Rector's Address

Frances Cairncross took up office as Rector of Exeter College, Oxford in October 2004. She previously worked at The Economist, she chairs the Economic and Social Research Council, and is President of the British Association.

It has been a momentous year. Having come from a sheltered life in international journalism and 20 years on The Economist magazine, I have been thrown in at the deep end of the tumultuous world of higher education. Luckily, Exeter College has been just as welcoming and supportive as I had hoped.

Yes, this is a difficult time for all universities and for Oxford colleges in particular. Even with the increase in tuition fees, the money we get from students and the government together adds up to less than half the true cost of teaching an undergraduate. And students find accommodation in Oxford very expensive. I spent a lot of time with the Fellows working on ways to alleviate student hardship.

However, the College overall is optimistic and cheerful. Our Fellows have had a number of splendid achievements—not just academic. Sandy Fredman became a Fellow of the British Academy. Shamita Das became a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and Gillian Griffiths a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. Jonathan Herring, Faramez Dhabhoivala, and Kathryn Graddy all produced baby girls, and Keith Brain, our pharmacologist, broke the feminine run with a son. Robin Lane Fox appeared on horseback in Alexander the Great, as a reward for advising the production team. We had a terrific year academically.

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Overall, the College won 25 Firsts out of 92 students sitting Final examinations. Of the five biochemists, four took firsts this year, and three of them were in the top five for the University. Judith Tuning took the top First in the University in theology (having given birth to Tobias only a month before). Jason Gabriel took the top First in History and Politics. Lucy Simmonds the second best First in Physical Sciences. Nicholas Johnston the top First in Classics and English and Jane Goodenough the fourth best First in Greats. All four of our graduates who won distinctions in their BCL exam, and Tarunabh Khaitan won two distinguished University prizes.

There have been other than triumphant. Angela Palmer, our Fine Arts student, had a sculpture accepted for exhibition in the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. The Women's First Eight won blades at Eights Week. Rebecca Ting won a rowing Blue. Laura Richards and Sarah Dunstone won Blues for Women's Rugby, and John Bradshaw for Men's Rugby. Matthew Green and Duncan Brown made a normal film which won Film Capped. Our main student band, 'The Hammer vs the Snake', won the University's Bands tournament.

The College has won a number of georgies and comings. Simon Gordon, Professor of Cellular Pathology, retires. He has done great work in South Africa to tell young people about HIV-AIDS and how to avoid infection (see p30). We also lost Victor Lee, who has taught chemistry for three years; and Jacqueline Katrany, who held the Queen Sophia Junior Research Fellowship. Katherine Tumer, our Williams Fellow, crossed the Atlantic to Mary Baldwin College in Virginia; and Caroline Dhabhoivala, who taught Greek, spent two years, cross the T3 to Jesus College. Heidi Stalla, Junior Dean for the past five years, has gone to New York University—taking with her the College cat. Among our new arrivals is Jane Hiddleston, who becomes Fellow in French. She thus takes over the fellowship that her father held. She was the top choice of the students who sat through mock tutorials by all candidates for the job. We also greet Hugh Gazzard as the new Williams Fellow and Lecturer in English, James Kennedy as the new Fellow in Gerontology, Gareth Wood as the new Queen Sofia Fellow, and Ian Gibson as the new Junior Dean. A number of distinguished figures came to speak in College. Philip Pullman read from his latest book. Dame Antonia Byatt talked about the process of composition, Lord Butler about his report and the background to the Iraq War and Lord Patten, the University's Chancellor, about Europe and university education. For both the American and the British elections, we erected a big television screen in the Hall, and students stayed up all night to watch the results. We celebrated Thanksgiving in Hall, complete with pecan, pumpkin and apple pie, and Burns Night in January, with a tugger in the front quad. For many students, it was their first encounter with haggis.

In February, we held a packed New Orleans evening in the Hall, preceded by a parade along Turl Street.

There has been lots of building. Refurbishing the kitchen involved the construction of a temporary kitchen in Bracanese Nose. Magically, the kitchen staff continued to produce delicious meals from a long wooden hut. Staircases 4-6 were re-sheeted and refurbished. The Lodgings had a facelift too: the first floor has become a light and airy flat. More changes are afoot. Sadly, the last chestnut tree at the end of the fellows' Garden has died. It is being taken down.

We now have wireless Internet access throughout the college, including the Fellows’ Garden, where it was launched with a ceremony at which I symbolically cut a wire. The College's website, our window on the world, has been redesigned.

The College's Old Members and friends are enormously supportive. In particular, Sir Ronald Cohen made the College a tremendously generous donation, which will underpin the campaign we are launching this year to raise the money to endow a Fellowship in Modern History. He is easily the College's most generous donor of modern times. In the coming year, the College will have to face the challenges of restoring the Chapel. Two of its windows are in alarmingly bad shape, and the stone work is crumbling. We need to raise £2.2m to put it in safe shape. And we will continue to need the help of all our Old Members to sustain our wonderful academic reputation and to continue to support the unique but expensive tutorial system.

I welcome visits from Old Members—including young ones! There is lots to show you—and by the time you read this, there will be even more. Oxford is a place where a great deal happens in a short time! Frances Cairncross
Golfing for Exeter
By Robin Ewbank (1961, Physics)
Exeter alumni took part for the fourth time in the Intercollegiate Alumni Golf Tournament, held annually at Frilford Heath, near Abingdon. It could be said of last year’s Exeter team that never in the field of human conflict had so many travelled so far to secure so few points on the field of battle, as our team came from Hong Kong, Colombia and Ulster as well as mainland Britain. Last year Philip Pardos-Williams did however win the longest drive on the 15th and was again our top scorer this time around. We were not disgraced and came comfortably ahead of former winners, University College, but there is still much room for improvement...
The success of the internships scheme depends on you, the alumni.

For more information about the Careers Office, or if you would like to take part in a careers evening or offer work experience or an internship to an Exeter student, please e-mail careers@exeter.ox.ac.uk or Katrina Hancock at Katrina.Hancock@exeter.ox.ac.uk to find out how you can help.

Thank you to the Old Members, Friends and Parents who have already offered to give careers advice to current students.

The campaign seeks to bring together Old Members and Friends of the College both here in England and abroad, and to encourage you all to contribute to the College's development and future success.

Please visit our website at www.exeter.ox.ac.uk to find out more about the College and its activities.

Dr John Maddrigott, whose ancestors on his father's side were all Devonshire farmers, chose an academic rather than an agrarian career path. Having graduated from Oxford College in 1964, and lectured at Manchester University, Maddrigott joined the Exeter Fellowship in 1969. In 2004, he gave the enormously prestigious Oxford Ford Lectures, an annual honour granted to eminent British historians. Now, as he prepares for retirement in 2006, the conventional student-tutor roles are reversed as former undergraduate Lucy Stallworthy (2002, Modern History) interviews Dr Maddrigott on 36 years of outstanding service.

How did you become a fellow of Exeter College?

That year, unusually, three medieval fellowships came up at Oriel, Exeter and Pembroke. Having failed at Oriel, I was drawn to Exeter as the next college ‘down the line’, as it were. At school my history teacher, an Exonian historian, had put me in for Worcester as a trial run for scholarship at Exeter. But I was actually offered a Commoner’s place at Worcester, and took that. So I had a link with Exeter before coming here; and since I was born in the Devonshire city of the same name there was also a pleasant regional connection.

In which areas do you feel Exeter College has changed most during your tenure?

In 1979 Exeter was part of a wave of colleges that ‘went co-ed’ and this had a significant impact on College life. In social terms the arrival of confident and relatively self-assured women was conducive to a more informal relationship with undergraduates. Although the change was generally welcomed within the College, there were, I think, some drawbacks. One was that undergraduates’ social life became more confined to the College and they became less involved with University life, particularly with outside clubs and societies.

During your 36 years at Exeter, how has the teaching of history changed?

In terms of teaching methods, change has been limited. The tutorial has retained its prominence and inter-collegiate teaching continues to be encouraged. However, the Oxford history syllabus has undergone enormous change. Until about 1990 three compulsory papers in English history provided undergraduates with a near-continuous knowledge of the nation’s past. But this has been gradually superseded by a ‘self-service’ cafeteria-type syllabus in which students select from a plethora of periods and regions. While the variety engendered by this approach is clearly beneficial, the disappearance of a reasonable introductory course on which all undergraduates studied, has made it more difficult for undergraduates to talk to each other about their work and to learn from each other.

How do you hope to see the teaching of history develop after you have retired?

First, a large part of the way in which history teaching now develops is shaped by the faculty, whose control has increased over the past 20 years. I think that this trend will continue and thus any changes in teaching are likely to be generally above the college level. Secondly, it seems almost inevitable that I will be replaced by a modern historian and not a medievalist. Exeter is now the only College in the University without a modernist and this has to be rectified – though I will, of course, be very sad to see my medieval Fellowship disappear.

High quality research has been a feature of your time at Exeter. Which project did you find most stimulating and challenging?

In 1994 I published a biography of Simon de Montfort, Henry III’s great baronial opponent. This was the most interesting project I have undertaken, partly because the density of the documentation allowed me to see my subject from the inside, as it were, and to form a vivid impression of a character who was self-interested, acquisitive, pious, asetic and a great leader of men, all at the same time.

How did it feel to be invited to deliver the Ford Lectures in 2004?

The invitation was completely unexpected and a great honour. Lecturers are given three to four years’ preparation time, and since I was already working on the history of the college, I was able to fit it into a seven-lecture series. Part of the challenge was to meet the expectations of a very diverse audience of colleagues, undergraduates and outsiders. It was a daunting but fulfilling experience.

What are your plans for retirement?

At present I have no definite plans, but I am trying with several ideas. My priority is to write up the Ford Lectures for publication. I also want to work on my more general history of the College. But I also have in mind a project on the resources of kinship in Anglo-Saxon England and another on popular participation in political life in medieval England. Future uncertain!

Upon Dr Maddrigott’s retirement, Exeter needs to ensure the ongoing presence of two History Tutor in the College, who would need to be world-class academics. Exeter would like current and future students to benefit from the stability, loyalty and scholarship engendered by a permanent History Fellow. How can this be achieved?

In order to see this happen, the History Fellowship Campaign has been set up. Thanks to the generosity of Mr Ronald Cohen (1964, PPE), we have raised £75,000 of what we need – if others will contribute the remainder. Every donation counts, large and small, until we have reached our goal: to endow a History Fellowship Programme to support an annual postgraduate tutor in undergraduate work. Funding would allow us to appoint two Fellows a term, secure the College’s future, and ensure that future undergraduates are able to enjoy the benefits of a strong academic community.
Right Honourable Chaos

In honour of Marilyn Butler’s outstanding service to Exeter College, Guy Rowlands (former Fellow of Exeter) came together with Paul Langford (Rector of Lincoln) and William Palin (Sir John Soane’s Museum) to celebrate the considerable study of elections since Dr Butler arrived in 1993, the meeting was on the nature of eighteenth century politics and electioneering, the electoral goings-on, alcoholic and corrupt. College, and the way in which elections have lent themselves to caricatures such as Hogarth’s.

On 22 April 2005 Exeter College celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Oxfordshire election of 1754, immortalised by William Hogarth in his great series of paintings. Exeter played a rather key role in the context. It was a very vicious affair, the Vice-Chancellor resigned the College as ‘the shop of corruption and the factory of perjury’ although the pamphleteering Dr. Webber (1750-1771) described the conduct of the undergraduates as ‘exemplary’ despite the entertainment of ‘so large a family’ of outside persons in the Hall.

The hustings had been set up in Broad Street and Whig voters were struggled through the College so that they could get within reach of the booths more or less unmeditated by the Tory mob. Jacobite sympathies had lasted long in Oxford and most Colleges supported the ‘Old Interest’. Two Fellows, Thomas Bray (Rector 1773-1815) and Benjamin Kennicott were among the most vigorous supporters of the ‘New Interest’, authoring some of the many scurrilous pamphlets produced by the election. In actual fact, the contest was as much a battle between local grandees (the Earl of Marlborough) as it was between Colleges, but it took place in the heart of Oxford.

Most elections at the time were very raucous. The public heated up over the election at Exeter College, as Hogarth’s.

I began graduate study at Oxford with the highest expectations of what life here would be like. Yet, even with my optimism, the first year here has still completely surpassed these expectations. Before I left for Oxford, Bart Holiday (1965, PPE), whose generosity made this opportunity possible for me, surprised the many scurrilous pamphlets produced by the election. In actual fact, the contest was as much a battle between local grandees (the Earl of Marlborough) as it was between Colleges, but it took place in the heart of Oxford.

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To mark Professor Butler’s departure, the College presented her with a rather different work of art: a head, in glass, lit from underneath, and finely based on an actual brain scan (see photo). The artist is Angela Palmer (Fine Art, 2002), a mature student at Exeter College and the Ruskin School of Fine Art. The portrait above, now hanging in the college.net
North American Travel Scholarship 2004

David Heales (2002, Jurisprudence) was the fifth consecutive North American (formerly the Stearns Capital) Scholar, and spent five weeks travelling across the United States and Canada funded by the kind support of the Alumni.

In condensing my stimulating and eclectic journey across North America into a brief account, I cannot possibly do justice to the full experience or the generosity of the North American community meant that I didn’t manage to meet with as many Exonians as I had hoped. But I do hope to give some impression of my travels and the life-long memories gathered from this unique opportunity.

As one of the key aims of my itinerary was to gain an insight into the legal and political dynamics of North America, I greatly benefited from travelling in the weeks before the 2004 Presidential Election, as the whole continent seemed to thrum with political discourse. Indeed, I felt the effects of one of the key questions for debate – the balance between national security and fundamental freedoms – firsthand on several occasions. My trip was to begin with a security search triggered by my reading of The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran on the plane from Heathrow. I had to convince the security services that it was an international bestseller, not a tract of fundamental Islam, and that my unkempt hair was due to my student status.

