The Mathematical Institute has been awarded a new Regius Professorship as part of the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations. This is the first time since 1842 that Oxford has been awarded a Regius Professorship – a rare, sovereign-granted title that recognises outstanding levels of research. Recipients of the 12 new Regius Professorships have been selected by open competition, judged by an independent panel of academic and business experts. Each institution will assign the title to an existing professor in the chosen department or will appoint a new professor to take the chair and hold the title.

Does your role involve developing software or electronic data for research in an academic discipline? If so, you may be interested in the recently launched Research Software Developers Network, which aims to provide networking opportunities, increased visibility and career progression opportunities for research software and data developers. The network can also assist researchers and managers to gain access to a pool of talented University staff, recruit developers with the right skills for their projects and obtain informal expert advice. To find out more, visit https://rsdn.oerc.ox.ac.uk.

Do you know your subfusc from your undress, or on what occasions full academic dress should be worn? Oxford continues to maintain a proud tradition of academic dress – indeed, the design of the diverse gowns worn by senior officers, fellows, graduates and undergraduates can be traced back to the coats and ecclesiastical robes of medieval Europe, when dress marked the rank and profession of the wearer. However, knowing what to wear and when can be a complicated business. To help you do this, an Academic Dress website has been launched, which offers information and guidance as well as plenty of images: www.ox.ac.uk/academicdress.

The University’s Equality and Diversity Unit, together with the BME Staff Network, has recently launched Pivot, a mentoring scheme for any member of staff at the University who identifies as Black or minority ethnic (BME). There are two different pathways to help people find the best support for them. Pathway A invites mentees to join a small group to help get support with personal and professional development and discuss work-related challenges. Pathway B enables mentees to be supported towards achieving their career development goals by a more senior mentor. For more information visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/trace/whatsgoingon/mentoring schemesforbmesstaff; turn to pp10–11 to learn how the University is working to celebrate diversity and become more inclusive.

The Parks Tennis Association is offering grass court tennis in the University Parks until 30 September. Summer membership, priced at £30, gives access to the courts seven days a week from 10am until 8pm. No booking is required – just turn up and play, ensuring that you are wearing appropriate footwear for grass courts and white kit. Club sessions, providing the opportunity for members to play friendly matches together, are held on Wednesdays from 5pm to 8pm and on Saturdays from 2pm to 8pm. To find out more and to download a membership form, visit www.sport.ox.ac.uk/facilities/university-parks/tennis-association.

The Occupational Health Service has teamed up with the sleep experts at Sleepio to offer all employees one year’s access to an evidence-based sleep improvement programme. Sleepio is a clinically-proven sleep improvement programme designed to teach people how to overcome even long-term poor sleep without pills or potions. All employees will be offered a chance to discover their sleep score and receive weekly tailored self-help advice. Sleepio can be accessed online, on an iPad or via an iPhone app. To find out more visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/uohs.

Fancy 10% off your weekly shop at the Co-op, up to 40% off at Zizzi and Pizza Express and 5% off purchases on Amazon? Access to these, and numerous other offers, is possible with an NUS Extra Discount card which all University staff members are entitled to purchase. For full details visit www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-extra/discounts. To purchase a card (£12 for 1 year), visit www.cards.nusextra.co.uk/buy selecting ‘Oxford University Students Union’ as your place of study and the ‘Other’ option when asked to enter your course details.
Psychology found that factors like a person’s view of their own resilience to trauma, or a tendency to dwell on stressful events from the past could predict later instances of PTSD or major depression. Dr Wild has previously shown that such behaviours can be changed through training.

Despite a long-term decline in the size of the working class to just 25%, the proportion of the British public who identify themselves as working class has remained stable over time, according to Oxford sociologists Professor Geoffrey Evans and Dr Jonathan Mellon. About 60% of those surveyed said they are working class, with 40% identifying themselves as middle class. According to the survey of a representative sample of the population between July and August 2015, many people identify their class on the basis of family background rather than their own occupation. The research for the British Social Attitudes survey, published by NatCen Social Research, says that, given that the working class are socially conservative on issues such as immigration, this might shed some light on the Brexit vote.

A species of tropical fish has been shown to be able to distinguish between human faces – the first time fish have demonstrated this ability. The research, carried out by a team of scientists from Oxford and the University of Queensland, found that archerfish were able to learn and recognise faces with a high degree of accuracy: an impressive feat, given this task requires sophisticated visual recognition capabilities. In the study, the archerfish were tasked with correctly identifying a previously learned human face by spitting a jet of water at it. Dr Cait Newport of Oxford’s Department of Zoology says: ‘The fact that archerfish can learn this task suggests that complicated brains are not necessarily needed to recognise human faces.’

Oxford doctoral students and early-career researchers have created a tour guide app to create thematic trails at museums and country houses. TalkAbout Guides have now launched two trails at the Bodleian’s Weston Library, which will be available to download for free until 18 September. ‘TalkAbout Guides allow each visitor to view a fascinating site to shape a self-guided tour,’ explains co-founder Gabrielle Hughes. ‘They can use their own mobile device to build a journey of discovery through a museum or cultural heritage site, focus on their interests and be inspired.’ The TalkAbout Guides were also supported by the Oxford Knowledge Exchange Seed Fund, and work closely with the Thames Valley Country House Partnership. The project is the first innovation in the Humanities Division to be supported by the Oxford University Innovation Startup Incubator.

Research by an Oxford musicologist is being brought to a large audience at a major festival in London to celebrate Russian composer Igor Stravinsky. Jonathan Cross, Professor of Musicology, is the series consultant for ‘Stravinsky: Myths & Rituals’. The festival will include a number of performances of Stravinsky’s works by the Philharmonia Orchestra and programmes on BBC Radio 3, as well as study days and an interactive website. Professor Cross was approached for the role after writing two books on Stravinsky, the most recent of which was released last year. He hopes the festival will encourage people to listen to Stravinsky’s lesser-known works. ‘It is still challenging to audiences to hear these pieces they are not familiar with, so I’ve had to think of ways to get an audience to take a risk and give them a go,’ he says.

