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THE EXETER COLLEGE MAGAZINE ISSUE 17 AUTUMN 2014
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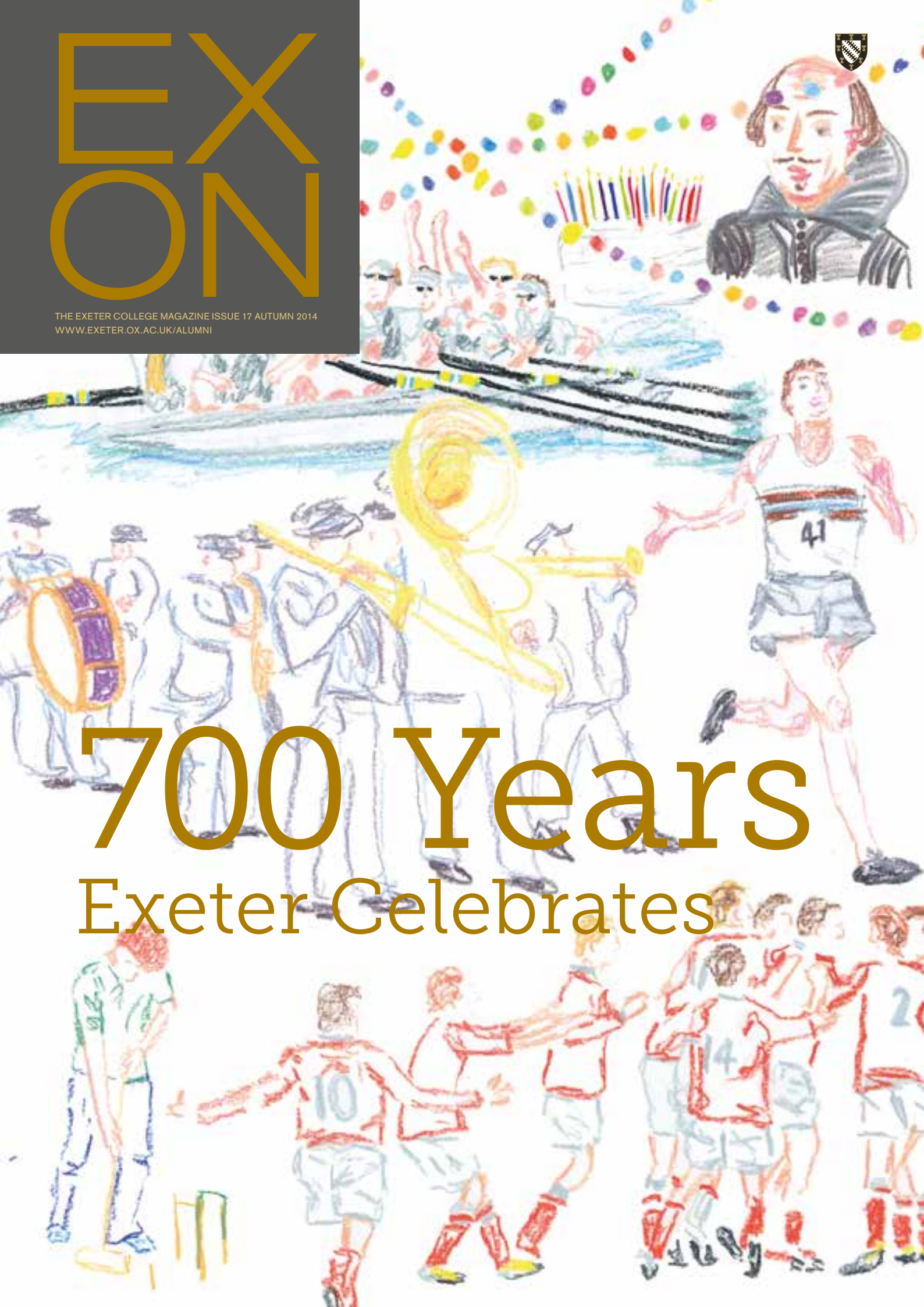

700 Years

Exeter Celebrates

Ending on a High Note

As she prepares to say goodbye after a decade at Exeter's helm, **Rector Frances Cairncross** reflects on the College's year of 700th anniversary celebrations.

Celebration is the theme of this year's issue, and what a celebration it has been! I feel hugely fortunate to have been at Exeter College for just long enough to preside over a year-long 700th birthday party. Apart from anything else, it has been a wonderful excuse to see many Old Members, some of whom have not been back to College for years. But there has been something for everyone, and different groups of alumni have returned for different events.

Not surprisingly, it was the young who dominated the marvellous all-night Ball at the end of June (although I made it through to the Survivors' Breakfast). It was the historians who came in droves to the publication parties for two College histories, *Exeter College: the First 700 Years*, and John Maddicott's wonderful *Founders and Fellowship*. It was the academically inclined who turned up for the four fascinating subject symposiums, modelled on the College's four annual Subject Family evenings – Life Sciences and Medicine; Natural Sciences and Mathematics; the

> The high point of the year was, of course, Founder's Day itself – 700 years to the day since Walter de Stapeldon made over the tithes of Gwinear to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral to support his new college

Pictures: Exeter College's 700th birthday cake and Ball

Humanities; and as a grand finale, a Social Sciences symposium themed around the 'BRICs' (Brazil, Russia, India and China) – the giants of the emerging economies. The two decade days, one for those who came up in the 1950s and earlier and the other for the 1960s alumni, were full of fun and nostalgia.

The high point of the year was, of course, Founder's Day itself, celebrated on 4 April – 700 years to the day (give or take the Julian calendar) since Walter de Stapeldon made over the tithes of Gwinear to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral to support his new College. (We displayed the actual parchment in the Chapel over the subsequent weekend.) The procession of robed Fellows, Emeriti and Honorary Fellows into the Sheldonian to the sound of a fanfare and the tremendous singing of Hubert Parry's *I Was Glad* was a crescendo that none of those present will soon forget. The subsequent weekend was a wonderful parade of events, from talks on Tolkien and tours of the mediaeval site to expeditions up the tower and lectures on the College's finances.

To round off my own year, and my time at this wonderful College, I will – by the time you read this – have toured as many as possible of the graves and memorials of the College's 143 World War One dead, in the company of the Chaplain, who happens to be the son of two soldiers. In this year of celebrations, it seems right that we should not forget those who celebrated a century ago – and then did not live to see peace return.

As I hand over to Sir Rick Trainor, my excellent successor, I want to thank our alumni for all you have done to make me feel welcome, and to secure the success and the future of the College. Having arrived in 2004 with no previous connection with Exeter College, I have been swept into a wonderful community, full of interesting people who love the College and recall with gratitude how it gave them a start in life. It has been the best decade of my life, and you have helped to make it so. Thank you! ■

Clockwise from top right: Dr Chris Fletcher describes some of the Bodleian's treasures; Chancellor Lord Patten of Barnes leads Rector Frances Carincross and Rector-elect Sir Rick Trainor in the Founder's Day procession; families enjoy a treasure hunt during Founder's Weekend; staff versus alumni tug of war

Editorial

MATTHEW BALDWIN, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

It has been a year to remember. Surely the Development Office, and the College generally, have never before been so busy or successful.

Record numbers of alumni gave to Exeter this year, and record numbers attended one of the many 700th anniversary events worldwide. Exeter welcomed Queen Sofia of Spain, Nobel Prize winning economist Paul Krugman, and the UK's best-selling living author, J K Rowling. We marked 35 years of mixed education and 60 years since Sir Roger Bannister (1946, Physiological Sciences) ran a sub-four-minute mile. Demolition of the old Ruskin building on Walton Street commenced, while the College Choir created a new CD – the world premiere recording of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford's *Mass in G, Op. 46*. Eighteen Exonians climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the Football Club won Cuppers for the first time in 40 years, and Exeter students triumphed in Varsity athletics and the Women's Boat Race. Exeter Fellows have been grabbing headlines while their students secured their highest Norrington Table points tally in a decade.

Through these busy waters Rector Frances Cairncross, who retires at the end of September, has steered us. Somehow she has also found time to walk from Exeter Cathedral to Exeter College, edit a beautiful history of the College and, by the time you read this, visit in Italy, northern France and Flanders the graves of Exonians killed in the First World War.

It truly has been a year for celebration and commemoration, and these are our themes for *Exon* 2014. I hope you will find much to reflect on and enjoy as Exeter enters its eighth century. ■

MATTER&Co
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Cuppers Glory for Exeter AFC

Exeter's football team celebrates Cuppers glory 40 years on from the College's last success. **Rory Sullivan** (2012, Literae Humaniores)

George Bustin's last-gasp winner, which brought the coveted Cuppers trophy back to Exeter after a 40-year absence, was characteristic of the grit and determination that Exeter College AFC showed as a team throughout the competition. Having outplayed Teddy Hall — the winners of the Premier Division — in the quarter-finals, we managed to overhaul the might of Worcester in the semi-finals with a 90th-minute goal, courtesy of James West. So far, so good, and our opposition in the final, St Catz, did not seem on paper to offer the same threat as those in the preceding rounds. Such optimism doesn't count for much in football.

Despite the heroic vocal efforts of our College mascot, Chris McCann, and the rest of the Exonian contingent, we failed to capitalise on our chances. We entered half time 1-0 down. The second half did not make for easy viewing, and the Exeter faithful held their collective breath. Any doubt about Exeter's chances dissipated when Michael Essman's inch-perfect free kick flew into the bottom right-hand corner of the net. The final 20 minutes were dominated by Exeter and Jack Fletcher, the Blues' Captain, was particularly influential. In the dying seconds his lobbed cross was converted by George Bustin to cap off a truly memorable afternoon.

Celebrations ran long into the night. Victory had not quite sunk in (it didn't properly until we met members of the 1974 Cuppers winning team at dinner in Trinity term), but hangovers the next day certainly did! The win was the culmination of years of training and was helped significantly by the fantastic team dynamic of ECAFC, which really proved itself in the brilliant second half comeback. Exeter, the 'nearly men', had at long last realised expectations; the disappointment at coming second in the Premier Division for the third successive year was instantly forgotten.

> Exeter, the 'nearly men', had at long last realised expectations

I have been incredibly fortunate to captain such a talented group of players. My only difficulty this year was deciding the starting 11 from such a strong pool. Unfortunately seven valuable members of ECAFC, who have achieved so much for the club, graduated this year. The future of ECAFC is safe, however, secured by an extremely talented intake of freshers last year. Here is to 700 more years of College success and, hopefully, to regaining the title on multiple occasions over the next 40 years!

The whole squad's thoughts and sympathies go out to the family and friends of Adam Carr — the last captain to reach the Cuppers final back in 1987 — who sadly passed away this year. ■

Exeter's heroes

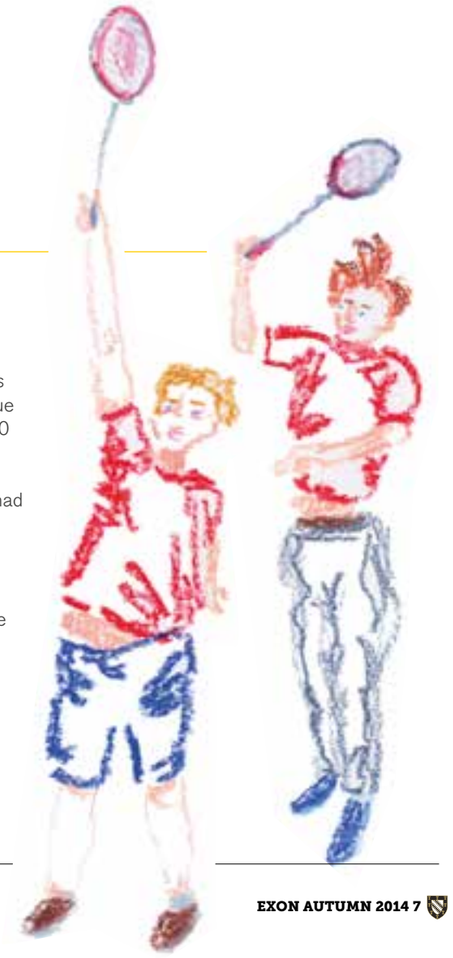
Badminton

Adam Ward (2011, PPE)

Exeter College Badminton Club (the less famous of the ECBC twins) has had an excellent season, counterbalancing the fortunes of the Boat Club. The Men's and Mixed teams both won their division and secured promotion to the top division in the league. The Ladies' team, already in their top division, came third, which means that next season all of the College's squads will compete at the top of the league. It is a great improvement from two years ago when the Men's team was playing in the bottom of four divisions.

It was particularly impressive that both the Men's and Mixed teams remained unbeaten in all of their rubbers. A rubber consists of six games, of which two are singles and four are doubles. Throughout the year, the Mixed team only lost one of 30 games in five rubbers. The Men's league was much closer, and a final 6-0 victory over Pembroke secured promotion ahead of our closest rivals, Queen's, with whom we had drawn earlier in the season.

Badminton is an increasingly popular College sport and our weekly sessions at Magdalen College School are well-attended. Next year, we look forward to the challenge of playing in the top division and cementing the College's place as one of the best at badminton in the University. ■



Rowing

Frances Beddow (2012, English and History)

It would be an understatement to say this has been a difficult year for Exeter College Boat Club. The loss of most of our more experienced rowers at the end of last year and a disastrous Hilary term in which the Isis was on 'Doom Flag' and Torpids were cancelled meant that we went into Summer VIIIs with only two very inexperienced crews.

We were determined not to go down without a fight. A training camp at Abingdon in 0th week kicked off a gruelling Trinity programme which saw the men and women's VIIIs fitting in 10 sessions a week, far too many of which involved 5am starts, as we desperately tried to learn to row in time for the bumps. Luckily the weather in Trinity term was far better so, despite some pretty bad all-in-one tan lines, 'Exeter College Bronzing Club' was having a great time on the river.

Sadly, despite all our efforts, we simply didn't have the time to get our crews up to the same standard as our competition and it was spoons for both men and women at VIIIs. But we were proud to have given it our all. The men were pulling so hard they even managed to break a blade!

It's not all bad news – in the weeks since VIIIs a number of our rowers have been training with the development squads and look set to represent Exeter at University level next year. We also entered Oriel Regatta with a mixed VIII and made the quarter-finals.

So we did learn to row after all. And hopefully now that we have a core of more experienced – and borderline obsessed – rowers, we have a solid platform to return Exeter to rowing glory next year. ■

Rugby

John Nickerson (2012, Christian Ethics)

The 2012-2013 Exeter rugby season ended on a high, with victory in the Cuppers Plate Final over Somerville/Corpus, capped by a High Table celebration. For 2013-2014 the task facing Exeter College Rugby Football Club (ECRFC) was to try to improve and to honour the Exeter 700th anniversary.

Alas, the Michaelmas season proved to be one of consolidation and team-building, and ECRFC remained comfortably in Division Two. The Club was, however, able to revenge itself against Oriel for a grievous Cuppers loss last year.

Weather proved to be our enemy in Hilary term. It was difficult to find pitches that were not waterlogged, and sadly most matches were cancelled. Despite these difficulties, ECRFC notably defeated Turl Street rival Lincoln and narrowly lost to St Anne's/John's, the eventual Cuppers champions, and remained in Division Two.

ECRFC looked set to make another glorious run at the Plate in Cuppers this year, but suffered a hard-fought loss to Lincoln in the semi-final. The sharpness of defeat was blunted by a subsequent Exeter Old Boys XV match, in which the ancient heroes descended from feasting in the halls of Valhalla to edge the match. All were united in the College bar afterwards, with many rousing songs of old.

To mark the 700th anniversary we acquired new match kit that uses the club's traditional hoops. Many thanks to secretary Andrew Heard for designing and procuring this kit.

With that, however, ECRFC's year has come to a close, and so we must regretfully say goodbye to the leavers: Phil Bell, Tom Haswell, Guy Richardson, Will Hesselmann, Dave Wallis and myself. May those who depart fondly remember their feats for the maroon and black and may 2014-15 deliver ECRFC incomparable success. ■

Picture: Exeter Women's Summer VIII crew

The Best of Many Worlds

Soaking up culture and covered in paint, Exeter's students enjoyed a colourful array of festivals from across the globe this year. **Nandini Majumdar** (2013, World Literatures in English)

As the academic year ends, many students agree that one of the most exciting aspects of our 'Oxford experience' has been belonging to a remarkably international cohort of peers.

At so many moments this past year, I felt myself enveloped by a sense of 'living a dream' – a sense arising from being surrounded not only by the beauty and age of Oxford and its rigorous intellectual atmosphere, but also by the many cultures of my fellow graduate students.

'Living a dream' or 'being in a bubble' is a privilege; taking that feeling for granted is irresponsible. But if engaged with thoughtfully, this dream can be productive and transformative. The diversity of our graduate community was given depth through the many festivals we celebrated: Diwali, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hannukah in Michaelmas Term and Burns Night, Holi, St Patrick's Day and Purim in Hilary Term. The celebrations allowed for forms of self-expression and interaction that could not find space in our everyday lives of intense academic work and socialising.

Particularly vibrant and memorable were the Holi celebrations. Holi marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year and the coming of spring. It also aims to break the boundaries of the normal and expected. It is celebrated by throwing coloured powders and water on one's family and friends. On 1 March we gathered in the gardens of Stapeldon House, in the required white clothes, and played the morning away. Quite fittingly, even those of us who had never before celebrated Holi were swept up by the spontaneity and spirit of the festival. Afterwards, we had brunch to mark St Patrick's Day and sweets for Purim, with which Holi happened to coincide this year. That we were celebrating festivals of three faiths on the same day felt appropriate, and only added to our exhilaration. Many of us still have our stained T-shirts; we will take these with us when we leave Exeter, the bright patterns on them a souvenir.

Ritual can become problematic when it preserves tradition in an unthinking way. But ritual animates our histories and contexts, our individual and common experiences. In a world as old as Oxford and Exeter College, the festivals we celebrated this year helped us to reflect on our ever-changing, real and fantastical lives in the past, present and future. In Exeter's historic surroundings, it is particularly important to emphasise the living nature of traditions, as we did in playfully celebrating Holi. ■

Picture: Exeter students enjoying Holi festival

Building Success

Deputy Bursar **Gez Wells** reports on progress at the Walton Street site as demolition work commences.

The bulldozers have arrived! The building contractor, Mace, set up site on 31 March 2014, and has begun the demolition and removal of the existing buildings on the Walton Street site, which will become Exeter's 'Third Quad'.

By the end of September all that will remain of the former Ruskin College campus will be the North and East facades of the original 1913 building.

The demolition phase is being carefully coordinated to minimise impact on our new neighbours, both academic and residential. The sub-contractor scudders began the demolition operation by hand, with a team of workers removing all of the internal fabric of the building. This has been quickly followed by the machines which are now on site crunching their way through the many tons of concrete and brick that constituted the 1980s residential block.

In early July, a larger, high-reach machine arrived on site to begin lowering the 1960s block which housed the Ruskin dining room, as well as three floors of student accommodation.

As the demolition progresses towards the 1913 building, Mace will leave their temporary offices, which are housed there, and move into new units which are being prepared on ground owned by Worcester College. The agreement struck between the two colleges aims to minimise the impact on the residential street and eliminate the need to build a floating gantry across Worcester Place.

The next phase of the project will see the erection of steel towers to form the façade retention system which will hold up the two remaining walls. This will be accompanied by the arrival of piling rigs and the construction of a secant-piled wall which will form the first line of defence against Jericho's high water table and will allow us to construct the new basement area.

We will also be decommissioning the existing electrical sub-station in the late summer and switching over to a new supply that will be constructed at the north-east end of our site.

The size and scale of the operation is more apparent than ever now, and there are exciting times ahead. With each milestone completed, we get closer to occupying the building in June 2016. ■

Pictures: From top: Much of the existing building is razed to the ground; Rector Cairncross begins the demolition

The Business of Singing

Exeter College is unique in entrusting the direction of its renowned Choir to an undergraduate. Organ Scholar **George de Voil** (2011, Music) explains why the Parry-Wood Organ Scholarship involves much more than playing the organ, and describes the extraordinary opportunities the septcentennial year has afforded the Chapel Choir.

A day in the life of an Oxford organ scholar begins and ends – like most jobs nowadays – the same way: ploughing through a full email inbox. At Exeter, a college which chooses not to employ a professional director of music, the load is greater than at most others. Music must be purchased, photocopied and catalogued, rehearsals organised, new members attracted and auditioned, music lists planned, soloists coached, and accompaniments prepared, before the business of singing, directing, and accompanying three services a week even begins. Yet in this special anniversary year, the Choir's regular chapel activities have represented just the tip of the iceberg.

At Exeter's celebration of Founder's Day on 4 April we performed Parry, Vaughan Williams and Elgar in the Sheldonian Theatre and University Church with Oxford Philomusica, Oxford's top professional symphony orchestra. This was followed by a 12-day tour to Washington, Philadelphia and New York. No sooner had we returned than the Choir had the honour of performing a concert of English and Spanish Renaissance music for the Queen of Spain. We also bade farewell to former Rector, Marilyn Butler, in a moving memorial service in a chapel full to bursting.