California dreaming

Successfully through that ordeal, I was free to start my journey proper. My itinerary began with a week in Beverley Hills, Los Angeles, staying with Richard and Jenny Sparks. Richard holds the impressive accolade of being the only Old Member to have met all five scholars past on their travels. The Spark’s house, and the Californian climate meant that summer ensured my trip got off to a terrific start. As well as enjoying a law-themed dinner party for my benefit, which proved how interesting lawyers can be when plied with champagne cocktails, I played music with a country-rock legend, had dinner with the screenwriter of Apocalypse Now and enjoyed tours of the varied LA landscape and hot spots, including sampling unbelievably tasty sushi on tours of the varied New England cuisine. As well as being a beautiful city with a great sense of heritage, ideal for tourist pursuits, such as visits to museums and art galleries, a trip to Niagara Falls and a viewing of the cityscape from the top of the CN Tower, with a guided tour of the University of Toronto (and Rev. Guy Trudel). My principal hosts for the week were Seamus Woods and his family who were more than kind and managed to show me some of the student hang-outs and bars. I left Toronto with a strong sense of Exeter’s community and a hearty lunch for the four-hour-train journey to Montreal prepared by Seamus’s wife, Kim McClure.

My last stop was Boston and my hosts were Keith Fox and Joe Schork. I had scheduled a three-night stay in Montreal before heading back down to the United States but I was not really sure what to expect, armed only with a guide book kindly given to me by Rex Williams in Toronto. To my excitement, I found an incredibly vital, youthful and cosmopolitan city. Yves-Marie Morissette, who presently sits with the generosity I encountered with Exonians of all generations and backgrounds, bound by our mutual fondness of our years at this college. I feel very lucky to have been able to undertake this wonderful journey and to have met such an array of fascinating people. I will value my experience as yet another great part of my Oxford education. I would like to thank the following alumni for taking the time to meet with me on my travels and sincerely hope I will be able to meet with as many of them as possible again in the future: Richard Sparks, Chisanga Puta-Chekwe, Seamus Woods, Rex Williams; Jonathan Bengston; Hugh Rowlinson; Richard Fitzsimmons; James McConica; Guy Trudel, Timothy Hughes; Paul Williams Roberts; Alison Schwarz; Heather Giannandrea; Yves-Marie Morissette; Stansfield Turner; Chuck Anderson, Kenneth Mweusa; Keith Oblitas; Timothy Vanderwerf Jr; Jim Prust; Keith Fox; Tony Cole; John Mulutula; Robert Moore (well, nearly); Brad Hoylman; Walt Bachman; John Lawrence; Michael Lyall; Jason Straker; Anastasia Andrejewski; Greg Marks; Keith Fox, Joseph Nye; John Quelch, Ned Sahin and Joe Schork.

New York, New York

From DC I caught the train to New York and stepped right out into the heart of this inspiring city for a hearty week of zipping around Manhattan. I managed to see many of the tourist spots as well as meet some interesting alumni. Brad Hoylman kindly invited me to a political fundraiser for a Democrat Senate hopeful and I was able to socialise with many politically minded people. I visited a very interesting day with John Lawrence of Columbia University, where I was staying and where he lectures, and an insight into NGOs. After some useful advice from Benjamin Moshman, the first North American Scholar, I managed to gain a day’s work experience at the American Civil Liberties Union where many of the questions I had been pondering as my travels progressed were answered. I left feeling that I had only just scratched the surface of the tourist traps, let alone the rest that New York had to offer.

My last stop was Boston and my hosts were Keith and Amy Fox who ensured that I enjoyed my trip right until the very end and that I sampled the varied New England cuisine. As well as being a beautiful, wonderful, almost other-worldly, ideal to explore by foot, Boston is home to two of the greatest universities in the world. I had the privilege of meeting the Ex-Dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Joseph Nye, and John Quelch, Senior Associate Dean at the Harvard Business School and spending time with Ned Sahin, a PhD candidate at MIT involved in some fascinating neurological research which took some time to explain to me, albeit in a suitably diluted form. I also spent a hugely enjoyable day in the famous New England countryside in the company of Joe and Betsy Schork – my very entertaining guides.

Homeward bound

I left North America with the distinct feeling of personal growth that travel so often gives but coupled with a real sense of the strength and depth of the Exeter College community. Over my five weeks a very large number of people took time to meet with me and I was overwhelmed with the generosity I encountered with Exonians of all generations.

Seamus Woods, his wife, Kim McClure, and David Heales in Toronto

Right: David Heales outside the UN
Needy Humans, Fragile Nature
Some thoughts from the Andes

Niall O'Dea (2001, Rhodes Scholar, DPhil Geography) describes the conflicts between conservation and poverty that he found while researching bird species in north-west Ecuador.

As a conservation biologist, I study the impacts of human activities on plants and animals. I don't know a lot about humans and others understand a lot more about politics, economics and sustainable development. But that's the reality of conservation. I sit on one side with a list of environmental threats, and they sit on the other, with a world full of starving, overcrowded, or maybe just greedy citizens to protect. How do we communicate?

Less than 5% of the Earth’s land surface is protected

In work for my PhD in the Andes, I became acutely aware of the ways the needs of poor people can conflict with those of biodiversity, and of the dilemmas entailed in conservation. I went to study bird population in north-west Ecuador, where deforestation is converting old-growth forests into agricultural land. Ecuador is a conservation biologist's paradise, with over 1,400 species of bird, but it is also a country where great biodiversity and great poverty exist side by side.

Humans are needy and Nature has always provided. Our generation has been the first to see Nature pushed to the edge on many fronts. The issue is whether we recognise the consequences and are willing to mitigate them. But human beings tend paradoxically to behave as though the damaging effects of their actions were (in the telling words of Slavoj Zizek) ‘probable but impossible’.

Human beings all too easily grow used to the environmental degradation their actions have caused. And when a natural resource is held in common, it is at greater risk of degradation, be it fish in the deep ocean or a tropical forest or common grazing land; each person with access to it has a personal incentive to over-exploit it, even if the common interest is to conserve it.

Why conserve?

There are many justifications for conserving biodiversity. The idea of the rainforest as a pharmacopoeia of undiscovered medicinal plants is among the most well known. Ecotourism is equally touted as an economic incentive to conserve. Witness Costa Rica, where national parks are a tourist attraction and help to sustain the economy. Among the strongest arguments is that for ecosystem resilience. Removing species, or reducing their populations, can drastically alter ecosystems, a lesson that is clear in Newfoundland where fishermen have seen no fish stock recovery 12 years after the end of years of over-fishing. These justifications are flawed. The lost opportunity cost to countries and individuals doesn’t match the cost of keeping rainforests for the sake of western healthcare. Ecotourism uses a fraction of protected areas (less than 5% of the reserves that I work in) and most protected areas go unused. And in high diversity systems, the functional role of one species can be played by others.

Against such arguments, our defence of biodiversity must rely on its intrinsic value. Our wish to preserve biodiversity is motivated by our desire for beauty and variety. It is also motivated by an ethical obligation not to eliminate other species from this planet. We value snow leopards, even if we have never seen them, and we want future generations to enjoy them too. If you ask most conservationists what motivates them, this is often how they respond:

Yet for people struggling to survive, Nature has a more utilitarian value. This is problematic because countries between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn possess the greatest biological wealth on earth. Ecuador alone is home to over 1,400 species of bird. However, these countries are among the poorest in the world, and biological wealth carries little economic value. Although these hotspots cover less than 4% of the Earth’s land surface, they are home to 20% of the world population. Thus, the world’s neediest people and its most diverse biological communities live cheek by jowl.

What are the main threats?

Habitat loss is often the biggest threat to biodiversity. In the tropics, this takes the form of slash-and-burn agriculture. At low population densities this practice is sustainable, but where growing human populations use the same cleared plots before they have fully recovered, it becomes problematic. Governments often facilitate this destruction, through projects such as road construction that encourage penetration into the forest.

How much can we conserve and how?

Less than 3% of the Earth’s land surface is protected, and many such areas are “paper parks”; they have a legislated existence but their boundaries are un-enforced. Thus, 5% is optimistic. In the largest remaining tracts of forest humans are making their mark. In the Amazons, logging activities and settlement have penetrated remote forest, while in Siberia, the government is logging massive portions of the boreal forest.

Generally, there are two options: create reserves or conserve. The first involves the establishment of nature reserves with set boundaries. This is criticized because it involves displacing people or restricting access to traditionally used lands. This breeds resentment of conservation, and makes local people unlikely to respect reserve boundaries. In addition, unless reserves can maintain viable populations of the organisms they are intended to protect, they may simply end up as homes to species facing unavoidable extinction.

Landscape conservation attempts to reconcile human exploitation with the protection of species. This approach has the advantage of permitting continued human use of the landscape, thereby reducing animosity to conservation. It sometimes ameliorates the condition of the landscape, allowing a great diversity of species to persist. However, some species are vulnerable to human modification of the landscape, often because they have very stringent habitat requirements. Human modified landscapes may become ‘sink habitats’, which species exploit for resources while still requiring natural habitat for breeding. The advantages and disadvantages of each approach suggest a middle way, creating protected areas for those species that cannot tolerate human influence, while adopting landscape conservation for more resilient species. However, we don’t know which species is which! An aim of my research is to determine the needs of different species and how they affect conservation strategies.

The incredible diversity of the Choco-Andes is threatened by human activities. Deforestation in this region is about 30% higher than the national average. Government land reforms of the 1960s which sought to alleviate demographic pressure by encouraging colonisation of forest lands, have contributed to the damage.

Many colonists, who had never seen tropical forest, arrived to carve out new lives in pristine forests. Focussed on their own well-being, they lacked a deep connection with the environment.

My research examines how bird community structure and composition changes on a gradient from old growth forest to agricultural land in north-west Ecuador. My field data show that the birds will go too. Conserving the forest’s characteristic bird community will require making the agricultural landscape more bird-friendly while preserving natural forest areas. This indicates the importance of prioritising forest protection where it remains, yet in the Choco-Andean region this is largely impossible. Instead I hope that by increasing our understanding of the functional similarity of habitats for species, we can enhance the interconnectedness of the existing landscape. Conserving biodiversity is a challenge. Nature is fragile. My hope is that through knowledge and industriousness we can restore its resilience.
UNIVERSITY NEWS

News in Brief

Collected by Lucy Stallworthy (2002, Modern History)

Oxford Museums Win Funding
Oxford University’s Museums have been awarded a government grant of £7.8 million. The grant is part of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council’s ‘Renaisance in the Regions’. The funding will be primarily directed towards the museums’ education programmes in an attempt to boost the number of young visitors.

Oxford University Fashion Show
On 9 May, Oxford’s traditional Town Hall met the world of catwalk glamour as it played host to the Oxford University Fashion Show. 450 people, including Princess Fanny of Greece, attended the event. It aimed to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, an organisation that aims to fulfil the wishes of children aged 3-18 with life-threatening illnesses.

Oxford for 13-Year-Olds
Beginning this September, the Oxford Access Scheme will be aimed at pupils as young as 13. This widening of the Access Scheme’s target audience is based on the principle that the earlier academic potential is recognised, the better the outcome. 100 Year Nine candidates will be selected from schools that have never submitted an Oxbridge application. The chosen pupils will receive support throughout the year. In May, animal rights group 'The Uncover' have denied any involvement.

Student Accommodation
Oxford University hopes to sell off all its centrally owned accommodation to individual colleges. The move is intended to release funds to invest in research facilities. A consortium of 14 colleges initially intended to buy the properties, but this arrangement has since collapsed. Houses will now go to the highest college bidder. The University will set strict rules on what colleges can do with the properties, to make sure that they remain available for graduates. Exeter College does not plan to buy this housing, partly because its location is not convenient.

The Re-education of Oxford
How the American Press saw Oxford’s internal debates

By Stanley Reed in London
This article first appeared in Business Week on 14 February 2005.

Can John Hood, the University’s new head, put its finances on a sound footing? Mention Oxford, and images of daydreaming dons and youths poisoning on the Cherwell come to mind. But in the sparsely furnished office of the University’s new boss, Vice-Chancellor John Hood, the talk is all cold facts and figures. Hood doesn’t even blush when he compares managing Oxford University’s 2,000 or so research projects to running a construction company – something he once did. ‘Exactly the same discipline is required to manage that scale of activity,’ he says.

The University committee that hired Hood, 53, last October, broke with hallowed tradition in several respects.

Hood wants Oxford to have the resources to challenge such pre-eminent universities as Harvard and Princeton.

Hood, who attended Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship, is a New Zealander and the first Vice-Chancellor in the University’s 900-year history to come from outside its academic ranks. (The Chancellor, currently Chris Patten, is traditionally a figurehead.) Hood also brings an unusual amalgam of experience in both business and university administration. He ran the construction and paper divisions of Fletcher Challenge Ltd., a New Zealand conglomerate, before becoming Vice-Chancellor of the University of Auckland in 1999. His message: Oxford needs to get its financial and administrative houses in order if it is to remain in the top tier of the world’s universities. And for that, government coming to the rescue. ‘We cannot think of our future as lying in the hands of public funding,’ Hood says.

Oxford does on educating an undergrad, they spend roughly three times what Harvard does on educating a Rhodes Scholar. And Harvard’s funds are dwarfed by Harvard University’s $22 billion and Stanford University’s $13 billion. He has hired a development officer, Jon Delfandrea, from the University of Toronto, in the hope that Oxford can acquire a little North American fund-raising magic. One of Delfandrea’s key tasks will be to juice up the level of alumni giving: Harvard brings in more than $500 million a year, while Oxford raises just $150 million.

Hood may also transfer management of the endowment from outside firms to an in-house team. Up till now, it has been earning returns of around 6.5%, compared to 15% for Harvard over the last decade for Harvard. Supporting those dons and students isn’t going to get any cheaper.