A study carried out with trainee paramedics found that those who were more likely to get post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) later in their career could be identified in the first week of training. Such screening could be used to offer additional training in trauma and stress resilience, reducing the likelihood of both future mental and physical ill health and the cost to ambulance services of sick leave. Dr Jennifer Wild from the Department of Experimental Psychology would help trainee paramedics.

For more information, visit www.ox.ac.uk/news and www.ox.ac.uk/staffnews
The University conferred honorary degrees on nine distinguished figures at Encaenia on 22 June.

**Doctor of Divinity**

Monsignor Professor Tomáš Halík is a Czech priest, theologian and author, and winner of the 2014 Templeton Prize. Having worked in the Underground Church during the Communist era, he subsequently became an advisor to the Pontifical Council for Dialogue with Non-Believers. He is currently Professor of Sociology of Religion at Charles University, Pastor of the Academic Parish in Prague, and President of the Czech Christian Academy. He takes an active part in public life, opposing racial, national, religious and political intolerance.

**Doctor of Civil Law**

The Right Hon the Lord Mance, PC, is a Justice of the Supreme Court of the UK and High Steward of the University of Oxford. An alumnus of University College, Lord Mance served as a High Court Judge, Queen's Bench Division, from 1993 to 1999 and as a Lord Justice of Appeal from 1999 to 2005, when he became a Justice of the Supreme Court. He has made a particular contribution to comparative law, encouraging its use in the Supreme Court, and has worked on enforcing laws and protecting human rights in Africa.

**Doctor of Letters**

Pedro Almodóvar, the Spanish filmmaker, rose to international prominence with *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (1988), which was nominated for an Academy Award and a BAFTA. His many other films, which include *All About My Mother* (1999), *Volver* (2006) and *The Skin I Live In* (2011), have won numerous awards including two Oscars, five BAFTAs, six European Film Awards and two Golden Globes.

**Professor Paul Krugman** is Distinguished Professor of Economics at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and won the 2008 Nobel Prize in Economic Science for his contributions to trade theory and his application of spatial modelling to international trade, finance and the clustering of industrial activity. He has held academic positions at MIT, LSE, Yale, Stanford and Princeton and is well known for his work as a commentator and writer for general audiences.

**Professor Kazuyo Sejima** is co-founder and principal of the award-winning architectural firm SANAA. Significant projects in Japan include the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, which won the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 2004, and her other creations include New York’s New Museum of Contemporary Art and the Louvre-Lens in northern France. In 2010 she became the first female director of Venice’s Architecture Biennale and was a co-winner of the Pritzker prize. She is a Visiting Professor at Japan Women’s University and teaches at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and the Polytechnic University of Milan.

**Doctor of Science**

Dr Cornelia Bargmann is Torsten N Wiesel Professor at Rockefeller University and winner of the Benjamin Franklin Medal. Her research in neurobiology focuses on the behaviour of the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* and, among other breakthroughs, she discovered that nematodes have a very sophisticated sense of smell and established its neuronal and molecular basis. In 2003 her lab discovered a ‘matchmaker’ signalling molecule, SYG-1, which directs nerve cells to form connections as they develop. She is also a main architect of the US BRAIN Initiative, which aims at mapping the human brain in action.

Professor Mildred Dresselhaus is a physicist and Institute Professor at MIT, where she is also Professor Emerita of Physics and Electrical Engineering. Her research has led to an understanding of the electronic structure of semi-metals, especially graphite, and her pioneering work on carbon nanotubes opens new possibilities in nanotechnology. In 2014 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for ‘deepening our understanding of condensed matter systems and the atomic properties of carbon’. She is also a leading public advocate for women in engineering and science.

Sir Jonathan Ive is Chief Design Officer of Apple Inc and designer of the iMac, PowerBook, iBook, iPod, iPhone, iPad, AppleWatch and MacBook. Six of his products appear in the permanent collections of New York’s Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). In 2012, he received San Francisco MoMA’s Lifetime Achievement Award and his numerous other accolades include, in 2013, a gold Blue Peter badge. In 2012, Sir Jonathan’s team at Apple was named the Best Design Studio of the past 50 years by D&AD. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

**Doctor of Music**

Arvo Pärt is an Estonian composer known for his characteristic tintinnabuli style, named for the Latin for ‘little bells.’ His best-known works include *Fratres*, *Spiegel im Spiegel*, *Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten* and *Tabula rasa*. He has been awarded the Léonie Sonning Music Prize and his many other awards include two Classical Brit Awards (2003, 2011) and the Praemium Imperiale (2014).

More detailed biographies of the honorands can be found at www.ox.ac.uk/news/2016-06-22-nine-distinguished-figures-honoured-encaenia.
A number of Oxford scholars were recognised for their achievements in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Dr Frances Lannon, who retired last year after 13 years as Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, was made a Dame of the British Empire for services to higher education. She also served as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University, Vice-Chair and then Chair of the Conference of Colleges, and a member of Council, as well as sitting on a number of committees of Council. She remains an Honorary Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall. Her research has examined the relationship of religion and politics in modern Spain in the period before, during and after the Spanish Civil War. She has also published on the history of women and gender in 20th-century Spain.

David Clary, President of Magdalen College and Professor of Chemistry, was knighted for services to international science. He has been President of Magdalen for 11 years and was previously Head of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, as well as the first Chief Scientific Adviser to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 2009 to 2013. He leads a research group studying the theory and computer simulation on the reactions, energy transfer and dynamics of polyatomic molecules.

Roger Scruton, Senior Research Fellow at Blackfriars Hall and Visiting Professor in Philosophy at the University, was knighted for services to philosophy teaching and public education. Many of his publications have been translated into several languages and he is a well-known writer and commentator.

Dr Larry Siedentop, Emeritus fellow of Keble College, was knighted for services to political science. Sir Larry was a fellow of Keble College and Lecturer in Political Thought at the University from 1973 to 2003. His publications include Democracy in Europe, a classic essay on European integration which has been translated into more than a dozen languages and been credited with influencing the convening of the European Constitutional Convention.

Maggie Snowling, President of St John’s College and Professor of Psychology, was appointed CBE for services to science and the understanding of dyslexia. She has made important contributions to our understanding of how children learn (and sometimes fail to learn) to read, and was the first to propose that the critical problem was the processing of speech sounds – a theory that is now generally accepted. Her work has both significantly raised awareness of children with dyslexic reading difficulties and improved the quality of teaching for these children.

