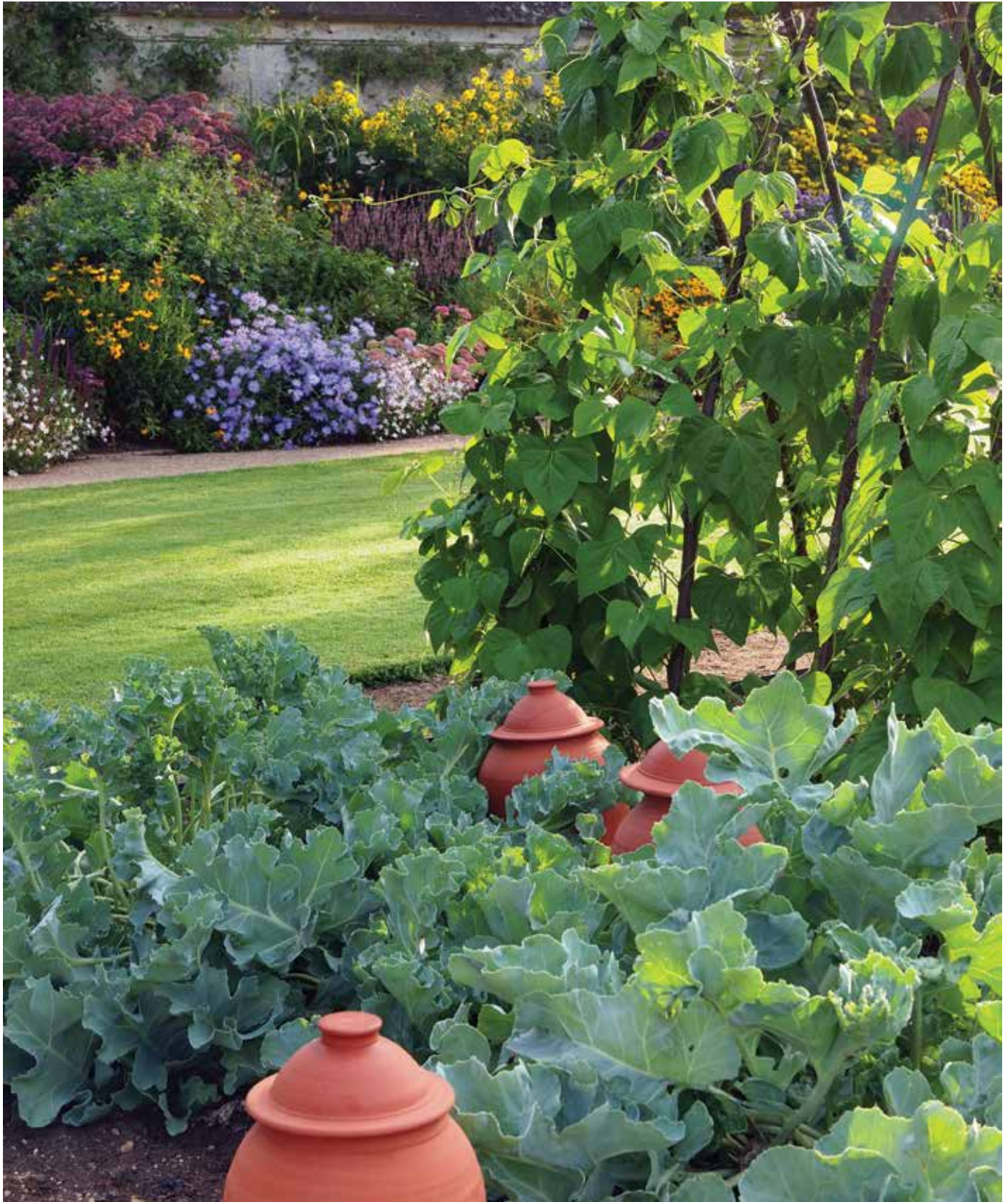


# BLUEPRINT

Staff magazine for the University of Oxford | **October 2014**



CHU'S VIEWS | VEGETABLES PROPAGATE SMILES | WOMEN ON THE WALL



# NEWS IN BRIEF

◆ The Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building was formally opened by the Duke of Cambridge on 8 September. The centre, which is in the grounds of St Hugh's College, brings academics with an interest in China under the same roof. The five-floor building houses a dedicated library and reading room, which will provide a permanent home for 60,000 volumes and a significant part of the Bodleian Libraries' Chinese book collection. It also features a lecture theatre, language laboratory, study areas and a dining room. The £21m cost was largely met through benefactions, including £10m from Hong Kong philanthropist Mr Dickson Poon CBE.

◆ 15 September saw the inaugural Oxford India Lecture take place in New Delhi. The lecture, entitled 'Mobilising healthcare', was delivered by Professor Robyn Norton, Principal Director of the George Institute for Global Health and James Martin Professorial Fellow. Speaking to an invited audience, Professor Norton discussed how the transformative change needed in healthcare – in the UK, India and globally – will need to harness science, technology and entrepreneurship. The lecture follows last year's inaugural Oxford China Lecture in Shanghai and builds on the annual Oxford London Lecture series, which aims to connect the widest possible audience to some of Oxford's ground-breaking research.

◆ Are you interested in finding out about intellectual property, technology transfer or academic consultancy? Isis Innovation, the University's wholly owned technology transfer company, has opened a series of hot-desks in University departments, designed to serve as easy access points for researchers and support staff to talk to Isis staff. The hot-desks are currently in six locations: Begbroke Science Park, DPAG, the Kennedy Institute, Plant Sciences, Research Services (Worcester Street) and the Saïd Business School. Details are at [www.ox.ac.uk/staff/news/bringing\\_isis.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/staff/news/bringing_isis.html).

◆ Make sure you're effectively engaged in social media by taking advantage of this term's Engage (#oxengage) programme run by IT Services in partnership with the Bodleian Libraries. Now in its third year, the programme comprises a series of talks, seminars and workshops to explore social media strategies and digital tools, and is designed to inspire academics, researchers and graduate students to consider using social media and digital technology to develop their online presence for outreach and public engagement. Sessions range from academic blogging and tweeting to sharing research findings via infographics. View the programme at [blogs.it.ox.ac.uk/engage/social-media-michaelmas/programme-2014](http://blogs.it.ox.ac.uk/engage/social-media-michaelmas/programme-2014).

◆ A new bus service linking the University Science Area and the John Radcliffe hospital is set to cut the journey time between the two to just 14 minutes. The 600 service operates from Pear Tree Park & Ride to the JR, via Parks Road, South Parks Road, Longwall Street, St Clement's and Headington Road. The service runs Monday to Friday every half hour, with departures from Pear Tree from 09:50 until 15:20, and from the JR from 10:20 until 15:20. If it proves popular, the Oxford Bus Company will look at extending the hours and days of operation. Details at [www.ox.ac.uk/staff/news/new\\_bus\\_service.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/staff/news/new_bus_service.html).

