

BLUEPRINT

Staff magazine for the University of Oxford | July 2014



*H*EALTHY CHOICES | *O*XFORD REMEMBERS WW1 | *O*XWEB REFRESHED



NEWS IN BRIEF

◆ The New Bodleian will reopen as the Weston Library in the autumn, following a three-year redevelopment. Reader services will be introduced in phases from 22 September, and the library will open formally in March 2015. The renovation project has seen the rebuilding of the central stack and the installation of three floors of secure storage below ground level. New internal spaces have been created including special collection reading rooms, a lecture theatre and seminar rooms, and a large entrance hall accessed via a colonnade on the south side of the building off Broad Street. For details, visit www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston.

◆ A £108.6m government investment is set to take Oxfordshire's knowledge economy into a new era, with the University playing a key role. The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal is designed to build on the strength of the links between industry and academic research, and deliver the skills and infrastructure to allow them to prosper. One highlight of the deal is the new Oxford Centre for Applied Superconductivity, which will see researchers from the Departments of Materials and Physics work together on the development of new products and processes in areas such as medical imaging, green energy and quantum technologies, and provide industrial partners with research expertise and technological solutions.

◆ On 2 and 3 July Oxford welcomed thousands of prospective students and their families for the undergraduate open days. A key part of the success of these events is the warm welcome provided by staff volunteers at locations across the city, from the railway station to the Park & Rides. If you would like to volunteer at the next open day, which takes place on Friday 19 September, the Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach team would love to hear from you. No specialist knowledge is required and

you will be invited to a briefing beforehand. To volunteer – whether for a couple of hours or a full day – complete the online form at <http://tinyurl.com/Septopenday> or phone (2)70745.

◆ The self-service bike hire scheme, OXONBIKE, has returned to Headington. The scheme links Thornhill Park & Ride with major employers in the Headington area and aims to reduce the number of short car journeys between hospital sites and university campuses. 30 cycles are available to hire from seven locations, including Thornhill Park & Ride, the JR, the Churchill, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and the Old Road Campus. Users can register for the scheme for £1 at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxonbike. The first 30 minutes of any rental is free, with charges then ranging from £1 for up to an hour to £7.50 for up to 3 hours.

◆ The Sheldonian Theatre may be a familiar Oxford landmark, but did you know that you can enjoy one of the best indoor panoramic views of Oxford from the theatre's cupola? Self-guided tours of the theatre cost £3.50, but by showing your University Card, you and up to four friends can enter for free. If you would like a more detailed history of the building, the Sheldonian has recently introduced guided tours of the building. The one-hour tours, which include the Ladies' Gallery, the cupola and the attic, cost £6 with a University Card. Details at www.ox.ac.uk/sheldonian.

◆ As part of its partnership with the University, Santander is offering 10 free Banco Santander SA shares to University staff who open or upgrade to a 123 account before 5 September 2014. The offer is available to the first 15 customers who apply through the Oxford University branch of Santander, which is located at Carfax. Details at www.ox.ac.uk/staff/news/santander_shares_1.html.

◆ The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition comes to the Museum of Natural History this summer and to mark the occasion the museum has launched a competition of its own: the Summer Swifts Photo Competition. Swifts have been a cherished part of Oxford's summer for many years, providing graceful aerial displays over the city and nesting in the ventilation flues of the museum's tower. Send in your photographs of swifts, whether on the wing or in or around the museum's tower, and the best image will be displayed alongside the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition. Email your entries to communications@oum.ox.ac.uk by Friday 15 August.



WillkinsonEyre Architects



Oxford University Images/John Cairns



Oxford University Images/Greg Smolonski

FROM TOP: COMING SOON – THE WESTON LIBRARY; ALREADY HERE – OPEN DAY VISITORS; LONGSTANDING LANDMARK – THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE



University of Oxford Design Studio

COVER:
SCARLET CORN POPPIES GROW NATURALLY IN DISTURBED EARTH. RIPPED OPEN AS WAR WAGED THROUGH EUROPE, BARE LAND WAS TRANSFORMED INTO FIELDS OF POPPIES. AFTER THE CONFLICT THE POPPY WAS ONE OF THE FEW PLANTS TO GROW ON BARREN BATTLEFIELDS. ON PP9–12, OXFORD REMEMBERS

RESEARCH ROUND-UP

◆ A new discovery will make it possible to create pixels just a few hundred nanometres (nm) across that could pave the way for extremely high-resolution and low-energy thin, flexible displays for applications such as 'smart' glasses, synthetic retinas and foldable screens. Researchers at the Department of Materials explored the link between the electrical and optical properties of phase change materials. They found that by sandwiching a 7 nm thick layer of a phase-change material (GST) between two layers of a transparent electrode they could use a tiny current to 'draw' images within the sandwich 'stack'. Initially still images were created using an atomic force microscope, but the team went on to demonstrate that such tiny 'stacks' can be turned into prototype pixel-like devices. These 'nano-pixels' – just 300 by 300 nm in size – can be electrically switched 'on and off' at will, creating the coloured dots that would form the building blocks of an extremely high-resolution display technology. The research was reported in *Nature*.

◆ An unusual collaboration between a renowned DJ and an Oxford University academic has led to a modern composition based on a recently discovered piece of medieval music. *Fragments of Gold* has been written by electronic artist Goldie and takes its inspiration from the Hawick Missal Fragment, an extract of medieval music which was discovered in 2009 and reconstructed by Dr Matthew Cheung Salisbury of the Faculty of Music. The song, a fusion of modern and classical which uses sampling and electronic manipulation of sound but also incorporates the original medieval chant and uses a cello, will be played for the first time on 30 August at Glasgow Cathedral. Dr Salisbury said: 'Medieval music is thought of as something that is very foreign and incapable of being reconstructed, but seeing Goldie use it as source material for a fresh piece of medieval music shows how the modern ear receives medieval music and that it is more universal than it is given credit for.'

◆ Computer analysis of family snaps could help doctors diagnose which rare genetic condition a child might have, say Oxford researchers. It's thought that 30–40% of rare genetic disorders involve some form of change in the face and skull, so the researchers developed a computer program that recognises facial features in photographs and looks



for similarities with facial structures for various conditions such as Down's syndrome, Angelman syndrome or Progeria. Using the latest in computer vision and machine learning, the algorithm increasingly learns which facial features to pay attention to and what to ignore from a growing bank of photographs of people diagnosed with different syndromes. 'A doctor should in future, anywhere in the world, be able to take a smartphone picture of a patient and run the computer analysis to quickly find out which genetic disorder the person might have,' says Dr Christoffer Nellaker of the MRC Functional Genomics Unit.

◆ A mathematical model of how users adopt applications in online social networks has been developed by researchers from the Saïd Business School and the Mathematical Institute, with colleagues from the University of Limerick and Harvard School of Public Health. The researchers used their model to examine what social influences affected the choices made by Facebook users when they installed apps. Using the model and extensive computer simulations, they looked behind empirical data (covering two months of app installations) from 2007 to see whether Facebook users' behaviour could be modelled as mainly influenced by the notifications of apps recently installed on friends' Facebook pages or primarily by a list of bestselling apps. The study, published in *PNAS*, found that users tended to be swayed by a strong 'copycat tendency' – installing the same apps as their friends after viewing notifications about recent

app activity on their feed. The influence of the cumulative popularity of Facebook's bestseller list of apps was comparatively 'mild'.

