

# BLUEPRINT

Staff magazine for the University of Oxford | **March 2015**



*K*EEPING DATA SECURE | *A*RTISTS IN THE WOODS | *C*OMMUNITY FUNDING





# NEWS IN BRIEF

◆ Researchers at the Oxford Parkinson's Disease Centre have been awarded a £6m grant by Parkinson's UK for their programme to find drug targets for Parkinson's disease. The funding builds on an initial £5m investment from Parkinson's UK in 2010. By 2020 the team hopes to have found new drugs to slow or even stop Parkinson's using a 'brain cell bank' they have developed to identify promising new drug targets. They also want to improve how to diagnose and monitor Parkinson's using new technology, such as smartphone apps.

◆ The weekend of 21–22 March saw a programme of special events take place at the Weston Library to mark the building's public opening following a three-year refurbishment. Alongside additional reading rooms, new bookstacks and areas to support scholarship such as the Centre for Visiting Scholars, the library now includes a cafe, shop and two exhibition galleries to showcase the library's collections. All of these are accessible from Blackwell Hall, the building's 13.5-metre entrance foyer – the first public entrance to the building since its original opening in 1946.

◆ A programme offering free use of college spaces for rehearsals, performances and meetings has been launched for local arts and community groups. The Cultural Space-Sharing Scheme enables organisations such as the Oxford Playhouse and Modern Art Oxford to benefit from facilities in seven colleges (St Peter's, Pembroke, Lincoln, St Antony's, St Hugh's, Hertford and Wolfson), as well as the Radcliffe Humanities building and the Careers Service premises. The programme, which is being run in collaboration with the city council, will last for a year initially. If it's successful, it is hoped to expand it to include more colleges and University buildings.

◆ Make sure you have the latest guidance about European funding-related activities by visiting Oxford's new Gateway to Europe

website. Aimed at researchers and research support staff, [www.europegateway.ox.ac.uk](http://www.europegateway.ox.ac.uk) offers information on the EU's €80bn research and innovation funding programme 'Horizon 2020', and provides access to call information, news and partnership opportunities. The Gateway also features non-Horizon 2020 European activities at Oxford, signposting users to the relevant support.

◆ The city600 bus service links the Pear Tree Park & Ride site with the University Science Area and the John Radcliffe hospital. To help the service become more comprehensive in the future, the University is offering staff and students free travel between Parks Road and the JR. To qualify, just show your University Card to the driver. The 600 service operates Mondays to Fridays every half hour, departing from Pear Tree from 9.50am until 3.20pm, and from the JR from 10.20am until 3.20pm. Details at [city.oxfordbus.co.uk/city600](http://city.oxfordbus.co.uk/city600).

◆ Are you using digital technologies creatively to support your teaching or research or to engage with the public? If so, why not enter this year's OxTALENT awards, which recognise the innovative use of technology in teaching, learning, research and outreach at Oxford. There are eight categories of awards, including academic podcasting and innovative teaching with technology. The closing date for submissions is 15 May. Details at [blogs.it.ox.ac.uk/oxtalent](http://blogs.it.ox.ac.uk/oxtalent).

◆ Poems on the theme 'four corners' are invited for the St Cross College International Poetry Competition. The theme is based on the college motto *ad quattuor cardines mundi* ('to the four corners of the earth'), and poets of any nationality, with or without a connection to the college or the University, are invited to submit poems of up to 40 lines by 2 July. Prizewinning and commended poems will be published in a pamphlet, and prizes will be awarded at a ceremony on 13 October. Details at [www.stx.ox.ac.uk/50/fourcorners](http://www.stx.ox.ac.uk/50/fourcorners).

◆ The University is consulting current members and eligible non-members of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) on proposed changes to the pension scheme. Details of the changes have been circulated to all who are eligible to take part in the consultation: significant changes are proposed to the benefits offered in the scheme as well as an increase in the contributions to be made in the future by both employers and employees. Information on the consultation, which runs until 22 May, and a facility for responding online are at [www.ussconsultation.co.uk](http://www.ussconsultation.co.uk). The earliest implementation date for any agreed changes is 1 April 2016.



Oxford University Images/Rob Judges



Oxford University Images/Rob Judges



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FROM TOP: DEVELOPING DRUGS TO FIGHT PARKINSON'S; CULTURE IN NEW SPACES; POEMS TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH



Shutterstock/Sergiy



Oxford University Images/Elizabeth Lettmann

COVER: IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY... NOT JUST BLUEBELLS, BUT MUCH, MUCH MORE AT WYTHAM (PP8-9)

# RESEARCH ROUND-UP

◆ Wall lizards originally from balmy southern Europe have adapted to the colder English climate within a few decades, finds a study published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B*. Dr Tobias Uller of the Department of Zoology and his colleagues combined carefully controlled lab experiments with field measurements and computational modelling to find that, compared with the same species in France and Italy, wall lizards in England lay their eggs when they are further along in their embryonic development. Once laid, the eggs develop much faster too, reducing the exposure to colder soil. The net effect is that wall lizards' eggs in England hatch more quickly than they would have when they were first introduced to the country some decades ago.

◆ The first direct evidence that drought-weakened Amazonian forests 'inhale' less atmospheric carbon during a severe drought has been provided by an international effort coordinated by Oxford researchers. The research, published in the journal *Nature*, compared photosynthesis rates in drought-affected rainforest plots across Brazil, Peru and Bolivia with similar unaffected plots. The Global Ecosystems Monitoring (GEM) team that conducted the research concluded that drought-affected trees may be channelling their limited energy reserves into growth rather than maintaining their own health. 'As trees die and decompose, the concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will increase, potentially speeding up climate change during tropical droughts,' says Dr Christopher Doughty from the Environmental Change Institute, the study's lead author.

◆ Early humans appear to have adapted to living in rainforests much sooner than previously thought. A study, published in *Science*, analysed carbon and oxygen isotopes in the teeth of 26 individuals excavated in Sri Lanka, with the oldest dating back to 20,000 years ago. The Oxford team, working with researchers from Sri Lanka and the University of Bradford, found that nearly all the teeth they analysed suggested a diet sourced mostly from rainforests. It was commonly thought that, compared with more open landscapes, rainforests would be too difficult to navigate, with less food available to hunt or catch. This finding contradicts current thinking that tropical forests were largely 'pristine'



ADAPTABLE LIZARDS DELAY EGG-LAYING

human-free environments until 8,000 years ago. 'The results are significant in showing that early humans in Sri Lanka were able to live almost entirely on food found in the rainforest without the need to move into other environments. Our earliest human ancestors were clearly able to successfully adapt to different extreme environments,' says lead author Patrick Roberts, a doctoral student at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art.