◆ Did you know that Oxford has been ranked as one of the safest universities in the UK for crime? According to the latest University City Crime Statistics for England and Wales, Oxford University was placed 6th out of 120 entries – a significant improvement on last year's position of 31st. A key factor in this improvement has been the reduction in property crime, particularly bike thefts. Help keep your bike safe with a good-quality D-lock, which you can buy at the discounted price of £15 from Security Services. Phone (2)72941 or email [security.control@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:security.control@admin.ox.ac.uk) for details.



University of Oxford/Jonathan Hordle



Phil Ashworth/Oxford Bus Company

FROM TOP: ROYAL OPENING; THE 1ST OXFORD INDIA LECTURE; NEW BUS JOINS UP THE JR



◆ The University has launched a Returning Carers' Fund to support researchers and academics who are returning to work after a career break. The small grants scheme is intended to support women and men who have taken a break of at least six months for caring responsibilities. Eligible staff will be able to apply for grants in the region of £5k to assist them in the way they feel will best support their return to the workplace. Details at [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/thevice-chancellorsdiversityfund/returningcarersfund](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/thevice-chancellorsdiversityfund/returningcarersfund).



Photo by Oxford University Images/Jill Walker

COVER:  
BOTANIC GARDEN PRODUCE IS HELPING PEOPLE  
IN NEED (PP10–11)

# RESEARCH ROUND-UP

◆ A new treatment programme could help reduce depression and improve quality of life among cancer patients, a study led by Oxford University has found. The Depression Care for People with Cancer (DCPC) programme includes both antidepressants and psychological therapy. It is delivered by a team of cancer nurses and psychiatrists working in collaboration with the patient's cancer team and GP, and is given as part of cancer care. After 6 months, the Oxford and Edinburgh researchers found that 62% of patients receiving DCPC responded to treatment compared with only 17% of those who received usual care. Professor Michael Sharpe from the Department of Psychiatry says: 'The huge benefit that DCPC delivers for patients with cancer and depression shows what we can achieve for patients if we take as much care with the treatment of their depression as we do with the treatment of their cancer.'

◆ Differences between the brains of individual primates have been discovered which depend on their social status. The research, led by Dr MaryAnn Noonan of the Decision and Action Laboratory in the Department of Experimental Psychology, determined the position of 25 macaque monkeys in their social hierarchies. The team then analysed non-invasive scans of the monkeys' brains. The findings show that brain regions in one neural circuit are larger in more dominant animals. Previous research has shown that these regions are involved in learning and in processing social and emotional information. The MRI scans also revealed that another circuit of brain regions, collectively called the striatum, was found to be larger in more subordinate animals. The striatum is known to play a complex but important role in learning the value of our choices and actions.

◆ A child is likely to do better in their GCSEs and ultimately earn more if they went to preschool, a new study suggests. The research for the Effective Pre-School, Primary and Secondary (EPPSE) project was led by Professor Kathy Sylva and Professor Pamela Sammons from the University's Department of Education. They found that the benefits of going to preschool translated into an average of 41 extra points per child – the difference between getting, for example, seven grade Bs versus seven Cs at GCSE. The EPPSE project, launched in 1997, followed 3,000 children from 141 preschool settings up to the age

STOWE'S STORY IS REVEALED BY STUDENTS



of 16. The nationally representative sample of children who had received a preschool education was then compared with a group with no or minimal preschool experience. 'The EPPSE study is unique because it provides valuable evidence in Europe on the long-term value of preschool,' says Professor Sylva.

◆ A visitor leaflet about Stowe House and Gardens compiled by two Oxford students has been launched at the historic property. Alice Holohan and Eleanor Bland, who have recently completed undergraduate degrees in English and History respectively, produced the leaflet while on internships in the Thames Valley Country House Partnership scheme (TVCHP), which is a collaboration between the University and some of Britain's great country houses. The students used a variety of sources to research the history of Stowe and the free leaflet tells the story of the house and gardens in the 18th century, while they were owned by the soldier and Whig politician Richard Temple, Lord Cobham. 'The challenge is to make these properties, and the stories they contain, more accessible and relevant to a broader section of Oxford's population,' says Dr Oliver Cox, an Oxford historian who set up the TVCHP scheme in 2013.

◆ Online volunteers are being asked to classify images of penguin families to help

scientists monitor the health of penguin colonies in Antarctica. Penguin Watch ([www.penguinwatch.org](http://www.penguinwatch.org)), led by Dr Tom Hart from the Department of Zoology, gives citizen scientists access to around 200,000 images of penguins taken by remote cameras monitoring over 30 colonies from around the Southern Ocean. Recent evidence suggests that populations of many species of penguin, such as chinstrap and Adélie, are declining fast as shrinking sea ice threatens the krill they feed on. By tagging the adults, chicks and eggs in remote camera images, Penguin Watch volunteers will help scientists to gather information about penguin behaviour and breeding success, as well as teaching a computer how to count and identify individuals of different species.



WATCH OUT – AN ADÉLIE PENGUIN NEEDS YOUR HELP

► 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

**Tom Cavalier-Smith**, Emeritus Professor of Evolutionary Biology, has been elected a Fellow of the American Academy for Microbiology. His work focuses on the evolution, ecology and biogeography of amoeboid and flagellate free-living protozoa.



**Ramin Golestanian**, Professor of Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics, has been awarded the 2014 Holweck Medal 'for his pioneering contributions to the field of active soft

matter, particularly microscopic swimmers and active colloids'. The gold medal and €3,000 prize is awarded jointly by the Institute of Physics and the Société Française de Physique.



**Miles Hewstone**, Professor of Social Psychology, has been awarded the Codol Medal of the European Association of Social Psychology, along with Wolfgang Stroebe of the Universities of

Utrecht and Groningen. The medal recognises outstanding service to the Association and is awarded to a member that has significantly advanced the cause of social psychology in Europe.

**Nigel Hitchin**, Savilian Professor of Geometry, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by the University of Warwick.



**Tom Povey**, Professor of Engineering Science, has been awarded the 2014 Hawley Award by The Worshipful Company of Engineers for 'the most outstanding engineering innovation

that delivers demonstrable benefit to the environment'. The prize recognises his invention of the 'flare pan', a new energy-efficient design of saucapan with cast aluminium channels built into the side; the product is now being sold by Lakeland.



**Dr Martin Ruhs**, University Lecturer in Political Economy at the Department for Continuing Education, has won the 2014 Best Book Award by the American Political Science Association's

Migration and Citizenship Section for his book *The Price of Rights: Regulating International Labour Migration* (Princeton University Press, 2013).



**Boudewijn Sirks**, Regius Professor of Civil Law, has been made a knight in the Orde van se Nederlandse Leeuw – the Order of the Netherlands Lion. He was presented with the

honour by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Court of St James's.

## BRITISH ACADEMY AWARDS



**Sir Paul Collier**, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, has been awarded the President's Medal, which was introduced in 2010

to reward signal service to the cause of the humanities and social sciences. Professor Collier's medal recognises his pioneering contribution in bringing ideas from research into policy within the field of African economics.



