

BLUEPRINT

Staff magazine for the University of Oxford | July 2017



HIDDEN HISTORIES | WORK LEARN DEVELOP | CURIOSITY CARNIVAL



WITH THIS BLUEPRINT,
FIND YOUR
FUTURE MAKERS
INNOVATION SPECIAL

STAFF BENEFITS



LEFT TO RIGHT: SUE MORRIS, TOPAZ TONG, SARA SMALLEY

Welcome to Oxford – helping new staff settle into life in the city

◆ If you are new to the University from overseas you may be interested in our **International Welcome Service** which helps people access essential services. Coordinator, Sue Morris, explains, 'Newcomers face similar challenges from arranging housing and health care to adjusting to a new culture. I help pull together all the different elements to ensure a smooth transition.'

<http://internationalstaffwelcome.admin.ox.ac.uk>

◆ **Oxford University Newcomers' Club** supports the partners of visiting scholars, postgraduate students or newly appointed academic or administrative staff. The club holds coffee mornings on Wednesdays at the University Club on Mansfield Road, together with a variety of sub-groups including a 'stay and play' toddler group and an English conversation group. Current Chair Topaz Tong says, 'The Newcomers' Club was a lifeline for me so I now volunteer to pass on the same valuable warm welcome I received.' www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk

◆ Other help for partners is available from the **Opportunities in Oxford** group. Sara Smalley from the University's Careers Service explains, 'We offer a broad range of support to assist partners find paid or voluntary work. We cover everything from CV writing to interview preparation to help people make the most of their time in the city.' www.careers.ox.ac.uk



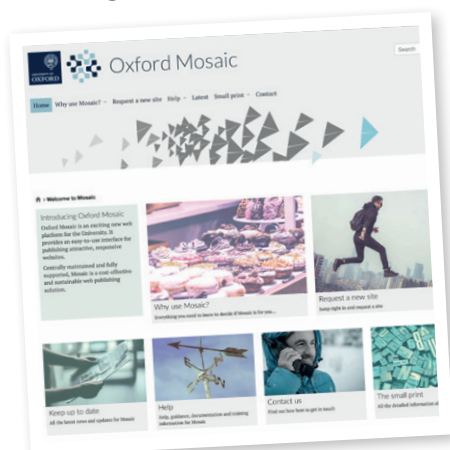
OUI/Rob Judges

Join the OUP Orchestra

Oxford University Press (OUP) is looking for new members for its recently established, high-quality amateur orchestra. Made up of staff across the University it has already delivered two successful concerts. There are no auditions but a playing standard of at least Grade 7 is required to be able to keep up with the rest of the group! The fun and relaxed rehearsals take place every Wednesday at the OUP Office on Walton Street from 5.15 to 7.15pm – occasionally followed by a sociable drink in a local pub. To find out more contact ouporchestra@gmail.com or search Facebook for OUP Orchestra.



Build your own website with Oxford Mosaic



Oxford Mosaic, a new website platform from IT Services, provides an easy way to create a professional quality site without any technical knowledge. Set-up costs are free for all users, and there is a sliding scale of charging levels. The smallest microsites are available at no cost and larger, more complex sites can also be built on this platform. Visit <http://oxfordmosaic.web.ox.ac.uk> for examples and email oxfordmosaic@it.ox.ac.uk for the date of the next interactive demo or training session.



Credit: Rob Judges

COVER: SHAUNNA LATCHMAN INVESTIGATES STAFF BENEFITS (SEE PP16-17)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Living Wage Employer

In 2015, the University made a commitment to become an accredited Living Wage employer – through the phased accreditation route – to demonstrate our commitment to paying a fair wage to all staff. Paying the Living Wage (an hourly rate, currently £8.45, reviewed annually) is intended to allow people to provide for themselves and their families. Since 2011 we have ensured that everyone employed by the central University has been paid the Living Wage. Having now successfully moved all contracts for services to this status, the last milestone, we now meet the criteria for full Living Wage accreditation.



The Oxford Foundry: A new entrepreneurship centre

Are you interested in innovation and entrepreneurship? This October a new entrepreneurship centre will be opening for all students, faculty and staff. The Oxford Foundry will include co-working spaces and dedicated areas for idea generation, workshops and mentorship from local and global entrepreneurs, and provide business skills training in a high-energy environment. To find out more and get involved, sign up to the newsletter www.sbs.oxford.edu/foundry-updates.

VIEWFINDER FOUND

OXFORD'S LARGEST PUBLIC SCULPTURE, TITLED ORIGIN (12 METRES WIDE AND STANDING 5.5 METRES HIGH), WAS RECENTLY INSTALLED BETWEEN THE TARGET DISCOVERY INSTITUTE AND THE BIG DATA INSTITUTE – WHICH TOGETHER FORM THE LI KA SHING CENTRE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND DISCOVERY. THE SCULPTURE, CREATED BY JULIAN WILD, SHOWS THE LINK BETWEEN THE TWO BUILDINGS AND AIMS TO CAPTURE AN ABSTRACT REPRESENTATION OF THE ORIGIN OF NEW IDEAS THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY DISCOVERIES.

Interested in becoming a school governor?

Whatever your skills and experience, becoming a governor in a local school can make a positive difference to young people. There is a need for school governor volunteers in Oxfordshire, and School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) invites you to get involved and will help support you through the process. SGOSS Governors for Schools provides a free volunteer matching service, working with local schools to find the right fit for you, based on your skills and location. Find out more at www.becomeagovernor.org.uk.

First World War project

St Stephen's House, one of the University's Permanent Private Halls, has received a £10,000 National Lottery grant for a project about the heritage of the former monastic site on which it is based. The project, Wartime at an Oxfordshire Monastery, will include a focus on the role that key figures in the local community played in wartime Oxford. SJE Arts on the Iffley Road is hosting an Open Day on Sunday 10 September (2–5pm) to encourage people to share their family's First World War photographs, documents and memories. For more information email rachel.makari@ssho.ox.ac.uk or call 01865 610489.

WORK+familySPACE

My Family Care

The University has launched a new benefit which connects employees with family-friendly backup care solutions. My Family Care offers all University employees a 'speak to an expert' telephone line and access to emergency backup care for children, dependent adults or for yourself. Visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc to find out more and to download guides and webinars which deal with balancing work and family life. To register, you simply need your SSO username and your employee number (printed on your payslip; not the number on your University card). Access to guidance is free, but you will need to meet the costs of any care provided.

Chemists Accolades

Oxford Chemists have won three awards in the 2017 Royal Society of Chemistry Awards:



Corday-Morgan Prize 2017 Winner
Andrew Goodwin, Professor of Materials Chemistry, won the award for his innovative studies of correlated disorder and its role in functional materials.



Dalton Emerging Researcher 2017 Winner

Dr Alexander Hinz has been working as a post-doc with Professor Jose Goicoechea at the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory since October 2015. The

award was given for fundamental studies on reactive main group compounds featuring unusual bonding situations. This award is made for inorganic research chemists within two years of completion of their PhD.



Norman Heatley Award 2017 Winner

Dr Mark Howarth has been Group Leader in the Department of Biochemistry since 2007 and this year he spun-out the company SpyBiotech. His award is for the creation of protein superglues for disease diagnosis and vaccine assembly.



US National Academy of Sciences

Dame Carol Robinson, Professor of Chemistry at the Physical and Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory, has

been elected as a foreign associate of the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Widely regarded as one of the highest honours that a scientist can

receive, the NAS induction recognises leaders in their field for their consistent, exemplary achievements in original research.

