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## Striking a balance?

JUDITH VIDAL-HALL

**Though not all the adverse effects of the virus and of Brexit have completely disappeared, the College is back on track and surging ahead. In much of the world outside Oxford, chaos and tragedy persist, as our colleagues and alumnae tell us.**

For the past couple of years, The Ship has sought to maintain a balance between the damage of the pandemic and the impact of Brexit on St Anne's and the University, and the amazing range and variety of adventures and achievements of our alumnae. I hope you find that reflected in this issue, though in a rather different spirit.

But let's start with the Principal Helen King's column where she finds the perfect balance as she reflects on the residual impact of the virus on students, but sets that alongside the rich diversity, shifting aspirations, resilience and achievements of our members. Don't miss it: it's a valuable read.

The world itself remains in a state of chaos, and once again we find our members active in many of the most troubled areas. Peter Cribble gives us an insider's view of the conflict in Ukraine, where he worked for many

years and continues to visit despite the turmoil. Better known for his work on volcanoes, David Pyle looks at the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria and highlights the human failure to plan for, or mitigate, the worst of its impact. Africa and the long-term damage of colonialism on its language and learning is the subject in the last of the outstanding series of Devaki Jain Lectures, given this year by Sylvia Tamale. Sharmila Nebhrajani touches on a related theme in her Founders' Day Lecture.

Last year we looked at Oxford as a City of Sanctuary, offering a welcome home for refugees; this year a refugee from a camp in Lebanon, now a graduate student at St Anne's, talks frankly about the pains of exile and the issues of identity and displacement.

On a more positive note we welcome back one of our more frequent contributors: Patrick Gaul celebrates the December 1922 centenary of Irish independence, though is a little less cheerful about the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in the North. Alex and his friend Russell Taylor talk about the rapidly increasing scope of AI in their refreshing ironic style. Our

Oxford Letter looks at the increasingly publicised problem of housing and how the city is dealing with it. And we take a rare glimpse behind the robes and ceremony of the House of Lords thanks to former student and later Principal of St Anne's; I'll leave you to find out who.

And in conclusion, on a not dissimilar note from that on which the issue starts, retiring Professor Peter Ghosh talks of the 'profound processes of change' that marked his 40-year-term at St Anne's. Plus all the latest chat from our students and alumnae. Hope you enjoy.

My thanks to all those who have helped beyond the usual call of duty in the preparation of this issue: in particular, members of the editorial committee Liane Hartley, Sandra Kaulfuss and Jean Ashford. But more than usual thanks to Jay Gilbert of the Development office, without whom this issue of The Ship most certainly would not have happened.

**Judith Vidal-Hall** (*Bunting* 1957)

## The wealth of diversity

HELEN KING

**Unlike many of her colleagues in the University, our Principal is willing to discuss the lingering impact of the pandemic on students, but also looks at their rich diversity and changing aspirations.**



The beginning of Trinity Term was my sixth anniversary as Principal. During that time, world events have touched Oxford and St Anne's in myriad ways. The pandemic, of course, was a major disruptor, but Brexit, the war in Ukraine, inflation, industrial disputes, economic and employment instability, social movements including *Black Lives Matter* and *Me Too*, and the direct and indirect impact of the climate crisis have also all affected life in College. So I thought I might share just a few of the less

obvious changes I have noticed over this relatively short period.

I will start with the observation that the many demands on tutors, from long serving Fellows to the newest post-doc, are being felt ever more keenly. Much as the tutors at St Anne's are highly committed to and enjoy teaching each generation of undergraduates, what motivates and defines an academic career above all else is published research. Thus our Fellows increasingly rely upon sabbaticals, departmental and research funding (which they are commendably successful at securing despite their reduced eligibility for European research funds) to 'buy' them out of teaching obligations for defined periods in order to concentrate on their research. During their temporary absences the College backfills through employing earlier career academics on fixed-term teaching contracts.

This gradual shift has the positive impact of providing earlier career academics with teaching experience and an income, and brings a wider range of expertise and personalities into the St Anne's community. On the other hand, we know that piecing together a living from a number of temporary and

usually part-time contracts is far from ideal in career or employment terms. St Anne's doesn't have the answer to this structural issue, prevalent across the Higher Education sector, but we are doing all we can to support our non-Governing Body academics, who are now represented in our decision-making structures in the same way as JCR and MCR representatives. For our students, this trend means that they now are taught by tutors at different points in their academic careers, which may be somewhat different from the experience of those of us who remember being predominantly tutored by Fellows at St Anne's.

So, what of our students? Of course, each generation brings its own experience, culture and priorities. You may learn something of this generation, as I did, by reading *Gen Z, Explained: The Art of Living in a Digital Age* (reviewed here <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/nov/20/dr-sarah-ogilvie-generation-z-explained-interview>). Some of what I see in our students may well be the lingering impact of the pandemic: more cases of anxiety, depression, difficulties in concentrating and organizing their activities and time, some struggling with workloads and meeting

## From the Principal

deadlines. However, I also observe many who seem more determined than ever to maximising their time in Oxford in every way they can: academically, socially, and in sport, drama, journalism, debating, campaigning, volunteering and politics. I also consistently witness a kindness and generosity towards others that should give us all hope for the future. The St Anne's ethos seems to be reliably passed on from one student generation to the next: it is absolutely fine to be different, and no one cares what your parents do or what school you went to. We should be proud that St Anne's is a College where you can retain your regional accent, your cultural way of life and diet, your politics and your religion whilst also sharing tutorials, meals and close friendships with people whose paths you would never otherwise have crossed.

During my tenure, the student body has become even more diverse in just about every way imaginable. There truly is no 'majority group'. When I look out at a lecture theatre filled with a new year's intake and, later, get to know the individuals, this becomes increasingly apparent. Every region and nation of the UK is represented, alongside many other countries from around the world, as is every school type and a few 'home-schooled' students. There are students whose parents are alumnae, and those who hadn't heard of Oxford

until they reached Sixth Form. I have also witnessed a perceptual shift in the visibility and audibility of students who might previously not have felt at home in Oxford. Student campaigning and social societies such as Class Action, 93% Club, African and Caribbean Society, Islamic Society, Jewish Society, LGBTQ+ Society and Northern Society have provided many St Anne's students with an additional Oxford home, and given them confidence to help bring about the changes they want to see.

When it comes to the career aspirations of this generation (which I ask about at their annual 'Principal's Interview') I have seen a shift in the past six years. I see fewer who aspire to be management consultants or enter other careers where there is a perception that the hours will be gruelling. 'Work-life balance' is more often being considered in choosing a career. Additionally, many more are being explicit that earning power matters: they can see no other way of ever being able to buy their own home and have the kind of lifestyle previous generations would have assumed would be within their grasp. So, there are as many as ever considering law as a career, but whereas six years ago there would have been a frequent interest expressed in the field of human rights law, now, almost without exception, commercial law is the direction aspiring Barristers and Solicitors are choosing.

If this may feel a little depressing, there are many, particularly science and social science students, who want to be able to work in a field that will help us out of the climate crisis and preserve our planet. There is also an apparent uptick in those wanting to study further and see academia as a career they aspire to. An increase in those deciding to 'take a year out' before settling on a career is perhaps more closely attributable to a sense of opportunities missed during the pandemic. They are reminded that the Careers Service remains available to them after graduation.

The cost-of-living crisis is, of course, hitting all of us individually and institutionally. I've described previously the lasting impact of the pandemic and the sharp increase in utility bills on the College at a time when UK student fees are and will remain frozen at 2018 levels. Of course, the impact on individual students, their families and staff also creates pressures. Recognizing this, the University has adjusted the levels of bursaries for undergraduates (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-support>), which remain amongst the most generous in the UK. Those who don't benefit from this are students who come from households with above average incomes but who can't or won't provide financial support. We have also seen an increase in financial

hardship cases amongst international students whose financial position has deteriorated because of world events or changes in the exchange rate. With your support, we do all we can to avoid anyone who has started their degree having to withdraw for financial reasons. The College provides some paid employment opportunities and also recognizes that, although studies must come first, an increasing number of students are supplementing their Student Loan with paid work even in term time, especially online tutoring of school pupils.

The Oxford housing market impacts students who have to live out and staff at all levels, with many living a fair way from Oxford. Long gone are the days when most academics or other College staff could afford a home near to central Oxford. Recognizing the importance of rewarding staff appropriately, the College has this year realized its ambition to ensure all staff receive at least the Oxford Living Wage (set by Oxford City Council at 95 per cent of the London Living Wage) whilst maintaining

appropriate wage differentials between roles. Not only does this seem the right thing to do, but we also hope that the resulting increased pay levels for most staff will help with retention in roles that are increasingly difficult to recruit to, including porters, qualified chefs and nursery staff. We are fortunate to have still been able to attract world leading academics to College Fellowships, but this remains a concern given the additional requirements post-Brexit on those from European countries and North American salaries being considerably higher than those in the UK.

I have spent much of this article writing about changes I have observed, but be assured that much of what you remember from your time in Oxford remains unaltered: rigorous academic standards; the cultivation of independent and critical thinking; exposure to new challenging ideas; the widest range of serious and fun social, sporting and cultural activities; and forming deep lifelong friendships. I often say that St Anne's is a community

that is not afraid of change, but it is also one that treasures the invaluable legacy we have been given by our predecessors and remains true to its history and values. It is in this spirit that we have dedicated ourselves to a major capital project of regeneration for our Bevington Road houses, which will bring them up to date as sustainable and comfortable student housing, while also preserving their original features and the sense of a 'home away from home' Bevington Road residents will remember from their time there. You can read more about this in Edwin Drummond's article later in the issue, but suffice it to say for now that the Bevington Road of the future will reflect the St Anne's we have always been: an inclusive and welcoming Oxford home for our students, and one which is committed to respecting our past and securing our future. We are and we will remain a place that is about education and research, and aspires to understand the world and change it for the better.

**Helen King** Principal (PPE, 1983)

# Inside the upper chamber

RUTH DEECH

**A former student and Principal of St Anne's takes us into the House of Lords for a rare insight into its critical – though often criticized – role in the maintenance of democracy.**

We peers are so often depicted wearing red ermine-trimmed robes, a vision that brings to mind either Margaret Atwood's Handmaids, creatures of servitude and fertility, or Santa Claus, jolly and bountiful. Neither is accurate. The Lords wear their red robes rarely: on ceremonial occasions such as the annual state opening of parliament and on introduction and, unless a robe has been handed down in the family, one has to hire it at some cost. Otherwise, it is workaday attire and even the requirement for men to wear a tie has been removed. Despite media reports it is a hardworking place, as I shall describe. I feel privileged to be there, and annoyed when we are criticized for illegitimacy and slackness. If only my parents (my father a refugee) could have lived to see my elevation...

I was appointed under the Blair government in one of the early years of the new system of 'People's Peers' whereby, from the change in the law

in 2000, one could apply to become a member. Never one to miss out on applications, I duly did so and heard nothing for five years. Having forgotten about it, I was excited to be invited to interview: how much time could I give it, what subjects could I speak on and were there any skeletons in my cupboard? I said I could speak on higher education, women and family law issues, legal and international law topics. I have stuck to those on the whole. The advice I was given, absolutely accurate, is never to address an issue on which you are not wholly informed, for there will always be someone there who knows more about it than you do and is indeed an expert. This is certainly true of the crossbenchers, the independent grouping of which I am a member, most of whom have been appointed as I was by the House of Lords Appointments Commission. We have nurses, diplomats, engineers, a ballerina, paralympic athlete, former bishops, scientists and engineers, practising lawyers and former judges, policemen, equality and diversity campaigners, educationalists, social workers, doctors, business people, creative artists, sportsmen, media people, civil servants, the military, historians, bankers, a bishop, a rabbi

and a Sikh.

What we do not have in our group is donors of large sums to the political parties, which is admittedly not the appropriate criterion for appointment, although some of them make worthy contributions. The arguments for getting rid of the hereditary element, some 92 men, have been made frequently, although some of them, too, are well worth their seats. There is no possible argument today for retaining 26 bishops in the Lords, nor for starting every sitting with prayers, as we do. Their position is anomalous: it seems we are the only legislature in the world apart from Iran with reserved legislative positions for clergy. It is particularly annoying that there is an unwritten rule in debate that when a bishop rises in order to speak, all other intending speakers should give way. It is hard to think of any outstanding contribution made by any of them. Women make up about a quarter of the membership and feel badly that hereditary peers are bound to be all men. Women have held all the important posts – Speaker, Chief Whip, Leader of the House, party leader. Religious and ethnic diversity is well represented.

The size of the Lords (800+ and set

to increase via Boris Johnson and Liz Truss's appointments) has provoked criticism, rightly so. The average attendance is nearer 350 and only for the most exciting votes (for example, Brexit and going to war) do we muster more than 500. There is no inbuilt government majority and the Conservatives are regularly outvoted by a combination of Lib Dems, Labour and Crossbench. Crossbenchers are wooed not whipped, for their votes can swing an issue. There are celebrity appointments who take the title and do not show up. Those who do come frequently work very hard. There are dozens of committee meetings every week and hundreds of amendments put down by peers in an attempt to improve the (often rushed) drafting and passage of bills coming from the Commons. An example is the Lords' amendment to the Police, Crime and Sentencing Bill 2022 that expanded pardons for abolished same-sex offences. At report stage the government picked this up and it became law. Rather exceptionally this year a private member's bill, the Ballot Secrecy Bill, was initiated in the Lords and sailed through the Commons to arrive on the statute book. It is an Act to ensure that only one person at a time can enter a polling booth – needed because there have been many instances of women (almost always) being followed into a voting booth by

members of the family, no doubt in an attempt to strong arm them into voting the way the family want them to. (Unfortunately no such control can be imposed over postal ballots.) It was the Lords that persuaded the government to produce a Code of Practice for Online Social Media Platforms in 2019, the start of the great battle over what may and may not be posted online. There is no guillotine on debate in the Lords, so as much time can be taken as needed to debate crucial issues. I have just come from one about the rights and wrongs of a provision for 'stop and search' without suspicion, where predictably the Lords voted against – it is a very liberal body and also a very Remain body, which did its best to prevent Brexit. I found I was a rather lonely voice on the crossbenches in voicing my 40-year-old conviction that we should leave the EU for political and moral reasons.

The Lords themselves have tried hard to reduce their number and reform the admissions system. Committees have recommended, with wide support, a retirement age, a length of service term, a pruning of a certain per cent of each party grouping by the party, removal of the hereditary peers and the bishops, exclusion of peers who do not show up regularly, and giving greater powers to the Appointments Commission to check suitability. Surprisingly to the public, reform,

including election of peers, is resisted in the last resort by the Commons. First because a democratically elected House of Lords would rival the Commons for legitimacy, which it does not currently, because of the provisions of the Parliament Acts limiting its delay powers. Secondly because MPs rather fancy a nice retirement seat on the red benches, as they see it; and thirdly because successive Prime Ministers find it convenient to place their allies in the Lords either to do a job of work as a Minister, or, as we read, out of gratitude for favours. The only prospect I see in relation to reducing the numbers will be our own efforts, rather than legislation.

What do we actually do? I have served on the Legislative Scrutiny Committee looking at thousands of statutory instruments; the Communications Committee (media and digital), the pre-legislative scrutiny committee examining the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Bill 2008 (my expertise!) and the Services Committee (parking, food, building, just like College). I chaired the Disability and Equality committee which produced a report on the neglect of disabled people's rights by the government, which has had some effect. By amendment, I achieved an extension of the period for which women's frozen eggs can be kept from 10 years to 55, a change for which fertility groups had lobbied for a long time. I am on the brink of getting reform

## House of Lords

of the law of financial provision on divorce, which has remained unchanged for 50 years. And I am campaigning strongly to stop the ill-advised and ill-located Holocaust Memorial planned for Victoria Tower Gardens adjacent to the Palace of Westminster. We hold the government to account by asking oral and written questions that have to be answered; we revise bills; we hold in-depth committee meetings to which ministers and members of the public *inter alia* give evidence; we provide a check and a balance to the otherwise untrammelled power (the so-called 'elective dictatorship') of the Commons. We do this relatively cheaply, at about a tenth of the cost of each MP's expenses. We are not provided with secretaries and we have to wait to get a corner of a shared office. I do all my own research and secretarial work. Hundreds of emails arrive every day, inviting one to meetings or offering briefings on topics. (A notable exception is Oxford University, which fails to notify its many graduates in the House of its views on educational matters that are coming up for debate. I have told them...) If one does not live in London the daily expenses allowance does not go far: readers will know the cost of a London hotel room or, in my case, a room at my club, the Royal Society of Medicine, to which I was introduced by fellow alumna Anne Grocock. The food in the

more modest eateries in the Lords is not expensive but it is no gourmet paradise, let me assure you!

The building in which we work is crumbling; when it rains the buckets are on the red carpets. The masonry is tumbling down, the scaffolding is everywhere, the plumbing is shocking and the lack of office and computer space is critical. Visitors from second chambers in other countries are appalled when they see the conditions inside the splendid gothic exterior. The genuine scandal is not the membership, mostly a worthy and dedicated bunch, but the failure so far to start on renovating the Palace. It is inspected night and day for fire hazard (and risk of terror) and serviced by a very special breed of staff and attendants, from the clever clerks helping committees to the knowledgeable doorkeepers and attendants. You should see it at work for

yourself, either by visiting or watching the work on [parliamentlive.tv](http://parliamentlive.tv) or the BBC Parliamentary Channel.

**Baroness Deech** (Law, 1962) was Principal of St Anne's 1992-2004

*Baroness Deech KC(Hon)*



## 'A is for Africa': towards the decolonization of knowledge production

SYLVIA TAMALE

**In the last of the highly successful Devaki Jain Lecture series, our speaker looks at a seldom discussed legacy of empire and colonialism, the damaging impact on language and education.**

A big warm 'Good Evening to you banange!' Banange is Luganda for 'my fellows' – a term I shall return to later in my talk. I could begin with theories of power, rehashing concepts such as Karl Marx's ideology or Antonio Gramsci's cultural hegemony or Michel Foucault's 'Regimes of Truth' or Aníbal Quijano's concept of coloniality... but I really don't want to send you to sleep! Suffice it to say here that Western imperialism presents its worldview of reality as the only sensible one, as 'common sense', in order to manipulate and exploit 'the Other'. And because colonial logics dominate not through physical coercion but through the widespread acceptance of their ideologies and practices, they are hardly ever questioned.

I vividly remember my wry amusement in elementary school as I stumbled over the strange words that made up the

English alphabet: 'A is for Apple... I is for Igloo... K is for Kangaroo... M is for Mittens... S is for Snow... V is for Violin!' Using such alien symbols for learning phonetics simply defeats the purpose of cognitive learning; if the child has no existing knowledge of the visual symbols and sounds, how do you expect them to correctly name them? Unfortunately, this comical and skewed elementary ABC lesson is reflected in most of the formal learning around the continent where students continue to uncritically consume Eurocentric material.

The world is living one Big Lie! A big lie with many spin-offs. That lie has been successfully spun by imperialist powers over centuries. The lie is that on planet earth, there is one universal correct way of being human. The lie constructs the



Western way of thinking, of being and of doing as a one-size-fits-all model, the 'default drive' for the entire world. It mandates universal conformity to Western ways of understanding and interpreting the world. This includes in education, governance, development, measuring time, quality of life and so on. Many scholars have written and spoken about different aspects of this Big Lie. All agree that the Big Lie and its varied spin-offs converge around the

## Devaki Jain Lecture

creation, normalization and sustenance of capitalist relations of production and profit for the West at the expense of non-Western societies.

But even as I make reference to concepts like the 'West', the 'non-West' or even 'Africa', I am keenly aware that these entities are far from being homogeneous. Indeed, there are several enclaves of 'non-Wests' within the 'West', for example racial minorities, queer communities, post colonialists, Marxists. And the entity baptised 'Africa' by the imperialists is so rich in diversity that the only common denominator that unifies it is the logic behind the Big Lie that stereotypes the continent as incorrigibly primitive, underdeveloped and inflicted with conflicts and gloom.

As is true for all untruths, the 'Big Lie' is spread through the power of language and discourse. Through tools such as mass media, education, religion and law, colonialists constructed narratives of the 'naturalness' of White supremacy and Black inferiority, male supremacy and female inferiority, heteronormativity and so on. During the second half of the 20th century, the imperialists appeared to retreat from Africa with the formal lowering of colonial flags at ceremonial independence parades. However, they had utilized seven and a half decades of colonial rule to firmly entrench The Lie through the globalization of

Western values, norms and knowledge, all in the name of 'civilizing' the 'dark continent'. During this time, they systematically put in place structures and mechanisms that sustained their domination even after losing a physical presence in post-independent colonies. Today, the colonial machinery has successfully woven a totalising ideology that penetrates all aspects of African lives. Through knowledge production and dissemination, this machinery exercises powerful and insidious forms of hegemonic power, hence sustaining the world economic order.

When Africa was colonized, the organic growth of its sociopolitical processes was disrupted and/or destroyed, leading to the successful capture of the minds of its people through restructuring their knowledge systems and erasing and/or devaluing their history, culture, expressions and ways of being. The era of digital revolution launched in the late-1980s has given the imperialists even more power to reshape the world in more profound ways than had ever been imagined.

This evening I'm going to focus on some of the ways that the Big Lie is constructed and sustained, focusing on its implications for Africa. I will highlight some of the mechanisms and technologies of power through which 'universal' norms are constructed and

spread across the continent, and also talk about the politics of knowledge and the autocratisation of global knowledge production and knowledge acquisition. How can we democratize and decolonize the epistemic space? In which ways can we talk back to 'epistemological apartheid'?

Following this introduction, I focus on five social structures to briefly elaborate on the mechanisms through which colonial norms and beliefs become embedded in hegemonic ordering:

- the formal education system;
- the notion of time;
- the theory of development;
- the concept of gender;
- the institution of the museum.

My paramount concern is to demonstrate how Africa has been caught in the vortex of Euro-American globalised knowledge production and dissemination since colonization in the 19th century. Some of the insidious ways that the empire sustains its dominance in Africa through knowledge production will be highlighted as I also discuss ways that we can undo such hegemonic power.

### **The formal education system**

In secondary school, my history teacher taught me all the fine details of the French Revolution, but neither the

Haitian nor the Algerian revolution was covered in the syllabus. He also explained the Jewish holocaust at the hands of Hitler's Nazis, but said nothing about the German genocide of the Herero and Nama people in Namibia that foreshadowed Nazi ideology. The geography teacher exposed me to knowledge about the main islands that make up New York City but not those of Lagos. Timbuktu was referred to in a disparaging and patronizing fashion, as I was forced to cram the ten commandments of the European 'civilizing' God while simultaneously drumming into my impressionable young mind that the spiritual world of my people was evil witchcraft and paganism. I could go on ...

At Makerere University, modelled on the best high-learning institutions of Europe, I detested the professors who stood at the lectern and talked down to us. They separated and privileged theory over practice, thinking over feeling, science over the arts, masculinity over femininity; they distorted, minimized and Othered indigenous knowledges and experiences; and they dismissed our voices as students. To be inquisitive and contrarian was not only frowned upon, it was penalized.

My experiences at school taught me several lessons, positive and otherwise. First of all, Africa needs to stop viewing

the educator as the 'know-it-all' teacher but, to use Paulo Freire's description, as a 'dialogical co-investigator' who learns with the learners. The main role of the educator should be to re-orient the perspectives of students, hone their critical thinking skills and dismantle the reproduction of dominant ideologies. Freire emphasized the use of praxis whereby teachers and students collectively engage in critical analyses of oppressive systems that dehumanize and marginalize.

Remembering that the classroom and lecture room are at the centre of Western thinking, it is important to supplement such methods through a return to African educational pedagogies such as story-telling, socio-dramatic plays, folksong, parables and poetry. Moreover, in most of Africa, academic subjects, particularly in higher education, are taught through the medium of a colonial language. What Africa needs is an education that takes indigenous knowledge bases seriously and is context-embedded as well as empowering. Franz Fanon fully understood that those who control language, control reality, which is why Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Chinua Achebe implored Africans to 're-story' their realities in 'vernacular' traditions.

When it comes to research, those that dominate the knowledge production

industry have also developed standards and criteria for what qualifies as legitimate knowledge globally. The blueprints for constructing truths are straight-jacketed into conventional standards that serve the status quo. Thus, in order to make any scientific (social or natural) knowledge claims, your research must follow certain rules and the results have to be published in a specified written format.

Traditionally, in Africa, theory was constructed through oral stories; in fact, practice, theory and knowledge-building were all integrated. In other words, life's meanings were explained through fables, myths and spirituality. Kenyan Nobel-prize winner, Wangari Maathai, was fond of telling the story of how, as a child, she used to collect firewood for her mother. The mother forbade her from collecting wood from the so-called strangler fig tree as it was the 'tree of God' that was never to be cut, burnt or used. In fact, her people worshipped under this tree. Decades later, as an accomplished environmentalist, Maathai realized that the sacred tree was preserved because it protected the highland soils from erosion and mudslides; its strong, deep roots chiseled rocks to make underground springs that provided subterranean water for the villagers. When the colonial missionaries and administrators arrived in Kenya, they ordered most

of these trees to be cut down for their representation of 'pagan' gods.

This story depicts the epistemic relationship between Indigenous people and nature, manifested through their spirituality and taboos. Wangaari's people who had never been inside a Western-type classroom understood climate change better than today's so-called experts. The story-driven theoretical framework was more impactful than the alienating anthropogenic global-warming explanations being touted today. Stories do not have complicated jargon and opaque expressions, and easily resonate with the masses. Yet such counter-stories are viewed by the powers-that-be as 'unscientific' and therefore flaky. This marginalisation of different ways of knowing leaves no room for the cross-pollination of ideas. Theoretically-nuanced stories have always been popular with feminist researchers even as they are frowned upon and vilified by anonymous peer reviewers and mainstream publishers and all those critics that Carolyn Nordstrom aptly refers to as 'the judges of epistemology'. We must heed calls from scholars such as Linda Tuhiwai Smith to 'recentre' Indigenous ways of knowing and to decolonize methodologies derived from oral traditions.

As the epicentre of colonial indoctrination, the African university itself needs to be reinvented as a

subversive anti-imperialist, anti-sexist, anti-capitalist and non-elitist space. The decolonized/decolonial university in Africa should valorise the knowledge of indigenous artisans, traditional medicine practitioners, agriculturalists, ecologists, griots, musicians and other local experts outside the 'ivory tower' of Eurocentric academia. The physical and conceptual walls that separate the university from local populations should be pulled down and the institutional doors flung open for 'the community', remodelling it to the basic needs of Africa. A 'horizontal cross-pollination' of ideas between indigenous knowledges and the relevant Western praxis would resonate better with Africans than the vertical domain of neoliberal modernity currently recycled in most African universities.

It is important for Africans to collaborate with critical thinkers located in the global North as well as expand and strengthen South-South relations in its commitment to decolonize and liberate the continent. But such collaborations should be based on mutual respect and shared interest. It is quite common for Western-based scholars to treat their African colleagues, as 'glorified informants'. In such transnational intellectual division of labour, the latter are assigned the empirical tasks while the former designate themselves as the theory builders.

By forging and promoting alternative ways of thinking, Africa shall bypass the barriers of the intellectual gate-keepers and flatten hierarchies. Forging synergy between diverse philosophies and a cross-pollination of various geocultural perspectives, a dialogue between disciplines, must be part of the counter-hegemonic global movement.

Finally, on education, the academic publishing industry in Africa is too small, insular and conservative, largely stuck in the colonial ways of doing things. The international bigwigs in academic publishing such as Elsevier, Springer, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley have corporatised knowledge production by taking over African academic journals and totally commodifying knowledge. Neocolonial practices that lock up knowledge, such as copyright and other intellectual property rights should be replaced with open access practices. No individual can claim to be the exclusive producer of knowledge. We all build on existing knowledge and/or restate old arguments. Open access literature is key for a continent with limited resources and other challenges that result from colonial legacies.

### **The notion of time**

Most Africans have a difficult relationship with time as conceptualized by the West. In fact, the issue of the

average African not 'respecting' time is so notorious that the phenomenon is officially known as 'African time'. It connotes an overly-relaxed attitude at best, but usually implies tardiness, delinquency and incivility. We are made to feel shame towards our relationship with time, constantly being reminded that 'time is money'. In his article entitled 'The Tyranny of Time', Iranian writer Joe Zadeh exposes clocks and the modern concept of time as mathematical constructs that have 'been shaped over centuries by science and also power, religion, capitalism and colonialism'. Several scholars have analysed time theories, including Marx, Emile Durkheim and Barbara Adams. The standardization of time in the late-19th century forced the world into a common dating framework that perceives a separated past, present and future. Indeed, key to the processes of universalisation was the reconstruction of the concepts of space and time. The homogenization and valorisation of temporalities serves concise sociopolitical and economic goals. Time is a formidable 'scientific' tool at the disposal of Western capitalism to facilitate the processes of exploitation. Scientific discourse makes us believe that time is a neutral unit, but it's actually extremely political with significant implications for our revolutions as Africans and as feminists.

Time boggles the mind but, typical of imperialism's attempts to control everything, it created the clock, which is frequently adjusted and altered to fit socio-political purposes. The best examples of time as a construct are the phenomena of leap-day additions every four years or the daylight savings of time, whereby the hour hand is manually advanced on the clock during summer to allow darkness to fall at a later time.

Yes, the generic clock may be a practical tool for scheduling lectures like this one, but we must be alive to its historical social ordering of power relations in capitalist structures. Our anti-colonial and anti-patriarchal struggles are currently wrapped up in coloniality. We are using the empire's tools and paradigms to dismantle the empire. We hold this false sense of 'arrivalism' when we mimic the ways of the empire, including the concept of time. We adopt World Bank-endorsed development programmes with meaningless end-years tagged on them, such as the African Union Agenda 2063 – that so-called master blueprint that's supposed to move the continent towards structural transformation. Of course, such time-bound estimates will crumble in the face of the reality of the impotence of a disunited, balkanized continent caught up in the web of neoliberal globalization.

Capitalism has turned most of us into robotic followers of abstract clock time. Our patterns of feeding, sleeping, resting, being 'productive', are all counted against time. Time has been commodified and the clock is the capitalists' main tool for facilitating and regulating commercial relationships around the world. Gareth Dale describes such global synchronization of human purpose as slicing and pricing time for the benefit of capitalism. As a resource, capitalist logic views time as something that can be saved and/or wasted, factoring it as a measure of 'efficiency'. Hence, the capitalist enhances profit by saving time; basically disciplining labour and segregating it from other human experiences.

Non-Western cultures had different ways of viewing time which rhymed much more with nature. For example, all conceptualizations of 'African time' were (and in many ways still are) very different from the calibrations of the clock which add up to seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, periods and eras. These Western ontological and epistemological frameworks of time are linear and progressive whereas African understandings do not follow such rigid, chronological measurements. They are circular, multi-dimensional and constantly moving in a multi-layered space. Even today, the clock's tick-tocking is meaningless to most

non-Europeans who conceive of time not as abstract chronological periods but rather, in more concrete terms, as events and seasons happening in an interconnected world that has no beginning and no end. Time for Africans is not linear but follows a spiral which, to echo Achille Mbembe, is an entanglement of interlocking presents, pasts and futures, 'each age bearing, altering and maintaining the previous ones'. The empire frowned upon such contextual, elastic conceptions of time and mocked them as irrational and uncivilized, and yet to them we must return.

It is important to note that the relationship between capital, labour and time is a gendered one; the long hours spent engaged in caring work by women in the so-called private sphere remain wageless and undervalued. Hence, the law is deployed to push time spent in the care economy out of the production boundary. But we know that it is the unwaged domestic and reproductive work performed by women that makes it possible for capitalists to profitably appropriate labour time in the 'public' realm.

Africa needs to consciously bend time and space to match its ancient history with the present and the future. Africa's ways of being and doing have never been time-bound but have always

enjoyed boundless and timeless spiritual connections between all humans and between humans and nature. Those ways are informed by the wisdom whose strength of spirit is drawn not from the human body but from the cosmic order. Africa should resist the imperialist forceful severance from nature and the supernatural. It must continue to be one with ecology's enduring time. In short, Africa should beat its revolutionary drums to African time!

### **The theory of 'development'**

Like other neoliberal concepts such as 'democracy' and 'human rights', Western hegemonic ideology firmly holds the blueprint of universal 'development' that would supposedly lead all nations to attain economic progress, modernity and civilized status. Modernist development, as conceptualized in the global capitalist political economy, references an increment in economic output; economic progress is measured through gross domestic product (GDP), which is the value of all goods and services consumed. Students of economics learn that unhindered markets are ideal for economic growth and social welfare; it is all about investment growth and maximization of market share and profits. The state must retreat from its fundamental role of sustaining the economy. Such neoliberal

economic theories valorise the market, while simultaneously commodifying social relations, human bodies and minds. The 2007/08 global economic crisis was indicative of the economic, social and environmental limits of neoliberal development policies.

This hegemonic paradigm of neoclassical liberal economics has been mastered by most African national bank governors who have trained in Western universities to reproduce such paradigms. As a collective, they have successfully executed the imperialist agenda of firmly inserting Africa into the global capitalist economic system and deepening the continent's dependency and indebtedness. Multilateral capitalist institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, development agencies and transnational corporations, are at hand to ensure Africa's total compliance with the 'rules of the game' of finance capital. Indeed, the WB and IMF have been instrumental in universalizing these paradigms and integrating the world economy through globalization. But can true and substantive development ever be achieved in Africa under the bourgeois neoliberal democratic dispensation? Is 'free trade' really free for Africans under the neoliberal capitalist structure? Is social and economic justice possible in a heteropatriarchal-capitalist world system?

Since capital under neoliberal conditions is accumulated at the expense of exploiting natural resources and labour from the least 'developed' regions of the world, there have been attempts to counter the logics of neoliberalism and modernization. The World Social Forum, for example, emerged as a counter-movement to the World Economic Forum. Regrettably, the WSF failed to unite the global South in these efforts as its agenda was more focused on de-Westernisation than decoloniality. It simply sought to shift the politico-economic centre of gravity from the Bretton Woods system to the BRICS alliance. The neocolonial knowledge systems informing the political economy of international trade would remain intact. This is quite different from say, the Latin American notion of *vivir bien* (good life), which challenges neoliberal paradigms of development. Bolivia has started to implement the concept of "*vivir bien*" with a series of transformational processes to replace global development discourses. However, the country needs to address several contradictions if *vivir bien* is to succeed. For example, without radically transforming its underlying political economy, the post-neoliberal era will remain discursive. Hence, it is crucial to dismantle capitalist/colonial relations of production, including markets, extractive practices, export of natural resources

and dependence on finance capital. This points to the monumental challenge that the global South faces in effectively shaking off the well-entrenched capitalist production relations and the colonial matrix.

*Vivir bien*, which is derived from communitarian indigenous knowledge systems of Latin America, bears a striking resemblance to the African notion of Ubuntu. Bolivia's National Development Plan defines it as an encounter between indigenous peoples and communities that respects cultural diversity and identity. It means 'to live well among ourselves'; it is about communitarian coexistence without asymmetries of power: 'you cannot live well, if others do not'. It is about belonging to a community and being protected by it, as well as about living in harmony with nature and sustainably enjoying its bounty.

Similar to *vivir bien*, the African philosophy of Ubuntu gives more weight to the wellbeing of the group than the individual. The Ubuntu ethos of communitarianism and solidarity – usually expressed in the popular maxim 'I am because we are' – can be translated as the politics of the common good, also reflected in the notion of *vivir bien*. Ubuntu values unity in diversity and holds a lot of promise for human dignity, humaneness and

compassion. It is the same spirit with which I referred to you, the audience, as *banange*. Africa can learn from the Latin American experience and revert to its Indigenous ways of 'being' and 'becoming' human; to stop obsessing with material improvement and really understand that you cannot have a good life if people around you are not living well. In addition to ideological and epistemic transformation, Africa should also learn from the mistakes of Bolivia's economic transformational efforts. It is clear that neoliberal strategies such as structural adjustment programmes, national poverty reduction policies, wealth creation programmes and so on will only sink Africa deeper into underdevelopment. A successful decolonial link from colonial development/modernising models would only be achieved through a Pan-African-led radical movement focused on uprooting the epistemic and material conditions of capitalist inequalities. In this respect, particular attention needs to be paid to the situation of women.

### **The concept of gender**

The cultural systems that order African understandings of gender are so fundamentally alien to Western ways of thinking that they appear irrational. While colonial paradigms of gender are firmly founded on polarized dualisms

## Devaki Jain Lecture

of man/woman, African indigenous understandings of the same were more pluralistic, elastic and accommodating. Rigid gender dualisms create blind spots and stereotypes that result in social inequalities and injustices. For instance, intersex, transgender and other non-conforming individuals who do not fit into the neat sex markers of male and female end up being erased from state policies and subjected to multiple types of stigma and discrimination.

Scholars of history and gender have challenged colonial gender tropes, revealing many examples from African societies where the organization of gender was not necessarily arranged along heterosexual or patriarchal lines. In her classic book *Male Daughters, Female Husbands*, Ifi Amadiume explains that 'bio-logical' sex did not always correspond to ideological gender in the Igbo Nnobi community in south-eastern Nigeria. In most African cosmologies, the dead transcend into the spirit world and live on among the living as 'living ancestors'. Ancestors may use any living body, regardless of sex, as conduits to exercise their agency through 'possession'. This is why the equivalents of Western secular notions of transgenderism and homosexuality were not unthinkable in African ontological/epistemic framings. The ancestral power of the sangomas of South Africa and their full-fledged transgender

statuses are but one example of this. Although patriarchy existed prior to the colonial invasions of Africa, its inner workings were quite different from those of Victorian era patriarchy, which was heavily influenced by Judeo-Christian and natural law traditions, and philosophically defined by Cartesian dualisms. The relative flexibility of Indigenous gender systems made it possible for women to perform male roles in terms of power and authority over others. And because roles were not rigidly masculinised or feminized, no stigma was attached to breaking gender rules. Examples abound that exhibited such gender bending across the continent.

When colonialists arrived on the continent, they proceeded to impose their own conceptions of gender onto African communities to fit into the imperatives of capitalist production and reproduction. Indeed, gender and the related concepts of sexuality and gender identity are intractably linked with and pivotal to the capitalist accumulation process. Where there had been a fusion between the public and the private social spheres, colonialism proceeded to restructure spaces, clearly separating the market (and the legal-political structure that props it up) from the domestic home. The dualisms are further entrenched in the corresponding binary characterizations of the gendered

spaces as productive/unproductive, waged/unwaged, self-interest/altruism.

The foundational colonial construction of men as productive breadwinners and women as unproductive caretakers further creates a gender hierarchy that subordinates women. It did not resonate with most African societies where many women routinely engaged in trade, commerce, agriculture and control of property prior to the interventions of the colonialists. With the colonial restructuring of gender relations, women's undervalued and unremunerated labour in homes, farms and communities worked to subsidize capital by enabling it to cut the costs of maintaining wage earners, hence enhancing its profit margin.

Feminist political economists, including Devaki Jain, have long challenged the opposition between production and reproduction or market and non-market labour within neoclassical economics, which resulted in gender hierarchies. However, most of these arguments remained contained within the unchallenged framing of the gender binaries of heterosexual men and women. In fact, it is the queer renderings of postmodernist feminism that disrupted colonial gender binaries in ways that closely echoed the values that have long existed within many non-Western indigenous knowledge systems.

Hence, the continent needs to rid itself of the colonial dualistic gender framework which serves the heterosexist socio-economic order of capitalism. Africa must reclaim the multi-gender and fluid sexuality frameworks that exist in many of its traditional cultures and rediscover its paradigms that relocate its people back to their cultural centres, with a more egalitarian gender ideology. The relatively accommodating spectrum of diverse gender and sexuality identities is founded on the Ubuntu ethos of solidarity and interconnectedness. The non-binary gender constructions that reside at the roots of many African cultures are more sympathetic to gender inclusivity and hold greater promise for gender justice.

### The institution of the museum

Museums are not often viewed as colonial relics that actively work to shape knowledge. The African spiritual masks, bronze sculptures, glazed bowls, carved ornamented stools, complex works of art, dyed leather slippers and other intricate objects on display in Western museums usually do not invoke feelings of an ancient civilization that goes back centuries. Rather, the objects are often curated in a way that conveys images of exotic relics of the inferior 'native' Other. They open the gazing eyes to differences built upon tragic hierarchies.

Not only are museums storehouses of objects, but of knowledge – knowledge that's classified to construct specific rationalities.

Museums have historically been a powerful sociopolitical tool for shaping worldviews. Different forms of museums (particularly archaeology, natural history and science) have served as pseudo-scientific projects of reinforcing racial and gender hierarchies and justifying imperialism. Ethnographic museums of the 19th century were particularly used as repositories of living exhibitions of 'primitive' Africans for the free gaze that captivated the inquisitive European public. The museum represented the visual appeal of racialised/gendered ideologies, confirming the pandered 'truths' of the 'savages' from the 'dark continent'. A good example is the 1814 public display in the mobile pop-up museums on the streets of London and Paris, of the naked Khoi-San woman from South Africa, Sara Baartman. By so doing, Europe construed her female body not simply as biologically different from the male body, but also as dimorphically different from the white female body and sexually less desirable – the personification of racialised gender par excellence. When she died the following year, Baartman's pickled sexual organs remained on exhibition in jars at the Paris Museum of Man until 1974.

