

# BLUEPRINT

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UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

***Cosmo connections***  
**Long-haul humanities**  
**Edible gardens take root**



# News in brief



Rob Judges



Department of Culture, Media and Sport



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Alfred Frazer



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Oxford's widening access initiatives were highlighted at a recent reception for parliamentarians at the Palace of Westminster. Four out of every ten participants in last year's UNIQ summer schools who then applied for an undergraduate place at Oxford were successful – twice the overall success rate for undergraduate entry, the Vice-Chancellor told an audience of 80 MPs and peers. Other speakers included Hannah Cusworth of OUSU (*second left*) and Fiona Bushell (*second right*), a first-year undergraduate at Christ Church who attended UNIQ in 2010.

The Ashmolean is mounting a campaign to save Edouard Manet's *Portrait of Mademoiselle Claus* (1868) for the nation. The painting has been sold to a foreign buyer but, under a private treaty sale, can be purchased by an approved UK public collection at 25% of its market value. The temporary export bar on the painting has been extended until August to give the Ashmolean time to raise the £7.83m required. The portrait is on display at the Ashmolean until August. Details at [www.ashmolean.org/manet](http://www.ashmolean.org/manet).

Interested in what the University is doing to reduce its carbon emissions and increase rainwater recycling? The 2010/11 Environmental Sustainability report ([www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/environment](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/environment)) describes the University's progress in minimising the environmental impact of its activities and highlights the range of sustainability initiatives in progress, from videoconferencing to the installation of ground-source heat pumps. One such initiative, edible gardens, is described on p10.

Did you know that University staff can benefit from reduced hotel rates and mobile phone tariffs? A new Discounts for Staff website lists the offers and discounts offered by external companies. Visit [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/discountsforstaff](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/discountsforstaff) to find out about preferential savings rates with Santander or discounted hotel stays via the online booking company Skoosh. A separate Staff Benefits site at [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits) provides information about the benefits offered by the University, from discounted bus passes to free entry to the Botanic Garden.

The amount of cycle crime affecting members of the University has risen to an unprecedented level recently. While there are no particular hotspots, bikes are being taken on a daily basis, particularly those secured with a cable-type lock rather than a D-lock. Help the police return your bike to you if it is stolen by joining the University Cycle Registration Scheme. Contact Security Services at [security.control@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:security.control@admin.ox.ac.uk) or on (2)72945 for a free registration pack and mark your frame with your postcode.

Want to give your leaflets a new lease of life or brighten up your brochures? A new design studio, operated by the University Publications Office, will offer professional design services at a cost-effective rate to departments and colleges from the start of next term. Specialists in designing Oxford-branded material, from the student prospectuses to the Annual Review, the studio aims to combine creative design with a knowledgeable and professional service. Departments using the service may also benefit from highly preferential print rates. Visit [www.ox.ac.uk/designstudio](http://www.ox.ac.uk/designstudio) for details.

## Forward thinking

A major new graduate scholarship programme has been made possible by the most generous gift for humanities in the University's history. The Mica and Ahmet Ertegun Graduate Scholarship Programme, which has been established through a donation that will ultimately amount to more than £26m, will see the creation of 15 graduate scholarships per year. It will eventually be endowed in perpetuity to award at least 35 graduate scholarships in the humanities each year.

37a St Giles will be refurbished to become The Mica and Ahmet Ertegun House for the Study of the Humanities. From Michaelmas term 2012, it will serve as the base for study and research by the Ertegun scholars, with a full-time Ertegun Senior Scholar in Residence providing mentorship for the scholars.

Thanks to gifts such as this, the *Oxford Thinking* Campaign has just passed its initial target of £1.25bn. Since the fundraising began in May 2004, donations of all sizes have helped change the face of Oxford's landscape, from award-winning buildings to enhanced college facilities, scholarship schemes to academic posts. However, there is still much more to be done, with planning now underway as to the next phase of the Campaign. Read more at [www.campaign.ox.ac.uk](http://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk).

**The 'OxGrow' community project at Corpus Christi's Hogacre Common (see p10)**



Photo credit: Michael Blatherwick



## Research round-up

Few could have foreseen that any good would emerge from an environmental disaster in Hungary in 2010 in which a huge quantity of caustic red sludge was released from a waste containment facility when a retaining wall failed. The toxic red 'mud' killed 10 people, injured over 100 and affected 4,000 hectares of land, but has now provided researchers with a clue to carbon capture that may prove useful in tackling climate change. Oxford earth scientist Dr Phil Renforth and colleagues carried out a geochemical analysis of deposited sediments left by the red mud and found that initial clean-up methods used at the time – adding gypsum and acid to streams and soils – resulted in carbon dioxide being absorbed from the atmosphere. It was not known that gypsum could do this, and the discovery could lead to methods for sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> from thin air.

A simple compound available in pill form dramatically lowers tissue damage in a mouse model of heart attack, an Oxford University-led study has shown. In mice given fumarate, the amount of dead heart tissue after an attack was 9.3% of the whole heart volume – much lower than the untreated mice, in whom it was 36.9%. As well as showing the reduction, the researchers also identified the biological pathways triggered by increased levels of fumarate which appear to result in the extra protection for the heart. Dr Houman Ashrafi of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine led the study. The researchers are now planning a human trial in patients undergoing heart surgery.

A research project has brought scholars closer than ever before to decoding the oldest undeciphered writing system from the ancient near East. A team including Oxford researchers has used newly developed reflective imaging technology to capture images of some of the world's most important historical documents, and is putting the images online for all to view, as part of the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative. Dr Jacob Dahl of the Oriental Institute, co-PI of the project, expects the high-quality digital manuscripts will help him complete a ten-year quest to decipher a proto-Elamite writing system from c.3,200 BC to 3,000 BC – the last undeciphered writing system from the ancient near East. 'You can't decipher a writing system without having excellent images because you will miss small differences between symbols and will be taken down the wrong path,' he says.