EMBO member

Michael Dustin, Professor of Immunology Wellcome Principal Research Fellow and Director of Research of the Kennedy Institute, was elected as one of 65 new members of the European



Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) on 16 June 2017. EMBO, comprising more than 1700 leading researchers, promotes excellence in the life sciences.



Inspiring Leader
Karma Nabulsi, Professor of Politics, won the Inspiring Leader award in the *Guardian's* Higher

Education Network Awards of 2017. The award honours a leader who has brought out the best in their team and achieved exceptional results.



Fellow – Academy of Social Sciences
Luciano Floridi, Professor of Philosophy and Ethics of

Information at the Oxford Internet Institute, is one of 47 leading social scientists conferred the award of Fellow from the Academy of Social Sciences, following a peer review. The Academy's mission is to promote social sciences for the public benefit.



ADAM STOTEN (RIGHT), CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, COLLECTING THE AWARD FOR OUI

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY VENTURING AWARDS 2017

Oxford University Innovation (OUI), the research commercialisation office of Oxford University, has been named Technology Transfer Office of the Year for the second time at the Global University Venturing Awards. The judges noted the sharp increase in activity around OUI and Oxford's innovation ecosystem over the past year. During 2016, OUI produced 21 spinout companies and seed funding raised for the 2016 cohort – critical investment cash for young companies – increased fivefold from £9.5m to £52.6m.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2017

The pioneering work of seven members of the University has been recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.



Professor Charles Godfray, FRS, Hope Professor of Zoology, Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food and Fellow of Jesus College, was **knighted** for services to scientific research and for scientific advice to government. Sir Charles is a population biologist whose work involves ecology, evolution and epidemiology.



Professor Simon Lovestone, MRCPsych, Professor of Translational Neuroscience, was **knighted** for services to neuroscience research. Sir Simon's research includes a focus on the search for genetic and other biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease and, building on these, on drug discovery and experimental medicine.



Professor Sir David Weatherall, FRCP, FRS, Regius Professor Emeritus of Clinical Medicine, Emeritus Fellow of Magdalen College and Honorary Fellow of Green Templeton College, is appointed **Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire** for services to medicine. Sir David is a world-leading researcher in molecular genetics, haematology, pathology and clinical medicine.



Professor Jonathan Gershuny, FBA, Professor of Economic Sociology, Co-Director of the ESRC Centre for Time Use Research in the Department of Sociology and Senior Research Fellow of Nuffield College, is appointed **CBE** for services to the social sciences and sociology. His research, which focuses on how people spend their time, includes the evolution of the balance between work and leisure.



Professor Katherine Blundell, Professor of Astrophysics and Fellow of St John's College, is appointed **OBE** for services to astronomy and the education of young people. Professor Blundell has published extensively on the evolution of active galaxies and their lifecycles. She is the founder of Global Jet Watch, a network of five observatories sited in strategic locations around the world which encourage the local students to use the telescope in their learning.



Professor Alison Etheridge, FRS, Professor of Probability at the Mathematical Institute and the Department of Statistics and Fellow of Magdalen College, is appointed **OBE** for services to science. Most recently her central interest has been a collection of mathematical problems arising in population genetics.



Hilary Boulding, Principal of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and President-Elect of Trinity College, Oxford, is appointed **DBE** for services to education and culture in Wales. Dame Hilary will take up the Presidency of Trinity College in August this year and will be the first woman to hold the position.



2017 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH AWARDS

A researcher reconstructing lost historical sites, a project transforming lion killers into lion conservationists, activities to help people living with dementia and a department giving schoolchildren a chance to touch a piece of the moon have all been named winners at this year's Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards.

These projects, along with eleven others, were recognised at the University's Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards on 28 June which were held at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

These awards recognise and reward those at the University who undertake high-quality public engagement with research activities and who have contributed to building capacity in this area. There are three categories – Early Career Researcher, Building Capacity and Projects; entrants can be at any level in their career and activities of any scale are welcome. Along with the 14 awards made this year, there were 10 Highly Commended acknowledgements, showcasing the quality, breadth and diversity of activities happening across the University.

For information about the award winners please visit: bit.ly/PER_Awards.

2017 REAL IT AWARDS

The Saïd Business School IT team has won the Cloud Project of the Year at the 2017 Real IT Awards. The team was also named as runner up overall, which is judged from all the 20 category winners, and also picked up the runner up award for the IT Team of the Year.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

David J Hunter, MB BS Sydney, MPH DSc Harvard, Vincent L Gregory Professor of Cancer Prevention and Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, was appointed to the Richard Doll Professorship of Epidemiology in the Nuffield Department of Population Health with effect from 1 July 2017. He will also become a fellow of Green Templeton College.

Dame Hilary Boulding, Principal of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, has been appointed as the President of Trinity College, in succession to Sir Ivor Roberts, with effect from 1 August 2017.

Alain George, BSc LSE, MSt DPhil Oxf, Senior Lecturer in Islamic Art at the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed to the Ieoh Ming Pei Professorship of Islamic Art and Architecture in the Faculty of Oriental Studies with effect from 1 August 2017. He will also become a fellow of Wolfson College.

NOTICEBOARD



Professor Anne Trefethen, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Gardens, Libraries and Museums) is extending her role to become the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Resources and Information Systems).

Professor Sarah Whatmore, currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), has been appointed incoming Head of the Division of Social Sciences. She succeeds Professor Roger Goodman, who moves to St Antony's College as Warden in October, and will take up the role in January 2018.

Professor Sarah Harper, Director, Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, has been appointed Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. This is a part-time position allowing her to retain her position as Professor of Gerontology at Oxford.

SUSTAINABILITY SHOWCASE

The University celebrated its sustainability stars at an awards event on 12 June. Professor William James, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Resources, and Jack Hampton, President of Oxford University Student's Union, hosted the evening following a welcome from Paul Goffin, Director of Estates.

The University's 33 Green Impact teams have instigated more than 1,500 actions aimed at cutting the environmental impact of their departments, labs and colleges. Over 40 awards were presented, including three special ones to reward innovation and exceptional efforts by students and staff. More details are available at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/news/eventsawards/heading_254421_en.html.

THE KENNEDY INSTITUTE OF RHEUMATOLOGY GREEN IMPACT TEAM



FAREWELL TO...



Walter Sawyer, University Parks Superintendent. Right at the heart of the University Parks' 72 acres of lush green land is Superintendent

Walter Sawyer, who, after 26 years at the Parks, is retiring at the end of July. Humble, witty and bursting at the seams with horticultural knowledge he has been an integral part of the growth of the University Parks.

Walter has overseen the expansion of the pond, welcomed key pieces of art and been integral to the development of the comprehensive and professional horticultural and arboricultural services which are delivered daily across the University.

So what will he miss the most? 'The people. I've had the opportunity to work with a wonderful mix, from my team of 40 diligent gardeners to the numerous administrators and other colleagues across a range of departments and colleges – as well as the public.

'And don't forget the plants!' adds Walter. 'The plants have always been my friends. They don't talk back and I don't have to buy them drinks!'

Do you have a colleague retiring in your team who has been with the University for over 20 years?
Contact blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk if you would like to bid them farewell here.

WORK LEARN DEVELOP

Blueprint paid a visit to Vanessa Howe, Head of Recruitment and Employee Development, to ask about the new initiative to help staff fulfil their potential



VANESSA HOWE

Can you sum up what Work Learn Develop is in a sentence, please?

