

BLUEPRINT

Staff magazine for the University of Oxford | October 2012

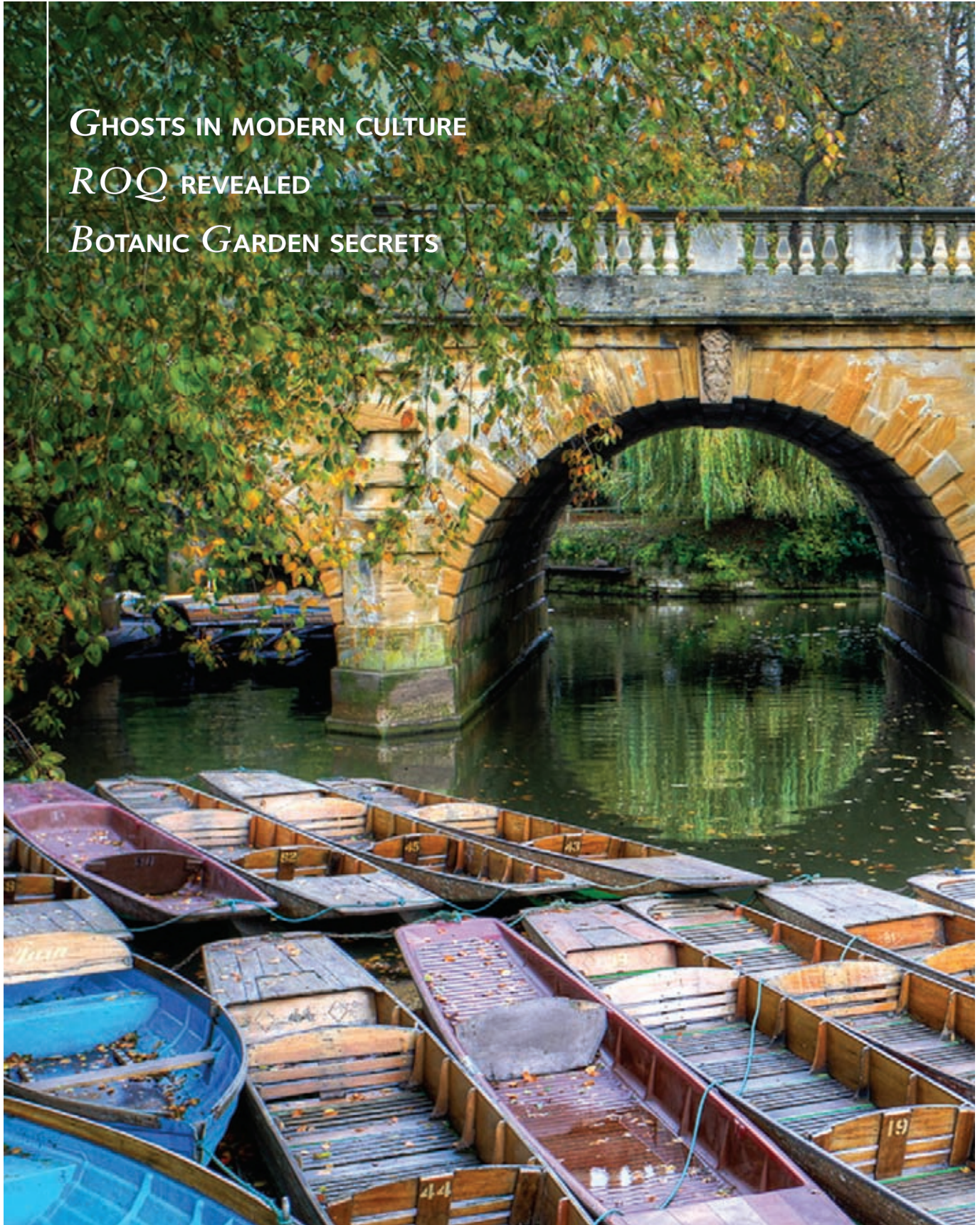


UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

GHOSTS IN MODERN CULTURE

ROQ REVEALED

BOTANIC GARDEN SECRETS



NEWS IN BRIEF

◆ Philanthropy was the theme of this year's Vice-Chancellor's Oration, delivered by Professor Andrew Hamilton on 2 October. Speaking in Convocation House, the Vice-Chancellor hailed the success of the *Oxford Thinking* campaign in reaching its initial target of £1.25bn in under eight years and looked ahead to the next major milestone of £3bn. He also announced a major new funding initiative for graduate students, the Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund, which envisages an endowment pot of £100m, made up of £40m from University funds and £60m from philanthropic giving. You can hear a recording of the oration at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/vc/news.

◆ Research staff wanting to find out about the support and professional development opportunities available to them should visit www.ox.ac.uk/supportforresearchers. The site provides information about internal services that support Oxford's researchers, from induction programmes, professional development courses and careers guidance to finding funding and advice about communicating research. You can also keep informed about career and professional development opportunities by signing up to a mailing list for researchers. Just send a blank email to researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk or follow @ResStaffOxford on Twitter.

◆ As of 1 October, the Estates Directorate has become Estates Services, with the change reflecting an increased focus on customer service. October also marks the merger between Estates and the Land Agent's Office, bringing together the University's estates, property and land activities for the first time. The Land Agent's Office, which includes property acquisitions, disposals and leases, graduate accommodation, staff housing, parks and Wytham Woods, has become part of a new Asset & Space

Management team. Further information is at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates.

◆ The way in which restricted content is accessed on UAS websites has changed. Previously administrative pages that were restricted to members of the University could only be accessed when you were logged onto a computer in the University network. The system now allows you to access restricted content on any computer and from any location. It does this by asking you to provide your Webauth credentials (single sign-on) when you try to open a restricted web page. Links to restricted content can be recognised by a small grey padlock.

◆ Did you know that your University Card can unlock a wide range of discounts and preferential rates? Enjoy 50% off vehicle breakdown cover with the RAC, 50% off your first eight weeks of storage with Big Yellow Self Storage, 25% off your food bill at Strada Oxford, or 20% off Pay Monthly mobile phone plans with Vodafone. Details of these offers, together with a range of other discounts, are available on the Discounts for Staff website at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/discountsforstaff.

◆ The Oxford University Press museum has re-opened following a major refurbishment. Located in the OUP offices on Great Clarendon Street, the museum provides a fascinating insight into the Press's 500-year history, tracing its origins in the 15th century to the present day. Exhibits include an 1805 Stanhope printing press used during the making of the first edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, while a video archive features clips from the 1925 film 'Oxford University Press and The Making of a Book'. The museum is open 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday (free admission).



Wytham Woods



Stock photo/Barbara Dudzinska



David Fisher

FROM TOP: THE WONDERS OF WYTHAM WOODS, NOW UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF ESTATES SERVICES; PIZZA PERKS WITH YOUR UNIVERSITY CARD; PERUSE THE PAST AT OUP



◆ October sees a new look for *Blueprint* and *Oxford Today*. Both magazines have increased in length – *Blueprint* to 20 pages, with the addition of more pictures, and *Oxford Today* to 68 pages, with a greater number of features and opinion pieces as well as the return of the crossword. The frequency of the University's alumni magazine will reduce to two print issues per year (October and April), but a range of new material will be published regularly on the *Oxford Today* website, from blogs and videos to a book of the week. The revamped www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk will launch on 16 October.