◆ In the days before Hubble, Victorian scientists used pencil and paper to record their observations of the stars. Their beautifully detailed drawings were the precursors of modern astronomy, and may even have inspired one of the most well-known works of Impressionist art, according to a new book. *Observing By Hand* by Oxford historian Dr Omar Nasim focuses on hundreds of drawings of nebulae – the interstellar clouds of dust and gas where new stars are born – found in all sorts of observing books of six major 19th-century astronomers, including John Herschel and Lord Rosse. Dr Nasim describes how Lord Rosse, an Irish aristocrat and astronomer, built the largest telescope in existence at the time, which allowed him to observe the 'Great Spiral' – or Whirlpool Galaxy as it is known today. Rosse's engraving of the galaxy in 1850 is believed to have inspired Vincent van Gogh's famous painting *Starry Night*.



TINY TIGER – AN IMAGE NARROWER THAN A HUMAN HAIR, THANKS TO 'NANO-PIXELS'

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

PEOPLE AND PRIZES



Dr Will Abberley of the Faculty of English has been dubbed a 'New Generation Thinker' under a scheme, sponsored by BBC Radio 3 and the AHRC, which annually selects ten

promising young academics working in areas of broad interest who have the presentational skills to make their work accessible via radio programmes and short films for BBC Arts Online. Dr Abberley is exploring how 'natural deception' complicated the scientific facts for Alfred Russel Wallace and his contemporaries.



Houman Ashrafian, Associate Professor of Medicine, has been awarded the 2014 Michael Davies Early Career Award by the British Cardiovascular Society. The award

honours researchers who have recently established themselves as independent investigators and are making an outstanding contribution to cardiovascular medicine.

Dr Roi Cohen Kadosh has won the British Psychological Society's Spearman Medal for outstanding contributions to psychology. His work focuses on understanding mathematical abilities in children and adults.

Jon Dilworth, Professor of Chemistry, has been awarded the Becquerel Medal 2014 by the Radiochemistry Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry for his contributions to PET and SPECT imaging over a distinguished 40-year career.

Robin Dunbar, Professor of Evolutionary Psychology, has been awarded the Huxley Memorial Medal for services to anthropology by the Council of the Royal Anthropological Institute.



William Dutton, Professor of Internet Studies, has won the William F Ogburn Career Achievement Award for the Communication and Information

Technologies section of the American Sociological Association. The award recognises an outstanding contribution in the sociology of communications or the sociology of information technology.



Hanneke Grootenboer, Associate Professor of History of Art, has been awarded the Kenshur Prize for the best interdisciplinary book in 18th-

century studies for her work *Treasuring the Gaze: Intimate Vision in Late Eighteenth-Century Eye Miniatures* (University of Chicago Press, 2013). The annual prize is awarded by the Eighteenth-Century Studies Center of Indiana University.

Dr John Hood, who served as Oxford's Vice-Chancellor from 2004 to 2009 and was previously Vice-Chancellor of the University of Auckland, has been made a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to tertiary education.

Dr Keith Kirby of the Department of Plant Sciences has received the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environment Management Medal in recognition of his 'outstanding, lifelong contribution to the advancement of ecology, forestry and woodland management'.



Dr Sneha Malde of the Department of Physics, who researches matter and antimatter, has been awarded one of this year's L'Oréal-UNESCO UK & Ireland Fellowships

for Women in Science. The annual awards provide practical help to outstanding female postdoctoral scientists and the £15,000 prize can be spent on support such as equipment, field trips, attendance at conferences, childcare, and collaborations.



Professor Peter O'Neill of the CRUK/MRC Oxford Institute for Radiation Oncology has been given the 2014 Failla Award from the Radiation Research Society.

It recognises his significant contributions to radiation research, in particular his investigation of the process of radiation-induced cluster DNA damage.

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR OXFORD HUB



Oxford Hub, a student-led charity at the University, has received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services – 'the MBE

for volunteer groups' – in recognition of its outstanding work in the local community.

Part of the national Student Hubs network, Oxford Hub is led by a committee of 14 students who co-ordinate 50 community volunteering projects and 21 social enterprises across the city, benefiting over 1,000 people each year. Currently some 600 students in Oxford volunteer for Hub projects, which have included the Schools Plus tutoring scheme, fundraising for the Helen & Douglas House hospice, and Oxford Aid to the Balkans.

Representatives of Oxford Hub attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace on 10 June. The Lord Lieutenant of Oxford will present the award later in the year.

Mason Porter, Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics, has won the 2014 Erdős-Rényi Prize, awarded to a young scientist for achievements in research in network science, particularly outstanding contributions relevant to the interdisciplinary progress of network science.

Joe Silk, former Savilian Professor of Astronomy and Emeritus Professorial Fellow of New College, has been elected to the US National Academy of Sciences.



Professor Peter Somogyi, Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow and Director of the MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit at the Department of

Pharmacology, has received an honorary doctorate from the University of Zurich. The distinction honours his outstanding achievements in research on neuronal circuits in the cerebral cortex.

HONORARY DEGREES

Five leading figures from the worlds of science, the arts and religion received honorary degrees at Encaenia, the University's annual honorary degree ceremony.

Doctor of Divinity

The Most Reverend Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori, PhD, is Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church in the USA and 16 other nations. During her nine-year term she has been responsible for initiating and developing policy for the Episcopal Church and she speaks on behalf of the church regarding the policies, strategies and programmes authorised by General Convention. Bishop Jefferts Schori's studies for the priesthood, to which she was ordained in 1994, were preceded by her career as an oceanographer. She holds a BSc in biology from Stanford University, an MSc and PhD in oceanography from Oregon State University, an MDiv from Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and several honorary doctoral degrees.

Doctor of Letters

Sir Anish Kapoor, CBE, RA, is one of Britain's foremost sculptors. A Turner Prize winner and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, he was knighted in 2013 and contributed the iconic sculpture *Orbit* to the London 2012 Olympic Games. Born in Mumbai, he completed his art education in London and has showcased his work in solo exhibitions in many famous museums including the Louvre, Tate Modern and Royal Academy of Art. He represented the UK at the XLIV Venice Biennale, where he won the Premio Duemila Prize, and in 2002 he was awarded the Unilever Commission for the Turbine Hall at the Tate Modern.

Mr Robert Silvers, BA Chicago, became co-editor with Barbara Epstein of the *New York Review of Books* when it was founded in 1963 and has been sole editor since her death in 2006. Among Mr Silvers' honours in the USA are the National Book Foundation's Literarian Award for Outstanding Service and the Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters for Distinguished Service to the Arts. In 2013 he was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama. In France, Mr Silvers is a Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur and a member of the Ordre national du Mérite. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy.



HONOURED LUMINARIES: (FROM LEFT) BISHOP KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI, ROBERT SILVERS, SIR ANISH KAPOOR, SIR HARRISON BIRTWHISTLE AND PROFESSOR JEAN-MARIE LEHN

Doctor of Science

Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, PhD, received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1987 for his pioneering studies on the chemical basis of molecular recognition. Honorary Professor of Chemistry at the Collège de France and Emeritus Professor at the University of Strasbourg, Professor Lehn's other honours include the Davy Medal of the Royal Society and the rank of Commandeur in the Légion d'honneur. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, a Member of the Académie des Sciences, and a Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA.