I'll try – it's a new programme of centrally funded training and development opportunities for University staff, offering accredited professional qualifications in a wide range of skills areas.

What's the story behind Work Learn Develop?

The funding for the training is being provided by the new Apprenticeship Levy. This is a government levy affecting all UK employers with an annual salary bill of more than £3 million. In April 2017 the University made its first payment, which is charged at 0.5% of the total salary bill. The good news is that the University can use the levy money to pay for Work Learn Develop training – for both staff and new entrant apprentices.

What makes these apprenticeships different?

People tend to associate apprenticeships with school leavers – but apprenticeships can be for everyone and go up to post-graduate-level qualifications.

We've named this training Work Learn Develop to communicate that it's an opportunity for all University employees. They keep their current job title, salary and terms and conditions, and it doesn't matter what grade someone is on, how long they have been working or whether they have existing qualifications. It really

is for everyone.

Who is delivering the training?

We've contracted Abingdon and Witney College, an accredited training provider, to deliver the majority of the courses. If the college doesn't provide a particular course, alternative local training will be sourced. The details of where the training takes place will vary from course to course and may be on University or training provider premises.

Are there any restrictions?

Only in ways which you might expect. The training does need to be relevant to your work and your learning needs must fit the course you're interested in – so you do need to demonstrate that the training will increase your knowledge and skills in your current role.

In addition, your manager will need to be able to allow you time away from your normal duties to attend training and to complete assignments and assessments in the workplace. In return, of course, they'll be getting a member of staff with increased skills and proficiency.

What does the training actually involve?

This varies from course to course. Many courses will involve a mix of activities from formal training sessions, work shadowing, writing assignments and gathering evidence of your developing skills.

Will there be an exam?

Again, this depends on the course, although all the training will have some kind of assessment. This might involve a knowledge test or it may be presenting a portfolio to demonstrate your learning and new skills. Throughout the entire course you will have a mentor from the college to help guide you and keep you on track.

How many places are there?

There is no limit to the number of places and this is not a one-off opportunity. The training will be ongoing so people shouldn't be disheartened if they can't begin immediately. If several people from the same team are interested it is likely

that the manager will need to stagger the requests over a period of time.

Where do I find out about the courses on offer?

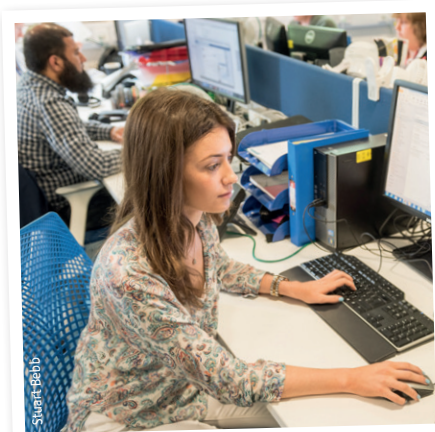
Visit www.staffdev.ox.ac.uk/wld for details of the most popular courses. If you have a request for something more out of the ordinary take a look at www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standards-list-of-occupations-available to see what else we might be able to offer.

I'm interested – what happens next?

Once you have decided on a course, and agreed with your line manager that it is appropriate, please sign up for an information session. Then you'll need to complete an application form (available on www.staffdev.ox.ac.uk/courses).

One of the college staff will visit you at work to make an assessment and talk you and your line manager through the process and the commitment required. If everything is satisfactory the enrolment process will then be completed and you will soon be notified of your very own Work Learn Develop journey.

We're looking forward to hearing the success stories.



WORK > LEARN > DEVELOP
Professional qualifications for University staff

PREPARE TO GET CURIOUS

Roll up, roll up! *Victoria Pearson* reports on the carnival which is set to celebrate the way research affects all our lives



A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO ENJOY AN AMAZING PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH RELATED ACTIVITY

On Friday 29 September 2017 the University is to stage its biggest ever public engagement with research event. 'Curiosity Carnival' will share the sense of wonder and curiosity that drives research.

For several years now cities throughout Europe have brought researchers and local communities together on the last Friday in September. 'European Researchers' Night' encourages exploration, engagement and debate. This year – for the first time – Oxford will be joining the fun. The University is offering an innovative programme of researcher-led engagement activity across its museums, gardens, libraries and Wytham Woods – with activities spilling out on to the city streets.

'The night is all about creating a sense of excitement around research among the people of Oxford. We're encouraging researchers to get excited by public engagement,' says Dr Lesley Paterson,

whose role is to help the University develop a more strategic, better integrated approach to public engagement with research. 'We want to bring researchers together with young people, adults and families to see how research impacts all our lives and wider society. It's about

'Public engagement with research is all about feeding curiosity and asking questions, and we want to fire up that curiosity in both the public and researchers alike'

encouraging people to be inquisitive, stimulating their interest and answering their questions. We really want to fire up that curiosity among the public.'

Professor Alison Woollard, the

University's Champion for Public Engagement with Research, explains, 'As researchers, we strive to understand the world around us, and in doing so we derive a sense of satisfaction, wonder and joy that the whole of society could share in.'

One aim of Curiosity Carnival is to offer a first taste of public engagement to researchers. It is hoped that many of those taking part will continue to involve the public in their research, in a host of creative ways. Professor Woollard adds, 'Building a community of researchers who are inspired by public engagement, who can share ideas with each other, grow their knowledge and inspire others – that would be a fantastic legacy for the University.' With researchers from Oxford Brookes University and MRC Harwell also involved in the event, there is great scope to deepen relationships across institutions in Oxfordshire.

Effective public engagement helps

researchers to broaden, exchange and test their knowledge, and can also increase the impact of their research. Oxford's Curiosity Carnival, funded by the European Commission Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, has already enlisted more than 300 DPhil students, researchers and academics from a breadth of disciplines. The aim is to reach 10,000 members of the public on the night.

Each of the Carnival venues – the Museum of Natural History, Pitt Rivers Museum, Ashmolean Museum, Museum of the History of Science, Botanic Gardens, Weston Library and Wytham Woods – will host activities. From bite-sized talks, interactive sessions and debates to dance performances, live

experiments, stargazing and badger-watching, there will be something to appeal to all ages and interests.

Professor Anne Trefethen, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Academic Resources and Information Systems, and Chair of the University's Community Engagement Group, is overseeing delivery of the event. 'There is an important community element to the Curiosity Carnival. The University is a huge part of the life of the city and the region, but many of our neighbours don't feel that it is relevant to them,' she explains. 'We are keen to attract people who don't typically come along to University events, or engage with Oxford's research.'

While the night itself will be important,

the initiative has a deeper objective and an extended lifespan. In the months leading up to the event, there will be a programme of activity designed to reach a wider audience through digital engagement, social media or face-to-face activity in local schools. 'We also want visitors to the Carnival to continue engaging with the University in some way,' concludes Professor Trefethen. 'That might be continuing to visit our gardens, libraries and museums, or through our many events, or using online resources. We might even ignite the curiosity of young people to explore a career in research. Changing the hearts and minds of the next generation – now that would be some outcome.'

