



MICHAELMAS TERM 2016



Welcome...

to the latest edition of *Exeter Matters*, the electronic newsletter for Exonians.

RECTOR'S NEWS



PROFESSOR SIR RICK TRAINOR

The 2016-17 academic year began with the usual welcoming events – tea for the parents of arriving freshers, the signing of the College register by all new arrivals, separate dinners in Hall for new undergraduates and graduates, the scholars' dinner and breakfast in Hall following matriculation.

A major frustration has been the College's inability to move into Cohen Quad the nearly 90 undergraduates scheduled to occupy rooms starting in Michaelmas Term. The affected students have been living instead, at the College's expense, at Jury's Inn in North Oxford. Despite the inconvenience these students have been highly understanding of the situation, which the extra efforts of many colleagues have helped to ease. As the splendid new building in Walton Street is now at a very advanced stage, the College's plans for next term – including student residential occupation and the formal opening of the Quad – remain in place.



COHEN QUAD

Students have played key roles in a number of special occasions. Alumni and undergraduates collaborated productively in subject dinners for Physics (addressed by Exeter Fellow Professor Garret Cotter), Medicine (addressed by Dr Jim Appleyard [1954, Physiological Sciences]), and for Earth Sciences (the Lyell Society). The latter celebrated 200 years since the matriculation of Charles Lyell (1816, Literae Humaniores), who revolutionised geology. A presentation by Exeter Fellow Professor Conall Mac Niocaill demonstrated that much of Lyell's work had withstood two centuries of subsequent research. Meanwhile, the current research of Exeter Fellows gained recognition through Professor Keith Channon's award of £113 million for Oxford's Biomedical Research Centre and the designation of Professor Carol Robinson as one of the top 50 most influential women in the analytical sciences.



PROF DAME CAROL ROBINSON

Student leadership was key both in the magnificent Exeter Choir's release of a CD of Christmas music and in the College's exploits on the river. Concerts in Chapel for donors and in the Tower of London hosted by donors Bruce Carnegie-Brown (1978, English) and Toby Wallis (1978, Literae Humaniores) celebrated the former, and a dinner in Hall marked the College's energetic participation (equally by male

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UFUK OZTURK

and female rowers) in the Christ Church Regatta. Postgraduate students and lecturers provided sparkling pre-dinner presentations for the “subject family dinners” in Language & Literature, and Social Sciences, which were addressed after the meal, respectively, by Lecturer Ufuk Ozturk (German) on the European refugee crisis and by Fellow Dr James Grant (Philosophy) on how to decide whether a work of art is of aesthetic value.

Alumni also figured largely in the College’s life this term. In November Katrina Hancock (the Director of Development), Marguerite and I visited Old Members in the Channel Islands (a traditional recruiting ground for Exeter), and the month closed with a very well attended [City Drinks at HSBC in Canary Wharf](#) hosted by Chris Davies (1981, Modern Languages). To cite two notable achievements by alumni, [Professor Adam Smyth \(1990, Modern History\), now a Fellow in English at Balliol, gained the University’s “Recognition of Distinction”](#) (promotion to full professor), and [Helen Marten \(2005, Fine Art\) was awarded the first Hepworth Prize in Sculpture and the Turner Prize](#) in the space of a month, the prize money of which she generously pledged to share with the prizes’ other finalists.



PROFESSOR ADAM SMYTH

As usual, there were several Rector’s Seminars this term. Professor Gordon McMullan (King’s College London) continued the College’s commemorations of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death; Andrew Wolstenholme (Chief Executive of Crossrail) analysed the managerial challenges of that colossal project; Nicolas Colin and Jean-Jacques Augier demonstrated that the UK is not the only country with major challenges by discussing obstacles to reform in France; Professor Bo Rothstein (Oxford’s Blavatnik School of Government) took on the highly topical subject of “Social Trust”; and Professor Kristin Forbes (a member of the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee) provided an impressive survey of global economic challenges and opportunities.