Doctor of Music

Sir Harrison Birtwistle, CH, RAM (Hon FRAM), Visiting Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, is one of the leading British composers of his generation. Among his key works are the operas *Punch and Judy*, *The Last Supper*, *The Minotaur* and *The Mask of Orpheus*, which received its premiere at the English National Opera in 1986. His music has been conducted by Boulez, Barenboim, Howarth, Dohnányi, Knussen, Rattle, Eötvös and Welser-Möst. Sir Harrison was knighted in 1988 and received the Grawemeyer Award in 1986 and the Siemens Prize in 1995. He was made a Companion of Honour in 2001.

ESRC AWARDS RECOGNISE OUTSTANDING IMPACT



Sir David Hendry (above), Professor of Economics and one of the world's leading economists, has received a unique award from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Sir David, who is also Director of the Programme in Economic Modelling in the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School, has

been given the Celebrating Impact Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award celebrates those who have derived particularly significant economic and societal impact from their work. Professor Hendry has developed macroeconomic models capturing how economies work, which are now embedded in software widely used by policy-makers and decision-makers. His work has influenced public policy, business and society in the UK and elsewhere and in global institutions, including HM Treasury, Ofcom, the International Monetary Fund, and central banks including the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank. The award also recognises his commitment to training others over several decades.

Dr Sabina Alkire, from the Oxford Department of International Development,

and **Dr Stuart Basten**, from the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, were also honoured with ESRC prizes for Outstanding International Impact.

Dr Alkire and Professor James Foster of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative developed an innovative poverty measure known as the Alkire Foster (AF) method. This multidimensional poverty index is helping governments and organisations globally to design more effective programmes for reducing poverty.

Dr Basten's work on Asian fertility helped convince the United Nations to revise its influential forecasts on future population trends, with particularly large effects for Pacific Asian economies.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2014

Several members of the University were recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.



Professor Colin Blakemore, Emeritus Professor of Neuroscience and Emeritus Fellow of Magdalen College, was **knighted** for services to scientific research,

policy and outreach. Sir Colin was Waynflete Professor of Physiology from 1979 to 2007 and Professor of Neuroscience from 2007 to 2012. He is currently Director of the Centre for the Study of the Senses, at the Institute of Philosophy, School of Advanced Study, University of London.



Professor Martin Biddle, Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, was made **CBE** for services to archaeology. Professor Biddle was Professor of Medieval Archaeology at

Oxford from 1997 to 2002 and Astor Senior Research Fellow in Medieval Archaeology at Hertford College from 1989 to 2002. He has been Director of the Winchester Research Unit since 1968, and is Archaeological Consultant for Canterbury

Cathedral and St Albans Cathedral, and Chairman of the Fabric Advisory Committee of Winchester Cathedral.



John Simpson, Chief Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary* at Oxford University Press and Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, was made **CBE** for services to

literature. Mr Simpson was editor of the OED for 20 years from 1993 until his retirement last October. He joined the OED editorial staff in 1976 and under his editorship over 60,000 new words and meanings were added to the dictionary.

Also honoured were **Professor John Pethica**, Chief Scientific Adviser at the National Physical Laboratory, Vice-President of the Royal Society and Visiting Professor and former Professor of Materials Science (1996–2001) at the Department of Materials, who was **knighted** for services to science; and **Professor Richard Sorabji**, Honorary Fellow of Wolfson College and former British Academy Research Professor at Oxford (1996–9), who was **knighted** for services to philosophical scholarship.

SUCCESSFUL OBJECT LESSONS



'Objects of Invention', a project run by the Museum of the History of Science in partnership with the University Museums' Volunteers Service and students from the Department of Engineering Science, was one of three finalists (out of 240 entries) in the STEM category of the NCCPE (National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement) competition Engage 2014.

The project provided training in public engagement for 16 young engineers and the opportunity to deliver events for secondary schools and the visiting public in which their own interests and research in modern engineering applications were shared alongside the interpretation of objects from the Museum's collections. A public 'theme day' attracted over 2,000 visitors, and three study day events for secondary schools involved over 160 students.

NEW EMBO MEMBERS ELECTED

Eight Oxford researchers have been elected as members of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). The organisation, which stands for excellence in the life sciences, has this year marked its 50th anniversary by expanding the scope of its membership to honour the progress made in the fields of neuroscience and ecology and evolution.

The new Oxford members are: **Peter Donnelly**, Professor of Statistical Science and Director, Wellcome Trust Centre

for Human Genetics; **Professor Robert May** (Lord May of Oxford), Department of Zoology; **Gil McVean**, Professor of Statistical Genetics; **Christopher Schofield**, Professor of Chemistry; **Professor Peter Somogyi**, Nicholas Kurti Senior Research Fellow and Director of the MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit; **Christoph Tang**, Glaxo Professor of Cellular Pathology; **Scott Waddell**, Professor of Neurobiology; and **Stuart West**, Professor of Evolutionary Biology.

PHYSICS WINNERS

Oxford physicists are prominent among the winners of the 2014 Institute of Physics awards.

Tim Palmer, Royal Society Research Professor in Climate Physics, has won the Dirac Medal and prize 'for the development of probabilistic weather and climate prediction systems'; **David Marshall**, Professor of Physical Oceanography, was awarded the Appleton Medal and Prize 'for his fundamental contributions to understanding the fluid dynamics of the global ocean circulation through the development of penetrating conceptual models'; and **Professor Tony Bell** of the Department of Physics and the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory won the Hoyle Medal and Prize 'for elucidating the origin and impact of cosmic rays and for his seminal contributions to electron energy transport in laboratory plasmas'.

VIEWFINDER FOUND

help him rebuild it. Like the house in the story, the house of sticks at the Arboretum might not be of family-friendly walks, craft activities and special trails: www.harcourt-arboretum.ox.ac.uk/whats.

Eyore's famous house of sticks is pictured (p20) Corner, Eyore the pessimistic donkey builds a house of sticks in the 'rather boggy and sad' south-east corner of the Hundred Acre Wood but it is blown away by the wind, so Pooh and Piglet

MEDICAL HONOURS

Six Oxford medical researchers have been elected as Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science, innovative application of scientific knowledge or conspicuous service to healthcare.



Richard Cornell is Professor of Immunology, University Lecturer in Renal Medicine and Honorary Consultant

Physician. His research aims to understand how the immune system is formed and regulated, as well as the causes of autoimmunity.



Anke Ehlers is Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow and Professor of Experimental Psychopathology. Her research focuses

on anxiety disorders, in particular post-traumatic stress disorder, social anxiety disorder and panic disorder.



Gary A Ford is Chief Executive Officer, Oxford Academic Health Science Network; Stroke and Cardiovascular Theme Director,

NIHR Clinical Research Network;

Consultant Stroke Physician, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust; and Visiting Professor of Clinical Pharmacology. His research interests include acute stroke therapies and early diagnosis of stroke.