Georgina Born, Professor of Music and Anthropology and Professorial Fellow of Mansfield College, was appointed OBE for services to musicology, anthropology and higher education. She has published widely on the anthropology and sociology of music and culture and currently leads a European Research Council-funded research programme which is mapping and analysing the far-reaching changes to music and musical practices afforded by digitisation and digital media in the developing and the developed world.

Edward Melhuish, research professor at both the University of Oxford and Birkbeck, University of London, was appointed OBE for services to social science. At Oxford he studies social and communicative development from birth to adulthood, including the effect of environmental factors. He is also interested in early education and care, parenting, child poverty and disadvantage and child development and social policy.

David Palfreyman, the Bursar of New College since 1988, was appointed OBE for services to higher education. He is also a non-executive director of the Oxford Investment Partnership, Director of the Oxford Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies, and Honorary Treasurer and a trustee of the Society for Research into Higher Education.

He has published widely on topics including the law of higher education, comparative international higher education policy, and the management of universities.

ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

The Blavatnik School of Government’s new building in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (right) has won a RIBA national award. ‘Inside, the building is quite simply breathtaking,’ the award judges commented. ‘It is one of those rare moments in architecture when the spirit soars. This is a modern cathedral of learning that at the same time stimulates, soothes and excites.’

Elsewhere, a converted building at Lincoln College is one of two winners in the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors South East Awards 2016 and will now go on to the national final in October. The Lincoln College project saw the Berrow Foundation Building from 1906 brought back into use and a new three-storey extension added. In addition, New College’s refurbished Grade I-listed kitchen was highly commended in the building conservation category.
**Sustainability Showcase Celebrates Success**

The positive impact on society and the environment currently being achieved by staff and students was celebrated recently at the University’s Sustainability Showcase.

Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, the awards evening covered four programmes: Green Impact, the University’s main environmental engagement programme, is about making small incremental changes that add up to a big difference; the Vice-Chancellor’s Social Impact Awards recognise students who have shown exceptional commitment to creating positive social change; the Carbon Innovation Programme is an interdisciplinary postgraduate programme which this year recognised a carbon reduction project that reduced energy use by fume cupboards; and the Student Switch Off programme recognises teams from across the collegiate University.

Full details of the winners are at www.ox.ac.uk/staff/news-listing/2016-06-20-celebrating-environmental-and-social-impact.

**Chemists’ Accolades**

Oxford chemists have won six awards in the 2016 Royal Society of Chemistry awards.

**Peter Bruce**, Wolfson Professor of Materials, has been awarded the Liversidge Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to physical chemistry. His research focuses on energy storage devices and he has in particular advanced our understanding of lithium–air batteries by studying how oxygen interacts with organic solvents.

**Véronique Gouverneur**, Professor of Chemistry, has won a Tilden Prize. She specialises in fluorne chemistry including the production of biomarkers (synthetic molecules that can indicate and track the presence of diseases) and the development of new drugs for clinical applications.

**Dr Susan Perkin**, Associate Professor of Physical Chemistry, is the Harrison–Meldola Memorial Prize winner. She works on ionic liquids – pure salts that are liquid under ambient conditions and have various properties such as electrical conductivity and non-volatility that mark them out as potential electrolytes for energy-storage devices. She investigates how ionic liquids behave when confined to nanoscopic spaces, and how they respond to various electrical perturbations.

**Andrew Weller**, Professor of Chemistry, has won the Frankland Award for outstanding contributions to pure and applied research in organometallic chemistry or coordination chemistry. His research is based upon synthetic organometallic chemistry and centres around designing catalysts that can convert alkanes – simple molecules abundantly available in crude oil – into high-value chemicals such as those used in pharmaceuticals.

**Well Worth It**

Two Oxford scientists were among the five women postdoctoral researchers named this year as Fellows of the L’Oréal–UNESCO UK and Ireland For Women in Science programme, in recognition of their scientific achievements. The £15,000 annual awards have been designed to provide practical help and may be used to buy scientific equipment, pay for childcare costs, travel costs or as any kind of support for the recipient’s research.

The Oxford winners are mathematician **Dr Maria Bruna** (top), whose research interests lie in the stochastic modelling of interacting particle systems, with applications for explaining how individual-level mechanisms give rise to population-level behaviour in biology and ecology, and paleobiologist **Dr Sam Giles** (bottom), who uses fossil evidence combined with modern biological and specimen imaging approaches to understand the evolution of life on planet Earth.

**Vice-Chancellor’s Public Engagement with Research Awards**

The 12 winners of the inaugural University awards for Public Engagement with Research were announced by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson, on 1 July. The awards recognise excellence in Public Engagement with Research across three categories: Projects; Early Career Researchers; and Building Capacity.

The overall winner prize of £1,500 was presented to the Social Sciences Division and the Ashmolean Museum (representatives pictured above) for LiveFriday: Social Animals, a joint event that enabled over 4,500 people to engage with 70 of Oxford’s social scientists in an evening of live performances, interactive workshops, mass experiments and talks that moved beyond one-way dissemination and focused on the active participation of the public.

‘It has been exciting and reassuring to see the myriad ways in which people have been engaged with the extraordinary research here at Oxford,’ the Vice-Chancellor said.

A full list of winners is at http://bit.ly/1XceN6G.
P E O P L E  A N D  P R I Z E S

Mirjam Brusius, a postdoctoral fellow at the Bodleian Libraries and the History Faculty, has won the Aby Warburg Prize, awarded every four years by the City of Hamburg to early-career researchers. The prize recognises her use of the ‘Warburgian’ approach to study the work of photographic pioneer William Henry Fox Talbot, whose personal archive is held in the Bodleian Libraries.

Victoria Cabrera-Sharp of Research Services won the conference directors’ prize at the recent Association of Research Managers conference for her poster on gender inclusivity in Oxford biosciences.

Xiaolan Fu, Professor of Technology and International Development, has been appointed to the governing council of the proposed new UN Technology Bank, which is envisaged as a facilitating mechanism to address gaps in science, technology and innovation in least-developed countries.

