and reassurance that poured my way. I spoke to people in every conceivable career, from publishing to theatre production, from corporate law to cat photography. Everyone was unremittently optimistic about the options that await me after College, offering advice, recommendations and even work experience.

As illustrated by people's interest in my future,

the telethon really does demonstrate the atmosphere of give and take that characterises Exeter's alumni network. This year, perhaps the most concrete thing that I was able to give back was a recipe for a particularly sticky and delicious ginger cake. In a few years' time, however, when I receive my first call as an Old Member, I too hope to be able to assuage the graduation fears of some trembling finalist. "Do not panic!" I will intone sagely. Hope, and more importantly, a stalwart alumni network, is out there. 🍪

*This year's telethon raised over £140,000. A big thank you for your generous support.*

*"Hope, and more importantly, a stalwart Alumni network, is out there."*



TELETHON TOTALS RAISED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS



BY ELEANOR BURNETT,  
COLLEGE ACCOUNTANT

There is an easy way for donors to increase the value of their gift at no cost to themselves. Exeter College challenges you to 'Gift Aid It!' Gift Aid is a scheme whereby charities can claim tax relief on donations made by UK taxpayers (including sole traders and partnerships).

The College can reclaim the tax from HM Revenue & Customs on the gross equivalent of a donation. This is equivalent to an extra 25 pence for every £1 donated. In addition, until April 2011, the College can claim a further three pence in each pound donated. That means a donation of £1,000 becomes a gain to the College of £1,280. Quite a hefty bonus for the current financial times!

It's not just good news for the College though. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you too can benefit from tax relief on gifts to Exeter. You can claim back the difference between the 40% higher rate of tax and the 20% basic rate, on the total value of your donation.

To sign up, simply complete a Gift Aid Declaration form or visit the Exeter College alumni website, [www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/alumni), for more information. 🍪

## Boathouse Transformed



The Boat Club President describes a fitting tribute to two Exeter Students.

BY JESSICA HOULGRAVE, ECBC PRESIDENT 2009-10  
(2007, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT)



In June 2009 Exeter College Boat Club was proud to open its newly refurbished boathouse in memory of Harcourt "Olly" Tucker and Sundeep "Deep" Watts.

By sad coincidence, both boys rowed in the 2007 Men's Novice A crew. Tragically, they both died on November 12 2007. The generous donations made by their friends and families in their memory were used in part to purchase two benches engraved with their names, which now sit in Exeter's Fellows' Garden. The rest was used to re-furbish the College boathouse.

These most generous donations mean that Exeter College boathouse is one of the best on the river. With new shower facilities, including hot water for the very first time, an improved bar, a repaved balcony, new flooring and an integrated sound system, the boathouse has changed from a cold, miserable place to be on a freezing February

*"A constant memorial to the lives of these two young men."*

morning, to a place perfect for both training and socialising. The building opened for use just in time for Summer Eights this year and crowds of Exeter non-rowers flocked down to enjoy our new bar and sunshine on the balcony.

ECBC was proud to welcome Olly and Deep's friends and families back to the boathouse in June to see it in all its glory. Thanks to their efforts, many generations of Exeter rowers will enjoy first-class facilities which will help ECBC go from strength to strength, and at the same time provide a constant memorial to the lives of these two young men. ♡

*The College is deeply grateful for this wonderful new facility.*

## Exeter House Development



The exciting new development of Exeter House begins to take shape.

BY HANNAH PERRIN, EXETER HOUSE PRESIDENT 2008-09  
(2007, WOMEN'S STUDIES)

Environmentally responsible, historically sensitive, faithful to the advantages of the collegiate environment, modern and extremely attractive, the new Exeter House development is designed to enhance the graduate student experience in myriad ways.

The architect's vision of a space where graduate students will be able to live, socialise and study together is an exciting one. The plan reveals the creation of a site that will go above and beyond the demands of providing rooms for students to live in. Details such as the quiet room for communal working, in contrast to the new common room in the Pavilion, dedicated to socialising, will bring a whole new dynamic to student accommodation. The structure of the site, which focuses on creating a more collegiate environment, will serve greatly to augment the close bonds of the Exeter College graduate community.

The preservation of the beautiful existing lime tree, which will be the central feature of the entrance quad, is testament to the environmentally responsible way in which this project has been approached. All new buildings will incorporate

a geothermal heat plant for "green" energy. Additionally, the site's past as a nunnery and school has been assimilated into an historically sensitive plan to renovate the site, an attitude which has been very much welcomed by the current students living at Exeter House.

The needs of the local community have also been considered. Keen to ensure that the new complex enhances the aesthetic of the Liffley Road, the architects are working to ensure the view of the site from the street will be attractive and striking. This will all be done while maintaining the emphasis on site security which is a priority within the plans to provide a safe and secure environment in which the students will live.

It is very rewarding to watch the development of the new site, and the graduates who have the privilege of living in the new Exeter House complex are in for a fantastic experience. Our student community will benefit immeasurably from the provision of this impressive addition to Exeter College. ♡

*Thank you to all of you who have supported this ambitious and exciting development.*

*"Our student community will benefit immeasurably."*



# Student Hardship: Exeter Saw Me Through



One student reports on how the Exonian Bursary made it possible for him to concentrate on excelling academically.

BY GUY PEWSEY (2006, ENGLISH)

On arriving at Oxford, I was confident that the savings that I had accumulated over the past few years, along with student loans and careful spending patterns, would see me through my three-year degree. Such confidence, however, was based on financial inexperience. Though I was by no means irresponsible with money, there were clearly aspects of Oxford that I had failed to consider. Batters and rent payments aside, every utility bill or prescription charge became an anxiety-inducing transaction. My mother's low income and the little contact I had with my father after his emigration meant that I could find little assistance from home, so being awarded an Exonian Bursary provided me with some money that truly saw me through.

**"College's help enabled me to breathe easier."**

The bursary improved my University experience simply by making things that little bit easier. College's help enabled me to breathe easier and therefore to focus on what I had come to Oxford to achieve. Not feeling guilty about buying a book was a welcome change that I was incredibly grateful for, and I was even able to take up unpaid work-experience placements that previously would not have been possible for me to finance.

I know from experience that the Exonian Bursary has been just as integral to many of my peers. The fact that many parents simply cannot provide financial assistance means that even a small amount of money is of such help. In putting my mind at rest, the bursary has rid me of some of the stresses of university, enabling me to focus on the primary concern of the degree itself. When I graduate in August 2009, it will be due to my effort academically, but also undoubtedly due to the financial support of Exeter's Bursary Scheme. ♥

## FROM A DONOR

ELIZABETH GUILFORD  
(2000, EARTH SCIENCES)

Exeter College is not just a place to complete a degree: it also becomes a home to every person who studies there. I reflect now on my time at Exeter College and recognise that it is thanks to the opportunities I had and the people that I met that I'm now in a position to give a little back.

I decided to donate to the Annual Fund because I feel that providing for those who follow is the best way to thank those before me who made my Bursary possible. An active social life is not the only victim of lack of money at university; academic studies suffer too. I remember too well the anxiety of every vacation and the looming battle between earning enough money from my holiday job to provide for the following term and keeping up with academic study so that I still had a chance of a degree at the end of it. It worked for me with the help of a Bursary, but for many students it doesn't. With top-up fees and the current economic climate, these kind of pressures will affect more and more students. A simple lack of money should not prevent anyone from having the opportunity to call Exeter College their home. ♥

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO THE COLLEGE, or a specific project such as ExVac or the JCR Book Scheme, please contact [katrina.hancock@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katrina.hancock@exeter.ox.ac.uk). For more information you can visit <http://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/alumni/supporting/> or [www.exvac.org.uk](http://www.exvac.org.uk). To contact ExVac directly about a donation you can email [exvac@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:exvac@exeter.ox.ac.uk)

# An Overview of Philanthropy at Exeter

Despite a tough economic climate, Exeter College's Old Members, Parents and Friends have continued to give generously, as Director of Development, Katrina Hancock, details.

BY KATRINA HANCOCK, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT (1998, EARTH SCIENCES)



KATRINA HANCOCK

Even during the economic downturn, Old Members, Parents and Friends have continued to give generously to the College. This year, Exeter has received just under £2m of new gifts to the Annual Fund and to support specific projects. In fact, this has been the best year ever for the Annual Fund with more than 1,300 alumni contributing to it. In spite of the tough economic climate, hardly any Old Members cancelled their regular gifts, and 235 made their first gift ever to the College this year. This generous show of support from all of our Old Members, and especially from those who have only just left the College to make their way in the world, is very encouraging and bodes well for the College's coming Campaign to commemorate Exeter's foundation in 1314.

The College's foundation, its long life and its current vigour all stem from the vision of its founding benefactors Walter de Stapeldon and Sir William Petre, and from many centuries of generous people who cared passionately about the education of the young. The 700th Anniversary Campaign hopes to commemorate and build on their foresight in order to ensure that the College will honour its motto and flourish for years to come. It is being launched in September. It will aim both to raise funds to secure the College's future growth, and to celebrate the contributions of all of our alumni over the years.

This year, Old Members who had pledged to support the History and Economics Campaigns have continued to do so, thus securing these Fellowships for all time. In addition, the College has received gifts from John Quelch (1969, Modern History) and John Hughes (1950, PPP) towards the preservation and display of the College Archives and the medical section of the Library respectively; William Jackson (1983, Geography), Tim Vanderver (1965, Jurisprudence) and others have continued their commitment to generous hardship bursaries; and David Hartnett has continued his gift from the Hartnett Trust in support of the Library Shelving Project. In a show of great generosity, many of the Rector's personal friends have supported the College, including Peter Thompson, Detta O'Cathain and Cung Vu. Richard Mahoney, a long-term friend of the College, has been one of several donors who have contributed to create an impressive array of graduate scholarships, bringing top students to Exeter.

There have also been other notable gifts, including one from Brian Singer (a Friend of Exeter and member of the College's Investment Committee) to fund an economics seminar series, and one from the Parthenon Group, based in Boston, which has sponsored the Boat Club this year. Linking his philanthropy to the overall academic excellence of the College, David Webb (1983, Mathematics) chose to performance-link the value of his annual donation to the number of Firsts achieved by last year's finalists, with the intention of repeating this each year, and in the hope that others might join him in this innovative way of giving.