Mayday Morning Chaos

Oxford’s traditional Mayday celebrations, at which choristers sing from Magdalen Tower at dawn, went terribly wrong this year when hordes of revellers jumped off Magdalen Bridge into a dangerously low Cherwell River. Paramedics treated 40 people at the scene, while 11 were rushed to hospital. Bridge jumpers attending the May Morning celebration landed in just two feet of water after falling themselves over the 25-foot parapet. The chaos raised serious questions over Oxford City Council’s safety planning, and has left next year’s event in doubt.

The Times Good University Guide

For the fourth successive year, Oxford University has come top of The Times Good University Guide. Cambridge took second place, followed by Imperial College, LSE and Edinburgh. The universities were ranked according to nine criteria including student to staff ratio, degree results and teaching. It was Oxford’s spending power that facilitated its rise to poll position in the rankings. The third annual index of global universities published by Shanghai’s Jiao Tong University put Oxford tenth, down from seventh last year, but still (with Cambridge) one of only two non-American universities in the World Top Ten.

Ashmolean Renovations

Europe’s oldest museum, the Ashmolean on Beaumont Street, is undergoing a £44m redevelopment, expected to be completed by 2008. The project will double the available display space and aims to boost visitor numbers beyond the 18,000 who currently pass through the Museum’s doors each year. The Ashmolean Capital Campaign aims to raise £4pm for the project, and this will be supplemented by £1.5m from the National Lottery, together with a £2m donation from HRH Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud. Several galleries will be closed temporarily during the renovations, although disturbances to students and tutors using the Museum’s resources will be kept to a minimum.
Oxford 25 Years On
Excerpts from Chancellor Chris Patten’s Radcliffe Lecture

An abbreviated version of The Radcliffe Lecture by the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, the RT Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, at Green College, Oxford, on 3 February 2005

I begin by congratulating Green College on your first quarter century. You are now, like the better sort of English batsman, well set and on your way with outstanding contributions across the board.

But your inviting me to join these celebrations has, however, lured me into a trap: you have asked me to suggest where Oxford University may be in 25 years hence. You may remember that when Winnie the Pooh fell into a hole and was asked whether he years hence. You may remember that when Winnie the Pooh fell into a hole and was asked whether he

The Chancellor, after all, does not run the University. A Chancellor can still swank, but, just humming the tunes you request is a dangerous and thinking and humming to myself’. But even was stuck, he replied carefully, ‘N’ no, just resting the Pooh fell into a hole and was asked whether he

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I take three points from Newman that seem relevant to a modern university and to Oxford in a quarter century’s time. First, Oxford must be independent, which is not, of course, the same as totally private. As an independent institution, we will wish to attract the best scholars and students from Britain and abroad, regardless of their financial and social circumstances. But we will insist on choosing who is taught or researches here ourselves, and we will not compromise our standards in order to meet external pressures to promote social inclusion. Second, as a liberal institution we will insist that our teaching does more than prepare young men and women for a professional career. We should unhesitatingly and without embarrassment say that at the heart of what this university does is the preparation of citizens for a world where their individuality is threatened but where at the same time they have a greater opportunity than ever before to ameliorate its conditions through their own efforts. Third, in 25 years time, we shall still be saying that it is curiosity, above all, that drives research, though it can be usefully planned and funded with the assistance of private enterprises and can itself lead to the formation of entrepreneurial companies.

What Oxford will be like in 25 years will depend on the sort of salary level available at the very top of the academic tree? How soon before one of those graduates earned as much each month as he or she would get in a year as a junior research fellow? Where will we be in 25 years unless we try to tackle this problem? One thing is for sure. Oxford will have far fewer British academic staff. Our University will be affected by the changes that may have taken place, for good or ill, in the quality of the nation’s secondary education. Two conclusions stand out from the research commissioned by the Sutton Trust. First, England comes near the bottom of international league of universities and that, however tough it may have been, we still have the best higher education system overall in Europe and the second best in the world – despite the cost of depressed salaries, increased teaching loads and dilapidated buildings and services.

Perhaps our international standing is as good as I have suggested, but this begs the question of how recently we could have claimed an even higher ranking and how long we can cling on to the present one. We very warmly welcome scholars from abroad; we also speed our own scholars on their way to the campuses of the United States, hoping that someday they will come home. But it surely says something about the long-term vitality of our own universities that they do not attract more British postgraduate students. This must be largely a question of resources – both to support research and to pay salaries. I doubt whether anyone has ever started an academic career for the money. How many years would it take for a young graduate with a first-class degree working in the financial services industry, consultancy, or in a law firm to match the sort of salary level available at the very top of the academic tree? How soon before one of those graduates earned as much each month as he or she would get in a year as a junior research fellow? Where will we be in 25 years unless we try to tackle this problem? One thing is for sure. Oxford will have far fewer British academic staff. Our University will be affected by the changes that may have taken place, for good or ill, in the quality of the nation’s secondary education. Two conclusions stand out from the research commissioned by the Sutton Trust. First, England comes near the bottom of international league
The achievement gap between our independent and maintained sectors is the widest in the world

for by lowering funding by the business sector. I see little chance of encouraging greater business investment until we have reduced the cost of protecting intellectual property in Europe. The sooner we can agree on a European patent, the sooner we will have a realistic chance of boosting business spending on research and development.

We also have to use our resources more sensibly at the European level to fund high-class research in centres of excellence. I have for some time been a strong supporter of the creation of a European Research Council, set up along similar lines to America’s National Science Foundation. We will have our cut out to raise even today’s modest sums, but we must make the effort to raise anything that we need to.

Yet plainly we have to raise more, a lot more, ourselves. It will demand a carefully developed strategy of raising public support in all its forms. We need to be more ruthless in deciding what comes first. We also have to be better at drawing in more postgraduates, the University. More foreign students will help modernize the University. There will be more foreign students.

1. Back to the future: Will Oxford in 2030 be, well, world-class? – can anyone be – without being a privately-funded and independent institution, like the Ivy League universities?

Let me try a few answers. The things our country can do well, the institutions that command respect abroad as well as at home, should define us as a society. Second, Oxford is by common, if not unquestioning, assent, one of the world’s best universities. Why should anyone who has been part of the best, volunteer to be one of the second best? And once you have suffered that relegation, how long before the lift descends to a lower floor? There are few people in this country who can claim to work in a world-class institution. It must be worse than folly to throw that away, however our public support further squeezed or lost completely might well accomplish that.

So, my Oxford in 2030 will be world-class. World-class because it offers great teaching that helps make young men and women fit for the world. World-class because it attracts and recruits the best students from our own and other countries, regardless of their means; because it is well-run and handsomely endowed; because its alumni still feel that they are part of its wider community and generously support what they value; because it pushes back the frontiers of knowledge augmenting the intellectual legacy that one generation passes to the next. What will be our purposes? Let the Cardinal have the last word – ‘… raising the intellectual tone of society … cultivating the public mind … purifying the national taste … supplying true principles to popular enthusiasm and fixed aims to popular aspiration … giving enlargement and sobriety to the ideas of the age … facilitating the exercise of political power and refining the intercourse of private life.’

The achievement gap between our independent and maintained sectors is the widest in the world
Hardship
The Facts

Hardship Grants are essential for a surprising number of Exeter students. Last year, 25% of Exeter students applied in order to continue studying. Here, an anonymous alumnus details why the scheme is a necessity and not a luxury.

I’d always wanted to go to university and especially to Oxford. Apart from getting through the interview and achieving the grades, there didn’t seem to be many obstacles. Although Student Grants were abolished the year before I arrived, the Student Loans Company had come into existence. This provided some relief as I was going to be paying for my time at Oxford entirely on my own – an obstacle that got harder to surmount over the four years of my degree course.

Fortunately, the Local Education Authority paid my tuition fees as Mum was taught to budget at home and so was delighted to get the first installment of my loan, around £1,100, which covered my first term at £175. That didn’t leave much for the minor essentials of food, books and transport home, let alone being able to afford the odd drink down the bar. I also had to pay for field trips as a compulsory part of my course as Mums and didn’t mind because we were in Rome!

I had four wonderful years at Exeter and never had to turn an opportunity down because of financial difficulties. I was never forced to feel different and was always encouraged. Even though I left Exeter owing over £17,000 to the Student Loans Company and £2,000 to the bank, I also left with a debt of gratitude to those who provided funds that supported me. Without that assistance and support from the College I may have not studied to my potential. I was never able to experience the full Oxford degree but it was never my intention to experience every aspect of Exeter life. I was able to enjoy seeing the College for what it was, the City of Oxford and the university that I will always cherish.

The Old Cause

As testimony to Exeter’s dependence on active fundraising throughout its recent history, this extract from the 1964 Appeal leaflet features the mammoth task that was the rebuilding of the Back Quad, which cost £40,000. The picture above, which shows the rebuilding of the Back Quad, which cost £40,000. The picture above, which shows the rebuilding of the Back Quad, which cost £40,000. The picture above, which shows the rebuilding of the Back Quad, which cost £40,000. The picture above, which shows the rebuilding of the Back Quad, which cost £40,000. The picture above, which shows the rebuilding of the Back Quad, which cost £40,000.
ExVac Report 05
By Jo Williams (2004, Exeter)
Each year, Exeter students give up part of their Easter vacation to take some of Oxford's most underprivileged children on a holiday. Jo Williams, President of ExVac 2005, writes about the Exeter College charity, which provided many of the children with their first holiday.

The city of Oxford provides the most perfect and unique backdrop to the university experience. The overwhelming string of black tie events and its plethora of theatres, bars, pubs and parks create a perfect and unique backdrop to the university experience. The overwhelming string of black tie events and its plethora of theatres, bars, pubs and parks create a

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Ringing Around
By Katherine Chapman (2004, Modern History)
During the Easter vacation, you may have received a telephone call from a fellow student or me, as Exeter College undertook its fourth annual telephone fundraising campaign. As well as being a huge success, the campaign was a surprisingly rewarding experience and one which made me realise that being a part of Exeter did not just end with college after curfew! The diversity of work experience and informal careers advice were much appreciated. The Old Members according to degree subject in which Chris, to whom nothing seemed worthy of a reaction, was told by an otherwise unshakable attendant at Legoland that he was the best boat driver they’d seen that day. His face lit up and he spent the entire trip back smiling to himself and clutching his new licence, excitedly repeating the attendant’s exact words to anyone who would listen, or to himself. Essential to ExVac’s success is our leaders, but also the children. For that week they’re not young carers, or victims of domestic violence, abuse, bullying, or poverty, but 6-11 year old children. In treating them as such, we realised that fundamentally they were just children, fighting over who got the bigger slice of cake or whose turn was it on the swing. They had been through some unbelievable experiences that we could never understand, but it wasn’t our job to try. We took them away to have fun and that is exactly what each of them – and us – did. This is the huge contribution that ExVac offers. We don’t fix the problems, but provide an escape, however short, and memories that serve as hope.

As part of the preparation for the campaign, we had been matched up with Old Members according to degree subject and interests. A weekend of training had prepared us and yet the prospect of phoning a complete stranger was naturally still a little daunting. However, the responsiveness and willingness to talk was overwhelming, and it was amazing how quickly our confidence grew.

Soon our tea-breaks were breaking with stories of the mischief that went on before women were officially admitted and tales of Old Members sneaking into College after curfew! The diversity of work experience and informal careers advice were much appreciated. The conversations certainly gave us all food for thought; who could have predicted, for example, that we would chance upon Exeter’s very own movie star, Brent Roam (as seen in Deep Blue Sea and ER)! Some of my most memorable calls were with the older alumni who had attended a skeletal version of the College during the War. Although at times tinged with sadness, these fond memories demonstrated that the Exeter College experience held a special place in many people’s lives. Without a doubt, the best part of the campaign was the goodwill that emanated from the Old Members and the surprising affinity shared by all. It was this personal contact that made the telephone experience so rewarding from the perspective of both caller and called. Many of us received follow-up letters and postcards from appreciative alumni and I know that I speak for all of the campaigners when I thank the Old Members for their generosity and for making those ten days so positive. The funds from this year’s telephone are so far a fantastic £135,000 of a pledged £144,000 (that’s an eventual £28,000 up on last year). Thank you for your continued support, which will make an enormous difference to the College.

If you would like to donate to the College, ExVac or the Book Grant Scheme in particular, please contact katrina.hancock@exeter.ox.ac.uk or see the Donations insert included in Exon, specifying your choice of scheme. See also www.exvac.co.uk.
A Top Banker’s View: the Rise and Rise of Asia
By Stephen Green (1966, PPE)

Stephen Green, Group Chief Executive of HSBC, gave this talk on 10 March 2005 at a joint Exeter-SBS event at the Said Business School. This is an article of extreme relevance at this time of great change and growth in Asia.

It is always a great pleasure to return to the city in which I spent three very happy and inspiring years as an undergraduate. Let me start my lecture this evening by showing you a slide (see figure 1).

Stephen Green, Group Chief Executive of HSBC

A couple of years ago, this was a question that I was asked. Not so today. Quite by coincidence, this week the BBC is running a China Week with programmes on radio and TV on China's economy, its major cities, family life, the environment. The current edition of The Economist magazine features a survey of India and China, and there is a China Business Summit taking place in London today as well.

Closer to home, I understand that Said is establishing a new lectureship in Chinese business studies this September, and this year’s Oxford Business Forum theme, giants and dragons, includes a significant focus on China.

A coincidence? Well, perhaps not. It is more likely that, after a deep slumber, Western nations have woken up and begun to realise that a profound transformation will be achieved by Asia, indeed the world’s two largest countries, with populations of over 1 billion people apiece: China and India.

These two countries are home to more than a third of the world’s people, while in absolute terms they account for just 5.5% of the world’s GDP; they are the world’s seventh and twelfth largest economies respectively. On a purchasing power parity basis, China’s economy is the second largest in the world and India’s the fourth largest.

