

# BLUEPRINT

Staff magazine for the University of Oxford | March 2013



WILDLIFE WONDERS  
QUANTIFYING POVERTY  
DEMENTIA VOLUNTEERS





◆ Each year at Encaenia the University awards honorary degrees to a number of distinguished men and women. This year's honorees include the athlete Tanni Grey-Thompson and playwright Tom Stoppard. Nominations are now being sought for individuals on whom honorary degrees might be conferred in 2014. Members of Congregation are invited to propose individuals who have achieved distinction in academia, the arts, business, industry or public life. The deadline for nominations is Friday 26 April. Details at [www.ox.ac.uk/staff/news/honorary\\_degrees.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/staff/news/honorary_degrees.html).

◆ The *Oxford Thinking* Campaign has now raised over £1.5 billion. Since the fundraising began in May 2004, donations of all sizes have helped change the face of Oxford's landscape, from major scholarship programmes to enhanced facilities for departments and colleges. Recent gifts and pledges include £2m from Daphne Recanati Kaplan for WildCRU, £1m from Sir Howard Stringer to Merton College for the college's schools liaison and access work, and £1.8m from Gareth Roberts for the Earth Sciences Building, as well as gifts from hundreds of donors to help make Oxford's copy of Shakespeare's First Folio available online.

◆ Oxford research was taken to Westminster on 4 February as part of a university research showcase in Parliament. The event, which was run jointly with Cambridge, Imperial, UCL and Manchester, was designed to demonstrate to parliamentarians the value of university research in the UK and its role in solving real-world problems, from climate change to chronic inflammatory diseases. Around 35 MPs and peers came to hear academics talk about their work first-hand, with each of Oxford's four academic divisions represented.

◆ Oxfam has donated its archive, which spans the last 70 years, to the Bodleian Libraries. With the assistance of a grant

from the Wellcome Trust, a four-year project is underway at the Bodleian to catalogue Oxfam's extensive records (which fill nearly 10,000 boxes) and create an online catalogue accessible to all researchers. The Oxford-based charity was founded in 1942 as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. Its first meeting was held in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, close to the Bodleian.

◆ A major collection of Renaissance and Baroque silver has been bequeathed to the Ashmolean by antique dealer Michael Wellby. The bequest includes nearly 500 objects and is one of the most important gifts of this kind to a British museum for over a century. Highlights of the collection include a rare lapis lazuli bowl made by Dutch goldsmith Paulus van Vianen and a silver gilt ewer made in Portugal around 1510–15. A selection of the objects is on temporary display in the West Meets East Gallery before the entire collection is moved to a permanent home in the museum.

◆ Open Access Oxford is a new website providing information and guidance about open access. Available at <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk>, the site offers guidance on how to make your publications open access; information about the University's position and response to RCUK's open access policy as set down by the Research Committee; news and blogs; and links to further sources of help. Open Access Oxford is a collaborative project involving the academic divisions, Research Services, the Bodleian Libraries, IT Services, PRAS and Oxford University Press.

◆ Planning on getting your garden ready for the summer? As a member of University staff, you can enjoy between 5% and 10% off a range of garden buildings and structures, from fencing and decking to greenhouses, sheds and summerhouses. For details of these and other offers, visit the 'Home & Garden' section of the Staff Discounts website at [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/discountsforstaff](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/discountsforstaff).

◆ A consultation is underway to seek views on two possible variations to the current system for academic titles and merit pay: the first is the possible redesignation of the university lecturer grade as 'associate professor'; the second is the possible introduction of merit pay for all university lecturers with the title of full professor. Details of the proposals are set out in the consultative paper, available at [www.ox.ac.uk/staff\\_updates](http://www.ox.ac.uk/staff_updates). Responses should be emailed to [jeremy.whiteley@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jeremy.whiteley@admin.ox.ac.uk) by Monday 22 April.



Rob Judges/University of Oxford Images



Oxfam



Ashmolean

FROM TOP: ENJOYING ENCAENIA; OXFAM MEMORIES; SUPER SILVER



Rob Judges/University of Oxford Images

COVER:  
HAPPY IN  
ITS HABITAT  
– THE BANDED  
DEMOISELLE  
DAMSELFLY  
(PP 6–7)