Dr Mark Howarth of the Biochemistry Department speaks for many scientists when he says 'we want to be able to treat proteins like Lego'. In biotechnology or nanotechnology, you might want to grab hold of proteins, stick them immovably to surfaces, or assemble proteins and enzymes to build tiny new structures. Now, with his graduate student Bijan Zakeri, he has created a 'superglue' to allow just that. The scientists engineered the 'glue' from a protein that bacteria *Streptococcus pyogenes* uses to bind to and invade human cells. Neither boiling in detergent nor an atomic force microscope could put asunder two parts joined together with the new 'glue'. There is no prior equivalent so the invention could have many applications.



The government is aiming to reduce net migration dramatically by 2015, but short-term 'wins' from reducing immigration will be countered later by the resulting lower emigration numbers, an analysis by the University's Migration Observatory shows. Many migrants who come to the UK leave again after a few years. Cutting immigrants in a year when earlier immigrants are still leaving will secure a short-term drop in net migration, but in later years, emigration numbers will be lower because those usually leaving in any one year, such as foreign students who have graduated, will not have come to the UK in the first place. Cutting immigration of groups that are numerically large, but who tend not to settle in the UK, such as students, can therefore lead to a dramatic short-term reduction in net migration that is partially reversed over time because of declining emigration – making the government's current targets on net immigration look even less tenable.

# People & prizes



**Dr Mick Blowfield**, a senior research fellow at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, has won the Chartered Management Institute's Management Book of the

Year Award in the 'management and leadership textbook' category. His winning book, *Corporate Responsibility*, was co-authored with Alan Murray of Leeds University Business School and is published by OUP.



**Professor Peter Edwards**, head of Inorganic Chemistry, has been awarded an Einstein Professorship of the Chinese Academy of Sciences for 2012. The Einstein Professorships

are awarded each year to 20 distinguished international scientists working at the frontiers of science and technology, for conducting lecture tours in China.



**Professor Luciano Floridi**, a fellow of St Cross and a member of the Philosophy Faculty and of the Department of Computer Science, has been awarded the 2012 Covey Award

for Outstanding Research in Computing and Philosophy by the International Association for Computing and Philosophy.



**Dr Abigail Green**, tutor and fellow in history at Brasenose College, has won the \$25,000 Sami Rohr Choice Award as runner-up to the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish

Literature. Her biography *Moses Montefiore: Jewish Liberator, Imperial Hero* (Belknap Press of Harvard University) was a Jewish Book Council National Jewish Book Award finalist, a *Times Literary Supplement* Book of the Year 2010 and a *New Republic* Best Book of 2010.



**Alex Halliday**, head of the MPLS Division and Professor of Geochemistry, has been awarded the Urey Medal of the European Association of Geochemis-

try 'for outstanding contributions advancing geochemistry over a career'. His research focuses on the origins of planets and the present-day natural behaviour of the Earth.



**Miles Hewstone**, Professor of Social Psychology, is to receive this year's Kurt Lewin Award of the SPSSI, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

Kurt Lewin was a pioneer in the science of group dynamics and a founder of the SPSSI; the award is presented annually for 'outstanding contributions to the development and integration of psychological research and social action'.



**Dr Andrew Loveridge** of the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) has won the SATIB Trust Award (and a Land Rover Defender) in recognition of his dedicated work in

understanding lion biology and supporting conservation in Africa.

**Professor Terry Jones**, who headed the Department of Engineering Science Turbomachinery Research Group from 1988 to 2005, has been awarded the Silver Medal of the Royal Aeronautical Society for his lifetime contributions to aerospace. His many engineering innovations include the Isentropic Light Piston Tunnel used for turbine research.



**Ros Rickaby**, Professor of Biogeochemistry, has been awarded the Gast lecture-ship, presented jointly by the European Association of Geochemistry and the Geochemical Society

to a mid-career scientist for outstanding contributions to geochemistry.

**Martin Stokes**, Professor of Ethnomusicology, has won the Merriam Prize of the Society for Ethnomusicology for his book *The Republic of Love: Cultural Intimacy and Turkish Popular Music* (University of Chicago Press, 2010).



**Andrew Zisserman**, Professor of Computer Vision Engineering in the Department of Engineering Science, has been awarded a £50,000 Rank

Optoelectronics Prize for 'outstanding contributions to modern computer vision' by the Rank Prize Funds.

## Top European prize for medicine



**Fiona Powrie**, Sidney Truelove Professor of Gastroenterology and head of the Experimental Medicine Division of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, has been

awarded the 2012 Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine, a major European award recognising excellence in fundamental biological research which is expected to be of considerable significance for medicine.

Professor Powrie's work focuses on why the immune system, which defends us against harmful microorganisms, does not attack the numerous beneficial bacteria which inhabit the intestine. Her research has identified a class of cells, called regulatory T cells, that police the immune response in the intestine, preventing it from attacking bacteria that are of benefit to us. Her team has demonstrated that deficiencies in these immune cells can lead to chronic intestinal inflammatory disease.

Professor Powrie will use the prize money of 700,000 Swiss francs (almost £0.5m) to continue her work, which is opening up new possibilities for the treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases. She wins the prize alongside Matthias Mann of the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany, whose work in mass spectrometry has revolutionised the analysis of proteins and their functions.

## NIHR professorship



**Dr Marian Knight** of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit in the University's Department of Public Health has been awarded a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

professorship. She is one of eight researchers to receive the award, which recognises the UK's most promising leaders in medical health research. Each of them will receive around £1.5m of funding for their research into a range of conditions that affect millions of patients across the UK.

Dr Knight will use the funding for her research project, which aims to improve care for pregnant women and babies with life-threatening illnesses. In particular, the funding will allow her to undertake new work investigating how children and their parents are affected by early surgery and the need for multiple hospital visits, and how we can make care better for them.