The most ambitious undertaking of the year, and the one closest to my heart, was the Choir joining with the organ and a large orchestra for the world premiere recording of a monumental work by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, his 1896 *Mass in G, Op. 46*. I first encountered the work as a chorister at the London Oratory, the splendid Knightsbridge church for which it was written. It was impossible to do justice to the piece in our own intimate chapel, so we decamped to Keble College, whose cavernous chapel reflects the ambition and influence of the Oxford Movement. The preparation included long hours working on the detailed score under the supervision of my conducting teacher, an expert in turn-of-the-century English repertoire, rehearsals, and meticulous logistical preparations. We began the demanding business of the recording sessions in early January. On day two we said goodbye to the band and began recording Parry's *Songs of Farewell*. These pieces – frequently performed on tour, in concert, and at the Leavers' Service – are in the Exeter Choir's blood, and the chance to spend an extended period honing the music and getting inside the texts brought us closer together. It has been a dream come true to hear extracts from the CD played on BBC Radio 3, praised on Classic FM, and reviewed favourably internationally.

This summer the Choir sang evensong in Westminster Abbey, an invitation to be repeated twice in 2015, and also undertook a weekend residency at Exeter Cathedral. In Michaelmas the Choir will perform alongside other top mixed-voice choirs as part of the Schubert Project, the biggest ever celebration of the composer, and the Orgelbüchlein Project, which centres on Bach's six motets.

The Choir will also appear in concert with Grammy award-winning soprano Renée Fleming, in an ongoing collaboration with Oxford Philomusica. Exeter Choir's prominence on Oxford's musical scene looks set to continue. ■

The Choir's CD is available from the Development Office.

Picture: The Choir at the top of the tower on Ascension Day

A Royal Flush

Queen Sofía of Spain wins over students, staff and Fellows, royalists and republicans alike, during a visit to toast the College's 700th anniversary. **Matthew Stokes** (2010, Modern Languages)

Matthew Stokes welcomes Queen Sofía outside the Ashmolean museum

I remember seeing the portrait of Queen Sofía of Spain above the entrance to the Rector's Dining Room back in 2009. As a naïve young sixth former I wondered whether she often popped in for Evensong or dinner with the Rector.

My hopes proved unfounded for the majority of my time here. It came as a surprise, then, when Dr Daniela Omlor, the current Queen Sofía Junior Research Fellow, whispered to me that the Queen would be visiting Exeter College as part of its 700th anniversary celebrations. Surprise turned to honour when Dr Omlor invited me to speak in front of Her Majesty at the Taylorian Institution in Trinity Term.

The Queen, who was made an Honorary Fellow of Exeter in 1989 in recognition of the College's long and fruitful relations with Spain, visited Oxford on 29 April. The colloquium at the Taylorian highlighted the variety of Spanish studies at Exeter. Professor Edwin Williamson, who holds the King Alfonso XIII Professorship in Spanish Literature, which is based at Exeter, spoke about the history of Spanish at Oxford and his own research. Dr Omlor talked about her work on 20th-century Spanish writer Jorge Semprún; and DPhil student Artem Serebrennikov discussed his perhaps

Queen Sofía takes a tour of Exeter; Professor Edwin Williamson, King Alfonso XIII Chair of Spanish, speaks to members of the international press

unique position as a Russian student of Spanish studying in Britain, as well as his research on *Don Quixote*. Finally, Daisy Thomson, a second-year Spanish student, and I spoke about our experiences of the Oxford undergraduate course.

The Queen came to Exeter for lunch where she toasted the College for its work and impact over the past 700 years, before having coffee with members of the Spanish sub-faculty, taking a tour of the College, and listening to a recital by the Exeter College Chapel Choir. She also met some of the Spanish nationals employed by Exeter, whose work is so essential to College life.

The visit was also marked by the announcement of a new permanent fellowship in Spanish sponsored by Santander. There is an increasing number of Spanish students at Exeter, so the Junior Research Fellowship, founded in 1988, will now be augmented to a senior fellowship in collaboration with Oriel College.

Of course, Sofía is now the Queen of Spain in title only, after the abdication of her husband King Juan Carlos in June. But even back in April, I found myself forgetting she was a queen, thanks to her remarkable friendliness. Her normality made me question my republican sympathies, and even my staunchest republican friends in Spain admire her for her charitable work and approachability. It was an honour to meet her and I hope that one day she returns for Evensong in the chapel and is treated to High Table with our new Rector. ■

> I found myself forgetting she was a queen, thanks to her remarkable friendliness

J K Rowling Charms Exeter

A spellbound audience of Exonians hung on J K Rowling's every word during a conversation with English Fellow Jeri Johnson in February. **Eleanor Franzen** (2010, English)

There is probably no one better known or beloved by my generation than J K Rowling. She is the Woman Who Won, a glamorous success story, the kindler of reading mania in even the most uninterested of children, and the creator of everyone's favourite boy wizard. Her imagination is seemingly boundless; she draws on Greek, Latin, French, history, and legend to create a world that could excite any child. If you were born between 1989 and 2007 and claim that you never dreamed of receiving a Hogwarts letter on your 11th birthday, I am not sure I believe you.

Exeter College students and alumni were treated to the great and rare delight of listening to Ms Rowling in conversation with Sub-Rector and Fellow in English Ms Jeri Johnson in February 2014, as part of the College's 700th anniversary celebrations. Hundreds of Exonians old and new, and their guests, gathered in the Sheldonian Theatre. At the time, I was working as an Events Assistant in the College's Development Office. I was given the somewhat terrifying task of meeting Ms Rowling and guiding her from College to the Sheldonian.

I went to meet her in the Rector's lodgings, where she was having lunch with Ms Johnson. Nervously, I waited outside the door, then stepped in to introduce myself and explain the route we would take to the Sheldonian.

J K Rowling was warm and friendly. She was accompanied by Neil Blair (1986, Jurisprudence), her agent. As the doors of the Sheldonian opened, Ms Rowling gave a little gasp, looking up at a thousand faces all

come to see her; it was rather like being before the Wizengamot, her own invented magical chancery. Ms Johnson introduced her and asked the first question of the day: 'So, Jo, what do you consider to be the moral centre of the books?' This elicited a one-word answer: 'Dumbledore'. The theatre held its collective breath. Didn't she have more to say? Surely it was more complicated than that?

Of course, Ms Rowling expanded. She talked about philosophy and choice, about deciding to stand up for what you believe in. The audience was visibly moved; during the question and answer session several audience members prefaced their questions with profuse gratitude for the lessons they learned from Harry Potter about friendship, loyalty and courage.

One girl looked like she was ready to burst with excitement when Ms Johnson at last selected her to ask a question. Eyes streaming with tears, the girl leaned forward and told Ms Rowling how her books had given her the bravery and the impetus to leave her home in China, study abroad in England, and pursue her dreams. J K Rowling herself looked emotional at this. The girl paused for breath and said, 'I have only one question.' J K Rowling nodded encouragingly. The girl said, very earnestly, 'Does Harry love Ginny?'

The tension in the theatre vanished and the audience laughed with sympathy. It is, after all, what everyone who has read the books wants to know. Do our heroes live happily ever after? We want them to.

J K Rowling just smiled. 'Yes,' she said. 'He does.' ■

Picture: Jeri Johnson and J K Rowling share a joke

What's Wrong With Economists?

In an informal lecture, Nobel Prize Winner Paul Krugman gave an insight into a world of economists twisitng their arguments to gain influence. **Jacob Williams** (2012, PPE)

If there is such a thing as a celebrity economist, Professor Paul Krugman is one, as the students who welcomed him with such perceptible enthusiasm when he came to speak at Exeter this Trinity term would testify.

After sheer weight of numbers forced us to decamp from the Rector's Drawing Room, Professor Krugman addressed a Saskatchewan Room full to the brim on the provocative question, 'What's the matter with economists?' In his view, the answer is a great deal. Too many economists are seduced too easily by the allure of influence and the patronage of vested interests, and end up moulding their ideas to fit not the evidence but the ideological prescriptions of politicians. This is why, as a profession, they failed to predict the financial crisis or to provide clear long-term guidance to policy-makers afterwards.

As the question and answer session that followed the talk made clear, the malign influence of vested economic interests is an abiding feature of Professor Krugman's worldview. He was full of praise for the recent work of Thomas Piketty and argued that the disincentives caused by redistributive taxation have been greatly exaggerated. The picture he painted of economics was simple but compelling.

Hearing an eminent economist lambast his own profession in this way was a fascinating experience; to hear from a leading academic in an informal environment, with the freedom to conjecture this entails, always adds a valuable dimension to academic study. After hours immersed in textbooks, to hear a human story about the same debate is a grounding experience. After the talk a number of students accompanied Professor Krugman to the Rector's Garden where they continued the discussion. It is always a joy to hear from eminent public figures at Exeter – particularly when they are as revealing as Paul Krugman. ■

Pictures: The Saskatchewan Room was packed with fascinated Exonians; Paul Krugman elucidates his view of modern economists

Technology Wants Your Job

Research by Dr Michael Osborne, Fellow in Engineering Science, suggests that almost half of US jobs could be at risk from computerisation. **Matthew Baldwin**, Communications Officer

Could a computer do your job as well as you? Or better? The time may be approaching when many jobs currently performed by humans become automated, according to a study which has serious implications for the future of education and training, as well as the economy.

Exeter's Official Fellow in Engineering Science, Dr Michael Osborne, has undertaken a study into the impact of future technology, in collaboration with Dr Carl Benedikt Frey of the Oxford Martin School. Their research, recently published by the Martin School and widely reported in the national press, suggests that nearly half of all jobs in the USA could be susceptible to computerisation over the next two decades.

Dr Osborne and Dr Frey found that jobs in transportation, logistics, and office and administrative support are at 'high risk' of automation. Occupations within the service industry are also highly susceptible.

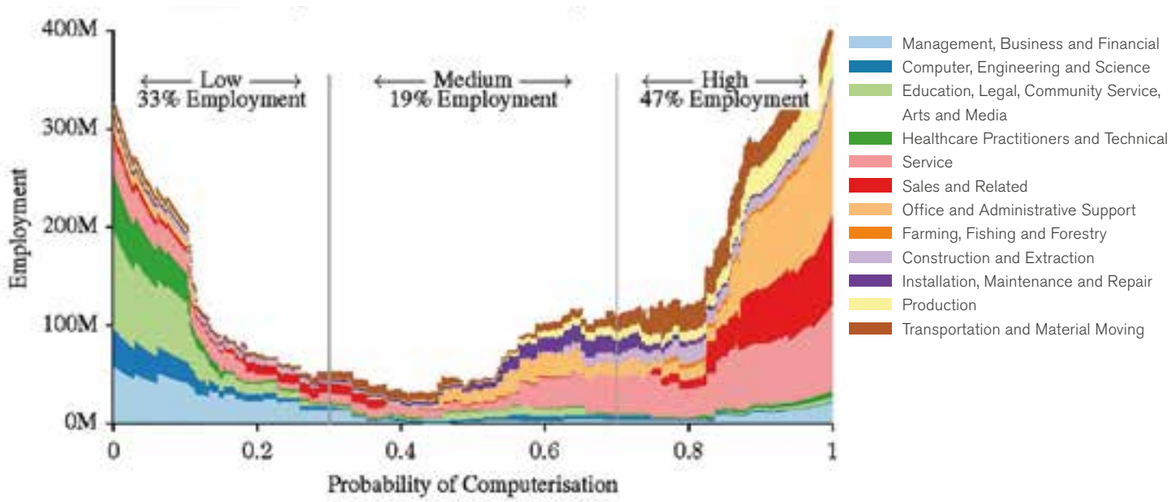
'We identified several key bottlenecks currently preventing occupations being automated,' said Dr Osborne. 'As big data helps to overcome these obstacles, a great number of jobs will be put at risk.' These bottlenecks include the engineering challenge presented by occupations which require complex perception and manipulation abilities.

The study examined over 700 detailed occupation types, noting the types of tasks workers perform and the skills required to perform them. By weighting these factors, as well as the engineering obstacles currently preventing computerisation, the researchers assessed the degree to which these occupations may be automated in the coming decades. They calculate that about 47 per cent of total US employment is at risk.

While the analysis was based on detailed datasets relating to US occupations, the implications are likely to extend to employment in the United Kingdom and other developed countries. 'Our findings imply that as technology races ahead, low-skilled workers will move to tasks that are not susceptible to computerisation – i.e., tasks that required creative and social intelligence,' the paper states. 'For workers to win the race, however, they will have to acquire creative and social skills.' Most occupations in the fine arts, management, healthcare, the media and caring are in the low-risk category.

In good news for Exeter College and the much valued tutorial system, most occupations in education are also at low risk of computerisation. Dr Osborne and Dr Frey write that these occupations 'require profound knowledge of human heuristics' and accordingly these tasks 'involving social intelligence, are unlikely to become subject to computerisation in the near future.'

You can read Dr Osborne and Dr Benedikt's full academic publication at *www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/publications/view/1314*. ■



Picture: A graph showing the likelihood of computerisation for different sectors

The History of the Universe

Looking back in time has been a prevalent theme for Exonians this year, as celebrations guide us through 700 years of history. But for Dr Jo Dunkley, Fellow in Physics, 700 years is just the blink of an eye. **Sam Perkins** (2011, Physics and Philosophy)

Dr Jo Dunkley, Fellow in Physics, is leading the way with new research on the long history of our universe. The premise is simple: light takes time to travel, and so when we look at objects, we do not see them as they are now, but rather at the time when the light was emitted. So if you look at the sun, for example, you see the sun as it was about eight minutes ago; and if you look at the farthest reaches of the Universe, as Dr Dunkley does, then it is possible to see almost the beginning of time.

Of course, we do not just look up and see the furthest galaxies with our eyes. It takes gargantuan projects and state-of-the-art telescopes years of monitoring some of the faintest signals we have ever recorded. These projects include NASA's Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP), and the European Space Agency's Planck Satellite. Dr Dunkley has contributed to the award-winning research of both.

The light these projects have looked at comes largely from the cosmic microwave background (CMB). In its early stages, the Universe was too hot for light to travel – the over-excited photons were perpetually absorbed and re-emitted by the 'soup' of matter, and so the Universe appeared opaque. But as the Universe expanded light cooled sufficiently to travel through the matter until, about 380,000 years after the Big Bang, the Universe became transparent. This means that when we look back in time, we can only see back this far – to where we see what appears to be a wall of static, the 'surface of last scattering'.

There are many interesting facts about the CMB, but the most important is that it is almost perfectly the same in every direction (physicists call this isotropy). In fact, the light of the CMB has a temperature of 2.73 kelvin, and the maximum variation is about one part in 100,000. These small variations, however, have the potential to provide answers to some of the most exciting questions in modern physics. What happened after the Big Bang? From where did the Universe get its structure? What are dark matter and dark energy?

These are some of the questions Dr Dunkley's research aims to answer. Although there is further to go, her research has already proven invaluable and been widely recognised by the scientific community. In 2012 her work with WMAP won her the Gruber Cosmology Prize; in 2013 she won the Institute of Physics' Maxwell Medal for Theoretical Physics and made the *Financial Times*'s list of the 'next big names' in physics. In 2014 she won a Fowler Award for Early Achievement in Astronomy – the list goes on. She has also made a number of television appearances, including on the BBC's *Stargazing Live*, and her first child, Harriet, was born last October. As if that were not enough, she also teaches undergraduates of all years here at Exeter – not everything can be so exciting I suppose, but we are very grateful. ■

Picture: The Atacama Cosmology Telescope in Chile aids our understanding of the earliest moments of the Universe and the nature of Dark Energy

Directing and Misdirecting Opera

Andrew Huddleston, Fellow in Philosophy, considers whether avant-garde opera productions are enlightening divergences or disposable 'Eurotrash'.

I see a great deal of opera. As a philosopher with an interest in the aesthetics of music, I have the excuse that this time-consuming and expensive avocation is something like field work. In a semi-professional capacity, I have been thinking for some time about the phenomenon of avant-garde opera stagings. These stagings dispense with the horned helmets and present the opera in non-traditional ways, not just by altering its costuming and setting – a fairly tame and widespread practice – but by diverging far more drastically from what the text, stage directions, and past performance practice lead one to expect.

This style of staging is particularly common in Germany, where enormous state subsidies for the arts mean that directors are less accountable to the (often conservative) tastes of audiences. Its denigrators call it 'Eurotrash'. Its proponents, or those who are more neutral about it, call it *Regieoper*, or 'director's opera'.

To get an idea of what its detractors complain about, take a notorious production I saw of *Parsifal* in 2007 at Bayreuth, the festival Wagner founded to present his own works. The director, the late Christoph Schlingensief, had little experience in opera and was better known in art circles for provocative performance pieces. His production of *Parisfal* is the sort of thing that opponents of *Regieoper* point to as emblematic of its excesses. *The New Yorker*'s music critic Alex Ross said of it: 'Despite jaw-dropping lapses of taste throughout, the general impression was of dull chaos. Schlingensief made heavy use of a rotating stage, which became a lazy Susan conveying assorted art-world and pop-culture artifacts, including Andy Warhol soup cans, David Lynch freaks, graffiti and placards, muscleboys, "Flintstones" and "Lord of the Rings" costumes.'

As you might expect, the stage directions of *Parsifal* do not call for any of this. But nor do they call for much of what we see in the average performance. Wagner's stage directions are at the more explicit end of the spectrum (as directions go), and even they leave considerable scope when it comes to how they are to be realised. Much is left open to interpretation.

For example, Act III of *Parsifal*, according to the text, takes place in a meadow with blooming flowers. The Metropolitan Opera in New York takes this literally, and we get a kitschy AstroTurf field with gaudy plastic flowers, all looking rather like the edible fields of candy in Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. That *is* a way of following the stage directions, to be sure. Yet I cannot help but find it comical. Why not bathe the bare stage in tasteful green light instead? Or do something else that gestures at the flowering meadow without showing it? Indeed, why should directors be constrained by that particular stage direction at all? *Must* it be set in a meadow?

How far, though, can this sort of reworking go? When, we might ask, has a production gone too far and 'betrayed' the piece it is supposed to be presenting, whether by ignoring the stage directions or by supplementing them? At a more fundamental level, we might also ask: Is it always better that the production be 'faithful' to the work? Are there ways of *not* being faithful that are highly artistically significant and interesting – and therefore worth doing?

It seems to me that there are. Yet there are no firm principles here. Nor is *Regieoper* the sort of topic on which one could sensibly render a general verdict. There are good examples of it and bad examples. There indeed is a serious problem, I think, with some directors misusing their creative licence, and the results to which their audiences are subjected can be self-indulgent, unilluminating and stupid. But some of the most conventional productions have corresponding flaws of their own. *Regieoper* is not the only offender when it comes to bad opera production, nor is *Regieoper* always an offender.

> We should not be slaves to tradition, or make overly simplistic appeals to 'fidelity', either to the piece or to the composer's intention

A frequent complaint about *Regieoper* is that the opera has been 'hijacked' by the director. But when is an intervention a 'hijacking'? At the end of *Parsifal*, according to the text and the stage directions, Amfortas is supposed to be healed, and Kundry is supposed to 'sink lifelessly' to the ground. In Nikolaus Lehnhoff's wonderful production (the best *Parsifal* I have seen), it is, on the contrary, Amfortas who sinks lifelessly to the ground. Kundry and Parsifal walk out toward a bright light in the distance. This is not faithful to the stage directions at all. But this (along with various other directorial decisions) helpfully draws our attention to salient aspects of the piece and encourages us to see it differently. Even if it is, in some sense, 'unfaithful', it is interestingly so, and might shed useful light on the opera. And many unconventional readings do just that.

An equally common charge is that *Regieoper* productions run roughshod over the composer's intentions. This indignant intentionalist stance asks whether (in this case) Wagner would have wanted this? But as a matter of setting performance policy, the composer's intention should not be a decisive consideration. To take an extreme case, there were explicit instructions by Wagner that *Parsifal* be performed only in Bayreuth. That was (and is) routinely flouted – it seems to me with very good reason. Wagner's intentions are not binding rules.

We should not be slaves to tradition, or make overly simplistic appeals to 'fidelity', either to the piece or to the composer's intention. But there is a competing danger of being cowed into submission and applauding whatever vapid piece of directorial pseudery comes down the pike, for fear of being thought reactionary and anti-intellectual. We should not be afraid to call out *regieidiocy*, as I now call it, when we see it. *Regieoper* can be a blessing, but it can also be a blight on the opera world.

If what we want is some kind of general principles by which to indict bad *Regie* productions, I don't think they will be forthcoming, and I have not tried to give them here. We must take productions as they come and treat them individually. I think what we need to ask is what we want (or rather, should want) out of opera productions. Questions about the artistic appropriateness of various production styles and choice ultimately come back to this. And these are difficult questions about which there will be little agreement, in large part because there is disagreement about why opera, and performances of it, matter in the first place. ■

Pictures: Christoph Schlingensief's production of *Parsifal*, Bayreuth Festival 2004 – 2007; *Parsifal* score

Uprooting Inequality in Colombia

Peace and equality are rooted in Colombia's land, and only serious reform will ensure a positive future for Colombia's farmers. **Jaskiran Chohan** (2013, Latin American Studies)

The issue of land reform in Colombia remains critical for peace and the global fight against inequality. This last year alone has seen the issue provoke relentless violence, and a number of national strikes, leading to peace talks that hinge upon the question of agrarian reform.

Colombia has the second highest concentration of land ownership in Latin America. It has the highest number of displaced people in the world – an estimated 5.2 million people have been internally displaced since 1985. The major causes for this range from a half-century-old civil war, the prolific narcotics trade, to the more recent activities of agricultural and extractive businesses.