HELEN MARTEN

[The annual symposium – this year on “The Power of the Written Word” – organised by Katrina Hancock mobilised an impressive array of Exeter alumni \(Adam Smyth, Reeta Chakrabarti \[1984, English & French\], Eleanor Franzen \[2010, English\], John Gapper \[1978, PPE\], Leby Eyres \[1990, Literae Humaniores\], Gregory Lim \[2003, Physiological Sciences\] and Neil Blair \[1986, Jurisprudence\]\). They provided, with input also from Jeri Johnson \(Sub-Rector and Peter Thompson Fellow in English\), an array of theoretical and practical insights about the production of the written and spoken word. Meanwhile, Professor Christopher Rea \(University of British Columbia\) enhanced our understanding of a substantial Chinese element of Exeter’s literary heritage by discussing the work of major novelists Qian Zhongshu \(1935, BLitt\) and his wife Yang Jiang.](#)

Having celebrated Diwali (at which Rector Cairncross was the guest speaker) and Thanksgiving through oversubscribed dinners in Hall, I wish all the members of the Exeter Family a very happy Christmas and a very prosperous 2017. As you mark the festive season, please keep in mind [the six Exeter undergraduates who will brave winter weather to visit Williams College during the first two weeks of January to participate in the Winter Study Programme there.](#) This visit to northwestern Massachusetts will be the most substantial movement of our students to Williams in the more than 30 years of Exeter’s very productive collaboration with that outstanding liberal arts college.



WILLIAMS COLLEGE, MA

Professor Sir Rick Trainor, Rector

COLLEGE NEWS



Exeter students to move into Cohen Quadrangle in January

Eighty-six Exeter students will move into brand new College accommodation in January 2017. Cohen Quadrangle will welcome its first students at the start of Hilary Term. This new building will provide students with affordable accommodation in the heart of Oxford while easing the burden on Oxford's private rental market. It will provide Exeter students and research and teaching fellows with state-of-the-art facilities on a stunning new campus. All of the first floor study-bedrooms are now complete, as are the family kitchens (pictured).

Exeter students to study at Williams College, Massachusetts

In January 2017, six Exeter undergraduates will take up scholarships offered by Williams College, Massachusetts, enabling them to study there for two weeks of their Winter Study Program, alongside Williams College students. The initiative was arranged between Williams College's President, Professor Adam Falk, and Exeter College's Rector, Professor Sir Rick Trainor, and will provide a fantastic opportunity to strengthen the ties between the two colleges.

Exeter to launch new Summer School Programme

The summer of 2017 will see an exciting addition to the College's portfolio of vacation activities as Exeter launches its Exeter College Summer Programme. This is a unique new offering which is set to break new ground in Oxford.

Modelled on Oxford undergraduate teaching, the six-week Programme has been designed to provide an experience of some of the best that the College can offer. College Fellows and academics from the University of Oxford will deliver a high quality, discussion-based, research-driven academic experience through a wide range of academic courses reflecting the current expertise in Oxford.



Dr Christopher Markiewicz awarded Malcolm H Kerr Dissertation Award in the Humanities

Dr Christopher Markiewicz, Bennett Boskey Fellow in Extra-European History, has been awarded the Malcolm H Kerr Dissertation Award in the Humanities for 2016 from the Middle East Studies Association (MESA). Dr Markiewicz received the award for his research, *The Crisis of Rule in Late Medieval Islam: A Study of Idris Bidlisi (861-926/1457-1520) and Kingship at the Turn of the Sixteenth Century*. The award was announced at MESA's annual awards ceremony in Boston in November.