**Dr Hannah Sullivan** of the Faculty of English has won the Rose Mary Crawshay Prize, the Academy's oldest prize, established in 1888. The prize is

awarded to a woman of any nationality for 'an historical or critical work of sufficient value on any subject in English Literature'. Dr Sullivan wins for her book *The Work of Revision* (Harvard University Press, 2013).



**Chris Wickham**, Chichele Professor of Medieval History, has been awarded the Serena Medal, which recognises 'eminent services towards the furtherance of the

study of Italian history, literature, art or economics'.



## MATHEMATICAL ROLE MODEL

The Mathematical Institute's Andrew Wiles Building (*left*) has scooped a Highly Commended award in the Environment and Sustainability category of the 2014 Institute of Civil Engineers Awards.

The building has also been shortlisted for the Construction Industry Awards, as has the Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM) Research Building. In these, the Andrew Wiles Building is shortlisted for Major Building Project of the Year (£50m+) and the NDM for Building Project of the Year (£10m–£50m).

## NEW BRITISH ACADEMY FELLOWS

Nine Oxford academics have been elected as Fellows of the British Academy, in recognition of their outstanding research in the humanities and social sciences.



**Francesco Billari** is Professor of Sociology and Demography and a Fellow of Nuffield College. His main research interest is the study of population,

family and the life course, and he is currently President of the European Association for Population Studies.



**Susanne Bobzien** is Professor of Philosophy and Senior Research Fellow at All Souls College. Her work in contemporary philosophy focuses on the philosophy of

logic and language, particularly on vagueness and paradoxes. Her work in the history of philosophy focuses on ancient logic and theories of determinism and freedom.



**Georgina Born** is Professor of Music and Anthropology and a Fellow of Mansfield College. She researches the anthropology and sociology of

music, media and culture, currently with a focus on music in the late 20th and 21st centuries. Earlier she researched the BBC and public service broadcasting. She directs the

European Research Council-funded research programme 'Music, Digitisation, Mediation: Towards Interdisciplinary Music Studies' (MusDig).



**Dr Susan Brigden** is Langford Fellow and Tutor in History at Lincoln College, and Reader in History. Her principal research interests are the early

Reformation and Renaissance in England, particularly the great transformation in ideas, belief, social relations and political practice brought by the Reformation.



**Gavin Flood** is Professor of Hindu Studies and Comparative Religion, and Academic Director of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies.

Professor Flood's main research has been on South Asian traditions, particularly Hindu Tantra, and he is interested in sacred texts, phenomenology, asceticism, and theory and method in the study of religion. His current research is re-visiting the idea of 'comparative religion' and exploring the relation between self, text and tradition across cultures.



**Henrietta Harrison** is Professor of Modern Chinese Studies and a Fellow of St Cross College. Her research is centred around the social and cultural

history of China from the Qing through to the present. She is currently conducting a study of the interpreters for the first British embassy to China in 1793.



**Stephen Smith** is Professor of History and Senior Research Fellow at All Souls College. He studies the history of modern Russia/the Soviet Union, the history of modern

China, and comparative history.



**Cecilia Trifogli** is Professor of History and a Fellow of All Souls College. She studies the reception of Aristotle's philosophy

in the Middle Ages, and natural philosophy, metaphysics and epistemology in the Middle Ages.



**Sarah Whatmore** is Professor of Environment and Public Policy and a Fellow of Keble College. Her research is concerned broadly

with cultures of nature, focusing particularly on the relationship between environmental science and democratic governance and understanding how expert knowledge is produced, circulated and contested in the management of environmental risks and hazards.

## ROYAL SOCIETY HONOURS



**Professor Alex Halliday**, Head of the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division and Professor of Geochemistry, has been elected as the next Physical Secretary and Vice-President of the Royal Society. He will take up the post at the beginning of December.

Three Oxford scientists have also been honoured by the Royal Society in this year's Awards, Medals and Lectures.



**Ben Green**, Waynflete Professor of Pure Mathematics, has been awarded the Sylvester Medal 'for his famous result on primes in arithmetic progression, and his subsequent proofs of a number of spectacular theorems over the last five to ten years'. The Sylvester

Medal, which was created in memory of James Joseph Sylvester, Oxford's Savilian Professor of Geometry in the 1880s, is awarded biennially 'for the encouragement of mathematical research'.



**Dr Rob Klose** of the Department of Biochemistry has been awarded the 2015 Francis Crick Lecture for his research to understand how chromatin-based and epigenetic processes contribute to gene regulation. The award is given annually to an outstanding

early career stage scientist in any field in the biological sciences, with preference to the general areas in which Francis Crick worked.



**Dr Faith Osier** has won the Royal Society Pfizer Award for her research on understanding the mechanisms of immunity to malaria infection in humans. The prize is awarded annually to a young scientist based in Africa. Dr Osier works at the KEMRI

Wellcome Trust Research Programme, a partnership between the University of Oxford, the Wellcome Trust and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). She is also an honorary research fellow at Oxford.

## NEW HEADS OF HOUSE

Three new Heads of House have taken office this autumn.

### CHRIST CHURCH



**The Revd Professor Martyn William Percy** became Dean of Christ Church on 1 October. He has for the past ten years been Principal of Ripon College Cuddesdon, one of the world's leading Anglican theological colleges. He is a member of the Faculty of Theology and writes and teaches on modern ecclesiology.

Professor Percy has undertaken a number of roles in public life, serving as a Director of the Advertising Standards Authority, and as an Adjudicator for the Portman Group (the self-regulating body for the alcoholic drinks industry). He is currently a Commissioner of the Direct Marketing Authority as well as an Advisor to the British Board of Film Classification. He is married to the theologian The Revd Dr Emma Percy, who is Chaplain and Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford.

### EXETER COLLEGE



**Professor Sir Rick Trainor** became Rector of Exeter College on 1 October, having for the previous ten years been Principal of King's College London, where he was also Professor of Social History.

Born and raised in the USA, he graduated from Brown University before coming to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar to

read modern history at Merton (where he is an Honorary Fellow). After a master's degree at Princeton, he became a research student at Nuffield, a junior research fellow at Wolfson and a lecturer at Balliol and took an Oxford DPhil. From 1979 he was an academic at Glasgow University, where he was latterly professor and Vice-Principal. Between 2000 and 2004 he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Greenwich.

An expert on 19th- and 20th-century British elites, and a prominent advocate of innovative methods in university teaching, he served as President of Universities UK 2007–9 and was knighted for services to higher education in 2010. His wife, Professor Marguerite Dupree, who also holds an Oxford DPhil, is a historian of medicine.

### ST HILDA'S COLLEGE



**Sir Gordon Duff** took office in August as the 11th Principal of St Hilda's College. He was previously Lord Florey Professor of Molecular Medicine at the University of Sheffield.