In this climate of social breakdown, smallholders, indigenous groups and especially women have historically been the country's rural losers. Caught in the crossfire, many have looked to state intervention to strengthen their right and access to land. Structural policy has instead favoured large landholders, through provision of better land, as well as access to credit and government subsidies. This was long based on the idea that big business was more productive than smaller farms. On the contrary, recent scholarship found peasant farmers more effectively maximised use of land and tools.

As well as an obstructive structural economic policy, land reform since the 1930s has suffered from inadequate state redistribution programmes and also poor technical and financial support. The most radical early attempt at redistribution and titling took place in 1961, which boosted cadastral data. But the programme itself failed as a result of enduring power structures that inhibited reform, overly centralised administration, as well as an economic agenda that prioritised agro-industry. While cattle ranching continued to receive support, the pejoratively-termed 'traditional' agricultural sector was eroded. As a result, the country's agrarian model was increasingly divided.

The continent's neoliberal turn in the early 1990s attempted to respond to this. Colombia witnessed a structural change from state administration of land reform to a market-led approach. Policy-makers hoped that diminished state involvement would remove inefficiencies, balance land ownership and encourage recalcitrant landowners to cooperate more willingly.

The aim of market-led land reform (MLLR) was to tackle chronic land concentration, land under-utilisation and to enhance the productive capacities of peasant farmers. MLLR innovatively administered land reform more locally but still was unable to overcome deep market inequalities. Large landholders continued to sell poor-quality land that was unsuitable for crop cultivation at inflated prices. Secondly, many landholders were bankrupted as a result of insufficient financial support from the government. Finally, the increased land transactions failed to break up large landholdings, as sales and purchases were confined to those between small and medium proprietors. MLLR did not solve the conundrum of land reform. Rather it created further problems.

A comparison of both land reform processes revealed striking similarities in the factors that have preserved unequal ownership of land. Namely, the obstructive influence of landowners, including agro-businesses, unfavourable structural economic policy and poor technical and monetary support for smallholders.

> "To achieve more equitable land ownership, policies must respond to the disadvantages of rural minority groups

To achieve more equitable land ownership, policies must reflect and respond to the structural disadvantages of rural minority groups, within which smallholders fall. Resolving the agrarian crisis in Colombia necessitates expansive changes in governance and policy. It is essential to the country's future stability and development. ■

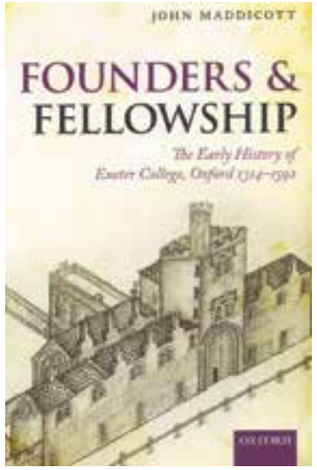
Picture: Farming in Colombia

Humble Beginnings

John Maddicott, Emeritus Fellow in History, reveals his new book, *Founders and Fellowship: The Early History of Exeter College, Oxford, 1314–1592.*

For much of the period covered by my book Exeter College was one of Oxford's more idiosyncratic institutions. Unlike other heads of houses, its Rector held office for one year only; its members were barred by statute from going beyond the basic arts course, so ruling out progression to the higher degrees which were available to graduates in other colleges and which offered better career opportunities; and its statutes similarly dictated that those members should be recruited almost exclusively from Devon and Cornwall. The College was also exceptionally poor.

It has, on the other hand, left a rich legacy in the quality and quantity of the sources available for its history. Chief among these are the College's account rolls, some 250 of them for the years up to 1566, after which the accounts continue in book form almost until the age of computers. The evidence of the accounts provides the backbone for the present book. Not only do they make possible a running analysis of the College's financial fortunes (for those, that is, who can revert to the skills of their schooldays by adding up long columns of pounds, shillings and pence, with the extra complication of using roman rather than Arabic numerals). They also, and more entertainingly, provide a fascinating overview of many aspects of College life: eating, drinking and the entertainment of visitors, the Fellows' business travels, garden and chapel purchases, and so on.



The volume of information available for the medieval and Tudor College partly explains why the book terminates early, in 1592. But there is another more intellectually defensible reason for this apparently premature ending. It was in 1592 that Queen Elizabeth imposed a fiercely protestant Rector on what had been a fiercely catholic college, so setting Bishop Stapeldon's foundation on a new course. Exeter's religious history, shaped during the Tudor century by its members' origins in west-country counties which rejected the protestant reformation, provides an important sub-theme.

There is, I hope, a good deal here to interest both Old Members and professional historians. Exeter was never a grand or particularly prominent college in the early university, but both its peculiarities and its records make it an especially rewarding one to study. ■

Founders and Fellowship *is available to buy from the Development Office. Email development@exeter.ox.ac.uk or call 01865 279619.*

From Oxford with Love

Having settled in Oxford with his new wife, the Holaday Scholar **Zachary Esau** (2013, International Relations) discovers exciting photography and study opportunities at every turn.

At the US Air Force Academy I majored in mechanical engineering, but my interests were substantially broader and eventually I decided to undertake postgraduate studies in international relations, in order to pursue a career in Air Force intelligence. The first year of my MPhil in International Relations quickly exceeded my previous knowledge and exposed me to an array of new topics. The countless hours of reading, seminars and lectures at Oxford have greatly enriched my understanding of international relations and caused me to question the way I view the world. I have also relished the opportunity to learn from an eclectic cohort of fellow students who have brought a wealth of different perspectives to my studies.

I moved to Oxford shortly after getting married and it is hard to imagine a better place to spend the first year of marriage. My wife Sara and I have taken the opportunity to experiment with our love of photography in Oxford and the surrounding villages. The range of flowers that nestle among Oxfordshire's striking architecture is breathtaking. We have enjoyed visiting castles and ancient ruins, and witnessing sunset over the famous white cliffs of Dover, a welcome sight of home for returning airmen during the Second World War, was a humbling experience. It is amazing to live within driving distance of countless historical sites.

I have also visited Germany, France, Belgium, and Italy. Belgium was particularly interesting as I travelled with members of the Oxford Strategic Studies Group. We visited Ypres, Passchendaele and the Butte du Lion monument at Waterloo. In Brussels I attended briefings at NATO headquarters, the European Union Parliament, and the United Kingdom's embassy. Significantly, these experiences, which I might not have had were I studying in America, inspired me to focus my research on the interplay between European Union and NATO military operations. Specifically, I will look at the organisational and strategic factors that influence their military operations.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to study here in Oxford, which has brought me these unique experiences. In addition to being a wonderful place to learn and meet people, for me Oxford has been an unbelievable place to start a life with the woman I love. ■

> “The countless hours of reading, seminars and lectures at Oxford have greatly enriched my understanding of international relations and caused me to question the way I view the world

Picture: Sunset over Dover photographed by Zachary Esau

Exeter Says Goodbye to a Leading Lady

Rector Frances Cairncross commemorates the life and work of Marilyn Butler, Exeter's first female Rector, who died in March.

It has always seemed to me essential, in taking a new job, to choose one's predecessor with care. In this respect, I was enormously fortunate to succeed Marilyn Butler. She had achieved the most important thing possible for the College: harmony – not easy after the fiercely contested election that launched her Rectorship. She had also brought immense intellectual distinction to the role: indeed, she was undoubtedly among the most distinguished academics attached to the College in the whole of the past century.

She came to the College in difficult circumstances. For the second time in a decade, a Rector had died suddenly, in office, and the College had little time to locate and elect a successor. Moreover, she was a woman: none of the formerly all-male ancient colleges of Oxford (or Cambridge) had yet taken the bold step of electing a woman head of house. But Marilyn had already broken that barrier once: she had been elected the first woman regius professor of English, the King Edward VII professor at Cambridge.

She brought with her a glittering academic record, which included a widely praised literary biography of the Anglo-Irish novelist Maria Edgeworth, which grew out of her DPhil thesis at St Hilda's. Her second and perhaps best-known book also tackled a woman writer of distinction. In *Jane Austen and the War of Ideas*, she showed how Jane Austen, supposedly sequestered in her country drawing room, was in fact fully aware of the ideological arguments of the day. Her next two books continued her reshaping of the understanding of the 'Romantic' period: a work on Thomas Love Peacock, and *Romantics, Rebels and Reactionaries*, probably her most influential book in academic terms.

In the King Edward VII chair at Cambridge, she revitalised the world of 18th-century and Romantic studies, thrilling her students with her sharp eye for the political context of the literary world and giving generations of young academics encouragement and warm support. Those qualities she then transferred to Exeter College, where her students remember with gratitude her warmth and her interest in their work and their ideas.

Marilyn's happy home life (she was married to Sir David Butler, the country's most famous psephologist, and had three sons) was marred in her final years. Her middle son, Gareth, died suddenly, leaving her bereft; at the same time, her marvellously acute mind gradually clouded over. But her warmth and good nature endured, and have left a legacy of their own in College life. ■

Picture: Portrait of Marilyn Butler by David Cobley

COLLEGE NEWS

Left: The gravestone of Second Lieutenant Sandwith Cruddas (born 1894, matriculated 1913, died 1915), Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium; **Above:** Exonians at the 600th anniversary feast, June 1914

A Journey to Remember

Exeter's 600th anniversary celebrations were soon overshadowed by the outbreak of the First World War. A century later, Exeter's Rector and Chaplain embark on a pilgrimage of remembrance for the Exonians who lost their lives. **Andrew Allen**, Chaplain

In the summer of 1914 the College celebrated its 600th anniversary with a feast, a service of thanksgiving, and a ball. Within a few weeks these celebrations were overshadowed by the onset of the First World War. Over the next four years Exeter College would suffer loss and devastation not seen since the Black Death in the College's infancy.

Of the 771 Exonians who served in World War One, 143 died. This was a huge toll considering the average number of freshmen each year was between 40 and 50. The College officially paid homage to the war dead by commissioning a war memorial in the Antechapel. This was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, an architect and old Exonian who also worked for the Imperial War Graves Commission. The College also introduced scholarships and bursaries for children of those serving. As was conventional at the time, the war memorial carries no record of the College servants who died. We hope to rectify what now seems a shameful omission, by erecting a small plaque in the Antechapel to honour their contribution, as well as to pay homage to three men accepted to study at Exeter who died before they could matriculate, Cosmo Lewis Duff-Gordon, Humphrey St Barbe Sydenham, and Harold Ernest Whiteman.

> At each grave we will leave a sprig of rosemary from the College gardens tied with a slip of College ribbon

A record of the College's war dead was compiled some years ago by Robert Malpass, then the Buildings Manager. His Roll of Honour, available at www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/honour, shows that Exonians were deployed around the world. So in this year of College celebrations, Rector Frances Cairncross and I will visit in the first half of September all the College war graves in Italy, Northern France, and Flanders. We hope this will help to remind our generation of the losses and destruction of the Great War, and of the generosity and sacrifice of those who died. Details of the trip and schedule are on www.exetercollegewargraves.com.

At each grave we will leave a sprig of rosemary from the College gardens tied with a slip of College ribbon. Tom Painter (2009, Literae Humaniores) has been masterful in working out logistics, locating cemeteries, and making arrangements. Some that the Rector and I cannot visit have been visited by other Exonians, including graves in Dublin, Turkey and Jerusalem. It will be more difficult to visit graves in Baghdad, Basra, Egypt, and Greece.

> The centenary of the outbreak of the First World War reminds us that our College does not exist independently of the world

We hope readers of *Exon* will want to visit some of their graves to pay homage to their sacrifice. Please do look at the Roll of Honour and email andrew.allen@exeter.ox.ac.uk if you are able to help us remember the fallen by visiting some of the 143 graves.

The centenary of the outbreak of the First World War reminds us that our College does not exist independently of the world. Walter de Stapeldon's intention of training clergy to be sent back into society to serve others can be seen in the dedication of those who fought and died in Flanders, Gallipoli, and the Somme. The greatest memorial to those who have died fighting in conflicts is to ensure that society does not again reach the point beyond which diplomacy and dialogue fail. We all must strive to ensure that never again do so many young people die for us; let their example inspire us to build up the common good. ■

The Passion, Parties and Pilgrimage of a Great Rector

On the eve of her retirement from Exeter College, Bursar **William Jensen** recounts his abiding impressions of Rector Frances Cairncross and wishes her a very fond farewell.

First encounters leave a lasting impression. Mine was on a day in Summer VIIIs week in 2007 when I was ushered into the Rector's study for my initial interview, before meeting the full selection panel. I remember well the diminutive figure with the steely look and the insistent questions, sunk deep into the armchair opposite. Whatever else I may have thought, I knew this was someone not to be trifled with, and someone who cared passionately for the College over which she presided.

And passion is the single quality which I believe best summarises what Frances Cairncross has brought to her 10 years as Rector of Exeter College. She has, of course, many other qualities and even some shortcomings (but you did not hear me say that!), but it is unquestionably the passion which provides the energy (even when utterly exhausted), the optimistic focus (even when the odds seem stacked against us), and the willingness to stand in front of the College yet again (even in the face of tragedy or fractiousness). In my experience, over and again, the passionate nature of Frances Cairncross has translated into qualities of leadership which, I believe, have been greatly to the benefit of the College both in terms of its academic mission and its material prosperity. Of course, strong personalities and determined individuals are not always easy to work with and there have been many scratchy encounters with students and Fellows alike, but never has a grudge been borne or revenge sought. That in itself is a tribute.

I could fill *Exon* with illuminating vignettes of foolish escapades such as our dip in the Isis when our coxed-four overturned, brisk walks round Christ Church Meadows to chew over troubling College business, the gallows humour when preparing for another difficult encounter, the thoughtful glass of wine brought to my desk when working late or the fiercely protective instinct which has helped the College through several tragic episodes. But I have chosen six reflections to illustrate something of the qualities and achievements of the Rectorship of Frances Cairncross.

Only a few days ago, the College echoed to the applause and cheers of fellow-students and family members as so many of you graduated. It was the Rector who noticed how many siblings, grandparents and friends, deprived of a seat in the Sheldonian, longed to celebrate the success of graduating students; and so the College graduation ceremony in the Chapel was invented. Only someone who so deeply values the ties of family and friendship would have seen the need and addressed it.

As I write, graduate students sit at their desks in Exeter House and the demolition crew is reducing the old Ruskin buildings to rubble so that Exeter may have its new quadrangle on Walton Street. By any measure, these are tremendous achievements and are the fruits of a vision, a dogged determination and a willingness to go any distance and push on any door to overcome the obstacles to success.

> “Passion is the single quality which I believe best summarises what Frances Cairncross has brought to her 10 years as Rector

The third moment in Frances's Rectorship which I shall single out is her pilgrimage from Exeter to Exeter, a walk which she conceived of to launch the 700th anniversary celebrations and to link the past with the present in the collective consciousness of Exeter's members and friends. Not all figureheads like to be reminded of their illustrious predecessors or of the great swathe of history into which all notable women and men eventually disappear. That walk focused the year of celebration on the College's roots, its purpose, its many achievements over seven centuries and its potential to continue to shape lives long into the future. The Rector could have taken her ease at her beloved house in Scotland, but she elected to do something which required great personal effort and which, as it evolved, bound in many of the College's past and present members and even a few strangers.

Frances loves a party and Burns Night has become increasingly boisterous with skirling pipes, céilidh bands and reels up and down the Hall between up-turned tables. The scramble for tickets testifies to the popularity of dancing in the College. So too, the more recent innovation of a Diwali dinner has become a magnet for Indian students from across the University and introduced many of us to the music and customs of this significant festival. Friendships are so often forged over a common table and no one believes this more forcefully than the Rector.

The astonishing parade of speakers to the Rector's Seminars – David Attenborough, Sol Campbell, Bianca Jagger, David Starkey, Douglas Hurd and Biz Stone to name but a very few – has both provided entertainment and thought-provoking opportunities for all who would come and kept Exeter far from that state of mind which might be considered either complacent or pedestrian. It is through Frances's restlessness and ruthless opportunism that some of these unusual people have found themselves in an Oxford college (I recall a story of an opportunity seized in an airport shopping mall), and others are the fruit of her extraordinarily rich circle of friends and acquaintances – but all generously shared with the whole College.

Finally, there is music – so essential to Frances's wellbeing. The Rector's Music Evenings are the Exeter 'Who's Got Real Talent' showcase; a jazz parade has become a mainstay of recent Turl Street Arts Festivals; no opportunity is let pass to extol the talents of the College Choir; at one time, before they became quite so famous, Out of the Blue rehearsed in the Lodgings. Whenever possible, Frances has made music happen in the College, and many of us have been the beneficiaries of this.

So, we bid Frances Cairncross, Rector, farewell. We thank her heartily for all she has done for Exeter and all that she has enabled it to achieve, through its collective energy and enthusiasm, to scale new heights. We wish her well and we will watch with interest to see where that boundless energy is directed next. ■

Pictures: A hero's welcome for Rector Cairncross as she takes the final steps of her Exeter to Oxford pilgrimage; Rector Cairncross ahead of the Encaenia ceremony in 2012

A Mathematical Masterpiece

The Mathematical Institute's **Dyrol Lumbard**, External Relations Manager, describes how the Institute's new Andrew Wiles Building uses mathematics to marry style and function.

The new home of Oxford's Mathematical Institute, the Andrew Wiles Building, officially opened in Michaelmas term 2013. It is an inspiring, uncluttered geometric space.

Inevitably architecture is subjective, and opinions have varied regarding the appearance of the building, but the consensus is positive and members of the architectural community frequently visit the award-winning site.

The Institute was formerly housed on multiple locations. There was insufficient room to offer more than teaching, and this in outdated, constricted facilities, as alumni may remember. Interaction, relaxation, and even mathematics largely had to take place elsewhere.

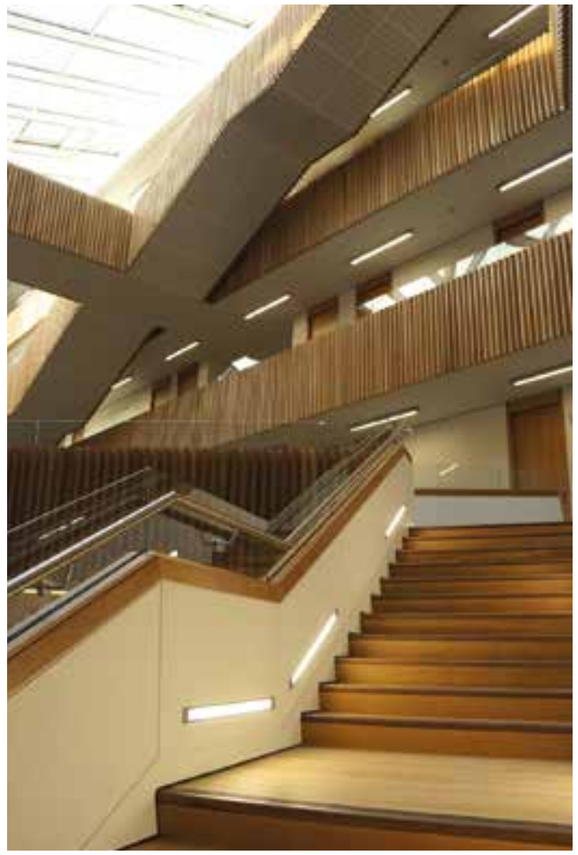
The Andrew Wiles Building – named after the Oxford professor who proved Fermat's Last Theorem – remedies this by integrating people and subject. A mezzanine level allows students to spread out and enjoy the facilities. A stylish café offers freshly prepared meals and space to relax, and there is a dedicated study room. The building is as much a part of students' lives as is their college.

Leading to the building's entrance is an expanse of Penrose tiling – a non-periodic, self-similar tessellation named after Sir Roger Penrose, an Emeritus Fellow of the Mathematical Institute who studied these sets of prototiles in the 1970s. At the entrance a Greek inscription, believed to have been displayed outside Plato's Academy, reads 'Let no-one destitute of geometry enter here'.

While this ominous embargo may not be heartfelt (members of the public – even those who have forgotten their geometry – are very welcome to enjoy the café or one of the public lectures the Institute regularly hosts) it sets the tone for the building within. From the arithmetic pillars in the reception, which misleadingly appear to have the same diameter, to the two large crystal-inspired skylights in the atriums, mathematics is at the core of the design.