Nigel Hitchin, Savilian Professor of Geometry in the Mathematical Institute, has been awarded the Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences for 2016 in recognition of ‘his far-reaching contributions to geometry, representation theory and theoretical physics’.

Sir Richard Peto, Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, has been made an honorary doctor of medicine at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

Michael Sharpe, Professor of Psychological Medicine, has been presented with the Alison Creed Award by the European Association of Psychosomatic Medicine in recognition of his outstanding achievement in consultation liaison psychiatry research and service innovation.

Dr Victoria Stoll of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine has won a British Heart Foundation image competition with Go with the flow, an image which captures blood flows within the ventricles of the heart and the vessels leaving the heart; she uses this technique to look at blood flow in four dimensions in the hearts of people with heart failure.

Professor Hew Strachan, Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College, has received the Pritzker Military Museum and Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing.

Eleanor Stride, Professor of Engineering Science, is included in an inaugural list of the top 50 Women in Engineering, compiled by the Daily Telegraph in collaboration with the Women’s Engineering Society. Her research focuses on drug delivery systems engineering and biomedical ultrasonics.

N O T I C E B O A R D

Claude-Michel Schönberg, who adapted the novel Les Misérables into a hit musical in collaboration with lyricist Alain Boublil, is to be the next Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre, based at St Catherine’s College. He will take up the post in October. As a composer, songwriter, record producer, actor and singer, Mr Schönberg has been a pioneering figure in contemporary musical theatre culture for over 30 years. His numerous awards include a Grammy for outstanding contribution to the creative community and France has awarded him the Order of Arts and Letters. His inaugural lecture will take place in the autumn.

‘B E S T  O F  T H E  B E S T’

The Oxford University Museum of Natural History scooped two prizes at the National Museums + Heritage Awards for Excellence in London in May.

The ‘Dodo Road’ won the ‘Best Project on a Limited Budget’ category. The project saw the museum’s dodo model and the surviving dodo bones travelling from Land’s End to John O’Groats, stopping at 22 museums and galleries en route.

The museum also won the ‘Best of the Best’ overall award from the judges for being ‘brand-stretching, risk-taking and creative’ – fighting off competition from London’s Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum amongst others.

In addition, the Bodleian Libraries collected the Best Marketing award for their 12 millionth book campaign around Shelley’s Poetical Essay.

I R I S H  H O N O U R S

Two Oxford academics were among those recently elected as honorary members of the Royal Irish Academy, the highest academic honour in Ireland.

Professor Louise Richardson, the Vice-Chancellor, holds degrees from Trinity College Dublin, UCLA and Harvard University. Her research has focused on international security, with an emphasis on terrorist movements. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Academy of Social Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was awarded the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Centennial Medal by Harvard in 2013.

Timothy Williamson, Wykeham Professor of Logic, has published over 200 articles and seven books on logic, epistemology and metaphysics. He is a Fellow of the British Academy, a member of the Academia Europaea and a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
Professor Woodruff’s research seeks to advance understanding of the challenges to increasing productivity in the developing world by gathering and examining detailed data from hundreds of factories in developing countries in Asia and Africa. His research addresses a broad array of issues that may affect productivity, including matters related to gender, supervisor training, worker stress and strikes.

**Merton Professor of English Literature**

**Lorna Hutson,**
Professor of English Literature at the University of St Andrews, will take up this post in the Faculty of English Language and Literature on 1 September. She will also be a fellow of Merton College.

Professor Hutson’s interests are in the rhetorical bases of Renaissance Literature, emphasising fiction’s affinities with forensic rhetoric. Her most recent book, *Circumstantial Shakespeare* (2015), is based on the Oxford Wells Shakespeare Lectures delivered in 2012 and her *Oxford Handbook of English Law and Literature 1500–1700* is forthcoming. She currently holds a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship for research on 16th-century Anglo-Scots literary relations and this year she delivered the British Academy Shakespeare Lecture, *The Shakespearean Unseen*.

**Linklaters Professor of Comparative Law**

**Birke Häcker,** Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich, and Fifty-Pound Fellow at All Souls College, will take up this post in the Faculty of Law on 1 September. She also becomes a fellow of Brasenose College.

Professor Häcker works mainly on English and German private law with a strong comparative and historical focus. This includes especially the law of contract, tort, trusts, (personal) property, unjust enrichment, family law and the law of succession, and extends to adjoining areas of commercial and company law. She also has an interest in aspects of tax law and in the principles governing the conflict of laws.

**Director of Public Affairs and Communications**

**Ceri Thomas,** currently Editor of the BBC’s Panorama programme, will take up this post in the autumn. Mr Thomas has had a distinguished career in both radio and television. He served as Head of BBC News Programmes and between 2006 and 2012 was Editor of the *Today* Programme on BBC Radio Four. He is a graduate of the University of Manchester, and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2004–05.

**Head of Communications**

**Jonathan Ray** has been appointed to the new role of Head of Communications, reporting to the Director of Public Affairs and Communications.

A graduate of Durham University, he has extensive experience in higher education, including as Communications Director at the University of Nottingham and Communications Advisor to the President of KAUST. He worked previously for UKTI Education in the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. In the period before Ceri Thomas (see above) takes up his appointment, Mr Ray will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Public Affairs Directorate.

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**Viewfinder Competition**

If you think you know where to find the glass grapes on p20 and want to win two tickets to the Oxford Wine Festival, email your answer to blueprint@admIn.ox.ac.uk with the phrase ‘Wine Competition’ in the subject line by **Friday 12th August**. The first correct answer pulled out of the hat will win a pair of tickets for the session of the winner’s choice.

The Oxford Wine Festival pops its corks on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th September, bringing together at the Oxford Union more than 40 of the UK’s top wine merchants and regional specialists for a celebration of all that is great about the grape. Visitors can sample hundreds of rare and award-winning wines alongside live music, food and tutored tastings. For tickets and more information see www.oxfordwinefestival.org.
**Life Lessons from the Middle Ages**

The 14th and 15th centuries had misbehaving students, growing concerns about violence and the beginnings of nostalgia, Hannah Skoda tells Matt Pickles.