◆ William Henry Fox Talbot is best known today as a Victorian pioneer of photography – his 'calotype' process is a direct ancestor of modern imaging technology – but an Oxford researcher has explored how his photography was in fact a means to an end in deciphering cuneiform on Assyrian tablets. Cuneiform is one of the most ancient writing systems to survive in the world, dating back as far as 3000 BC. Knowledge of the system was completely lost until 19th-century Western archaeologists began to uncover clay tablets while excavating in the Middle East. 'In fact, [Talbot] developed his photographic process in part to help decipher Mesopotamian artefacts,' says Dr Mirjam Brusius of the History of Art Department. 'He spent a lot of time trying to propagate interest in photography as a tool for archaeological research.'

◆ Activity in a brain area known as the dorsal posterior insula is directly related to pain intensity, a study published in *Nature*

*Neuroscience* has found. Researchers at the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain used a new brain imaging technique to look at people experiencing pain over many hours. Activity in one brain area, the dorsal posterior insula, reflected the participants' ratings of how much the pain hurt. 'We have identified the brain area likely to be responsible for the core "it hurts" experience of pain,' says Professor Irene Tracey, whose team made the discovery. 'Pain is a complex, multidimensional experience, which causes activity in many brain regions involved with things like attention, feeling emotions such as fear, locating where the pain is, and so on. But the dorsal posterior insula seems to be specific to the actual "hurt level" of pain itself.' These results could potentially help detect pain in people with limited communication abilities, such as those in a coma, small children and dementia patients.



EARLY HUMANS WERE AT HOME IN THE RAINFOREST

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



# PEOPLE AND PRIZES



**Dr Nicola Byrom** of the Department of Experimental Psychology has won a Queen's Young Leader Award, which recognises

exceptional people who take the lead in their communities and use their skills to transform lives. Dr Byrom founded Student Minds in 2009 with the aim of using peer interventions to improve the state of student mental health. Today the charity delivers research-driven training and support to equip students to bring about positive change on their campuses.



**Dr Allan Chapman** of the Faculty of History has been awarded the 2015 Jackson-Gwilt Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society.

He is the first recipient of the award under a new rule that every five years the medal may be given for work in the history of astronomy. The medal recognises his work both on the history of professional astronomical institutions and on the self-funded tradition of British 'grand amateur' astronomy.



**Timothy Coleman**, Chapel Administrator at Merton College, has been selected for the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain Fellowship Programme.

The year-long development programme encompasses performance, pedagogy and leadership and aims to produce a new generation of choral leaders.



**Dr Robert Douglas-Fairhurst** of the Faculty of English has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.



**Judith Freedman**, Pinsent Masons Professor of Taxation Law, has been awarded an honorary fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Taxation.

**Bob Harris**, Professor of British History, and his co-author, the late Professor Charles McKean of Dundee University, have won Scotland's most prestigious literary award,

the Saltire Society's Scottish 2014 Book of the Year for *The Scottish Town in the Age of the Enlightenment, 1740–1820*. The book also received the society's Research Book of the Year award.



**Walter Mattli**, Professor of International Political Economy, has been awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship

to run from September 2015 to August 2016. The award will allow him to focus on his new book project *The New Governance of Global Capital Markets: Winners and Losers*.



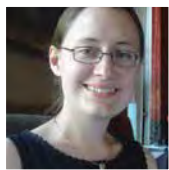
**Patrick McGuinness**, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, has been awarded the 2014 Pol Roger Duff Cooper Prize for his

latest book, *Other People's Countries: A Journey into Memory* (Jonathan Cape). This prestigious prize aims to 'celebrate the best in non-fiction writing'.



**Philip Mountford**, Professor of Organometallic Chemistry and Catalysis, has been awarded the 2015 Schlenk Lectureship

sponsored by BASF and the University of Tübingen, Germany, for his research into small molecule activation chemistry.



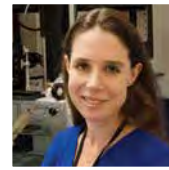
**Dr Eleanor Parker** of the Faculty of English has won this year's Longman–History Today Award for Digital History for her blog, *A Clerk*

of Oxford, which takes in a wide range of subjects relating to Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian history and literature.



**Dr Jen Perry** of the Department of Zoology has won the 2015 Christopher Barnard Award for Outstanding Contributions by a New Investigator,

awarded by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour. She studies sexual selection and mating behaviour in insects.



**Eleanor Stride**, Professor of Engineering Science, has won the £300,000 A F Harvey Engineering Research Prize awarded by the Institution of

Engineering and Technology. The award recognises her outstanding contributions to biomedical engineering, particularly her 'targeted drug delivery' research for the treatment of diseases such as cancer and stroke, where there is a pressing need to target drugs to specific parts of the body to minimise exposure of healthy tissue and reduce side effects.



**Tim Williamson**, Wykeham Professor of Logic, has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy.



**Dr Alison Woollard** of the Department of Biochemistry has been awarded the 2015 JBS Haldane Lecture by the Genetics Society. The award

recognises an individual for outstanding ability to communicate topical subjects in genetics research to lay audiences, and follows the success of her 2013 Christmas Lectures on 'Life Fantastic' at the Royal Institution, broadcast on BBC Four.

## MARLOWE PRIZE



A paper by **Professor Laurie Maguire** of Magdalen College (*left*) and **Dr Emma Smith** of Hertford College entitled 'What is a Source? Or, How Shakespeare Read his Marlowe' is the joint winner of the 25th Calvin & Rose G Hoffman Prize for a distinguished publication on Christopher Marlowe and his relationship to William Shakespeare. Their paper will be published in *Shakespeare Survey*.



## PITT RIVERS WINS IMPROVEMENT AWARD

The Pitt Rivers Museum has been awarded nearly £40,000 from the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation's Museum and Galleries Improvement Fund.

The award will enable the museum to commission major new cases in which to display some of its outstanding collection of model artefacts, ranging from temples to tipis, from planes to palanquins and from canoes to igloos. 'The models which the new cases will enable us to re-display are an intriguing category of artefact, whose importance is only now being appreciated. They offer telling insights into the interaction between the indigenous societies in which many were produced, and the collectors who commissioned them,' says Professor Michael O'Hanlon, the museum's Director.

The new cases will be in period style and will be arranged to form a fresh space in the heart of the displays.