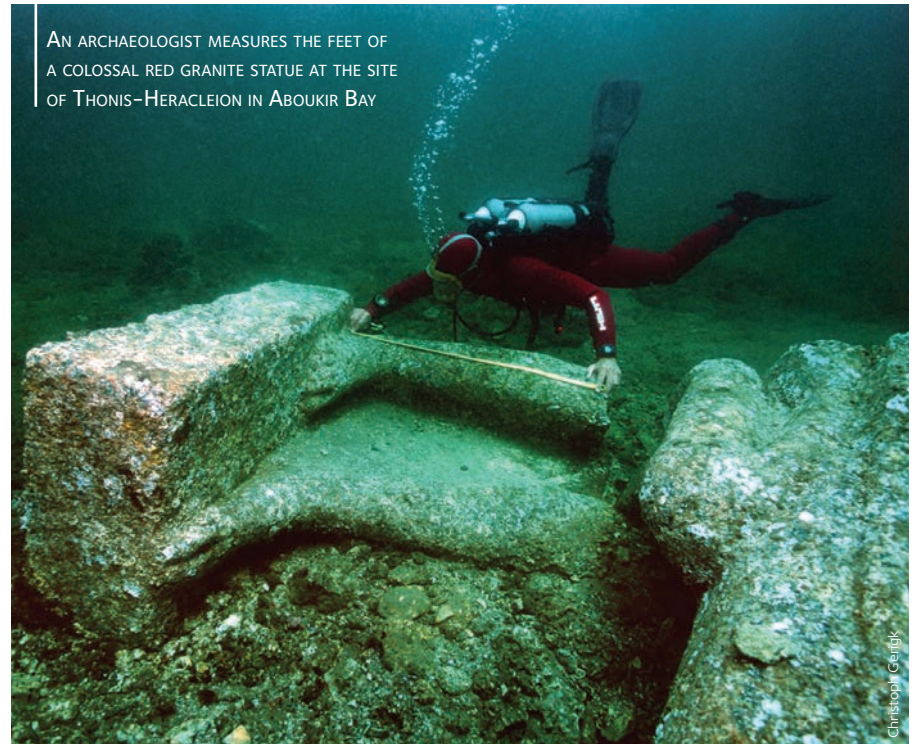
Cover picture by Tara Proud

# RESEARCH ROUND-UP

◆ Long before the foundation of Alexandria, a port city known as 'Thonis' by the Egyptians and 'Heracleion' by the Greeks was one of the biggest commercial hubs in the Mediterranean, serving as the gateway to Egypt in the first millennium BC. Now, divers and researchers, including Oxford academics, are examining 64 ships beautifully preserved in the mud of the sea-bed 6.5km from the coastline, as well as artefacts from the port found in the area. 'The survey has revealed an enormous submerged landscape with the remains of at least two major ancient settlements within a part of the Nile delta that was crisscrossed with natural and artificial waterways', says Dr Damian Robinson, Director of the Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology (a collaboration between Oxford's archaeology department and the European Institute for Underwater Archaeology). Findings include a group of lead weights likely to have been used by temple officials and merchants; 300 statuettes and amulets, mostly depicting Egyptian deities; and the discovery that many of the ships may have been sunk deliberately – probably as a means of blocking enemy ships from gaining entrance to the port-city, or as a means of land reclamation.

◆ 97% of UK doctors have prescribed placebo treatments to patients at least once in their career, a survey by Oxford's Department of Primary Health Care Sciences and Southampton University has found. A random sample of doctors was surveyed online, returning 783 responses. 97% had used 'impure' placebo treatments – treatments that are unproven or, more commonly, non-essential physical examinations and blood tests performed to reassure patients. 12% had used 'pure' placebos containing no active ingredients, such as sugar pills or saline injections. Reasons for giving placebos were to induce psychological effects; because patients requested treatment; or to reassure patients. 'This is not about doctors deceiving patients', says Oxford's Dr Jeremy Howick. 'Doctors clearly believe that placebos can help patients.' Over 90% of doctors objected to the use of placebos where it endangered patient/doctor trust and over 80% were against using them if it involved deception.

◆ William Shakespeare's experience as a shareholder in a theatre company transformed the way he wrote characters,



AN ARCHAEOLOGIST MEASURES THE FEET OF A COLOSSAL RED GRANITE STATUE AT THE SITE OF THONIS-HERACLEION IN ABOUKIR BAY

an Oxford English literature expert has claimed in his new book. Dr Bart van Es argues that Shakespeare's decision in 1594 to buy a one-eighth share in the Lord Chamberlain's Men not only made him wealthy but meant that he got to know the actors he was writing for. 'Shakespeare is known as the first playwright with deep, distinctive characterisation and I believe he developed this because of his relationships with the company's principal actors, which comes across in his plays after 1594', explains Dr van Es. 'This separated Shakespeare from the world of the jobbing playwright, whose plays would have been performed by different companies and frequently rewritten.'

◆ The daffodil's trumpet is a distinct organ, not part of the petals, an Oxford plant scientist and colleagues have found. The daffodil is one of the few plants with a crown-like structure known as a 'corona' or 'trumpet'. By studying the development of daffodil flowers, the researchers found that the corona only begins to form after the other parts of the flower are fully established. 'This shows that the corona could not be a straightforward modification of either petals or stamens', explains Dr Robert Scotland. 'Since it develops independently of both, it is more accurately described as a separate

organ.' The researchers analysed genetic activity in all parts of the daffodil flower and found that daffodil coronas were genetically similar to the stamens and hypanthium (a small cup-like platform), but not the petals.

◆ Robotic technology invented by Oxford engineers that enables a car to 'drive itself' for stretches of a route has been shown driving a Nissan Leaf electric car. The work is a milestone on the way to creating everyday vehicles that can offer 'auto drive' for some parts of a journey, taking the strain off drivers during a busy commute or school run. The low-cost navigation system can recognise its surroundings using small cameras and lasers discreetly built into the body of the adapted electric road car and linked to a computer in the boot.



DAFFODIL'S TRUMPET GOES SOLO



For more information, visit [www.ox.ac.uk/news](http://www.ox.ac.uk/news) and [www.ox.ac.uk/staffnews](http://www.ox.ac.uk/staffnews)



# PEOPLE AND PRIZES



**Dr Frédérique Aït-Touati**, St John's College Fellow and Tutor in French, has been awarded the 20th annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies of the

Modern Language Association of America for her book *Fictions of the Cosmos: Science and Literature in the Seventeenth Century* (University of Chicago Press). The prize is awarded for an outstanding scholarly work, written by a member of the association, that involves at least two literatures.



**Joseph Alsousou** of the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences was presented with the Arthritis Research UK Young Investigator

Award and Prize at the British Orthopaedic Association Congress. The award recognises his work on platelet-rich plasma and in particular his presentation on platelet-rich plasma in Achilles tendon healing.



**Frances Ashcroft**, GlaxoSmithKline Royal Society Research Professor in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, is to receive an honorary doctorate

from Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands, on the occasion of the university's 90th anniversary.



**David Coleman**, Professor of Demography, has been awarded the Valtynetskiy Chleniya Gold Medal for his 'outstanding contribution to demographic science

and education'. He was presented with the award, which is given every two to three years, by the Rector of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, Academician V A Zadovnichiy.



**George Ebers**, Emeritus Professor in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, has been awarded the 2013 John Dystel Prize for MS Research by the American

Academy of Neurology and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Professor Ebers' research focuses on genetic and environmental influences on MS risks.