Sitting in St John’s College’s Senior Common Room, Dr Hannah Skoda is talking about student misbehaviour at Oxford. But she is not referring to the students walking through the quad outside the window. These misbehaving students studied at the University in the 15th century.

Hannah, who is Associate Professor of Medieval History at the University, has studied student discipline at universities in Oxford, Paris and Heidelberg in the 15th century, aiming to build up a picture of the social life of universities in the Middle Ages. ‘Just as today, I’m sure misbehaving students were a small minority, but it is interesting that students in the Middle Ages were stereotyped as hopelessly deviant,’ she says. ‘These stereotypes are a constant theme in poems, plays, sermons by preachers and letters that students sent home to their parents at the time.’

Hannah is now investigating what effect this stereotyping might have had on students’ behaviour. ‘If you are constantly saying a certain group is terrible, are they more likely to be pushed into that kind of behaviour?’ she asks. ‘This is a debate in modern studies of criminology, so I want to see whether we can shed any light on this by using the experiences of the Middle Ages.’

Having studied History and French as an undergraduate at Oxford, Hannah then studied for a Master’s in Medieval Literature at the Sorbonne. She returned to Oxford for her DPhil in Medieval History, then became a Junior Research Fellow at Merton. Since 2010 she has been a Tutorial Fellow at St John’s.

Oxford is a particularly good environment for medievalists, she says: ‘There is a now a network for medieval studies in The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) which brings people together across different areas, from music to archaeology, languages to art history.’

Hannah is passionate about sharing her research even more widely than this community of medievalists. Her blog, *Now and Then*, aims ‘to use the challenges and dilemmas of the past to throw critical light on the present’. Recent posts apply insights from the Middle Ages to modern debates over exploitation in the fashion industry, poverty and even ISIS.

She has also studied violence across a wide section of society in the Middle Ages, focusing on non-aristocratic violence by peasants and townspeople. ‘Knights and chivalry in the Middle Ages has been very well studied and I wanted to look at disempowered groups that don’t so often get talked about,’ she says. ‘These people have been studied in the context of revolts and protests, but I have tried to get a personal sense of what life was like for some of these individuals across a range of social experiences.’ These stories were told in her book *Medieval Violence: Physical Brutality in Northern France, 1270–1330* (OUP 2013; paperback 2015).

Hannah has scoured moral handbooks, confessional literature and legal records for references to violence – and reached the conclusion that the Middle Ages’ reputation for brutality has been over-simplified by historians. ‘This reputation is certainly deserved, but we need to appreciate that people in the Middle Ages were very upset and troubled by violence,’ she says. ‘Not to the point of saying it was wrong, but they did worry about its moral and social implications.’

She is currently on research leave until September 2017 after winning a Leverhulme Prize to explore the idea of nostalgia in the 14th century. This is a very new approach – perhaps in part because the word did not even exist in the Middle Ages. ‘The more I looked at 14th-century material, the more I got a sense of people looking back to “the good old days”,’ she says. ‘There are lots of references to a pastoral idyll, or to the days when people “knew their place”, or to the perceived political stability of the past.’

But she does not think this was a conservative or reactionary phenomenon. ‘Recent work by psychologists and anthropologists suggests nostalgia can really be a hopeful way of providing visions of the future by using the past as a frame of reference,’ she explains. ‘This was a time of increasing urbanisation, commercialisation and mechanisation, so these nostalgic responses are interesting.’

For Hannah, nostalgia is a further connection between the Middle Ages and today. ‘Many historians, psychologists and sociologists seem to assume that nostalgia is a modern phenomenon,’ she says. ‘We live now in a period where nostalgia permeates much of what we think about ourselves and our role in society – and it’s a really interesting point of contact with our medieval forebears.’

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**Read more about Dr Skoda’s research at**

[www.history.ox.ac.uk/faculty/staff/profile/skoda/research.html](http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/faculty/staff/profile/skoda/research.html) and

[http://ideasnowandthen.blogspot.co.uk](http://ideasnowandthen.blogspot.co.uk)
Traditional Oxford is at its most visible at this time of year, with subfusc, garden parties and punts all approaching maximum density. Traditions can, however, have both positive and negative associations, so alongside the recognisable features that mark academic life at Oxford, momentum is gathering to more actively celebrate diversity and reflect on how the University's culture can become more inclusive of its ethnic minority staff and students. Together, members of the University community are mobilising to change the profile and experience of Oxford's staff and student bodies, and reflect these publicly.

'I think what is very exciting is that this drive to diversity isn’t an artificial construct – it’s not “creating” diversity, it’s recognising diversity that exists and celebrating it,’ notes Dr Rebecca Surender, who took over the newly created post of Advocate for Diversity and Pro-Vice-Chancellor 18 months ago. Her role is particularly important as the University prepares its application for a Race Equality Charter – a national framework intended to improve the representation and experiences of ethnic minority staff and students at UK universities. Much of the Race Charter work is being led by the University's Equality and Diversity Unit (EDU), whose head Trudy Coe emphasises that the charter isn’t an end in itself, but a ‘helpful framework for consulting across the University and achieving consensus on those actions that will drive culture change and improve the experiences of current ethnic minority staff and students, as well as improving their representation in future’.

Chief among the priorities identified by the Race Charter – and already key parts of the EDU’s equality work – are attracting more black and ethnic minority (BME) staff and students to Oxford and seeing these staff progressing to leadership roles in greater numbers. A series of major recruitment initiatives aims to make Oxford's professional and support staff more representative of the local ethnic minority population (an area where Oxford is a distinct outlier compared with much of the sector).

Policy changes are also aimed at getting more ethnic minority candidates shortlisted for professorial posts and supporting them to take up leadership roles in University governance. These follow from similar – and highly successful – work to improve the senior academic and leadership gender mix. A mentoring scheme called Pivot for both junior and senior staff will help to create a more supportive environment for BME staff to advance their careers at Oxford. The Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach office, meanwhile, is making ethnic minority applicants a focus of its new outreach work. This year alone has seen the launch of a residential programme for prospective students of African and Caribbean heritage, alongside conferences targeting British Pakistani and Bangladeshi students to support them through the application and selection process.