The exoticised and strategic display of unfamiliar specimen and artefacts, when juxtaposed with normative European objects does wonders in Othering Africans and shaping the chilling imaginaries of the gazing European patrons. However, museological discourse is not limited to the displayed objects, but is further constructed through publications. Many of the big museums own publishing houses that publish regular journals, organize 'cultural heritage' symposia and so forth. For example, in 1963, the British Museum published *Races of Man*, to complement its display of "the negroid" and his 'close affinity to the stone age Grimaldi remains.' School teachers take their students for museum tours as part of their history lessons. Images of artefacts found in museums are also reproduced in textbooks and webpages. In other words, museums play an effective and affective role of developing Western identities and constructing knowledge about the Other – those deviating from the Western norm.

Michel Foucault characterized the museum as an enlightenment institution that serves capitalism and imperialism through a careful ordering of knowledge within an institutionally-monitored space. Hence we see the museum as an epistemic and methodological tool for shaping knowledge and understanding difference. The

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association between museums, anthropology and archaeology (and later on, eugenics) in constructing a history (read 'story') of the savage African and reaffirming racist ideologies has been well documented. Museum labels that freeze, decontextualise and fragment a people and their culture, displaying African civilizations as 'immobilized remnants of redundant pasts', facilitate the development of White supremacist ideas. Indeed, the macabre pocketing of assassinated Patrice Lumumba's gold tooth by a Belgian soldier falls squarely into the realm of such dominant thinking.

The 21st century has witnessed a new type of museology that responds to postcolonial criticisms. A few have revised their curatorial practices, rendering them more sensitive to indigenous representations. Museum administrators have begun returning some of the artefacts that were looted from Africa. However, they do so with calculated resistance and racist patronizing coloniality, setting conditions for any repatriation. For example, President Emmanuel Macron of France demanded that Africa must have well-trained conservators and guaranteed security as preconditions for returning the loot. Others, such as those holding the famous Benin bronze objects will only return them as 'shared loans' to Nigeria. In 2002, a consortium of

eminent museums in Europe and North America signed the Declaration on the Importance and Value of Universal Museums, where they tried to convince themselves that they had a unique and sacrosanct duty to the looted and/or illicitly-acquired artefacts in their possession. The declaration represents the crisis that these historical institutions face in light of the extant pressures from former colonies to repatriate ill-gotten objects – a seismic paradigmatic shift in the function of Western museums as knowledge-producing institutions.

### **In lieu of a conclusion**

Until 'A is for Appl' changes to the metaphorical 'A is for Africa'; until knowledge is dislodged from its colonial roots and rerouted into African communities, excavating the wealth of African histories and experiences, the continent will never step out of the grim trap of neocolonialism. Radical changes of a revolutionary nature need to take place in African academies and knowledge production processes in order to achieve the epistemic rupture with Western hegemonic dominance. The deeply-rooted colonial legacy of epistemic violence towards Africa's worldviews and its people requires a total reorientation of scholarship and knowledge production.

Given that knowledge represents the power of the dominant, decolonizing knowledge production challenges us to completely transcend the colonizing boundaries of modernist discourse and think outside the box – freely and creatively – to see outside the common and the obvious. Recently, many activist initiatives have spawned around the continent, for example, the South African 'Fallist' movements, the Marcus Garvey Pan-African University (MPAU) in Uganda, the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) at the University of Johannesburg, the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at the University of Ghana, the Africa Decolonial Research Network (ADERN) at the University of South Africa, and many more. It is through such processes that Africa can begin to facilitate inter-paradigmatic dialogues between critical indigenous and Western worldviews and experiences in ways that are ethical, respectful and integrated.

Unlearning Eurocentric thinking processes is our main challenge. Africa needs to take seriously its traditional epistemologies that were devalued and eroded by colonialism. Not only must we value theories developed out of formal academies, but also those that emanate from the 'unschooled'. Africa should publish for its masses and not for the imperialists or the academic elite. Decolonized knowledge should thus take

into account diversities based on gender, socio-economic status, age, sexualities, disability and so on, as well as all intersectional injustices. The continent should also caution itself about the risk of institutionalizing decolonial African thought as the new hegemonic power. The so-called specialized 'epistemic communities' should not replace indigenous knowledge. Processes of knowledge production must remain organic, constantly renewing themselves.

Finally, the double-edged sword of technology holds opportunities for Africa's decolonial knowledge production. Technologies such as the internet, for example, present the continent with numerous resources for producing, communicating and disseminating knowledge and information through multimedia formats such as textual, visual, and auditory

content. It is crucial for decolonial thinkers of African descent to 'discover' each other and connect across the globe. So, a Pan-African bid to fight off the Euro-American hegemony has also taken advantage of the digital revolution. *Feminist Africa*, the first digital feminist journal on the continent, established in 2002, is a model for many more to bloom.

Let me end by saying that colonialism is not the only story for explaining Africa's knowledge production challenges. While neocolonialism dominates the narrative of the story, it certainly isn't the only one. We have seen how colonialism maintained a tight stranglehold on the continent, making it extremely difficult to disentangle itself from neocolonial control; but beyond that, Africa can potentially open chinks in the neocolonial epistemic armour. Indeed, Africans possess agency to resist and

challenge the deeply damaging colonial discourses. Sadly, most leaders are conflicted with their own state power and bourgeois privilege, and corrupted into acting as the 'comprador' agents of neocolonialism, instead of working to lift their nations from its shackles. Thus, in order to overcome the Berlin-engineered balkanization of the continent and gain leverage over the hegemonic world order, Africa needs to establish a massive youth-led counter-weight through a Pan-African, ground-up movement led by a clear decolonial ideology. Youth-led because they have the least to lose and everything to gain by changing 'A is for Apple' to 'A is for Africa'.

**Sylvia Tamale** is a Ugandan academic and human rights activist in Uganda. She was the first woman dean in the law faculty at Makerere University, Uganda.

## Exhibition-making as a form of reading

TINASHE MUSHAKAVANHU

**'Immersive, playful and interactive' says the author; a unique experiment that combines the joys of reading with a new visual reality.**

I did not set out to be a researcher-curator. It was one of the logical ways to make sense of the messy residues of historical and colonial archives. Even though I had spent years in doctoral training, I had not been taught how to use archives or the importance of consulting the primary source. My

education was always interpretative, always secondary. I was encouraged to go to the library, to read theory and philosophy, to make arguments, but the archive was a concept I read about in books, it was not an experience I was encouraged to yearn for.

It was due to my abiding interest in the life and writings of Dambudzo Marechera, the most fascinating figure in 20th century African literature, that I started pushing epistemic boundaries.

After the writer's early death in 1987, no will was found. There were no instructions about his literary estate and how it would be managed. His objects – typescripts, letters, sculptures, paintings, clothes – were all packed away in empty suitcases by a German scholar with whom he had had a brief affair, and later turned into an archive of curiosity at a famous university in Berlin. Young people in the writer's country of Zimbabwe, including myself, were not and still cannot be granted permission

to access these materials. This is what has inspired the creative turn in my research project. Can individuals and institutions restrict or own our reading experiences?

In order to do this archival work, one needs access to materials. Unfortunately, most archives on African writers are elsewhere, not in the African continent itself, and that poses many challenges. Part of the work I see



Brooklyn Public Library 2019/2020: exhibition curated by Tinashe Mushakavanhu

myself engaged in more and more is creating virtual and physical maps, creating traces of cities and countries where these maps are located. I am not just interested in research as output, but also research as infrastructure building. Archives are important in how we study literature. Though the Heinemann African Writers Series is often seen as the bedrock of early African literature from the 1950s, the archives of this important collection are scattered in Europe and North America: a generation of African scholars will rely only on others' interpretation of how their literary ancestors came to be.

My investment in exhibition making is therefore dialogical, a way to negotiate the materiality of African literary studies that has been historically the preserve of European scholars. As Terence Cave reminds us, literary artefacts are objects made of language. But when physical objects are taken from you, I realized, you make up your own. And so the young people in Africa make up their own objects in memory of, in remembrance of, their heroes. Once I started experimenting with exhibitions I found that the staging of literary artefacts allowed me to defy convention and expectation and raise questions about materiality and literature. In some ways, I create anti-exhibitions, as I rethink the repositioning of the

literary objects and where the artefact should be seen as an object of question rather than a static exclusive piece. The immersive, playful and interactive exhibitions I have curated use a number of new technologies and working methods. The following two shows in Oxford this year are:

### **Disruptive Dialogues**

4 July 2023 - 26 August 2023  
Old Fire Station

In the mid-1970s, an unknown Zimbabwean writer called Dambudzo Marechera (1952-1987) arrived to study at the University of Oxford. After numerous disagreements with his college, however, he was expelled, leaving him homeless in the city. Living in a tent on Port Meadow, Marechera began writing what was to become his award-winning, internationally acclaimed book, *The House of Hunger*. The exhibition, 'Disruptive Dialogues', traces Marechera's life and work through Oxford and Harare, Zimbabwe, by considering what his work means for us today. This exhibition, part of the Humanities Cultural Programme and supported by Crisis, Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre, and the Old Fire Station, features Marechera's own words and ideas alongside creative responses from UK and Zimbabwean writers, artists and critics.

### **An African Book Fair**

1 September 2023 - 31 December 2023  
Oxford Brookes University Library

One of the joys after arriving in Oxford was to learn of the 'Publishing in Africa' special collection at Oxford Brookes University. I was at the time completing my book, *A Brief History of the Zimbabwe International Book Fair*, forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. The collection includes photographs, posters, letters, brochures, newsletters and other ephemera. As the material had been recently acquired, much of it was catalogued as I was using it. This led to my invitation to guest curate an exhibition in the library that will be spatially spread on three floors. I will also host public events during the exhibition period in collaboration with the Oxford International Centre for Publishing Studies.

**Tinashe Mushakavanhu** is a Junior Research Fellow in African & Comparative Literature at St Anne's College.

# Everything is similar...

**...but changed somehow. With his quick wit, his undying love for the band Queen, several award-winning podcasts and his open struggle with mental health, John Robins has accumulated a dedicated cult following. This year sees a brand-new stand-up tour in the autumn, and a return to Fringe. John spoke to Sandra Kaufuss of The Ship about anxiety, the art of comedy and the 'terminal nostalgia' of leaving St Anne's.**

### SANDRA KAULFUSS & JOHN ROBINS

*Sandra:* John, how are you? And how do you do it all?

*John:* I'm ok, thank you! I'm currently trying to make the transition from podcast mode into stand-up mode. The difficult thing is motivating myself to start writing stand-up after I've come off a two-or-three-hour recording. It's something I've failed to do on every single occasion I've tried! But most of what I do, especially radio and podcasts, is just talking with very little prep. And stand-up is just talking with an awful lot of prep. It's just managing the chunks of time I find hard. I'm lucky in that I get to work with great people like Elis James on 5live, and Beef Johnston on Beef's

Golf Club, so recording with them is just trying to make a pal laugh. Stand-up is a bit more intense, but it gets the adrenaline going a bit more.

*Sandra:* Podcasts rely on what you say and how you say it, but you can remain largely unseen. Stand-up is a highly performative and visual art. How do you approach these different acts?

*John:* I guess, at their very core, both these disciplines are just me being me. I might be talking about putting greens on Beef's Golf Club, or the horror of the self on a stand-up tour, but I don't have to adopt any personas for anything I do. Due to Covid, the logistics of podcasting has changed massively, it's rare that I have to leave my living room to record one. But nothing really beats the atmosphere of live comedy, whether it's trying new material in front of a couple of hundred people at a club in London, or doing a two-hour tour show at the Apollo – where it all started for me. I'm very lucky to be able to do it on any kind of scale. I've never really craved 'fame' per se, so the level I'm at, where the people who like me come to see me live and I can go about my everyday chores without queues forming, is ideal.

*Sandra:* Amongst laughs, we are told to expect 'rage' and 'anxiety' from your

upcoming show HOWL. Without giving too much away, what makes you rage? And why does rage make for perfect comedic material?

*John:* I make me rage! I'm intolerable to live with and I've lived with myself for a long, long time. A lot of this show is about anxiety and alcohol. And the mix of those two things for me was pretty catastrophic, but also quite funny to explore. Most of my shows are just me screaming at myself on stage – like what I used to do in the St Anne's College bar – just with people buying tickets as opposed to awkwardly squeezing past whispering 'poor guy'. That actually happened by the way!

*Sandra:* Speaking of which, earlier last year you wrote a powerful letter to your younger self for mental health charity *Mind*. How do you cope with anxiety?

*John:* Well that's a big one. A couple of things made it really bad for me: one was a thyroid condition, which thankfully has been treated now, and the other was alcohol. The wreckage that combination created in my life has been quite hard to come to terms with and it's still an ongoing process. The main thing for me has been learning about the self, self-will, and trying to remove it as much as possible from my

life. Self-loathing and all important – that pretty much sums up how I was. I was a control freak in charge of my own life. Learning acceptance, that the world still turns if the train is late or if I drop a mug, has been hugely beneficial. Part of this process is meditation, part of it is gratitude, part of it is putting other people first, part of it is letting go of resentments and fears. There's lots of parts to it!

*Sandra:* A global pandemic, wars, political uncertainties: our world is a chaotic place. What role does comedy play in times of crisis?

*John:* The same role it plays any other time really. It's an escape, but it's also feeling your world reflected, whether it's the silly things or the mundane things or the huge things. On the face of it, an audience is paying to see a comedian talk about themselves. But actually, I like to think I'm talking about their lives through my own experience, especially with topics like alcohol, or lockdown, or anxiety. It's nice to know other people see things in the same way, or are able to articulate things you've always felt but might have been too shy to say.

*Sandra:* Talking of comedy and crises, what is your view on political correctness and topical sensitivities? Are there topics that should not be joked about?

*John:* To be honest, I think this whole

topic is just another of many phony culture wars. I've never been told what I can and cannot say onstage. And save for one or two occasions where it was breaching the employment rights of people working in a venue, I've never heard of any comedian being told what they can or cannot do onstage. That has nothing to do with comedians being censored: it is about people having a right to work in an environment free from racism or sexual harassment, which seems fair to me?

Ironically, the very same people who cry, 'You can't say anything these days!' are exactly the same people who would go ballistic if you swore in an after-dinner speech at a golf club. It is always the case that the free speech brigade are the ones who are quickest to shut down any kind of conversation they don't like. I don't see it ending any time soon. It depresses me immensely.

*Sandra:* Moving on to a much less depressing topic, thinking back to your time at St Anne's, how has your time at College shaped you as a person and comedian?

*John:* Well, even though I didn't know it at the time, it gave me my first taste of performing, or improvising, on stage. I was the Bar Rep on the JCR committee and would come up with ever more tenuous reasons why events needed an MC or host. I mean, who ever heard

of someone hosting Karaoke?! But host it I did! I loved things like handing out awards or DJing in the bar with a microphone. I did my first stand-up gig about six months after leaving St Anne's and stopped doing any other kind of work within a year.

But for a long time, my university experience loomed large in my mind. I was in danger of withering away from terminal nostalgia. You never get that kind of communal living again, where you can pop down to the bar, or a meal, and see dozens of people you know. The older you get, the further you are from your friends, which is really sad. And for a long time after graduating, I would make little trips back to Oxford to go on pub crawls. Being back there remains a very strange feeling, like you've slipped through a tear between worlds, where everything is similar, but changed somehow. God I feel old!

*Sandra:* Many of our alumni and recent graduates chose to leave their field of study behind and pursue alternative career paths, but going into the performing arts is probably one of the most daunting. What advice would you give to others interested in a career as a performance artist?

*John:* Well it isn't a career path, or at least shouldn't be. If you want a career in any kind of creative endeavour, it's absolutely crucial that you're doing

## The art of comedy

it because you'd be doing it anyway, even if you weren't getting paid. You have to love the thing you're doing for its own sake, and then when someone offers you money for it, it should be this incredible moment of surprise.

If I had gone into comedy seeing it as a career, I don't think I'd have stuck it out. I got addicted to the feeling of making people laugh and writing jokes, so I had to keep on doing it. It doesn't matter whether it's comedy or design or painting or music or anything like that, if you don't like doing it alone in your house, which is tricky with comedy, then you won't like making a career of it. And then, if you truly love it for its own sake, no criticism or setback can really harm you, because you're not doing it for other people. The relationship is between you and your art. I mean I'm saying this like I've always been very Zen about it, but this lesson was hard fought, and learning it took a lot of years of my being quite unbearable! I think social media has blurred the lines between being creative and just being visible. If you want exposure above all else, then by all means go for it, but you're handing control of your career to other people. If you love what you do, it's always in your control.

**John Robins** (English, 2001) is an award-winning stand-up comedian, podcast host and author. He is touring the UK with his new show HOWL this autumn.

**Sandra Kaulfuss** (MML, 2010)

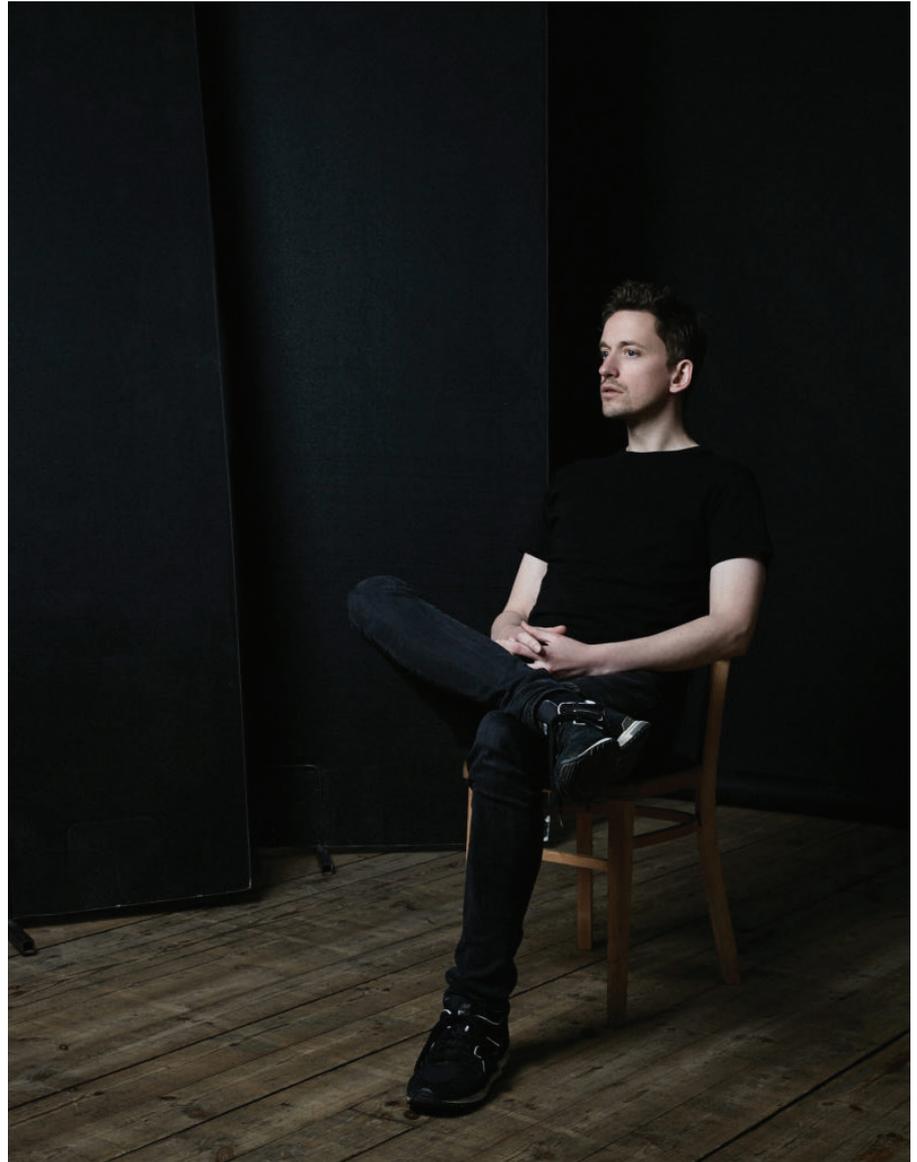


Image © Rachel King

## Thinking outside the box

SHARMILA NEBHRAJANI

**Retain your curiosity, embrace both optimism and pessimism, and don't be afraid to take a few left turns on your career journey advises Sharmila Nebhrajani in her Founders' Day Dinner speech.**

As Chairman of NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) making tough decisions about what life-saving drugs and treatments will be made available to patients by the NHS, I am often called on to speak about our decisions – to drug companies about the prices they charge; to doctors about why our clinical guidelines say what they do; and most difficult of all, to patients to explain why the treatments they might need are not always available on the NHS.

My speeches are often full of molecule names, graphs of clinical efficacy and sophisticated cost-utility modelling. But the Principal said what you really wanted to hear about was me and my journey. I had to dig deep for that story and what possible lessons I might draw out.

I hope this speech will leave you with a few key ideas as you leave Oxford for new worlds:

- life is non-linear, and the serendipitous left turns you make that deviate from

your linear path to greatness will work out just fine;

- don't be afraid to get yourself a side hustle, it's a brilliant thing;
- the curiosity and intellectual humility that St Anne's has nurtured in you will help you be that most important thing in an organisation: an outside thinker who's on the inside.

I studied medicine at St Anne's, but I am not a practising doctor. I was a management consultant with an accountancy qualification, but I only work obliquely in finance. I have run a technology business, but I don't write code. The daughter of Indian immigrants raised in East London, I had no real idea about Oxford before I came here. I arrived for interview in November 1984 and was given a room in 1 Bev. As I sat in the freezing room, utterly bewildered and frankly terrified, I found a note left me from the bedroom's real undergraduate occupant Spike. He told me he was a 4th-year materials scientist; he wished me luck for my interviews and told me they would go better than I felt they would; and he left me a 50p sellotaped to the desk, which he said I would need to feed the meter to get the electric bar heater to work.

It was an act of incredible kindness to an unnamed sixth former coming in his slipstream and it epitomized the warmth and sheer friendliness of the St Anne's community I would eventually experience.

So I came up in October 1985. A slightly geeky girl, with a nerdy interest in embryology research and a sort of hero worship for the wonderful Baroness Mary Warnock who was leading the field at that time. I also loved dancing and, perhaps weirdest of all, was totally obsessed with heavy metal music.

Here at St Anne's I found I could be that nerdy scientist. That my love of dancing could be well expressed in the famed St Anne's Saturday night bops in this very hall. But I had few kindred spirits in College who shared my love for Metallica and Iron Maiden. It was the chemists and engineers of Merton I turned to for that!

Starting as a medical student under the incomparable Marianne Fillenz was a hoot. After getting used to dissecting my cadaver in first year anatomy, finding my way round the William Dunn School of Pathology and scaring my friends with the skeleton I kept in my room, I found I loved the study of medicine and was rather good at it.

## Founders' Day Speech

But in the first left turn in my non-linear life, it turned out I was just not ready to commit to being a doctor. Towards the end of my course, after a summer internship with a consulting firm I had taken to earn some travelling money, I told Dr Fillenz that I was going to try my hand at management consulting for a year or two. Marianne was distraught. We discussed it for weeks. But finally she agreed that I would graduate, do a year out on what she called this 'mad escapade' and told me when I was done 'gallivanting' to come back to clinical work.

I loved my time in consulting, discovering the world of business and companies, travelling the globe and, as the Berlin Wall came down, starting to work on projects in the newly liberalizing countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

In 1992, just a few years after leaving Oxford, I joined the world's first ever EU delegation to the Balkhash region of Kazakhstan. A bleaker more horrifying place I have never before nor since witnessed. Neonatal congenital deformities found in 10 per cent of all live births, the water contaminated with metals. On arrival at the airport, I and a fellow female colleague were told to remove our nylon tights and wear trousers. This was not some plea for modesty in a conservative Muslim state

but a response to the pollutants in the air considered so strong they could melt our tights and burn our legs. Oddly, I was having the time of my life.

Medicine seemed a far distant land and after my agreed time out I was still not ready to go back to Oxford. Having called my parents every few months to see if I would return to medicine, Marianne had given up. It took my parents slightly longer, my father eventually accepting I was not going to return to medicine when I was about 40! I guess that was left turn No 1: leaving medicine to build a business career.

When I returned to the UK I did what all my friends were doing when they left consulting – going into investment banking to make their millions. I was lucky enough to get a coveted place at a top investment bank, but within a few days I realized I had made a terrible mistake: I didn't care enough about the money, couldn't get excited about the projects and could not connect with the purpose. I went to see my boss, then my boss's boss, and finally the Director. I told him I was not cut out for banking and I wanted to resign. He reminded me what a coup it was to get into these roles, that I would be fantastically rich. But my heart was not in it and I was determined to leave. Left turn No 2. I returned to my old consulting firm who welcomed me like a sort of prodigal

daughter and started working on TV and telecoms projects – which by then we were rather grandly calling media.

Via a serendipitous meeting with the Director of Strategy, I was recruited to join the BBC and eventually became Chief Operating Officer of BBC New Media – just as people were starting to get their head around this thing called the Internet. We had [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) – all text and pictures – but we had a hunch that folks would want to watch TV off schedule. Up to that point if you wanted to watch a programme you watched it at 7.30 on Tuesday when the channel told you it would be on. No catch up, no on demand. We set about trying to build the UK's first streaming service, the iPlayer. We made lots of errors on the way but finally we launched.

Did we know we were on to a winner? We really hoped we were, but in the launch month we still bit our fingernails and drank too much early morning coffee waiting for the overnight viewing stats to come in to see if folks would use it. It wasn't medicine I was doing but it was fun.

Science though was the itch I had not yet fully scratched and courtesy of Baroness Ruth Deech, I took on my first non-executive position on the board of the regulator of embryo research and IVF, a chance to express that nerdy interest and keep my science hand in.

So I became that odd person – a full-on career in TV technology and a side hustle in science and bioethics. My week divided into building the BBC iPlayer in one half, and thinking about whether people should be allowed to choose the sex of their baby or whether scientists should be allowed to create human/animal hybrid embryos in the other. It was a most joyous of left turns. Whilst the jobs rarely overlapped in substance, they brought to each other an ability to think of a problem from a different perspective. I am convinced it was a huge benefit. And that is my second point – embrace the side hustle, the breadth it gives you will make you, in all your work, a better creative thinker.

Careers, indeed lives, only really make sense in retrospect, and my retrospective view tells me how powerful the skills of enquiry and curiosity that St Anne's, and indeed Oxford, taught me, really were. A sense of intense curiosity to know more, an intellectual humility to listen and a boldness to question that will drive you to incredibly fulfilling and purposeful lives.

And now to the present day. I have already described my work at NICE and I also serve on the boards of ITV, a water company, a bank and the Council of this very university. I am conscious that on each one I am this medically trained, science minded, financially qualified

generalist – a jack rather than a master of any trade. But I think in the end (in retrospect of course) this has served me pretty well. Not being an expert in any one thing I listen really hard to others who are experts to learn what they know. I especially listen hard to those whose opinions I don't at first agree with; to try to understand what they understand and see that which on first glance I don't see.

US President John F Kennedy in 1960s USA exhorted graduating students to 'avoid the grave hazard of certitude and the hubris from which it germinates'. Though more than 50 years old, these words seem to have it just right. Oxford, and our time at St Anne's, has taught us to be sceptical of certitude, to avoid circles of consensus and to mistrust groupthink.

It seems fitting to end with a famous quote from Antonio Gramsci, one-time leader of the Italian communist party jailed by Mussolini in the 1930s. His quote was given to me in the hardest job I have ever done – working with clinicians in the NHS fight against the might of bureaucracy whilst trying to deliver decent services to patients. I was ready to throw in the towel many times, but a wise colleague steadied my nerve with Gramsci's exhortation: to retain a pessimism of the intellect and an optimism of the will.

By pessimism he means see the world as it is, not accepting things at face value but questioning everything in a spirit of scepticism, being careful to avoid cynicism. I think he means 'doubt what we are told' and listen carefully to dissenting voices outside the circle of consensus. And combine that pessimism, crucially, with an optimism of the will, a belief in human spirit and ingenuity and a responsibility to lend your human spirit to the challenges of the day.

So retain your curiosity, embrace both your optimism and your pessimism, and take care to build your side hustle. Most of all, don't be afraid to take a few left turns on the journey. I promise you the route ahead is an exciting one.

**Sharmila Nebhrajani** (Medicine, 1985)

# Ukraine: The situation now

PETER CRIBLEY

**The author lived and worked in Ukraine for many years and visits whenever possible. He gives us a personal insight into events.**

Just over one year before writing this, my partner and I were packing our suitcases. We were already on a working holiday so it was short work. Then we handed each other a pen, as well as a piece of paper and a second notebook. We wrote down the following information in both English and Ukrainian: our names, dates of birth, passport and ID numbers, details of next of kin and our respective embassies, blood types and medical allergies.

These details were carefully stored in both our backpacks and in between the cards in our wallet and purse. It was 1 March 2022 and our 'working holiday' in Ivano-Frankivsk meant we were relatively close to the Hungarian border. Those pieces of paper would be vital if we were killed either by invading soldiers or aerial barrage as we got ready to leave Ukraine. They would let people know who we were and perhaps provide some closure to our friends and families.

Despite being far from the fighting, in that moment we were preparing

ourselves to die. This was a rational, pragmatic decision. We had already been under missile attack once and we had correctly anticipated the sadly all too predictable scenes that were soon broadcast to the world from all over Ukraine's temporarily occupied territories. The names of those towns are now a litany of torture and pain. Bucha. Irpin. Kherson. Mykolaiv. Kharkiv. Mariupol.

While shocking, Russia's actions were not a surprise to many Ukrainians. This was the inevitable conclusion to the goals that Vladimir Putin had earlier articulated in 2021 in his 7,000-word academic posturing entitled 'On the Historical Unity of the Russian and Ukrainian People'.<sup>1</sup> The Russian dictator set forth his country's perspective on what Russian state news agency RIA Novosti would later refer to as 'the Ukrainian question' Using pseudo-historical rhetoric, Putin expounded a common Russian opinion that Ukraine did not really exist, had never really existed for that matter. Ukraine was always a part of Russia. And if the Ukrainian people were convinced otherwise, they now had two options: desist or disappear.

Between the lines of Putin's theory, we find the thought that informed the practical means of delivering this Russian philosophy: the invaders brought dozens of mobile crematoria and lists of influential figures. Russian soldiers brought parade uniforms and minted medals to celebrate their victory before they even stepped across that northern border. That is how convinced the Russian army was of its superiority and the certainty of their victory.

Yet those invaders and the many international relations academics who expected a dismal performance and a swift defeat for Ukraine were proved wrong.

Having moved abroad to head up an educational initiative in Kharkiv, I chose to live in Ukraine for many years and will continue to do so after Ukraine wins. This experience gave me an advantage that many pundits lacked in those first days and weeks. I was not in the slightest bit surprised by Ukraine's determination, resilience, will and capacity to drive back the Russian invasion. However, this also meant I made a grave error in thinking that many Russians were as well informed as I was. My mistake was

<sup>1</sup> <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/66181>

that I thought an invasion was unlikely because it would be tantamount to suicide for Russia, militarily and possibly existentially.

But the invasion happened and as the months drag on, my predictions regarding its impact on Russia seem more and more accurate. Businesses are fleeing, debt is spiralling, and the petrochemicals Russia once sold at a premium to European countries are being sold at cost (or less) to China and India; two countries that lack the infrastructure to absorb this new supply in anything approaching the quantities of Russia's former business partners in the West.

Now, when I return to Ukraine, I have more equipment than I had during that first evacuation. I am better prepared than when I took that trip to Ivano-Frankivsk. I take a first aid kit, a tourniquet and iodine tablets just in case Russia finally pulls the trigger on destroying Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Regarding this, Putin's nuclear sabre-rattling is frequently overblown in the media. Not because Putin should be underestimated but because he has the perfect means to begin a nuclear holocaust sitting well within conventional reach at Zaporizhzhia. As we've seen in Russia's latest act of ecocide with the destruction of

Kakhovka dam, Putin has no problem with devastating the lives and land of what sham referenda claimed was supposedly 'Russia forever'<sup>2</sup>. A terrifying side effect of this ecological destruction is the depletion of the water supplies used to cool the nuclear reactors at the plant. It is therefore unlikely Russia will feel the need to resort to nuclear warheads when they could so easily irradiate Ukraine without provoking a similar nuclear response from the West.

My most recent journey coincided with this crisis, and the route I took has become almost routine (if tiresomely circuitous). I typically fly to Poland where I sometimes meet with other Ukrainians who have been displaced by the violence. Many are from the east, some escaped previously occupied territories via a harrowing route through Moscow. Then I take a train, either from Warsaw or Przemyśl. The experience is almost mundane now. Ukrainian Railways have done an incredible job and the journey is similar to my experiences prior to 2022, with the exception of the tape on the windows to prevent injury in case of nearby shelling.

In Kyiv, I meet with veteran groups and local businesspeople. I visit my office on a now renamed, 'decommunized' street. I hold training sessions and meetings with local charities. Sometimes these

take place in the building's shelter. When I can, I take trips to Kharkiv, the first city I moved to in Ukraine.



*The author on the central square in Kyiv, the famous Maidan. The flags in the background are a reminder of the servicemen lost defending Ukraine.*

While there, I make sure to see for myself the various locations where I lived, all now surrounded by the devastation of Russia's brutal campaign against Ukraine's civilians. A city hall. A university. A business centre. A bar where people I know were targeted and killed while loading and unloading food for the local population. I try to catch

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/putin-says-four-annexed-ukrainian-regions-will-be-russian-forever/>

## Ukraine: lest we forget

up with my friends and document the devastation in such a way as to make sure my photos are safe and will not be used for further targeting and more destruction.

Before leaving, I often return to Lviv in the west of Ukraine where I meet with more displaced friends, some of whom have no home to return to and others who went to Europe but could no longer bear to be parted from their homeland.

As one friend in Kyiv said to me in March this year, 'The risk of death no longer makes me afraid. I will live and I will die here if I have to'. We both tried to find a more positive term for this attitude than fatalism. In the end, we settle on what is often referred to as the last stage of grief. Acceptance.

I have trouble finishing these kinds of articles. The war is not over. Like so many times in Ukraine's history, the victory so far has been one of survival and not yet of total liberation. However, I want to note that the support Ukraine receives will be decisive in how quickly it wins and how many lives are saved in that process.

I want to leave you with a warning in the form of a quote. In an address to

Westminster, the journalist Lancelot Lawton stated:

'The conditions in Ukraine, where the independence movement has assumed great proportions, are such that something is bound to happen' [with the UK supporting Ukrainian independence]. 'Many times in the past years, as I have shown, Ukraine proved the danger spot of Europe. It has again become so.'

These thoughts would not have been out of place last year. However, they come to us from almost a century ago, in a statement to British Parliament from 1935 that was also presciently entitled 'The Ukrainian Question'<sup>3</sup>. Lawton's words are as true today as they were then. Perhaps the danger he describes has only come to pass because the UK and the West so frequently forget about Ukraine's existence: its needs, its determination for freedom, and the global importance of Ukraine as a liberated nation.

In 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea, we in the West neglected our obligations as set forth in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum wherein the UK and the US promised they would rally to Ukraine's aid if it was ever attacked. In exchange (as part of the 1994

agreement), Ukraine became one of the few nations ever to unilaterally surrender its own nuclear weapons.<sup>4</sup>

Like so many times over the past century, we forgot Ukraine.

It would be a monstrous disservice to Ukraine if we were ever to forget them again.

**Peter Cribley** (MSt Film Aesthetics, 2010) is an Editor and Training Consultant. He would like to direct your attention to the following charities and groups that need your support:

- Saint John of God Hospitallers' Homes for Ukraine which assists displaced Ukrainians in gaining sponsorship to come to the UK
- The Big Help Project, a British charity which assists all people with employability, food banks, and crisis funding that has been instrumental in helping Ukrainians in the UK
- VeteranHub, a Ukrainian NGO that has been assisting veterans and their families psychologically, legally and professionally since 2014.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <https://willzuzak.ca/lp/lawton01.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-what-is-the-budapest-memorandum-and-why-has-russias-invasion-torn-it-up-178184>

<sup>5</sup> <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>

<https://www.bighelpproject.com/>

<https://veteranhub.com.ua/projects>

## When will natural calamities stop becoming human tragedies?

DAVID PYLE

**A specialist in events such as the earthquake that recently devastated Turkey and Syria highlights the human failures that aggravate natural disasters.**

Breaking news on the morning of 6 February was of a damaging earthquake overnight in southern Turkey. Reports like this often take me back to 19 September 1985 and the unfolding story of calamity in Mexico City, shaken violently by a distant earthquake. In those pre-internet days news arrived slowly, but by evening it was clear that a College friend of mine was missing, Helen Cawthray, a modern linguist from Cambridge. Also missing was Susan Mell, a linguist from St Anne's. Both had been on their way to their 'year abroad' teaching in Latin America. Tragically, both were staying in one of the five downtown hotels that collapsed that day.

Back to February this year, and in a few clicks the scale of what happened in Turkey was revealed. The United States Geological Survey had already assessed this as a magnitude 7.8 event, from analysis of the seismic waves, radiating from the source and travelling through

and around the Earth. Within about 20 minutes, the fastest waves will have reached every point on the Earth's surface, and the trace of these first arrivals – wiggling up or down – allow seismologists and their algorithms to start to calculate where the source was, when the rupture started and how large it might be.

This was clearly an exceptional earthquake, even for an area that is earthquake-prone. An earthquake of magnitude 7 to 8 would usually be associated with a rupture hundreds of kilometres long, and a duration of minutes. The shallow depth of this earthquake source – about 10 kilometres below the surface – meant that the fault would have reached the surface, and large areas must have experienced intense shaking.

Two horrible clues pointed to how damaging it might be. The USGS 'Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response' (PAGER) model was 'red' for economic losses, suggesting that there could be extensive damage. The second was the silence from people on the ground. There were early reports of damage in towns and cities far from the

epicentre, but these were from places where the power and communications systems were still working. It was only in the following days that we started to see the full scale of the destruction from eyewitnesses.

The science of earthquake measurement has advanced considerably in the past century. In the 1920s, Oxford was a hub for the newly emerging international seismic network. The University's observatory under the charge of HH Turner, Savilian Professor of Astronomy, had two pendulum seismometers. Ethel Bellamy, a mathematician, was the official 'computer'. She would measure the traces of the passing vibrations that had been magnified and recorded with a light beam onto a moving roll of photographic paper. Then, gathering data by telegram from her worldwide network of correspondents with similar instruments, Ethel would compute the size and location of major events. This was a time-consuming process, and could take days or weeks to refine. Today's global instrument network is digital and automated, and as near to 'real-time' as is possible, given the speed at which seismic waves move – about 8 km per second in the upper reaches of Earth's mantle.

## Earthquake tragedy in Turkey

What about forecasting earthquakes? Here, the science has also developed, but the prognosis isn't necessarily very helpful. Work by those early computers helped to pave the way for plate tectonic theory: the outer eggshell-thin crust of the Earth is made up of rigid plates, which cause earthquakes as they slide past each other. The success of this theory in explaining global patterns of mountain belts and seismicity, and the geological histories of the continents, means that it is the dominant framework for understanding the solid Earth. But some parts of the planet still defy simple explanation, such as the vast zone of earthquake activity across the Aegean Sea and Anatolia. This is hard to explain just using the idea of rigid plates, unless there are lots of them.

In recent years, satellite data have started to shed light on this question. Constellations of satellites orbit the planet, capturing radar images of Earth's surface from a vantage point 700 km up. By comparing the difference between successive radar images, we can see tiny changes in elevation – down to the centimetre level – across the landscape. The first of these satellites launched in the 1990s, and even as recently as ten years ago a research student might devote three years of work to tease apart the changes in Earth's surface during a single large earthquake from radar data. Now, with

decades of accumulated imagery, vast quantities of new data arriving daily, and automated processing algorithms, geoscientists can compute the pattern of tiny accumulations of deformation across the continents. This shows us that Anatolia is like a giant crumple zone, being squeezed inexorably westwards, as the African plate advances on Eurasia. At country-scale, the radar data reveal the damage zones along the faults that cross the region. These zones are deforming, but not fast enough to ease the northwards movement of the African plate. So, every now and then a fault will fail catastrophically in a large earthquake. It's like bending a plastic ruler: as you push the ends down the middle slowly flexes, but eventually the continued force causes the ruler to snap. While we all know what will happen as we bend the ruler, we can't predict exactly when it will fail; the same holds true for earthquakes.

Returning to the events on 6 February, this was indeed a catastrophic failure of a long crustal damage zone – the Eastern Anatolian Fault. And it has happened before. The modern city of Antakya which was hit badly in 2023 lies on the site of the ancient city of Antioch, destroyed in a great earthquake in 526 CE.

If we can't predict them, can we reduce the impacts of large earthquakes? One

lesson that we can learn from past earthquakes is that 'earthquakes don't kill people; buildings do'. We might not know in advance when the next great earthquake will hit, but we can map the zones that will be most prone to shaking, and design infrastructure and buildings that won't fail catastrophically when it does. Tragically in Turkey, those lessons proved not to have been learned. Yes, there are building codes – but the sight of modern buildings, pancake-flat on the ground is a sign not of nature's wrath, but of the failure of human systems to plan for the inevitable.

As a geoscientist I have travelled the world, but never felt an earthquake. My own research is on the complementary but related hazards of volcanoes. Unlike earthquakes, volcanoes have several features which may mean that we can detect and diagnose eruptions long enough before they happen that we can taking protective measures. We generally know where volcanoes are before they start to erupt, and can forensically examine their past behaviour, and put in place monitoring systems. Volcanoes usually show a build-up of unrest – which can be heard, felt and smelt – before an eruption begins; and finally, eruptions can take days, months or years to unfold, often building only slowly to a crescendo, allowing time for a dynamic response to the emerging threat.