# Arrivals board

## Professor of Informatics



**Georg Gottlob**, Professor of Computing Science and fellow of St Anne's College, University of Oxford, and Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at Vienna University of Technology,

Austria, took up this post on 11 January. He also became a fellow of St John's College.

Georg Gottlob moved to Oxford from Vienna in 2006. His research deals with algorithms, computational complexity, artificial intelligence, and with problem decomposition methods applied to database query optimisation, constraint satisfaction, game theory and electronic commerce. In his new role, he will help to launch an Algorithms Group in the Department of Computer Science and also plans to establish a joint Algorithms Seminar between St Anne's and St John's Colleges.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, a founding member of the Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance and James Martin Senior Fellow in the Institute for the Future of Computing.

## Director, Oxford University Museum of Natural History



**Paul Smith**, Professor of Palaeobiology, Head of the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Director of the Lapworth Museum at the University of Birmingham,

took up this post with the title of Professor of Natural History on 1 February. He also became a fellow of Kellogg College.

Professor Smith studied at the Universities of Leicester and Nottingham. He comes to Oxford from the Lapworth Museum, one of three UK university geology museums recognised by HEFCE as a centre of excellence (the others being the OUMNH and the Manchester Museum of the University of Manchester). His chief research interests include the origin and early evolution of

vertebrates, using evidence from vertebrate microfaunas and exceptionally preserved macrofaunas to examine the phylogenetic origin of vertebrates, their evolutionary relationships and the palaeobiology of primitive vertebrates.

## Professor of Electrical Engineering



**Jong Min Kim**, Samsung Fellow, Senior Vice-President and Director of the Frontier Research Lab at the Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology, Samsung Electronics, South

Korea, took up this post in the Department of Engineering Science on 5 March. He is also a fellow of St Hugh's College.

Jong Min Kim was educated at Hongik University in Seoul, South Korea, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology in the US. His research interests lie at the convergence of nanotechnology-based IT, energy and environmental technology, and biotechnology. While at Samsung, he invented many notable devices such as the carbon nanotube field-emission HDTV, quantum-dot light-emitting diodes and displays, light-emitting diodes on glass substrates and flexible electronics components. His work at Oxford will focus on future displays and printable electronics, nano energy generation and storage, and metaphotonics for bioimaging systems.

## Inveagh Professor of Microbial Biochemistry



**Colin Kleanthous**, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of York, has been appointed to this post in the Department of Biochemistry with effect from 16 April. He also becomes a fellow of Linacre College.

Colin Kleanthous studied at the University of Leicester and held posts at the Universities of California (Berkeley), Glasgow and East Anglia before becoming Professor of

Biochemistry at York in 2002. His research interests revolve around structural and biochemical dissection of protein-protein interactions, with specific focus on the import of antibacterial proteins and the host systems they parasitise and on environmental stress-sensing by bacteria.

## Director of Education Policy Support



**David Gibson** has been appointed to this post in the Academic Administration Division. He will take up his appointment on 21 May. Mr Gibson is currently Head of the Academic

Policy and Standards division at the University of Exeter, a post he has held since August 2007. During this time, he led the development of a new education strategy for 2010–15 and managed an institutional audit in 2007. He joined the University of Exeter in 2001 after a career in the overseas civil service.

## Rhodes Professor of American History



**Pekka Hämäläinen**, Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara, USA and Fellow at the Institut d'Etudes Avancées, Nantes, France, will take up this post in the

History Faculty in July 2012. He will also become a fellow of St Catherine's College.

Following a PhD at the University of Helsinki, Pekka Hämäläinen taught at Texas A&M University before moving to UCSB. He has held fellowships at a number of institutions including the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. He has published widely on topics including the Borderlands, Native American history and the environmental history of North America, and has won many prizes including the 2009 Bancroft Prize in American History.



## Oxford wins HR excellence award

The University has been successful in gaining the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research award. The award recognises the systems and practices which are in place at the University to support researchers' careers and professional development, and acknowledges the University's commitment to looking after research staff and their development. Departments are encouraged to display the logo and refer to the award both in European grant applications and on web pages and publications for current and prospective research staff. For further information about the award and how to use the logo, see [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/resstaff/hrexcellence/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/resstaff/hrexcellence/).



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## Noticeboard



The University's new Proctors and Assessor for 2012–13 took office on 14 March.

**Dr Huw Dorkins**, EP Abraham Fellow and tutor in Medicine at St Peter's College, is Senior Proctor; **Dr Amy Zavatsky** (left), Reader in Engineering Science and tutorial fellow at St Edmund Hall, is Junior Proctor; and **Dr Helen Leith Spencer**, fellow and tutor in English at Exeter College, is Assessor. Their duties are described at [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors).



**Professor Anne Trefethen**, Director of the Oxford e-Research Centre, took up the new post of Chief Information Officer on 1 March, an appointment made in conjunction

with the bringing together of the three central ICT units: Business Services and Projects, the ICT Support Team and Oxford University Computing Services. She will be responsible for the management and future development of the new integrated central ICT department and will also take forward the development of policy and strategy for ICT across the University.



**Loren Griffiths** has been appointed as the University's Director of International Strategy. He came to Oxford as deputy director of international strategy in 2010, following

seven years as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company where he worked in the London, Boston, Delhi, New York and Los Angeles offices serving clients in healthcare and in secondary and higher education. He also worked for President Barack Obama's transition team and for the California State Senate. He holds a law degree from Stanford University, a Master's in Public Affairs from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School, and a BA in Ethics, Politics and Economics from Yale University.

### Viewfinder found

The portholes (p16) are at Jesus College Boatouse, on the Isis in Christ Church meadow. The building, the other half of which is used by Keble College, was built in 1964 to replace a moored barge used by crew members and spectators. The barge is now a floating restaurant moored at Richmond. For some years it was painted in the college colours of green and white.