Sir Gordon, an Oxford graduate, has had a distinguished career in medical research and as a government advisor on a range of public health matters. He was

Chair of the Commission on Human Medicines and its predecessor, and currently chairs the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). In 2007 he was knighted for services to public health. He continues to have research interests in stratified medicine and public health. His wife, Lady Duff, is an alumna of St Hilda's.

## ARRIVALS BOARD

### PROFESSOR OF TRANSLATIONAL COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE



**Anna Christina (Kia) de Otorio Nobre**, Director of the Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity and previously Titular Professor in Cognitive

Neuroscience and Tutorial Fellow of New College, took up this post in the Departments of Psychiatry and Experimental Psychology on 1 July. She also became a Professorial Fellow of St Catherine's College.

Professor Nobre seeks to understand the neural systems that support cognitive functions in the human brain. Her current research looks at how neural activity linked to perception and cognition is modulated according to memories, task goals, and expectations. She is also interested in how these large-scale dynamic control mechanisms in the brain develop over the lifespan, and how they are disrupted in psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders.

### REGIUS PROFESSOR OF HEBREW



**Jan Joosten**, Professor of Old Testament Exegesis, University of Strasbourg, took up the post of Professor of Hebrew in the Department of Oriental Studies on

1 September and became Regius Professor of Hebrew on 1 October. He is also a Student of Christ Church.

His chief areas of research include the Septuagint (a translation of the Hebrew Bible and related texts into Koine Greek), and the language and textual history of the Syriac version of the Bible. He also studies the biblical manuscripts found at the Qumran archaeological site, and the Diatessaron (a prominent early Gospel harmony in which Tatian sought to combine the textual material found in the four gospels into a single coherent narrative of Jesus's life and death).

He is currently President of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies.

### Editor's note

• *Blueprint* is indebted to Dr Stephanie West, Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, who commented on the WW1 article in the July issue: 'The sentence "By 1918 virtually all Oxford scholars were in uniform" is highlighted in Matt Pickles' article. This generalisation curiously ignores women undergraduates and tutors. Contrast J M Winter, in the chapter which Pickles cites: "The very existence of women's colleges and women undergraduates was of great importance to Oxford during the war. Their presence helped to preserve the rhythm of the academic year and gave the impression that not everything was being consumed by the war" and "The integration of women into the University moved forward during the war" (with details).' Our thanks to her for pointing out this important omission.

• Profuse apologies are due for two errors in the Queen's Birthday Honours listing in the July issue. **John Simpson**, formerly Chief Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary* and Emeritus Fellow of Kellogg College (not Hertford College), was made OBE (not CBE) for services to literature. Inadvertently omitted from the list was **Dr Damian Jenkins**, lecturer in medicine and biomedical sciences at St Hugh's College, who was appointed MBE for his service as Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

## VIEWFINDER FOUND

The Sir Quo Wei Lee Courtyard (p20) is at the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building, which houses the new Bodleian KB Chen China Centre Library.



## FROM NOBEL PRIZE TO PUBLIC POLICY

Steven Chu, Professor of Physics and Molecular & Cellular Physiology at Stanford University, is a man of many talents. In 1997 he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for the laser cooling and trapping of atoms, but from January 2009 until April 2013 he was the 12th US Secretary of Energy, in the Obama administration. It's perhaps no surprise that he's been chosen to give this year's Romanes Lecture, the University's annual public lecture in Oxford, first given in 1892 by William Gladstone. Here, he talks to *Jamie Condliffe* about academia, climate change and their intersection with public policy

**You were the first Nobel Prize winner to hold a government executive post in the US. How important is the role of scientists in public policy?**

It's very important to have scientists – preferably active, practising scientists – in high positions in public policymaking. Science affects so many areas in policy that go well beyond science funding. During my time in office, we considered issues ranging from the government response to the Macondo oil leak through to how to best deal with our nuclear waste issues from the Cold War and spent fuel from civilian nuclear reactors.

**Do you think the Obama administration is delivering effective climate change policies?**

Within the constraints of Congress, which has become unusually deadlocked during his time in office, President Obama has done what he can do. While comprehensive energy and climate mitigation legislation is not possible now, he has used – and continues to use – his executive authorities to advance clean energy and mitigate climate change.

**How hopeful are you that national governments can deliver policies in time to prevent catastrophic climate change?**

I remain hopeful, especially with California, New York, Massachusetts and many other states in the US taking leadership roles.

Also China is becoming very serious about combating climate change and may soon put a meaningful price on carbon. However, I'm also worried because we're not moving fast enough – and the longer we delay, the harder it will be to properly mitigate the growing risks.

**Aside from government, who else is well placed to help reduce the effects of climate change?**

Non-government organisations and industry leaders are very important. Educating citizens and industry so that they understand the risks of climate change, for instance, is especially important to future generations. There's also a gap between the perceived and actual costs of mitigation and adaptation. People and organisations that can present a clear-eyed view of these issues are important in dealing with the risks of climate change. Just as the tobacco industry successfully muddled the waters about the risks of smoking, there are some individuals and organisations that are trying to do the same about the risks of human greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

**What's the most fundamental change we need to make to mitigate climate change?**

The most important change is to recognise the relative costs and benefits of mitigation. While it's OK to hope for the best, it is foolish to plan for the best. Research, development

and policy nudges are essential to help accelerate this progress, so that clean energy and energy efficiency become the indisputably low-cost option.