**Aditi Lahiri**, Professor of Linguistics, has been elected an honorary life member of the Linguistic Society of America.



**Patrick McGuinness**, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, has won the 2012 Writers' Guild Award for Best Fiction for his book *The Last Hundred Days* (Seren Press).

The novel also won the Wales Book of the Year Prize 2012 and was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2011.



**Stefan Neubauer**, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Clinical Director of the Centre for Clinical Magnetic Resonance Research, has won the 2013 Gold Medal Award

from the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance.



**Alison Noble**, Technikos Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Director of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, has been elected President of the Medical

Image Computing and Computer Assisted Interventions Society.

**Sir John Vickers**, Warden of All Souls College and Professor of Economics, has been awarded a President's Medal by the British Academy. The medal rewards 'signal service to the humanities and social sciences'.



**Giulia Zanderighi**, Professor of Physics at the Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics, has been awarded a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award by the Alexander von

Humboldt Foundation. The award recognises lifetime achievements in research and the awardee is invited to carry out research projects of his or her choice in cooperation with colleagues in Germany.



## NEW PROCTORS AND ASSESSOR

The University's new Proctors and Assessor for 2013–14 have taken office. The Senior Proctor is **Professor Jonathan Mallinson**, Fellow of Trinity College, the Junior Proctor is **Dr Rebecca Surender** (right), Fellow of Green Templeton College, and the Assessor is **Dr Penny Probert Smith**, Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall.

These three senior officers of the University are elected annually by the colleges. The Proctors ensure that the University operates according to its statutes and they are also members of key decision-making committees. They deal with University (as opposed to college) student discipline, complaints about University matters, and the running of University examinations; they also have ceremonial duties. The Assessor is responsible particularly for student welfare and finance.

# ARRIVALS BOARD

## ACTION RESEARCH PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY



**Peter Rothwell**, Professor of Clinical Neurology in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, John Radcliffe Hospital; Director of the Stroke

Prevention Research Unit, University of Oxford; Honorary Consultant Neurologist, Oxford University Hospitals Trust and Senior Research Fellow, Green Templeton College, took up this post in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences on 1 January. He also became a Fellow of St Edmund Hall.

Professor Rothwell's main research interests are in the causes of stroke and improving prevention, particularly after a TIA or minor stroke. He founded the Stroke Prevention Research Unit in 2002 and has since been running the Oxford Vascular Study, a unique population-based cohort study of all vascular events in 91,000 residents of Oxford and surrounding towns. Other interests include hypertension

and the control of blood pressure, the effects of aspirin on risk of cancer and other non-vascular disease, and how best to apply the results of research to clinical decisions with individual patients in routine clinical practice.

## BARNETT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL POLICY



**Martin Seeleib-Kaiser**, Professor of Comparative Social Policy and Politics and Head of the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of

Oxford, took up the Barnett Professorship of Social Policy, associated with a fellowship at St Cross, on 1 February.

His research interests are focused on the politics of social policy, particularly the following themes: welfare state change and continuity in comparative perspective; the role of ideas and political discourse in the development of social policy; the relationship between processes of globalisation and welfare systems; and shifting boundaries between 'public' and 'private'.

# JOIN THE SWAP SHOP SET

What do a set of filing cabinets, some stainless steel plate drainers and a football table have in common? All were unwanted



items that have found new homes in other departments and colleges thanks to Swap Shop, the University's give-and-take scheme. Set up by the University sustainability team in 2009, Swap Shop began life as a reuse scheme for office equipment and furniture. Since then it has diversified, giving rise to a range of reuse schemes for different waste streams, from Lab Swap for non-hazardous laboratory equipment, to Sports Swap for sports equipment and sportswear. Over 1,500 people are now on the mailing lists for the various schemes, with membership increasing by about 75 people each year.

'It's really easy to take part', says Kate Aydin, sustainability engagement manager. 'Just send me details of the item you no longer need. I then add the item to the appropriate list and send out a monthly update to subscribers.' Anyone interested in an advertised item simply gets in touch with the donor directly and arranges collection. No money changes hands nor is there a requirement to exchange one item for another. The only challenge, as Kate confirms, is to make sure you're the first in the queue when the item you're after is advertised.

Since 2009 Swap Shop has taken approximately 129,000 tonnes out of the waste stream and enabled departments and colleges to save around £169,000 on the cost of purchasing new equipment. One example of an expensive piece of equipment being given a new lease of life is a Thermo Shandon Histocentre embedding unit, donated by the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, which saved the Nuffield Division of Clinical Laboratory Sciences around £6,000 in the cost of purchasing a new unit. Dr Andrew Graham, equipment manager for NDCLS, was full of praise for the Lab Swap scheme. 'This is a great initiative', he says. 'It really is recycling at its best.'

Find out more at [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/environment/swapshop](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/environment/swapshop). To join the Swap Shop mailing list, email [kate.aydin@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kate.aydin@admin.ox.ac.uk)

## NOTICEBOARD

◆ The new wing of the Saïd Business School was opened by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on 4 February. Designed by the architects Dixon Jones, who created the School's original building, the new wing provides an additional three lecture theatres with translation booths, large flexible classrooms, and 18 boardroom-style meeting spaces. It is also designed to be fully sustainable, with geothermal energy for heating and cooling, rainwater harvesting to flush toilets, solar energy contributing to water heating, and a green roof to collect rainwater.

Prince Charles also visited St Stephen's House, one of the University's permanent private halls, where he met staff, students and ordinands. A plaque to mark his visit was installed in the Church of St John the Evangelist, which has recently opened to the public as a performance venue.

◆ The Vice-Chancellor launched the University's Public Art Strategy for the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ) on 27 February, when Sir Nicholas Serota, Director of the Tate, also announced that the first ROQ Artist's Fellowship has been awarded to Simon Periton, who will be known as the

site-wide artist. Art will play a key role in the physical and cultural life of the ROQ and an exciting programme of artists' commissions, installations and residencies will be delivered as the site develops. The programme will be curated by Modus Operandi and new funding partnerships are being formed to ensure the University can deliver a world-class programme.