## What's on

### Sport

#### The Boat Race

Saturday 7 April, 2.15pm

[www.theboatrace.org](http://www.theboatrace.org)

The annual boat race from Putney Bridge to Chiswick attracts a global audience of around 120 million. Watch films of the Oxford crew in training at [www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/boatrace](http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/boatrace).

### Concerts



#### Jubilee concert: Dame Kiri te Kanawa and the BBC Concert Orchestra

Friday 22 June, 7.45pm  
Tom Quad, Christ Church  
[www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences/jubilee-concerts-2012](http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/conferences/jubilee-concerts-2012)

Open-air concert in aid of the Christchurch Wakefield New Zealand Scholarship Fund. Programme includes music by Mozart, Handel, Strauss and Puccini.

### Exhibitions

#### Time machines

Until 15 April

The Museum of the History of Science

[www.mhs.ox.ac.uk](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk)

Visit the museum's exceptional timepieces in the company of the mischievous scholar Nicholas of Oxford (as featured in Chaucer's *The Miller's Tale*). What will the medieval scholar make of a marine chronometer, a Renaissance sundial, a revolutionary decimal clock, a stopwatch or the most recent physics of time?

#### OUCS at Artweeks

14–18 May, 11.30am–1.30pm

Oxford University Computing Services,  
13 Banbury Road

[www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/publicity/artweeks](http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/publicity/artweeks)

Enjoy a showcase of pottery, photography and jewellery created by University IT staff. The exhibition is part of Artweeks, the country's biggest open studio event.

#### You are what you wear: Dress and costume in Renaissance and Baroque drawings from Christ Church

Until 4 June

Christ Church Picture Gallery

[www.chch.ox.ac.uk/gallery](http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/gallery)

Dress was (and still is) a sign of identity, be it imposed by regulation or selected by choice. A look at how the visual arts have used this as an easy way to depict and characterise figures.

### Talks

#### The Ageing Brain

Thursday 3 May, 5.30pm

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building,  
St Hilda's College

[www.oxfordmaymusic.co.uk](http://www.oxfordmaymusic.co.uk)

Lecture by Paul Bolam, Professor of Anatomical Neuropharmacology, who will talk about the ageing brain and age-related neurological disorders such as Parkinson's. Part of the Oxford May Music festival.

### Special Events

#### Question Time with the Vice-Chancellor

Tuesday 22 May, 4pm

Ship Street Centre, Jesus College

Professor Andrew Hamilton will be holding a Question Time session open to all members of staff, who are invited to discuss University issues with the VC.

To reserve a place, email [internal.communications@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:internal.communications@admin.ox.ac.uk).

### Walks

#### Legends in the Bluebell Wood

Thursday 26 April, 6.30pm

Harcourt Arboretum

[www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/Education/obg-education-public-3.html](http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/Education/obg-education-public-3.html)

Evening guided walk through the bluebell wood at Harcourt Arboretum. Learn some of the myths and superstitions associated with trees and woodland plants.

### Family fun

#### Making Micrographia

Saturday 31 March, 2pm

Museum of the History of Science

[www.mhs.ox.ac.uk](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk)

Drop in to use microscopes and lenses to observe tiny things; make drawings and magical monoprints. Suitable for ages 7+.

#### Easter Trail: Eggstraordinary Eggventure

31 March – 15 April

Pitt Rivers Museum jointly with Oxford University Museum of Natural History

[www.prm.ox.ac.uk](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk)

Eggsplore the Museums with an eggciting egg-hunter's trail.

#### Planes, Trains and Automobiles

12–14 April, 1pm–4pm

Pitt Rivers Museum

[www.prm.ox.ac.uk](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk)

Take on a transport challenge and make boats that float, planes that fly and cars that va-va-vrrrrroooooom!

For more events, visit  
[www.ox.ac.uk/staff/events](http://www.ox.ac.uk/staff/events)





By permission of the Voltaire Foundation, University of Oxford

## Taking the long view

Some major humanities research projects last for decades. *Matt Pickles* explores the delights of playing the long game

*Above:* Voltaire takes centre stage in *La Sainte Cène du Patriarche* ('The Patriarch's Last Supper') by Jean Huber, in an imagined reunion of friends thought likely to have been dictated by Voltaire himself

*Opposite:* images from the archive of the Lexicon of Greek Personal Names. A painted tombstone from Demetrias in Thessaly, c. 225 BC, depicting a funeral banquet and inscribed 'Lysippos son of Xenophanes, Philonikos son of Poliarchos, from Thebes'; pottery fragments (*ostraka*) were used in parts of Greece as the means of registering votes and to vote in favour of the banishment of individuals – hence 'ostracised'

**R**esearchers in the middle of a three- or four-year project can be forgiven for thinking at times that their study will never end. But for some research projects at Oxford, the end is literally decades away.

The sheer length of some of Oxford's long-term humanities projects is staggering. The Lexicon of Greek Personal Names (LGPN) began in the Classics Faculty in 1973 and has just received a grant to create its eighth volume, which will be completed in 2016. This will bring to a close phase one of the project, allowing the second phase to begin. The end is in sight for an even older project, the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources (DMLBS). It began in 1965, moved to Oxford in the 1980s (initially based in the Bodleian, now in Classics) and, 47 years on, its researchers are compiling the T/U/V volume and expect to complete the dictionary in 2013. The Voltaire Foundation began in 1968 and will complete its published collection of Voltaire's writings in 2018, its 50th year. Work on the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB) began in 1992 and it is expected to be published indefinitely. A younger project is the Bodleian Libraries' Electronic Enlightenment, which has been in development for more than ten years and aims to become a permanent, self-sustaining resource.

With so many experts having put so many years of work into these long-term projects, it's hardly surprising that they have brought about results – both in research findings and the value of the resource created for other scholars.

The LGPN aims to collect and publish with documentation all known Greek personal names drawn from all available sources, from the earliest Greek written records to *circa* 6th century AD. 'For any inscription which contains a reasonable number of names but no indication of where people bearing them come from, it's usually now possible to identify their origin with high probability – and often quite unexpected and historically important results,' says project director Professor Robert Parker. 'The closer a project such as this is to completion, the more valuable it becomes, because one can trace the total distribution of a name – and thus the movements or connections of bearers of that name.'