Disasters still happen – but as with earthquakes, these often have a human cause. One of the worst volcanic disasters of the 20th century also happened in 1985, two months after the Mexico City earthquake: a small eruption at Nevado del Ruiz, Colombia, melted the snow-cap and triggered a volcanic mudflow. Fifty kilometres away was the town of Armero, built on the mudflow deposits of a 16th-century eruption. Despite calling an alarm, the civil defence team failed to move the mayor to take action, the town was engulfed in mud and 20,000 people died. These tragic events led directly to the creation of a new government department for disaster prevention, and major investments in the volcano surveillance in Colombia.

Volcanoes are attractive places to live, renowned for their fertile soils and often a ready source of rainwater due to their topography. Communities living on volcanoes often have cultural memories both of what happened during past eruptions, and of the warning signs that have preceded eruptions. These insights are an essential complement to the geological information we can retrieve from the deposits of past eruptions, and they often fill gaps in the official records and correspondence that we might find in libraries and archives. For these reasons, a growing area of research in volcanology involves

community engagement. Not only is this a way of accessing and validating local knowledge, but it also empowers the people who live on volcanoes in their roles as custodians of the environment, to memorialise the past, and imagine a future co-existing with the volcano.

One place where we have been doing this work recently is in the eastern Caribbean, on the island of Montserrat. This island has a dark history of colonial settlement, enslavement and extraction. It is also a volcanic island, but one which had not erupted in historical times. In the 1930s, a swarm of earthquakes troubled the island for three years, damaging buildings and causing anxiety across the island. There was no eruption, and the instruments brought in by scientists from Martinique and Britain to monitor these events were either taken away, or fell into disuse. In 1989, Hurricane Hugo laid waste to the capital, Plymouth and, at least in popular retelling, took with it the only copy of a 1986 report on the volcano threat to the island. Plymouth was rebuilt, with a new hospital, secondary school and jetty, in the shadow of Chance's Peak. In July 1995, a crater behind Chance's Peak burst into life; and by April 1996, Plymouth and the whole of the south of the island had been abandoned under the threat from the growing Soufrière Hills volcano. The eruption reached a tragic climax in June 1997 with the

deaths of 19 people, many of them farmers, within the 'exclusion' zone; and eruptions continued on and off until 2010.

The volcano today still looms ominously over the buried city of Plymouth, and much of the island is still out of bounds. But where the island was once grey, it is now increasingly green; and the subterranean geothermal bounty of the island could help transform the island's economy. The new volcanic history of the island, its cultural heritage, and tropical riches are celebrated today in a series of community murals, painted in March and April 2023, and offer a vibrant and upbeat view of the future.

**David Pyle** (Fellow, 2006, and Professor of Earth Sciences)

## On displacement and identity: In conversation with award-winning poet Yousif M Qasmiyeh

SANDRA KAULFUSS

**Yousif is a DPhil candidate at St Anne's and the award-winning author of two highly acclaimed collections of poetry. And Yousif is a refugee, born into displacement in the Baddawi Refugee Camp. To Sandra Kaulfuss of *The Ship*, Yousif spoke freely about what identity means to him and how it is the inevitable nexus of both his life and writing.**

*Sandra:* You were born in Baddawi Refugee Camp, North Lebanon, and educated by the United Nations camp-based school system. Can you tell us how and when you started to become interested in writing and poetry?

*Yousif:* What's important here is to remember that for many years I didn't realise that other things, people and places included, existed beyond the parameters of the camp. It was simply a life that was self-contained within the containment that is the refugee camp. What eventually became my writing was already in conversation with and in response to this aridity. In a way, my writing sprouted as a desire to forge an alternative being (other than my life in

the camp) – a life within the camp and yet far from it at the same time.

There was an Arabic language teacher in the first years of my secondary education who saw something in the short texts and quasi-poems I used to share with him and who led me to think that writing was possible. But it was my father's magical ability to forge his own stories out of texts he had read that alerted me to imagination. The ease with which he would tell us such stories and prod us to think, even if temporarily, of the vastness of the world. Cross-legged, we would sit on his bed, the only bed in the house, in great anticipation. My younger siblings would form a semicircle awaiting the first utterances, totally transfixed by the sheer power of my father's imagination. That opened my eyes to the pulse of narration and how through narration it's possible to think and dream seriously. My father would always narrate the same stories, clothing them at times with differing beginnings and ends, making us feel that the body (the middle part of the story) was preserved and kept safe. How naively excited we were as children to think that

through such intricate details there was a place and time for us!

Those were my beginnings with both reading and writing. I read whatever my hands could get hold of. Classical Arabic literature. Contemporary tales and poetry. Theatre and fiction in translation. Even skimming through dictionaries, pretending that knowledge lies in these individual, lonely, words and that it's our job as readers (and later as writers) to weave them, embroider them, into sense. So, yes, my father's stories carried me through into writing. He was also a great poet himself. Unpublished. But still so brilliant with language. Both overtly sensitive and hesitant with his words and emotions.

*S:* Would you describe yourself as a poet or writer? How important is identity to you?

*Y:* To answer your question I have to return to Arabic, my language. To ponder the clash between poetry and the divine revelation as it is articulated in a chapter in the Qur'an titled *The Poets*. Both titles, poet and writer, in Arabic, are

clear active participles. Doers of things, in feeling (since the word for poet in Arabic is 'a feeler') and in writing. Where am I in these two? I would whisper shyly: a poet, since I've always dreamt of being one, of being able to sense the catastrophe. I also think, out of loyalty to the camp and what it signifies to me, that the word poet commands an active engagement with our surroundings. A bond, perhaps, that is renewed from within.

As for identity: without the entrapment of exclusivity, I'm a Palestinian refugee from a camp in North Lebanon. My Palestinian-ness is what I've always carried with me and attempted to convert into sense in writing. To be born into refugeeness. To be a refugee. To become one. To return to the camp for both the memory and the future. I've tried hard to write a text that does not position me as an identity-dweller but more as someone whose life intersects with other people's lives. This is why I constantly return to my mother's eyes in my writing, to seeing with her. An illiterate mother who to this day mispronounces her prayers unknowingly because she never went to school, and yet deep inside of her (and me) her prayers are so sincere and raw. For me, rawer and more accurate than established knowledge. My identity is perhaps part of that longing shared with

other refugees for better circumstances and a wider humanity where those stranded in camps, or en route to safety, aren't forgotten.

S: What is it you want to communicate in your new collection of poetry?

Y: *Eating the Archive* is my second book after *Writing the Camp*. It is a poetic quarrel with what is commonly referred to as the official archive and its assumed definiteness. This collection is, *inter alia*, a reappraisal of refugees' relationship with aid: How this aid, mainly through UN rations, including flour, sugar, ghee and tinned food, gifted to us for our own sustenance not only archives us as refugees but also renders this refugeeness inimitable and continuous. *Eating the Archive* is a retelling and conscious preservation of the mundane that tends to be overlooked and rendered invisible when other pressing matters take centre stage.

S: What does it mean, to you, to write displacement into literature?

Y: Both in *Eating the Archive* and in *Writing the Camp*, I write from the starting point of being one of so many refugees who are both writers and refugees and whose refugeeness is only one part of (and only one of many thematics in) their writings (a point that I take further in my scholarly work, especially in my

doctorate). I write in an attempt and as an attempt to situate my presence and place alongside other people's. Writing is an act of disentanglement undertaken whilst reconfiguring new(er) routes to one's life.

S: What does St Anne's mean to you? How has your experience in Oxford shaped your writing and your self?

Y: In Baddawi camp, and in other camps across Lebanon where I worked as a UN teacher, my thinking primarily pivoted on economic survival for me personally and for my family, and also on reading, writing and publishing whenever I had the time. UN teachers move across various schools and refugee camps to fill certain gaps as and when they arise. So it wasn't my choice but determined by specific needs and vacancies. I worked in four different camps and gatherings, from primary to secondary schools, in oversaturated and oversubscribed double-shift schools. Over 40 students are normally crammed in a single classroom. Neither Oxford nor St Anne's were part of my imagination. It was my claiming asylum in the UK and eventually being granted refugee status that enabled me to put down roots in Oxford. Even Oxford as a place wasn't a choice for me. The Home Office had wanted to send me to the northeast after my release from immigration detention but luckily I was able to make contact with a

## Conversation with Yousif M Qasmiyeh

friend's mother who then lived in Oxford and most generously hosted me in her house for a while.

My contact with the University and with St Anne's in particular started when I was invited to present and talk at Oxford's OCCT (Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation) based at St Anne's, on thematics pertaining to the notion of the poetic fragment in Arabic and how such a notion (which is inherently plural) informs my writing between but also across Arabic and English. That event marked the beginning of my now over 4-year long association with St Anne's, spanning my doctoral studies and St Anne's being my home college. I'm extremely fortunate to have been working with two brilliant scholars, Professor Matthew Reynolds (at St Anne's) and Professor Mohamed-Salah Omri (at St John's) who are incredible intellectual forces behind OCCT. Even though I have now submitted my doctorate, and sooner or later, affiliations shift, I would like to think that during my time at Oxford and St Anne's I've made life-lasting intellectual and personal bonds with people across the university, some of which have already culminated in collaborations.

S: Finally, a loaded question I appreciate, but what do you want your future to look like? Where do you want your writing to take you?

Y: The act of writing is, in essence, a futural happening. Even when we rewrite the past, we ultimately project the future through past events. I'd go as far as saying that my future is contingent on this writing. For the sake of clarity, here, I'm not alluding to any specific plans or projections for such writing – far from it. My writing is suspicious of a future that centres and at times prioritises those who speak the loudest. I just hope in silence that my writing is read for what it is and not for what certain readers expect of and from the writer; some kind of clarity that is associated with some resolution and/or conclusion. As to the near future and to writing plans and mini-projects, having submitted my doctorate, I now have the time to reconnect with an idea that I've been carrying with me since my father's death three years ago in Baddawi camp, around the notion of lateness, and how this lateness that surrounds us propels us towards the thing that is longingly anticipated and yet is either coming or not. The future is another lateness.

**Sandra Kaulfuss** (MML, 2010)

### Offers

To eat the UN flour. To swallow what comes your way  
The nod of the lack, of what it is that is being gifted; from tins to thoughts; from roofs susceptible to fall to concrete grounds flattened in haste.  
The flour equally-halved between us and insects  
roaming the place.  
To suspect as you look at what lingers on the plastic mats where meals and quarrels are had between hungry mouths  
that the cooked equates to the edible and that the things necessarily made of what is left of the leftovers are ours in the first place – the eternal gift.  
There, history dictates kissing the hand.  
A white, clean hand stretching out from one time to another,  
feeding, cutting, wreaking havoc on the imagination as the pot bubbles over on our makeshift fire made of everything new and old. From half-full notebooks signed with donors' names to sticks and twigs collected from all grey corners.  
Flour to repel our sight, as my mother would say. The dough as a war. The baked as fire for the blasphemous. We sit as norms dictate  
munching away at the scraps of tomorrow.

From Yousif M. Qasmiyeh's *Eating the Archive* (Broken Sleep Books, 2023)

### Fingerprinting

She did to me what a friend would normally do for a friend or a lover for another lover - she held my hand very tightly.

When I looked at her, my fingers were above the scanner - my flesh was scanned and so was the air around us. I thought of looking her in the eye again, pretending that we were in love and in that room where asylum-seekers and suspects gather it was our opportunity to embrace one another while the machine was doing its job.

I gave my fingerprints and left. Every time I think of that moment I feel the need to go back to that terminal and ask her what it meant to touch a stranger.

From Yousif M. Qasmiyeh's *Writing the Camp* (Broken Sleep Books, 2021)  
Poetry Book Society 2021 Spring Recommendation  
Shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature's 2022 Ondaatje Prize

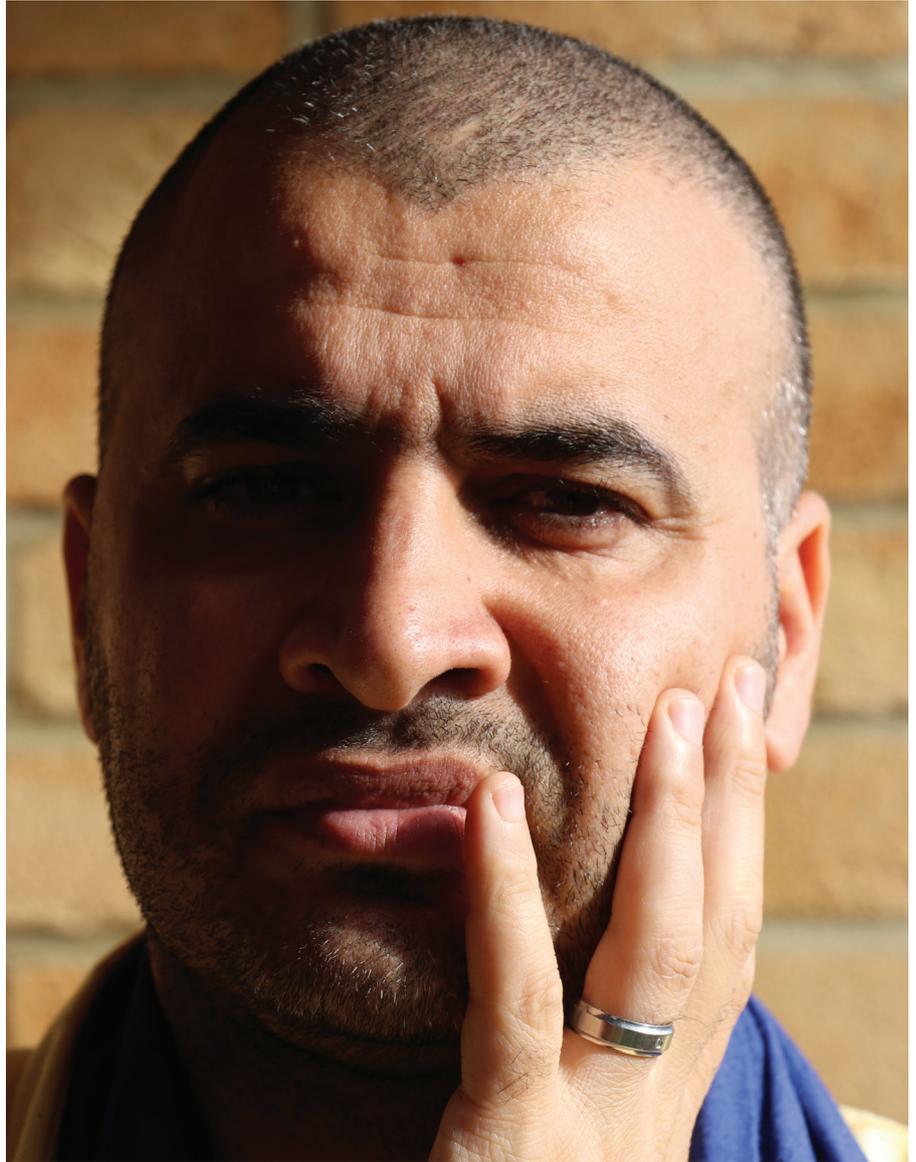


Image © E. Fiddian-Qasmiyeh

# The creation of modern Ireland

PATRICK GAUL

**What is known as 'The Troubles' has plagued both sides of the partition between The Irish Free State and Northern Ireland for over a century. As the Republic celebrates its centenary and the North 25 years since the Good Friday Agreement, what are the prospects for an 'United Ireland'?**

Since the last edition of *The Ship* the Irish Free State, which came into existence on 6 December 1922, has celebrated its 100th anniversary. I write this over the Easter weekend 2023, a time that has special significance in the Irish calendar as it recalls The Rising, which began on Easter Monday 1916. It was a short-lived insurrection which was soon quashed but which led to the creation of the Irish Free State, later the Republic of Ireland (1937).

The centenary passed without much pomp and ceremony but this Easter also marked the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which signified the beginning of the end of 'The Troubles'. We heard stories of ordinary people, inside accounts of those who were involved in the talks and analysis from political commentators. There was acclaim for Tony Blair and

Albert Reynolds, George Mitchell and Bill Clinton, and people recalled how adversaries had become friends and those who had once advocated armed struggle had become instruments of peace.

You could not help but think that if the Irish Free State had had a better start in life then there may not have been a need for the Good Friday Agreement. As you look back you ponder how the course of history might have been very different had there been more understanding and more care taken in building peace after the negotiations had ended. You cannot consider the anniversary of the Free State without reflecting on the fate of Northern Ireland.

The leaders in the negotiations that led to The Anglo-Irish Treaty were, on the Irish side, Michael Collins, Director of Intelligence in the IRA during the War of Independence, which ended in July 1921, assisted primarily by the ageing and failing Arthur Griffith who had founded Sinn Féin. Collins was 29 years of age. He faced a formidable opposition in Westminster including Winston Churchill, David Lloyd George and Lord Birkenhead, with whom

Collins struck up an unlikely friendship. Lord Birkenhead, formerly known as the lawyer FE Smith, had participated in anti-Home Rule rallies; as Attorney-General he had secured the conviction and execution of Sir Roger Casement, one of the leaders of the Easter Rising. Lord Birkenhead was also responsible for several property law statutes which I studied with considerable puzzlement and little enthusiasm in 1982 while reading Jurisprudence.

Negotiations commenced on 11 October 1921. The main difficulties were the status of the new Irish state: allegiance to the Crown, largely a matter of symbolism, always important in an Irish context, as we saw with the Good Friday Agreement; defence, especially concerning Irish ports; and the border and constitution of the 'carved out' counties. Collins knew that for many of those back in Ireland, where the Irish leader, Eamonn de Valera, resolutely and deliberately remained, nothing short of a 32-county republic would suffice. He also knew that was impossible at the time.

After much shuttling to and fro, in early December 1921 Lloyd George told the Irish that they had three days to agree

the terms on offer or there would be war. The deal was signed in the early hours of 6 December 1921. Birkenhead said to Collins: 'I may have signed my political death-warrant,' to which Collins replied: 'I may have signed my actual death warrant.' Both Collins and Griffith would be dead within the year. The Anglo-Irish Treaty was subsequently ratified by Dail Eireann by the narrow margin of seven votes. It concluded the War of Independence but brought in its wake the Irish Civil War which lasted until May 1923. It did not bring lasting peace.

What confronted all the negotiators had many complexities with deep roots and long history, going back to Elizabethan times. The Irish side sought independence from the Crown. There was nothing novel about this: at regular intervals over the centuries, groups such as the United Irishmen and the Fenians had sought freedom, usually through violent means. (Constitutional) Home Rule for Ireland had already been debated since the 1880s and had been 'promised' but suspended owing to the outbreak of the First World War. 'For England may keep faith/ For all that is done and said' as Yeats wrote in his poem about the rising, 'Easter 1916', when contemplating whether the rebels really did need to take up arms at Easter 1916.

England did not in the event keep faith. England brought in partition, creating Northern Ireland, which comprised four counties that were by a majority Protestant and loyal (Antrim, Down, Londonderry and Armagh), and two which were not, (Tyrone and Fermanagh) out of the traditional nine counties of Ulster, an entity which made little sense in geographical, political, or socio-economic terms, an act of political expediency which was to have far-reaching consequences.

When agreeing to the deal, Collins thought the Treaty was a stepping stone to a united Ireland. Article 12 of the Treaty stated that a Boundary Commission would ultimately determine the borders of the state. He thought that the two majority Nationalist counties would come in to the Free State and then the four-county Northern Ireland would simply be too small to survive. But these aspirations evaporated and the Commission that sat in 1924 confirmed the border that still exists today.

And so the politically expedient creation of the entity known as Northern Ireland, designed to guarantee Protestant and Loyalist ascendancy and to remain part of the United Kingdom, made its way into the world alongside the Free State. Neither was a satisfactory solution.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty created the 26-county Free State which soon developed into a Catholic, conservative and inward-looking nation. The radical ideals and ideas of some of the leaders of the Easter Rising were forgotten as the new state contended with poverty, the lack of any industrial base and high levels of emigration. It is perhaps not surprising therefore that there was not a great deal of involvement in Northern Ireland's affairs from Westminster or Dublin for several decades. The first meeting of the leaders of the two parts of Ireland took place in 1965. Not long afterwards, The Troubles changed things, changed things utterly, as Yeats had said in 1916.

Northern Ireland was torn apart by The Troubles which started in 1968 and blighted communities there for the next 30 years. The seeds had been sown in the early 1920s. The Troubles were sometimes known as the long war; in other words, all sides knew that they had to play a long game. The negotiations that led to the Good Friday Agreement had their first tentative stirrings not long after the death of the ten republican hunger strikers in the early-1980s. It took a long time even to agree to start talking let alone come to an Agreement.

The Good Friday Agreement was the product of modern times, a different way of negotiating. That peace process

## Ireland

sought to bring all parties together to bring about an all-party solution: 71 per cent of the people of Northern Ireland voted in favour of it.

It would be good to be able to say that we have reached a happy ending but it is too soon. Today there is an absence of war – there are no soldiers on the street and there are no daily sectarian atrocities. But walk around Belfast and see how divided the city still is with its numerous ‘peace walls’ built to keep Nationalist and Loyalist communities apart. Walk down the Falls Road and then turn into the Shankill Road and see how different the two communities are and the different views of history evident on the murals.

What also struck me as I listened to and watched the eulogies and the footage from 1998 was the language and the heavy usage of euphemism, ‘The Troubles’ of course being one example. Nobody said they had done anything wrong despite the loss of 3,600 lives and over 30,000 injured. Nobody suggested that the creation of Northern Ireland was a fundamental part of the problem. It was, on the contrary, important to put the past behind us and look to the future. The anniversary was a time to renew the spirit of the Good Friday Agreement and work together.

The Good Friday celebrations were tarnished by the absence of the

Stormont assembly which has not sat since February 2022 and will be in abeyance until early 2024. The disengagement of the Democratic Unionist Party, which has never recognised the Good Friday Agreement, creates a political vacuum. They fear that their historical domination is over and a united Ireland is a serious possibility. There was much discussion about when (not if) the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland would come to the view that the majority would be likely to vote in favour of a united Ireland. Sinn Fein is now the largest party in the North and on the whole of the island, which

would perhaps surprise Arthur Griffith. Michael Collins was surely right about the stepping stone, but was just a little impatient.

**Patrick Gaul** (Jurisprudence, 1980) is Chair of the Irish Centre, Liverpool.



*The Irish delegation signing the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Seated from left, Arthur Griffith, EJ Duggan, Michael Collins, Robert Barton. Standing from left, Robert Erskine Childers, George Gavan Duffy, and John Chartres*

## Doing time

ANNA FAIRBANK

**Though much less reported than problems in the NHS, our Prison Service is also in dire straits. A view from within reveals the extent of the problems.**

I arrived at St Anne's in 1976 to study history. I loved Oxford: beautiful old buildings, bicycles, Port Meadow, new friends. Reading upstairs in the Radcliffe Camera was a joy. The history course was a patchy dash through hundreds of years and the most essential skill required for finals was an ability to write a convincing essay based on little knowledge. I could do that. I left with many sketchy ideas about the past but no ideas about my future.

After a year in Paris, I enrolled in a CPE (law conversion) course at the College of Law in London. I found a cheap bedsit in Shepherd's Bush and started studying to become a solicitor – which was surprisingly interesting. Law suited my argumentative mind. In those days there were no fees. After the CPE came the Law Society Final and I even had a grant for that. My generation had it very easy.

While I studied, I explored London on my now battered bike, watched films and got involved with various projects – working shifts in an advice centre for homeless young people based

in Piccadilly underground station, volunteering on a welfare rights stall in Shepherd's Bush Market, and writing for a community newspaper in Earls Court. I had no interest in corporate law but found myself drawn to areas of conflict between individuals and institutions, so I did my articles with a small legal aid firm in Camden. I had a caseload of criminal cases, care or wardship proceedings, domestic violence injunctions and a few conveyancing files, and I would also be sent down to Bloomsbury County Court to deal with minor hearings. I compared notes with friends doing articles in all types of firms – everyone was having a challenging time; either being micro-managed and not trusted with anything interesting or, like me, struggling to deal with a mound of cases with minimal supervision. Two years later we all emerged with improved confidence and professional validation.

I took a break to travel in China and on my return got a job as a solicitor at North Kensington Law Centre. Although close to the affluent areas of Notting Hill there was a lot of deprivation, with poverty, poor housing, rogue landlords and discrimination towards the Caribbean and other minority communities. We were close to the 'front line': All Saints Road where Frank

Crichlow had set up The Mangrove, which will be familiar to those who saw the Small Axe series. Police in the area had a reputation for racism, violence and dishonesty. A 13-year-old client of mine was beaten up in the back of a police van by officers who planted drugs on him and told him he was lucky he was only half black or he would have been left in a pool of blood by the 'Black watch'. Charges against the boy did not hold up in court. One of my colleagues was at the police station when a suspect was brought in by officers who calmly started beating him up. None of the police standing around seemed bothered until my colleague stepped forward to intervene. It was obviously a routine occurrence.

I also represented mothers whose children had been removed. In one case the mother's partner had abused one of the children. She threw him out as soon as she found out, but both children were removed. For months she travelled long distances to see the children whenever she was allowed. The social worker involved reported that there was a strong bond between mother and children who should be rehabilitated at home. However, the local authority asked the court for an order leading to adoption. The psychologist they relied

## Prison life

on employed bizarre circular reasoning. She assumed that all mothers of abused children were complicit in the abuse, even where there was no evidence to suggest this, and were therefore abusers themselves; and since she assumed all abusers had been abused themselves as children, this mother must have been abused. According to the psychologist's reasoning, the fact the mother not only denied knowing about the abuse but also denied having been abused proved that she was in denial about abuse and would never be able to deal appropriately with her children who should therefore be adopted with no further contact. Luckily the judge was not convinced, and the children were returned home successfully.

I had great colleagues, the work was varied and engaging, and I had no intention of leaving – until, three years later, I was on maternity leave with my first child and a few things became clear: childcare and travel costs would swallow all my salary, I was too exhausted to even imagine going back to work and I wanted to look after my child myself. I took a long career break, had two more children and enjoyed every sleepless moment. Economics were very different then: my husband's modest salary as an architect working on historic buildings was enough to pay our mortgage in London. We lived simply but with huge privilege.

When my youngest child started primary school, I looked for new things to do: I volunteered in the policy section at *Shelter*, writing briefings about the Homelessness Act; I looked after a friend's baby and wrote two novels, one of which almost got published; then I volunteered in the small legal team at the Howard League for Penal Reform which championed the rights of children in prison. Eventually I got a paid job there.

When I tell people that children in England can be given custodial sentences from the age of 10, they are shocked. I represented a 13-year-old who had been persuaded to plead guilty to manslaughter despite the prosecution accepting the death was accidental while the boy was defending himself from attack by an older youth. We got him out on appeal. I also represented children who had been assaulted by staff, others kept in segregation for months and 17-year-olds who needed support and accommodation on release. This was fascinating work and my colleagues in the legal team were committed, inspiring and fun.

After a few years I needed a change and went to work in a charity in Lambeth as an advocate for people with disability, helping to get their voices heard in relation to issues such as housing, care support and concerns or proceedings about their children. One of my clients was a young man with learning disability

who had been removed from his supported living placement when his behaviour deteriorated due to a mental health crisis. He was placed on a locked ward in hospital but many months after his mental health had stabilised, he was still there, forgotten. I had to use the threat of legal action to persuade the local authority to comply with their duties towards him and find him a place in a suitable supported living project, which they eventually did. I went with him to see the place. He liked it and moved in soon afterwards.

Local authority cuts meant that many people were not receiving adequate care and social workers were struggling. Another client, a wheelchair user with paralysis, brain injury and challenging behaviour was left with no care by the local authority when care agencies refused to work with her. My arguments weren't enough this time, I had to refer her to solicitors to start judicial review proceedings. I was frustrated not to be doing that myself! I was missing the law.

So perhaps it is not surprising that I went back to work as a solicitor, this time for Prisoners' Advice Service, a charity which advises and represents adult prisoners. I specialise in disability and health issues, but we also deal with many other issues, including adjudications, segregation, recall and parole cases, transfer, family contact, mother and baby units, discrimination on race or religion, LGBT+ prisoners and foreign national prisoners.

We have a dedicated women prisoners' caseworker. Every year, many thousands of prisoners ring our advice line or write in for legal advice and assistance. We run advice clinics in prisons and produce publications for prisoners.

One of my clients, a wheelchair user, paralysed from the chest down, was placed in a cell with toilet, sink and shower in a separate room with a doorway too narrow for the wheelchair to get through. He literally had to defecate on the floor and self-catheterise without washing his hands, which caused infection. It was only after we issued judicial review proceedings that his needs were properly met. It is not unusual to have to threaten legal action to ensure a prisoner gets essential medication or treatment. Sometimes seemingly small issues have a huge impact on prisoners.

I will be re-retiring from PAS this summer. I retired before but couldn't stay away. I will miss it. But it is good to know that my bright, dedicated, witty colleagues will still be there fighting for justice behind bars. Prisoners need advice and representation more than ever. Despite all the evidence that people sent to prison are more likely to commit further offences than those given community punishments for the same offences, and despite the huge cost of imprisonment, successive

governments have pursued policies resulting in more people being sent to prison and for longer. Thousands are still languishing with no release date on the infamous IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) sentences.

Government policies and decisions have reduced the number of people released on parole or moved to open conditions. Meanwhile prisons are overcrowded and underfunded. Staffing issues lead to prisoners often being stuck in their cells for 23 hours a day, unable to access work, education, exercise, or rehabilitative programmes and with very limited access to phones, showers, and contact with other people. Sometimes it is hard reading the letters we get from prisoners, catalogues of mistreatment and despair.

David Cameron once said that the idea of a prisoner voting made him feel sick to his stomach. I never heard him express himself so strongly about anything else. Being tough on criminals and expressing outrage at any suggestions they have rights is a tabloid pleaser and sadly a vote winner.

In 2013, legal aid was withdrawn for most areas of prison law. A successful joint challenge by PAS and the Howard League resulted in it being reinstated for some types of cases. However, the scope of legal aid is still more limited than formerly. Prison law legal aid rates were

cut drastically 10 years ago and are still lower than they were, even allowing for inflation. Recent increases in rates of pay for legal aid specifically excluded prison law. As a result, few firms of solicitors now do prison law. PAS is plugging a gap which keeps getting bigger. Legal aid only covers a fraction of our work, so we rely on donations and the help of dedicated volunteers to provide our services. Please see our website, where there is the opportunity to donate.<sup>1</sup>

Looking back at my working life, it is clear I was very lucky. I was never that successful and never earned much. I didn't have much of a career – just a series of engaging jobs – but I was never bored. I learned a lot from my clients and my children, and worked with some of the brightest, most committed, and amusing colleagues. And I can see there are threads connecting studying history at St Anne's and everything I have done since; I'm interested in what people think and what they do, the stories they tell and the evidence they leave behind, and I enjoy a good argument. So at the point of retirement, I find I have even more, slightly less sketchy, ideas – about the past, politics, law, literature, art, and a million other things – but still have no clear ideas about my future. And that's exciting.

**Anna Fairbank** (Modern History, 1976)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.prisonersadvice.org.uk/>

# What the bots are telling us

RUSSELL TAYLOR

### **A light-hearted – but ultimately threatening – look at the role and future of AI**

I suspect I'm not the only contributor to this edition of *The Ship* who didn't give a sly thought as to whether they could get an AI chatbot to write their article for them this year. After all it would have certain advantages. The fee for this annual writing job for us contributors is payable in the occasional lunch with the editor (not that this isn't a charming and enjoyable prospect) and the copy deadline always seems to fall just as the weather's getting nice and one's thoughts are turning to the summer holidays. Chatbots don't eat lunch or go on holiday.

Obviously, we contributors are dedicated professionals and would never resort to such a scurrilous subterfuge, but I'm just wondering: would we have got away with it if we had? As a professional writer I'm hoping not for obvious reasons.

The invention of AI has been as significant as the atom bomb. Eighty years ago, mankind (I can use this antiquated and sexist term as I believe it was a bunch of men who thought up the idea) worked out how to destroy our physical world. Now we have figured out how to destroy our intellectual world too.

But this was not how it was meant to be. Back when I was a kid in the 1960s and 1970s, we were told that technology would be our friend. Stiff-suited Raymond Baxter on *Tomorrow's World* on a Thursday evening would inform us that in the future machines would be the servants of humankind, ushering in a new golden age of leisure. Robots would do our bidding, performing all the boring manual tasks and freeing us up to spend our days sitting around composing symphonies and writing poetry. Unfortunately it's turned out the other way round. Chatbots can now write poetry and symphonies. And we humans are left with the washing up.

The classic hit-list of jobs that are vulnerable to AI includes all those nice, sensible middle-class professions that our mums dreamed of us ending up doing when they dropped us off at the Gatehouse all those years ago: accountants, lawyers, doctors, journalists...

I am a journalist/writer, so my livelihood is clearly at risk. This is doubly unfair, because as far as we creative types are concerned, AI is part of a double whammy on our livelihoods perpetrated by technology. Ever since the invention of printing, if people wanted to read stuff, they expected to have to pay for it: a book, a newspaper, a magazine,

a theatre programme; they all had their price. But then at the end of the Twentieth Century along came the Internet and took away a lot of the paid gigs from writers. Suddenly there was all this free stuff online. What was the point in paying for writing? It's now got to the stage that no person aged under 40 would consider buying a physical newspaper. Why would they want to pay money to read yesterday's news, when they can get today's for free online?

All that was bad enough, but now AI has come along and driven the second nail into the writer's coffin. Many of us have been reduced to writing at a knock-down rate or for free, but now there's no need for us to even do that anymore: bots will also do it for free and instantaneously.

But before I consign my own profession to the scrapheap, I have a small crumb of hope, which is expressed in another scenario which has been worrying me over recent years.

As I've got older it's started to bother me that I can't teach what I do for a living. It's not so much me wanting to pass on this art form to the next generation, but more about being able to earn some money when I'm too old to do anything else. Various friends of mine are drifting into retirement (no one seems to actually retire totally these days). In the

main these are the people who followed their mum's advice and got proper skills as bankers, accountants or lawyers and are now spending an increasing proportion of their time sitting as non-executive directors on company boards or working as business consultants or life coaches. They have an expertise that is in demand.

But I write humour for a living. You can't teach that. Okay, I know that creative writing courses exist, but I think their main utility is giving wannabe writers a deadline to produce stuff by and encouraging them to show their work to others. I can't teach what I do, because I don't even know how I do it myself. Essentially, I sit at a desk each morning in a boring room with a cup of coffee and a blank sheet of paper (or sometimes a blank Word document) in front of me. Then I start writing stuff. I write until I get something that's any good (usually I have to replenish that coffee cup quite a few times in the process). How do I know when I've got something that's good? I don't know. I just do. It feels somehow connected. There's a tension there. It's impossible to describe.

But now, suddenly, I can see the advantage of the fact that what I do is unquantifiable. It means that it can't be reduced to an algorithm. AI can't write jokes, because although it can spew out prose much quicker than any human writer, it has no judgement. It can't tell what's interesting and original from

what's boring and obvious. Or maybe different things are interesting and boring to machines than to humans. On balance, perhaps my job is safe at least until the next editions of *The Ship*. Or when the machines decide to stop bothering to do what we humans want them to do and do what THEY want instead...

In the interests of balance and avoiding a human-centric bias to creep in I decided to let GPT have the last word and to write the final paragraph of my piece, explaining why it's not a threat to humanity. Here it is:

AI is not a threat to humanity, primarily due to the crucial role played by humans in its development and application. As a tool created by humans, AI systems rely entirely on the data and instructions they are provided. They lack consciousness, intentionality and emotions, which are fundamental aspects of human decision-making. AI is designed to assist and augment

human capabilities rather than replace or overpower them. Additionally, ethical frameworks and regulations are being developed to ensure responsible AI development, deployment, and use. With proper oversight, AI can contribute significantly to areas such as healthcare, education, and scientific research, enhancing human lives and fostering societal progress.

Ah well, it would say that wouldn't it?

**Russell Taylor MBE (1979)**



*This cartoon first appeared in the Daily Telegraph. Reproduced by kind permission of Charles Peattie and Russell Taylor*

# Don't be afraid of change

SUSAN DOERING

### **From academic to arts projects manager to international trainer and coach. Susan Doering explores what makes for a successful career transition**

When I went down from Oxford, I went straight to Vienna to take up a scholarship to do research and write a thesis on Johann Nestroy, a nineteenth century, Austrian playwright and actor, who was – and still is – hugely popular in his own country, and often called the Austrian Shakespeare!) He is little-known elsewhere because his fascinating plays are written largely in Viennese dialect and their setting is very 'local'.

I received my doctorate from the University of Vienna and stayed there to do research and teach for many years. I left my academic post for personal reasons – two small boys to bring up and a husband with a high-visibility position – but after a few years was asked to help organise a global conference of psychotherapists, which was to take place in Vienna two years thence. A door to a new occupation opened.

I project-managed a total of three, large-scale, international arts projects, including a quite wonderful production of Haydn's opera *Philemon* and

*Baucis* conducted by Trevor Pinnock, the wonderful harpsichordist and director of music, for the Haydn Festival. After six exciting years of winging project management with no formal training or network, I needed to put my professional life on a more stable footing and, through a personal connection, found myself designing a course for senior managers of an international organisation on diversity and inclusion.

Although I knew little about the subject to begin with, my research skills stood me in good stead and it was a topic close to my heart. It all went well and I was recommended to be trained to work in a new programme of ethics and diversity in a sister organisation of the United Nations. Another door had opened. I spent many years travelling all over the world to far-flung places such as the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Turkmenistan, Gabon, to name just a few, working with the staff of various organisations, learning about so many cultures and the challenges of humanitarian and development work. I grew to greatly respect and admire the people working together with the local communities in their search for human rights and social equity and in their endeavours towards

good governance, education, health, and labour rights. My task was to train and coach the international and national staff who faced these huge challenges, often in the most difficult circumstances and often a long way from home and their families.

When working with groups of international staff, sometimes someone would come up to me at the end of a course and ask whether I also gave one-on-one counselling or coaching. I didn't, but surely I could! I studied for a coaching diploma, which took 14 months, and launched myself as a management and career coach.

A new door had opened to the world of coaching in which I still work. It has been – and still is – a wonderful experience. Over the years I have coached people from literally all over the world, first travelling to be with them and then, after Covid hit (I was in Rabat, Morocco, at the time, and very surprised and frightened to see masks being used on my flights back to London), using online tools to connect, which is extremely effective. The positives outweigh the negatives.

What helped make these career transitions a success? My own career transitions were moves from one type

of professional activity to a different one. From academia to project management to training and coaching may seem quite a distance. What made this a success was that I relied on my strengths, whatever the area: good communication skills, an interest in and ability to work with people of diverse cultural backgrounds, good research and training design skills, and a talent for 'educating'. I am totally happy in front of a group, explaining, motivating, and guiding.

For the past 15 years I have combined training and coaching, but there has been a natural progression in my coaching practice: I have become increasingly aware of the need to focus on the points of career transition, the crossroads where one needs to stop and reflect and realise that one has a choice of which road to take next. I have realised that, although I have been happy and successful, there could have been other options available had I stopped to consider this at the time. Part of my mission in life now is to help my coaching clients navigate turning points and prepare for career transitions.

I coach men and women. But it is an interesting fact that more women than men seek career coaching, possibly because women are more uncertain than men about choices and/or are more willing to admit their need for

support and guidance. Impostor syndrome affects both men and women, but women are more likely to admit their feelings of inadequacy – at least to their coach!

When do career transitions happen and what should they be based on? They start with the transition from university to a first job and even an internship. Many (most) of our graduates still struggle with the idea of employment and have little idea of how to plan for it. The careers programme at St Anne's goes some way to helping students prepare by matching them with mentors who can help with making contacts and opening doors, and simply with useful information.

I believe there are five key components to a successful career transition

### **Know what you value**

Whether one is starting out or striving to be noticed as someone with high potential, or moving into a position of responsibility, or changing career path, or starting up on one's own, the first step is to reflect what really interests you. Being 'passionate' about something is an overworked concept, but it may help to ask: 'What do you value in life and are you prepared to go out and do something about it?' If you choose a road that matches your values, you will be more likely to be motivated to stay

with it, to hang on through the sticky patches and ultimately feel more fulfilled than if you had chosen an easier option that wasn't so interesting. I like to ask, 'What brings you joy in your work?'

### **Play to your strengths and be prepared to learn**

When we can build on the strengths and skills that we have acquired through our education and training, we are usually better at what we do than when we try to do something with which we are not comfortable. Each of us has a set of skills and qualifications that form the basis of our abilities, and it is wise to stick to those core skills. However, we will need to finetune and expand those skills to keep up-to-date with developments, continue to increase our knowledge about our subject and, in addition, learn complementary skills as necessary.

### **Get support**

Most people have realised how helpful support is when we want to make a career move. Certainly I am forever grateful to the people who opened doors for me, suggested contacts, built bridges, offered information and suggestions. St Anne's and Oxford University are both ready-made networks, waiting to be mined. Social media can be helpful, but personal contacts are worth twice as much.

## Careers

### Believe in yourself

I mentioned impostor syndrome earlier and it is heart-breaking that so many people suffer from it and have learned to live with it, because it is like walking on a minefield all the time. Appreciate what you have achieved so far, learn to look at your successes and own them and move forward on the basis of that recognition.