Prof Carol Robinson in top 50 most influential women in the analytical sciences

Professor Dame Carol Robinson, Royal Society Research Professor and Dr Lee's Professor of Chemistry, has been named one of the top 50 most influential women in the analytical sciences in the 2016 Power List published by *The Analytical Scientist* magazine. The aim of *The Analytical Scientist* in compiling the list is to prove how impactful and diverse the field of analytical sciences is by sharing the passions, pivotal moments and predictions of talented scientists who, through their work, shape our future.



Emeritus Fellow in German Helen Watanabe-O'Kelly receives honorary degree

Congratulations to Emeritus Fellow Helen Watanabe-O'Kelly, who received an honorary degree from the National University of Ireland this month. Professor Watanabe-O'Kelly was awarded a DLitt for her contribution to the study of German literature and culture. The ceremony took place at the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin.



Exeter's sports teams battle with Cambridge sister college

In November a 70-strong group of sportsmen and women from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Exeter's sister college, arrived in Oxford ready to do battle with Exeter in the inaugural "College Varsity". Over the course of the day students competed in football, rugby, netball, hockey, and squash. [Click here to find out how the battle of the colleges unfolded.](#)

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE NEWS



Exeter welcomes new Development Officer

Exeter welcomed Chiara van Praag as Development Officer in November. Chiara will oversee regular giving, telethons, and donations to the annual fund. She comes to us from Wolfson College where she has just completed a master's degree in International Development, having been inspired to study this area following four years at Save the Children UK. She is currently leading our December telethon, which runs until 14 December. Chiara is looking forward to getting to know more Exeter students and alumni over the coming months.



Katrina Hancock to leave Development Office

At the end of March 2017 we'll be saying goodbye to Katrina Hancock, Fellow and Director of Development, as she takes time out to spend more time with her family. After 12 years working for the College, 10 of which as Director of Development, she will be leaving on a high as we celebrate the formal opening of Cohen Quad and raising £50m for the Exeter *Excelling* campaign on 18 and 19 March. She admits that it was a hard decision to make as working for Exeter is more than "just a job" but is looking forward to this next stage in her life and focussing more on her children (Rose, 6 and Toby, 4) and some of the pro-bono work that she's already doing outside of College life. She intends to remain in touch with Exeter, as an alumna, but plans to give her successor (to be appointed) some space to settle in first!



Exeter hosts Power of the Written Word symposium

On Saturday 26 November Exonians and their guests were welcomed back to Exeter College for a day of talks focussed on the Power of the Written Word. Guest speakers and panellists included Professor Adam Smyth (1990, Modern History), Professor Christopher Rea, Reeta Chakrabarti (1984, English & French) (pictured), John Gapper (1978, PPE), Eleanor Franzen (2010, English), Gregory Lim (2003, Physiological Sciences), Lebby Eyres (1990, Literae Humaniores), Neil Blair (1986, Jurisprudence), and Jeri Johnson (Fellow in English). [Click here to read about the symposium and to listen to podcasts of the lectures and discussions.](#)



Exeter Christmas cards for sale

Exeter College Christmas cards are now on sale. Two stunning designs are available this year: a painting of the Chapel in the snow by Max Mulvany (2009, Fine Art), and The Adoration of the Magi tapestry, designed by Exonians William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, which hangs in the College Chapel.

The cards come in packs of 10 and cost £6 (plus post and packaging). To order yours today and for more information email development@exeter.ox.ac.uk.

UNIVERSITY NEWS



Oxford ranked first among global universities

The University of Oxford ranks Number 1 in the latest *Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings*. Oxford becomes the first British university to occupy top position in the global table, which judges the performance of 980 universities across 79 countries. *Times Higher Education* describes the World University Rankings as the only international league table to assess universities across all activities, analysing their teaching, research, citations, industry collaboration and international outlook.

Oxford announces its partnership with edX and its first MOOC

The University of Oxford has announced a new development in its digital education strategy: a partnership with edX which means that people can start to enrol for its first massive open online course (MOOC). As part of the agreement between the University of Oxford and edX, a leading nonprofit online learning destination, Oxford will offer a MOOC from February 2017.