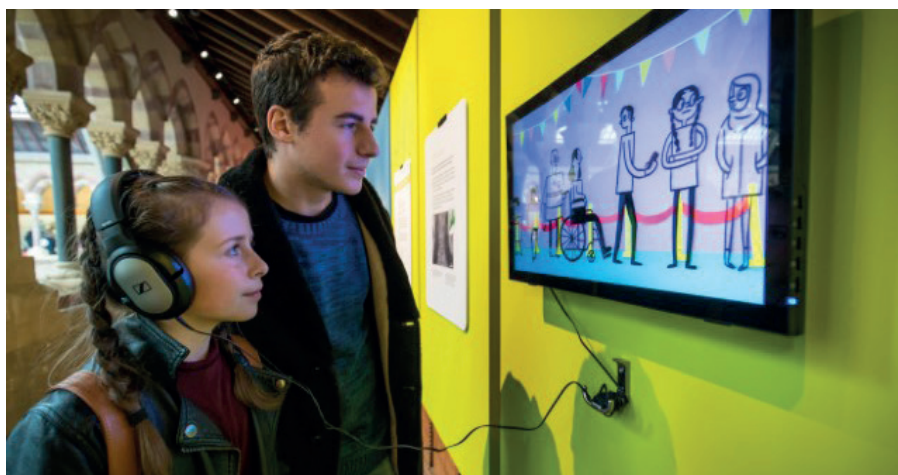
Frankie Wilson, Head of Assessment at the Bodleian Libraries, is leading on the evaluation of the Curiosity Carnival. To better understand young people's perceptions of research, Frankie ran a 50-word competition in schools in and around Oxford, and here are some of the entries:

'Research is a journey, starting with a dark alleyway. It twists and turns with nowhere to hide. Darkness looms. Anticipation takes over. Dead ends are hit. Running like the wind, avenues branch in new directions. Frustration. Resilience. Renewal. Research takes time and the bad times must come before the good.' *Year 9 Pupil*

'Research is a way of looking for a deeper meaning or understanding by questioning and proving. We undertake experiments to find out how and why the world works.' *Year 7 Pupil*

'Research is boring. I sit in the library, with my head in my hands, my eyes glazing over the pages of the book. I think of all the things I could be doing. I could be sunbathing on a beach, or sitting in a hot tub. But nope, I'm researching.' *Year 8 Pupil*

'An investigation into the unknown
Scouring books or a mobile phone
Discovering things never seen before
Something new or something more
More exciting and nail biting
New information or confirmation
Searching for answers or knowledge
At school, home, university or college
It's all around Just waiting to be found ...'
Year 8 pupil



Want to get involved? There's lots of opportunities for staff to volunteer on the night, so if you'd like to help out drop the Curiosity Carnival team an email at volunteercuriositycarnival@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Find out more about the Curiosity Carnival:
www.curiositycarnival.org

Find out more about public engagement with research:
www.ox.ac.uk/research/public-engagement

PRESS FORWARD

John Kay explains how Oxford University Press has grown and how it works to extend and enhance the reputation of the University worldwide

If you have ever taken a peek behind the imposing façade of the Oxford University Press (OUP) building adorning Walton Street, you may have been surprised to discover the extent of the office space behind it. Visible through the main gates is the front quad, dominated by a well which once served as the cooling system for the Press's printing machines, and flanked by the buildings that house around 2,000 of OUP's 6,000 employees. It looks collegiate and historical, an edifice of comparable stature to Oxford's many other architectural treasures.

OUP is a department of the University. Its publishing output is governed by a group of academics known as the Delegates of the Press. It exists to further the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship and education by publishing worldwide.

The department certainly has a rich history, stretching as far back as 1480 when the University first became involved in the print trade, four years after William Caxton set up the first printing press in England and just two years after the first book was published in Oxford. However, this illustrious past, fascinating in its own right, belies the position OUP occupies in the world of modern publishing.

Today OUP is the world's largest university press. It has 55 offices worldwide, sells its products in 190 countries and publishes in more than 100 languages. In the last financial year the combined number of digital and print titles published by the Press exceeded 15,000. And while book sales still constitute the largest portion of its £847m turnover, there is an increasing focus on the potential offered by digital technology. In fact, you're probably interacting with OUP data every day without realising it; predictive text, voice recognition and online word definitions provided by some of the world's biggest companies (think Apple, Google, Facebook or Microsoft) rely on OUP's digital resources.

This commercial exploitation of the data that underpins OUP's dictionary

programme helps to support the development of online resources which further the University's objectives, as Casper Grathwohl, President - Dictionaries Division, explains: 'Increasingly, we're producing online products which are predicated on free access to our lexical data. We're sustaining that through relationships that we're building with licensing partners; and the general consumer is seeing the benefit of that data being integrated into new products, apps and software.' A prime example of this is Oxford Global Languages, a long-

'To have an interactive American English teacher show up on screen, in their rural setting, is seen as a miracle to the students and their parents.'

term programme to develop 100 'living dictionaries' for languages around the world, crowd-sourced by communities of native speakers, and all completely free to access.

A collective belief in the transformative power of education drives OUP staff to pursue the University's mission in many other innovative ways around the world. With their help, more than 356,000 teachers attended professional development events in the last year – including webinars for 120 teachers isolated by the civil war in Syria. And in Indonesia the Press collaborated with IndoMobil and TeachCast to bring digital learning to 1,000 learners in remote areas,



REACHING STUDENTS WORLDWIDE: OUP CONTENT DELIVERED VIA MOBILE CLASSROOM ON JAVA ISLAND, INDONESIA

using trucks as mobile classrooms and live-streaming lessons via satellite link. TeachCast teacher Dana Curtis commented, 'It's amazing... to have an interactive American English teacher show up on screen, in their rural setting, is seen as a miracle to the students and their parents.'

There are further examples in OUP's Annual Report, which went live online earlier this month. In his opening report, Nigel Portwood, CEO of the Press, writes, 'as long as we remain focused on serving our customers – the millions of teachers, students, and researchers that value and trust our resources – then we believe that we will continue to be successful in fulfilling and sustaining our educational and scholarly objectives in the future.' The well in the quad at Walton Street may have a purely decorative function since on-site printing ceased in 1989; but the modern Press, on the evidence of recent performance, is clearly a dynamic and forward-looking organisation which extends and enhances the reputation of the University worldwide.

OUP's Annual Report is available at:
<https://annualreport.oup.com/2017>

There is a 10% discount for staff and students on offer at the Oxford University Shop in the High Street and online at www.oushop.com

Contact archives@oup.com to book a visit to the OUP Museum

A low-angle photograph of the Oxford University Press building, showing two large classical columns and an arched entrance. The text "OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS" is carved into the stone above the arch. A black wrought-iron gate with gold-tipped finials is in the foreground.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY
PRESS



DR ELLA COLE WORKING ON THE GREAT TIT PROJECT

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS AT WYTHAM WOODS

Thomas Marshall visits Wytham to find out more about the last 75 years in the woods

When Raymond and Hope ffennel left Wytham Woods to the University of Oxford in 1942, devastated by the untimely death of their 32-year-old daughter Hazel, it is unlikely they anticipated it would become a centre of world-renowned research and one of the planet's most studied landscapes.

Their condition – that the woodland should continue to be enjoyed by local people as well as enabling education and research, has been met. Following on from the ffennells' encouragement of Girl Guides and Scouts to use the site in the 1930s we now undertake a diverse range of outreach work from Forest Schools to use by local charities for fundraising activities. Over 5,500 local people hold walking permits and the woods play host to numerous free events where the public can join researchers for walks and talks, including badger spotting and identifying bird song.

The ffennells might be equally surprised to discover that over the last 75 years Wytham has become the home to an art studio and a pair of traditional Japanese pottery kilns. It also regularly plays host to film crews. In fact, Sir David Attenborough himself was recently sighted amid the bluebells, making a documentary about birds' eggs which is due to hit the small screen in 2018.