Diversity and equality are about more than just policy priorities and procedures, of course. Oxford is full of policies; it’s institutional culture, and who it reflects and includes, that matters. And there’s no doubt that it does matter across the University, starting with its leaders. Vice-Chancellor Louise Richardson has consistently underlined the importance of diversity as a valuable part of what makes Oxford able to continue to thrive. It’s also undoubtedly true that diversity and inclusion at Oxford are areas where Oxford's students are invested in seeing change. Oxford is responding to what Machilu Zimba of the EDU calls ‘issues that are within higher education nationally and internationally but manifest themselves locally’. Student activists from across the world, including the most visible Rhodes Must Fall movements in Oxford and South Africa, are, she notes, ‘having similar experiences in some of the best universities in the western world and calling on universities to reflect on racial equality.’
Promoting a more inclusive experience for minority ethnic students in particular has been a theme taken up since the joint staff–student Race Summit in March 2014. The event identified a number of areas for action to ensure that students from different backgrounds feel that Oxford and its values reflects them and their experiences. Though Oxford’s devolved and collegiate structure provides small and close-knit environments, colleges can also magnify feelings of isolation for minority students and staff. Addressing student concerns about inclusion and college culture is part of the work of an informal Heads of House diversity group, which has conducted focus groups with undergraduate and postgraduate BME students. They are now identifying concrete ways in which colleges can share resources and work to promote a culture where racial equality is more openly discussed and embraced. And starting in Michaelmas term, 30 trained staff volunteers recruited by the EDU will deliver training in departments and colleges focusing on improving race awareness and implicit bias, particularly for staff who come into regular contact with students.

The commitment to making Oxford more reflective of the experiences of all its staff and students extends to Oxford’s academic culture. A Race and Curriculum project has encouraged departments to undertake undergraduate curriculum reviews and stimulate discussions about inclusion and diversity in academic practice. In addition to a headline ‘Race and the Curriculum’ lecture series offering perspectives on curricular development from around the world, a number of departments are now in different stages of curriculum review and reform. These include the Politics Department, led by Karma Nabulsi, and the History Faculty, which has already made changes including new core requirements to emphasise the history of societies beyond Europe and North America, and changing course assessments in an effort to reflect the different learning styles and skills of students. Faculty Vice-Chair Steven Gunn notes: ‘We hope that it has forged a syllabus that will enable history students to encounter a wider range of historical debate, to study a wider range of problems which have resonance with their personal identities and interests, and to demonstrate the historical skills they have gained to best effect over the course of the degree.’

The mantle of campaigning for curriculum diversity has also been actively taken up by TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities), which for 2017 will take the themes of diversity and difference as its headline series. ‘Humanities and Identities’ will bring together researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and others to focus on multiple research areas relating to diversity, including race, gender, sexuality, disability, poverty, class and inequality.

Oxford is not alone in responding to both increasing external regulatory pressure from above and increasingly politicised student campaigning from within. ‘Though different in many ways and with its own institutional structure, Oxford isn’t unique – and the growing body of evidence about diversity and higher education shows that the trends and lessons are similar, whether you are talking about Oxford or other institutions,’ Rebecca Surender notes. ‘The good news emerging from the research is the sense that Oxford is doing the right things in its drive for culture change. It will not happen overnight and there are no quick fixes, but we can be confident in both our vision and strategy.’

‘It will not happen overnight and there are no quick fixes, but we can be confident in both our vision and strategy’

Ever wanted to step onto a narrowboat owned by an Oxford college? If so, the annual Oxford Open Doors weekend might be your best chance. Oxford Open Doors, which will take place this year on 10–11 September, is a partnership between the University of Oxford and the Oxford Preservation Trust. It is a unique weekend in which buildings across Oxford open up and welcome visits from members of the public.

The statistics show that Oxford Open Doors has become a popular fixture on the calendars of Oxford residents. 20,000 to 25,000 people visit some of the 200 buildings and places that open up every year. 70% of those attending are from Oxfordshire, and Oxford hosts the largest city event of its type in the UK. Buildings that belong to the colleges, departments and museums of the University are a key part of the weekend: around three-quarters of visits involve the collegiate University.

In recent years, highlights have included walking tours of Wytham Woods and access to college barges and narrowboats. The University’s Target Discovery Institute opened its laboratories to allow people to see first-hand some of its groundbreaking research developing drugs. And members of the public have also been able to handle Greek vases that are over 2,000 years old in the University’s Faculty of Classics.

Jai Hooshmand, who has volunteered at Oxford Open Doors in the past, says: ‘I think the whole Open Doors event connects the people of Oxford with its buildings and the spaces they might not normally see in their day-to-day lives.’

Mark Wheeler, who lives in east Oxford, appreciates the event. ‘Oxford’s architecture is as good as anywhere in the world, as shown by the number of tourists that visit here daily. The Oxford Open Doors weekend is a real highlight of every year because it allows those of us who live and work here without a connection to the University to really feel part of the city,’ he says. ‘Now, when I pass the college buildings on my bus ride to work, I no longer feel that these are places that simply belong to “Gown”, but I think about the different rooms I visited during the Open Doors event.’

‘The colleges, departments and museums of the University are a key part of the weekend’

This year, the University is holding an ‘information fair’ event during Open Doors weekend for the first time. It will take place in the Blackwell Hall of the Weston Library, which is itself a recently opened space which enables the public to see exhibitions of some of the Bodleian Libraries’ greatest treasures. Stallholders from across the collegiate University will be on hand to provide information about how members of the community can benefit or get involved in activities led by the University.

At the fair, the Pitt Rivers Museum will show off some of its collections and the Department for Continuing Education will tell people about the courses it offers. Oxford Sparks will demonstrate some of its science outreach activities, and there will be information about visiting the University Parks and Wytham Woods, which are maintained by the University and kept open to the public for free.

Margaret Ounsley, the University’s Head of Government and Community Relations, says: ‘When I meet people from across Oxford and tell them what the University can offer them, they often seem surprised. That is why we are holding this event, so that many of the services the University offers can be found under one roof.’

The new ‘information fair’ is the latest initiative from the University to strengthen its engagement with the local community. Other recent activities include the University’s small community grants scheme, which has given small pots of money to support some local community activities since autumn 2013, and a pilot project to let local community organisations use spaces in colleges for free.