Fiona Powrie is Sidney Truelove Professor of Gastroenterology. Her research has included work on the interactions between the bacterial intestinal flora and the immune system.



Paul Riley is British Heart Foundation Professor of Regenerative Medicine and Chair of Development and Reproduction in the Department of Physiology,

Anatomy and Genetics. His research centres on cardiovascular development, repair and regeneration.



John Stein is Emeritus Professor of Physiology. His research focuses on how vision controls movement in animals, patients with movement

disorders, dyslexic children and antisocial offenders.

INSPIRATIONAL RESEARCH



Sadie Creese, Professor of Cybersecurity within the Department of Computer Science, has been recognised as one of the UK's ten most

inspirational scientists and engineers by the EPSRC under its RISE (Recognising Inspirational Scientists and Engineers) Leaders for 2014 campaign, launched in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering last November to mark the 20th anniversary of EPSRC.

Professor Creese's career has spanned academia, industry and government. She is engaged in a broad portfolio of cybersecurity research encompassing policy, situational awareness, security metrics, visual analytics, risk propagation prediction and communication, threat modelling and attack detection, network defence, dependability and resilience, and formal analysis.



◆ The RISE Leaders have also nominated researchers who are 'Rising Stars'; Professor Creese nominated

Dr Jason Nurse, a postdoctoral researcher in the Cyber Security Centre.

GOING GREEN MAKES AN IMPACT ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY



The University's first awards were presented last month under the NUS-led 'Green Impact' environmental accreditation and award scheme. With the encouragement of the University's Environmental Sustainability team, 23 teams from departments across the University are now participating in the scheme, which enables and showcases positive changes in environmental practice, such as water-saving campaigns, providing tap (not bottled) water at meetings, and taking account of environmental issues in long-term operational plans and strategies. Each team completed an online workbook to monitor their department's continual improvement in environmental performance, and this was audited by 13 students who received professional auditor training.

The Language Centre achieved a Silver award and 12 departments gained a Bronze award: Area Studies, the Conference of Colleges Secretariat, Chemistry, Materials, Statistics, Zoology, Earth Sciences, the English Faculty, Estates Services, Finance, the Mathematical Institute and the Jenner Institute.

Special Awards were also given to: Christine Mitchell (Language Centre) – Ecologist Environmental Hero; Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum – Innovation for Engagement; Department of Chemistry – Environmental Improvement; School of Geography and the Environment – Community Action; and Katrin Dulitz (Department of Chemistry) – Student Leadership Award.

PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS



Beata Javorcik, Professor of International Economics in the Department of Economics and Fellow and Tutor in Economics at Christ Church, University

of Oxford, has been appointed to this post from 1 September. She will become a Fellow of All Souls College.

Professor Javorcik is an international trade economist interested mainly in empirical work on policy-relevant questions. She identifies the policies through which developing countries can use international integration to facilitate their economic growth. For instance, she examines the determinants and consequences of inflows of foreign direct investment, the implications of services liberalisation for productivity growth, and the link between globalisation and the gender wage gap.

KHALID BIN ABDULLAH AL SAUD PROFESSOR FOR THE STUDY OF THE CONTEMPORARY ARAB WORLD



Marilyn Booth, Iraq Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh and Joint Director of the Centre for the Advanced

Study of the Arab World, Universities of Durham, Edinburgh and Manchester, has been appointed to this post in the Faculty of Oriental Studies with effect from 1 September and full time from 1 June 2015. She will be a Fellow of Magdalen College.

Her research includes the study of early feminisms, masculinity/femininity, and nationalist/Islamic discourses in the Arab world, Iran, and Turkey; and the emergence of Arabic fiction in the 19th century and its relation to gender activism. She is currently investigating female readership, translation, and discourses of publishing in Egypt 1880–1930 in a broader Middle East/South

Asia context, plus contemporary practices of Arabic literary translation with reference to author/translator interactions and the politics of publishing and marketing.

DEAN IRELAND'S PROFESSOR OF THE EXEGESIS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE



Markus Bockmuehl, Professor of Biblical and Early Christian Studies, Fellow and Tutor, Keble College, Oxford, takes up this post in the Faculty of

Theology and Religion on 1 October. He will be a Fellow of Keble College.

Professor Bockmuehl's chief areas of research concern the interpretation of the New Testament both in its ancient Jewish context and in its effect on the formation of Christian belief and practice. His next major project seeks specifically to explore this effect in the correlation between the future hopes and the political aims of Christians and Jews in antiquity.

SUMMER IN OXFORD'S GREEN SPACES

Summer is an ideal time to discover the University's parks and woodlands and make the most of their many attractions.

Between the city centre and Summertown lie the University Parks, 70 acres of parkland that serve as the green lungs of the city and the home of University cricket, which has been played here since 1881. Those inspired by Wimbledon can take advantage of the grass tennis courts, which are open until 30 September and cost just £30 for summer membership (www.sport.ox.ac.uk/facilities/university-parks/tennis-association), while a gentle stroll allows you to enjoy the Parks' rich collection of trees – over 300 varieties, including more than 30 species of hawthorn – as well as its diverse range of shrubs, herbaceous and meadow plants.

An even greater collection of trees can be found at Harcourt Arboretum, six miles south-east of Oxford at Nuneham Courtenay. The oldest were planted in the mid-19th century at the instigation of Archbishop Vernon Harcourt, who commissioned W S Gilpin to design an eight-acre 'pinetum' near his house, Nuneham Park.



Oxford University Images/Rob Judges



Oxford University Images/Botanic Garden

The University bought the estate in 1949 and the arboretum now covers over 130 acres and comprises exotic plantings, wildflower meadows grazed by sheep, and lime, ash and oak woodland. Entrance to the arboretum is free with a University Card, and a range of family-friendly events is taking place over the summer, including an open-air production of *The Taming of the Shrew* on 8 and 9 August. Details are at www.harcourt-arboretum.ox.ac.uk/whats.

To the west of Oxford lie 400 hectares of semi-natural woodland, which were bequeathed to the University in 1942 for research, educational and recreational purposes. Exceptionally rich in flora and fauna, Wytham Woods were designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1950 and since then have been the subject of extensive scientific study, from blue and great tits to deer and badgers, the latter finding the sandy soil of the woodland the perfect environment in which to dig their setts. If you would like to see the Wytham badgers up close, you can join Nigel Fisher, the Conservator of Wytham, for an evening of badger watching on 6 August. Details are in the What's On listing on p15.