The Voltaire Foundation aims to provide the definitive reference edition of all of the vast collection of Voltaire's writings. Professor Nicholas Cronk,



director of the Foundation, says: 'Voltaire is a major figure in European culture. But Voltaire is also a complex figure and the Oxford edition, when complete, will change forever the way in which Voltaire is seen and understood. That is a wonderful thing for Oxford to be doing!'

The DMLBS aims to produce a comprehensive record of the use of the Latin language in Britain between c. AD 540 and 1600. 'Only sustained work over decades could achieve something on this scale,' says Dr Richard Ashdowne, who became editor in 2011.

The ODNB collects together and publishes biographical essays on the most notable people in British history from the earliest times to the present day, with more than 57,000 biographies already completed. Electronic Enlightenment has created a resource with more than 59,000 documents from more than 7,000 correspondents which recreate digitally the 'great conversation' centred on the long 18th century. 'Vast quantities of 17th through early 19th century correspondences survive, and the editing, digital linking and distribution of these collections offer the opportunity for generations of scholarship and scholarly technology,' director Dr Robert McNamee explains.

Long-term projects pose many challenges for researchers. One is that as new discoveries are made, a project's aims and aspirations may change. The key, it appears, is to be prepared to adapt to these developments. The LGPN did just that. 'Initially the objective was to collect names, but as it developed the decision was taken to record every bearer of a given name with a known place of origin,' Professor Parker explains. 'So it has morphed into "the telephone directory of the Greek world"; it is about people and not just their names.' The decision, it seems, was the right one: now, any scholar who comes across a Greek name can find out far more about that person than would otherwise be possible.

When first published in 2004 the Oxford DNB carried biographies of notable figures in British history who had died up to the year 2000. But as the editor, Dr Lawrence Goldman, explains, 'a crucial feature of the project is to add biographies of people who have died since then'. Each January the dictionary is updated with the biographies of people who have died since 2000 – this year the lives of over 200 people who died in 2008 were added, next year over 200 people who died in 2009 will be added and so on. 'Our aim is to be both a historical and a contemporary resource,' notes Dr Goldman.

Another key change affecting long-term

projects has been the advance of technology. Dr Goldman says: 'In 1992 when the project began there was barely an internet and no one was using email. Their development in the 1990s revolutionised the way in which the dictionary was compiled. Email has made it possible to communicate very easily with the 10,000 authors of our articles and move electronic text rapidly to and fro; the online ODNB is searchable in very many different ways and is a remarkably powerful research tool. The internet has altered for all time the way in which large-scale works of reference are published.'

At the outset, the Voltaire Foundation and the Lexicon of Greek Personal Names both aimed to publish paper volumes (and have retained this objective), but the growth of personal computers and availability of the internet meant that documents could also

'The sense that from Oxford we are fulfilling the requirements of so many people – and interesting them at the same time – is a wonderful feeling'  
Dr Lawrence Goldman, ODNB

be published online. With the printed DMLBS due to be completed in 2013, its team is already planning its publication on the web. Although the internet has forced some projects to slightly change their approach, it also makes their output available to more users than ever before.

For the DMLBS, technology has speeded up the process. For years, the project relied exclusively on the 'Murray' method (of the early Oxford English Dictionary) of collecting example quotations on slips of paper, which left the team with a collection of more than half a million slips on which to draw for preparing the dictionary, with those published needing to be checked, edited and typed up. 'Slips remain invaluable but we can now verify and supplement our collection electronically so much more easily than when the dictionary was first conceived,' Dr Ashdowne says.

As you would expect over such long periods, each project has hit snags along the way. Many sister projects of the DMLBS in other countries folded before completion. Dr Ashdowne says: 'During this time, our dictionary was kept going by the insuperable determination of a single individual, David Howlett, who ran it for more than 30 years and pretty much by himself for a while. That must have been a fairly lonely business.'

So is it hard to stay motivated when completion is so many years away? 'No, not at all!' exclaims Dr Goldman. 'The ODNB is a fascinating project which keeps changing. Human beings are infinitely variable – the crooked timber of humanity, as Isaiah Berlin called it, can be very crooked indeed – and it is fascinating to research, read and edit every biography we publish. We have literally millions of hits on our website every year and the sense that from Oxford we are fulfilling the requirements of so many people – and interesting them at the same time – is a wonderful feeling. I can't imagine a better feeling for any scholar – that one's work is in demand and is adding all the time to the stock of knowledge.'

Professor Parker agrees: 'The process is one of perpetual learning; as one enters a new region one is confronted with a new topography, new institutions, new types of name.'

Dr McNamee says: 'The international expansion of access from the University of Hong Kong to US high schools, to game shows like *Jeopardy*, mean that there is a constant feedback of fascinating user experiences and queries to keep us challenged and thinking.'

'Voltaire is a remarkable author: we think we know him, but he keeps surprising us,' says Professor Cronk. 'But we are so fixed on the party in 2018!' It's probably too soon to put the champagne on ice.



More information on the projects mentioned via <http://digital.humanities.ox.ac.uk>



## The plot thickens

**‘Edible gardens’ are springing up in Oxford colleges, *Alastair Lack* reports**

*Top:* Hoping for a good harvest at Hogacre Common. *Bottom:* Sarah Falder in the Worcester College garden

Last autumn, Worcester College had a dinner in hall with a difference: a Harvest Supper of produce all grown by the students. The menu was beetroot borscht with chives; then roasted pumpkin with sage and roasted parsnips, potatoes and carrots; followed by autumn berry brioche pudding with Worcester orchard apples. The supper was the climax of 18 months’ hard work by members of both the Worcester MCR and JCR to transform a piece of unused land in the grounds and turn it into ‘The Edible Garden’, an extensive vegetable plot to provide organic, home-grown produce on site for college use.