75 years of management

Nigel Fisher, Conservator of Wytham Woods since 2000, leads all these activities with his team of three foresters – Nick Ewart, Kevin Crawford and Neil Havercroft – and administrator Meg Jenner. They are responsible for all the maintenance that goes with managing over 420 hectares of woodland comprising over 400,000 trees and 25 hectares of grassland. Their other duties include supporting conservation projects, running

the public events and administering boat mooring along the nearby Thames.

Their enthusiasm for their work is infectious and Wytham's magic is certainly evident in its ability to retain people. Nigel is preceded by just two Head Foresters who held their posts for 32 (Bert Probitts) and 26 (Mike Day) years respectively. Foresters Nick and Kevin both clocked up their 25 years' service in July 2016. 'Working here is a wonderful experience – we do so many different things in such beautiful surroundings,' declares Nigel. 'It's an honour to be constantly surrounded by this priceless resource for Oxford's scientists and residents.'

75 years of research

Wytham Woods, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, is often described as the laboratory with leaves, with at least 60 research projects always in progress.

Some of the longer-term projects, running over the decades, illuminate the big picture in ways short-term studies can't match and allow researchers to tackle otherwise intractable questions.

Monitoring of Wytham's Great Tit population by Oxford scientists, which began 70 years ago, is the longest-running study of individually-marked animals anywhere. Other success stories include the three decades of continuous badger-monitoring and a vegetation record spanning 40 years.

Dr Ella Cole, who has taken over management of the Great Tit project, works with a team to maintain over 1,000 nest boxes, tag the birds that breed and are born in them, and then track their lives. Scientists have now been monitoring

'Working here is a wonderful experience – we do so many different things in such beautiful surroundings'

these birds at Wytham for more than 40 generations, akin to studying a human population for more than a millennium. Tracking their movements, partners and offspring means scientists know more about these Great Tits than any other bird population in the world.

Ella is currently looking at how the birds time their breeding as the climate changes – are they laying eggs earlier as springs get warmer? The answers are always more complex than anyone suspected.

The scientists are now delving into intricate topics about their genetics and social behaviour, with the birds carrying tiny electronic tags to log every feeder visit – creating its own challenges with the sheer amount of information collected.

'We have a huge amount of data at a fine spatial scale,' explains Ella. 'So rather than comparing Great Tits in other countries to those in the UK, we can compare birds in different parts of Wytham, enabling us to investigate different subjects in depth.'

'There are always new questions and, if anything,' she points out, 'they get more interesting as we have access to more data and better technology.'

Citizen projects

After 75 years of patient observation of Wytham's flora and fauna, we're still

learning. And nowadays it's not just thanks to academic researchers – ordinary people are getting involved in citizen science projects, using their phones to record their discoveries.

'Volunteers have also been trained to identify different bumblebee species. Their observations will help researchers understand changing populations and how to protect them,' explains Nigel. 'Other citizen scientists are monitoring rather less glamorous, but equally important, Wytham residents like fungi, dung beetles and dead-wood dwelling insects.'

Marking the 75th anniversary

Nigel is not allowing the 75-year anniversary to pass unnoticed. 'We're promoting what we've achieved over the decades far and wide,' he reports. 'Last month, together with four other universities, we donned our wellies and took Wytham Woods to Glastonbury Festival as part of an ecology roadshow – it was great fun.'

'And we're working on a programme of special events to mark the occasion,' he reveals. 'It will include our popular walks and talks but we'll be throwing in some surprises – watch this space.'

Amid all the celebrations, Wytham Woods, now within the remit of Estates Services, will continue to beguile visitors and enlighten scientists. That's partly because, for all its beauty and variety, its landscape is deeply typical, and the forces that have shaped it over the years – from shifts in ownership to changes in deer populations – have shaped almost all our forests.

Wytham's records are being used to help predict future events, such as the impact of ash dieback on woodlands across Britain. Dr Keith Kirby, who first worked in Wytham in 1973, has examined records from the early days of University ownership to understand how the landscape has altered over the decades, as ideas on how to manage it have shifted.

'It's a wonderful place and what we learn at Wytham helps us to understand



TOP: NIGEL FISHER AT WYTHAM WOODS;
CENTRE: A NEW BATCH OF GREAT TIT HATCHLINGS;
BOTTOM: DR KEITH KIRBY

how woodland all over the UK works and has changed over the centuries,' Keith explains. 'Because part of what makes it special is that in many ways it's just a rather ordinary wood.'

Find out more about Wytham Woods or apply for a visitor's permit on the website www.wytham.ox.ac.uk
Visit www.facebook.com/WythamWoods for all event details and to watch out for the programme of 75th anniversary celebrations

Oxford student creates first synthetic retina

A 24-year-old Oxford University DPhil student has become the first to successfully create an all-natural, synthetic double layered retina. Until now, artificial retinal research has used hard, invasive materials, but the work of Vanessa Restrepo-Schild of the Department of Chemistry, as published in *Scientific Reports*, offers fresh hope to the visually impaired community. Vanessa says, 'Foreign bodies can irritate the human eye, but a biological synthetic implant is soft and water based, so much more eye-friendly.' Made of soft water droplets (hydrogels) and biological cell membrane proteins, the synthetic mimics the human retinal process, detecting and reacting to light and stimulating the neurons at the back of the eye to create a grey scale image. Vanessa has filed a patent for the technology, and will soon begin work expanding the retina's function to include colour recognition.



Academics lead national effort to preserve World War I memories

Oxford academics are leading a nationwide fundraising campaign to help preserve our memories of the First World War. 'Lest We Forget' is an initiative which aims to train local communities across the UK to run digital collection days. At these events, members of the public will bring in memories of World War One that have been passed down through families, as well as photographs, diaries, letters and mementos that tell the story of a generation at war. 'Every day the stories and memories of that generation are being lost,' says Dr Stuart Lee of the English Faculty. 'We want to make sure that those boxes of memories and memorabilia that kept in our attics, passed down through the generations, are not thrown away.' (You'll find details of an event on page 3)

'Trump' revealed as Children's Word of the Year

Politics, elections, Donald Trump, and Pokémon GO are just some of the events, people, and subjects that influence British children's creativity and use of language, according to a report by Oxford University Press (OUP). Following OUP's analysis of the 131,798 fabulously inventive, funny and politically astute short stories for the 2017 BBC Radio 2 Chris Evans' Breakfast Show's 500 Words competition, a wealth of fascinating insights into the lives of British children and their imaginative use of English have emerged. The Children's Word of the Year is 'trump', picked because of its significant increase in use (a total rise of 839 per cent on 2016) by entrants writing in this year's competition and the sophisticated way in which children used it to convey humour and satire, and evoke powerful descriptive imagery.



#TwitterStudy

The Labour Party dominated Twitter traffic during June's UK general election campaign. Hashtags such as #VoteLabour and #JezzeWeCan appeared more often than the likes of #VoteTory and #StrongAndStable, according to an Oxford Internet Institute study. However the 'junk news' that blighted the US presidential race also featured in the UK election, accounting for almost 13% of relevant content shared. Senior researcher Professor Philip Howard says, 'This study shows that the situation in the UK isn't as bad as it was during the US presidential campaign, and is more in line with recent findings from elections in France and Germany. But there is still an issue more generally over the quality of information being shared by social media users.'

Single cell focus reveals hidden cancer cells

Researchers have found a way to identify rogue cancer cells which survive treatment after the rest of a tumour is destroyed. It will help clinicians learn how to eradicate them. 'It is increasingly recognised that tumours contain a variety of different cell types, including so-called cancer stem cells, that drive the growth and relapse of a patient's cancer,' says Professor Adam Mead of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine. 'We used a new genetic technique to identify and analyse single cancer stem cells in leukaemia patients before and after treatment. A small number of these cells are highly resistant to the treatment and are likely to be responsible for disease recurrence when treatment is stopped.'