It seems likely that in the next few decades these two countries’ share of the world’s wealth, in relative and absolute terms, will grow substantially. No doubt there will be fits and starts on the way, but I don’t believe the trajectory is in doubt.

Ever since China embarked on economic reform some 25 years ago, its success has been nothing short of astonishing. Since 1980, it has achieved GDP growth of 9% a year.

The pace of change in China has been so rapid, and so extraordinary, that people are only now beginning to grasp intuitively the reality of China as an economic power. In virtually every industry in the next 20 years, China will make its presence felt, and there are encouraging signs that, at last, the West is beginning to take this in.

China’s appetite for commodities is a major factor in price movements; its imports of commodities and exports of manufactured goods are almost single-handedly driving a shipping boom, which is causing queues of ships at the Panama Canal; it is the main driver of economic growth in China.

Japan is the world’s second largest economy by some distance, and yet a university professor there was quoted in the FT recently saying: ‘Now everything is made in China. Include in that Japan’s economic cycle.’

There are signs of a welcome, albeit overdue, recognition of China’s growing importance to the world economy, including developed nations, as evidenced by the invitation extended to China to attend some of the meetings of G7 finance ministers in London last month.

China’s success has been achieved by a peaceful revolution on an unprecedented scale. There has been a massive migration of people from rural areas to cities. China’s urban population has grown from 172 million in 1978 to 460 million today.

People have moved from subsistence living to working in productive industries where they are beginning to have higher disposable incomes. In 1980, 86% of workers hadn’t changed jobs in the last three years; in 1990 most workers were working in productive industries where they are now earning higher wages.

The UN World Food Programme is now urging China to become a donor instead of a recipient of aid, and for good reason. According to the UN, since 1979 the proportion of Chinese people living in absolute poverty has dropped from 23% to around 2% of the population.

The re-emergence of these two historic nations, which for most of recorded history were the world’s two largest economies, and boasted advanced civilisations, is the next stage in the Asian economic growth story that was a feature of the 20th century.

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1978. Manufacturing and construction are now the core of China's economy, accounting for over half of GDP.

China is the world's largest producer of steel, coal, cement, fertilisers. In almost every industry China is making inroads. I visited shipbuilders in Shanghai at the start of the year. China currently accounts for 13.7% of global orders for shipbuilding; second to South Korea, although some considerable way behind it. And of course, China is the world's largest producer of a wide range of consumer products. It produces two thirds of all photocopyers, microwave ovens, DVD players and shoes, and over half of all digital cameras in the world.

In 2004, China became the world's third largest trader of manufactured goods and there are more superlatives on the horizon. The WTO predicts that China will account for more than half of the global textile market following the end of the quota system.

I wonder if anyone in this room has heard of Datang. Datang is a Chinese city that is known locally as Sock City. Many of us are probably wearing socks made in Datang. After all, it produces nine billion pairs of socks every year, one third of the world's entire annual production of socks, and more than one pair for every man, woman and child on the planet. Its annual sock fair attracts 100,000 buyers from all over the world. And yet, 25 years ago Datang was a small rice-farming community of around 1,000 people.

The seeds of what should become the world's largest consumer market have been sown.

The Chinese government is now trying to spread the benefits of China's growth, which have accrued mainly to coastal cities and development zones, more widely. Investment in the Western regions in China is being actively encouraged through the Go West policy.

Indeed, HSBC has recently established a branch presence in Western China, in Chongqing and Chengdu, for the first time.

And last year also saw the creation of the Pan-Pearl River Delta region to try and drive development to the interior. Although still in its early days, the Pan-PRD is a cooperative agreement that's been signed by all the governors of nine provinces and the CEOs of Hong Kong and Macau to develop infrastructure and eliminate tariffs.

The nine provinces, along with Hong Kong and Macau, are home to some 457 million people, and account for 45% of per cent of China's GDP, so the opportunity is huge.

There is still a tremendous amount to do but, looking back on what has been achieved so far, we at HSBC are optimistic for the future. The Asian economic miracle produced a 40-year period of above average economic growth in countries like Japan, Taiwan and Singapore; if China were to follow the same pattern, it may only be halfway along its amazing economic journey.

While manufacturing has led China's renaissance, it is the services industry that is driving the economy forward. The service sector now accounts for nearly two thirds of China's GDP, and China is emerging as a major player in the world's services industry.

China, with an income of US$6,000, equivalent to US$24,000 at purchasing power parity. So China's future growth will not all be export-led; it will depend upon meeting local consumer demand. Demand for consumer goods, such as cosmetics and toiletries, packaged food and soft drinks, is already taking off.

Some global companies such as Coca-Cola, Nestle and Procter & Gamble have achieved billion dollar sales in China by focusing on the wealthiest five to 10 percent of consumers.

The potential as this market expands is enormous. And it will be keenly contested by global corporations and Chinese counterparts. Global companies are attempting to establish their brands in the local market. BMW, for example, has its own Chinese brand name 'hua-xing', the literal meaning of which is 'precious horse'. And in the run up to the Beijing Olympics in 2008, global brands such as Nike and Adidas are going head to head with local sports brands such as Li Ning and Anta to capture every share in the high-growth market for athletics gear. Of course there is a sharp split in income, lifestyle and sophistication between the regions in China, roughly comparable to the differences across the expanded EU. Disposable incomes are much higher in urban than in rural areas.

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And last year also saw the creation of the Pan-Pearl River Delta region to try and drive development to the interior. Although still in its early days, the Pan-PRD is a cooperative agreement that's been signed by all the governors of nine provinces and the CEOs of Hong Kong and Macau to develop infrastructure and eliminate tariffs.

The nine provinces, along with Hong Kong and Macau, are home to some 457 million people, and account for 45% of per cent of China's GDP, so the opportunity is huge.
Successful economies, like successful companies, must and do reinvent themselves constantly in our fast-changing world.

Treatment in India with a fortnight on the beach. Perhaps the only cloud on this particular horizon is that the speed at which the industry has developed, which has been such a triumph for India, has led to an unwelcome backlash against offshore work in some countries, including the UK, which fear the loss of jobs to places like India.

I certainly don’t want to underestimate the fears of the people whose jobs are directly affected by this change. But a look at economic history would suggest that fear for the economy overall is misplaced. The loss of manufacturing jobs in the UK, which caused such historic recession, have been much lamented. And yet overall, the economy has not suffered. In the last 25 years, some 3.3 million jobs were lost in manufacturing; but service sector employment rose by 6.5 million. Successful economies, like successful companies, must and do reinvent themselves constantly in our fast-changing world.

The IT services industry has been an outstanding success for India, of that there is no doubt. But even on the most optimistic forecasts, the industry is expected to employ only around 4 million people. In a country with a working population of 300 million, even on the most optimistic forecasts, the industry is expected to employ only around 4 million people.

Economic growth of itself brings new opportunities. As in China, rising incomes are creating a new consumer market. The proportion of households with an income over 60,000 rupees is forecast to rise from around 20% a decade ago, to almost 50% next year. Private consumption is growing rapidly, with purchases of non-essential items representing a greater share of consumption. To take just one example, last year the market for mobile phones grew by a quarter.

Overall, it is clear that reforms and liberalisation are creating an environment in which the talents and ingenuity of India’s growing number of world-class companies can thrive. Let me draw some conclusions. If China continues on its present growth path, its economy will be equal in size to that of America in less than 30 years. India too will become more and more influential.

This is not just an economic phenomenon. The rise of China and India will have a major effect on the balance of influence in international relations. People need to be reassured that the economic modernisation of Asia is the most seismic consequence yet of the globalisation of human commerce.

The balance of influence is tipping, and the world will move from an era of economic domination by a small group of wealthy nations mostly in the West, to where power is more evenly shared, as the East takes its place on the world stage.

On Right Reverend Mothers and Regaining the Initiative

By Mark Birch, Chaplain and Fellow

Mark Birch has been Chaplain at Exeter College since October 2003. Mark has set up a regular debate group and actively encourages all, whatever their beliefs, to discuss vigorously the issues raised by the Christian Church.

The Church of England is in its way to having women as bishops. About time too. For most of the world, I suspect, this is a quaint tale of an ancient and recalcitrant institution easing its way uncomfortably into the 21st century (and yes, I nearly said 20th). This is not a story about emancipation, or a major victory for feminism; this is a rather tardy catching-up exercise — and I think that is part of the problem.

The Church of England, in the popular imagination, is probably of little more consequence than ‘The Sealed Knot’ — that band of enthusiasts who re-enact the great battles that bludgeoned this land and its people into the nation we inhabit today. They run around fields in period costume, replaying ancient conflicts in a highly-ritualised mime. They give us a glimpse of old/wise brutality with a side of dark, comforting us that, despite the odd glitch, our civilisation has, clearly, moved on. The Church too is a glimpse of what most people have left behind. Even in those Churches that don’t indulge in period dress, who soften the ritual with a styled ‘informality’ and soft rock music, it isn’t long before you realise that there are very strait-laced elements, ideas about God and man (sic) just beneath the surface. Stakes and pikes have nothing on the cosmic brutality of penal substitutionary atonement (God kills Jesus on the Cross as a substitute for killing us, which is what we really deserve). The Church reminds us what it is like to feel hard about ourselves, and most people (even some Christians, I suspect) heave a sigh of relief to return to an outside world that tells them ‘You’re OK, I’m OK.’

How has the Church found itself in this position, as a remnant of a fascinating but slightly horrifying medieval world from which most people hope they have progressed? Is this the same institution that pioneered education and healthcare, that led the way in the abolition of slavery, and even, more recently, hastened the demise of apartheid in South Africa? This institution, which has achieved so much for the good of humanity, leading the way in the admission of women, and even, more recently, hastened the demise of apartheid in South Africa? This institution, which has achieved so much for the good of humanity, leading the way in the abolition of slavery, and even, more recently, hastened the demise of apartheid in South Africa? This institution, which has achieved so much for the good of humanity, leading the way in the abolition of slavery, and even, more recently, hastened the demise of apartheid in South Africa?

South Africa? This institution, which has achieved so much for the good of humanity, leading the way in the abolition of slavery, and even, more recently, hastened the demise of apartheid in South Africa?

The Church of England is certainly trying to keep up, and to have the humility to realise that perhaps we are not to become simply an historical footnote; but we must also be prepared to learn from the world’s best insights, for nothing in the cosmos is beyond telling us something about the nature of God (as Romans 1:20 reminds us). This isn’t just about dancing to the world’s tune, this is about taking God seriously as the Creator of all things.

So the C of E should take this one squarely on the chin, own up, and have the humility to realise that perhaps the world, in this instance, has understood the ramifications of the Gospel rather better than we have. To regain the initiative, which will be crucial if we are not to become simply an historical curiosity, we need to do what we have always done best — to pray, and to encourage others to pray with us, as we continue to discern what it is to be human, and how we can best serve the real human needs around us. The most convincing evangelical occurs wherever active love matches real need, because only this proves to others that faith in Jesus is not just a private theory, but a way of life.
Synergism in the Soup: Rethinking Education in Rural Tanzania

Gemma Enolengila (nee Burford: Biochemistry, 1995)

An Exeter Biochemist, married to a Maasai, describes her work to teach indigenous skills in Northern Tanzania.

‘Synergism,’ I explain to my students, ‘means that one compound enhances the effects of another. As an example, recent research has shown that certain medicinal plants contain antibacterial compounds together with multi-drug resistance inhibitors, which prevent them from being pumped out across the bacterial cell membrane.’

Many of you probably know already, from reading the papers or watching the Cutting Edge documentary on Channel 4 earlier this year, that my husband is Maasai and that we live in Tanzania with our baby daughter Lucia. ‘FROM OXFORD TO OX-SKIN!’ proclaimed the headline in the Daily Mail in 2003, referring to my wedding dress made of soft leather. Don’t assume, though, that you’ve heard the whole story. The popular press always write-up, and soon afterwards met the members of the family.

Two weeks later, a campfire somewhere in the foothills of Mount Meru, eating roasted goat meat and drinking acacia tea, we talked about the challenges of preserving traditional crafts and indigenous knowledge in the face of globalisation. They were pleased with the success of the festival, but wanted to take things further, setting up a more permanent forum for young people from different ethnic groups to share their culture and exchange ideas. We came up with a name – Aang Serian, ‘House of Peace’ in the Maasai language – and started to discuss how we might develop a non-governmental organisation. The conference itself was to be held in Moshi, on the subject of traditional medicine and malaria, in December 1999. In addition to making travel arrangements for the 50 delegates, and corresponding with them about their tickets and visas, my job was to organise a parallel ‘Festival of Traditional Medicine and Culture’ involving local performing artists and traditional healers.

One weekend, a young Maasai warrior called Lesikar invited me to visit his village, Eluai, and meet his father – a respected herbalist. I was delighted with the opportunity to see some of the traditional medicines in use, and to talk with the village elders about the festival and about our ideas for developing an NGO. As we were leaving, the village chairman called all the children together and lined them up in order of height for a photograph. ‘These children should be in school,’ he told me. ‘At the moment, they have to walk two hours to the next village. Please find a sponsor who can help us to build a school here.’

I explained that I was just a student, and didn’t know any rich people, but I would try. And that, for the time being, was the end of that. The conference and the festival over, I returned to Oxford at the end of December 1999 to take up a secretarial job, never expecting to see Lesikar or the Eluai chairman again. However, fate had other ideas, and in 2001, Aang Serian was asked to join forces with another Tanzanian NGO for a small-scale research project (sponsored by the UN Development Program) on medicinal plant use and conservation in two Maasai villages. One of the villages was Olarash, just outside Monduli town; the other was Eluai.

Later that year, Lesikar – together with Yunus, one of the Aang Serian founders – was invited to speak at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, as part of the Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebrations. ‘People come to our communities to study our ways of life, do fieldwork for six months, and go home to get a degree or doctorate,’ he told delegates. ‘But what do we get? People are still calling us uneducated and backward. We should get proper credit for the indigenous knowledge that we have.’ In a paper presented at the same meeting, Elder, Ingmar Egede, from the International Indigenous Peoples’ Training Center in Greenland identified two main goals of education for indigenous peoples: “to pass on our people’s inherited knowledge and abilities to the next generation, and to pass on fundamental values we want our people to share in the future.”