The project manager and guiding light is Lizzie Sandis, a DPhil student in Neo-Latin drama. She remembers a chilly morning in January 2010 when five volunteers turned up at the chosen patch, armed with pitchforks. As Lizzie recalls: ‘What we really needed was a sabre!’ They attacked a jungle of brambles and dug ever deeper to rid the site of bindweed. Simon Bagnall, the head gardener, and his team supplied leaf mould, encouragement and advice and lent tools from college stores. After three months of digging over the soil, the moment arrived for sowing and planting.

Fifteen years ago, Worcester had a thriving herb garden within the college, so Lizzie is also pleased with the new herb garden, featuring chives, rosemary and thyme. The fruit bushes include the ‘signature’ raspberry crop: yellow in colour and perfect for confusing birds, who assume that the berries are not ripe and don’t eat them. It is in every sense a shared project for the

*‘The old grass tennis courts have been dug over and planted with squashes, winter greens, peas, beans and Jerusalem artichokes’*

Worcester College community. As Lizzie says: ‘It reaches beyond the student body to a range of college departments, from administration through to catering, and feeds directly into the work of the college Green Group.’

Meanwhile Lizzie has also been instrumental in starting another edible garden at Merton, together with a fellow DPhil student, Henry Hope. They run gardening sessions, source equipment, submit funding applications and liaise with college staff to develop the garden. Weeds have been cleared from the small plot and the soil dug over. Next will come sowing and planting. Lucille Savin, the Merton head gardener, emphasises that it is very much a student project, albeit with her full support. She too is supplying leaf mould until enough can be generated by the garden itself.

Working on a much larger project, ‘OxGrow’, a mixture of students, staff and families local to south and west Oxford have taken over the former playing fields of Corpus Christi, just off the Abingdon Road. It’s now called Hogacre Common and there is plenty of space for ambitious plans. The old grass tennis courts have been dug over and planted with squashes, winter greens, peas, beans and Jerusalem artichokes. Soft fruit bushes are getting established and a global garden of plants from all over the world started.

Doireann Lalor, a postgraduate student in Italian literature at Balliol, is one of the leading founders of OxGrow, and rightly proud of its progress: some eleven hundred trees have been planted (many of them hazel) to form an ecopark, as well as a community orchard. Beehives have been introduced and over 400 people attended the first Harvest Lunch.

In short, the edible garden is catching on: Kellogg has beehives, Magdalen grows herbs for the kitchen, St Antony’s has started an allotment and Balliol tends a well-established plot. Many head gardeners are supportive and a swap shop for seeds, plants and gardening equipment has been established. As Kate Aydin, the University Sustainability Officer, says: ‘It’s great for staff and students to meet other people, source local food and apply sustainability principles in a practical, tangible way.’

For further information, contact Elizabeth Sandis ([elizabeth.sandis@ell.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.sandis@ell.ox.ac.uk)), Doireann Lalor ([sustainability@oxfordhub.org](mailto:sustainability@oxfordhub.org)) or Kate Aydin ([kate.aydin@oued.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kate.aydin@oued.ox.ac.uk))





# Uncovering the iceberg

Professor Chris Fairburn's pioneering research has had a major impact on how eating disorders are treated. He tells *Jamie Condliffe* how it all happened

**W**omen's magazine *Cosmopolitan* has famously launched the careers of hundreds of models. It has also served a pivotal role in the research career of one of Oxford's leading psychiatrists, Professor Chris Fairburn.

Nowadays, Professor Fairburn is considered one of the world's top experts on eating disorders, having developed the leading treatments for these life-threatening illnesses. But his route to such heights was far from planned. 'In many ways, it was an accident,' he explains. 'I trained in medicine at Oxford, specialising in psychiatry, but never encountered an eating disorder.' When he moved to Edinburgh to continue his training, though, he was asked to see a patient suspected of having anorexia nervosa. 'I walked in and there was a totally normal-looking person: she seemed to have anorexia nervosa, but was a normal weight,' he explains. It was a mystery. 'In retrospect, the problem was that she didn't tell me about her binge eating. She was too ashamed.'

At this point, in the mid-1970s, her condition wasn't recognised. Today we know it as bulimia nervosa, an illness characterised by recurrent binge eating, accompanied by subsequent purging through vomiting or the misuse of laxatives. In a short period Professor Fairburn accumulated other similar cases and developed a new psychological treatment for the illness. To his delight, the treatment proved successful in most cases.

Around that time, psychiatric luminaries named the illness bulimia nervosa, but claimed it both rare and untreatable. This amazed Professor Fairburn; it seemed to him far from rare and certainly treatable. Two tasks therefore lay ahead: to establish

its prevalence, and to evaluate his new treatment. Determined, he decided he must return to Oxford. 'Thanks to Professor Michael Gelder, it was the leading place in the world for psychological treatment research, a reputation it retains,' he says.

**'My desk was thick with envelopes from the *Cosmopolitan* story. I could hardly find my phone to answer it'**

In April 1980, Professor Fairburn arranged for an article to appear in *Cosmopolitan* about a 'new and bizarre eating disorder'. The response was phenomenal. Off its back, he was contacted by the BBC. 'My desk was thick with envelopes from the *Cosmopolitan* story,' he recalls. 'I could hardly find my phone to answer it.' But answer he did and, shortly after, the BBC commissioned an episode of *Horizon* about the disorder. Following the programme he was inundated with responses. 'The Littlemore Hospital switchboard was blocked with people trying to call me up to talk about their experiences,' he recalls. 'I even had my own post van for three days.' Overnight, he showed bulimia nervosa was a widespread problem.

With the support of a project grant, Professor Fairburn conducted a modest randomised trial involving just 24 patients. It showed that the disorder was research-

able – something previously doubted – and confirmed that his psychological treatment worked in about two-thirds of cases. Since then, over 30 trials have obtained similar findings and in 2004 the treatment became the first-ever psychological treatment to be endorsed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. In the meantime it has even been established that the treatment can be used to treat all eating disorders, not just bulimia nervosa.