A university has a responsibility to be both a force for good in the world, and a good neighbour locally,’ says Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Oxford Open Doors weekend is organised in partnership with the Oxford Preservation Trust, which describes itself as ‘Oxford’s National Trust’. The full programme of this year’s events will be released on the Oxford Open Doors website in August, and the Trust promises that ‘this year’s event will celebrate music, chapels and choirs and the programme is shaping up to be brilliant.’ In the meantime, keep 10–11 September free in your diary!

If you’d like to showcase your events or services at the information fair on Saturday 10 September from 1pm to 4pm, please email internal.communications@admin.ox.ac.uk by Friday 5 August.

More information at www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk and www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk, plus details about Oxford University in the local community at www.ox.ac.uk/local-community
WHAT’S ON

EXHIBITIONS

Shakespeare’s Dead
Until 18 September
Weston Library
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whats-on
A commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death, exploring how he used dying and death to bring his characters to life.

Alternative Views of the High Street
Until 30 September
Ashmolean Museum
www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions/
Artwork created by homeless people in Oxford, a film project and a piece by adults with learning difficulties, which capture their experiences of the city.

Christ Church Picture Gallery tour
Every Monday (until 19 Dec), 2.30–3.30pm
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/events/picture-gallery/picture-gallery-tour
Join a tour through the gallery with an expert tour guide. Admission free to Oxford University cardholders.

CONCERTS

Oxford Piano Festival and Summer Academy
30 July–7 August
www.oxfordphil.com/piano-festival/piano-festival
Oxford welcomes some of the world’s most distinguished pianists and teachers for a series of concerts, masterclasses and lectures, all hosted in University venues.

LECTURES AND TALKS

The flood
Saturday 30 July, 11am–12pm
Ashmolean Museum
Tickets £5/£4, booking essential
www.ashmolean.org/events/SpecialEvents
Dr Irving Finkel, author of The Ark Before Noah, reveals a radical new interpretation of the story of Noah’s Ark.

Divers, artefacts and underwater archaeology
Tuesday 9 August, 11am–12pm & 2–3pm
Ashmolean Museum
Recommended donation of £5, booking essential
www.ashmolean.org/events/Lectures
Giles Richardson, maritime archaeologist explains what happens to the cargo of a sunken ship when it lies on a seabed for thousands of years.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Green picnic afternoon
Saturday 13 August, 1–4pm
£1 donation for materials
Botanic Garden
www.oxon.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk
See the garden at its most colourful and enjoy live music, stories and activities.

Pitt fest: archaeology
Saturday 3 September, 11am–6pm
Pitt Rivers Museum
www prm.ox.ac.uk/whats-on
Join the Pitt Rivers team on the University Museum lawn and discover archaeology through fun and interactive activities.

Oxford Open Doors 2016
10 and 11 September
www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk
An annual event involving city venues throwing open their doors to welcome the public into both historical and modern spaces.

Visit www.museums.ox.ac.uk/content/family-friendly-events for more family activities

JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH

Fed up with devouring supermarket meal deals or eating at your desk? If you’re looking for a change of scene at lunchtime, you’ll find an assortment of University eateries welcoming all members of staff to dine with them (make sure you’re carrying your ID card).

✦ The Weston Library’s Bodleian Café in Blackwell Hall (open to the public) offers a 10% discount to University staff on food and drink including hot dishes, sandwiches, cakes and pastries (www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whaton/visit/cafe). The Weston’s Headley Tearoom (10am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday) is open to all Bodleian cardholders and serves coffee, drinks and light, freshly-made food.

✦ The University Club offers free membership to all University staff and is open for breakfast options from 7.30am to 10.30am and provides an eat-in or take-away seasonal lunch service between noon and 2pm. Bar food snacks are available in the evenings and garden and balcony seating is available on warm days. Visit www.club.ox.ac.uk/apply-for-membership to sign up.

✦ If you’re taking a lunchtime stroll through University Parks you may be tempted to call into Jimbobs, the new ice cream and sorbet shop next to the cricket pavilion. It’s open all summer from 10am to 7pm; sandwiches and drinks are also available.

✦ Pembroke College welcomes University staff to Farthings café at the heart of the modern Rokos Quad. Call in for breakfast items, sandwiches and snacks and for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays (www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/catering).

✦ St Antony’s College opens its Hall doors to everybody from Monday to Friday during termtime for both lunch (12.45 to 1.45pm) and dinner (6.45 to 7.30pm) service, purchases by debit/credit card only.

✦ The spacious café in the Andrew Wiles Building on the ROQ site is open weekdays from 8.30am to 4.30pm and serves breakfast, lunch and a wide selection of snacks.

✦ When meeting friends you might want to try The Buttery in Balliol’s pretty garden quad which serves light refreshments and is open to the public when the college is open to visitors (www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/about-balliol/visitor-information).
NEW LOOK FOR A SPINOUT SUCCESS

The University’s technology transfer and academic consultancy company is looking forward to a bright future, discovers Stuart Gillespie

‘It’s a natural and positive evolution for us,’ says Linda Naylor, Managing Director of what was previously Isis Innovation, as the company changes its name to Oxford University Innovation. The rebrand was announced in early June – one of the outcomes of an Oxford University Innovation Working Group report that sought to strengthen the links between the University and its technology transfer company.

And while the name itself won’t win any awards for innovation, Linda is confident these closer ties will benefit those who matter most – the academics whose research, expertise and ideas form the basis of the company’s diverse range of activities. ‘One of the key recommendations of the Innovation Working Group report was establishing even stronger connections with the University and generally raising the profile of our work,’ she says.

‘We’ve already made a number of changes, such as having greater representation from the academic divisions on our board, and setting up hot desks for our staff in a number of departments,’ continues Linda, who joined Oxford University Innovation’s predecessor in 2002. ‘The name change is another piece of the puzzle and will help make our links with the University stronger still.’

The similarity of the previous name to the Islamic State terror group was ‘unhelpful’, she says, but was secondary to the main goal of making the company more visible around the wider University.