COVER:
PUNTS ON
THE RIVER
CHERWELL

PHOTO BY JANN RORDAN



RESEARCH ROUND-UP



INNOVATIVE WEBCAM SOFTWARE REVEALS VITAL SIGNS REMOTELY

◆ Caught between land and sea, an oyster's life is a daily battle against the elements, predators, and disease. 'An animal such as an oyster must cope with searing heat and desiccation when the tide goes out, and then coolness, high salinity and crushing currents when the tide washes back over it,' says Peter Holland of the Department of Zoology. 'The sea is also a breeding ground for innumerable parasites and pathogens.' Now he and colleagues have decoded the oyster's genome to gain a better understanding of one of life's great survivors. They discovered that the oyster has many more genes for coping with environmental stress than other species studied so far – for instance, it has over 80 hsp70 genes, involved in protecting cellular proteins from heat. Sequencing the genome may help with oyster farming, allowing for selection of hardier oysters – though Peter Holland himself won't benefit, as he is allergic.

◆ Respiratory rate, pulse rate and oxygen saturation can all be monitored accurately with a remote webcam without the need for any physical contact, research from Oxford's Institute of Biomedical Engineering has shown. Professor Lionel Tarassenko and colleagues collaborated with the Oxford University Hospitals Trust to run a clinical study with patients in the Oxford Kidney Unit, using specially developed software based on their research.

OxeHealth, a company set up by the University's technology transfer company Isis Innovation, will now bring the webcam software into wider use, offering a simple, non-invasive way of monitoring patients' vital signs in 'real time', even at home.

◆ Yet more evidence for the benefits of exercise: the most active women have a 13% lower chance of developing breast cancer than those who are sedentary, according to a study involving researchers at Oxford's Cancer Epidemiology Unit. Being active could include gardening and walking, not just sports, they say.

◆ A newly-discovered manuscript may represent historian Edward Gibbon's earliest experiment in the irony for which he would become famous, Professor David Womersley of the English Faculty has found. Professor Womersley discovered a manuscript written by the 19-year-old Edward Gibbon which had been left in the attic of a house in Lausanne. It reveals what may be Gibbon's earliest use of irony as scholarly polemic – a technique he polished in *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. It also reveals that certain memorable turns of phrase in Gibbon's most controversial use of irony in chapter 15 of *The Decline and Fall* were borrowed from a Christian apologist writer who had been on the sharp end of Gibbon's barbs. 'The paper is important because it is perhaps the earliest example of

the adolescent Gibbon experimenting with irony for purposes of scholarly polemic – a technique which made *The Decline and Fall* notorious,' Professor Womersley says.

◆ Being obese as a child has a larger effect on risk factors for later heart attacks and strokes than may have previously been realised, according to Oxford research. The researchers looked at 63 studies on the correlation between BMI and blood pressure, cholesterol, regulation of blood sugar levels, and other risk factors for later heart attack and stroke – covering nearly 50,000 healthy children aged 5–16. They found that even at this age, the risk factors were more likely to present in those who are overweight and obese. Dr Carl Heneghan, reader in evidence-based medicine, says: 'Based on what we have found, policy makers should make the epidemic of obesity in children a priority for urgent public health action.'



THE BATTLE'S OVER FOR THIS OYSTER

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

PEOPLE AND PRIZES



Francesco Billari, Professor of Sociology and Demography, has been elected President of the European Association for Population Studies for the period 2012–16.

Dr Martin Booth, EPSRC Advanced Research Fellow in the Department of Engineering Science, has won the Young Researcher Award of the Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technology for his pioneering contributions in adaptive optics for microscopy and photonic engineering.



Dr Yulin Chen of the Department of Physics has been awarded the Outstanding Young Researcher Award of the International Organisation of Chinese Physicists

and Astronomers, in recognition of his pioneering contribution in advancing our knowledge of topological insulators using angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy.

Tim Donohoe, Professor of Organic Chemistry, has been awarded the 2012 AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer & Syngenta prize for process chemistry research.

Freddie Hamdy, Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Professor of Urology, has been awarded the St Peter's Medal by the British Association of Urological Surgeons for his notable contributions to the advancement of urology.



Dr Skirmantas Kriaucionis, of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, has been given a 'science

bonus' award by the Lithuanian Ministry of Science and Education for his discoveries in DNA research and collaborative links with Lithuanian biotechnology. The prize is awarded to Lithuanians working outside Lithuania to encourage them to be ambassadors for their country.

Terry Lyons, Director of the Oxford–Man Institute of Quantitative Finance and

Wallis Professor of Mathematics, has been nominated as President-Elect of the London Mathematical Society. He will take up the role in November 2013.



Lord Robert May of Oxford, Professor in the Department of Zoology, has been awarded the 2012 medal of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management for his

'outstanding commitment to biodiversity and the natural environment'.

Dr Sergey Nadtochiy, a senior postdoctoral research fellow at the Oxford–Man Institute of Quantitative Finance and in the Mathematical Institute, has been awarded the 2012 Junior Scientist Prize of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) activity group on financial mathematics and engineering. The prize recognises 'his impressive contributions to mathematical finance and his original, sophisticated and rigorous mathematical analysis of challenging problems in volatility modelling and derivative pricing theory'.



John Wass, Professor of Endocrinology and consultant endocrinologist at the Churchill Hospital, has been awarded the US Endocrine

Society's Distinguished Physicians Award. This is the first time this award has been bestowed upon an endocrinologist outside the USA.

Professor Bernard Wood of the Department of Earth Sciences has been awarded the Abraham Gottlob Werner medal, the highest honour bestowed by the German Mineralogical Society for outstanding scientific work.



Kathryn Wood, Professor of Immunology, has been awarded the TTS-Roche Award of the Transplantation Society for outstanding achievement in

transplantation science (basic).

ROYAL SOCIETY RECOGNITION

Two Oxford scientists have been recognised by the Royal Society in this year's Awards, Medals and Lectures.



Fraser Armstrong, Professor of Chemistry and fellow of St John's College, has been awarded the Davy Medal in recognition

of his pioneering protein film electrochemistry, in particular studying the metal centres in enzymes such as hydrogenases. This research could help in the development of microorganisms that could be farmed to produce hydrogen from sunlight using photosynthesis.



Frances Ashcroft, Royal Society Research Professor and fellow of Trinity College, has been awarded the Croonian Lecture for her work

on finding the missing link connecting an increase in the blood sugar level (as happens after you eat a chocolate bar) to secretion of the hormone insulin. She unravelled how genetic mutations in a particular protein cause a rare inherited condition, known as neonatal diabetes, in which patients develop diabetes soon after birth. This has enabled many people with neonatal diabetes to switch to a better form of medication.

WELSH FELLOWS



The Learned Society of Wales has elected three Oxford researchers amongst its new Fellows. They are: **Hagan Bayley**, Professor of Chemical

Biology; **David Charles**, Professor of Philosophy; and **Min Chen** (pictured), Professor of Scientific Visualization.

NEW BRITISH ACADEMY FELLOWS

Seven Oxford academics are among 38 new Fellows of the British Academy, the UK's national academy for the promotion of the humanities and social sciences.



Oliver Braddick is Emeritus Professor of Experimental Psychology and co-director of the Visual Development Unit, which has linked programmes of research in

Oxford and University College London. His research focuses on visual perception and its development in early childhood.



Vincent Crawford is Drummond Professor of Political Economy and a fellow of All Souls College. His teaching and research interests are primarily in economic theory and the field of

behavioural and experimental economics.



John Darwin is the Beit Lecturer in the History of the Commonwealth and a fellow of Nuffield College. His teaching and research centre on the theory and history of empires,

including decolonisation, and the politics of the British imperial system.



Jane Humphries is Professor of Economic History and a fellow of All Souls College. Her research interests include economic growth and development and

the industrial revolution.



Martin Stokes is Professor of Ethnomusicology and Tutorial Fellow at St John's College. He has a particular interest in social and cultural theory of ethnomusicology.

Helen Watanabe-O'Kelly is Professor of German Literature, Chair of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages



and on the representation of women in German literature from 1500 to the present.