Sadly, despite its effectiveness, the treatment often goes unused. 'If you have a new drug, the pharmaceutical industry spends a lot of money teaching people how to prescribe it,' he explains. 'There's nothing equivalent for psychological treatments: there's no established training mechanism.' Currently, training is inefficient and ultimately outdated – in fact, little has changed since the days of Freud.

That's why Professor Fairburn's latest work focuses on developing effective and efficient ways of disseminating evidence-based psychological treatments. With the support of a Strategic Award from the Wellcome Trust, he and his collaborators are creating new internet-based ways of treating patients and training clinicians. They're even developing means of tailoring treatments for different cultures.

'There are therapists around the world who want to learn how to treat people more effectively,' explains Professor Fairburn. 'We're using modern technology to effect a change that's now possible.' Few stars of *Cosmopolitan* can make a claim like that.

More information at

[www.psychiatry.ox.ac.uk/research/researchunits/credo/professor-christopher-fairburn](http://www.psychiatry.ox.ac.uk/research/researchunits/credo/professor-christopher-fairburn)

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**I**f you're Manchester United, how do you make sure that the next Wayne Rooney will come and play for you?' asks Professor Ian Walmsley, Oxford's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Academic Services and University Collections. He is talking about the challenge facing universities as they compete to attract and nurture the world's top-flight researchers in a tight funding environment. 'To get them here, you have to have the right intellectual environment and facilities,' he says. 'Part of this is about being competitive in gaining the levels of funding required to enable them to carry out their research.'

Oxford received the highest level of external research funding of all UK universities for 2010/11, attracting a total of £376m of which £39m came from UK and overseas businesses. This total is a 2% increase over the previous year – but that is a sharp contrast to the mid-2000s, when it rose annually at an average of 15%.

Winning support from the seven UK Research Councils remains 'critically important' to Oxford, says Professor Walmsley. Research Council money also offers major opportunities to support research programmes that address global challenges, whether proposed by individuals or by larger collaborations. Stronger institution-level strategic partnerships have been forged between the University and Research Councils to encourage greater dialogue and a better understanding of the funding landscape.

Research Council funding and competitive grants from UK charities traditionally each account for one-third of Oxford's research income, but, says Dr Glenn Swafford, Director of Research Services, 'The competition is intense. Research revenues are still holding up well but the financial value of new awards is down in 2011/12 and there have been sharp cuts to capital funding for research equipment and facilities.'

In the current economic environment, the University has to pursue a diverse portfolio that includes industry, the EU, foundations and overseas governments, stresses Professor Walmsley. Many Oxford researchers are undertaking a higher level of preparation when making grant applications. Some departments have established their own grants committees, advisory groups provide feedback to colleagues on how to win grants and awards, and more researchers are putting in practice sessions for their panel interviews. Oxford's collaborative links with industry are growing via joint research programmes, centres of excellence, shared equipment use, staff exchanges and graduate student projects.

The European Commission has become a major research funder for Oxford, providing the University with around £30m a year following recent annual growth in excess of 30%. Dr Stephen Conway, Associate Director of Research Services, says that, although the EC's current seven-year budget (2007–13) was fixed before the full onslaught of the economic downturn, there is reason to be optimistic about the long-term funding prospects. 'There is an emerging consensus in Europe that the way out of many of the problems is to promote growth that is based around innovation and research,' he says. 'An increasing emphasis on investing European funding on the basis of excellence plays to Oxford's strengths.'

'Our strategy is based on the primacy of the individual academic to develop his or her idea,' says Professor Walmsley. Researchers can acquire what he calls 'a little bit of resource to help in joining up': the John Fell OUP Research Fund now has a new category to support networks. Connections like this have attracted seed funding, for example in the interdisciplinary Oxford Martin School, which can leverage much larger amounts of research income at a later stage. And although a lot of effort is focused on chasing the large grants, Dr Swafford points out that 'we should – and do – value grants of all sizes, and support and collaborations of all kinds which facilitate world-class research at Oxford and the exchange of knowledge. Let's not celebrate only the million-pound grants.' Or, in the words of Professor Walmsley: 'Money is an enabler, but the research itself is what Oxford values most.'



## Recruiting the Rooneys of research

*Maria Coyle investigates Oxford's strategies for attracting the funding needed for first-rate research*

Pioneering gene research (*top*) is pushing the frontiers of knowledge, while the activities of the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit (*bottom*) include a commercial radiocarbon dating service for clients such as English Heritage

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## America's Oxford home

The Rothermere American Institute encourages both the University community and school students to explore the US's culture, history and politics, explains *John Garth*

Top: material from the RAI's Philip and Rosamund Davies US Elections Campaign Archive. Below: former Congressman Mike Oxley enlightens a student

There is no denying the vital importance of America's politics to its close and often conflicted ally, Britain. One of the aims of the University's Rothermere American Institute (RAI) is to enlighten enquiring minds in the habits of the exotic, complicated behemoth that is the US political system. A year-round programme competes for the attention of Oxford undergraduates, and local sixth-formers are invited twice a year to meet former Congressmen or to engage with major political, cultural and historical American topics.

The increasing polarisation of US politics came under scrutiny when Virginia Democrat Rick Boucher and Ohio Republican Mike Oxley visited in February as part of an annual 'Congress to Campus' tour of British universities. Partisan news organisations and negative campaigning were to blame, they told school students and Oxford undergraduates and postgraduates. 'We represent something that doesn't exist today but did in the 1970s and 1980s, and that is bipartisanship,' Mr Boucher said.