**How has your time in government influenced your current academic work?**

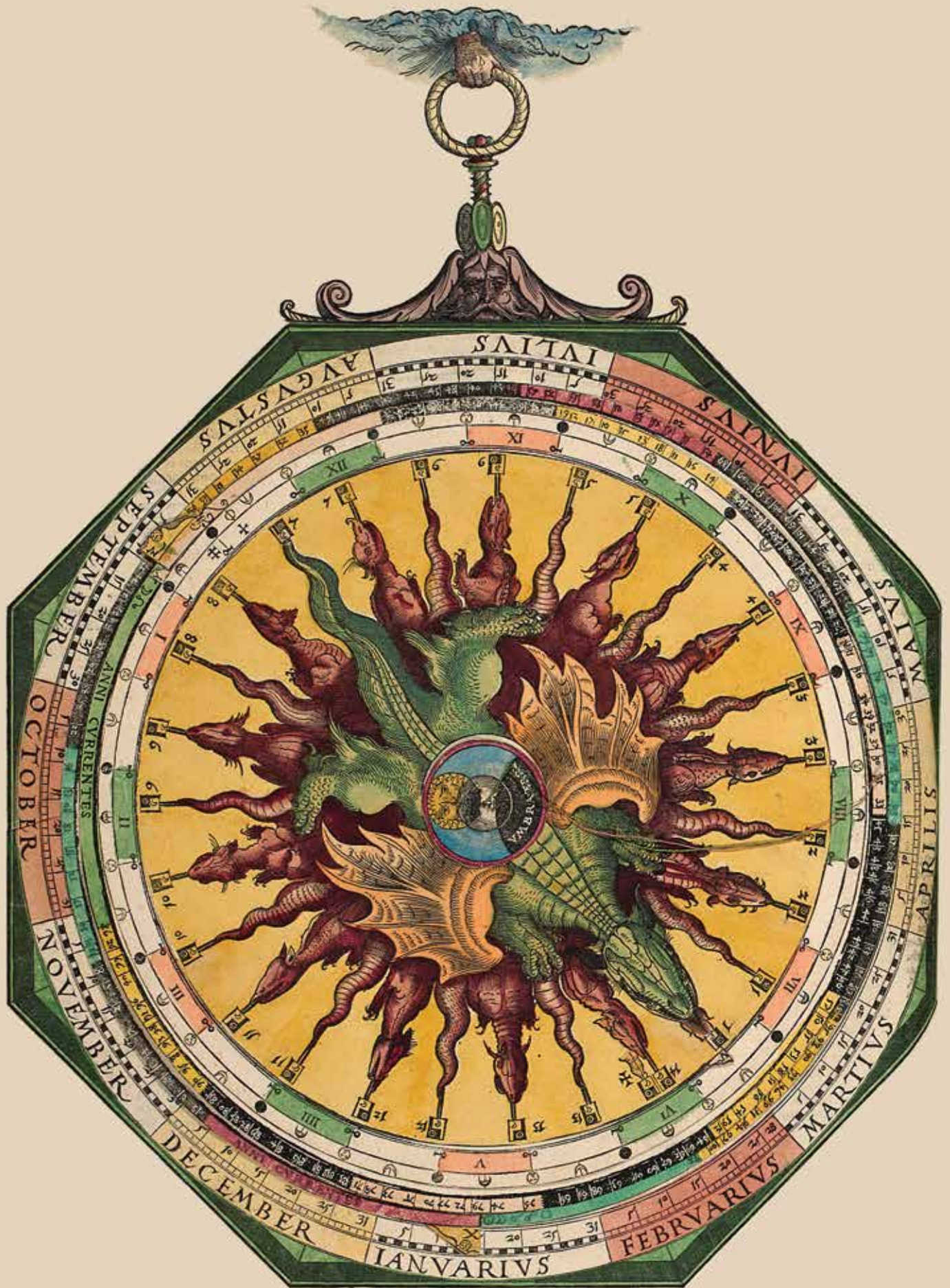
During that time, and also during nearly five years as the director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, my scientific interests and knowledge broadened considerably. I now also have a better grasp of what's needed to transition discovery into innovation and significant deployment. I'm using my physics training in battery research, as well as biology and biomedical research.

**You've been invited to give the Romanes Lecture. Are you looking forward to visiting Oxford?**

My wife, Jean, is an Oxford graduate – she was at St Hugh's and has a DPhil in Physics from the University – so I've been many times. I always look forward to each visit!

This year's Romanes Lecture, *Our Energy and Climate Change Challenges and Solutions*, will be given in the Sheldonian Theatre on Tuesday 11 November by Professor Steven Chu.

To book a free ticket for the lecture, visit [www.ox.ac.uk/romanes](http://www.ox.ac.uk/romanes)



A NEW HOME FOR SPECIAL THINGS: A VOLVELLE SHOWING PLANETARY MOVEMENTS AND SOLAR AND LUNAR ECLIPSES, FROM *ASTRONOMICUM CAESAREUM* (ASTRONOMY OF THE CAESARS) BY PETER APIAN, 1540

# A WORLD-CLASS CENTRE FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Its reading rooms are already open to staff and soon the new Weston Library will showcase the Bodleian's special collections alongside first-rate facilities, as *Matt Pickles* reveals

The New Bodleian Library closed its doors on 29 July 2011 to undergo a major refurbishment. Next March the building will reopen to the public as the Weston Library, named in honour of the Garfield Weston Foundation, which gave £25m towards the library's refurbishment. The new library, however, recently opened its reading rooms to Oxford staff, students and researchers.

The building was designed in the 1930s by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and its original purpose was very different to that of the refurbished Weston Library. 'The building was originally designed as essentially just a place for storing collections and it was deliberately designed to keep the public and, indeed, the scholars out,' says Richard Ovenden, Bodley's Librarian. 'Of course we are in a different phase of development for the Bodleian now, and because we have our new book storage facility in Swindon we no longer need to keep so much material in central Oxford. That has given us the opportunity to reuse some of that space, giving access to not just the community inside the University but the citizens of Oxford more generally – and also the many thousands of visitors who come to Oxford – and providing more space and a better-quality environment.'

A major aim of the refurbishment was to provide a new home for the Bodleian's special collections, comprising rare books, manuscripts and maps, which are among the most important in the world. Collections will be moved from the basement of the Radcliffe Science Library, the Book Storage Facility, the University Archives in the Examination Schools, the Rhodes House library, the Chinese Studies library and the Oriental Institute library.

Keeping these collections under one roof will be valuable to specialists in these fields but, of course, people with other interests can still use the library. Toby Kirtley, the Bodleian Libraries' Estates Project Officer, says: 'Any Bodleian reader can use the reading rooms because they will also hold reference material which is often of more general relevance for those who are interested in, for example, local history and genealogy.'

The library will be a world-class centre for scholarship. Its modern facilities for readers include three reading rooms, open-shelf galleries, and reference areas with study carrels across five levels. A lecture theatre, seminar rooms and tools for digital scholarship have also been created. Wi-Fi will be available throughout the building and the Headley Tearoom will be available to all. The

building will also house a centre for visiting scholars.

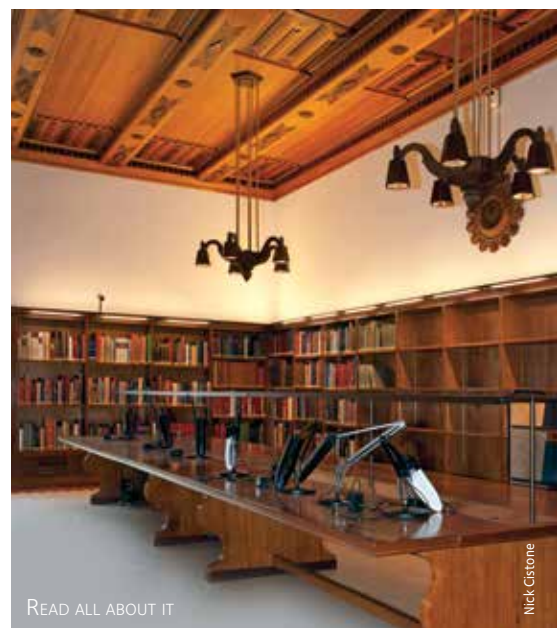
Unlike in its previous life as the New Bodleian Library, parts of the Weston Library will be open to visitors. A new colonnaded entrance on Broad Street will allow general access to a large atrium, called the Blackwell Hall, with a café, shop and exhibition galleries regularly featuring some of the treasures of the Bodleian's collections. The first exhibition, 'Marks of Genius', will open in March 2015.