► For more information, visit www.ox.ac.uk/news and www.ox.ac.uk/staffnews

HIDDEN HISTORIES IN THE ARCHIVES

Dr Ryan Hanley tells
Bethany White
about his research
into early black
British history



Ryan Hanley had his initiation into the historical craft at a younger age than most. While many historians can only dream of stumbling across a lost gem in an archive, Ryan can vividly describe the moment this happened to him, during his undergraduate degree in English Literature.

‘We did a second-year dissertation, and we were given a list of subjects to choose from,’ he explains. ‘One of them was James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw, who was the first published black author in Britain. His autobiography, *A Narrative of the Most Remarkable Particulars in the Life of James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw, An African Prince*, appeared in Bath in 1772, and went through at least nine editions by 1811. Intrigued, I tried to find out more and discovered not much was known about him.’

Finding this lack of knowledge strange, Ryan headed to the archives at Westminster College in Cambridge. ‘It was the first time I’d ever visited an archive, and I just got the bug,’ he says.

And it’s not surprising that he got hooked – in the archive, Ryan made a significant find. ‘I unearthed a letter, written by Gronniosaw, which had been misfiled for possibly over a hundred years. Being the only known sample of his handwriting and correspondence in existence made it quite exciting.’

Fast forward a few years, and Ryan is now the Salvesen Junior Fellow at New College. Gronniosaw hasn’t left him. Buzzing from his discovery, Ryan went on to complete a master’s degree in Eighteenth Century Studies at the University of York and then a PhD at the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull, focusing on black writing in Britain. This completed

his shift from English Literature to black British history. ‘So all the way from that undergraduate research project I went on to do this PhD,’ he says, smiling.

Ryan is excited to be part of the growing field of black British history. ‘We know a lot about slavery, and abolition, but we don’t know very much about black agency or the role of black intellectuals,’ he explains. This includes Gronniosaw, but there are a host of others: Ryan’s PhD, which is in the process of becoming a monograph, explored the lives of eight black autobiographers between 1770 and 1830.

‘My research has always been influenced by what students want and expect to be taught here at Oxford’

Following on from his PhD, Ryan’s current project takes another step towards illuminating black British history. This, too, was sparked by an unlikely experience.

‘I was inspired by looking at what happened around Brexit and Donald Trump,’ Ryan says. An unusual motivation, perhaps, but he astutely connects the dots. Visiting his local pub in his hometown of Bristol, Ryan sensed a change in how people spoke about British political identity. ‘I was shocked by how emboldened people were to talk about

Englishness as though it were a racial category.’ Intrigued, Ryan picked up the thread and followed it into the archives.

‘I looked at some old printed materials by radical heroes like William Cobbett, and I saw that same phenomenon – the pairing between Englishness and whiteness,’ he explains.

His current project, then, explores ethnicity and nationalism in working-class print culture, as well as the role of black intellectuals working in the radical movement. It’s a new project, but is still rooted in Ryan’s desire to illuminate less commonly known elements of British history.

This desire has also led him to work with local and community historians in both Bristol and Oxford. Ryan has worked with the African Caribbean Kultural Heritage Initiative (ACKHI) in Oxford to promote public talks and workshops as part of their African History Season. He has also worked with community history groups in Bristol, exploring the local history of slavery.

Ryan hopes both academics and communities alike can benefit from working together, and that the field of black British history will grow to occupy its rightful space. ‘It just comes back to this being a type of history that people care about and is important to people,’ Ryan concludes.

For more information: Ryan Hanley, Kate Donington and Jessica Moody (eds), *Britain’s History and Memory of Transatlantic Slavery: Local Nuances of a ‘National Sin’* (2016)
https://liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/collections/subject_category-history_slavery-studies/products/80782

REAPING THE BENEFITS OF YOUR UNIVERSITY STAFF CARD

Shaunna Latchman investigates the range of benefits and discounts available to you with your University Staff Card

On your arrival at the University you will have been provided with a University Staff Card. While the photo may not be of your best side, did you know that your card not only provides access to your place of work but also open lots of other doors in Oxford? You can visit some of the most beautiful buildings in the country and there are also numerous discounts available across the city. Here's a short overview of what's on offer.

The card



Officially titled your University Staff Card, permanent members of central University staff will find the words 'University of Oxford' printed in the blue strip at the top. The look of cards issued by other departments and colleges of the University can vary – such as the card used for staff at Oxford University Press, pictured above.

More information is available online at: www1.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/ourservices/fm/card/oxonly/types.

Visiting colleges

Visitors come from all corners of the globe to enjoy the sights of Oxford and to visit our famous colleges. Charges often apply to members of the public, but University staff can enter for free using

their University Staff Card. The number of guests you can take along with you varies across the colleges as does the times of admission. It's always best to call ahead for further information as scheduled events may also determine whether you can enter. See: www.ox.ac.uk/visitors/visiting-oxford/visiting-the-colleges.

Feel like sharing the wealth? Let your neighbours know that they too can enjoy these hidden gems. Some of the colleges allow residents (postcodes OX1–OX4) to enter for free. Residents do need to bring along a household bill dated within the last six months, together with a driving licence for adult residents wishing to enter.

University buildings

The University celebrates the conservation of its historical estate alongside its newer, innovative buildings. Again, depending on the events taking place and the time of your visit, you can enter a number of the incredible structures dotted around Oxford. Here's a couple of examples.

- ◆ Step back in time at the Sheldonian Theatre; officially opened in 1669 it offers just a taste of the wealth of art and history in this city. Designed by Christopher Wren and housing a stunning ceiling painting by Robert Streater, University Staff Card holders can enter free of charge and are welcome to bring up to four guests, subject to there being no shows, concerts, degree ceremonies, conferences or private events taking place. See: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/sheldonian/visiting.

Green spaces

At almost 400 years old, the Botanic Garden provide proof that age can improve appearance. Whether you are seeking a break from the bustle of the city or you wish to lose yourself in its many species of plants and trees, the Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum are ideal at this time of year. Employees can enter free of charge



SHAUNNA LATCHMAN AT BALLIOL COLLEGE

with their card, along with any children under the age of 16. See: www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk.

Don't forget that everyone can apply for a permit to walk through Wytham Woods (see pages 14 and 15) and that the University Parks are open to all.

Cycling benefits

Oxford is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities in Britain, but it is infamous for its traffic. A popular and environmentally friendly way to avoid sitting in a car for hours is to cycle. If you're not the most confident on a saddle don't fret – University staff and students are entitled to six hours of free tuition with local bicycle workshop Broken Spoke Bike Co-op. See: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/ourservices/travel/bike.

And, if you are a bike user, do make sure you keep yours securely locked. Oxford University Security Services offer top-of-the-range D-locks at the heavily discounted price of £15, as well as bike lights. Staff and students can also security mark and register their bikes for free. Find out more at www1.admin.ox.ac.uk/ouss/cra/cyclesecurity.

University shopping

If you often find yourself scratching your head when it comes to buying gifts for friends and family, make a pit stop at the University Shop. Staff members get a 10% discount at the University of Oxford Shop and online at www.oushop.com this is doubled to 20% on all Thursdays in December. The University Shop also offers an internal merchandise service which enables departments to bulk order merchandise, clothing and gifts at cost

foodies FESTIVAL WITH TOP CHEFS



Here's an example of a great offer this September...