The crystal in the north side of the building demonstrates the Hexagrammum Mysticum Theorem, also known as Pascal's Theorom, while the crystal in the south represents the frequencies of a drum whose membrane is stretched across the opening. The staircases are influenced by the well-known 'impossible staircase' designs

Picture: The strong, geometric lines of the building's exterior

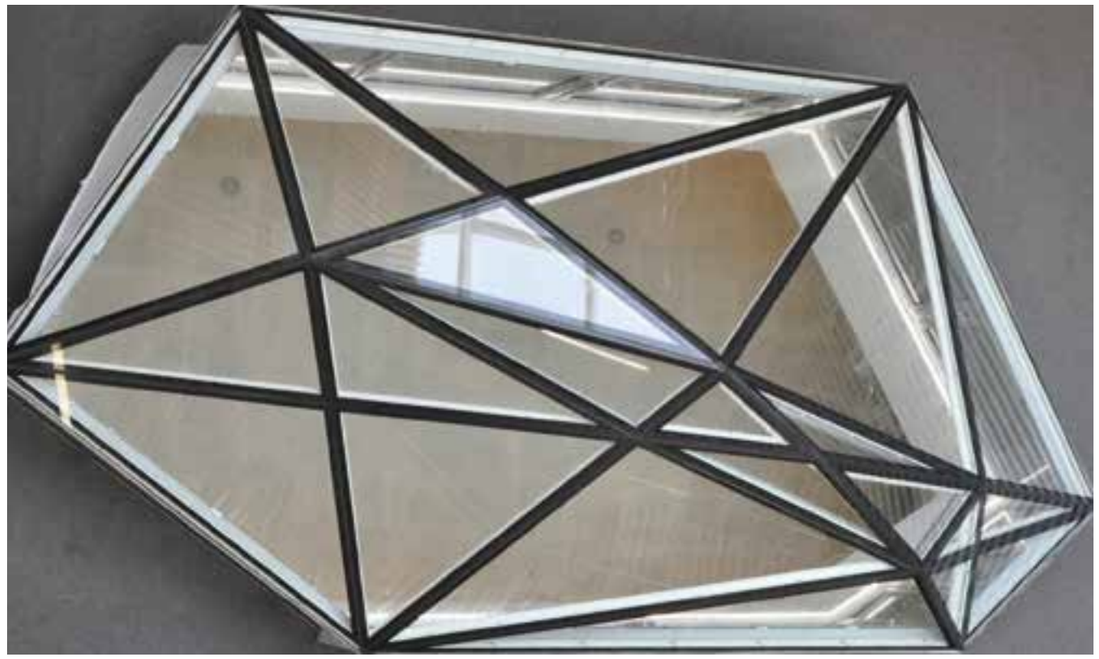


> "From the arithmetic pillars in the reception, to the two large crystal-inspired skylights in the atriums, mathematics is at the core of the design

of the Dutch artist MC Escher. Escher and Sir Roger Penrose were friends who recognised in each other's work that mathematics and art are not mutually exclusive, something the Andrew Wiles Building demonstrates.

Regardless of artistic achievement, buildings are only successful if they are functional. The Andrew Wiles Building has over 650 desks spread over five floors in a light and airy space. Mathematicians are finally in one place, not spread over several sites and hidden down long corridors. This is a mathematical building with a clear sense of purpose and identity.

But it is a building for the University and for the public. The building contains the largest lecture space in Oxford and University faculties and external clients use the building for prestigious events. If you are in Oxford, do come and experience this mathematical masterpiece for yourself. ■



Pictures: A stairwell influenced by MC Escher's 'impossible staircase' designs; a skylight illustrates the Hexagrammum Mysticum Theorem

> In total, more than 8,500 glass tiles were removed and re-installed. The whole project, including the research and test phases, has taken six years

Restoration Project

Oxford's Museum of Natural History reopens its doors following a £2 million roof restoration project. **Scott Billings**, OUMNH Communications Officer

On Saturday 15 February 2014 the University's Museum of Natural History celebrated the return of visitors to its courts and galleries after 14 months under the shadow of scaffolding, following a £2 million roof restoration project.

If you have ever visited the Museum of Natural History you will know that one of its most striking aspects is the splendid neo-Gothic architecture of the Victorian building itself, and in particular the huge, arching expanse of the glass-tiled roof which towers over the court. This roof, while certainly spectacular, has also always been rather problematic. Ever since the Museum building was completed over 150 years ago, rainwater has leaked through the tiles and dripped onto the displays and specimens below – a far from ideal situation.

To remedy this, a major restoration project began in 2011, starting with a trial in the south aisle, before a full closure of the Museum at the end of 2012. Unfortunately, it was necessary to close the Museum to the public in order to remove, clean, refit and re-seal the glass tiles in the central and north areas of the court. In total, more than 8,500 glass tiles were removed and re-installed. The whole project, including the research and test phases, has taken six years.

Despite all the disruption, the closure did give us the chance to take on some projects that would have been difficult while open. Construction scaffolding allowed staff to complete successful conservation work on a number of whale skeletons, which were lowered from their position above the court, treated for the first time in over 100 years, and then raised again in a new configuration. You can read all about this on the project blog (www.onceinawhale.com). And we took our specimens out to Oxford city centre for six months too, in the Goes to Town trail (www.goestotown.com).

By the time the Museum reopened earlier this year it was bathed in a beautiful new light, thanks to the freshly-cleaned tiles and a new lighting system that has been installed throughout the court, demanding a huge three kilometres, of cabling. There's even a café for the first time too. Cause for celebration indeed.

So, starting at 7am on re-opening day, the Museum served up a dawn-till-dusk programme of events featuring live bands, live bugs, and spotlight specimens for visitors to discover. As dawn broke on a stormy, flooded, and windy morning first there was a trickle of visitors, but soon it was a deluge. People swarmed to the Museum, with more than 5,300 visitors by the end of the first day alone.

By the end of the first week more than 30,000 people had been through the doors, a new record. Happily, the high visitor figures have continued, and we hope to see you here soon too. ■

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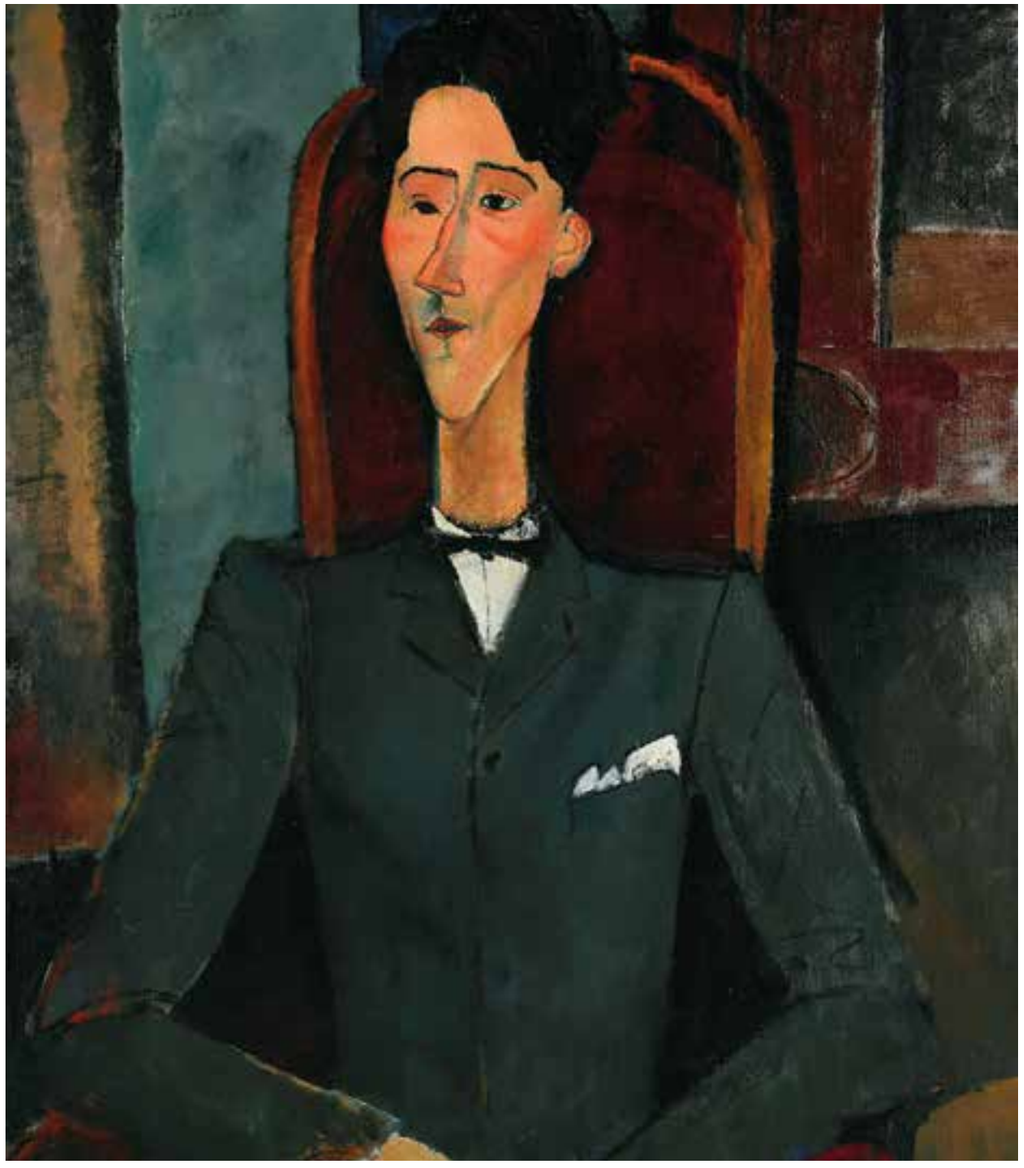
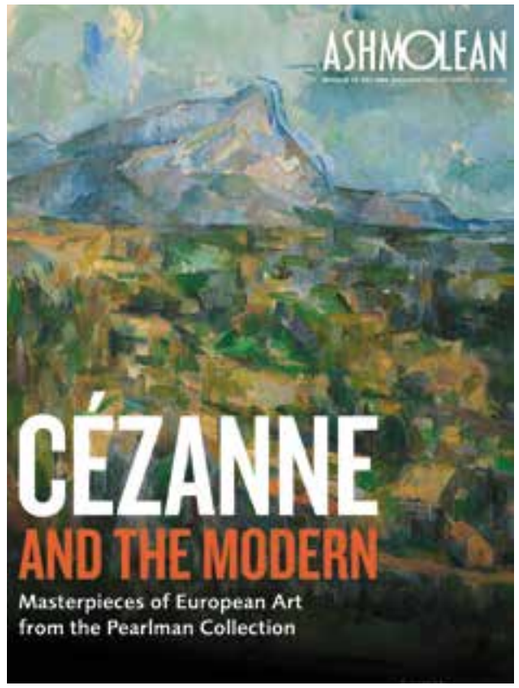
Pictures: The Museum's new roof and its popular attractions

Cézanne and the Modern Visits Oxford

Katherine Sedovic (2013, History of Art and Visual Culture) paints a picture of late 19th- and early 20th-century European art as she explores the Ashmolean's most popular exhibition ever.



Jean Cocteau by Amadeo Modigliani



Clockwise from left: Exhibition poster featuring *Mont Sainte-Victoire* by Paul Cézanne; *Henry Pearlman* by Oskar Kokoschka; *Tarascon Stage Coach* by Vincent Van Gogh

Between March and June this year the Ashmolean's 'Cézanne and the Modern: Masterpieces of European Art from the Pearlman Collection' provided a glimpse into the varied oeuvre of Paul Cézanne, while simultaneously highlighting broad trends in late 19th- and early 20th-century European art. For the success of this complex exhibition, we have to thank both curator Colin Harrison and the late American collector Henry Pearlman – a New York businessman who began acquiring art shortly after the Second World War. 'Cézanne and the Modern' marked the Pearlman Collection's first tour of Europe, providing visitors with a rare opportunity to view seldom-seen masterpieces of predominantly French modern art.

The first gallery, painted a bold golden-rod yellow and arranged chronologically, presented a lesser-known aspect of Cézanne's artistic ability: his skill as a watercolourist. Among the 16 watercolours displayed, of particular note were two still-lives, hung on opposite sides of the gallery. *Three Pears* (c. 1888-90) features Cézanne's characteristic tilted foreground. Across the room, *Still Life with Carafe, Bottle, and Fruit* (1906) is rendered in an almost pointillist style, resulting in a shimmering effect that differs greatly from Cézanne's better-known works, such as his oil paintings of Mont Sainte-Victoire, one of which was on display in the next gallery.

The second gallery, painted in complementary shades of burnt orange and palest blue (evoking the colour-palette of Cézanne's native Aix-en-Provence), presented a broader art historical view, focusing on a selection of impressionist and post-impressionist artists: Sisley, Pissarro, Degas, Gauguin, and van Gogh. Of note was Pissarro's *Apples and Pears in a Round Basket* (1872), whose placement mirrored that of Cézanne's *Three Pears* in the first gallery, resulting in a subtle yet pleasing juxtaposition.

> 'Cezanne and the Modern' marked the Pearlman Collection's first tour of Europe

The third gallery, painted a muted blue-grey, moved another degree away from Cézanne, displaying early 20th-century works by immigrant artists Amedeo Modigliani, Chaïm Soutine, and Jacques Lipchitz. This final gallery exhibited the most tangible illustration of Pearlman's identity as a collector. In contrast to the earlier galleries, here the majority of works were portraits which, when considered in conjunction with their later dates of production and arguably darker visual and emotional tones, exemplify Pearlman's diverse and even eccentric artistic tastes.

The triumph of 'Cézanne and the Modern' was to combine successfully an intimate portrayal of Cézanne's early and lesser known works with a broad overview of late 19th- and early 20th-century European avant-garde art. Over 70,000 people visited the exhibition – a record for the Ashmolean. ■

Rowing for Victory

Alice Hunnings (2012, Jurisprudence) reports on a triumphant year for Oxford's rowing crews.

On 6 April 2014, Oxford enjoyed victory in the University Boat Race – our seventh in 10 years, reducing Cambridge's lead in victories to 81–78.

But the 160th University Boat Race did not take place without controversies; the Dark Blues confirmed victory by 11 lengths after a clash of oars, which unseated the Cambridge two-seat early in the race, as both crews tried to find the fastest course of water. The umpire dismissed the complaints of the Cambridge cox, having warned Cambridge about their course in the lead up to the clash.

Oxford were pre-race favourites, boasting a lighter and more experienced crew that contained three Olympic medal winners, including stroke Constantine Louloudis (Trinity), son of Exeter alumnus Leonard Louloudis (1974, Modern History). This was Constantine's third Boat Race victory.

The season has been a successful one for Oxford University Boat Club. Alongside the Blues Boat, the reserve crew, Isis, and the Women's Blues Boat also recorded victories. Exeter fresher Lauren Kedar (2013, Earth Sciences) has made a great start to her University rowing career as the youngest member of the Women's Blues crew, rowing at four and winning in a time of five minutes and 50 seconds, only six seconds outside the record.

2015 will see the Women's Boat Race move to the Tideway to race on the same course as the men, and the BBC will for the first time provide full coverage of the race, marking a historic step for equality and providing the Women's crew with potential for much needed increased sponsorship revenue. ■

> The Dark Blues confirmed victory by 11 lengths after a clash of oars, which unseated the Cambridge two-seat

In Sir Roger's Footsteps

Ralph Eliot (2011, Mathematics) describes an auspicious year for Oxford's athletes.

Sixty years ago, one of Exeter's most famous alumni, Sir Roger Bannister (1946, Physiological Sciences), ran his famous sub-four-minute mile at the Iffley Road track. So 2014 was always destined to be a special year for Exeter athletics. It was my pleasure this year to follow in Sir Roger's footsteps and lead two clubs he once led, the Oxford University Athletics Club (OUAC) and the Exeter College Athletics Club, in what turned out to be a bumper year for both clubs.

In 0th week of Trinity term five members of OUAC, including three Exonians, travelled to Philadelphia to compete in the 120th annual Penn Relays. This championship is one of sport's oldest and largest events, regularly attracting more than 15,000 athletes from around the world. Our reasons for making the journey for the first time in decades were twofold: first, we wanted to follow up an excellent performance at the 2013 British University Championships, when our 4x400m relay team took bronze; and second, we wanted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Oxford's 4xmile relay victory at Penn in 1914, and induct that team into the prestigious Penn Hall of Fame.

At the 2014 British University Championships we aimed to improve on our 4x400m bronze the previous year. A team containing two Exonians – myself and Craig Morten (2012, Mathematics) – made the final as the fastest qualifiers and we dared to dream of beating heavyweights such as Loughborough and Cardiff Metropolitan for the top prize. Although we improved on 2013 and collected the silver medal, we missed out on gold by less than half a second.

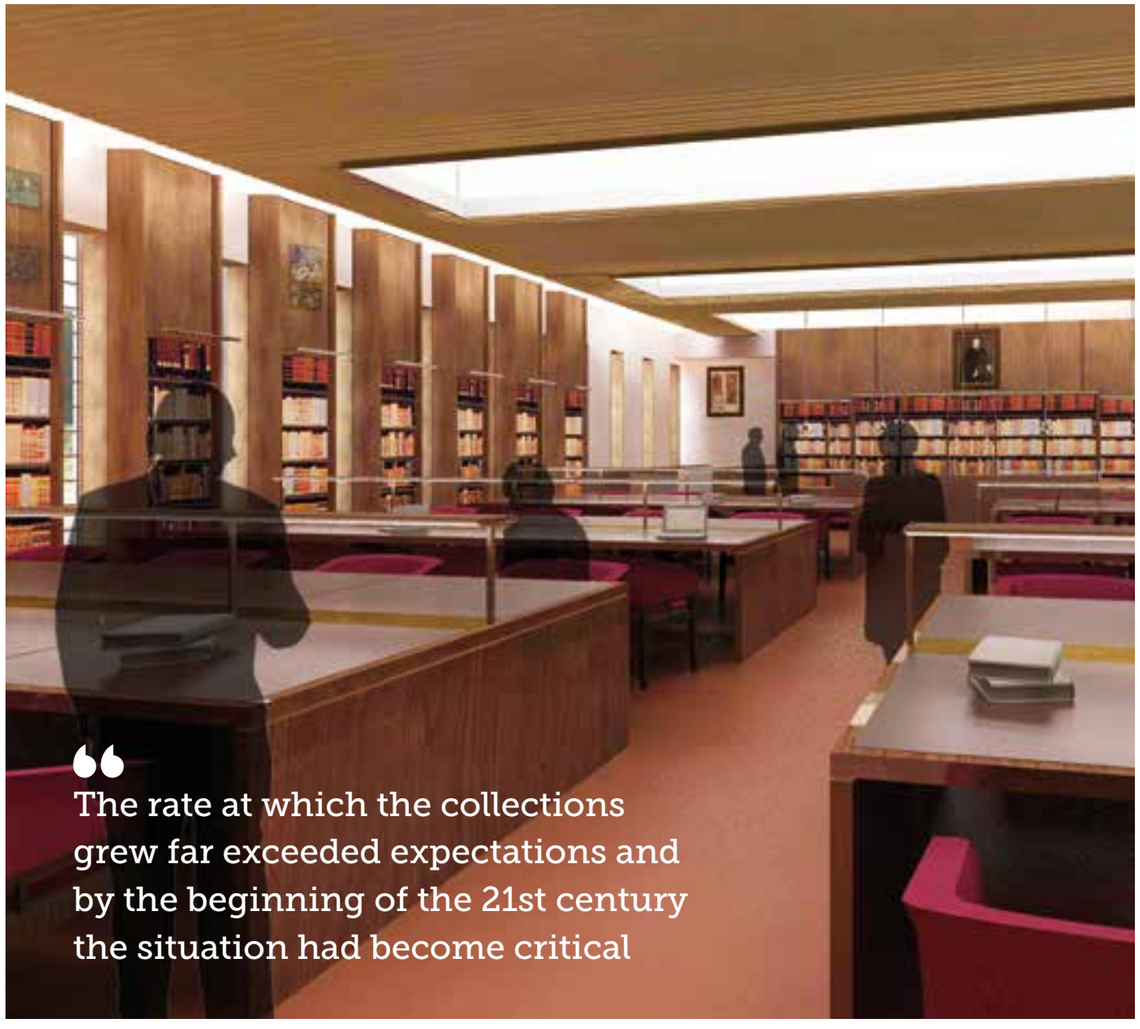
After this success, Exeter displayed the depth of its athletic prowess, winning the Trinity Cuppers tournament by a considerable margin. Accolades must go the talented multi-eventer Fredrik Smith (2013, Engineering Science) who collected over a third of Exeter's points.

The biggest event on the OUAC calendar is always the Varsity Match and this year the event was larger than ever as alumni and former athletes came from across the globe to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Varsity Match, held in 1864 on Christ Church Sports Ground. Oxford has struggled at recent Varsity meetings and on this special day at the hallowed Sir Roger Bannister track we had a point to prove. The contest more than lived up to expectations. Records were broken, incredible sportsmanship was witnessed, and in the men's Blues match the lead changed sides several times before coming down to the final event, the 4x400m relay, in which Oxford cruised home and took the match for the first time in six years. ■

Picture: Ralph Eliot runs in the Varsity athletics meeting

A Special Facility for Oxford's Special Collections

The Bodleian's extraordinary collection of rare books will soon be available to view in the purpose-built Weston Library on Broad Street. **Chris Fletcher**, Professorial Fellow and the Bodleian's Keeper of Special Collections



> The rate at which the collections grew far exceeded expectations and by the beginning of the 21st century the situation had become critical

Within its Special Collections, the Bodleian holds numerous items closely connected with Exeter College. Among these may be counted calligraphic and illuminated manuscripts and important books of William Morris; the literary archive donated by Alan Bennett; manuscripts and drawings by JRR Tolkien; and a celebrated series of drawings of Oxford colleges by the Exeter Fellow John Bereblock, presented to Queen Elizabeth on her Royal visit to Oxford in 1566.

These items, together with some 40 linear kilometres of other Special Collections material, will shortly be moved into the Weston Library, which will admit readers late this September and open officially to the general public in March 2015.

The Weston Library is the culmination of a project which began in August 2011 and whose purpose has been to transform an outdated existing building, formerly known as the New Bodleian (and once rather unkindly referred to as 'a dinner jacket made out of Harris tweed'), into a state-of-the art facility for the preservation, study and enjoyment of one of the world's greatest collections of rare books, manuscripts, archives, printed ephemera, maps and music, as well as the University's own historic archives.