◆ Following a donation from The Laces Trust, the University Lecturership in Philosophy of Mind at St Catherine's College has been endowed in perpetuity under the University's Teaching Fund. The Laces Trust is an educational charity with particular interests in philosophy of psychiatry, and the endowed post will involve research in philosophy of mind, with particular emphasis on work related to psychiatry, psychology, neuroscience and cognitive science. The joint post will be known as the Fulford Clarendon University Lecturership in Philosophy of Mind and the Fulford Fellowship in Philosophy of Mind, and is named after Professor K W M (Bill) Fulford, a central figure in the development of the teaching and research infrastructure of philosophy of psychiatry.





# WHERE THE WILDCRU ARE

The work of the Wildlife Conservation  
Research Unit covers everything from  
felids to farmland, as *Sally Croft* discovers



The concept that we should strive to preserve biodiversity is so embedded in the UK today that it's hard to believe that it's less than 30 years since Europe's first university-based conservation research unit was founded, here in Oxford.

Part of the Department of Zoology, the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) came into being in 1986, largely as the result of the efforts of David Macdonald, who was determined to harness the science resulting from the explosion of interest in animal behaviour and ecology that he witnessed as a student and use it to deliver practical applications. From its base at the Recanati-Kaplan Centre at Tubney House, a 34-acre property eight miles west of Oxford, WildCRU today comprises 60 or so researchers whose work influences national and international policy on wildlife and environmental conservation – an achievement recognised in 2011 by a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education. The Unit has close links to Lady Margaret Hall, where David Macdonald, now the University's first Professor of Wildlife Conservation, and other senior colleagues hold fellowships and where many of WildCRU's graduate students are registered.

'Whenever we come across an issue where people are somehow in conflict with wildlife, our role is to find the scientific basis of a solution to the issue and put it into practice', says Professor Macdonald. 'All our projects aspire to fulfil all four elements of what I call the Conservation Quartet: research to understand the problem; education to engage the stakeholders and ensure they understand the nature of the solution; community involvement to ensure participation and acceptance; and implementation of the solution.'

WildCRU projects address various aims, such as researching fundamental ecology (like badger demography at Wytham Woods) and saving endangered species (like the Arctic Fox, the tiger and – closer to home – the water vole, pushed to the brink of extinction in the UK by the introduction of the American mink). Much has been done to reconcile farming and wildlife, stimulating new policy initiatives by investigating, for example, how farmland management impacts on pollinators and other invertebrates beneficial to farming (such as moths and spiders), and on declining species dependent on farmland, such as the harvest mouse. Huge progress has also been made in managing wildlife diseases such as tuberculosis in badgers and rabies in the Ethiopian wolf.

Resolving conflict between humans and animals living in proximity is also a major area of activity. Dr Andrew Loveridge studies the ecology, behaviour and conservation of felids such as lions and leopards. In 1999 he initiated the Hwange Big Cat project to address concerns

about what was thought to be unsustainably high levels of trophy hunting of lions in the area surrounding the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe. 'Trophy hunting provides valuable income for the local economy and justifies the protection of natural habitat', he says. 'The problem was that hunting quotas were being allocated with no real knowledge of how many lions were in the region.' The WildCRU team put radiocollars onto lions and observed how they moved around the Park and adjacent areas. It quickly became apparent there were far fewer lions than estimated and in 2005 the Parks Management Authority imposed a four-year hunting moratorium to give the population time to recover; hunting quotas are now set at around 10% of previous levels.

Continuing studies of lion population within and around the Park play a vital role in addressing human-wildlife conflict along the boundary, where people live and farm livestock and crops – and where retaliatory killing is a common response to lion attack. In late 2012 the Hwange Research Project launched a 'lion guardian' scheme, sponsored by the Panthera Foundation (a charity created by Daphne and Tom Kaplan to conserve felids), Great Wall Motors and the SATIB Trust. Based on a successful scheme developed in Kenya, the 'Long Shields' scheme has recruited eight members of the local Matabele tribe ('the people of the long shields') whose role is to mobilise villagers to deter would-be stock-raiding lions with loud noises and bright lights and by lighting watch fires.

'We went to the Chief and asked the community to put forward people of good standing to do the job', explains Dr Loveridge. 'We pay them a small salary and they are equipped with a mountain bike, a cell phone to communicate with project leaders, and GPS to record information about conflict incidents in their area. They warn people when a lion is nearby and show them how to protect their stock, as well as monitoring local wildlife and working alongside our field assistants.'

Community engagement is a vital strand in WildCRU's work. Closer to home, Dr Ruth Feber is about to publish a colourful, easy-to-browse handbook intended to encourage and advise farmers and landowners on how to optimise their interactions with wildlife. *Wildlife & Farming* gives research highlights from WildCRU's studies in the Upper Thames region and synthesises the latest information on the benefits of initiatives like field margin creation and hedgerow management and their effects on different taxonomic groups. 'The handbook has sections on different species and their habitats – with key points for delivering best management practice – plus short, accessible research highlights from



A. J. Loveridge



Tara Proud

TOP: RADIOCOLLARING A ZIMBABWEAN LION;  
BOTTOM: ENCOURAGING SYMPATHETIC FARMLAND  
MANAGEMENT HELPS PROTECT SPECIES LIKE THE  
RINGLET BUTTERFLY

WildCRU studies that are directly relevant to recommendations for conservation delivery', says Dr Feber. 'For instance, we highlight the importance of hedgerow trees for moths, suggest what you might do with your pond to encourage dragonflies, and show how you can support endangered small mammals like dormice if you have them on your farm.' The handbook is sponsored by the Rivers Trust, the Holly Hill Trust and Natural England and will be available as a freely downloadable pdf.