**"This has been the best year ever for the Annual Fund."**

We have also received two important bequests. The first is from Frederick Bornhauser who, having spent his life in academia, left a gift to the College to support those who study American Literature, and to provide suitable library resources. The College also received a gift from the late Denys Dyer (Emeritus Fellow in Modern Languages) to fund a Bursary for undergraduates reading German who were going on their year abroad. A similar Bursary was created by Liz Wood, the widow of the late Chris Wood (1960, Modern History), in memory of her husband. In addition to setting up a prize for academic success in French, she has set up a matching Bursary for those students reading French who are going on their year abroad.

Perhaps most striking of all, 36% of this year's Leavers made a gift and raised £559. That is the more remarkable considering that most were not even sure whether or not they yet had a job. These young philanthropists have been matched twice over by two other Old Members. We hope they will continue to show such laudable generosity for the rest of their lives as Old Members.

It is, therefore, with great confidence that we look forward to the year ahead and the 700th Anniversary Campaign. Already the College has received donation pledges in excess of £4m specifically towards this and we remain confident that the generosity that the College has seen to date will not only continue, but exceed every expectation. Thank you for your support. 🏰

# The Upside to an Economic Downturn

Looking back over life since Oxford, John Gapper, chief business commentator of the *Financial Times*, argues that perhaps the current recession is a good thing for students and society.

BY JOHN GAPPER (1978, PPE)

I graduated from Exeter in 1981, which makes me a veteran of four recessions. The first was the most painful, although it could well be outdone by the one unfolding now. It was Margaret Thatcher's recession, the consequence of the realisation in both Britain and the US that stagflation needed to be snuffed out and industrial decline conceded.

Some recessions, like that of the early 1990s (which I recall as not too bad – more gloomy and boring than disastrous) are just events that must be endured, the consequence of capitalism's boom-and-bust nature. That is preferable to the bust-and-bust nature of most state-controlled economies, China being a one-of-a-kind exception.

Others, like this one, are reckonings. I emerged into the job market of the early 1980s with exactly one job offer. I took it although I was flirting at the time with taking a year off and finding myself. Luckily, I instead found myself on the Tavistock Times as a Mirror Group trainee, being schooled into the craft of journalism.

At the time, I recall there was something called "merchant banking" in the City of London, for which some of my contemporaries opted. It did not offer many jobs and they were not notably better paid than other occupations. In the ensuing few decades this steadily changed until Wall Street and the City of London were employment magnets, dragging everybody in.

I mention this because it is easy, after a few years of getting accustomed to whatever is the current dispensation, to believe it is the natural order of things. Rising house prices, the benefits of debt and leverage, the swollen investment banking industry, all seemed not just plausible but ordained.

That is the reckoning we face, and with which

those who are leaving Exeter this year must contend. I do not envy them and the fact that people of my age who have lost jobs are probably worse off is cold comfort.

But, from the point of view of society's long-term interests, this recession is not a bad thing. It is a gigantic and wrenching adjustment that is swallowing up many individuals unfairly, but it had to come. Otherwise, the entire population would have ended up working in the City and living in Notting Hill.

It is in the nature of booms and busts driven by financial speculation – from the South Sea bubble and the Tulipomania of the 1630s – that people look back at their mania and ask: "What were we thinking?"

Logic demands that asset prices do not rise indefinitely and any boom reliant on the "greater fool" (no matter how much you pay for something – a house, a piece of modern art, a mortgage-backed bond – someone will be prepared to pay more) will eventually pop. The longer the boom lasts, the more painful and abrupt that bursting is.

A decent case can be made that this boom lasted for the entire three decades since I left Exeter – that we have not actually experienced a serious economic correction in the developed world since the oil crisis of the 1970s. But the 1980s downturn probably counted, and marked the start of a decisive shift towards free market economics and belief in deregulation.

There followed a long boom in three phases. In the first phase, following the clearing-out of dead UK industrial capacity – coal mining, Fleet Street printing, the remnants of the car companies – Britain once again discovered an entrepreneurial spirit that had been in decline since the 19th century.



JOHN GAPPER

"Some recessions are just events that must be endured ... others are reckonings."





“For a brief, glorious moment, Britain buzzed with paper wealth.”

Big public-owned companies were privatised and manufacturing gave way to services.

In the second phase, from the 1990s onwards, trade barriers fell and Britain’s historic strength as a trading nation returned. The City, from being a restrictive and parochial place, was liberalised and merchant banks acquired by Wall Street firms. China and India were integrated into the global economy, providing cheap labour that permitted rapid growth with low inflation.

Finally, as we were getting pleased with ourselves, there was a third phase of financial excess based on low interest rates and cheap debt. That originated in the US in 2001, when the Federal Reserve cut interest rates after the September 11 attacks but soon spread across the Atlantic.

I remember returning to the UK for a visit from New York just after Northern Rock collapsed in autumn 2007 and being struck by widespread complacency about what was going on. The crisis was an American phenomenon, everyone seemed to have persuaded themselves; Britain was in far better shape.

It was an illusion. The financial speculation that led to the over-building of apartments and houses all over Florida and California expressed itself here in buy-to-let properties and a high street shopping spree. For a brief, glorious moment, Britain buzzed with paper wealth. Now, London and New York, where I live, have reverted to deflated reality. House prices have fallen and unemployment has risen. The full effects of the

credit crisis are still spreading through the real economy and the US car manufacturers seem to be following the British example by collapsing.

We are in for a painful adjustment, that much is obvious. But this boom has been in progress for so long that it is hard to know what the norm truly is. The US investment banks of the early 1980s were still partnerships that only employed a few hundred people, shadows of today’s Goldman Sachs.

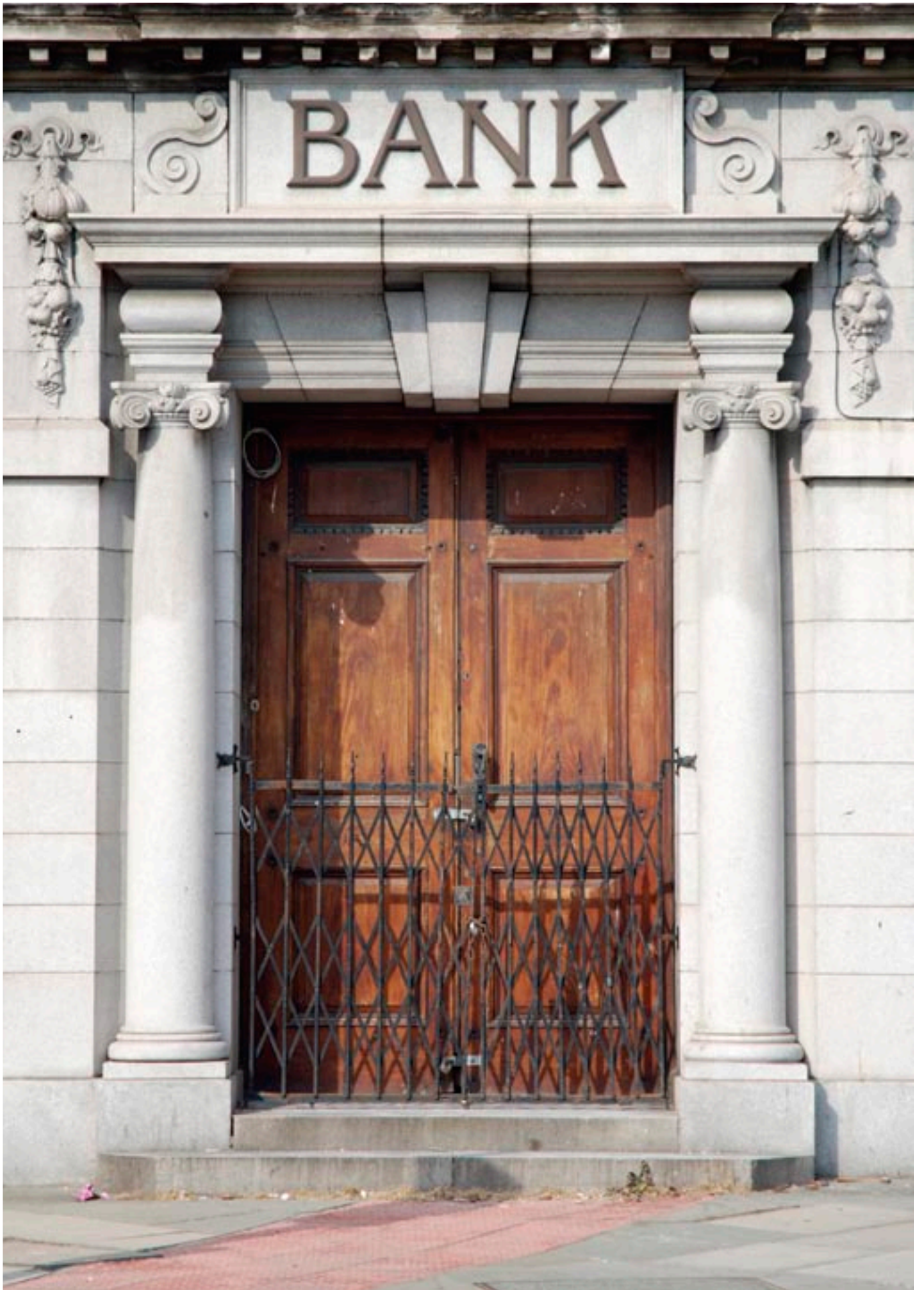
In all of this gloom, there are two reasons for hope. One is that Wall Street’s distortion of the global economy has been punctured and it can no longer absorb half the output of business schools (and many scientists and engineers hired to calculate derivatives prices).

So those people must find other jobs, which is probably good for society as a whole. They are clever and there is something soul-destroying, as well as wasteful, for them to be tied up with devising credit default swaps and mortgage securities purely to make money.

My second cause for hope applies to those at Exeter now. It seemed like very bad timing to emerge from university in 1981 amid a recession, and it was difficult to get a job (friends of mine who left a year later had it even worse). Yet somehow we mostly survived.

Actually, joining the jobs market at a time when excess and misallocation of capital is being brushed away – the case both now and three decades ago – has its advantages. Things, as they used to sing, can only get better. ♣





# My.BarackObama.com

20 January 2009 saw Barack Obama's historic inauguration as President of the United States. David Schulte explains how he came to know the man, and to support the candidate.