Lucia Zedner is Professor of Criminal Justice in the Faculty of Law and a fellow of Corpus Christi College, and a member of the University's Centre for Criminology.

She is also a conjoint professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Her research interests include criminal justice, penal theory, and security and counter-terrorism law and policy.

and a fellow of Exeter College. She specialises in German literature and culture in the period 1450–1750 and works on the culture of the European courts, on writing by women

BALZAN PRIZE FOR MUSICOLOGIST



Reinhard Strohm, Emeritus Professor of Music, has won a 2012 Balzan prize. Two prizes are awarded annually by the International

Balzan Prize Foundation in each of two general subject areas: literature, moral sciences and the arts; and the physical, mathematical and natural sciences and medicine.

Professor Strohm, who was Heather Professor at Oxford from 1996 to 2007, was praised by the prize committee for extensive research on the history of European music from the late Middle Ages to the present. His research interests include 18th-century Italian opera; late-medieval music and its social context; and modernist/postmodernist debates in musical historiography.

THOMPSON TO GIVE HUMANITAS LECTURES



Mark Thompson, who has just stepped down from his post as Director-General of the BBC, will be lecturing at Oxford next month following

his appointment as Humanitas Visiting Professor in Rhetoric and the Art of Public Persuasion.

Mr Thompson will shortly become Chief Executive of the *New York Times*. He has held various positions at the BBC including Editor of the *Nine O'Clock News* and *Panorama*, Controller of BBC2 and Director of Television. He was also Chief Executive of Channel 4 from 2002 to 2004. His lectures will analyse the language of political debate in the UK and the USA, examining the role of both the media and politicians in defining and restricting the way complex policies are discussed.

The Humanitas visiting professorships bring leading practitioners and scholars to Oxford and Cambridge to

address major themes in the arts, social sciences and humanities. Created by Lord Weidenfeld, the programme is managed and funded by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, supported by generous benefactors. It is administered by Oxford's Humanities Division and the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities in Cambridge

Mr Thompson, himself an Oxford humanities graduate, will give lectures from 5–6.30pm at St Peter's College Chapel: on Healthcare and Rhetoric on Monday 5 November; on Science and Argument on Tuesday 6 November; and on War and Morality on Wednesday 7 November. He will also take part in a symposium with Andrew Marr, David Willetts, Polly Toynbee and Gus O'Donnell on Friday 9 November to discuss how language shapes public debate. The lecture series, which is supported by Freud Communications, is called 'The Cloud of Unknowing'.

To register for (free) tickets, visit <http://humanitas-live.nsms.ox.ac.uk/humanitas/rhetoric-and-art-public-persuasion>.

ARRIVALS BOARD



FROM LEFT: PROFESSOR DEREK PENSLAR, PROFESSOR GRAHAM WARD, PROFESSOR MICHAEL KEANE AND JULIAN DUXFIELD

STANLEY LEWIS PROFESSOR OF ISRAEL STUDIES

Derek Penslar, Samuel J Zacks Professor of Jewish History at the University of Toronto, Canada, took up this post in the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies and the Department of Politics and International Relations on 1 October. He is also now a fellow of St Anne's College.

His research encompasses Israeli history and politics; modern Jewish history; comparative nationalism; transnationalism and ethnicity.

REGIUS PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY

Graham Ward, Samuel Fergusson Professor of Philosophical Theology and Ethics, and Head of the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures at the University of Manchester, took up this post on 1 October. He also

became a fellow of Christ Church.

Professor Ward's research interests lie in the fields of Christian dogmatic and philosophical theology, political theory, and cultural hermeneutics. He has recently completed a five-year international research project into 'The new visibility of religion in European democratic culture', sponsored by the British Academy.

NUFFIELD PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

Michael Keane, ARC Laureate Professor in the School of Economics at the Australian School of Business, University of South Wales, Australia, took up this post in the Department of Economics on 1 September. He also became a fellow of Nuffield College.

Professor Keane's chief areas of research are labour economics, empirical

microeconomics, econometrics, consumer choice behaviour, and marketing.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Julian Duxfield has been appointed as the University's Director of Human Resources with effect from early January 2013. He is currently UK & Ireland Human Resources Director at G4S, where he has been responsible for HR leadership across seven business units, with a combined workforce of 50,000. Prior to joining G4S, he was HR Director at the Department for Transport and Carlsberg UK, before which he held various HR roles across Unilever.

Julian is an Oxford graduate (PPE, Corpus Christi), has an MSc in human resource management from LSE, and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

MAKE A SPLASH AT THE ROSENBLATT POOL

Iffley Road may be more commonly associated with the track where Roger Bannister ran the first sub-four-minute mile in 1954, but just behind the running track lies another sports facility that has served as the training ground for world-class athletes.

The University's Rosenblatt Swimming Pool is a 25m eight-lane swimming pool that was used by the New Zealand Olympic Triathlon team leading up to their competition in July 2012. Oxonian Olympic gold-medallist Davis Tarwater was also a regular visitor while completing a Master's at Oxford; he returned to the sport in 2010 and went on to represent the US in the 4 x 200m freestyle relay at London 2012. One of his teammates at Oxford was Jack Marriott, an engineering student at Hertford who won gold in the 50m butterfly at the 2011 and 2012 British Swimming Championships. Jack, who is currently taking a year out to swim full time, ascribes much of his early success to the facilities and coaching at the Rosenblatt

Pool, which enabled him to improve his national ranking.

Opened nine years ago, the Rosenblatt Pool has over 2,100 members, including staff, students and members of the local community. If you've been inspired by the Olympics to take up a new sport, or you just want get back into a regular exercise regime, the pool offers excellent facilities, from adult lane swimming to beginners' swimming lessons, as well as extended opening hours which start at 6am on weekdays. As a member of University staff, you can benefit from discounted membership rates, as can your partner. Membership for staff costs just £11.50 per month if you pay by direct debit – less than £1 per swim if you go three times a week – while your partner will pay a reduced rate of £21.75 per month.

If you'd like to try out the pool before you commit to membership, you can visit for a free trial swim – see www.sport.ox.ac.uk/swim or phone 01865 240476.



DAVIS TARWATER

John Cairns

NEW HEADS OF HOUSE



FROM LEFT: PROFESSOR HENRY WOUTDHUYSEN, ANDREW DILNOT, PROFESSOR WERNER G JEANROND, DAME ELISH ANGIOLINI, PROFESSOR MARGARET SNOWLING AND LORD MACDONALD QC

Six new Heads of House took office in September.

LINCOLN COLLEGE

Professor Henry Woudhuysen has taken office as Rector of Lincoln College. He spent three years as a Junior Research Fellow at Lincoln, having gained his first degree and DPhil in English at Pembroke College.

Professor Woudhuysen was until recently Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at University College London. His research interests lie in the literature of Renaissance England and in bibliography, palaeography, editing, and the history of the book. He was a member of the Curators of the Bodleian Libraries and was co-general editor of *The Oxford Companion to the Book*, a 1.1 million-word reference work covering the book in all countries. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2010.

NUFFIELD COLLEGE

Andrew Dilnot, formerly Principal of St Hugh's College, has become Warden of Nuffield College. He recently chaired the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, an independent body responsible for the review of the funding system for care and support in England, which reported to government in July 2011. He is currently Chair of the UK Statistics Authority.

Mr Dilnot took a BA Hons in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at St John's College, Oxford and, as an economist, held a variety of roles at the Institute for Fiscal Studies (including director, 1991–2002). He has also been a member of the National Consumer Council and has served on the Social Security Advisory Committee.

ST BENET'S HALL

Professor Werner G Jeanrond is now Master of St Benet's Hall, a Permanent Private Hall of the University run by the St Benet's Trust. He is the first layman ever to run the Hall.