### Prepare well

Preparation is key. This can be something as relatively simple as preparing for an interview by finding out as much as possible about the organisation. Or preparing for the induction phase in a new job by reading up on internal documents and talking to colleagues. Or preparing for a meeting with a new boss by not only studying the issue but also on how the boss likes information to be presented. Time spent in preparation is never wasted.

**Susan Doering** (Modern Languages, 1972) is an international career and leadership coach and mentors St Anne's students in the career programme. Susan's new book *Smart Career Moves for Smart Women. How to Succeed in Career Transitions* is published by Routledge



## A glimpse through the Iron Curtain

MARGARET DAVIES

**In an age of increasing concern at worsening relationships with Russia, Margaret Davies remembers an earlier time and a friendship that survived despite the political tensions of the Cold War**

In the autumn of 1956, as I began to learn Anglo-Saxon and to adjust to the life of an undergraduate, news of Russia's invasion of Hungary and the crushing of a rebellion in Budapest dominated the headlines. It was a significant moment in the Cold War that had been active since the end of World War Two.

Letters from Hungarian students were arriving in British universities, addressed simply to 'A student who is studying ...', any of the major subjects studied widely at universities. I picked up one of these letters in the foyer of (I think) the Examination Schools. I took it back to college and read a story that opened one of the most interesting friendships of my life.

The letter was written in English and came from a young man named Stephen – or Istvan, as he signed his name, the Hungarian form of Stephen. He outlined the predicament of students at the

university of Budapest, and said that despite the political events that were occurring in the city, the university was doing all it could to proceed normally, and that meant that some major exams would occur in a few weeks, but the students were confined in their lodgings and it was not safe to go into the streets to get to a library. The short letter ended with a simple request, "Is there any way which you could send me a copy of the works of Milton?"

Like all students, I was impecunious, but I felt I must try and do something about this, so I went to Blackwells and bought a second-hand copy of the best available edition of the works of Milton and, together with a 'Good luck with your exams' card, sent it into the heart of the revolution.

I thought it extremely unlikely that my little parcel would reach this Hungarian student, but to my astonishment it did arrive, and a letter of thanks arrived for me at St Anne's. This included information about which aspects of studying English pleased him most and ended with the thought that when normal life resumed – highly uncertain in the circumstances – he would like to

be a journalist, and that a good grasp of English would be essential.

We kept in touch sporadically over the next 15 years in letters that dealt with literature and the cultural world rather than anything more personal, although we did exchange the news that both of us had got married and Stephen had become the editor of the chief English-language newspaper published in Budapest.

In the mid-1970s, my husband had a letter from one of his former students saying that his work for the United Nations had appointed him to a job based in Vienna. He had just arrived there and found a semi-furnished flat. He added that if Derek and I did not mind camping in a half-furnished flat we would be very welcome to come and join him for a week or so.

On arrival, I chanced to look at a map pinned on a wall somewhere and saw that Vienna was only about 150 miles from Budapest, though the Iron Curtain stretched across the Danube between the two cities. I asked our host whether it was possible to telephone Budapest and was told that there was no way of finding a phone number, but if I knew it (which I did) it was worth a try.

## Memoir of The Cold War

I rang the number, and was answered by a very circumspect and cautious voice; but when I introduced myself the conversation – in English – was an enthusiastic welcome and an invitation to come to Budapest at the first possible opportunity.

With British passports we were able to get visas for Hungary without difficulty, so two days later we set off by train, and having passed through the wine-growing regions of eastern Austria our train was shunted into a siding, and the Hungarian police came and searched all the passengers and their possessions. Going through the Iron Curtain was a strange experience that made me feel I was doing something illegal, though my visit was nothing other than social.

Stephen had said he would meet the train when it arrived in Budapest, but I had no way of recognising him and he had said on the phone that since it was April, he would be carrying a bouquet of red tulips. A very Magyar gesture. He was as good as his word, and we introduced ourselves immediately. We had assumed that foreigners from the West would be lodged in a nominated hotel somewhere, but to our surprise he took us straight to his flat in Buda and introduced us to his wife Georgie, an art historian.



*Lord's Coffin from the Benedictine Abbey of Garamszentbenedek, 1480-90. Reproduced by kind permission of the Keresztény Múzeum, Esztergom. Photograph by Attila Mudrák.*

Budapest is a wonderful city, spread along both sides of the Danube, with the old capital of Buda dominated by the cathedral on a dramatic rock overlooking the river, and the more modern and industrial area of Pest on the opposite side. There were signs everywhere of the fighting with which the Hungarians

had resisted the Russian occupiers, but the people of Budapest had learned to live with gun marks on the walls and had developed ways of living as well as they could while under constant observation.

Although she did not speak such good English as her husband, Georgie told us that she and her colleagues in the Department of Fine Arts at the university were trying to find a way of getting translations into English of the monographs they were writing about some of the artistic treasures in Hungarian galleries. Most people in the Budapest academic world spoke German as well as Hungarian and under occupation everyone had to learn Russian; fluent speakers of English were not easy to find. She asked me whether I would be prepared to edit one of these monographs; I would be given a copy of the text, either in Hungarian or German, but most importantly, it was lavishly illustrated, and the photography was of a very high quality. A group of postgraduate students had made a rudimentary translation into English but it needed a good polishing before it could be offered as a proper translation.

Because I had three school-age children at home, I had not been able to do any academic work for several years and this task sounded like the sort of challenge I could tackle whenever I had some uninterrupted time. I took the first monograph back to England, and settled

down to making an English translation of a piece about an artistic creation carved in wood in the fifteenth century, in a genre that was entirely new to me.

The outstanding carving of craftsmen across Europe in the late-Middle Ages is well known and can be seen in the carved reredoses of Belgium, eastern France, Bohemia and Germany. The retelling of the biblical story of the Passion is illustrated by small carved figures of the central characters together with individual members of crowd scenes; all are dressed in the clothes that would have been worn by the local population at the time these altar pieces were made. Many of the peasant population of European countries of the time were illiterate, and they would gain their knowledge of events in the Bible from seeing it in pictures.

The text I had been given came with the title *The Holy Coffin of Garamszentbenedek*, but as I read through it, it became clear that this title would carry the wrong associations. The large wooden chest with its associated wooden figures was a unique creation, its function being to illustrate the meaning of the Resurrection. The chest, which was mounted on wheels, contained a life-size figure of Christ, whose limbs could be moved on cords, like a puppet, so that on Easter Sunday it could be opened, and the figure of Christ would step from it to the amazement

of the three Marys who were the first people to visit the grave of Christ.

Since the point of the sculpture was to illustrate Christ's victory over death, the word 'coffin' seemed inappropriate, and it was agreed to substitute the word 'catafalque', implying triumphant celebration.

The facial expressions and astonished gestures of the carved figures are very powerful, especially when contrasted with the sleeping figures of the armed guards. Over the chest is a magnificent Gothic decoration where the apostles stand on slender, high pedestals. The ogee arches of the canopy are supported by narrow columns that carry the mass of crocketed pinnacles adorning the roof.

The sculpture was made at the end of the fifteenth century for the Benedictine Abbey of Garamszentbenedek, formerly in Hungary but now in Slovakia. It underwent restoration work at the end of the nineteenth century in Vienna and is now on display in the Museum of Christian Art attached to the cathedral at Esztergom.

This was interesting editorial work, and it led on to my revising the English translations of longer Hungarian books on art history, in particular Anna Eorsi's *International Gothic Style in Painting*, whose illustrations were drawn not only

from the familiar collections in France, Italy, and the Low Countries, but from those now to be found in Budapest, Prague, Leipzig and other parts of eastern Europe.

The book won a prize from the Hungarian government, and everyone who had played a part in editing it was given a proportionate award. Mine amounted to about £40 but was available only in forints, the Hungarian currency, which was not negotiable. So when we next went to Hungary we bought a beautiful set of glasses, from which we drink on special occasions.

**Margaret Davies** (Mornement, English Language & Literature, 1956-60)

# Rescuing the homeless

FRAN RYAN

### How community-owned housing can help solve the housing crisis: the story of one small project in Oxfordshire

The core idea of a Community Land Trust (CLT) is that the local community (who are all entitled to be members) owns and controls the land or assets. The CLT Network<sup>1</sup> notes '(CLTs) act as long-term stewards of community assets, ensuring that they remain genuinely affordable for local people, not just for now but for every future occupier'. The CLT serves as the long-term steward and the land is typically used for affordable housing, community gardens, and other community assets on behalf of a community.

Escalating land costs are the underlying cause of increasingly unaffordable homes across the world. CLTs are a response to that: they hold the land in trust for use by local people, strive to secure a variety of social purposes such as maintaining the affordability of local housing, and promote economic and social inclusion. Globally, there is enormous diversity among CLTs in the ways that land and property are owned, used, and governed. In the US the sector

is thriving, having been 'restored' as an idea by Robert Swann and others starting in the 1950s. He and his co-authors noted:

*The ideas behind the community land trust...have historic roots in the indigenous Americas, in pre-colonial Africa, and in ancient Chinese economic systems. Thus, the goal is to 'restore' the land trust concept rather than initiate it.*<sup>2</sup>

In the UK, CLTs are defined in the 2008 Housing and Regeneration Act, and have an asset lock, meaning that the land can't be sold but must be held and used for community benefit. There has been a notion of 'common land' in England since pre-Norman times. In more recent times, nineteenth-century social reformers John Ruskin and Octavia Hill created several influential organisations that have the idea of 'common wealth' at their core. They founded one of the first housing associations, the Marylebone Housing Society, in the 1860s, and together with John Stuart Mill, William Morris and others, set up the Commons Preservation Association which later became the Open Spaces Society. Some

of these movers and shakers were also involved in setting up the National Trust in 1895.

The current wave of CLTs in the UK had several influential precursors. In the 1980s, Tony Crofts set up Stonesfield Community Trust (SCT) with a gift of a small parcel of land in the village for the provision of affordable homes. Tony was motivated by the fact that housing was becoming 'a commodity' rather than a home and was increasingly unaffordable for ordinary local people. Probably the oldest CLT in England, SCT has 15 homes, an office and a pre-school.

Another thread came in the early 2000s, when Pat Conaghty (New Economics Foundation), Bob Paterson (Community Finance Solutions, Salford University) and Martin Large (author and community activist based in Stroud) visited the US on a Churchill Scholarship and returned to England to promote the idea which ultimately led to the foundation of the National CLT Network. A further influence was the huge success of the movement in Scotland. The Highlands and Islands agency had kickstarted many CLTs where communities had access to a revolving loan fund and as a result many were enabled to buy local land. Most

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/about-clts/>

<sup>2</sup> *The Community Land Trust: A New Model for Land Tenure in America (1972)*

famous were the islands of Eigg (1997), and Gigha (2002). The upshot is that the National CLT network was formed in 2010 and by late-2022 there were (in England and Wales) 349 CLTs, 1,204 completed CLT homes and 7,400 in the pipeline.

### Oxfordshire CLT

Here in Oxford, a small group of energetic local people (including Tony Crofts) established OCLT which was registered in 2006. We were concerned about escalating house costs in Oxfordshire, distressed by the impact of this on ordinary people's access to good housing and inspired by what was happening in both the US and Scotland.

OCLT found its first site through Tony's Quaker connections in 2011. None of this was easy, not least because we had no funds to pay for anything, including expert advice, and had to do most of the work ourselves. Several 'friends of OCLT' donated funds from time to time to pay for essential work we could not do ourselves, without which this would not have happened.

### Crofts Court

In order to be able to access grant funding, in 2010 OCLT became a Registered Provider, registered with the Regulator of Social Housing; this means that we are a Housing Association and can access grants for

future developments. In 2019, We finally secured planning permission and raised the money to buy the Crofts Court site in West Oxford and in 2022 started building Crofts Court.

There are eight affordable rental apartments where rents will be no greater than Local Housing Allowance, which technically makes them affordable to anyone, even if on a low income or on universal credit. The homes are highly insulated, with their own solar power supply which will make them very energy efficient and cheap to heat. And the small surrounding garden will be supported by permeable landscaping to minimize water run-off. The homes are available only to those in need of housing on the Vale of White Horse's housing list. Tenants must also have a local connection and be willing to join a tenant management co-op.

There are several things that are unique about this model which make it of interest to those working to create more genuinely affordable homes.

- The Asset Lock in CLT Rules means that there is no Right to Buy. The homes will remain in OCLT's ownership in perpetuity. Imagine the difference it would make if the 2 million homes sold under Right to Buy in England and Wales since 1980 were still in the public sector, and available to rent by the 4.2 million

people in need of social housing today, part of the total 8.5 million with some unmet housing need<sup>3</sup>. These statistics represent shameful, Dickensian levels of hardship that Community Land Trusts are taking action to prevent. We cannot solve the housing crisis unless we create and maintain enough permanently and genuinely affordable homes.

- As well as being owned by the community through the membership, Crofts Court has also been part-funded (approx 25 per cent) by the community. OCLT had a very successful Community Share Offer with Oxford-based ethical stock exchange Ethex<sup>4</sup> and are pleased and proud to have secured £583K in investments, small and large, from almost 200 members of OCLT. OCLT also had generous funding of over £900K from the local authority (Vale of White Horse DC) and also the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. The final chunk of funding came in a mortgage from Ecology Building Society. Even with such generous grant funding, it is a challenge to make the finances stack up. At the time of writing in mid-2023, turmoil in the market and the

<sup>3</sup> National Housing Federation - *People in housing need 2021*.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ethex.org.uk/invest/oclt>

## Oxford Letter; rescuing the homeless

continuing threat of further inflation and interest rate hikes means that Directors are even more grateful to investors who have accepted a 3% rate of return, which helps make OCLT more viable by protecting it from the pressure of increasing mortgage interest rates. This is also a practical example of genuine levelling up where those with wealth (investor members) are sharing it with those who need it (tenant members). It echoes the Gramdan or Village gift system in 1950s India.

- Crofts Court will be run by the tenants as a tenant management co-op. OCLT aims to empower and upskill its tenants so they develop the skills and competencies needed to run their homes. As a community-led endeavour this is a key strand in how OCLT aims to work. This makes us quite different from most Housing Associations.

### Can CLTs make a real difference?

Eight flats in ten years, I hear you say? We won't solve the housing crisis like that! So OCLT directors and members are very much focused on plans to scale up and speed up. Among the things OCLT wants to do are the following:

Secure land/buildings off-market, preferably at a discount. Having made an unsuccessful bid for the Irving

Building, an old much-loved Victorian school building in east Oxford in 2016, we decided we could no longer afford to invest either the time or money in such ventures. So we have instead focused on doing off-market deals. We are also about to receive our first donation of a house which will be used for affordable housing. We also have several members who will donate or sell their home off-market to us when they die.

Continue to raise investment and donations from the community as well as utilizing grant and conventional funding.

Work with partners with deeper pockets and use our unique points (especially the asset lock) to retain homes in permanent affordability for local people.

Work with tenants to empower and educate them; this in turn reduces pressure on management and encourages more active involvement in promoting the idea of CLTs and co-ops.

This movement is growing all over the world. If you're interested, join your local CLT or equivalent. To find out more, visit OCLT's website: [www.oclt.org.uk](http://www.oclt.org.uk). Or the Network website [www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk](http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk).

**Fran Ryan** is Director, Oxford Community Land Trust Ltd



*Ruby, Sam and Otis,  
new tenants at Crofts Court*

## Hidden treasures

CLARE WHITE

**In last year's issue of *The Ship* we looked at the College's rare book collection. This year, our librarian continues the theme with news of an antiquarian cataloguing project.**

For anyone who is not a librarian, a 'cataloguing project' may not sound the most promising of article topics for *The Ship*, nor, indeed, an exciting way to spend several working weeks! For the St Anne's Library team, however, the project has been a welcome voyage of discovery.

St Anne's has a small but interesting collection of around 2,800 rare books. The Library classifies a book as 'rare' if it was published before 1850, or was published after 1850 but is considered to be valuable (for example, certain first editions), or is of particular significance to the College. Around 1,000 of these volumes did not have records in SOLO, the online catalogue shared by the majority of Oxford libraries, and we had been relying on various sketchy lists and brief details on photocopies of old catalogue cards to identify what was in the collection. We routinely hold classes in the Library for our English students using the rare books, but it was difficult to advise the tutors what texts we had

to suit their topics, and the collection could not be searched adequately by our students and tutors, or other researchers in Oxford and beyond. The collection was also at risk without proper catalogue records since we would be less likely to know if a title went missing.

The longstanding barrier to cataloguing these books online is that antiquarian cataloguing of texts printed before 1810 is very different from cataloguing 'modern' post-1810 publications. It is more time-consuming since the records have to be more detailed: it requires knowledge of different cataloguing standards, knowledge of early-modern book printing processes and, frequently, a good working knowledge of Latin in order to transcribe title page information. While successive St Anne's Library staff, most notably our current Deputy Librarian, Sally Speirs, had catalogued around two thirds of the collection, we really needed an expert in antiquarian cataloguing who could focus solely on cataloguing the remaining texts as a project.

Enter Dr Christine Ferdinand. Christine was the Fellow Librarian at Magdalen College from 1992 until she retired in 2016 and, alongside running

Magdalen's fine libraries, has spent her career working with rare books and researching the history of the book and newspapers. Rather than putting her feet up in retirement, she has continued to undertake antiquarian cataloguing projects in Oxford, and is working on a biography of James Rivington (1724-1802), who she describes as 'renegade publisher, bankrupt, newspaper proprietor and spy for George Washington'.

Christine has long been a good friend to St Anne's Library and happily agreed to take on our project, joining the team for around 12 weeks over the course of the past year. Her knowledge is immense, and I was particularly interested to find out more from her on the background of why antiquarian books are catalogued in much greater detail than modern publications. The answer lies in the nature of the early printing and bookselling trade which led to numerous versions of essentially the same original work ending up in circulation. Since the books were printed by hand, there were all kinds of ways in which they could be changed or differences in the text could arise. If a book did not sell, a bookseller (and before 1800 publishers were referred to as booksellers) might change

## From the Library

the title page and claim that the text was a completely new edition, whereas the only difference might be a few words and the appearance of the title.

Books were often available to buy in different forms to suit what the purchaser could afford: as loose sheets from the bookseller, as sheets stitched together without a cover, as a fully-bound book. When a reader bought loose sheets or unbound pages, they might choose to have the book bound privately. In some cases, a bookseller might purchase the loose sheets from another bookseller and replace the title page before stitching or binding the sheets to sell on. Bindings could, therefore, vary enormously and Christine noted that our collection contains several duplicate texts, but that no two copies have the same binding.

It was also common for more than one printer to work on a single text. A compositor would set the type for the book and often divide the work between multiple printers, with each one being responsible for producing several large sheets that would be folded and cut to form the pages of the book. Printers sometimes used 'press figures' – combinations of small numbers, letter or symbols at the bottom of a page – to show which sections they had worked on so that they could be paid accordingly. Variations in these press

figures between copies of a text can indicate a disruption in the printing of the book or help differentiate between different editions. Similar notations of letters and numbers called 'signatures' were used to indicate the order of the printed sheets as a guide for the binder; these would also vary between different editions of the text.

The aim in antiquarian cataloguing is to capture all of these differences and the key descriptive features of the book in detail, in order to identify the individual copy held by the library. The cataloguer transcribes the whole of the title page in the catalogue record to capture variations in spelling, punctuation and text. They record the use of printers' devices<sup>1</sup> and printers' ornaments<sup>2</sup>, press figures and signatures. The cataloguer also notes whether the book includes illustrations and plates, and whether these are complete. Plates are images which are added (or 'tipped in') to the book after the text is printed and were susceptible to being removed and stuck in scrapbooks or even stolen. The binding is described, which can reveal details about the history of the copy if it has been rebound more recently than its

<sup>1</sup> *A small picture which identified the publisher of the book.*

<sup>2</sup> *A decorative device often used to mark the beginning or end of a section of text. They were frequently floral patterns, or sometimes illustrations that were not related to the content of the text.*

original publication. The cataloguer also records any evidence of the provenance of the book, such as bookplates or signatures of previous owners, along with details of any handwritten notes, annotations and even 'pen trials' – random scribbles to test that the ink is flowing in a pen. All of these details in the catalogue record make it possible to identify the unique features of each antiquarian book in the Library. This not only informs researchers about the richness of the collection we hold, but also acts as a security measure since we would be able to identify the books if anyone stole items and attempted to sell them.

Christine's enthusiasm for the interesting details she came across in the collection was infectious and she gave us regular updates of her finds. We discovered that we have texts with examples of fore-edge titles, where the title or part of the title had been handwritten on the outer edge of the pages – a practice that was common with early sixteenth century texts usually stored lying flat rather than upright with the spines facing out as we would store them today. We learned that we have a complete set of *Poetae Christiani veteres* printed by Aldus Manutius at the start of the sixteenth century which bears the first use of what became well-known as the Aldine device – the image of a dolphin wrapped around an

anchor. Christine even came across a 1581 copy of Poliziano's Latin translation of Herodian's history with handwritten pages of a discarded account book used as part of the binding as a way of saving costs. One text, Poggio's *Historia Florentina*, still had partially uncut pages showing the folding of the printed sheets prior to binding. Christine

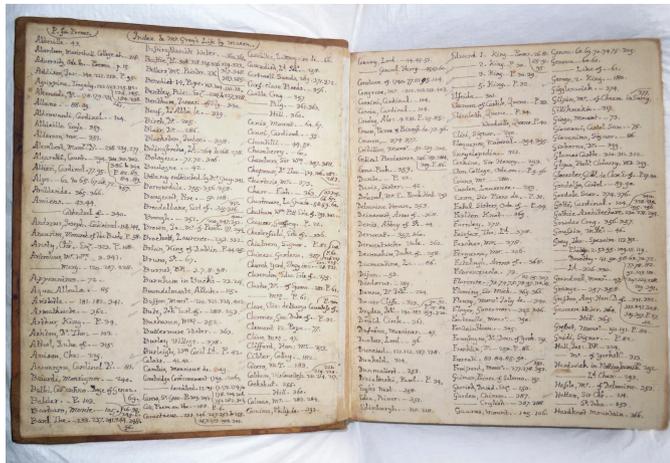
uncovered a Book of Common Prayer from 1760 which was not in the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC). This is significant because the ESTC acts as a union catalogue of works printed before 1801 in English (or partly in English) and printed in Britain, Ireland, overseas territories under British colonial rule and the United States. By providing

writing. What makes our copy unique is the addition of extensive handwritten indexes at the front and back of the book. These manuscript notes are in the hand of William Cole – we know this because he finished the first index with the words 'Wm. Cole. May 16. 1775. in a Fit of the Gout.' Cole (1714-1782) was a clergyman and antiquary, and counted Gray amongst his circle of friends, so to have Cole's copy of his friend's work complete with his own annotations in our Library is something rather special.

Out of curiosity, I also asked Christine what her least favourite part of the project had been. 'The dust!' she replied with a wry smile.

We were lucky enough to be able to carry out the antiquarian book cataloguing project this year due to a generous donation from Malcolm McIvor in memory of his late wife Susan (Revill, 1961) Malcolm chose to support this project as something fitting for Susan's interests as a history graduate. The Library team is grateful to him for ensuring that we could complete so much of this work, which will be of enormous benefit to future students and researchers, as well as protecting our valuable collection. As ever, we are also grateful to the many alumnae, staff and students who have donated books to the Library over the past year.

**Clare White** (1990)



*William Coles' manuscript index to Thomas Gray The poems, 1775*

details to the ESTC project of texts not yet included in the catalogue, we are adding to the scholarship of pre-nineteenth century book history.

Christine admitted that she had been very pleasantly surprised by the range of our antiquarian books and had not expected to

insisted that we should not cut them and should keep this interesting feature intact, in spite of the obvious challenge that this poses to any researcher who might want to read the text!

Unexpectedly, the project revealed that several of our antiquarian books are the only copies in Oxford, which feels like quite a coup for a former women's college without a long legacy of book donations. More important, Christine

find so many volumes where St Anne's held the only copy in Oxford, or to find incunables (books printed before 1501 in the earliest years of the printed book trade) among our collection. At the end of her time working on the project, I asked Christine what her favourite discovery had been. Without hesitation she replied, 'Thomas Gray's Poems. This collection of Gray's (1716-1771) poetry, published in 1775, a few years after his death, includes memoirs of his life and

# Bumping to victory

GUY RUDMAN

**For the first time in decades, the women's rowing team has reached Division 1.**

Summer Eights is the College rowing event of the year. Crews from every College line up on the river and, when the starting gun is fired, they chase each other down until a bump occurs: either there is contact between the two boats or one boat concedes to another.

The W1 knew what we had to do going into Wednesday of Eights – as 'sandwich boat' for Division 1 (each division has 13 boats), we had to row the course as the first boat in Division 2, and then chase down a Division 1 crew in the next race to secure our place in the top division of College rowing. The row-over went just as planned, with Balliol mercilessly bumping St Catherine's behind us, allowing us to row the course in peace at our own pace, although a rampant St John's crew, who were trying to close the enormous gap, meant that we had to keep our wits about us. Next it was our task to hunt down Hertford; our lightning start combined with some tight steering brought us into their wash within 200 metres, and they conceded soon enough. Our day's work left us elated in the summer sunshine. We

were now officially a Division 1 crew for the first time since 1995. Day one, job done.

We knew Thursday would be tough, but we didn't know it would go quite the way it did! With the hungry Balliol crew behind us bumping Hertford to be the sandwich boat chasing us, our mission was to hold them off long enough to catch the New College crew in front of us. We were on New's stern in a flash, but we could not quite close the gap. Meanwhile, Balliol had made the best of the bend in the river. As the three crews headed into the gut, we knew it was now or never. Putting in a mammoth push, we risked it all and steered as tightly as possible round the bend, clipping a tree with our blades. The push paid off, and we ploughed into the side of New's stern. Bump secured. However, we couldn't stop to celebrate – in the tangle that ensued, Balliol hit our stern hard. Dinner that evening with the rowers was quieter than the previous day.

Friday saw us chasing Jesus, our best friends and fiercest rivals on the river. Our huge, now perfected, start saw us close to a length, but we couldn't keep up with their pace in the settle, and followed them all the way down the

course to the coxing stone (the finishing post). Any differences were settled at a massive crew date two weeks later!

Saturday of Eights is perhaps the biggest event of the Oxford calendar. Over 10,000 people are estimated to line the banks and fill boathouse island, making it almost impossible to get a boat out! Rowing past boathouse island on that day is a feeling like no other: the noise and the energy is inspiring and intoxicating. As it turned out, Balliol's charge was not to be stopped. While we hoped that the staggeringly strong St John's crew behind them might pose a threat, the John's crew didn't even try to chase Balliol down. Balliol got their well-deserved bump after all, but both of us had made it into solid Division 1 territory. Rowing back to boathouse island, even after being bumped, was unforgettable. And all the celebrations that came after, including being chucked in the river and the lovely evening with friends, were the cherry on top of a fantastic week for the Anne's W1.

**Guy Rudman, W1 Coxswain, M1 rower (PPE, 2021)**

## Development marches on

EDWIN DRUMMOND

### After years of discussion, the redevelopment of The Bevs is about to happen.

I want to start by extending my thanks to all our alumnae, academics, students, staff, donors, and friends who have supported the College and the Development Office in so many ways over the last few years. Together we have helped the College respond to and navigate some incredibly challenging circumstances. Keeping the College community connected remains an ongoing priority for the us and, as in previous years, we will continue with a programme of events and tailored communications.

We are looking forward to what lies ahead for St Anne's. As you may have read, we are embarking on some exciting projects across the College. We believe, with your continued support, we can all play a key part in securing the College's legacy and future.

There are three key areas we will be focusing on over the coming years:

#### Regeneration of Bevington Road:

- The Bevington Road houses require urgent regeneration due to their poor condition and outdated facilities,

making it a matter of necessity rather than choice.

- The project aims to enhance the accommodation, increase the number of rooms from 70 to 82, and incorporate sustainable and environmentally friendly features. This will provide safe, comfortable, and modern living spaces for students at St Anne's, fostering a strong sense of community and belonging.
- Alumnae and donors will have the opportunity to support the project. By contributing to this project there is an opportunity to leave a lasting impact on the physical infrastructure of the college and make a substantial difference to our students for generations to come.

#### Supporting our current and future students:

- St Anne's College has a proud tradition of supporting its students throughout their academic journey.
- We will continue to seek ongoing funding for student support, outreach and access, bursaries, teaching, and welfare.
- We want to provide our students, and prospective students, with the best possible educational experience and

ensure that financial constraints or background never hinder intellectual growth and personal development.

#### Growing the Endowment to Protect College Finances and Teaching in Perpetuity:

- St Anne's is the fourth poorest Oxford College, in terms of wealth per student. The external and unpredicted shock of the pandemic revealed the importance of building up the College's financial stability for future years.
- Emerging from the pandemic, our ongoing focus is on safeguarding the College's long-term financial stability and preserving its commitment to outstanding teaching and research, by growing the endowment
- By augmenting the College's resources, we can effectively navigate economic uncertainties, bolster our academic programmes, attract and retain exceptional talent, and maintain a vibrant learning environment that nurtures intellectual curiosity and fosters academic excellence.
- We have a community of proud and committed alumnae. We understand the significance of preserving the legacy of the College and ensuring

## From the Development Office

a nurturing environment for current and future students. Your ideas, suggestions, and fundraising opportunities are essential to the success of our projects, and we are always thrilled to hear from our alumnae and supporters to discuss how you can get involved, share your thoughts, or explore potential collaborations. Your input and support are truly invaluable – again, thank you.

If you would like more information or to get in touch, please contact me or a member of the Development Office on [development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk).

Many thanks,

**Edwin Drummond**

*Director of Development*

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**Jason Fiddaman,**

Alumnae Relations Manager

A large part of my role is running the events programme for alumnae at St Anne's. This includes the annual Gaudy as part of Oxford's 'Meeting Minds Global' weekend, reunions, Plumer Society events, the Festive Concert and more. A significant part of what I do involves keeping the alumnae community connected with the College. The alumnae of St Anne's have always been engaged with the work we do, whether that's supporting students

through interview workshops, helping Freshers with queries about Oxford or running events across the country. The St Anne's Society plays a crucial role in keeping the bond with College going and every member of St Anne's is instantly made a member of the SAS upon matriculation. The society runs a fantastic programme of events and networking opportunities across the country, so please do contact the Development Office if you'd like to be put in touch with your local SAS representative.

Below follows a list of the main events already carved into the College calendar for the forthcoming year – but do keep an eye on your emails and our website for more!

### **Young Stanners London Drinks – 23rd November 2023**

Our new launched society 'The Young Stanners', for those who have graduated within the past ten years, will be having its inaugural event in London on Thursday 23rd November – please do keep an eye out for more information on our website. For more information on The Young Stanners Society and how you can join, please email us: [development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **The St Anne's Festive Celebration – 2nd December 2023**

Join us in College on Saturday 2nd December for the Festive Concert to mark the end of Michaelmas Term 2023 with music, mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies. This is an excellent opportunity for friends, family and loved ones to gather at St Anne's one final time before Christmas and our way of saying thank you to everyone that has supported staff, students and Fellows throughout the last year. More information can be found on our website.

### **Plumer Society event (Online) – 25th January 2024**

The Plumer Society, which recognises those who plan to leave a gift in their will to College, will be trialling another online event in January 2024. We hope to bring you two events each year going forward, with one in person and one online, to ensure everyone has the chance to attend a unique event. If you would like to know more about The Plumer Society or leaving a legacy to College, please contact Edwin Drummond in the Development Office for more information: [Edwin.Drummond@St-Annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Edwin.Drummond@St-Annes.ox.ac.uk)

### **Alumnae Weekend & Gaudy – 21st/22nd September 2024**

The annual 'Meeting Minds' and Alumni Weekend hosted by Oxford University

each September continues in 2024 and St Anne's will be joining in with our own 'Alumnae Weekend' and Gaudy. Join us for an exciting day of events on Saturday, stay overnight in College and visit other departments, institutions and Colleges across the city as they open their doors for this unique experience. The Gaudy dinner is also an excellent opportunity for you to return to College and have "mini reunions" - we encourage everyone to liaise with friends and book dinner so we can seat you all together.

### Decade Reunions

Following the Covid-19 pandemic and the interruption to our regular programme of events, we have slowly been rebuilding a schedule for reunions. The College now has a full programme planned (see table below). The thought behind this is to widen the opportunity to return to College as soon as possible so that you can reunite with old friends. We will then review the process once this cycle is complete. We would also like to encourage people to return to college as part of the annual Gaudy each September.

### Pre-1969 Matriculation Reunion – 13th April 2024

We are delighted to announce that the next reunion taking place will be on Saturday 13th April 2024 for all those that matriculated in 1969 or before.

Booking will open in November 2023, so please do save the date and keep an eye out on our website on your emails and in the post for more information nearer the time.

### Upcoming Decade Reunions

Pre-1969s	Apr-24
1970s	Mar-25
1980s	Apr-29
1990s	Apr-28
2000s	Mar-26
2010s	Mar-27
2020s	Apr-30

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### A note from ASSEMBLE, the Architects and Lead Designers for the refurbishment of nos 1 -10 Bevington Road

Work on Bevington Road has begun this July. The challenge at 'the Bevs', as they are affectionately known, is how buildings constructed over 150 years ago as semi-detached dwellings can be creatively brought up to date to support contemporary college life in the context of the ongoing climate and ecological crisis. Given that the UK has amongst the oldest and least energy efficient housing stock in Europe, how we sensitively –

and ambitiously – refurbish buildings with heritage value is a key issue that needs to be addressed.

Through a combination of new technology and traditional construction techniques the works to the Bevs will radically reduce building energy demand through a process of deep retrofit, and eliminate reliance on fossil fuels through the use of low carbon heating technology. Coupled with the refurbishment of the existing interiors, the intention is to make these works feel like part of the natural evolution of the houses, which will create a renewed sense of domesticity that distinguishes them from other college accommodation.

The houses currently contain a varied range of domestic Victorian features including stained glass, decorative mantelpieces and encaustic tiles. Assemble's approach seeks to amplify the specificity of each of the houses and celebrate their differences. The reorganisation of the interiors provides 82 rooms of which 42 are en-suite and 40 have shared bathroom facilities. This represents an increase of 12 rooms from the current provision, whilst also substantially improving the quality. The proposed works will enhance the accommodation, offering facilities befitting St Anne's College that are attractive both to students and to

## From the Development Office

conference guests who use the facilities outside of student term times during vacation periods.

In addition to the conservation-led refurbishment of the Bevs, the existing ad-hoc infill structures between the houses will be replaced with new single storey covered entrances. These generous transition spaces allow for socialising and interaction and are accessed from College, leading to the front doors of each of the houses. Canopies create covered external areas to the south, with benches that offer moments to perch and enjoy the rear gardens, and new windows create a visual connection to the new soft landscaping to the north.

The landscaping works to Bevington Road aim to reinstate a cultivated domesticity to the frontage of these 10 houses and make an improved contribution to the city's urban ecology. Viewed from the street, the gardens will provide a restoration of the garden city character associated with the original intention behind a North Oxford Victorian villa. Hard standing will be removed and planting layered with trees, shrubs, climbers and ground covers to enhance biodiversity, provide continuous habitat and reduce the rate of water run-off. Features such as bird and bat boxes, log walls and subtle land-forming will be creatively designed and

thoughtfully integrated into the garden fabric.

For further details, please refer to <https://assemblestudio.co.uk/projects/st-annes-college> or College's Microsite, [www.transformingbevingtonroad.co.uk](http://www.transformingbevingtonroad.co.uk), where you will find updates on progress throughout the construction period.

### ASSEMBLE

Assemble is a multi-disciplinary collective who have built up a diverse and award-winning body of work and have developed a reputation for developing residential and cultural projects that sensitively respond to complex social and physical contexts. In 2015, they were awarded the Turner Prize for refurbishment works to a street of Victorian terraces in Liverpool which turned them into affordable housing under community ownership.

<https://assemblestudio.co.uk>

## SAS President's Report

**It's hard to believe I'm coming to the end of my first year as President. When Stella Charman asked me if I would be interested in standing for the role, my first response was, "Only if you don't go too far!" Following my election at the AGM last September, it was with a mixture of excitement and trepidation that I donned the rather big shoes I had agreed to try and fill.**

Over the last nine months, Stella, the entire Committee, and Alumnae Relations Manager Jason Fiddaman, have been a great source of guidance, support, and the occasional kick up the proverbial as we continue to build on the strength and commitment that St Anne's alumnae bring to the life of the College.

### A new hybrid

Over the last year, we've all enjoyed the post-pandemic return to non-socially-distanced, in-person events. With September 2022's Gaudy combining in-person and online events across the University, College welcomed a small but perfectly-formed cohort of alumnae back for a wonderful weekend. We enjoyed afternoon tea with the Principal, a presentation on the Bevington Road redevelopment by Assemble Architects (with a bonus tour of the houses for a trip down shared-memory lane – general consensus: not much had changed in 50+ years), and a fascinating talk by

Professor Neil Macfarlane on "Ukraine, Russia and The Future". As always, the three-course Gaudy Dinner lived up to the excellent standard to which we have grown accustomed from College's catering team. I look forward to seeing even more of you at this year's Gaudy on 23rd September.

### Committee matters

As a Committee, we decided to continue with a hybrid approach to our own meetings, noting the improved attendance, greater accessibility, and reduced carbon footprint that two virtual meetings and one in-person meeting provided, compared with our previous three-times-a-year in-person approach.

We've also been trialling a new structure for our meetings, with the first half dedicated to our usual business of supporting branches, collaboration with College, Gaudy preparations, and arrangements for this wonderful magazine, and the second half set aside for 'workshops' for longer-form, action-orientated discussions on a given topic. So far this year, we have explored the SAS's approach to fundraising at a branch and national level, producing guidelines for both, and held a 'persona mapping' workshop to help us better understand the diversity of our alumnae community and the wants and needs of the SAS in order to better cater for them in the events and initiatives we run. The outputs of both of these sessions are available to be shared with all alumnae

who would like to know more. Similarly, if you have a topic for a workshop discussion or would like to attend such a workshop in future, please speak to your local Branch Chair, or get in touch with me directly.

### Freshers and new graduates

As always, we will be supporting our next cohort of Freshers, continuing our 'blended' approach of in-person and online events, organised at a Branch, national and international level respectively. We'll also be working closely with College over the next year to understand how we can support new graduates leaving College, and in particular, bring to bear the immense collective experience and wisdom of the SAS in support of our most recent fellow alumnae.

### A plea

And finally, a plea to each of you get involved in the SAS in whatever way you can. We have a very special community of amazing people, and I am committed over the remainder of my term as President (and beyond for as long as I'm allowed!) to working with you all to ensure it remains as relevant, vibrant and valuable for generations to come. If nothing else, we need volunteers for next year's University Challenge team so we can beat the students again! Please get in touch.

**David Royal** (Modern Languages, 2006)

### SAS branch reports

**Not all our branches are thriving. Like the North East branch some time ago, Bristol and West has now faded away and even Oxford is having problems. Do we need to rethink the whole concept?**

Our active membership in Cambridge this academic year has shrunk to a smaller core and we have had a relatively modest programme of activities as a result. Much of this change can be attributed to the long-term impact of the Covid pandemic; we have become pre-occupied with other more pressing matters and it has not helped that most of us are now in our seventies and 'slowing down'. We were sad to say goodbye to Sue Collins, who has moved to Devon. Sue, together with Hilary Coote, founded our branch more than 20 years ago and was our Chair for many years. We send Sue our sincere thanks for all her hard work.

We did not offer a Freshers event in September but will do so in the future should there be a demand for it. On a sunny day in late October, six of us, together with partners and friends, visited the old market town of Long Melford in Suffolk. We spent the morning at Melford Hall, a fine Tudor brick building which is now owned by the National Trust and lived in by the

Hyde Parker family. The house reflects the stories of the family, ranging from naval exploits to visits from their cousin Beatrix Potter. In the afternoon we visited the Holy Trinity Church. Constructed between 1467 and 1497 in the late-Perpendicular Gothic style it is a beautiful example of a Suffolk mediaeval wool church, founded and financed by three wealthy wool merchants as an impressive visual statement of their prosperity. In late-November, a small group of members attended the AGM followed by a light supper at our Chair's home in Fen Ditton. 2023 started for us with lunch at a Cambridge restaurant in

early-January, followed by a visit to the nearby Fitzwilliam Museum. The lunch was well attended and most enjoyable. As in previous years, we completed our programme with a garden party held in Fen Ditton in June.

#### London branch report: 2023

The London Branch has recovered well during 2022 from the enforced quietude of the previous year with a full programme of events. A new strand has been a very successful set of guided tours of the Mediaeval and Renaissance galleries at the V&A, organised by Moya Russell, one of our members, which we hope will continue.



*Melford Hall (left), mediaeval stained glass, Holy Trinity (right)*

Our on-line book club is thriving and welcoming new members, and our informal supper club, St. Anne's on a Plate, is restarted in June with a meal at Carluccios in Kensington. We hope to meet every few months and again welcome regular attendees and new joiners.

The Barbican concerts are still popular. We saw Marin Alsop conduct the LSO in February 2023. A visit organised by Susan Doering on 13 May to the Charterhouse in Clerkenwell was followed by lunch in a local restaurant. We hope to take another guided London walk in the autumn with David Harry, who entertained us with online London tours and magic during lockdown.



*The Charterhouse*

Our 2022 Freshers' event was again held at the Bonfire restaurant in the Barbican,

with 14 freshers and three JCR students bonding over drinks and burgers; we shall repeat this in September 2023.