Professor Sarah Whatmore, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education, said: “This collaboration will build capacity for the design and delivery of a range of other online education experiences as the University progresses its Digital Education Strategy. Oxford already has a strong reputation for delivering open educational resources that are used by students, academics and the public worldwide.”



Oxford alumnus shares Nobel Prize in Physics 2016

An Oxford alumnus has been awarded a share of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics. Michael Kosterlitz, who carried out his DPhil at Brasenose College between 1966 and 1969, was named a Nobel Laureate for his pioneering work to help reveal the secrets of exotic phases of matter that were hitherto unknown.

Professor Kosterlitz, now of Brown University in the US, shared half the prize with Professor Duncan Haldane of Princeton University, USA, with the other half going to Professor David Thouless of the University of Washington, USA.

ALUMNI NEWS



Helen Marten (2005, Fine Art) wins Turner and Hepworth prizes

Exeter alumna Helen Marten (2005, Fine Art) has won the Turner Prize. It comes less than a month after she received the inaugural Hepworth Prize for Sculpture.

She received the 2016 Turner Prize for projects including her presentation at the 56th Venice Biennale and the solo exhibition *Eucalyptus, Let Us In* at Greene Naftali, New York. [Click here to read more.](#)

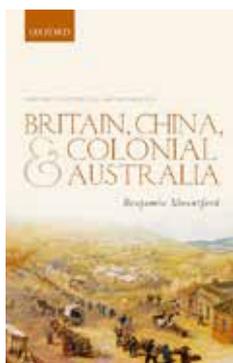


Exonian alumni choir launched in London

Former Exeter Organ Scholar Tim Muggeridge (pictured) has set up an alumni choir in London, The Exonian Choir. The aim is to connect the College's musical alumni and to produce a similar standard of music-making that so many enjoyed in the College's prestigious Chapel Choir. The group is made up of many former Chapel Choir members, ranging from those who have just left College right back to singers from the old men's-voice choir of the 1960s and 1970s.

Adam Smyth (1990, Modern History) receives Recognition of Distinction award

Congratulations to Adam Smyth (1990, Modern History) who has received a Recognition of Distinction award from the University of Oxford, thereby earning the title of professor. Professor Smyth is Fellow and Tutor in English Literature 1350–1660 at Balliol College and University Lecturer in the History of the Book 1450–1650.



Exonians in print

Benjamin Mountford (2008, History) has published *Britain, China, and Colonial Australia* with Oxford University Press. It is the first detailed study of Australian and Chinese interaction with the British Empire in the long nineteenth century (regarded as the period from 1789 to 1914). Dr Mountford draws on a range of hitherto unexplored UK and Australian archives to offer fresh insights into Australia's place in the British Empire and its role in shaping migration history.

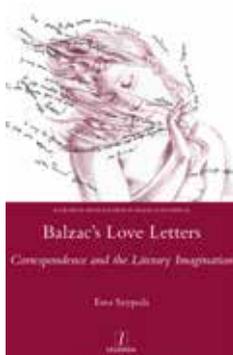
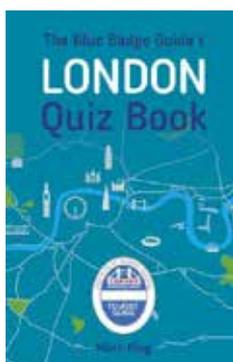
Quintember by Richard Major (1989, Theology) tells the story of Felix Culpepper, tutor in Classics at St Wygefortis' College, Cambridge, and assassin-at-large for the British establishment. From the eerie deserts of New Mexico to the high-rolling hotels of the Adriatic, Culpepper moves with consummate ease and an unexpected penchant for guns, drugs and esoteric methods of murder.

Mark King (1974, Modern History and Modern Languages) has created the *London Quiz Book*, a fun way to discover the best of London. Drawing on extensive knowledge and celebrating London's diverse riches, the book invites readers to come on a wide-ranging exploration of the city Mark King calls 'The Big Onion'.