With its strong emphasis on producing practical guidelines for practitioners in whatever area of conservation, it's no surprise that WildCRU is also leading the way in training. As well as teaching DPhil students from all over the world, Tubney House is also home to the 'WildCRU Panthers', an annual intake of 8–10 students from developing countries who are funded by Panthera to study practical felid conservation techniques via the postgraduate Recanati-Kaplan Diploma in International Wildlife Conservation Practice. 'I'm immensely proud of the diploma course and our young Panthers', says Professor Macdonald. 'These talented young conservationists have in recent years come from countries like Bhutan, Sumatra, Tanzania, Cameroon, Vietnam, China and Burma to access our world-class training and help spread best practice around the world.'

*Wildlife & Farming: Conservation on lowland farms* by Ruth Feber and David Macdonald will shortly be downloadable as a pdf from the WildCRU website; printed copies will be available for purchase

▶ For more information, visit  
[www.wildcru.org](http://www.wildcru.org)

# A CLOSER LOOK AT POVERTY

What does 'being poor' really mean? *Maria Coyle* describes how a new index developed by Oxford researchers is guiding governments

NEPALI BOY

Dean Riley/Dreamstime

Economists and governments worldwide sat up to take notice when, in 2008, the then French President Nicolas Sarkozy said a country's economic progress should be calculated using more than just its GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Ahead of the curve, a new way of measuring poverty or wellbeing had just been published by Dr Sabina Alkire, Director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), and Professor James Foster of George Washington University. They examined what being 'poor' actually means by measuring how many things poor people go without.

Working with OPHI Research Associate Maria Emma Santos, Alkire used this new approach to develop the Multidimensional Poverty Index, or global MPI, three years later. This set of internationally comparable indicators captures a range of things that the poor are deprived of in 104 countries.

Its latest angle is to show how deprivations overlap. The measure identifies the acutely poor, drawing on information about nutrition, health, education, access to electricity and drinking water, assets and so on.

'The MPI is like a high-resolution lens which reveals the whole spectrum of challenges facing the poorest households', explains Dr Alkire. This 'people up' measure of poverty can be tailored, providing national or regional measures that reflect the experiences and priorities of each country's citizens. Governments in Mexico, Colombia, and Bhutan have already implemented their own national MPIs, and another adaptation

of the measure guides policies that affect millions of people living in regions of Brazil.

'Applications of the MPI in Colombia include the construction of poverty maps used for targeting criteria and the differentiation of social programmes', says Roberto Angulo, Director of Social Income from Colombia's Department of Social Prosperity.

**'The MPI is like a high-resolution lens which reveals the whole spectrum of challenges facing the poorest households'**

OPHI's work draws on the writings of Professor Amartya Sen, the Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences and a key OPHI adviser. He argues that an individual's freedom to function without deprivations, rather than monetary status alone, should be at the core of human development.

When the global MPI was launched in 2010, Dr Jeni Klugman, then Director of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) Human Development Report Office, described it as 'a highly innovative approach to quantifying acute poverty'. Since then the MPI has been included each year in UNDP's Human Development Reports,

which provide a guide for governments and development agencies on where to target aid. The latest global MPI, published in the HDR 2013 this month, shows the biggest reductions in multidimensional poverty have taken place in very poor countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh and Rwanda, closely followed by Tanzania and Ghana. One of the strengths of the MPI is that it reveals *how* poverty is falling: whether there is a smaller number of people experiencing poverty, or whether the share of overlapping deprivations they face has dropped.

Dr Alkire says that even where countries are succeeding in reducing poverty, the MPI helps governments ensure that the poorest of the poor are not left behind. OPHI demonstrated this in stark terms when it showed that India, with its rising GDP, also has the world's highest number of MPI-poor.

2015 looms as the target date for UN member states wanting to meet Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on issues such as poverty and child mortality. Dr Alkire points out that, while MDG indicators show the percentage of people who are malnourished or the rate of child mortality, what is missing from the data and discussions is the profile of deprivations experienced by one person at a given time. She notes: 'With the MPI, we can see this; not for all MDG indicators, but it's a start.'



For more information, visit [www.ophi.org.uk](http://www.ophi.org.uk)



DR SABINA ALKIRE, WHOSE WORK HELPS  
GOVERNMENTS ENSURE THE POOREST OF  
THE POOR ARE NOT LEFT BEHIND





# IGNITING THE SPARKS

Janina Ramirez can't resist the joy of teaching, be it school students, adult learners or TV audiences, she tells *Matt Pickles*



Rob Judges

When Janina Ramirez was at school, her mother constantly said that she was sure to become a teacher. 'Every woman in my family on both sides has been a teacher, but I resisted the idea', Dr Ramirez says. 'I managed to hold out until the third year of my PhD at York University when I taught a class on Anglo-Saxon art and I saw sparks light up in students' eyes. It was an adrenaline rush for me like nothing I've ever experienced. I've never been able to shake that incredible joy of sharing knowledge and information.'

Dr Ramirez now shares her passion for art with students on the popular certificate in the history of art offered by the University's Department for Continuing Education. She directs the two-year course, and insists that teaching adult learners is just as exciting as teaching undergraduate or school-age students.

'Within some universities there is a certain degree of prejudice about adult learning, but I'm constantly impressed by the intellectual ability and devotion to the subject shown by students', she explains. 'Adult learners bring a huge amount of life experience to their studies and have a lot of inherent knowledge that they can apply to academic study. They are taking classes not because they necessarily think it will help them with their career – which of course it will – but because they want to keep learning. So you often see them make leaps of the imagination in new and different directions. Some of the work that is submitted is of publishable standard – people have gone off to do original research into the topics that truly inspire them.'

She adds: 'Students in the class range

in age from 18 to 80, which makes class discussion quite electric at times. We recently had a class on feminism and some of the students could talk about what it felt like to live during the most important times of the feminist movement, and I see how this knowledge benefits the other students.'