## PSYCHOLOGY BOOKS WIN PRIZES

Two Oxford researchers have been recognised in the 39th annual PROSE awards, the American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence. The PROSE awards recognise the very best in professional and scholarly publishing by bringing attention to distinguished books, journals and electronic content that change how we understand the world around us and benefit our society through the sharing of knowledge.

*The Perfect Meal: The Multisensory Science of Food and Dining* by **Charles Spence**, Professor of Experimental Psychology, and *Betina Piqueras-Fiszman* was awarded the 2015 Popular Science and Popular Mathematics book of the year award. *The Stimulated Brain* by **Dr Roi Cohen Kadosh** received an honourable mention in the Biomedicine and Neuroscience category.

## LEVERHULME PRIZE WINNERS

Four Oxford academics received 2014 Philip Leverhulme prizes, awarded annually to early career researchers whose work has attracted international recognition and whose future careers look exceptionally promising. Each prizewinner receives £100,000, which can be used over two or three years to advance their research.



**Alan Bogg**, Professor of Labour Law, produces work that is legally rigorous while also being theoretically

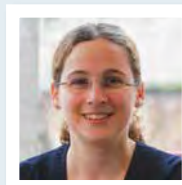
informed and transnational in scope. His reconceptualisation of collective bargaining law is recognised as amongst the most significant works in labour law, published at a time when the regulation of the labour market has come into prominence as a central political measure.



**Dr Lucie Cluver** of the Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention

researches the complex and extensive hazards that face AIDS-affected children. Her research on areas such as the psychological issues that AIDS-orphaned

children encounter is leading to new social intervention policies in sub-Saharan Africa that aim to interrupt the negative pathways started by parental AIDS.



**Dr Ofra Magidor** of the Faculty of Philosophy works across the fields of philosophical logic, philosophy of language,

philosophy of mathematics and metaphysics to present radical reorientations of wide philosophical areas. She is particularly interested in connecting recent debates in these cognate fields to classic questions in the foundations of language.



**Dr Hannah Skoda** of the Faculty of History has made highly original contributions to the study of violence in late

medieval Europe, using the insights of anthropology and literary scholarship to uncover ways in which violence was used to negotiate social relations. Her interests include student protests and domestic violence and she is now examining nostalgia in 14th-century Europe, embracing both pastoral idylls and chivalric ideals.

## NEW PROCTORS AND ASSESSOR

The University's new proctors and assessor for 2015–16 have taken office. The Senior Proctor is **Professor George Garnett**, Fellow of St Hugh's, and **Dr Lisa Bendall** (left, below), Fellow of Keble, is the Junior Proctor. The Assessor is **Dr Patricia Daley**, Fellow of Jesus.

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





## ARRIVALS BOARD

### PROFESSOR OF BIOSTATISTICS IN GENOMICS



**Christopher Holmes**, Professor of Statistics at the University of Oxford and MRC Programme Leader in Statistical Genomics at the MRC Mammalian Genetics Unit, took

up this post in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine and the Department of Statistics on 1 September 2014. He also became a Fellow of St Anne's.

Professor Holmes' research interests centre on the theory, methods and applications of probabilistic data modelling and the use of subjective probability theory as a unified framework for coherent inference. He has notably investigated Bayesian methods, particularly for nonlinear systems, and applies his research in the areas of statistical genomics and genetic epidemiology.

### FIELD MARSHAL EARL ALEXANDER PROFESSOR OF CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE



**Keith Channon**, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine in the Radcliffe Department of Medicine; Honorary Consultant Cardiologist at the

John Radcliffe Hospital; Director of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre; and Director of Research and Development, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, took up this post in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Radcliffe Department of Medicine, on 10 November 2014. He also became a Fellow of Exeter.

Professor Channon's research is focused on understanding mechanisms in cardiovascular diseases, particularly the importance of nitric oxide and redox signalling in endothelial function and vascular disease pathogenesis. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2009 and is currently Associate Head of the Medical Sciences Division (Clinical Research).

### PROFESSOR OF THE STUDY OF ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS



**Anna Sapir Abulafia**, Fellow, College Lecturer and Director of Studies in History at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge,

will take up this post in the Faculty of Theology and Religion on 1 April. She will be a Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall.

Dr Abulafia is an international authority on the medieval Christian-Jewish debate and her books include *Christians and Jews in the Twelfth-century Renaissance* (1995) and *Christian-Jewish Relations 1000-1300: Jews in the Service of Medieval Christendom* (2011).

## NOTICEBOARD



◆ **Dr Rebecca Surender**, Associate Professor of Social Policy in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention and Fellow of Green

Templeton, was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (without portfolio) and Advocate for Diversity with effect from 1 February 2015. The new position of Advocate for Diversity is designed to provide direction and coordination to the various equality and diversity initiatives taking place throughout the University.

Dr Surender will undertake this role alongside her departmental responsibilities; she has previously held a number of senior administrative positions within the Department of Social Policy and Intervention and Green Templeton, and in 2013-14 was the University's Junior Proctor.



## REUSE AND RECYCLE WITH WARPit

Are you looking for a good home for unwanted office furniture or supplies? Or is your department in need of equipment, but you don't want to pay for new? Then look no further than WARPit (Waste Action Reuse Portal), the University's new re-use system.

Managed by the Environmental Sustainability team in Estates Services, WARPit is a web-based system that offers University staff the opportunity to find new homes for their unwanted items or to search for items being given away for free by other departments. You can use it for small items such as stationery and printer cartridges as well as large items such as desks and chairs. And if you can't find what you need, just add the item to your wish list and WARPit will alert you when the item is added to the system.

The system was launched a couple of months ago, but already over 160 people have signed up and there are 1,200 items waiting to be snapped up. 'WARPit enables the University to ensure its resources are used wisely and reallocated where necessary, reducing our environmental impact and saving us money,' says Jennifer Hurst, Environmental Sustainability Projects Officer. 'Since the system launched we've saved 1.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, avoided half a tonne of waste, and saved almost £4,500 in terms of new purchase costs and waste disposal costs.'

She adds: 'We've been really pleased with the interest so far. It's clear that staff want to reduce costs and our environmental impact, and this is a great way to achieve both.'

So if you're relocating, refurbishing or just in need of a spring clean, sign up to WARPit to find a new home for your surplus equipment or benefit from other people's unwanted items.

Find out more and sign up at [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/ourservices/environment/services/warpit](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/ourservices/environment/services/warpit).