BY DAVID SCHULTE (1968, JURISPRUDENCE)



DAVID SCHULTE CAME TO EXETER COLLEGE FROM WILLIAMS COLLEGE AS A DONOVAN MOODY SCHOLAR IN 1968. HE FOUNDED CHILMARK PARTNERS IN 1984, AND IS ITS MANAGING PARTNER.

On 5 March 2004, 11 days before the Illinois Primary election that would select a Democratic nominee for the US Senate, one of the six hopefuls came to see me.

That morning, my wife sternly instructed me to give no more money to politicians, the requirements of our seven children being more than sufficient to exhaust our family treasury. Politicians usually get little or nothing from me, Bill and Hillary Clinton, former classmates, being the exceptions.

On that same morning, I was working on a plan to reform the way people injured by asbestos are compensated. The idea was to enact legislation in the US Congress that would create a national no-fault trust, saving the nearly 50% of settlement monies that now go to lawyers. Naturally the trial bar opposed the idea, and the trial bar is well understood to have deep roots in the Democratic party. So we had negligible Democratic support in the US Senate.

Into this sceptical and professionally

**“Barack Obama was precisely the candidate we needed.”**

antagonistic lair walked a tall, good looking African American man, an obscure member of the equally obscure Illinois State Senate. Rather than waiting for his pitch, I teed off on him: “I know you’re here for money, and I won’t give you any. For one thing, you ran the Harvard Law Review and I ran the far better Yale Law Journal. That’s a gap too large to bridge. In addition, I’m for asbestos reform, and therefore want all Democrats running for the Senate, including you, to lose.” Never will I forget the smile my little speech brought to Obama’s face. He is simply magnetic. In the following 20 minutes he worked me, and he did it well. At the end I gave him the maximum the law would allow, and subsequently joined his Finance Committee. I have given him the maximum at every opportunity since then.

When my wife heard what I’d done, she was aghast. A week later, having met Obama, she proclaimed that he would be the first black man elected to the US Presidency.

For a while we worried that he was going too fast. After all, before his inauguration, Obama really had very little experience. We came around, though, in the summer of 2006. Then Senator Obama had travelled to Africa, with a camera crew, and had received amazingly warm receptions. And Israel was at war with Hezbollah, destroying much of Lebanon and widening further the gaps that divide us. We came to believe then, along with many others, that Barack Obama was precisely the candidate we needed. The reasons were simple, and the experience to date supports them:

- 1 He is young and appealing
- 2 He is very smart
- 3 He is not white
- 4 His middle name is Hussein and he has Muslim relatives

Coming after a President who said “Axis of Evil” while Islam heard “Crusades,” he promised to be the change we needed. He embodied a radical departure from the Bush years, without in any sense being weak. America is full of contradictions: we long for global respect, even adoration. We were proud of John F. Kennedy and cringed at George W. Bush. Yet another strand of our experience, a darker one, insists on deference to our size and might, even as we see it



THE INNOVATIVE WEBSITE AT THE CENTRE OF OBAMA'S PEOPLE-POWERED CAMPAIGN.



challenged by new players on the world scene. We love it when our candidate draws hundreds of thousands of admirers in Germany and we smile when he charms Carla Bruni.

At the point when we climbed aboard the Obama for President Express, we could not see the global economic challenges ahead. We would have been even more enthusiastic about his campaign if we had known the mess he was going to inherit, and the tough-minded way he would approach it.

An example of that has been his handling of the ailing American car industry. Some would say the correct policy would let the floundering companies slip away, while others would argue against adding a million people to the unemployment rolls in the midst of an already painful recession. At the end of the Bush administration, Treasury Secretary Paulson “loaned” money to Chrysler and GM to keep them breathing until he could get out of town: \$4bn of junior money was advanced to Chrysler when the most senior debt was trading for 30 cents on the dollar and had no serious chance of repayment. The Labour unions, and many others, thought that a Democrat who had carried Michigan would simply not let the manufacturers fail. However, Obama has found a middle ground, requiring concessions all around, and promptly. He has used the power of the purse to effect change that the private parties would never have managed, at least not in time. I say this as financial adviser to Chrysler’s banks: Obama has put the wood to the banks and everyone else. The easy politics of Detroit have been ignored. Maybe Fiat/Chrysler will work, maybe not. Maybe the funds advanced will simply support a few more pay cheques for the workers. However that may be, Obama has been anything but a soft touch.

Just as important, Obama is a very decent, fun-loving guy. He loves his family, he laughs, yet he is focused. In the summer of 2004, before his election to the Senate, Obama and his family came to Martha’s Vineyard on vacation. I arranged a golf game, and brought my daughter Grace. She was then 14 years old, a new player, and she spent a lot of time in the woods. On that day Obama was basking in the glow of his keynote speech at the Democratic convention, a speech that catapulted him to national prominence. His time was scarce, and he’s a pretty good player. Not once during that round of golf did he show even the slightest annoyance with our halting play. He smiled, he encouraged, he chuckled. He could not have been better to Grace if she’d been his own child.

Later, that asbestos reform proposal I had been working on when I first met him was defeated in the Senate, with Obama siding (wrongly) with the Democrats. I e-mailed him that not only was I disappointed, but that Grace thought his vote wasn’t “very nice”. The soon-to-be 44th President wrote back, “That hurts”. ♡



## HOPE FOR CHANGE: THE US ELECTION AS SEEN IN EXETER

BY ARI ROMNEY, ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER  
(2006, SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY)

For only the third time in history, Exeter College threw open its 1618 dining hall all night long to follow the results of an election. For an American at Oxford, watching the US presidential election in Hall was a thrilling, if nail-biting, experience. Exeter was abuzz on Tuesday 4 November, but still I was surprised to learn that I would be able to see the results come in on a big-screen TV in Hall. Leave it to Exeter to find yet another way to be unique!

The evening began with a talk by Dr Nigel Bowles, an expert in American politics, who spoke entirely of Barack Obama. Was it rash to talk of one candidate alone? As the television coverage got under way, the atmosphere in the Hall, full of students, staff, and Fellows, oscillated between nervous and celebratory. Exeter has lots of American students, including, of course, our 26 junior-year students from Williams College. Some groups, clearly there for the festive feel, focused on their drinks and looked up only a few times at the massive screen that hid High Table. Others chatted and speculated to pass the time between holding their breath when exit poll results were revealed, moving across the states from east to west coast. As the polls closed, there were both cheers and groans, though the swell of applause when the Democrats came out ahead in key battleground states showed that the majority of those present favoured Obama.

Many people went home once Iowa and Nevada were called, but a handful of us remained in Hall to watch the polls close and to hear President Obama’s victory speech. We were elated about the start of a new era in American politics – and relieved that the campaign had finally come to a close. ♡

“Obama has been anything but a soft touch.”

# The Arts in a Recession

Imogen Stubbs came to Exeter in 1979 as one of the first female students. She has gone on to become a successful actress on stage and screen, most notably playing Desdemona in the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Othello*. As the economic situation begins to strangle arts funding, she argues that any lessening of support for the arts can only be a regression for society.

BY IMOGEN STUBBS (1979, ENGLISH)



IMOGEN STUBBS

“Is the nature of a human being about nurturing the soul, or nurturing only your body and your bank balance?”

I had an odd time at College, because I was in the first miniscule intake of girls. I had already been part of a tiny minority of girls at Westminster and have four brothers, so I was the only girl for whom lots of boys was not a novelty.

In my last year, I lived in a ruined cottage in a wood at Begbroke with no electricity, no bathroom facilities – and all water pulled up in a bucket from a well. I got there by motorbike and then walked for a mile through cow fields. It was a wonderful life in the summer but unfortunately we hit the coldest winter of the last century and I don't know how we survived. We revised by candlelight, wrapped up in duvets – but at least we had no technology to distract us. I also worked in Browns as a waitress because my grant had failed to materialise. And I was in the Oxford revue at the Playhouse and various other painfully under-rehearsed shows. All during my Finals term. Mad.

In fact, I had become interested in music and theatre long before I came to Oxford. I come from a musical family. We lived on a small sailing barge, and my mum played the piano, my dad played the flute and my brother played French horn and sang in the church choir. Then I joined a semi-professional company in Chiswick where we did lots of Benjamin Britten and things like that.

As for acting, my grandmother was quite a famous playwright and she was an actress. When I was growing up, I experienced a strange kind of fame because I looked exactly like the little girl in *The Sound of Music* and I was always being stopped in the street. So I thought, everyone thinks I'm in *The Sound of Music*. I love that. I want that for real. And at school, I was always kind of cast-able. But it was only after coming to Oxford that I thought I would like to have a go at acting properly – though as a hobby really, never as a profession. I'm still the least committed actress on earth. I'd much rather be a writer but it's so lonely and I'm a team player.

I suppose that it is because of these early experiences that I feel the arts are so important, and that it is so essential to protect them in a recession. So often the arts are one of the first things to go. But is the nature of a human being about nurturing the soul, or nurturing only your body and your bank balance? Meanwhile, theatre and the single drama – once the mainstay

of television – have now been replaced by reality TV and cookery shows, and indeed interior-decorating programmes where the audience is literally invited to watch paint dry.

I've always been a passionate believer in theatre, and especially in classical theatre – and in regional theatre. That is where most of us got our first break (mine playing Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* at the Wolsey, Ipswich) and it is home of some of the most exciting theatre available. However, for years it has been jeopardised by lack of funding. Team-work, conviviality, co-operation are what the theatre relies on – but should its viability depend on importuning for good-will and on personal financial sacrifice?

Call it special pleading if you will – but surely a theatre is more valuable and affords more civic pride and pleasure than a multi-storey car-park. Patrice Chereau, France's venerated theatre producer, once stated that every franc spent on the arts is one franc less on psychiatric hospitals. A theatre can be a healing place: laughter and the tears that accompany catharsis in the theatre are some of the healthiest sounds on earth.

The arts are about the communion of hearts. When you are part of an audience collectively celebrating a live event with other people, it creates a collective, almost symbiotic, experience in which you affect and transform each other. The best thing of all about being a human being is when you feel like “we” instead of “I”. When you're in an audience, there is sometimes a sense in which you feel how much we are together. It's a sort of oceanic feeling. It's the greatest feeling on earth. And for me, this validates civilisation in some way and, dare I say it, subsidy as well.