All staff and students are entitled to enter this year's Foodies Festival for free all weekend – a saving of £20 on the standard ticket price. And you can bring a friend along for free too. Foodies Festival, one of the UK's largest food, drink and wellbeing festivals, is taking place in Oxford at South Park from Friday 1 to Sunday 3 September 2017. More details about this offer are on the Oxford Continuing Education website: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/news/foodies.

price plus a small admin fee, often saving more than 60%. See: www.oushop.com.

As a member of staff you're able to claim a 10% discount in the Ashmolean gift shop plus the concessionary rate for their chargeable exhibitions. There's also a 10% discount on offer in the Museum of the History of Science shop and in the shops managed by the Bodleian.

The shops are located at the Weston Library and the Old Schools Quadrangle and they also have an online shop at www.bodleianshop.co.uk – use the code OXUNISTAFF to claim the online discount.

Eating out

Many of the University's own eateries offer staff discounts, including the Weston Library's Bodleian Café in Blackwell Hall which offers a 10% discount to University staff on food and drink. This includes hot dishes, sandwiches, cakes and pastries. Visit www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/visit/cafe. The downstairs Ashmolean Café and the Rooftop Restaurant also offer a 10% discount to staff.

The University Club offers free membership to all University staff and is open for breakfast options from 7.30am

to 10.30am and provides an eat-in or takeaway seasonal lunch service between noon and 2pm. Bar food snacks are available in the evenings. Visit www.club.ox.ac.uk/apply-for-membership to sign up.

Some local cafés and restaurants also offer a small discount to staff and students when you produce your card; the discount varies but check the details, plus the diverse range of other discounts and benefits available to staff, at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/discountsforstaff.

Whether you are pinching the pennies or want to experience Oxford to the fullest make the most of your University Staff Card and be sure to tell us of any perks we may have missed! If there is anything you are keen for us to investigate please let us know at blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk

BLUEPRINT FEEDBACK

Thank you to everyone who took part in the reader survey we included in the March issue of the magazine and emailed to all staff.



Here is a summary of what you told us and how we will put your feedback into action.

Awareness of the magazine

1,190 colleagues participated in the paper survey or responded online. 65% read *Blueprint* on a regular basis. The rest are either unaware of the magazine, or have heard about it but do not know how to get hold of a copy.

43% say they tend to have a quick flick through the entire magazine. 22% look at the contents list and then read items of personal interest. The remaining 35% say they generally take the time to read each issue in full.

The *Blueprint* format

Readers like the fact that *Blueprint* is published in both hard copy and electronic formats. They enjoy having choice and sometimes refer to both versions. Some would prefer us to use thinner paper to help minimise environmental impact. Lots of you told us the font size in the magazine is too small.

What you like most about *Blueprint*

Respondents stated that they like the variety of the news in the magazine and enjoy the high standard of the photography. Articles which feature the work of others around the University are popular and it was suggested that more articles which profile colleagues

in departments and colleges would be welcomed.

Staff profile pieces on the back cover stood out as a favourite feature. Information about staff benefits is also popular.

What you like the least?

The majority of those who took part in our survey agreed that the current format would benefit from some changes. Many of you think articles can be too long. People expressed a preference for a wider range of news and information, presented in a punchier style.

Respondents also stated that the magazine would benefit from an update of its current look and format. Others felt *Blueprint* content should appeal evenly to academic, professional and support staff, and should not be weighted in a particular direction.

What's next?

You may already have noticed a few subtle changes in this issue. We've slightly increased the font size and used thinner paper. We've also included a number of staff offers and introduced new writers. There's also an open invitation for colleagues to come forward and contribute to future issues.

We're now carrying out a much more detailed review of the magazine, and it will be relaunched in Michaelmas term. The next issue of a new-look *Blueprint* will be distributed in November and

we'll be working to make sure that more colleagues across Oxford are aware of it.

Have your say

Do you have any further comments or suggestions – either general feedback, or ideas for a specific article or regular feature? If so, do please get in touch at blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk.



Congratulations to Sophie Quantrell from the Bodleian Philosophy and Theology Library for winning the prize draw from all of the completed surveys to receive a £100 high street voucher.

CITY EVENTS

Foodies Festival

1–3 September

South Parks, Headington

<http://foodiesfestival.com/oxford-food-festival>

Foodies Festival, the UK's biggest food festival, returns to Oxford's South Parks.

Staff can enter the event for free along with a friend – see page 17 for more details.

The Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film and Music

12–15 October

Blenheim Palace and other Woodstock venues

www.blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com

Leading speakers celebrate books, film and music and the art forms inspired by them.

University staff can claim 20% off all ticket prices by using the code **OUBLENHIM**.

Oxford Open Doors

9 and 11 September

www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk

A popular annual event, inviting the public to take a peek inside many of the city's historical and modern buildings.

LECTURES AND TALKS

Ninth Colloquium on Medical Education

Tuesday 26 September 2017, 9am–10pm

Corpus Christi College

www.oumef.org/colloquium.html

Education: Benefit or Burden? A mixture of sessions and debates bringing together medical educators to discuss the practical and theoretical aspects of medical training.

EXHIBITIONS

Raphael: The Drawings

Until 3 September

Ashmolean Museum

Tickets: £12 | £10 | £6

www.ashmolean.org/events

A captivating show bringing together 120 stunning works from international collections, spanning the brilliant career of this Renaissance genius.

We have a pair of tickets to this great exhibition to give away. Simply email the year of Raphael's birth to blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk by 5pm on Monday 7 August to enter the prize draw.

Martin Parr: Oxford

8 September–22 October

Blackwell Hall, Weston Library

www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson

An exhibition casting the wry eye of Martin Parr over the behind-the-scenes student antics and rituals at Oxford.

CONCERTS

Yefim Bronfman and Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

Sunday 6 August, 8pm, Sheldonian Theatre

Tickets: £42 | £30 | £20 | £10

www.venues.ox.ac.uk/whats-on

Yefim Bronfman, one of today's most acclaimed and admired pianists, performs Brahms's Piano Concerto No 2 and Schumann's Symphony No 2.

Shakespeare's Music

Sunday 24 September, noon–1pm,

Ashmolean Museum, Lecture Theatre

Booking recommended. Tickets: £6 | £5

www.ashmolean.org/events

The Oxford Waits band present songs and tunes from Shakespeare and his time, playing in Tudor costume with period instruments.



ABOVE: RAPHAEL, STUDY FOR CHARITY, C.1506–07, PEN & BROWN INK OVER LEADPOINT, VIENNA, ALBERTINA. BELOW: BLENHEIM PALACE

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Big Stars & Little Secrets

22 July–2 September

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

www.oum.ox.ac.uk/visiting/whatson

Decide which of the Natural History Museum's biggest stars is your favourite, then take a fun trail which reveals some of the Pitt Rivers Museum's best-kept secrets.

Send a Message SOS

Saturday 12 August, 2–4pm

Museum of the History of Science

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/events

Discover Morse code and use the museum's bespoke telegraphic apparatus to unravel the mystery message. Drop-in event for ages 7+.

Curiosity Carnival

Friday 29 September

2–10pm

www.ox.ac.uk/curiosity-carnival

A research extravaganza for the community taking place in University venues and outdoor spaces across the city. Showcasing talks, interactive activities, debates and dance performances (see pages 10 and 11).