## VIEWFINDER FOUND

The bishop's mitre (p20) is on the railings at Merton's Rose Lane buildings, built in 1939-40. It recalls the college's founder, Walter de Merton, Chancellor of England and subsequently Bishop of Rochester 1274-7. Merton, which was founded in 1264, was the first self-governing college in the University. It was originally founded for 20 fellows, with undergraduates being formally admitted in the early 1380s. Its Mob Quadrangle is the oldest quadrangle in the University and Mob Library is believed to be the oldest continuously functioning library for university academics and students in the world.

# AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION — WHAT NEXT?

Dr Petra Schleiter talks to *Maria Coyle* about fixed-term parliaments and the UK's 'caretaker' rules

As a teenager growing up in Frankfurt, West Germany, in the late 1980s, Petra Schleiter observed the beginnings of a seismic shift in politics. It was the time of perestroika, when reforms opened up the Soviet Union and introduced politically contested elections for the first time. Closer to home, dissatisfied East Germans held Monday demonstrations in Leipzig calling for democratic rights. 'Growing up in Germany at that time, there was a question I wanted answering,' says Petra. 'How do institutional choices steer events and very momentous situations?'

Today, as an associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations and Tutorial Fellow in Politics at St Hilda's, she is addressing that question, having witnessed a number of major changes. The very year in which she started her undergraduate course in international relations at the London School of Economics, the Berlin Wall came down – an event she describes as truly 'mind-boggling'. As she watched East Germans enter West Germany *en masse* for the first time on the TV news, she was hundreds of miles away in her student digs in London, but she felt overwhelming joy. 'Obviously we'd had an inkling that this was coming. But everyone remembers where they were when the wall came down. It shapes your whole outlook on the world.'

Two years later the disintegration of the Soviet Union followed, which led her to focus on an MPhil in Russian Politics. In 1993 a constitutional crisis arose between President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian parliament that was only resolved after the shelling of the parliament building and bloodshed on the streets. Petra began to think more about how it was that institutional choices that had seemed to set Russia on the road to democracy could have ended in violence.

After graduating Petra examined institutions and party systems in countries beyond Russia,

including Europe and Latin America. It is this comparative perspective that makes her research so valuable to policymakers. Recently her views have been sought on what is happening in UK government. She suggests we have entered a new era and the rules governing the constitution will have to catch up with the new reality.

Petra highlights the public's demand for more nuanced representation, as witnessed recently. 'We see it in the debate about Scottish independence, the debate about devolution to English regions, English votes for English laws and in the formation of coalitions,' she explains. These political changes have

**'The UK doesn't have a written codified constitution so it relies on legislation or precedent – and if that precedent hasn't happened, there can be a lack of guidance'**

led to constitutional reform: the Fixed-term Parliaments Act of 2011 curtails the prime minister's power to determine the timing of elections, a change that protects the minor coalition partner. More nuanced representation, she suggests, is also likely to bring longer interim periods between governments, as parties bargain over the formation of new coalitions. 'In the UK, there has been an average wait of four days after an election before you get a new government,' she says. 'In Europe, this delay is more like 39 days, on average, simply because more complicated electoral results produce

more complicated parliaments.'

Usually democracies have a clear set of rules – 'caretaker rules' – for the period after a parliament's dissolution. In the UK, for historical reasons due to the swift changeovers between single-majority governments, these rules are not specific enough, in her view. Our sitting government has no duty to stay in power until the new cabinet is formed. Neither is the end of caretaker periods clearly specified. Such details are currently not written down in the Cabinet Manual and she argues that clear rules are needed on where the authority of caretaker governments begins and ends.

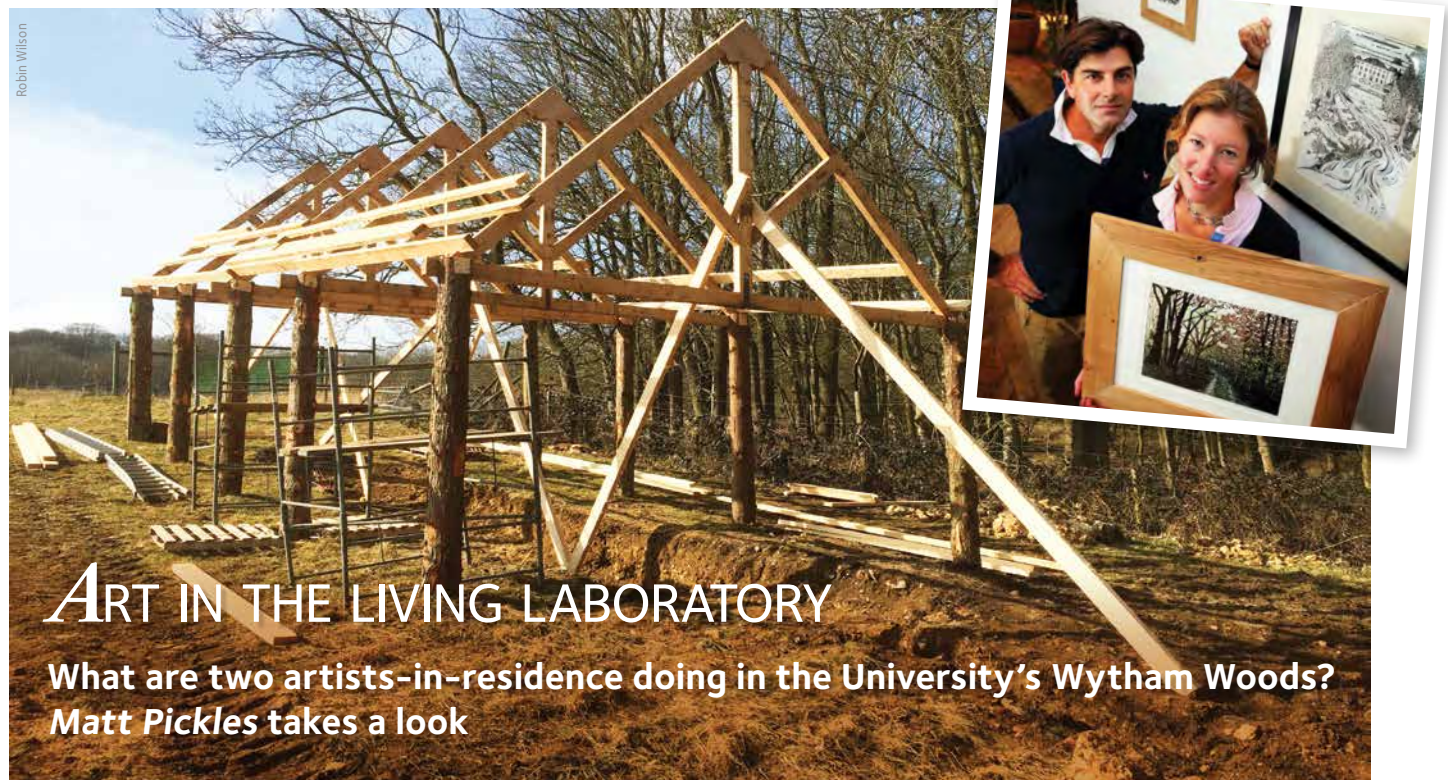
'You want to know who's meant to be in charge,' she says. 'The fact that the UK doesn't have a written codified constitution means it relies on legislation or precedent – and if that precedent hasn't happened, there can be a lack of guidance.'