Professor Jeanrond was born in Saarbrücken, Saarland (now Germany) and studied theology, German, and educational

science at the Universities of Saarbrücken and Regensburg. He received his PhD in theology from the University of Chicago. Previously he has taught theology at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Lund, and the University of Glasgow.

ST HUGH'S COLLEGE

Dame Elish Angiolini has become Principal of St Hugh's College. She is the former Lord Advocate of Scotland and prior to this was Solicitor General for Scotland. She was the first woman, and the first solicitor in the modern era, to hold either position.

Dame Elish has been instrumental in reforming the operation of the justice system in Scotland, in particular making it more responsive to the victims of crime. She supervised some of the most significant prosecutions in Scotland in the last decade, and acted as the Scottish Government's legal advisor during a period of major change. She was awarded the DBE for services to the administration of justice in 2011 and is also a QC and Privy Counsellor.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

Professor Margaret Snowling has taken office as President of St John's College, coming to Oxford from the University of York where she was Professor of Psychology.

An expert on childhood disorders of reading and language, Professor Snowden currently holds a Wellcome Trust Programme Grant investigating the developmental relationships between dyslexia and specific language impairment. She was a member of Sir Jim Rose's Expert Advisory Group on Dyslexia, and the work of her research group has been included in government guidance on the teaching of literacy and supporting pupils with difficulties. She holds a BSc in psychology from Bristol University and a doctorate from University College London and is a qualified clinical psychologist. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

WADHAM COLLEGE

Lord Macdonald QC, one of the country's top criminal lawyers and a former Director of Public Prosecutions, has become Warden of Wadham College.

Ken Macdonald, who read Politics, Philosophy and Economics at St Edmund Hall, was one of the founders of Matrix Chambers and was Director of Public Prosecutions from 2003 to 2008. He was knighted in 2007 for services to the law and in 2010 was appointed to the House of Lords, with the title Lord Macdonald of River Glaven QC. In January 2011 he became chair of Reprieve, the human rights charity.

NOTICEBOARD



David De Roure, Professor of e-Research, has been appointed Director of the Oxford e-Research Centre. He aims to continue

OeRC's commitment to technical innovation and the generation of new research outcomes and capabilities via collaborations across the University. He also intends to build the centre's international reputation in e-science and advanced digital scholarship.

VIEWFINDER FOUND

The ceiling of Worcester College Chapel (p20) was designed by James Wyatt in the 18th century but redecorated between 1864 and 1866 by William Burges, 'one of the most potent' (according to Nikolaus Pevsner) of High Victorian architects, who swamped Wyatt's work to create a Victorian vision of an early basilica.

‘The beautiful setting of the Botanic Garden, with such a diverse array of plants, is the perfect way to get people thinking about chemistry in a new light’

Polygonum orientale (also known as ‘kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate’ or prince’s feather) is at Trail Stop 20, which discusses pigments called betalains in the *Caryophyllales* order of flowering plants

A GARDEN OF CHEMICAL DELIGHTS

The molecular secrets of plants are revealed to visitors to the Botanic Garden in a new audio trail voiced by Oxford chemists, *John Garth* reports

SENIOR CURATOR ALISON FOSTER
LOVES PLANTS – AND CHEMISTRY

Malcolm Rutherford

The secrets of the caramel tree, the molecular world of caffeine, and the origins of ancient pigments – and poisons and modern medicines – are among the mysteries unveiled in a new audio trail at the Botanic Garden. Voiced by members of the Department of Chemistry, 20 expert commentaries can be played when an audio pen is touched to a numbered map as visitors stroll around the Garden. Big molecular models help to illustrate what's going on inside the plants.

Alison Foster, the garden's senior curator, has a PhD in organic chemistry and worked in pharmaceuticals for eight years before leaving to train in horticulture. 'The love of plants was lifelong, but the passion grew,' she says. 'Being able to combine the two is even better.'

Her brief at the Garden is public outreach and promoting research, and she was ideally placed last year – the International Year of Chemistry – to involve the Department of Chemistry in a poster exhibition on the chemistry of plants at the Garden. Several volunteers then went on to collaborate in the audio trail. Each explored the Garden and, with Dr Foster, selected a plant with exciting molecular activities to explain. The short pieces they prepared, recorded on site, have a warmth and spontaneity not stereotypically associated with white-coated chemists.

'As chemists at the lab bench it's exciting for us to get to see some of the plants that have links to our research,' says Dr Kylie Vincent, one of the trail's voices. 'And with

the increasing technological complexity of the world around us it's really important to be able to talk to the public about what we're doing.'

Dr Foster hopes to counter widespread negativity about chemistry in the press. 'It's normally doom and gloom: people don't want their food to contain chemicals. But their food is made up of chemicals. Using the beautiful setting of the Botanic Garden, with such a diverse array of plants, is the perfect way to get people thinking about chemistry in a new light.'

The association between the Garden and chemistry at Oxford is historic. Waynflete Professor of Chemistry Sir Robert Robinson won his 1947 Nobel prize thanks partly to research on plants from the Garden, using poppies to solve the chemical structure of morphine – 'the chemistry equivalent of climbing Mt Everest', as organic chemist Ed Anderson says on the audio trail.

'Molecules from plants growing in the Garden revolutionised the way we think about organic chemistry. But just as important as the history, is to explain what modern research and applications have arisen from things we get from plants, and how humans are continuing to develop them,' says Dr Anderson.

The audio trail was made possible by an award from the Engineering and Physical

Sciences Research Council and by equipment already installed at the Garden for a 'Trail of Trees' featuring staff with author Philip Pullman.

Cross-fertilisation with the Department of Chemistry continues next year with a series of chemistry 'summer strolls' at the Garden guided by academics (including some of the audio trail experts). Beyond that, Dr Foster envisages chemistry research projects from undergraduate to doctoral level. Dr Anderson, for instance, would like to know exactly how the giant water lily flowers change from white to plum-pink from one night to the next. Even after decades of modern research, the Garden is alive with chemical mysteries.