The New Bodleian, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, was completed in 1940, immediately commandeered for war use (some of the plans for D-Day were shaped there, with Ian Fleming among those assisting) and eventually opened, despite the ceremonial key breaking in its lock, by King George VI in October 1946. Its primary purpose was to store, in a core of 11 densely packed closed stacks, the Bodleian's legal deposit intake (that is to say a copy of every UK print publication) and the materials that make up its Special Collections. However, the rate at which the collections grew far exceeded expectations and by the beginning of the 21st century the library had run out of space: the stacks were dangerously over-full and collections had to be sent to commercial storage. In addition to the space problem, it became increasingly clear that the library failed to meet expected standards for housing special material. Security, fire protection and environment were all inadequate.

So the decision was made to construct a huge new book storage facility in Swindon. This opened opportunities to provide not only a first rate but an innovative building. Assisted by many benevolent individuals, as well as major benefactors including the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Blackwell family and OUP, the architects Wilkinson Eyre and many members of staff have conceived a building which features the best components of a contemporary Special Collections library.

The collections will be stored in three levels of secure, climate controlled stacks from which they will be fetched to three new reading rooms. The large ground floor space, Blackwell Hall, will be publicly accessible from the Broad Street frontage, through a glazed colonnade (replacing the forbidding former exterior) and will include two exhibition halls, a lecture theatre, shop and café. Readers will benefit from the option of using a separate entrance if they so wish, while for teaching and research there will be well equipped and secure seminar rooms. Curatorial offices and processing spaces have been designed to allow work on a range of different formats and are close to highly specified conservation and imaging studios. At the heart of the building is a dedicated space for visiting scholars to come and work intensively on the collections and to meet other scholars and curators.

As Keeper of Special Collections, I greatly look forward to moving staff and collections into the Weston Library in preparation for Michaelmas term. As a Fellow of Exeter, I look forward to welcoming members, old and new, and indeed to looking after and bringing in further collections of value and interest to the College. ■

Pictures: Interior and exterior design concepts by Wilkinson Eyre Architects

Where All Rhodes Lead

Current Rhodes scholar **Nikita Kaushal** (2012, Earth Sciences) shows her gratitude for the continuing philanthropy that enables international students to study at Oxford and develop the skills to be future leaders.

It was the vision of Cecil John Rhodes, 110 years ago, to bring young people from around the world together to study at Oxford. To date his scholarship fund has produced a cohort of people that includes Nobel Prize Winners, President Bill Clinton, six Commonwealth Prime Ministers, and over 8,000 young leaders whose lives have been forever changed by the Oxford-Rhodes experience.

The Rhodes trust celebrated its 110th anniversary in September 2013. It was a moment to take stock of the scholarship: does it continue to serve its purpose? If so, is there support to continue the scholarship's work in the future? The answer to both questions was an emphatic yes! The McCall MacBain Foundation, a grant-making organisation established by John and Marcy McCall MacBain, announced a lead donation of £75 million to ensure the future of the scholarship. It consists of a £25 million grant, a £25 million challenge/match donation to encourage additional fundraising for a total of £50 million, and a future £25 million to expand the scholarships into new geographical areas.

John McCall MacBain is a Rhodes scholar from Canada. He was a familiar name amongst current scholars well before he made the donation to the Trust. He makes time to talk to scholars personally when he is in Oxford, offering suggestions and exchanging ideas, and he supports the Global Scholars Network, a platform that brings together scholars on a variety of international scholarships to talk about issues affecting the world today. All this is in addition to his generous donation and his positions of responsibility on the Rhodes Trust.

As a current scholar, I found the 110th anniversary a touching moment because it introduced me to an incredible group of people who still care about the scholarship, about Oxford, about issues facing the world today; people who are ready to support them in any way they can – whether through donations or simply by starting a conversation with a smile and ending it with 'get in touch if you need help with this idea of yours.' ■

Picture: John and Marcy McCall MacBain announce their donation to support Rhodes scholarships

Meeting Minds

Amelia Anderson (2012, Music) reviews a lively programme of music and academic discourse at the University of Oxford's Alumni Weekend in Asia.

This spring, students, graduates and friends of Oxford came together to celebrate the first Oxford Alumni Weekend in Asia, as part of the University's 'Meeting Minds' project – a programme of stimulating events featuring esteemed Oxford academics. The weekend, which was held in Hong Kong, included a wide variety of events ranging from a talk on how mathematics can predict the future by Professor Marcus de Sautoy to guided tours of the exhibition of the Selden Map of China, which has been in the Bodleian's collection since 1659, and other Ming era treasures lent by the Bodleian Library and Ashmolean Museum.

I was fortunate to attend the weekend as a member of Oxford's leading jazz a cappella group, The Oxford Gargoyles, which was touring Hong Kong and Macau at the time. It was great to meet alumni at a gala dinner on the Saturday night before providing a musical interlude between courses. Diners enjoyed the eclectic combination of traditional canticles heard in a typical college Evensong and well-known jazz standards and funk tunes.

On Sunday morning there followed a choral workshop. The Oxford Gargoyles joined alumni of all musical abilities in singing and dancing together. That was The Gargoyles' last performance at the Oxford Alumni Weekend in Asia, but it is possible alumni may have seen later performances which included the Oxford University Society of Macau's fundraising concert in the Dom Pedro V Theatre and appearances on Hong Kong television and radio.

The next Meeting Minds weekend will be held much closer to home, beneath the dreaming spires of Oxford, from 19 to 21 September 2014. Highlights will include Exeter Fellow Faramerz Dabhoiwala discussing his award-winning book *Origins of Sex: A history of the first sexual revolution*, and tours of the recently opened Mathematical Institute on Woodstock Road, which boasts amazing views of the whole of Oxford. See you there! ■

Pictures: Left: The Oxford Gargoyles entertain alumni and their guests; Right: Professor Marcus de Sautoy discusses the role of mathematics in predicting the future

The Miracle Miler

Roger Bannister (1946, Physiological Sciences) retired from running aged 25. By then he had set a world record, won gold in both the European and Empire games, qualified as a doctor, and etched the time of three minutes 59.4 seconds onto the consciousness of a nation. Here he describes his amazing journey.

Imagine the misery, aged 23, of finding myself excoriated by the British press for my defeat in the Helsinki Olympics in 1952, no matter that all the first four of us past the finish line had broken the Olympic record. I was the favourite and 'failed'. We won not a single track gold medal at those Olympics; the only stadium gold medallist was a horse. One journalist suggested I should be sued for an offence under the Trade Descriptions Act! We had a very dismal day on our homecoming.

What a contrast with the glorious triumphs of the 2012 London Olympics. In proportion to our population we won more medals than any other country. I see those London triumphs as the result of years of work by different sports councils. As the first chairman of the Independent Sports Council in 1970 I can perhaps be forgiven for a modest pride in coordinating the work which had already started and giving it new impetus. Not only were the governing bodies for elite sport properly funded but under the mantra 'Sport for All', the number of multipurpose indoor sports halls rose from four to 400 in the next decade. These facilities make sense, given the vagaries of the British weather. The better provision of sporting opportunities for the community has always been at the core of my thinking about sport.

After Helsinki, instead of retiring as I had planned, I gritted my teeth and decided I could continue for another two years, until my medical finals, and I decided to have a shot at the mythical four-minute mile. The story has already been told about that blustery day on 6 May, 1954 with the sodden cinder track when, after some exasperation of my two pacemakers, Chris Brasher and Chris Chataway, I finally decided to make the attempt. The knowledge that the Australian John Landy had already achieved four minutes and two seconds made me eager. To adapt the phrase of the Bard, we screwed up our courage to the sticking point and we did not fail. It was a moment of unadulterated joy that we had succeeded together, the three of us. As we opened the papers the next day the galling memory of the 1952 press bitterness was banished and the achievement was acclaimed in Britain, but also worldwide.

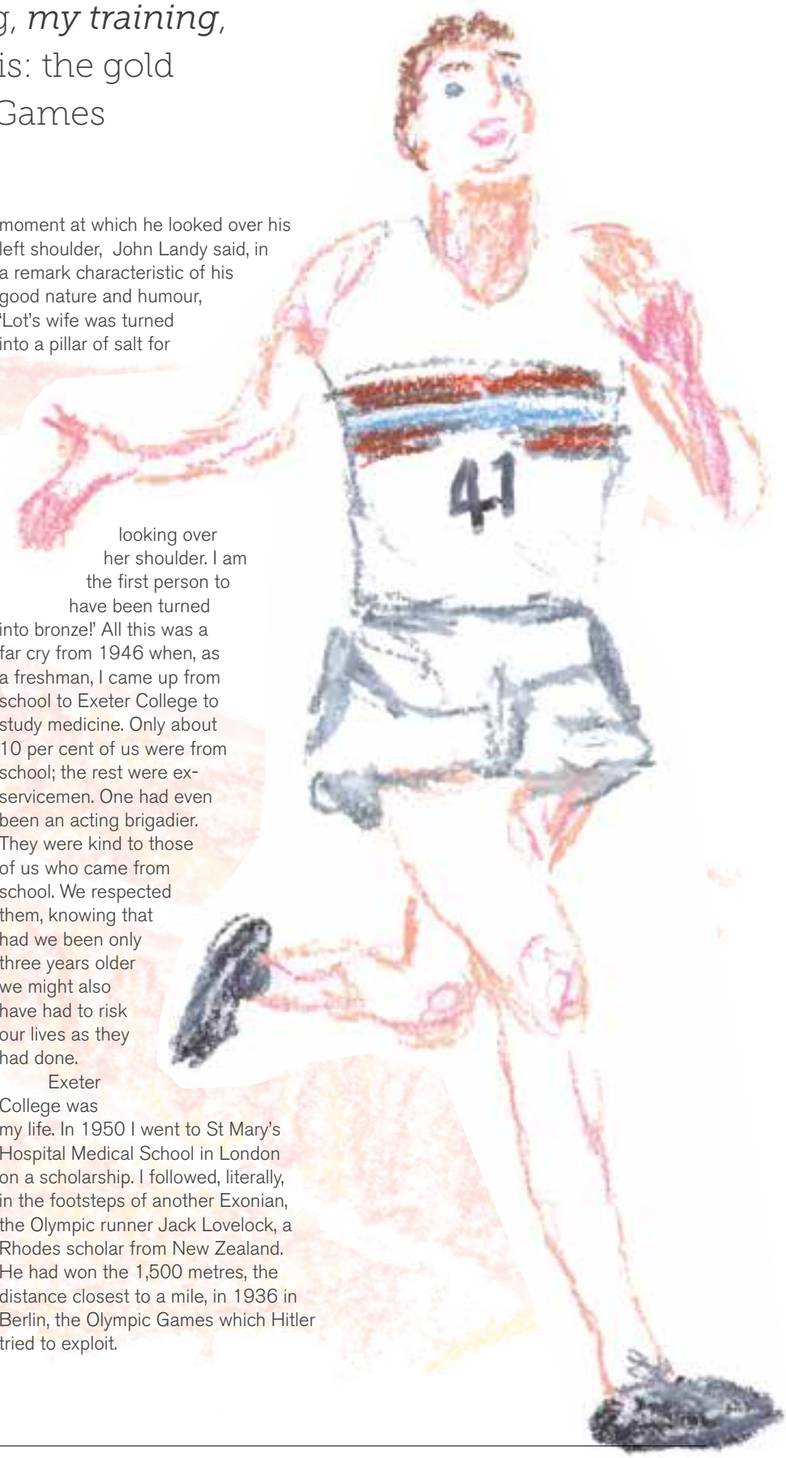
> For some dreadful moments in the middle of the race I realised I had let him get too far ahead

Only 44 days later John Landy lowered my world record, and so on to the Empire Games in Vancouver in July 1954. The sporting press burst into superlatives and it was the occasion for the first television link-up between Canada and the United States, billed as the 'Miracle Mile'. The Vancouver stadium was full and it was a glorious sun-filled day, with the Duke of Edinburgh and Lord Alexander, the war hero, in the Royal Box. I knew that this was the sternest test of my whole athletic career. Landy was a front-runner and so it proved. For some dreadful moments in the middle of the race I realised I had let him get too far ahead. Had he gone too fast and would he keep up his speed? Slowly, I managed to get to his shoulder on the last bend. He turned his head to discover whether he had left me behind. At the very same moment I threw myself past him. To his chagrin when he turned his head back to the front I had gained two yards. Eight years of training, *my training*, had brought me to this: the gold medal in the Empire Games, when both of us broke four minutes.

When an eight-foot high sculpture of Landy and myself was erected in Vancouver showing the moment at which he looked over his left shoulder, John Landy said, in a remark characteristic of his good nature and humour, 'Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt for looking over her shoulder. I am the first person to have been turned into bronze!' All this was a far cry from 1946 when, as a freshman, I came up from school to Exeter College to study medicine. Only about 10 per cent of us were from school; the rest were ex-servicemen. One had even been an acting brigadier. They were kind to those of us who came from school. We respected them, knowing that had we been only three years older we might also have had to risk our lives as they had done.

> Eight years of training, *my training*, had brought me to this: the gold medal in the Empire Games

Exeter College was my life. In 1950 I went to St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London on a scholarship. I followed, literally, in the footsteps of another Exonian, the Olympic runner Jack Lovelock, a Rhodes scholar from New Zealand. He had won the 1,500 metres, the distance closest to a mile, in 1936 in Berlin, the Olympic Games which Hitler tried to exploit.



Now there was only one more race before I could retire with honour satisfied and my training methods vindicated. This was the 1,500 metres at the European Championships in Bern, August 1954. We were all still together when the bell sounded for the last lap. I moved up to the leader's shoulder, guessing that he would try to break away first as his usual finish was not strong. When we came to the last bend I struck past the field with all my power, opening up a five-yard lead which I held until the finish. Never had my finishing burst served me so well.

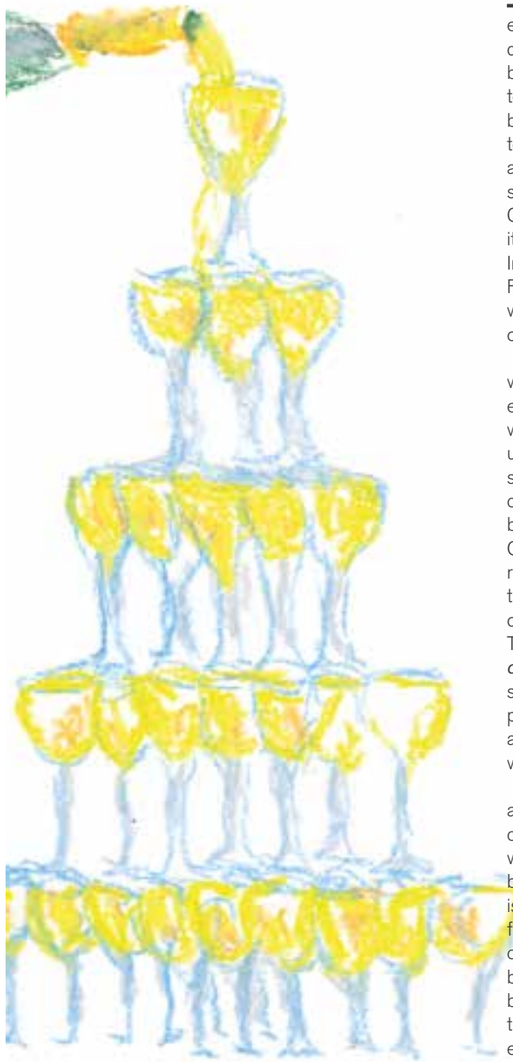
This is how my 10-year running career ended, 60 years ago. It had started when I was aged 15, a year before I took the Exeter College entrance exams. By the time I retired I had qualified as a doctor and I never ran competitively again. In those immediate post-war years of austerity and rationing, Exeter College had been my home and in so many incomparable ways had enlivened my life. Athletics had allowed me to travel to many countries around the world, including America, and given me friends and experiences which are so precious to me today, not least the friendship with our Rector Frances Cairncross who has so spectacularly and triumphantly led our College up to its 700-year anniversary. ■

Taken from *Twin Tracks,* Roger Bannister's autobiography published this year by Robson Press.

> “Exeter College was my life…[it] had been my home and in so many incomparable ways had enlivened my life

Celebrate with Sparkling…

Producers of the award-winning Ambriel sparkling wine, **Charles** (1984, History) and **Wendy Outhwaite**, remind us in our 700th year that all celebrations should be accompanied by a glass of fizz.



Nothing says 'huzzah!' like a popping cork. Every celebration deserves an ebullient exuberance of fizz. Ever since the discovery of fermentation, alcohol has been used to celebrate victories and to promote bonhomie. Sharing wine binds people together – and I'll drink to that – but there's something special about bubbles. Perhaps red wine is too solemn? After all, it symbolises blood to Christians and pagan ancients poured it into the sea as sacrifice to the gods. In contrast, fizz is frivolous and fun. For the last 400 years we celebrate with sparkling – every victory, birth, christening, wedding, or launch.

In the 17th century sparkling wine was difficult, dangerous and expensive to make. Unlike still wine, which is fermented only once, sparkling undergoes two fermentations, the second in the bottle. In the absence of *verre anglais* the pressure of the bubbles could explode the bottle. One explosion could set off a chain reaction, culling up to 90 per cent of the cellar, so iron masks protected cellar hands from shards of flying glass. The French court adopted this *'vin du diable'* and it was soon associated with status, opulence and extravagance. Its popularity (no pun intended) was also assisted by the rumour that it made women beautiful and men witty.

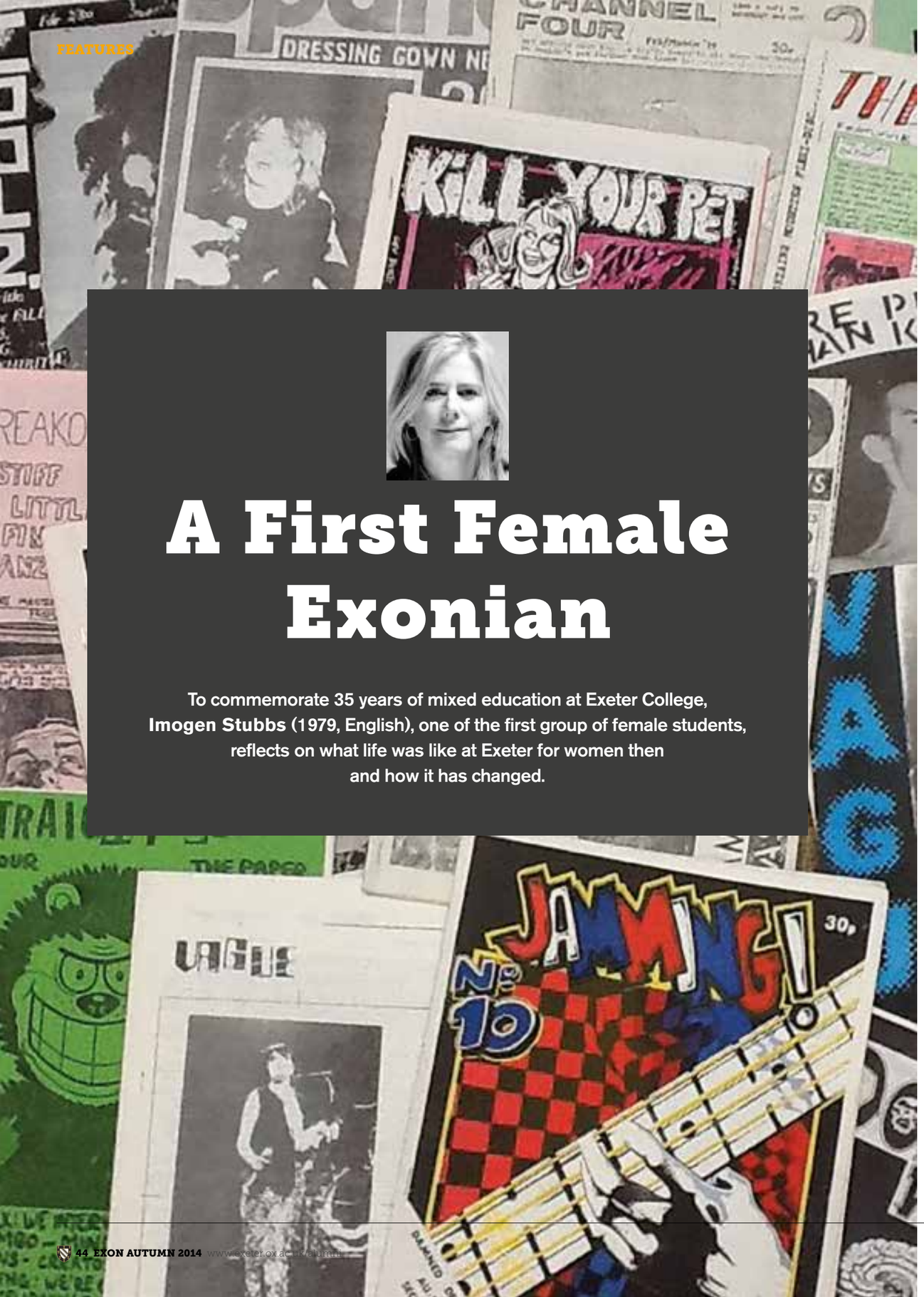
Fizz is a complete sensory adventure. First there is the anticipation of removing the cork. Whether it is done with a stylish swoosh of a sabre, or by cautious easing with thumbs, there is always a chance that the cork will fly off wildly. In defiance of the laws of magnetism, corks are mysteriously but irresistibly drawn to eyeballs and bystanders are thrilled by it. Then there is the iconic 'pop'. It could be an eardrum-assaulting boom, or merely a genteel indiscretion, but it goes off with a bang as carbon dioxide escapes from the wine into the air. Next the 'fizz' (an onomatopoeic word to describe the sound of bubbles escaping from a bottle like a freed genie) followed by an overflow of foam. While wine connoisseurs are careful not to spill a drop, an exuberant shake'n'spray ensures an eruption of effervescence. Once in the glass, the mesmeric rise of bubbles fascinate, while the teasing tickle of the nostrils and the tingle on the tongue presages the taste. Ah! Ambrosial! If you are lucky, the sparkling will brim with zesty citrus and ripe stone fruit followed by warm brioche ending in an uplifting zing. It is sublime stuff.