When Lesikar and Yunus got back to Tanzania, we started to compile a draft curriculum in indigenous knowledge. The idea was for young people to interview their parents, grandparents and other community elders about issues related to history, culture, health, religion, ceremonies and the environment, and then return to class to discuss the similarities and differences between the various ethnic groups. They would each keep a written record of their own cultural heritage, and also have a chance to exchange ideas with students from different backgrounds. With the help of Bob Webzell, a lecturer at Thames Valley University, and many other generous individuals who donated their time and resources, we started fundraising to build a community secondary school in Eluai.

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for promising students from low-income families to join the school, at a cost of £10 per student per month. We also plan to establish a UK registered charity, based in Oxford, to enable us to claim Gift Aid on donations and to solicit funding from trusts and foundations. Please contact me emoleglu@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on +255-745-744992 (Tanzania) or 023-8040-2575 (via my parents’ home in Southampton), if you can help at all with either of these issues or if you want more information on courses. My postal address is PO Box 19, Monduli, Tanzania.

More information on Aang Serian can be found on our website: www.aangserian.org.uk.

You, Me and HIV

By Siagon Gordon, Fellow, Experimental Pathology at Exeter College

HIV now affects some 10% of the population in South Africa, and, while anti-retroviral treatments are slowly becoming available, much more needs to be done to inform and educate the population about the spread of the virus. In March, a campaign to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS through using children’s education was launched in Cape Town. Devised by Siagon Gordon, and with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the campaign has distributed thousands of free copies of a children’s book, You, Me and HIV to children and schools in sub-Saharan Africa. Written by Professor Fran Ballkoff of Queen Mary’s, University of London and illustrated in a vibrant and humorous manner by Mic Rolph, the book communicates the harsh realities of the risks of contracting HIV and AIDS in an engaging and direct way. It also builds on the success of a pilot project launched in 2002 under the title ‘Staying Alive: Fighting HIV/AIDS’. Copies of the book and accompanying teachers’ pack are available in English, Afrikaans and Zulu. The campaign has already won the support of high-profile South Africans, including Supreme Court Justice Edwin Cameron (Rhodes Scholar in 1980) and Zachie Achmat of the Treatment Action Campaign. For further information contact siagon.gordon@path.co.uk.

Gambia: A Country in Need

By Pat Atkinson (Exeter College Steward)

Recently retired, Pat Atkinson describes her work to help poor children in Gambia.

The Gambia, situated on the beautiful West African coast midway between the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator, is one of the smallest and poorest countries in Africa. It is mostly flat and shaped like a crooked finger, with a narrow strip of land on either side of the majestic River Gambia, from which it takes its name.

The main tribes in the Gambia are Mandinka, Wolof, Fula and Jola. The people are friendly and hospitable and, although they converse in many tribal languages, the official language, and language used in most schools, is English. Approximately one million people live in the Gambia on a strip of only 11,300 square km of river bank, making it not only the smallest but the most densely populated country in West Africa.

Agriculture and tourism make up the majority of the Gambian economy. Groundnuts (in the form of nut oil and cattle cake) account for well over 90% of total exports. Agriculture, forestry and fishing provide a form of living for some of the approximately 75% of Gambians who are unemployed. Those fortunate enough to have employment earn the equivalent of £26 a month. Every salary is the same rate by the Government. For example, it costs £8 a month for a bag of rice to feed a family of ten. This leaves £18 for other monthly provisions which is not enough money to buy local fish each day and meat is a luxury. For a Gambian to attend school, to visit a dentist, to go to hospital or to see a doctor costs money, which they do not have. It is no wonder that 75% of children in the Gambia are illiterate.

In and around Banjul, the capital, many live in compounds with each family having one living room and one bedroom for as many as five or six people. The compounds are built with homemade bricks (sand and cement is mixed together by hand, put into a mould, then tipped out and dried in the sun) that look something like our breeze blocks. The walls are made of cement and the roofs are made of rough timber and aluminium sheeting. There is no sanitation of any kind – just open sewers along the pathways and roads where children play and disease spreads very easily. In the Provinces, which are even poorer than the coastal area, people live in in traditional mud huts with no sanitation or running water.

Electricity for most is unthinkable. Charges are £500 a month. The electricity is also switched off every other day, due to the overload on a small system. On my first visit to The Gambia with my best friend, Rosalind Green, in 1994, we were absolutely devastated at how people had to live. From that time on we vowed we would help children, schools and families as much as we could. We sent 20 kilo parcels, whenever we could afford to do so, to various families and schools at a cost of £60, which has now risen to £90. We then started to support poor children through their education. We agreed £150 a year per child for tuition fees, books, writing materials, food, school uniforms, transport costs or money to buy a bicycle and to cover costs of any school trips that might be available. Any money left over would go towards the child’s needs, for example medical or dental care. We were then approached by other people who asked our help in supporting a Gambian child through their education. It has been an experience that we need to allocate the funds to a single person in the Gambia, who is responsible for distributing those funds according to need.

We have a very dear friend, Famara, who is deaf (due to tuberculosis when he was 12 years old). A very intelligent, honest man, he is married with three children. After several years of trying, we have finally been able to help him as a friend put me in touch with a company in England that made supplied hearing aids to the Deaf African Fund element. We paid £500 for Famara’s hearing aids, a small sum for our friend to be able to hear again. Since he had been deaf since he was 12, the tears rolled down his cheek when he regained his hearing. Famara wrote the most wonderful letter to us about how the aid had given him a new life, and that he was learning and all over again.

Unfortunately, if funding were sent directly to the family it is unlikely that it would be used for their child’s education. However, it is still important to send parcels, but we advise that they are sent through our Box No. From our past experience, if the address is shown, the sender is likely to receive hundreds of begging letters.

If you think you can sponsor one of these children in the Gambia please contact me: pat.atkinson@exeter.ox.ac.uk. We are not a registered charity yet, but hope to be soon.
Frank Close: Shining Light

Frank Close's aim is to deconstruct physics, yet it is its mysteries that delight him, reports John Crace.

This article first appeared in The Guardian, 1 June 2004.

Over the past six months, physicists have become excited about the discovery of a new particle, codenamed theta, that appears to live longer than it should. Theta falls in the centre of Frank Close's field, and next month (July 2004) he is due to give the review talk on the particle at a conference in Beijing. Only right now he doesn't have a clue what he is going to say.

For last week, strong evidence emerged to suggest a tantalising possibility that theta doesn't exist. 'Which leaves me to explain how so many scientists claim to have seen something that may not be there,' he grim.

Not that he seems unduly bothered, as he breezes into his pokey office on the top floor of Exeter College, Oxford. If anything, he appears delighted at the unexpected spinner on the tracks. Close likes his science to come with a sense of mystery and wonder, and the possibility that the pentaquark theta may be a chimerus right up his street. 'Science isn't about finding the solutions to problems so much as asking the questions in the first place,' he says. 'And it's not always obvious what questions one ought to be asking. You can ask something so trivial that no one's interested in it. Or you can ask something so difficult you'll never find an answer. The trick is to ask the question that will make a difference.'

In general, these questions tend to blur the boundaries between why and how things happen. As one of the world's leading particle physicists, Close has asked more than his fair share of the questions that have deepened our understanding of the universe in the past 30 years or so. Close was working on quarks – the basic particles of protons and neutrons, in the mid-60s, long before anyone had proved their existence. 'It was luck,' he says. 'I just happened to be in the right place at the right time.'

He has a point. After graduating from St Andrews, he had planned to go to Cambridge to take his doctorate, but that fell through when the scholarship he had been counting on – available to children or grandchildren of Scottsmen – went pear-shaped when he discovered that despite the family folklore, his grandfather had been born in Lincoln.

Instead, Close won an award to study under Richard Dalitz at Oxford. 'He was working on the quark model and it seemed obvious to make that the focus of my own research,' says Close. In fact, Dalitz was just about the only person in the UK working on quarks and Close remembers feeling rather depressed and lonely for much of his doctorate.

After completing his thesis, Close went to Stanford University – the epicentre of quark research – and, as quark theory went mainstream, found himself at the forefront of a new strand of physics. By 1973 he was working at the world's largest particle physics laboratory at Cern, Geneva, and two years later he was back in the UK as part of the theoretical physics team at the Rutherford Appleton lab in Harwell.

Which is where he spent the next 25 years, winding up as head of the theoretical physics division. But in 2000, the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) pulled the plug. Close's team was disbanded and a new one formed at Durham. 'It was supposed to be a cost-cutting measure,' he says, 'but it seemed a zero sum gain.'

'We lost a centre of knowledge and the new base at Durham doesn't even have an experimental physics facility attached. Above all, it was a huge emotional stress being involved with making so many people redundant.'

Rutherford's loss was Oxford's gain, and that is where he now divides his time between research in depth, his feeling is that its content has been devised with exams rather than inspiration in mind. 'I was looking at my nephew's particle physics text,' he says. 'It's not a proper university.' Close was writing articles and books popular, Close was writing articles and books on the risks of MMR and terrorism. Ultimately, science should be about removing the mystery and replacing it with rationality. That may well be. But you can't help feeling it is the mysteries that keep Close going.

Frank Close
1935
James Travers Hamilton Macnair MC and his wife celebrated a Diamond Wedding on 14 August 2004. It was held at Armoury House, HQ of the HAC (Honourable Artillery Company). There were 90 guests – all but four family. The event included Scottish Country Dancing and a piper. May the Editor express his most sincere felicitations to Mr and Mrs Macnair on their longevity, fidelity, fecundity, and Scottish loyalty.

1948
Keith Parham Ferris says modestly that there is 'little to report'. He is 'playing out the last few minutes of “time added”' on writing letters and articles to and for various newspapers and minor publications, mainly about football in London SE7, butterflies in Kent, the origins of the NHS, and Dickens's Staplehurst railway accident.

1952
Desmond M. Buik systems: 'My wife Doris and I recently celebrated our 70th birthdays by walking 90 miles of the Pennine Way from Barnard Castle to Greenhead in five days, staying at Youth Hostels. We have also sponsored a friend in Latvia for her four-year course in Jelgava University, to gain her BSc in Agricultural Economics. She was placed 6th out of 120 students. Agita is now staying on for her MSc.'

Robert John Day has enjoyed nine years of retirement. He has 'new vocations': '(1) painting portraits and landscapes, (2) marionette theatre, (3) family genealogy... etc., At 73 I find life challenging and exciting.' His father William Robert Day attended Exeter after World War I and taught Forest Pathology at the Schools on Parks Road. He later lectured at the University of British Columbia from 1924 to 1954. I taught Forestry in Canada for thirty-three years... Two Exeter grads with 73 years of combined experience.

Good luck. rjday@lycos.net

Jan Wilold Weyho has had an article published: 'Mircea Eliade's Nights at Serampore: an attempt at a psychoanalytic interpretation' in Bulletin of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada, vol. XX, Montreal 2001. He would like to publish his postal address: Mr Jan W. Weyho, 3795 AV Hampton, Montreal QC H4A 2K7 Canada.

1958
Bernard M.J. Wolfe writes from London, Ontario, that since 2000 he has been Professor Emeritus at the University of Western Ontario.

1960
Gerard M.D. Howat has been an Associate Editor of the Oxford DNB, published in September 2004.

1961
Ian Cheyne Gatenby writes: 'I am pleased to report (almost) completion of a circumnavigation under sail. After seven and 42,000 miles, I am back in the Mediterranean. There are 350 miles to go optimistically to my outward line, but I intend to postpone that passage for a few years while I enjoy Turkey.' Ship to Shore, PO Box 400, Winchester S022 4RU 
jiggo@rocketmail.com

1963
Robert Cresswell Sopwith retired early from teaching at Wellington College, Berks in 1993. ‘Since then,’ he writes, ‘Elizabeth and I have had the privilege of a belated gap year (1995-6) of nine months at an orphanage in West Kenya. My fifth visit with her in October/November 2004 enabled us to see two new orphanages in the Maseno Dioceses, the inspiration of Christians who had learned much from the founders-director of Happy Home Orphanage near Muhoroni, the late Rev. Dr Johana Mruka Mgoye. It would be interesting to hear from like-minded members or exchange ideas with those seeking to support indigenous foundations in rural Kenya.’ He reports his e-mail address as not for circulation.

So I suggest that correspondents should write c/o the Development Office, who can forward letters to his e-mail or postal address as appropriate.

1966
Martin Couchman reports award of the OBE in the 2005 New Year Honours, for services to hospitality.

Nick Stokes writes: ‘Following a successful six years as Marketing Director of Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd, based in Coventry, I joined Age Concern in November 2003.’ In addition he is a non-executive director of the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, and ‘I also still play hockey every Saturday at 57 years of age!’ ni_stokes@hotmail.com

Marcus Walsh was appointed to the Kenneth Allott Chair of English Literature at the University of Liverpool in 2004. Marcus Walsh@liverpool.ac.uk

John Whelam is Deputy Leader of Lambeth Borough Council (was in 2002), and Appointments Committee Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (was in 2004). He reports that he is also working part time on obituaries for the Daily Telegraph, specialising in the Middle East. His younger son Fenton took a first in Oriental Studies at Balliol in 2004 and is working for McKinsey in Dubai, where his three other children are also based. His younger daughter Bridget is ‘breaking the family tradition and going up to Bristol University in 2005 to read Politics.’ johnwhelam.net

1989
C. Stewart Verdery Jr is back in the USA, serving as first Assistant Secretary for Homeland Security Policy in the new Department of Homeland Security. He does a considerable amount of work with the British Government on issues of mutual concern. He lives in Arlington VA with his wife, Jenny, and children, Isabelle and Chase. cverdery@comcast.net

2001
Emily MacDonald sends a ‘brief update on how things are coming with my Pilot’s Licence – things have been rather eventful in that department! After 12 hours of flying lessons my instructor decided I was ready for my first solo flight.’ Emily was initially fine, but upon trying to land for the third time ‘the high speed and sudden veering started the plane “porpoising” i.e. it jumps off the ground as a porpoise would jump out of the water, in an arch. The second porpoise motion was really severe, and as the plane hit the runway I felt the back wheels lift off the ground and come right up into the air, pushing my nose forward, and I felt the plane teeter on the brink of flipping over. Fortunately it then righted itself (I was later told that was incredibly fortunate and was probably due to the propeller hitting the ground and pushing the nose upwards and the tail downwards – apparently a rare occurrence), and I somehow managed to steer towards the centre of the runway without coming off it at any point. Chaos ensued, with fire engines and police cars and the like. All ended well though it was incredibly frightening. Apparently it is something that “never happens” (although obviously it does) and is literally a one in a million chance. Not had for my first solo flight! Anyway, on the bright side at least the one in the event has happened; so I figure there can’t be too many more of them! I’m probably pretty safe now—here’s to a very uneventful next few lessons!’