The 2022 AGM and dinner were held at the Lansdowne Club in Mayfair with a good turnout of 25 members and guests who enjoyed a lovely meal and a talk by Mary Weale, who spoke about her long career in local politics in Kensington. Sadly, increased costs meant that we have had to find a new venue. In 2023 we will be holding the AGM and dinner at the Army and Navy Club in St James on 7 November.

We have said goodbye to some key committee members this year: Alex Zawadzki has moved away from London (temporarily we hope) and we thank him

for helping to innovate our offers to members and running Freshers events. And after many years of sterling service, our Treasurer Victoria Parnell has stood down. John Baker, Treasurer of the Cambridge Branch, very kindly agreed to take on the role for us. This sharing of knowledge and time between

branches is proving to be very helpful.

Finding new members and filling committee officer posts can be tricky

and indeed at our AGM we agreed we'd propose slight amendments to our Constitution given the practicalities of having a fully functioning committee. Although it has proved impossible to find a new Chair despite requests every year, Clare Dryhurst continues in role till a successor comes along, with Lynn Biggs, our Secretary, acting as the backbone of the branch.

### **Midland branch report: 2023**

We have an active sub-group of members in the Midlands Branch who enjoy a regular link to St Anne's via our book club. We have read four books so far, all written by wonderful and fascinating women who did their degrees at College. Our latest read is *Sing for Life* by Wendy Perriam. Anyone is welcome to join our group – do get in touch (contact details below). A number of our members have set up a small standing order donation to St Anne's as a Midlands group, and in April we were pleased to make a £200 gift to the new Bevington Road project. Having had to postpone our autumn walk due to Covid, our summer walk and pub lunch took place in the Cotswolds at the beginning of July. Anyone is welcome to join any of our events, and thanks to Jason Fiddaman for advertising our events via the main St Anne's website. Please do take a look at our Facebook group by searching 'St Anne's in the Midlands' – if you wish to join our group

## SAS branch reports

or to suggest any interesting cultural or outdoor activities in your area of the Midlands, please do get in touch with me at [stansmidlands@gmail.com](mailto:stansmidlands@gmail.com).



*Book club discussion of 'Sing for Life' by St Anne's alum Wendy Perriam*



*Our walk and pub lunch at The Fleece Inn, Bretforton*

### North East branch report: 2023

The North East Branch's academic year got off to an excellent start back in September as we hosted our annual Freshers' event. We had a great mix of alumnae, current students and freshers together for some drinks at Newcastle's Telegraph pub. It was wonderful to get old and new faces together and keep up this important tradition, which continues to be bolstered by the enthusiasm of previous attendees (aka current students and recent alum) to come along and welcome new members to the St Anne's family.

In other news, I am looking to transition the Branch Chair role to one of our other members to allow me to focus on my role as SAS President and to ensure the NE Branch gets the attention it deserves.

Please do get in touch if you would like to get involved: [iamdavidroyal@gmail.com](mailto:iamdavidroyal@gmail.com)



*Happy drinking with freshers in the Telegraph Pub, Newcastle*

### Oxford branch report: 2023

Oxford Branch 'Is struggling to get back up and running but hope springs eternal', say local Chair Jackie Ingram. We wish them luck and may next year see a new lease of life.

After a long break of meeting primarily on Zoom, South of England Branch members were delighted to meet together again in person in November 2022, to discuss Breathing Lessons by Anne Tyler. This year's discussions have also included Ian McEwan's Lessons and we are currently preparing for a rather different type of discussion based on Sathnam Sangheera's Empireland in July. Travel conditions around Chichester last November were horrendous so we have now adopted a hybrid approach to enable the widest possible participation in our popular book group, which regularly attracts up to 15 participants. Finding creative new ways to contact and network with St Anne's alumnae is challenging, but always in our minds as we develop the life of our branch.

Our 2023 programme of events began in March, with a 'Bi-annual' General Meeting in Chichester attended by nine members. We reviewed activity over the past two years and considered what our 30-odd paid up members wanted from the branch in the future. All supported our strategy of joining up with local branches of the OUS to extend the

range of activities on offer and boost numbers attending, including opening branch-only membership to alumnae of other Colleges. At this meeting Tessa Cunningham, one of our founder members, stepped down after 18 years on the Committee. We thanked her for all she has done to enable the branch to grow and thrive, and especially for her care and concern for our older members. We were sad to lose her from the Committee but very pleased that she will continue as convener of our successful Book Group.



*(Right) Tessa Cunningham (English, 1977), (left) St Anne's alumnae Susan Ellery and Sara England with their partners exploring Veronica's Maze at Parham House*

In April, Rachel Knowles organised a very enjoyable private guided tour of Parham House, a beautiful Elizabethan manor house located amidst 875 acres at the foot of the South Downs. This

well-attended visit was enhanced by the attendance of 12 or so members of the newly-formed West Sussex OUS, with which we have some overlapping membership.

In May we held our annual trip to Chichester Festival Theatre to see Noël Coward's *The Vortex*. This was rather less well subscribed than usual, perhaps due to the soaring price of tickets, but also the play proved a little disappointing. We will review the future of this previously popular event at our

next Committee meeting.

Like other branches, we organise an event to welcome and inform freshers from our area who are about to go up to College. In

September 2022 we joined up with the Oxford branch to offer an online event. Nevertheless, only three freshers joined the session, although 12 had signed up. We do feel that this event works much better face to face, so we have decided to try to offer an in-person lunch once again in 2023. Should there be a low take up, freshers will be directed to the national Zoom event run by the Main Committee, which has now

become a regular feature of the freshers' programme.

At the end of 2022 we received the sad news that at the grand age of 92, one of our senior members, Pat Phillips, had passed away at home surrounded by her family. Her daughter told us she kept her sense of humour and remained fiercely independent and stoic right until the end. She loved St Anne's and it was while at Oxford that she met her husband. You can read her obituary in this issue's Obituaries.

This year we have continued as an active branch that has attracted new members, supports College and promotes enriching friendships through all stages of life. As one of our members succinctly put it recently, 'With St Anne's people, I can be myself.'

Reports by **Sarah Beeson-Jones** (Cambridge); **Lynn Biggs** and **Clare Dryhurst** (London); **Michele Gawthorpe** (Midlands); **David Royal** (North East); **Jackie Ingram** (Oxford); **Stella Charman** (South of England)

# From the JCR

SIMON ABSEHERA-COHEN

**As the first year in recent memory without any Covid-19 restrictions, the JCR has enjoyed a year filled with unmissable events, matches, formals and, of course, general meetings.**

With a brand new sound system in the College bar, karaoke and open mic nights have dominated the Entz calendar, showcasing Stanners' talents in true fashion. That being said, the peak of Michaelmas Term was without a doubt the Christmas mega-bop.

Likewise, our St Anne's Welfare duo have transformed Welfare; it is simply impossible for any student to resist doughnuts in the Danson Room at 3pm every Sunday. The Welfare Reps have co-ordinated a multitude of essay crisis remedies, including (but not limited to): pumpkin carving, plant pot decorating, a sports day, movie night, alpaca petting and group painting. The Equalities Reps have this year organised a POC Formal, First-Gen university formal and Anne's first queer formal. A new LGBTQ+ genders Rep, Class Rep, RSH Rep and Foundation Year Rep have also aided the expansion of student representation on the JCR committee.

In fundraising, the JCR has accomplished

two foodbank drives, raised over £700 during Pink Week and have held a charity formal each term raising money for Mermaids, SolidariTee and five breast cancer charities. As a part of Equalities Week, the disabilities Rep partnered with the College's music society to raise money for the Oxfordshire charity, Yellow Submarine, at a College music concert.

Amongst these successes, the JCR faced a deep divide in Hilary term over the Anne's Sunday roast. Having the roast cancelled received a mix of reviews; whilst many rejoiced at its demise, many also resisted and the power of JCR democracy was put to the test. After a successful JCR motion and a productive conversation with College, the roast scene has finally made a comeback to the Anne's dining hall. The JCR community united 'purposefully and boldly' (in authentic Anne's style) throughout the college war with St Hugh's College. Despite the College beaver's temporary excursion into unknown OX2 territory, it need not be said which college triumphed in the face of adversity.

We have celebrated a variety of cultural and religious holidays, with over twenty-plus themed meals in hall, including

a formal hall for Diwali, CNY and Eid. Our domestic affairs Rep worked tirelessly to assemble the second years' Met Gala themed half-way hall, with awards, speeches, fun decor and even a red carpet! Of course, the work of the St Anne's Ball Committee cannot go unnoticed. The night was a huge success, especially the open bar. Parrots in Ruth Deech Building, mini golf, a silent disco and Ali's kebab van stationed outside Hartland House - every Stanners dream.

Sporting success genuinely took the student body by surprise in Trinity term, with the Saints team obliterating Hilda-ville in Lacrosse Cuppers along with the W1 rowing team bumping into Division 1 for the first time in 28 years. Whilst much of the student body find themselves shackled to their textbooks revising for exams, the work has moved outside to the quad in the sunshine. From punting and Pimm's, May Day festivities and Port Meadow trips, it is safe to say Trinity term is in full swing. It has been a whirlwind of a year and I am immensely proud of all that the JCR has collectively achieved.

**Simon Absehera-Cohen**  
(Chemistry, 2021)  
*JCR President 2022-23*

## From the MCR

GABRIELA CZOCHARA

**This academic year has been very exciting for the MCR as, for many of us, this was the first academic year since the pandemic where we were able to fully attend social events and immerse ourselves in the College. This also made our social secretaries a crucial part of the MCR community.**

Freshers' week was filled with welcoming events that allowed our graduate students to experience the St Anne's environment and feel like they were a part of a college community again. I personally felt incredibly welcome in Michaelmas and, as a former undergraduate visiting student at St Anne's, felt as if I had come back home. Thanks to the previous MCR committee from the 2021/2022 academic year, the MCR committee this year was able to attend funded fortnightly Thursday lunches in the dining hall which acted as a wonderful opportunity to both bring up topics and ideas we hoped to discuss at the next MCR general meeting and simply catch up with each other over delicious Anne's food. This was also a valuable way to show appreciation to our committee for all the effort they put into their roles. Our social secretaries, especially, ensured that we had plenty

of events to attend, working with other colleges to organize formal exchanges, setting up our MCR for creatively themed bops, and fitting in relaxing events in the middle of the week that gave MCR members the chance to reconvene and reconnect during even the most stressful times of the term.

During Trinity Term, when the MCR was not able to host louder gatherings on campus due to exams, our social secretaries went above and beyond to provide events for Anne's graduate students by communicating with other colleges and organizing joint events that moved the Anne's community to another college's MCR, including an Anne Sommers Bop and Pride Bop, both co-hosted with Somerville College. In Trinity Term, we also had committee members brainstorming how future Anne's MCR students could have an easier and more accessible time; our sports representative, Ben Zide, started a funding scheme that will allow a limited number of students facing financial hardships to have the College gym membership fee covered. This scholarship scheme will be handled in Michaelmas Term by the new committee and we hope it can expand in years

to come. During Community Week and Giving Day the MCR collaborated with the JCR for several events that emphasized the community building qualities of the College, including an open mic night and trivia quiz held in the MCR. This collaboration, along with others, was made possible by the ongoing willingness of the JCR to work with us and ensure we identified and achieved our common goal to support all students.

By the end of Trinity Term, we came together to determine who would take over interim MCR committee roles for Michaelmas Term 2023, as many of our committee members this year were master's students on a nine-month course. We were able to fill all interim positions, some by MCR members who have had previous committee experience or held committee positions in the past, and I am confident that the MCR freshers coming in this fall will be in excellent hands and will have the same welcoming feeling I was so lucky to have when I first started my brief but memorable time at St Anne's. I now feel like I have come full circle and am content with how my year has ended at Anne's – three years ago my

## From the MCR

time was cut short due to the pandemic but through the wonderful work the committee has done this year as well as the support they have shown each other and the Anne's community, I have finally

gotten closure. I know St Anne's will always hold the same feeling of home for me. I am excited to see what the future holds for the Anne's MCR.

**Gabriela Czochara,**  
*MSt in World Literatures in English, 2022,*  
*MCR President 2022-23*



*St Anne's MCR Garden Party, 2023*

# Finals Results: Trinity Term 2022

RESULTS ARE SHOWN FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO GAVE PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

## BA Cell and Systems Biology

Maclean, Keir 1

## BA Classics and English

Holmes, Alexandra 1

## BA English and Modern Languages

Anand, Rit 2.1

Tierney, Grace 1

Carter, Emily 2.1

## BA English Language and Literature

Chesterman, Gbenga 2.2

Howells, Yasmin 1

Ion, Claire 2.1

Jones, Samuel 2.1

Rutherford, Absana 2.1

Serafinceanu, Ariana 2.1

Stevenson, Rachel 1

## BA Experimental Psychology

Adams, Olivia 2.1

Pavey, Chloe 2.1

Pyke, Alice 1

## BA Geography

Cartledge, James 2.1

Liu, Baichuan 2.1

McMillan, Iona 1

## BA History

Hobson, Katharine 2.1

James-Short, Sarah 2.1

Sharpe, Anna 2.1

Wilkins, Robb 2.1

## BA History and Economics

Barker, Charlotte 2.1

Noble, Pippa 1

Holden, Hannah 2.1

Loh, Samuel 1

Billinghurst, Freya 2.1

Birkett, Ffion 2.2

Green, Caroline 1

Jeffrey, Lily 2.1

Murphy, Joseph 2.1

Pisanski, Marcin 2.2

Roberts, Nadia 2.1

Tenhula, Elias 2.1

## BA Literae Humaniores

Forrest, Mason 2.1

Lamb, Ed 1

Schmidt, Sophia 2.1

## BA Medical Sciences

Akhtar, Zara 2.1

Anantharaman, Suna 2.1

Glover, Grace 2.1

Omorodion, Blessing 2.1

Tranter, Eve 1

## BA Modern Languages

Chatrath, Ria 2.1

Eaves, Emmaleigh 2.1

Maloney, George 2.1

Osment, Kate 2.1

Pankhurst, Greg 2.1

Wills, Philomena 1

## BA Modern Languages and Linguistics

Gvozdovaitė, Veronika 1

Lee, Meya 2.1

## BA Music

Heaversedge, Grace 2.1

Jones, Chloe 1

Ng, Vivian 2.2

Penn, Carrie 1

## BA Oriental Studies

McEvoy, Eva 2.2

Pitman, Hal 2.1

Scott, Megan 1

## BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Kwong, Hadrian 2.1

Ozenc, Kerem 2.2

Pearce, Iliana Declared to  
have deserved Honours

Yates, Ciaran 2.1

## BA Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics

Mainwaring, Jake 2.1

## BFA Fine Art

Kelly, Iszi 1

Kupfer, Ananda 1

## MBiochem Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry

McLean-Deaville, Lauryn 2.1

Suter, Annabel 2.1

## Student news

### **MBiol Biology**

Andrews, Ivo	1
Campbell, Skai	2.1
Morley, Ellen	1
Williams, Ellen	1

### **MChem Chemistry**

Gellett, Joe	1
Randle, Harvey	1
Warr-Esser, Alexandre	2.1

### **MCompSci Computer Science**

Stanton, Charlie	Merit
White-Horne, Ben	Pass

### **MEarthSci Earth Sciences**

Carver, Frankie	1
Hirsch, Solomon	1
Lee, Sonia	2.1
Liu, Holly	2.1
Nagao, Hiroki	1
Neilson, Oliver	2.1

### **Medicine – Clinical**

Chan, Joyce	Pass
Hodges, William	Pass
Lam, Ryan	Pass

### **Medicine - Graduate Entry**

Buechner, Hadassah	Pass
Eastwood, Ben	Pass

### **MEng Engineering Science**

Lawal, Taiye	2.1
Merritt-Webster, Tom	1
Platt, Andrew	1
Standing, Amelia	2.1
Zhu, Haolang	1

### **MEng Materials Science**

Danks, Emily	2.1
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Dong, Jinhao	2.2
Kim, Martin	1 Class
Krefting, Saskia	2.1
Nalbant, Omer	1 Class
Yan, Karen	2.1
Yang, Rena	1 Class

### **MMath Mathematics**

Coyle, Dan	Pass
Tse, Alvin	Merit

### **MMath Mathematics and Statistics**

Goodfellow, Lucy	1 Class
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### **MMathCompSci Mathematics and Computer Science**

Koeck, Thomas	Merit
Lunn, Thomas	1 Class
Tansley, Ed	Distinction

### **MMathPhys Mathematical & Theoretical Physics**

Hopson, Liam	Distinction
Vasiliou, Konstantinos	Distinction

### **MPhys Physics**

Brint, Matt	2.1
Malpas, Ben	2.1

## Graduate Results 2022

### **Bachelor of Civil Law**

Lawson, Megan	Distinction
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### **Bachelor of Philosophy**

Sanchez-Schilling, Sebastian	Merit
Still, Jessica	Merit

### **Magister Juris**

Serafin, Riccardo	Pass
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### **Master of Business Administration**

Auepoonviriyaya, Sarinya	Distinction
Chen, Xinyi	Pass
Mellor, Emily	Distinction
Zhang, Xiaoyue	Pass

### **Master of Philosophy**

Gerresheim, Nils	Merit
Godbole, Divya	Merit
Kaptanian, Julian	Pass

### **Master of Public Policy**

Lemos Gonzalez, Maria	Distinction
McLoughlin, Claddagh	Pass

### **Master of Science**

Arocha Roldan, Nicolas	Merit
Azizbayli, Yasmin Rasim Qizi	Pass
Batra, Hunar	Pass
Cavallo, Christine	Pass
Chan, Lewis	Distinction
Cornwell, Jacques	Pass
Daintith, Charlotte	Merit
Debnam, Candace	Merit
Donnellon-May, Genevieve	Merit
Elbehi, Mohammad Attia	Pass
Falconer, Julianne	Pass
Grant, Callum	Distinction
Griesser, Sherin	Pass
Gundowry, Liza	Merit
Gutierrez Patino, Daniel	Merit
Hieba, Osman	Pass
Hossain, Mohammad Uzzal	Merit
Hou, Yu	Merit
Hulsman, Roel	Distinction
Hung, Tzu-Jung	Merit
Huo, Zitong	Pass
Ipsen, Jens Christian	Pass

Ishii, Owen: Pass  
 Jakobsen, Ida Stavland: Merit  
 Joar, Matthew Lam: Pass  
 Kabuye, Mahawuya: Merit  
 Kim, Hyunjin: Merit  
 Kim, Hyunsik: Pass  
 Kim, Halim: Merit  
 Kwan, Chee: Merit  
 Lam, Patrick: Pass  
 Larvin, Christopher: Distinction  
 Lee, Johanna: Merit  
 Levanita, Shanthi: Pass  
 Li, Yaguang: Distinction  
 Li, Hao: Merit  
 Li, Zekai: Distinction  
 Liu, Guangyun: Merit  
 Luo, Qinfang: Merit  
 Malcolm-Buchanan, Dane: Merit  
 Mallya, Shweta: Distinction  
 Mohaine Palfi, Sarolta: Pass  
 Moore, Amy: Distinction  
 Ndlovu, Welcome: Distinction  
 O'Hanlon, Fergus: Pass  
 Pamu, Chisaka: Pass  
 Papachristou, Afroditi: Merit  
 Pierce, Alice: Merit  
 Richardson, Edith: Distinction  
 Rodriguez, Shannon: Merit  
 Ronchi, Erica: Pass  
 Ruiz Colmenares, Melissa: Distinction  
 Saal, Georg: Merit  
 Sen, Aaheli: Pass  
 Sewell, Yvonne: Distinction  
 Shen, Shuhui: Merit  
 Shi, Danni: Distinction  
 Shi, Danni: Distinction  
 Smirnova, Ekaterina: Merit  
 Sood, Rohan: Pass

Stopper, Sierra: Pass  
 Tawiah, Theophilus: Merit  
 Tawil, Evangeline: Merit  
 Thompson, Kevin: Pass  
 Tighe, Rory: Distinction  
 Vasanthakumaran, Arti: Pass  
 Wadaguchi, Tatsuya: Distinction  
 Wang, Xuan: Pass  
 Wheelan, William: Pass  
 Wong, John Joseph Kwong Ho: Pass  
 Wu, Zijia: Pass  
 Yang, Jingyin: Pass  
 Zhao, Qianyi: Pass

#### **Master of Studies**

Bentley, Emma: Distinction  
 Chitayat, Daniel: Pass  
 Chivukula, Shivani: Distinction  
 Davies, Theodore: Distinction  
 El Alaoui, Sanaa: Merit  
 Fernando, Crystallene: Merit  
 Harvey, Alison: Distinction  
 Ireland, Lisa: Distinction  
 Kaye, Joshua: Distinction  
 Kern, Katharina: Merit  
 Larson, Keely: Distinction  
 Popp, Katarina: Merit  
 Rachman, Adam: Distinction  
 Scotto Le Massese, Audrey: Distinction  
 Seeno Jr, Richard: Merit  
 Shi, Han: Pass  
 Suntrapak, Domenic: Merit  
 Taylor, Alexandra: Merit  
 Tsertsvadze, Nick: Pass  
 Tsertsvadze, Nick: Pass  
 Weber, Max: Merit  
 Zhang, Ruixi: Merit

#### **Postgraduate Certificate of Education**

Friend, Arthur: Pass  
 Hall, Jessica: Pass  
 Heyes, Joseph: Pass  
 Suthagar, Erwin: Pass  
 Wang, Tuo: Pass  
 Ward, Esther: Pass  
 Wright, Elsbeth: Pass

#### **Professional Graduate Certificate in Education**

Depala, Hiral: Pass

#### **Doctor of Philosophy**

Adams, Oliver  
 Akhlaghi-Ghaffarokh, Farbod  
 Bahadursingh, Sarasvati  
 Beck, Lukas  
 Bowtell, Candida  
 Brown, Joe  
 Cherubin, Sinaida  
 Christodoulou, Katerina  
 Cowtan, Grace  
 Davis, Simon  
 Dodds, Nicholas  
 Fahr, Patrick  
 Firdaus, Ahmad  
 Fried, Jasper  
 Gangapurwala, Siddhant  
 Gilbride, Ciaran  
 Guo, Yingyu  
 Hollender, Alexandros  
 Hurlbutt, Kevin  
 Ji, Xu  
 Kamilova, Alissa  
 Kim, Minae  
 Korytko, Joel  
 Kristjánsson, Hlér  
 Lange, Benjamin

Lewzey, Rachel  
 Loporcaro, Laura  
 Malik, Nazish  
 Manning, George  
 Marshall, Julia  
 McMullon, Grace  
 Murat, Oguzhan  
 Osojnik, Ana  
 Porter, Elena  
 Powell, George  
 Prentice, Caitlin  
 Purchase, Kirsty  
 Ren, Ran  
 Renzella, Jessica  
 Sackman, George  
 Schulze, Sebastian  
 Shao, Zhen  
 Stanton, Carley  
 Stasinou, Maria  
 Suleman, Muhammad Babar  
 Sun, Tianyu  
 Turvill, William  
 Tyne, Rebecca  
 Wangrangsimakul, Tri  
 Watson, William  
 Weinzierl, Franz  
 Xenophontos, Panayiotis  
 Xiong, Yi  
 Xu, Yang  
 Yim, Ka Man  
 Yin, Jie  
 Zhu, Yuhan

#### **MPhil by Research**

Jin, Ellen

#### **Master of Science by Research**

Constans solé, Nil  
 Nathanail, Evangelia

# Fellows' news, honours, appointments and publications

A ground-breaking court judgement in South Africa which could pave the way for reform of property rights dating from the apartheid era draws on research by **Supernumerary Governing Body Fellow, Professor Maxim Bolt**, citing two of his articles. The case, heard in the Gauteng High Court in May 2022, concerned a dispute over the rights to ownership of a "family house". Dr Bolt has been researching such disputes surrounding family houses and urban inheritance in South Africa since 2016, drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork.

**Professor Roger Crisp, Uehiro Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy**, gave the 2022 Parcells Lecture at the University of Connecticut, and a paperback edition of his book *Sacrifice Regained: Morality and Self-interest in British Moral Philosophy* from Hobbes to Bentham (2019) will be published by OUP later this year.'

**Professor Bent Flyvbjerg, Senior Research Fellow**, has recently published a new book, *How Big Things Get Done* (Penguin, 2022). More information can be found here: <https://sites.prh.com/how-big-things-get-done-book>

**Professor Flyvbjerg** was featured on BBC Radio 4's *Start the Week*, together with Ai Weiwei and Roma Agrawal, and will shortly feature on BBC World Service.

**Professor Imogen Goold, Tutorial Fellow in Law**, has been appointed to the Medical Ethics Committee of the British Medical Association.

**Professor Geraldine Hazbun, Ferreras Willetts Fellow and Tutor in Spanish**, has been awarded a 2023 Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship to work on her forthcoming book, *The Form of Risk in Medieval Spanish Epic*".

**Professor Saiful Islam, Professor of Materials Science and Professorial Fellow**, was made an Honorary Fellow of the British Science Association and was also awarded the 2022 Hughes Medal of the Royal Society for his "outstanding

*contributions to the deeper understanding of atomistic processes in new materials for use in energy applications, especially those related to lithium batteries and perovskite solar cells*".

In October 2022, Saiful presented his Inaugural Lecture "Materials for Green Energy - Crystal Gazing on the Atomic Scale" at St Anne's College. He gave an invited talk at the Brian Cox and Robin Ince Compendium of Reason charity event to 5,000 people at the Royal Albert Hall (Nov 2022). As Principal Investigator, he was recently awarded phase 2 funding (£4.2M) for the Faraday Institution CATMAT project on lithium battery materials.



Group photo before Saiful Islam's Inaugural Lecture at St Anne's with (left to right) David Paintin (Bedel), Hazel Assender (Materials HoD), Patrick Grant (Pro-VC Research), Helen King (Principal St Anne's) and Jane Mellor (Senior Proctor).

**Prof. Harry Johnstone (Emeritus Fellow in Music)**'s edition of the *Complete Harpsichord Music of Maurice Greene* (200 pp.) has been published as volume 106 in the series (*Musica Britannica*) in May 2022. He has also published articles in the Handel Institute Newsletter, the Research Chronicle of the Royal Musical Association, and *The Musical Times*, plus a chapter in a festschrift for the great Handel scholar, Donald Burrows.

**Professor Matthew Leigh, Fellow and Tutor in Classics**, has been elected to a Fellowship of the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton for the Fall Semester of 2023. He will use this time to continue his work on the *Controversiae of Seneca the Elder*. He has also been appointed as a Governor of East Oxford Primary School.

**Dr Jennie Middleton, Fellow and Tutor in Geography**, is the Principal Investigator of a major project which has been awarded a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council (£883K). The project will conduct innovative research into active travel and the everyday mobilities of children with non-visible disabilities.

**Professor Steven Puttick, Non-Tutorial Fellow**, has published a book: *The Geography Teaching Adventure: reclaiming exploration to inspire curriculum and pedagogy* (Routledge)

**Professor Paresh Vyas, Professorial Fellow in Medical Sciences**, has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

**Dr Benjamin Schaper, Stipendiary Lecturer in German**, has co-edited *Entertaining German Culture. Contemporary Transnational Television and Film*, alongside Stephan Ehrig and Elizabeth Ward. This is the first study on an increasingly profound appreciation of German cultural history in the international mainstream in the twenty-first century. Particularly the rise of streaming services and an increasingly transnational production scene have changed, modified, and re-imagined the narratives of German (cultural) history that have dominated post-war cinema. In this context, German history as well as cultural and intellectual history serve as a creative inventory to inform European and North American narratives which transcend the mere memory of 20th century terror, thus showcasing a new entertaining and playful approach to German letters. *Entertaining German Culture* will be published in August 2023 and will be available open access under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

Who do you think you are?

## Who do you think you are?

### My life as a tutor, 1981-2023

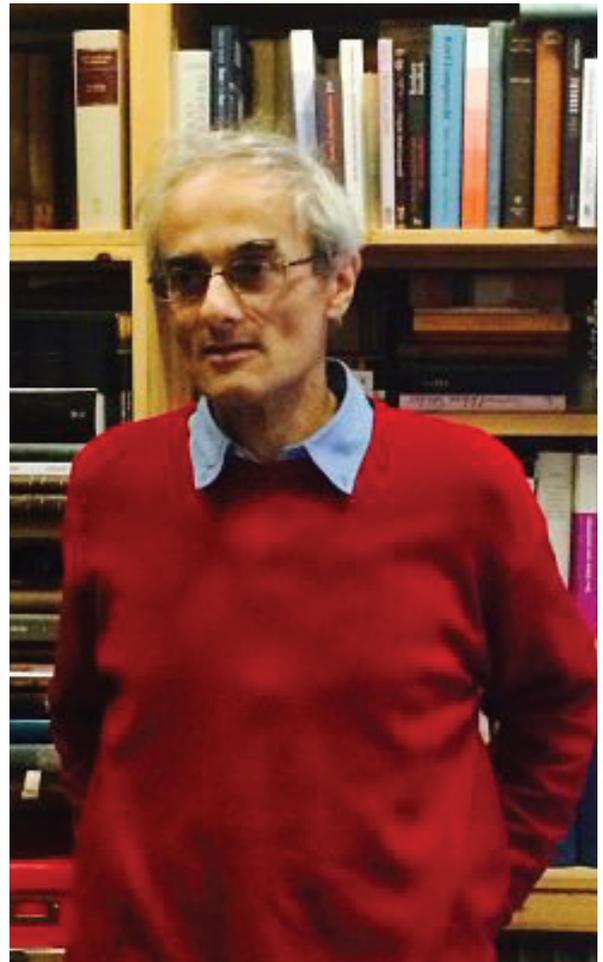
PROFESSOR PETER GHOSH

**To spend such a long time in one place and position is no doubt unusual, but I can assure readers that I am not another Mr. Chips.**

I am not contemplating any intellectual retirement; I am only standing aside from my tutorial position so that younger people can have their turn. To be sure extricating myself physically from the old boiler room in 29 Banbury, invites a review of the past. I come across pieces of old correspondence and think, proverbially if inaccurately, “well, I never knew that”. But if as a historian it’s not uninteresting to look back and reconstruct one’s intellectual life – what else would a historian of ideas do? – I’m not looking backward now except in wishing to express my gratitude to the twin communities of the college and the university.

They have supplied a point of stability which has relieved me of all unnecessary cares and allowed me to lead a life which has otherwise been engaged in a process of more or less continuous change. St. Anne’s has been the visible pillar of this, above all through the fellowship of my colleagues in history.

For twenty-odd years I was the “junior” alongside Jean Dunbabin and Jill Lewis; they were followed by a new generation, Gareth Davies and Howard Hotson; and now there is another changing of the guard, and soon, before she knows it, Uta Balbier will be the “senior” fellow. I am not going to expound their histories, but they embody profound processes of change — most obviously in the evolving history of gender where a women’s college let in a flood of men in 1979 and has lived to tell the tale. Yet in their different ways they have all been the same. When I was appointed, Jill sent me a postcard of the banner of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers from 1851. It carried the slogan: ‘Work Hard And Be United’. Could there be a better



description of what tutorial fellowship should be — and how it has been in fact?

Have students changed? Their make-up has changed in obvious ways. Ethnic diversity increases as it does in society at large; we work intuitively to try to meet government targets; we think much more about special needs; and we fight the rising tide of illiteracy that is the necessary consequence of a world where reading is no longer a principal leisure activity. And yet little has changed. Teaching or talking in a class-size of two to the best and brightest ought to be a pleasure and, allowing for human infirmities (on both sides), it is. Knowing that I will not be teaching next year has made me more keenly aware than ever of what I will miss. Indeed I feel I should apologise to everyone I taught this past year in case it seemed as if my pleasure in their company might be incompatible with the strenuousness of *Wissenschaft*. Nor should we overlook a highbrow point. The classical model of combining teaching with research is not just an agreeable formula to cover the structure of university education as it actually exists. Teaching is good for research. It is one of the only known brakes on unbalanced specialization, and researchers who flee contact with students usually end up “up themselves” (to use the demotic of 2023).

Have I changed? All who know me can

answer this for themselves. The subjects of my research have been in continuous evolution just as the syllabus has: away from “the continuous teaching of English history”, and this has been a continuing source of novelty and refreshment. Here I am in sympathy with the academical Dr. Brahm who held that, once one had worked out how to write in a particular genre – or on a particular subject – one should move on. Nonetheless there are obvious (or seeming) points of constancy. I first learned the value of the history of ideas when I did the history Prelim in 1973. I was clearing out old papers the other day only to find the remark at the opening of an essay on Gibbon – written within a fortnight of my arrival in Oxford – that one could judge him either according to the standards of his own day or those of today. (My tutor was not impressed: ‘Turgid stuff’.) Again, if I were to summarise my research around the headings ‘Disraeli–Gibbon–Weber’, most people would find this instantly recognisable. Indeed some might wonder if there was any real difference between them except as different forms of welfare provision. Naturally I think life is a bit more complicated than that. After all, I have been teaching the specialist option on ‘Political Theory and Social Science’ since its inception c.1988 and I am still only halfway through writing a book to embrace this subject. So if I may take up

a line from *The Philadelphia Story*: ‘with the feeble and deluded, always a little patience.’

**Prof Peter Ghosh** is the Jean Duffield Fellow of Modern History at St Anne’s

## Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize 2023

**The Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize is for book-length literary translations into English from any living European language. It aims to honour the craft of translation and to recognise its cultural importance. It was founded by Lord Weidenfeld and is supported by New College, The Queen's College and St Anne's College, Oxford.**

This year's judges, Vittoria Fallanca, Joseph Hankinson, Tinasha Mushakavanhu and Holly Langstaff (Chair), read over 180 eligible submissions. This year's submissions—translations of fiction, poetry, and drama—were translated from 24 European languages, by first-time and established translators and published by over 50 publishers.

The 2023 shortlist was:

- *The Censor's Notebook* by Liliana Corobca, translated from the Romanian by Monica Cure (Seven Stories)
- *When I Sing, Mountains Dance* by Irene Solà, translated from the Catalan by Mara Faye Lethem (Granta Books)
- *Chilean Poet* by Alejandro Zambra, translated from the Spanish (Chile) by Megan McDowell (Granta Books)

- *Lucky Breaks* by Yevgenia Belorusets, translated from the Russian (Ukraine) by Eugene Ostashevsky (Pushkin Press)
- *Awake* by Harald Voetmann, translated from the Danish by Johanne Sorgenfri Ottosen (Lolli Editions)
- *The Last One* by Fatima Daas, translated from the French by Lara Vergnaud (HopeRoad)
- *Of Saints and Miracles* by Manuel Astur, translated from the Spanish by Claire Wadie (Peirene Press)
- *The Map* by Barbara Sadurska, translated from the Polish by Kate Webster (Terra Librorum)

The winner of this year's Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize was Monica Cure, for her translation of *The Censor's Notebook*.

Monica Cure is a Romanian-American poet, writer and translator currently based in Bucharest. She is a two-time Fulbright grantee and received a PhD in comparative literature from the University of Southern California. Her poems have appeared in *Plume*, *RHINO*, *Boston Review* and elsewhere. Her poetry translations have appeared in journals such as the *Kenyon Review*, *Modern Poetry in Translation* and *Asymptote*.

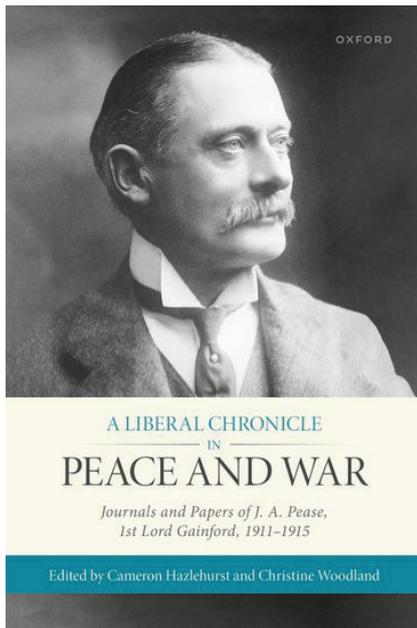
According to this year's judges, *The Censor's Notebook* is a marvellous feat of translation that goes beyond language and politics. It is a book about the everyday and mundane. Yet, that detail builds up in skillfully crafted layers to offer ways of thinking historically and contemporaneously about cycles of fear and control. How do we write, translate or read interiorised repression? The book seems both to be written inside these tropes and satirising them too. Yet reading it never feels like an intellectual exercise. Instead, it suggests how, in the vacuum vacated by truth, comes fiction — speculative and surprising. This is a high-concept book that melts genres to create a monument of scrutiny that is overlaid with language and many absences. In order to achieve this effect from one language to another, it required a mastery of translation'.

More information about the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation, including this year's longlist as well as previous winners, is available on the Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation Research Centre (OCCT) website: <https://occt.web.ox.ac.uk/>

**Georgia Nasseh** OCCT Co-ordinator

## Publications

St Anne's College is proud to have so many alumnae who have gone on to be successful authors. We have an alumnae section of books in the Library and in addition to The Ship, we list the books on our website <http://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/alumnae/our-alumna/alumnae-authors>. Please get in touch with [development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) if you'd like to be included in any of these places.



**Christine Woodland (nee Lockett, 1964)** has co-edited, with Cameron Hazlehurst, *A Liberal Chronicle in Peace and War Journals and Papers of J. A. Pease, 1st Lord Gainford, 1911-1915* (OUP, 2023)

Jack Pease was at the heart of the British Liberal government from 1908 to 1915, as Chief Whip through two general elections, and a member of the Cabinet confronting domestic tumult, international tensions, and war.

Pease was an unassuming participant in the deliberations of a formidable gathering of political talent. His journals as President of the Board of Education from 1911 to the

formation of the coalition ministry in 1915 are a closely observed, unvarnished record of what he saw and heard in Downing St and Westminster: constitutional and Home Rule crises, industrial conflict, electoral reform, women's suffrage controversies, budget struggles, naval estimates, and foreign policy. Despite his Quaker beliefs, Pease committed to supporting war against Germany; his troubled conscience is laid bare in letters to his wife and friends.

With a biographical introduction, extensive explanatory commentaries, and bibliographical guidance, Pease's text provides a uniquely comprehensive understanding of Asquith's Liberal government.

**Alexei Savchenko (1989; Senior Research Fellow 1993-4),** has published *Roads and Kingdoms: Two Encounters with the Nazarenes Beyond the River*, Leiden: Brill 2022 (*Eastern Christian Studies* Vol. 32).

**Marcia Schenk (MSc in African studies, 2009)** has just published an open access book about labour migration from Angola and Mozambique to East Germany, titled *Remembering African Labor Migration to the Second World: Socialist Mobilities between Angola, Mozambique, and East Germany* (Springer, 2022). The book can be downloaded in PDF or eBook version for free here: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-06776-1> or can be ordered as hard or soft cover.

**Andreea Iulia Scridon (2020)** has published three collections of poetry.

CALENDARS (Broken Sleep Books, 2022)

In *Calendars* Andreea Iulia Scridon presents a lyrically seductive engagement with Fitzgerald's "little green light". Her poetry explores the perils of heartbreak, generational narcissism and a playful, uncertain, sexuality. She writes with timeless style and a delicious sense of irony. Her intimate, jagged poems are by equal measure tender and severe, marking an exciting forward step in the development of a future star.

<https://www.brokensleepbooks.com/product-page/andreea-iulia-scridon-calendars>

## Alumnae news: Publications

A ROMANIAN POEM (MadHat Press, 2022)

*A Romanian Poem* is the compendium of a psychological process: the poems that make up this collection—melancholic and witty, romantic and surreal—are musings on the divine nature of the relationship between growing up and growing old. Angels announce their apparition in a scenery of post-communist transcendentalism, interweaving with personal references and individual memory. A triptych, this book begins with *“Tristia”*—exploring displacement and the discomfort of the necessarily personal space between East and West—is interrupted by *“Peregrinations”*—a series of long narrative poems nodding to the tradition of English pilgrim poetry—and culminates with *“Nostos”*, a denouement and an explosion of feeling as the poet returns to her Arcadia.

[https://madhat-press.com/products/a-romanian-poem-by?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=26413c24b&\\_ss=r](https://madhat-press.com/products/a-romanian-poem-by?_pos=1&_sid=26413c24b&_ss=r)

ACROSS THE NILE-GREEN SKY (Greying Ghost Press 2022)

This brief collection began as an imaginative dialogue with several figures of the early 20th century: most evidently Debussy, who is directly responsible for the structure and premise of the work, but the presences of Nijinsky, Valentino, Caruso (enigmatic figures whose descendent this poetic narrator found herself) played their individual parts in my mission to unravel nostalgia in its various forms – for things lived and un-lived.

<https://greyingghost.bigcartel.com/product/scridon>

**Mara Yamauchi (1992)** has published *Marathon Wisdom: An Elite Athlete's Insights on Running and Life* (Meyer & Meyer Sport, 2022)

## Alumnae News

**Lucy Alexander (English, 1995)** is currently Senior Features Writer for the Robb Report.

**Jean Ashford (History and German, 1976)** retired last year from a career in educational admin, publishing and music teaching, and has recently moved to Bristol. She would love to hear from any St Anne's graduates living in Bristol/North Somerset/South Glos who might be interested in reviving the dormant West of England branch of the St Anne's Society. Please contact Jean via the Development Office.

**Hilary Belden (English, 1966)** is completing 20 years as a governor and director with the Twyford Academies Trust. She is also editor of her busy London Church's quarterly magazine and very much involved in local life- Putney- and in life in Pembridge N Herefordshire.