'THE HUTS', SOUTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, OXFORD – FORMERLY
(AND SUBSEQUENTLY) KNOWN AS THE EXAMINATION SCHOOLS



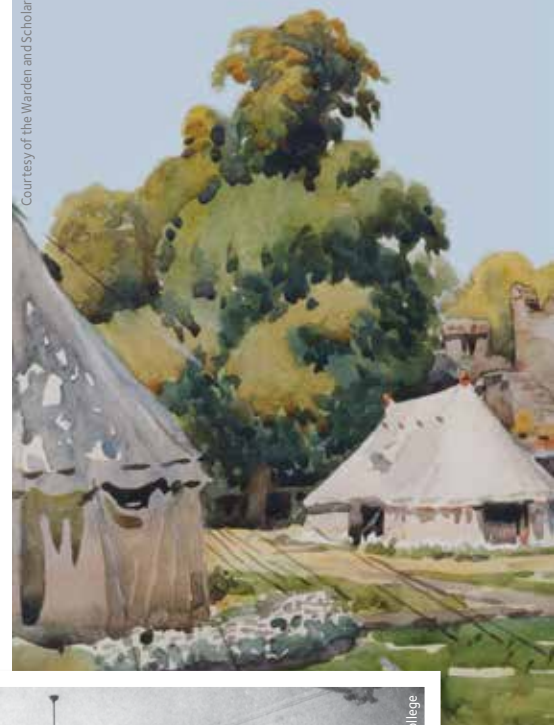
OXFORD AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Matt Pickles examines how the University fared during WW1 and its involvement in commemorative events





Courtesy of the Warden and Scholars of New College



RECUPERATING IN OXFORD: (CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE) TAKING THE AIR AT SOMERVILLE COLLEGE; SURGICAL WARD 5 OF THE 3RD SOUTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOUSED IN THE EXAM SCHOOLS; TENTS IN NEW COLLEGE QUAD, PAINTED IN 1919 BY WALTER SPRADBERY; SOMERVILLE COLLEGE, WARD W1

The First World War, which began 100 years ago, has been described as ‘the war to end all wars’ and ‘the war that changed everything’. Although German bombers avoided Oxford, the University was dramatically changed by the war, as Professor Jay Winter illustrates in his chapter in Volume VIII of *The History of the University of Oxford*.

In the early years of the war, students and academics signed up for service in impressive numbers. By 1918 virtually all Oxford scholars were in uniform. The Oxford University Roll of Service lists 14,561 members of the University who served during the war. Professor Winter estimates that

By 1918 virtually all Oxford scholars were in uniform

roughly one in five of those who served were killed or died. The war memorials on St Giles’ and in the colleges bear witness to this staggering loss of life.

Behind the numbers lie some moving personal stories. By 1917 only eight undergraduates were in residence at Wadham College, but their Warden, Joseph Wells, continued to send the *Wadham Gazette* to servicemen. In return he received hundreds of personal letters. One soldier wrote to him: ‘Thanks v. much for the *Gazette* which is always a welcome sight. The College “Roll of Honour” is getting big, but in relation to the number of Wadham men serving, it is probably less considerable than it appears at first glance.’

But while students and academics were away at the front, Oxford was far from empty: the city became a centre of treatment for disabled and wounded soldiers. The Examination Schools were converted into a military hospital and Somerville College became a hospital for officers, including Siegfried Sassoon. Oriel College provided temporary accommodation for those who vacated their rooms in Somerville, Merton College housed nurses, and New College and University College provided space for recuperating servicemen. 150 Serbian

refugees were lodged in Wycliffe Hall from May 1916.

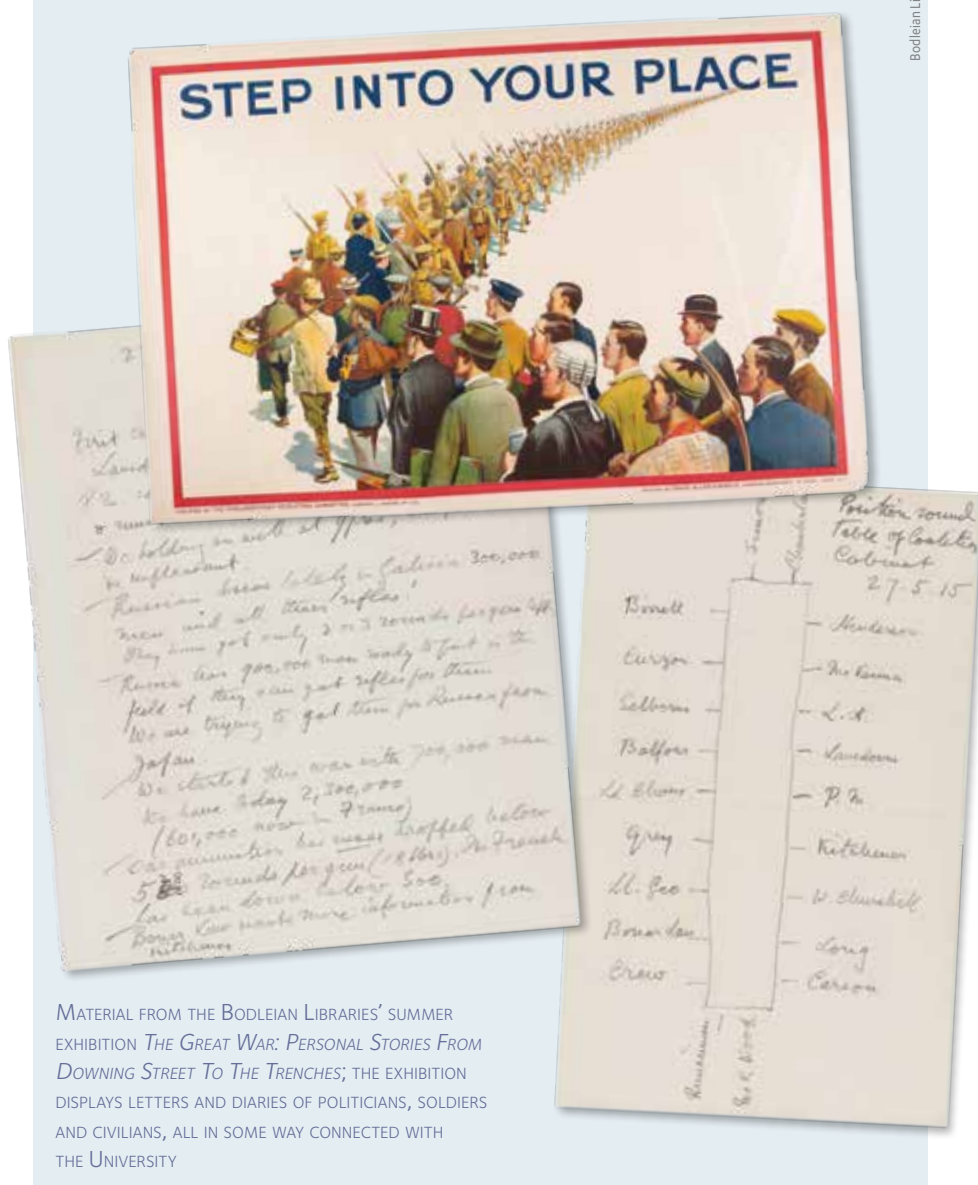
The University lent its academic expertise to the war effort and carried out much scientific research for government departments. The Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force occupied the Department of Chemistry, the Zoological Laboratories

The University lent its academic expertise to the war effort and carried out much scientific research for government departments

and the Department of Human Anatomy. Georges Dreyer, who held the chair of pathology, showed that ‘enteric’ fever at the front was paratyphoid fever rather than typhoid fever and convinced the War Office to launch a campaign of inoculation against the disease. Scientists worked on dyes, drugs and components of gas warfare in



The Examination Schools were converted into a military hospital and Somerville College became a hospital for officers



MATERIAL FROM THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES' SUMMER EXHIBITION *THE GREAT WAR: PERSONAL STORIES FROM DOWNING STREET TO THE TRENCHES*; THE EXHIBITION DISPLAYS LETTERS AND DIARIES OF POLITICIANS, SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS, ALL IN SOME WAY CONNECTED WITH THE UNIVERSITY



GEORGES DREYER (1873–1934) BECAME THE FIRST FULL PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY AT OXFORD IN 1907. DREYER SPECIALISED IN THE FIELDS OF BACTERIOLOGY AND VIROLOGY, PERFORMING EXTENSIVE STUDIES INVOLVING VACCINES AND IMMUNISATION

the Dyson Perrins Laboratory, while other scientists helped to streamline the processes of munition production.