2008
Maria-Zoe Petropoulou. See Nikolaos Petropoulos under 1990.
By Matthew Barron

The original version of this article first appeared in the Spring 2004 issue of the University of Saskatchewan alumni magazine, The Green & White.

In 1956, a young undergraduate sat in Francis Leddy's office at the University of Saskatchewan, still buzzing from winning a Rhodes Scholarship.

Both the Dean of Arts and Secretary of the provincial committee responsible for selecting Rhodes scholars, Leddy had called Bob Sider (1956, Theology) earlier to break the news and invite the young undergraduate to his office to "fix up" a few application details. Whilst there, Sider was asked for his preference of College. In his surprised state, Sider wasn't prepared and said he had no particular College in mind.

"Obviously you want to go to Exeter College," Leddy said, turning in his chair and pointing at a picture of history-steeped buildings behind him.

Founded in 1314, Exeter College is neither the largest nor the richest of Oxford's 39 colleges. Nevertheless it has educated the likes of writers J.R.R. Tolkien, J.M. Barrie, and actor Richard Burton. In 1968 to 1970, Kloppenburg not only contributed funds to build the lecture room in the College, but also the president of Oxford University, Sir John Habgood, and the Dean of Law at Queens University. James McConica (1950, Modern History) is now a Fellow of both the British Academy and the Royal Society of Canada.

In the mid-seventies, attended Exeter.

A Saskatchewan Rhodes Scholar and Exeter grad himself, Leddy (1933, Chemistry) not only came up with the idea for the room, he acted as the catalyst that sparked the relationship in the first place. As the Secretary of the Rhodes selection committee from 1935 to 1961, he enthusiastically steered Saskatchewan Rhodes scholars towards Exeter. After Leddy, other Secretaries similarly directed Saskatchewanians towards Exeter. As Leddy himself put it, "Almost as if I'm a pilgrim.

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Another Old Exonion, Henry Cross (1947, Politics), also makes the room really unique is the simple fact that no other Oxford lecture theatre bears the name of a province or state - but then again, not many provinces possess a Dr. Francis Leddy.

In 1983, many of us returned to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Rhodes scholarships. Oxford's then chancellor, Lord Macmillan, publicly chided Mrs Thatcher for getting back on government assistance and urged that they look elsewhere – even inwards – for new resources. I thought he had a point.

"Obviously you want to go to Exeter College," Leddy said, turning in his chair and pointing at a picture of history-steeped buildings behind him.

Founded in 1314, Exeter College is neither the largest nor the richest of Oxford's 39 colleges. Nevertheless it has educated the likes of writers J.R.R. Tolkien, J.M. Barrie, and actor Richard Burton. In 1968 to 1970, Kloppenburg not only contributed funds to build the lecture room in the College, but also the president of Oxford University, Sir John Habgood, and the Dean of Law at Queens University. James McConica (1950, Modern History) is now a Fellow of both the British Academy and the Royal Society of Canada.

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Richard Doddridge Blackmore, one of the most famous novelists of his generation, was educated at Exeter College, Oxford between 1843 and 1847. Reprinted with kind permission of Lynton and Lynmouth Tourist Information Centre. http://lynton-lynnmouth-tourism.co.uk

Richard Doddridge Blackmore (1825-1900) was educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton, and Exeter College, Oxford. He was called to the Inner Temple Bar in 1852 but retired through ill health. After teaching Classics at Twickenham School, he took up horticulture and market gardening. His first novel, Clara Vaughan (1864) was recognised for its vigorous prose and poetic imagination. He wrote a number of novels that, in his opinion, ranked level with other famous novelists of his g

It was by freak or fortune that Lorna Doone ever had the chance to become popular.

Richard Blackmore's Lorna Doone

made excellent hideouts for fugitives although their inhospitable bleakness made them hard areas in which to survive. Highway robbery, cattle stealing or even murder became necessary paths of survival. Highway robbery, cattle stealing or even murder became necessary paths of survival. Highway robbery, cattle stealing or even murder became necessary paths of survival. Highway robbery, cattle stealing or even murder became necessary paths of survival.

Blackmore had been hearing about such people who tried to pin him down and unravel the story. The last surviving descendant of one such tribe, on Odham Moor, died almost within living memory. He was animal-like and illiterate and lived in a hut of tufts until time and weather brought about its collapse, when he moved into a barn.

Blackmore had been hearing about such people from his boyhood. He was born at Longworth, Oxfordshire, where his father, the Reverend John Blackmore, was the Curate in Charge. Following the death of his wife and sister-in-law from typhus fever, John Blackmore accepted a curacy firstly in Culmstock where he became an inactive and a mass exodus by the back door took place. The luridous position arose with a friend of mine who had served in the war as a Major in the army; he was not permitted to visit a pub on his own but could do so if accompanied by his wife, who happened to be a senior member of the University.

The College gate closed at 10pm, but entry could still be obtained up to midnight by paying a fine to the porter. After midnight one had to climb in by any route available, hoping not to be caught in traffic owing to the stringent petrol rationing. Each tank, ready to service the Fire Brigade hoses in case incendiarism fell on the College. In some ways, those of us who were up during the war saw Oxford at its best, as there was hardly any traffic owing to the stringent petrol rationing.

Early Days

In the spring of 1944 my music master told my father that there were two Choral Exhibitions available at Exeter College, Oxford before it was agreed that I should try to gain this bonanza – then worth £10 per term! Accordingly, I duly appeared at the College and presented myself to a panel comprising the Organ Scholar, Alee Wyton, the Chaplain, Paul Kingdon, Neville Coghill and Rector Barber. Another test frightened me to death after his singing by battering off. He was the first movement of the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No 2. My music master told me, ‘you cannot go wrong in Oxford by playing a Bach Prelude and Fugue’. I followed his advice and a baritone, Ted Crook, and I were both awarded Exhibitions.

There is something of a mystery at this point as the College records do not show that we had an organ scholar in 1944 and that no undergraduate was reading Music. Both Ted Crook and I remember Alee Wyton so well. Had we borrowed a musician from another College? I would be very interested to know if anyone can throw light on this.

What I can say is that in 1944, Alee Wyton was a brilliant organist and choirmaster. He founded a post at Exeter at St. Matthew's, Northampton. This church had the habit of commissioning new works, one each year, and when Alee was to move there, the work being prepared was Benjamin Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb. Alee persuaded Britten to allow the Exeter choir to sing this work just one day after its first performance at Northampton. The composer came to the College for one of the rehearsals. Later in his career, Alee became organist at one of the great New York churches. I had decided to leave school a little earlier than normal in order to have two terms at Exeter before going into the Services at 18. I had already volunteered for the Navy and accordingly applied for a 'Short Course'. The Navy came up trumps by giving me an adequate grant and sent me to Exeter. It was decided (I am not sure by whom) that I should read English, presumably on the grounds that it could not possibly do me any harm and might conceivably be beneficial. I look back with amusement at Neville Coghill's kindness in hectoring me to try for this course.

Michael Dryland (1944, English) recalls his days as an Organ Scholar in the late 1940s...
From Suez to Exeter in 1948
By Alfred Dale (1948, Modern History)

I’ll Be Your Guide
By Patrick Heinecke (1959, Modern Languages)

Always serve very dry sherry and never more than two glasses.

We lived in partly medieval surroundings in College – especially the bathing facilities. I still treasure the midwinter journeys, trudging through the snow from Staircase 1 to the bath house in the far underground recesses of the back quad.

The theatre scene in Oxford was very vibrant at that time and during my second year I joined the college’s theatre group. Among the 1948 intake were a number of Rhodes scholars - chiefly Americans - who, over the years, became fast friends. They included Stan Turner and Wes Posvar, at that time junior officers in the US Navy and Air Force respectively. During our time at Exeter, Wes was frequently missing at weekends because he flew the Berlin airlift to maintain his flight competence. He subsequently became Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh.

The class was a mixture of recently demobilized servicemen and recently graduated high school students. I don’t know which group formed the majority, but we were a smaller group of Arabic and an ingrained habit of never sitting with my back to an entrance door in a public place. The Arabic has long gone, but the habit has never deserted me.

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Always serve very dry sherry and never more than two glasses.

The last 50 years have been a joy and a challenge. To raise funds for the Sandema charity, which funds local children’s education in the Ghanaian village of Sandema, Patrick Heinecke (1959, Modern Languages) climbed the highest mountain in Ghana on 26 November 2004.

To do it! You haven’t climbed a mountain since you were 16 years old. You’ve got a pin and plate in your left leg since you had that motor accident in Nigeria. You’ve had an arthroscopy on your right knee. You suffer from hypertension and you also have the hepatitis C virus. Isn’t that enough? Don’t play with your life!” Gillian argued.

‘The mountain’s only 2950 feet high,’ I lamely protested.

‘I suppose you believe that climbing up the escalators in the London Underground is all the training you need…’ On that cynical note, she put the phone down.

Three weeks later I arrived in the small town of Hoobo in the middle of a thunderstorm.

‘I thought it was the dry season;’ I said naively to an old man also sheltering from the downpour.

‘Oh no!’ he replied. ‘It can rain even up to Christmas.

‘This could stop my climb,’ I said, explaining my intention to climb Mount Afajato.

‘Don’t worry. It only rains in the afternoon. Not every day.’

That evening as I was relaxing with a gourd of palmwine, a young man introduced himself to me as Salase.

‘I’m a lepidopterist. I comb the mountains and forests with my butterfly net. I’ll be happy to climb Afajato with you tomorrow. I’ll be your guide.’

The next morning Salase and I arrived in the village of Afajato and booked in at the guest house. A stripping approach us.

‘My name is Takwa. I suppose you’re in school, year nine, but they sent me home because my mother has no money to pay my school fees. So I’m free to climb the mountain with you. I’ll be your guide.’

The climb began at 11 a.m. The temperature was 38 degrees, the humidity 90%...
James Hamilton-Paterson studied English at Exeter College between 1961 and 1964. He now divides his time between Tuscany and the Philippines. An accomplished travel writer, memoirist, poet and award-winning novelist, his writing is inextricably linked with his travelling. His latest novel, Cooking With Fernet Branca, was recently published by Faber & Faber. Peter Davis (1999, Music) spoke to Hamilton-Paterson, specialising on the isolation of the Tuscan countryside to working the London literary circuit.

For James Hamilton-Paterson, Exeter College contains many happy memories. Not having visited Oxford for some 15 years, he vividly recalls the past. ‘In my day there seemed to be only a couple of bathrooms within the whole College.’ The American scholars in particular were incredulous. ‘They must have been used to a huge range of subject matter – travel writing, fiction, children’s stories, short stories – defying categorisation from critics and publishers. To a certain extent this has hindered the marketing of his books. Publishers and bookshops like defined categories and want authors to be labeled as ‘a novelty’ or ‘a travel writer’. However, Hamilton-Paterson has always presented himself to be above such wariness, with his novel, Gerontius, winning the Whitbread First Novel Award. His writing is often sharply autobiographical.

Playing With Water contains recollections of his memories of his father, who died when Hamilton-Paterson was at Exeter, with his poem, The Importance of Being Earnest – and find it very moving when it is done well. ‘I feel guilty for any downfall of the other students – without my editor asking me to write a book that was at least 30% autobiographical, I don’t think I would have had the nerve.’ Hamilton-Paterson remembers painfully his arrest by Brazilian Police on trumped-up subversion charges in 1968. ‘It was all something of a misunderstanding’, he says. ‘I suppose I was full of youthful foolish Leftism and was experiencing a coming of age in politics. I was discussing the American-acked dictators with a group of students with reasonable political conviction. Some of the students moved away but then reappeared wearing police uniforms and arrested us. We were kept in appalling nineteenth-century barracks for 24 hours until a friend bailed me out. I am sure the whole exercise was just to scare us, yet to this day I feel guilty for any downfall of the other students I was with. It was truly terrifying, but also properly sobering.’

Hamilton-Paterson’s political views also informed his book, America’s Boy, an attempt to correct Western ‘misconceptions’ of the dictatorship in the Philippines. Do these misconceptions still exist today? ‘Good Lord, yes. I was living in a remote fishing village community at the time. When Marcos was overthrown, the rest of the world took their cue from the American press in criticizing the dictator. However, in the village there was still a lot of sotto voce support for Marcos. The men thought Marcos had had balls, occasionally telling America to ‘go away’ and asserting Filipino nationalism. There was a discrepancy between what the world was being led to believe and what many people in the Philippines believed. Of course there was massive corruption, but there had always been, including under the Americans. The Philippines is an Asian culture; and US journalists in particular often made scant effort to learn its history and understand its difference. In a way it’s the same story in Iraq. There, too, the US media have tended only to report a highly partial version of events. The revelations of Fahrenheit 9/11 were less of a surprise to European audiences than they were to Americans. Democracy is not a unitary thing and is different in every culture. American ‘Democracy-Lite’ is not universal and is by no means perfect – just look at the last election.’