JOIN THE TRAIL AND HEAR THE TALES



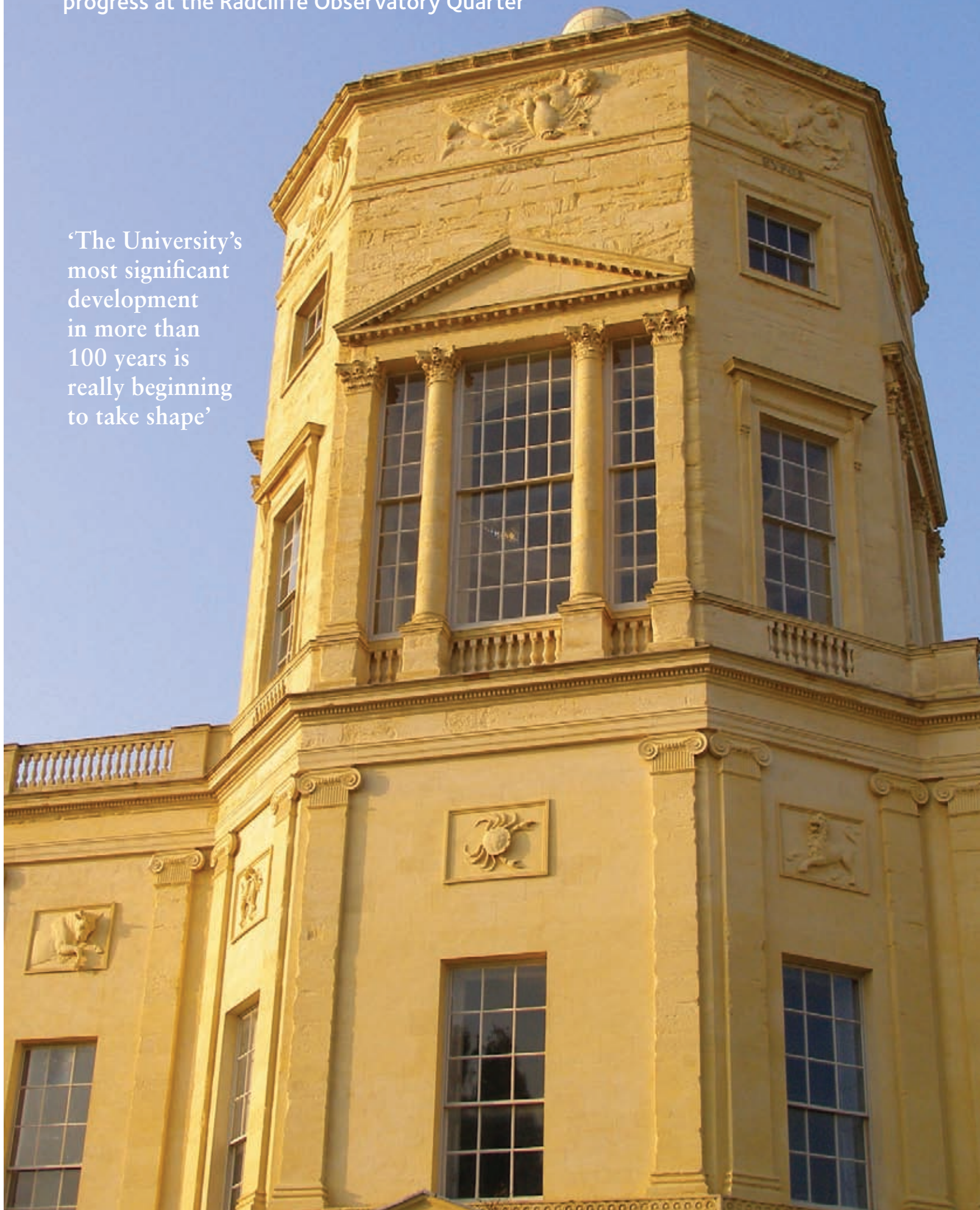
For more information, visit www.ox.ac.uk/news and www.ox.ac.uk/staffnews

ON A SURE FOUNDATION

THE RADCLIFFE OBSERVATORY
TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Matt Pickles dons his hard hat to report on progress at the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter

‘The University’s most significant development in more than 100 years is really beginning to take shape’



Years of hard work have gone into laying the foundations for the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ), both literally on the building site and figuratively in the meeting rooms of the University and the planning committees of Oxford City Council. Now, people walking past the University's most significant development in more than 100 years will notice that it is really beginning to take shape.

On the Woodstock Road side, the scaffolding has been removed from the Radcliffe Humanities building (the former Radcliffe Infirmary building), and the Humanities Divisional Offices, Philosophy faculty and library, and Theology library are already moving in. Behind it, the Somerville accommodation buildings are entering their second academic year of being occupied by students. The Mathematics Institute recently 'topped out' and the cladding is now being put over the building, revealing an impressive design. On the Walton Street side, thousands of patients are already benefiting from New Radcliffe House, which was completed over the summer, and at a public consultation later this month more information will be released about the stunning design for the new Blavatnik School of Government building.

'We're entering an important phase of development on the ROQ,' says Mike Wigg, head of capital projects at Estates Services (the new name for the Estates Directorate). 'It's nearly 10 years since the University bought the site and, after thousands of pages of plans and thousands of conversations with staff, academics and other interested parties, we are now starting to see in the real world the designs which had previously only existed on paper.'

New Radcliffe House opened in July and is already occupied by three Jericho-based GP practices, the Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and part of Oxford University Press. Up to 20,000 patients could be served by the new building and it has already proved a hit with patients. 'The new Jericho Health Centre enables GPs to practise 21st century medicine in a spacious, architect-designed, exciting new building,' says Dr Judith Bogdanor, who runs one of the practices on site.

The Mathematical Institute is on track for completion in September 2013, having had a 'topping out' ceremony in August to mark the building reaching its highest point. 'The new Mathematical Institute is going up at an astonishing rate,' says Professor Sam Howison, head of the Maths Institute. 'The frame has grown by about one floor every month, and Oxford's mathematicians can now get a real idea of what their new home will look like. It will be a magnificent building and, crucially, it will bring the whole department together in one place for

the first time in its modern history. From next year, a new chapter in the history of the subject will begin.'

Radcliffe Humanities has been refurbished and will be formally opened by the Vice-Chancellor on 22 October. The new design does not shy away from the building's previous life as the Radcliffe Infirmary. 'The project has largely taken the building back to the layouts that were in place when the building was first constructed,' explains Mr Wigg. 'The end wings, which were ward blocks, have been converted into open-plan office areas, so in many ways we have kept the original concept of the design. The refurbishment was really well received at Oxford Open Doors weekend in September, when more than a thousand people visited the building.'

There are still some missing pieces in the ROQ puzzle. Radcliffe Humanities is a crucial first step in developing the Humanities presence on the site. Over the coming year, the Humanities Division and the Bodleian Libraries will be opening up a wide-ranging debate about how best to realise the original vision for the site. The Blavatnik School of Government is currently in a period of extensive consultation, with the second phase of public consultation to begin in late October. An application for planning permission would then be submitted towards the end of the year, with the city council to consider the design in early 2013.

Initial designs have been well received by the South East Regional Design Panel and English Heritage. 'The building will be the first major project in the UK to be delivered by Herzog & de Meuron outside London and the stunning, innovative design will hopefully be the latest addition to Oxford's long tradition of world-renowned architecture,' says Mr Wigg. 'The building pays tribute to features of Oxford's skyline – its circular shape evokes the Radcliffe Camera and the design is squared off on one side like Christopher Wren's distinctive Sheldonian Theatre.'

Professor Ngaire Woods, Dean of the Blavatnik School, adds: 'The School will hold regular lectures by prominent figures to which the public will be warmly invited. We hope to create a new, discursive space in north Oxford.'

But ensuring successful delivery and completion of buildings is not the only consideration for the University's building experts. 'It's vital that we work closely with the community and with staff so that the ROQ benefits as many people as possible,'



Rob Judges



Rob Judges



Herzog & de Meuron

WORKS IN PROGRESS: (FROM TOP) THE RADCLIFFE HUMANITIES BUILDING IS NOW WELCOMING ITS NEW INHABITANTS; THE MATHS INSTITUTE IS NEARING COMPLETION; AND THE BLAVATNIK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT'S HOME IS ON THE HORIZON

says Mr Wigg. 'We will open two access routes on the site to allow people to walk between Walton Street and Woodstock Road, opening up a large area of North Oxford – one of these routes is already open. Development on the ROQ site will bring traffic improvements to the Woodstock Road so that pedestrian and cyclist access to the site will be safe. We're also planning a series of public artworks across the site.'



Follow progress on the ROQ via www.ox.ac.uk/roq, where regular time-lapse videos of the work are posted



EXHIBITIONS

College Commissions: All Souls and New College 2012

Until 28 October

Ashmolean Museum

www.ashmolean.org

Two new commissions made for Oxford colleges. All Souls College honours 27 members of its non-academic staff in Benjamin Sullivan's three-panel group portrait *All Souls Triptych*, the first large-scale depiction of people in their workplace to be made in Britain. Jeni Ross's New College commission, *Dance to the Music of Time*, consists of six tapestry panels of abstract design, with 12 shades of blue representing the passing of time.

Needlework and the Universe

Until 4 November

Museum of the History of Science

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk

Artist Meredith Mackworth Praed explores the far reaches of the Universe through stitch, working with images from NASA, the Hubble Telescope and the Cassini space probe.