It is therefore unsurprising that the University is playing an active part in marking the centenary of the Great War. The Bodleian Libraries' summer exhibition tells the story of the first two years of World War One, focusing on eyewitness accounts ranging from the Cabinet table at 10 Downing Street to outposts of the Empire in Africa. The exhibition includes the diary entries of Cabinet member Lewis Harcourt, who secretly kept a record of Cabinet discussions during the war even though this was forbidden.

The Ruskin School of Art commissioned Ruskin alumna and award-winning photographer Chloe Dewe Mathews to make a project to mark the centenary, in a collaboration with the Faculty of History. The result, *Shot at Dawn*, is a collection of photographs of sites in Europe where soldiers of all nationalities were executed for cowardice or desertion during the First World War. 'I've been going to the places

where these various different soldiers were shot all along the Western Front,' says the artist. 'I'm working with academics who have dedicated years of research to finding out the stories of the soldiers, and I'm quite aware of the fact that in going to these different sites quite methodically I am in a strange and quite uncomfortable way almost re-enacting these events. I'm creating a visual archive of all these places, which has not been done before, although many people have written about the different places.' The photographs will be taken on a two-year international exhibition tour, including a stint in Tate Modern, and published in a book.

Oxford academics in a variety of disciplines are carrying out new research connected to the First World War. Dr Rachel Moore of the Music Faculty and Worcester College is co-organiser of an international conference on music in the war, which will be held at the British Library in August, and is studying the musical and cultural exchange between Paris and London during World War One. She says: 'The conference will include a screening of a Danish silent film from 1917,



The Stretcher Bearer

By Tommy Crawford

My stretcher is one scarlet stain,
And as I tries to scrape it clean,
I tell you what – I'm sick of pain,
For all I've heard, for all I've seen;
Around me is the hellish night,
And as the war's red rim I trace,
I wonder if in Heaven's height
Our God don't turn away his face.

I don't care whose the crime may be,
I hold no brief for kin or clan;
I feel no hate, I only see
As man destroys his brother man;
I wave no flag, I only know
As here beside the dead I wait,
A million hearts are weighed with woe,
A million homes are desolate.

In dripping darkness far and near,
All night I've sought those woeful ones.

Dawn suddens up and still I hear
The crimson chorus of the guns.
Look, like a ball of blood the sun
Hangs o'er the scene of wrath and wrong,
"Quick! Stretcher-bearers on the run!",
Oh Prince of Peace! How long, how long?

TOMMY CRAWFORD WAS INJURED ON 1 JULY 1916, THE FIRST DAY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME. HE SURVIVED THE WAR ONLY TO LOSE HIS WIFE (FROM CANCER) AND HIS TWO SONS IN THEIR EARLY 30S. TOMMY REMARRIED AND HAD TWO FURTHER SONS, COLIN AND BRIAN. COLIN DIED AT 25 YEARS OF AGE AND SIX MONTHS LATER, IN 1980, TOMMY DIED TOO. HIS SON BRIAN, WHO SUBMITTED THIS POEM TO THE GREAT WAR ARCHIVE, HAS ALSO PUBLISHED TOMMY'S MEMOIRS

for which someone has recently reconstructed the musical score, and a performance of a concert party such as those that were given for soldiers at the fronts by the English musician and charity worker Lena Ashwell.'

The English Faculty's First World War Poetry Digital Archive has made freely available online the manuscripts of the major British poets of World War One, along with a set of teaching resources.

The University's Great War Archive – to which the general public was invited to contribute items between March and June 2008 – has digitised more than 6,500 items related to the First World War, turning up new and interesting personal stories about those involved in the war. One submission to the Great War Archive was a poem written by Tommy Crawford, an ordinary soldier who was injured while serving with the Durham Light Infantry at the Battle of the Somme. The poem, called *The Stretcher Bearer*, has already been heard by thousands of people. 'This year the poem was included in the First World War anthology for *Poetry by Heart*,' explains Sarah Wilkin of the University's Academic IT Services. 'Since then the BBC has been in touch wanting to include the poem as part of a film that will be played at their *World War One at Home* events over the summer.'

The Great War Archive was so successful that it became the model for an international project called *Europeana 1914–1918*, which extended the concept to include other countries in Europe. This digital archive, which also involves Oxford University, has received more than 90,000 items and was recently praised by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who said that the project shows it is 'better to negotiate 20 hours longer and talk,

but never come back to such a situation in the middle of Europe'. Dr Stuart Lee of the English Faculty and IT Services, who was one of the founders of the Great War Archive, says: 'The centenary of the First World War offers us an important opportunity to reflect on the war but also to challenge prejudices across Europe, and Oxford's Great War Archive project which led to the *Europeana 1914–1918* initiative had this as one of its

Oxford's Great War Archive allowed the public to expose material they had held for nearly a century and explain its importance

main aims by allowing the public to expose material they had held for nearly a century and explain its importance.'

A research project involving the Changing Character of War Programme at Pembroke College and the Oxford Centre for Global History in the History Faculty aims to bring together scholars from many disciplines who are researching World War One. The stated aim of 'Globalising and Localising the Great War' is 'to ensure that the commemoration of the War produces ground-breaking new research and fresh insights which challenge rather than confirm our often clichéd

perspectives on an event that shaped – and continues to shape – our world'.

Oxford academics have a leading role in communicating about the centenary to a wide audience and many of them are seeking to get across messages that are about more than just remembrance and commemoration. Sir Hew Strachan, Oxford's Chichele Professor of the History of War, was selected by the government to sit on the First World War centenary advisory board. 'The centenary of the First World War must not be Remembrance Sunday writ large,' he says. 'If we do not emerge at the end of the process in 2018 with fresh perspectives, we shall have failed.'

Professor Margaret MacMillan, an historian and Warden of St Anthony's College, is presenting a landmark Radio 4 series called *Day by Day*, in which she charts Europe's descent into war in 1914 via 43 daily four-minute episodes from 27 June until 8 August. Professor MacMillan, who also recently brought out a book about the road to war, says: 'Both my book and the BBC radio series are intended to help people understand the world of 1914 from its political and social structures to the ideas and values of Europeans then. We should not assume that the war was inevitable but ask rather why did the peace not last.'

In very many ways, the University and its staff are ensuring that the events of those turbulent years will not be forgotten.

► This article is a snapshot of University activities relating to World War One. More information is at www.ox.ac.uk/ww1centenary



SUPERMARKET SWAP

A new smartphone app helps you make healthy eating choices as you shop, reports *Jonathan Wood*

As you're taking your food shopping from your supermarket trolley and laying it on the conveyor belt at the checkout, how confident are you about the healthiness of your choices?