'We've opened up the ground floor area to create something comparable to an Oxford quadrangle but indoors,' explains Toby Kirtley. 'The Blackwell Hall is a large publicly accessible space and we hope members of staff, members of the public and visitors to Oxford will come and have a look when it opens in March.'

## 'During the refurbishment, workers stumbled across three items hidden behind radiators which tell an interesting story'

The building has an interesting history. Upon completion in 1940, it was immediately called into service in World War Two, when it housed the Inter Service Topographical Department (whose work was important to the planning of D-Day), the Royal Observer Corps, and agencies such as the Blood Transfusion Service. The bottom floor was fitted out as a large air-raid shelter for the city of Oxford.

Last year, during the refurbishment, workers stumbled across three items hidden behind radiators which tell an interesting story of another role of the building in the war, when it housed the Red Cross Educational Book Section. The workers found a typewritten response from the Red Cross to a British prisoner of war (POW) in Germany asking for books about mechanical engineering, engines and electricity; a receipt from Blackwell booksellers for a book to be sent to a POW in Italy; and a handwritten note containing the address of a POW camp



READ ALL ABOUT IT

Nick Cistone

in Italy. 'It's a great image of librarians transcending international boundaries during conflict,' says Mr Kirtley.

The refurbishment has been on a major scale, costing around £80m. The original book stack was removed down to the lowest basement level, with 84 kilometres of shelving removed from the building altogether. 6,500 tonnes of concrete and 1,000 tonnes of steel were stripped out of the building and a crane towered 37 metres above the building during the works. 'The heart of the building has been completely demolished and we have rebuilt it through all 11 storeys, right down to the foundation slab,' says Mr Kirtley. 'This was necessary for storage of the special collections because the previous structure was very vulnerable to fire. Now we have modern, up-to-date fire protection around the stacks so that the building is suitable for our rarest, most precious documents.'

The building's listed status means that the majority of work is internal, apart from the new entrance on Broad Street. But Mr Kirtley reveals there is another, more subtle change to the building. 'In the 1960s an extension was put in place on the rooftop and we have removed this so that for the first time in half a century the original façade of the stack tower can be seen,' he says.

► For more information on the Weston Library, plus a time-lapse video of the construction and an animated walkthrough of the new library, visit [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston)

# HARVEST LENDS A HELPING HAND

Produce from the Botanic Garden's vegetable beds is making a real difference to those in need, as *Sally Croft* discovers

As home to some 5,000 plant species, the University Botanic Garden is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. Its valuable collections have been used for centuries for research, education and conservation purposes, but in recent years a new area of the Garden has attracted considerable admiration: its vegetable beds.

In 2009 vegetable beds were introduced as part of a major redesign of the Lower Garden, the intention being to introduce an element of sustainability as well as provide a useful teaching resource, particularly for school and family activities. In addition to a fruit tree area, there are four allotment-style plots, which are used in a classic four-year crop rotation.

'Crops are grouped by their common growing needs and every year we move what was growing in a particular bed round to the next bed clockwise,' explains Jim Penny, the botanical horticulturalist who looks after the vegetable beds. 'That means that all the soil gets treated in the same way and we avoid diseases that can build up in the soil.' There are four vegetable groups: brassicas (such as cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kale); legumes (peas and beans); roots and salads (carrot, parsnip, onion, lettuce, etc); and potatoes, which are followed by pumpkins and gourds. All the crops are grown without the use of any chemicals or sprays.

'I've been trying different varieties of crops to find the ones that do best here,' says Jim. 'The Garden is championing biodiversity and the conservation of biodiversity, so I'm using sources like the Real Seed Catalogue, which supplies heritage vegetable seeds selected for small-scale growing in different British conditions. I'm aiming to produce a staggered cropping season, rather than the all-at-once crop commercial growers want and, in the longer term, to grow open-pollinated varieties so that we will be able to harvest the seed.'

He's also trying out some unusual crops this year, to see how they fare in Oxford soil. As well as gourds and squashes, he's planted quinoa, the South American grain crop that is currently largely exported from Brazil, and oca, an Andean crop related to wood sorrel that produces small edible tubers.

The vegetable beds in full production are a real show-stopper and attract much attention from visitors. As well as showing school parties what vegetables look like in the garden, the produce is used to explore issues like growing your own food, buying local produce and reducing food miles and packaging.



Education aside, a major benefit of the vegetable beds is of course that they produce food. It's all given, free of charge, to people in need, and is reinforcing connections with the local community both via the Oxford Food Bank (OFB) and in some less expected ways.

For several years the vegetables were harvested by food bank volunteer Lucinda Lewis-Crosby, who took produce directly to three local projects: Donnington Doorstep, a community centre in East Oxford that provides a friendly environment and informal support for families; The Mill, a drop-in centre run by Oxfordshire Mind, the mental health charity; and The Porch Steppin' Stone Centre, which provides day-long support for homeless and vulnerably housed people who want to move away from street life and addiction. For all three charities, the provision of meals is central to their activities, so fresh produce is welcomed with open arms.

'The sight of people's smiles when they see this amazing veg being delivered is a revelation,' says Lucinda. 'It's all so delicious and gets used in all kinds of ways before it's eaten. At Donnington Doorstep, they get the children engaged in preparation like podding peas and any unusual new vegetables are put on a display table for people to look at and play with. At The Mill, I remember

taking in a whole stalk of Brussels sprouts and people sitting down and drawing it before the sprouts were cooked.' Community outreach activities have also resulted, with some vegetable growing at The Mill and members of Donnington Doorstep and The Mill visiting the Botanic Garden to see the vegetable collection and make a picnic.

**'The sight of people's smiles when they see this amazing veg being delivered is a revelation'**

As of this year the produce is being harvested by Botanic Garden volunteers and is collected by the OFB and distributed as vegetable boxes amongst 60 or so charities (including those above). 'The produce is absolutely first class,' says Robin Aitken, an OFB director. 'Much of the fruit, veg and dairy produce we collect from supermarkets and wholesalers is at the end of its useful life, so I think it's great that we can take food of a quality that you probably couldn't even purchase in Oxford to the homeless and those in unfortunate circumstances. It's fresh, wholesome and of very high quality. It really makes the charities feel that someone cares.'

More information at [www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/vegetable-collection](http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/vegetable-collection)



# PICTURE THIS

Why is Hertford replacing its historic hall portraits with photos of women?

Julia Paolitto investigates



HERTFORD COLLEGE'S  
NEW-LOOK DINING HALL  
CELEBRATES CO-EDUCATION

You're never far away from a historic milestone in Oxford – just about any given year marks a major anniversary of a college or a groundbreaking discovery in a department. This year marks arguably one of the most important moments in the University's story, but one with only a 40-year history under its belt: the transition of the first five colleges (Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, St Catherine's and Wadham) to full co-education, including co-residence.