Sparkling is spectacular. The swashbuckling sabrage, the foam drench from the Formula One podium, the splendid spurting as the smashed bottle launches the ship and the burble of bubbles in a champagne fountain … all this is only possible with fizz.

Sparkling is sexy. It has always been associated with louche behaviour, particularly during the *Belle Époque*. While the myth that the champagne coupe was modelled on Marie Antoinette's breast is no more than titivating tittle-tattle – the coupe pre-dated her birth by decades – sex, scandal and sparkling are inextricably intertwined. It is wanton. Winemakers' wince at the extravagant wastage but it all seems to be part of the fun. Monroe bathed in champagne (presumably not at drinking temperature), at the last Boat Race the Oxford victors used more champagne for soaking than sipping, and in Sweden (where spraying is forbidden) 'sinking' – publically pouring it down the sink – is in vogue.

Do celebrate with sparkling. It is dangerous. It is decadent. It is delicious. My heartfelt plea is – drink it. *Cin cin*! ■

Pictures: Oxford athletes meet Roger Bannister; carrying the 2012 Olympic torch; celebrating the sub-four-minute mile with fellow medics



A First Female Exonian

To commemorate 35 years of mixed education at Exeter College, Imogen Stubbs (1979, English), one of the first group of female students, reflects on what life was like at Exeter for women then and how it has changed.

Q: Why did you choose to attend a College that had never taken women before, rather than one of the existing women's Colleges?

A: I didn't! At least initially. I applied to St Anne's because my mother went there. In those days if you didn't get an interview, you received a telegram, but if you did get one, you were supposed to look it up yourself, and I didn't and so missed the interview.

Not all colleges accepted fourth-term applications, but Exeter did. I had been at a former boys' school – Westminster – for two years and I think Exeter wanted someone who had that experience since almost all of the other female undergraduates came from girls' schools, so they offered me a scholarship.

Q: Was the College set up to welcome women undergraduates?

A: There were a few problems. We were a very small group, just 16 of us, and there were only two women scholars, Jennifer Smith and me. Scholars and exhibitioners had to share rooms, and the rooms were horrible. Our room had tiny bedrooms, a shared sitting room, and was next to the lavatory, so in some ways it was a disadvantage to have a scholarship. Luckily Jennifer was a very nice girl, but it was quite a risk having to share with whoever happened to be the other scholar.

Q: Were the Fellows and tutors welcoming?

A: In those days Exeter just was not prepared for taking girls. Most of the Fellows were welcoming, but some of the tutors were not at ease with girls. They had only ever taught boys, and some were quite uncomfortable. One was quite rude and abrasive!

I wanted to write about women in American literature, but there were very few people even teaching American literature, and the ones who were weren't teaching about women.

Q: Was there pressure as part of the first cohort of girls to represent the College?

A: Everyone rowed except for me! I had no desire to row but there was an enormous pressure to be part of the team. It seemed to be a big deal that I wasn't.

Q: What was the attitude of the male undergraduates to the arrival of women in College?

A: Some of the boys were a bit weird with the girls: they'd set fire alarms off and someone tried to break down our door at one point. They were very young, and over-excited, and not thinking things through. There were so few girls and some of the boys reacted in a silly way, like puppies let off a leash. They were really very nice to the girls for the most part.

I was very involved in activities outside College, like acting, so I wasn't really a College girl and I think some of the guys thought I was a bit stand-offish. I seem to remember someone telling me that someone had written horrible things about me in the JCR book! But some of the guys in the year above were very pleasant.

There was a very attractive guy in the year above, whom everyone was in love with. He loved stunt kite flying, so I spent half my grant on a Flexifoil stunt kite so that we would casually bump into each other in the park and realise that we shared a hobby. In my last year he invited me along with some friends to move out to an old ruin in the middle of the country in what turned out to be the coldest winter of the last century. The house had no bathroom, no electricity, and we had to get water from a well. My journey to College involved a one-mile walk through woods and fields followed by seven miles on a moped. The hunk moved on to some amazing job just days after we moved in! He had been the most attractive thing about it.

Q: Were the female students supportive of each other?

A: The women students were all very supportive. There were lots of lovely girls, some of whom I kept up with. Some of the girls were much more involved in College than I was – and one of them was President of the Oxford Union.

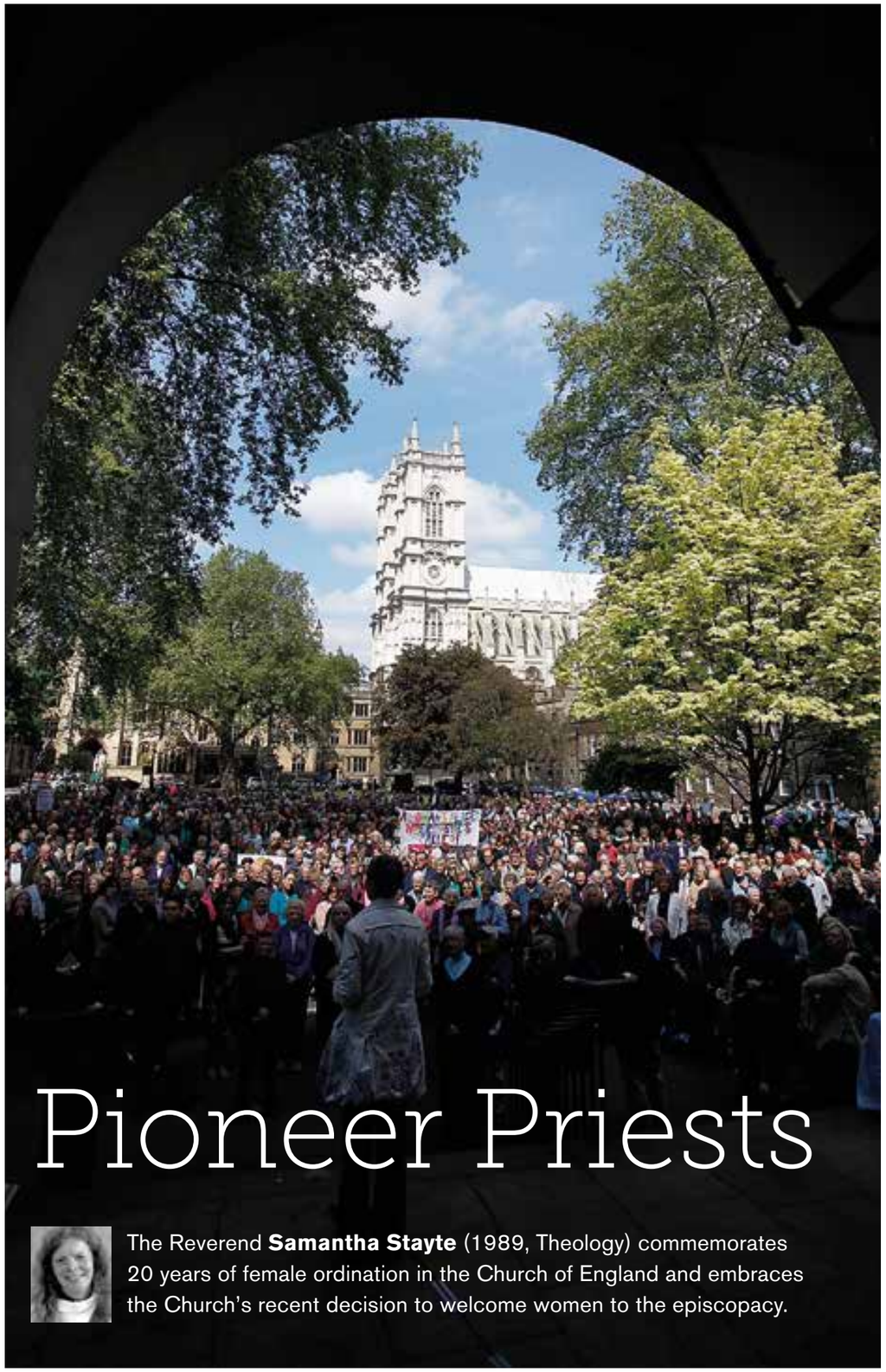
Q: How do you think things have changed?

A: I'd love to be at Oxford now. I wasn't ready for it when I did go – I should have taken a gap year! We were too young. I was grateful to have the opportunities, particularly for acting, but I think now I'd be much more interested in the academic work that is going on than I was then.

Oxford seems much more exciting now – with more people from different backgrounds and a broader English curriculum. I get the impression that Frances Cairncross has been excellent for the College – that she's brought a sense of togetherness and galvanised and energised the place. I wish I was at Exeter now! ■

Interview by Rachael White (2013, Classical Languages and Literature).

> “Oxford seems much more exciting now – with more people from different backgrounds and a broader English curriculum…I wish I was at Exeter now!



Pioneer Priests

The Reverend **Samantha Stayte** (1989, Theology) commemorates 20 years of female ordination in the Church of England and embraces the Church's recent decision to welcome women to the episcopacy.

'Every scribe who has been trained for the Kingdom of Heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is old and what is new' – Matthew 13:52.

For the first followers of Jesus these words, found only in St Matthew's Gospel, suggest the tension between what is inherited and how new paths are forged. St Matthew is suggesting that the 'old' treasure represents learning about, and honouring, our inheritance; whereas the 'new' treasure is discovering how we live out and add to our heritage.

As an Exonian who is recently ordained to priesthood in the Church of England, 2014 has been a year of great celebration; a celebration of the place of women's ministry in the Church of England as well as a celebration of the foundation of Exeter College, both of which have converged with my own vocational journey.

In 1989 I came up to Exeter to study theology because I had been inspired to honour the Church's inheritance. I chose Exeter College because I was born and brought up in the Exeter diocese and it seemed fitting to respond to the 1314 vision of a bishop to ensure his region was supplied with educated theologians. As a woman with a strong faith studying theology in the years immediately before the priesthood was opened to women, I was often questioned about my aspirations. It was clear to me, however, from the tradition I inherited that since the priest at the altar represented Christ, and Christ was male, only a man could be a priest. I did not celebrate when the first women were ordained to the priesthood in 1994.

> "The women who were in the first generation to be ordained have suffered the challenges of being pioneers

It was partly my opposition to the ordination of women that prompted a return to Exeter to study for an MPhil, specialising in the theology of Thomas Aquinas in 2000. This transformed my understanding of theology as a discipline, and helped me to integrate my experiences of encountering God with my intellectual exploration of ideas about God. My thesis explored the parallels between Aquinas's view of the way our bodily-sense experience informs our knowledge of the world with the way sacramental worship conforms us to Christ. Through encountering feminist theologians, I began to question how God was calling me not only to honour the Church's inheritance through intellectual streams, but also to inhabit and indeed advance this heritage; I thus understood how it was possible to be a woman conformed to Christ in the sacraments of baptism, communion and ordination, so as to be a sign and instrument of God's love here and now.

Part of the exploration of this calling was discovering the stories of the journey of my fore-mothers in the Church of England – the remarkable women who discerned and remained faithful to a sense of vocation before it could be publicly affirmed; the women who were in the first generation to be ordained and have suffered the challenges of being pioneers. These women were sustained and guided by a powerful spirituality, and it falls to us, the inheritors of their struggles, to remember the journey they made for us. This year's services commemorating the 20th anniversary of female ordination were an opportunity to celebrate what has gone before us – the traditions we lovingly inherit and the changes the Church is embracing.

The most recent debates at Synod – granting admission of women to the episcopacy – are a reminder that 20 years is a very short time in the life of an ancient institution. The Church of England is taking stock of what its treasure now looks like and I think it is important to show patience in this process. How do we learn from our arguments and communicate our experiences faithfully? How do we embrace each other despite our tensions?

As the quotation from St Matthew's gospel reminds us, this tension between inheritance and renewed expression is not new. St Matthew's scribes of the first century and Exeter's seven centuries of scholars have all had to negotiate between what they inherit and how they add to this heritage in a way which is meaningful to each in their generation. Though the tension is not new, those who negotiate it are. As one of Exeter's theologians, what I celebrate most this year is that when the Master brings out his treasures, all are equally valued. ■

Pictures: Crowds gather in Westminster in May 2014 to celebrate 20 years of women priests

Singing Parry's Praises

Sir Charles Hubert Parry (1867, Modern History) remains Exeter's – and one of Britain's – best known and most well-loved composers. No wonder then that Exeter's Choir rejoices in his music. **Tim Muggeridge** (2013, Music), Organ Scholar

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry is undoubtedly Exeter's most distinguished musical alumnus over its 700-year history.

Parry became the youngest successful supplicant for the Oxford MusB degree while still an 18-year-old student at Eton, before coming to Exeter in 1867 where he read for a degree in modern history and jurisprudence. After leaving Oxford in 1870, he moved to London where he initially worked at Lloyd's Register of Shipping. He soon abandoned his career in the City, however, to pursue his musical interests, supported by his friend and mentor Edward Dannreuther. In 1883 Parry was appointed Professor of Musical History at the newly-founded Royal College of Music and became its Director in 1895. He later succeeded John Stainer as Professor of Music at Oxford.

Parry was active as a composer as well as an educator during this time but it was not until the start of the 20th century that his eminence as a composer was fully appreciated. He produced a flurry of new works, many of which remain in the choral repertory to this day. His processional anthem *I Was Glad*, written for the coronation of Edward VII in 1902, had an immediate effect on the musical world. It has since been used for numerous royal occasions, most recently at the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in April 2011, which afforded Parry's music a wider global audience than ever before.

A number of the nation's favourite hymns are based on Parry's musical output. The music for the hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* was originally from Parry's oratorio *Judith*, composed in 1888, but later was set to John Greenleaf Whittier's words by the then-head of music at Repton School, George Gilbert Stocks. *Jerusalem*, as it is known, was a response to Robert Bridges's request that Parry should set the opening lines of Blake's *Milton* for the Fight for Right movement – an organisation that encouraged the nation to remain steadfast in the face of German propaganda during the Great War. First performed in 1916, it was instantly popular and has remained so ever since.

Parry's effect on British musical culture has been phenomenal. The success of his music in the public domain was greater than that of any other composer of his time and arguably greater than any other British composer in history. His music has permeated our major musical, religious and even sporting institutions.

Exeter is very proud to be associated with this great musical figure and all of the aforementioned music can be found on the College Choir's new CD, *Stanford Mass in G and Other Choral Works*, available from the Development Office. ■

Picture: Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

Happy Birthday Shakespeare

Peter Auger, Stipendiary Lecturer in English Literature, asks whether there is anything left to discuss 450 years on from the birth of Britain's most celebrated playwright.

People sometimes ask me if Shakespeare critics aren't just making it up. Hasn't everything worth saying already been said? Surely we don't need a hundred different books to appreciate *The Tempest*? You don't actually believe that Shakespeare was a feminist?

They have a point. It is easy to name Shakespearean activities in and out of universities that are far removed from anything Shakespeare might have imagined. Take the celebrations for the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth this year. A touring company from Shakespeare's Globe is performing *Hamlet* in every country. The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC has held an array of lectures, conferences and other events, including a 'Birthday Bash' on 23 April itself. Elsewhere we find a new 15-minute version of *Macbeth* being premiered in the Philippines, and the Bosnia and Herzegovina postal service issuing commemorative stamps. Certainly these events, and these institutions, tell us as much about the response of later generations to Shakespeare as they do about Shakespeare himself.

And this is no bad thing. I encourage my students at Exeter to roam among the outposts of Shakespeare's cultural impact in their efforts to write creatively about a play like *Romeo and Juliet*: I have exhorted interested students in my most donnish tone of voice to think about pursuing that vital comparison between the artistic treasures of those two animated adaptations *Gnomeo and Juliet* and *The Lion King II* (the first *Lion King* is a version of *Hamlet*). I am grateful to my Exeter finalists (thanks, guys!) for introducing me to the energy and intelligence of Manga Shakespeare. Responses beget more responses; thus the Shakespeare industry powers itself. Other contemporary dramatists like Christopher Marlowe – whose 450th anniversary is also this year – simply cannot be studied in this way.

At the same time, more traditional-sounding scholarship continues to flourish at up-turning received perspectives. Recent work in Oxford, for instance, has shown how Shakespeare wrote for the actors available to him (Bart Van Es), has studied audience reactions to Shakespearean tragedy in collaborative research with cognitive psychologists (Laurie Maguire), has re-assessed how early quarto texts of Shakespeare's works were produced (Tiffany Stern), and has described the unique environment of playworlds created on stage (Simon Palfrey).

Another way to reflect on four centuries of work on Shakespeare is to ask whether he courted fame. Did Shakespeare craft his legend? For sure, Shakespeare was a professional playwright writing for money and to deadlines. But Lukas Erne has offered the widely-respected argument that Shakespeare also wrote for print and therefore posterity. Erne makes a strong case (put too strongly for some) that it meant something to put 'W. S.' or 'Shakespeare' on a book's title-page during Shakespeare's lifetime: it is likely that Shakespeare did contribute to manufacturing his brand in print, and thus ensuring his works' survival.

Creative lives often resemble a series of essay crises, and certainly Shakespeare's works were composed in a particular cultural and social moment, contingent on time, work and money pressures. It is wise for critics to seek to reduce the interpretative distance from that 400-plus-year-old historical moment rather than wilfully extend it and wallow in the bardolatrous mire. Yet Shakespeare's legacy is ever more plural and diffuse, and all the more astonishing for it.

Shakespeare studies and performance share little in common with the way that Exeter has sustained the same institution on the same site that Walter de Stapeldon founded seven centuries ago. Instead, Shakespeare's works initiated a trans-historical and global conversation, a many-splendored thing about which readers, audiences, English tutors and students continue to have a say. ■

> "With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come, and let my liver rather heat with wine than my heart cool with mortifying groans
>
> ***Merchant of Venice*, Act One, Scene One**

A Century of Literary Genius

From Alan Bennett (1954, Modern History) to Qian Zhongshu (1935, English), Exeter is proud of the many exalted authors who have passed through its gates. **Tessa Stanley Price**, Deputy Director of Development, discusses Exeter's literary heritage of the past 100 years.

The arrival of Qian Zhongshu, unquestionably Exeter's most celebrated Chinese alumnus, began inauspiciously when he came up in 1935. He tripped as he got off a bus in Broad Street, fell to the ground and knocked out half a tooth. He later joked that so great was his happiness at reaching the University of Oxford, he felt compelled to kiss the ground.

Despite the unpromising start, Qian's time at Oxford inspired one of the masterpieces of 20th century Chinese literature, his 1947 novel *Fortress Besieged*. The book charts the adventures of a young man from China who studies in Europe until he runs out of money, returning home with a forged degree. Fortunately for Exeter, Qian was very different to the novel's protagonist. By the end of his three years in Europe he had mastered several European languages and was just as comfortable reading classical Chinese as modern Chinese and Western literature. Indeed his first name, Zhongshu, means 'fond of books'.

Exeter is proud of its connection to one of China's most noteworthy authors. In March 2014 the College marked this with a conference in Wuxi, Qian Zhongshu's birthplace, to honour the author. It is our intention to explore Qian's work and celebrate this connection further in the coming months.

Though he may have travelled furthest to reach Turl Street, Qian is by no means the only exalted author of the 20th century to study at Exeter College. JRR Tolkien's years at Exeter, covered in detail in John Garth's *Tolkien and the Great War* and his upcoming publication *Tolkien at Exeter College*, are well known. It was Sir Charles Eliot's book on Finnish grammar, high on a shelf in the College Library, which provoked a love of studying and inventing languages. Old Member (and current Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford, a post once held by Tolkien himself) Andy Orchard recalls borrowing the same book as a student in the 1980s and finding a note from CS Lewis still tucked inside. Writer and broadcaster Ned Sherrin was an undergraduate at Exeter in the 1950s. Alan Bennett came up to read Modern History in 1954; his entries in the JCR Suggestion Book and anecdotes of students laid helpless with laughter listening to him in JCR meetings point to the acute observations of everyday life that have become his hallmark.

During the 1960s Exeter welcomed Philip Pullman, Tariq Ali, Martin Amis, Christopher Reid and Craig Raine. Visitors to the College, especially children, are hushed when they peek into the Senior Common Room and see the place that kindled the opening scene of Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights*, when Lyra Belacqua hides in a cupboard to spy on scholars at the fictional Jordan College. What a decade of writers this was! Indeed, those reading English at Exeter between 1958 and 1980 were taught by Jonathan Wordsworth, great-great-great-nephew of William and highly respected commentator on his ancestor's oeuvre.

During the 1980s Will Self read English at the College. Biographer-turned-novelist Miranda Carter and writer Kate Clanchy, Creative Writing Fellow at Oxford Brookes and former Oxford City Poet, were two of the first female Exonians. In 2002, Amy Sackville came to Exeter as a graduate student; she has since won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize for her debut novel and teaches creative writing at the University of Kent. Novelist and academic Julie Maxwell has recently completed a Fellowship at Exeter. Oxford author Nicholas Shakespeare is a Visiting Research Fellow.