Visit www.museums.ox.ac.uk/content/family-friendly-events for more information about family activities coming up

Visit www.ox.ac.uk/events-list for details of a wide range of events taking place across the University

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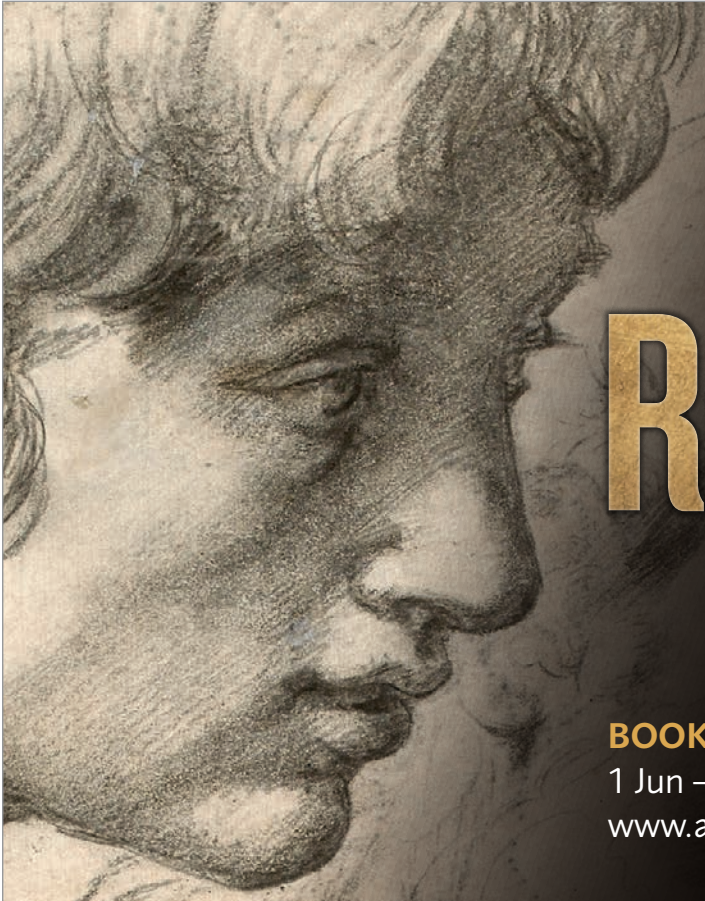
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Oxford University Innovation, offering support to researchers

Oxford University Innovation, the new name for the University's research commercialisation company, has hotdesks in a number of locations around the University.

Our staff attend these locations to discuss intellectual property, technology licensing, software commercialisation, business ideas or academic consultancy opportunities with Oxford researchers, students and support staff.

See www.innovation.ox.ac.uk/hotdesks for a full list of locations, and details of when Oxford University Innovation staff will be available.



- Plant Sciences
- Biochemistry
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- Big Data Institute (BDI)
- Old Road Campus Research Building (ORCRB)
- Physics
- Sir William Dunn School of Pathology
- Computer Science
- Maths
- Chemistry
- Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (WIMM)
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- Saïd Business School
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directs the Choir of New College Oxford

The Gate of Heaven: Favourite Anthems from New College NCR 1391

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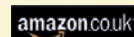
Like as the Hart: Music for The Templar's Garden NCR1392

The words of Psalm 42, 'Like as the Hart desireth the waterbrooks', have inspired a rich variety of settings from composers over the centuries. This selection has been compiled to accompany the novel *The Templar's Garden* by Catherine Clover in which the psalm plays a key part. It includes rarely performed masterpieces, one of the twentieth century's best loved anthems and two new settings commissioned specially for this album.

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The Templar's Garden, by Catherine Clover is available from Blackwells Bookshop.
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WHY I AM HERE

Jenny Byrne, former lab manager and now a part-time usher at the Sheldonian Theatre, tells *Clemency Fleming* about her experiences working for the University since 1966

Did you have any preconceptions about the University before you started working here?

I was born in the Churchill Hospital and I've lived near Oxford all my life. Although aware of the University it was a hallowed institution of which I had no experience.

How did you come to work here?

The careers adviser at school suggested nursing after saying that to be a lab technician, as I wanted, I would need to have a degree. But my biology teacher pointed me in the right direction and I applied for six jobs in Oxford laboratories and I was offered all six of them – which shows how different employment was back then. I decided to work with Dr Garth Robinson in Biochemistry he wasn't as frightening as some of the other academics. I remember the pay when I started was £360 a year for a 44-hour week, which wouldn't go very far now.

What was it like when you started?

Garth asked me whether I did any cooking at home. I replied that I did and he said that a lab is like a kitchen, you have a recipe and you follow it – that was when I could really see myself doing the job. We actually used to cook in the labs, making scrambled egg over Bunsen burners. Health and safety wouldn't allow that now. I used to

spend one day a week training at the Technical College (now Oxford Brookes), and stayed in Biochemistry for 33 years. I then moved to the Rex Richards building as a lab manager and later to the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology.

What was the hardest part of the job?

In 1966 calculating results was a tedious task using slide rules and log tables. I was happy with the arrival of the first calculating machine and delighted, though daunted, by the new technology of computers and spreadsheets.

How do you find work as an usher at the Sheldonian?

I worked there in the evenings at first and enjoyed it, so I continued after I retired from the labs. I help make visitors welcome and we ensure everyone's safety in this Grade I-listed building. When I started there in 1999 it was really just classical concerts, but now there's more variety. I've witnessed some great events and working there has enriched my life.

What would you say has been the biggest change since you started working at the University?

Everything has got so busy, both in the city and in the University, and there's a lot more jargon. When I started, people were in their jobs for life, but now there seems to be a higher turnover of staff.



JENNY NOW AND IN THE 1960S

In an alternate universe, what other job would you have liked to do?

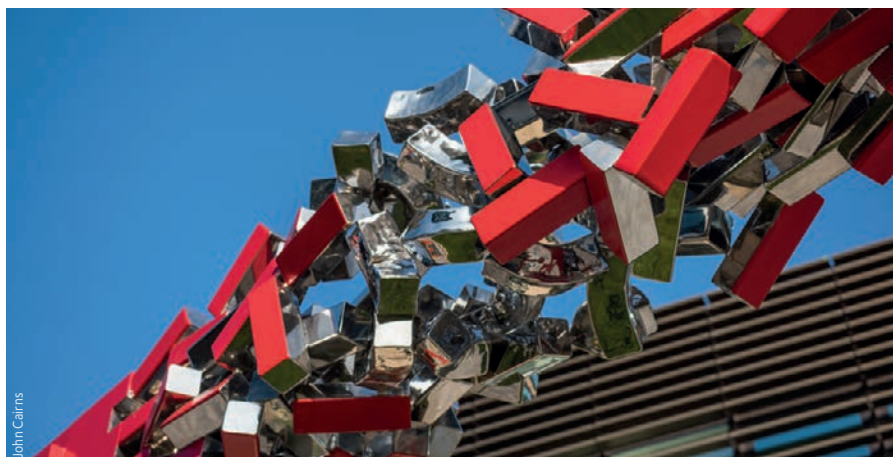
These days there are many more opportunities for women. I would have loved to do technical drawing at school – back then, it was only for the boys. But I enjoy working with my hands and would have loved to have been a cabinet-maker.

Do things still surprise you, or do you think you've seen it all?

Nothing really surprises me these days! But it was quite a shock when I was told I had been working at the University continuously for over 50 years – they say time goes quickly when you're enjoying yourself!

VIEWFINDER

WHERE'S THIS LARGE ABSTRACT SCULPTURE? ANSWER ON P3.



John Cairns

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