So how do you commemorate less than half a century's worth of history in a 900-year-old institution? At Hertford College, it means transforming one of the most iconic symbols of the Oxford college experience and tradition: its dining hall. For the next 12 months the hall will no longer feature its painted gallery of Britain's historic elder statesmen. In its place will be a photographic collection of female fellows and alumni from all professions and walks of life.

The project was nearly a year in the making. It was commissioned by the college's governing body and coordinated by Dr Emma Smith, Fellow and Lecturer in English. 'Marking the co-education anniversary gave us the opportunity to make a big statement,' she says, 'not only about the importance of women to Hertford's successes since 1974, but about the range of careers and lives our students – both women and men – go into.'

The gallery, which was unveiled in September, includes women from every decade

of co-education. Some were nominated by colleagues or peers, others chosen because their personal stories drew on their experience of the college in different ways. The portraits by photographer Robert Taylor include rowing world champion Stephanie Cullen, curator Xanthe Brooke, and broadcaster Natasha Kaplinsky. Many of the names and faces on display will be unfamiliar to those outside their fields – which is part of the

**'We are as proud of unsung achievement and of potential as we are of high office or salary'**

project's message, says Dr Smith. 'It's not just that our previous portraits were all of men,' she comments, 'but more that they represented a narrow definition of achievement, and a very hierarchical one. Our new portraits show that we are as proud of unsung achievement and of potential as we are of high office or salary.'

Many of the portrait sitters have found the experience a challenging one – getting comfortable in front of a camera is not easy. Becoming a public symbol of achievement replacing the likes of John Donne (one of the men whose portraits will be retired for the

year) was a humbling and thought-provoking process for many of the women as well.

College Fellow and anatomy professor Dame Kay Davies says: 'It's amazing to reflect on how much has changed for

women in my field over the years. It was only in 1917 that facilities were built in Human Anatomy at Oxford, with the admission of the first female medical students. Women still have to fight hard to make it to the top, but it is getting easier because of awareness of the challenges and the increasing profile of successful women, of which this exhibition is part.'

Such reflections on what has been achieved since women were first fully incorporated into college life at Oxford have been occurring throughout the University this year. A series of events coordinated by colleges with the University's Alumni Office was launched on International Women's Day in March. These have included a 'Women in Law' event at Wadham College, a 'Women in Politics' symposium at St Catherine's College, and a 'Women in Media' event at Jesus College. Further themed panel events include 'Enterprising Women' at St Catherine's, and commemorative dinners at all the participating colleges.

The common denominator for the commemorations is a focus on the impact of women in the workplace – not just past milestones, but what progress still remains for the future. The new hall portrait gallery at Hertford is a striking visual reminder that inclusiveness is part of the tradition at Oxford.

► More about the project at [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/portraits](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/portraits)

# WHAT'S ON



## BECOME AN OSPS

### TRUSTEE

Are you a member of the University of Oxford Staff Pension Scheme (OSPS) and would you like to become involved in how it is run? OSPS is for support staff at the University and many of the colleges. The scheme has over 12,000 contributing or pensioner members and it would like to encourage more members to become trustees.

Pensions are an important part of the benefits provided for University and college employees. Member-nominated trustees, together with trustees appointed by the University, help safeguard the scheme for fellow members by ensuring that it is properly run and decisions are made in the best interests of the beneficiaries and the scheme.

As a trustee, you would be a member of the trustee board that meets four times a year and also participate in one of the sub-committees that meet around nine times a year. You don't need to be a pensions expert – you just need to have good judgement and be fair, open-minded and willing to learn. Training is provided and the OSPS advisers are there to help when you need it.

Kate Kele, Graduate Accommodation Officer in Estates Services, is a member-nominated trustee. 'I was only 24 or 25 when I joined the University, and I didn't really know where my pension contribution was going each month,' she says. 'Being a trustee has given me a much greater understanding of pensions and helped me build financial skills.' She adds: 'I've taken on more responsibilities over the years and I'm now part of the General Purposes Committee, which oversees the scheme rules. But really you can give as much as you want.'

There is currently one vacancy, with another likely to arise in April 2015. To find out more, visit [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/pensions/osps/thetrustees](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/pensions/osps/thetrustees) or contact the Scheme Secretary, Jan Killick, at [jan.killick@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jan.killick@admin.ox.ac.uk).

## LECTURES AND TALKS

### Women in academic science: role models of success at Oxford

Thursday 6 November, 5.30–7.45pm  
Lecture Theatre 2, Maths Institute  
[www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/alumni/-events/alumni-events/womeninasciencemain](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/alumni/-events/alumni-events/womeninasciencemain)  
Eight female academics talk about their experiences of navigating career paths in academic science. Panel discussion followed by drinks and networking.

### Can you have a good bank?

Friday 21 November, 5.30pm  
Mawby Room, Kellogg College  
[www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk/bynum-tudor-sants](http://www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk/bynum-tudor-sants)  
Sir Hector Sants, former CEO of the Financial Services Authority, discusses whether it is possible to have a good bank that generates real value for the communities it serves.

### Award of the Papal Legate – 800 years old

Wednesday 26 November, 1pm  
Convocation House  
[www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on)  
Keeper of the University Archives Simon Bailey will discuss the oldest document in the archives: the Award of the Papal Legate, issued in 1214.

## MUSIC AND FILM

### We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks

Tuesday 21 October, 7.30–10pm  
Leonard Wolfson Auditorium, Wolfson College  
[www.fljs.org/we-steal-secrets](http://www.fljs.org/we-steal-secrets)  
Free screening of Academy Award-winner Alex Gibney's documentary, preceded by a short talk by Dr Jonathan Bright of the Oxford Internet Institute.

### Ian Bostridge recital with pianist Julius Drake

Wednesday 19 November, 5pm  
Holywell Music Room  
[www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/humanitas](http://www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/humanitas)

Humanitas Visiting Professor in Classical Music Ian Bostridge performs Schumann, Strauss and Liszt.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### LiveFriday: Egyptomania

Friday 31 October, 7–10.30pm  
Ashmolean Museum  
[www.ashmolean.org/livefriday](http://www.ashmolean.org/livefriday)  
Late-night event exploring the 1920s fascination with Egyptology.

### Northern Lights

Friday 21 November, 7–10pm  
Pitt Rivers Museum  
[www.prm.ox.ac.uk/specialevents.html](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/specialevents.html)  
Immerse yourself in an Arctic soundtrack, explore the galleries by torchlight and come face-to-face with polar creatures. Part of Oxford's city-wide Christmas Light festival.

## ROADSHOWS


### Welcome event for research staff

Thursday 9 October, 9.15am–12.30pm  
Medical Sciences Teaching Centre, South Parks Road  
[www.learning.ox.ac.uk/support/research/new](http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/support/research/new)  
For new researchers, covering professional development opportunities and the services and support available at Oxford.