## **'I'm trying to bridge the popular, human aspect of history with wider themes, in an academic framework'**

Dr Ramirez came to Oxford to study English from a grammar school in Slough. During her undergraduate degree at St Anne's College she found her passion lay in medieval studies and her focus shifted from literature to art history. Following postgraduate work at the Centre for Medieval Studies in York she became a lecturer, first at York then Warwick, before returning to Oxford six years ago.

She still finds time to be an active researcher alongside her teaching commitments. Her current research focus is on the imaginative world of Anglo-Saxon England, explored through the lives of ten major saints from the time. 'By studying these saints in detail, it brings to life the whole culture with which they are associated – it tells us about the theological and cultural

ideas of the time, what the place they lived in was like, what art, architecture and literature they encountered... I'm trying to bridge the popular, human aspect of history with wider themes, in an academic framework, which is an exciting prospect.'

Dr Ramirez has recently taken her passion for art history to a wider audience by presenting a number of BBC Four documentaries. But she insists this is not a big departure from teaching. 'TV is just another way of sharing knowledge, but this time through a camera lens rather than face to face', she says. 'The impact you can have is remarkable – one of my programmes, about Anglo-Saxon art, went out on both BBC Four and BBC 2 to three million viewers, and I was later told by the curators of the Ashmolean Museum and British Museum that the week it went out, visitors to the Anglo-Saxon collections increased tenfold. It's so important to me that more people make the effort to connect with these significant artworks from our nation's past. I'm so delighted that I have the opportunity to spread my passion for medieval art to so many people, both through the intimate environment of the lecture theatre, and the television. If my effort encourages just a few more people to fall in love with the world I'm so passionate about, then it's worth it.'



For more information on Dr Ramirez and her work, visit [www.janinaramirez.co.uk](http://www.janinaramirez.co.uk)



# WHAT'S ON

## EXHIBITIONS

### Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond

Until 28 April

Exhibition Room, Bodleian Library  
[www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/about/exhibitions](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/about/exhibitions)  
Celebrate the beauty of Persian manuscripts, including rare examples of 13th to 18th century Persian, Mughal Indian and Ottoman Turkish illustrated manuscripts.

### Xu Bing: Landscape Landscipt

Until 19 May  
Ashmolean Museum  
Tickets £6/£4  
[www.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions/xubing](http://www.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/exhibitions/xubing)  
The landscapes of Xu Bing, one of China's best known and most critically acclaimed artists.

### Visiting with the Ancestors: The Blackfoot Shirts Project

Until 1 September  
Pitt Rivers Museum  
[www.prm.ox.ac.uk/blackfootexhibition.html](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/blackfootexhibition.html)  
The Blackfoot shirts, collected in 1841, are powerful garments worn for war and formal occasions. In 2010, museum staff took them home to Canada for a visit so that Blackfoot people could strengthen their cultural knowledge and identity. This exhibition includes three of the shirts, together with quotes and photographs from the reunions with Blackfoot people.

## TALKS & WALKS

### Historic gardens: Restoration or ruin?

Thursday 28 March, 8pm  
Nelson Mandela Lecture Theatre,  
Saïd Business School  
Tickets £12  
[www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/winter-lecture-series](http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/winter-lecture-series)

Anna Pavord, chair of the National Trust's gardens panel, discusses the purpose of historic gardens and what motives determine their management, appearance and style.

### Bluebells and behind the scenes at Harcourt Arboretum

Saturday 27 April, 6.30–8.30pm  
Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtney  
Tickets £15  
[www.harcourt-arboretum.ox.ac.uk](http://www.harcourt-arboretum.ox.ac.uk)

See the beautiful bluebell wood in the magical early evening light on this special guided walk led by arboriculturalist Guy Horwood.

### The Planets

Thursday 2 May, 8pm  
Sheldonian Theatre  
Tickets £17 / £13  
[www.oxfordmaymusic.co.uk](http://www.oxfordmaymusic.co.uk)

Talk by Professor Brian Cox about the beauty and mystery of the planets and solar system, followed by a performance of Holst's *The Planets* by pianists Katya Apekisheva and Ashley Wass. Part of the *Oxford May Music* festival.

### Thinking on one's feet: A walking tour of the studio

Monday 6 May, 4pm  
Saïd Business School  
[www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/humanitas](http://www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/humanitas)  
Talk by South African artist and film-maker William Kentridge, who is Humanitas Visiting Professor in Contemporary Art.

### Discovery of women

Thursday 6 June, 5pm  
Sheldonian Theatre  
[www.ophi.org.uk](http://www.ophi.org.uk)  
Lecture by Amartya Sen, Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard.

## MUSIC

### Arvo Pärt: *Passio*

Saturday 23 March, 9.30pm  
Merton College Chapel  
Tickets £15  
[www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-and-choir/concertsandtours.shtml](http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-and-choir/concertsandtours.shtml)  
The choir of Merton College and the Marian Consort perform Arvo Pärt's *Passio*. Part of the *Passiontide* at Merton festival.

### May Morning celebrations

Wednesday 1 May, 6am  
[www.magd.ox.ac.uk/chapel-and-choir/choir/may-morning](http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/chapel-and-choir/choir/may-morning)  
Magdalen College choir sings the *Hymnus Eucharisticus*, an invocation to summer, from the top of Magdalen College Great Tower.

### Oxford Philomusica and Nicola Benedetti

Saturday 25 May, 8pm  
Sheldonian Theatre  
Tickets £10–£37  
[www.oxfordphil.com](http://www.oxfordphil.com)  
Nicola Benedetti joins Oxford Philomusica to perform Shostakovich's *Violin Concerto*. The orchestra will also perform Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé* and Stravinsky's *Firebird*.

## SPORT

### The Boat Race

Sunday 31 March, 4.30pm  
[www.theboatrace.org](http://www.theboatrace.org)  
The 159th boat race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The 4.5 mile course stretches from Putney to Mortlake.