Her work has examined caretaker conventions in other countries, so while UK policymakers assess the hypothetical 'what ifs', she has evidence on what has actually happened in other similar contexts. Policymakers and parliamentary researchers are all too aware that the rules are lagging behind, she says. She has worked with them, both on the Fixed-term Parliaments Act and on caretaker conventions, and provides evidence to the House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee.

To relax, Petra likes painting abstracts. 'I like to explore colours and colour compositions,' she explains. In May, she will be reviewing the colours and compositions of a new electoral map in Britain, after what some are predicting to be one of the most interesting general elections in living memory.

▶ More information at [www.politics.ox.ac.uk/academic-faculty/petra-schleiter.html](http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/academic-faculty/petra-schleiter.html)





## ART IN THE LIVING LABORATORY

**What are two artists-in-residence doing in the University's Wytham Woods? Matt Pickles takes a look**

Trees have long been a source of inspiration for artists. From Van Gogh's *Cypresses* and *Mulberry Tree* paintings to the rows of trees in Klimt's *Beechwood* and *Avenue Schloss Kaven*, trees are a common subject and backdrop to paintings. So it should perhaps not be a surprise that a studio has been built in Wytham Woods to host two artists-in-residence.

Wytham Woods are a 390-hectare ancient woodland owned by the University and located to the west of Oxford. The woods are enjoyed by many members of the University and the public, who can apply for free walking permits, but they are also a living laboratory of ecological research for academics at Oxford and beyond, and are one of the most researched areas of woodland in the world.

Nigel Fisher, Conservator at Wytham Woods, created the position of artist-in-residence in 2010 to complement the existing scientific research. 'Artists add a depth of colour and texture,' he says. 'Wytham is not simply a collection of data but a research woodland with a unique sense of place. We can now place a "part" of Wytham into galleries, museums or the home of individuals and we can utilise art to send scientific theories out to wider audiences.'

Dr Robin Wilson and Rosie Fairfax-Cholmeley have been artists-in-residence since 2010. Their role is different from the usual artist-in-residence model, in which an artist spends a year in a location then presents their work at the end. Dr Wilson, who is also a Research Associate in the University's Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, explains: 'This is a long-term project in the woods

which stands beside the scientific research. My idea at Wytham was that we can use the methods of visual social anthropology to investigate perceptions of the environment. Rosie and I draw on a range of methods from various disciplines to create a visual and narrative context to largely numerical data.'

Some of the artists' output can be seen in the Wytham Room at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Started by Dr Wilson last year, this is a long-term rolling exhibition of work based on the research taking place at Wytham. 'The exhibition is a combination of prints from our carved

**'We can use the methods of visual social anthropology to investigate perceptions of the environment'**

lino-blocks based on sketches made in the woods, and a visually driven investigation of the researchers' scientific findings created in a collaboration between the scientific team and Rosie and me,' Dr Wilson says. The first exhibition was about the fenlands in Wytham. This will soon be replaced by an exhibition about the diary of Charles Elton, an ecologist who was central to the development of Wytham as a research

woodland from the 1940s to the late 1960s.

The artists are currently collaborating with top Japanese and British potters to build and fire two traditional wood-fired Anagama ceramics kilns at Wytham. The kilns are typical of those found in the Bizen ceramics town in Japan since the Kamakura period in the late 12th century and Wytham will become a centre for leading potters to exchange and practise craft skills. Among the potters will be Jim Keeling, a British potter who runs the largest surviving traditional artisan pottery in Europe, and Ishida Kazuya, the senior potter from Bizen.

Over the next five years traditional pots and other objects will be produced in the kilns. 'At the centre of the project is a wood-fired Anagama kiln of simple design, yet capable of giving extraordinary effects achieved by firings lasting between 4 and 14 days,' says Jim Keeling. 'Pieces created in this way are much favoured for use in the Japanese tea ceremony, although this aesthetic is little known or understood in the UK.'

The public will be invited to see the progress during Oxfordshire Artweeks in May, at Jericho Art from November to December, and in the Wytham Room at the Museum of Natural History.

The woods themselves are open all year round and applications for a free permit are welcome.

More about Wytham Woods at [www.wytham.ox.ac.uk/visiting.php](http://www.wytham.ox.ac.uk/visiting.php). Follow the Oxford Anagama project at [www.twitter.com/OxfordAnagama](https://www.twitter.com/OxfordAnagama)





OXFORD DAWN AT THE FEN BY ROBIN WILSON; TOP LEFT: THE LARGE  
ANAGAMA CERAMICS KILN UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND (INSET)  
ARTISTS ROBIN WILSON AND ROSIE FAIRFAX-CHOLMELEY







SEARCH

DATA BREACH

AUTHENTICATION

EXPOSED

RECORD

ONLINE

ULATIONS

TAL

ADATA

SECURITY

IMPROVEMENT

LAW

SENSITIVE INFORMATION

COMPLIANCE CLASSIFICATION

RISK PROTECTION

ANONYMOUS  
CYBER



# THE DIGITAL DEFENDERS

To keep the online world secure, you first need to understand that humans inhabit it, finds *Jamie Condliffe*

As our lives become increasingly digitised, from online document storage to internet banking, keeping data secure becomes increasingly important. Fortunately, academics at Oxford's Cyber Security Centre are rising to the challenge.

In 2014 digital security climbed the agenda faster than ever. In April a vulnerability in the way data is encrypted on webpages, known as Heartbleed, forced millions of people to change passwords. In August over 400 private celebrity pictures – some containing nudity – were stolen from Apple's iCloud storage and leaked online. In November Sony Pictures' computer network was compromised, with waves of internal documents leaked into the public domain until the organisation halted the release of the satirical comedy film *The Interview*. There were countless other incidents too.