Is it fate that Exeter has welcomed so many literary names over the last 100 years? Is it part of a creative tradition that stretches back to the publication in 1633 of *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* by Exonian John Ford, and continued in the 19th century when Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and Hubert Parry were students here? Is it coincidence, or nothing remarkable at all? I feel under-qualified to judge, but it is something that I look forward to exploring further over the coming months, especially as Exeter's plans to renovate the College Library, a place of inspiration for so many, take shape.

> “Visitors to the College are hushed when they peek into the Senior Common Room and see the place that kindled the opening scene of Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights*

It is 100 years since Tolkien graduated, 80 since Qian arrived from China, 60 since Alan Bennett left Leeds for Oxford, and 35 since Will Self matriculated alongside the College's first cohort of female students in 1979. J K Rowling's acceptance of an Honorary Fellowship earlier this year brought a renewed surge of interest in Exeter's literary connections. I wonder who the College's great literary names of the 21st century will be. ■

Pictures: Clockwise from left: Qian Zhongshu; Alan Bennett (far left) entertains the JCR; Philip Pullman reads *Grimm Tales* at the Founder's Weekend celebrations

Building on Generosity

A new campus and impressive student support are just two of the marvellous achievements of the Exeter College 700th anniversary fundraising campaign. **Katrina Hancock** (1998, Earth Sciences), Director of Development

The 700th anniversary fundraising campaign, *Exeter Excelling,* was launched in 2009. Since then, Exeter has received over £30 million towards student support, the tutorial system, and the collegiate environment from alumni and friends of the College who wish to see Exeter thrive for centuries to come.

In early 2014 alumni received a brochure which described the campaign achievements to date and set out the goals that lie ahead. In response to this mailing Exeter received over 100 gifts, most notably a £1.2 million anonymous donation to fund one of our two fellowships in Law. The gift will be matched by £800,000 from the University's teaching fund to endow the post for all time – a truly transformative gift. Such funding will allow Exeter consistently to attract top academics in post, benefiting students and the College more widely.

Demolition work has begun at the College's Walton Street site. The ongoing support this project receives is heartening. Substantial pledges have been fulfilled by Sir Ronald Cohen (1964, PPE), Bart Holaday (1965, PPE), John Leighfield (1958, Literae Humaniores) and Charles Outhwaite (1984, Modern History), among others, and there has been a flurry of gifts in honour of Emeritus Fellow John Maddicott, to fund the Maddicott Teaching Room, and in honour of Rector Cairncross.

New initiatives for 2014 include an endowment fund to provide grants for sixth-year medics taking up medical electives, thanks to Lucy Baker (1985, Medicine) and John Beck (1983, PPE), and an alumni-student mentoring platform, Aluminate, funded by Hugh and Pamela Moir (Parents). The former allows students to make the most of study opportunities regardless of financial circumstances and the latter will provide students with invaluable careers advice to help kick-start their careers.

> “A striking aspect of the campaign has been the steep rise in the numbers of Exonians willing to give something

Undergraduates will be offered additional tuition from graduate students in Mathematics and History thanks to gifts from Iain Lumsden (1964, Mathematics) and Jerry Rhodes (1950, Modern History) respectively. These study sessions complement tutorials, quickly helping to develop advanced study skills, while also giving graduate students useful teaching experience.

This vision for supporting students is also reflected in gifts towards hardship bursaries from Nick Gaynor (1978, Modern History), Colin Joseph (1965, Jurisprudence), Peter Rushton (1998, PPE), David Seddon (1974, Physiological Sciences), Craig Shuttleworth (1983, Jurisprudence), and Liz Newlands (in memory of her husband Edward (1960, Medicine)). These bursaries help Exeter to provide 'front-loaded' support for students so that those from households with incomes below £42,000 automatically receive financial aid – they do not have to be in financial difficulty before they qualify for support. In addition, the Annual Fund provides 'Exonian Bursaries' to any student in need throughout the year.

It is unusual for gifts from alumni to benefit alumni. But in the run-up to its 700th anniversary Exeter received £62,500 from 12 alumni and friends to fund the Founder's Day celebrations. Because of their generosity, Exeter was able to invite all alumni and their guests, as well as students, Fellows and staff, to celebrate Exeter's foundation in College free of charge. The subsequent feedback made it clear how much people enjoyed the day and, by inference, how greatly all who attended appreciated this generosity.

A striking aspect of the campaign has been the steep rise in the numbers of Exonians willing to give something, modest or magnificent, to the Annual Fund every year. Over 2,400 alumni made unrestricted gifts to Exeter's Annual Fund in 2013-14, ranging from £1 to £13,140. Together these gifts raised £850,000, more than ever before. This dependable annual income is essential to the College's operations. Even a gift of £35, if given regularly each year, is the equivalent of the income the College would get from investing an additional £1,000.

In total, the College has received over £4.9 million in gifts in the 2013-14 financial year. Under the guidance of a new Rector, Sir Rick Trainor, the College must now push on to meet the campaign's £45 million target. This will fund the final stages of the Walton Street development and the refurbishment of the Library, endow more graduate scholarships and bursaries, and ensure that the tutorial system, of which we are so proud, is preserved for at least another 700 years. ■

Give a Little, Get a Lot

Emily Watson (2002, Literae Humaniores), Development Manager, commends Exonians for their generous philanthropy and explains why participation is so crucial to the College.

Alumni often tell me – with some pride – that Exeter does not have a reputation for coming top in certain areas. Academically, it sits around the middle of the Norrington Table, and happily lets other colleges scrap for first place. Its recent record in the Summers VIIIs is best left unmentioned, although this year Exeter did win football Cuppers for the first time since 1974!

One area where Exeter indisputably shines, however, is alumni giving. This is related to Exeter's friendly environment and the sense of belonging to the 'Exeter family' that students and alumni share.

Many Exonians remember Exeter's lovely front quad, chatting to people passing through, cramming before a tutorial, or listening to the choir sing in Chapel. The affection that the majority of former students feel for College is reflected in the giving rates. Many older Exonians feel a duty to help the younger members of the Exeter family with their education, especially as alumni in the pre-90s era did not have to pay tuition fees, unlike students today who often face a heavy burden of debt upon graduation.

In its 700th anniversary year, 49 per cent of undergraduate alumni have given to Exeter – more than ever before, most likely placing Exeter in the world's top 10 higher education institutions for undergraduate giving rates. Including graduate alumni, 45 per cent of Exeter alumni donated in 2013-14, 61 per cent have made a gift to College at some point, and 50 per cent of the 2000s decade donated last year – a testament to the loyalty which Exeter inspires, even among struggling Millennials.

So why is alumni participation so important, and why do we talk about it so much in our fundraising appeals and telephone campaigns? Quite simply, because high alumni giving sends out a strong message to the whole Exeter community. The most affluent among that community are far more likely to make a transformative gift if they see all members of Exeter, young and old, giving at the level they can afford. A good example was the £131,400 donation released in 2012 when Exeter became the college with the highest giving rate in Oxford, and indeed in the United Kingdom. A number of very substantial transformative gifts have been made since, some in the region of seven figures, as alumni and friends of Exeter are inspired by the commitment of the wider Exeter community.

It is also important to recognise that the generosity of so many alumni giving at a level they can afford quickly adds up. This year the Annual Fund has raised more than ever before in unrestricted income. Having this reliable unrestricted annual income allows the College to operate as if it has an endowment around £72 million, £22 million more than its actual endowment. Thanks to this additional annual income we can offer bursaries, scholarships, travel grants, sports and arts grants, a careers office with internships across a wide variety of sectors and locations and a new mentorship platform, a flourishing schools outreach programme, and tutorial teaching and research to be proud of. Without the cumulative gifts of alumni, parents, Fellows, staff, friends and even current students, much of this would not be possible.

Higher education fundraising has really gathered momentum in Britain in recent years and Exeter is leading the way. Exonians are showing what pulling together can achieve and inspiring others to invest in education. Floreat Exon! ■

Exeter's Celebrations Reach a (Very) High Point!

Members of Exeter's community embark on an intrepid journey to Kilimanjaro, the roof of Africa, and raise an amazing £30,000 for Exeter College along the way. **Chris Drake** (1975, Jurisprudence)

Our plan developed over cream tea at the Ashmolean in May 2012, inspired by the sunny skies on the terrace, as well as Exeter's 700th birthday. Our journey concluded 16 months later with a group of Exonians breathlessly making their way to Mount Kilimanjaro's Uhuru Peak, many leagues from Oxford and some 5,895 metres above sea level.

We were a multi-generational group of 18, ranging from a current undergraduate to a matriculant from the 1950s. We also spanned continents: some from the UK and continental Europe, others from the United States and China. We were drawn by the worthy cause of raising funds for the College, as well as the prospect of immersing ourselves in Africa's landscapes: equatorial jungle, misty rainforest, grasslands, alpine plateaus, and glacial mountain heights.

The Lemosho Trail involves six days of trekking and then a night of climbing to reach Kibo, Kilimanjaro's summit, at dawn. We began at the Big Tree campsite at a modest height of 2,800 metres, with colobus monkeys playing in the trees above our tents.

We started to feel the oxygen shortage early on, but we acclimatised. Our chief local guide, the magnificent Julius John 'Whitey' who has 100 ascents of Kilimanjaro under his belt, kept our spirits up and set the pace. The watch-word was 'Polepole, kama kinyonga' (or 'Slowly, like a chameleon!').

We depended on a team to carry our tents, main packs, food, medical equipment and supplies, to put the tents up and have a hot meal ready. We appreciated the Ashante team greatly. And how could we forget their enthusiastic singing of 'Jambo, Jambo Bwana, Kilimanjaro Hakuna Matata!' and 'Bomba', the sounds of which lingered and were still keeping our hearts, if not feet, dancing days later.

We drew on a substantial musical repertoire to help us plod on rhythmically, carrying day packs with snacks, extra clothing and three or four litres of water. We remembered Exeter, tweeting progress reports and taking photos in which the College crest and our 700th anniversary T-shirts took pride of place.

We reached Barafu Camp, the base from which to make our final ascent, and spent a finger-tingling afternoon sorting out our packs, digging out the last energy bars, and layering clothing. It was impossible to rest in the buzz of excitement.

With a 'last' supper under our belts, and snow falling, we launched our assault on the summit at around 10pm. Soon we saw stars in the sky above, but then realised that they were not stars but the head-torches of climbers high above us! For hours we zig-zagged our way up, a relentless trek in which we were both alone in the darkness of the mountainside but also connected to each other in a chain of timeless endeavour – striving to get to the top because it was there.

The cold got to us first, creeping through layers of clothing and into one's bones and spirit, but it was the altitude that had the potential to break us; we had to find it within ourselves to keep going. Our long night was over when the dawn began to break over the jagged spikes of the Mawenzi summit. Morale boosted, we strode on, the destination of the crater rim at Stella Point in view. Many give up in the final few hundred metres, and we saw why! With about half the amount of oxygen in the air as at sea level, every step was a conscious effort. In a state of wonder, tinged with disbelief,

> "In a state of wonder, tinged with disbelief, we finally touched the top of the mountain, stumbling into the other-world that is the roof of Africa

we finally touched the top of the mountain, stumbling into the other-world that is the roof of Africa. In our state of light-headedness, glacier, sky, and desert were melded into one magical moment.

We savoured the summit and our achievement, but not for long. We still had a full day ahead of us, as it is too high to linger and the health risks are real. The ascent had been quite gentle but the descent was steep. We used poles to balance and take some of the pressure off knees and legs. We had set off that evening from 4,600 metres, reached 5,895 metres at the summit, and our destination that night was at 3,730 metres. Our last night under canvas was at Millennium Camp. The next day the promise of a shower and celebratory dinner at Weru Weru Lodge lay ahead, but we appreciated our last stroll on Kili, and did not hurry.

Too soon we were at the airport, muscles aching, but glowing with our achievement. We have wonderful memories of the Great Barranco Wall, Shira Cathedral with its breath-taking ridge-top views, sweeping moorland caldera, the Lava Tower, starry nights, millet porridge breakfasts, the lush Karanga Valley with its mysterious trees, the experience of camping on the mountain and, last but not least, a lot of good-spirited companionship. And it was also no bad thing that collectively we raised over £30,000 for Exeter College! Anyone for Aconcagua? ■

List of Participants: Stanley Johnson (1959, English), Richard du Parcq (1961, Chemistry), Peter Collins (1970, Chemistry), Chris Drake (1975, Jurisprudence), Anthony Green (1979, Modern Languages), Rhodri Williams (1981, Modern Languages), Jonathan Miller (1982, Modern History), Clive Neil (1985, Physics), Jintao Liu (2002, Engineering, Economics & Management), Emily Watson (2002, Literae Humaniores), Ana-Zeralda Canals Hamann (2002, Clinical Medicine), Christine Kelly (2004, PPE), Catherine Page (2004, Modern Languages), Philippa Underwood (2004, Biochemistry), Emma Carroll (2005, PPE), Elsa Lignos (2005, Economics), Patrick Gartland (2011, Jurisprudence), Bill Kennedy (Friend)

Pictures: Members of Exeter's Kilimanjaro team

Chasing Success

Tessa Stanley Price, Deputy Director of Development, celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit among Exeter's students and alumni and their willingness to share knowledge and experience.

In June 2014, Twitter co-founder Biz Stone returned to Exeter, where he is an Associate Member of the SCR. Sitting among a circle of students and alumni in the Rector's Garden as the midsummer light faded, and keeping jetlag at bay with a large whisky, he gave an informal and inspiring talk on his career as an entrepreneur, from those early Twitter days to his new start-up, Jelly.

This is not the first time that discussions of this nature have taken place in College. Several of our current students are developing new businesses, from Vivek Doraiswamy's (2011, Computer Science) Swapplr, an online platform for students to swap unwanted belongings, to Toni Weis's (2007, African Studies) Run Africa, a tour company that takes keen amateur runners to East Africa to train with some of the greatest Kenyan and Ethiopian athletes.

In our correspondence with Exonians over the last 18 months, the Development Office has been struck by the strong current of entrepreneurship in the alumni community which, until now, has not been celebrated. So in late 2013 we founded our 'Exepreneurs' programme, to bring discussions on entrepreneurship to centre stage at Exeter. We held our first gathering at the offices of City Asset Management, a family firm in Old Street, generously hosted by Tracy Coghill (1990, Jurisprudence) and her colleagues. Within two days of issuing invitations we were fully booked, giving us an indication of the appetite for events of this nature.

Garrett Johnson (2006, Migration Studies) and Ash Rust (2005, Computer Science) described SendHub, their Palo Alto start-up which offers telephony solutions to small and medium businesses, and Tom Weiss (1991, Physics) discussed his company Genius Digital, which conducts consumer analytics for TV operators. Matthew Green (2001, Modern History) spoke about Unreal City Audio Tours, his immersive walking tour company which gives punters shots of 17th-century coffee as they are led through ancient parts of London, surrounded by a troupe of actors in period garb. The presentations were excellent, but even more inspiring was the informal audience discussion afterwards, chaired by Roger Munnings (1969, PPE), where common issues were aired and experiences shared, warts and all.

Over Founder's Weekend in April 2014, in our second Exepreneurs session, Ravi Takhar (1984, Jurisprudence) told us how he went from working at the family corner shop to brokering multi-million-pound deals with alternative lenders, Henry Whittaker (1998, Engineering) spoke about his mobile shopping app and seed funding for start-ups, and Toni Weis explained Run Africa, which he co-founded while working full-time on his DPhil in Ethiopian politics. With several students in attendance, our speakers offered practical advice and shared stories of success and failure.

I am keen to hear from alumni willing to speak at future Exepreneurs events. Our next steps are to find ways to create more alumni-student interaction on entrepreneurship and to encourage inter-Exonian mentoring for alumni at all stages of business experience, from nervous starter right up to seasoned venture capitalist.

We hope that our Exepreneurs programme will grow as the College moves into its eighth century. No institution reaches its 700th birthday by standing still! ■

Picture: Toni Weis's start-up, Run Africa, enables tourists to train with some of Africa's top professional runners

'I give because...'

With so many charities and good causes testing our benevolence, **Katrina Hancock** (1998, Earth Sciences), Director of Development, assesses what motivates people to give.

I received a call the other evening asking if I would make a gift to support a charity. It was unusual to be the person on the receiving end of the phone. Fortunately, it wasn't my children's bed time or else, like parents during the Exeter telethon, I would have asked for a call back!

So, the question – would I give? I knew what the charity did and I have previously supported it. But was that enough motivation to give again? I have met hundreds of donors, mostly Exonians, and I have always been challenged and surprised by the different motivations people have for making a gift.

The most common motivation for Exeter alumni is their desire to give something back. The Rector calls this an informal social contract whereby those who have benefited from the College feel a desire, even an obligation, to reciprocate. We see this often in alumni who care passionately about student support or the tutorial system.

Research by Prince and File, authors of 'The Seven Faces of Philanthropy: A New Approach to Cultivating Major Donors', concluded that there are seven 'faces' of philanthropy. There are those who give out of this loyal sense of giving back. Then there are altruists, who give out of generosity and empathy to urgent causes, in a selfless, anonymous manner.

Several of our alumni employed in the financial sector manage their philanthropy much as they do their financial portfolio, applying a careful analysis to charitable contributions and adopting an 'investor' attitude. They want to see a return on their gift in the form of measurable improvements in the provision of teaching or wider student access.

The 'socialite' donor enjoys making the world a better place and believes you can have a good time doing it. Think of gala dinners and charity auctions, which many find enjoyable ways to support a cause – or perhaps of Exeter's biannual City Drinks. Their public show of support often encourages friends and families to give as well.

> “Altruists give out of generosity and empathy in a selffless manner

At my daughter's school fete I saw donors who are focussed on the community. These donors were involved in local charities, often engaging with local businesses and serving on local boards and committees. They work to achieve more in their community than government funding will provide.

Those who have an active faith may be motivated by a belief that they are obliged to give of their time, talent, and treasure. This duty is seen in the Judaeo-Christian tradition of tithing, in Zakat, the third pillar of Islam, and in other faiths.

Dynasts also see giving as an expectation, placed upon them by the historic philanthropy of their families. Exeter has some alumni with family wealth who have grown up knowing they are expected to be philanthropic.

Knowing the theory is only part of the story. In every relationship I develop with an alumnus, parent or friend, it helps to understand what motivates their giving, even though they may not be conscious of the reasons themselves. Whatever the motivations, I hope all alumni will choose to make a gift to Exeter.

Finally, back to the phone call! Was I motivated to give? I give to Exeter because I want to give back – I would not have been able to complete my degree without the financial aid Exeter gave me. But otherwise my giving is motivated by my faith and my commitment to my local community, so on this occasion I was motivated to say yes! ■

Not Just Fun and Games

ExVac's activity holidays provide children with confidence, life-skills, relaxation, and a world of fun, writes **Abigail Tyer** (2011, Biochemistry).

ExVac, Exeter's student-run charity, organises two holidays a year for children from socially and economically deprived backgrounds in the Oxfordshire area. Many of the children are young carers or have suffered abuse at home. For the majority of children who participated in the ExVac experience this year it was their first opportunity to go on holiday; we aim to give these children a break along with many invaluable new life-skills.

Fundraising is an essential part of ExVac and this year was a successful one. Thanks to the hard work of both our internal and external fundraising teams, as well as the generosity of many Exeter alumni, local trusts and businesses, we approach next year in a sound financial state. We have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside the Development Office at Exeter's 700th anniversary events. It has also been great to meet some of the many alumni who visited the College during events such as the Decade Days and Founder's Day.

Our fundraising efforts culminated in two successful holidays this Easter. We returned to Woodrow High House in Buckinghamshire and were again impressed by the friendliness and flexibility of the staff. The week involved a variety of activities including sports, arts and crafts, day trips to places of interest, street dancing, and a murder mystery evening.

We were fortunate with the weather during both weeks, which enhanced the enjoyment of the children and leaders. It was great to see the children enjoying their free time and organised activities in the spacious grounds that Woodrow High House offers. One boy spent a considerable amount of time chasing and drawing pheasants, and the ExVac football team flourished! On the way home a seven-year-old girl told me she now knew she could stay away from home and have fun, and was excited to repeat the experience. I am sure this was echoed by many of the children as phone numbers were exchanged amongst new friends before they said their goodbyes. ■

> It was great to see the children enjoying their free time and organised activites in the spacious grounds that Woodrow High House offers

Picture: Children on an adventure in the grounds of Woodrow High House

40th Anniversary of Cuppers Success

As Exeter's football team revels in Cuppers glory, **Graham Howell** (1972, Jurisprudence) looks back at the last time Exeter lifted the coveted trophy.

Exeter was not known as a sporting college in the mid-1970s, but in one glorious season in 1973-74 the football team, against all odds, reached the Cuppers final at the Iffley Road stadium.

It was a good mix of first-, second- and third-year undergraduates with Murray Feely (1973, PPE), a rare Exeter 'blue', driving the team on from midfield.

Exeter came up against Magdalen in the final. Magdalen were very much the sporting aristocrats at the time and packed full of soccer 'blues'. Exonians took over the stadium and everyone from the College seemed to be there to cheer Exeter on.