**Jane Billingham (Modern Languages and Philosophy, 1977):** *“I am the longtime translator of books by New York Times bestselling author Peter Wohlleben, a German forester who writes popular non-fiction books about trees, including *The Hidden Life of Trees* and *The Power of Trees*. I also edit books about wolves in Yellowstone National Park and the American West. I give talks about the often-overlooked wonders to be found in forests.”*

**Caren Boden (nee Samuel) (Modern Languages, 1982)** in 2022 qualified as a ReikiScience Practitioner at the Reiki Academy in London. Member of the British Society of Dowsters. Continuing studies into all aspects of energy healing and holistic health - from Reiki healing and crystal healing (people and animals) to healing geopathically stressed houses. Author of 4 blogs and working on a book.

**Alice Bonham (PGCE, 2019)** has just started a role at Winchester College as a Geography teacher.

**Jemma Borg (nee Norwich) (Zoology, 1989)**, has published *Wilder* (2022; Pavilion Poetry, Liverpool University Press). The

book was shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize.

**Chris Breward (Mathematics, 1991)** has been appointed as Scientific Director of UK's new Knowledge Exchange Hub for Mathematical Sciences.

**Matthew Burney (Music, 1989)** will take up a new role as HM Consul General in Shanghai from September 2023. He will be responsible for the UK's political, consular, trade, educational and soft power interests in East China (covering Shanghai and three other provinces). He was appointed by HM The King in the 2023 New Year's Honours List to the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for services to U.K. cultural relations overseas.



**Hilda Caffery (Modern Languages, 1951)** celebrated her 90th birthday on 7 February 2023. Born and raised in

Halifax, West Yorkshire, in a Catholic family of Irish descent, Hilda studied at St Anne's College from 1951 to 1954. After obtaining an Honours degree in Modern Languages and a Postgraduate degree in Education at London University, she taught French and Music, being a passionate piano player, in Leeds, Halifax and London. In 1958 she moved to Pisa, where she met her future husband, Ferdinando Coppola. Hilda and Nando started their love romance driving on a Lambretta scooter from Pisa to Venice in July 1959 and married in Pompei in 1961. Since 1961, Hilda and Nando - a biologist and farmer - have always lived in the countryside near Lecce, in the Southern region of Apulia, where they raised their five children, and their seven grandchildren.

Hilda dedicated her professional life to teaching English. She worked with the British Council in Naples and taught at high schools and University in Lecce; she also taught on teacher-training courses organised by the British Council, the Italian National Research Council and the Italian Ministry of Education. She also wrote books about teaching languages through music (*Peoples through Songs*) and teaching English to Italian children (*Say it Again*). After Nando's departure in April 2020, Hilda currently lives in her family home in the countryside close to Lecce.

When she moved to Lecce, only 16 years after the end of WWII, Hilda was one of the very few English ladies living in Southern Apulia and she brightly adapted to a very different cultural environment. Hilda has been actively involved in promoting English culture in Lecce, including as the president of the local English language club dedicated to George Berkeley, one of the first English visitors of Lecce. Hilda is extremely grateful and attached to St Anne's college and to her Oxford university years.

**Oliver Carr (Metallurgy and the Science of Materials, 1990)** recently successfully completed a PGDip course in Organisational Leadership at the Oxford Saïd Business School, was elected student representative for the course cohort towards the School and University, and will graduate in July 2023.

**David Christensen (Biochemistry, 2006)** got married in 2022 and he and his wife welcomed their first child.

**Valerie Clough (Classics, 1978)** has published *Ralph Richardson: a life in the theatre* (1989) and *From Sale to Registration* (2017)

**Imogen Clout (Law, 1975)** was elected Chair of the Central Readers' Council in July 2022. She is the first lay Chair in the 100 years of its existence, serving Reader lay ministry in the Church of England and the Church in Wales. She

## Alumnae news

moved, with my husband, to Llantwit Major in November 2022.

**Diana Dajer (Masters in Public Policy, 2014)** graduated last year from a DPhil at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Oxford, supervised by Prof. Bettina Lange. She was awarded the LASA/Oxfam America Martin Diskin Dissertation Award for her thesis. It is awarded to a recent PhD that embodies the commitment to the creative combination of activism and scholarship.

**Gill Dean (Medicine, 1973)** is a trustee with the Abingdon Bridge, a mental health charity which serves 13-25 year olds in the Vale of the White Horse and South Oxfordshire.

**Margaret Doak (Theology, 1969)** recently printed a book entitled *Maranatha – Thy Kingdom Come*. If anyone would like to purchase it, please contact the Development Office to be put in touch with Margaret. Margaret received the Canterbury Cross, an award from Rowan Williams, then Archbishop of Canterbury for her work at her Charity, which was called “*Shalom - A Centre of Healing, Wholeness and Counselling*” and which she founded and directed for 10 years.

**Susan Doran (nee Savitt) (History, 1966)** edited the catalogue for the British Library Exhibition “*Elizabeth and Mary: Royal Cousins: Rival Queens*” (2021). You can also catch Susan in the TV mini- documentary series, ‘*The Boleyns: A Scandalous Family*’. A book and two

essays are in the press and should be out later this year.

**Razi A. Farooqui (MSc Major Programme Management, 2010)** has been Selected as Head of Cyber security power sector regulator NEPRA.

**Elizabeth Fernando (PPE, 1989)** was appointed CIO of NEST on 1st May 2023.

**Wendy Filer (nee Bernstein) (Law, 1982)** completed a PhD at King's College, London in May 2022. Title: A Space for Jewish Justice: The Mahamad's Court of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation of London, 1721-1868.

**Ruth Foreman (Mathematics, 1973)** is Chair of Bristol and Bath Regional Capital CIC and Pro Chancellor of the University of Bath.

**Chris Foxon (English, 2007)** works in theatre as a producer and writer. He won an Olivier Award in 2022, being named in The Stage's list of 25 leading theatre-makers the same year. His first play, an adaptation of Robert Westall's *The Watch House*, will run in Chris's hometown of Newcastle upon Tyne for a month over Christmas; he has also co-written a non-fiction book on theatre and published a short story. On a personal note, he is marrying St Anne's alumna Hannah Jenner (2007, Ancient and Modern History) this summer. Hannah works in social prescribing and wellbeing, leading award-winning projects for young people. The couple's first child is due in September.

**Jonathan Freeman (PPE, 1987)** received an MBE for charitable services in New Year's Honours List 2021.

**Lizzie Gent (Modern History, 1976)** is looking forward to retirement in 2024. She is volunteering at Elizabeth Gaskell's House and is currently chair of trustees of Manchester Community Choir.

**Emily Golding (Schultz) (MSc in Education, 2016)** married Walter Golding just outside of Boulder, Colorado (US) in October 2022. In April 2023, Emily was promoted to Product Lead at YouTube in the Support Systems organization. She's worked at Alphabet for 5 years since graduating from St. Anne's College, and is open to connecting with students if they have similar professional interests & aspirations.

**Rachel Hart (Modern Languages, 1987)** is Head of PSHE and Senior Mental Health Lead, Lady Eleanor Holles School. She recently had a chapter published in ‘The Magic in the Space Beyond, Case Studies from Women's Leadership in Education’.

**David Hopen (MSt English and American Studies, 2017)** has published his PhD completed at King's College, London in May 2022. Title: *A Space for Jewish Justice: The Mahamad's Court of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation of London, 1721-1868*, debut novel, *The Orchard*, with Ecco (HarperCollins). The novel has been featured in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Good Morning America*, and *Entertainment Weekly*. It was named a

National Jewish Book Award Finalist and is currently in development for TV adaptation.

**Pamela Hutchinson (English Language and Literature, 1998)** has a new book, a BFI Film Classics monograph on *The Red Shoes*, which will be published on 5 October 2023. Her previous publications include *Pandora's Box* (BFI Bloomsbury 2017) and *30-Second Cinema* (Ivy Press, 2019).

**Ann Kenrick (Modern Languages, 1977)** After completing five years as the first female Master of the Charterhouse charity and museum, Ann left last year to set up a venture supporting individuals with end of life planning to make it easier for their friends and family. The ambition is to make End of Life Planning as normal as Birth or Wedding Planning. [www.endoflifematters.co](http://www.endoflifematters.co).

**Rachel Killick (nee Mason) (Modern Languages, 1964)** is now living in Cornwall and still publishing on Canada/Quebec. Recently she co-edited a special issue of the *British Journal of Canadian Studies*, among other book chapters and articles.

**Jill Leslie (nee Alliston) (PPE, 1964)** will celebrate her 60th wedding anniversary with husband John Leslie (Wadham) next year.

**Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan (Medieval and Modern Languages, 1970)** is currently working with colleagues at the CRBC (Centre de Recherche Bretonne et

Celtique, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest), in partnership with the University of Wales Centre for Higher Welsh and Celtic Studies in Aberystwyth, on a project on Breton manuscripts and archives in Wales and Welsh ones in Brittany. This involves mapping the collections, updating/revising catalogues and linking up related items with a view to digitisation and bringing them together virtually. With colleagues from the CRBC, Université de Rouen and University of Ulster, she is developing an international research project on the translation and adaptation of Old French grail romances into other medieval vernaculars.

**Valerie McGivern (nee Page) (Physics, 1979)** "Children of Choba founded and subsidises Choba English Medium Primary and Nursery School in Pangani, Tanzania where I have lived for 20 years. The school started in 2008 under a tree, with 34 children of local subsistence farmers, and we now have 400 students. The talented ones are sponsored (several by friends I made at St Anne's - many thanks to them!) for secondary and tertiary education. Last year the first Choba graduate came back as a teacher and 9 started at university, studying subjects such as Medicine, Law, Education and Computer Science. The aim is for these students to eventually use their education to serve the local community, and we hope that one day Choba School will be run by Choba graduates."

**Kim J Melhuish (Classics and Modern Languages, 1976)** has won the Pledge for Nature Award - Community Champion - North Devon Biosphere.

**Dr Laura Mills (Modern Languages, 2002)** has been recognised by the British International Studies Association (BISA) - the leading national professional body of the discipline - with the 2023 BISA Distinguished Excellence in Teaching International Studies Award.

**Stanley Mitchell (Biochemistry, 2013)** Despite COVID recently scuppering a scholarship to conduct a research project in Japan on medical diplomacy, Stanley has recently reworked his partial thesis and preliminary interviews into a series of articles due to be published in the latter half of this year.

**Lorena Garelli Moreno (MSc Educational Assessment, 2019)** has been named Executive Secretary of the International Association for Educational Assessment.

**Hannah Munday (Music, 2016)** is moving to Germany to teach strings at Black Forest Academy, an international boarding school which provides education for missionary and third-culture kids. BFA teachers work unsalaried, raising their own financial support to minimise boarding and tuition fees.

Until this point she has worked freelance as an editor and German-English translator, among other things. Recent projects include a translation

## Alumnae news

of Dr Stefan Felber's 'Kommunikative Bibelübersetzung' (Communicative Bible translation), a scholarly account and critique of the life and work of translation theorist Eugene A. Nida, currently being prepared for publication by Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft.

**Portia Patel (PPE, 2007)** has been ranked as a number 1 analyst in her field of Investment Banking and has also co-founded a business, ESGMark, which is growing very strongly. ESGmark offers organisations certification, ongoing education, community networking and consultancy services. ESGmark is now run by a dedicated team which is growing rapidly to meet increased demand. Their website is [www.esgmark.co.uk](http://www.esgmark.co.uk)

**Sara Paton (Classics, 1963)** has published an article in the Annual of the British School at Athens, 117, 2022. The title is The so-called Villa Dionysos at Athens.

**Gillian Parker (nee Russell) (Music, 1977)** has retired from a career in teaching and is now a YouTube performer for a channel called Linguamigo which teaches Spanish learners and is accessed by teachers and students across the world.

**Sally Percy (nee Truman) (Modern History, 1994)** is publishing a book called '21st Century Business Icons: The leader who are changing our world'. It is being published by Kogan Page in September 2023.

**Richard Polley (Modern Languages, 1980)** is now qualified to guide in English and French.

**Mark Redman (Modern History, 1986)** was recently appointed Managing Partner with responsibility for Europe by New York headquartered mid-market private equity firm, Stellex Capital Management.

**Jane Reed (English, 1977)** retired in 2022 after working for the past decade as a legislative drafter in Jersey, Channel Islands. This followed a 20-year career in the UK Government Legal Service. She looks forward to the birth of her first grandchild in the autumn.

**Justin Robinson (English Language and Literature, 1979)**. Having taught in Poland during martial law, Justin volunteered to teach about 50 Ukrainian refugees in different communities around Oxford with a focus on practical speaking. He writes: *"We use native speakers and a kind of speed teaching method to practice drills and topics with different volunteers albeit this has to allow for a varied ability among the Ukrainians. Of course, this has led to some cultural and musical events which the Ukrainians organised to reward hosts and helpers alike. As this war drags on, we are involved in all manner of support relating to accommodation, transport, Universal Credit, schooling issues and so on. It is quite something to sit next to a woman having a painful conversation with her mother in occupied Donetsk. Or to try and*

*calm a student in a lesson whose husband has just been posted to Bakhmut. And a year later....I wish I was fighting there."*

**Moya Russell (Medicine, 1979)** organised a number of highly-rated medieval tours of the V&A in 2022 and 2023.

**(Elaine) Wendie Schaffer (English, 1962)** has suffered a stroke but can again walk and talk, thanks to prayers and love of friends/family/wonderful Dutch medical services. She is still writing and publishing poems.

**Julie Scott (Modern Languages, 1964):** "Following a career in higher education in Britain and Cyprus, I established a small business, TouchTD Ltd, with another colleague. We work all over the world carrying out project work and consultancy in tourism, cultural heritage and livelihoods. I am now semi-retired and enjoying beekeeping and learning all about the world of bees!"

**Rachel Steele (Modern History, 2003)** has edited a collection of her late mother's poetry. The book is called "Poems of Living and Loving". It is authored by Joyce E. Steele and edited by Rachel E. Steele, ISBN 978-1-3999-4830-2. It was published in 2023 by Gateway Publishing.

**Philippa Stockley (English, 1983)** has just published her fifth book, *PAINT & MAKE: Decorative and eco ways to transform your home*. Unlike her three novels, and a book on old London houses, this latest work, out with The Pimpernel Press, shares decades of experience from the

professional writer and painter, with 300 photos and drawings also by the author. The book has 16 genuine projects from her Regency cottage in London, with step by step photos. The projects include murals, floor cloths, little gilded shelves, decorative panels, curtains... even home-made beeswax polish (which really works).

**Valentin Sulzer (Mathematics, 2011)** has married, moved to the US and launched a battery software company.

**Lesley Titcomb (Classics, 1980)** is now pursuing a portfolio career as a non-executive director and charity trustee. This includes involvement with StepChange, the debt advice charity and with the University of Hertfordshire.

**Adam Tolley KC (Law, 1989)** was appointed to investigate allegations against Dominic Raab. His wife Tamara writes: *"Adam has been at Fountain Court Chambers since his pupillage in 1993. His practice is in commercial and employment law as well as tax. He has acted for the Prince of Wales and UB40 (not in the same case!). He has also always worked for the Bar Pro Bono Unit. The Guardian newspaper described Adam as "a safe pair of hands" and one of his opponents in previous cases was quoted as saying that "I really liked him as an opponent, he was very ethical. I was kind of cheered when he was appointed to lead the Raab investigation". The Legal 500 refer to his impressive encyclopaedic knowledge, his kindness and how charming he is to work with. For those of us old Stans lawyers who*

*know and love him, he's the modest, quiet Scot with a sense of humour. Adam and I dated during our time studying law at St Anne's, married after our degrees and have three wonderful grown up children: two boys studying medicine and biochemistry respectively at Cambridge and UCL, and a daughter who is doing her A levels."*

**Jean Ward (English, 1974)** has published *The Between-Space of Translation: Literary Sketches*, Gdańsk University Press, 2020. She was awarded a full professorship in 2021. In 2022, *'Living is easy with eyes closed: art and environmental crisis'*, an essay by **Fliss Watts (PPE, 1978)**, on art, economics and environmental crisis, was published by Caldew Press. See <https://caldewpress.com/publications.html>

**Natasha Weyer-Brown (English, 1972)** retired in 2021 from her position as Tutor in International Communication in English, President of Ethics and Deontology Committee and member of Administrative Council (trades union panel). She is now living between Ireland and France.

**Joy Whitby (1949)** has self-published 9 picture books and most recently, a collection of short stories for adults. These are due to be marketed this year after updates to Joy's Grasshopper website.



## In memoriam

**Pamela Adams** (*Newton 1963*)  
**Margaret Bailey** (*1948*)  
**Sarah Baird** (*Crozier 1967*)  
**Deirdre Bergson** (*Levinson 1951*)  
**Winfried Bischoff**  
**Mary Blake** (*1941*)  
**Margaret Boggis** (*1940*)  
**Richard Bower** (*1983*)  
**Sally Braman** (*1947*)  
**Anne Bull** (*Fife 1952*)  
**Elizabeth Coates** (*Symons 1962*)  
**Mary Congdon** (*Hammond 1950*)  
**Janet Corcoran** (*1975*)  
**Rosemary Cramp** (*1947*)  
**Celia Cviic** (*Antrobus 1955*)  
**Alison Donald** (*1950*)  
**Bella Ellenbogen** (*Samuel 1946*)  
**Rosamond Gallant** (*Cox 1965*)  
**Doreen Gauld** (*Marshall 1940*)  
**Kathleen Hall** (*1941*)  
**Diane Hare** (*1967*)  
**Barbara Higgins** (*Lawson 1950*)  
**Myra Higgins** (*Jenkins 1958*)  
**Alison Holmes** (*Martin 1958*)  
**Elizabeth Hudders** (*Spencer 1966*)  
**Celia Kerlake** (*1968*)

**Yasmin Khan** (*1991*)  
**Marguerite Kuhn-Régnier** (*1942*)  
**John Lawrence** (*1984*)  
**Elizabeth Livingstone** (*1948*)  
**Patricia Markus** (*1948*)  
**Rosamund Metcalf** (*Eland 1960*)  
**Oliver Ormerod** (*1972*)  
**Anne Paton** (*Hodgkinson 1955*)  
**John Patisson** (*1952*)  
**Elizabeth Peters** (*1958*)  
**Patricia Phillips** (*Reilly 1949*)  
**Anne Rawstorne** (*1951*)  
**Mary Sinker** (*Evans 1947*)  
**Lois Smith** (*Pearson 1956*)  
**Grace Strawson** (*1946*)  
**Paul Thompson** (*1987*)  
**Diana Thornton** (*Atter 1950*)  
**Isabel Unsworth** (*1974*)  
**Amaru Villanueva Rance** (*2006*)  
**Louise Vincent** (*1968*)  
**Anne Walters** (*Purcell 1949*)  
**Gillian Walton** (*Turner 1964*)  
**Benedicta Ward** (*1971*)  
**Yvonne Wells** (*Lehmann 1944*)

**Please note that some dates are approximate as no exact date was provided when the College was notified.**

# Obituaries

### IN MEMORIAM

JEAN BANNISTER (TAYLOR 1958)

13 JULY 1940 – 14 AUGUST 2023



Jean's father, Nathaniel Taylor, and mother, Winnifred Meakin, met in London while he served as a Grenadier Guardsman.

Jean was born on 13 July 1940 in her father's ancestral village of Epwell in Oxfordshire, but grew up near Worthing, on the south coast, where Nathaniel was a policeman.

Jean passed the eleven plus and went to Worthing High School, where she blossomed, enjoying drama, music (playing the piano and singing) and art. Her talent and determination gained her a place at St Anne's College to study history in 1958. The 'history girls' at St Anne's formed a close-knit group of friends with whom she stayed in touch all her life. I have included a picture of them on Easter vacation in the Lake District in 1960: clockwise from the top, Heather Wheeler, Philippa Prescott (Speight), Lorna Fowler (Lloyd), Jean

Bannister (Taylor), Judy Treseder, and Wendy Perriam (Brech).

At Oxford, Jean also met Simon Bannister (St John's College, 1958) and they were married on 12 August 1961. In marrying Simon, Jean took on the role of a clergyman's wife, which she threw herself into, while also quite prepared to defy conventional expectations as a working mother. During Simon's theological training in Lincoln, Jean started her career in teaching history. Later they moved to Prestwich in Greater Manchester where Catherine was born in 1963 and Stephen in 1965. After a brief time in Orpington, Kent, from 1966 to 1970, they moved back to Greater Manchester (Bury and later Oldham). Jean taught at Bury Grammar School for Girls, where she is remembered with great affection as an inspirational teacher. They moved down South again in 1986 where Jean was headteacher first at Sir Frederick Osborn School in Hertfordshire and then at St George's C of E School in Gravesend.

Simon died in 2003. Jean had by then retired and was a lay reader in St Giles' Church, Farnborough, Kent. There she met her second husband, John Reber, whom she married in 2007. John died in 2019 and Jean moved into a care home in Wimbledon in 2021. Although living

with dementia, Jean continued to enjoy life and to give joy to those around her. It was a great grief to her family and friends when she died suddenly on 14 August 2023.

Jean was an energetic, positive, bright and loving person. As well as being an inspirational teacher and headteacher, she taught adult education classes, wrote a book on the history of Bury<sup>1</sup> and gained two master's degrees (an MEd from the University of Manchester and an MBA from Leeds Metropolitan University). She served the community as a magistrate and as an inspector of schools. She also brought great fun into people's lives, running clubs for young and old and putting on pantomimes and shows at church and school. Jean had a strong competitive spirit, but everything she did was done with grace, imagination, and creativity.

**Catherine Jenkins** (Bannister 1981)

<sup>1</sup> *From Parish to Metro: two centuries of local government in a Lancashire town* (Bury: Bury Times, 1974).

### IN MEMORIAM

DEIRDRE BERGSON (LEVINSON) ENGLISH,  
1951)  
1931-2023



My sister, Deirdre Bergson, who died in April this year was a scholar, activist and teacher who influenced many lives. Born in 1931 in Wales to Yudel and Miriam, intelligent and devoutly observant Jews, she was the second of five children. Four girls, Jean, Deirdre, Shula and Norma, were born within six years of each other and the youngest, a boy, Ralph, was born 20 years later. Deirdre was a rebel throughout her childhood. Expelled three times from her grammar school in Hull, she had made such a deep impression on her Headteacher that they remained lifelong friends after she left school. She went up to St. Anne's, on a scholarship, in 1951 to study English Language and Literature where her tutor

was JRR. Tolkien. Tolkien maintained a long correspondence with Deirdre, and perhaps one of the factors that persuaded her to take up an academic post in South Africa after her BLitt was Tolkien's experiences of his native land.

Deirdre spent five years teaching in South Africa where she joined a revolutionary movement. It was not only opposed to the apartheid regime but also parted company with the ANC which she saw as reformist and collaborationist. She wrote a novel, *Five Years*, published in 1966, based on her experiences there, reviewed for the *New York Times* by a young Edward Said, with whom she and her husband, Allen, maintained a lifelong friendship. Her activities in South Africa might well have resulted in imprisonment and she left in time to avoid arrest. After, she spent several months hitchhiking through Africa on her own, an extraordinary venture for a young woman at that time.

Deirdre took up a teaching post in Tougaloo College in Mississippi in the late-1960s. From there she went to teach at New York University where she struck up a long-lasting friendship with the Irish politician and intellectual, Conor Cruise O'Brien. In New York, Deirdre met her husband, Allen Bergson, then an academic at Columbia University. Deirdre and Allen remained in New York in an apartment on the Upper

West Side for the rest of their lives. In February 1970, their daughter Miranda was born. A son, Tobias, was born in May 1973 but died two months later. In April 1975 they adopted Malachi, from Cambodia. Deirdre continued to work at NYU and wrote her second novel, *Modus Vivendi*, published by Penguin in 1985. During these years she published short stories and articles in *Commentary* magazine and wrote reviews for the *New York Times*. Later, she taught in The Brearley School where she made a deep impression. She also ran Shakespeare study groups at her home.

Throughout her life, and particularly at St. Anne's, Deirdre made many friends who were devoted to her through her intellect, generosity and commitment to their wellbeing. Allen died in 2019. As well as Miranda and Malachi, Deirdre leaves behind daughter-in-law Jo, three grandchildren, Jake, Luke and Rashad, and siblings, Shula, Norma and Ralph.

**Ralph Levinson** (brother)

## Obituaries

### IN MEMORIAM

MARGARET BOGGIS (CLASSICS, 1940)  
26 AUGUST 1921-14 NOVEMBER 2022



Margaret Boggis was born in Suffolk. Her father was a vicar and the family moved first to Barnstaple and later Torquay, with Margaret's three older brothers and her sister. She was educated at Malvern Girls' School as a scholar, with the help of a well-off spinster neighbour.

She matriculated from the Society of Oxford Home Students in 1940, where she was tutored by Miss Dorothy Lane Poole in Literae Humaniores. Wartime study was not easy, with shortened degree courses and much tension and sadness, but Margaret was housed at 13 Norham Gardens where she made good friends. My mother Helen McKeand was one such, which is how Margaret came to be my Godmother. In Miss Plumer's time, undergraduates were encouraged to do war work and other charitable

work in the vacations, such as digging for victory in Port Meadow and fruit picking in the Vale of Evesham, where she learnt by telegram of the death of her beloved brother John, killed flying a Lancaster Bomber.

She came down in 1943 and joined the WRNS, becoming a Chief Stoker at HMS Abatos in Southampton. Margaret was removed from stoking on account of her organising capabilities and spent the run-up to D-Day helping with the administration and logistics. She was more than a little miffed when shortly after the war ended she was demobbed in haste so as to allow men returning from the war to have service jobs.

However, she loved the sea thereafter, and had many adventures after the war – including one where she went with her friend and former WRN Rozelle Raynes to the Netherlands in the friend's small boat. It sprang a leak when moored at Vlissingen and had to be mended, after which they hurried back to England to be met by a strong outgoing tide. As she had not told her mother that she had set off in a tiny tub and not the cross-channel ferry, more prevarication than Margaret liked was required to explain the late return home.

She took her Diploma of Education in Oxford, then went as a trainee to Cheltenham Ladies' College. Her mother asked her to stay at home to look after

her but Cheltenham Ladies' refused to release her, and her mother's death followed soon after, to Margaret's lasting sadness. From Cheltenham she went to St Margaret's Exeter where she taught for two years and was a very young teaching headmistress for eight (1953-1960). Getting the school to pay and function properly as it moved to being a trust school was wearing, and she eventually decided she needed a change, so went to teach at Kenya High School for Girls in Nairobi. She made the most of her time there, teaching, climbing both Mount Kenya and Kilimanjaro, and after four years, driving herself home via Jerusalem.

She returned to teach in Birmingham in 1963, where she bought a house, her home for the rest of her life till she moved to a care home three years before her death. In 1964 she accepted a post teaching Classics and later Russian at King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls, retiring in 1980, by then Deputy Head.

To say that Margaret was an inspirational teacher is something of an understatement. Her correspondence shows the huge amount of love and respect in which she was held from generations of schoolgirls and colleagues. She had a genius for asking pertinent and interesting questions about all kinds of things. Her mainstay

was reading: she had a regular flow of library books throughout her life, and was a stalwart member of the Handsworth Ladies' Shakespeare Society, a group of about twelve friends who monthly met and read a Shakespeare play.

Margaret stayed close to her siblings and to their families. She was a constant presence in their lives and an enthusiastic participant in family and community events, always delighted to meet new generations and hugely encouraging of their doings. Her move to Edgbaston Manor was a lesson in how to cope with the loss of independence gracefully: she joined in, she made friends, she offered her carers interest and affection and thanks and they responded in kind.

Travelling was her delight, and she used school holidays and retirement to the full. She twice visited the Antarctic – 'I am off to the Antarctic again' she wrote to me in her late seventies – and in younger days regularly drove around the Mediterranean, especially Greece. She shared her journeys and discoveries through photos and in conversation, and her accounts, though personal, were never about herself.

Finally, Margaret's faith was profound and steadfast. She read the Bible daily, and tried hard to live by the precepts in which she believed. But as in all things

she did not believe in being talked down to: – I once accompanied her to a church where the service seemed to be aimed at rather slow children, and it became clear that this did not suit. I suggested we leave discreetly when the children left for Sunday School. No, said Margaret, we must go now. So we pushed our way past disgruntled neighbours and departed, Margaret as always honest, practical and no waster of time.

**Victoria Arrowsmith-Brown**  
(goddaughter)

IN MEMORIAM  
ELIZABETH ANNE COATES (SYMONS,  
MATHEMATICS 1962)  
26 JANUARY 1944 – 25 SEPTEMBER 2022



Elizabeth (as we knew her then, only much later becoming Liz) came to St

Anne's in 1962. Holder of an Ethel Simon scholarship, she flourished as a mathematician under the tuition and guidance of Mary Kearsley. We remember her as a beautiful young woman with a lovely smile, always kind, always positive and a good friend who joined enthusiastically in whatever we were doing. Liz loved a long walk, volunteered in community projects, she sang, played her clarinet and enjoyed a good discussion. Through the Jesus-St Anne's Music Society she sang in Jesus College chapel choir and in Gilbert and Sullivan productions and met theology student Laurence Coates, whom she married in 1966.

Born in Aylesbury in 1944, Liz was the first child of Ken and Joyce Symons, followed three years later by her brother Michael. The family settled in Princes Risborough, where Ken became Bank Manager, and Liz attended Wycombe High School. Alongside her studies, music formed a large part of life there and nurtured what became her lifelong love of music.

After St Anne's and two years in industry Liz took a PGCE. She and Laurence, a probation officer by then, moved to Sheffield in 1970 where she taught until the birth of their children Peter and Helen. She joined the United Nations Association and Sheffield World Poverty Action Group out of which arose the

## Obituaries

Development Education Centre of South Yorkshire (DECSY), an organisation working to promote a global perspective in education. Liz was secretary of the Trustees for over 30 years and became passionate about campaigning for justice between rich and poor nations. The success of DECSY gave her much joy.

Liz taught statistics at Sheffield Hallam University for many years, took an MSc in applied statistics, taught English to Pakistani women and clarinet at the local junior school as well as being secretary to her local Good Neighbour Scheme. She sang in the Sheffield Bach Choir and ran a small instrumental group. Together Liz and Laurence shared a love of walking and music. They supported each other in their professional and voluntary work and were close to their family.

At the age of 58 Liz was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and joined the local Parkinson's support group where she led self-management courses and sang with fellow sufferers (The Tremorloes!). Her health gradually deteriorated but with characteristic determination and courage she continued with her activities until she experienced a major health set-back in 2014. At that point, in her constant bid to contribute to society, she volunteered as an assistant at her local library, then under threat of closure, continuing until shortly before her death.

In Laurence's loving care Liz lived at home until her death. A celebration of her life was held in Sheffield on 19 October, a fitting tribute to a life well lived. She is survived by Laurence, Peter, Helen, grandsons Toby and Isaac and her brother Michael.

**Margaret Cogill (1962)**

IN MEMORIAM  
THE HON HILARY ANN COCKFIELD  
(HISTORY, 1962)  
4 JUNE 1944 - 28 MAY 2022



Hilary grew up in Nottingham with her parents Ruth and Arthur Cockfield (later Lord Cockfield of Dover). She attended Nottingham Girls' High School before coming up to Oxford in 1962 to read

History at St Anne's College.

She always spoke fondly of her time at St Anne's, which gave her the warmest memories even six decades later.

Although she came up to read history, her real fondness was for poetry. Hilary maintained her devotion to Byron and Tennyson until the end of her days.

After Oxford she taught English at a private school, Hunmanby Hall in Yorkshire, where she took particular pleasure in helping children from the Far East take their first steps in a new and very different language.

She also volunteered to teach immigrant and refugee women in her spare time.

Hilary always believed Voltaire's saying '*Il faut cultiver votre jardin*', and after finishing teaching took the unusual step of moving to the far North of Scotland to try a self-sufficient life as a crofter.

I've always wished she'd published her book on such a unique change in life. She retired to her beloved New Forest to pursue her twin passions for photography and badger conservation.

Hilary will be much missed by her daughter, two sons, her friends, and many badgers!

**Dr Christopher Lawrence (son)**

### IN MEMORIAM

JANET CORCORAN (HISTORY, 1975)

7 MARCH 1956–16 AUGUST 2022



Janet and I struck up our lifelong friendship in 1975, both feeling slightly out of place; while St Anne's was spared the raucous students swaggering around the men's colleges, it was still a bit prim, retaining petty restrictions dating from a long-gone era. One such was the prohibition on men, other than the porters, being on the premises after 10 pm. We set up a Joint Gate Hours Committee, and Janet's gentle but firm persuasive powers did much to help scrap the antiquated regulation – which would soon become redundant anyway with the admission of male students and faculty.

We shared a flat on Woodstock Road in our third year, where Janet was already honing her adventurous culinary skills

in the tiny kitchen – her Christmas fare included goose, turkey and much more; the 25th birthday meal for Philip, her life partner, coincided with the Silver Jubilee, and was ironically patriotic with red, white and blue butter, plus various alcoholic concoctions of similar hues.

After graduating in History, Janet trained in the probation service, responsible for decisions that would affect people's lives forever. Subsequently, an MSc in Criminology led to her heading a programme at the National Offender Management Service (now HM Prison and Probation Service). She was a natural for this work, emotionally demanding though it must have been, borne with her usual self-deprecation. She was genuinely fascinated by people: what made them tick, what led to their life-changing choices – blending professionalism and compassion, alert to her clients' needs, fears, aspirations and potential.

Janet brought similar qualities to her vast circle of friends – spiced with her unique blend of wit, generosity and sheer enjoyment of life's pleasures. An avid and eclectic reader (her immense book collection would rival some university libraries); mega-gatherings, for which she produced vast quantities of food, while Philip served his 'killer cocktails' and a supply of canapés to soak them up; annual holidays in France

with their children, and sometimes to stay with us; trips to concerts, festivals and demos; and later, travels with friends to countries ranging from Mexico to Myanmar. Invariably, Janet returned having mastered each cuisine, even filmed taking cookery lessons in Sri Lanka!

Throughout almost 50 years, we shared our feminism and a keen interest in politics. At Oxford, we joined the picket lines to support the hotel chamber maids' strike to demand fair pay and working conditions; and went on the earliest Reclaim the Night marches. Frostbite from staying at the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp was a painful badge of pride. After Philip's tragic death, I stayed more frequently and also tended her garden, secretly planting dozens of spring bulbs. The pandemic put paid to that, but in March 2022 we celebrated our attainment of the right to an OAP bus pass and began planning a gastronomic trip to Georgia in 2023.

Dedicated to Rosa and Nick and her three grandchildren, Janet died of a heart attack in São Paulo, for the second leg of Nick and his Brazilian wife's wedding. She was exactly where she wanted to be: a joyful event with her beloved family. Janet was brilliant, erudite, wickedly funny, and my very dear friend; I miss her tremendously.

**Deborah Eade**

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### IN MEMORIAM

DAME ROSEMARY JEAN CRAMP (ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, 1947)

6 MAY 1929 – MAY 2023



Rosemary Cramp, who has died aged 93, was a key player in establishing that archaeology could make significant contributions to understanding medieval times, a concept that had been scorned by both archaeologists and historians.

From a lifetime's career at Durham University, where she was the first female professor, she led major excavations at the Venerable Bede's twin monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow, as well as an ambitious project to record every piece of Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture in England – now nearly completed.

Durham was an ideal location for her. Three centuries after the great Anglo-Saxon scholar Bede died in AD735, his remains were moved to Durham Cathedral. He had spent his calling at

Wearmouth (on the Wear) and Jarrow (on the Tyne), an area that constituted a medieval European centre of culture and learning now half an hour's drive north-east of Durham.

As Cramp took up her first post in 1955, excavation was getting under way on newly discovered Anglo-Saxon royal halls at Yeaveering, in Northumberland; she was able to refer to these in her first, pioneering paper, *Beowulf and Archaeology*, published in 1957 in the first issue of a new journal, *Medieval Archaeology*.

In 1959 she began her own excavation at Monkwearmouth (as Wearmouth is known today), followed by further excavation at Jarrow in 1963. Antiquaries had long been aware of the sites' association with Bede, but had largely dismissed the likelihood of monastic remains surviving.

However, continuing on and off at Wearmouth into the 1970s and Jarrow the 90s, Cramp and colleagues revealed remains of large stone buildings that had once boasted lead roofing, painted and sculptured wall decoration, important sculptures and windows with coloured glass – fragments from which exceeded quantities found at any other comparable European site. All this was detailed in two substantial monographs in 2005 and 2006, bringing a close to what Cramp described as “a large part of

my life”, shared on site by hundreds of students and local volunteers.

She launched a small museum and education programme from her Jarrow excavations, which ultimately grew into Bede's World, a museum and Anglo-Saxon farm with experimental buildings and rare-breed animals, on a reclaimed industrial landscape. This closed in 2016, and immediately reopened under new management as Jarrow Hall and Bede Museum with her passionate support.

Meanwhile she was tracking down finds across England for the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture. This monumental undertaking, run from Durham with a large team of specialist consultants and volunteers scouring the country, has to date published 13 volumes, from County Durham and Northumberland (1984) to Derbyshire and Staffordshire (2018). The number of known sites has risen from around 200 to more than 1,000, and more than 3,500 individual stones can be studied in print and online.

Rosemary was born near Glooston, a small village in rural Leicestershire, to Vera (nee Ratcliffe) and Robert Cramp. Her father owed his life to having grown up on a dairy farm: on military duties in France in 1918 his unit was hit while he was away on a mission to milk a cow. It was on the family farm, as Rosemary told the British Academy on her election

as a fellow in 2006, that she 'became an archaeologist'.

She was about 12 when she and her younger sister, Margaret, found some Roman tiles, (identified with help from a children's encyclopedia). Rosemary wrote to Kathleen Kenyon, an archaeologist then digging in Leicester, whose reply made it clear she thought the find significant – as it turned out to be for Cramp's life.

From Market Harborough grammar school, in 1947 she went to St Anne's College, Oxford, to study English language and literature. She was soon invited to the Ashmolean Museum by Margerie Taylor, who edited the *Journal of Roman Studies* (JRS) and in which she compiled an annual summary of excavations. On her desk was a copy of the *Market Harborough Advertiser* with a photo of Cramp leaning on a spade. What makes you think you found a villa?, asked Taylor. By the end of the meeting, Cramp's career as an archaeologist was set.

She went on a training course at Corbridge, a Roman town near Hadrian's Wall being excavated at the time, and joined the formative Oxford University Archaeological Society. The next issue of JRS reported 'Indications of a [Roman] house ... found at Ivy House Farm, Glooston (Information from Miss Rosemary Cramp, who found the remains)'.

She was taught by Dorothy Whitelock, a distinguished early medieval historian, and began teaching Anglo-Saxon herself at St Anne's after graduation in 1950. She realised she could meld her interests in archaeology and literature, and reviewed Old English vocabulary and archaeological evidence for a BLitt.

In 1955 she moved to Durham to teach history and English, and an attached archaeology group. Within a year she was lecturer in a new department of archaeology. She became professor and head of the department in 1971, retiring as emeritus professor in 1990 from one of the UK's largest and most prestigious centres of archaeology.

Her other excavations included the Hirsell, a church and medieval cemetery in the Scottish Borders, in the early 80s – a unique project in Scotland, bringing her distinctive approach to early Christian archaeology – and a brief investigation at Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.

She was generous with her time advising and steering organisations, which ranged from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (she was a member for over 25 years) to the British Museum (a trustee for 20 years), and from Durham Cathedral (consultant archaeologist) to the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art (member) and

the Council for British Archaeology (president), among many others.

The Society of Antiquaries of London (which she served as president) awarded her its gold medal in 2008, and she received six honorary degrees (from Durham, Bradford, Cork, Leicester, Dublin and Cambridge).

At Oxford she was tutored by Iris Murdoch, who dedicated her 1978 novel *The Sea, The Sea* to her. Colleagues and former students presented her with two *festschriften*, the first in 2001 (one writer recognising her 'personal kindness, academic rigour and outrageous sense of fun') and again in 2008. She was appointed CBE in 1987, and made a dame in 2011.

Cramp was dedicated to her work. In 2014 she told Marc Barkman-Astles, a video blogger, that she was grateful for the opportunity she had had 'to contribute to public life', adding in her commanding, elocuted voice: 'I've had an extremely happy life as an archaeologist.' Her sister Margaret died in 2018.

**Mike Pitts**, originally published in *The Guardian* and reproduced by kind permission.

## Obituaries

### IN MEMORIAM

MARYROSE FARLEY (BATEMAN ENGLISH,  
1954)

16 MARCH 1936 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2021



MaryRose Bateman (later Farley) came up to St Anne's in September 1953 to read English. The new building had not yet been finished so she lived in lodgings at 9 Park Town, which was very near the college and full of new students, some of whom (including Sue Roberts and Elizabeth Barry, nee Morison) became friends for life.

MaryRose was born in Plymouth of a naval family in 1936 and was named after Henry VIII's flagship. The family moved to Edinburgh in 1939, at the start

of the war when her father was posted to Rosyth dockyard. Leaving Edinburgh in 1942 the family moved to Carriden and then to Herefordshire. MaryRose was interested in language from an early age. She went to school at the Abbey in Malvern Wells and her sister, Felicity, joined her there a year later.

Reading English at Oxford was a challenge and MaryRose opted for the early English and Anglo-Saxon course. There were five students on the course, which was led by Professor Wren. Lecturers included CS Lewis and Tolkien. MaryRose enjoyed speaking the mock Celtic language at the end of the Lord of the Rings with her father, who had a similar interest.