Such examples demonstrate that, from individuals to large countries, all are affected. Indeed, last year, 81% of large corporations

Its work is wide ranging. Take, for instance, the centre's Corporate Insider Threat Detection project, which seeks to understand how those working for a company – 'from cleaners up to the C-suite' – can be prevented from executing cyber attacks. 'We know insiders have potential to cause great harm,' explains Sadie Creese, Professor of Cyber Security and Director of the Cyber Security Centre, 'because they're persistent and have greater access than outsiders.' These incidents are also grossly underreported. While it's become more acceptable – expected even – for companies to admit when they've been hacked from outside, few choose to admit when it happens from within.

'There's a lot of work about what happens on networks, and a lot independently about the psychological reasons why people become threats,' explains Professor Creese. 'But we're trying to understand how the two overlap.' The hope is to be able to develop automated threat detection systems that predict when



SECURITY PROBLEMS OFTEN ENTAIL A MIXTURE OF HUMAN FACTORS AND TECHNICAL ISSUES

As is the rest of the work at the centre. From Martin's MyTrustedCloud work into new security tools to make cloud computing safer – now being developed alongside a 'real cloud provider, with a view to offering a real commercial service', he explains – to projects including air-traffic security and privacy on the Internet of Things, much is happening at the centre to stir interest within business and government.

Increasingly this work is being channelled to disseminate the findings to the wider world as effectively as possible. The centre has recently spawned a complementary centre, the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre, with a corresponding online portal. Established to provide international governments and policymakers with the means to assess existing cyber security measures, it provides a space for Oxford academics to turn their findings into practical advice for stakeholders around the world – particularly in countries that have so far struggled to develop their own security protocols. 'We've been piloting it in Colombia, Armenia, Kosovo, Bhutan...' explains Creese, who is also Director of the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre. 'But we believe we can do the same for organisations and companies, and perhaps even help develop some globally agreed cyber security policy.'

These are lofty ambitions, certainly. But with such a broad knowledge base within the University, that's perfectly understandable. 'Oxford contributes strongly to global cyber security through hardcore science and maths,' explains Martin, 'but will also create great impact through usability, public policy and implications for business and international relations and more.'

## 'Oxford's Cyber Security Centre brings together experts from disciplines around the University to address the digital security issues that face us now and in the coming years'

and 60% of small businesses suffered from cybercrime. Though it's tempting to consider these problems as purely technological, they are events performed by humans that affect others. 'I keep running into security problems which entail a novel mix of human factors and technical issues,' says Andrew Martin, the University's Professor of Systems Security. 'The most obvious one is passwords: the commonplace technology sets things up so these have to be big and complex, but we all struggle with the implications of this on a daily basis.'

Maintaining cyber security, then, requires a more multidisciplinary approach than you may think. 'I hear technologists talking as if they understand social topics; I hear social and policy people talking about how they think the internet works. In fact all have a lot to learn,' explains Professor Martin. 'In the University, we have people who really understand these topics, so it's wisest for us to work together.' That's the motivation behind Oxford's Cyber Security Centre, created in 2013, which brings together experts from disciplines around the University to address the digital security issues that face us now and in the coming years.

an insider is acting suspiciously, using both physical and digital evidence; their behaviour in the workplace, say, as well as the documents they work with online. 'We've also been talking to criminals and trying to understand their intent, and how that might be useful,' adds Creese.

Of course, detecting potential threats is one thing; acting on the warnings is quite another. So the project also visualises detected threats – many of which could turn out to be innocent – so that they can be filtered and investigated appropriately. Elsewhere, Creese is also interested in the current perceptions of risk in the corporate world related to such threats. 'If we're to produce research-based recommendations that suggest certain procedures are put in place, we need to be confident that they're actually relevant to real companies,' she says. The project is already being piloted within a real organisation – 'I can't tell you where it is, sorry,' admits Creese – which serves to demonstrate that the work is clearly in demand.

► More at [www.cybersecurity.ox.ac.uk](http://www.cybersecurity.ox.ac.uk)



# SEND FOR THE SAS

Students facing difficulties can talk to the Student Advice Service,  
*Julia Paolitto discovers*

TheoSundh



STUDENT ADVISORS (LEFT TO RIGHT) SOPHIE SWAIN,  
LISA STOKES-KING AND CATE HEMINGWAY

Cate Hemingway was in the third year of her DPhil when she had her first child. ‘There was no “maternity leave”, no accommodation for students who were parents, and little information about childcare. I didn’t have a clue,’ she says. Now manager of the Student Advice Service, part of Oxford University Student Union, she heads a team of trained and experienced advisors providing the kind of service she would have turned to herself had it existed.

Founded six years ago, the Student Advice Service (SAS) has undergone a period of extensive structural change and is now a fully professionalised service offering free and impartial advice aimed at supporting students facing difficulties. These can range from academic disciplinary problems and complaints to landlord and tenancy problems, physical and mental health situations, and relationship violence.

The SAS is entirely independent of colleges and the central University, and the confidentiality this affords is part of its appeal, according to Hemingway. The close-knit environment of Oxford’s college system is its selling point, but it can also mean that students are hesitant to approach those within the college because of fears about how it might affect their academic performance and social relationships. ‘We’re trying to help colleges, departments and students by looking at the full scope of student life,’ says Hemingway. ‘It’s not just about academic performance – it’s all the experiences that students bring to their studies. We help them deal with things they may not want to tell their colleges, and help with situations that departments and colleges

don’t or can’t deal with themselves.’

The SAS helps students find solutions to difficult situations – but as Hemingway emphasises, the services it offers are realistic. ‘We don’t blindly stick up for students: we are not a “yes” service, we help students manage their individual situations.’ In many cases, these situations relate to students’ expectations: of themselves, of the University and of the families and communities who are often heavily invested in seeing them succeed at Oxford.

The service frequently interacts with other University departments such as the Counselling

**‘Advisors are experienced and trained in specialist areas such as eating disorders, sexual abuse or housing rights, but their role is also to refer students to expert organisations’**

Service – to which it can refer students struggling with mental health problems – and its role is one of expert signposting. Its advisors are experienced and trained in specialist areas such as eating disorders, sexual abuse or housing rights, but their role is also to refer students to expert organisations. Many of the students who are referred to the SAS come with issues more unusual or extreme

in their complexity. As a result, the average time spent on each of the 78 long-term cases seen in 2013–14 was 13 days. Alan Percy, head of the Counselling Service, calls the SAS’s role ‘invaluable,’ noting it provides ‘a good complementary service to the Counselling Service’, particularly in their role as active representatives for students in grievance, harassment or academic disciplinary cases.