John Quelch (1969, Modern History), Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, has published his latest book, *Building a Culture of Health: A New Imperative for Business*. In it he explores how every company impacts public health and he introduces a robust model, rooted in organisational and scientific knowledge, for companies committed to making positive contributions to health and wellness.

Ewa Szypluła (2001, Modern Languages) will publish a study of love letters written by French novelist and playwright Honoré de Balzac this month. *Balzac's Love Letters: Correspondence and the Literary Imagination* is a highly original study in which Dr Szypluła reappraises the intriguing correspondence between the French novelist and his literary lover, the Polish countess Evelina Hanska.

Peter Mann (1971, English) has published his memoir, *Sheriff of Wan Chai*. It is an anecdotal, historical and racy account of Hong Kong's last years as a British colony and the colourful story of a young Englishman in the twilight of empire. It contains a chapter about his time in England, including his years at Exeter College.



EVENTS

Fortescue Society Dinner, Exeter College, Friday 3 February

Old Members and Fellows who read Law at Exeter are warmly invited back to Exeter College for the annual Fortescue Society Dinner, this year kindly sponsored by CMS.

Alumni Event in Liverpool, Hill Dickinson LLP, Friday 10 February

Liverpool-based alumni and Friends are warmly invited to this event kindly hosted by Peter Jackson (1979, Jurisprudence). Invitations will be sent in January.

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Exepreneurs – Drinks in London, City Asset Management, Thursday 23 February

All alumni with an interest in entrepreneurship are welcome to Exeter's annual Exepreneurs event. The event is kindly hosted by Tracy Coghill (1990, Jurisprudence) and her colleagues at City Asset Management.

Parents' Dinner, Exeter College, Saturday 25 February

All parents/guardians of second year and non-finalist third year Exeter students are warmly invited to the annual Parents' Dinner.

PPE Dinner, Exeter College, Friday 3 March

Alumni who read PPE at Exeter are warmly invited to the annual PPE Dinner, along with those who read Economics, Management and MBA.

Formal Opening of Cohen Quad, Walton Street, Saturday 18 to Sunday 19 March

The formal opening of Exeter's "third quadrangle", exclusively for those who have donated to the Exeter Excelling Campaign. Further information will be available on the College website shortly.

Alumni Event in Hong Kong, Thursday 23 March

Alumni based in Hong Kong and China are invited to join the Rector for a drinks reception. Further information will be available on the College website shortly.

Alumni Event in Singapore, Saturday 25 March

Alumni currently based in Singapore and Malaysia are invited to the University Gala and reception with the Rector of Exeter College. This is taking place during The University of Oxford Alumni Reunion Weekend in Singapore.

Amelia Jackson Society Luncheon, Exeter College, Wednesday 19 April

Members of the Amelia Jackson Society are invited to the Society's fifth annual meeting at Exeter College. The Amelia Jackson Society honours those who have pledged a legacy to Exeter College in their will. Invitations will be sent out in January.

AND FINALLY...



Dinosaur brain tissue discovered for first time in 130m-year-old fossil is studied by Exonian Dr Alex Liu

A brown, pebble-sized object found in a rock pool on a beach near Bexhill, Sussex bears the first evidence of fossilised dinosaur brain tissue, scientists say. Among the scientists studying the remarkable fossil is Dr Alexander Liu, who read Earth Sciences at Exeter College in 2007.

“The most striking thing is that something as delicate as brain tissue, and which you wouldn't expect to ever see, has been preserved,” said Dr Liu. “It just speaks volumes [about] the spectacular preservational quality that can be obtained in the fossil record even 130 million years after this dinosaur is alive.”

The discovery, said Dr Liu, sheds light on the question of what dinosaur brains might have been like and suggests they may have been larger than previously thought.

[Click here to read more.](#)