She was hugely encouraging to her sister to get into Oxbridge – 'you must work really hard'. Felicity went up to Newnham, Cambridge in 1954. MaryRose joined her in Cambridge when she did a teaching course at Homerton. Leaving Homerton before the end of the term she went straight to Westonbirt in 1958, where at the age of 23 she was scarcely older than her pupils. She bought her first car, a Morris 8, aptly named Aethelflaed, after the Anglo Saxon Queen of Mercia.

From Westonbirt, she was briefly at Ashford School before spending some three years at Lady Eleanor Hollis School in West London then returning

to Westonbirt as head of department. Westonbirt was extremely important to her and she established her role as an inspiring teacher.

She was appointed headmistress of Berkhamsted School for girls in 1971 at the age of 36. Her time there was probably the happiest part of her teaching career. She was described in the 1980 Berkhamsted School for Girls Magazine as 'young and bubbling with enthusiasm'. Miss Bateman stamped her own personality on the school and maintained the traditional high academic standards set by her predecessors.

In 1980 MaryRose moved to head the Perse School for Girls in Cambridge.

She did a cryptic crossword everyday right up until her death to relax. She used to enter the crossword competition in the Times; once she had won three Times Atlases and nobody else in the family needed one she stopped sending her completed crossword in. Her holidays were spent on archaeological digs, and an early trip to Japan when it was less international than it is today. She always travelled adventurously. Her last big trip was to Uzbekistan.

Her professional life spanned a time when attitudes and opportunities for professional women were improving but remained limited in many aspects.

When the Chairman of Governors at Berkhamsted mistakenly referred to her at a speech day as 'a real poppet'. MaryRose responded: 'I am a professional woman, I am nobody's 'poppet'! She made a significant contribution during her professional life to furthering girls' education and professional opportunities for women. She was involved with Elspeth Howe in changing the age at which women could join and be promoted within the Civil Service and was involved in a number of campaigns helping to open up professions which were previously blocked to women.

In 1990, soon after she left the teaching profession, she married Richard Farley, having met him the previous year while having lunch at a pub with a friend from Oxford. She was escorted down the aisle at their wedding by her father, who had not really anticipated having to wait until he was nearly 94 before giving his eldest daughter away. With Richard she developed interests in modern painting, old car rallies and motor racing and found true joy in her retirement. They lived in Long Compton in Warwickshire which enabled her to go to the theatre at Stratford regularly; and she remained there after Richard's sudden death in 1996. She was active in village life and in voluntary work, and was chair of the Parish Council.

Mary Rose never lost her love of learning and she passed this passion on to many through her teaching and through her friends. Conversations with her were always interesting and sometimes challenging. She was good at adapting her conversation to her audience stretching people in their thoughts but never moving so far ahead that they could not keep up - a skill of a true teacher.

**Felicity Crawley** (sister)

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**SUSAN FOREMAN (ENGLISH, 1957)**  
**20 OCTOBER 1938 - 11 APRIL 2022**



Susan Elizabeth Foreman, who died on 11 April aged 83, was the elder daughter of the celebrated neurologist Dr Michael Kremer. Educated at Bedales, she read English at St Anne's (1957-1960). Susan became an advertising copywriter, but the death of her first husband, Richard Samuel, aged 24, precipitated a complete career change.

She studied Librarianship at North West Polytechnic and was appointed as senior library assistant at Reading University Library in 1964. Moving to the Board of Trade, soon the Department of Trade and Industry, she became Publications Officer in June 1970 where she managed the publication of at least 100 HMSO titles a year.

When House of Commons paper 544 (sess 71/72) concerning Upper Clyde shipbuilders was published on 29 July 1971, there was huge opposition, Parliament Square packed with protesters from Glasgow. After changes in Cabinet, at lunchtime Susan emerged with most of the print in a single packet. It had to be 'laid' in the House of Commons. Susan remembered wearing a turquoise short sleeve dress, well above the knee. Holding her packet she crossed the square and walked up to the policeman at the entrance. 'I must have smiled very sweetly,' she said 'or maybe it was the dress, because he let me in immediately.'

At the DTI in 1972 she married librarian Lewis Foreman, becoming founder Librarian of the Office of Fair Trading before retiring on the birth of their daughter Tamsin in 1977. Becoming a freelance part-timer, Susan worked for various government departments, and as an indexer was a pioneer user of Macrex software. In 1985 she was

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commissioned by the DTI to write a popular illustrated history of the Board of Trade for the bi-centenary in 1986. Published by HMSO, a copy was presented to HM The Queen and when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher saw it she commented 'I say, this looks jolly!' Later with Diana Wolfin at the University of Westminster, she assisted women returning to work after career breaks. Their book *Back to Work: A Guide For Women Returners* appeared in 2004.

In 1995 Susan's illustrated history of Whitehall became a tourist best seller from the Parliamentary bookshop in Whitehall. A brief return to a Civil Service office followed when, with Lewis – now retired from the FCO library – in 1998 she was commissioned by HM Treasury to curate and mount their exhibition of historical pictures of Whitehall.

Starting to exhibit symptoms of Parkinson's, she still completed two jointly authored books with her husband. During her later years Susan became an enthusiastic player of Mah Jongg, her long-cherished set inherited from her father, and for several years Susan enjoyed her Mah Jonggers' winter-time gathering at the Wentworth Hotel, Aldeburgh. She was in hospital for a month before her last days, and died before what would soon have been Susan and Lewis's fiftieth wedding anniversary.

**Lewis Foreman** (Husband)

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**ROSAMOND GALLANT (COX 1965)**  
**MAY 11 1946 – JANUARY 27 2023**



Ros grew up in a family closely connected with the media. Her father, Sir Geoffrey Cox, was a famous journalist, and her twin sister also

became a writer and journalist. Her mother, who wrote a book of short stories, met her father, a New Zealand Rhodes scholar, at Oxford before the war.

Having worked in a microbiology laboratory for a short spell after leaving school, pathology attracted her and ultimately became her career.

Five of us came to St Anne's in 1965 to be taught by Marianne Fillenz, who was not only brilliantly clever but very attractive, and managed to combine an outstanding academic career with marriage and motherhood, which impressed us greatly.

With her background, it was probably inevitable that Ros would get involved with Cherwell. She became Fashion Editor and she also interviewed and wrote features on famous people. Her social life involved some of the more prominent undergraduates of the era –

people such as Prince Hassan of Jordan.

Despite all this activity, she graduated with an un-viva'd First Class degree, and then moved for clinical training to Westminster Hospital Medical School. During the social interactions which inevitably accompanied the students' Christmas pantomime which made (usually) affectionate fun of the consultants, Ros met Michael Gallant, a senior registrar in radiology. She qualified in 1971 and, having married Mike, moved to Northamptonshire when he became a consultant at Northampton General Hospital. Specialist training in pathology was arduous, but Oxford Region had a part-time training scheme for mothers which Ros called 'The Oxford Scheme for the Re-Habilitation of Fallen Women'. She and Mike had two sons and she passed the MRCPATH exam in 1985 and was appointed consultant microbiologist in Kettering in 1986.

Kettering were fortunate to have an outstanding professional in Ros. With the MRSA problem emerging, she identified a highly transmissible organism which was originally called the 'Kettering strain'. She and her team published papers on it and Panorama featured it. She also lectured nationally and internationally on a number of subjects including the bacterial implications of the popular 'cook chill' method of hospital meal delivery

and paediatric microbiology, in which she was an expert and contributed a textbook chapter. She retired in 2001.

Retirement was busy. She loved gardening and fly fishing and helped with local history studies. Recently she was heavily involved with the re-publication, following the war in Ukraine, of her father's fascinating book 'The Red Army Moves' which chronicles a very similar situation in the 1939 Russo-Finnish War.

She was a very active person and died very suddenly of an aortic dissection which occurred while she was playing tennis. Her friends and family have found it difficult to come to terms with the fact that so much enthusiasm for life and such generosity of spirit has been extinguished so suddenly and unexpectedly.

**Jane Stanford** (1965)

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**MARY HALLAWAY OBE, MA, DPHIL, MRSC,**  
**CCHEM (BIOCHEMISTRY, 1950)**  
**25/01/1932 – 4/06/2022**



Hester Mary Hallaway was born at Rickerby near Carlisle in 1932, the daughter of an Australian mother and an English Coal-Gas Engineer. Her Victorian forebears had established the Hallaway pharmacy in Carlisle and it was here that her interests in chemistry and medicine were to develop. Her ambitions in medicine were to be disappointed due to a lack of science subjects in her schooling.

Mary was convent-educated at St Gabriel's, Carlisle and Sacred Heart, Woldingham. In 1948 when her parents were no longer able to afford the boarding fees the nuns at Woldingham kept her gratis and paid for special tuition. In 1950 she went up to Oxford (St Anne's) graduating with a first in Biochemistry.

In 1955 she won a Fulbright scholarship to study at MIT and travelled out to the USA on board the Queen Elizabeth as a 4th class passenger. Among her fondest recollections of this time were the exhilaration of visiting Yosemite and the thrill of fraternising with black African students in a colour-barred country.

Mary's D Phil was awarded in 1958. Her Doctoral thesis was 'Copper catalysed oxidation in plants'. As an Oxford Don she worked as Lecturer, Demonstrator and Research Fellow. In 1962 she joined the Department of Biochemistry at Liverpool University as Lecturer. In 1969 she moved to Africa taking up the post of Reader in Biochemistry at Ahmadu Bello` University at Zaria in Northern Nigeria eventually becoming professor. Mary is still fondly remembered at ABU as the 'Mother of Biochemistry.'

In 1980 Mary returned to the UK to take up her new appointment as Principal of Trinity and All Saints College at Horsforth, Leeds (later to become Leeds Trinity University). It was here that she transformed the training program by embedding professional work placements into all degree courses. Her success as a leader and highly competent administrator at Trinity College during a period of great change in the field of teacher training was recognised in 1988 with her being made OBE.

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Mary took early retirement in 1989 but it wasn't to last for long. The call of Africa was too great to ignore and almost immediately she left the UK for a teaching post in Biochemistry at Makerere University in Uganda. Her abilities to improvise with the teaching of practical basic sciences was to be tested to the limit when the laboratories were without gas/water/electricity and with few books and little in the way of chemicals.

In 1994 she left Uganda and drove in a 4WD Suzuki some 3700 km down the East African Rift Valley to take up her position as Professor of Biochemistry at the College of Medicine at Blantyre in Malawi. She retired from academic life in 1996 and returned to the UK to live out her days in the Brampton area near Carlisle, but making several trips to Australia, New Zealand and North America to visit her relatives and many friends.

She collected a BTh from Oxford in 1999 and an MA in Science and Religion from Leeds Trinity in 2002. In 2017 she was made an Honorary Fellow of Leeds Trinity University.

Mary was most generous with her time, energy and money. She sponsored the education of hundreds of African children and she looked after the financial needs of her household staff for many years after leaving Nigeria and Malawi.

Mary's interests in her later years extended to ecumenical initiatives involving Churches Together in Cumbria, study of Laudato Si and supporting local groups involved with sustainable development and climate change awareness. She also established Café Scientifique, a very successful local forum for discussing climate science and environmental issues. Mary was greatly blessed with total clarity of mind right to the very end of her life and her parting legacy to medicine was donation of her brain for Dementia Research. Mary never married. She said she was 'far too busy having an amazingly happy and interesting life!'

Hester Mary Hallaway, scientist, inspirational leader and generous benefactor, fortified by the last rites of the Catholic Church died peacefully in the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, on 4 June 2022. She was buried in the Hallaway family grave at Our Lady and St Wilfrid's Church, Warwick Bridge.

**Jonathan Stevens**

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**KATHLEEN ELIZABETH HALL (MODERN LANGUAGES, 1941)**

**12 JUNE 1923 – 28 MARCH 2023**

Kathleen studied French and Jurisprudence, and matriculated in 1941 with a War Degrees Decree. She only did 2 years because of the war. She briefly joined the WRNS.



In 1948 while staying with Swiss friends in Zurich, she got off in Geneva, and applied for a job with the United Nations working for the Economics Commission for Europe. It was an ideal time to be in Europe as she skied every weekend and could afford to travel and had holidays in Corsica, Italy, Spain and France. She taught herself Italian, and moved to Rome in 1951 working for the Food and Agricultural Organisation. Her first lodging in Rome was in the Palazzo

Doria-Pamphilij with Contessa Bruccoleri.

In the countryside there was lots of war damage and peasants with their ox carts gave a feeling it hadn't changed since the middle ages. In Rome itself, Vespas were everywhere. Unlike most girls in those days, Kathleen had a car and drove her friends everywhere.

Back in England in 1962, she joined the RIBA responsible for overseas relations, drafting and translating papers, interpreting, organising international meetings. One of these took her to Cuba in 1963 where Fidel Castro welcomed delegates. Other Congresses took her to Mexico, Argentina and Czechoslovakia, with further meetings of the Common Market in Paris and Brussels testing her translating skills. After 10 years with RIBA she went freelance and took an interpreter's course and became a member of the Institute of Linguists for the International Union of Architects abroad. She extended her trip, visiting Yucatan, Machu Pichu and, after a congress in Prague, she joined an archaeological dig in Zavist, a Celtic Iron age settlement.

She interpreted for the British Council and freelanced for the Commonwealth Association of Architects, arranging for qualifications of architects to be recognized. It was while interpreting for the CAA she went to the north of

Ghana and met a Chieftain. In her freelance work, she wrote, edited and produced audio-visual aids for the construction industry for the CAA. The Aga Khan was so impressed with these publications that he commissioned her to put together an audio-visual aid to commemorate their awards for Architecture for the decade of 1978-88.

She retired in 1993 and lived in Kensington W11, and became my neighbour. She was a great walker and also a member of the local tennis club, where she was feared at the net. She joined the Norland Conservation Society, where we worked together on the NCS Newsletter, she as Editor and I the compiler – she did not have a computer. She had a wonderful sense of humour and we laughed together at the same things. I did a lot for her until aged 96 she could no longer cope without a carer. Aged 99 she broke her hip in two places and fully understood the risks of having it repaired at her age. She had no alternative; after a major operation she was up the next day. Fiercely independent to the last, sadly she contracted various ailments and finally with excellent NHS medical care she died peacefully, six weeks short of her hundredth birthday.

**Veronica Scott** (neighbour)

IN MEMORIAM

BARBARA HIGGINS (LAWSON BLITT SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY 1952)

20 OCTOBER 1923 – 6 MARCH 2021



My cousin Barbara Higgins, who has died aged 97 years, was regarded by our family as an inspiration. She was not only the first in the family to gain a university degree but also went to Oxford, an impressive achievement for an Australian woman of her time. Although marriage and an overseas posting with her husband limited her later career in anthropology, she maintained her love of learning, interest in foreign cultures and links with St

## Obituaries

Anne's throughout her long life.

Barbara was born in 1923 in Sydney, Australia, and had a happy childhood full of sports and horse riding in 'the bush'. When she finished school, during World War II, she applied to join the navy but was rejected as too young. As her father did not approve of university for girls, she joined the ABC, Australia's national broadcaster, as a typist.

Mixing with journalists and wider society, Barbara realised her ignorance of the world. She decided to attend the University of Sydney at night, while working as secretary to the now controversial Australian anthropologist, Professor A P Elkin. She graduated with BA(Hons) in 1949. Then began the period she described as among her happiest, when she sailed to the USA to study anthropology at the University of Chicago. There, she mixed with luminaries of the anthropological world such as Margaret Mead.

The following year, she won a scholarship to the University of Oxford and attended St Anne's from 1950 to 1952, studying social anthropology for a BLitt. She loved her time at St Anne's, fondly remembering afternoons of tennis and punting on the river, and developed long-lasting friendships with fellow students and teachers, including E E Evans-Pritchard and Mysore Srinivas. A treasured memento was a tiny carved

elephant given to her by Srinivas.

After university, Barbara began work as a researcher in a media office library in London, but her life changed again when she met her future husband Lawrie, fittingly in a pub in Earl's Court. Following a whirlwind courtship, they married and left for Brazil, where Lawrie was a senior manager for an English pastoral firm. The firm disapproved of wives working and instead expected her to take a lead role representing the firm in British expatriate society. This may not have been the career she expected, but a recompense was the opportunity for adventurous holidays and remote travel to the firm's many properties around Brazil.

After Lawrie's death, Barbara retired first to St Albans and later home to Australia. Although she regretted the distance from Europe and her UK friends, she lived happily in a retirement village on Sydney's northern beaches for more than 25 years. She re-established old school friendships and travelled extensively, including back to the UK and in Europe, South Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Other favourite activities included opera, swimming, golf and regular bridge games, which she continued playing until the COVID lockdown.

Barbara maintained a keen interest in the world until her death after a short

illness in 2021. She is dearly missed by her many cousins.

### **Kerrie Lawson**

IN MEMORIAM  
SUSAN ELIZABETH HOLMES  
(BIOCHEMISTRY, 1972)  
13 MARCH 1954 - 19 MAY 1975



In Michaelmas Term, October 1972, two nervous but excited brand-new Biochemistry students met for the first time in their new Moral Tutor's office, ready to start their Oxford undergraduate careers. I was one of those students; the other, Susan (Su) Holmes.

Only later did I understand that Hazel

Rossotti had specifically chosen us to be tutorial partners, as I believe she had sensed during our respective interviews for admission, that Su and I shared qualities suggesting we would spark a friendship that would last throughout our undergraduate years. We were both socially anxious, not entirely convinced we 'deserved' to be at Oxford but also that both of us would typically manage our doubts with humour.

Sadly, our friendship lasted only those three short years as Su lost her life unexpectedly in May 1975, just a couple of weeks before she was to take Finals in Physiological Sciences en route to a research career.

I had already seen Su before that introduction in our first week at St Anne's, walking around the rainy grounds in her characteristic bright red mac. She was hard to miss with her confident stride, and her shiny blonde hair, cut in the short geometric style she favoured throughout her life. Indeed, Su was always hard to miss, dressed as she often was, in smart trousers often worn with braces, a tweedy waistcoat, brogues and frequently with a curved mens' pipe which she would puff on contemplatively. Her sartorial eccentricity was characteristic of her charm and odd-ball wit.

The Su I knew was a creative and intelligent person and a kind friend. To

me, her initially reserved face-to-face demeanour masked a sense of not knowing quite who she was in the world. She had a broad circle of acquaintance but not many close friends. But once you got to know her, she would go out of her way to help, for example, by offering a much-needed cup of Earl Grey (or very good sherry!) when grinding through our mutual late night Essay Crises.

Su told me once she was also interested in a career in journalism and she worked for a while on the staff of Cherwell. She was one of the few students I knew who had a camera and could often be seen popping up around Oxford, camera around neck, snapping candid photos of interest. She would have made an amazing photo-journalist. I do wonder now if her camera was her way of viewing the world with protective detachment. She also had many other wide-ranging interests and was prescient in worrying even then about climate change and the 'state of the world' in general. She could talk knowledgeably about classical music and art, subjects about which I knew very little, but was never condescending to those of us without her extensive well-read background.

Su was the only child of two University lecturers and was always striving to achieve the academic success they wished for her. She was also very

focused on obtaining the best degree possible, preferably a First, to obtain a research grant to Bristol University. Su was extremely hard working and as she and I shared many tutorials together, I was aware how deeply she understood the subject materials, as she often shared remarkably original insights. However, she seemed to suffer from problems committing her thoughts to paper though she could easily marshal oral arguments, expressing her evident critical thinking and understanding. She knew her limitations and it affected how she thought of herself academically. Since examinations were essay based, she was often anxious and I think depressed, that she knew her stuff but could not translate her knowledge into three hour written examinations. She complained that she could not sleep and as far as I know, it was the only complaint for which she asked for and received a prescription medication, barbiturates in those days. She did not readily disclose many details about how she was feeling, even to those few of us who knew her well.

That Saturday morning, we met at breakfast in the Dining Hall and I invited Su to take a break from her intense studying and to visit me in my room in Rayne for tea that afternoon. I thought the epic thunderstorm and severe lightning later that day was the reason she failed to bike over later from her

## Obituaries

College room on Banbury Road...

On the following Monday, a very shaken Mrs Rossotti informed me Su had been found unresponsive in her locked room that morning. I believe to this day that it was Su's need for sleep that Saturday afternoon that had finally caught up with her and that she had lain down and taken just one too many of the sleeping pills she had been given. She certainly, definitely, needed to sleep.

I only discovered after Su's death that her tutors expected she would achieve a good Second Class degree and even possibly a First, despite her known problems with written work. Su did not know that before she died. Back then, almost 50 years ago, none of us had access to the network of resources and welfare care readily available to students at St Anne's these days but I cannot help feeling she would have been grateful for and would have benefitted significantly from such interventions, especially if referred by Mrs Rossotti, whose kindness was of such help to me in the aftermath of Su's passing.

The Su I knew was a funny, brilliant, creative, extraordinarily widely read individual whose talents were never fully realized. She would have benefitted so much from the resources students can access so easily today and she would applaud that such services exist, although she would have required some

persuasion that she herself needed them. So many aspects of her quirky personality remained unexpressed and the world lost so much when she died.

Mrs Rossotti commemorated Su's death and that of another of her former pupils who died while a student at St Anne's (Anton Tchetvertakov) in a stained glass window located in the Ground Floor Reading Room at St Anne's. It features two flames depicting the two initials, S and A. Su would have appreciated this honour. As do I. With many thanks to Hazel Rossotti.

**Lesley (Roach) Althouse** (MD MRCP FACP)

IN MEMORIAM  
CELIA KERSLAKE  
(DPHIL ORIENTAL STUDIES 1975)  
11 JULY 1946 – 7 FEBRUARY 2023

From an early age, Celia developed her strong personality and her qualities of enthusiasm, commitment, tolerance, loyalty and good humour. Her love of studying, thirst for knowledge, and powerful intellect, suggested that an academic career might be her choice.

Celia was educated at St Paul's Girls' School before taking a Double First in Oriental Studies (Turkish and Arabic) from Girton College, Cambridge. It was in Cambridge that Turkey and all things

Turkish became her life-long passion. In 1969 she started researching for her doctorate at St Anne's and remained a supporter of the College throughout her life.

Celia held research fellowships at New Hall in Cambridge and Lady Margaret Hall, then a lectureship at the University of Edinburgh from 1980. She took up the Oxford University Lectureship in Turkish with a Fellowship at St Antony's in October 1988. Celia was a stalwart of the St Antony's community for the following 23 years. At different times she was Senior Tutor and Tutor for Admissions, and was also a vital member of key committees in the (then) Faculty of Oriental Studies. She retired in 2011 and was elected to an Emeritus Fellowship, remaining very involved in the College's academic activities.

She was a true and meticulous scholar, expecting the highest standards of herself and those she taught; she was delighted when she won a well-deserved Teaching Award, nominated by her students, in 2009. At her funeral, many tributes were read about Celia's qualities as a teacher and mentor.

Celia's control of Turkish language sources was legendary. She published a series of important papers throughout her career, but was best known for her book *Turkish: An Essential Grammar*, published in 2010. She was currently

collaborating in making revisions for a second edition.



Celia was Chair of the Council of the British Association of Turkish Area Studies for nearly 20 years. Her success in this role was helped by her profound love and knowledge of Turkey's history, language and culture, and her meticulous approach.

In her later years, Celia's long-standing environmental concerns led her to the Green Party (West Oxfordshire). She was much appreciated at meetings and events, and tireless when helping with leafleting, canvassing, minute-taking and membership.

In the 1960s, Celia first spent time in Turkey, where she always felt happy; she learnt her perfect Turkish, and

made many friends. Her greatest friend, and indeed her life partner, was Gulen, the woman into whose family she was drawn. They spent as much time together as they could during their partnership of over 50 years.

Celia's sudden and unexpected death ended a long and fruitful career. Her funeral was very well attended, which, in itself, was a great tribute. She will be remembered with love, affection and respect by all who knew her, and will long be missed by all her family.

**Hilary Vaughan** (sister)

### IN MEMORIAM

**JOHN LAWRENCE (MATHEMATICS, 1984)**  
(1966 – 2022)



John Lawrence studied Mathematics at St Anne's from 1984-7, tutored by Drs Hilary Priestley and Mary Kearsley. He was a civil servant and mathematician at GCHQ and a lay reader in the Church of

England.

In childhood John developed a love of learning which he would retain throughout his life. As a little boy he could often be found reading encyclopaedias in bed. He also learned by experimenting - his mother once had to remove him from Chichester Cathedral as he was testing its acoustics with his voice!

While at St. Anne's John represented the college on University Challenge, reaching the semi-finals. He was also a founding member of the Pooh Sticks Society.

After graduating, John moved to Cheltenham to work as a mathematician at GCHQ, where he spent the rest of his career. He played a significant role in some pioneering technology areas, most recently leading teams working on cryptography for cyber security. He also spent two periods in liaison roles in the USA.

He was deeply committed to supporting and developing newer members of staff as well as the wider mathematical community, and served as a committee member for the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications. The many affectionate messages he received from colleagues during his final illness attest that he was a much-loved member of the team.

He met his future wife, Miriam, in

## Obituaries

Cheltenham. Romance hit a roadblock when John invited Miriam to play Trivial Pursuit, intending to ask her out after the game, but defeated her so badly that he was too embarrassed to ask. Love overcame this blip, and John and Miriam married in 1990. As well as their faith, they shared a love of art, literature, theatre, travel, walking, photography, birding and Formula One. They continued to enjoy quizzing in spite of the rocky start.

John was a reader in the Church of England from 1997 until 2022. His sermons were always well-researched and insightful - but he also knew how to hold people's attention. In particular, many children's talks will be long-remembered, including leading children around - and allowing them to knock down - the cardboard walls of Jericho. Then there was the Christmas when he entered the church as the star of Bethlehem topped with a flaming helmet.

Aware life had given him many privileges, John was dedicated to supporting charities, both financially and with his time. He once teamed up with colleagues to fundraise by walking the 100-mile Cotswold Way in four days. He completed the walk despite blistering his feet so badly that for a week afterwards he had to use a wheelchair! He believed in fair trade principles. For several years

he ran a non-profit Fairtrade snack stall in his workplace.

A devoted father, John created picture books for his children when they were small, wrote and recorded audio stories for them when he knew he would have to be away, and rooted for them through their achievements while stressing their right to make their own decisions. He was a loving son, acting as tech support for his mother and helping her stay connected online throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Quick to spot opportunities for jokes, he was often crowned 'Wit of the day' after making his family laugh.

John spent many happy hours walking and cycling in the Cotswolds with friends and family. He loved to share his knowledge of the places he passed - quarries and commons, rivers and railways, how trig points were placed and maps were made, why different birds moved the way they did. He never stopped learning, and he never stopped sharing the joy of learning with others.

He is survived and deeply missed by his mother Judith, wife Miriam, sister Mary and children Samuel, Hannah and Beccy.

**Samuel Lawrence** (son)

### IN MEMORIAM

**KATHERINE (KATYA) ELIZABETH  
MENNENNET (FRENCH AND GERMAN, 1987)  
11 AUGUST 1966 – 2 AUGUST 2021**

Katya's earlier years were spent in Reading with her brother Matthew and parents, Lindsey and Alan. She moved to Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the early-1970s when her father was appointed Professor of German at the University there. It was the north east where she grew up and, whilst living most of her adult life in Leeds, she frequently returned there to visit friends and the coast around Bamburgh which she loved so much and which was the centre of many of her childhood experiences.

She came up to St Anne's, following her brother, in October 1987 to read French and German. After taking her degree she qualified as a solicitor, specialising in family law matters, initially in private practice and latterly for the Independent Office of Police Conduct, before ill-health obliged her to retire prematurely.

She had an enormous sense of fun playing the roles of belly dancer and disc jockey for her friends' amusement. She was an enthusiastic dancer, gracing numerous Salsa classes with her refinedness and elegance, always one of the first to welcome newcomers whilst remaining modest about her own abilities before her advancing illness forced her to stop. She loved travel

and adventure and, with her “partner in crime” Sunita travelled to many countries. She enjoyed a passion for the unusual and exotic, from befriending tarantulas (whom she allowed to scuttle down her arms and rest in her hands) in Cambodia to tasting chicken’s feet in a Michelin starred Copenhagen restaurant. Her other interests included films (old and new) and conservation.

During her life Katya crossed the paths of too many people to mention individually. All who knew, her, however, remember as kind and compassionate, always being the first to offer help and engaging her quiet strength and determination (as well as her legal training) to assist others, both personally and professionally. She invariably placed care for others at the centre of her thoughts – all the more so during her final illness which she battled privately for a number of years whilst determined not to be a burden on others.

**Mark Menhennet** (cousin)

### IN MEMORIAM

MATTHEW WILLIAM MENHENNET  
(ENGLISH, 1985)

3 JULY 1966 – 23 NOVEMBER 2018

Trained as a probation officer after graduating, Matt worked in ex-offender housing until that job came up. That’s how we met: he was heading for somewhere better; I had no-where else

to be. Or did, but lacked the courage to try. He worked hard on me to change that and eventually succeeded.

Getting his first probation job in Kent, Matt enjoyed the accidental humour of living in Borstal. Later, his specialism in mentally disordered offenders saw him working with some of the country’s most dangerous convicts. Though capable of reducing friends to debilitating laughter quite at will, Matt never joked about those people or what they’d done; he was too intelligent, compassionate and sensitive to hide behind humour to cope with real horror. Instead, he sought to understand it. And no, he was not non-judgmental. Judgment was among his greatest gifts, and he exercised it robustly.

Matt hated the prison service for training certain dogs to be aggressive; retaliating, he subverted their pathologically friendly drug-sniffer spaniels, teaching them the value of a friend who wasn’t arrested as soon as they met. At our house, he would sit permanently stooped, letting one of our cats settle across the back of his neck draping her head and tail over his shoulders.

A gifted writer, he left an unpublished poetry collection, Moonrise on the Lemon Romantic. Some of it is very good. His failure to complete a novel imagining a meeting between two of his heroes, JMW Turner and John Clare,

is a real loss. He also compiled cryptic crosswords with me.

We shared a passion for Aaron Sorkin’s The West Wing. One episode has President Bartlett briefing the man staying behind during the State of the Union speech, so there’s a survivor to take over if someone blows up The Capitol. His loyal Chief of Staff, Leo McGarry, overhears Bartlett from the next room: ‘You got a best friend? Is he smarter than you? Would you trust him with your life? That’s your Chief of Staff.’

Matt helped me to take charge of my own life. He was my Chief of Staff.

April 2018: Barenaked Ladies in York. A woman squeezes out of our row, then back again, for the fifth time, causing a Mexican wave as we all have to stand each time she passes. Matt catches my eye. ‘Perhaps she’s ill,’ I whisper. He harumphs: ‘it’d better be serious.’

Matt smoked – though fanatically considerably – and was a vegetarian who hated vegetables, often seeming to live on carbs alone. We’d worried about his fitness for some time, but I was shocked how bad it suddenly was that day in York. He promised to see the doctor as soon as he got home. Days later, he was diagnosed with a serious heart problem and whisked into intensive care. Over the next few months, back home with medication,

## Obituaries

he was characteristically hilarious about the after-care. 'I'm back next week,' he told me 'to be connected to the electro-cardio-scarer.' Apparently it frightens your heart into behaving itself.

We all thought the danger had passed, but he didn't make that appointment. 'Larger than life' is a lazy cliché, but Matt left a gap so large that the rest of life can feel terribly small without him.

Clearing Matt's house, I noticed for the first time, the tiny plaque by the front door quoting Kate Bush's Cloudbusting:

'I just know that something good is gonna happen; and I don't know when. But just saying it could even make it happen.'

### Clive Lyons

#### IN MEMORIAM

ROSAMUND GARNET METCALF (ELAND  
(ENGLISH, 1960)  
1943-2022

Rosamund (Ros) Metcalf, who read English Literature at St Anne's from 1960 until 1963, died in Bangkok in May 2022 after a long battle with cancer. Ros grew up in a small Shropshire village where her father was vicar and where she attended Adcote School before getting a place at St Anne's. She graduated with a First and subsequently with a BLitt in English Literature, and in 1965 she was

appointed to an assistant lectureship at the University of Manchester where she taught until 1971.

Ros might have continued along the British academic track but in 1971 she moved to Thailand and married Peter Metcalf whom she'd known at Oxford and who was a staff member of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 1966 to 2000. Accompanying Peter on his UNDP postings, she lectured at universities in Bangkok, Freetown, Nairobi, Swaziland, Ouagadougou and Antananarivo. After Peter's retirement in 2000, they settled in Madagascar but returned to Bangkok to live in 2019. Apart from a four-year gap in Nairobi while her two children were toddlers, she was able to continue teaching continuously into her seventies and to share her love of literature with students in seven universities on two continents.

Ros was a born teacher and she was happy to give teaching priority over the research that is so much a part of British or American academe. She had a gift for making literature (both English Literature and Literature in English) come alive for her students and to seem relevant to their lives. Since her death, tributes have come in from former students of many nationalities and cultures saying how much they owe to her teaching.

Ros threw herself wholeheartedly into a life of travel and helped create a happy and stable home environment for her family in their African postings. Her love of literature and of the ocean are a small part of her many gifts to her children.

Peter recalls that when he first met Ros at Oxford, she seemed, quite simply, the most amusing person he'd ever met and almost everyone who has sent tributes has stressed her sense of humour. A former colleague from Manchester has written that "she bewildered her more slow-witted colleagues with her refusal to accept the world around her on their pedestrian terms and delighted the more receptive with her ability to transform the dullest occasions with her ironic sense of humour. The pageant of life in many countries (including her own) provided her with a rich source of all those things 'That befall prepost'rously'.

Ros is survived by her husband, Peter, her children, Jessica (born 1978) and Leo (born 1980), and by her brother, John Eland FRS (born 1941), and a wide circle of friends in many countries. Her death has left a yawning gap in the lives of all who knew her.

### Christopher Metcalf

### IN MEMORIAM

**MARY (MOLLIE) NETTERVILLE BLAKE**  
(GEOGRAPHY, 1941)  
1922 – 2023

Mary Netterville Blake, known to all of us as Mollie, was born in Sefton Park, Liverpool on 12 September 1922. She also had a brother, who sadly died at a very young age, so she was brought up as an only child. Mollie lived variously in Formby, Welwyn Garden City and Ruislip during her childhood before returning to Liverpool; Mollie boarded at Howell's School, Denbigh in Wales. At the age of 19 she left school and got a place at St Anne's College to read Geography. In 1945 she gained a Diploma in Education and in 1957 through London University External she gained a Diploma in Theology.

From 1945-1948, she taught geography at The Mount School, York, a Quaker Boarding school; 1948-1956, she became Head of Geography at King's School, before taking on a different role as Associate General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement in schools. In this role she organised and ran University Women's camps for schoolgirls plus holiday camps for all secondary ages and conferences for Six Formers. In 1960 she became Head of Selby High School for Girls, which developed into Selby Grammar School and Co-ed. In 1975, Mollie left Selby to become Head of Manchester

High School for Girls, though she noted, 'I did not leave Selby to avoid the responsibility of having boys in my school but what drew me to Manchester was its important place in the history of girls in education and its academic standing!' During her time in Selby she became a church warden at the Abbey, of which she was very proud.

In 1969, Mollie was pleased to meet The Queen accidentally in a corridor during a Royal Maundy service at the Abbey. Later, she would receive for her 100 birthday one of the very last Telegrams from the Queen, which then took pride of place in her room at Greenfields where she could see it whether in her chair or in her bed.

During her time at Manchester, 1976-77, she was the last President of the Association of Headmistresses and the first President of the newly-formed Secondary Heads Association. She will be remembered for calmly steering the School through a period of enormous change with distinction, coupled with her boundless energy and willingness to join in with school functions and activities.

Mollie retired in 1983 and stayed in the Manchester area where she continued her connections with various societies and interest groups, which included being a guide at the National Trust's Quarry Bank Mill. In 1988, she moved to Malvern and again involved herself

with activities such as gardening; she also became a member of the Open University Geology Society.

She met and shared her friendship, home and a lot of interests with her companion Margaret for a period of 25 years until Margaret's passing in 2015. They had a lot in common and they met regularly over a number of years with a group of like-minded houses to enjoy planned programmes of listening to CDs. They both enjoyed art, drawing, painting, visiting galleries and exhibitions. Mollie loved her holidays and explored many parts of the world, while she and Margaret also revisited favourite haunts to explore more, walk and paint - especially Cornwall, the Lake District, Pembrokeshire, North Wales, West and North Perthshire. In Mollie's own words, 'Once a Geographer always a Geographer!'

From some of the correspondence that we have received it has become very clear that in her professional life, Mollie was an inspirational teacher and leader, not afraid to oversee changes within institutions and adjust to some circumstances outside normal practice. She led by example. Fiercely guarding her independence and strict principles and yet remaining sympathetic to others' points of view. We are grateful to Mollie for sharing parts of her life with us all.

**David Paton**

## Obituaries

### IN MEMORIAM

JOHN HARMER PATTISON (HONORARY FELLOW)

24 APRIL 1931 – 5 SEPTEMBER 2022



In 1940 John went to Brunswick School in Haywards Heath and almost immediately the school was evacuated to Michaelstow House in Cornwall - a place he loved for his whole life. In 1944 John went to Radley College. He was bright and particularly good at mathematics, and he won an entrance scholarship.

In the autumn of 1946 John had just started his second year at Radley when his father unexpectedly died. It was a terrible blow to the family. The financial

consequences of his father's death meant John could not remain at the school. In an act of true compassion and Christian charity, the Warden let him stay on at Radley, despite the family's inability to pay the school fees. John never forgot the kindness he was shown.

In 1950 John did his National Service, joining the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and then went to Trinity College, Oxford, to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

John applied for his first job at the start of 1955. His CV was short, and matter of fact. Under 'other information' he simply notes he 'played the usual games, without outstanding ability, and spoke a little French (but wasn't fluent)'. He started work with the Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation which soon became Dawnay Day Group, a merchant bank which specialised in raising finance for small and medium-sized companies. He stayed with Dawnay Day for the next 26 years and was Managing Director from 1969 to 1981.

In 1964 John had arranged the flotation on the stock market of a small haulage company called Wiles Group. When James Hanson, the son of the founder, made the decision to grow the business, John's prior association with the company and his understanding of the mysterious moving parts of London finance meant he was the ideal person

to help turn James Hanson's corporate ambition into reality. He joined the company (now called Hanson Trust) in 1981.

When John left Hanson plc (as it was now called) in 1996, aged 65, he kept working as Chairman of various pension schemes associated with Hanson subsidiaries. He was also Chairman of various publicly quoted companies, as well as a council member of Aims in Industry; a member of the governing body of one of the first City Technology Colleges, at Kingshurst in the West Midlands; and a Trustee of the Literary Review.

John showed remarkable loyalty to numerous causes. He was asked to join the governing body of Radley College in 1965 and served the school faithfully for 40 years. He was involved with the investment committees of both St Anne's College and Trinity College in Oxford for over 20 years.

Following John's death, his son William received numerous letters of condolence. The common theme in them all was his generosity of spirit, his friendship, his loyalty, his formidable intellect, and his sense of humour. One of the letters was from a former colleague on the Radley Council, which finished with the following words:

I can see and hear your father as I write this letter - he had a very strong

presence and a very strong personality. Knowing him, I feel I can imagine what the greatest of the Victorians were like; of course, he was entirely up to date in his mindset but brought with him the values and integrity of that more cultured age." It is an image which gives a strong sense of the man he was.

**William Patisson** (son)

### IN MEMORIAM

**PAT PHILLIPS (REILLY FRENCH, 1947)**  
**8 OCTOBER 1929 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2022**



Pat Phillips, who died peacefully at home with her family on 25 September 2022, was a linguist, musician, cook, loyal friend, lovely mum, proud St Anne's graduate, fun to be with and always good company.

Born in Singapore in 1929, Pat survived a tough childhood, separated from her parents by war for eight years, she in England, they in Singapore and Australia, and thrived.

Post war and school, she fought off her mother's desire to send her to secretarial college and persuaded her father to back her plan to go up to Oxford and St Anne's. There, she read French, met her future husband John, made many lifelong friends and strengthened the intellectual rigour that stood her in good stead for a life that included teaching French all the way into her eighties. She enjoyed her time at St Anne's enormously and it gave her sound foundations for her future.

She and John operated as a team, in which Pat was a major partner, through a life that took them to Charterhouse in Surrey, where John was a master and house master, back to Oxford when John was Warden of St Edward's school, on and into semi-retirement, and complete retirement in Devon and West Sussex. Their work was mixed into a family life that was always of enormous importance to them. They had four children born between 1954 and 1964.

Through working life Pat developed and used a huge range of skills and aptitudes. She taught French - mostly as a coach to Oxbridge entrants - and kept current as a voracious reader in

French as well as English. Time as an au pair in France sparked a love of good food and she became a superb cook to the delight of both family and the many friends who enjoyed her hospitality. Her versatility and willingness to get stuck in appeared again and again: she learned very quickly to manage the domestic staff of a school boarding house and was entirely unfazed by a long spell as stand-in cook for 60-odd hungry pupils. At St Edward's she took on a formal role as guide and mentor to the first intake of girls to a previously all-boys school. Her skill as a pianist put her in line for co-option as church organist in Devon and, as usual, she flourished as she did in so many things.

For their final years Pat and John moved to West Sussex, where they again enjoyed life to the full. John's death in 2013 was a bitter blow to Pat, but she continued to display her indefatigable determination to get the most from life until a combination of macular degeneration, hearing loss, dementia and a broken hip finally became too much for even her to power through.

She is survived and hugely missed by her children Jan, Nick, Gilly and Nessa and her grandchildren Tom, Olly, Alex, Emily and Katie.