I'm not religious, but great works of art inspire a kind of extraordinary religious response and devotion. It may be a piece of music, or a tremendous theatrical performance. I've seen Vanessa Redgrave perform so brilliantly she caught the heart off-guard and blew it open. I remember watching Sinead Cusack do a piece and it just broke my heart. And yet, she's “only” acting.

But what theatre has to offer is not readily quantifiable. As things are going, the subsidised arts, which arrived as an enlightened socialist idea for making cultural events accessible to everyone, will become a privileged club for a tiny minority. I abhor the idea of money being



elevated to the ultimate goal. But financing the arts is tricky, because you can't guarantee that something's going to work. How do you sponsor the stuff that has potential to be good and not dissipate all that money on stuff that is frankly ridiculous? Everything is a risk. But then a lot of society is run on risk-taking.

To some extent, we need the arts and artists to do more to help themselves. Regional theatre should be massively supported. But too often there's no publicity, ludicrously bad advertising, terrible posters. You've got to go out there and galvanise people to come, and you've got to put on good stuff. That is not something that needs money; it needs imagination.

So we should start with education. Every child should have access to a musical instrument. There should be cupboards full of instruments, so that children can find out if one of them speaks to them. And then if it does they should have subsidised music lessons. I think that's how to change children's lives, because if you are good

at a musical instrument, you can be unemployed, you can be poor but you never need be bored. It wakens your soul and makes you feel a better human being.

Instead, our increasingly voyeuristic appetites seem to be hurtling us back towards the gladiatorial stadium, and ultimately to the basest of desires: to watch death and violence as the ultimate stimulus. If the appeal to our baser natures is elevated above the stimulation of our imaginations and intellects, then, as Masha in Chekov's *Three Sisters* says, our higher nature becomes a sixth finger, an unwanted appendage... and we might as well amputate. But in so doing, do we maim civilization in the name of progress or do we liberate ourselves?

To me it seems like a terrifying regression. The alternative that I am championing is that old-fashioned notion of exploring the magical terror that is life. It's a notion from Chekhov, which is still hanging on by its fingertips a hundred years later. A notion, of course, for rejection. ♣

**THE RECESSION COULD LEAD TO THE ARTS SLIPPING IN THE FUNDING PRIORITIES.**

# Social Corporate Responsibility



David Webb is the founder of Webb-site.com, a non-profit site established in 1998 for the promotion of better corporate and economic governance in Hong Kong. He argues that, in a democratic society, it is up to us to hold corporations to account.

BY DAVID WEBB (1983, MATHEMATICS)

Do you remember being told to “put the tiger in your tank”? Vroom! Your car will go faster. Now advertisements are all about ecologists working for Shell or how much BP is investing in solar power. Companies want you to feel all warm inside when you think about their brand. This is “green-washing”, and it is perfectly logical behaviour on their part. But should we really hold fossil-fuel companies responsible for global warming? Apart from the carbon costs they incur through extraction and refining, oil companies don’t consume oil: people do. And power companies don’t consume electricity made from burning coal or gas: people do.

The term “Corporate Social Responsibility” is upside down. Directly or indirectly, every company is owned entirely by or for people, and the laws which determine the limits of corporate behaviour, whether in pollution, labour conditions or taxation, are made by governments, which are representatives of us all. Really, we should be talking about “Social Responsibility for Corporations”, or “Social Corporate Responsibility”.

Corporations are associations of members who pool their capital, behind a shield of limited liability, in pursuit of profit. The stewards of that capital have a fiduciary duty to maximise shareholder value, in competition with their peers. Any other interests, of customers, suppliers, staff, or of the directors themselves, are irrelevant unless satisfying them is in the interests of the shareholders as a whole, which it often is.

“The law does not say that there are to be no cakes and ale, but there are to be no cakes and ale except such as are required for the benefit of the Company” (Lord Bowen, *Hutton v West Cork Railway Co.*, 1883). In essence, company directors and officers can take into account how their decisions will affect employees, customers, suppliers and the general public, but only to the extent that it benefits shareholders.



More than a century later, this still applies. In 1995, after a public outcry began damaging business, Shell Oil decided to dismantle and recycle the Brent Spar oil rig at a cost of £43m rather than sink it at £4.5m. The decision cost them an extra £38.5m, but saved them far more in lost business or averted law suits.

**“Corporations ... will not voluntarily make the world a better place if it means making themselves uncompetitive.”**

Another example of this enlightened self-interest is that of shoe companies. They encounter negative publicity if the contractors who make their trainers in Asia do not conform to labour standards. For a shoe brand, it is better to pay a little more to a factory which satisfies those standards, than to have shoes made in sub-standard conditions, and suffer negative media coverage. Society at large sets the standards for acceptable corporate behaviour, if not by law, then by media and consumer pressure.

What about corporate charity? That

shouts “breach of fiduciary duties”, because “charity” implies giving money for purely altruistic reasons, not for business purposes. Charity is a personal choice (please support your College), but for a company and its board, it should be out of bounds except when it can be justified in terms of shareholder value. When shareholders invest in a

company, they expect the company to maximise returns, not to give it away. If there is no benefit to the company, commensurate with the expenditure, then giving money to charity is taking it from shareholders.

Charities themselves are often shareholders with substantial endowments. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust, for example, had over \$39 billion of investments at the end of 2007. Colleges, churches, and other long-term non-profit institutions also have substantial portfolios. They expect the best possible return from



investments: as much money as possible to spend on their charitable causes, employ their staff or educate their students. They don't expect the companies they invest in to give money away on their behalf.

Unless it benefits the company, the board has no more right to give shareholders' money to charity than it does to give creditors' money to charity. Imagine the outcry if your bank wrote to you and said, "Thousands are dying from famine in Africa, so we decided to give part of your deposits to Oxfam and have debited your account accordingly".

Now, I did say "unless it benefits the company". This is the key because then it matters not whether the recipient of the expenditure is a charity, and we call it a donation, or whether the recipient is a for-profit business, and we call it an operating expense. It makes sense for Standard Chartered to sponsor a charity marathon, because of the huge local publicity they get – just as it made sense for HSBC to sponsor a Formula 1 racing team, which is for-profit. Corporations can and do get good marketing value out of working with charities in their local communities, where their goods and services are sold.

But shouldn't companies give something back to society? Indeed they should: that is what taxes are for. They help pay for social welfare, education and healthcare amongst other things. It may seem odd that the companies which make the biggest song and dance about being good corporate citizens will still go all the way to the highest court in the land to challenge a tax bill, but they have a fiduciary duty to shareholders to maximise returns by legally minimising taxes. It is up to societies to set fair tax laws to finance social expenditure. It is not up to companies voluntarily to subsidise that expenditure by paying more than their fair share of taxes.

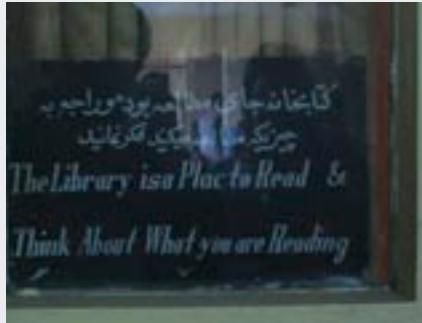
People (in democracies, at least) elect governments, and governments make the laws which determine corporate behaviour. Corporations will comply with laws, pay their taxes, and respond to consumer and media pressure, but will not voluntarily make the world a better place if it means making themselves uncompetitive, because if they do, then they won't survive long. So the next time you wish companies would behave differently, remember, it's your responsibility to make that happen. Society is responsible for corporations, not the other way around. ♣

## Black Tie and Combat Boots



Jared Camins was appointed the first Humfrey Wanley Visiting Fellow at the Bodleian, and joined the MCR in Michaelmas 2008. From Kabul to Oxford, he reveals the challenges that librarians face.

BY JARED CAMINS, HUMFREY WANLEY VISITING FELLOW AT THE BODLEIAN



**I**n the autumn of 2007 I accepted a job as a librarian at a university in Kabul, Afghanistan. One year later, I was offered a Fellowship at the Bodleian. The two experiences were drastically different: security forces in Oxford were light, and mostly unarmed, neither of which was true in Afghanistan. The libraries in the two cities, however, were not entirely unlike each other.

Visitors at libraries in Afghanistan face some far more worrying challenges than those of us who want to read a book at the Bodleian, but some of the situations they encounter may seem familiar to those with Bodleian readers' cards. Written library catalogues are relatively rare in Afghanistan – bibliography not having been a priority for the last half century – and, for the most part, the written catalogues which are extant are out-of-date and poorly understood. Instead of relying on inaccurate written catalogues which few people understand, Afghan librarians are generally forced simply to memorise the contents of their libraries. Thankfully,

librarians at the Bodleian are not asked to memorise the locations of the more than 8m items in the Bodleian's collection.

Without a written catalogue, of course, the contents of a book can very quickly become subjective: a book about aeronautics might be about the history of flight in south-east Asia or the design of airfoils, depending on which librarian you ask. When I described this problem to a roomful of librarians at the Bodleian, they nodded, and several admitted to having observed the same problem in the Bodleian. Anyone who has tried to find information in the quarto catalogues in Duke Humfrey's Library will understand the difficulties this can cause: the compilers of the quarto catalogues saw the Bodleian's manuscript collection in their own unique way, as, for example, when they indexed all of English history under the appropriate monarch, listed under the heading "Anglia".

Strange index terms aside, one of the key issues in the Bodleian is the tension between preservation of, and access to, the priceless artefacts the library houses in its collection: is the primary goal of the library to provide access to these artefacts to the library's constituency, or is the primary goal to protect these artefacts from that constituency? Every library must answer this question, and, like the Bodleian, many Afghan libraries find themselves in an awkward position: in order to justify their continued existence, Afghan libraries must be able to point to the services they render, but traditionally the emphasis has been on preservation, with libraries little more than storehouses for priceless artefacts which – in the less-than-ideal conditions found in Afghanistan – slowly deteriorate without every being seen. Thankfully, conditions at the Bodleian (and other Oxford libraries) are much better, and conservation departments in the UK take an active role in the preservation of library materials, but the fundamental issues remain the same in every library, wherever it is in the world. ♣

# Stories in Stained Glass



The College Chaplain, Helen Orchard, narrates the designs of the Chapel's glorious stained glass windows.