TOP: LOVE AND DEVOTION AS PORTRAYED IN AN ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT; BOTTOM: A XU BING LANDSCAPE

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

### Making Micrographia

Saturday 30 March, 12–4pm  
Museum of the History of Science  
[www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/events)  
Drop in and use microscopes and lenses to observe tiny things. Then make drawings and magical monoprints. For age 7+.

### Birds of a Feather

Thursday 4 April – Saturday 6 April, 1–4pm  
Pitt Rivers Museum  
[www.prm.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/events)  
Have fabulous feathered fun in the museum by making your own fans and headbands.

### Get growing!

Wednesday 10 April, 11am–1pm  
Botanic Garden  
[www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/whatson](http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/whatson)  
Celebrate Veggie Month at this drop-in session (free with entry to the Garden). This is a great time of year to sow seeds like lettuces, spring onions and French beans.

## VIEWFINDER FOUND

The great west window (p20) was installed in 1891. Designed by Charles Kempe, it depicts the tree of Jesse with angels, prophets and patriarchs, and was cleaned and conserved during the recent restoration of the church, along with the surrounding stonework and timber.







# OUR TURN TO HELP

Harry Dayantis reports on Neighbourhood Return, a new volunteer service that helps lost people with dementia get home



Across England and Wales around 40,000 people with dementia get lost for the first time every year. This can cause distress not only for them, but also for their families and carers. In rare cases, they may even come to serious harm.

A new service has recently been set up to address the problem of people with dementia (or other memory problems) getting lost. Neighbourhood Return uses a network of volunteers to locate missing people quickly and contact family members to return them home. The project was conceived by Dr Rupert McShane of the University's Department of Psychiatry, who now serves as medical lead on the project board. He has many years' experience in the problems of ageing and early dementia, and in assistive technology and tracking devices.

When someone goes missing, carers are often reluctant to contact the police and will wait for several hours before doing so. In this time the missing person could have travelled a long way, particularly if they have used public transport. Neighbourhood Return can dispatch volunteer search teams within minutes to locate missing people and return them home.

The service holds a database of vulnerable people, including descriptions, photographs, family contact details and likely places to look. When someone is reported missing, the team contacts volunteers in the vicinity to help search for them. When they are found, the volunteer calls the Neighbourhood Return centre, which then contacts a family member to collect them. (Or if this is not possible, the centre may arrange for the police or a volunteer to take the

person home or to a place of safety.)

Although carers do not have to be registered to use the service in an emergency, it significantly improves response times if they have previously been entered in the database. Registering a person with memory problems can be done online or over the phone, and helps give carers peace of mind.

## Signing up as a volunteer only takes a couple of minutes and can make a big difference to people's lives

The service was first set up under the umbrella of the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and is now part of the Neighbourhood Home & Watch Network (NHWN). It currently operates as a pilot in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, funded by the National Lottery Silver Dreams Fund, and a further pilot project is planned for East London. Funding has just come through to expand the service to include Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, and there are plans to spread further afield – even nationwide – if the money can be raised.

Neighbourhood Return of course needs as many volunteers as possible. Signing

up as a volunteer only takes a couple of minutes and can make a big difference to people's lives. Individual volunteers are rarely called upon, and can always say 'no' if they are not available at any given time. 'We're very pleased with the initial response', says Dr McShane. 'Over 1,500 volunteers have signed up since November 2012 – and half of them had never volunteered for anything before.'

Ben Simpson, fundraiser and former Head of ICT at Wolfson College, has also been involved in the development of the project and initiated the tie-up with NHWN through his knowledge of community messaging systems. 'When someone is reported missing, volunteers in their area will receive a text asking if they are available to help', he explains. 'If they are free, they are sent a description and photograph of the missing person, along with contact information and details of where to look.'

The project is managed by Deborah Ginns, originally a Registered General Nurse, who now specialises in marketing, communications and strategy. 'The project has been very well received by carers, volunteers and all our statutory and voluntary partner organisations', she says. 'Everyone says: "It's such a simple idea, why did no one think of this before?".'

If you are interested in signing up as a volunteer, or would like to register a family member with memory problems, visit [www.ourturn.org.uk](http://www.ourturn.org.uk) or call the Neighbourhood Watch Head Office on 0116 228 3118 to register over the phone



# THE BODLEY MEDAL

Alastair Lack explains the origins of the medal and its revival to recognise distinction in literature, communications and science



Novelist Hilary Mantel has recently become the first woman to join a short and distinguished company of writers who have won the Man Booker prize twice: J M Coetzee, Peter Carey and J G Farrell (who posthumously won the Lost Man Booker prize). Mantel won in 2009 with *Wolf Hall*, the first part of her trilogy on Thomas Cromwell, and again in 2012 with *Bring up the Bodies*. She is currently writing the final part, *The Mirror and the Light*.

But Mantel shares something else with Peter Carey. On Sunday 24 March, as part of this year's Oxford Literary Festival, she will be awarded the Bodley Medal (given to Carey last year). As Mike Heaney, the former Executive Secretary of the Bodleian Library and still very much involved in projects there, explains: 'There is no committee involved in making the decision. The award is a very personal thing, made essentially by Bodley's Librarian, in this case, Dr Sarah Thomas.' It is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the worlds in which the Bodleian is active: literature, communications and science.

The inaugural Bodley Medal event was held in New York in October 2002 on the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Bodleian Library and since then writers including Tom Stoppard, Alan Bennett, Seamus Heaney and P D James have been recognised. Recipients from the world of communications include Richard Attenborough, Rupert Murdoch and Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the world wide web. Scientists and philanthropists also

take their place, such as Oliver Sacks, Helmut Friedlander and John Warnock (co-founder of Adobe Systems).