Hamilton-Paterson’s latest novel, Cooking With Fernet Branca, is a light-hearted face that poke fun at the idealised holiday-home view of tuscany established in the travel writing of authors such as Francis Mayes and Isabella Dasi. Was this an intentional satire? ‘I didn’t really set out to write a skit. Francis Mayes appeals to the Tuscanophile. The town in Mayes’s Under a Tuscan Sun was the nearest town to my house, and I was made aware of the damage such books can cause. They put a town on the map yet screws up the local economy. Tourists bring in wealth, but the local people are priced out of the market and cannot afford to buy property. Such books grotesquely misrepresented the culture through their sentimentality. They patronisingly paint a picture of quaint peasant life and a form of escapism for the urban reader. This is a picture people want to see, what’s not really there.’ Indeed, Hamilton-Paterson argues these books have created a non-existent ‘Chiantishire’.

The novel features Gerald, a ghost-writer who has moved to Tuscany in order to concentrate on his writing, although Hamilton-Paterson insists the character is not autobiographical. Gerald forms an unlikely love-hate relationship with Marta, a composer from Eastern Europe. Gerald draws on his experiences of the Philippines for cooking with Hamilton-Paterson, specialising in bizarre recipes involving eter, cat meat and the invasive ‘Alien Pie’. Of distant memories of food in Hall for Hamilton-Paterson, he will only say that ‘Alien Pie sounds edible compared to the things we ate at Exeter!’ Finally, what is next for someone who seems to write it all? ‘I am completing an anthology of writing about the sea. I also write a regular science column in a Swiss newspaper. The only thing I ever wanted to do was live life as an author. I do my work, and if it is well received then that is the jam on the cake.’ It seems as though there are still plenty of words to come from James Hamilton- Paterson. And maybe the odd recipe or two.

Cooking With Fernet Branca was published by Faber & Faber on 3 June at £7.99
A Remarkable Career
By Ed Harris (1991, PPE)

Ed Harris was always determined to make his post-Exeter life as full as possible. Here, he writes about his experiences, from ministerial corruption to cross-African cycling, Uzbekistan to Nairobi. 

My name is Ed Harris. I’m currently 32, unemployed, and sleeping on a friend’s floor in Nairobi. Ten years ago, egg and flour freshly removed from my sub-fusc clothes, the sweet freedom that comes from finishing Finals gave way to smooth tarmac and an extraordinary South African hospitality. Strangers stopped their cars to talk, and some even offered food and a bed for the night. Eight months after leaving home, and with 10,000 miles on the clock, I sped into Cape Town as my target. For the night. Eight months after leaving home, and with 10,000 miles on the clock, I sped into Cape Town as my target.

Through Europe I slept in bushes, fields, sheds, garages, on beaches and under trailers. In Austria, people were skiing at the side of the road and my water bottles were freezing. Months later, when I travelled across Egypt’s Sinai Desert, pulling off the road at the end of a day and sleeping under the stars, I was drinking nine litres of water a day, and never needing to pee.

Drifting in subsequent months, I found inspiration in a short paperback about four young students who had cycled from the Cape to Cairo. My competitive edge got the better of me and, on a bracing February morning two months later, I cycled gently away from home and a pair of anxious parents with Cape Town as my target. Overall, Azerbaijan was a depressing place. It has been interesting and it’s only just begun.

In Egypt I was drinking nine litres of water a day, and never needing to pee.
A round the world in 51 days, 7 countries, 11 cities, 33 Exonians and 428 photos; not bad for a summer vacation. Yet no set of figures can truly describe the amazing experience of meeting so many people in so many places across the globe.

My first port of call was Los Angeles; I played volleyball on the beach, surfed and went for coffee with Cooper Jackson – all very American. Next stop was Auckland. John White entertained me with stories of pranks played on Jesus College during his Exeter days and a trip to view Auckland from ‘One Tree Hill’ (which has since become ‘No Tree Hill’ as I didn’t see a single Westerner in Australia). I was keen to practice their English. I taught them how to pronounce the difficult Chinese tones.

After Singapore, the lack of English in Hong Kong came as a bit of a shock. Fortunately, this was not a problem as my trusty local guide Sam Graham showed me the delights of ‘the Peak’, Kowloon, Hong Kong beaches and Lantau Island. I received invaluable local knowledge and insight from everyone I met; whether from the UK (Alan Lammin), Hong Kong (Alan Lau) or even Sydney (John Woodrake). There was so much to do in the evenings too; dinner with David Webb, the Hong Kong skyline over a meal with Paul Pheby, and partying till the early hours (if you can call 10am early)! With Mark Swift and Michelle Doran.

Shanghai was next, and I walked off the train after a 25-hour journey straight into a solid language barrier. English is not understood anywhere and getting to my hostel would have been impossible had it not been for Ting Zhang. I visited the Purple Gold Mountains (which, incidentally, are neither purple nor gold) in Nanjing, and lovely Suzhou with its intricate waterways and bright lights. Shanghai itself is pretty unique, yet the two things I remember most vividly are the endless bargaining and bartering with street sellers, and the concrete, smog-filled landscape. Going for lunch with Mirena Kambadre was lovely. We went for traditional Dim Sum and wine in Shanghai.

I visited the Summer Palace; and the Great Wall. The two sights with Keiko Takahashi. Fortunately Paul Pheby was also in Tokyo at the same time so we had a truly unforgettable night in Roppongi – the ‘expat’ area of Tokyo. I would love to be able to describe Asia as a whole, but, from the delights of Qingdao through to the buzz of Tokyo, it is so varied that the two cities don’t really belong in the same sentence. I learnt a lot, not only about new places but also new ways of government and different economics (very interesting for a PPEist). Seeing other points of view is the only real way to learn and I was able to see them first-hand! Everywhere I went and everything I did was made so much easier by the people who wrote to me and met me across the globe. My summer adventure was truly awesome, thank you so much to everyone.

Flonat Exon.

Arctic Dreams

Alumni Matt Hancock (1996, PPE) and Matt Coates (1998, Engineering) attempted to walk to the magnetic north pole in March. They were reunited after Matt Coates’s first Arctic trip was featured in Exon. Matt Hancock said: ‘If it wasn’t for Exon, I would not have found out about Matt Coates’s first trip, I wouldn’t have got back in touch with him (which I did via the Development office) and neither of us would have gone to the Arctic at all’. The trek was a huge feat, considering the pair had to face polar bears and temperatures down to minus 40. The pair were unsupported, so were carrying all their own equipment. Disappointingly, however, the expedition had to be called off after Matt Hancock got frostbite. Had they continued, he would have risked losing four fingers. After the most northerly game of cricket ever, the Exeter duo were evacuated. Matt Coates continues to encourage Matt Hancock to repeat the expedition with him. Watch this space...
Obituary

Major-General Rex Whitworth

(1916 – 2004)

This article first appeared in The Telegraph, 1 June 2004.

Major-General Rex Whitworth, who died on May 22 [2004] aged 87, commanded the Berlin Infantry Brigade Group at the time the Berlin Wall was erected, in August 1961, throughout the Cuban missile crisis and during President Kennedy’s visit to the city in June 1963.

Whitworth escorted a succession of world leaders to peer through the Brandenburg Gate into the forbidden world of the Soviet empire; among them were Ted Heath, Alec Douglas-Home and Kennedy, who showed his solidarity with the besieged city by famously declaring: ‘Ich bin ein Berliner’.

Like many in the West, Whitworth was much taken with the youthful president and regarded him as a figure of hope. Following Kennedy’s assassination, five months after the president’s Berlin visit, Whitworth wrote in emotional terms to his 12-year-old son, who was at prep school in England: ‘This is a catastrophe for the Western alliance.’ At the time of Whitworth’s arrival in Berlin in the summer of 1961 the city was in a very nervous state. The Wall went up in August, and early the next year Khrushchev set a deadline of November 1962, to resolve the issue of Four-power control. Many saw the arrival of nuclear weapons in Cuba as a warning to America not to challenge the Soviet Union if its tanks rolled in to West Berlin.

A calm, highly intelligent Grenadier, Whitworth was the ideal man to have at the helm during these edgy times. He came to know Willy Brandt, then the mayor of Berlin and later to be Chancellor. Even at the height of the crisis he would cross into East Berlin to attend performances at the Staatsoper.

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C. Lyman Emrich, Jr

(1911 – 2005)

C. Lyman Emrich, Jr. (1934, Jurisprudence) died in February 2005. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Exeter and a devoted member of the ECRC between 1934 and 1938, receiving a doctor’s degree in Philosophy in Jurisprudence upon returning to his native Chicago, Emrich practised intellectual property law and served in the US Navy during World War II. One of his fondest memories from his time at the Department of Naval Intelligence in Washington DC was dancing with Eleanor Roosevelt at a White House wedding. Emrich, an international trademark and copyright attorney, is survived by his second wife, Katherine, two sons, two stepchildren and three grandchildren.

Robert Christopher Chivers

(1948 – 2004)

Bob Chivers (1965, Natural Sciences) won an open scholarship to Exeter College and graduated in 1969. He went on to the Institute of Cancer Research, at Sutton for his PhD, ending up as a lecturer and Reader in Physics at the University of Surrey. There he taught acoustics and made some seventies. Bob won numerous academic distinctions and appointments over the years, including the Hydrographic Journal Prize in 1990 and the US Navy’s Best Scholar at the University of Michigan. He also held the editor of The Burma Research Society, and the editor of The Burma Research Society. He had such an understanding of the Buddhist faith that unlike so many missionary doctors, he was forever building real bridges of understanding.

Thank you to Exeter College for your part in the encouragement of this truly great man of letters. (A longer version of this article is available from Robin Ewbank: rob.e@blueyonder.co.uk)

An Outstanding Student of Exeter College

U Pe Maung Tin

(1920, B Litt.)

By his daughter, Daw Tin Tin Myaing (Brenda Stanley) and edited by The Rev. Canon Robin Ewbank (1961, Physics)

Bob Chivers (1965, Natural Sciences) won an open scholarship to Exeter College and graduated in 1969. He went on to the Institute of Cancer Research, at Sutton for his PhD, ending up as a lecturer and Reader in Physics at the University of Surrey. There he taught acoustics and made some seventies. Bob won numerous academic distinctions and appointments over the years, including the Hydrographic Journal Prize in 1990 and the US Navy’s Best Scholar at the University of Michigan. He also held the editor of The Burma Research Society, and the editor of The Burma Research Society. He had such an understanding of the Buddhist faith that unlike so many missionary doctors, he was forever building real bridges of understanding.

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Busters

Some of you may remember the 1954 ‘Busters’, the Exeter Cricket team, featuring in a previous issue of Exon. This is a photograph of the 1953 Busters. If you know anyone in this photograph or have any memories of the Busters, do get in contact with Exon for inclusion in a future issue, by emailing: development@exeter.ox.ac.uk

167 Matriculands

Similarly, if you can name – or are near enough – the people in here in their 1967 matriculation photograph, contact development@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Aunt Sally

In the Autumn 2004 edition of Exon we published this 1960 photograph of Exonians in a popular watering hole. Here are some of the replies – though not all of you seem to agree on exactly who your friends are (from left to right):

From Simon Gegg (1958, Jurisprudence): (a) Alec Easson, Stephen Mitchell, Jeremy Wright, John Meakin, Dominic Lowe, Simon Gegg, Colin Harrison hiding who is probably Stephen Merritt, (b) Ior Davies Price, (c) NK, John Moat, Mike Bannister (d) John Beeching, NK, John Gold, Richard Johnson, and the incorrigible Stephen Malone coming round the back!


From Mike Collin (1957, English): Alec Easson, John Meakin, Colin Harrison (missiles in hand), John Moat and Richard Johnson (with hat). The man in the second row apparently about to vomit over Moat’s (missiles in hand), John Moat and Richard Johnson. (f) is Mike Lightfoot (his Honour), I think that Aunt Sally’s pub was in St. Ebbs and the area was probably long ago demolished and rebuilt.


Exon Magazine Quizlet

Here are a few questions about Exeter curiosities and trivia, past and present! Hope you find them enjoyable…

1. Everyone knows Walter de Stapeldon met an untimely death at the hands of the London mob before Exeter was properly founded. That’s probably why the College was never as rich as its predecessors Merton, Univ and Balliol. But which King was our Walter working for?
   (a) Edward I  (b) Edward II  (c) Richard II  (d) John Balliol, King of Scotland

2. The JCR Suggestion Books contain a record of Exonian undergraduates’ wishes, obsessions and artistic endeavours. But what is the only thing that J.R.R. Tolkien ever suggested when he was but a humble inhabitant of Staircase 7 studying for Classics Mods?
   (a) The JCR should buy a good English dictionary with decent Anglo-Saxon etymologies.
   (b) The College should extend library opening hours and allow undergraduates to use the upper floor – it had been reserved for Fellows only.
   (c) The Hall should be decorated with ceremonial battleaxes to commemorate the Battle of Maldon in 991 AD
   (d) That the Rector should lead prayers in Latin at High Table.