BY HELEN ORCHARD, CHAPLAIN



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4

John the Baptist with the birth of Jesus. Opposite, on the south side, the Israelites cross the red sea; a scene paired with the baptism of Jesus. Below, Moses receives the law on Mt Sinai (fig 2), while Jesus is taken to the top of a mountain to be tempted in the wilderness (fig 3). The east-end window pairs the Israelites feeding on the manna with the Last Supper; and the Israelites looking upon the brazen, life-giving serpent with the crucifixion. Spanning out on either side are, to the north, stories involving the entering and exiting of tombs; and, to the south, the ascension and Pentecost with their Old Testament types: Elijah being taken to heaven and the descent of God in

cloud and fire on Mt Sinai.

The remainder of the south windows reveal the history of the early church: there is the "Peter window", the "Paul window" and between them the "deacons' window", containing images of Stephen and Philip. Finally, the last window in the nave is the vision of Revelation. Scenes of the new Jerusalem, the lamb upon the altar and Christ with feet of burnished bronze and double-edged sword make this the most psychedelic (fig 4).

Gone are the days when those attending church were unable to read, relying on murals and stained glass for their religious instruction. However, few but the extremely well-versed can identify all of the scenes in Exeter College Chapel and the windows continue to provide a ready visual aid for sermon illustrations, serving to educate, prompt and inspire the current generation. ♣

The stained glass windows are one of College Chapel's most beautiful features. Gilbert Scott's plan for the building, modelled on Ste Chapelle, allowed for 14 bays, each of which has two or three windows, ensuring light streams in from all angles throughout the day. Members who have whiled away lengthy sermons by gazing at the scenes depicted will undoubtedly have worked out the narrative scheme. For the benefit of others, the windows portray the history of salvation from Genesis to Revelation, with the life of Christ holding the Old and New Testaments together in the apse.

Although all of the glass was by Clayton and Bell, the windows were filled in stages. While the east windows were completed in 1859, when the Chapel opened, stained glass on the north and south walls was added in the 1880s, with the difference in colour and artistic style clearly visible.

The first two windows on the north side have never been filled (probably because there used to be a building hard up against the wall), but there is a plan for their contents. The antechapel should contain stories from Genesis, beginning with the expulsion from the Garden of Eden and finishing with Joseph and his brothers. The first window in the nave, also currently plain, should contain stories from Exodus to Joshua, including Moses at the burning bush and the tumbling walls of Jericho. The next three windows along the north wall have all been filled with tales from the Hebrew Bible – from David and Goliath (fig 1) to the re-building of the temple after the exile.

The five windows around the east end take the form of type and antitype pairs. Beginning from the north side, the announcement of the birth of Isaac to Abraham by the three angels is paired with the annunciation; and the birth of



# News From Old Members

Our Old Members have continued to update us with their exploits. Here, we highlight some of the most exciting news.

EDITED BY CHRISTINA DE BELLAIGUE, FELLOW IN HISTORY

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

One of the pleasures of being part of the Exeter community is discovering what Old Members and former colleagues have been up to, so many thanks to those of you who have kept us up-to-date with your news this year. Please do continue to share your news with us by sending in the enclosed form or informing the Development Office via e-mail, post or telephone. Your contact details will not be included unless you wish them to be.

Marriages, births, deaths, honours, appointments and publications will continue to be reported in the Exeter College Association Register – so do please send news of those on the enclosed form or to: The Editor of the Register, Exeter College, Oxford OX1 3DP, UK.

– Christina de Bellaigue

Congratulations to **Dr John Chartres** (1937, Medicine). He and his wife Marie celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July. Dr Chartres met his wife at a hospital ball in Headington and they were married in the Oxford registry office in 1944, with a special blessing in Exeter College Chapel afterwards. Shortly after the war they left England for Africa, where Dr Chartres practiced in tropical medicine. He then specialised as a radiologist and worked at Withybush hospital in Pembrokeshire as a consultant from 1960 until the 1980s.

We also congratulate **Dr John Hughes** (1950, PPP) who has been elected as Fellow of the International Napoleonic Society.

**Alan Bennett** (1954, Modern History) presented papers from his literary archive to the Bodleian Library this year. To mark the occasion, a special reception was held at the Library where he was presented with the Bodleian medal.

**Ian Huish** (1964, Modern Languages) is now contactable on [ian.huish@onetel.net](mailto:ian.huish@onetel.net).

**James Chater** (1970, Music) divides his time between working with an editorial team of two journals dealing with affication of special metals in industry, and musicological research and composing. In particular he is challenging the Orthodox Church to adopt a more creative approach to introducing new music into church services.

We congratulate the **Revd Dr George Lings** (1974, PGCE), who has just gained a PhD. The title of his thesis is "The Church's calling and capacity to reproduce", which he hopes will establish a deeper ecclesiological foundation for the phenomena now known as "fresh expressions of Church", or before that as "church planting".

The College was delighted to hear that **Kenneth Blades Parker, Esq, QC**, (1964, Literae Humaniores) has been appointed a Justice of the High Court with effect from October 2009. Mr Parker will be assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

At the end of 2008, **Paul Paynter** (1981, PPE) became Director of the British Trade Office in Calgary, Canada.

The UN Human Rights Council has appointed **Professor Surya P. Subedi** (1989, International Law) as the next UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Cambodia. One of only eight country-specific UN Special Rapporteurs in the world, Professor Subedi will work to identify human rights problems in the country, and give constructive recommendations on tackling them.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Guilford** (2000, Earth Sciences) who has been recognised for her work helping rebuild communities in Indonesia devastated by the Tsunami in 2004. Under challenging conditions, she has been working to design permanent water supplies for over 40 villages which are still being reconstructed in the wake of the Tsunami. She was presented with

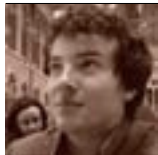
the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management International Young Member of the Year 2009 Award in May.

**Dr Sung-Hee Kim** (2001, English) has directed a short film based around the installation of the Antony Gormley statue at Exeter. The film was made as part of the Voices from Oxford webcast series, an ongoing series of webcasts which broadcasts documentaries and interviews from within the University. It can be viewed on their website <http://www.voicesfromoxford.org/gormley.html>

Congratulations to **Jennifer Green** (2005, Jurisprudence), who has been appointed to a stipendiary lectureship in Law at Hertford, just a year after completing her undergraduate degree at Exeter. Another of our lawyers, **Tarunabh Khaitan** (2004, Law), was awarded a five-year Studentship (equivalent to a Fellowship) at Christ Church College.

Finally, with sadness, we note the passing this year of **Professor Peter Rickard** (1941). Professor Rickard was Emeritus Drapers' Professor of French and Life Fellow at Emmanuel College, Cambridge; a memorial service was held at Emmanuel in June. 🕯

# Avonbrook: A Commitment to Global Education



The founder of Avonbrook Projects Abroad discusses the inspiration behind the charity and how a sad loss became a wonderful opportunity to make a difference to children around the world.

BY MICHAEL AMHERST (2003, ENGLISH)

“I was moved by their passion and desire to make a difference.”

I never intended to start a charity. Back in 2006, it was announced that the choir school my father had started to provide choral evensong in Tewkesbury Abbey was to close. This was a difficult time for all the family, but my father in particular. The Abbey School had been his life's work: he'd bought the site – Avonbrook House – with all the money he had in the world and slept on a camp bed in one of the classrooms, burning old desks as he couldn't afford the heating bills. Some 30 years later it seemed wrong that I should profit from an event that all of us had hoped would never happen. With the choir's future secured through a transfer to Dean Close School, I set about deciding what I could do that would both make a difference and provide a fitting tribute to my father's lifelong dedication to education.

I decided that the sale of the school site should be viewed as an opportunity. When my former English teacher, Rosemary Diamond, and her husband, Peter, retired, they left their home and travelled the world for a year, assisting education projects in the developing world. These projects were ones with which they had had a long association and I was moved by their passion and

desire to make a difference at a time when most other people would have sat in the garden doing the crossword. They spoke of orphanages and leper colonies with schools attached and the plight of children who, having been rescued from the streets and a life of crime or prostitution, were faced with little option than a return to that life when their time at school had come to an end. What was needed was money to provide vocational training for school leavers, to increase opportunities for children in the world of work.

It occurred to me that I could use money from the school site to create a capital fund, the income from which could be used to make grants over the long-term to small, targeted projects – like those that Rosemary and Peter were helping. Small ourselves, we could target need, ensure the sustainability of our projects and at the same time observe for ourselves the value of what we were doing. Avonbrook Projects Abroad was born.

The charity was named after the building that housed The Abbey School. Not only does choral evensong still thrive in Tewkesbury Abbey but the school my father started is now helping to fund an education for children across the world. ♡



AVONBROOK SUPPORTS EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

## AVONBROOK PROJECTS ABROAD – FOUNDED FEBRUARY 2007

Avonbrook funds the recruitment, training and retention of professional teachers to provide a higher quality of education in developing countries and aims to improve vocational and post-school education and training to increase opportunities for children in the real economy and world of work.

Avonbrook will facilitate internships with partner organisations for undergraduates and graduates who wish to work in international development. [www.avonbrook.org.uk](http://www.avonbrook.org.uk)



# Closing Hyde Park Corner



In its first year the sustainable-themed Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon receives an award from Runner's World. Rachel Haining describes the challenges of organising a race through central London.

BY RACHEL HAINING, NÉE FROST (1986, MUSIC)

"You want to do what?" was the cry, as we tentatively suggested we'd like to close Hyde Park Corner for the inaugural Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon. As Hyde Park Corner is at the centre of two of the main arteries into central London, this was going to take a little negotiation! Fortunately it had been done once before for the Tour de France (an event I had also worked on), so I knew a few of the hoops that had to be jumped through.

The first was getting agreement to move the time of the Changing of the Guard – or at least to suspend the afternoon Changing of the Guard and do the morning guard change without music. After a letter to the Queen's Household, this was agreed – our first step towards shutting down central London. Then we needed to do detailed calculations on the flow of runners, who would start on South Carriage Drive in Hyde Park, heading straight out of the Queen Elizabeth Gates and across Hyde Park corner. After concluding that we would have to operate a strict "no walking" policy and be incredibly quick at both installing and removing barriers, we got the go-ahead to close Hyde Park Corner.