It is this ability to act as advocate that has made all the difference to Hannah Prescott, a doctoral student who has been in limbo since developing a rare disability in the third year of her studies. A misdiagnosis delayed effective treatment and her deteriorating health ultimately led to her having to suspend her studies. Her exceptional circumstances and continued effects of her disability have made agreeing terms for her academic reinstatement difficult – but after being referred to the Student Advice Service by a friend, she feels encouraged.

‘From my first meeting with the SAS, I cannot overestimate how important their role was in supporting me through this difficult time, and helping me understand my rights as a disabled student,’ she says. ‘Just knowing I had their support, and having someone knowledgeable to talk about my options and strategy with, was incredibly important for me, and for other students with disabilities who may have very few people to turn to for support.’

► More information at [ousu.org/advice/student-advice-service](https://ousu.org/advice/student-advice-service)

## EXHIBITIONS

### The art of dress

Until 26 April

Proscholium, Bodleian Library

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

Western printed books showing how clothes were described and recorded at different times and in different places, how they were made, and how they were invested with meaning.

### Raphael's legacy:

#### Italian design in the 16th century

Until 25 May, 10.30am–4.30pm

Christ Church Picture Gallery

Tickets £4/£2 (University members free)

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

Despite Raphael's early death in 1520 at the age of 37, his pupils and followers continued to develop their master's tradition. Their designs for prints, silver and gold vessels, paintings and tapestries dominated the artistic language of the time.

### Bengal and modernity:

#### Early 20th-century art in India

Until 1 June

Ashmolean Museum

[www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions](http://www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions)

As a wave of nationalism swept across the Indian subcontinent in the early 20th century, several artists in Bengal focused on revitalising Indian cultural history and spirituality, deliberately turning away from academic expressions of realism practised in the various British art schools in India.



## LECTURES AND TALKS

### Haydn's *Oxford Symphony*

Wednesday 1 April, 2–4pm

Ashmolean Museum

Tickets £9/£8 (incl tea & cake), booking essential

[www.ashmolean.org/events/Lectures](http://www.ashmolean.org/events/Lectures)

Joseph Haydn's symphony No 92 was premiered in Oxford in 1791 and is now popularly known as the *Oxford Symphony*. Historian Tim Porter explains why this masterpiece was performed in Oxford in a story of politics and revolution which spans Europe.

### On liberty

Friday 10 April, 5–6.15pm

(doors open 4.30pm)

Sheldonian Theatre

Free, but booking required

[www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/events/shami-chakrabarti-lecture-on-liberty](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/events/shami-chakrabarti-lecture-on-liberty)

Shami Chakrabarti CBE, Director of Liberty and Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University, gives the annual John Donne Lecture held by Hertford College.

### Realising human rights in a warming world

Thursday 30 April, 5–6.30pm

Oxford Martin School

Free, but booking required

[www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/2045](http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/2045)

What is the relationship between human rights and climate change? Professor Simon Caney, Co-Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations, discusses concerns surrounding our current climate responsibilities and where we should set our priorities for the future.

### Disability Lecture 2015

Tuesday 5 May, 6–7.15pm

Corpus Christi

Booking recommended

[www.ox.ac.uk/event/disability-lecture-2015](http://www.ox.ac.uk/event/disability-lecture-2015)

The first University of Oxford Disability Lecture will be given by Hilary Lister, who was an undergraduate at Jesus and has since gained fame as a quadriplegic sailor, becoming the first disabled woman to sail solo around Britain. She will be introduced by the Vice-Chancellor. Refreshments after the event; detailed access information at the website above.



### Helen McCrory in conversation with Edith Hall, on *Medea*

Monday 11 May, 2.15–4pm

Faculty of Classics, 66 St Giles'

[www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/events/public-lectures](http://www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/events/public-lectures)

Helen McCrory talks about her leading role in the National Theatre's acclaimed production of *Medea* (2014). She will be in conversation with Edith Hall, Professor of Classics at King's College London and co-founder and consultant director of the Archive of Performances of Greek & Roman Drama at Oxford.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### LiveFriday: Social animals

Friday 15 May, 7–10.30pm

Ashmolean Museum

[www.ashmolean.org/livefriday](http://www.ashmolean.org/livefriday)

What is it that makes people and societies tick? Find out at this LiveFriday event, held in collaboration with the University's Social Sciences Division, which features theatrical performances, creative workshops and lively talks. The Rooftop Dining Room and Crypt Café will be open all evening

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

### Arboretum Easter Egg hunt

Tuesday 31 March, from 10.30am

Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtney

[www.harcourt-arboretum.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.harcourt-arboretum.ox.ac.uk/events)

Can you find all the clues and solve the puzzle to claim your prize? The hunt continues while prize stocks last...

### Breathtaking birds

Tuesday 7 & Wednesday 8 April, 1–4pm

University Museum of Natural History

[www.oum.ox.ac.uk/visiting/whatson.htm](http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/visiting/whatson.htm)

A foray into the fabulous world of our feathered friends. Try a bird song quiz and make a Red Kite mobile.

### Folk Weekend Oxford

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 April,

11am–4.30pm

Pitt Rivers Museum

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

Storytelling, songs, games and percussion workshops. Make your own Morris bell pads!







# THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Spencer Lenfield  
investigates how  
the University's small  
grants scheme gives  
back to the community

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT FACILITATES (CLOCKWISE,  
FROM FAR LEFT) DANCING AT THE COWLEY ROAD  
CARNIVAL, THE MAD HATTER'S PRESENCE ON  
ALICE'S DAY, AND A MARCHING BAND AT OXFORD'S  
WINTER LIGHT FESTIVAL



For many years the University has helped the city around it by offering supplementary financial support for various community-based events and projects. In 2013 a new initiative – the Small Community Grants scheme – was launched to formalise the patchwork of grant-giving mechanisms. ‘We didn’t have a centralised point for giving the money out in such a way that community groups knew clearly where to apply,’ explains Margaret Ounsley, the University’s Head of Government and Community Relations. The new scheme

## ‘We’ve been here for 800 years and we’re embedded in the life of Oxford’

created a single application process, making it easier for local organisations to seek University aid.