Happy Birthday Edward Lear: 200 Years of Nature and Nonsense

Until 6 January 2013

Ashmolean Museum

www.ashmolean.org

A celebration of the bicentenary of Edward Lear (1812–88) featuring 100 works of art from the collections of the Ashmolean and the Bodleian as well as private collections.

TALKS

The place of Britain in a future Europe

Fri 5 October, 2.30pm

Ship Street Centre, Jesus College

www.fljs.org

Talk by Martin Wolf, chief economics commentator at the *Financial Times*, on Britain's status as a semi-detached member of the European Union and the impact

of the eurozone crisis on the EU and on Britain's place within it.

The triumph of the humanities

Thurs 18 October, 5pm

Rothermere American Institute

www.rai.ox.ac.uk/seminars

Author and journalist Michael S Malone challenges the notion that the humanities are facing a crisis and argues they are about to enjoy a golden age.

An evening with Henry Bonsu

Wed 31 October, 5.30pm

Edmond Safra Lecture Theatre,

Saïd Business School

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/race/bhm

Henry Bonsu, presenter of *Shoot the Messenger*, Voxafrica's flagship current affairs programme, presents this Black History Month event. An Oxford graduate, Henry has worked extensively in radio and TV for both BBC and commercial stations, and written for national newspapers. He is a regular contributor to Press TV, Sky News and Al Jazeera.

How the media promote the public misunderstanding of science

Tues 27 November, 6pm

Lecture Room 23, Balliol College

www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/current-members/seminars

Talk by Dr Ben Goldacre, author of *Bad Science*. Part of the seminar series 'Leveraging social media to raise public understanding of health research'.

CONCERTS

Scheherazade

Thurs 29 November, 8pm

Sheldonian Theatre

Tickets £37 / £26 / £17.50 / £10

www.oxfordphil.com

Tamsin Little joins the Oxford Philomusica to perform Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Continuing Education Open Day

Wed 14 November

Rewley House, Wellington Square

www.conted.ox.ac.uk/penday

The Department for Continuing Education provides over 800 classes and programmes a year for part-time adult learners, plus online learning and much more. A drop-in day of taster sessions, lectures and information. Most events will take place noon–2pm and 5–7pm; register online for events with limited space.

Christmas Light Night

Fri 23 November

University Museums

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk; www.ashmolean.org;

www.oum.ox.ac.uk

The University museums offer their own evening celebrations as Oxford switches on its Christmas lights. For example, learn fascinating facts about snowflakes and enjoy icy activities for all the family from 6pm at the Museum of the History of Science or make golden decorations at the Ashmolean 6–8pm. Meanwhile the Oxford University Museum of Natural History offers global sounds with composers and DJs, polar animal crafts, torchlight trails and the Frozen Planet Bar 5–10pm.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Autumn-inspired art

Wed 31 October, 1–3.30pm

Botanic Garden

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

Be inspired by the Botanic Garden and create your own work of art to take home. This drop-in activity is part of the Big Draw.

Planet Ocean

Sat 17 November, 1–4pm

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

www.oum.ox.ac.uk

Explore the wonderful world beneath the waves at this drop-in event. Touch real ocean objects and make a deep sea diorama.

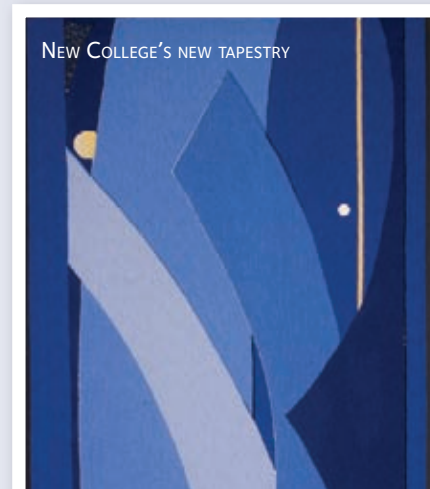
Family fun day at the Bate Collection

Sat 24 November, 10am – 2pm

Bate Collection of Musical Instruments

www.bate.ox.ac.uk

Family friendly musical performances and demonstrations, plus a chance to play some instruments.





HAUNTED BY THE PAST?

Why are ghosts, apparitions and the undead commonplace in modern culture? Karen Leeder shares an academic explanation with *Matt Pickles*

'PEOPLE WRITING IN THE CONTEXT OF AN EAST GERMAN TOTALITARIAN REGIME HAD TO FIND WAYS TO SAY THE UNSAYABLE WHILE ELUDING THE CENSOR'

'In the last 15 years or so, Anglo-American culture has become obsessed with ghosts,' says Karen Leeder, a fellow of New College and Professor of Modern German Literature in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages. 'People have become more interested in ghosts, apparitional figures, phantoms, spectres, manifestations of the undead – it's everywhere, in literature, film, music and culture. Look at the *Twilight* novels, TV programmes like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, Susan Hill's novel *The Woman in Black*, or Peter Ackroyd's *English Ghosts*. I could go on and on'.

Professor Leeder has coined the phrase 'spectral turn' to describe this trend and, along with Dr Kirsten Gwyer, organised a symposium at New College last April to explore this ghostly phenomenon from an academic perspective.

'We brought together experts from different areas – the visual arts, music, Latin America, cultural studies, Russia, European Literature – whose work has involved spectres,' she says. 'All agreed that we were experiencing a contemporary obsession with the haunted – indeed, when the conference began all of Oxford's cinemas happened to be showing a film with paranormal elements.'

So what does the recent increase of ghosts in art mean? 'Traditionally, a ghost is seen as a sign of unfinished business, appearing because something has gone wrong, then leaving when it is resolved,' Professor Leeder explains. 'But at the moment the spectres seem to persist as a sign of cultural crisis – perhaps to indicate censored or taboo aspects of the past. And they also create a disturbed, a spectral, aesthetic.'

'So the spectral turn may reflect modern insecurities – the end of the certainties of the post-war consensus, the crisis of capitalism, the feeling of dawning end times, the search for something beyond the secular, for example,' she adds. 'But they have a special relevance for the German Republic (GDR, or East Germany) – it was founded on the spectre of communism and is now in itself a ghost which colours politics in Germany today. I hope to fully explore this in a book, *The Spectres of the GDR: The Haunting of the Berlin Republic*, which will be published next year.'

Professor Leeder first became interested in the GDR when studying German and French as an undergraduate at Magdalen College. She returned to Oxford in 1993 as a fellow in German at New College, having taught at Emmanuel College in Cambridge, and was appointed professor in 2008. She is interested in the politics of German literature and poetry, and in particular how poetry was used by writers in East Germany. But her initial interest in this topic simply came from a desire to modernise her studies. 'Oddly, when I studied German as an undergraduate the "modern" period of literature stopped in 1933 and the only way around this was to do a special paper about the post-1945 period,' she says.

The way in which literature was used as a political tool in East Germany fascinated Professor Leeder. She says: 'I was intrigued by the way in which people were writing in

the context of an East German totalitarian regime so they had to find ways to say the unsayable while eluding the censor. This created an extraordinary tension as people were writing under pressure of the threat of political retribution, rather than the pressure of the market which was felt by West German authors.'

She adds: 'Writers had to smuggle what they wanted to say under the eyes of the censor – often by putting in glaring mistakes which the censors would pick up on while the real subversive messages slipped below their radar. The East German reader also became finely attuned to picking up on these messages.'

Poets and novelists therefore took on a vital role. 'Poets and writers had to take the place of the compromised print media and made serious political statements – they became the moral conscience of the nation – for better and for worse. It is no surprise that in 1989, protestors were holding up placards with poetry on, while authors were publishing short stories and poems as the protests went on,' she says.

This role also means that East German writers are mainly read today by people looking for the political messages, and not on their own merit. 'This "dissident bias" is a real problem for GDR literature,' Professor Leeder says. 'I would encourage people to try GDR poetry and literature – it is not only an important part of European history, but an enjoyable read.'