Bernie Watts (1972, Metallurgy) scored the only goal of the game with a speculative long-range shot. To quote the *Oxford Mail*, the stadium was overtaken by 'scenes of South American fervour' at the final whistle – a great triumph!

In October, members of the winning team will reunite at Exeter College for a celebratory dinner to commemorate 40 years since this success and to raise a glass to Exeter's current football team, who also won Cuppers this year. ■

Picture: The 1973-74 Exeter football team rejoice at winning Cuppers

In Defence of The Social Sciences

Sophie Scholl (2012, Jurisprudence) meets the new president of the Academy of Social Sciences, Sir Ivor Crewe (1963, PPE), and discovers what makes the social sciences so valuable.

Often marginalised or ignored, the social sciences struggle to persuade people to take them seriously. They are unreliable and a waste of tax-payers' money, so the criticism goes. So why invest in them? One Exeter alumnus has devoted his professional life to this question. Master of University College in Oxford since 2008, and recently appointed president of the Academy of Social Sciences, not many can claim such devotion to the world of academia as Sir Ivor Crewe.

Having come up to study PPE at Exeter in 1963, Sir Ivor got his first step on the academic career ladder in 1966 as research assistant for a survey of the social background of civil servants for the Government-appointed Fulton Commission on the Civil Service. He was then appointed assistant lecturer in politics at Lancaster University, before returning to Oxford aged 23 to research the electoral attitudes of the middle classes. This led him to the Department of Government at the University of Essex, where he stayed for 36 years.

> There are countless areas that would benefit from social research

Sir Ivor acknowledges that academic careers are not to everyone's taste, and are not generally as profitable as working in the City. But there is, in his view, no equivalent elsewhere that provides time for personal research and scholarship, creating lasting monuments of one's work, and the satisfaction of teaching and the enduring influence it leaves. Sir Ivor attributes his decision to become an academic to the enthusiasm of his politics tutor during his time at

Exeter. 'I owe an awful lot to Norman Hunt,' he says. Hunt was involved in politics and an adviser to Harold Wilson. 'I remember being terribly impressed by the fact that tutorials would be interrupted from time to time by phone calls and hearing him say things like "yes Harold", or "no Harold, I wouldn't do that."'

In recognition of his lifetime of academic work, Sir Ivor was last year elected president of the Academy of Social Sciences. The Academy was set up in response to a need for a national body to represent the interests of the growing disciplines of economics, politics, sociology, business and law.

But what is it about the social sciences that makes them so valuable? Sir Ivor explains: just as you would expect government policy in technical areas to be influenced by rigorous scientific research, so you would also hope that social and economic policy would be guided by the research of social scientists. You cannot begin to adopt a sensible policy on, for instance, drug abuse, without having quality research on the drug scene that tells you why people are becoming addicted, who they are, what difference the price of drugs makes and the effect of various counter-addiction treatments. There are countless areas that would benefit from social research, from child abuse to inequality to mental health.

The Academy's aim is to persuade the Government to make better use of such research. As president, Sir Ivor hopes to nudge the Academy in the right direction by encouraging many more social scientists and bodies to support the Academy, not only financially, but by promoting the benefits of social-scientific research. He hopes to ensure that the voices of experienced social science researchers are heard at the highest levels of government.

It is an unpredictable and varied career. But as Sir Ivor notes, 'If you want to be a scholar, if you want to do research, create new knowledge, and if you want to teach and disseminate it, then an academic career offers you a working life, and in my view, a fulfilment, that you are unlikely to find elsewhere.' ■

Picture: Sir Ivor Crewe

Embracing the Exeter Family

Aroop Mukharji (2007, Williams) reminisces on his time at Exeter, where he and previous generations of his family enjoyed studying.

On arriving in Oxford in 2007, as part of the Williams-Exeter Programme at Oxford (WEPO), my grasp of the British accent was so weak that it took me some time to work out that the friendly expression 'chiz' the locals kept using was the British pronunciation of 'cheers'. Given that this was day one, you can imagine what wonders an entire year did for my personal growth and cultural understanding.

At Exeter we ate in a 17th-century dining hall, dodged buses and pedestrians on our bicycles, played tennis on grass, and navigated the university's labyrinthine library system. The undergraduate bar was a welcome cultural novelty. Exeter was a 'home away from home'. Best of all, upon arriving we each received three purple towels with 'Williams' embroidered on them in gold. We had two wonderful directors, a librarian, and a fearless programme administrator.

Williams and Oxford each carry great personal weight for me. My brother studied at Williams before me. But Exeter too has been a part of my family history for almost 100 years. Both my great-grandfather (AP Mookerji, 1922) and my grandfather (MK Mukharji, 1946) were lucky to study at Exeter as undergraduates when study abroad was not common. Part of the reason I attended Williams was the WEPO programme.

Exeter in the 1940s looked different. My grandfather's acceptance letter was a five-word telegraph cable. He had no hot water in his room and had to scurry across the Quad to shower. Students had ration books for food and garments, and Oxford was full of veterans of the Second World War who, my grandfather observed, drank whisky instead of sherry at the College buttery.

To this day my grandfather describes his time at Exeter as the best three years of his life. He speaks of the intellectual exhilaration of tutorials, his classmates, the charms of lawn tennis and punting, and the close-knit community for which Exeter College is so noted. He remembers friendly Brits, like his Cornish friend who invited him to Penzance, and Sir Roger Bannister, who lived beneath him.

That is also the Exeter I know. Its warmth and intimacy remain the same, from the freshers with whom we went through orientation, to the Rector who welcomed us with an American-style barbecue. We were cheered on at sports events and musical performances, and supported in tougher times as well.

I had tutorial meetings on Oscar Wilde just 200 yards from where he studied as an undergraduate. Four of us even took tutorials with Sir Roger Bannister, much to my grandfather's delight. My Exeter tutor introduced me to International Relations theory, which has been the focus of my academic career since.

The same collegiate culture that piqued my grandfather's intellectual curiosity piqued mine. None of it would have happened if it were not for the long-standing connection between Williams and Exeter. It is the closest and second oldest connection in Oxford, and WEPO students now enjoy the same rights and privileges as full-time Oxford students. Around 700 Williams students (a fitting number for Exeter's 700th anniversary) have walked through Exeter's front door on Turl Street, and I look forward to 700 more. ■

Picture: Aroop Mukharji, second from right, with fellow WEPO students

The Creation of Mischief

Peter Miéville (1971, English) describes his new play and the process that brought about *Mischief*.

Earlier this year I outlined, over a glass of wine, my new play to a producer friend of mine.

Inspired by real events, *Mischief* concerns an internationally-renowned actor, now in a retirement home, struggling to come to terms with his failing powers and the reasons for his varied success. Via his love of Dickens and Shakespeare he begins to understand the curious alchemy of identity, timing and destiny, and the secret ingredient of his greatest role, created against the odds, and restores a family rift in the process. It is serious and comic, with original music and dance.

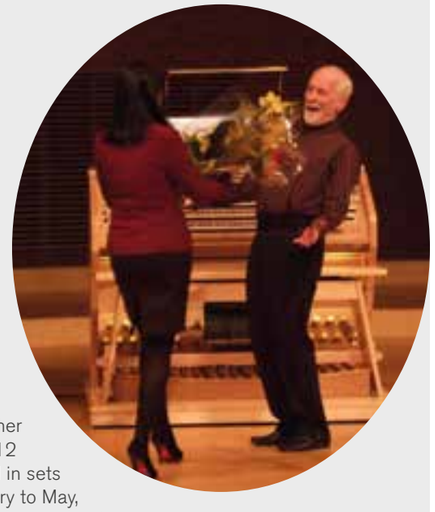
Mischief had its first read-through at the beautiful Wilton's Hall in London in May, with workshops in Suffolk over the summer. The pleasure of building and shaping the piece collaboratively has been integral to the journey, like the actor's part. We premiere at the ADC Theatre in Cambridge in March 2015, and aim to take the play to London and beyond.

'Well?' I asked my friend. 'What do you think?'

'Love it!' She said, taking a sip of her wine. 'English?' ■

I'll be Bach

Christopher Herrick (1961, Music), a former Organ Scholar at Exeter, celebrates Johann Sebastian Bach's organ works with a series of 12 concerts.



I was the Organ Scholar at Exeter when the College celebrated its 650th anniversary in 1964. Fifty years later, as Exeter celebrates its 700th anniversary, I have had the pleasure of celebrating one of the world's great organ composers, Johann Sebastian Bach, at a series of concerts in St Petersburg, by performing all 900 minutes of his compositions for the organ.

Bach's body of organ music takes up over 16 CDs. Having recorded it for Hyperion Records on Swiss Metzler organs in the 1990s, I performed the complete works in 14 concerts over 14 days in 1998 at the Lincoln Center Festival in New York. In 2014, I was delighted to repeat the feat at the Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall in St Petersburg.

The Mariinsky was built in 2006, and holds an audience of 1,100. It is the home of a thrilling French organ built by the Strasbourg firm Daniel Kern, installed in 2009. This time, the programme was rather more spread out – 12 concerts, performed in sets of three from January to May, concluding with the opening night of the International White Nights Festival, St Petersburg's annual celebration of arts during high summer. To my great pleasure, the concerts were almost sold out. The Mariinsky has beautiful acoustics, and was a fitting setting for a celebration of both Bach's genius as a composer and of the organ's timeless appeal. ■

Pictures: Peter Miéville leafs through the script of *Mischief*; Christopher Herrick receives a congratulatory bouquet at the Mariinsky

It's Party Time

Inspired by the buzzing a cappella scene in Oxford, alumni form their own group in London. **Anjali Joseph** (2010, Modern European History)

A cappella is a genre that relies on the human voice alone to create a multi-textured sound involving both singing and more experimental uses of the voice. Helped by main-stream films such as *Pitch Perfect* and groups such as Pentatonix, a cappella is becoming increasingly popular. In England it enjoys special prominence at certain universities, having been imported by American students. Oxford is one such hub, and it is where I met some of the members of my current group, AfterParty.

We formed last September, as the brainchild of two former members of Oxford's all-male a cappella group, Out of the Blue. Investing time and money in a new group in a new city, London, was a risk, but one made worthwhile by the prospect of performing together.

Since forming, we have released a single, sung atop the Shard and, in May, sold out our West End debut at the St James Theatre, performing 15 original arrangements by our musical director, Nick Barstow. It was an exhilarating night, not least because, while we take performing and rehearsing seriously, all of us are either working or pursuing postgraduate study full-time. Each member of AfterParty has had to make sacrifices to be part of the group, and it is immensely gratifying to see it all come together.

If you would like to find out more about AfterParty, you can visit our website www.after-party.org.uk where our new single, *Fix You*, is available for free download. ■

Pictures: Members of AfterParty

Cutting Out Prejudice

Surgery is a man's world, or so the statistics suggest. But **Jennifer Lane** (2004, Physiological Sciences) is proving the exception, and is challenging the preconceptions surrounding women in medicine.

A father and son are travelling by car. There is a car crash and the boy's father is killed. The boy is rushed to hospital and requires life-saving surgery. The surgeon walks into the operating theatre and exclaims 'I can't operate on this patient, because he is my son.' How can this be?

This riddle was first discussed in the American sitcom *All in the Family* in 1972. On the show, guesses included the surgeon being the child's biological father or grandfather, and soberingly similar answers have been given by members of the public in media discussion on both sides of the Atlantic this century.

The riddle was the subject of qualitative research by a contemporary of mine in Oxford in 2008, and the issue of gender politics in healthcare remains topical. Professor J Meirion Thomas argued in *The Daily Mail* this year that Britain is training too many female doctors, because women prioritise work-life balance and are accordingly more attracted to general practice than surgery. This drew a swift rebuke from the Royal College of Surgeons, but women remain the minority in surgery despite the significant increase in female intake in medical schools. In my sub-specialty of trauma and orthopaedics, women make up only 20 per cent of the UK consultant body, and in my current workplace there are only five women in a department of 40 surgeons.

Does gender actually matter in medicine? Does the utopia of having it all exist? Is it more disadvantageous to be homosexual or female in surgery? These were all topics of conversation here at Exeter when 10 of the 14 female surgical consultants in the Oxford region aligned their diaries for an evening of dinner and debate alongside 20 clinical medical students. The session was chaired by the Rector in her Lodgings, and we were all able to consider our options and air our deepest concerns, whilst making professional connections that will continue for life.

I still get asked by my seniors to fetch them lunch, and when some patients realise I am a surgeon they compare me to Margaret Thatcher or make emphatic fist pumps. But humour aside, I feel grateful to Exeter for encouraging me to believe in my future, and I hope that this generation of Exonians will continue to build a society that is open and accepting of all. ■

Having spent her first years post qualification working in Central London, Jenny is returning to Oxford to undertake, specialist registrar training in trauma and orthopaedics in October.

Tolkien's Beowulf

William Glover (2013, English) delights in discovering Tolkien's recently published translation of *Beowulf*.

'Lo!', begins Tolkien's long-awaited translation of the Old English epic narrative poem, *Beowulf*, which was published for the first time in May. This pleasingly archaic translation of 'Hwæt!', a formulaic entreaty for attention common in Anglo-Saxon verse, sets the tone for the rest of the work.

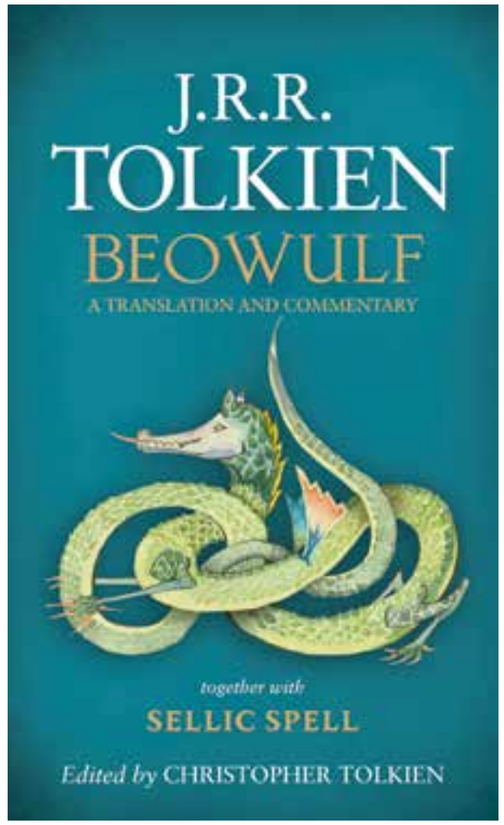
Like the anonymous *Beowulf*-poet, Tolkien's translation is written in a deliberately antiquated style; in a typical sample, Grendel, Beowulf's first opponent, is described as he enters Hrothgar's hall: 'He wrenched then wide, baleful with raging heart, the gaping entrance of the house'. Tolkien is also extremely faithful to the syntax of the original. While this occasionally sacrifices ease of understanding, it does so in favour of capturing the other-worldly feel of Old English in a way unmatched by previous efforts.

The Anglo-Saxon language exerted a strong influence upon Tolkien, even in his younger years. He reportedly began meetings of his childhood literary group with 'Hwæt!', a habit he also brought to his university lectures on *Beowulf*, impressing upon generations of students, among them WH Auden, the dramatic power of Old English poetry. References to *Beowulf* crop up continually in his letters to friends and publishers, often to illustrate a philological point or one regarding his own writing. It is always risky to identify one work as the direct inspiration for another. This said, it is hard not to connect *Beowulf* with Tolkien's fiction, particularly with his most famous works, *The Hobbit* (1937) and *The Lord of the Rings* (1954-55). While Tolkien wrote in a letter that '[*Beowulf*] was not consciously present to the mind in the process of writing' *The Hobbit*, he went on to describe it as 'among [his] most valued sources.' For example, Smaug's rage at Bilbo's theft of a cup strongly resembles a similar event in *Beowulf*: 'Then was the keeper of the barrow swollen with wrath, purposing, fell beast, with fire to avenge his precious drinking-vessel.'

> This volume honours Tolkien's memory not only as a scholar and creator, but also as a father

The publication contains more than a translation. A detailed critical commentary of the poem, collated by Tolkien's son Christopher from Tolkien's various lecture notes and annotations, is a fascinating read in itself. Tolkien's immense scholarship becomes apparent; one word from the poem may receive several pages of etymological and aesthetic analysis. These notes were often intended only for personal use and so are remarkable for their demonstration of scholarly processes rarely seen in fully polished studies intended for publishing.

Indeed, Tolkien did not intend the volume to be published, leading some, such as *Beowulf* expert and emeritus professor of English at the University of Kentucky, Kevin Kiernan, to claim that the publication is, in fact, 'a disservice to [Tolkien], to his memory and his achievement as an artist.' I disagree. The material is extremely well edited by the experienced Christopher Tolkien, and gives Tolkien's many fans new insight. This volume honours Tolkien's memory not only as a scholar and creator, but also as a father (the volume ends with two versions of Tolkien's short poem 'The Lay of Beowulf', said by Christopher to have been sung to him as a boy by his father). Moreover, the publication of a new translation by Tolkien will bring a new generation of readers to *Beowulf*, surely something to celebrate. ■



Exonians in Print

From an insight into Chicago's corrupt courts to a *Doctor Who* audiobook, Exeter's community has once more produced a wealth of good reads.

The Zone of Interest
Martin Amis (1968, English)
Martin Amis's latest novel is a violently dark love story set against a backdrop of evil – Auschwitz concentration camp. It explores identity and the depths and contradictions of the soul.

More Dynamite
Craig Raine (1963, English)
Poet Craig Raine has published a collection of critical essays written between 1990 and 2012, on cinema, fiction, poetry, and installation art, from Kafka and Samuel Beckett to Virginia Woolf and David Foster Wallace.

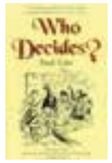
Banaras: Walks Through India's Sacred City
Nandini Majumdar (2013, English)
Musician and writer Nandini Majumdar guides walkers through her home town of Banaras, the holy city of Hinduism and Jainism. Proceeds from the sale of the book will support community and arts revitalisation projects in Banaras.

The Strangler Vine
Miranda Carter (1983, Modern History)
Historian and biographer MJ Carter has produced a historical mystery set in Calcutta in 1837. A senior member of the East India Company has gone missing, Kali-worshippers with a penchant for strangling travellers are on the loose, and an unlikely pairing is sent to investigate.

The Mafia Court: Corruption in Chicago
John Hughes (1950, PPP)
How have the existence and influence of the Mafia in Chicago affected their courts? John Hughes documents the deep corruption of the legal system as a result of the long history of mob influence, and explores the social effects of organised crime.

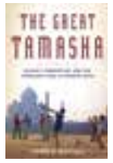
Decolonising the Intellectual
Jane Hiddleston (Fellow in French)
Fellow in French Jane Hiddleston examines the response of French-speaking intellectuals to the end of France's role as a colonial power. How could those educated in and immersed in French culture contribute to the revitalisation of local cultures?

Doctor Who: The Time Machine – Destiny of the Doctor
Matthew Fitton (1988, Classics and English)
Released to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the BBC's *Doctor Who* series, *Destiny of the Doctor* is an audiobook set in and around the Bodleian Library, where much of the story was written.



Who Decides?
Paul Tyler (1960, Modern History)
A guide to collective decision-making, applying psychological theory to the practical problems experienced by anyone who has ever sat on a committee. Find out who makes the decisions – from the Booker prize to bishoprics.

Greek to Latin
Gregory Hutchinson (Fellow in Classics)
Classics Fellow Gregory Hutchinson has published the first comprehensive study of the relationship between Greek and Latin literature. The book is a wide-ranging exploration of how the Romans viewed and borrowed from Greek writing and language.



The Great Tamasha: Cricket, Corruption and the Turbulent Rise of Modern India
James Astill (1992, English)
James Astill tells the story of modern India through the lens of cricket. *The Great Tamasha* covers the rise of the Indian Premier League, corruption scandals, and a nation's love of sport.

Shark
Will Self (1979, PPE)
Will Self's new novel spans decades and explores the seismic events of the 20th century, from the bombing of Hiroshima to the Vietnam War. His protagonist, a psychiatrist, investigates the connections between these events and the complex interplay between humanity and its developing technology.

An Evolutionary Paradigm for International Law: Philosophical Method, David Hume, and the Essence of Sovereignty
John Martin Gillroy (former Visiting Fellow in Law)
Former Visiting Fellow John Gillroy explains the philosophical underpinnings of international law, in a useful book for anyone interested in globalisation, legal thought and political philosophy.

Caveat Vendor: Minding My Own Business
Michael Sharpe (1955, Literae Humaniores)
After a career in the corporate world, Michael Sharpe ran a small business in the Cotswolds for 14 years. These are his reminiscences, a comic take on the ups and downs of working in the world of retail.

Twin Tracks
Roger Bannister (1946, Physiological Sciences)
The autobiography of the man who broke the four-minute mile. Roger Bannister reveals how he did it, and gives his views on modern sport, from drugs to the Olympic legacy.

William Payne 1760-1830: Topographer and Artist of the Picturesque
John Spink and David Japes (1952, Literae Humaniores)
A beautifully illustrated book on the artistic development of British artist William Payne, who became one of the Georgian era's most fashionable picturesque painters. The book contrasts Payne's watercolours with contemporary photographs of the scenes he painted.

The Role of Imagination in Culture and Society: Owen Barfield's Early Work
Astrid Diener (1993, English)
This academic study on Oxford author Owen Barfield, the last member of the 'Inklings' group that included JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis, has become a standard text for Barfield scholars. Now re-issued in paperback with a new introduction.

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