It was only the second time in history that this had been permitted for a non-ceremonial occasion – although the canon fire from the Royal Artillery and the parade by Royal Horseguards before the start of the race made it feel pretty ceremonial to us! Of course, the guy in the rabbit head made it look slightly less formal – but he turned out to be none other than John Muriithi,



Kenyan middle distance runner and one of the hot favourites for an Olympic Gold in 2012. All in all, runners for 162 charities raised £2m in our first year.

The unique venue wasn't the Half Marathon's only distinctive feature: we also had a sustainable theme to everything we did. All the runners were given a bamboo t-shirt – no, it wasn't a tortuous straight-jacketed race: bamboo is a remarkably soft and naturally breathable fabric. Our medals were wooden and we collected every single plastic water bottle (approximately 100,000) and took them back to the M&S recycling plant in Dagenham to be crushed and recycled into this year's bottles.

After the event, we had a fantastic rating from Runner's World and won their "Best New Event 2008" category with the result that this year demand for places was so high our website crashed. We instantly sold out. Unbelievably, three sponsors approached us for 2009. Admittedly we have been asked by Westminster Council to reduce the time Hyde Park Corner is closed this year, but otherwise we're on the move! 🐰

A HALF MARATHON WITH A SUSTAINABLE THEME.

"Runners for 162 charities raised £2m in our first year."

If you'd like to know any more about the event or indeed information about volunteering at the event, please contact me on: [rachel.haining@limelightsports.com](mailto:rachel.haining@limelightsports.com)

# Celebrating a Harvard Centennial



John Quelch is Professor and Senior Associate Dean at Harvard Business School and was responsible for co-ordinating the planning and execution of Harvard Business School's 2008 Centennial celebrations.

BY JOHN QUELCH (1969, MODERN HISTORY)

In October 1908, 24 students began studying on the first MBA programme in the United States. In the autumn of 2008, 2,000 Harvard Business School (HBS) alumni marked the anniversary by returning to campus for a two-day summit. Focused on three themes – leadership, globalisation and the future of capitalism – the summit was the intellectual culmination of a year-long programme of activities which had encompassed more than 75 events.

A centennial is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate the past. At HBS, we recognise that the stature our School enjoys today is thanks to the cumulative efforts of those who came before us. Few know that the Hawthorne experiments were conducted at HBS, or that the capital asset pricing model was invented here along with much of Bayesian decision theory, but such reflection reminds us that greater minds than ours shaped the School, and that

we are the temporary stewards of an institution more important than ourselves.

**“Few know that the Hawthorne experiments were conducted at HBS.”**

However, a centennial should be not only humbling, it should also be empowering. Acknowledging past achievements should motivate us to set higher standards for our current and future endeavours. At HBS, we deliberately devoted only a quarter of our centennial activities to celebrating the past; the rest were focused on the future, reaffirming our intellectual leadership in the arena of business inquiry. We convened the best minds in academia and industry to discuss the future of market capitalism, entrepreneurship, social enterprise, the business of science and many other topics that cut across traditional

disciplinary divisions. We wanted to use the centennial as a catalyst for new thinking and we held two faculty colloquia on the future of MBA education, attended by business school deans from around the world.

Of course, every centennial celebration deserves a memento. Late last year, our campus bell (one of 17 rescued from Moscow's St Danilov monastery in 1927) was returned to Russia and a replacement made for us at a Russian foundry. To honour the HBS Centennial, the foundry made thousands of replica bells for all members of our community, an unusual but fitting way to ring in a new century. ♣



HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL ON THE BANKS OF THE CHARLES RIVER.

## LIFE IN FRANCE: FRENCH AFFAIR SURVIVES BARBER'S BRUSH OFF



David Bolton relives a poultry faux pas and explains his continuing love affair with France.

BY DAVID BOLTON (1953, JURISPRUDENCE)

**Quelle belle poitrine!** The lady behind the rotisserie counter eyed her colleague with a grin as she flourished the roast chicken. I had asked for 'the breast'. My hostess cautioned disapprovingly: "Ce n'est pas correct, monsieur. You must ask for 'the white' – la blanche." Yet the French consider us Anglo-Saxons prudish!

I had come to Rouen at the age of 69 with A-level standard French and a love of the country and its glorious history, to develop my knowledge of this beautiful language. My hosts were retired farmers. Madame was a formidable matriarch, of ample proportions, ruling over a family of 23. Seeing a photo I'd taken of her digging the garden, she fled into the kitchen calling out, "Oh la la – je ne suis pas sexée, monsieur. Your wife will not be anxious!" She was kindness itself:

nursing me with flu, taking me to the market, engaging in rollicking banter with the merchants, and driving us to see the ruins of William the Conqueror's castle. She would fly out of the house, leaving the car keys, and, after retrieving them, return again for her phone. She often set off the burglar alarm. Her driving was as erratic as her excursions into English.

When I needed a haircut, Madame persuaded me to visit a woman's salon, mischievously assuring me, "Oh, monsieur! C'est la mode en France." The receptionist replied to my hesitant inquiry with "Certainly, Monsieur – and what is the lady's name?"

"The lady is me!" I declared.

Madame eventually showed mercy and sent me to her husband's barber. He asked how I would like my hair cut.

"Close enough," I replied – the correct idiom. All other conversation floundered.

"How come I understand you, but you don't understand me? Is it my accent?"

"Oui, monsieur."

In Spain protestation that you speak poorly will provoke: "No! No! Senor mucho mucho Espanol – Castellano!" The French screw up their faces in consternation and you find yourself saying: "I can see you think I speak French like a Spanish cow" or more subtly, "I can see you are not convinced that I speak French like Monsieur Sarkozy." You must persevere relentlessly to win them over.

But I still say: "Vive la France." ♣

*Extracted from an article which first appeared in The Weekly Telegraph.*



# Hope in Iraq



A Captain in the US Air Force, and an Alberta Bart Holaday Scholar at Exeter, reflects on his time serving in Iraq.

BY ANDREW SELLERS (2005, COMPUTER SCIENCE)



**“I have a great deal of admiration for those who continue the work of rebuilding their country.”**

week in order to make it in time for the start of Hilary Term. I am so glad to be back amongst my friends at Exeter College and at Oxford University.

After I am finished at Oxford, I will continue my Air Force career. My experience in Iraq has left me ever more grateful for the freedoms and prosperity we enjoy. Further, it has reaffirmed my commitment to serving others, as I understand better than ever the impact of service to our world. 🇺🇸

*\*The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or the US Government.*

In April of last year, I was informed that I had been chosen to serve a tour of duty in Iraq. As member of the United States Air Force, I had always known that this was a possibility; although I knew that I would miss my wife and my friends, I was eager for the opportunity to serve. When I got off the plane at Joint Base Balad, the heat radiated off the tarmac and loose sand blew feverously in the distance, welcoming me to what would be my new life for the rest of the year.

As a child in school I had learned about the history of this area. I was in awe of the fact that I was now standing in the Cradle of Civilisation, a land that many believe produced some of the world’s earliest writing, literature, mathematics, philosophies and laws. This was a culture and society of people as proud and as hopeful about their country as I am of my own. I was fortunate enough to be in a job where

part of my duties included travelling all over the country in support of Coalition operations. This gave me the opportunity to witness first hand the Iraqi culture that most can only read about, and to interact with the Iraqi people. I was profoundly touched by the scope of the personal tragedies; nearly all those I talked with had lost family members and all had endured great adversity. The Iraqi people have endured a long and hard ordeal. Yet the Iraqis are finding their own way, refusing to be defined or haunted by a previous regime or its dictator.

I have a great deal of admiration for those who continue the work of rebuilding their country. I am so proud that I was able to contribute, in some small way, to that effort. After returning from Iraq, the US Air Force offered me the opportunity to return to Oxford and read for a DPhil in Computer Science. I made this rapid transition in just over a



# Old Members' Association

Even after Graduation you are still an Exonian. Here is how to stay involved.

BY ARI ROMNEY, ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER (2006, SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY)

## THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Exeter's Development Office provides an active link between Exeter College and all its Old Members, Parents and Friends. We strengthen this link by hosting regular events, by producing several publications each year and by maintaining the alumni website. The Development Office also coordinates the College's fundraising efforts and we are very grateful for all the support the College receives. In addition, the Careers Office was established within the Development Office to forge links between Old Members and current students.

We are always keen to hear from our Old Members by phone, email or post. We are here to help with any inquiry or request you may have, from returning to Exeter for a visit to getting in touch with another Old Member. Our publications and e-news also aim to continue to share ideas between Exonians, so please do let us know your latest stories. We want to stay in touch with all our Old Members, Parents and Friends and you are always welcome back. Floreat Exon!

## BENEFITS

All Old Members, Parents and Friends will receive our **annual publications** (*Exon*, *Donors' Report* and the *Register*) and **invitations to our many events** – see the events list for more details. There is an option to sign up to receive a termly electronic newsletter, *Exeter Matters*, and it is also possible to make use of the College's **conference facilities** should you, or your business, be interested. In addition, Old Members are entitled to the following benefits:

## HIGH TABLE DINING RIGHTS

Old Members who have their MAs and those who have read for a higher degree (i.e. any graduate or undergraduate Master's degree), are entitled to dine on High Table in term:

- Once a year at the College's expense (but paying for wine and dessert)
- At two other times in different terms at their own expense
- Those who have read for a 'Master's

level' undergraduate degree, such as MChem, are only eligible 21 terms after matriculation (i.e. at the time when anyone who had done a normal BA would get their MA).

For further information or to sign in for dinner, please download a booking form from the website or contact the Development Office on 01865 279619.

## ACCOMMODATION

Old Members benefit from a discount on Bed & Breakfast in College at a rate of £47 per person per night in rooms with communal facilities and £66 per person per night for an en-suite room or Fellows Guest Room (prices inclusive of VAT). Normally, bookings can be taken only out of Full Term, and availability will depend on other residential bookings. Please contact the Assistant Steward on 01865 279654 to check availability and book a room. Old Members are also eligible for a discount at the Tower House Hotel in Oxford. Just tell them that you are an Old Member of the College when you make your booking.