► For more information, visit www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/leeder

A 'PATRIOTIC COSMOPOLITAN'

A celebration of Alain Locke, the first African-American Rhodes Scholar, and his legacy to Anglo-American culture and black modernity will sit alongside the University's Black History Month events, reports *Julia Paolitto*

Alain Locke has earned his place in many an American literature syllabus as the architect of the Harlem Renaissance – a cultural movement in 1920s and 1930s America that embraced African-American artistic and intellectual production while laying the groundwork for the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s.

In addition to blazing a trail promoting the art and culture of African Americans, Locke broke significant barriers abroad – including becoming Oxford's first African-American Rhodes Scholar in 1907. His imprint on 20th-century culture and racial politics runs deep on both sides of the Atlantic, yet among the many cultural and intellectual pioneers to come out of Oxford, his distinct achievements have perhaps yet to be fully considered.

The legacy of Locke's work and his relationship to both Anglo-American culture and black modernity will be honoured in depth at Oxford with a two-day conference on 12–13 October jointly hosted by Rhodes House, the Rothermere American Institute, and the English Faculty. Coinciding with Black History Month activities at the University and around the country, the event will explore Locke's broad intellectual legacy against the backdrop of his experience and development at Oxford.

Locke's experience at Oxford was a formative one, says Dr Michèle Mendelssohn, one of the conference organisers. Growing up in educated surroundings in America's Northeast and largely shielded from the virulent racism of the South, his first encounters with intense racial prejudice only came from his encounters with Southern Rhodes Scholars at Oxford.

'Locke only really discovered he was black at Oxford,' explains Elleke Boehmer, Professor of World Literature in English. 'He hadn't experienced racial prejudice to such an extent before, and had to find ways of dealing with this while not compromising his identity as a black

person.' Being confronted so directly with prejudice, while unwelcome, shaped Locke's thinking on racism, African-American identity, and the virtues of cultural exchange – however uncomfortable.

In an essay entitled 'Oxford by a negro student' written in 1909, Locke described the virtues of 'the Rhodes man' in terms that foreshadowed his later writings: 'He will be a man whose sympathies are wider than his prejudices, whose knowledge is larger than his beliefs, and his hopes greater than himself. He will be...a patriotic cosmopolitan.'

The picture of a man whose sympathies outstretch his prejudices, and the image of the 'patriotic cosmopolitan', are central to Locke's intellectual legacy, as well as what make him 'a man for today', says Professor Boehmer, herself a 1980s Rhodes Scholar. 'Locke was intensely aware of the legacies of racist thought, and how important it was for the African American community to distance itself from those prejudices and stereotypes – while not, on the one hand, losing a sense of race identification within the black community, nor, on the other, repudiating white interaction and white cultural traditions either.'

The 'Locke in the 21st Century' conference will be an event with a redemptive aspect, she notes. The meeting will both properly recognise Locke's achievements at Oxford and take up his commitment to enshrining black thought and culture in mainstream culture as an equal, rather than marginal, contributor.

Oxford's role in helping to form Locke's distinct intellectual legacy may have been a negative one, but his experience of self-discovery will still resonate with current students and staff today, Professor Boehmer adds. 'Oxford is a place of transformation – you can discover who you are at Oxford,' she says. 'There is a huge amount of room for self-expression at Oxford, and what is put at your disposal is phenomenal – whether you are a student or a staff member here.'



BHM events

'Locke in the 21st century' coincides with Black History Month celebrations at Oxford organised by the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE), part of the Oxford University Student Union. United by the theme of 'Black Oxford: Awareness, Knowledge and Sensitivity', events will include international economist and author Dambisa Moyo speaking at the Oxford Union, and a 'Black Oxford' lecture series that CRAE chair Joshua Oware says 'will look at the long and proud history of Black and Minority Ethnic Oxford alumni, raising awareness of their achievements beyond Oxford, their legacies and their contributions toward enriching the cultural and social fabric of the University.'

Events around the University's museums and collections will recognise the wider ethnic diversity of Oxford, from an exhibition by student Christian Thompson which draws on his Aboriginal heritage to a series of world food and music events.

Conference details at <http://alainlocke21.webs.com>. BHM at Oxford information at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/race/bhm

'Being confronted
so directly with
prejudice, while
unwelcome, shaped
Locke's thinking
on racism, African-
American identity,
and the virtues
of cultural exchange'





MicroSCOPE
Services Limited

Call us on 01993 810000

New range of 1.0x c-mount and f-mount adapters now in stock!

- Available for most Leica, Zeiss, Nikon and Olympus microscopes
- Competitively priced
- Check our website for compatibility information



Microscope Services Ltd

A friendly, local, Oxfordshire company that specialises in supplying high quality microscopes, cameras, imaging software, illumination solutions and more for a variety of scientific applications.

Call us now or visit our website to find out more.

News & New Products

Imaging Competition launched;

Your chance to win a Samsung Galaxy Tablet!
Plus many more prizes available!
Visit our website for more details...

Leica Microsystems introduce the new TL5000 Ergo lightstand.

With LED illumination, ultra-flat design and Rotterman contrast.
Visit our website for more details...

"New LED BF & Fluo' Research Microscope"



"The Micro-F2LED"

- Easy: Instant on/off fluo' control
- Versatile: Blue & Green LED fluo' channels plus brightfield
- Safe: No mercury in your labs and classrooms


Contact us now for your free demonstration

Coming Soon: The Ergoball
Specimen manipulation made easy!
Watch our website for further information...

info@microscopeservices.co.uk

www.microscopeservices.co.uk

**THE UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD SHOP**



Bespoke Oxford

A new
approach
to Oxford
inspired
gift and
homeware

Oxford Cityscape plate
designed by Lizzie Prestt
Available in 4 colours



106 High Street, Oxford
www.oushop.com

IT Services was created on 1 August 2012 through a merger of the three central IT departments: Oxford University Computing Services (OUCS), Business Services and Projects (BSP) and ICT Support Team (ICTST)



www.it.ox.ac.uk

There's no change to phone numbers.
Email addresses become @it.ox.ac.uk but old addresses, and web bookmarks, will continue to work.

OPEN DAY
DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
14 NOVEMBER 2012
A day of taster sessions, lectures and information.

LEARNING FOR LIFE:

- Over 800 classes & programmes per year for part-time adult learners
- Weekly classes, Oxford awards, online learning and much more
- Bursaries available

ENTER OUR PRIZE DRAW: Win a free class!
Join us for a free sandwich lunch or evening wine reception.





INFORMATION & REGISTRATION: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/openday
Further your own education at the University of Oxford!

DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
www.conted.ox.ac.uk

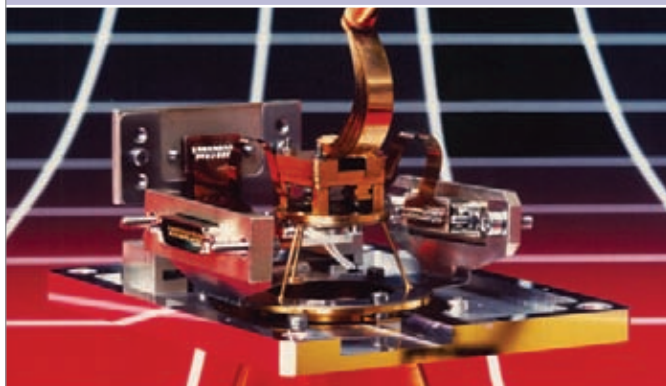


Department of Physics
www.physics.ox.ac.uk



SERVICES OPEN DAY

Tuesday 6 November 2012, 10AM – 4PM



Electronics
Thin Film Coating
Electron beam lithography

Mechanics
3D printing
Photo etching

*If you think we might help your research,
come and see our facilities during our Open Day
or contact us at any other time.*

www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/enterprise

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS



Tel: (01865) 848770 Fax: (01865) 849543
e-mail: enquiries@oxfordadvisory.com
website: www.oxfordadvisory.com

Our association with the University
of Oxford is now in its 19th year.