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

### Beauty and the Beasts

Monday 27–Wednesday 29 October, 1–4pm  
Oxford University Museum of Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museum  
[www.prm.ox.ac.uk/events.html](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/events.html)  
Celebrate the gross and the gorgeous. Touch some repulsive museum objects from the Museum of Natural History and find out what makes us beautiful in the Pitt Rivers.



## SUPPORTING THE SKELETON STAFF

Oxford medics are providing training in trauma and orthopaedic surgery in ten sub-Saharan countries, discovers *Jonathan Wood*

The Beit CURE International Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi, opened its doors in 2002. Established by Oxford orthopaedic surgeon Professor Christopher Lavy, it now sees 8,000 patients and performs about 1,500 operations every year. It treats children with physical disabilities throughout Malawi for free, and also offers hip and knee replacement surgery – one of the few places where this surgery is available in sub-Saharan Africa.

‘Even when I was a doctor in training and spent time in parts of Africa, it was clear that the need was enormous,’ says Christopher Lavy, Professor of Orthopaedics and Global Surgery in the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS) and a surgeon at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. ‘One of the reasons I went into medicine – like so many – was a desire to help people. Seeing that there are millions of people with enormous need, that stayed with me.’

Links between Oxford and Malawi, and the wider region across Southern and East Africa, continue today through the work of Professor Lavy, Hemant Pandit, and many others in the COOL project, a partnership which offers research and training in trauma and orthopaedic surgery for doctors in the region. It’s a part of the globe and an area of medicine where there is real need for more trained health workers, explains Grace Le, COOL project manager in NDORMS. ‘There is great opportunity to improve survival from serious injuries and improve care for children with clubfoot and other bone and joint impairments,’ she says.

COOL is the rather neat acronym for the COSECSA Oxford Orthopaedic Link,

COSECSA being the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa. The college exists to provide training and education across the region, and includes 10 sub-Saharan countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It was formed 15 years ago because there were so few surgeons in this region of Africa and because those who went outside the region to get training tended not to come back.

### ‘The COOL team say they have definitely seen improvements in surgical care and provision’

‘The COOL project is an attempt to create something sustainable: one way of helping COSECSA strengthen its training programme for surgeons across the region,’ says Professor Lavy, who was one of the group who founded COSECSA while in Malawi.

The three-year COOL programme began in 2012 and is funded by the Department for International Development. It offers courses in primary trauma care, training fellowships in children’s orthopaedics of up to six months, and week-long training courses in specialist areas. Finally, the Oxford–Africa project is carrying out epidemiological research to give comprehensive, accurate figures for the first time on the level of clinical need for orthopaedic surgery among children in Malawi.

The benefits aren’t all one-sided, Professor Lavy is quick to point out. There are very tangible benefits back home in the UK, he says. Many NHS staff from the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre have travelled to Africa to lead training courses and learnt much themselves. ‘More than a dozen have got stuck in, perhaps wanting to expand horizons,’ Professor Lavy says. ‘And it’s really happened. Many have made several trips. It’s massively changed many people’s outlook and the things they are focused on doing here.’

The COOL team say they have definitely seen improvements in surgical care and provision through their work in Southern and East Africa. Grace Le says: ‘Our Zambian trainees tell us how much of a difference their training fellowship has made to their work in rural outreach clinics where most of their patients are children – they feel much more confident and equipped to care for these children.’

Professor Lavy adds: ‘I can show you the numbers of people who have learnt how to deliver new treatments. I can show you the log books of doctors who have learnt new operations. But these are just numbers on a bit of paper. The thing for me is seeing and hearing the difference it makes for young doctors we come into contact with. Recently, a young female doctor in Zimbabwe came up to me and said: “This is so exciting; this is what I want to do. What are the next steps for me?”’

► Find out more about the project at [www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/cool](http://www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/cool)



HELPING HANDS AT THE BLACK LION HOSPITAL IN ADDIS ABABA  
AND (LEFT) A HIP AND KNEE ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY COURSE AT  
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# WHY AM I HERE?

NINA TOMLIN

*Senior Strategy Officer, International Strategy Office*

## What does the International Strategy Office do?

We work to strengthen the University's international relationships, international character and international profile. Mainly we support colleagues across the University to develop and grow international links, including research and education collaborations. We undertake strategic projects on issues such as the support provided to international students at Oxford, the international opportunities on offer to students, the recruitment of international academics, benchmarking of activity against international peers, and fee levels for international students compared with peers.

We also host and advise incoming delegations from higher education institutions and governments abroad and support some of the VC's international trips, and we maintain a database and publicise Oxford's international links. Plus we keep an eye on trends in higher education globally and have recently been deeply involved in the University's activities in support of higher education in Myanmar (Burma).

## What's your own role?

As one of two strategy officers, I lead on the activities above for Latin America, Europe and Africa and on international student experiences, international academics, and student exchanges.

## So lots of exciting foreign travel?

Definitely exciting, but not lots. Since I started in 2011, I've been abroad twice a year. Highlights have been a trip to Hong Kong, Beijing and Tokyo, and two trips to Brazil.

## Tell us about some recent activities

We've had visits over the past six months from institutions in China, Switzerland, Belgium, India, Japan, France, the US and many others and the Vice-Chancellor has travelled to China, South Korea, Brazil and India. We published our first annual report on 'Trends in the Globalisation of Higher Education', organised a trip by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Development and External Affairs) to Myanmar, convened Interest Groups on a range of countries and published brochures highlighting our links with key countries and regions.

## Your childhood ambition? And what actually was your first job?

When I was really young – astronaut! But later on I was keen either to join an NGO overseas or the Foreign Office. My first proper job was as Head of Office to the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament in Brussels.

## So how did you get from there to here?

After the European Parliament, I worked in London, first at the Home Office, then in Amnesty International's International Secretariat, and finally at the Electoral Commission. I then looked for work near Oxford as my husband was starting a DPhil here and became Deputy Director of the Ditchley Foundation, a small foundation convening conferences of senior experts on international public policy issues – a wonderful experience, which allowed me to develop professionally in so many ways. When I was looking to move on, the exciting opportunity to work in the International Strategy Office presented itself and I was delighted to get the job.

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

Sitting at a small primary school desk, playing memory games in English with a 9-year-old Brazilian schoolboy – during the last trip to Brazil, we visited a school using OUP English language textbooks.

## Favourite activities outside work?

Number one is definitely spending time with my 18-month-old son. He is a joy every day and weekends often centre on taking him to the park, a child-friendly concert, or meeting up with friends and family. I also love the cinema, reading historical novels, going for a run or a swim, or playing the piano.

## Finally, which three people would you invite to a dinner party?

Angela Merkel: being half German, I take a keen interest in German politics and I admire her leadership style and the way she seems to rise above it all – she would be a fascinating dinner companion. Frédéric Chopin: definitely my favourite piano music composer and I've enjoyed playing lots of his pieces over the years – he could serenade us and maybe even give me a quick lesson! And Paul Newman: simply the most beautiful man ever, in my view.



Rob Judges

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Joshua Seufert