The RAI is proactive in encouraging state schools to attend the event; this year the strongest showings were by Banbury School, Bartholomew School in Eynsham, and Oxford's Cheney School. 'The event was spectacular,' says RAI director Nigel Bowles. 'People came away thrilled and motivated.' In one joint session, reports RAI official Huw David, the standard of questions was so high that it was hard to tell the school students from the first-year undergraduates: 'They will have been studying and keeping abreast of the news concerning elections and Republican primaries at the moment. There were quite a lot of questions on what the Congressmen thought of Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich and other candidates.'

Among the most engaged students, the RAI can rely on pre-election interest most of the time, says Dr Bowles. 'One of the advantages of studying the United States system is that there is *always* an election – this is a political system with half a million elective posts. If you have an election cycle of 730 days, as in the House of Representatives, the next election is a permanent feature of discussion.'

US politics were also central to the RAI's contribution to last summer's UNIQ residential programme for school students. In a week on the American civil rights movement and its wider impact, 40 attendees heard from Oxford lecturers and from British activists who had been inspired by the American movement in the Sixties – one a Notting Hill community organiser, the other an instrumental figure in the 1963 Bristol bus boycott against a colour-bar on black and Asian bus drivers.

For undergraduates and other University members, the Institute in South Parks Road offers a year-round programme of lectures and seminars on the Presidency, Congress and other political topics. It is a secondary or primary base for all American-focused Oxford academics from the faculties of English and History and the Department of Politics and International Relations. An additional magnet is the Vere Harmsworth Library, which inherited the US collections of Rhodes House in 2001 and is now (with the possible exception of the British Library) the largest library in American history and politics outside the United States.

Undergraduates studying American politics have established an informal group to read weekly or fortnightly lunchtime papers. 'They are absolutely committed,' says Dr Bowles. 'These are students who on the whole are going to go on to graduate work, and you can see it.' Some may go on to depend on the graduate studentships and postdoctoral fellowships for which the RAI raises funds; to think of the Institute as their intellectual home; and to teach a new generation of undergraduates there.

Dr Bowles is undaunted by the challenge of attracting other undergraduates to the Institute. 'We're in a competitive market, but this is America's home in Oxford; where the conversations about American historical, literary, cultural and political phenomena take place. If we remain faithful to that mission and ensure that everything we do is at least very good, people will come.'

More information at [www.rai.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rai.ox.ac.uk)



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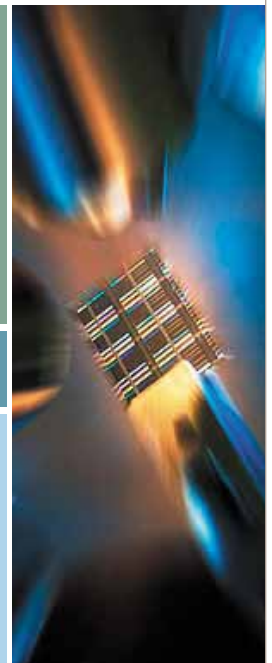
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## Why am I here?

### Maggie Burge

#### Custodian, Sheldonian Theatre

##### Tell us a little about the Sheldonian Theatre.

The Sheldonian was constructed between 1664 and 1669 as the University's ceremonial hall and until 1713 it also accommodated the University Press. The building was funded by Gilbert Sheldon, Warden of All Souls College and later Archbishop of Canterbury, and was the first major design of Sir Christopher Wren. The ceiling comprises 32 oil paintings by Robert Streater and shows Truth combining with the Arts and Sciences to expel Ignorance.

##### What does the University use it for today?

The University holds events such as Encaenia – the ceremony at which the University awards its honorary degrees and commemorates its benefactors – and degree ceremonies here. Congregation, the legislative body of the University, also meets in the Sheldonian. The building can seat up to 1,000 people.

##### What other events take place in the Sheldonian?

We also have classical concerts and lectures – the building is available to hire for such events – and one of my special memories is when the Berlin Philharmonic played here in May 2010. We recently had a debate between the Archbishop of Canterbury and Richard Dawkins which was very popular. For a few years we were used by the University Chinese Society for their New Year celebrations but we had to refuse them after someone complained from the Bodleian Library about the noise!

##### So what exactly does your job entail?

I look after the building and organise any maintenance needed. I also organise the booking of events and staff them from my pool of casual stewards.

##### What kind of attention does a building like the Sheldonian need?

Running repairs include plumbing and light bulb changing. The building has been closed three times in recent years (2004, 2008 and 2010) for several months at a time. The first time was to take down the ceiling, which had been declared unsafe, the second was to put the ceiling back and the third was for major decoration. We did a lot of research and believe that the colour the interior is now is as close to the original colour scheme as we can get. We also got rid of all the lighting – including the four chandeliers that were obscuring the view of the ceiling – and lit it in a more sympathetic manner. We're hoping to finish the job this summer by taking out the parquet flooring and reinstating floorboards.

One of the most fascinating days I had during the restoration was when I summoned the courage to climb up onto the scaffolding to watch some of the first paintings being reinstated.

##### As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

An astrophysicist – I had an interest in space travel.

##### What actually was your first job and how did you get from there to here?

My first job after I left drama school was as a follow spot operator in a circus – training the spotlight on the performers. I then spent 20 years in Stage Management before joining the University as an administrator in Anthropology. I've been in my current job for nearly nine years and love the variety of things that take place here.

##### What's your own favourite part of the Sheldonian?

The view from the Cupola on the roof of the building, especially on a sunny day.

##### And the most unexpected thing you've found yourself doing?

Removing the presenter of a television programme called *Flog It!* who was attempting to film a piece sitting in the Chairman of Curators' throne.

##### Can anyone visit?

Yes, the Sheldonian is open to visitors every day except Sunday, provided we don't have an event on. More information (including opening times) and a virtual tour are at [www.ox.ac.uk/sheldonian](http://www.ox.ac.uk/sheldonian).

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##### Editor:

Sally Croft

##### Designer:

Laëtitia Velia

##### Picture research:

Janet Avison

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## Viewfinder

Where are these blessed portholes?  
Answer on p7.