In the academic year 2014–15 the University plans to award up to £50,000 in community grants. Applications are considered three times a year, and the focus is usually on helping to meet the costs of one particular event or project that an organisation wants to run. Ideal candidates for funding match at least some of four broad criteria, explains Ounsley: ‘Working with groups that are under 18; celebrating the heritage and culture of Oxford; [creating] something that the whole community can enjoy or benefit from; and projects that have a wide benefit to the community.’ Over the past two years recipients have included the Story Museum’s ‘Alice’s Day’ (a celebration of Lewis Carroll’s *Alice* stories), a hydroelectric energy project at Osney Lock, the Cowley Road Carnival, and school poetry competitions. ‘I think the thing that has amazed us is the huge variety of

projects that are happening: an art exhibition on the river, music projects for people with autism, photography projects,’ says Ounsley. ‘We’re astonished at the richness of the work that’s going on.’

One slightly quirky example is Alice’s Day, which began in 2007. Sophie Hiscock, communications manager at the Story Museum, explains that the celebration is ‘designed to encourage residents in Oxford and beyond to celebrate Oxford’s special place in the story of *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*’. A grant from the University in 2014 allowed the museum to put on eight workshops in three different schools in advance of Alice’s Day, exploring the life and world of Lewis Carroll. Children’s author Steven Butler, dressed as his favourite character the Mad Hatter, talked about ‘rules of etiquette for how to address the Queen of Hearts’. Students also learned how to use a nocturnal shorthand device called a nycetograph, which Carroll invented. ‘Then they created their own objects from the story of *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and wrote in the nycetograph code what they were – and then those objects were displayed in the Pitt Rivers Museum on Alice’s Day,’ Hiscock explains.

Danielle Battigelli, executive director of Cowley Road Works, which runs the annual Cowley Road Carnival, says that a grant from the University helps cover the substantial costs of arranging to hold the carnival – which last year drew 45,000 attendees – in the road itself. ‘The fact that the University has shown its support in this way is very helpful

to us,’ she explains. ‘The carnival can use the endorsement to help secure further funding.’ The grant is part of a tradition of University support for the carnival. For years Oxford University Museums have provided hands-on activities like object-handling sessions on the day of the carnival, and also held outreach workshops in the lead-up to the event. This year, she adds, ‘we are talking with both the Student Hub and the Student Union about getting students involved in volunteering,’ both in advance and as part of the carnival.

All of this is part of the natural symbiosis between the University and the city, says Ounsley: ‘We’ve been here for 800 years and we’re embedded in the life of Oxford.’ The Community Grants scheme ‘is a way of us saying, “We’re here and we want to support the wider life of the city.”’



► For details, see [www.ox.ac.uk/local-community/small-community-grants](http://www.ox.ac.uk/local-community/small-community-grants)



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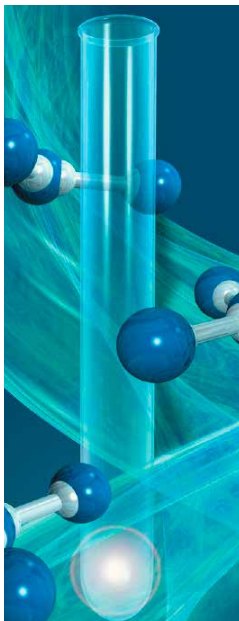
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# WHY AM I HERE?

CHRISTINE WILSON

*Chief Coach, Oxford University Women's Boat Club*

## Tell us about the Women's Boat Club

The OUWBC was founded in 1926 and raced Cambridge for the first time in 1927. The club is managed by an Executive Committee, comprising Oxford alumnae and current students who will race in the Newton Women's Boat Race on 11 April in London.

## This is a rather special year for women's rowing, isn't it?

Yes – for the first time in Boat Race history the Women's Blue Boat and Osiris, the reserve crew, will race on the Championship Course from Putney to Mortlake (as used for the Men's Boat Race). Many of us have dreamed about this for years, and the united efforts of passionate alumni of both the OUWBC and the OUBC, in collaboration with the corporate sponsors of Newton Investment Management and BNYMellon, have now made the competitive opportunity possible.

## What's your own role?

In July 2012 I was hired to manage the transition from a student-run club to a professionally managed high-performance team. Until that time women's coaches had been volunteers or paid a small stipend with a portion of participant dues. While the expenses associated with the men's crews were supported by corporate sponsorship, the women who rowed for Oxford paid fees upwards of £2,000 to participate in the sport.

## How and where do you train?

The scholar-athletes train in six different venues to develop the strength, endurance and technical skills needed to race 6.8km on a challenging river course. They train in Wallingford, London and at Dorney Lake for water sessions, and on land at Iffley Road, Virgin Active and an ergometer shed on the grounds of St Edward's School. The team gathers for an average of nine to thirteen training sessions per week, depending on the phase of preparation in the annual programme.

They remain passionate about their academic pursuits and balance their lectures, tutorials, lab hours and written assignments with training goals. If you see the rowing athletes around Oxford, they are most likely dashing from place to place, loaded down with a hefty rucksack filled with their laptops, texts, changes of clothes and food. The University makes no

allowances for their significant commitment to high-performance athletic goals.

## Describe an average day

Typically, I meet the team between 6.15 and 6.45am for their first row on the ergometers in Oxford. At 7.30am there's a meeting with the coxes to review strategic plans for racing, video review, and logistics of running a training session, then by 10am I'm in my office at the Fleming Boathouse in Wallingford. At midday I meet with the professional staff (including Natasha Townsend, assistant coach; Nikki Waters, operations manager; and Andy Groves, equipment manager) to review logistics and equipment needs for the week. At 1.30pm we rig the boats, ready for the athletes' 2pm arrival for a training session on the water. Around 4.30pm I return to the office for a communications catch-up and further planning.

## So how do you come to be doing this?

My hometown of St Catharines, Ontario, is a community that offers varied sporting opportunities to young girls and boys. I grew up playing basketball and volleyball, then in high school I learned to row thanks to the generosity of volunteer coaches who taught me how to train and race.

I earned a BA in English at Yale University and, along the way to Oxford, have served as assistant coach to the US Women's Olympic Team and head coach of women's rowing at Yale and Cornell. I was also the first woman to coach men's rowing at a Division 1 university programme in the US.

While I have served as a classroom English teacher, I find the challenges of working in an outdoor classroom and developing scholar-athletes extremely rewarding. So when I heard about the project of bringing gender equity to the Boat Race, I was captivated by the opportunity.

## What do you most enjoy about your job?

I love working with the remarkable Oxford scholar-athletes who come together for one purpose – to make boats go fast. They inspire me every day. I also enjoy sharing a vision for how a team can operate and building a culture of excellence with the help of talented professionals who are devoted to the cause.

## Finally, what aspect of the race are you most looking forward to?

Watching the Oxford Women go the distance in London and row a great race.



Rob Judges

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