We all know the basics of healthy eating – eat more fruit and veg, avoid things high in saturated fat, free sugar or salt, and cut down on fried or processed food. It's translating those aims into the products we regularly put into our baskets that can prove more difficult. Would a different brand ready meal have had less salt or more saturated fat? Is your ham and mushroom pizza better or worse for you than a spinach and ricotta one? Well, now there's a free smartphone app that can help.

The FoodSwitch app allows you to use your smartphone camera to scan the barcode and immediately obtain nutritional information on the product in the form of easy to understand 'traffic light' labels. The red, amber or green labels show at a glance the amount of fat, saturated fat, sugars and salt the product has. The fewer red circles and the more green circles a product has, the healthier it is.

The app has been developed by the George Institute for Global Health and the group Consensus Action on Salt and Health (CASH), with researchers at Oxford University heavily involved.

'Research has shown that people find colour labels an easier and quicker guide than detailed numerical data,' says Professor Susan Jebb of the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences. 'When we're purchasing many different products, it's hard to assimilate more complex information from nutritional labels.'

Recently, all of the 10 major retailers in the UK have agreed to move towards consistent colour-coded front-of-pack labelling. But not all manufacturers have followed suit,

so approaches like FoodSwitch can help by offering the same information for many more products.

'It allows you to work out the healthiness of a food,' says Oxford researcher Dr Mike Rayner of the British Heart Foundation Centre on Population Approaches for Non-Communicable Disease Prevention, who has been involved in the development of the app. 'It's particularly helpful when comparing two foods. If you have two pizzas and the labelling shows one has two reds, an orange and a green, and the other has three greens and an orange, it's easy to see which of the pizzas would be better for you.'

**FoodSwitch doesn't say:
'You're buying a bar of
chocolate, why not buy
a banana instead?'
– it offers alternatives
within a category**

The real advantage of FoodSwitch over regular labelling is that it goes on to suggest similar but healthier products that you could buy instead. 'The switch element is really important,' says Professor Jebb. 'FoodSwitch doesn't say: "You're buying a bar of chocolate, why not buy a banana instead?" It offers alternatives within a category, so the changes are modest changes. If you're committed to buying a pizza, it will suggest two or three

other pizzas instead. This feature makes FoodSwitch a really practical tool to support people to put dietary recommendations into practice to improve their health.'

The app is available for both iPhones and Android phones and has already been downloaded over 10,000 times. It was launched with nutritional information on over 80,000 packaged food and drinks in its database. This has now risen to around 100,000 as users submit photos of products not in the database to the FoodSwitch team for categorisation.

Dr Rayner and his research group have been working for many years on ways of categorising foods according to their nutritional value – scoring foods for healthiness. They led the work that underpins the Food Standards Agency's model on the healthiness of food and the laws governing the regulation of advertising of foods directed at children. This approach has spread around the world and it is this nutrient profiling model that underpins the algorithm the FoodSwitch app uses to offer healthier alternatives.

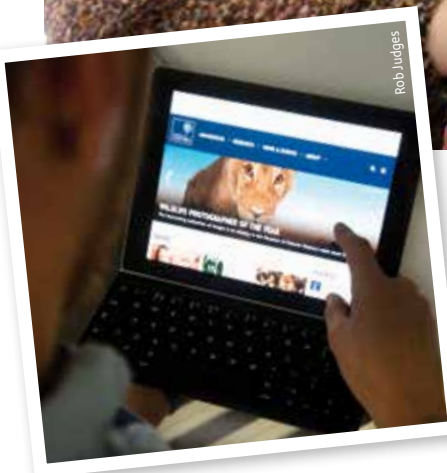
Easy-to-use nutritional labelling and a new phone app is not at a stroke going to cure our addiction to foods that are high in fats and added sugars. Price and familiarity are bigger factors in what we put in our shopping baskets, for example. But making nutritional information easy to understand makes this a really practical example that people can use at the very moment they are browsing the supermarket shelves and making decisions about what to eat.



Find out more about the FoodSwitch app at www.actiononsalt.org.uk/foodswitch

SPINNING A NEW WEB

Creating a new look for the University website has been a painstaking process, explains *Jamie Condliffe*



Rob Judges

THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW-LOOK WEBSITE (ABOVE), AND (TOP, FROM LEFT) SUZI ARDLEY, RICHARD WATTS AND STEPHEN SANGAR OF THE DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

If you've visited the University's website recently, you should have noticed that things have changed. Gone is the traditional-looking website of the past seven years, replaced with sleek graphic design, vibrant images and a raft of overhauled content. It's a bold and modern site to complement a centuries-old institution – and it's been a significant amount of work to create.

Changes like this don't happen quickly: they require careful thought and planning. The stakes are high, after all. The Oxford University site is the most visited of all the higher education institutions in the UK, with 1.75 million visitors each month, and that figure grows by 10% each year. The sheer scale of the project was intimidating, too. 'In terms of content, we had over 1,000 pages to migrate,' explains Suzi Ardley, the University's Head of Digital Communications. 'It was a huge undertaking.'

Not least because the website is so many things to so many people: staff, students, applicants and visitors all have different demands which need to be catered for.

No surprise then that almost six months of research and consultation was undertaken before a new design was developed. Armed with data, the site was designed over the course of another six months – with regular testing on future users along the way – before a final choice on its appearance and structure was made. Finally, it was turned into the working site, which you can now visit, by an external web development agency.

The Oxford University site is the most visited of all the higher education institutions in the UK, with 1.75 million visitors each month

While the site has to perform the same fundamental task it always has – delivering the correct information to the right person – the goal was to make it incredibly user-friendly, beautiful to look at and built on the latest technology, in order to be sustainable over the coming years. The result is a site that's more engaging than the one that went before it: full of large images and rich with video, but also more logically structured and straightforward to navigate.

Visit it on a mobile device and you'll notice an even bigger difference. With 16% of visitors currently viewing the site on phones and tablets – a number that is 'growing

rapidly' according to Ardley – the site has now been specially constructed to work on any platform, whatever the screen size.

But while it looks the part, it's not quite finished yet. While the main University site has been overhauled – both at the front end for users, and behind the scenes so it's easy for content editors to update – there's more to come. The next phase in early September will see the relaunch of the Staff Gateway, designed to streamline the way that University employees find the information and contacts they need, together with the Graduate Admissions site, freshly updated with full subject listings and fee details. Then later in September comes the International section, designed to showcase how the University interacts around the globe.

So far, feedback has been positive. 'It's dynamic, inviting, confident, detailed and not patronising,' says one anonymous user; 'It's a good website with systematic and detailed information,' adds another. Even those in charge of the websites of other Russell Group universities are impressed – one of whom claimed 'it looks fantastic'.

However, the site is very much work in progress and will continue to develop in line with user feedback. 'The new site includes a number of improvements based on feedback and in these ways I think it's a significant improvement on the previous website,' Ardley says. 'But the new site is very much a starting point, and we have a plan of work for a series of enhancements. Watch this space.'

► Explore the new site at www.ox.ac.uk

WHAT'S ON

EXHIBITIONS

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Until 22 September

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

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

From charismatic animal portraits to dramatic landscapes, view the 100 award-winning images from the 2013 competition, selected from 43,000 entries.