**Nick Phillips**

## Obituaries

### IN MEMORIAM

LOIS SMITH (PEARSON LAW, 1956)

19 MAY 1938 – 25 AUGUST 2022

Many members of our college in the 1956 matriculation year and the years around it will hear with sadness that Lois Smith died on 25 August 2022. As memories of her in those days return, there will also be smiles and laughter and the memory of her giggles.



I met Lois as a fellow law student and tutorial partner and very soon a close, and to be lifelong, friend. We were taught by the wonderful Elizabeth Ely, not much older than we were. Lois and I found law not as congenial as we had hoped and, after graduation, moved together to Barnett House in preparation for social work. Lois was to become a Psychodynamic

Psychotherapist working in and with many organisations as well as in private practice.

At the end of our time in college Lois had met, and after leaving Oxford, married, her much-loved husband Robin. Together they worked in Robin's series of parishes, including time at Lee Abbey and, from 1990, in his Bishopric of Hertford.

They had a lovely family of three sons and one daughter who grew up to be delightful, loving and caring people and a force for good in our troubled world. Their daughter, living and working in Ghana with her husband and their three daughters, built from the cellar upwards a Christian primary school and now a school for 3-18 year-olds, as well as running it and teaching in it. Their eldest son with his wife and two daughters set up lively church communities, first in Peterborough and then in Cambridge and Leicester. Their second son is a businessman, living with his wife and two sons in Switzerland. Sadly, their third son had very severe health problems, leading to his premature death and to the grief of Lois and Robin and all their family.

Lois lived to see the birth of their first great grandson.

Lois and Robin were at the heart of this family, loving and supporting them as

they found their ways in life. They also reached out and cared for many friends they had made throughout their 60 years of marriage.

Alongside family and professional life, Lois had a great appetite for life and learning. She joined the University of the Third Age, took up painting, which she loved, enjoyed exhibitions and galleries, lectures, concerts, and book clubs. She added the ukulele and recorder to the accordion she had played since childhood. She took the ordination course to extend her theological knowledge and understanding. Lois enjoyed walking, swimming, dancing and travelling, including many visits to the Holy Land. She loved food, cooking it and sharing it with friends and family.

Many years of treatment for cancer did not diminish her zest for life. We thank her for letting us share it with her.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Beatrice Jenkinson** (Hamer 1956)

### IN MEMORIAM

DIANA MARY WARBURTON (MORRIS)  
(JURISPRUDENCE, 1958)  
2 AUGUST 1940 – 15 APRIL 2022



Diana Morris was one of the best looking undergraduates of her year, and retained her film-star appearance – slim figure, auburn hair, wide-set eyes, stylish dress sense - until her eighties. She was happy at Oxford, where she was a hard worker, generally to be found in the Geldart library or in digs in an eyrie in Park Town. She became engaged to David Fitchett (later Warburton), a linguist from Keble. He had digs in a cottage in idyllic Binsey where we would cycle on summer afternoons.

Diana chose Law partly because she thought this would improve her chance of getting into St Anne's, a good decision as she proved to have a legal mind. We were from a non-selective private school where most parents' plans for their daughters were to leave after O Levels and become secretaries. Fortunately a new head from Oxford had other ideas and she and Margaret Dipstale (Smellie, St Anne's 1943) taught us to think for ourselves. Diana and I competed with each other and discussed our left wing views. At Oxford Diana supported CND and went on an Aldermaston March. Later she became more right wing.

After Oxford she married David and qualified as a barrister. Her contemporary Diana Delbridge (Bowers-Broadbent) remembers eating dinners with Diana at Gray's Inn in the early 1960s when they were usually the only women in the Hall. Diana then taught Law at Liverpool University until David's career in finance took them to Brussels. They had a talent for hospitality and had two children, Lucy and Richard.

On returning to England Diana taught at a girls' preparatory school where she passed on her love of poetry and made her pupils learn poems by heart. Unfortunately maths and science remained closed books to her. Later she taught A Level Law at Brooklands College.

Sadly the marriage ended in bitterness which was never resolved and Diana had a breakdown which traumatised both her and her family. However she was immensely proud of Lucy's scholarship to Wadham College, her First in Modern Languages, the crime novels she now writes as Lucy Martin, and of Lucy's children. Diana's youngest grandson, Jude Martin, is at Oxford reading Physics.

Her second marriage, to George Houlston, a petroleum engineer with BP, brought her stability. She never recovered from his death during Covid. In Diana's final year Lucy gave her exemplary care.

Diana was a fascinating character in which a passionate nature coexisted with a shrewd legal and business head. When both were operating at full force it was the legal and business head which prevailed – just. She devoured novels, enjoyed social bridge and University Challenge, had an eye for property and a lifelong love of Spain. I am grateful to have been her friend and for her sound advice at turning points in my life.

**Pat Scowen** (Madden 1959)

## Obituaries

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**BENEDICTA WARD SLG CPHIL THEOLOGY**  
**1971)**  
**1933-2022**

Florence Margaret Ward was born in Durham to Methodist parents; her father had left the Church of England to marry his Methodist wife and had become a minister in his new denomination.

She came to high church Anglicanism through the beauty of choral evensong. At the age of 22 she entered the Community of the Sisters of the Love of God, an enclosed community of Anglican contemplative nuns at Fairacres in East Oxford, as Sister Benedicta of Jesus.



Sister Benedicta was a theologian and historian of early Christian spirituality,

particularly known for her research on the Desert Fathers, popularising the collection known as the Apophthegmata Patrum. She also wrote extensively on Anselm of Canterbury and Bede.

She was for many years an integral part of the theology teaching team at Harris Manchester College and a much-loved tutor, advisor and mentor.

The Rev Robin Hanford (PGDip Theology 2020) writes: 'Reading Ward's translation of The Prayers and Meditations of St. Anselm was one of the highlights of my studies at Harris Manchester College. I know her life and works will have touched the lives of many.'

Sister Benedicta passed away peacefully at home in the Convent, as was her wish, on 23 May 2022.

**by the Development Team at Harris Manchester College**

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**ANGELA WATTS (WEBB 1956)**  
**28 NOVEMBER 1937 - 20 MAY 2022**



Angela Watts was a lifelong supporter of St. Anne's College. Sadly, Angela died in

a nursing home on 20th May 2022, aged 84 years. Alongside other illnesses, Angela was suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Most of Angela's life was full of many wonderful experiences and achievements, and she is missed very deeply by her family and friends. Angela grew up in Enfield, Middlesex, and also spent many of her adult years in Enfield, too, before moving to Woodingdean, Brighton in 1998.

As a child, Angela attended Eastfield Primary School in Enfield, before attending Enfield County Grammar School for Girls. As a teenager, Angela was a talented ballet dancer and she had hoped that ballet might become her career, but this wasn't to be. Angela also really loved music and was very talented at playing the viola and piano, as well as composing music. In 1956, Angela was awarded a scholarship to study Music at St. Anne's College. After graduating from university, Angela taught music to young students at The Guildhall School of Music on Saturday mornings. She also worked as a teacher at the Acland Burghley School, Tuffnell Park, Camden. While working in Camden, Angela really enjoyed living in her bedsit in Hampstead. A talented artist, Rex Watts, who Angela married, lived in his bedsit across the road from Angela, and this is how they came to meet each other.

Angela and Rex married in 1963, and were married for almost 55 years until Rex died in 2018. They had three children (and later on two grandchildren). Sarah was born in 1964, Lawrence in 1966 and Nicky in 1968. Later on, their grandson George was born in 1997 and their granddaughter Abigail in 2005.

In Enfield, Angela spent many years working as a piano teacher, as well as teaching music in two primary schools. She passed on her love of music to many young people, including her own children and grandchildren. As well as her love of music, Angela enjoyed volunteering and helping other people. Unfortunately, Angela suffered from Asthma from her 30s onwards. She became very knowledgeable about this illness, and together with a good friend, she set up the Enfield branch of the "Asthma Society" (now known as the charity "Asthma UK"). Angela spent many hours volunteering, fundraising, and collecting donations for this important charity.

In 1998, Angela and Rex moved to Woodingdean, Brighton, so they could be nearer to their grandson George – and later their grand-daughter Abigail – now 25 and 17. In Brighton, Angela enjoyed spending time with family and friends, worshipping at The Church of the Holy Cross (Woodingdean), playing

the piano and viola in music groups and orchestras, gardening, baking, walking on the Downs; for several years, she enjoyed going to the Sunday afternoon concerts at The Dome, given by Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Nicky Harris** (daughter)

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**MARGARET YOUNG (TUCKER) GEOGRAPHY,**  
**1949)**  
**13 MARCH 1931 – 4 JUNE 2022**

Born in 1931 at home in London, Margaret enjoyed a happy childhood, especially when her sister Elizabeth arrived in 1936. World War II made life exciting as they moved out of London to Northamptonshire where they made new friends. Mum was amused to tell me that her brother Victor, who served in the Royal Engineers, was able to celebrate his twenty-first birthday because the Normandy landings were delayed by 24 hours until 6 June 1945. I was told recently by a family friend that Mum was really quite proud that I too served in the Royal Engineers.

Mum met two other Margarets at Cheltenham Ladies' College who became life-long friends. She secured her Geography degree at St Anne's then studied at the Institute of Education in London for about a year, learning among other things Swahili. She was one of only three ladies on a course of 84 destined to go overseas. This meant that

in 1953 at the age of 22 she flew out to Tanganyika in East Africa to teach. She loved her teaching out there, and then met a certain Scotty Young who was serving in the Tanganyika police force. They married in 1956, raising me from 1957 and my brother Andrew from 1960 onwards when we lived in Moshi on the slopes of Kilimanjaro.

Mum and Dad thought they were set for a long time in Tanganyika; however, the fever of independence from colonial rule swept over Africa and in 1964 Tanganyika united with Zanzibar to form Tanzania. We were on leave in UK when Mum and Dad were advised 'don't come back. You're sacked'. They picked themselves up, dusted themselves off and started all over again. Mum enjoyed returning to teaching Geography part time in Surbiton in London. I spoke to a former Surbiton pupil of mum's in June '2022 who described her as the best Geography teacher she had ever had. Later she emailed to say ;'I've told my old school friends – we have a WhatsApp group – and the memories of your mother are all, like mine, of a really lovely person.'

In the mid-1970s we moved to Folkestone which was wonderful. Mum made our home here with loving care and attention, then made even more new friends and colleagues. As Head of Geography at Dover Girls' Grammar School she was a happy force for good

## Obituaries

for the school, her pupils and her colleagues. She was an enthusiastic artist with the Bilsington art group, displaying many paintings there and with the Folkestone Art Society. She was a well-respected member of the Oxford University Society East Kent branch who sent lovely messages of condolence. She was also a lady of very strong faith who loved being a member of Holy Trinity Church helping with healing prayer for other folk. She was splendidly musical with a lovely singing voice and great to hear on the piano.

She was a loving daughter, sister, school friend, Oxford graduate, overseas teacher, wife, mother, cousin, aunt, grandma, mother-in-law, friend, mentor, Head of Geography, neighbour, artist, healer, singer and piano player who will be sorely missed.

### **Malcolm Young** (son)

#### IN MEMORIAM

**PATRICIA ANNE YOUNG (COWIN (FRENCH, 1961)  
1942-2022**

Patricia (Pat) Cowin was born in Lancaster in 1942, the only surviving child of Robert Cowin, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and his wife Eda. She attended Lancaster Girls' Grammar School and arrived at St Anne's in 1961 to read Honours French, making lifelong friends on day one with her geographer contemporary, Elizabeth Hall. In College Pat enjoyed tutorials

with Betty Rutson but was daunted by Annie Barnes. Because Pat's interest lay less in literature than in linguistics, Mrs Barnes, who faced the opposite way, nurtured in Pat a loathing for explication de texte. Quite explicably, though, Pat came away with a good Second in 1964.

In 1963 she met and in 1965 married Bob Young, a fellow Oxford modern languages undergraduate at Magdalen. That year they moved to Cheshire, where Pat began a French teaching career which, with breaks for children, lasted nearly 30 years. Pat proved to be a gifted tutor and administrator, rising to Deputy Head at Adcote School in Shropshire before moving to London with Bob and the children in the 1980s.

By the early 1990s coal-face teaching no longer held much appeal for her, but children still did, so Pat channelled her energies into charitable work for them. She began fund-raising for the NSPCC, visiting schools in west London to raise awareness of the society's aims, activities and financial needs, and in a few short years raised not far short of £100,000. This was taxing work, and eventually Pat began to experience burn-out. She was then approached by The National Missing Persons' Helpline, a charity founded in response to the disappearance of London estate agent Suzy Lamplugh. Now known as Missing People, the charity offers assistance not only to the families of people who have disappeared, but, where possible, also to those who have themselves

disappeared. Pat remained a solid friend to the charity's two founders, Mary Asprey and Janet Newman, until they retired. Animals and animal charities also enjoyed her support over decades: no dog went unloved, no stray cat unsheltered.

In 2015 Pat and Bob retired to Settle, North Yorkshire, to be nearer their two children: Matthew, a translator of Japanese patents, and Judith, a teacher of classics. (The linguist genes thrived!) Then, as she approached 70, Pat was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. It gradually robbed her of animation and sapped her self-confidence, so that over time the accomplished mimic, the crossword fiend and the mistress of the written and spoken word faded into reclusiveness. But worse was to come: in April 2022 Pat was diagnosed with untreatable bowel cancer and, after enduring 10 years of Parkinson's she died in less than three months. She was 79. For such a kind and generous spirit this was a brutally unfair end.

Pat never quite believed she was good enough to get into Oxford – but, thankfully, St Anne's saw it differently. She never thought she had acquired many friends or admirers – but the deluge of messages that poured in after her death say otherwise. Pat is mourned and missed more than she knew, and for me and our children she is loved and cherished beyond measure.

### **Bob Young** (husband)

### Changing Lives

**Each year, over 1,000 alumnae and friends donate to St Anne's to enable our students to make the most of their time at College, supporting what is for many of our students a life-changing experience. By giving towards areas ranging from bursaries to travel grants, from graduate development scholarships to tutorial teaching, the development of new buildings and our work reaching out to potential applicants, donors help to secure the future of St Anne's. The generosity of our alumnae and friends touches every aspect of student life.**

In this piece we'd like to recognise two St Anne's benefactors whose support has been significant and will continue to positively affect our students for years to come –Sarah McCabe and Elisabeth Orsten.

#### **The Sarah McCabe Bursary Fund**

Sarah McCabe (nee McGrath) was a pioneering criminologist who studied for an MA in Classics at St Anne's College in the mid-1930s and whose subsequent career in the investigation and analysis of crime and punishment started at the University in the early 1950s. Sarah and her husband retired to a quiet village in rural Cambridgeshire 30 or

so years ago. For many summers they hosted an annual garden party for family and friends, including alumnae of St Anne's after the establishment of the Cambridge Branch of the SAS in 1996. Sarah was an inspiration to us all and upon her death in November 2006 the decision was made by her daughter and our committee at the time to establish an endowed bursary fund to support postgraduates in their studies. Money for the fund was initially raised through special appeals and events. More recently, the fund has been added to principally as a proportion of the total annual subscriptions to the Branch and through small donations at our annual garden parties and other events. By 2008 the fund had grown to more than £10,000 and the first bursary was awarded. The fund is now in excess of £17,500, generating an annual income of about £600 which contributes to the larger cost of individual postgraduate studies.

Our initial fundraising events included the first garden party generously hosted by Dame Mary Archer at her home in Grantchester in June 2007. The party was well attended by Branch members and some of Sarah's family and friends. A collection of personal tributes to Sarah was presented to her daughter Mary by Linda Richardson. In June

2009, Dame Mary kindly invited us to a second party in her beautiful garden where we met the first recipient of the bursary fund. Sarah's friends, including Armando Iannucci and Maria Aitken, and representatives from St Anne's such as Tim Gardam (Principal, 2004 to 2016) attended in the early years. Mary continued to host the summer garden parties until 2015 when this annual event switched to the garden of Sarah Beeson who lives in Fen Ditton downriver of Grantchester and Cambridge.



Another significant fundraising event

## Legators and Benefactors of St Anne's

was the Sarah McCabe Memorial Lecture given by Armando Iannucci in College in late May 2010. The lecture was titled 'Do we get the politicians we deserve?', a question we still ponder on. The lecture was very well attended and raised about £1,000. Other events which have each raised small amounts include: dinners and talks, for example one given by our previous chair Sue Collins on biodiversity and another by Anne Lonsdale comparing and contrasting the Oxford and Cambridge experiences; a visit to the Wren Library at Trinity College and a talk by Muriel Passy (St Anne's, 1948); visits to other college libraries and most of the University's museums; and guided excursions to places of interest in East Anglia such as Kings Lynn, Ely, Norwich, The Henry Moore Foundation at Perry Green, the Gibbert Garden near Harlow and Hatfield and Burghley Houses.

The annual bursary award has helped postgraduates pursue their studies in a variety of subjects within the fields of Modern History, Ancient History, English, Chemistry, Education, and, recently, industrially focussed Mathematics. For example, the 2009-2010 bursar completed a Master of Studies in Modern History at St Anne's before continuing his DPhil research on Lyndon B Johnson entitled 'The Death of Consensus Liberalism: The New Dealer and the New Politics'. The 2012-2013 bursar's DPhil subject was on Seamus

Heaney and Memory and focused on the poet's involvement with culture through his journalism and radio work and therefore on the political and social responsibility of the critic, rather than his poetry in isolation. The bursary in 2016-2017 was used to support travel expenses to Japan for research on the use of English as a medium of instruction in Japanese universities to teach academic subjects such as Law, Mathematics, Economics and Medicine, ostensibly to attract international students and to raise Oxford University's global profile.

Sarah was born in February 1914. She read Classics at Glasgow University, graduating in 1934. She then went up to St Anne's to further her classical studies, but family financial circumstances obliged her to leave before taking her degree. It was not until 1967, when she was awarded a BLitt for her study on delinquent girls (not Latin poetry), that her connection with St Anne's was re-established.

Sarah started work at the Inland Revenue and while there met Edward McCabe, a serving Army Officer, whom she married in 1942. In 1951 he was appointed lecturer in the Extra-Mural Department at Oxford and Sarah became the research assistant to Max Grünhut, the first Reader in Criminology at the University.

Sarah helped establish a link between the embryonic discipline of criminology in the UK and its flourishing counterpart in Germany. This was done via three distinguished academics, all refugees from Nazi persecution, including Max Grünhut himself, whom Sarah described as 'the most scholarly and upright human being I have ever met'. However, Sarah's core work at Oxford was done in collaboration with Nigel Walker, the successor to Max Grünhut after his retirement in 1961. By this time the attitude at the University had mellowed, allowing criminology to be taught if it was coupled with penology. Nigel Walker also persuaded the Law Faculty to include both subjects in the Final Honours School of Jurisprudence. Sarah carried out research, mostly sponsored and financed by the Home Office, into the new methods of treatment of crime and its punishment being introduced by enthusiastic post-war governments. This phase of her career culminated in the publication in 1973 of Volume II, 'Crime and Insanity in England: New Solutions and New Problems' which she co-edited with Nigel Walker. Funds were soon found to create a small Penal Research Unit located in the New Bodleian Library, which Sarah ran. In this way, Sarah continued her research into new forms of probation, short sentences for young people in detention centres, and experimentation in the treatment

of mentally abnormal offenders. Sarah was awarded a richly deserved Emeritus Leverhulme Fellowship in 1985.

After retirement in the early 1980s, Sarah carried out research, commissioned by the National Council in Civil Liberties and by a private children's charity, on the operation of the police in controlling public order, and of juvenile courts in managing children. She served on the Parole Board from 1983 to 1986, an experience she described as "vigorous and enjoyable", and was invited by the National Council of Civil Liberties to observe and report on the Miners' Strike of 1983. Her articles continued to appear in such highly respected journals as the Criminal Law Review, the Howard Journal, and the Police Journal.

### **Sarah Beeson** (Geology, 1972)

*Editor's note:* Last year's holder of the Bursary was a medical student in his final year of clinical study, who took on the role of Graduate Development Scholar in the medicine department. Our GDSs are postgrad students (usually DPhils) who take on a set number of hours of administrative work within the College department in term time - such as marking and helping with study skills workshops for undergrads, as well as potentially helping with things such as outreach and the admissions process. They receive a small stipend for their work, and the money the McCabe Fund



### **The Legacy of Elisabeth Maria Orsten**

In her will, Elisabeth left a significant and unexpected financial bequest to St Anne's College. We were very touched by this indication of how strongly she remembered her time at St Anne's many decades ago. Her contribution will help ensure that future generations of students are able to enjoy the resources and opportunities St Anne's has to offer. We are very grateful to Elisabeth for this legacy.

Elisabeth (English Language and Literature, 1953) was born in Vienna and spent her early childhood there. At the beginning of the Second World War, she was evacuated to England by the Quakers. She made the dangerous Atlantic crossing during the war to reunite with her parents who had escaped to the United States. She wrote a book about her experiences as a child evacuee -- *From Anschluss to Albion: Memoirs of a Refugee Girl 1938-40*.

Elisabeth came to St Anne's in 1953, where she read for a BA in English

generated this year made up part of that award.

Language and Literature. She then earned her Ph.D. in Toronto. She taught at Memorial University in Newfoundland before settling at Trent University in Peterborough where, for 27 years, she was a Professor of English Literature, specializing in Medieval Literature. Dr. Orsten served as the senior tutor of Champlain College from 1980-1981. In 1993 she was honoured for her years of service at Trent with a 25-year service award.

Elisabeth enjoyed a long and productive retirement. She enjoyed travelling and over the years ventured through Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East. Elisabeth's childhood love of dachshunds returned in recent decades and she raised three rescue dogs. Her beloved Waldi has outlived her. She was a lifelong avid and eclectic reader of both fiction and non-fiction: often in her last days visitors would find her sleeping in her hospital bed firmly clutching a book.

She recently completed a textbook for university students to assist them in understanding religious references in literature.

She had large a circle of friends, many outside Canada, and endless hours with them or on the phone, writing letters and cards, or e-mailing those who were further away. She is mourned by all of them.

### **St Anne's College**

## Thank you

# Donations to College, 2021 – 2022

A total of £1.36m was gifted by St Anne's alumnae and friends between 1 August 2021 and 31 July 2022 to the following areas:

Capital (buildings)	£12,512
Outreach and access	£183,593
Scholarships and prizes	£166,391
Student support (including welfare and bursaries)	£770,257
Teaching and research	£233,823

**The Principal and Fellows acknowledge with deep gratitude all alumnae and friends for their gifts. In 2022, almost 1,300 donors gave to St Anne's, some of whom have chosen not to be listed. We now need your permission to include you in this list. If you are not listed and would like to be included in the future, please get in touch with us at [development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) to confirm your preferences.**

### Alumnae

Abercrombie (Patterson), Bren: 1962  
Abernethy (Salvesen), Rikki: 1978  
Adams, Isabel: 2007  
Adamson, Lara: 2005  
Adebijyi, John: 1986  
Alderman, Colin: 1979  
Alexander (Holland), Marguerite: 1965  
Alexopoulou, Zoi: 2006  
Allen, Jenni: 2003  
Allen-Pennebaker (Pennebaker), Betsy: 1995  
Althouse (Roach), Lesley: 1972  
Alvares, Fleur: 1988  
Anastasiou, Angelos: 1982  
Andrew, Elizabeth: 1973  
Archer, Michelle: 1993  
Argyle, John: 1950

Arnold (Henderson), Louise: 1998  
Arrowsmith-Brown, Victoria: 1967  
Artingstall, David: 1982  
Ashford nee Seymour (Seymour), Anne-Marie: 1972  
Ashley, Jackie: 1974  
Astles, Rosemary: 1975  
Aston Smith (Johnson), Julia: 1970  
Athron (Ogborn), Ruth: 1957  
Atkins, Suzanne: 2008  
Atkinson (Pearson), Helen: 1963  
Axe (Roberts), Patricia: 1965  
Axford, Shelagh: 1968  
Baatz (Watson), Yvonne: 1975  
Bacon (Mason), Ann: 1957  
Baderin (MacGregor), Alice: 2001  
Bai, Dannan: 2017  
Bailey, Margaret: 1948  
Baines (Smith), Jennifer: 1963  
Baird (Dutton), Audrey: 1945  
Bake, Miles: 1996  
Baker, Simon: 1994  
Ball (Flanagan), Justine: 1985  
Bancroft, Louise: 1980  
Barber, Wesley: 1997  
Barclay (Thomason), Sally: 1959  
Bardsley (Riddell), Kate: 1975  
Barnard (Langford), Caroline: 1979  
Barnes (Gould), Amanda: 1979  
Barrett, Ms Barrett: 1973

Barringer, Terry: 1974  
Barron (Taylor), Enid: 1964  
Barton, Christopher: 1990  
Barzycki (Politi), Sarah: 1976  
Bates, Jon: 1991  
Bavin, Alfie: 2016  
Baxandall (Dwyer), Cathy: 1977  
Baxter (Lewis), Diana: 2000  
Bee, Philip: 1995  
Beer (Thomas), Gillian: 1954  
Bein, Robin: 2020  
Belden, Hilary: 1966  
Bell (Watt), Christine: 1957  
Bellingham (Johnson), Naomi: 1998  
Belton, Eleanor: 2013  
Benson, Chris: 1983  
Bernstein (Bernie), Judith: 1975  
Berry, Stuart: 2001  
Bertlin, Piers: 1979  
Bevis, Jane: 1977  
Bexon, Tina: 1973  
Bhandal, Rajbir: 1990  
Biggs (Perrin), Lynn: 1972  
Bird (Perham), Margaret: 1965  
Birdseye, Mark: 1980  
Black, Robert: 2005  
Blake, Mary: 1941  
Blandford, Sally: 1978  
Blatchford (Rhodes), Barbara: 1960  
Blevins (Reeve), Anne: 1969

Boddington, Andrew: 1980  
 Boehm (Lees-Spalding), Jenny: 1965  
 Boerma-Collier (Boerma), Pauline: 1976  
 Boettcher, Sage: 2016  
 Bolton-Maggs (Blundell Jones), Paula: 1971  
 Bone, Ian: 1984  
 Bonham, Sarah: 2006  
 Booth, Heather: 1992  
 Borkowski-Clark (Clark), Joshua: 2012  
 Bott, Hazel: 2021  
 Bourne, Jon: 1996  
 Bowden (Gaskell), Mary: 1971  
 Bowen (Stevens), Naomi: 1962  
 Bowley, John: 1993  
 Bowman, Hilarie: 1969  
 Boyde, Susan: 1957  
 Bramley, Paul: 1980  
 Bray, Heather: 1985  
 Breeze (Horsey), Fiona: 1965  
 Brehm, Samantha: 2017  
 Brendon (Davis), Vyvyan: 1959  
 Brettell, Francesca: 1988  
 Brett-Holt (Roscol), Alex: 1969  
 Breward, Christopher: 1991  
 Brice, Paul: 2016  
 Bridges (Berry), Linda: 1975  
 Brodie, Pete: 1981  
 Brooking-Bryant (Walton), Audrey: 1953  
 Brooks (Gilmore), Lindsay: 2001  
 Brooksbank (Spencer), Catherine: 1986  
 Broomhead (Lemon), Christine: 1960  
 Brown (Lichfield Butler), Jane: 1965  
 Broyden, Chris: 1981  
 Bruce-Gardner (Hand-Oxborrow), Veronica: 1976  
 Brunt (Coates), Ivy: 1961  
 Bryant (Chapman), Anne: 1961  
 Bryson, Andrew: 1996  
 Buckrell (Mason), Jo: 1990  
 Bull (Fife), Anne: 1952  
 Burge (Adams), Sue: 1972  
 Burling (Hudson), Hilary: 1962  
 Burns, Julian: 1981  
 Burrows, Peter: 1987  
 Burt (Waite), Audrey: 1942  
 Butchart (Byrne), Kate: 1988  
 Butler (Dawnay), Gillian: 1962  
 Bynoe (Robinson), Geraldine: 1969  
 Cadwallader (Cadwallader CMG), Jim: 1970  
 Campbell (Bunting), Alison: 1989  
 Campbell-Colquhoun, Toby: 1996  
 Carlin, Norah: 1960  
 Carney, Bernadette: 1978  
 Carpenter (Barker), Nancy: 1993  
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Walford, Philip: 1998  
Walker (Burrows), Susanne: 1972  
Walters (Purcell), Anne: 1949  
Walton (Turner), Gillian: 1964  
Wan, Sheila: 1989  
Ward (Hawking), Sheila: 1949  
Warren, Clare: 1996  
Washington, Aisha: 2002  
Wates, Julia: 1981  
Watts, Felicity: 1978  
Webber (Kiewe), Ruth: 1953  
Webster, Ian: 2000  
Weir (Luig), Helen: 1980  
Welch, Martin: 1985  
Weller (Williams), Isobel: 1977  
Wessel Walker (Wessel), Donna: 1978  
West, Colin: 1994  
Weston (Heys), Daniel: 1998  
Weyer-Brown (Wilcke), Natasha: 1972  
Wharton (McCloskey), Barbara: 1954  
Wheare, Julia: 1977  
Wheater (Jones), Isabella: 1974  
Whitby (Field), Joy: 1949  
White, Gillian: 1951  
Whiteley (Daymond), Sarah: 1966  
Wielogorska, Anna: 1977  
Wiener, Ori: 1980  
Wight, Greg: 2000  
Wightwick (Layzell), Pamela: 1950  
Wilcox (Williams), Joanne: 1981  
Wildy, Samuel: 2002  
Wiles, Michael: 1996  
Wilkinson (Spatchurst), Susan: 1970

William-Powlett (Silk), Judith: 1960  
Williams (Wareing), Teresa: 1951  
Williamson (Hodson), Valerie: 1960  
Willment, George: 2015  
Wilshaw, Cai: 2012  
Wilson (Ridler), Kate: 1961  
Winter (Fountain), Julia: 1960  
Witter, Mark: 2000  
Wolf (Eliot), Elizabeth: 1947  
Wood (Gunning), Maureen: 1952  
Woodhouse, Sally: 2012  
Woodman (Rawlins), Judy: 1963  
Woolfson, Deborah: 2005  
Wordsworth Yates, Alan: 2008  
Wormald (Palmer), Nicola: 1965  
Wright, Ellen: 1977  
Wyatt, Paul: 1995  
Wylie, Fiona: 1967  
Yang, Yufeng: 2020  
Yates (Crawshaw), Sue: 1967  
Young (Clifford), Barbara: 1957  
Zhang, Maiwen: 2004  
Zhuge, Zhaoying: 2017

### Non-Alumnae Friends

Abrokwah, Hardlyn  
Adams, Suzanne  
Aoki, Sunao  
Austin, Michel  
Bates, Chris  
Bispham, David  
Bouyer, Servane  
Bradley, Edmund  
Brown, Katherine  
Camp, Angela  
Caple, Leslie  
Carson, Mike  
Centre, Robert Frew  
Cleary, Lucy  
Cooling, John  
Cutting, Geraldine  
Dafforn, Rachel  
Davies, J  
Dolan, Leigh Ann  
Douglas, Sue  
Drummond, Edwin  
Eaves, Natalie  
Fleming, Mark

Foard, Christine  
 Fox, A M  
 Freeman, Fiona  
 Gardam, Tim  
 Ghosh, Durjoy  
 Harper, Tom  
 Hartman, Joan  
 Hibbin, Jill  
 Hyde, Roderick  
 Islam, Saiful  
 Jones, Alec  
 Keymer, Tom  
 King, Janet  
 Klevan, Andrew  
 Lee, Lau Yee  
 Leong, Sin-Hong  
 Lewis, David  
 Lim, Jimmy  
 Lin, Julia  
 Macfarlane, Neil  
 Marriott, Robert  
 Masek, Lisa  
 McCall, Marsh  
 Mirpuri, Nanik  
 Mitchell, Jane  
 Moore, Anna Louise  
 Motelay, Nicolas  
 Nicholls, Madeleine  
 O'Donnell, Nicky  
 O'Keefe, Megan  
 Ollivero-Sticher, Carola  
 Osborne, Julie  
 Park, Grace  
 Parry, William  
 Patel, Raj  
 Porcelli, Don  
 Powell, Elizabeth  
 Preuss, Andreas  
 Pyle, David  
 Russell, Libby  
 Scourou, Robbie  
 Shelley, Sue  
 Shepherd, Rachel  
 Shuttleworth, Sally  
 Smith, Suzanne  
 Suzuki, Togen  
 Traynor, Andy  
 Trop, Bernard

Wackan, Hiroko  
 Wallace, Louise  
 Walters, Susan  
 Wang, Hannah  
 Wells, Philippa  
 White, Christina  
 Wilkinson, Catherine  
 Wood, John

### Organisations and Charities

Aitken Family Charitable Trust  
 Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust  
 Americans for Oxford Credits  
 Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust  
 Catkin Pussywillow Charitable Trust  
 COSARAF Charitable Foundation  
 Danson Foundation  
 Dr Stanley Ho Medical Development  
 Foundation  
 Drapers' Charitable Fund  
 Emile Littler Foundation  
 Hon P N Gibson's Charity Trust  
 Jan Hall Consulting Ltd, t/a No 4  
 Mark Richard Tinsley Trust  
 Orion Publishing Group  
 Oxford Translation Prize Fund  
 Pearson Charitable Trust  
 SAS Cambridge Branch  
 SAS Midlands Branch  
 SAS Oxford Branch  
 SAS South of England Branch  
 T W Roberts Trust  
 Tsuzuki University  
 WorkWell Trust

### Legacy Gifts

Glynnne, Dilys: 1948  
 Lee, Lau Yee  
 Marks, Winifred: 1944  
 Taylor, June: 1965  
 Larkins (Rees), Fay: 1953  
 Rowe, Barbara: 1942  
 Smith (Treseder), Judith: 1958

### Plumer Society

The Plumer Society has been founded to acknowledge and thank those who inform the College of their decision to include

a gift to St Anne's in their will. Some members have asked not to be listed.

Alphey, Nina: 2005  
 Austin, Michel:  
 Baker, (Gibbon) Ruth: 1955  
 Beeby, Valerie: 1952  
 Belden, Hilary: 1966  
 Bennett, Eric:  
 Bennett, (Thompson) Phyllis: 1974  
 Biggs, (Perrin) Lynn: 1972  
 Blake, (Condon) Richard: 1980  
 Bone, (Lawrence) Jennifer: 1959  
 Breward, Christopher: 1991  
 Brooking-Bryant, (Walton) Audrey: 1953  
 Bryson, (McGregor) Barrie: 1991  
 Burton, (Heveningham-Pughe) Frances: 1960  
 Burt, (Waite) Audrey: 1942  
 Bush, (Hainton) Julia: 1967  
 Bynoe, (Robinson) Geraldine: 1969  
 Carter, (Palmer) Elise: 1942  
 Chadd, Linda: 1967  
 Charman, (Rees) Stella: 1975  
 Chesterfield, Jane: 1977  
 Clark, (Jamieson) Sheila: 1991  
 Colling, Mike: 1979  
 Co, (Spink) Kathryn: 1972  
 Cox, (Ware) Frances: 1968  
 Cragoe, (Elmer) Elizabeth: 1950  
 Crane, (Begley) Meg: 1965  
 Crichton, (Hunter) Ele: 1996  
 Darnton, (Baker) Jane: 1962  
 Davies, (Baxendale) Jane: 1970  
 Deech, (Fraenkel) Ruth: 1962  
 Dowdall, Deb: 1974  
 Driver, (Perfect) Margaret: 1951  
 Dryhurst, Clare: 1979  
 Dyne, (Heath) Sonia: 1953  
 Evans, (Trevithick) Elaine: 1953  
 Evans, (Kruse) Lesley: 1962  
 Everest-Phillips, (Everest) Anne: 1950  
 Finnemore, Judith: 1959  
 Fisher, (Hibbard) Sophia: 1966  
 Fleming, (Newman) Joan: 1957  
 Foster, Tony: 1980  
 Fox, Clemency: 1956  
 Frank, (Hoar) Tessa: 1951

Gardam, Tim:  
 Gent, Lizzie: 1976  
 Gerry, Philippa: 1950  
 Grange, (Cross) Natasha: 1982  
 Greenway, (Denerley) Ann: 1959  
 Grocock, Anne: 1965  
 Halcrow, Elizabeth: 1943  
 Hale, Barbara: 1948  
 Hamilton, (Pacey-Day) Susan: 1965  
 Hampton, Kate: 1977  
 Harrison, (Greggain) Vicky: 1961  
 Hensman, (Hawley) Barbara: 1956  
 High, (Martin) Lucy: 2004  
 Hill, (Davies) Valerie: 1971  
 Hilton, Catherine: 1965  
 Home, Anna: 1956  
 Honoré, (Duncan) Deborah: 1948  
 Hudson, Julie: 1975  
 Hunt, (Siddell) Ann: 1963  
 Huzzey, Clem: 1963  
 Huzzey, Christine:  
 Hyde, Caroline: 1988  
 Ingram, Jackie: 1976  
 Jack, Susan: 1970  
 James, (Lucas) Cherry: 1977  
 Jarman, Richard: 1989  
 Jay, (Aldis) Elisabeth: 1966  
 Jessiman, (Smith) Maureen: 1953  
 Johnstone, Harry: 1957  
 Jones, (Smith) Elizabeth: 1962  
 Julian, (Whitworth) Celia: 1964  
 Keegan, Rachel: 1967  
 Kenna, (Hamilton) Stephanie: 1968  
 Kielich, Christina: 1970  
 King, (Wheeler) Rosemary: 1951  
 King, Fiona: 1980  
 Kingdon, Janet: 1976  
 Kirk-Wilson, (Matthews) Ruth: 1963  
 Lacey, (Akyroyd) Juliet: 1962  
 Lawless, (Freeston) Sally: 1971  
 Leckie, (O'Donnell) Elizabeth: 1981  
 Lewis, Keri: 1947  
 Lloyd, Peter: 1983  
 Lygo, Martin: 1979  
 Mann, Paul: 1988  
 Martin, (Pearce) Mary: 1971  
 Mason, (Childe) Rosemary: 1958  
 Massey, (Glaser) Lili: 1967  
 Maxim, Jon: 1996  
 McCracken, (Chavasse) Gabrielle: 1954  
 McDonnell, (Phillips) Marie-Louise: 1971  
 Mottershead, (Roberts) Ann: 1977  
 Moughton, (Parr) Elizabeth: 1951  
 Munro, Rob: 1982  
 Murrin, (Milburn) Lesley: 1960  
 Newlands, (Raworth) Liz: 1960  
 Newman, Sarah: 1981  
 Newton, (Little) Clare: 1970  
 Nixon, Gill:  
 O'Flynn, (Brewster) Hazel: 1946  
 O'Sullivan, Helen: 1969  
 Packer, (Sellick) Sally: 1964  
 Palmer, (Allum) Marilyn: 1962  
 Paul, Helen: 1994  
 Pickles, (Wilson) Jane: 1953  
 Pomfret, (Pearson) Carole: 1979  
 Preston, (Haygarth) Barbara: 1957  
 Radcliffe, Rosemary: 1963  
 Regent, Petra: 1975  
 Revill, (Radford) Ann: 1955  
 Reynolds, Sian: 1958  
 Robinson, Crispin: 1979  
 Rossotti, (Marsh) Hazel: 1948  
 Sainsbury, (Davies) Audrey: 1947  
 Salisbury, (Jones) Elisabeth: 1956  
 Secker Walker, (Lea) Lorna: 1952  
 Sheather, (Hall) Judith: 1962  
 Shenton, Joan: 1961  
 Shore, (Smith) Gill: 1955  
 Simon, (Holmes) Jane: 1973  
 Skelton, Judy: 1965  
 Smith, David: 1974  
 Stanton, (Beech) Mandy: 1981  
 Stoddart, (Devereux) Frances: 1955  
 Thirlwell, (Goldman) Angela: 1966  
 Thomas, Stella-Maria: 1977  
 Thompson, Jean: 1942  
 Thorpe, Patty: 1973  
 Tindall-Shepherd, (Dunn) Wendy: 1963  
 Tjoa, (Chinn) Carole: 1965  
 Tricker, (Poole) Marilyn: 1964  
 Tuckwell, (Bacon) Margaret: 1949  
 Turner, (Davison) Kathryn: 1972  
 Turner, (Griffiths) Clare: 1986  
 Twamley, Delia  
 Wagner, Rosemary: 1964

Wheeler, Heather: 1958  
 Whitby, (Field) Joy: 1949  
 Willetts, (Ferreras) Maria: 1974  
 William-Powlett, (Silk) Judith: 1960  
 Windebank, (Chiappa) Sharon: 1972  
 Wright, Lynne: 1970  
 Wylie, Fiona: 1967  
 Yamauchi, (Myers) Mara: 1992  
 Yates, (Crawshaw) Sue: 1967  
 Young, (Clifford) Barbara: 1957  
 \* Delia Twamley is leaving a legacy to St Anne's College from her late mother's estate (Phyllis Wray-Bliss, 1920).

## Legacies

Leaving a gift in your will gives you the opportunity to make a lasting impact and help to provide vital funding for the College. The Plumer Society was founded to acknowledge those who inform us of their decision to make a bequest to St Anne's. Members will be invited to a Plumer Society event every two years which allows us to thank our legators for their commitment. If you would like further information about legacies please contact [development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@st-annes.ox.ac.uk).

## Library Donations

The Library is grateful for the many generous book and financial donations received from alumnae, Fellows and friends. With over 100,000 titles we have one of the largest College libraries in Oxford and your kind support greatly adds to the richness of our collection.