3. Which of these famous composers have an Exeter connection? And which one is the odd one out?
   (a) John Stainer
   (b) William Byrd
   (c) Gabriel Fauré
   (d) Hubert Parry

4. Which modern College’s crest appears (somewhat anachronistically) on Palmer’s Tower, built in 1420 and the oldest extant part of Exeter?
   (a) St Peter’s College
   (b) Kellogg College
   (c) St Peter’s College
   (d) St Catherine’s College

5. Exeter College Boat Club is one of the oldest rowing clubs in the world, founded in 1823. Which vital item of rowing clothing does it claim to have popularised?
   (a) The rowing cap in College colours
   (b) The hyac all-in-one
   (c) The specialised rowing shoe
   (d) The blazer

6. Looking inside the College Hall, you will see some fine wooden carvings on the screen – including one of a jolly man partaking in a certain activity. Apparently, this is the first English depiction in wood of anyone behaving in this way! What is this activity?
   (a) Smoking
   (b) Taking snuff
   (c) Wearing a monocle
   (d) Drinking port

7. If you step outside the Hall, you’ll notice that Exeter’s architecture isn’t always what it seems. We have always specialised in the architecture of the past – even centuries ago! Does the front quad feature from the 11th century?
   (a) An eighteenth-century hall in the style of the sixteenth century.
   (b) An eighteenth-century hall in the style of the twelfth century.
   (c) An eighteenth-century hall in the style of the fifteenth century.
   (d) A chapel and hall which are both eighteenth-century and which have no real architectural style whatsoever, but are just glorious Gothic fantasies.

8. Which eighteenth-century author depicted life in contemporary Exeter College as drunken, wild and liable to corrupt innocent young men?
   (a) Laurence Sterne
   (b) Tobias Smollett
   (c) Henry Fielding
   (d) Samuel Richardson

9. Quads in Exeter have occasionally had strange names. Which of these is the most eccentric nickname? Which of these is real, and which not?
   (a) Hell Quad
   (b) Dustbin Quad
   (c) Tourtable Quad
   (d) Rector’s Pieces

10. Finally, those of you who have dared venture into the chapel may have heard the Organ Scholars threatening to dealen the congregation from time to time. Which of these are real functions on the Exon organ?
   (a) Effet d’ Orage
   (b) Blitzpfeife
   (c) Talia Brillcosa (en chamade)
   (d) Bombarde

Answers

1. (b) Walter de Stapeldon was Edward I’s Lord Treasurer, and was trying to quell a riot in London when on 13 October 1242 he was dragged to Cheapside by the mob: “frye they proclaimed him a public traitor, a seducer of the king, and destroyer of the liberties of their city.” (Thomas of Walsingham, Historia Franci, quoted on Exon Cathedral’s website). He was promptly murdered – but is now seen for poor Exeter and its endowments!

2. (a) Tolkien was one of the more studious classicists to have lived on Staircase 7, especially in comparison to the unsavoury characters who were there one...

3. (a) is the odd one out. All the other composers had some link with Exeter; Stainer was the President of the College Music Society, despite his being at Magdalen. Byrd was closely associated with the family of William Petre, who effectively re-founded the college and made it a growing concern. Hubert Parry was the Organ Scholar whilst an undergraduate. But the only connection that Exton has with Exeter is having his music sung by the Choir on their CDs and in Inspector Morse!

4. (c) The Crossed Keys are the symbol of St Peter’s; where Exeter chapel is dedicated (amongst other saints), St Peter’s College just happens to be at a quận on the corner where one runs...

5. (a) Allegedly, blazers take their name from the brightly coloured scarlet jackets worn by members of a certain boat club at the very first Henley Royal Regatta in 1819. That’s the story, at least...

6. (a) He seems to have a little pipe.

7. (b) Those of you who suggested that the chapel should be equipped with a mechanical turntable to assist with the reading of the liturgy may have heard the term “organist” but are just glorious Gothic fantasies...

8. (c). In Victoria College there is a room dedicated to the college, including amongst other things, Stainer was the organist who effectively re-founded the college and made it a growing concern. Hubert Parry was the Organ Scholar whilst an undergraduate. But the only connection that Exton has with Exeter is having his music sung by the Choir on their CDs and in Inspector Morse!

9. (c). The Crossed Keys are the symbol of St Peter’s; where Exeter chapel is dedicated (amongst other saints), St Peter’s College just happens to be at a quận on the corner where one runs...

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11. (c). The Crossed Keys are the symbol of St Peter’s; where Exeter chapel is dedicated (amongst other saints), St Peter’s College just happens to be at a quận on the corner where one runs...

12. (b) Effet d’ Orage is basically a large plunk on a spring which glasses all at once and (hopefully leaves the Chapel windows intact). The Bombarde is the unsavoury character who were there one...

13. (c) is the odd one out. All the other composers had some link with Exeter; Stainer was the President of the College Music Society, despite his being at Magdalen. Byrd was closely associated with the family of William Petre, who effectively re-founded the college and made it a growing concern. Hubert Parry was the Organ Scholar whilst an undergraduate. But the only connection that Exton has with Exeter is having his music sung by the Choir on their CDs and in Inspector Morse!
Dear Rector

Some lighthearted snippets from the Sixties. By Dr Chris Simpson (1959, Chemistry)

Dear Rector...

One Sunday in 1960 I was attending Matins in Chapel, occupying the seat with the coat of Arms with three hands, about six up on the right hand side. It was probably the first Lesson. I happened to glance at the Rector, Sir Kenneth Wheare, and saw a curl of smoke emanating from his jacket pocket. I whipped out a notebook, tore out a page and wrote:

Dear Rector
You are on thin ice!

Regards
Simpson

I folded this missive and wrote ‘The Rector’ on the outside and solemnly passed it to my neighbour. He glanced at the address, passed it on, and quizzically regarded the Rector. This process continued until the billet reached the Rector. He opened it, looked slightly bemused, and then suddenly clapped his hand to his pocket, extracted a somewhat revolving and smoking pipe, did a sharp left turn, and fled. There was the sound of furious knocking on the buttress just outside the Chapel door (a ceremony performed before services).

Sir Kenneth reappeared with a grin and passed the note to the Sub Rector Derek Hall, who, when he saw this, exclaimed, ‘With any luck, that fool, Gittins, will kill himself and we’ll have another vacancy next term!’ Fortunately nobody was hurt. The Proctor and Bulldogs turned up, politely refused offers of coffee from 7:1 window, and gently eased us, dons and all, back into College.

Apologia...

In case you think this was all excessively puérile, these were the ‘Cold War’ days when we could all remember World War II, and the Korean War. We lived under the ‘7-minute warning’ which was very real to many of us, and the Berlin Wall and Cuban Missile Crisis were imminent. ‘Carpe diem’ was undoubtedly the unwritten motto of the majority. It was regarded as rather bad form to be actually caught working: personally, in my first two years, I did most of my reading and written work overnight (say from 10 pm), going to bed in the small hours and sleeping until mid-morning. Some afternoons I did chemistry practicals, but otherwise I was partaking in College Life.

A few days prior to our appearance in The Insect Play by Capek for ‘Cuppers’, I remember taking part as the centre marker in an evening march through the City, when around a dozen of us donned ant costumes complete with antennae on our heads and drawn swords! I was a member of a Calypso Band with Mike Crowe, Gene Lewis and others. After playing at an end of term ball at Corpus, I had to climb back into College, using a bicycle, the bellard, the cross, over the wall and into the fellow’s Garden. What made it harder on this occasion was that I was carrying a guitar and some percussion instruments and had a tea chest ‘washed haws’ strapped to my back. At the critical instant when one had to let go of the central nut and make a wild grab for the top of the cross, there was a tug on my trouser leg, and there was a large ‘Bule’ (“Constituere”). He was very polite. ‘Sir, can you prove that you are a member of this College?’ Somehow I got my guitar hand into my inner pocket and extracted an item: ‘Officer! My card!’ ‘Very good, sir.’ ‘Now can you give me a leg up?’ … He did!

In my second year I (and others) built the complete stage set for The Country Wife in my rooms (7:1, now the Informacy). This was made possible due to my very long-suffering and loyal Scout (Alice Newton) turning a blind eye. One day she had to go through 2 archways and 3 doors turning a blind eye. One day she had to go through 2 archways and 3 doors before they got their gate shut. I remember Dick Celeste, a not-very-tame American, emerging minus one of his trouser legs. People started to appear on the roof and run along their chapel parapet.

I was standing near Sub Rector Derek Hall, who, when he saw this, exclaimed, ‘With any luck, that fool, Gittins, will kill himself and we’ll have another vacancy next term!’ Fortunately nobody was hurt. The Proctor and Bulldogs turned up, politely refused offers of coffee from 7:1 window, and gently eased us, dons and all, back into College.

Calendar and dates

Bill Emmott at Said Business School 18/10/2005
Careers and Internships Lunch 25/10/2005
Abby Cohen at Said Business School 01/11/2005
Medics’ Dinner 25/11/2005
Advent Carol Service, 5.30pm 27/11/2005
Careers and Internships Evening 28/11/2005
Varsity Rugby Match 27/12/2005
City Drinks Date to be confirmed
Caudy for Matriculation Years 1985 – 1987 07/01/2006
Careers and Internships Evening 26/01/2006
Caudy for Matriculation Years 1985 – 1987 07/01/2006
Careers and Internships Evening 27/02/2006
North American Reunion New York 01/04/2006
Inter-Collegiate Golf Tournament 18/04/2006
College Ball 22/04/2006
ECBCA Dinner 27/05/2006
Garden Party 27/05/2006
Higgs Night 11/06/2006
2006 Leavers’ Lunch 18/06/2006

Term Dates

MICHAELMAS TERM 2005:
Sunday 9 October – Saturday 3 December

HILARY TERM 2006:
Sunday 15 January – Saturday 11 March

TRINITY TERM 2006:
Sunday 23 April – Saturday 17 June

Provisional dates:
Caudy for Matriculation Years 1985 – 1987 07/01/2006
North American Reunion New York 01/04/2006
Inter-Collegiate Golf Tournament 18/04/2006
College Ball 22/04/2006
ECBCA Dinner 27/05/2006
Garden Party 27/05/2006
Higgs Night 11/06/2006
2006 Leavers’ Lunch 18/06/2006
Honorary Fellows

HM The Queen of Spain
Sir Michael Levy
Sir Roger Bannister
Admiral Stansfield Turner
Grieg Barr
Dr John Ashworth
Sir James Gowans
The Hon Gordon Robertson
Prof Sydney Brenner
Sir Sydney Kentridge
Richard Mahoney
Alan Bennett
Dr Alfred Brendel
Alfie Bass
Sir Ronald Arculus
Stephen Merrett
Sir Ronald Arliss
Jeremy Cresswell (1968, PPE)
Rt Hon Lord Justice Buxton
Prof Marilyn Butler
Philip Pullman
HE John Kufuor
Prof John Quelch
Rev James McConica
Rt Hon Lord Justice Laws
Sir Ronald Cohen
Prof Joseph Nye
Prof Anthony Low
Sir David Serpell
Sir Hugh Kawharu
Sir Colin Maiden
W. O'Reilly (1994, Modern History)
Prof David Underdown
Sir Peter Crill
Very Rev John Drury
Prof Hugh McHarg
Sir Hugh Pearman
Sir Colin Maclaren
Dr John Ashworth
Steward
Rt Hon Lord Justice Buxton
Sir Hugh Kawharu
Sir Colin Maiden
Justice Kenneth Hayne

Honours and Appointments:

- Jeremy Cresswell (1968, PPE) has been appointed British High Commissioner to Jamaica.
- Former Engineering Science Fellow Andrew Blake (now of Microsoft Research, Cambridge) has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.
- W. O’Reilly (1994, Modern History) (former Usher Cunningham Scholar in Modern History) has been appointed to a University Lectureship in Early Modern European History, University of Cambridge, and elected to a Fellowship at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
- R. Taylor (1964, PPE) has been appointed as Professor of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning, University of Cambridge, and Director of the Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, 2005.
- D. F. Williamson (1964, Lit. Hum.), now Lord Williamson of Horton, has been appointed Convenor (leader) of the independent crossbench peers in the House of Lords from July 2004.
- John Russell Hughes (1950, PPP – then PhD in Auditory Neurophysics) received an ECNS (The EEG and Clinical Neuroscience Society) Career Award for his lifelong achievement in the field of electroencephalography, the neurophysiologic measurement of the electrical activity of the brain.

College Information

Exeter College, Oxford, OX1 3DP. Telephone and fax numbers preceded by 01865 (+44 1865 overseas). www.exetercollege.net for updates, address changes

Development Office
(Events, general Old Member enquiries) tel: 279619 fax: 279674 e-mail development@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Chaplain (weddings) tel: 279610 chaplain@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Academic Secretary (degree ceremonies) tel: 279648 sally.jones@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Steward (weddings, overnight stays, conferences, college facilities) tel: 279653 conferences@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Catering manager (dining in College) tel: 279643

Contacting Old Tutors
Fellows are happy to write references for former pupils, although delays may occur especially at the beginning and end of each term. Tutors can be contacted by letter or by email using firstname.lastname@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Contacting Old Members
We will forward letters and pass on contact details. If you are relocating we can let you know about Exonians living in your area. Please look at the List of the Lost on the website to help us contact Old Members.

Graduate Emailing System
A graduate e-mail forwarding system is planned for 2006. Users will be asked to use the id number on their alumni card or on their Oxford Today to log in. Old Members who have neither of these should register at www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/keintouch/register.shtml

Chapel
If dining on a Sunday you are welcome to attend Sunday evensong in the Chapel. Please be seated by 5:50 pm.

Dining in College
Old Members (MA holders) may dine at High Table once termly at the College’s expense and on two other nights at their own expense (wine must always be paid for personally). Guest Nights Wednesdays (lounge suit) and Sundays (black tie).

Exon, Extra and the register
Submissions as email attachments (in RTF or Word format) to development@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Gifts and Legacies
Information is available on the website or from the Development Office. For large donations please write to the Director of Development.

Lectures
Old Members are welcome to attend lectures at the University. See the University Gazette for details: http://info.ox.ac.uk/gazette. Subscriptions: The University Gazette, Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP.

Library
Please telephone the Sub-Librarian (279600) to arrange entry. Degree holders can apply for a Bodleian Reader’s Card at nominal rates to the Admissions Office, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG.

Visiting Exeter
Do visit College any time and pop in for a cup of tea at the Development Office (8:3). IMPORTANT - please identify yourself upon entry to the Porter.

Exeter College is extremely grateful for the commitment of our volunteers.