The original Bodley Medal was engraved in 1646 to honour Sir Thomas Bodley, the founder of the Bodleian Library. It was designed by Claude Warin, a Frenchman and leading medallion-maker of the 17th century. Library accounts for 1646 contain an entry detailing the two-shilling payments made: 'Item, to ye painter that drew

**'Item, to ye painter that drew Sir Thomas Bodley's picture and to Mr Warren that made his medale, to each of them 2s'**

Sir Thomas Bodley's picture and to Mr Warren that made his medale, to each of them 2s'. The original medal is gilt, probably on bronze.

The obverse of the medal shows the right profile of Sir Thomas wearing a high collar and bears the inscription: 'TH. BODLY.EQ.AVR.PUBL.BIBLIOTH.OXON. FUNDATOR', which translates as 'Sir Thomas Bodley, Founder of the Public Library in Oxford'. The reverse shows a female figure – almost certainly representing the Republic of Letters – holding a head of Apollo in her right hand and a head of Diana in her left. The inscription reads: 'A.P.LITERIAE.AETERNITAS', or 'The Eternity of the Republic of Letters'. The medal is signed 'Warin' on the obverse.

As Mike Heaney remarks: 'In the days before photography, providing an image on a coin was an important way of publicising an individual and his or her achievements.'

The new medal was struck in 2001 at the Royal Mint to celebrate the restoration of Duke Humfrey's Library, founded in 1438 and the first purpose-built library in the University. Duke Humfrey was the Duke of Gloucester and the fourth son of Henry IV. The medal itself is made from copper salvaged from the old roof of the building. It was a memorable idea to use this metal to create a limited number of replicas of the original medal.

In Mike Heaney's words: 'The 1646 medal was struck to reflect Sir Thomas Bodley's contribution to the re-founding of the University library. Building on the manuscript library of Duke Humfrey, Bodley provided for one of the great libraries of the world. It allowed for much greater access to learning and knowledge, following the invention of the printing press.'

So Bodley would surely have approved of the current holders of the Bodley Medal: laureates such as Tim Berners-Lee have expanded the world of knowledge and communication and at the same time helped the Bodleian Library achieve the vision of its founder. Hilary Mantel is following in distinguished footsteps.





THE 2001 MEDAL CELEBRATED  
THE RESTORATION OF DUKE  
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# WHY AM I HERE?

**TOM PRICE**

*Gardens' Curator, University Botanic Garden*

## **Tell us about the Botanic Garden**

The Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum together form a department of the University. The Garden – 4.5 acres just off the High Street, opposite Magdalen College – is the oldest botanic garden in the British Isles, established in 1621. The collections are divided into two sections: the Gardens and the Glasshouses. The Gardens contain scientific and ornamental collections, including systematic beds, geographic and medicinal collections within the Walled Garden, and traditional features such as the Herbaceous Border, Rock Garden and vegetable beds in the Lower Garden. The Glasshouses consist of seven display houses with plants from habitats including tropical rainforest, desert and alpine environments. Harcourt Arboretum is six miles outside Oxford at Nuneham Courtenay. It became part of the University in 1963 and comprises 130 acres of arboretum, native woodland and wildflower meadow.

## **What's its purpose?**

Both the Garden and Arboretum are used for education, research and conservation. Undergraduates studying biological sciences and related subjects use the Garden to learn about plant biology, and each year over 6,500 primary and secondary school children join our Schools Education Programme. We also run a Public Education Programme providing courses, lectures and tours about botany, horticulture and gardening; it attracts over 5,000 adults a year.

The collections provide material for research projects, both within the University and elsewhere, and for undergraduate practical sessions. Conservation is also part of our remit. We communicate the increasing threat to biodiversity using the plant collections and also cultivate a number of threatened species. The Arboretum is a focus for *in situ* plant conservation through habitat management and restoration of native woodland and wildflower meadow.

## **Can anybody visit?**

The Garden is an important amenity space for the city and attracts 125,000 visitors a year. It's open to the public all year round, except 24 and 25 December (admission £4.50, concessions £3 and accompanied children free). University staff and students gain free access with their University card. See [www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk](http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk).

## **What does your own job entail?**

As Curator of the Gardens collection, I manage a team of five botanical horticulturists and seek to maintain and develop the collections to support the core activities of the department. That includes seasonal maintenance of the existing plant collections, sourcing new accessions, and labelling, documenting and redeveloping the collections where needed. I also help deliver the Public Education Programme and the trainee syllabus.

I'm currently involved with a project to collect and document seed of the Japanese flora, with the goal to cultivate plants at the Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum. The new collections will be used to communicate the importance of plant diversity in areas known as biodiversity hotspots and to interpret research conducted by the Department of Plant Sciences. We also plan to contribute to *ex situ* conservation by banking collected seed with the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership, Kew.

## **Did you always want to be a gardener?**

No – I originally studied maritime science, wanting a career in marine biology and conservation, but my lack of affinity for physics and a growing love of plants steered me towards botanical horticulture.

## **How did you get to your current job – and what do you most enjoy about it?**

I studied at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on their renowned three-year diploma in botanical horticulture. I've been at the University Botanic Garden for six years now, and I particularly love the way it changes through the seasons. You can never see the same garden twice: plants seem to respond differently each year to the various vagaries of the weather and the seasons. I really enjoy seeing others enjoy the Garden, which makes us all realise how lucky we are to work in such a beautiful setting.

## **Finally, what's your own favourite area? And favourite plant?**

I'm particularly fond of the Walled Garden, mainly because of its rich heritage and structural formality. My favourite plant has to be the Black Pine, *Pinus nigra* var. *nigra*. It is just such an imposing specimen. It was planted here in 1800, raised from seed collected by John Sibthorp, Professor of Botany from 1787 to 1796. It was also Tolkien's favourite tree.



Rob Judges

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# VIEWFINDER

WHERE'S THIS WONDERFUL WINDOW? ANSWER ON P11.



Mike Peckett