## CAREERS SUPPORT AND NETWORKING

We try to offer continuing support to Old Members after they have left and are happy to set up careers advice meetings, particularly for recent leavers who might benefit from some words of wisdom from a more experienced Exonian. If you would like to offer careers advice to current students or recent leavers, or think you might need to receive some, do please get in touch with us.

## EVENTS – INVITATIONS NOTICE

Please note that starting this autumn, invitations to some Exeter events – primarily club and society events (Medical Society Dinner, ECBCA Dinner, etc) – will be sent out in digital format in the first instance to Old Members for whom we hold email addresses. This will help us reduce our impact on the environment as well as printing and postage costs. Those who do not have



an email account (or whose email address we do not have) will continue to receive hard copies in the post. If you would strongly prefer to receive hard-copy invitations, please let us know.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What do I do to graduate?** Those who wish to take their degree, either in person or *in absentia*, should contact the College Office ([graduation@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:graduation@exeter.ox.ac.uk); 01865 279648) for a list of Degree Days and to register. Degree Days take the form of a ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre or Examination Schools, followed by an address from the Rector or a senior Fellow, presentation of degree certificates and a buffet lunch or drinks reception in College. Candidates are allowed up to three guest tickets for their family and friends to witness the ceremony.



## PUTTING NAMES TO FACES

Many thanks to readers who identified faces in last year's photo of the **1947–48 Athletics Team**, and to those who sent in some extra names from a photograph printed in Exon 2006. If you know which names are missing from this line-up, please let us know.



### 1947–1948 ATHLETICS TEAM

**Back Row:** Paul Clarke, Tony Phillips, Alan Eddy, ?-Sweet, ?, George Batchelor, ?, Ian Maclean  
**Seated:** ?, Ray Barkway, ?, Roger Bannister, Jan Saunders  
**Front Row:** ?

#### How do I get my MA?

Those in possession of a BA or BFA may apply for the degree of MA in or after the 21st term after matriculation. Those who read for a 'Master's level' undergraduate degree do not get an MA but gain MA status after the same length of time. To sign up to receive your MA, please contact the College Office ([graduation@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:graduation@exeter.ox.ac.uk); 01865 279648) for a list of Degree Days and to register.

#### I want to sign up for High Table – whom do I contact?

Contact the Development Office on 01865 279619.

#### I want to bring some friends for a dinner in Hall – can I?

Yes – please contact the Development Office for more details and to arrange a date.

#### I am interested in making a donation to College. What should I do?

Please use the donation form enclosed with the magazine or download one from the website and return it to the Development Office. We are dependent on the support of all our Old Members, Parents and Friends and are hugely grateful for the support we receive.

#### I read something about a specific event that I'm interested in, but I have not received an invitation – whom should I contact?

Contact the Alumni Officer (01865 279619; [development@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@exeter.ox.ac.uk)).

We often target event invitations at specific interest groups. Also, it is possible that if you haven't been invited, it is because our records for you are incomplete.

#### I am interested in getting married in the Chapel/College – whom do I contact?

Contact the Conference and Events Manager, Philip Munday (01865 279653) in the first instance to see what dates are free and then the Chaplain, Rev Dr Helen Orchard (01865 279610).

#### How do I update my contact details?

Contact the Information Officer (01865 279664; [development@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@exeter.ox.ac.uk)) or log on to [www.exetercollege.net](http://www.exetercollege.net) to request your password to the secure area of the website where you can update your details yourself. 🛡️

#### Development Office Contact Details

Write to: The Development Office, Exeter College, Oxford, OX1 3DP  
Tel: +44 1865 279620  
Email: [development@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@exeter.ox.ac.uk)

# An Exeter Legend: The Chapel Ghost

Tread carefully in the College Chapel lest you disturb the figure in the box...

BY ERIC BENNETT, HOME BURSAR

“Who’s that in the box?” It’s a question often asked by visitors to the College Chapel.

To the left of the altar resides a wooden box with glass sides and no door, complete with a cross on the top, which contains a headless, legless and armless stone statue. Rumour has it that a ghost used to haunt College at night. Then, during some construction work in the College the mysterious figure was found. Once he was put in the sealed

box the ghost was never seen again. Was it too sealed in the box?

During the recent Chapel renovations great trouble was taken to move the box VERY CAREFULLY from place to place in case the ghost escaped.

Did you experience the ghostly apparition when you were in College?

[Note for Historians: The figure is probably a tomb statue from the old Jacobean chapel. Signs of scorching

indicate it may have been thrown to the ground when the old chapel was blown up by the Victorians.]

## Published Exonians

Exonians take over the literary world, with books on everything from religion to antimatter to children’s fiction.

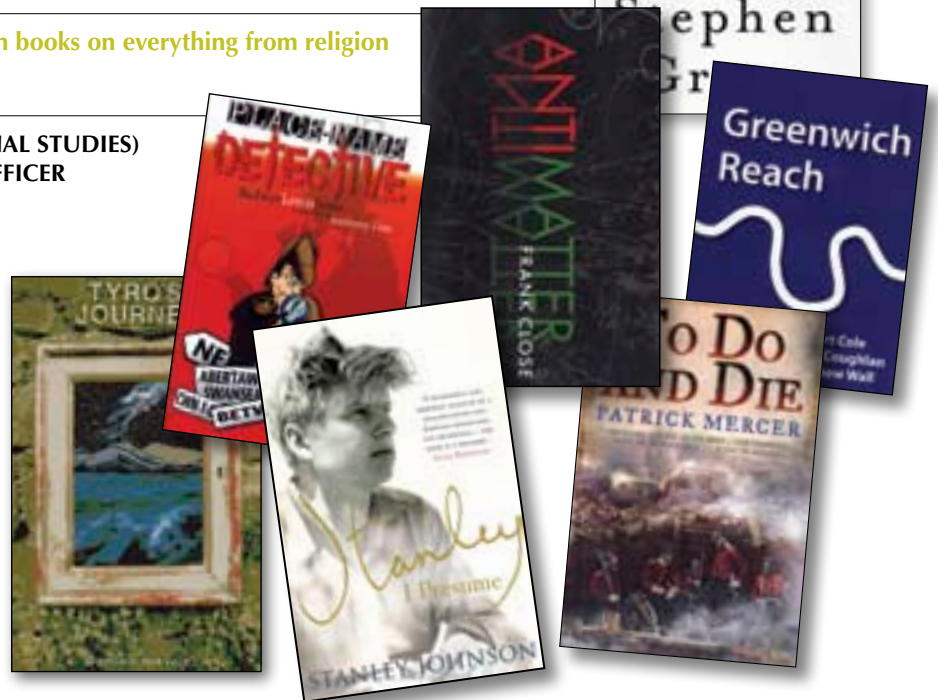
BY VICTORIA ELLIOTT (2007, EDUCATIONAL STUDIES) AND CATE FIELD, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Exonians continue to appear in all corners of the publishing world. Beginning with auto-biography, **Stanley Johnson’s** *Stanley I presume* is a wonderful motorcycle ride around life in Devon, Turkey, Oxford, America and London. Laugh-out loud funny at times, it is also a fascinating memoir of an extraordinary life.

Continuing the geographical theme, **Anthony Lias** has translated some of Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones articles from Welsh for *Place-name Detective*. These fascinating items appearing in English for the first time (veering into history, Celtic legend and linguistics), are lovingly translated with helpful footnotes explaining the singularities of Welsh spelling.

Still with place-names, but moving into poetry, *Greenwich Reach* is a collection by three authors, including **Matthew Wall**. His poems are clear snapshots of modern life and themes. Alan Bennett “enjoyed and (high praise this) understood” them. The images stay with you long after the book is shut: “To talk of love is to paint the moon/ Or knit the sea into a jumper”.

Trans-locating the reader geographically and historically, *To Do And Die* is **Patrick Mercer’s** debut novel, putting his experience in the



army and as the Today programme’s defence correspondent to good use in its treatment of soldiers and soldiering during the Crimean War. Lieutenant Harry Morgan, his hero, has already been called “the new Sharpe”.

Moving on to children’s fiction, the third in **Peter** (writing as Dominic **Miéville’s** series is now available. *Tyro’s Journey* continues the thrilling adventures begun in *The Mysterious Burnchester Hall*. Combining junior spy drama with fantasy, the book creates a gripping quest story set in a dystopic society which reflects our own.

If you don’t fancy fiction or poetry, then **Professor Frank Close’s** *Antimatter*

has been widely hailed as the antidote to the bad science of Dan Brown’s *Angels and Demons*. Even if you don’t need such an antidote, you do need this book, which deals clearly with the physics of its topic, perfect for the intelligent lay reader. Alternatively, why not pick up *Good Value* by our new Honorary Fellow, **Stephen Green**? Described by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, as “a guide for the perplexed, in a troubled and angry time”, this fascinating book weaves together history, literature, religion and philosophy as it reflects on the interaction of money and morals in an ever-changing world.





# Oxford Wherever You Are

BY ALISON EDWARDS, HEAD OF ALUMNI COMMUNICATIONS,  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The University's Alumni Office is always looking for new ways to help you stay in touch with Oxford, whether you read Archaeology or Zoology. Five things you might want to know about are:

## OXFORD ALUMNI CARD

The Oxford Alumni Card was introduced in 2005, initially to identify you as having a connection with Oxford to those on University and College premises. The scheme has since expanded and now includes more than 60 discounts for Card-holders. If you don't have your Card, you can request one from [alumniocard@alumni.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumniocard@alumni.ox.ac.uk) or by phoning +44 (0)1865 611617. All Cards will be reissued in a new plastic form with the Hilary 2010 issue of Oxford Today: don't forget to look out for yours!

## ePIDGE

Check your electronic pigeonhole monthly for a round-up of news, events and alumni benefits. Each month we include a special feature, highlighting anything from one alumna's record-breaking row across the Indian Ocean, to how Oxford alumni are getting involved with the University's spin-out arm, Isis Innovation. If you don't currently receive the bulletin and would like to do so, please fill in the subscription form at [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/ebulletin](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/ebulletin)

## OXFORD TODAY

The University's award-winning magazine, *Oxford Today*, distributed three times a year, contains a wealth of news and information for alumni, about current research, projects and prominent Oxonians past and present. If you don't

receive *Oxford Today*, please contact us to update your details online at [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/update](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/update) or by phone on +44 (0)1865 611610. Its latest centre spread was all about Exeter College!

## PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENTS

In 2009 the University Alumni Office introduced a new events series to provide an opportunity to meet other Oxonians in your employment sector, or one in which you are interested. Events so far, 'Business and the Environment', 'The Future of Journalism' and 'Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age' have all included a short talk by alumni in the industry, followed by a session for networking. If you would like to receive notification of these events, please go to [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/professional\\_networking](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/professional_networking) or contact us at +44 (0)1865 611617.

## ALUMNI NETWORKS AT HOME AND ABROAD

There are about 140 alumni groups for Oxonians around the UK and overseas, so wherever you are in the world, you should be able to find a local group. Many branches run an active programme of events to help you meet like-minded Oxonians in your area. Some groups are also active in supporting the University, through outreach to the local community (often through schools access work). To find your nearest group, go to [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/networks](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/networks). If you are interested in starting up a new group, or would like to be a volunteer, then do get in touch with us: [uk.branches@alumni.ox.ac.uk](mailto:uk.branches@alumni.ox.ac.uk) or [overseas.branches@alumni.ox.ac.uk](mailto:overseas.branches@alumni.ox.ac.uk)

## EXETER'S HONORARY FELLOWS

- Mr Martin Amis
- Sir Ronald Arculus
- Professor David Armstrong
- Dr John Ashworth
- Sir Roger Bannister
- Mr Alan Bennett
- Mr Bennett Boskey
- Dr Alfred Brendel
- Dr Sydney Brenner
- Professor Marilyn Butler
- The Right Honourable Lord Justice Richard Buxton
- Sir Ronald Cohen
- Professor Sir Ivor Crewe
- The Very Reverend John Drury
- Sir James Gowans
- The Hon Mr Justice Hayne
- Mr Mark Houghton-Berry
- Mr Harry James
- Sir Sydney Kentridge
- Mr John Kufuor
- The Right Honourable Lord Justice John Laws
- Professor Anthony Low
- Mr Richard Mahoney
- Sir Colin Maiden
- The Reverend James McConica
- Mr Stephen Merrett
- Professor Joseph Nye
- Mr Philip Pullman
- Professor John Quelch
- Mr Gordon Robertson
- HM Sofia The Queen of Spain
- Sir Kenneth Stowe
- Admiral Stansfield Turner
- Professor David Underdown

The College has elected to Honorary Fellowships Thomas Cromwell (1976, Law), Justice on the Supreme Court of Canada; Stephen Green (1966, PPE), Group Chairman of HSBC; and Morton Schapiro, outgoing President of Williams College.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Sir Michael Levey, Honorary Fellow, over Christmas 2008.

## NEW WEBSITE BY CATE FIELD, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The Development Office was pleased to launch the new website for Exeter Old Members this summer: <http://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/alumni/>. This new site, now a part of the College's central website, has been designed to be easier to use and to navigate around, as well as clearer and more attractive to read.

The new site contains all the information you were used to finding, including news from College, details of future Exeter events, information on your benefits as an Old Member, and how you in turn can support Exeter. New features include an events picture archive and a page for Exeter traditions and legends. If you would

like to contribute we would love to hear from you at:

[development@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@exeter.ox.ac.uk)

Whether you are browsing for the latest Exeter news, downloading one of our publications, or searching for information on how to take your MA or dine in Hall, we hope you will enjoy using the new site. 🍷

# Memories of 1979

On the 30th anniversary of women joining Exeter, Old Members look back to when those first intrepid few arrived.



THE CLASS OF 1979

**T**his year sees the 30th anniversary of the first admission of women to Exeter, and to mark the occasion, we asked Old Members – women and men – to send in their recollections of that first year. Thank you to everyone who responded, and we hope you enjoy the selection published below.

“Matriculation Dinner seems, at least in memory, to have been heavy with historical significance, felt even by us 18- and 19-year-olds. The Hall in its lamp-lit shadow shrouded splendour, we in our sub-fusc, portraits of Rectors past around and above, and Christine A’Court stepping forward to sign the Register – the first of the Class of ‘79 and the first woman undergraduate ever.

The climatic break can be dated precisely to early December and the annual ‘Turl Street Riot’. Amidst the chaos in the centre of the front quad, Jenny Smith poured out a torrent of outraged scorn at the ranks of men behaving extremely badly. It was the last ever Turl Street Riot.”

**Michael Coleman (1979, Geology)**

“I remember being sad that my surname wasn’t A’Court, so that as we were called alphabetically, I could be the first girl in nearly 700 years to sign the Register. And if Exeter was a bit bloke-ish at times, with scioning and rugby pox and Turl Street Riots, it had its courtly and dashing side too, embodied in my tutor Malcolm Godden and Rector Greig Barr. I loved Exeter’s decidedly masculine traits. I loved the fact it welcomed me in. I love it still.”

**Jenny Bond (née Herbert) (1979, English)**

“Returning to college (as a former student) in 1979, I called on Paul Snowdon, who had taught me moral philosophy, and asked about the practicalities of having women in college. ‘I had hoped’, Paul started to explain, ‘that the women would raise the standard; alas, the boys seem to have brought them down to their level!’ Looking back over the years, it seems to me that the women have raised academic standards at the College and made it a much more pleasant environment. My only regret is that the decision to admit them was not made earlier.”

**Chisanga Puta-Chekwe (1977, PPE)**

**“I loved Exeter’s decidedly masculine traits. I loved the fact it welcomed me in.”**

“I remember the Rector (Greig Barr) saying of his experience before women arrived: ‘I used to look out of my window on a Sunday morning and I couldn’t believe we hadn’t gone mixed already!’”

**Roger Fink (1977, Jurisprudence)**

“Clearing mud from the bath on staircase 9. ‘You’re a girl, you must have an iron.’ A breakfast greeting from Guiseppi, ‘Toasta, Signorita?’ Grouped into staircase enclaves. There were no apparent changes to accommodate women, and I don’t think we expected anything. I suspect our unarticulated aim was to be accepted as one of the boys – one of the family.”

**Judith Pain (1979, Jurisprudence)**



# The Year in Pictures



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1 Blades-winning women's first boat at Torpids

2 Winter wonderland at Exeter College

3 Philip Pullman receives his honorary degree (photo by Billett Potter)

4 College ice hockey

5 Rowers at Eights

6 Sybil Pitts retires

7 High Table Dinner – in the Fellows' Garden

8 Punting

9 Trashing

10 Winners of the Ex Factor perform B'Witched's *C'est La Vie*

11 Radcliffe Camera



3



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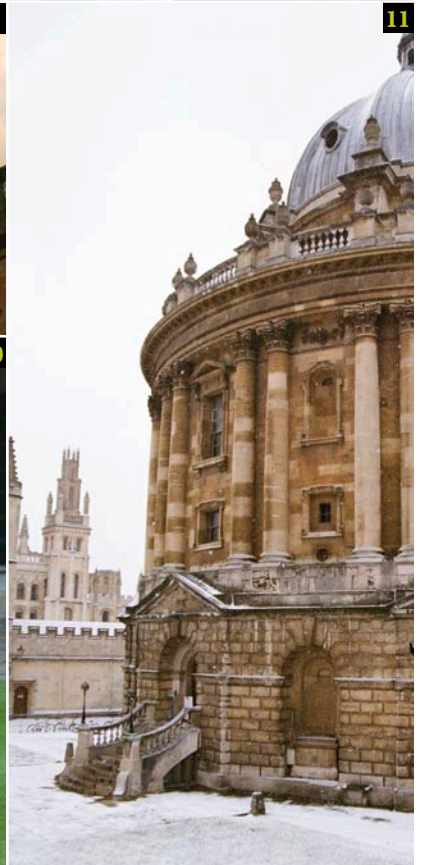
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## EVENT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009 – 2010

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**SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2009**  
Campaign Pre-Launch Event in New York

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**WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER**  
Exeter Choral Concert in Williamstown, MA

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**THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**  
Campaign Pre-Launch Event in Zürich

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**SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**  
Campaign Launch in Oxford, Association  
Dinner (& Oxford Alumni Weekend)

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**SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER**  
Freshers' Parents Tea

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**SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER**  
150th Chapel Anniversary:  
Celebration of the Chapel's Consecration  
with The Visitor, The Bishop of Exeter

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**FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER**  
Medical Society Dinner

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**FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER**  
Physics Dinner

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**SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER**  
150th Chapel Anniversary:  
The Reverend Mark Birch at Evensong

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**SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER**  
Campaign Post-Launch Event in Sydney

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**THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER**  
Thanksgiving Dinner

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**SATURDAY 28 –  
SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER**  
Campaign Post-Launch Event in Hong Kong

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**SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER**  
Advent Carol Service

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**EARLY DECEMBER – TBC**  
City Drinks – London

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**FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2010**  
Fortescue Society Dinner

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**FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY**  
Parents' Night – Dinner in College

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**SATURDAY 6 MARCH**  
Amalgas Dinner

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**TUESDAY 9 MARCH**  
Gifted and Talented Event:  
For Teachers and their Students

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**SATURDAY 20 MARCH**  
Gaudy for 1971–75

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**FRIDAY 9 APRIL**  
Intercollegiate Golf Tournament

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**FRIDAY 16 – SATURDAY 17 APRIL**  
Williams 25th Anniversary Lunch in NY,  
Alumni Dinner in NY (& Oxford University  
North American Reunion)

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**SATURDAY 24 APRIL**  
College Ball

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**FRIDAY 7 MAY**  
PPE Dinner

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**MID-MAY – TBC**  
London City Dinner

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**FRIDAY 14 MAY**  
ExVac Dinner

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**SATURDAY 15 MAY**  
College Garden Party

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**SATURDAY 22 MAY**  
ECBCA Dinner

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**SUNDAY 13 JUNE**  
Commemoration of Benefactors Service/  
Higgs Night

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**SUNDAY 20 JUNE**  
Leavers' Parents' Lunch

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**SATURDAY 26 JUNE**  
Gaudy for 1976–79

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**FRIDAY 2 – SUNDAY 4 JULY**  
Williams 25th Anniversary Weekend  
in Oxford

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For more information or to reserve a place at any of these events,  
please contact the Alumni Relations Officer, details below.