Discovering Tutankhamun

Until 2 November

Ashmolean Museum

Tickets £9 / £7 / free for under-12s

www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions/discovertut

The Ashmolean's summer exhibition focuses on one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

The Great War: Personal Stories

from Downing Street to the Trenches

Until 2 November

Bodleian Library

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

The Bodleian's summer exhibition tells the story of the first two years of WW1, drawing upon the Libraries' collections to reveal the impact of the war on politicians, soldiers and civilians.

LECTURES AND TALKS

The Invention of Modern Science

Friday 17 October, 5.15pm

Sheldonian Theatre

www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/events

Event to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of Wadham College's Warden Wilkins, who convened the founders of the Royal Society. Speakers include Sir Paul Nurse, Professor Marcus du Sautoy and Dr Joanna Dunkley.

CONCERTS

Menahem Pressler and Oxford Philomusica

Sunday 3 August, 8pm

Sheldonian Theatre

Tickets £40 / £28 / £18 / £10

www.oxfordphil.com/piano-festival

Pianist Menahem Pressler and Oxford Philomusica perform Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major* and *Requiem in D minor*. Part of the Oxford Philomusica Piano Festival, which runs from 27 July to 4 August.



CONFERENCES

UAS Conference

Wednesday 1 October

Examination Schools

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/uasconference

Information and training day for administrative and support staff across the collegiate University. Registration opens in early September.

DRAMA

King Lear

Until 3 August

Old Schools Quadrangle, Bodleian Library

Tickets £22 / £20

www.oxfordplayhouse.com/show/?eventid=3169

Oxford Playhouse and the Bodleian Library welcome back the Globe Theatre on Tour to perform *King Lear* in the Old Schools Quadrangle.

As You Like It

Until 15 August

Wadham College

Tickets £22.50 / £17.50 / £12.50

www.oxfordshakespearecompany.co.uk

An outdoor promenade production of Shakespeare's comedy in the beautiful surroundings of Wadham gardens.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Flower Power Picnic Afternoon

Saturday 26 July, 1–4pm

Botanic Garden

www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/whatson

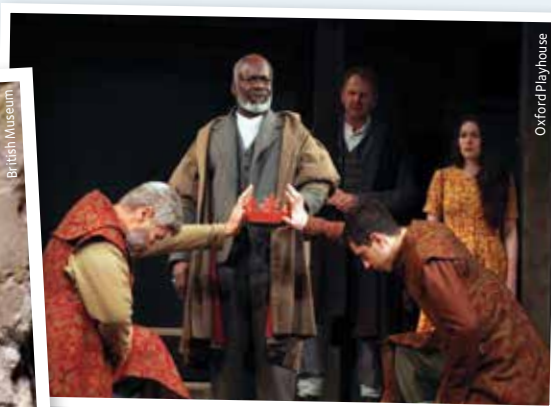
Bring a picnic to the garden and listen to music, take part in crafts and growing activity, and find the most beautiful blooms.

Badger watching at Wytham Woods

Wednesday 6 August, 6.30pm

Wytham Woods, Oxford OX2 8QQ

www.ox.ac.uk/visitors_friends/whats_on/badger_watching.html



Join Nigel Fisher, Conservator of Wytham, for an evening of badger watching. The event is free of charge and will last approximately 2hrs 45mins.

SPECIAL EVENTS

First World War tours

Wednesdays until 11 November (Armistice Day), 3.15pm

Pitt Rivers Museum

www.prm.ox.ac.uk/talks.html

A free 20-minute tour describing some of the fascinating and poignant objects in the museum's collections, from engraved artillery shell cases to musical instruments.

Crafty networking

Thursday 4 September, 6–7.30pm

Pitt Rivers Museum (entry via the South Door, Robinson Close, off South Parks Road)

www.prm.ox.ac.uk/specialevents.html

Join spoon-carver Barnaby Carder, who will talk about his craft and his transition from apprentice to journeyman. Free event, with cash bar.

Oxford Open Doors 2014

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www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk

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WHY AM I HERE?

RONALD RICHENBURG

Senior Library Assistant, Bodleian Law Library

What do you do, exactly?

I work in the Academic Services Team, helping to provide a wide range of services to the many and varied users of the library. As the largest law library in the UK, our users include not only Oxford students and academics, but visiting academics, visiting students, practising lawyers and independent researchers, and also a large number of remote users, notably document delivery customers and interlibrary loan customers. With the rest of the team, I answer enquiries of all kinds, ranging from very simple ones to ones involving complicated research.

I have an American legal training, so I often deal with enquiries that relate to US law and research, and I sometimes give classes in US legal research to graduate students and other users. I'm in charge of our interlibrary loan service and I'm an occasional contributor to our blog. In recent years, I've also dealt with most of the architectural enquiries that we receive, and I have particular responsibility for our participation in the 'Oxford Open Doors' annual open-day scheme for the general public (see www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk).

Whereabouts is the Bodleian Law Library?

It's housed in the St Cross Building, about a 15-minute walk from the central Bodleian. Its completion in 1964 was a landmark in the development of modern architecture in Oxford. It was designed by Leslie Martin and Colin St John Wilson who were among the leading architects of the time, and is now listed at Grade II*. It was also a landmark in the provision of library services in Oxford because, for the first time, a major University library had almost its entire collection immediately available on open shelves.

So it's not a traditional wood-panelled Oxford enclave?

Not at all – the light-coloured wood, together with the great height of the main reading room and the natural illumination through skylights, gives a sense of light and spaciousness of a kind often associated with Scandinavian and Finnish architecture.

I'm an intermittent user of the library as well as a staff member and, from

both perspectives, I've always found it a wonderful place to work. Obviously, opinions about modern architecture vary enormously, but I think that the general satisfaction of our users indicates that the building works very well, even for those who are not consciously aware of architectural considerations. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Law Library, and I'm particularly pleased that we will be celebrating not only our excellent resources and services, but also the building itself.

Can anyone pop in and look round?

Readers are expected to obtain Bodleian cards, but we are quite flexible about showing the library to lawyers, librarians and architects who want to come in briefly to see what it's like. The wider public can pre-book a tour via Oxford Open Doors (we're open this year on Fri 12 and Sat 13 Sept). Given the somewhat old-world image of Oxford in the public mind, I think it's important to show that the great historic buildings stand side-by-side with great modern ones, and that *all* of them make the University what it is.

As a child, did you dream of being a librarian?

As a young child in the United States, I had the typical ambitions of becoming a cowboy or a soldier. And watching (with my friends) the rubbish being collected every week, I did go through a brief phase of thinking that operating a New York City rubbish truck would be very exciting. Later, my interests turned to architecture and then to law. Although working in a library never came into it, I did understand, from the earliest age, the need to preserve the records and artefacts of our civilisation.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

Helping library users and other enquirers in matters in which I am both interested and well informed.

Finally, what's your own favourite part of the Law Library?

The main enquiry desk, where I am more or less at the centre of all the activities of this great institution.



Rob Judges

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VIEWFINDER

WHERE'S THIS HOUSE OF STICKS – AND WHO DOES IT BELONG TO? ANSWER ON P6.



Oxford University Images/Botanic Garden