We have extensive practical knowledge of
its various pension and benefit schemes and are ideally
placed to assist those who wish to maximise their
pension and tax-free cash from either USS or OSPS.
Please contact us to arrange an initial consultation at
no charge or obligation to take further action.

We offer a comprehensive personal financial planning service and
just some of the areas where we can provide advice include:

Retirement Planning	Savings & Investments	Critical Illness Cover
Stakeholder Pensions	Ethical Investments	Income Protection
Inheritance Tax	Holistic Financial &	Life Assurance
Guaranteed Funds	Trust Planning	Mortgage Broking

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP
UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE.

For mortgages, we can be paid a fee; usually 0.5% of the loan
subject to a minimum of £1,000, or by commission.



Reducing hassle

- Managing paperwork
- Invoicing & payments



Minimising risk

- Negotiating contracts
- Providing insurance



Increasing income

- Securing competitive rates
- Identifying opportunities

Oxford University Consulting
(OUC) supports staff and research
groups wishing to provide
expertise or facilities to private
and public sector organisations

Making academic consultancy work for you

Oxford University Consulting is part of Isis Innovation Limited, the wholly-owned technology transfer
company of the University of Oxford

Call OUC on (2)80829 or
email: enquiries@consulting.ox.ac.uk
www.isis-innovation.com/consulting



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY
CONSULTING

AIRPORT/TAXI SERVICE

HIGHLY RELIABLE SERVICE

20 years' experience of getting you to the airport stress free

- Comfortable Mercedes saloon or Volvo XC 70 estate and 7-passenger
- Business or pleasure
- Child seats available
- Fully licensed and insured
- XLWB Mercedes for those with lots of luggage

Sample car prices: Oxford to Heathrow, from £75; Eurostar, £95; Cambridge £125

Call Clive Roberts to discuss your needs or for advice

Account customers welcome



Mobile: 07917 566077 Home: 01865 778608
Email: cliveroberts@talktalk.net

“A breadth of academic, cultural and sporting education that otherwise would not have been possible”

Parent of Dragon bursary pupil

DRAGON FOUNDATION FEE ASSISTANCE

Up to 100% Bursaries, Year 4 entry

Up to 50% Ability Awards, Year 4 to 7 entry

Boarding & Day places

ENQUIRE NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

T: 01865 315405

E: enquiries@dragonschool.org

www.dragonschool.org



Thinking of selling
or letting?



Established | Professional | Recommended

Call us today for a free of charge market valuation

**SUMMERTOWN
HEADINGTON
EAST OXFORD
WITNEY**

LETTINGS

01865 554577
01865 761111
01865 244666
01993 777909

SALES

01865 759507
01865 759500
01865 759508
01993 705507

scottfraser.co.uk

Begbroke Science Park

Where Science and Industry Meet



Begbroke Science Park is a thriving community, which supports the local and UK knowledge economy to meet tomorrow's industrial challenges

AT BEGBROKE WE OFFER:

- Applied academic research activities
- Science-based business start-ups and university spin-outs
- Knowledge and technology transfer services and networks
- Well-equipped conference suite with free parking
- Vibrant business and academic events programme
- Specialist technical support services for industry and academia

Begbroke Science Park

Begbroke Hill
Woodstock Road
Begbroke
Oxford
OX5 1FF

www.begbroke.ox.ac.uk

Tel: 01865 283700

Fax: 01865 374992

E-mail: enquiries@begbroke.ox.ac.uk

@BegbrokeScience

WHY AM I HERE?

KISHORE SEEGOOLAM

General Manager, the University Club

What exactly is the University Club?

It's a members' sports and social club, with catering and hospitality facilities plus accommodation, at 11 Mansfield Road. We have a ground-floor café and bar, and on the first floor we have function rooms that can host anything from a meeting for five people to a wedding for 120 – also very popular for Christmas parties. The function rooms are equipped with a data projector, 50-inch flat-screen TV and surround wi-fi.

So who can join?

All staff working for Oxford University plus retired staff, visiting academics and members of some associated institutions can join for free, as can postgraduate students. Family members and alumni can join for £25 a year.

What kind of sports and classes are on offer?

We have a five-a-side football pitch, a gym and a multipurpose room for a variety of (charged for) classes including aerobics, salsa, pilates, fencing, martial arts, zumba and yoga. The classes are run by independent professionals and must be pre-booked with the individual instructors.

And what food do you serve?

The café serves breakfast (including full English) to residents and members until 10.30am, and lunch from Mondays to Fridays. Lunch changes daily and there is a vegetarian and a non-vegetarian main course, a salad bar, sandwiches, filled baguettes and a daily soup – the menu is available on our website. After lunch, the café's open till 5pm for a tea or coffee with a piece of cake or cookie. The bar overlooks the cricket field and serves drinks daily from 11.30am and a variety of freshly prepared evening meals ranging from a Greek salad to a steak. Thursday is our speciality evening – currently a curry buffet night. Our local ales are also very popular.

What accommodation is available?

The Club has 14 en-suite bedrooms: two singles, two twins and 10 doubles. All

rooms have flat screen TV, a hospitality tray and wi-fi. Booking is open to members, University departments and the public, via our website.

Where do I find out more?

It's all at www.club.ox.ac.uk.

What's your own role?

I joined in January 2011 with a wealth of experience in the hospitality industry, having worked in operations, sales and marketing. My brief was to manage the club in its entirety and to turn it around into a break-even situation (which I have accomplished).

Tell us about some of the jobs you've done

I come from Mauritius and started out in the 1970s as a receptionist at the Saint G eran Hotel there, voted one of the most prestigious resorts in the world. In 1978, I moved to South Africa and held various senior positions with resort, business and conference hotels. Before coming to the UK in December 1998, I was the Business Manager for the famous luxury 'Blue Train', which received 'The Best Train in the World' award during my leadership.

What brought you to Oxford?

I came here after a couple of years at the Holiday Inn in Stevenage, for a new challenge and to be closer to my family. It took a while to adjust from a commercial environment, but I think I'm now well embedded in the system, processes and procedures of the academic world.

And finally, what's been your most embarrassing moment?

When I was managing a well known hotel in Winchester, I had to tell a wedding couple that they had booked the wrong venue for their civil ceremony. Although the wedding breakfast was booked at my hotel, the ceremony was booked at an adjacent property with the same name but a 'Hall' instead of a 'Hotel'. Luckily the error was resolved after a few phone calls and (later) lots of Pimms – for the guests, of course!



Rob Judges

Blueprint is published bimonthly for the staff of the University of Oxford by the Public Affairs Directorate

Editor: Sally Croft

Designers: La titia Velia/Katy Dawkins

Picture research: Janet Avison

Items for possible inclusion are welcome and should be sent to blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk

If you would like to receive an email alert when future issues are published, please send a blank email to blueprintlist-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk

Blueprint is printed by Oxuniprint on recycled paper.

Advertising

To advertise in *Blueprint*, please contact Rosalind Cuomo on 01865 280548 or email blueprint.ads@admin.ox.ac.uk

The University accepts no responsibility for the content of any material in *Blueprint*. Readers should note in particular that the inclusion of news, editorial items and advertisements does not imply the endorsement by the University of the matters reported, the views expressed or the goods or services advertised.

VIEWFINDER

WHERE'S THIS SUMPTUOUS CEILING? ANSWER ON P7.



Mark Cray/Reuters/Corbis