Much of that increased visibility is likely to involve the Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions. While the list of successful spinouts based on Oxford’s scientific research continues to grow – ten new companies have been formed this year alone, attracting £45m of investment – the Humanities and Social Sciences are playing an increasingly important role in areas such as consultancy and start-ups.

‘Oxford spins out more companies than any other UK university’

For Andrew Goff, Head of Consulting Services, it’s this variety that makes his work so interesting. ‘Consultancy is one of the primary ways that research can have an early impact on the wider world, and I think more academics should consider doing some consultancy work as part of the broader knowledge exchange and impact agenda,’ he says. ‘We currently have around 1,500 academics signed up to our service, and that’s growing by around 20 a month.’

He adds: ‘One of our biggest and most successful projects involves Social Sciences academics who review the findings of the National Audit Office that are published in their value-for-money reports on government departments, checking that their conclusions are fair and balanced.

‘Consultancy can also be very good for initial relationship building. It allows academics to build trust with external organisations, and that can often lead to bigger things, such as collaboration on research projects.

‘In the new company we’re known as Consulting Services – we want academics to think of us as the go-to place for consulting support in the same way they naturally seek research support from Research Services.’

It’s the research-based spinouts, though, that tend to grab the headlines – particularly when they’re sold on for large sums of money, as several companies have been. This year’s new companies have included ‘smart glazing’ firm Bodle Technologies, spun out of the Department of Engineering Science, and OxStem, which is aiming to become a powerhouse in age-related regenerative medicine.

Through Oxford University Innovation, which is currently recruiting a new CEO, Oxford spins out more companies than any other UK university. The total is now well over 100 new companies in its 25-year history, the vast majority of which are still active, and another 50 are said to be in the pipeline.

There’s also the increasingly successful Startup Incubator, which gives members and ex-members of the University a platform to start or grow their own ventures that are not University spinouts.

According to Linda, ‘Academics should seriously consider working with us for a number of reasons. We have access to networks of investors, including Oxford Sciences Innovation, which at £320m is the largest university investment fund. We also have the experience and facilities to help academics turn their ground-breaking ideas or early-stage technologies into successful ventures that will attract investment.

‘It’s a hugely exciting time at Oxford University Innovation, and we feel we can go from strength to strength.’

For more information visit www.innovation.ox.ac.uk
Oxford University Innovation, the new name for the University’s research commercialisation company, has hotdesks in a number of locations around the University.

Our staff attend these locations to discuss intellectual property, technology licensing, software commercialisation, business ideas or academic consultancy opportunities with Oxford researchers, students and support staff.

See www.innovation.ox.ac.uk/hotdesks for a full list of locations, and details of when Oxford University Innovation staff will be available.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
WHAT AM I HERE?

DAVID GOWERS
Head of Photography, Ashmolean Museum

What does your job entail?
With my colleague Anne Holly I provide the photographic service for the museum. This is mainly object photography – anything in the museum’s collections from prehistoric flint axes to contemporary oil paintings can also include portraiture, architecture and publicity. In fact anything where a high-quality, professional image is needed.

We work very closely with all the museum departments, not only curatorial but also design, conservation and education, to provide the service they all need, deserve and (to be honest) expect. This is a world-class museum and the photographs we supply have to be of a very high standard.

Where are your photographs used?
Mainly for publications, books, magazines, websites etc and also research. Not only do we supply images to the museum but we also provide a public service through our picture library, where anyone can request an image of anything in our collections.

What’s the most difficult object you’ve ever had to photograph?
As an object type, silver is one of the most difficult things to photograph successfully. The museum has a large and important collection of silver and one of the trickiest to photograph was a round tea pot. Imagine a spherical mirror with a spout and handle – with me, the camera and the whole studio reflected in it.

And the most valuable?
It’s not the done thing in museum circles to put a value on objects but the Ashmolean has some unique pieces which would obviously be worth an awful lot of money if they were on the open market. The thing with photographing and handling museum objects is not to think about the monetary value: you treat every object with care and respect.

What do you most enjoy/dislike about your job?
I enjoy photography and art and history, so it’s a pretty good combination for me to work at the Ashmolean. I dislike my journey into Oxford.

What’s the most unexpected thing you’ve found yourself doing?
Last August I went to Sicily with one of the curators, to photograph objects for the ‘Storms, War and Shipwrecks’ exhibition currently on at the museum, and on the last day we found ourselves going up Mount Etna in a thunderstorm.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
An artist. I never thought of myself doing a conventional job. I loved art and wanted to have people pay me huge sums of money for my work, but I didn’t have the talent. Not that that has stopped some people.

And what actually was your first job?
Mainly for publications, books, magazines, websites etc and also research. Not only do we supply images to the museum but we also provide a public service through our picture library, where anyone can request an image of anything in our collections.

What activities do you enjoy outside work?
Photography and, at the moment, genealogy. Most of what I found out about my ancestors is pretty boring but I can’t help feeling it was wrong when I got excited about discovering my four times great-grandmother was murdered.

What’s your favourite photo?
I love portraiture and a classic is the photograph of Sir John Herschel by Julia Margaret Cameron, taken in 1867 but still a great image nearly 150 years later.

So how did you get from there to here?
After I left school I went straight to art college. I wanted to do a graphic design course but all the places were filled so I took the photography course, I had enjoyed taking photos and my father was a keen amateur, so it seemed a reasonable thing to do. I enjoyed it and stuck with it. After graduating I was at the Co-Op for six months, then I got a job at the British Museum where I stayed for over 20 years, firstly as photographer, then senior and finally principal photographer, until I saw the head of photography post at the Ashmolean had become vacant. I’ve been working here since late 1997.

And finally, if you could photograph anyone or anything, any time, anywhere, what would you choose?
A tricky question but one I can’t pretend I’ve never given any thought to before. I would probably choose Tutankhamun, to find out what he actually looked like.

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COMPETITION
Guess where you would find these glass grapes, which date from 1353–1335 BC and were excavated in Amarna (Egypt), and win tickets to the Oxford Wine Festival. See p8.

VIEWFINDER

GUARDIAN
Margaret Cameron, taken in 1867 but still a great image nearly 150 years later. I love portraiture and a classic is the photograph of Sir John Herschel by Julia Margaret Cameron, taken in 1867 but still a great image nearly 150 years later.